

Flat

Volume 24, Number 21, Monday 8/10/84, Reg. CAT B, VBH3707.





# EDITORIAL

Concern for the environment is not a simple matter of campaigning for preservation of cute, cuddly animals and voting for a political party which promises to save a particular isolated wilderness area. The complexity of the world environment must be recognised and the concern of individuals must be directed towards correcting imbalances in the environment which have arisen through humankind's selfish, exploitative approach to the environment.

The continuing destruction of the Brazilian rainforests by enormous U.S. based corporations will have far-reaching and irreversible effects on the world ecology in terms of atmospheric composition and destruction of animal habitats. Such timber operations, whether they be in the Americas, Eastern bloc countries or even Australia, are more concerned with maximising the return on their investment rather than maximising the use made of all trees felled. Clear felling and wood-chipping techniques provide a much greater dollar return than selective felling of damaged and diseased trees. The conflict of interest between private interests and environmental concerns is inevitably "resolved" in favor of the private interests.

Assurances that nuclear waste products can be safely stored are normally met with some cynicism. Still, even if it is assumed that waste products can be safely stored, several

other issues need to be considered. What assurance is there that the available "safeguards" will in fact, be used given that they may be expensive (and therefore uneconomical) in the short term? Further, the waste products involved are toxic for many thousands of years. Plutonium, for example, has a half life of 24,000 years. Given that no civilisation on earth is yet to last more than 3,000 years, any civilisation following on from the world as we know it will be subject to an extremely deadly legacy from its predecessors.

White settlement has wrought havoc on Australia's environment. Selfish and greedy attitudes have destroyed forests, swamps, heathlands and grasslands. The habitats of numerous endemic animals and plants have been destroyed and introduced animals and plants all compete with native species.

Rivers are choked by European Carp, whilst the native Murray River Perch and Cod continue to dwindle in numbers. Feral cats and dogs proliferate, feeding on native birds and marsupials. Native plant species are eaten and trampled into extinction by cattle, sheep and feral goats, and with the vegetation goes the habitat and food source of a multitude of small, unique mammals, birds and reptiles.

Wilderness does not exist in a vacuum. It is part of an eco-

system which encompasses the entire biosphere. Thus, concern should not be reserved entirely for wilderness, but should involve the whole environment — forests, farmlands, air, suburban parks, beaches and lifestyles.

Environmental concern is about recognition and constant awareness of human impact and role within a complex world wide ecosystem. It is not just a question of correcting damage done in the past or in the present. It becomes a matter of changing our entire attitude to the environment, turning away from exploitative and unthinking views, and toward a new awareness. A new attitude should color our every future action.

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## A.E. Chairperson Report



Slipped between the pages of this month's Council Agenda was a motion requesting 'normal civic measures' which upon translation means P.O.L.I.C.E.

So what you say? Eh! So police are being openly invited onto Campus. As the Liberal member of Council pointed out, we are not above the law, we are responsible students who would welcome increased police protection.

Well, whether or not the police decide come, this motion welcomes them with open arms and a certain amount of relief.

You see, if they introduce normal civil measures they can 'pass the buck' (literally) on the

speeding problem of our ring road. Other alternatives to slow down traffic such as roundabouts, speed bumps, etc. 'are too expensive'. They might prove more effective but 'we must be seen to be putting an end to this problem before some is hurt!'

The important is 'be seen to!' An amendment to investigate other methods effectively used by municipalities to show down traffic all the time not just scare and deplete financial some of the time, was voted down.

The Council did not wish to consider any other alternatives — they were too expensive. It seems a price is put on our safety — a very low one — "I'll throw it in the too hard basket mate, and call in the cops!"

If I personally felt it was the best method of reducing the road traffic problem I would agree to go ahead. But "booze buses", higher speeding fines and ever increasing police presence on public roads has not saved those 600 Victorians each year.

We don't just want to "pass off the responsibility", and "keep the statistics down", we want our ring road to be as safe as we can possibly make it, for all its users all the time.

If that costs money — tough!

Sue Thomson,

A.E. Chairperson,  
M.A.S.

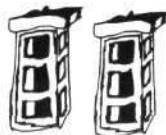
# Phone Box to Phone Box to Phone Box

## GOANNA?

Now, who amongst you all can fathom out what is going on in Canberra and Sydney at the moment? If you can puzzle out the links between the Goanna, Squirrels, GTV 9, World Series Cricket, Heroin, Neville Wran, the New South Wales Rum Corp, the NSW ALP Right, The Painers and Dockers (the band or the union?) The Womens Weekly and so on, then you fit the bill for the position of Lot's Wife legal advisor. We of this noble and quite morally sound media institution at the back end of the Union building are pleased to see not only a member of the mainstream capitalist media squirm, but also to see that our view that capitalism, profits and corruption are synonymous with each other has been vindicated. We are not surprised in the least about the stench coming from the corridors of power that are populated by our so-called elders and betters. What will if and when Costigan gets his report out? Will Hawkie fall or will Peacock bite the dust? Does it really matter at all? As the Anarchists have always reminded us, it doesn't matter who you vote for, a politician always gets in. In the meantime, economists are now getting off on the possibility of measuring



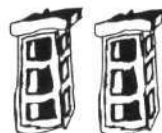
just how beneficial organised crime is to the Australian economy. It could well be this country's greatest employer and biggest growth industry. How about that, eh? Organised crime — making this country great!



Spies have informed Up Against The Wall that Citizen Danny Schwartz — that old, old

hack from the MonJSS student politics front group Independent Students Interests — made a little trip into the CRAC offices earlier this week. You may remember that Schwartz ran as the ISI candidate for Lot's Wife editorship with his sidekick Mark Lipshut and a token woman whose name escapes me at this moment in time. Schwartz, who can't stand the concept of CRAC and the people who staff it, went in there to borrow a book on graphic design and lay-out, of all things. We all thought Danny was marginally competent at these

tasks. The answer to the riddle came a little later in the Small Caf., where Danny — in his role as guardian of the Cure — was seen handing the books over to none other than Carmella Ben-Simon, Lot's Wife editor elect. At least there is another four months before she actually takes over at Lot's, and this ought to give her a little time to learn something about newspaper production form these books before she is required to do anything along these lines.



Our intrepid reporters have discovered a ghastly flaw in C.R.A.C. Yes Adrian Howe one of the fiercest feminist critics has been found to have an incorrect line flaw. She follows the football, and was seen engulfed in the Sports Extra. And as a good strong follower of Lost causes she supports St Kilda. Are we to imagine that after a hard day activism, she turns on the tele and puts up her feet and watches League Teams.



A snippet of information from Melbourne Uni. The Independent Left team (for want of a better label) defeated the ALP — Claytons-Endorsed team (the endorsement you have when you don't advertise the fact for fear of an electoral backlash) by 600 votes for the position of Farrago editors of 1985. If you thought the Lot's Wife election was an orgy of gimmicks, bullshit and image politics, then you should have seen the teams slug it out for top spot out there in Parkville to see how the professionals do it. The ALP team opted for vegemite jars and vegemite sandwiches. Their opponents preferred vampires and red wine. Students didn't have to buy their lunches last week for all the free smarties, jelly beans, red wine and so on. The left is certainly taking their lead from mainstream politics and are getting into image politics in a very big way.

Commiserations are in order for the losers, Constan, Kyberd and O'Donnell. Congrats and good luck to Debbie, Jamie and Tania in 1985 from all of us here down at the Farm.

# MARKS: The Day After

And so the examination marks debacle continues. Somehow I see light at the end of the tunnel. As I stated in an earlier edition of Lot's, the implications of the Freedom of Information case HART v MONASH would soon be forced upon the powers that be in this University. A report by a sub-committee of the Committee of Deans (how closed can the decision making processes be?) recommended some pragmatic but inevitable changes to the examination system at Monash for 1985.

The recommendations of this sub-committee were put to Professorial Board at its meeting on Wednesday 26th September and as expected, members of the science/medical faculties jumped up and down about the consequences of adopting the sub-committee's recommendations. Questions such as 'If we put a defamatory comment on a student's examination script book — who gets sued — us or the University?' were obviously more on the minds of our intellectual friends than appreciating the fact that the proposed method of disclosing marks would make the examination system more accountable to students. As a result of these protests, the Board decided to let all the Faculty Boards consider the recommendations to determine how they could get around the recommendations. It is unlikely their protests will be accepted by Prof. Brd. at its next meeting and the recommendations should be adopted.

Set out below is a transcript of the most significant recommendations of this sub-committee.

## 1. Disclosure of Examination Marks

It is recommended that, where they exist, all final numerical assessments be included on official transcripts of results together with the appropriate letter grades, and that they be made available to students as a matter of course. This practice will involve all faculties apart from Education, which only

awards non-numerical examination grades.

In the case of students awarded the option of sitting for a supplementary examination — it is recommended that both the numerical grades for the 'NS' or 'PII' and the subsequent 'NN' or 'SPI'/'SPII' be included on the official transcript of results. The transcripts of such students issued is the interregnum between the annual and supplementary examinations would show the interim numerical grade for 'NS' and 'PII' only.

## 2. Release of Examination Marks

With a view to streamlining the disclosure of numerical marks to students, it is recommended that, commencing in 1985, one notification of examination results, including both numerical and letter grades, be posted to each student's nominated address and that the practice of displaying results in the Union Building be discontinued. This procedure would avoid the time and cost involved in providing two academic statements for every student, and avoid any charges that the posting of numerical examination grades in the Union Building constituted an invasion of privacy. For the 1984 examination results it is recommended that the current procedure should apply with numerical grades being included in the statements of results sent by mail but not in those posted in the Union Building.

## 3. Release of Marks Awarded Prior to 1984

Commencing with the 1984 examinations, all future academic transcripts will include the numerical marks obtained in 1984 and subsequent examinations. It is recommended, however, that marks from previous years should not be included in every current student's transcript as a matter of course, but that students who wish to obtain a transcript of their record including marks from years prior to 1984 should be required to

apply under the FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT and pay the appropriate fee (\$10).

It is also recommended that the same policy be followed in regard to requests from former students or graduates for marks prior to 1984.

## 4. Release of Examination Papers

Students are entitled under the FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT to access to their examination scripts during the period for which these are retained under the PUBLIC RECORDS ACT. The Committee notes there have been some difficulties (sic) associated, with the examiners' written comments on individual questions of a kind which they would not necessarily wish to be conveyed to students, or written marks on individual questions. Up to date, these have been obliterated before papers have been made available. It is recognised that it will not be possible to continue this practice or for the Registrar to accept responsibility for seeing that it is adhered to. It is recommended, therefore, that examination papers be released upon request once the examination has been completed and, recognising that the Registrar cannot take responsibility for erasing comments by examiners, staff be advised that any comments or marks written on examination papers may be sighted by the student.

It is also recommended that, where it is deemed appropriate, departments advise students taking supplementary examinations where their work has been deficient, and ensure that the papers as such are not released until the supplementary exams have been completed.

## 5. Release of Dissected Marks

The Committee noted that marks for individual questions at an examination and for different sections of the papers are not held in the Registrars Office



and, as such, it is impracticable for them to be released through the Registrar. In any event, the Committee is of the view that the release of such marks is better seen as a departmental responsibility in advising students. It is recommended, however, that standardised procedures be developed within each faculty in relation to this matter.

Because of exams looming ominously in my diary, I shall keep my comments on the above recommendations to a minimum. One particular point I am interested in is the exclusion of the Education Faculty from releasing marks. I have been assured by members of the Faculty that the present system works well and is not equipped for releasing marks. I would be more than interested to hear from any students in that Faculty as to how they consider the existing examination system.

Finally, it should be noted that it has taken over twelve months of work and a substantial amount of money for the University to finally acknowledge that the

examination system should be more accountable to students. Although the recommendations in their existing form reflect a significant change from status quo in the policies of most Universities in Australia, it has been students initiative, not the University's, which has led to change. Change has come, and will continue to come from the grass roots level (ie. students)

until the University Administration decides to take its feet out of the 1920's and begins to do some serious thinking about the way it operates. The decision making process at Monash is almost entirely closed. The most significant decisions are delayed and decided in closed committees such as the Steering Committee and the Committee of Deans (and similar sub-committees of University Council) Professorial Board merely rubber stamps recommendations made. Of equal concern is the amount of information actually contained in Professorial Board agendas. The minuting of Sensitive Committees (of course no student reps are on them) such as the Committee for the Centre of Human Bioethics, the Committee on Ethics in Animal Experiments Involving Human Subjects is often less than half of one page. The minutes note members views, but does not state them, it states conclusions without any comments and we are expected to accept this as normal. One needs only to look at the results of the disastrous snake-bite experiment at Monash last year to see how well these committees are performing.

Nothing short of a total overhaul of the decision-making process at Monash is needed to prevent this "1984" style practice continuing. I can only hope that the examination marks case is only the beginning.

Paul Villanti  
Professorial Board Rep.

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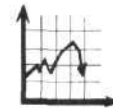
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# Election Report



## 1. Authorisation of Broadsheets

During the election there were at least four cases of broadsheets which were produced without any authorisation printed on them. This was generally done when it was desired to make scurrilous accusations against other candidates, and in one case a broadsheet reflected badly on MAS staff. To alleviate this problem I would recommend that the next Returning Officer require that all publicity be seen by her/him before it is distributed. Candidates should be warned that any unauthorised material will be confiscated. This would, unfortunately, considerably increase the workload of the Returning Officer, but it would seem to be necessary to produce a "clean" campaign.

## 2. Shortage of Ballot Papers

The turnout of voters this year was nothing short of astounding when compared with the usual result. 2482 ballot papers were either issued from the polling booth or returned from the hospital students. Unfortunately this meant that on a number of occasions ballot papers ran short. This emphasises the need to keep a substantial supply of papers ready at all times. It was necessary to order an extra four hundred ballots from AUS for the National Ballot at very short notice. Fortunately a quick response form then meant that we did not run out of AUS papers until five minutes before the polls closed on Friday. Three specially signed photocopies were issues.



## 3. Postal voting

This election saw the first postal voting for hospital students. Unfortunately it was almost brought to grief by a number of catastrophes. First, it was discovered, when all the envelopes were packed and ready to go, that the sticky label addresses supplied were home rather than term addresses. This delayed the aml out by one day. On Thursday the envelopes were delivered to the mail-room. We were informed, too late to do anything about it, that the envelopes could not be franked because they were not marked "Postage Paid Australia". On Friday, June Follet and June Haffendon had to go and painstakingly stamp all four hundred and sixty-three envelopes.

As well as all this there was a postal strike which was allegedly delaying all mail by 24 hours. It seems that in the end the envelopes reached their destinations on the Monday and Tuesday of election week. In a year where everything goes according to plan the return from hospitals should be considerably better than the 50/60 replies received.

Finally, the Registrar has, now that he has realised the confusion it could cause if there were two elections taking place at the one time, withdrawn his approval for the use of the envelopes marked "The

Returning Officer, Monash University". It is, therefore, essential that the AE authorise the printing of envelopes specifically addressed to MAS if postal voting is to continue.

## 4. Election Supplement

Difficulties were experienced producing the Election Supplement. A workable number of typeset speeches were not available until 4.30 on the Thursday 13th, due to staffing and equipment difficulties at Lot's Wife. Under these conditions it was inconceivable that an election supplement could have been produced by one person. Fortunately I was assisted by Elisabeth Ford and John Lenders. Without them the supplement may not have happened. I therefore propose that they be paid (at the vote-counter's rate) for their work (this has been included in their total hours).

One error occurred in the supplement. Philip Semmel's photograph (third Moderate S.A. candidate for A.U.S.) appeared above Peter Phillip's speech (second Moderate S.A. candidate for Publications). Upon receiving a complaint from Philip I placed notices drawing attention to the error at the entrance to the voting area, on two pillars in the Union, and near the Election Supplements that had been stapled up. I am satisfied that no injustice has been done, given the results, and

that are no grounds for a successful appeal against the election results.

## 5. Legal Threats

Every election has its threats of writs and injunctions, and this one was no exception. Rumours were everywhere. Given the high cost of going to the Supreme Court it is extremely unlikely that any M.A.S. Returning Officer will ever be faced with an injunction. We did, however, come close.

On Wednesday the nineteenth I received a call from a person with Student Services Australia complaining about a broadsheet produced by a Monash Club. This had alleged that the A.U.S. Credit Co-op had been wound up as part of a tax evasion ploy. The caller stated that he had consulted solicitors and that I should expect a letter from them that day or the next. A letter had also allegedly been sent to the President of the club concerned. As yet, I have received no such letter. Nevertheless I did contact a representative of the club concerned immediately after the phone call and outline the position. The club agreed not to distribute any more of the leaflets. If they had not agreed to do so I would have been forced to confiscate the offending material.

## 6. Lot's Wife Editors

There was some confusion about how many nominators were needed for the position of

Lot's Wife Editors. I therefore propose that the following clause be added to the Electoral Code:

For the purposes of this Electoral Code the Editorship of Lot's Wife shall be considered as one position.

## 7. Vote Counting Night

The atmosphere of the vote counting night was improved tremendously by the ban on candidates in the counting room. It is interesting to note in passing, however, the fact that a surprising number of candidates were quite unable to comprehend the simple statement "Please Leave" as they repeatedly tried to sneak in, both before and after they got drunk. Despite this, I would wholeheartedly recommend that this ban be continued in future elections; it makes counting more pleasant, more accurate, and quicker.

A much more efficient use of time was made by leaving the A.U.S. ballot papers until later in the night when the counting was well underway, and fewer pieces of paper were being shifted about. The A.U.S. papers could then be sorted by the "excess" counters.

## 8. Assorted Thank you's

June and Denise in M.A.S., June Follet and Barbara at the Union Desk (whose surname escapes me for the moment) for their assistance during the election. Special thanks must go to Elisabeth Ford and John Lenders for the stupendous amount of assistance they rendered at almost every stage of the election. I also thank the increasingly efficient team of vote counters, particularly John Jarret for handling the A.U.S. Delegation votes. Our poll clerks, Jean and Aileen are to be commended for handling the largest election turnout in living memory with their usual efficiency and flair. P.S. thanks Mum!

Continued on Page 5.

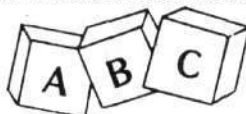
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# WOMEN WHO WANT TO SURVIVE

Last November Women For Survival, an Australia-wide coalition of women's anti-nuclear groups, organised the highly successful Women's Peace Camp at Pine Gap. This year the protest continues, with "Sound Women's Actions" planned for November and December. There will be simultaneous actions throughout the country, focussing on U.S. bases and nuclear related facilities.

As part of the national actions, we are establishing a camp at Cockburn Sound in Fremantle, W.A., in order to draw attention to the existence there of a de facto U.S. base. Stirling Naval Base is a major part of call for the U.S. Navy, accommodating nuclear powered warships and submarines as well as conventionally powered warships. Many of the vessels which call at the base are also equipped to carry nuclear arms. It's against U.S. Defence Department policy to confirm or deny whether any particular ship is actually carrying nuclear weapons at any particular time, but it must be generally accepted that those than can, do.

In 1985, 900 sea-launched Cruise Missiles (similar to the missiles recently based at Greenham Common in England) are scheduled for production. They will be deployed on several classes of submarines and warships — and such vessels will be visiting Stirling Naval Base.

The United Nations had declared the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace, but the presence in Cockburn Sound of nuclear armed ships and subs, many of them fresh from service in the Middle East and Central America, makes a mockery of the whole idea. It also makes Fremantle and Perth very obvious retaliatory nuclear targets.

The Cockburn Sound Peace Camp is anxious to highlight, also, the issue of what it means for the women of Fremantle to have 40,000 sailors visit their

town every year. It's well known that large military installations bring with them increases in rapes, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual exploitation and harassment — all of which affect women deeply. The West Australian government, however, has done nothing to prevent or measure the inevitable social effect of the U.S. Navy's presence. The police are told to exercise restraint, to let the Americans deal with their own problems as far as possible. Clearly, this makes life easier for both the police and the naval authorities; equally clearly, things become much harder for any woman with a complaint to make against a sailor.

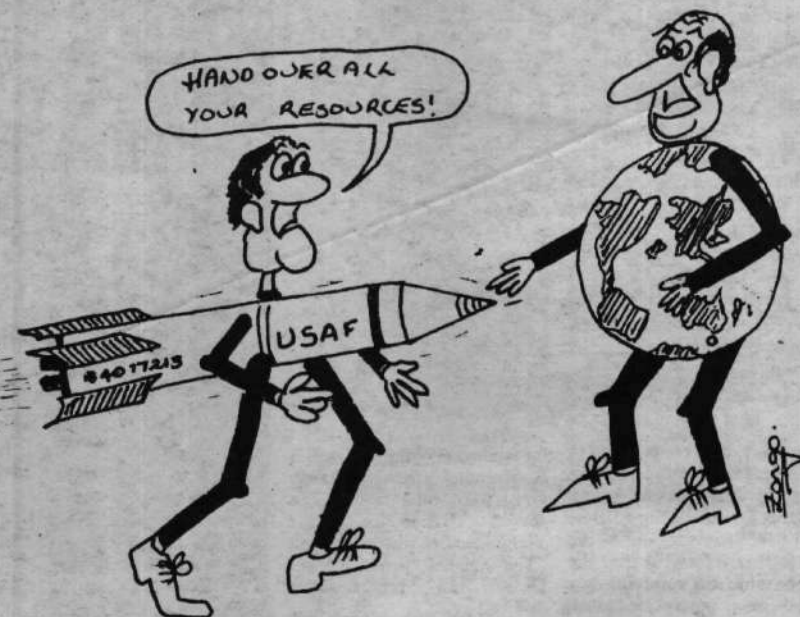
Fremantle is a rest and recreation centre for the U.S. Navy. From the nightclubs which offer free entry to women when a U.S. ship is in port, to the "Dial-a-Sailor" ship-to-shore phone link, the women of Fremantle are quite blatantly and systematically regarded as commodities which the U.S. Navy can buy and distribute for its men's use.

So, we think it's crucial to mobilise as many women as possible to protest against the threat of nuclear war, and just as possible to protest against the threat of violence at all levels.

The Cockburn Sound Peace Camp is one of the Sound Women's Actions. Another is the Women's Peace Train which will leave Brisbane on the 27th November and roll into Perth (via Sydney) on the 1st December. We will be organising a bus or busses so that Melbourne women can join the train somewhere on the route, probably Port Pirie or Broken Hill.

The whole train is booked by Women For Survival, providing seats for 800 women and children, with a limited number of beds available on a rotating basis.

A place on the train will cost roughly \$220, with children travelling free. The details will



be finalised soon but PLEASE NOTE: To secure a seat on the Peace Train, you must get your deposit of \$50 to us by 29th October at the latest. The address is: PEACE TRAIN, P.O. Box K637, Haymarket, 2000.

For women who are interested in Cockburn Sound, the Peace Train or any of the Sound Women's Actions, Women for Survival is holding an

**INFORMATION DAY**  
Saturday 20th October,  
1.30 p.m.  
The Women's Studies  
Centre  
274 George Street,  
Fitzroy

or you can ring Women for Survival on 419 7847 if you have any questions.

Jane and mandy, W.F.S.

(Continued from page 4)

## RESULTS:

A.E. Chairperson  
Steve Hurd (ALP)  
A.E. Hon. Secretary  
Kathleen O'Sullivan (ALP)  
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Adrian Rollins (ALP)  
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Mary-Anne Toy (ALP)  
Members Without Portfolio  
Luisa Bazzani (ALP)  
Jeff Katz (I.S.I.)  
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"The Cure"  
Publications Committee  
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Alison Jones (ALP)  
Gail Hubble (Left Press)  
Activities Chairperson  
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A.U.S. Delegation  
Penny Flint (ALP)

Rachel Landau (I.S.I.)  
Chris Molnar (Liberals)  
Michael Borowick (ALP)  
Stephen Cecil (Aust. Dem.)  
Sean Purcell (Ind. Left)  
Karen Plaxton (Left Action)  
Jeff Levine (I.S.I.)  
Peter Clarke (TEAS)

## A.U.S. National Ballot

Q1 Yes Q2 Yes  
Q3 Yes Q4 Yes  
Q5 No

## Primary Votes for Proposals

A 198 B 126  
C 159 D 432  
E 892 Inf 554

## Elected Unopposed

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OSS Committee  
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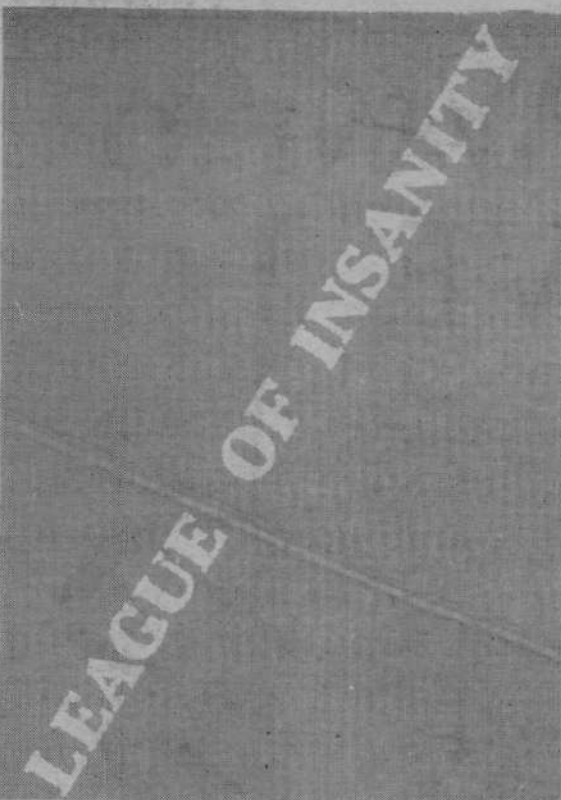


I am a professionally employed male, aged in my early twenties. I am tertiary educated and would like to meet a woman who is studying for a tertiary qualification aged in her twenties, for companionship.

My interests are: Keeping fit, travelling, dining out, current affairs topics, film appreciation, interesting conversation.

Reply in writing to:-  
"Frank"  
3 Loch Street,  
Kew.





Seeing that there is going to be a federal election at some stage of this year (we are all waiting for our glorious Prime Minister to announce the date) it is a fair bet that the race issue will raise its ugly head once again. You all remember the race issue — that was when one Professor Geoffrey Blainey declared that the present government's immigration policies were heavily biased in favour of Asians and that there should be an alteration of this bias in favour of a more "traditional British mix". Unless you have been hiding under a stone for the last six months (and, for all I know, some of you may have been) you would be aware of the furore that erupted as a result of Blainey's remarks both at Warnambool (where he first floated the issue) and his following statements. Asian immigration may well be an important election issue this year (goodness knows that the disgraced and disgraceful Liberals are desperate enough to try anything). To pre-empt this fact, and to pre-empt the release of Blainey's forthcoming book, (which, from all accounts, is racing through the pipeline to be printed in time for the election,) the Fabian Society (no, not Tony Rodbard-Beans lot, I mean the real, serious, grown up Fabian Society) is organising a week-end seminar of notable speakers who will talk to the theme "The Ugly Face of Racism".

The seminar is being organised by Ken Gott, Consultant to the Aboriginal Affairs Department, one time freelance journalist and author of "Voices of Hate" which was a study of the League of Rights. Ken will himself speak on the League, and will be joined by Clyde Cameron, the Minister

for Aboriginal Affairs), Dr. Bill Rubenstein (from Monash Uni.) who will talk on "The Jewish Experience". Mr Wellington Lee who will talk on "The Asian Experience" and Dr. Andrew Markus (from LaTrobe Uni.) whose topic will be "The Blainey Thesis" (presumably, a critical dissection thereof).

Andrew Markus has, in fact, spoken on this topic previously, when he attacked Blainey's methodology and motives at the Australian Historians Association Annual conference at Melbourne Uni earlier this year. Wellington Lee, of a Chinese family established in Australia for four generations, is a member of the Returned Servicemen's League who challenged the racist utterances of RSL president Bruce Ruxton at that Organisations Annual Meeting in 1983. This makes for quite an interesting combination of speakers who will talk on a vital and relevant issue that faces Australian society not only in terms of the role of the issue in the forthcoming election, but also on a broader, more general basis. Besides this, it ought to be a lot of fun seeing the first intellectual punches, as it were, being thrown for the forthcoming election campaign.

The seminar will be held at Melbourne University, in the Union Lounge of the Union Building. The date, for all of you eager beavers to pen into your diaries, is Saturday October 13, kicking off at 1.00 pm and going through until 6 pm. Because it's going to be such a marathon, refreshments will be provided. Registration is required, and you can do this by writing to the Fabian Society Box 2707X, Melbourne 3001, or by telephoning Chris on (03) 568-6008. See you all there.



The Victorian Government acted quickly on its commitment to Aboriginal Land Rights in Victoria and is now fighting a concerted campaign by the extreme right Australian League of Rights which is opposing the principle and the intent of the Government. The Aboriginal Land Claims Bill was introduced into Parliament on 17 March, 1982, and was to 'lie over' for a period of three months to allow for more consultation before debate.

The Aboriginal community requested more time to consider the Bill, and this time was granted by the Premier.

The Bill has been widely distributed throughout Victoria to all municipalities and interested groups and many submissions have been received. Many of the constructive comments will be incorporated in the new legislation which is due to be debated in the Spring Session of Parliament.

However, the Government will not proceed with this legislation if the Aboriginal community does not accept the revised Bill as fair and reasonable, taking all interests into account, and accordingly that the public interest is protected.

During this period, the Australian League of Rights has conducted a highly organised campaign against the Bill. This campaign has been concentrated mainly in the country areas with constant lobbying of municipalities as they key.

This organisation operates behind many fronts — some of these are "Electors Associations", "Save Victoria Committee", and "Saving Australia 1984". The "Australian Land Rights Movement" distributes similar propaganda.

The League and its front groups distribute material which is incorrect, misleading and which seeks ultimately to sow fear, distrust and division in the community. The aim is to revive the League as a political fringe force by recruiting new members, especially in country areas.

People are being told that their private land is threatened, that Aboriginal land rights will create "separate sovereign nations" — that this will result in unfriendly nations (i.e. Russians and North Koreans) entering the country, and that this poses a defence threat to Australia.

These claims are laughable in terms of logic and reality,

but the creation of fear and division by these means is not laughable. It is indeed a matter of great concern.

We have seen such tactics employed in pre-Fascist Germany.

Although the claims of these groups can be refuted easily by the facts, the damage incurred to race relations is not so easily remedied.

The foreshadowed Aboriginal land rights legislation now before Parliament is only one moderate measure to provide justice.

Only land owned by the Victorian Government can be claimed and all claims have to go through machinery which will ensure that the public interest is protected.

It is important that the facts are acknowledged in this case.

These facts include not only the Bill's actual provisions, which are quite responsible, but also the facts of Aboriginal dispossession and the need to come to terms with the reality that Aborigines require some economic base if they are to be allowed to fulfil their expressed desire to reduce their reliance on welfare.

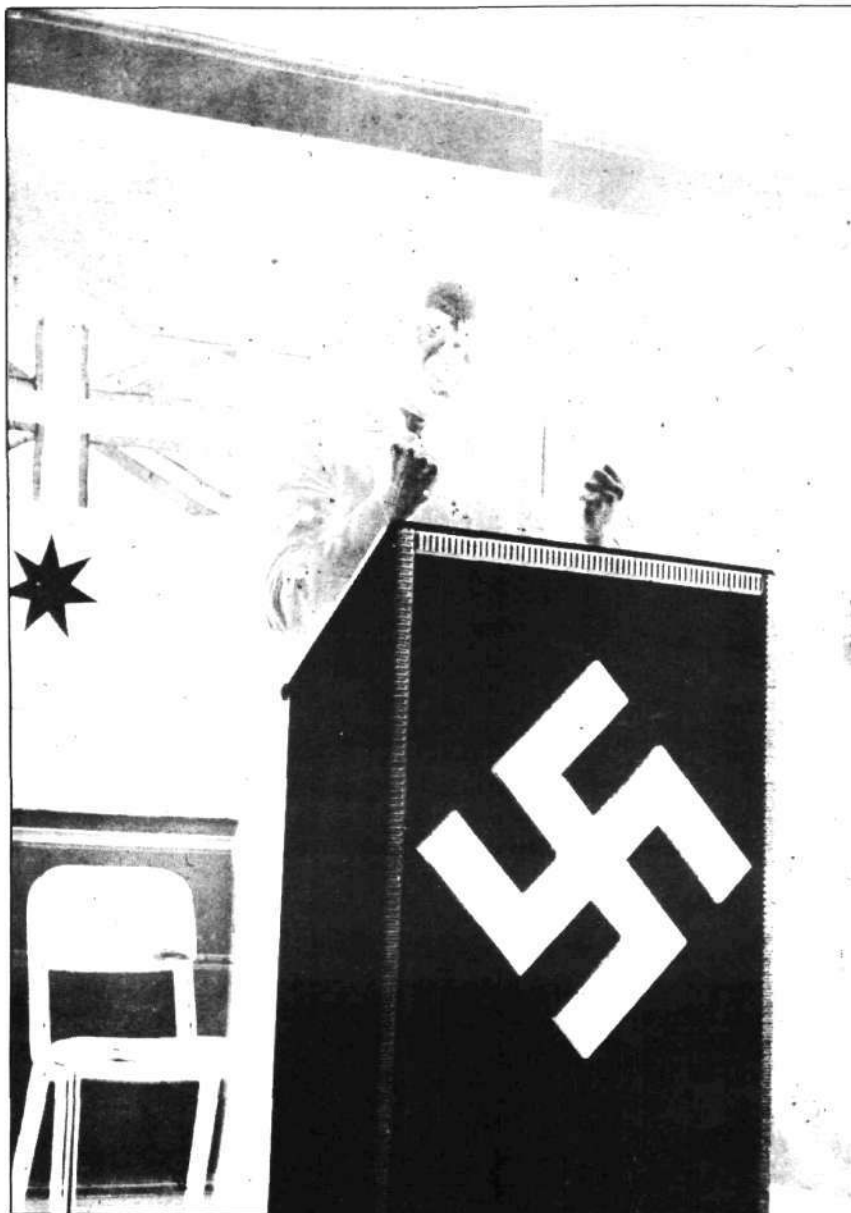
Ken Coghill



# THE POLITICS OF RACISM

There can be little doubt that Andrew Peacock and his motley bunch of cronies who sometimes describe themselves as the Liberal National Party are going down the tube over this organised crime issue. I've just watched Peacock being demolished on national television twice in one evening. The first of these demolition jobs was on the ABC's Nationwide programme where Max Walsh presided over a slanging match between the ignoble leader of the Opposition and Paul Keating. Keating had Peacock on toast, as he had been having him all day in the parliament. The second media extravaganza was the Willesee programme where Peacock repeatedly refused to respond to Willesee's demands to provide something substantial in his allegations. The opposition is fast loosing control of one issue that it thought it could use to some effect in the forthcoming federal election. Now, if you consider that the Libs are losing their grip on this issue, and you add to this the fact that they are desperate enough to cling at any issue, then you come to the conclusion — as I have — that immigration, and, consequently, racism — will emerge as a major issue around about December of this year.

The issue of Asian immigration has taken a back seat in a political terms as a result of the Great Crime Debate, as it were. You must all surely remember the early furore caused by professor Blainey's remarks about the imbalance of Asian immigration in the overall immigration figures. Blainey went further to argue that, for the sake of stability (and, presumably, homogeneity) of Australian society, the imbalance should be corrected in favour of the "traditional" British mix. The government's reaction to this criticism was to seriously question Blainey's figures — immigration minister Stewart West went to great pains to explain in his own gruff way that basically, Blainey was distorting the figures. There has been an overall decline in immigration rates, and the "imbalance" which looks stark in relation to these declining figures is in fact the result of the Department's policy of bringing to Australia members of separated families. This argument has been taken up by other academic critics of Blainey. Blainey's figures and methodology have been subjected to great scrutiny and great criticism, so much so that a reliable source recently informed me that Blainey has now hired a team of figure experts whose job it will be to clean up this part of his argument.



The other result of Blainey's remarks was to bring out of the woodwork a number of disgraceful lunatic right-wing organisations. The National Action group, for example, immediately went onto the offensive (in both meanings of the term) and their racist propaganda began to flood the major capital cities. The League of Rights, another ultra-right wing neo-Nazi organisation, also bobbed up into prominence over this issue. One of the best descriptions of the policies of the League of Rights comes from Ken Gott, author of *Voices of Hate*, who described the organisation as "... the most significant organization propagating race hatred in Australia." In this book — a study of the League and its leadership — Ken has revealed that this organisation depends on contacts with the more right-winged elements of the Liberal party for its influence. One time cabinet member, Dr. Jim Killen

one such important Liberal party contact for the League, has now, of course, vanished from the political scene, yet the spectre of the extreme right in mainstream Australian politics lives on in the form of the shadow minister for immigration, Mr. Michael Hodgman of Tasman.

Now, I have no evidence at this stage to claim outright that Mr Hodgman is the mouthpiece for the League of Rights in parliament. It is interesting to note, however, the close proximity between Mr Hodgman's brand of right-wing politics and that of the League. Ken Gott notes in his book that the League stands for the preservation of Australia's British heritage, the preservation of the British Empire, the Anglo-Saxon homogeneity of Australian society, and profound anti-Communism. Similar themes emerge from Hodgman's own posturings. But whereas

Ken Gott's study has dealt with the League's racism in relation to anti-Semitism, the new frontier for the contemporary League's struggle is the issue of Aboriginal Land Rights and, of course, Asian immigration. Neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organisations have rallied to both of these issues and have provided something of an impetus for the political tactics of the Liberal party for the forthcoming election.

The Liberals and the Nationals will tell you that they don't support racism, and nor do they support the League of Rights, as it were. Yet they will not place this organisation in the "forbidden" basket — and the sharing of platforms by Liberal party members and League of Rights cronies has given more than a hint that the conservative parties are so desperate for an issue with which to attack the ALP that they will play on the racial xenophobia that groups

such as the League attempt to whip up into outrageous proportions.

Presently, racism (that is, the tapping of racial xenophobia about Asian immigration and Land Rights) has yet to rear its ugly head in the lead-up to the election, due mainly to the Costigan Commission goings-on. Yet there is every indication that this issue will arise. Quite apart from the floundering of the Liberals over organised crime, there are other indications of a concerted conservative push to bring the issue to the public's attention before December. For example, Geoffrey Blainey's new book is being rushed through its final stages, and will be before the public prior to the election. In fact, *The Herald and Weekly Times* organisation is going to make sure of that fact, as they will be running extracts of the book in their major newspaper, *The Herald*. Indeed, the *Herald* has featured a Blainey column for some time now. This column sits alongside other vestiges of far-right writings by not only the newspaper's editorial board, but also such notable right-wing writers as Anthony McAdam. The *Herald* has maintained consistent support for Blainey's view and for the posturings of crazies like Hodgman.

Racism is more than something that is or has been manufactured by groups such as the League or the national action. It has deep historical roots in this country that transcend the propaganda put out by these organisations. The reasons for racial xenophobia are deep-rooted and historical. What groups such as the League do is to build on his indigenous ideological formation in an attempt to realise their own weird goals. The League is racist, it is against Land Rights, it opposes immigration of non-Anglo Saxon races, and it is openly and avowedly anti-semitic. It is also a very clever organisation that attempts to operate within local ideological formations, such as racial fear and perceptions of racial homogeneity leading to stability and prosperity.

With the forthcoming Federal election, the League may find a willing audience to its rabid ideas in the desperate and discredited Liberal party. The Liberal party, in its quest for office, may also use localised racial fears to achieve what they might believe to be an electoral advantage. Racial issues will become an election issue, and this will contribute to a very bitter if not dirty election campaign.



# KEYHOLE ON THE KREMLIN

The nature of Soviet foreign policy has long perplexed Western observers. In many ways Russia still remains the enigma it was at the time of Ivan the Terrible. Now however, the debate has assumed a sense of urgency, for our security is directly dependent upon the decision-making process within the Kremlin.

Russia is the last of the old European land empires, forged by conquest over a period of five centuries. Unlike its Austro-Hungarian counterpart, Russia was never obliged to liberate its subject peoples at the end of the First World War, so in many ways it has hardly changed since the time of the Tsars. Lenin himself described the Empire as "the prisonhouse of nationalities", and the numerous uprisings and rebellions in peripheral regions — even as late as the 1950s — testify to the enduring nature of this situation.

The Russian Empire expanded westward because the Tsars believed they had an historical and religious duty to unite all Slavic peoples under the Russian flag. This belief was called "pan-Slavism". It gave the Tsars imperialist designs on Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania and parts of Czechoslovakia — designs which were finally realised during the reign of the last of Russia's absolute despots — Joseph Stalin, the "Red Tsar".

The Empire expanded eastward largely for economic reasons. Siberia was a vast, resource-rich frontier which begged exploitation by profit-seeking militarists. Indigenous peoples were dealt with in precisely the same way the Americans dealt with the Indians — they were used, abused and massacred.

But, of course, the further the Empire expanded, the more numerous and dangerous appeared to be its enemies. Expansion to the west brought Russia into contact with Germany and Austria, to the east with Japan, and to the south with Turkey, Persia and Britain. All of these states wound up fighting wars against Russia (usually for what they too perceived to be defensive reasons), increasing her sense of isolation and encirclement.

As each enemy attacked, Russia found herself obliged to extend her frontiers in order to prevent a repetition of the attacks she had just repulsed. This drove her further and further south until she came directly into contact with the British Empire in India. It was only when she secured strong, clearly defined and easily defensible borders that she ceased her outward expansion and stabilised her boundaries. This point was achieved towards the end of the last century. With the exception of a few minor peripheral territories, and the establishment of the satellite system in Eastern Europe, the Empire has hardly changed in a hundred years.

When the Bolsheviks came to power in 1917, Lenin sought to reverse four hundred years of history by liberating Russia's subject nations and peoples from imperialist rule. However, he quickly discovered that the Tsars had had good reason for maintaining an iron rule over the Empire. The subject peoples had no love for Russia or for Bolshevism, and quickly lent their support to reactionary forces bent on overturning the revolution. Lenin was forced to retract his offer of liberation and to ruthlessly re-incorporate the

subject states into the Empire. Some, like the Baltic States, managed to temporarily escape subjugation, but by 1945 Stalin had succeeded in restoring the Empire to all its former glory. Thus the Bolsheviks inherited the imperial legacy of their Tsarist predecessors.

They also inherited an abiding obsession with defense. Centuries of bitter experience have imbued Russian leaders — irrespective of their ideology — with a suspicion of everything foreign. Like so many of their Western counterparts they tend to see enemies everywhere. The current leaders lived through the Second World War and vividly remember the horrors of the Nazi holocaust. They also remember the cowardice and incompetence on the part of Stalin which left the Soviet armed forces almost entirely unprepared for either the timing or scale of the German onslaught.

As such, Soviet leaders — particularly since Khrushchev — have tended to give the military whatever it claims to need to defend the motherland. Tanks, planes, missiles and warheads roll off the assembly lines at an absurdly rapid rate, endowing the Soviet armed forces with a level of firepower exceeded only by that of the Pentagon. And, like its American equivalent, the Soviet public accepts this wasteful situation in the name of "national security".

Not only did the experience of the "Great Patriotic War" give the military great power and prestige within the Soviet Union, it also left it with a dangerous notion of its role within and outside of the Soviet "sphere of influence". Like its American counterpart, the Soviet military believes that the best way to deter war is to prepare to fight it and win it. Soviet military journals abound with terrifying descriptions of blitzkrieg campaigns waged by the Soviet Army in response to Western aggression. Nuclear weapons are treated as merely a more destructive form of artillery and are fully integrated into conventional planning.

Only a cursory glance at Soviet strategy makes it clear that the Soviet military rules out any possibility that conventional or nuclear war between the Super powers could be kept limited to a particular theatre of operations. On the contrary, Soviet generals are convinced that any direct conflict would invariably escalate to suicidal levels, and that therefore it is the Soviet Union's duty to escalate the conflict first in order to destroy the enemy's weapons before they can be launched and thus limit damage to the Soviet homeland. Western strategists call this policy — to which the Pentagon also subscribes — "striking second first", the idea being that one side becomes so convinced that its enemy is about to attack that it decides to retaliate before the attack is actually launched.

This policy is extremely dangerous, for it increases the likelihood of a nuclear war breaking out as a result of a misunderstanding. The Korean Airlines incident graphically demonstrated how the Soviet military acts when it is backed into a corner. Irrespective of whether KAL007 was or was not a spy plane, the Soviet military clearly believed that it was and acted accordingly. Deployment of Persh-

in II missiles in West Germany places the Soviet military in a similar predicament, for these missiles have a pre-emptive capability. Consequently, in the event of a major international crisis, they could well become lightning rods for Soviet attack. The next great tragedy could well befall Western Europe, not just a lone commercial airliner.

And, of course, Reagan's vitriolic rhetoric is only exacerbating the situation. Any nation is at its most dangerous when it feels itself to be isolated, encircled and humiliated. This is especially so with the Soviet Union where internal political stability is perceived to be dependent upon external political factors. The situation in Poland is a perfect example.

Soviet leaders became convinced that Solidarnosc was a direct threat to the security of the Soviet Union — not because Solidarnosc planned to expel Soviet troops from Poland (in fact it never harboured such an illusion), but because the trade union's immense popularity — in fact its very existence — gave lie to one of the basic tenets of Soviet ideology: that the Soviet model of socialism represents the interests and aspirations of the working class. In Poland, the proletariat was clearly opposed to the Soviet system. Consequently, the Soviets could not allow Solidarnosc to exist. It was probably doomed from the start.

Similarly, the Soviets felt compelled to invade Afghanistan for fear that a less than co-operative puppet regime might succumb to a popular uprising, thus giving lie to the idea that Soviet-style socialism can bring benefit to the Muslim world. Of course it may well be able to bring benefit to the Afghan people, but they obviously don't see it that way, and they are the ones who have the right to decide what sort of political and economic system they want.

In fact, Soviet diplomatic and military support for corrupt and brutal regimes like those in Syria, Ethiopia and Afghanistan demonstrates clearly the superficial role of Communist ideology in Kremlin decision-making since the 1960s. Khrushchev would never have aligned the Soviet Union with a fascistic regime like that of Hafez Assad in Syria. He reserved Soviet support for genuine nationalist leaders like Nasser and Nehru and, of course, for revolutionary heroes like Ho Chi Minh and Fidel Castro.

But there aren't too many nationalist and revolutionary leaders who are prepared to follow Moscow any more. Too many feel themselves to have been used or betrayed or both. It is not surprising that the Soviets should now be aligning themselves with regimes which were established not by popular uprising but by political or military coup, for this is precisely how the Bolshevik regime itself was established.

Whatever the reason, there is a growing awareness within the Kremlin that the Soviet Union has lost the impetus that it had in the '50s and '60s when Third World nations looked to it as an ally against imperialism. Now many former allies see it as little better than the Western nations. There is also a realisation that the dream of world communism was precisely that — a dream. New ideologies are appearing which reject both the capitalist and the

socialist models of development (ecological-humanism, Muslim fundamentalism etc.). And, of course, history has shown that community nations do fight wars with one another, despite what Marx and Lenin predicted.

In response to these developments, the Soviets have become cynical of and hypocritical about their own ideology. The Kremlin is now dominated by old men who have run out of new ideas. Faced with serious problems on virtually all fronts, their only answer is to apply a heavier dose of the same old medicine.

Nevertheless, despite all its defects, the Soviet system has achieved a great deal in a relatively short period of time, and the Soviet people and their leaders believe they have a great deal to offer the world. They support many good causes internationally: nationalist movements like the Palestinian struggle for a homeland, and revolutionary movements like the Salvadoran struggle for social justice. Yet they have been unable to secure the kind of international acclaim and respect they feel they rightly deserve. In fact, the Soviet Union faces the exact same dilemma as its arch rival, the United States — its international standing has changed in inverse proportion to its economic and military prowess. It too has had to rely more and more on military strength to try to solve problems which are essentially diplomatic in nature.

Soviet foreign policy in the 1970s became simultaneously more cautious and more adventurous: a quest for stability and security at home, and respect and influence abroad. The pragmatists in the Kremlin prefer diplomatic means to achieve this; the hard-liners prefer military means to achieve it. The end of detente marked the ascendancy of the former; the new Cold War may well mark the ascendancy of the latter. Certainly Reagan's anti-Soviet rhetoric and his massive rearmament programme can only strengthen the hand of those in the Kremlin who believe that co-operation with the United States is impossible.

The Soviet Union has every reason to want to return to a period of normal relations with its principal adversary. Similarly, it has every reason to want to negotiate a meaningful arms control agreement to decrease the likelihood of nuclear war. Despite what the generals may think, Soviet leaders are well aware that nuclear war is unfightable and unwinnable. And despite the fact that both the Pentagon and the White House are dominated by hard-liners, the Kremlin at least is still controlled by pragmatists. But their hold on power is tenuous at best.

There is a great deal the West can do to reinforce the influence of these men in the Kremlin. Reducing international tension would be a good first step. However, this will require a supreme effort on the part of the peace movement, particularly in the United States. In Australia, we could play a useful role by normalising relations with the Soviet Union, and by pressuring the United States to make major concessions at the Geneva arms control talks (now in a state of indefinite recess). And, of course, in the long term, we could seek to distance ourselves from the U.S. bases on our soil and by assuming a position of non-alignment or neutrality.

# THE POISON GAS STORES

The following is the text of a speech given by Petra Kelly at the Pirmasens Rally, 29 August 1981.

'Carthage waged three wars: it was still powerful after the first, it was still habitable after the second, it was no more to be found after the third' Bertolt Brecht.

I have come here today to support your non-violent struggle in Fischbach against Europe's largest nerve-gas store. Chemical weapons are just as dangerous as nuclear weapons, in peacetime or war. The 2,000 tons of nerve gas stored here are enough to wipe out the whole of mankind. The local communities in the areas surrounding the poison gas depots were not even informed of the dangers facing them. Even in minuscule amounts, the poison causes premature ageing, leukaemia, and severe deformities in children. If one barrel were to explode, there would be enough gas to kill 300,000 people.

Storing poison gas in West Germany contravenes international law. The government loses all credibility when it makes official statements condemning chemical means of mass destruction while allowing nerve gas to be stored in its own country. One of the motives for building the neutron bomb - the preservation of factories, warehouses and docks while destroying most living organisms - has reached the peak of perfection in the use of chemical weapons.

Material objects are not attacked or damaged at all, only people are affected. In the last few days, government spokesman, Luther Ruhl said that the neutron bomb is similar in its effect to the chemical weapons that the Soviet Union has deployed in large numbers in East Germany and Czechoslovakia. In a radio interview, Ruhl claimed that the Warsaw Pact's chemical weapons gave it a unilateral attack capability and went on to assure us that NATO's nuclear capability would only serve as a deterrent and not as an instrument of a limited war in Europe.

At the moment, the peace movement in Europe is concentrating on the danger of nuclear weapons. But Germany is already storing 2,000 tons of nerve gas, and with another 20,000 tons of chemical weapons. One third of the world's chemical weapons are stored in Germany.

people. During the Second World War anthrax weapons were tested out successfully, if they had been used, Germany would still be uninhabitable today. Even if the extra American missiles were not deployed, we would still be living in danger of a nuclear, biological and chemical holocaust.

The Reagan government, in accordance with its policy of increasing defence spending while cutting welfare, is intending to make an extra \$20 million available for the manufacture of chemical weapons. We can assume that similar substances for waging a chemical war are available in the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries.

Chemical weapons and experiments in micro-biology have a gruesome history. At the end of the forties, the United States was accused of having used biological weapons to help start an epidemic among Canadian Eskimos. In the fifties, the Soviet Union claimed that the Western powers had tested biological weapons in Korea. In 1970, there was a rumour that carriers of veterinary disease had been used to destabilise the Cuban economy. And it is certain that CIA-supported agents smuggled an African swinefever virus into Cuba. 500,000 pigs had to be slaughtered. A documentary on the ITV World in Action series proved that chemical weapons had been tested on American soldiers. One officer was badly affected that he leapt out of a window to his death.

According to a confidential Pentagon study, the armed forces and other bodies regard the current arsenal of chemical weapons as old or even outmoded. Things are actually much worse than that. The military wants, amongst other things, to build a new nerve gas warehouse in Roode, Utah, are leaking or rusting or close to it, and so on the ones over here, and even worse is the fact that we have no safe disposal facilities, a central decontamination unit at any time. In a major, mass, and accident were to occur, these chemical weapons were in hand and chemical weapons containers were to explode, the consequences could be disastrous.

The chemical weapons are stored in a way that is not safe. The containers are not properly sealed and the gas can leak out. The containers are not properly sealed and the gas can leak out.







"Lead contamination in canned tuna, exceeding natural concentrations 10,000-fold, went undiscovered for decades because of analytical error. The magnitude of this pollution effect helps explain the difference between the lead concentration in the diets of present-day Americans (0.2 part per million) and in the diets of prehistoric peoples (estimated to be less than 0.002 parts per million). It also explains how skeletal concentrations of lead in typical Americans became elevated 500-fold above the natural concentrations measured in bones of Peruvians who lived in an unpolluted environment 1800 years ago. It has been tacitly assumed that natural bio-chemical effects in lead in human cells have been studied, but this is not so because reagents, nutrients, and controls used in laboratory and field studies have been unknowingly contaminated with lead far in excess of naturally occurring levels."

Startling observations about the significance of typical lead levels which we are all exposed to were made by Kettle and Patterson in their 1974 findings, are highly significant in regard to such issues as lead pollution, and the methods and biases of scientific research. That this work was first published years ago and is still largely undiscussed is itself an indication of Settle and Patterson's results. To appreciate the full significance of their findings, let's look first at the properties and uses of lead.

Lead interferes with the synthesis of haeme which is a constituent of haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying molecule in red blood cells. Consequently, chronic exposure to lead causes a type of anemia characterised by abnormally small red blood cells, containing reduced haemoglobin content.

In both chronic and acute cases of lead poisoning it is the renal system (kidneys, etc) that are mainly affected because through this system the lead is largely eliminated from the body via the urine. Both acute and chronic exposure of lead to kidney degeneration, eventually leading to renal failure.

Another characteristic of lead in the body is that it is stored in the bones, because in some respects it has similar properties to calcium, the main constituent of bone. The lead in bones may lie dormant for many years and then be released back into the body during times of ill health or because of ageing.

There are many other areas of lead toxicology, the above examples are just the most obvious. For instance, so far there has been no mention of organic lead compounds, such as those added to petrol (these compounds are burnt along with the petrol, and form inorganic products). Such organic compounds of lead behave quite differently in the body to inorganic lead (i.e. lead as metal, constituent of dusts, exhausts etc.). They tend to be fat soluble. In other words, organic lead may be more potent than inorganic lead, because it may dissolve and be stored in fatty tissue in many parts of the body. In addition, the medical technique used for treating inorganic lead poisoning cannot be used on organic lead.

In summary, lead is poisonous in many

complex and as yet, poorly understood ways, in doses that are considered acute or chronic. It has no constructive role in the body's chemistry and in high concentrations, invariably causes damage. Yet low concentrations of lead are found throughout the human environment. We all have small but measurable levels of lead in our bodies and we eat, drink and breathe small amounts of it every day. What effect do these low concentrations of lead have on us as individuals or as a population as a whole? Is there any cause for worry and, anyway, is there anything we can do?

The answers to these questions require the answer to yet another question: Where does the lead come from? If the dispersed lead in our environment were largely natural in origin then limiting our use of lead would have little effect on



environmental levels. In addition, we might infer that the human organism evolved in an environment in which such lead levels were a part and so probably adapted to cope with them. However, if such levels are due largely to human technology, then they are quite recent (i.e. established within the last 150 years). We can't then infer that our body chemistry, the result of millions of years of evolution can cope. If we take the conservative view, aided by our knowledge of acute and chronic effects of lead, then we must concede that even low levels of lead may alter our body chemistry in ways that are unlikely to be desirable.

The work of Clair Patterson over the last twenty years has largely answered the question of where the environment lead comes from. Patterson determined background lead levels in carefully sampled and handled specimens using 'ultra clean' techniques. These techniques were developed so that moon rocks could be analysed on earth without being contaminated by the earth's environment. When Patterson used these techniques on the background samples, (tuna and sea water from the mid-north Pacific) it was found that the tuna contained 0.3 ppb or lead (0.3 parts of lead to a billion (thousand million) parts of sample) and the sea water contained .005 parts per billion of lead. These levels were 1000 to 10,000 times smaller than those measured by conventional techniques in other laboratories. Patterson was moved to make the following comments:

"We... have checked some analyses of plant and animal material for lead that were made by laboratories that use conventional, rapid methods of lead analysis. In virtually every case, serious errors were found. Nearly all of the thousands of analyses of lead concentrations in plants, animals, and sediments reported by the Bureau of Land Management are probably wrong... All of the many analyses of lead in old stem wood of trees... are erroneously high by a factor of 1000... Despite more than 40 years of study and measurement of the occurrence of lead in open ocean waters, it has been found that all previous analyses of lead in such waters are wrong... most by three orders of magnitude (i.e. 1000); correct analyses of lead in open ocean waters have been reported in

only one recent study... Clearly, the regulatory agencies lack the ability to correctly monitor the extent of lead pollution. The recent decline in the quality of most lead analyses (which is correlated with the increased volume of reported data) has been caused by a failure of investigators to recognize that proper acquisition of these data in meaningful samples is a challenging research problem that cannot be dealt with merely by using sophisticated instruments that reduce sample size and increase data output."

#### Scientific reaction to Patterson's work

On a technical level, there has been agreement with Patterson and his co-workers, by other groups who use similar techniques. One study in 1977 did dispute some of the earlier work (1969) on the Greenland Ice Sheet, however another research group has since shown that the 1977 study was probably in error by a factor of 10 to 100 in some of its findings. Since 1977, further studies have largely vindicated Patterson's earlier findings, as well as refining the 'ultra clean' techniques to make them more accurate. Generally, there is no dispute on technical grounds to Patterson's work, and in the case of lead it is now conceded that most environmental lead (over 99%) is due to recent human activities.

Patterson's work has not created much public interest. In his 1980 Science article the last section headed "Recommendations" begins with the following paragraph:



"The 10,000-fold lead pollution factor for tuna packed in lead-soldered cans is largely ignored by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), the EPA (environment Protection Agency), the NBS (National Bureau of Standards) and Ralph Nader's Public Citizen's Health Research Group because they cannot accommodate this knowledge within their present aims and obligations. This article places their obligations within a new context and requires that they modify their aims. Regulatory agencies must understand that an unrecognized form of lead poisoning may be affecting most Americans and a major portion of the world's population."

The FDA were quoted as describing Patterson's work on packaged tuna as a "meaningless academic exercise". The dispute is not with the truth of Patterson's findings, but the significance one attaches to them. Basically, the levels of lead now present in us, our food, the air and the water are not considered dangerous because we have no obvious symptoms.

It has proved very difficult to establish at what level people are being poisoned by lead and exactly just what the symptoms will be. It has been suggested that airborne lead levels in inner city areas with high volumes of motor traffic affect the behaviour of children living in these areas. Such exposure may make them hyperactive, perform less well in

school, lessen attention span, etc. However, to prove such an effect exists is very difficult. Such proof requires large, expensive surveys of bodily indicators such as blood levels and environmental samples, the careful selection of a control population (such as children who live in a less polluted area) to calibrate the results and even more vital, the elimination of variables such as diet, economic and social background.

Although there have been no definitive surveys proving adverse effects to typical environmental levels, the acceptable levels have been gradually reduced over the years. In 1981, the Australian Academy of Science in its publication *Health and Environmental Lead in Australia*, suggested adoption of EEC (1977) levels for blood lead (Australia has insufficient data to set our own standards). The standard is as follows:

0.2 ppm in no more than 50% of the population, 9.3 ppm in no more than 10%, 0.35 ppm implies possible harmful exposure. Even accepting that blood lead levels are a meaningful indicator of lead exposure, (and this point is debatable i.e. organic lead exposure) such levels are much greater than those of our prehistoric ancestors.

In arguing against the acceptance of such typical levels and arguing for the phasing out of lead in packaging, as a petrol additive, and severely restricting its use in other areas, Patterson asserts that we just don't know how biochemical processes of living systems behave without lead. All plants and animals on this planet are now exposed to lead levels much in excess of levels that existed several thousand years ago. In fact, to find out about lead-free biochemical processes would require lead-free sanctuaries to culture simple organisms that could give us clues as to how higher life forms might behave in the absence of today's typical lead levels.

It has been singled out for special attention because it is so dispersed in the environment, a non-essential trace element in the body and known to be poisonous in high concentrations. However, there are many other trace elements which in their inorganic or organic forms are proving to be highly toxic, such as zinc, cadmium and mercury. Furthermore, they are increasingly being dispersed in our environment and they appear to be more poisonous in combination than alone. Hopefully, the lead controversy may turn out to be a timely warning that we must be much more circumspect where



we establish the standards by which we measure the extent of pollution. We must be guided by our knowledge of background levels and the inventories of global production and use. It was these considerations which lead Patterson to investigate such levels because he sensed there were great discrepancies between the so-called natural background and what the natural environment could produce, but that these discrepancies disappeared when human production was taken into account. Perhaps most importantly, the way we approach such problems should be re-examined in the light of the fact that many scientists, in dozens of laboratories for many years were very wrong.

Tony Wohlers

They shoot kangaroos, don't they? Yes, they certainly do. And when they kill them by the score in the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, they call it culling.

It's easy for animal lovers and conservationist groups to sell outrage to the public. Kangaroos are cute and cuddly and furry; children love them; tourists pay to see them and what red-blooded Australian would not take up arms against mass-murder of our national emblem?

The last bout of culling, which took place in August, is a case in point. Concerned citizens filled the newspapers with angry letters of protest, some calling for culling of the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands. To many, it was an indefensible position on a black-and-white issue.

Why then, did both the Conservation Council of Victoria and the Sunraysia Naturalists Research Trust publicly support the culling? Surely these groups should be concerned about saving kangaroos? But the issue of culling is only one aspect of a larger problem: environmental management.

It's tempting to believe that wilderness only needs to be free of human involvement for it to thrive. But very little wilderness, land largely untouched by our influence, still exists in Victoria. Certainly, the Hattah area is not one such place.

The Hattah area was once dense, undisturbed Mallee scrubland. As western grey kangaroos are grazing, open grass-land animals, the area never originally supported them in great numbers. Early (1856-57) biological surveys by the Blandowski expedition found that the Western Grey Kangaroo was very rare and all the specimens they collected were small.

At this time, the dingo was a natural predator. The expedition collected thirty different species of mammal; thirteen of these have been extinct in this area and throughout Victoria since the turn of the century, including species which, at the time, were described as being 'very plentiful'.

The invasion of white settlers began decades of clearing and burning, heavy and consistent overgrazing and the introduction of rabbits. Now, the area is open grassland, which has directly encouraged the population explosion of kangaroos, rabbits and other grass-grazers.

Since the second half of the nineteenth century, the rabbit populations have been large, if not of plague proportions. With 8-10 rabbits eating as much as one sheep, this pest was strong competition for domestic and native grazers. But, the combined grazing pressure of domestic stock and rabbits meant that the Western Grey Kangaroo population did not build up to large numbers until the grazing regime changed. This change came with the first attempts to rehabilitate the badly damaged lands.

In 1953, because of severe soil erosion, and lack of pine and buloke tree regeneration, sheep grazing was stopped on the Crown and Forest land. Rabbit numbers immediately increased, utilising the feed no longer eaten by sheep. Rabbit control was attempted but on such a large area of land - 50,000 hec-

tares - and with such inadequate resources, such control was only partially effective.

In the 1960's, the Soil Conservation Authority established small plots which excluded all grazing mammals - rabbits, kangaroos and domestic stock. This experiment showed that, if grazing pressure could be reduced, many of the plants indigenous to the area, which had not been seen to regenerate for many years, would re-establish. The results aided decisions to stop cattle grazing in 1977.

As vegetation responded to the reduction of grazing pressure from cattle, rabbits again increase. Concerted efforts were made to control this pest, and numbers were reduced. But simultaneous with the reduction in rabbit numbers, the kangaroo population started to rise.

A ground survey carried out by independent researchers in July this year revealed 12,700 Western Grey kangaroos in the park, or 27 per square kilometer. Compare this to the estimate of Red kangaroos, of 1.4 per square kilometer, and to the Blandowski survey of 1856-57, which described the Western Grey as 'scarce'. It is also interesting to note that the pre-drought estimate of 1983 was 21,500 individuals, while the

post-drought figure for the same year was 12,300; clearly, many individuals died during that drought.

Despite extensive extermination programs against rabbits, feral goats and feral pigs, the soil erosion problem is still severe. In large areas, the amount of bare, unvegetated ground is as high as 100%. Dust storms carry away much of the essential plant nutrients; thus hindering plant growth. But it is worth noting that privately managed land adjacent to the park, where the level of grazing is regulated, is generally in far better condition than much of the park land. Soil erosion in the park is directly attributed to overpopulation and overgrazing by Western Grey kangaroos.

Overgrazing by kangaroos puts at risk other species of native birds and mammals, including the hare wallaby, spotted bower bird, and several wren species. Thirteen rare and endangered plant species grow in the park, and their existence is also threatened. The native pine-buloke woodlands cannot regenerate, as seedlings are immediately eaten by kangaroos.

But the native trees and rare white-brown tree-creeper are apparently of no concern to groups like the Fund for Animals, who protest at culling. Such groups

ask us to allow the extinction of an entire ecosystem, in order to spare a few hundred of the most common large mammal in Australia.

To paraphrase C.W.Meredith, (a biologist who has studied the Mallee region for many years), there is a need to expand our circle of ethics, out past humans, out past large, cute, furry mammals, out to embrace birds, reptiles, insects, and plants. Out to embrace whole environments.

But is culling the only answer? In July 1984, an attempt was made to drive kangaroos from an area of 6000 hectares. The drive involved experienced local horsemen, and inspectors and veterinarians from the R.S.P.C.A., Bureau of Animal Welfare, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, and the Department of Agriculture. It was a disaster. The drive had to be stopped, due to the severe stress experienced by the animals. Individuals were seen to froth at the mouth, many were injured by hitting fences, and does started to eject joeys from their pouches (a common response to extreme distress). In the end, many injured adults and about 40 joeys had to be put down by veterinarians.

Of the 1900 Western Grey kangaroos in the block, only 280 were successfully placed outside the fences. But those animals continued to suffer, as they tried to return to their home range. For many days they ran along the outside of the fence, at times running into it, in attempts to break through.

Despite criticism of the drive organisation from some quarters, the groups involved clearly believe that they did their utmost to make the drive successful, while trying to minimize the stress placed on the animals. But drives are not the solution. The suggested alternative of moving the kangaroos would simply not work according to C.W.Meredith. Catching and transporting large numbers of animals would result in a high mortality from broken limbs and shock. And then, there is the problem of where you put those that remain alive.

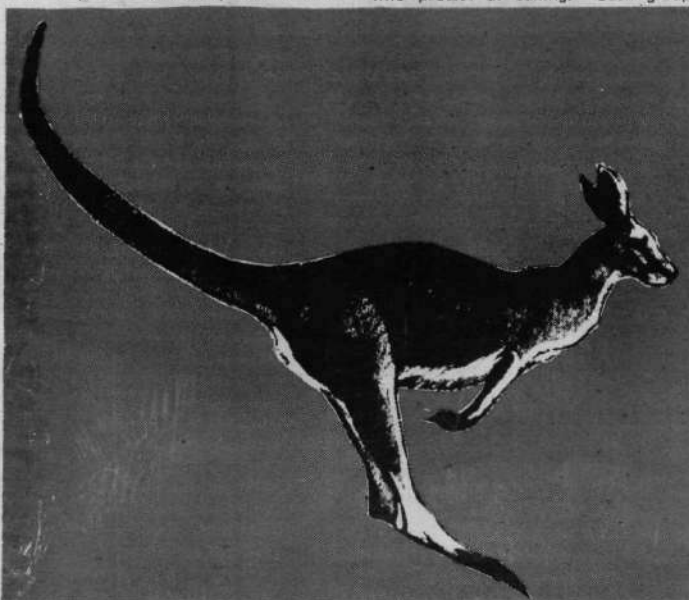
To date, it seems that the most humane means of reducing overgrazing is by culling. Trained and experienced Fisheries and Wildlife markspersons are used, and a shot to the head results in instantaneous death. Carcasses or skins are not removed from the park, and there is no commercial aspect to the shooting.

White settlement has wrought enormous changes upon the Australian environment in the last two centuries. Having created this new environment, it is not enough to merely ensure that it remains stable, that it doesn't deteriorate to a desert through continued abuse; that should not be the sole aim of conservation. It should also aim at the recreation of what has been destroyed, the restoration of a native environment. Many changes are irreversible, but with careful, active management, it is possible.

The price we pay for taking responsibility for the problems of the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is the carefully monitored culling of Western Grey kangaroos. Passive management is not enough. The real tragedy is that human activity has upset the environmental balance to the extent that culling is needed to restore it.

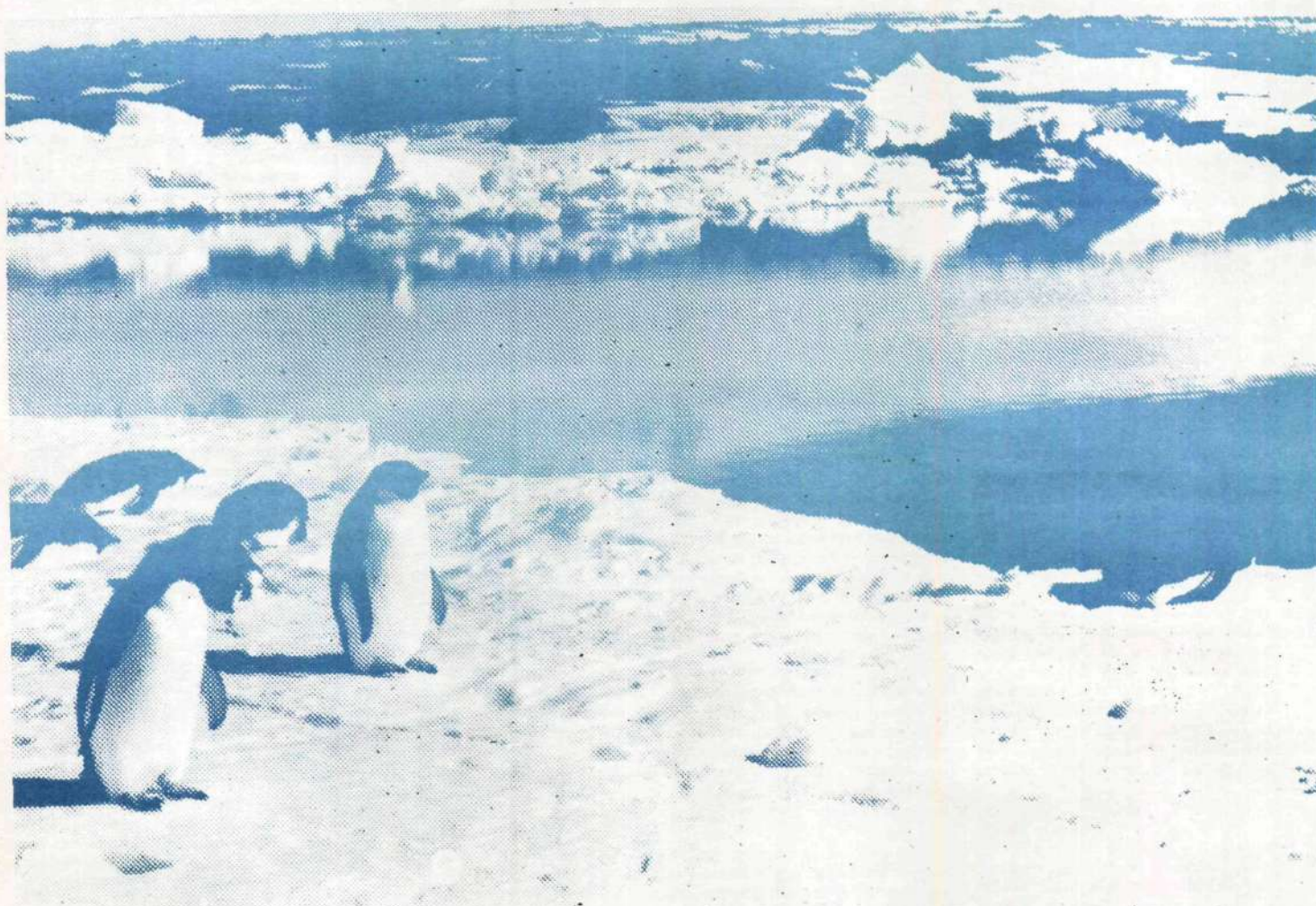
M. H. Gott

# CULL OF THE WILD





# ANTAR



On one side of the debate is the issue of Antarctica's scientific potential; it is an area of immense and important research value. Antarctic ecosystems, while perhaps not as diverse, are as complex and as unique as those of any region. It's geological history is largely unknown, and further research must reveal it's presently uncertain role in evolutionary biogeography. An understanding of its unique climate and importance in an earth wide climatic balance is needed. All these features, and many more, will ultimately contribute not only to our knowledge of a huge, enigmatic land, but also an understanding of a global environmental picture, and to our role and impact within that picture. Without an understanding of the Antarctic ecosystem, any form of resource use has the potential to be disastrous. In the past, large scale whaling and sealing has had dire consequences for many species. Rampant krill harvesting by Russian and Japanese trawlers continues, but our understanding of the impact on marine life which feed on Krill is limited.

There may be potential for forms of carefully controlled resource use. There are vast amounts of fresh water, in the form of free-floating icebergs, which could be used without harm to Antarctica. A small iceberg (400 x 600 x 120 m) is estimated to contain enough fresh water to supply the needs of the city of Perth for 55 days.

But while the technology already exists for towing icebergs, their utilization is still a problem. the tourism potential for the region is enormous. Already, there are a number of ships which regularly take tourist passengers to the Antarctic and subantarctic. Properly conducted, such activities can do much to make people aware of the beauty of the area, and to foster public interest in it's preservation and welfare. One can speculate and infinitum on other uses: harvesting of manganese modules on the deep sea floor; pharmaceutical products developed by organisms in response to the unique environment; the use of Antarctic cold for refrigeration of food supplies or fishing catches.

But the interests of politics and industry lie in more conventional resource use — minerals, food products and particularly, oil and gas.

## Polar Politics

The isolation, harsh climate, massive ice covering prohibitive expense of financing research and concern for recognised ownership rights have effectively protected the Antarctic and its margins from exploitation. It is the last great wilderness left in the world.

Various nations have been jockeying for position over Antarctica. America is best equipped technologically and financially

to begin exploiting immediately, followed by free market exploitation in the near future. America is against global sharing of resources unless she is forced into it. At present negotiations for the law of the sea have been halted by the USA, for this very reason.

The Japanese and South Africans can be expected to support the USA. Australia, as a claimant with no funds or technology will take a conservationist stance. New Zealand has expressed interest in oil development recently, reneging on its 1975 proposal to declare Antarctica a World Park. since then there has been a change of government and it is uncertain what New Zealand's position shall be in the future.

France can be expected to be hard negotiator with the USA and probably will be interested in the concept of a common resource pool for Antarctica mineral resources, as may also be the many small non-claimant nations without adequate funds such as Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Poland.

The USSR's long term position is difficult to predict. Considering its global importance it may also wish to exploit independently and compete with the U.S.A.

It's also interesting to reflect on the origins of the Argentinian move to drive

out the British from the Falkland Islands. Significantly this action stopped a shift of the 60 degrees S line, south of which the Antarctic Treaty operates and changes in territory may be made. Britain, Argentina and Chile all contest an area south of the American continent and the Falkland Islands. Political control of the areas would give any country a firmer hold on Antarctica. In a world looking for more resources to exploit, Antarctica is seen as a new frontier.

The common opinion is that Antarctica must contain resources. The Argentinian-United Kingdom dispute is the first, possibly a long line of conflicts over the region. Besides minerals the other major resource of the Antarctic region is its huge fishing area since 1750.

So for a variety of reasons the Antarctic and subantarctic regions are now the focus of considerable international attention. Continuing demands for resources to feed and fuel an ever growing world population, the availability of readily transferable technology to harvest resources and the need to resolve major questions of equity over Antarctic and Southern Ocean living and mineral resources.

In order to properly manage seabed resources, it will be necessary to resolve the conflict of interests between claimants and non-claimants and the aspirations of nations wishing to enter the



# ANTARCTICA



so-called "Antarctic Club". Claimants and non-claimants believe they have special rights to Antarctic resources — a stand in conflict with the view first promulgated in 1967 by Arvid Pardo, Malta's Ambassador to the U.N. declaring that Antarctica should be a national park.

Above and beyond the political questions, **there are operational ones**, Australia will have its share of Antarctica. It will also be called upon to determine with other nations, mutually advantageous Antarctic resource regimes. However as a nation claiming the largest portion of the Antarctic continent, Australia could take a leading role during the transition period in the implementation of environmental studies and the establishment of procedures for measuring impact on the environment which can, at a later stage, be adopted by all nations.

History would seem to dictate otherwise, Australia has invariably followed America's lead in all things diplomatic, no matter what the composition of the government. At the moment Australian and American foreign policy seem to be identical. Australia has claimed almost half of Antarctica and should now take a strong diplomatic and environmental stand. At the moment it is doing neither.

K.R. Brianton  
(M.H. Gott)

## Potential exploration, potential disaster

The major threat to the Antarctic marine ecosystem would be from an oil spillage. If oil exploration were to go ahead, even under hazardous circumstances, the southern ocean, one of the richest ecosystems could be utterly destroyed.

The richness of the ecosystem is linked to the high productivity of photoplankton. The system is under enormous risk. Oil exploration will cause dramatic changes to the Antarctic land surface. Onshore facilities will include living quarters, transportation networks, waste disposal units and recreational facilities for workers. Drilling structures and land bases will have to be connected by pipelines. Treatment facilities for oil will have to be supplied, such as bilge and ballast handling. Storage tanks for oil in transit, either onshore or under water, would need to be established. Protection of these pipelines may involve tunneling into the sea floor to the depth of 3 miles into the sea floor.

All of these structures will be competing with seal and penguin colonies

for the small amount of ice-free land. During the exploration phase, seismic surveys will be conducted often using very high explosives, which will no doubt cause penguins and seals some distress. Under the agreed measures even aircraft are prevented from flying too low or near penguin colonies. These new disruptions will be much more severe.

An everyday occurrence during drilling will be the production of waste gas and water heavily contaminated with oil. A shuttle service of super tankers of at least one per week will be moving between the oil fields and onshore bases and then out to their destination. Routine discharges of wastes and effluents into the marine environment will accumulate.

The impact and disruption to the Antarctic environment will be extensive without taking into account the possibility of a major oil spill or tanker accident. Experts will make the usual noises on the impossibilities of either occurring. However in 1976, the US Ship Maurice had its bow damaged by ice at the waterline. Some months later it was holed by ice. Tankers used in the Antarctic will be carrying 500,000 tonnes of oil. If one lost its cargo,

a million square miles will be covered in oil.

Whales would die consuming oil as they screen their food through large mouthfuls of water. Seals would die through oiling of their coats and swallowing crude oil. Birds also would be unable to fly with greased feathers. An oil spill could destroy a whole colony. Decomposition of oil will probably be slower due to the low temperatures. The bacteria needed to break down oil has not been discovered in the Southern Ocean.

There are still more dangers. The likelihood of a blow-out is rare in the short term but inevitable in the long term. This could occur during drilling and exploration. Under the harsh conditions of Antarctica human error will be increased. Shutdown services are not foolproof. The problem would be exacerbated if the weather conditions changed particularly toward the end of summer. There would not be a chance until the following season to return and cap a blowout. During winter service would place drilling structures under enormous pressures and strains, while during summer collisions with icebergs would become a real threat.



# A SALTY TALE

"As for the Murray ever becoming an agricultural country, the idea is absurd... there is hardly a settler on the Lower Murray who can even luxuriate in a vegetable."

Evelyn Sturt 1853

Evelyn Sturt, the younger brother of the more famous Charles did not see the ridiculousness of his prophecy. The Murray river has become one of the great successes of modern agriculture. Through irrigation and intensive agriculture the Murray has become one of the great gardens of the world.

Yet this great river is at risk. Every year it carries more than a million tonnes of salt into South Australia, the very survival of which is dependent on its purity. The pessimists draw unhappy parallels with great civilizations of the past, destroyed by rising salt. It has been estimated that the Murray, is becoming increasingly salinated. In the Shepparton Region by the year 2000, 20% of present arable land

working together seemed improbable given the political differences between the States and the tension over funding di-salinisation schemes — who pays what amount and for what project. It seems incredible they managed to do anything at all.

Though evidence was piling up concerning the great abuse of the river system, the authorities took little or no notice. One old man recalls the state of the river in his youth.

"We regard our Murray Water now as a gutsche in every mouthful. We no longer drink it without boiling. Just think of the poison that's in it already and there's a hell of along way to go to the sea from here. For a start, there are all those pesticides coming down the Goulburn from the intensive irrigation around Shepparton, and there must be sewage as well. Then there's the salt. I remember back in the twenties when we first noticed the salt. We were cutting timber down near Wentworth and thought, "Heck this isn't quenching our thirst," what's going

were clearly identified in the early major study of 1970 and remain as those requiring immediate attention. Delays in implementing improvement works in the intervening years have led to further deterioration in some areas which although not alarming is significant. The letter added that its recommended plan of action, "while not the answer to all the complex problems of the valley, will lead to significant improvements in the well being of its population."

Much of the Murray Valley was once a vast salt sea. In the course of geological change as the Australian landscape assumed its present form, residual salt from this sea, or lake became layered far below the surface. While it was buried many metres below this saline layer caused no harm, although some salts found their way into the Murray from time immemorial.

The Murray's problems began in the 1870's and 1880's, when European man commenced irrigation from the river. Irrigation water placed so much pressure

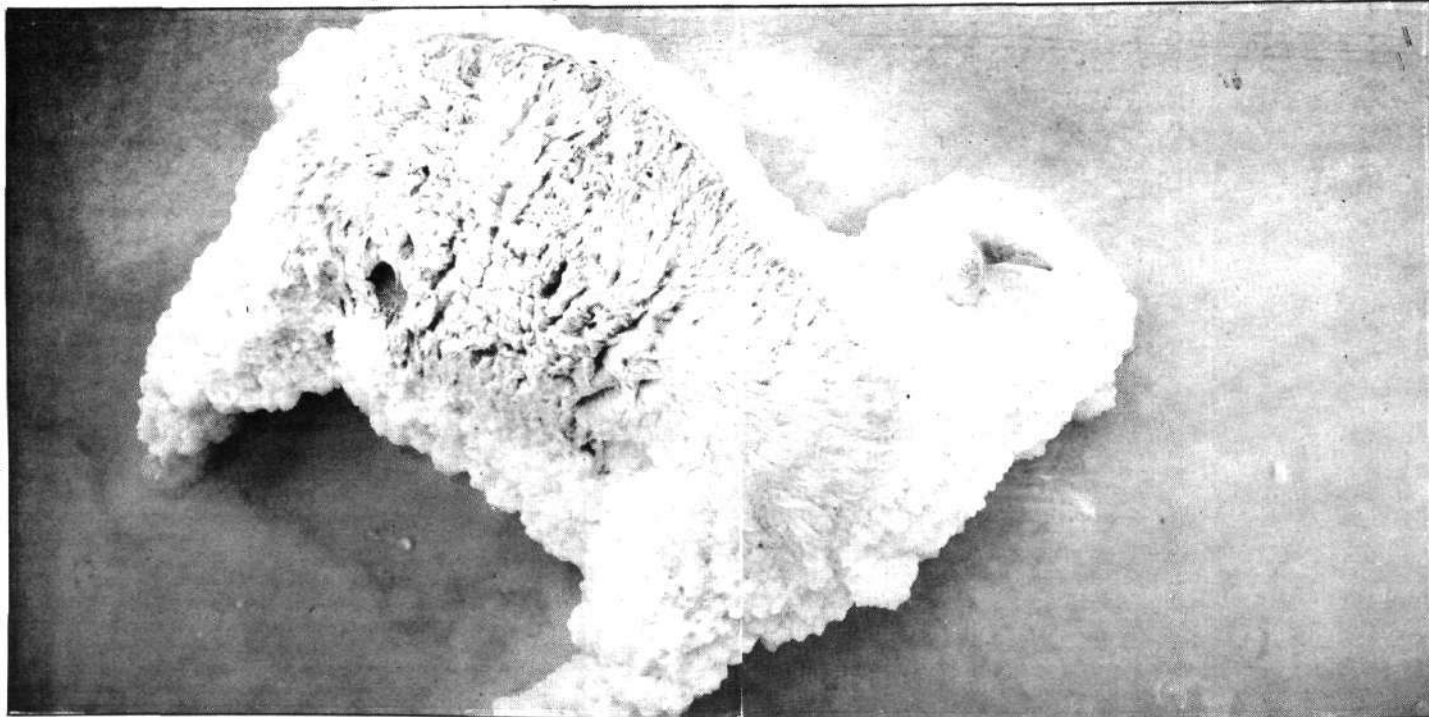
northern plains. Only ten kilometres from its source the river is so salty that it will corrode

domestic plumbing in a year!

The end result of all this earthly misactivity is staggering. Each year the Murray carries 1.1 million tonnes of salt from New South Wales and Victoria into South Australia, where it meets another 500,000 tonnes contributed by South Australia. The Murray is an absolutely vital resource to South Australia: apart from its irrigational value, it supplies 40 per cent of Adelaide's domestic water. Without a living Murray River, South Australia would be doomed.

Irrigation schemes have spoiled rivers before including the Punjab in 1960's which lost 60 hectares a day to the salt. They are having the same problems in America. However there are new strains of wheat and couch which can take both hot weather and salty soil.

The real answer to the problem is stop drainage water flowing directly into the river, by putting it right back, even if channelled 60 kilometres away from the river



could be laid waste. The Wakool Region could lose 15% of its land and the Sun-Raysia region has saline seepage that amounts to 130,000 million tonnes a year.

The Murray River is, in short, dying from the corrosive, persuasive element sodium, which seems to kill by stealth. If nothing is done, according to a recent government report, the rising salt level will effectively destroy the region. The Kerang Region had 10% of its land salinised or salt affected over the whole region.

The problem is an old one. The River Murray Commission came into being in 1917 to tackle the problem. It involved a representative from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia and, like any committee formed within a diverse structure was most ineffectual. In 1981 its powers were increased to make recommendations on water quality, but it was given no real teeth. A report in 1979 had said that the whole valley needed sluicing, but only recently had such operations begun. The problem of three States

on?"

The simple fact is that salt content of the Murray River is one of the most critical problems facing modern Australian society — not just those who depend directly on the river for irrigation, drinking water and tourism, but everyone in Australia, no matter where they live. The loss of the Murray as a source of life would be in simple human terms, equivalent to at least the loss of a leg and in worst expression, the beginning of a lingering cancer. The saving of the Murray will, optimistically, be proof of national maturity and a justification of federalism after eighty-odd years of doubt.

But there are those — and their numbers include many professional water engineers — who hold the view that there is no immediate crisis, that water quality is satisfactory at present, and that the salting problem will be resolved with patience. In 1979 a report prepared for the Murray Valley Salinity Study Steering Committee stated:—

"The basic problems of the Murray Valley

on the saline ground water that it forced it slowly toward the surface. Eventually the salts accumulated close to the surface in the root zone, killing or maiming grasses, shrubs and trees. In the final stage of salinisation, the salts are washed into the adjacent rivers by rainfall or returning excess irrigation water. If a river is dammed, the weight of the water can also force saline ground water to seek relief by appearing downstream of the dam.

The clearing of trees by farmers hundreds of kilometres from the Murray has also added to the salt crisis. Once, the trees would have absorbed much of the rainfall and evaporated it through their leaves. In their absence, the rainwater seeps down unimpeded to place pressure on the saline groundwater. The salts rise, find their way into the distant tributaries of the Murray and finally into the Murray itself. This effect is dramatically illustrated Avoca River, which rises in the Pyrenees Range in Central Victoria and meanders gently toward the Murray across the

and for something. By natural drainage it would eventually return to the river, but it would have been filtered and you wouldn't get the salt and chemicals. This solution is expensive and would take some time.

In October 1981, the premiers of N.S.W., Victoria and South Australia and the Prime Minister announced that they had reached agreement on "new measures to control salinity" but as one reporter noted:—

"Despite the verbal fanfare of self congratulation... little has changed in the management of Australia's most troubled river. The new agreement reached by the Commonwealth, N.S.W., Victoria and South Australia, enables the Commission to take into account water quality, which means salinity, the most contentious issue. But the Commission has had this role since 1978. This month's much vaunted agreement only confirms it."

# THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE.

With so many travel agencies and overseas tours to choose from, would be travellers are usually on the look out for something different. The European Experience Tour planned by Carolyn Andrew and Carolyn Berger offers an interesting alternative to the normal way of travelling in Europe.

These two women have put together an itinerary which will cover England, Denmark, Germany, Australia, Italy and France over a 6 week period, starting late March, 1985. They then intend to stay on in Europe, assisting those members of the party who wish to stay on either to seek work or to travel more extensively. The tour is to be limited to a group of only 16 women in an effort to ensure the impersonal nature of larger groups is avoided.

The two Carolyns are well qualified as tour co-ordinators both having travelled extensively throughout Europe. Between them English-born Mrs. Andrew and Swedish-born Mrs. Berger speak five European languages. This will greatly assist in overcoming initial language difficulties, especially for those who have never travelled in Europe before.

Rather than staying in tourist hotels, dining in restaurants recommended in guidebooks and travelling in coaches, the accent of the tour will be on experiencing the local people's way of life. Those on the tour will be encouraged to pick up some of the local languages and to make their own way around the cities they will visit.

From Berlin, to Paris to London to Venice, the presence of people who know how to get the great assistance to those first-time travellers who are lacking a little confidence. Further, this tour offers a great deal more independence to travellers than to the regimented package tours.

Should you want any further information, contact Carolyn Andrew on 267 7884 or Carolyn Berger on 20 7728.



## PLAN EUROPE NOW

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO TAKE A YEAR OFF IN 1985, JOIN OUR GROUP FOR SIX ESCORTED WEEKS IN EUROPE NEXT MARCH/APRIL — AND LET US HELP YOU TO STAY ON TO STUDY OR WORK.

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## THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE



Aahhhh...Europe!

## Host Scheme 1985 or Why We Want You!!

The first time at university can be quite daunting — 14,000 strange faces can be difficult to cope with for even the most outgoing. The HOST SCHEME is designed to help first year students at the start of the year. It serves two main purposes. The students are shown around their faculty and, most importantly, they are given the opportunity to meet other students from their area in the same faculty.

The advantage of knowing a few faces in the crowd must be appreciated by anyone who has walked into a lecture full of strangers. You may have been one of many students who spent lunchtimes in the library for the first time in first term, pretending that work was piling up when, in fact, nothing had been handed out yet. And you thought you were the only one who read over the same notices ten times while hoping a friend might walk past.

Life at university is quite a change for most of us. Many miss the coddling of school, and some have to deal with life in a new city, or even a different country area as well. We also have special groups for part-time and mature age students.

The Host Scheme co-ordinators, with a lot of help from volunteers, sign up as many first year students as possible during first year enrolments (11-13 February, 1985). They are put into groups of 10-15 other first years in their area and faculty and their names are sent to the host who is closest to them. This is where you come in, hopefully! As a host we ask you to contact your hostees and arrange a get-together. It is up to you what you plan — I held a barbecue for my group — but other suggestions are pizza nights, or even just a coffee night. The idea of these get-togethers is to break the ice and get the students to know each other. We run a

briefing session at the start of February to give you suggestions and hints about this meeting. Even if you are working we could use you as a host and you could have an evening or weekend get together.

The second part of the Host Scheme involves a short tour of the campus. This will take place on Monday, 25 February, 1985. After you've shown them around the faculty and union we will take over and run some fun activities, which you are welcome to join in. And that's all there is to it!

Country groups will be run on similar lines, but get-togethers may be difficult. In this case a chat on the phone and reassurances that Uni is not so frightening after all will suffice. We hope to involve Mannix and the Halls on Host Scheme Day to ensure that all first years get shown around, so most country students will be shown around that way.

Well, that is how we organize the Host Scheme, all we need now are plenty of volunteers to help out. Anyone who was a hostee in first year will know how worthwhile it is. It is not only helping them but it is also a fun way to get to know some new students (and even flog your books off!). We still need students from all faculties, especially Economics and Engineering. We also are short of country students and part-time and mature age students.

If you know any students coming to Monash next year, tell them about the Host Scheme camps. They are great fun but places are limited — so its first in, first served. They are unforgettable (and exhausting!).

Deborah Knucky  
Justin Kivac  
HOST SCHEME CO-ORDINATORS,  
1985



HE'S BACK - THE FOLK HERO YOU'VE ALL BEEN ROOTING FOR... WITH A STORY THE HARDY BOYS NEARLY GOT....

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# INDIGO TURDHOPPER



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### BUT FIRSTLY A WORD OF WARNING.

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### HELLO, MY NAME IS INDIGO TURDHOPPER.

RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN IN A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH THE V.C. AFTER PUBLICLY EXPOSING THE KRONGOLD CENTRE IN THE LAST ADVENTURE. AND SO I HAVE BEEN AWAY TO FAR NORTH CANADA IN RESPONSE TO A PHONECALL FROM OUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOURS - THE TORRINGTONS. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED...



HELLO? YES MRS TORRINGTON? HAVE I SEEN YOUR FROZEN SON IN THE 'AGE'? YES I HAVE. OK I'LL BRING HOME YOUR SON. FEAR NOT, KIND LADY I SHALL DELIVER THY STIFF TO YOU.



SLOPPO-VISION BRINGS YOU THIS NOSTRIL-VIEW

### A FEW DAYS LATER...



WE SAILED TO THE ICY WATERS IN FAR NORTH CANADA IN THE MASKING-TAPE CARGO SHIP, SS. SPHINCTER, CAPTAINED BY THE NOTORIOUS TRAD NAKED. HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN PAROLED FROM H.M.S. PENTRIDGE FOR REPEATED GRIEVOUS OFFENCES INCLUDING APPEARING NAKED AT A RETIREMENT VILLAGE, AND ATTEMPTING TO APPEAR NAKED ON A CHILDRENS EDUCATIONAL SHOW.

### SUDDENLY...

OH, MISTER TURDHOPPER, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU...

AND I'M COMPLETELY NAKED

I WAS AFRAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN



LOOK ON THE TELEVISION ALSO, I'M COMPLETELY NAKED

THAT CONNING BASTARD EYEBROW HAD ALREADY BEEN TO CANADA AND STIFF-NAKED JOHN TORRINGTON. SHELL HAD THEN RENTED JOHN OFF EYEBROW TO DO A SERIES OF ANTI-FREEZE COMMERCIALS. WE SET COURSE FOR MELBOURNE IMMEDIATELY TO RETURN JOHN TO HIS FAMILY



HELLO, EYEBROW MIND IF WE LOOK IN YOUR FRIDGE?

### AHA!



ALAS WHEN WE REUNITED JOHN WITH HIS FAMILY NEXT DOOR, WE DISCOVERED THAT THEY WERE FROZEN SOLID, TOO AND QUITE DEAD. I WAS LEFT TO ORGANIZE THE FAMILY FUNERAL. SIMPLICITY BOB-JANE FUNERALS SAID THAT I COULD HAVE CARDBOARD COFFINS, OR A DIGNIFIED CREMATION



LOOK OUT FOR THEIR DIGNIFIED CREMATIONS



That time of year is upon us once again — the 3PBS-FM's annual Radiothon on October 26, 27, 28.

This fundraising weekend is expected to raise enough money to keep 3PBS around on air for at least another year. It is an apolitical, non-religious, non-profit public co-operative. 3PBS (located on 107.7 Mhz) runs on a co-operative basis and is funded by subscriber membership which is the lifeblood of the station. This year's hopes are geared to raise \$13,000.

Listeners familiar with our Radiothons would already be aware of the fact that they are not just a money raising venture. Naturally it is the time for the station to make an assault on Melbourne's distriden cheque-books, but it is also the time to highlight the diversity and quality of PBS programming and prove it's role as specialist music broadcaster.

The main aim of 3PBS-FM is to complement rather than compete with other Melbourne metropolitan broadcasters. As such our programming policy is to play underrepresented styles of music, that is, music styles not programmed at all or at any large extent on other commercial, Government or public broadcasters. Programs range from Blues, Jazz, Nu Music, Reggae, punk, Australian Independent African, Sixties, Women's music, Acoustic, and Heavy Rock. Apart from music there is Comedy, and the Wireless Playhouse program which features theatre views, radio drama and interviews. PBS also maintains a policy of promotion of Australian artists in all relevant music styles programmed. Basically the three prime objectives are: to provide primarily music broadcasts of high quality and of a progressive nature; to provide primarily music broadcasts of high quality and of a progressive nature; to encourage education innovation in music; and to operate a subscriber access radio station and thereby encourage audience contribution and participation in the station's operation.

During the Radiothon you can expect to hear the best music from a range of

categories found on the PBS programming spectrum. Some of the highlights include:

- Special Radiothon edition of the Heavy Rock show Friday 26 8pm — 12 midnight, followed by the Worst Record Show from Friday midnight — 2am. Two hours of complete insanity (for masochists only).
- Blues Rock from 10 — 12am Saturday 27
- Sixties from 5 — 7pm Saturday
- Nu Music and Punk from 7 — 11pm Saturday
- Comedy from 10am — 2pm Sunday 28
- Jazz from 2 — 6pm Sunday
- And closing the Radiothon from 10pm — 2am Sunday with Australian Independent releases.

You may think there is a real reason why people should part with their money to help PBS. I mean it costs nothing to tune in to 3PBS, right? That may be so, but unlike the commercial or Government sponsored stations PBS has no ongoing Government or institutional finance. It maintains its independence by raising revenue through annual subscriptions. 3PBS listeners have in the past proved to be a very generous lot being prepared to give tangible support to projects which make a worthwhile contribution back to the community. Since PBS continues its commitment to the ideal of public access means it will always be reliant on the public for support. Ultimately it's public support which will enable PBS to survive on Melbourne's airwaves.

Money raised during this Radiothon will help PBS make the all important move to Mt. Dandenong. Such a move means that the listening audience will no longer be restricted to just those within a 15km radius of our Carlton transmitter; the

entire Melbourne metropolitan area will have access to a type of programming currently unavailable on Melbourne's airwaves. The good news is that PBS has secured a site on Mt. Dandenong, provided that plans proceed smoothly we would hope to be operational from Mt. Dandenong early in the new year. The station has already moved to bigger and better premises in the Park Lake Building at 171 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, marking the beginning of a new era for 3 PBS-FM. A successful Radiothon will maintain and help bring about changes which will not only benefit PBS but also our supporters. All those listeners frustrated by inadequate transmission power now have the opportunity to make a solid contribution toward their own ultimately better enjoyment of 3PBS-FM.

Earlier this year a questionnaire was distributed to subscribers via PBS's magazine called 'WAVES'. Respondents were asked to nominate reasons which motivated them to subscribe. The overwhelming response showed that the lack of diversity of music being played on commercial stations and the desire to support a non-commercial station, as well as the non-commercial presentation of PBS were the main reasons why listeners were attracted to the station. The contribution it makes to the radio listening audience.

Throughout the weekend PBS will entice its listening audience and past subscribers who have let their subscriptions lapse, to give PBS their support either by taking one of our many bribes-

to-subscribe which will be continuously offered over air or a straight out donation. Our yearly subscription rate is \$30 for the employed and \$20 for students, pensioners and the unemployed.

What happens once you do become a subscriber to 3PBS-FM is endless. First of all you have access to any aspect of the station's operation. Training is provided in production, on-air programming, (provided the necessary guidelines are met) administration or library work. The membership card will allow discounts from various retailers around Melbourne, be it record stores, sound equipment, bookshops, theatres and cinemas, restaurants, hairdressers and clothing stores. Also our magazine — 'WAVES' will be mailed to you containing a detailed program poster so you will know exactly what's on and at what time.

To pledge your subscription over the weekend simply phone: 537 2433.

If all this isn't enough to persuade you that this is the time that parting with your money won't hurt you'll also be able to amaze your friends by the radiant inner glow that will come over you. Look good! Feel good! Be good! and assist Melbourne's truly public access radio station by subscribing or donating, for in the end we shall reap the benefits!

Mara Smarrelli  
Publicity Co-ordinator  
3PBS-FM (107.7Mhz)



# The NATURAL

In 1949 Eddie Waitkus was shot in beach hotel and virtually ended his brilliant baseball career. Bernard Malamund writing two years later used the incident as the centrepiece of his book **The Natural**. The book is remembered for its mixture of myth and reality. A fusion of baseball legends from Babe Ruth to the Black Sock's scandal. Malamunds hero Roy Hobbs fails in his return to baseball, but in "Robert Redfordised" film, he succeeds brilliantly.

The film is trimmed of all its unfortunate aspects to become a simple bad guys versus good guys story. The story is both butchered and then added to. There is no woman in white, no girl left behind, Hobbs takes the bribe, there's no grown son. Robert Redford plays his familiar Dudley Do-right, and that is enjoyable in itself. But Roy

Hobbs is not Dudley Do-right, and in order to play him as such the book was mangled. This is a common event in Hollywood, huge stars like Redford demand script changes and get them, as having them on the bill is instant Box Office success. Redford joins Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino in refusing to play flawed characters. Only truly great actors like Duvall play it straight.

Duvall has to be one greatest actors, Hollywood has ever produced and his role as the journalist slime Max Mercy is just spot on. He's a cynical, seen it all before all round bastard and Duvall seems to enjoy playing him. The natural could have been a really great film with bite and impact if only he hadn't been sterilized for the larger Redford audience.

K.R. Brianton



## THE EMERALD PALACE

319 Clayton Road, Clayton  
Cnr. of Haughton Road,  
(Upstairs)

Perhaps readers of the Lot's Wife Deepender are being rewarded at last and Clayton will become the Mecca of South East suburban connoisseurs of all things edible. Only a few minutes from Monash (just opposite the Clayton Railway Station) is the Emerald Palace Turkish Restaurant — just the place for a quick lunch — and you can be back in time for that afternoon lecture, prac. or exam if you're that lucky. This establishment offers traditional Turkish cuisine including dips, salads, grills, brains and much, much more. Prices are quite reasonable and you can get a set menu of nine dips with all the bread you can eat, grilled meat and salad plus dessert for \$8.95 (plenty for two if you are having lunch). The dips are especially pleasing and include tarama, beetroot, chick-pea beans and various yoghurt concoctions.



The advantage of the prime location is that any lull in the conversation may be compensated for by counting the passing trains or watching local young motorheads straining to see who can go the fastest in first gear. If you happen to be on your own, then the decor and multi-coloured flashing lights outside the window will leave you counting trains anyway. A trip to the toilet is another story though here one is greeted by pink toilet bowls and hand basins with soap to match, all set in green and black imitation marble surrounds, not mention the commanding view up Clayton Road from the urinal step.

The restaurant is also round and it was by coincidence that it had revolved back to the same spot as when we had first sat down. Back onto Clayton Road again via the spiral staircase... terra firma. Also:—

Take-away Service  
Belly dancer  
1st Floor Sundeck

— Mark Loveday

# BLUNDELL BLUNDERS

Brecht's play "The Threepenny Opera", is set in the slums of Soho, London and it's characters are the low life who live there. The play can be read on several levels, an attack on society along marxist lines, sharp satire of conventional opera and a penetrating look at the human condition from the discards of society.

The play centres around the decline and fall of the gangster Macheath and the people around him. The play was written in 1928, in the so called golden period of the Weimar Republic, but it's insights are still sharp and relevant for today. The Melbourne Theatre Company (M.T.C.) production is currently being shown in the new Victorian Arts Centre.

Two intrepid reviewers were lured along to the show, and their views are presented separately, in vain attempt at balanced and democratic debate.



Having been told that there only three playwrights of any worth in the world; Shakespeare, Beckett and Brecht, I looked forward to seeing Brecht as I had been promised that the earth would move if Brecht was performed properly. Though I was disappointed with the MTC production, it seemed to be a generally entertaining play. Not exactly Mary Poppins but definitely Oliver Twist.

Parslow played Peachum as a type of upper class Fagan. And all the characters seemed to be based on the same Dickensian plane. They seemed to be a rough and loveable bunch of rogues. If Brecht's central idea was that these people were so crushed by society they had to become immoral in order to survive then it was totally lost in this production.

David Atkins plays the gangster Macheath with a high

energy raffish charm but he certainly does not look crushed by society, or to have any streak of meanness in him at all. The rest of the cast seem to be generally good folks fallen on hard times, not a really dangerous group of cut throats. Brecht should rivet people to their seats as it assaults and insults their pretensions. Blundell has turned it into a rather pleasant, but not too upsetting form of entertainment.

On its own merits, the play is enjoyable, for it has a lot of energy and ingenuity, the dancing and singing are well directed and the opening sequence is just brilliant.

I don't know if I would recommend this play as an introduction to Brecht. It is very disappointing on this score, though occasionally Brecht's bile does burn through in songs like "What Keeps Mankind Alive" but in most cases the vitriol is detoxified by the presentation of the play.

Blundell's Brecht is a historical curiosity. Something taken from the theatrical cupboard, dusted off and then put back neatly in its place in the file marked outdated. Brecht has something to say. His criticisms of state and society are damning and are real. To treat him simply as an entertainer is to destroy Brecht. Blundell needn't have bothered.

K. R. Brianton



I've been a lover of "The Threepenny Opera" for many years now, so don't expect an objective review. I was thoroughly disappointed by M.T.C.'s "The Threepenny Opera". At times I was even disgusted. I was reminded of why I stopped going to M.T.C. productions.

M.T.C. seems to have an uncanny ability to take an excellent show and foul it up. In "The Threepenny Opera", the cast couldn't resist the opportunity to play it for every cheap laugh possible. take this snippet of improvisation for instance: Polly: "they're after you like bloodhounds..." (the sound of poorly imitated, baying dogs emanates from the wings.)

Mac: "Did you feed the dogs, darling?"

This must be one of the oldest gags in the book. In another scene, where Polly and a gang of thieves have decided to turn to white-collar crime, they start their own bank. A huge backdrop descends from the flies, displaying the bank's logo, and the name of the bank? — "WEST-MAC". An obvious gag on the criminal MacHeath's name.

Both jokes received a few titters and guffaws all round the audience. Perhaps cheap laughs is what M.T.C. audiences really go to the theatre for. Perhaps director Graham Blundell has done too many Alvin purple movies to enable anything else. Perhaps M.T.C. is too funding-conscious. Perhaps the answer lies in Blundell's belief that:

"... though certainly poverty, slums, corrupt business practices and biased justice continue to exist in our most prosperous societies, we no longer feel that 'The Threepenny Opera' has anything all that acute to say about them." If Blundell feels that "The Threepenny Opera" is so irrelevant, then why bother to put it on at all?

In this reviewer's opinion, such gags are contrived, nasty, totally unnecessary and a sure way to foul up, what is already, a fine piece of theatre. Call me a purist, but I believe "The Threepenny Opera" can stand on its merits, without such buffoonery.



Largely, the roles were played quite melodramatically, at times ridiculously so. Important characters became stereotyped, and some members of the cast seemed to be uncomfortable with their parts. The role of Peachum (played by old M.T.C. hack Frederick Parslow), became a greedy businessman, with no more thought to the characterization. Brecht's own comments on the character of Peachum are much deeper: "... Peachum is not to be resumed in the stereotyped formula 'miser'. He has no regard for money, and mistrusts "anything that might inspire hope..." His crime lies in his conception of the world." David Atkins, in the role of Macheath, seemed to believe he's still playing a British Squizzy Taylor. Macheath is supposed to be a cold, utterly ruthless, amoral character — he came across more nearly as a loveable, but gone-astay pixie.

His habit of racing through lines often made his voice a high-pitched, forced monotone. The overall effect of melodrama and cheap gags sadly detracts from the potential impact. All the anger and biting edge is gone. In the closing scenes of the play, we are given an opportunity to see Macheath and Peachum in a new light — their view of the world is presented, their rationale for behaving as they do, but the songs and words are at

be given to Red Symons for his musical direction, and to the fine voices and good diction of the singers.

"The Threepenny Opera" can be presented as forceful, shocking, brutal and angry. Or it can be just a "nice", spineless night's entertainment, as this production is.

M.H. Gott

## Postscript:

These reviewers were perplexed at reading Director Graham Blundell's introductory notes in the program of "The Threepenny Opera": the sharp and detailed analysis of the times and setting which inspired Brecht seemed to contrast with Blundell's own production. But intrepid investigation reveals that many of the pretty words are



not those of the director, but are plagiarised from introduction to the 1979 Methuen edition of the script. Not just phrases, but sentences and one entire paragraph has been stolen to make us believe that Blundell has some understanding of the play. Furthermore, Blundell has even got it wrong — at one point he claims to quote John Willett, but in fact quotes Willett and his co-editor, Ralph Manheim. One would like to ask — whom did Blundell plagiarise his reputation as a director from?



odds with the characters — one feels no new understanding for these one-dimensional characters, and the climax is lost. Oddly, it is in the songs that a different feeling to the play is presented. My co-reviewer, who had never seen or read the play also noted this discrepancy between words sung and words spoken. Commendations: must

Tickets for "The Threepenny Opera" can be obtained at the less than student concession price of \$6.50 from Theatre-Go-Round, at the Student Theatre Office. (Monday to Thursday nights only).



## Open Door?

Dear Editors,

In the recent election campaign one of the contestants has campaigned under the name "Open Door". The Monash Poetry Society wishes to make known that neither it nor its Journal *Open Door* is in anyway associated with this campaign. The *Open Door* journal has been publishing quality poetry and short stories since 1982 and is widely available throughout Melbourne.

We reject the use these aspirant editors have made of our name, at best assuming them ignorant of their crime, it shows up their poor research skills; at worst it indicates flagrant disregard of the work of a dedicated group of editors in building up an unbiased non-partisan literary magazine. Personally, while we do support greater community involvement in Lot's Wife, we would not like to sacrifice meaningful political comment in order to obtain this involvement. *Open Door* 5 will be available next week.

Yours,

Ivan Cole & Michael Brugman  
Editors, *Open Door*

## Turd hopper or chicken shit?

Dear Lot's,

We are perturbed at the content of Lot's this term. Last term we saw the appearance of a new folk hero — Indigo Turdhopper. This man with his brilliant premonitions and overwhelming social comments, together with God-story, brightened up a usually boring Lots. Rarely has Lots introduced a cartoon and continued its existence for any substantial time (except Clayton Place last year) — possibly you do not understand the satirical need in your otherwise "issues" newspaper, or their humorous relief to, and following of, your average student in the union, person in the street, dog in the park, or whatever.

Unless we see Indigo and Godstory return (we are eagerly awaiting the promised episode when Eyebrow meets the Monash cleaners,) or see re-runs, we will poison Lot's offices water supply with chicken shit.

Yours in disgust,

The DC, DFW, DB DW  
and DE,  
Honours Students

## Beans give us the shits!



Dear Editors,

Once again I am forced to take pen to paper in order to redress the vile character assassination printed with the columns of 'Lot's Wife'. In an article titled 'AE Report Card' readers of Lot's once again witnessed a bitter vindictive attack on those who are not deemed 'correct-line'.

To be deemed so by Kevin Brianton is somewhat of a joke given Kevin's previous history. Last year Kevin refused to debate with the Fabian Society on the dangers of uranium mining. He preferred to stick with topics to which he had a moral commitment. Yes now Kevin deems everyone to the right of the notorious Socialist Left faction of the ALP (i.e. Joan Corseidge, Bill Hartley et. al) to be 'right-wing'.

Oh, how I wish I could be so 'left'!

The article in question tailed me in my performance as AUS Secretary. Let the facts speak for themselves. This year I attended three of the four AUS State Conference, usually held over the weekends and sometimes at night. I attended AUS Executive meetings as an observer and was responsible for Monash University moving many constituent resolutions for campus ratification.

My main involvement this year was in the formation of a new National Student Organisation. I attended the Student Summit (not the AUS Summit as Lot's thinks it was called) as a Monash delegate and attended every Student Summit Consultative Committee meeting held in Melbourne. I and other members of the AUS Centre Unity faction had a direct input into proposal E guidelines on the direction of a new student union, this proposal received unanimous support in last weeks referendum at Monash.

This proposal should be acted upon at the Student Conference to be held in Sydney later this year.

When students look back at 1984 the formation of a new student organisation will form large in the minds. 'Lot's Wife' on the other hand will only be remembered for its myopic reporting, its defamatory articles (which will cost all Monash Students in the years to come as the law suits come in) and is bloody-minded intolerance.

Yours in student unity,

Tony Bean

## Odd Spot



## Gee, we're really upset...

Dear Lot's,

The latest edition of Lot's Wife is the last straw!

It reflects precisely all that is wrong with this years Lot's Wife. The content is, in short appalling. Three huge rambling articles on the student elections, which were written in such a manner that unless you were directly involved in the election they were incomprehensible. Does anything else ever happen at Monash except student politics.

The layout of this edition is a new first for shabbiness and incompetence. The articles have been typeset in two faces and point sizes. Incredible! I have never before read an article which alternated in type face and size regularity throughout. The articles were obviously no proof read and there were no photographs. Have the editors no pride in the production of their newspaper?

While presentation should not be an end in itself, it is important that articles be presented and edited well simply so that they can be easily read.

It is disappointing that while the editors have attempted to pursue some important left wing concerns and issues they have succeeded in only alienating the student body by producing second rate dribble.

From my reading of this years Lot's Wife it seems that the editors are only too willing to be critical of everyone else involved in student politics except for themselves.

Rather than writing copious boring articles on why the a-political to right wing Cure won Lot's Wife I suggest that the editors take a look in their own back yard for the obvious answer.

There are, I assume, a couple of more editions of Lot's Wife to be produced before the end of term. I hope that this years editors "can pull up their socks" at last and produce a paper that will reflect their proper potential and abilities.

Yours in hope.

Marita Landmann

Editor's Note: We ourselves aren't over-joyed with the last edition. However, as explained on page 2, we had great difficulty getting articles typeset.

Further, as to who is to 'blame' (surely analysis is more important than apportioning blame) for the 'Cure' getting in as Lot's editors, you would be well advised to take notice of your own advice and look in your backyard as well as ours. Perhaps you only feel student election articles are boring, because you no longer find yourself in a position of power.

## Outraged MonJSS machine

Dear Lot's

As constitutionally — elected MonJSS Social Secretary for 1985, I was incensed by your litany of innuendos and suggestions that MonJSS is a political machine manipulating behind the scenes. I maintain our organization is fundamentally social and assure all members in '85 (and I am sure this also applicable to the other social officer on the committee) I will work hard to present a most interesting range of social activities.

Shimshon Sam Lechinsky  
Law/Eco II

## Deep alternative

Dear Lot's,

A special issue on Alternative Lifestyles and the Grad. School of Environ. Sc. does not crack a mention. Our fault I suppose, we could have provided something for you — well, let me do so now: in October, at the terrible time 26-28th, over a weekend... just as exams are beginning, we are running a conference on Environment, Ethics and Ecology (No. 11): "Pathways to Sustainable Society, Action for Change" (program attached).

The conference is about the "deep alternative" I guess, looking for new ways of knowing/understanding which will not lead to the sort of human and environmental degradation we know today... do come along we'd love to see you there.

Enquiries? Ring: ext. 3841 or 3840.

Frank Fisher

## Curing Conservatives

Dear Lot's,

One of the most valuable aspects of university life is the opportunity to experience alternatives. Although the structure of the institution itself offers little scope for innovative thinking, it is through the forum of student organizations, clubs and societies, whether political or not, that the entrenched ideas of the dominant culture can be challenged. The student newspaper has traditionally been the means by which new ideas are presented to the student by giving expression to views generally not aimed in the mainstream media.

What is to become of student radicalism if the vehicle of its

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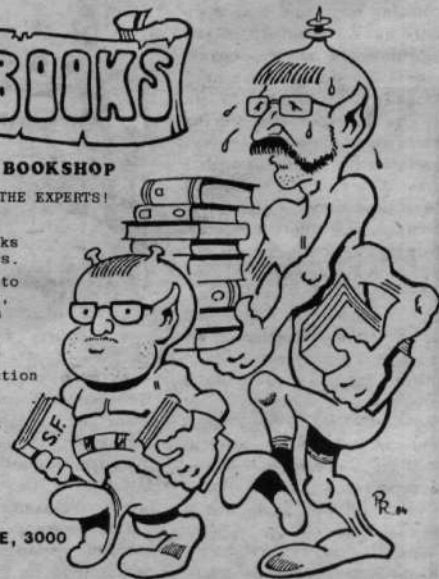
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expression is in the hands of right-wing, sexist, privileged dolly-birds? Are the first year students of 1985, the majority from private schools, to be fed the same conservative shit they were brought up on? How on earth can these two trends be sensitive to the issues of most concern to students; inadequate housing; the pressures of supporting oneself and trying to study at the same time; dealing with voracious landlords while subsisting on a wage below the poverty line; and all the numerous other pressures of those of us not blessed with rich and/or generous parents.

C. Caruana Arts/Law IV

PS: I submit my first letter to Lot's Wife in apprehension of being denied such an opportunity next year.

## A terminal disease?

Dear Lot's,

May I offer you my condolences on the outcome of the election?

Yours,

Mark S Holsworth  
Arts II  
Deakin Hall

## Find me a Cure for excess

Dear Lot's

It was bad enough to have to put up with Debbie and Carmella grinning inanely at us all over campus; their propaganda campaign bearing an appalling resemblance to the 'Big Brother' of Orwell; It was even worse to hear of their election; but do we also have to have our misfortune denoted by 'Cure' thank-you's plastered on walls.

Where does the money come from?

If this is any indication of their priorities for fund-usage, 1985

will be worse than even Orwell could imagine.

Lissa Zass  
Arts/Law III

## Fascism from the experts

Dear Lot's,

I know a lot of people complain about the illiteracy of University students, but what does Mathew Gibney (oops, Cliver Patterson to Lot's Wife readers) mean by "facistic" in his weekly diatribe which, incidentally, reminds me of the Whip in the Toorak Times?

Has Mathew found a new word or can't he spell "fascist"? Or did he mean "fascist" but misspell it in a deliberate attempt to avoid a libel suit from not only every member of the Moderate Students Alliance, but also Bob Santamaria, Babette Francis and (could Lot's Wife really afford another one) from Michael Barnard, not to mention the four unions? (By the way, was leaving out the Pope a sin of omission?)

Mathew has a problem, he really can't cope with the fact that the Moderate Students Alliance is ideologically opposed to communism and his particular brand of fellow travellers. But in the eyes of the law ignorance is no excuse — Mathew really should inform himself that we are opposed to totalitarianism of the Left and Right and that includes the Right-Wing racist varieties such as National Action. Also, if his Italian were up to scratch I could lend him a book on the socialist basis of Mussolini's fascism, which leads me to conclude that the political spectrum runs a full circle with communism and fascism being the same side of one coin. (Compare Hitler's treatment of the Jews with Soviet treatment of the Jews).

If Mathew objects to our dislike of Left-wing ideologies why doesn't he defend them? I guess it's easier to attack Moderate

Students Alliance members personally than to defend the Soviet Union — just ask Solzhenitsyn.

President

Moderate Students Alliance  
P.S. Carlos Carlei, do you want to join the Moderate Students Alliance?

## Balls to you!

Dear Lot's,

Re: Adam Crow

Poor old Adam, not another finals massacre! What's the point of Fitzroy making the five, only to be outclassed and disgraced, in front of thousands. As I stated in a March edition of Lot's Wife — "So Fitzroy is on a collision course with the depths of the ladder. Again! In '84 Fitzroy will be taught a valuable lesson as they are trampled and shoved back down the ladder". History repeating itself as Fitzroy goes from one finals loss to another — '79, '81, '83 and '84.

No wonder Crow calls himself a 'rather moderate supporter of Fitzroy'. How could anyone be fully committed to a side which has no real commitment and is attracted to winning and success like vegetarians are to cabbage.

The fight for fifth position was a masochistic race to ruin. Footscray, Geelong and Fitzroy were competing for the right (or privilege) to be humiliated. Sides like these are incapable of and haven't the historical credentials necessary to succeed in modern finals.

Well Mr Crow... may I say to you

Fitzroy a whisper, but never a roar!!!

P.S. To S.M.K. whoever he or she is, Richmond have fared very well in the modern era of football — premiers '67, '69, '73, '74 and '80, five flags in seventeen years is an achievement other clubs can only dream about. At Richmond success is a reality, not a hope!

P.S.S. What a lot of joy and pleasure I received in reading Michael Turner's

recent comments about the state of football and Richmond in particular.

Michael raises many vital questions in his accurate appraisal of Richmond's recent demise. The answers to these questions come to my mind instantly.

1. Richmond are resting. After so many brilliant victories, Brownlow medals, century kickers and five premierships, Richmond was simply fatigued.

2. Richmond has always been a benevolent club and felt sympathy and pity for the teams below them. Thus the mighty Tigers have allowed some of their genius to go elsewhere, to spread the word.

Let's forget Jesus had twelve disciples, so does Richmond.

Essendon — Sheedy, Morris, Wood and Clayton.

Collingwood — Sheedy and Raines.

Footscray —

Malthouse, Dunne and Edwards.

Geelong —

Hafey and Jackson.

And the VFL have Schwab (Judas).

This Michael, is the explanation your require to restore your faith.

In '85 Richmond will conquer all. The Tigers will once again allow the 'kick where you see a head' rule to prevail. Sheedy, Neil Balme, or Mal Brown will be coach and one of these men of wisdom will steer Richmond to its rightful position — the top.

Tom Pagonis

## Astra radicalism

Dear Lot's,

A recent minor accident now gives me time to write on all sorts of issues I would normally never do.

I completed by Engineering degree at Monash in 1969 and whilst doing my course had wide contact with students of other faculties and all political philosophies. We demonstrated fervently for our beliefs and contributed to events of the day and influenced government policy for the first time in perhaps several decades.

The power of the activist had been established, and has continued with conservatism, particularly with Tasmania, with whaling etc.

The point I want to make however, is that it is always easy to win the issues that are right for the majority. It is a good way for even conservative governments to put through legislation when 'public opinion' is behind them. In fact it is the activists, particularly the vocal ones, who seem to form public opinion through the

immense power of the media.

It was therefore inevitable that we should pull out of Vietnam, reassess hydroelectric power (if not a little too late), reprimand the Douglas Shire Council over the road in North Queensland; and we will probably curtail timber cutting near rainforests in Norton, NSW, as well as in other areas.

The Aborigines will reclaim sacred sites, win back land, perhaps inhibit mining.

The anti-uranium movement will continue and make some gains, if not now, in the future (although I fail to see how this could ever stop a nuclear war). In the process of development all students should involve themselves with these issues — those that do not will have missed out on a once only opportunity to expose themselves to a wide range of political philosophies that one does not encounter in later more mundane middle class life.

You have an opportunity to have a real say in what sort of country you want to work in, in the next decade, so think carefully.

If you go too far you will stifle so many activities that past generations depended on, you will put yourself out of a job if any exist in the first place.

On the other hand, if you encourage development but with strict safeguards, environmental controls etc., you will probably create more jobs than what would have been previously considered necessary. e.g. reforestation filling in old mines etc.

But you can't expect to achieve this if private ventures have to pay all the costs plus taxes. Taxes are our money anyway — we can't have it both ways and still compete overseas.

To save a whale is easy, to shun the Yankee missiles is a start, to hand over mineral-rich lands to Aborigines in vast areas requires much more thought.

After all; we are not at the centre of the universe as we like to think we are, in fact a large proportion of the world doesn't even know we exist.

John Mountjoy

## Another Liberal stuff-up!

Dear Lot's Editors,

I would like to deny any involvement with the Liberal Club Shadow A.E. I was 'elected/appointed to the position without my knowledge or consent, in fact the first I knew of it was when I read it in last week's Lot's. Accordingly I would like to disassociate myself from this farcical exercise.

Yours with independence,  
Mark Gardiner

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Yes folks, you can now sleep at nights. Here is the winner of the Short Story competition. And the winner is Lauraine Makaronis. thanks to everyone who participated and Lauraine can come up and pick her prize.



## Many Years Later

by Lauraine Makaronis



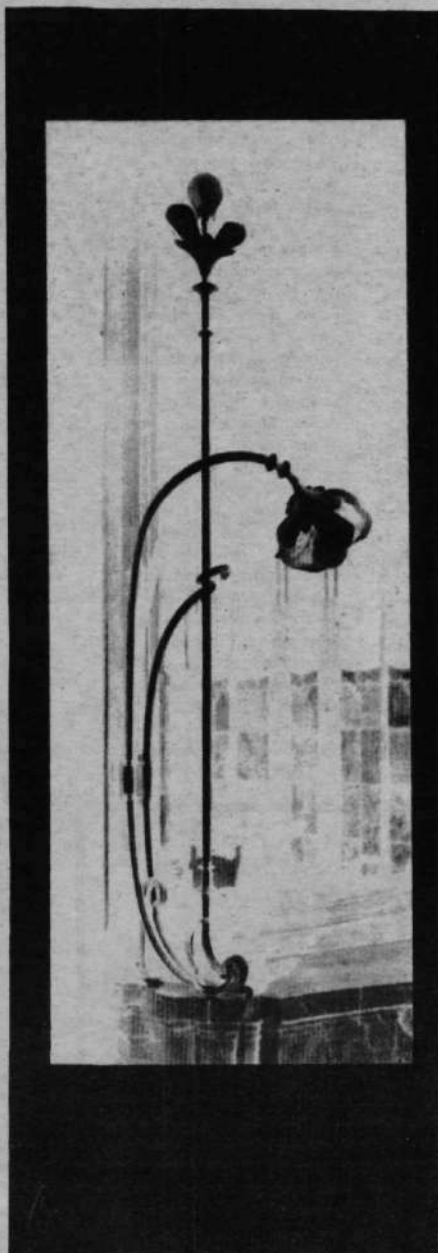
We went everywhere together; we wore everything the same; we even looked alike; yet the difference that existed between us, was more than real. Over so many years we came to realize that this difference was the bond that linked our lives to an unbreakable chain the creator of a bridge of powerful and maturing roots that continues to strengthen and nourish the trunk between the borders of our lives.

Antonia looked like no one else: her round face moonlike and bluntly curved at the chin had a special glow; the redness in her cheeks always heightened by a deeper balm, was the effect of the paling in her remaining facial features. Yet, the most unique memory of Antonia's face that stands out so vividly, is the shape of her eyes. They looked like delicate sea pearls, their colour however, was not a glowing white but a chest-nut brown, with pupils as round as marbles, constantly ready to shine and spin off warmth and kindness.

I remember how once we stood by the brick fence surrounding our home, our heads barely reaching the top, holding hands, smiling at my father who was ever so desperately trying to keep us from moving so he may take our photo. We never could remain still. I was always the one figeting and squinting, and as a result I was the one with my eyes shut in the photo. We knew little then about life and we were never really prepared to find that many years later our heads would clearly reach over the fence that we then thought was the defender of our home. Oh! how I often wish that that fence could still protect us from a world now too strong for us to find shelter behind 'any' fence.

My father finally succeeded in capturing the perfect photo (he thought so anyway). To us, the photo was like any other. Today it clearly represents the bond that we have always carried with us. Looking at the photo I see our hands firmly clipped together, our dresses again the same: a deep olive green, velvet and frilled with lace at the collar and at the bottom. We looked almost doll like. I with my few freckles and long hair which curled to thick ringlets as it fell on to my shoulders, and Antonia with her short, neatly trimmed hair standing so still and so quaint. Antonia's white socks in the photo were pulled down to her ankles, mine were straight, and I can almost imagine our two tiny figures in the centre breathing and the thinly crisped folds of the dresses rising and falling as we inhaled each breath.

I was always taller than Antonia; thus in our daily trips to the park to play, I would be the father, she the mother. How we would make believe that the trees were our home, the leaves and twigs our plates, knives and forks, our dolls our babies and yes, we even had a dog. This toy, with its red buttoned eyes protruding from its violet fur had a pocket in which I would place my most personal and treasured belongings — my pyjamas. This soft toy filled our lives with smiles, giggles and enabled us to create within our minds fantasies beyond childish imagination. It was given to me by my father. Antonia also had a similar toy, but when she decided to give it a hair cut her expectations failed her approval when she discovered that the toy's hair would not grow back. I laugh when I remember the way Antonia directed with authority in the manner we were to glue the hair back on the dog.



"You're so perfect aren't you?" Antonia's sarcasm exploded in my ears like a grenade of mist to penetrate my eyes with tears. This time however, my eyes only clouded with mist, for I knew her voice though sarcastic, it trembled with a distraught compound of fear. I realized this time Antonia would fail to clench her victim's teeth.

"I am not," I said, "Nor do I try to be." My voice was cold and steady; a voice that so readily resembled Antonia's. I was standing, my knees felt so weak, almost gel like and my heart moaned in deep pain as if a knife was piercing my flesh and twisting around to turn my veins inside and out, just like pugnacious waves that destroy the quiet and cumbersome movement of a shore. It was as if Antonia's words were destroying my inside peace.

Antonia was standing. I continued, "Oh you try to be the perfect bitch, you only know how you try." I paused and made a small sigh: "Behind your wall of stability, strength and mischievous ply is a shaky interior of softness ready to break at anything!"

My words killed her. She turned around rapidly, almost landing on a wild spin. I could not see her face but I did not need to. It was as if I could feel her tears splashing violently, crashing against my hands and dripping off the end of my finger tips as if the tears were my own. A storm had hit, I only hoped the calm would come after it, for it did not before.

Antonia turned and ran. Her arms tightly gripped in an embrace as they swung around my back. She was crying and her uncontrollable passion of tears suddenly became my own. Our hands clung together like they once did in our childhood photo so many years ago. Antonia cried, I cried, we cried together as our tears became the tar to heal the crack and had slid the border of our lives.

"Slowly and delicately" were her orders but in the end we were left with a toy that looked like a ball of purple cotton wool with a gold chain around the middle (supposedly being the collar) rather than a dog that Antonia wanted so much to look like my own.

I still have that dog and Antonia still looks like no one else. However, so many changes have taken place; we no longer go everywhere together; we no longer wear everything the same and we no longer look alike.

Antonia strikes at anyone and at anything in order to achieve an acceptance that she desperately craves for. Her dreams for the future are sustained by alcohol and drugs. How differently she behaves when she is with me, and it is when we are together that I realize her venomous salvation is the cause of her falsity before others. Talking to me she is always herself. Her need to impress and to be noticed no longer exists. How I explode to see her feel that she must be better than others or rather make others feel that she is better than them. Her picture has now turned so false and so cold; with one leg firmly clipped over the other, her elbow casually leaning against the back of a chair, a cigarette between her fore and middle fingers backing away from her lips, while the other hand raising a glass to mingle with her stone-dry breath, Antonia destroys her beliefs and becomes a threat of dark vengeance allowing no air to escape through her victims clenched teeth when she attacks a violent blow of fearful and defenceless words so as to lower the moral state of her prey. This is what has threatened to crack the bond in our lives.

In a brilliant piece of political pettifogging, this week Anita and Kev were secretly, and against their wills, committed to state-run rest homes for naughty editors. The new junta comprised:

Amir "incipient beer gut" Morris  
Karin "Mum, I've been at the library all day" Miller  
Guido "great job" Doppleganger  
Darren "sleezo" Smith  
Kerrie "blow yer nose" Munnery  
Aileen "I love Robert Redford" Muldoon  
Anita "courting" Bahree  
John "saw it all" Llewelyn  
Peter "book him, Danno" Nugent  
Warwick "I'm completely naked" Dunbar  
Nic "vegetarians really are nice people" Economou  
Sue "art" Davies  
Mal "covers" Mon  
Jeff "I'll never say 'pompous' again" Giddings  
Miranda "I'll never be 'pompous' again" Gott

\*Extra special thanks  
and hugs to Kev  
"chief of staff"  
Brianton. Thumbs  
up to you, Fub.\*



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<p>FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 7.30 p.m. Lecture: 81 \$12.00 \$12.00</p> <p><b>High Anxiety</b> MEL BROOKS "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>	<p><b>Greenwich Village</b> PAUL MAZURSKY "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>
<p>FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 11.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>HOYAAN ISQATSI</b> "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>	<p>SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 7.30 p.m. Lecture: 81 \$12.00 \$12.00</p> <p><b>Labour of Love</b> "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>
<p>OCTOBER THURSDAY 18 FRIDAY 19 7.30 p.m. Lecture: 81 \$12.00 \$12.00</p> <p><b>High Anxiety</b> MEL BROOKS "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>	<p>FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 11.45 p.m. Lecture: 81 \$12.00 \$12.00</p> <p><b>HEAT</b> "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>
<p>SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>High Anxiety</b> MEL BROOKS "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>	<p>SAT 20 OCTOBER 7.30 p.m. Lecture: 81 \$12.00 \$12.00</p> <p><b>High Anxiety</b> MEL BROOKS "A MODERN DAY FOLLY"</p>

## DOWN THE NOTT.

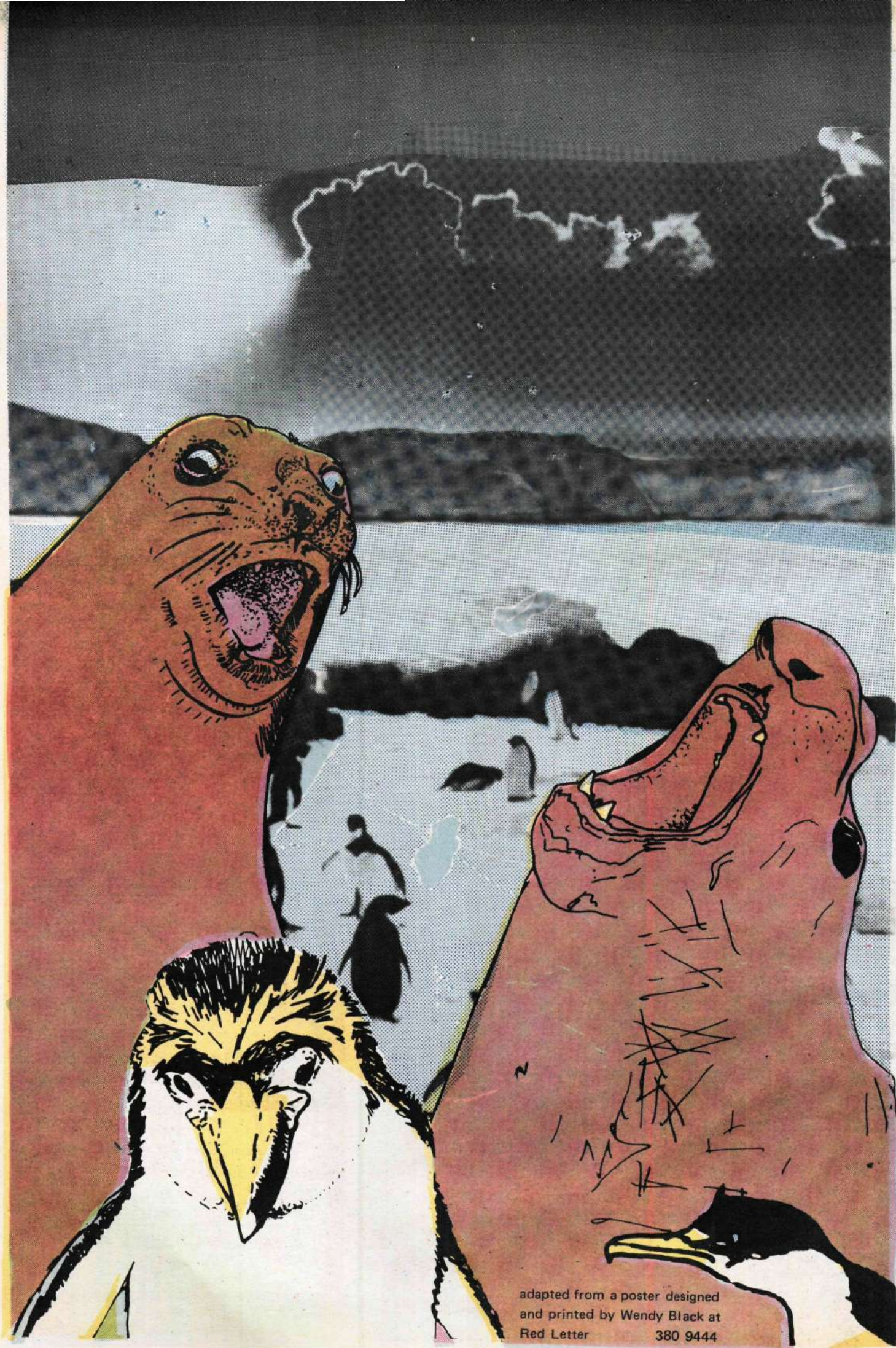


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