

Lot's



Wife

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STUDENTS WIN GAINS IN LIBRARY PROTESTS

MAJOR concessions on the issues of library hours, services availability, staffing and book purchasing were won by students during a week of protest over library cuts proposals.

The week of protest included a march on and occupation of the Administration Building, and a sit-in during a meeting of the University Council.

At the conclusion of the protests, the Administration – via an impromptu address to protesting students by the Vice Chancellor Ray Martin – agreed:

1. that the main library would remain open on Saturdays albeit at reduced hours
2. that there would be no premature sacking of part-time staff
3. that services for disabled students would be maintained
4. that book-buying would continue at current levels until a committee of inquiry brings down its findings on the issue
5. that the committee of inquiry – the McDonell Committee – will have student representation
6. that the findings of the McDonell Committee will be available for student perusal and comment
7. that the Vice Chancellor and some others of the Administration would attend a general meeting of students on the issue in two weeks time.

Professor Martin's address to students assembled outside

Council chambers diffused a tense situation. Prior to the address, students attempted to barricade Councillors in the chamber until they decided to agree to all student demands unequivocally.

Students attempted this barricade by lying down in front of the chamber's main exit, thus preventing Councillors from leaving the room. Some councillors did attempt to leave by stepping on and around bodies, and some minor scuffles took place. Most councillors returned to the sanctuary of the Chambers where, during Professor Martin's talk with protestors, they were led from the chambers via a secret back exit.

During Professor Martin's address – which took the form of a question and answer session – students obtained confirmation of the concessions won on opening hours and book buying, and also on gaining representation to the McDonell Committee.

AE Chairperson, Mr. Steve Wettenhall, is to be the student



representative on this committee of inquiry.

It was also during this session that Professor Martin gave an undertaking that he would attend a General Meeting of Students to answer questions on this issue.

Steve Wettenhall, talking of the protest actions later on in the week with this paper, described them as "an outstanding success". He pointed out that not only were student demands on library hours and service maintenance conceded by the Administration, but that stu-

dents had also won important concessions on the issues of representation to the committee of inquiry. The McDonell Committee had, prior to Monday's meeting, not provided for a student representative. Mr. Wettenhall also expressed delight at the fact that student protests had forced the library issue onto Council's agenda.

Up until the McDonell Committee hands down its findings, the Monash Association of Students intends to hold more selective protests and to organise student-staff boycotts

of lectures and tutorials. Some factions are also planning to protest to the ALP and the government. MAS also intends researching a submission to be put before the McDonell Committee.

"The past couple of days," Mr. Wettenhall concluded, "have demonstrated to critics of direct action that fears of lack of student support is unfounded". (The Library SGM and both occupations were extremely well attended). "Further, it shows how effective such action is in forcing the Administration to address important issues".

INSIDE: THE LIBRARY OCCUPATION. A PHOTO ESSAY

Editorial

MAS Chairperson, Steve Wettenhall, was correct in saying last week that the protests held over library cuts were an outstanding success. In short, all student demands were met. Further, the state of the Library has been forced to the top of the Administration's agenda. All students who participated deserve congratulations on these significant achievements.

Steve Wettenhall deserves special mention for his performance last week (although, of course, he would be the first to deny apportioning of praise). Steve managed to hold a potentially divisive and divided show together, dealing on one hand with demands for storming the council chambers, and negotiating with the Administration on the other.

This paper singles Mr. Wettenhall out for praise because we believe credit should be given where it is due. We have been critical of the performance of the A.E. Chair in the past, but this time we believe he provided very good value for the money students pay to keep him.

There were many other people who also made extremely valuable contributions in all facets of the protests. They came from all of the political factions on campus and, it must be said, that although there were serious disagreements between people over tactics and principles, all people who participated in the protests deserve praise.

The protests achieved a great deal. It also proved how erroneous are the ideas of those people who dismiss the effectiveness of direct protest action in achieving ends.

Student politicians should not fall into the trap of thinking that all aims will be achieved in this way, however. Now that the issue has been raised

the time has come for research to be done to explore ways in which the primary objectives of maintaining and even improving library services can be achieved. Well argued and researched submissions can be just as effective as a well organised demonstration.

Furthermore, students should be aware that this library issue will increasingly shape up as part of a larger problem. Students should not forget the link between services provided for Universities and governmental funding. With the spectre of severe public sector austerity looming on the horizon, students had better steel themselves to the prospect of more campaigns such as this to protect their interests.

Finally, the vast number of students at this university who just couldn't be bothered to participate in the last week's protests owe a massive debt of gratitude to those students who were active. Those students who live by apathy ought to consider their selfishness as they sit in the library and study for their exams over the weekend.

have free reign once again. The topic that he chose to address was the decision by the Federal Labor government to deport a South African diplomat who beat a woman protestor with a stick after she had entered the South African embassy compound and had begun smashing windows with a mallet. Mr Kennett, who is famed for the way in which he speaks before his brain is engaged, said that the diplomat was justified in beating the demonstrator and that handing out such punishments by property owners whose possessions were being attacked was justified.

Now, even if you leave aside the ideological questions of the morality of property and so on, there is great cause for alarm at Mr Kennett's feelings on another level. For surely the leader, in saying these things, is arguing a justification for the use of vigilantism as a means of maintaining law and order. Surely any conservative would find this a reprehensible approach, arguing instead that matters involving the violation of property or of the law should be dealt with by the appropriate authorities - the police.

One can only wonder at this latest Kennett outburst. Was it a poorly thought out attempted swipe at the Federal government's indisputably correct decision to expel the South African diplomat in question? Or is there a far darker, sinister dimension to the Opposition leader, festering in vengeful, vigilante violence that, if it should ever be translated into governmental policy, would hand the administration of law and order to gun totting strongmen rather like those that currently roam the streets of South Africa claiming to be protecting white interests but revealing instead an amazing thirst for blood and violence?

ALSO...

Last week the State Opposition Leader, Mr Jeff Kennett, emerged from what has obviously been a self-imposed period of silence to let his rested jaw

AROUND



THE TRAPS

DROPPING BUCKETS

Well, last week was a good one for AE Chairperson, Mr. Steve Wettenhall. As a nominal head (in the eyes of the Administration at any rate) of last week's student protests over mooted library service cuts, Mr. Wettenhall's star looked particularly bright in the aftermath of the Administration's backpedalling over the whole issue. Not that Wettsie is claiming any of the credit mind you. In true diplomatic style, he has sought to put praise on the greater body

of students. Yet, as anyone who was there will tell you, Mr. Wettenhall did put in an extremely impressive performance, and deserves the praise he has been getting in various quarters.

In amongst all of this fine performance came one little embarrassing moment, though. It occurred just after the occupation had got underway in the Admin. building. Facing the angry crowds was Deputy Vice-Chancellor Westfold, a grizzly old Admin. hack who seemed quite put out that a bunch of students had made themselves at home in the University's administrative nerve centre.

Westfold commenced to stonewall on all sorts of questions, being a little angry here, a little reticent there. . . Then, all of a sudden, the issue of the Library User's Committee came up. "To answer that question you ought to ask the Chairperson of the Library Users' Committee," said the DVC in answer to a question.

Then, up piped Chairperson Wettenhall who was standing at Westfold's shoulder, "Who is that?"

Westfold's eyes lit up with delight at the prospect of dropping the proverbial bucket on the high-rolling AE Chair. "The Chairperson's name is on the

Committee minutes that I send you Steve. Or, don't you read the documents I send you."

Laughter and red faces to be sure! Still, it was only a minor bucket, rather like the one dropped on students by VC Martin on Monday, when he noted that despite the large numbers of extremely vocal people who were present in the building on that day to talk about libraries, not one undergraduate student had bothered to nominate for the position set aside for students on the Users' Committee.

One can only wonder who will in time snap that little vacancy up.

MORE CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

And still on the subject of libraries, it was indeed interesting to hear various students comparing Melbourne University's Baillieu Library favourably with the Monash Main Library. Indeed, there was some suggestion that they do things a little better over there than they do here.

All of which made those of us who have had experience with the Baillieu chuckle quietly to ourselves. One could only wonder at people who would praise an organisation that hasn't had a

stocktake of its collection since the 1950s and so has no idea of what books it actually has as fine administrators. And if you are still not convinced about the Baillieu's problems, consider this piece of folklore. Students who take librarianship courses are regularly sent to study the Baillieu. The purpose is to instruct the librarians of tomorrow on how NOT to run a library. The Baillieu, in the eyes of those who train librarians, is seen as the classic antithesis of what a library should be.

WE DON'T DO THAT OVER HERE

A very big week for demonstrators and demonstrations. With the 10th anniversary of the Soweto riots and consequent South African armed forces slaughter of innocent people, a number of demonstrations were held around the country.

In Canberra, one demonstrator earned herself a bit of fame by leaping over the fence of the South African embassy and turfing a mallet through some of the embassy's windows. Television watchers were treated to this spectacle, and an equally extraordinary sight of a South African embassy official running out from behind a

closed door, and belting the infiltrator with what appeared to be a large stick. (Later reports confirmed a sawn-off broom handle.) It seemed as if a little bit of Johannesburg had come to Canberra.

Well, they can do it over there, but they can't do it over here. That was the official word from acting Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Gareth Evans on the Tuesday following the incident. The Federal Police had apparently reported the incident along with their view that the force used was "unnecessary" to Foreign Affairs, who immediately told the South African embassy that the official responsible for the act had better start packing his bags and get out of Canberra within ten days.

"They might do that sort of thing in their own country," said the Honorable Senator, "but it is totally unacceptable behaviour here." (Joh Bjelke-Petersen please take note.) And so the neighbourhood is going to be improved enormously with the removal of one apologist for that disgraceful regime in Pretoria from the immediate area. Those demonstrating at the embassy were in agreement that whilst it was a good start, the removal of one was by no means enough.

MYSTERIOUS McDONELL COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE LIBRARY FATE

by Nic Economou

A HITHERTO unmentioned committee of inquiry — the McDonell Committee — will hold the key to University Administration policy towards library funding and management.

This committee's existence was revealed for the first time to students demonstrating against cuts to library services and funding last week. The committee's membership and terms of reference remain shrouded in mystery.

The student demonstration, which took the form of a march upon and a 30 hour occupation of the Administration Building, managed to win guarantees from the University Administration that the Main Library would open on Saturdays albeit at reduced hours, and that services for disabled students, where they had been under threat, would be restored and protected.

The proposal that part-time library staff would be retrenched before their employment contracts expired was dropped at the behest of the General Staff Association.

The Administration would not give answers to student demands that funds for new book and periodical purchases be maintained at current levels. Instead, the Administration said that this issue in addition to the question of late fines would be studied by the McDonell Committee.

The position of the Administration was delivered to a special delegation of students selected from that body of students who occupied the Administration Building during most of Thursday and Friday of

last week. The convening of this special meeting that lasted for almost four hours brought about the end of an occupation that most organisers agreed was a successful protest event.

The student protest began on Thursday with a well attended General Meeting of Students agreeing to motions calling for maintaining Library funding, and agreeing to march on the Administration Building to press this issue. The decision to march on the Administration was made in preference to a suggestion to occupy the main library over the weekend.

Upon the meeting's conclusion, the consequent march to the building discovered that the main doors of the building were open, thus allowing the demonstration to occupy the two floors of the entrance foyer.

During the course of the afternoon's occupation, the student body was addressed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Westfold, and the head of the library, Mr. Southwell.

It was during these question and answer sessions, particularly those involving Professor Westfold, that the existence of this McDonell



Students occupy the Administration Building over library cuts.

Committee was revealed. Another important dimension to the issue was revealed when Professor Westfold intimated on several occasions that, as the library administration was responsible for its own affairs, the present difficulties being experienced were the fault of library administration.

Professor Westfold preferred stonewalling as a tactic to deal with the large crowd. Questioned repeatedly on the implications of this McDonell Committee, his preferred response was: "We will just have to wait and see". He avoided questions pertaining to the library administration's claim that devaluations in the Australian dollar were the root cause of many financial problems.

Far more impressive in his performance before the meeting was the Chief Librarian, T. B. Southwell. Prefacing his remarks with the statement that the library's plight "hurts me as much as it hurts you", he began to fend a number of questions and comments.

In his answers, he denied that his administration was inadequate or inept. He claimed that the root cause of the problem was a failure of the General Library Committee to provide the funds that the library had been expecting to cover it for the coming half-year.

Whilst Mr. Southwell said that he did not think these difficulties would be permanent, he was clear on where the solutions to the current problems lay. "More money will have to come from the Administration to maintain services," he said.

The occupying students then organised for an overnight stay in the Admin Building foyer. The nature of the overnight effort took on many characters,

at times resembling a tense political meeting as various factions debated the tactics to be taken. When not locked in caucus, the occupation took on a party atmosphere with music and beer provided.

A lengthy evening meeting decided that the occupying students would instigate a lock out of the building at 9.00 a.m. The meeting chose this in preference to establishing a picket-line in front of the building, requesting administration staff not to cross it.

The lock-out was effected next morning. Some essential staff were permitted to enter the building. The remainder waited until University security men broke the locks, or entered the building via a back door.

Security personnel inside the building said that they were happy with the way the students behaved during the occupation, and that students had themselves cleaned up the mess left after the evening's occupation. By 4.00 p.m., the students had moved to the ground floor and were awaiting a return by the delegation that had been meeting with the Administration to return.

The delegation comprised three men and three women students, and met with a committee comprising the Vice Chancellor (Ray Martin) Professor Westfold, the Comptroller, the Registrar, the Chairperson of the Library Users' Committee, and the Head Librarian.

The results of the meeting included:

1. that the Library would be open on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prior to the examination period, the 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. hours would apply.
2. that services for disabled

students would not be contracted.

3. that the issue of fines would be left to the McDonell Committee, but that there would be no increase in fines in the interim period.

4. that staffing issues would be dealt with by the McDonell Committee, but that there would be no retrenchments in the interim.

5. that the Vice Chancellor refused to talk about the alleged availability of funds in the Vice Chancellor's Contingency Fund.

6. that the McDonell Committee will investigate the issue of who sits on the Library Management Committee (students demanded that generally elected student representatives and a staff rep be permitted to sit on this committee).

7. the issue of book purchase funds would be left to the McDonell Committee.

8. that the Vice Chancellor fudged on whether or not the library issue would be discussed at the forthcoming University Council meeting, as per the student demand.

The report of the delegation preceded heated discussion about tactics to be taken in the future. The occupation finally ended at around 5.30 p.m. on Friday.

INSIDE

Another rivetting Lot's Wife. This week you will find (and you will read):

News:

Who did what to whom at the AMWSU last week? The National Affairs Desk tells all!

Page 5

Features:

With the ALP National Conference to be held in July, now seems like a good time to speculate about the Party's beleaguered left. See our special report.

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Views on the Library demonstration, both written and visual. We spent a lot of time and film stock compiling this.

Pages 13-15

Sport:

Vroom! Vroom! Motor racing for Motor heads.

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LOT'S WIFE EXPOSES U.L.P. FRAUD!

Andrew D. Clarke

THE public has been deceived by the introduction of unleaded petrol (ULP). We have been fed blatant lies and have not been given all the facts. Also, there was not sufficient research into the fuel by the Government.

It is now history that the NSW government buckled under the pressure from conservationists, who insisted on the introduction of ULP as quickly as possible. As from the first day of January 1986 all cars manufactured for sale in Australia must be capable of running on a low octane ULP.

I am not fully opposed to ULP. What I do object to is the way in which the change over was done. My objections are:

i) it was introduced too hastily. Because of this haste the full consequences were not known because there was not enough investigation. Overseas investigations would have shown all the problems of this fuel and that US authorities have shown that their has been no reduction in airborne pollutants from cars, just a change and not necessarily for the better.

The most notable new major pollutant from cars is the lethal H₂S gas. This gas is formed in the catalytic converter, a new 'box' added to the exhaust system. Frequently this gas gets into the car, where it can do most harm. There have been many reports of minor H₂S poisoning (nausea, headaches and grumpiness) and I am one to have suffered 2 of these symptoms. Major poisoning could lead to death, it was H₂S poisoning that killed the sailors in Darwin last year;

ii) the public were told blatant lies by the NSW government (ULP's instigator). We were told that ULP would give us better performance, improvements in fuel economy and cleaner air. None of these are true as figures show:

PERFORMANCE - engine power outputs are down due to a



number of factors. The engines have to fight with more back pressure (thanks to the catalytic converter) and run on low octane petrol.

ECONOMY - there have not been any official figures produced yet, but my experience has shown a drop of around 5-10% in economy.

CLEANER AIR - this is not true. Both German authorities and American authorities have not been able to show that the airborne pollutant content of exhaust fumes from ULP cars is lower than that of leaded-petrol cars. In fact, the US report shows the opposite.

We were also lied to by not being given the full facts. Not only are our engines now less efficient, but they have problems on ULP. We need to use upper engine lubricants (just another addition to our mounting bills - consider that the cost of a catalytic converter is \$1000 for the simplest, this bill has already been added to the price

told that our fuel injectors will get clogged more easily on ULP. In some cases this has necessitated expensive repairs just so that the car will run.

Now that the full facts are known and the various people within the motor industry are being listened to, the public are outraged, as they should be. The whole affair was carried out with vote-winning haste and lies. It has taken less than 4 years to complete the legal change-over.

It is only now, 6 months after its introduction, that the petrol companies have a decent fuel to offer us, not a perfect fuel, just a better one.

The costs to be met by the average buyer of a new car are massive. A combination ULP and Keating's new tax laws have put the car industry into a massive slump. This slump will cost jobs, many thousands of jobs. Whilst the costs of ULP are huge, the benefits, if any, at the moment are negligible.

POWER OUTPUT

	Pre-ULP (kw)	Post-ULP (kw)	% drop
Ford Falcon 4.1	111	103	7.2
Toyota Corolla 1.3	54	49	9.3
Porsche 9285	221	212	4.1
Holden Camira	83	63	24.1

MADELEINE BALLHATCHETT

The controversy over the 'Hail Mary' film highlights the importance attached to Mary in Christian symbolism. So far as I can gather, the film does not suggest Mary was not the virgin mother of God. What people are objecting to was that she was shown swearing in some scenes and naked in others. One demonstrator said words to the effect that Mary was "the only pure girl and now she has been defamed."

It appears that the objection to the film was that Mary was shown as a normal girl with normal habits and desires, and not portrayed as 'saintly' and 'pure'. There are two implications from this. Firstly, Mary is thus not venerated, at least entirely, because she was supposed to be the mother of God, but rather that she was/is the embodiment of purity and chastity. In a strange way this image of Mary has combined both traits that are seen to be respected by patriarchal society - motherhood and virginity. It is not surprising then that she is put up on such a pedestal, nor that Christian women find it so hard to live up to this image.

The second point this raises is the whole ethos of virginity, that belief that a virgin is not just someone who has not had sex, but is also the possessor of almost mystical qualities, and an almost visible aura of purity. This in turn, of course, stems from the idea that sex is

dirty and any woman who indulges in it is somehow slightly soiled, if not defiled. (Men, of course, are different.) Mary's supposed purity is the standard by which women are judged in the eyes of the religious, so if they are called to consider the fact that Mary might have been a normal young woman with sexual desires and bad habits, they may have to accept that these things are O.K. for contemporary young women as well.

* * * * *

Meanwhile, the fight over woman priests continues. It is fascinating to see the logical knots people seem to be tying themselves into in trying to defend their positions. Father Keith Brasington, in defending moves to stop women becoming deacons of the Anglican Church was quoted as saying "Just as I cannot give birth to a child so this church grant holy orders to the female sex." (Age 16/6/86 p.3) Now, I can see that a man is limited by his physical make-up as to what he can physically do, but I fail to see how this relates to a 'church' which is hardly bound by physiognomy. It sounds more like petulance to me: "Well, we can't have babies so we have to have something to make us feel important." It may be vindictive of me, but I really enjoy seeing old men squirm when they see women encroaching on their territory.



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VSTA To Minister: Resign!

President of the Victorian Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA), Mr. Brian Henderson, has called for the removal of State Education Minister, Ian Cathie. Mr. Henderson made this statement in the Association newspaper, 'VSTA NEWS' last week, following proposals by the Ministry to introduce self-government in State Schools.

Mr. Cathie's paper entitled "Taking Schools into the

1990's" has received much media attention in recent weeks. If adopted, the plan would force schools to:

- recruit and select their own teaching staff
- decide how many teachers to employ, and the seniority of their appointment
- receive a single grant to cover teaching and ancillary staff salaries, equipment, maintenance, and other resources
- approve leave for teachers and arrange transfers
- employ and pay emergency

teachers

● be "accountable" for achievement of educational objectives through "assessment of performance against agreed goals".

In addition to these changes, school Principals may be removed from the teaching service. The Teachers' Federation of Victoria, in its bulletin dated June 12, expressed total opposition to this proposal, claiming that it would threaten working relationships within schools and between schools and the com-

munities they serve. If Principals allowed themselves to be led by the Ministry they would "rue the day."

All of the teacher unions and many parent groups are concerned that the plan to make schools self-governing will seriously disadvantage schools in low-income and isolated areas, and give teachers less job security and worsened conditions.

By turning State Schools into pseudo-private schools any notion of equality of educational opportunities for all Vic-



Ian Cathie

torian children would be lost.

Mr. Cathie, already an unpopular figure with teacher unions, is going to have a fight on his hands if he tries to implement these changes.

Mark Loveday

S. AFRICAN SITUATION WORSE

Luke Williams.

In the weeks leading up to the Soweto anniversary, fighting between opposing groups in the sprawling Crossroads shanty town located on the outskirts of Cape Town dominated black politics in South Africa. Conservative "vigilantes" who support the continuation of the traditional political infrastructure of the township have been seeking to oust young radical "comrades" from the townships. In turn the "comrades" have been trying to undermine the conservative fathers' power, viewing it as little more than a supporting institution of apartheid. Although outnumbered, the "vigilantes" have succeeded in driving the "comrades" and their supporters from the township.

Eyewitness accounts of the fighting indicate that South African security forces played an active part in assisting the conservative fathers achieve their aim. Complaints from opponents of the "vigilantes" to the effect that those same security forces also refused to try and stop the fighting and bloodshed smacks of hypocrisy, however, since the army and police have previously always been charged by those same persons with implementing their "law and order duties" too vigorously. Either the anti-apartheid movement opposes

the security arm of apartheid, or it does not. To suggest that the security forces should assist the anti-apartheid movement in certain circumstances implies that those forces can act as neutral agents in enforcing law and order: a ridiculous assertion when that same "law and order" is derived from the apartheid system.

Bishop Desmond Tutu also achieved headlines last week after his surprise meeting of ninety minutes with President P.W. Botha. Both men succeeded only in agreeing to disagree, with Tutu repeating his fears that civil war in the country is imminent unless the Nationalist government indicates quickly a willingness to dismantle apartheid and allow black majority rule, not just power sharing between Blacks, Whites and Coloureds.

Bishop Tutu has long been portrayed by the Western press as one of the most influential figures in South African politics. His high profile in the international arena, however, belies the lack of respect most black South Africans have for



After a national strike to commemorate Soweto, South African blacks are back at work this week.

him. His political grandstanding is regarded more as an attempt on his part to consolidate for himself a position of leadership and influence when apartheid is finally destroyed, than a sincere effort to fight the apartheid system. Not that Tutu is alone in this respect. The attempts by African National

Congress leaders to portray their organisation as the vanguard force in the anti-apartheid struggle, along with Gatha Buthelezi's machinations in suppressing dissent to the rule of Inkatha within the Kwazulu homeland, also suggest those persons are more interested in cementing a secure

place as leaders in a post-apartheid South Africa than with allowing a revolutionary situation to bring forth progressive leaders. Bishop Tutu is just the most irritating example of how so-called radical black leaders in South Africa see themselves as more important than they really are.

Tutu is correct in one respect, however. Civil War appears ever more likely as the violence in the townships continues to escalate, and pro-apartheid White Afrikaners arm themselves in anticipation of attacks from radical blacks. Although agitation on the part of blacks is shaking the foundations of the apartheid system, the ultimate determinant of the South African future will be the behaviour of the security forces there. They are the key to whether apartheid will be destroyed or not, and to whether democracy can be brought to the country after apartheid has disappeared.

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FROM THE GUTTER

with Dr Oliver Machettihead

There will be no Late Late Column during the World Cup.

EPITAPH FOR A POLITICIAN'S POLITICIAN

Nifty has gone! And, as the ABC's *Four Corners* anchor-creature, Andrew Olle, said last week, *The King is Dead! Long Live the King!* Neville K. Wran, Premier of New South Wales, and a real politician's politician, is to stand down from the premiership and will retire back to the law from whence he came. Now is the time for political junkies - those who get high on good old fashioned political skills such as surviving during times of crisis and kicking opponents' heads whenever they should appear - to mourn.

For what will politics be like in the aftermath of Wran? Who will be able to repeat such breathtaking performances as the day Nifty strode out to an impromptu press conference the day that Justice Lionel Murphy was acquitted of charges of perverting the course of justice, and declared that, in effect, he was going to have the head of Chief Magis-

trate, Clarrie Briese. Briese had committed the cardinal sin of speaking against a Wran mate, and, according to the Wran view of politics, the only response to such behaviour was political retaliation. As Nifty himself was fond of saying: "You can forgive in politics, but you can never forget."

What other politician would emerge from his home the day after he was exonerated from an inquiry into allegations that the Premier had tampered with the workings of the law to clear a rugby league identity charged with fraud, and answer in response to a press question as to what he would do in this his first day back that he was going to parliament to kick heads?

In the televised construction of an epitaph for the departing premier, the ABC (towards whom Wran had a special antipathy) requested reactions from friends and foes alike. Whilst the responses of the friends were predictable enough, the things Wran's enemies had to say were notable for their particular bitterness and noticeable vehemence. Wran had many scalps on his mantelpiece during his ten years as Premier, including two Liberal and one National

Party leaders. These people accused Wran of larrikinism in politics, of reducing the decorum and effectiveness of parliament as an institution.

Well, as my wise old father used to say of his days as a decidedly unpopular player-coach in Hobart's basketball league, "Son, the day the opposition stands up to applaud you when you take the court, is the day you retire." This basketballing metaphor is not lost on the N.S.W. situation. Neville Wran had nothing but contempt for his Liberal-National Party opponents. Indeed, the ruthless Wran style of street-brawler politics manifested itself most cruelly on the opposition. In recent times, however, the Wran monolith has been steadily eroding under a constant undercurrent of innuendo and allegations stemming from the festering organised crime phenomenon in N.S.W. Wran was a constant target for media - particularly the A.B.C. and the Fairfax owned media attention over these issues. Some in the A.L.P. described it as deliberate smear tactics.

Wran had become the personalised target of a Liberal-N.C.P. campaign against

organised crime that contributed to two major developments. Firstly, it led to a resurgence in the coalition's electoral stocks to the point where they nearly won government in the 1985 state election. And secondly, it contributed to a further erosion of the power of Wran as the all-conquering individual.

People speculate as to why Wran is going now. The answer, I feel, lies somewhere within the point I make above. Wran's contempt for the opposition meant that to be defeated by them would be a massive, personal blow. So, with the writing on the wall that his government's hold on office remains tenuous for as long as the organised crime and police corruption allegations fester, Wran has decided that the time has come. He will get out now, the unconquered giant of N.S.W. politics, heralded as the man who ran N.S.W. uncompromisingly and who stemmed the anti-A.L.P. tide in the wake of Whitlam when he was elected Premier in 1976.

The problems involving organised crime and allegations of corruption will now fall into the lap of the Wran replacement, the urbane Mr. Barrie Unsworth. In many ways,

there is a striking similarity in the way the Wran dynasty is ending to the way another Labor institution - the rule of South Australia by Don Dunstan - terminated. In that instance, the reins of power were handed to an equally urbane man called Des Corcoran who was to be bundled out of power at a subsequent state election. The change prompted literary notable, Max Harris, to write in *The Financial Review* that in changing from Dunstan to Corcoran South Australia had gone from chablis and moussaka to beer and steak. A similar situation has occurred in New South Wales.

I don't think Mr. Unsworth is going to survive long as Premier of the premier (sic) state. The shittrain that will develop as the Murphy allegations continue, and the organised crime issue continuing to boil, will result in the government of the day being bundled out of office. The Liberals will return under Nick Greiner, but will be so inept as to last only four years. Then the A.L.P. right-wing junta will be back. As for Wran, well, now he can concentrate on his confessed passions in life: "Jilly, whiting fillets, and a bottle of cold white wine".

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SOWETO Ten Years On

JUNE 16, 1976 is a day which black South Africans will remember forever as the day when schoolchildren marched through the streets of Soweto to protest against inequalities in education, and were met by a hail of police bullets.

That day marked the beginning of a wave of unrest that lasted over a year.

The student revolt of 1976 began in May when the government decided that students in black schools would be taught half of their lessons in Afrikaans, and half in English, the language they were used to. The decision brought protests from parents and teachers concerned that the standard of education would slip further behind white standards as a result. The government paid no attention to the protests and began to introduce the 50-50 system into Soweto schools.

At this point students decided to take matters into their own hands. Students at two schools went on strike, students at others refused to sit for their exams. On June 16, the South African Students Movement (SASM) organised a protest march through the streets of Soweto to the township's largest football stadium. They never got there.

Shortly after the beginning of the march the 20,000 children were stopped by police who attempted to take away placards. The precise order of events is unclear, but tear gas canisters were thrown into the crowd who retaliated with stones. Without either an order to disperse, or a warning shot, the police fired at the crowd, killing one and injuring several.

Unrest continued in Soweto for the rest of June, and the death toll reached 170. The police were now holding children in custody with neither charge nor trial. The release of these prisoners now became the focus of protest. On August 4, the students decided to take the protest to Johannesburg where they planned a rally outside the headquarters of the South African police. When the 10,000 strong crowd attempted to break through police lines, they were shot at, and at least 3 were killed. The students successfully persuaded over 60% of Soweto's workers to strike. They again brought workers into the protest on August 23 when 75% of workers in Johannesburg failed to arrive for work.

Throughout June, July and most of August, the students appeared to have the support of more blacks. The Black Parents Association had negotiated on their behalf for the release of prisoners, and the relaxing of the language rulings for black schools. When the schools were officially reopened for part of July, principals pleaded for the removal of police and armoured personnel carriers from the schools. In August, the students, and those workers who supported faced the first black opposition to their actions.

The uprising proved that even without the leadership of the A.N.C. the people of South Africa would resist apartheid.

The shooting sparked off a riot in which the children attacked schools, police stations and vehicles and the officers of the Bantu Administration Board, where two whites were killed.

The rioting lasted all day, with police apparently powerless to contain the attacks. When workers returned that night, they too joined the children in the streets.

Riots continued throughout the next two days, and in several other cities, crowds protested in sympathy for the Soweto victims. Police action ensured that these protests quickly turned into riots. Black universities were closed, and did not reopen for the remainder of the year.

Meanwhile, the SASM and the Black Parents Association were attempting to have the ruling on Afrikaans changed and issued a series of demands aimed at getting a better deal for black students. Their appeals were not listened to.

Instead, the government turned to the puppet Urban Bantu Council of Soweto to try and reach a solution. The councillors congratulated the police for their actions and were later to recommend that children who tried to prevent workers from going to work "should be killed."

On the 24th of August, Zulus from the men's hostels in Soweto went on the rampage against students and strikes. They attacked with spears, machetes, chains and any other weapon they could find. They broke into houses and attacked people in their beds; they attacked people in the streets. For the whole time they were watched, some might say supervised, by the police. For six days they rioted and at the end of it all 40 were dead.

The unseen leader of the rioters was Chief Gatsha Buthelezi the leader of the Kwa Zulu homeland and of the Zulu cultural movement Inkatha.

This Buthelezi is the same man the Democratic Students Association put forward as a worthy recipient of an honorary degree from Monash, at the S.G.M. on April 10 this year.

Inkatha enjoyed the privileged position of an organisation that co-operated with the Pretoria government. It was not banned, it could hold meetings and now it seemed that its members were immune from the law as far as killing students and strikers were concerned. Inkatha and other similar vigilante groups negotiated with Kruger, the Minister for the Interior, for legal recognition by the police. Buthelezi has consistently denied any



leadership role in the attacks, but he said in the Johannesburg Star on August 28th that "Inkatha had been a force for peace in Natal." Throughout the disturbances, and since, Buthelezi has remained the only black leader of any consequence who is not in jail or hasn't been jailed at some stage.

After August, the protest died down in schools and universities were gradually reopened. The language issue had been resolved on July 1 with schools given a choice between languages. There were sporadic riots during the remaining months of the year and large numbers of students refused to return to school. Almost 100% of students refused to sit their matric papers in November.

By the end of 1976, 172 blacks had been killed in Soweto by police, and 1439 injured. 122 had been killed in other incidents.

Most of the victims had been killed in the first two months. Of the 229 people killed in the Johannesburg region between 16 June - 16 August, two-thirds had been killed by gunshot wounds, 68 had been shot from behind. One was aged less than 10; 88 were younger than 20.

The events of 1976-77 changed the face of anti-apartheid protest. Soweto

was spontaneous but developed into an ongoing campaign. The movement spread to the rest of the country and built links between blacks and coloureds.

The uprising proved that even without the leadership of the A.N.C. the people of South Africa would resist apartheid.

Ten years after Soweto, the inequalities which caused the uprising remain. The white child still has almost five times as much government money spent on his education as the black child. The white schools have better facilities and are less crowded. There are not enough places in schools for every child to be able to attend.

For the past 12 months the townships of South Africa have again been in the grip of unrest. 1600 are dead, three times as many as in 1976-77. With the anniversary of Soweto approaching, the S.A. government has toughened its riot control laws and banned all marches and commemorative services. The South African government knows that ban will not stop marches, nor will the inevitable police bullets; the government wants and will get a confrontation that will make Soweto look mild by comparison.

Catherine Rosenbrook

LOT'S WIFE, Monday 23 June 1986 - 9

THE "LEFT" LEFT

Next month the Australian Labor Party will gather in Hobart for the holding of its 1986 Federal Conference. Two years previously at the Canberra Lakeside Motel Conference the left of the party was brutally savaged by an alliance between the ALP's right and centre 'left' factions. Memories of the 1984 proceeding still conjure up images of left-wing delegates burning their party membership cards after the conference voted to abandon Labor's hard-line anti-uranium policy.

The disastrous 1984 Federal Conference ushered in two years of defeat, stultification, dissension and demoralization within the left's ranks. The Federal Parliamentary Party, which since the election of December 1984 has been dominated by the ruthless, Machiavellian and right-leaning Paul Keating, has been the scene of constant left-wing humiliation. With the odd exception, such as when it helped to undermine the Treasurer's consumption tax plan, the left's arguments have been dismissed with virtual contempt.

The examples are many. They include the continuing de-regulation of the financial sector via the floating of the dollar; the entry of foreign banks and the removal of the ceiling on housing loan interest rates; the abandonment of national land rights legislation; the unwavering strangely pro-U.S. foreign policy stance and the successful passing of the I.D. Card proposal through caucus.

The left's problems over the past two years have also gone deeper than the frequent failure to muster the numbers within caucus. There has been a growing belief that the left has become intellectually moribund. It has as one of its members, Senator Ruth Coleman of Western Australia, wrote recently, lost its "... traditional role at the centre of progressive politics". Quite simply the left has been so comprehensively outflanked by Keating and his cohorts that they have been reduced to the role of impotent protestors rather than policy initiators. So dramatic has been the right's assault on what the left presumed to be sacred, such as financial policy, that they have been found wanting when credible and persuasive alternative ideas were required. They have shown themselves to be intellectually ill-prepared to cope with the rigours and demands created by their party being in government. This failing has allowed Keating to portray himself as the innovator with the new ideas and reforming zeal. He has been able to get away with proclaiming himself as a radical and labelling the left as conservatives.

Another development which has threatened the ideological influence of the left has been the emergence within Australian society of what is termed as the New Right. Led by the likes of John Stone, Hugh Morgan, John Leard, Katherine West, Ian McLachlan and Andrew Hay the New Right possesses the type of influence and resources that has already seen its visibility increase rapidly over the past two years. Full page newspaper advertisements, mainstream media access and in particular magazines like *Quadrant* and *News Weekly* are all helping to disseminate the New Right credo. Recently formed organizations such as the National Farmers Federation and the Australian Federation of Employers and the think-tanks known as the Centre for Independent Studies and the Institute of Public Affairs are further examples of the resurgent ideological right. The danger for the left in this development is that it may be transforming the major political debate within

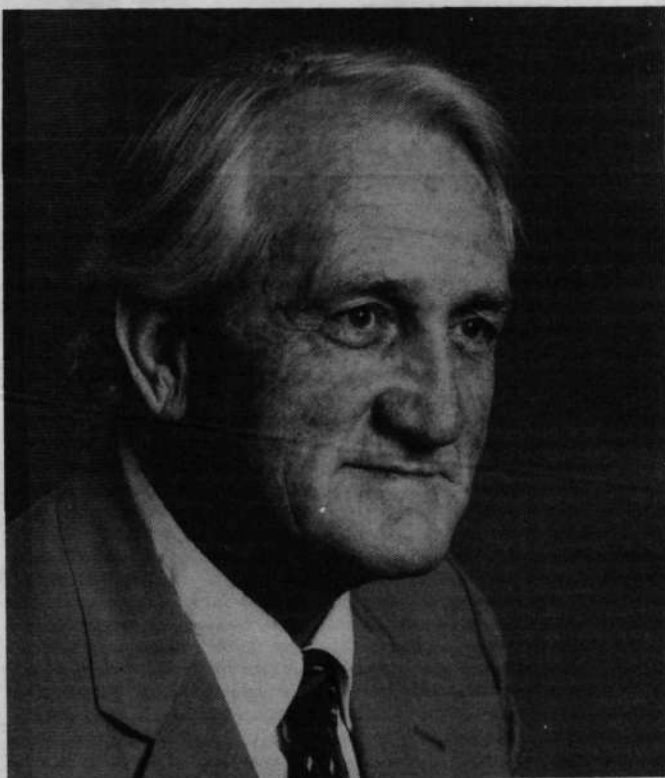
Australia to that between on the one side, the middle-ground, "sound economic managers", pragmatists exemplified by the Hawke-Keating government and on the other, the small government (ie: lower taxes and scuttled welfare system), smash the unions, all hail private enterprise zealots represented by the New Right. The left is in peril of being forced to the periphery of any such debate and hence becoming largely irrelevant.

A final further problem which has afflicted the Labor left during the recent period is that itself has been undergoing a phase of flux and re-alignment. This has been most evident within Victoria, the left's stronghold, where an old and new guard of the faction have emerged. The former is led by ex-state President George Crawford, Tom Ryan of the Food Preservers Union, and the now expelled Bill Hartley. The new guard is headed by the present state ALP President Gerry Hand, state secretary Peter Batchelor and the Minister for Community Services Caroline Hogg. The split between these two groups which came to the forefront over the issue of the re-affiliation of four right wing unions early last year has, understandably, been a debilitating process for the left. The rift has deepened this year over matters including the de-registering of the BLF, continued support for the Prices and Income Accord and Hartley's expulsion.

Given that the left is in substantial crisis then, it must be asked by what means are its current problems to be resolved? The most obvious solution to the left's troubles is the need for an intellectual invigoration and period of self-analysis. It desperately requires a re-assessment of its attitude, or in some cases absence of viewpoint, on several key policy areas. It must define in more specific terms what its long term political objectives are and decide on a suitable strategy by which to achieve these aims.

The most fundamental aspect of this process of re-evaluation the left must confront is the issue of whether it is to continue to operate within the auspices of the Australian Labor Party and so regard Labor governments as the major potential vehicle of social change in Australia.

It is this very issue which seems to be at the heart of the socialist-left re-alignment crisis now being played out in Victoria. The New Guard and the group with which it is becoming closely associated, Socialist Forum (this



One of the old guard: Tom Uren

organization is comprised mainly of ex-Communist Party of Australia (CPA) members who resigned en masse from the CPA just over two years ago) whilst certainly not uncritical of Labor governments are careful not to destroy the party's electoral viability. They are more willing to negotiate and compromise with other ALP factions in their struggle to achieve reform.

On the other hand the Old Guard and those groups it seems to be leaning toward, the Socialist Party of Australia and the Socialist Workers Party, take a much more disparaging view of Labor federal and state governments. Though many of their criticisms are justifiable it does seem at times that the Old Guard is content to remain in opposition espousing policies rather than face up to those problems that practical application of power through government brings. Little it seems has changed since the late 1960s when Gough Whitlam attacked many of those who now make up the Old Guard as "... finding in defeat a form of justification and proof of the purity of our principles." "Certainly the impotent are pure," Whitlam castigated them.

If the new left line prevails, as I think common-sense dictates it must, the faction must then arrive at a complementary strategy to win reforms when Labor is in government. The left must ensure, and so concentrate its efforts to this end, that when it has access to power it performs. It should target priority areas of reform and guarantee that it has persuasive, credible and presentable policies and arguments in order to secure them. Encouragingly key left figures such as Brian Howe and Gerry Hand have signalled recently that they realize the necessity for this type of strategy. They have both stated that the left must focus its attention upon economic and industrial policy, rather than flamboyant

foreign policy issues. Howe went as far to describe some foreign policy matters as a "wank". While I may not endorse this view I would concede that the left can probably exert its most potential influence within areas of domestic economic and social concern. Hence this category of policy should be at the front of their political agenda.

In accordance with the need to enhance its effectiveness when Labor is in office, the left should also place greater emphasis upon selling its policies to the naturally conservative community. The left has tended to be an insular beast, using all its resources to lobby internally within the party. However, it can no longer ignore the fact that the mainstream media access enjoyed by the middle and right of Australian politics works against the left's cause. An example is the current debate over the nation's economic difficulties. The newspapers, TV and radio are being dominated by the highly questionable contention being pushed by Hawke and Keating, the treasury officials, the Liberal Party, and the business sector that the only solution to our problems is to cut public spending and reduce wage levels. The more credible left arguments that we should re-regulate the economy, place less emphasis on cutting the deficit, gain a tripartite government, business and union strategy for the restructuring of our industrial sector and institute corporate tax reform, have virtually never reached the public. Of course, given that the mainstream media is concentrated in the hands of those opposed to the left it may have to find other forums through which to communicate with the general society. Regardless of the difficulties posed though, it is an essential task, and so as Senator Coleman wrote recently: "The left must confront this issue of educating the public..." as a "... main priority."

BEHIND PEACE STUDIES CRITICS FIGHT LOSING BATTLE

A final area which the left could scrutinize in an effort to lift its performance, is the quality of its own leading members. In recent months it has been stated by a number of political analysts that the left is bereft of any charismatic leader. This is probably true. Undeniably Brian Howe, who is now assumed to be the left's principal national political figure, is no Jim Cairns. More importantly it is not only in terms of charisma but also political adroitness, intellectual capacity and administrative ability that the left appears to be lacking. It has some competent performers and thinkers like Howe and Gerry Hand. Yet its more intellectual members such as Andrew Theophanous seem to be short on communicative skills. Many of the ministers it puts up are at best ordinary performers. Federal Housing Minister Stuart West and State Ministers Bunna Walsh and Jim Simmonds are examples. The left simply has no match for the array of talent produced by other Labor factions including Keating, Kim Beazley and Peter Walsh at federal level and Steve Crabb, Jim Kennan and David White at state level. Surely as a faction it could harness more of the intellectual capacity and skill of those on the political left within Australia.

The next few months will be of great significance for the left. Its performance during the pre-budget debate, the Hobart Federal Conference and the ongoing reassessment of economic direction will indicate whether it is beginning to emerge from the decline it has suffered over the past few years. On a longer time scale with the Hawke Government increasingly obsessed with spending restraint and perhaps facing the real prospect of defeat at the next election, the left may have already run out of time to have considerable reform instituted in the life of this government. If so it must learn from the mistakes it has made and ensure that it does not fall into the trap of wallowing in self-delusion and self-righteousness when out of office. Instead it must do the hard work necessary to see that its key policies have a real chance to be implemented next time Labour wins government. Moreover, if the Hawke Government falls the left will have an obligation to guarantee that its voice becomes more relevant, powerful and effective to balance against the New Right philosophy which by then may have tightened its grip on the Liberal-National Party coalition and Australian society.

Paul Strangio

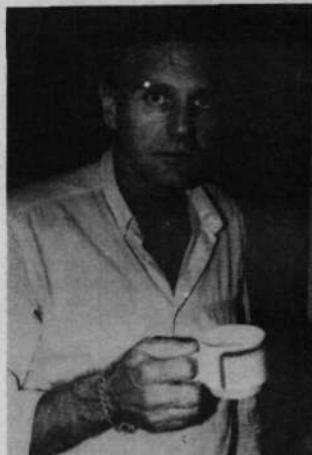
IAN CATHIE, Victorian Minister for Education, recently circulated a paper to schools and parents outlining his support for peace studies. This has been viewed by many as tacit approval by the State Government for a greater component of peace education in schools.

Media attention so far devoted to the issue of peace education might suggest that this is a controversial and radically progressive move. However, the cynical attitude of Mr. Cathie towards negotiations with teachers over a log of claims in 1985 (which led to several full day stoppages by teachers) and rumblings concerning a draft report advocating greater power for school principals and school councils over past weeks raise questions about the progressive nature of the Ministry. Furthermore, the controversy surrounding peace education may be largely attributed to right-wing critics who have access to the various aims of the media. If one looks deeper than this, they do not seem to have a broad base of support.

In his discussion paper, Mr. Cathie felt compelled to reject claims that peace studies could be used to "indoctrinate students"; used presumably by ideologically biased teachers who cannot be trusted to present peace issues objectively and responsibly. At least this is how the arguments used by the opponents of peace studies run.

Michael Barnard, for example, commented in *The Age* earlier this year that radical teachers are "pushing 'peace' studies as part of a larger objective in social engineering". Extraordinary statements like this give a clear indication of the concerns of Barnard and others. For them it is not peace studies alone which is the threat but peace studies as part of a wider network of concerns, related in no small way to their own pro-American/anti-Soviet biases. This draws the entire issue into the arena of world politics, precisely where the right-wing would like it. By concentrating on disarmament they can conveniently ignore the fact that peace education is also concerned with human rights, social justice and injustice, poverty, various forms of alienation and environmental damage. It then becomes easy to portray teachers and others pushing for peace education as left-wing subversives whose overwhelming desire is to undermine the US/Australian alliance by, amongst other things, indoctrinating the school children of the nation.

According to Gerry Tickle, Deputy Chairperson of the State Board of Education, the critics pay a high price for running the line that teachers are corrupt. They stand to lose a lot of credibility with the community if they expect people to believe that. After all, you could live in a



Gerry Tickle

society where the plumbers were incompetent or the surgeons a bit untrustworthy, but a society which hands over its children to corrupt, incompetent, wicked adults would be a society that nightmares are made of. Thus the community at large prefers not to believe what the critics say.

A much more straightforward criticism levelled against peace studies by the likes of B. A. Santa Maria of the National Civic Council, is that peace is a complex issue and that it is simply too difficult for students to tackle and too controversial for schools to handle impartially. However, this is hardly an argument at all. Little effort is required to recognize that abstract mathematics is complex and that many subjects including English, History, Geography, Sex Education, Religious Education and Environmental Science deal with controversial material.

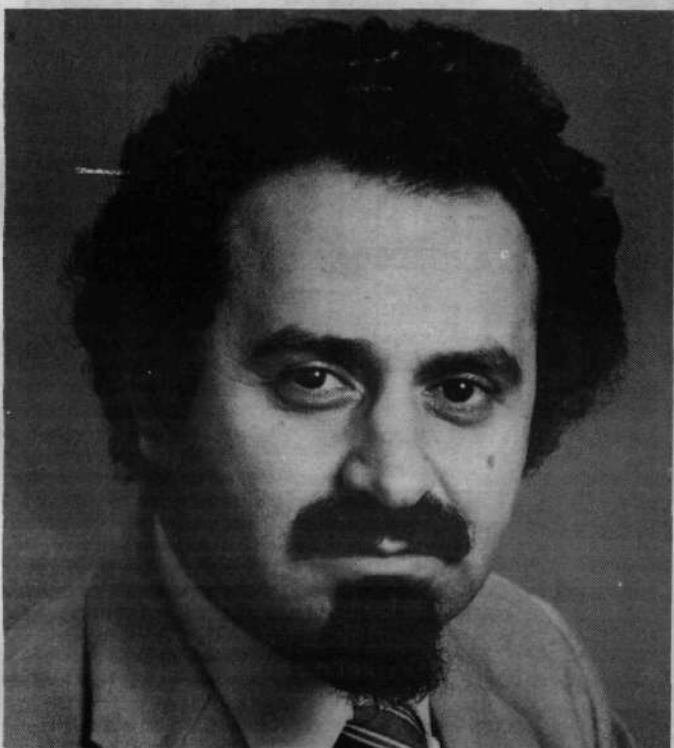
Opponents of peace studies point to left-wing politics creeping in. They see reds under every school desk. But by arguing against it they run the risk of appearing hypocritical. After all, who wishes to be seen to be resisting peace? Or, for that matter, admitting that we have a stake in war?

If the right is challenged to include peace on its agenda, then perhaps we will witness the spectacle of people questioning whether or not they hold enough conviction in their philosophies to be able to preach peace in the framework of their own ideology.

Given his record, Ian Cathie would not have displayed such open support for peace education in schools unless there was already broad based approval within schools themselves and the general community.

Mark Loveday

In further articles, the historical basis of "peace paranoia" and proposals to establish a Centre for Peace and World Order Studies at Monash University will be examined.



Andrew Theophanous: short on communication skills.

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SIDDONS - A CHIPP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

In a recent interview with *Lot's Wife*, Australian Democrat Senator, Mr John Siddons, revealed all - and there was not much to reveal. During our probing interview, we found out that he was going to challenge for the number one position in the party, had recently withdrawn all business connections with South Africa, and much, much, more.

Do the Democrats favor the present approach to the economy taken by the Hawke government, i.e. a more or less laissez faire, private enterprise economy, or do you advocate a more Keynesian interventionist approach?

We favor the second, and believe that the government has delegated its responsibility for managing the economy of this country. There has to be creative government interference in the way that the economy is run. Presently we are lying back abjectly and saying to international financiers not to bring the value of the Australian dollar down, whereas, with the right government policies, we could direct and encourage resources into productive areas of the economy. We have to produce the goods that will be saleable around the world. It will involve governments "picking winners", for if we don't pick winners, and encourage their development, then nobody else is going to do it for us. Winners being those areas that have export potential.

Does the central philosophy of the Democrats support the capitalist system, and do you believe that capitalism can cure its own ills?

We believe in private enterprise - we are not a socialist party. Nevertheless, we believe that private enterprise needs to be guided by government, therefore we believe in long term indicative planning where the government can set priorities, and encourage the economy to move towards its long term objectives. Both the Labor and Liberal parties have a laissez faire approach to economic management. Hawke's policies represent the extreme right wing of economics, as do Howard's. We absolutely reject that approach. We believe that the government has a responsibility to manage the economy - to interfere where necessary, and husband our scarce reserves of foreign exchange. All the Hawke government has done is to plead with the international creditors not to sell the Australian dollar down. He hasn't given us a new approach at all.

Do you see yourself as more left-wing than the Labor Government?

Yes. That's absolutely the position, although it depends what you call left and right wing. We certainly stand for co-operation between industry and governments and certainly government direction as to the direction that the economy should move.

What is the Democrat's policy concerning American bases, and Australia's defence policy, in the light of the recent Dobb report?

The Democrats are opposed to the American bases. We would say, though, that we should look at our own defenses, and that does require that we should have a greater emphasis on self sufficiency. Once again, rather than simply buying American or overseas hardware, we should direct our efforts to building up our defence hardware by making it in this country. Where this is not possible, we should make arrangements with overseas manufacturers so that we can

manufacture sophisticated equipment under licence from them.

We believe that it is in Australia's interests to be non-aligned, and if we were in government, we would be moving towards that.

The Dobb report actually says what the Democrats have been saying for over three years. Senator Colin Mason, our defence spokesperson, gave a copy of our defence policy to the Federal Minister for Defence, Mr Kim Beazley, who was very impressed with it. Much of the Dobb report is actually the Democrat policy. With regard to the maintenance of the American alliance, the Dobb report does not go as far as the Democrats would wish to go.



What impact have groups such as the N.D.P. and other "green" groups had on Democrats' support?

The N.D.P. did enormous damage to the Democrats in the last election. All they succeeded in doing was weakening the position of the Democrats. The media saw it as an opportunity to ensure that the Democrat vote was split. In the last few weeks of the election, the N.D.P. started getting full page spreads on everything that they said, while our support was running at around 15% in Victoria. That support was almost cut in half, due to Jean Melzer's enormous support in the media.

Why did you only recently withdraw your company's interests in South Africa, despite apartheid being a part of that country for many years?

We simply felt that we could no longer trade with a country whose attitude to apartheid was so abhorrent to the directors of Siddons Industries. We started trading with South Africa back in 1956, but by trade we were selling Australian made goods to South Africa at a time when the Australian government was encouraging us to do that. It's been a very small part of Siddons Industries, and

represents less than 1% of our activity. When they declared a state of emergency about twelve months ago we felt that the only way to combat that in Australia was to bring down sanctions, and we still say that. We haven't traded with South Africa for nearly twelve months.

How do you reconcile that fact that the Democrats were formed from "disgruntled Liberals", but now you are claiming to be the most left-wing of the political parties in Australian parliament today?

The Democrats were formed from the Australia Party, which was essentially an anti-Vietnam party, and to that degree was left leaning. I was national convener of the party for a couple of years, and Senator Colin Mason was convener after me. I don't believe that it is fair to say that we grew out of disgruntled

Anton Hermann has recently left the Democrats, and accused you of having changed your policies. Have the Democrats changed, or do you see Anton's resignation as an expression of his changing views?

I think that the latter is true. I was very disappointed that Anton did very publicly and noisily leave the Democrats. He is obviously a man with a lot of political ability, he is good on his feet and answers questions well. I had various discussions with him, and believed that he was right behind us and what the Democrats stand for. I understand that he got a little frustrated, that he wanted to move further and faster than the Democrats were allowing him to go.

The so called split between the left and the right in the Democrats is overstated. We did have a very small group in the Democrats who were agitating and complaining who were led by a deputy junior Vice President of the Victorian division, Mr Cockell, who used that position to become very critical of the party. When it came to the crunch, we debated his complaints for a whole day at the State Council meeting, where he had virtually no support. He resigned from the party just before the next elections for office when he undoubtedly would have been voted down. There have been these problems, though they haven't been major, and the organisational structure of the party has been able to handle it very well.

What is the Democrat's policy concerning the reintroduction of tertiary fees?

There will be no reintroduction of tertiary fees while the Democrats hold the balance of power in the Senate. We've gone to the barricades twice on that already. We went to the barricades in 1982, and in fact that was one of the reasons for the double dissolution, and we went to the barricades again during the last six months, when Walsh was agitating for the reintroduction of fees. When he realised that it wouldn't get through the Senate, he gave up.

What is the Democrats' view of the proposal of the Hawke government to make community service a pre requisite to receiving unemployment benefits?

The Democrats have a policy of trying to maintain pensions and unemployment benefits to at least the level of the poverty line. The suggestion that people should now work for nothing for their pension is putting us right back to the days when children were sent down to work in the coal mines. In our last "alternative" budget, we allocated \$1.5 billion to go into increasing social welfare payments generally, which is what the Brotherhood of St Laurence were advocating as the money necessary to lift all Australians up to the poverty line, and we showed how that could have been financed in the budget at that time.

Will you oppose the Bill when it reaches the Senate?

We can't answer that until we see exactly what Hawke's got in mind. He hasn't answered that question yet himself, about what he is going to do so it would be impossible for us to say at this stage that we will totally oppose it.

VIEWS FROM THE FOYER

Libraries & Revolution

The only issue to come out clearly from the occupation of the Administration Building, was that the Revolutionary Left will seize any opportunity to try and push their revolutionary wheelbarrows. Few would disagree with the International Socialists being allowed to express a particular view, but most people strongly objected to the way in which they used the protest to try and push for structural change, jumping on the library bandwagon to further their own ends. Essentially, most of the protesters did not give a stuff about the greater social implications; the question of who gets what and at what cost, but were solely concerned with the restoration of what was perceived as an infringement on their rights, namely access to the library and its facilities.

The revolutionary left are fundamentally wrong in their interpretation of student unrest, and also fundamentally wrong in the direction in which they sought to channel it.

On the first point, the assumption of the left is that each University student is a potential Marxist, especially those who attend Monash because of its history of student protest, and they believe that by tapping into this dormant Marxist sympathy they will be able to recruit active members once again. The student demonstrations were not a part of a rising consciousness, but a response to the hip pocket issue of access to privileges. Visa Fees for Overseas Students, and even the reintroduction of tertiary fees, scarcely made an impact on most students' lives, because, at the bottom line, Mummy and Daddy can always pay the fees, however high they may be.

Libraries, however, discriminate evenly, and though the rich can still buy many of the required texts, even the wealthiest of students cannot purchase texts which are no longer in print. What students turned out en masse to try and prevent was a cut to their privileges. This is the first issue for many years that has really made any impact on the average student's life, and job prospects for those in career oriented courses, so they turned out in droves.

It may be objected that students are not really privileged, but this is to ignore our role in society. The working class, as a rule, detest the opportunity that students have, and view us as parasitical upon the taxation system. Arts students, of which I am one, produce no saleable quantity at the end of their degree, and most students who graduate from the Arts faculty either do something quite unrelated to their course, or perpetuate the system, and teach others their disciplines, ad infinitum. Within the capitalistic framework, we are parasites, who produce nothing for the money that is spent on us, mostly from taxes paid by the working class. Few, if any, working class Australians value education for education's sake, and we are viewed as receiving an armchair ride at their expense.

On the second point, the direction that the Revolutionary Left sought to direct the protest, they are wrong also. What most revolutionaries seek to do is to try and point out unfair or unearned privileges, and remove them, giving them to the more deserving. There is a fundamental dichotomy in utilizing a student protest, designed to restore an unfair privilege, fighting for the overthrow of unfair privilege. To fight to maintain one's privileges, and try to use that as a

basis for the destruction of that same group's privileges, is necessarily self-defeating. In essence, what the revolutionaries are seeking to do is to give to those who are already rich, so that they can join their ranks and take it all away again.

This mentality of the revolutionaries, giving to the rich so that they will turn against themselves, filters down and is also shown in their attitudes to the working class. The writings of the revolutionaries show that they have spent little, if any time, in any of their fathers' factories, have no knowledge of how ordinary workers think and feel, both about their own social desires, and what workers' views on students are.

Revolutions are the ambit of the bourgeoisie. The working class have neither the time, nor the inclination for revolutions. Having spent over six years working full time in various factories in blue collar jobs, and three months each year over the Christmas breaks, I speak from a fair deal of personal experience. Most workers want colour televisions and video recorders, not revolutions. One must accept that Australia is not a revolutionary State, and to argue that workers have been conditioned to a false consciousness is to miss the point. In a structuralist sense, there is no doubt that most workers do not have the opportunity and this in turn predisposes them towards certain points of view. What will, or at least possibly will raise their consciousness, is the opportunity for a better education, but at the present time, they are not in the slightest bit interested. In fact, in Australia there is a reaction against education, with many people asking, "Isn't a factory job good enough for you?" Education is a precursor to any revolution, and presently, the revolutionaries elect, i.e. the working class, are the most bitter opponents of education.

Any revolution which relies on working class support, in this country at least, is doomed to failure. Workers, through the various trade unions, are seeking to increase and perpetuate what gains have been made for themselves. Structural change is never debated, and isn't even on the political agenda. The working class, like those who participated in the occupation of the Administration Building are solely interested in perpetuating what gains they have made. The working class are like those who were present during the occupation on Thursday night. When the International Socialists pleaded with those present "Aren't you interested in the greater questions such as the control of the State" the answer was an almost deafening "No".



Democracy Lesson

THE Vice Chancellor, Ray Martin, was compulsorily enrolled last week in what, for him, was a totally new subject - student participatory democracy. They say you are never too old to learn and the next few weeks will determine whether the VC has learnt anything from his crash course in dealing with the opinions and desires of real life students.

Students have made some big gains in the past week or so by taking matters into their own hands and resisting library cuts initiated by an out-of-touch Administration. There is still a long way to go, but students are in a much better position now by taking the militant action that they did: the Administration has received a deserved kick in the pants and they now realise that students are not going to allow themselves to be treated with contempt and walked over.

Where do students go from here? Obviously the Administration is not going to make any major decisions on issues like buying new books and periodicals until the result of their McDonnell Committee's deliberations in

six weeks time. The pressure needs to be maintained on both the Administration and the McDonnell Committee during this period. Importantly though, both these bodies now know that their actions are under close student scrutiny. There is a strong student suspicion that somewhere along the line there has been serious financial mismanagement within the university and the McDonnell Committee was set up to shift the blame on to scapegoats and away from the Administration. Many students also believe that the Committee is just going to provide the Administration with the convenient justification it needs for further cuts in library services.

Recent actions by students and staff have sabotaged the Administration's strategy to some extent. Nevertheless, this elitist little coterie of men cannot be trusted not to continue their attempts to cut library services. Therefore students and staff must be prepared to take further appropriate action as required by the circumstances. Our library services will only be reduced or destroyed if we lie down and accept it.

Robert Domm



ANATOMY OF A STUDENT

by Nic Economou

"WOW!" someone said to me as we marched from the Union Building to the Administration Building. "I guess this was what it was like during Langer's time".

The ghost of Albert Langer and the whole mythology of Monash University being the hotbed of radicalism was definitely present on this day of protest over proposed cuts to library services. As the march reached the Admin Building, it was discovered that somebody inside had forgotten to lock the building's doors, and with scarcely concealed delight those who saw themselves as the inheritors of the Langer mantle of radicalism led the masses through the doors and into the entrance foyer. The Admin Building Occupation had begun.

Preceding the extremely well attended SGM and

the subsequent march were meetings held between personnel that could be loosely categorized as "politicians" and "activists" ostensibly to make organisational plans. The "activists" tended to be members of the various radical or hardline left groups such as Resistance (the Socialist Workers Party youth group), Socialist Action, and the International Socialists.

The "politicians" tended to be Australian Labor Party Club members on the student union, and sympathisers. The first organisational meeting spent three hours debating tactics and ideology. This was a prelude to the meetings that would be held throughout the campaign.

The days of protest proceeded thus:

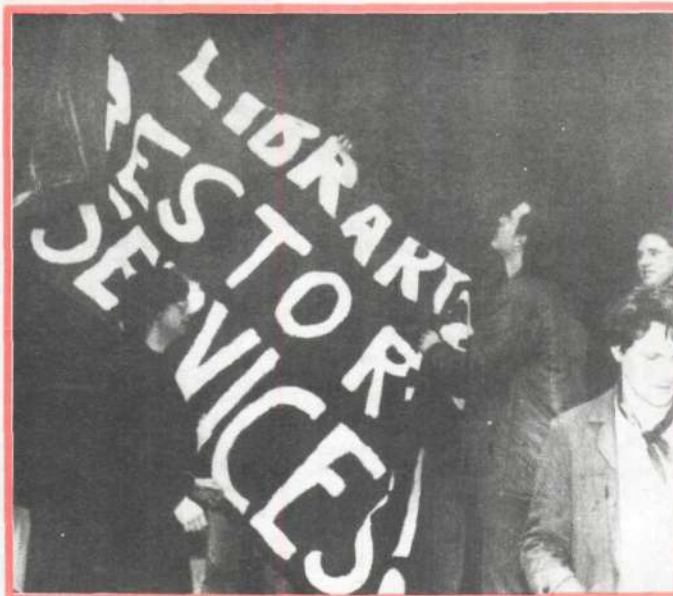
Thursday, 2.15 p.m. Shouting "No Library Cuts" and "Bugger Off Our Books", the students invade the Admin Building and occupy two floors.

3.00 p.m. and the crowd debates what it will do

now that it has invaded the building. Someone suggests telling some jokes. An administration official – Professor Westfold – is produced. He fends questions dourly, humourlessly. Much more accomplished is Chief Librarian Southwell whose disarming style drains the tension in the crowd generated by Westfold's stonewalling. Southwell even manages to raise his fist that clenches a megaphone he uses to address the crowd in a salute of defiance. An International Socialist demands to know how we can be "polite" to these people. Some students begin to leave.

5.00 p.m. and the demonstration debates tactics. It is long and tortured, with the usual active people making all the comments. Somebody has produced a case of beer, and some heavy drinking goes on. The security men who are left to supervise seem unperturbed.

7.00 p.m. and the meeting is over. There will be



IT PROTEST: JUNE 1986

lock-out tomorrow, and the occupiers now concentrate on drinking. Sleeping bags and mattresses are appearing. People bring ghetto-blasters. The scene takes on the character of a large party.

Friday, 3.00 a.m. and the scene is one of a party in its death throes. There are people trying to sleep in amongst revellers. Three different stereo systems are blaring out different types of music. Some women are dancing on the stairwell landing. Many people are playing cards. On the ground floor, one particularly drunk Lot's Wife staffer is making an awful din, his yelling waking up the people sleeping there. Amidst the drunken revelry, there are small groups representing the various factions, discussing the day's events and what may transpire in the morning.

8.30 a.m. and there is another caucus. Again, the radical left and the ALP dominate discussion of the day's tactics. The mainstream media – particularly

the all important television news – is due any moment. The lock-out is about to take effect. It is successful for as long as the doors are chained. The appearance of security men with boltcutters ends the lockout.

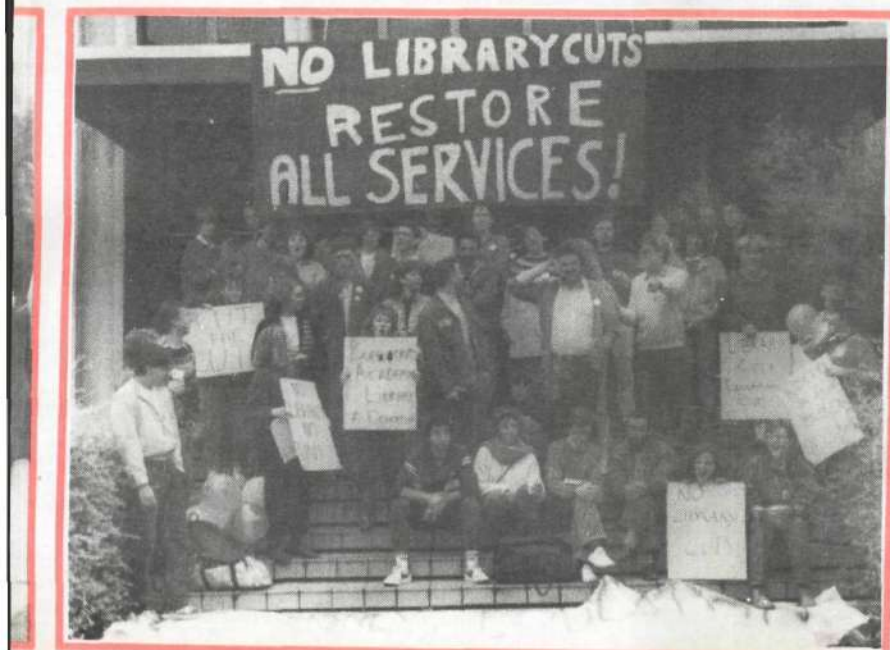
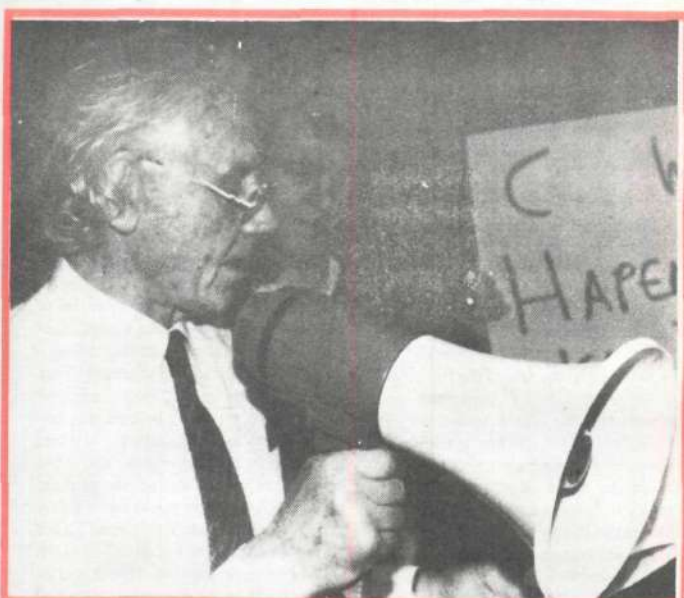
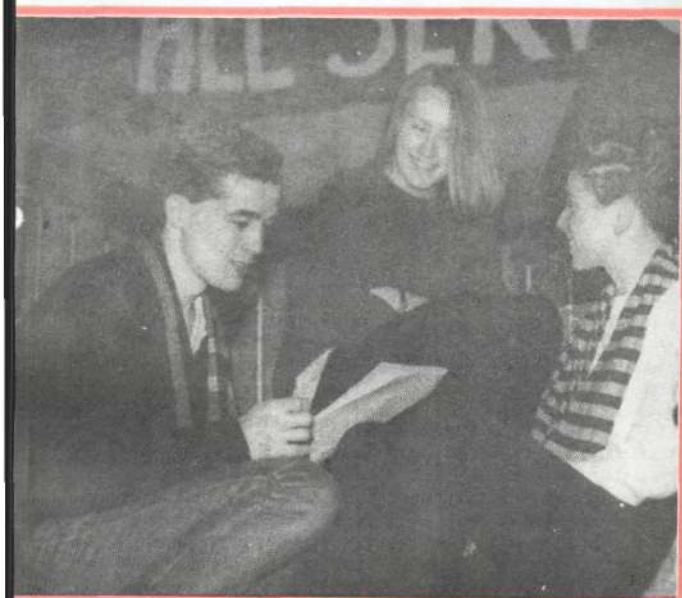
12.00 noon. A delegation to meet the Vice Chancellor and others is convened and dispatched. Four hours of waiting follows. People are coming in and out all the time, although, in true Monash tradition, the coming of Friday afternoon heralds a definite reduction in the crowd. Once again it seems as if the committed few are carrying the issue on behalf of the apathetic majority.

4.30 p.m. The delegation returns and reports. Boos and hisses greet examples of Administration antipathy towards student demands. Applause greets the victorious concessions, and to congratulate the people who made up the negotiating party.

As it gets progressively darker outside, a heated

debate about Monday's tactics ensues. The delegation conveys a warning from the Admin that antagonising the Council on Monday will harm the library's cause. Some present argue for moderation in the mooted demonstration. Others call for more decisive action. For the first time bitterness rises to the surface as a student becomes agitated by proceedings. He points at a particularly vocal member of the International Socialists, and, questioning the man's bona fides as a student, comments "I'm sick of hearing this fuckwit's voice".

The sudden emergence of nastiness, so noticeably absent from the two days of occupation, leads some organisers to wind up proceedings quickly. There is no symbolic motion moved from the floor to end this occupation. There are no closing ceremonies. Tired protestors turn on their heels and head for home, much to the undisguised relief of the Admin building's security men.



MONASH MEDICINE

Sticking The Knife In

On campus medical students are notorious for the disdain with which they regard other students. Clad in white laboratory coats they can be seen during lunch break plying the footpath between the medical buildings and the Union in search of lunch, oblivious to the affairs preoccupying the rest of the University's undergraduates. In return, other students find medical students revolting. They like nothing more than to pass snide remarks at the pretentious workers, casting caustic comments on their obvious mental failings.

One of the more worrying features of medical students is their smell. When I first attended Monash as an innocent fresher I was warned by those in the know about the strange smell of medical students, but it was some weeks before I actually experienced the horrible nasal sensation induced by whiffing their stench. At first I thought there must be a germ in the medical buildings which causes diarrhoeal farting, or something to that effect. But after a few more encounters with medical students and the accompanying odour, I noticed that it was different from a fart; distinctly pungent, if you get the drift. Wandering down by the microbiology building one day I soon noticed that the distinct smell was manifest in the environs, concluding that the environment medical students work in must infest them with a foul smell which they unfortunately carry around with them for the full term of their undergraduate course. No wonder the poor sods hide themselves away among the medical buildings, daring to venture out amongst other students only when hunger forces them to do so. How humiliated they must feel.

On a more serious note, though, it is about time that the role of the Faculty of Medicine within the University and society at large came under review. When federal government spending on universities is being constricted we need to ask the worth of what the medical faculty is doing; questioning in the process its right to the enormous slice of the University budget it currently receives.

At present the Faculty of Medicine produces doctors trained in the practice of medicine. In doing so, it has abrogated its responsibility to educate the students who pass through it. Instead of educating graduates versed in the art of thinking

been borrowed previously. During six years of undergraduate study medical students are simply not exposed to what is without question the most important feature of medicine – the morality of what is being practiced.

Monash University possesses a recently established Centre of Bio-ethics Studies, but medical students remain as ignorant of the work carried out there as they do of what happens within the Arts faculty. In the Faculty of Medicine, students are taught to assume that their work of medical practitioners is beyond reproach. All doctors have to do is carry out the tasks expected of them by the public. To be a physician one cannot be a fool – it is too difficult for that – but it is increasingly the case that medical students are being trained to be technicians, not philosophers, at a time when to think about what one is doing is so important if the negative aspects of modern medicine are to be curtailed by necessary restraints.

The implications of this failure on the part of the Faculty of Medicine to educate its students are evident in the realm of public health. At the same time as doctors are curing sickness, so they are posing a threat to the health of society. This dichotomy is evident in the prescription of drugs. Doctors have become unquestioning advocates of a vast array of lethal drugs because they have not been encouraged as undergraduate medical students to question the value of many drugs on the market. Every time I have walked into a doctor's surgery I have left there with a prescription in hand, and an assurance from the doctor that such and such pills taken three times a day will make me recover from whatever it is that ails me. I guarantee that if I walked into that doctor's room as healthy as can be, I



companies, they prescribe drugs with a reckless and worrisome abandon, unaware that few drugs on the market are without damaging side-effects. Antibiotics are sold in massive quantities daily yet they are useless in bringing to an end a cold or 'flu. All they can do is bring temporary relief from the symptoms of infection, but only at the expense of the body being damaged through side-effects. It is incomprehensible that doctors prescribe in such vast quantities drugs like valium and serapax since they can also only harm the body. The problem is that medical practitioners are simply not taught the morals of drug use in society, legal or not. Modern medicine in their eyes is infallible.

General practitioners are not the only ones at fault. Surgeons, radiologists, anaesthetists, etc., all threaten public health in their own little way. In a bid to ensure a continued flow of cash into their profession surgeons have deceived the public into believing that all operations performed in hospitals are necessary. This is nonsense. No fewer than forty per cent of all operations carried out in Melbourne's hospitals are unwarranted in terms of physical health of the patient. Patients accept too easily the "wisdom" of the surgeon in deciding whether an operation is necessary or not. Moreover, they are uninformed by those responsible about the dangers attending any one who dares step inside a hospital. I have lost count of the number of times I have been exposed to radiation waves as a result of having X-rays taken, assuming

in my innocence that X-ray machines can only do good. Little did I realise the damage X-ray shots do to one's body, a fact never explained to patients by the medical personnel responsible. An understanding of ethical responsibilities is simply not understood by the personnel because they have an all-embracing faith in the machinery they use and the positive effects of their work on the patients concerned.

The Monash University Faculty of Medicine is a major villain in these crimes perpetrated by doctors on the good citizens of Victoria. For too long it has been churning out graduates who lack the capacity to adequately fulfil their role as medical practitioners. This has resulted in the pollution of the health profession by doctors skilled in the technique of medical practice, but lacking in nous. To rectify this state of affairs a reassessment of priorities in what is being taught to undergraduates within the medical faculty is required. Furthermore, consideration must be given to the legitimacy of the faculty being allowed to spend exorbitant sums of money on technology which is often of dubious use. If need be, funds should be channelled away from the faculty and into the libraries in order to avert a crisis in what are the most important institutions.

Only with major changes in teaching methods and spending programmes can the Faculty of Medicine claim to be an academic centre of higher learning.

Luke Williams.



and critical judgement the faculty churns out zombies whose understanding of ethics in medicine is non-existent. I am constantly amazed at how the books on medical philosophy and ethics I borrow from the Bio-medical library have rarely

would be prescribed some drug anyway because it is the doctor's custom to make prescriptions.

Doctors are totally naive in their belief that drugs only cure. Beguiled by the mass of literature they receive from drug

COUNCILS TO POLEAXE LABOR?

Nic Economou

Any HSC Politics student will tell you that in addition to Federal and State governments, Australians, by constitutional "right" are governed by a third tier of government. This is local government which, in Victoria at least, has only recently been opened up to that peculiarly Australian approach to democracy where anyone can vote irrespective of what possessions they own, just as long as they do vote or risk prosecution under the law.

It was the Cain government that brought in compulsory universal suffrage in council elections as part of their reform of local government. Now they are in the throes of introducing their second stage of reform. Under the auspices of the Morris Commission of Inquiry, the State government intends to reduce the number of metropolitan and rural municipalities. It is the first major overhaul of local government since the last century. It is also a political minefield from which the Cain government might not emerge unscathed.

To date, the Local Government Commission has released a general principles paper, and proposals affecting rural Victoria, and the Bayside and Eastern regions of the metropolitan area. The reaction to the reports have been overwhelmingly hostile. In the case of the rural recommendations, the old tactic of inciting rural parochialism and paranoia about "the city" has been tied into a general antipathy for the Australian Labor Party being whipped up by various right-wing rural political organisations.

It has been the recommendations of the Commission relating to that area of Melbourne described as "Bayside" that has caused the greatest furore and has had its effect in internal Labor politics. In this section, the Morris Commission has wielded the bureaucratic knife most ruthlessly, aiming to reduce the number of inner city and south-eastern municipalities from 17 to 9. In its six options, stalwart Labor councils such as Richmond, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Port Melbourne and Oakleigh face virtual extinction. It is not a prospect that many rank and file ALP members active at the local level find particularly endearing.

In many cases, traditional Labor councils will be merged into two municipalities - Hobson's Bay for South and Port Melbourne, and Hoddle/Carrington for the other inner city municipalities. Oakleigh is a particularly interesting case, for in three of the four options dealing with the greater South East, Oakleigh would cease to exist. It would instead be carved up amongst the four municipalities that surround it. And this is despite the fact that Oakleigh currently satisfies 16 of the 17 criteria set down by the commission to determine the viability of a municipality. In this light, there has been innuendo that political motivation lies behind the Oakleigh case - that a potentially embarrassing or difficult municipality is to be dismantled.

Factional politics plays a major role in the way the councils dominated by the ALP run. Socialist left personnel dominate the Port Melbourne council,

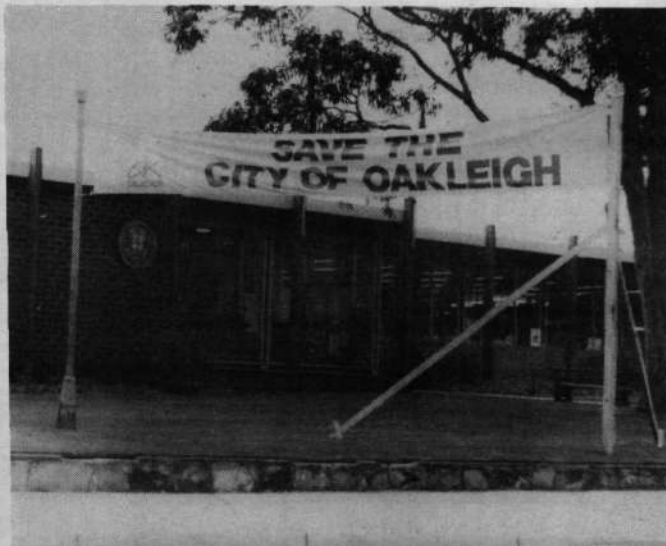
whilst Oakleigh is a Labor Unity stronghold. There are strong connections between Labor branches, the dominant factions, and the local members who eventually end up in Spring Street. The SL has Bunna Walsh in Albert Park, Labor Unity has Race Mathews in Oakleigh.

Local government is where politics is carried out at its most basic, grass roots level. This is where the old political adage of "Give them a bus shelter and you've got their vote" or, more euphemistically, the time-honoured tactic of "pork barrelling" takes place. For Labor councils, this is where the Party is at its most active in providing things such as welfare, pre-schooling, health schemes and so forth. In one recent local meeting, supporters of the local municipality were told of the way in which a marauding neighbour was eyeing that city's swimming pools.

The point is that, to the vast majority of people, the local government issue appears to be a storm in a teacup. In a situation where a massive number of people failed to turn up to two sets of local elections where voting was compulsory, local government appears to exist as a means by which local identities can find ego self-aggrandizement by operating in their municipal fiefdoms. Claims about "unique, historical characteristics" don't wash with this type of voter.

To the politically active people at the grass roots level, this is not the case. This is particularly so in those older working class municipalities dominated by the various ALP factions to such an extent that they are often seen by outsiders as virtual political mafias. The term "mafia" may be a little libelous to those who fit the description of being active. The attack on these fiefdoms, however, is fought with the tenacity and bitterness of any mafia brawl. And it is the ALP who stands to suffer the worst consequences. For in those municipalities where support for the Liberal party is strongest, there is a higher incidence of councillors calling themselves "independent". In Labor dominated councils however, all the characteristics of rough-house Labor politics are there, including faction fighting and binding caucuses.

The Morris Commission and the government's determination to do something about local government may lead it into trouble. It could exacerbate bitter factional in-fighting, and alienate traditional support. It could do much towards damaging the party at the local level. Certainly, it is providing an avenue for an outpouring of irrational, emotive talk about these municipalities whose boundaries were drawn up at the turn of the century (since then the telephone and motor car have been introduced to Aus-



tralia) and which are in reality cities comprising odd shopping centres and hinterlands of suburban housing differentiated by the average income of the owners and renters.

Every councillor and politician you talk to about this issue comments that

sure, they agree in principle that there should be rationalisation of local government and that some councils should go. Just as long, they add, as it is not their council.

Next week: The Troubles With Oakleigh.

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I'm Talking

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UNDER 18 PRIORITY NONE

THE REALITY is that young people in Australia have few rights and are deprived of power by their adult 'care-takers'.

Power is controlled largely by adults who readily ignore the legitimate needs and demands of young people or refuse to acknowledge their opinions. When a young person expresses a point of view, adults doubt its legitimacy on the basis of "inexperience" or youthfulness. This then provides older people with an environment in which they attempt to impose their own values on young people.

Examples of this domination are easy to find. SRC's at schools, school curriculum, employment programmes, trade union policy and, surprise, surprise, Priority One are frequently adult inspired and implemented schemes. Young people are rarely consulted at the initial stage to gauge if there is a real need for the programme or how it should be established.

John Finlayson, a youth worker who recently spoke at Monash, is acutely aware of this inequality having spent many years working with young people.

When he originally became involved with the Fitzroy Legal Service, he campaigned for Outreach Law Programmes to reach young people in the suburbs; that is in their own environment. The major reason for mobilising this programme was the realization that very few young people were using the mainstream

Persistent Offender

Legal Services (about 7%) whereas over 50% of 'crimes' are committed by young people.

These sessions were very successful, operating out of places where young people spent time; for example, youth unemployment centres, high rise estates and pubs.

But clearly, a case work orientation i.e. resolving a person's individual problem in that specific instance, is reactive and crisis based rather than initiating and action based. John, and other people, sensed there was a crying need for legal education/ rights justice projects through which young people could learn their rights and contribute to decision-making processes: simply, to be able to exercise some power.

Having managed to organize their resources, Fitzroy Legal Service was able to run legal education/ Rights Justice programmes at high schools, unemployment centres and community houses. Also, they managed to gain entrance to Turana which met with far less opposition from the authorities than expected. John thinks any prejudice the authorities may have had against them, was tempered because they entered under

the seemingly innocuous label of 'education'.

The emphasis at these sessions was on education that was practical and relevant to young people. By asking questions like "what are your rights?" instead of the "sit down and listen, these are your rights" mentality, a constructive two way process of communication and learning evolved. As well as being a more effective way for young people to retain knowledge of their rights than a lecture-at-you style (see any parallels here folks), it encouraged the acquisition of effective direct communication skills. A spin off from this is that young people are better equipped to deal with authority figures - be they parents, teachers, police - and take some control in a power situation.

Also, these sessions involved short role plays where young people would either be themselves or an authority figure so as to increase their level of awareness and understanding of these specific power situations. An important discussion topic at these sessions was the possible alternatives to the current court/legal system. It is presently unresponsive to the values and needs of young people; that is, older



TZIKAS

'I've been told when I reach 18 I will be given some rights'

people dispense verdicts on young people on the basis of rules created and enforced by older people. What type of justice is this?

The operation of these programmes out of the Legal Service (a largely adult run and orientated service) however, didn't seem to be sufficient for an effective, ongoing project. From John Finlayson's overseas research into Youth Advocacy and the help of a very active man, the late Albert Van Moorst, they formulated clear guidelines for a Youth Advocacy Centre and lobbied the government for funds. After some battle, they managed to win a grant from the Victorian Government to establish a Youth Advocacy Centre, in Fitzroy, this year.

John argues it fills an important gap between crisis intervention services and policy analysis and development programmes. Its aims are to view youth issues from a rights, rather than a welfare perspective and establish programmes, including the ones already described, on a long term basis. The paramount

objective is to empower young people to assert their rights and take responsibility in decision-making processes.

The specific emphasis at this stage (as a result partly of their funding guidelines) is on education, employment and legal issues. As well as the programmes mentioned, it is hoped the Centre will run test cases to strengthen the legal rights of young people; have meetings in local areas between the authorities (teachers, principals, trade unions, employers and, maybe, police) and young people as a forum to exchange opinions and resolve problems; and not look at broad policy issues, like the de-institutionalisation of young people in detention.

John is very inspired about the program and cites examples of successful group action taken by young people who knew their rights and managed to influence the decision-making process.

For more information, please contact: John Finlayson on 419 3977.

Alicia Johnson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

AT LAST - M.A.S. hears from the Parliamentary reps on University Council.

Monday, June 16 was in some respects, a historic day for Monash Association of Students. For that was the day we finally got to hear from parliament's three representatives on Monash Council.

Present were James Guest (Liberal); Eddie Hann (National) and Gerard Vaughan (ALP). They met with Nicky Kepet, Dimitri Serghis, Russell Bancroft, David Moody, and Steve Wettenhall from the A.E., Ian MacDonald (MAS researcher) and Marianna Serghi. Several topics were discussed.

SOUTH AFRICA

The meeting discussed the

University's investments in South Africa. There was some dispute as to what constituted "investments" with the students taking the wider view that investment could be defined as investing in companies which themselves invest in South Africa, such as TNT. Guest and Hann adopted the narrower view that investment meant direct investment in South Africa (for example, the purchase of Krugger Rands).

A further point of contention was the actions of James McNeill, chair of the Council Finance Committee. As you will recall, the S.G.M. last week called on McNeill to resign. Guest and Hann felt that if McNeill's definition of "investment" was the same as

theirs (that is, different from the students), he had not

misled Council. The meeting argued that we should explain our definition of investment to McNeill, and ask that total disinvestment be carried out as soon as possible.

LIBRARIES

The question was asked, are the libraries a purely academic matter, and if so, is this why Council have been reluctant to interfere in their affairs. On the other hand, should the libraries be considered a general matter, affecting staff equally as students. At present, the Library Committee is a Professional Board committee, not a Council committee.

V.P.S.E.C. - Review of University's Councils

At present, the Councils of all her Victorian University Councils are under review, as far as their structure, power and accountability go. All present agreed that they are currently not accountable to the rest of the community. Gerard Vaughan mooted the possibility of making Council meetings public.

It was generally felt that there should be more community and student, and less academic representation on the Councils. Some members present also felt that the size of Councils should be reduced.

There was also a call for affirmative action to operate



on Councils.

In general, the meeting was a great success, and more meetings will be held in the future.

Russell Bancroft
M.A.S. Secretary

matt moffitt

NOT FINISHED YET

Singer, songwriter and guitarist Matt Moffitt is best known as the creative nucleus and voice of Sydney's Matt Finish, a band who attracted a fiercely loyal following. Their 1981 debut album "Short Note" went gold, the title track instantly being proclaimed a classic. Two E.P.'s, the live "Fade Away" and "Out On Those Moments," followed. Lack of recognition and internal differences after 1984's "Word of Mouth" prompted Moffitt to leave the band. 1985 saw Moffitt in London with his manager Chris Plimmer, organizing and recording his first solo album "As Little As A Look." Whilst in Melbourne recently, Matt Moffitt spoke to Mark Burgess.

In your early music, there was strong evidence of jazz and blues influences. Who did you listen to when you were younger?

Well, it's not only the earlier material. It's still there a little bit. When you think of songs like "B.B.'s" and "Fever Pitch" on the album, that sort of strain has still lasted.

Yeah, especially with the guitar solo on "B.B.'s."

Yeah.

That's your playing isn't it?

Yeah. I guess a song like "B.B.'s", with that kind of influence and that kind of nebulous sort of playing, is one of the songs on the record that pays a little bit of homage to that fairly spontaneous 'off the top of your head' type playing.

You're almost scatting vocals over the top of the solo at one stage.

Well, I guess I could say that the record marks a lot of new directions for me. But I guess I felt when we were first doing "As Little As A Look" that it wouldn't be a complete Matt Moffitt album if it didn't have a bit of a nod in that direction.

With your parents both being journalists, do you think their careers influenced you in becoming a songwriter, even if it was only to avoid journalism?

(Laughing) That's a good question. I guess if there was an influence there, I don't know if it was such a song influence apart from journals tend to be people who interview and talk to other people and who are quite trained listeners. But all I could say about that is that when I wanted to do something, I never really had anyone stand in my way to do it. I guess the other thing was that it's kind of a thankless gig, and it's long hours and a fairly lonely sort of thing. I never really thought about it, but that might have influenced me. Having seen how much work goes into writing and sitting down by yourself – and of course there's a lot of that in this – I guess it helped maybe make up my mind to want to get in front of an audience.

What did you learn from your time with Matt Finish? Obviously there were mistakes made. What did you learn from those mistakes that you're putting into practice now?

Well, I think the biggest difference would be that

with Matt Finish it was always the situation of having the lineup there, and writing songs for a lineup that I knew. I knew everybody's playing style. As I was the only writer in that band, I guess the biggest difference between Matt and this stuff is that I'm collaborating with another writer, which I think has made an album that communicates a little bit more.

Did you find it hard, having always written by yourself, to sit down and work with someone else?

Not really, because it was part of the frustration before. I think in getting better at what you do, and having that desire to communicate to people, anything that adds to that is part of the gig I guess. But also as a singer/guitar player I saw that as a bit of a freedom, because in a few songs on the record I concentrated on my vocals whereas before perhaps it was juggling five or six things. That's probably one of the differences, although I do kinda think I've played some of my best guitar on this record.

There are high expectations for this album from a lot of people, including C.B.S. who've invested big bucks (about \$175,000). It must put a lot of pressure on you.

I think that the presence of the touring around and the playing and putting all of yourself into what you do is something that in a proving ground like Australia is one of the first things you encounter. I must say that budget-wise for an album, as far as I know, it has not been a very expensive album compared to Australian albums and compared to overseas. I can only put that down to the team effort and everybody getting in there and just writing, putting the songs and the music first. When we actually got into the studio, one of the best things is that having written a few of the songs on this album myself, as well as co-writing a few, the musicians in the studio felt that they could put into that and that they could have something to contribute. That's been one of the more successful aspects of it for me.

Did you have many arrangements written before you went in, or did you leave it totally up to those musicians once you got into the studio?

No. I think we spent all-up about three weeks in the studio with players, which is not a super-long time compared to what some people use. I think arrangement-wise, I had a chance to get involved in the arrangement and to work on the arrangement generally in my music. Nicky (Graham, who produced the album) had a mixed background. He had been a musician (keyboardist with David Bowie's Spikers From Mars) as well as an arranger. That whole aspect of my music – of sitting down and writing a song and having the song before the lineup and then working on the arrangement outside – I think it was a chance for me to improve and learn.

It must have been very reassuring for you to have someone so openly believing in you right from the start as Chris Plimmer (Moffitt's manager) has been.

Very much. I found that support invaluable.

For him to uproot and come with you (to England) in the first place – and bring his family – it was a big step to take.

Yeah. I guess Chris and I now have worked together on one level or another for quite a while, starting out as my agent through the hectic touring schedule that we kept up before (with Matt Finish) and then eventually as my manager. And yes, his input has been a very valuable one. I think it's probably given me a little bit of time to concentrate on my music whereas before, with the touring commitments and my responsibilities in the band and being the only writer – although I'm happy to report at this point that John (Prior, Matt Finish's drummer) who played on the album has now got a repertoire of his own and is putting together a live lineup – so I guess those of us who felt like going on and continuing our education a little bit and keeping moving have done so. I feel a bit of an obligation, especially having a past where there's been that loyal support from crowds. I think anybody that's heard my music in the past would expect movement and change, and without sort of blowing my own horn too much, I think that what has happened between "Short Note" to "Word Of Mouth" to this is that willingness to experiment and to change and keep moving. I think that's very important. I feel I owe those audiences who supported my songwriting as well as the live performances that much at least.

Did you initially want a producer for the album, or was it part of the contract?

Well, I guess when you talk about contracts, one thing that runs over into this Matt Moffitt album and what Chris and I are doing is that there has always been an interest in finding out what goes on and being involved. I guess that's because somewhere down the line I'd like to produce myself. It would be a big step.

When you say that you want to produce yourself, do you mean other people or just your own music?

I think it would be very interesting for me as a writer to make a contribution at some point down the line to somebody else. I guess part of working with an arranger and having some time to write – and a lot of the writing being under the microscope for a while – has maybe made me think that somewhere down the line yes, it would be interesting to produce somebody else. I guess I'm so busy on my own stuff at the moment that I haven't really got time, but it is something that I think I could learn from and I think I could probably learn something from somebody else.

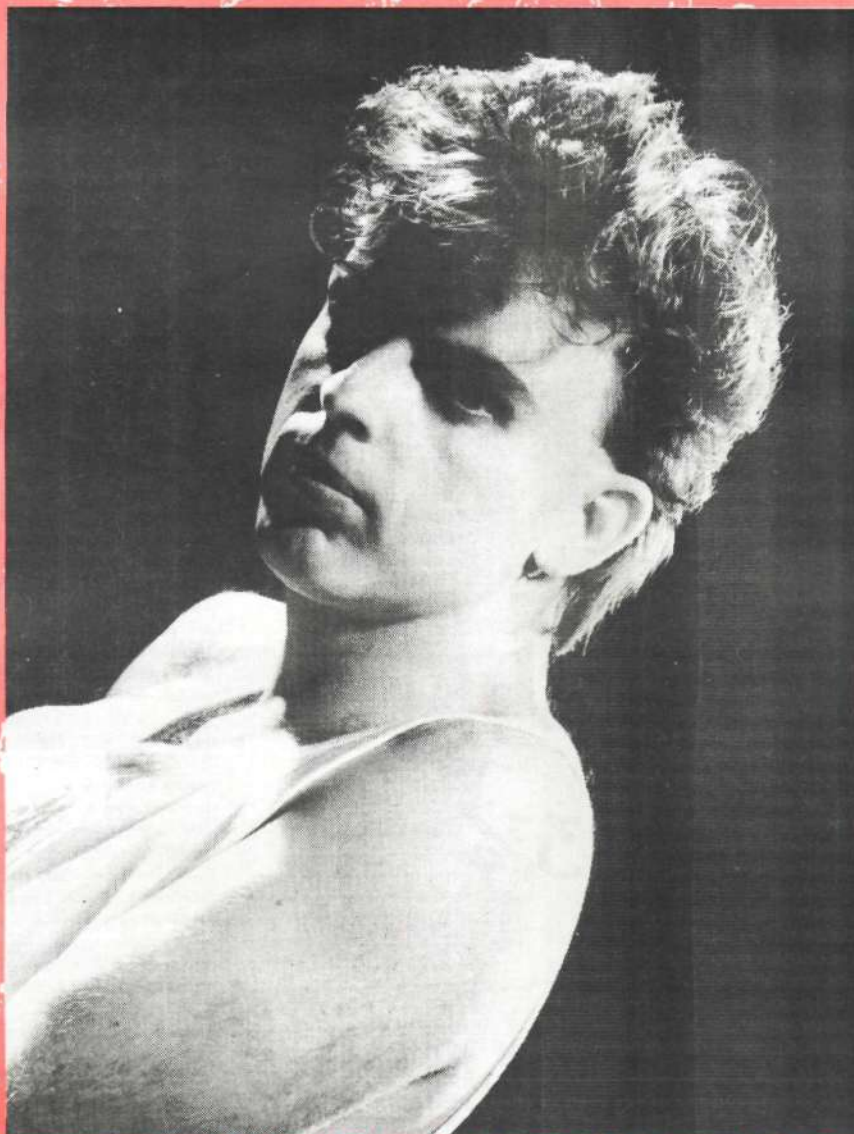
Was it very important that Nicky Graham was also collaborating in a direct musical sense on the album?

I think from a personality point of view it was important that Nick contributed, apart from his role as a producer. I think when you're working with a producer, if they've got first-hand knowledge of what sort of pressures and problems musicians face, that gave us a very good atmosphere in the team of musicians that was used.

What are your favourite tracks on the album?

Well, I'm happy to say that it's very difficult for me to pick out a single favourite track. I've listened to it for a while now, and I sort of get off on a lot of the album actually. Talking to you now, I think B.B.'s is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21...



Matt Moffitt: Earing and hairy arms contribute to that laid-back look

... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

a bit of an achievement because, with all the change and differences in the music, that's one song that keeps something that I feel has been a bit of a trademark in my music in the past. That's one. It's really hard for me to single out a song that is better than any other song on the album because I kinda like them all. I guess what's successful about it to me is that they're very varied songs, as opposed to maybe an album where you have a single and then you have nine or ten other tracks that sound exactly like the single. I think that this one takes a few more chances than that, and it's a lot more varied. I guess it presents different sides of me and different sides of us. The us part of it has to do with Nicky being able to put in as a writer, as well as my collaboration with Pete (Glenister, the guitarist who co-wrote seven of the album's eleven tracks with Moffitt). On the ones I did myself, the arrangement thing and his player experience really helped me to work on my approach to my music. One of the biggest things, that's been good for me I think, has been coming out of a fairly close lineup before. I've had a chance to see how I go with another one, and I'm pleased that the songs that I have contributed have been successful in the eyes of the musicians as well.

You were talking about the different sides of your nature. Do you think that the album on the balance reveals more of your darker or lighter side?

I think there are some songs that allude to the darker side a little bit, but I think that the tone of the record is pretty positive. I like that balance. I think it doesn't ignore the darker side and the darker side of

your motivation, maybe even going as far as trepidation, that sort of feeling, that change coming on. I think generally speaking over the whole album there's a positivity and a feeling of change. I guess that's why I find it hard to single out one track, because although each song is pretty individual - or I tried to write them that way for my contribution - it still does work as an album.

Do you feel that songwriting is becoming easier as time goes by?

It's hard to say. I think some aspects of my songwriting are getting easier, but I've never really found it an easy thing. I guess I'd even suspect if I got a track down or wrote one and it was just really easy, I guess I'd question a bit in myself whether it had the quality. So I can't really tell you that it's getting very easy. It's always been a bit of a painstaking thing with me, but I think maybe the confidence of recording some tracks that you feel are the best stuff you've done does make the job a bit easier.

Peter Glenister made quite a major contribution on this album. Will he be involved in future projects?

It's really hard to say at the moment. I must admit, because I've been back in Australia and because I've been making myself available here to talk to people and tell people what I've been doing since Matt Finish, I haven't had a lot of time to think about that. I think it's a possibility that Pete and I will do some stuff in the future, but a little bit like Matt Finish, one of the successful things for me about that lineup was that although we did do a lot of touring and we had our breaks, no-one really took anybody else for

granted. They just expected they'd be out there. I guess that gave us a little bit of mutual respect, and helped us make it under pressure.

Do you find it necessary to take risks and live on the edge to fuel your creative fire?

I think living on the edge means different things to different people. I think one of the biggest risks that both of us took was leaving Australia in 1984 and not really knowing whether or not we'd be able to make an album, but having a bit of blind faith that it would work and that it could be the best thing so far. I think that was a big risk both for Chris and myself, and in different ways I feel like that risk has been met. Living on the edge - I guess when you're flying into a world with as much turmoil as at the moment - that's kind of living on the edge. It does make driving to a gig somewhere seem a little bit safer!

Do you think you've mellowed?

I don't know about mellowed, I don't know that that's such a bad thing. I have ambivalent feelings towards mellowed. I think the more you do, the more anybody does of anything, the more confidence you get if you're pleased with your efforts. I can say that much, I'm very pleased with it all, but it was one of the toughest times that I've had in trying to change my writing environment. Maybe some nebulous bottle of booze in the rehearsal room situation, or actually sitting down and honing my craft a bit. All of that came from 1984, of just thinking OK, there's dissatisfaction in this lineup and people want to grow, so I made my step. It was a pretty risky thing to do, but I guess when you have that kind of blind faith in what you're doing, and you have that kind of help and support that I've had then - it's a lot of work and I think whatever risk's involved in that, now that the record is finished and I'm back in Australia talking to people about it - I guess I feel a bit relieved and a bit more confident.

When is the Australian tour going to begin?

I had thought it'd be in July or August, but with one thing and another - I've been co-producing a filmclip (for Miss This Tonight) which is a first for me - it will be later in the year. I guess I've been out there learning a little bit about some of the other aspects of what I do, as opposed to saying OK you do it and I'll do my thing. I am interested in finding out.

Have you finalised a lineup for the tour?

I can't tell you in all honesty at the moment that I have, although I do think that it will be the best band that I've taken out. Again it gets back to that relationship with a crowd and their expectations. I can tell you too, I don't think there'll be anybody from Matt Finish in that lineup. I think it will be a very different sort of thing to what people would expect so far, but I think it will also be the best that has gone on the road. It will definitely be this year.

Will you be playing some Matt Finish songs?

Well, I don't plan to straight away. I plan to do new stuff. I guess it's part of the risk taking. I know there are some songs there that have very gratifyingly managed to stay around in people's minds and hearts, but I haven't any plans for them at this stage. I'd like to do a new set. I guess if there's a demand there it will definitely be thought about, but at this stage it's all new material.

To many musicians a solo album is the ultimate achievement. What future goals do you now possess?

My future goals are that my enthusiasm remains, my interest in finding out the behind the scenes aspects of what I do, and that I can put into other people. That I can get involved with other people, and put into their career as well.

Do you foresee another solo album in a year or two?

Definitely.

To convert any book into a live play is always a difficult task, but to convert a series of diary entries, based on the life of a thirteen year old and all the troubles that he encounters, would seem almost impossible. The production at the Athenaeum, however, manages to distill the central ideas of Sue Townsend's book, and presents a lively and humorous account of Adrian's experiences of life.

The stage setting was magnificent, with a rotational, three sided stage which was used to the fullest. Stage hands were unobtrusive, and blended in with the set, providing little if any distraction from the actors in the centre.

Lighting, too, was excellent, with David Cohen, the lighting designer, producing stunning effects with colour and varying the intensity of indirect lighting.

On the technical side, however, the prize must go to Red Symons. (Yea Skyhooks), responsible for the musical side of the production. The music

was necessary to break up what could have been an otherwise dry performance, and helped fill in the gaps which could only have been filled with more of Adrian's reading from his diary otherwise. As a technique to tell the story in more detail, entertain, and amuse, it was very successful.

The acting, though, is what makes the show. Maggie Blinco plays the dual role of Queenie, the not so geriatric old woman, and Adrian's grandma, a pompous old woman who believes her son, Adrian's father, has been hard done by. David Cotter plays the parts of Nigel,

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

AGED 13 $\frac{3}{4}$



Adrian's 'cool' friend, and Barry Kent, the local tough Cotter's agility and balance is superb in many of his more athletic moments, and the choreographer, Jenny Hope, should be congratulated for inspiring a lively performance in all of the dance numbers.

If one person stood out more than the others, it must be Miles Buchanan, who played Adrian. Miles has been in several television productions, including "Skyways," "The Sullivans" and "Cop Shop." Fortunately, his performance was nothing like that in those revolting TV shows which any self respecting person wouldn't watch more than once. (He's even appeared in "Sons and Daughters." YUK) Miles portrayed the young Adrian, and the audience lived through his experiences: first love, being bullied at school, joining the revolution, having his mother become liberated and leave home, and life's more pressing issues, such as developing spots on his face, and phone calls to his loved one in foreign countries.

Overall, it is a very entertaining show, but with one proviso. Read the book first. The play presupposes some knowledge of the book, and, while this does not prevent those 'uninitiated' from enjoying themselves, they will not be able to fully understand many of the more subtle jokes and stage props.

Where are you going? Where have you been?

IT IS refreshing to see a film like "Smooth Talk" (Longford) deliberately avoiding the clichés, exploitation and crass self-indulgence which have characterised American 'teen flicks' of recent years.

The story revolves around 15-year-old Connie and her attempts to come to terms with her burgeoning sexuality. Laura Dern conveys with great skill and insight the emotional seesaw of adolescence – the allure sex holds, and fear of crossing that threshold – undergoing with her friend Laura the narcissistic rituals of American adolescence at the suburban mall hang-out and the hamburger joint cum meat market. The temptation and terror merge in the scene with the smart-arse beefcake, Arnold Friend, who, as the older, experienced man, holds a malevolent charm for

Connie. He comes across to the rest of us as the manipulative, self-seeking male he blatantly is.

All this is played out against a backdrop of family turmoil; the film concentrating especially on the pivotal mother/daughter relationship. Mary-Kay Place plays the astute mother attempting to come to terms with her daughter and dealing less than tactfully with her. All the while the 'model' elder daughter is held up as a yardstick for the 'wayward' Connie. An oafish father lurks in the background, blissfully ignorant of the emotional upheaval in his midst.

All in all, a thoughtful, worthwhile film dealing honestly with adolescence – one which holds a wider audience appeal. Don't be deterred by its predecessors.

Lisa Gow



ILLUMINATIONS

The Church Street, Theatre
500 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.
June 24-July 20.
Special Price of \$3.00 on Monday 23rd and
Tuesday 24th.

SOMETHING special is happening at the Church Theatre. Old stained glass windows have been miraculously resurrected, light plays in strange patterns and seductive sounds linger.

Illuminations, a new Australian Play, is responsible. The cast is small: Arpad Mihaly (Acting), Colin Mann (Lighting) and Wayne Park (Music). Together under Russell Walsh's direction each of them will interpret as action develops. Two mobile platforms will be the nearest thing to a conventional stage. Each will be positioned according to where the audience decides to sit. Hence in a unique way lighting, acting and music must improvise to the nightly changing theatrical terrain.

Just another trendy gimmick or avant garde trick you say? Hardly - Illuminations is a project

that excites interest for a number of reasons. Its writer Peter Murphy is gaining increasing praise for short stories, play writing, poetry and photography. His second book of stories, *The Moving Shadow Problem*, has just been released by the Uni of Queensland Press. Interest exists also in the play's aim, which the director explained to me was "To show us the face of a man we thought we knew. A little grey man, who sits in a corner of a museum. A conforming man with a boring nine-to-five job, yet who wants more out of life. A man who might have been trapped in the sixties drug scene, at heart a drifter and a loner. What goes on in his head is more alive than anything in the museum. He is liberated by visions. We have hoped that the play will have a liberating effect on the audience. It is not television type theatre. The audience will make choices which will effect how they share a man's experience of escape".

Certainly different and ambitious theatre, the set itself has to be seen to be experienced fully. I won't be staying home in the dark.

Peter Cattapan



Sumptuous Dining at Egypt House

It was with great delight that three of us from Lot's Wife took up an offer to eat at Egypt House from our kind host and owner of the establishment, Tawfik.

Situated in Lygon Street, Carlton, it provides a much needed alternative to the overpriced spaghetti and pizza restaurants that abound the area.

Egypt House offers an extensive range of Middle Eastern food to all of our reckoning was tasty, fresh and cheaply priced.

The restaurant is divided into two floors; the lower being set up as a conventional restaurant

but, upon venturing upstairs, there are three rooms set aside for group bookings. These are sumptuous in the middle-eastern style of cushions ringing the rooms and tapestried rugs adorning the walls and floors. These provide an excellent venue for parties that want to have a special night out.

Soup and bread can be bought for as little as \$1.90. Rich, strong aromatic Egyptian coffee is as little as 90¢ per cup. Desserts are from \$2.40 to \$2.90, and a mixed plate special which overflows with grilled meats/felafels; salads, dips and vegetables, is as low as \$6.80!

We all opted for the set special for \$14. This

enabled us to soup; an entree plate of five dips with bread, including taboulli; then a main course of vegetables of the day, grills felafels, salads, etc., etc., etc. Dessert follows as either pastries or fresh fruits which can also come with coffee. The price also includes corkage!

Believe it or not the above can all be yours as a party booking (in one of the upstairs rooms) for as little as \$12 per head with the group leader being provided for free! Why, because the owner is favourably disposed towards university students. So, if you've got a party coming up give Tawfik a ring on 347-3620 and make a booking.

Foul Is Foul

IN THE last edition of Lot's Wife, M. S. Holsworth explained the theory behind his production of *Romeo and Juliet*. His view of the relevancy of drama in general, and Shakespearean drama, in particular, seems to me to be peculiarly narrow. He seems to imply that a play is only relevant in so far as it deals with issues that are currently the 'flavour of the month', to use a recently clichéd expression. He writes: "Some things about *Romeo and Juliet* are very applicable today. The adolescent suicide rate is a major cause of death of people under 21" (sic) (I will not comment on how a 'rate' can be a major cause of death, but there it is). With this attitude it is not surprising that he is "... not entirely confident that there is a place for the theatre in the 1980s" and that he suggests that "... maybe it should be abandoned". This is, to say the least, an extraordinary attitude for the director of a play to have but it is more understandable once one has seen his play.

I have no problem with the director's expressed aim of creating a new play out of 'Romeo and Juliet' but the play that he creates is internally inconsistent and the performance of it is embarrassingly, seat-squirmingly bad.

The changes to the play seem to have been made with little, if any consideration for the creation of an artistic whole. I cannot, for instance, understand the

reason for the narrator's dance at the beginning or for the inclusion of the punk-clown. The play was an unhappy compromise and mixture of traditional 'Romeo and Juliet' and of rather superficial innovations. One of the more regrettable traditions that it keeps is that of an infuriatingly wimpy Romeo.

The acting is almost uniformly bad, although Fiona G???t as the prince and the narrator survives unscathed. Some of the others have potential but in this production they suffered from bad direction. At times it seemed as if the actors did not know where to go next.

Sometimes the direction made it almost impossible for the audience to be serious when it was supposed to be serious. This was particularly so in the bedroom scene between the two star-crossed lovers. For some reason the two were placed under a duvet (the only prop used in the play). Because there were no pillows it was impossible, from where I was sitting, to see Romeo's head - his immortal words seemed to emanate from the bed linen. Suddenly, presumably feeling that the audience should at least see part of Romeo the actor's head and forearm emerged from the duvet in a periscope-like manner and proceeded to make gestures supposedly appropriate to the speech. Tear welled up in my eyes as I tried to stifle my laughter.

Wayne Howell

MUSICAL NOTES

compiled by Katie Purvis

JUST NOT ON

NOT much to write about this week. The ABC's outstanding series of classical music programs continues, with the second last episode of Wagner's *Ring* on Sunday night, and the final Australian Concert Hall on Wednesday. On Wednesday July 2nd the "Music and Heritage" series of programs starts, featuring chamber and ensemble music, performed in historical buildings around Sydney. Pity they don't feature any ensembles from Melbourne, or Adelaide, or Perth...

Don't forget the next concert of the Monash University Choral Society, on Saturday July 5th at Robert Blackwood Hall. The choir will present Haydn's mighty oratorio, *The Creation*, in conjunction with the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra and five soloists. Tickets are \$5 for students (\$9 for others) and are available at the Hall.

P.S. If anyone is going to the concert on at the Robert Blackwood Hall on Monday, June 23rd at 8.00 p.m., please write us a review...



WHAT'S ON

At Monash

Monday 23 June
8.00 p.m.
Robert Blackwood Hall
Kew Citizens Band with Glendells in concert (winners of the last New Faces final). Guest artist: Ivan Williams, singing sensation from Skipton. Comper: John Stubbings.
\$10, \$5

Thursday 26 June
1.10 p.m.
Religious Centre
Discantus - male vocal ensemble directed by Geoffrey Cox.
FREE

Saturday 28 June
8.00 p.m.
Robert Blackwood Hall
Melbourne Youth Music Council presents the Melbourne Youth Symphonic Band and the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra.
\$6, \$3

Elsewhere:

Wednesday 25 June
10.30 a.m.
St. John's Hall,
552 Burke Road, Camberwell
Pincere - vocal group with guitar.
Programme of madrigals, part-

songs, guitar solos.
\$3, \$1

Wednesday 25 June
8.00 p.m.
Ormond College Chapel,
Parkville
Harpichord recital by Elizabeth Anderson. Programme includes music by Bach, Froberger, Scarlatti.
\$8, \$5

Saturday 28 June
8.00 p.m.
Melba Hall,
Melbourne University
"Conversation Piece" - The Faye Dumont Singers with the Peter Clinch Saxophone Quartet.
\$12, \$10

Saturday 28 June
8.00 p.m. and
Sunday 29 June
3.00 p.m.
Old Customs House,
400 Flinders Street, Melbourne
Australian Boys' Choir with The Vocal Consort. Programme of Australian choral music including pieces by Cugley, Williamson, Sculthorpe, Grainger.

Sunday 29 June
12 Noon
Kooyong Road Uniting Church,
Armadale
Acord - Margaret Arnold,

Richard Excell, Carol Williams - with Susan Tweg, reader. "A rose by another name" - the Roman de la Rose ou de Guillaume de Dole, a romance by Jean Renart. Medieval music and readings.
\$7, \$3

Sunday 29 June
2.30 p.m.
Sandy Beach Centre,
Sandringham
T.O.P. (Team of Outstanding Pianists) directed by Maxwell Cooke. Anne Bortolussi, Eric Raymond, Jacob Baker.
\$6, \$4

On ABC television:

Wednesday 25 June
10.00 p.m.
Australian Concert Hall - Peter Frankl (piano) with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. Mozart - Piano Concerto no. 18 in B flat K456.

Friday 27 June
10.25 p.m.
Daniel Barenboim plays Beethoven's piano sonatas nos. 18, 19 and 20.

Sunday 29 June
9.20 p.m.
Wagner's Ring. Twilight of the Gods Act Two.



Oh really! Juliet!

LETTERS

ADMIN PLOT

Dear Lot's,
Right from the moment the Monash Administration announced the drastic cuts in library services, it was obvious that they realised, and were hoping for, the strong student opinion (I don't think I overestimate their intelligence). Actions such as the occupation of the Administration Building must have been fully expected, and of course, the students protesting in such a manner is a far more effective way of publicising Monash University Libraries' financial troubles than any action Administration could embark upon. I am not condemning the sit in, on the contrary, I strongly support it, however I feel that this is the reaction that was wanted. The sit-in will fulfil its purpose, to make the government and the public aware of the cuts, but I also feel it will show the Administration that no amount of student manipulation (for what else could such sudden and dramatic cuts be) can squeeze any extra money out of the government. To rely on student activity to preserve the functions of the libraries merely underlines the economic and managerial inability of Administration.

Obviously gauging the universal student strong objection to these cuts, something must be done. Equally obviously the Administration seems unable or unwilling to help. This leaves only the students. As well as the sit-in, every one of us should think and discuss what can be done.

Is it practically possible to redirect some funds from other areas to alleviate the reductions?

Can students run part of the library on a management or volunteer basis? (perhaps allowing those who volunteer extended loans on books or some other token as an incentive).

There are students at Monash skilled at organisation and fund-raising for various clubs, societies and political/social causes. Can't we "pool together" and raise money through films/concerts/activities? The amount raised may not be enough, but every bit must surely help!

Monash, you have shown your feelings about these cuts, but please DON'T STOP THERE!

Adam Burns, Sci III

RADICAL COWS

Dear Editors,
The discrepancy between the attitudes and actions of people were further highlighted by the student takeover of the administration building on the 12/6/86. I lost count of the number of students who were "with me in spirit," and who, apart from this expression of support, were not prepared to contribute to the fight against library cutbacks. Many of these people reached new heights in hypocrisy by wearing "Save The Library" badges, urging others to take the action that they themselves were unprepared to undertake. One can only speculate on the difference between these people and a certain four legged, milk producing animal. I've come up with two. The cow says "MOO," and has more initiative.

Hakan Yaman.
PS. NO IFS, NO BUTS, MORE BOOKS, NO CUTS.

BIG MAC

Dear Editors,
As we should all know by now, the University's four libraries have had their services threatened. However, the proposed cutbacks have been foreshadowed until the findings of an inquiry into the financial status of the libraries, the McDonnell Report. This was due to a commendable effort by staff and students who put great pressure on the University Administration. This pressure must continue.

Students can help in the campaign against library cuts in a variety of ways. You can attend the ongoing meetings of students and staff. You can also help in publicising the developments between the University administrators, the General Library Committee and the students. Most importantly, students can sign the M.A.S. petition for a full restoration of library services, or write letters to University Council and committee members and even local members of parliament. Judging by recent stories in the newspapers all students must realise that general education funding cuts could be a real possibility in the near future. So let's do something about it!

Dimitri Serghis
A.E. Publicity Officer.

SELF ABUSE

Dear Lot's,
I write to voice my disgust with the conduct of the SGM held on the 12th June, purportedly for the purpose of discussing the proposed cuts to the library operations, (at least that's what all the posters proclaimed the SGM was for). I state at the outset that I attended the SGM to support the campaign against library cutbacks. I was therefore disgusted that those conducting the meeting attempted to capitalize on the presence of a quorum to try and push through motions on issues unrelated to the library cutbacks. The motivation for this was obviously that quorums are difficult to obtain at SGM's; the AE were out to push their own barrow on issues that would not have attracted a quorum in their own right. The present SGM was advertised as being to discuss the library cutbacks, and, for my part, debate on other issues was most unwelcome. This was particularly the case considering that the meeting did not then have the time to consider all the motions related to the libraries (e.g. motions 9 and 10).

One motion unrelated to the libraries issue was of particular concern. This was an attempt to change the MAS constitution in order to reduce the quorum required for Student General Meetings. This was a blatant attempt to take advantage of the quorum obtained over the libraries issue, to make a change to the MAS constitution that seems to have been long coveted by some within MAS. This attempt to change the constitution was an inexcusable abuse of the libraries SGM, because, not only was the issue foreign to the advertised purpose of the SGM, but the same motion had already been put unsuccessfully to a referendum during the elections held this year. Consider that, for the referendum the voter turnout was 10% of the student population and the amendment failed, yet those running (abusing?) the libraries SGM attempted to pass the same amendment on a quorum of only 5% which had been attracted for another purpose, and which was certainly less representative of the student population than the 10% voting in the referendum held during the elections. Yours with abhorrence at the abuse of SGM's, Geoff Hugo.

LIBRARY SHUFFLE

Dear Lot's,
As the library network is a faculty that is crucial to every member of this university, the current crisis in library funding has precipitated direct student action. However, it must be appreciated that of recent years cuts in funding have affected all faculties of this university and the present library predicament is merely symptomatic of this trend.

Whilst it is imperative to confront the university council over this library crisis, our concern as students and staff of Monash should not rest here.

A mere re-shuffle of funds within the university is not sufficient, indeed it may be detrimental to the functioning of the university as a whole. Firstly, it may initiate grounds for possible friction between different faculties, and secondly, whilst the libraries may be the centre of information, they cannot be effective without the optimum functioning of research and tutoring facilities.

Ultimately we need to be concerned with the total area of funding, and our actions should be directed accordingly.

A two-fold approach is required. Firstly, it is necessary to make the university council answerable for its actions as well as those responsible for the spending of funds. It is hoped that the McDonnell report will provide some insight into this area. Secondly, and more importantly, we must demonstrate to the Federal Government that we cannot, and will not, accept cut-backs in Commonwealth funding to tertiary institutions.

We urge all students and staff to actively show their concern and demand from the Hawke Government a real increase in funding, not just to ensure the services of our libraries but also to continue and expand the research standards of this university.

Livia Erhardt (ARTS)
Kelvyn Holland (SCIENCE)
Lisa Parkinson (ARTS)
Greg Metha (SCIENCE)

USELESS

Dear Lot's Wife,

It has been widely suggested that C.R.A.C. is bloody useless.

We therefore suggest that, as we are here to get a degree, the money allocated to C.R.A.C. be re-allocated to the Libraries. At least some of our union fee would be usefully spent.

If the truth be known I/we believe that most of our union fee is wasted and various other funds could be diverted, e.g. student theatre, 3MU, health foods, Lot's Wife and M.A.S. (whatever that is).

Andrew Yen
Engineering III
Representing Third Year
Engineers and probably
87% of all Monash

WET & STUPID

Dear Lot's,

I am disappointed. Very disappointed that a useful paper like Lot's Wife can allow a deranged, psychotic weirdo like Peter Nugent mutilate its good name.

No offence, but his article Every Mum's a Prostitute sounds like it was written by an engine, whose brain is controlled by a twitchy sphincter muscle, and who missed out on the evolution as well.

To have written what he did about everyone's mum being a pro, he must have had an overdose of X-rays the last time he visited his regular vet.

Maybe we should call him 'goldfish', instead of MNEUGENT, because it is stupid and always underwater, just like him.

Andrew Bailey
16th row, Comp Sci 2
P.S. Next time you write something, Pete, make sure your OTHER hand is not under the table again, even though we heard you can do two things at the same time.

HURD CHEESE

Steven Hurd,

So you are the Part-timers Union Board rep? Very interesting. You haven't belonged to the Part-timers Association for at least the last three years. How about you show yourself to us? We are having a Wine and Cheese on June 25th at 1.00pm. BE THERE. You will also be invited to our Committee meetings. If you pay the \$3 membership fee, you can use the lounge and have a cup of coffee.

Yours Cynically,
oops - Sincerely,
Jacky Mc.
(Part-timers Assoc.)

Lot's Wife apologises to Anton Hermann and any other person who may have been offended by the inappropriate use of swastikas in recent editions of this paper.

The Editors

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LETTERS

25th USELESS

Dear Editors,
I'd like to once again express my total disgust at the attempted riot being currently instigated by the University Administration. It is the issue of the libraries. Because of an obvious budgetary shortsightedness in previous years, the Monash University libraries are under a serious threat.

They are short of almost \$760,000 and the options proposed for meeting this shortfall inevitably entail a direct attack on the library's services, staff and ALL students. It is outrageous that the Administration should spend money on a new building and extravagant 25th birthday celebrations - whilst the library resources get slashed. Celebrating 25 years of academic excellence is necessary and extremely worthwhile; but it is very ironic that the pursuit of knowledge at Monash, the most important role of ANY university, is being directly threatened. Books and subsequent resources should surely be protected before any other commodity at Monash.

We must campaign against this threat to our education. Let's make Monash library services the best in the State again. No library cuts, and no more late fees!

Dimitri Serghis

INTERNATIONAL WANKERS

Dear Lot's,
Having been active participants in the recent and ongoing campaign against library cuts, we feel compelled to register our extreme concern that the library issue is being used by some interest groups to pursue their own blatantly

ideological ends. We are not referring to the politically active STUDENTS on campus but we deeply resent the majority of students being subject to attempted manipulation by outside interests.

The sole purpose of the occupation of the administration building was to restore library services. The so called International Socialists (I.S.) whilst purportedly seeking to further the students' legitimate interests were in fact merely using OUR library crisis to provoke unwarranted confrontationalist action in order to further their own questionable ends.

"We are providing leadership!" proclaimed one of the prominent I.S. lackeys to a stunned student body. LEADERSHIP? This claim was made while the student body was pressing to have their (I.S.) banner removed. Where exactly did they intend to lead us? From the I.S. cadres wandering about during the Thursday night occupation, urging students to join THEIR revolution, we can deduce that their misguided agenda went far beyond that of library cuts.

How can we avoid a repetition of this reprehensible situation? One possible solution is for each speaker to identify themselves, their faculty, or their interest group before addressing any student forum. It would be regrettable that a campus, such as Monash, which has finally been spurred back into political action should fall victim to the facile opportunism of the International Socialists.

Andrew Laird - Arts Law 3
Dominic Lay - Politics 3
Hayden Legro - Psychology 3
Lisa Anderson - Politics 3
Jenni Christian - Medicine 2
Darren Koch - Politics Science 3
Kate Moody - Arts Law 3
Kelly Lacco - Arts 2

BORINGLY FAMILIAR

Dear Lot's,
A couple of days ago I attended the English Departmental Meeting.

Upon enquiry, we were told, with disinterest, that \$1,600 has been paid to a 'professional troupe' to perform poetry at our "Open Day." This surprised many present mainly because we hadn't been told that it was on. A debate followed as to whether the department could afford to continue its subscription to Australian periodicals. (e.g. 'Scripts' at \$25 per annum).

If this sounds boringly familiar, it's just another example of the influence of irrational priorities at this university.

Joanna Sender
Arts 2.

OCCASIONALLY?

Dear Lot's,
The perceived overuse of the swastika has aroused much displeasure amongst some sections of the Monash community. Whilst having sympathy for those offended, I did not myself, despite my Jewish heritage, take exception to this. I believe that more important than the symbol itself is the ideas behind the symbol. Hence, efforts are better directed in opposing the ideas than in opposing the swastika.

For example, 1) There are allegedly a number of former Nazis in the NSW branch of the Liberal Party, including a parliamentary group known as the "Uglies", and 2) The Federal government, with the support of a well-known "christian" student politician, are planning to introduce their own version of the yellow star of David; the I.D. card.

Let concerned citizens everywhere vent their wrath against these people, not just against some Lot's Wife editors who occasionally go off the rails.

Peter Taft
Chem. Eng. 3.

DUTCH COURAGE

Dear Lot's,

While hesitating to dismiss the importance of upholding democracy, I do feel that the space devoted to Cornelius Romein's article on the Dutch election results could have been put to better use if left blank. Am looking forward avidly to next issue's article on politics in the Canary Islands.

Yours in relevance,

Rastus T. Watermelon

FARCED COUNTING

Dear Lot's,

I am amazed at the blatant biased stand taken by our MAS chairman with regard to certain issues brought forward at the SGM on 12/6.

When a motion was moved to lower the SGM quorum to 3% of the student body there was large opposition indicated by students at the meeting. A vote on the motion was taken and without a count of hands the chairman claimed that the motion had been "carried clearly". To this a loud chorus of "count" was forthcoming from the meeting. This was granted as those present voted again.

The count was a farce and although the chairman claimed that the motion had been carried by a narrow margin, 4 votes I think, the counters were still counting the "against" votes!

I dread the day when the quorum is lowered if this is the type of democracy that will prevail when the required numbers of students are at the meeting. If there is an important issue that students feel strongly about the set quorum at the moment will be reached. This is proven by the number of people turning up to support the motion against library cuts. Bully if it means more work for the MAS executive, this is what they are elected for!

Andrew Lewis
1st year Science

LASHING OUT

Dear Lot's,

I am writing to support all those people who have so far adequately and convincingly shat all over the puerile ravings of that playschool philosopher, Peter Nugent.

What irritates me most is when Nugent seizes upon an idea which feminists have been exploring for years and not only treats it as a sudden new revelation but also manages to screw it up entirely. He obviously enjoys these little raves - excitement at his own brilliance is barely concealed at times - however many women have discussed these issues before, reached more sound conclusions and experienced little neurological discomfort in the process.

If Nugent is so concerned with being known as a great thinker he'd be better off to have himself bronzed and stuck outside the main library in a suitable pose. At least that would give birds something to shit on. Failing this, next time his brain begins to hurt, administer aspirin, sledge hammer, or whiskey but for Christ's sake do us all a favour and keep him out of print.

Madame Lash

★ Due to space limitations, shorter letters will be given preference. So if you write a 3000 word rave, don't complain if it doesn't get in.

★ Letters should have your name and student number on them so we believe you are a student and not some nut off the street. Names can be withheld if you're scared.

★ If you want to reply to an article in Lot's for the next edition, we suggest you get it in the same day if possible. Letters have to be typeset, proof-read and laid out like everything else, so don't expect too much if you come in on Thursday wanting it in for Monday's edition. We try to accommodate as much as possible, but let's face it, letters shouldn't take a week to write anyway.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

THERE is no doubt that the campaign of protest, occupation and negotiation beginning with last Thursday's S.G.M. is a significant victory to the students and staff of this university.

Library services and purchases have been restored and charges and fines have been pegged.

Whilst some participants in the protests became water-eyed about the last occupation of "Admin", back in 1974, the majority saw it as an effective tactic to force the University to reconsider its hasty and ill-conceived measures. And so it was.

The campaign, over three short days, brought students of all persuasions together for a common purpose. The success of the campaign villifies

the old and well-worn slogan "Unity is strength".

The campaign shows that when we are determined and united, we can take matters into our own hands - and win.

But the real test is to come. The Vice-Chancellor has set up a committee (chaired by J. McDonnell) to investigate financial and "other" problems of the Libraries to report in 4 to 6 weeks. In the interim, the pressure must be maintained so that the McDonnell committee will recognise the pivotal nature of our Libraries, and recommend that they be funded accordingly.

There is little doubt the money is there. The Vice-Chancellor has consistently refused to disclose how much is in his "contingency" fund.

To quote the Vice-Chancellor - "to find out what is in that fund, I'd have to go to the Finance Branch and say (to them) what is its income, what expenditures have been made (from it), and what is the particular balance today?"

The campaign to date has highlighted a university administration which is out of touch, divided and incompetent. Some administrators are teetering on the edge of senility. Financial control is in a mess. (For example, the University's Finance computer is incompatible with the Main Library's).

The two student representatives on Uni. Council (Mr. Peter Clarke, Liberal Club), and Mr. Tony Holmes (Clubs and Societies Council Executive) deserve some criticism.

We may never know how they acted inside the Council chamber because no observers are allowed inside, but they certainly showed their true colours outside.

Clarke grabbed a megaphone after forcing his way through protestors and condemned the protest as "ridiculous". Holmes slipped out of a back door with others who refused to speak with the students. It's obvious we can't rely on our student reps. for support!

As for the parliamentary representatives to Council, Eddie Hann (Nationals), left early in the debate as did Gerard Vaughan (Right-wing ALP). They all deserve our resounding criticism.

In the year so far, I have commented before on the



remoteness and probable incompetence of the University administrators. Now they have been brought down to earth with a thud.

We have won the battle, but the war has just begun.

Steve Wettenthal
A.E. Chairperson, M.A.S.

access . . . access . . . access . . . access . . .

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Are you aware of any animal experiments which you believe are cruel and/or unnecessary? If so, we would like to hear from you.

Animal Rights is currently preparing a comprehensive submission to the Senate Select Inquiry into Animal Welfare in Australia. The Inquiry, which was established in late 1984, has already condemned the live sheep export trade and the use of cetacea in captivity. The Committee is currently investigating the slaughter of kangaroos and will soon address the question of animal experiments.

This Association is seeking information from anyone who is aware of any abuses and/

or cruelty to animals on university campuses, particularly laboratory animals. All information will be in confidence and should you wish your identity to remain anonymous you may ring 848-3751 and leave a recorded message.

This request for information should not be viewed as a "witch-hunt" of researchers, however we believe staff and students on campus may well be aware of animal abuses if they are occurring.

Our postal address is:

ANIMAL RIGHTS
P.O. BOX 1435M
G.P.O. MELBOURNE
VIC. 3001
PH: 632975

Mon.J.S.S. Speaker on

Nazis in Australia

On Wednesday 25th June, at 1.00pm in R3, Mon.J.S.S. will be hosting a talk by Jeremy Jones, the Executive Director of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry on the topic of "Nazis in Australia."

The issue of Nazi War criminals residing in Australia has recently come to the forefront of public attention. The recent ABC radio series produced by Mark Aarons as well as a Four Corners documentary has served to stimulate wide ranging media comment as well as debate in Federal Parliament and the calling of an inter-departmental inquiry by Immigration Minister, Chris Hurford. The ABC radio series claimed that anything up to 150 Nazi War Criminals entered Australia in the aftermath of the

Second World War in an attempt to avoid criminal prosecution.

A number of groups including organisations representing the Jewish Community such as the Executive Council of Australian Jewry have participated in the debate about how to respond to this issue. The President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Les Caplan has expressed support for Hurford's decision to call an internal inquiry.

Jeremy Jones has been intimately involved in the presentation of the E.C.A.J.'s position on this issue. In his talk, he will give an outline of the issues involved and how they should be responded to. All students are invited to this talk.

FREE PASSES

Lot's Wife has fifty double passes to give away to the film "After Hours." Because we couldn't think of a suitable competition, the first fifty people to come to Lot's Wife can have one.

INTERNATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION

The IUS Secretariat launched an International Essay Competition within the framework of the world wide campaign "Education - a Right, Not a Privilege". The competition covers the following topics:

1. Illiteracy
2. Students' rights
3. The social problems of students
4. The content, structure and character of education
5. The transition from education to work

Conditions: the essay should not exceed 15 A4 typed pages; participants should be students at universities or other institutions of higher education.

The deadline for sending in contributions to the competition has been extended to September 15, 1986. The winners will be invited to attend the World Student Forum "Education and Society". Other prizes which include cameras, T-shirts, etc. and all participants will receive a free one-year subscription to the monthly World Student News, the main IUS magazine, and "Democratization of Education" a specialised IUS quarterly.

Address:
17TH NOVEMBER STREET
110 01 PRAGUE 01,
P.O.B. 58,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MONASH UNIVERSITY
PRIZE FOR POETRY - 1986

Undergraduates are now invited to submit entries for the Monash University Prize for Poetry valued at \$75. Entries must be lodged with the Registrar by 5.00pm on Monday 1st September, 1986.

Details of eligibility and entry procedures have been posted on noticeboards around the University. Further enquiries may be addressed to: Mrs. Barbara Linsten, Administrative Officer, Registrar's Department (ext. 2091).

BOOK CO-OP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Monash Co-operative Bookshop Limited will be held on Thursday 7th August at 1.15pm at Monash University. The business for the A.G.M. will be published soon in accordance with regulations.

Nominations are hereby called for the position of three directors of the Co-operative. In accordance with Model Rule 89(2), nominations other than in the case of retiring directors shall be signed by two or more members and be accompanied by a notice in writing under the candidates hand, signifying his/her candidature for office and shall be lodged with the Secretary, C/- Monash Co-operative Bookshop Limited Union Building, Monash University Clayton, 3168

by 10.00am, 7/8/86.

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

All interested persons are welcome to hear their Victorian representative in the Senate.

SENATOR DON CHIPP
"Judges, Politicians and Organised Crime"

Wednesday, 25th June,
1 p.m., R7

DON'T MISS IT

MUKINUPIN

"Like Australia's own history, Mukinupin's past is steeped in grog and guilt. What happens to a town that can't forget?" Find out by seeing Instant Theatre's production of "The Man from Mukinupin", by Dorothy Hewett. The season runs from 25th June to 5th July at the Open Stage, MCAE, Carlton, at 8.00pm. Tickets are \$8 and \$5 concession, and bookings can be made on 67-4192 or 534-5407.

Post Graduate ENGLISH CONFERENCE

Monash University
June 27th - 28th
Papers from: Monash, Melbourne, Deakin and La Trobe. Opening address (2 p.m., Visual Arts Gallery) by John Barnes, Professor of English, La Trobe University. Readings: Jennifer Strauss, Philip Martin, Kerry Goldsworthy and Carmel Bird.

MELB. UNI. LAW REVIEW

FRESH PASTA

between 18th - 28th June
Union Theatre, Melb. Uni.
8.00 p.m.
Students \$5 Others \$8
Book: 818 1245

VALLEJO GANTNER TRAVEL AWARD

Second year undergraduates in the Faculties of Arts and Economics & Politics are advised that applications for a travel grant from the Vallejo Gantner Memorial Travel Fund are now invited. Details of the award and the procedure for application have been posted on noticeboards in the Faculties of Arts and Economics & Politics. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST, 1986.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs. Barbara Linsten, Administrative Officer, Registrar's Department. (ext. 2091).

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE A.L.P. ACCORD AND THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE



THURS 26 JUNE 1PM

357

SOCIALIST ACTION
C.R.A.C.



Nervous at the wheel

WHAT is the best car a student can buy? This issue raises debate of the intensity and seriousness of any debate on matter of principle be they political, philosophical or mathematical. There are so many different opinions and theories as individuals who have blazed that hazardous

trail of purchasing an automobile that is simultaneously inexpensive and reliable defend their actions and their loyalties. You will find that in any discussion such as this, people are loath to slag off at their own cars, because to do so may reveal severe personal inadequacies in logic and fore-

thought.

To explain. People will have loyalties to particular models. Volkswagen Beetle aficionados will always choose a Beetle as the most reliable car anyone can buy, and will be as good as their word for as long as their budgets restrict the type of car they can buy. If the truth were to be known, these people are just in love with that type of car and logical reasons to criticise the Beetle on the grounds such as it will roll over and kill you at the drop of a hat, and that it costs an absolute bloody fortune to get spare parts or to get things fixed will hold no water.

Similarly people will stick by the brand name that has served them best. This explains the rivalry between Holden and Ford buyers. Buy an old Holden and it lasts you to your graduation and beyond without needing anything other than the odd tune up, and you'll swear by the General for life. The days will come when you are relaxing over a port with your yuppy friends, and as talk turns inexorably to

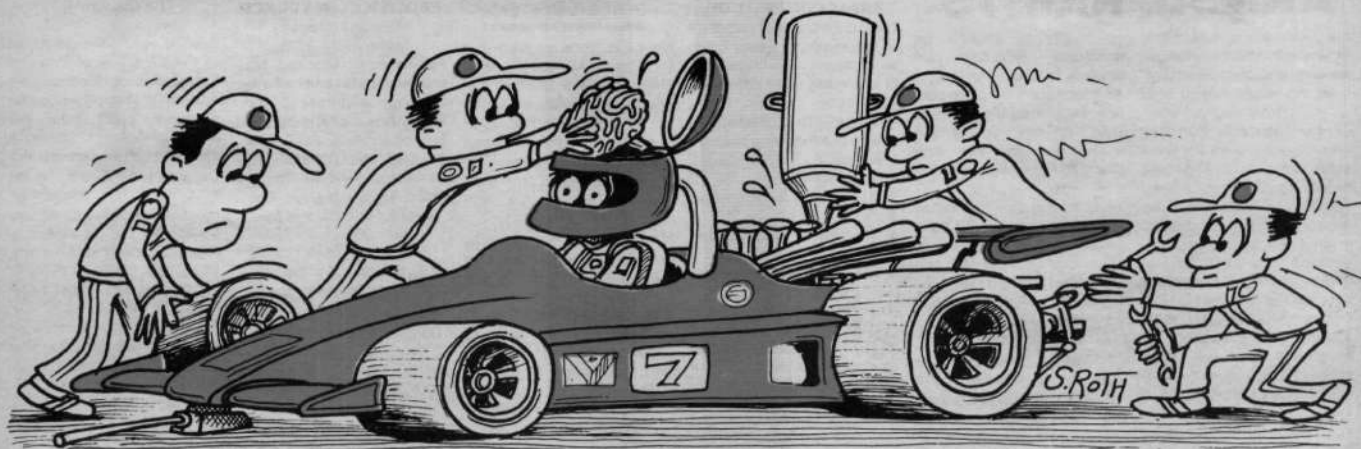
those good ol' days of uni you will retell anecdotes of that wonderful car, how it got you to uni on time every time and the time you went down the coast in it for your first undergraduate dirty weekend.

Indeed. It is not for me to persuade you on what type of car you should go for. It so happens that I am a dedicated Holden man myself, as my dear old HQ provides me with little trouble other than the odd brake disaster and a severe rust problem. I feel well qualified, however, to do something towards exploding the myth that four cylinder Japanese cars are preferable in economic terms to six cylinder buses that Australian manufacturers were happy to produce in the days of cheap petrol.

The claim that a clagged out Corolla is cheap to run is nothing more than pure nonsense. As any mechanic will tell you, the moment the compression in your engine goes, and your propulsion involves the consumption of copious quantities of oil (revealed by

an horrendous cloud of blue smoke you leave behind you wherever you go), then you are wasting money on fuel. I possessed an old two litre Hiace and it was every bit as expensive to run as the six cylinder Holden I now possess. Furthermore, it cost a bloody fortune to get anything fixed on the bugger. The engine sat in the smallest hatch I have ever seen, and mechanics used to ring their bank managers to tell them the good news that they had my van in the service bay to perform hours of mechanical microsurgery just to get to where the problem was.

So, dear motorised readers, beware the four cylinder. They run like a bucket of shit when they get older than the 5 years life expectancy deliberately built into these models by manufacturers wanting their consumers to buy and buy again. Tread warily in the pursuit of cheap motoring. For in motoring the old adage that you ultimately get what you paid for is a painfully true one at that.



SAFE RACING

THERE is no doubt that motor racing is a dangerous sport. But it should be made as safe as it possibly can be, without the car manufacturers skimping on safety for performance sake. This, is how Porsche are treating the World Sport Prototype Championship, of which '24 hours of Le Mans' is a round. The relatively low safety level in these extremely fast Porsches has thrown this racing formula into a treacherous position.

In less than one year we have seen the deaths of three top drivers, all having at some stage driven regularly in Formula One, and at least one case of serious injury. All of these incidents happened in Porsches, and it is these figures that threaten the survival of this racing formula (officially known as Group C).

Porsches have dominated this class of racing for many years. Whilst their dominance is now looking a little shaky, Porsche 956 and 962C still represent a majority of entries in the fast C1 class. These cars have become faster and faster with no apparent improvement in the secondary safety stan-

dards (secondary safety refers to protection after/during a crash). It is time that the authorities acted by compulsorily lifting the safety requirements.*

Other manufacturers who have recently built vehicles to compete against the Porsche's have designed into them higher levels of driver protection. In fact, last year when the TWR Jaguars were just starting out, team leader Tom Walkinshaw commented on the poor secondary safety standards of the Porsches. A lot of people dismissed this as promotional hype for his new team. Now, unfortunately, more people are being forced to listen to him.

Tom and his Jaguar outfit have shown that there is no need to have only the minimum safety standards on a car to win races. His cars, which do have more than the minimum, have won races and appear to be the team most likely to break the Porsche dominance. They have done this without making sacrificial offerings to the God of Performance.

FISA have shown in the past that they are willing to act in the name of safety. Formula One is a good example as it is well protected with safety regulations.

Some say it is strangled by them, but this is the better way to be. Next year's World Rally Championship will be run on a Group A formula, similar to our touring cars, and without the tremendously fast Group B cars. Group B had turbo charged mid-mounted engines driving all four wheels, with aerofoils all over the place to keep the cars on the road. Group B out-grew rallying - a number of deaths were needed to highlight this, but Group C has not outgrown track racing. It has just outgrown its safety standards. There is now only one option - make Group C safer or perish.

Whilst Group C racing might be at its lowest ebb for many years the Australian Touring Car Championship (ATCC) is in its most exciting period since the classic days of the early seventies. This was never more evident than at the recent ATCC meeting at Calder.

An exciting 3 way dice for the lead in the title race on the new track thrilled the huge crowd. This battle did not settle down until two laps from the finish of the race. With about 1/4 of the race to go the race order was Seton (Nissan Skyline), Bowe (Volvo 240T), and Fury

(Nissan Skyline). At this stage Seton was cruising and was about 2 seconds in front of Bowe and looking set for a win after battling hard for the lead.

For some inexplicable reason, but probably due to brake problems, Seton spun out of the lead. Track order was now Bowe, Fury, Seton. Suddenly in the last few laps Bowe slowed down, Fury took the lead on the last lap Seton too passed Bowe; final race order Fury (an early leader), Seton and then the unfortunate Bowe.

The Skylines and the Volvos are Class B cars, and they fought it out for outright honours. What about the other classes? Class A saw an interesting but more settled dice between Crosby, Brock and Harvey, all in Commodores. The New Zealand privateer Crosby won this against the two Dealer Team cars of Brock and Harvey. Class C saw yet another win to John Smith in the incredible little Toyota Corolla Twin Cam.

Congratulations must go to Bob Jane for turning the once boring Calder track into a terrific circuit. His new additions were a hit with the drivers and the spectators. To show that Bob is not happy with Touring

Cars alone, he is currently building a huge speedway bowl for American style stock cars - called NASCAR.

Back in the land of the living, the touring cars move interstate before returning to Victoria on June 29 for a meeting at Winton, near Benalla. A great day is to be had at Winton as it is a great circuit for spectators and makes a nice day trip up the picturesque Maroondah highway.

ATCC points - 1, Francevic (Volvo), 159; 2, Fury (Nissan), 130; 3, Longhurst (BMW), 110; with three rounds remaining.

*My comments of Porsche 956 and 962Cs in no way refer to the road going Porsches (911, 924, 944, 928, 959). Porsche's standards on the road are so high that all other car manufacturers aim for them. Here there is no skimping.

I am trying to start a Monash University Motor Racing Supporters Club and need founding members. We aim to promote Motor Racing as a more accessible sport for all, not just members. If you are interested in joining, contact Andrew Clarke on 256 993 or leave your name at Lot's Wife and I will chase you.

Andrew Clarke

STOP PRESS

THE LIBRARY WILL BE RE-OPENING AS
NORMAL FROM SATURDAY JUNE 16TH.

10.00am - 5.00pm

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