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LOT'S WIFE

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Contributions dealing with a wide variety of issues are welcome for publication in this year's Lot's Wife.

All contributions will be judged upon their standard of English expressi and the coherence of their argument. Sexist, racist, and defamatory material will not be considered for publication.

The author's name and student number must accompany each contribution—pseudonyms will not suffice. The editors are prepared to withhold the names of authors where requested, provided there is sufficient reason to do so. In such cases, confidentiality will be preserved.

Early consultation with the editors will ensure that space is reserved for your article and the editors should be consulted with regard to articles for magazine editions, well before that edition's deadline.

Maximum word lengths vary according to the type of article, but allow approximately 700 words to each half page (with graphics).

Contributions should be double spaced, preferably typewritten with a 4 cm left margin. If submitting an article on floppy disc, 5% inch IBM format discs are required (but consult editors).

The next magazine edition will be a Womens' issue.

Contributions for this issue are welcome, and early consultation with the editors will ensure publication.

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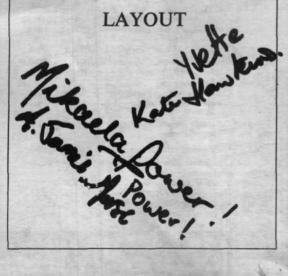
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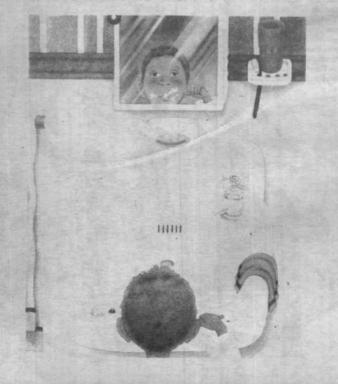
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Watch out for the Lot's Wife August 10 Conservation Edition. **Contact Dimitri at Lot's Wife**



MONASH NEWS ---

The sit — in: a medical dissection



by DAMIEN RIDGE

THE sit-in began at about 2 pm on Wednesday July 20. It lasted about 48 hours. The number of students occupying the Administration building ated constantly, however, many hundreds of students were involved Some stayed an hour, others stayed for most of the 48 hours. Other students signed petitions supporting those who were sitting in. The sit-in was a successful operation.

The occupation was a result of an MAS student general meeting of perhaps 1000 students. Only a handful of students voted against it.

One of the main aims of the occupa tion was to put pressure on the Vice Chancellor, Mal Logan, and his administration so that they would not provide information about students to the government. In effect this would make it impossible for the government to collect a deferred fee from Monash students. This would be a courageous step for our conservative administration to take. However, it is not unlikely that other institutions would follow this lead once the ground was broken. The government could do little more than threaten institutions with financial cutbacks. These threats would fall flat as more and more institutions rejected the government's plan to prostitute education. The tertiary tax would become a paper tiger.

The occupation became necessary

cause the government had ignored all reasoned argument and demon strations by students. The health

nister described der

students as 'not real people'. Even though the occupation made ome waves, it can only be seen as the beginning of a direct action campaign. overwhelming majority students and many staff (including admin staff) agree that Monash should not assist the government with collecting fees. Yet it is very likely that this will happen if students end their campaign here.

Already, the demands handed to Mal have been sent on their merry way down a long bureaucratic tunnel of despair, including the University Council.

University Council is the controlling body of the university. It is mainly comprised of highly influential industrialists and businesspeople, representing industrial, agricultural, commercial interests, and represen tatives of faculty heads. Of about 36 members, only three are students. the University Council has been described in the past as reactionary and out of touch with university affairs. The make-up of the Council suggests that it represents the ruling class that is pushing for the 'user-pays' system in education

Unfortunately our university is dependent on the government and the ruling class for financial survival. These sources of revenue can and do exert political pressure over the university. The idea that universities are independent bodies is a myth. Mal Logan has to dance to the government's tune if he wants to continue his push for a corporate image of Monash.

This is why Mal, who is probably quite symphthetic with the plight of disadvantaged students and the effect of the deferred fees, refused outright to officially support the log of claims at Council. He said he would only present them to Council if supported by the majority of students. This will mean nothing to Council if past experience is any guide. Council's main aim is to protect that financial tap to Monash. Consequently, it pesn't appear to matter how strong ents are.

In effect this means that our only option is to step up our direct action campaign to force a favourable decision from Council. In the past, students successfully prevented members of Council from leaving Council until they made a favourable decision! This involved hundreds of students surrounding the Admin building. Perhaps we could learn from past

The greatest danger is that Council may try to delay making a decision on the log of claims until vacation when no-one is around. Students may then be too close to exams in Term Three to fight for the log of claims.

Getting back to the sit-in, the

highlight was seeing so many students involved. We learnt for sure that students overwhelmingly reject deferred fees (in the form of graduate tax).

Probably the most disturbing part of the sit-in was when a small group of medical students from second year dropped in, only to vandalise some of the petitions against deferred fees. As a fourth year medical student, I am totally ashamed of these revolting yuppies who knew nothing about the es except what Mr Dawkins had told them, and what they had read in the biased press

These medical students are more than likely to have come from privileged backgrounds. They will merely pass on the cost of deferred fees to their patients. They do not realise that many students must live in poverty to survive in education. Many students are doing a course that may not even get them a job, or only a low paying job.

There are the students that will suffer from deferred fees. They will still have to pay their deferred fees, with interest. Deferred fees can only perpetuate the poverty cycle for disadvantaged students. I suggest those repulsive vandals open their eyes. Life is so much more than what is contained in narrow medical textbooks. Instead of censoring free expression. the proper procedure would have been to start a petition supporting deferred fees. They wouldn't though, because they would be laughed off



The Sit-in Interviews

OPPONENTS of the graduate tax staged a sit-in of the university administration building on Wednesday July 20 and Thursday July 21. Rebecca Chapman, for Lot's Wife, spoke to students at the protest to find out what they hoped to achieve from their action. The students Rebecca spoke to were Andrew Taylor (Arts III), Chris Phillips (Sci/Eng II), Kim Williams (Arts III), Tim Bentley (Arts II) and Patricia



by REBECCA CHAPMAN

Why are you at the protest?

Kim: To express my opposition against the graduate tax, in the hope that the administration will give in to the students' request and refuse to go along with it.

Tim: I don't believe in fees or a graduate tax. I don't think they're justifiable and I want to do something about it.

Patrick: Because I agree with it. I don't want a graduate tax.

Andrew: Because it's getting to the point where the good things in life (that is, free education) are being sacrificed because of purely financial reasons and I think if we don't jump up and down and say 'No Fees' ow, then it will get to the point where it will be too late.

Chris: The main aim is to put pressure on people. We're saying 'this is what we think, you can't ignore us'.

Kim: Much the same as the whole group, that we can get the administration to hold the council meeting and gain as much support as possible from the administration in the hope they withdraw all support for the graduate tax and refuse to co-operate with the government in implementing it. Tim: Just to boost the numbers and be present. I don't want to look back in ten years and say I didn't like the idea but I didn't do anything

Do you think these aims will be achieved?

Patrick: I tend to think not, but then again, it's worth a demonstration. The administration seem to be listening, but what they can do is fairly ineffective.

Kim: I think if we gain a lot more support we can, it's been quite successful up until now. If we can continue it until the university administration hold their meeting and come to some sort of decision on the graduate tax.

Do you think they are likely to support you?

Andrew: Don't know. Hope so.

Tim: I don't think it will succeed really, I'm not that optimistic. I think e administration will listen, but whether they will hear is another thing.

Are you happy with the student turn out?

Chris: I get really sick of people being apathetic about issues thinking 'they'll do it, leave it to them'. But a lot of people have turned up. We've got a lot of signatures downstairs.

Tim: Yes, it's more than I thought would come. I didn't think it would last this long either. Students are probably more worried about it than I thought they were.

Patrick No. Not really, there's not too many but that's probably due to the general apathy of Monash.

How do you think education should be financed?

Andrew: Education should be of utmost importance to any country and the government should fund it.

Chris: I think it should come from the government. Australia has a very w percentage of education spending compared to other countries. Mainly, they should start taxing companies more as, ironically, they reduced company tax recently, and they will be the ones benefitting from the graduates.

Kim: The government should place a much higher priority on education. I object to the fact that they spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the new parliament house, and the bicentenary, etc. Obviously their ties aren't in order.

Patrick: There should be an increase in the top marginal rate of taxation and also maybe some kind of increase in corporate involvement in universities.

The sit — in



A student ponders her motivation for sleeping in at the sit-in

that there were students occupying

the administration building. But there

was little (or no) reporting of the real

arguments against the tax. The Age

saw fit to send one reporter and one

photographer to the press conference resulting, but the article was less than

It appears that unless students are

rioting, burning down buildings, or

brawling with police they are not

news worthy! Although the reason for

this escapes me, one could suppose

that it is because there is far too much

spectacular violence and carnage in the rest of the world to worry about

heard all the arguments against the graduate tax. I have not yet seen half

of the reasons why I object to the tax in the news. I can only suppose there

are other arguments against it that I

am unaware of. So where have these

been in the news? This, unfortunately, was one objective that the occupation

Thirdly, there were a number of

students strongly opposed to the tax

who may have wanted to be involved in fighting it and did not know where

to start. The sit-in certainly gave them

the opportunity to become involved, and many of them have done so. This

greater level of involvement has served

to encourage the 'old' campaigners and it has given our 'new' campaigners a

Now that we have more people involved we will all be working harder,

in conjunction with other tertiary

failed to achieve.

place to start.

and the government have

issues such as the graduate tax. Many people have said that the

satisfactory publicity.

by KERRYN CLARK

WELL we all know that the sit-in protest in the administration building from July 20 to July 22 was in opposition to the graduate tax. But what exactly were we trying to achieve?

The anti-fees sub-committee set out a number of aims for the sit-in. First and foremost, it was to let the University Vice-Chancellor, Mal Logan, know that we were not impressed with his lack of opposition to the graduate tax. He was presented with a log of claims and a rather impressive petition of signatures in support of the log of claims.

Our intrepid VC artfully avoided any form of commitment either way. He did state that he would present the log at the next meeting of University Council, but he did not commit him self to argue our case or even support our anti-tax actions. However, h assure us that two student representatives could be present at the next sitting of Council. He also attempted to contact our favourite politician, the lovable John Dawkins.

Dawkins totally avoided the VC's call and passed him onto a private secretary. Although Dawkins successfully avoided us, he was at least made aware that there were a large number of angry Monash students taking over the administration building in opposition to the tax. We now await the result of the

Council meeting on August 8.

A second objective of the protest was to gain some media publicity for the cause. Radio coverage was quite good as far as letting the public know

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

FACULTY OF ARTS BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK COURSE 1989

Applications for admission to the Bachelor of Social Work course close on Friday October 7, 1988. The course is a two-year full-time professional course open to graduates, undergraduates who have completed the first two years of a degree, or personal soliding an approved three year terriary qualification who have appropriate prerequisites in social and

institutions and some unions, to oust Mr Dawkins and his graduate tax. ies in varied work settings such as child and

from: Ms Jan Murphy Admin. Officer (Face Dept. of Social Work 33 Royal Parade Parkville 3052 Ph; (03) 344 6395

O N'S

Tertiary tax - the White Paper

LAST Wednesday the federal government released a White Paper on its plans for higher education. This paper, endorsed as it is by the Federal ALP caucus, should be compulsory reading for students wanting to know what the government has in store for

Thankfully the government has been obliged to pay more than just lip service to access and equity in higher education. For example the tertiary tax proposal in the White Paper is significantly more equitable (or less inequitable) than that which was originally mooted three months ago

This is not to say it's acceptable. Indeed the paper repudiates the Green Paper's commitment to fundi 125,000 graduates per year by 2001. However the paper does at least give student activists something concrete to deal with in the month leading up to

The fact that the paper is significantly more conciliatory than the Green Paper is a credit to the NUS officebearers who, for the last eight months have spent their time hammering home to the government the level of student opposition to the

In order to force the government to back down even further on its original

200 the anomalies in the tertiary tax, and convince the general community and the media that we have something

important to say on higher education. For a copy of the White Paper and/ or a summary of its contents, come

Melbourne University's student union - the best thing since sliced bread?

This week, Melbourne University and Melbourne College students are voting in a referendum to decide whether or not to amalgamate their campus student unions and the

Melbourne Uni Union.

The final structure, if adopted, will result in an incredibly powerful student union structure, with a budget of approximately \$6 and a half million ed an annual turnover of \$10 million. It will be the most well resourced student union in Australia and will give students complete control over their services fee.

It is such a good structure that I understand that the Liberal and Labor Clubs are both supporting it! (How often does that happen?)

Ironically enough, the only students opposing the structure are arguing

that it does not incorporate all the 'benefits' of the MAS structure. The MAS structure is a pale excuse for a truly student controlled student union, subject as it is to Administration constraints. The day that we don't have to go running to Union Board for ratification of MAS's budget is a the day that I'll admit that MAS is as potentially powerful as the new Melbourne University Student Union.

Student discounts a meeting at the Rialto

Last Friday AE Secretary, Yorick Piper and myself found ourselves in the unfamiliar surroundings of the 46th floor of the Rialto Building.

We were there for a meeting with representatives of the World Passport

This company sells a card to people which enables them to get discounts at various commercial enterprises for goods and services such as food. clothing, holidays, films, etc. The beauty of the scheme is that the student union (through its members) would be able to name the areas in which we believe students spend most of their hard-earned cash. The company would then negotiate a deal with the merchants concerned, and students would be able to get discounts on goods and services which we are likely to want.

The company is developing links worldwide and is attracting new nerchants every week.

Watch this space for more information about this scheme

Catchya next week. David Moody AE Chairperson

The White Paper - a blueprint for corporate education?



by DAVID MOODY

IN DECEMBER of last year, the federal government released the Green Paper on Higher Education. Ostensibly, this document was designed to provoke debate among the higher education community as to the future of education in Australia.

After receiving God knows how many submissions on the Green Paper, the government moved into the next phase of its agenda, with the creation of the Wran Committee set up to propose methods of funding

higher education.

By the time ALP National Conference came around, the contents of the Green Paper and the Wran Committee Report had been watered down to make them more palatable to conference delegates. Nevertheless, the education motion was pushed through the conference on the first day. This was due in no small part to the fact that NUS office bearers attending the conference had managed to make a number of delegates very nervous about the prospect of voting against publicly funded education. If the vote had been taken on the second day, it would probably have gone down.

And so the federal government made tentative moves towards its vision of higher education in Australia. This vision is embodied in 'White Paper on Higher Education'

Ironically, the White Paper makes no mention of the tertiary tax. The Paper deals instead with the rhetoric of higher education reform, 'Access' and 'Equity' are words which appear frequently and the maintenance of programs such as the Higher Educaon Equity Program is emphasised.

However, no mention is made of how these initiatives will continue to be funded. Likewise with childcare. The government is to be commended for making childcare programs a key part of the 'educational profile' of each institution. The catch is that the institutions will probably not be provided with the extra funding so desperately needed to make these programs work.

The government is also to be con-gratulated for the White Paper's tatement that 'We do not want a higher education system that fails to analyse and where necessary, criticise the society in which it

.' One hopes that this means that humanities subjects will not suffer the cuts that some quarters have suggested they will.

Unfortunately the Paper fails to reject the notion of private universities which will, if established, bleed many public institutions dry of their best academics. It also foreshadows amalgamations between campuses which would be implemented on the basis of cost efficiency rather than according to the best method of obtaining real access and equity in

There is a lot of other information in this Paper which bears more careful examination. The above is just a summary of some of the major

It is up to students to deal with this paper's initiatives, assumptions and conclusions from a realistic and analystic point of view.

For those of you who wish to make a start, copies of the White Paper are available from MAS.

Thanks to Damian Smith and Kiri Evans from NUS for their help and advice in the preparation of this article

The White Paper on education: solution or big fuckin' problem?

by DAVID STROVER

IN A long winded and often repetitive ent, the federal government has finally given us an indication of the direction in which it intends to push Australia's higher education system. The White Paper is a daunting and very disappointing document which is a pity, because we only have a couple of weeks before the budget, in which a lot of its proposals are

The White Paper is disappointing precisely because of the way in which it approaches the reform of higher approaches the retorm of nigher education. In keeping with its pre-dominantly economic rationalist approach, the government begins by asserting the need to make higher education more 'efficient' because of the prevailing climate of restraint in public expenditure. This approach sees education as an area in which government spending can be cut, and reflects the attitude that education is a cost to, not an investment by, the community. Thus, the government is starting with the wrong premise; this has significant implications for equity and, under the present proposals, for

The White Paper addresses equity in a very limited fashion. It places great emphasis on the provision of places for students from severely under-represented groups. While this expansion of the long standing special entry schemes is to be supported as a step foward, it amounts to a very narrow approach. The major equity problem in higher education at present is the fact that most students in colleges and universities are from middle to upper class backgrounds, and it is that government actually facilitated participation in higher

COME

education for the 'traditional Labor voter'. At the moment the trend is to relegate these people to the TAFE sector, and to train them as technicians - to be ordered about by university educated technocrats.

The White Paper skirts around the issue of equal access to education. By devoting most of the chapter entitled 'Equity issues' to the expansion of existing schemes, it fails to look at the problems of the 20,000 qualified applicants who miss out on tertiary places every year, and the significant difficulties which lower middle and working class people face in their attempts to enter colleges or universities. Of course, this isn't surprising when one considers that the government's solution is the infamous graduate tax to fund extra places. After all, they still haven't told us why the children of the working class, who are not entering colleges or universities now, when education is free, are suddenly going to jump at the chance of an education which leaves them with a 20-year debt.

Institutional autonomy

Since the Green Paper was released late last year, the proposal for funding institutions on the basis of their 'profiles' has been criticised for its potential to give the government greater control over tertiary institutions. The White Paper dismisses this quite legitimate concern in just one

The system proposed by the government involves every tertiary institution applying to be part of the new 'unified system' of higher educa tion by submitting an 'institutional profile'. The profile just will not outline broad teaching objectives of the institution, but also specify details of internal management and 'flexible'

usually refers to the replaces full time permanent staff with part time, contract or sessional staff, as is happening in the TAFE sector, and in effect means that untenured staff have little job security and less non ng time to attend to students' needs. If the profile is not acceptable to the government, the institution will get funded on a contract basis rather than by recurrent grants. If this is autonomy, then one wonders how the government defines central control. After all, control over funding is a very considerable power.

Alternatives

It should be noted that the Liberal proposal of a scheme of fees and scholarships is no better. What is eeded is a totally different approach to the reform of higher education.

The maintenance of staffing levels and conditions is critical to the maintenance of standards in higher education. It is not 'efficient' to have underpaid and insecure staff. Nor is it efficient to have ever increasing lecture and tutorial sizes; already, students have to sit on the floor in lecture theatres because there isn't room, and there are so many people in tutorials that two or three student papers have to I am describing is already happening with the government's obsession with 'efficiency' (which it measures in economic terms) the situation only can get worse.

It is true that participation in higher education is still the province of the middle and upper classes, and that the working class and lower-middle classes fund the system through taxation. However, rather than seeing this as the fault of the higher education system itself, the government should recognise it as a problem inherent in the taxation

HEY, DUDES ... PROTEST NOW!

system. The corporate tax burden (the proportion of total tax paid by companies) is lower in Australia than in almost all other first world countries and, significantly, it is lower than in the US, the UK and Japan. Further, funding of higher education as a pro-portion of gross domestic product in Australia has been falling for the past 14 years. In 1974, funding of higher education was 1.7 per cent of GDP; it has fallen now to 0.99 per cent. Even if we allocate only one per cent of GDP to higher education funding, we can maintain free tertiary education Yet the government claims it cannot nd the expansion of higher education without an extra tax on

What is lacking is not the funds to provide free and accessible education for everyone, but rather the will to do so. The money is available: it can be collected from companies which avoid tax - such as those owned by Hawke's mates Packer and Bond. Further, the government's argument that it can't afford to fund higher education is ludicrous considering it has reduced company tax rates by ten per cent. If the government is serious about allowing equal access to educa-tion, it should drop the ridiculous graduate tax scheme, which won't provide much money anyway, and concentrate on collecting tax from those who don't pay their fair share at

An Update on SWICH -Students WIth CHildren



by BERNADETTE MUIR

SWICH is pleased to announce the implementation of a new occasional child care service. We have employed the services of a pre-school mother craft nurse student to attend the SWICH flat providing a baby-sitting service for 15 hours per week, with the view to increase these hours if feasible next year. School age children may also be cared for on Correction days, etc. Parents may use the service for a maximum of 15 hours per week, per child. Monash staff may also use this service in emergencies Fee reductions are available to people on low incomes. The hours of the new service are as follows -

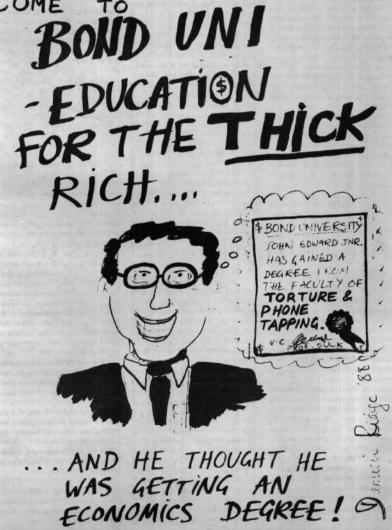
10.00 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm 10.00 am - 1.00 pm 4.00 pm - 7.00 pm 4.00 pm - 7.00 pm

The service will be run from the SWICH flat on the first floor of the Union building. The flat has a playroom, lounge, bedroom (with a cot and children's mattresses) kitchen and bathroom facilities. We have toys and books available and a small play

SWICH serves as a contact point for students with children (including school age) to gain companionship and support in relation to social, academic and personal aspects of University life. Aside from the hours of the new service the SWICH flat will remain open for use by members from 8.00 am to 10.00 pm daily-for co-operative baby sitting between parents, changing and feeding, or for you to employ your own permanent or casual baby-sitter from student employment to suit your needs. Only SWICH members may use the SWICH flat - anvone may become a member of SWICH by paying an annual membership fee of \$ 10.00.

As this is an occasional care

service bookings may only be made for one week at a time. To enrol your children contact Bernadette Muir -Child Care Co-ordinator at the Student Welfare Office 565 3186, or Jenny Weber/Jenny Green at MAPS 565 3199.



Hiroshimalest we forget

by WENDY WELLS & KATE ROBERTSON

THE 43rd anniversary of Hiroshima in August this year is going to be a turning point in modern peace

Nuclear weapons gave war a new dimension. Bombs were nothing new, but had previously been targetted mainly at military or industrial centres. Atomic bombs destroy entire cities and their civilian populations.

The era of nuclear war began with the destruction of the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Three days later Nagasaki was also destroyed with an atomic bomb. Altogether 250,000 people lost their

A total of 40 to 50 million were killed during World War Two by three million tonnes of TNT. With the present nuclear arsenals, the same mber of deaths could be achieved 6,233,000,000 times over.

Hiroshima is an example of the horror of nuclear war and has been used for many years by peace groups their call for disarmament. However, tackling disarmament in isolation from other issues cannot secure a lasting peace.

Broad concept of peace

Peace is a broader concept than merely the absence of war. Peace is people working together in har-monious relationships with the environment. Social justice concerns groups such as Third World development, women's rights, Aborigines, education, all of which form an integral part in creating a secure, just and equitable society.

This year the Hiroshima remembrance will be used to link and coordinate the issues of peace and social justice that will ultimately give us a peaceful world.

It is ironic that in the 1980s, when ople have more information available to them than at any other time in history, they feel least able to affect change

Perhaps it is because of this increase in knowledge that groups have tended to concentrate on single issues, working in isolation from others concerned with peace and

To be effective in achieving change, groups need to recognise their common oals and work together. The 'jigsaw' theme of this year's Hiroshima remembrance is based on the idea that the problems we face are many and complex, but we can all work towards

solving the puzzle, with everyone helping link their 'piece' of peace until we get the complete picture in the world we want.

The day of the march will see various croups contribute a jigsaw piece to construct a giant puzzle. The aim of the jigsaw is to bring people, from different backgrounds and with different ideas, together. It is the actions of all members of the com-munity that influence the political nature of Australia, from voting to joining a trade union, to telephoning a local member of parliament or joining a political party Environment

The seriousness of the problems facing

the environment is often overlooked.

Industrialised nations make up about 20 per cent of the the world's population, yet use 80 per cent of its resources. The decisions taken by individual countries can have serious environemntal implications for the rest of the world.

The pollution and destruction of the environment has led to depletion of the ozone layer and abnormal warming of the earth's surface (the greenhouse effect). Both of these conditions will have serious longterm effects for the entire planet, including those countries which have not contributed to the problem.

Aboriginal sovreignty

The link between Aboriginal sovreignty and land rights, peace and disarmament, was highlighted by the Palm Sunday march earlier this

In the 1950s and '60s, the Aboriginal people of Maralinga were showered by radioactive fallout from the British atomic bomb tests which destroyed their health and their

In the 1970s and '80s, uranium mines at Roxby Downs and Ranger continue to desecrate sacred land and separate it from the Aboriginal

The severe poverty of some Aboriginal communities has seen some allow mining on their land in an attempt to break their dependence on government grants.

The Aboriginal people are a distinct people who never relinquished ownership of their land. A peaceful and equitable society cannot be achieved while we accept the abnor-mally high levels of disease, poverty and oppression that Aboriginal people continue to suffer.



Australia's role in global nuclear proliferation is a vitally important one. The satellite com bases at Watsonia and Pine Gap are key links in the US nuclear weapons system, and Nurrungar, North West Cape and Pine Gap are considered to be prime nuclear targets.

Australia is the twelfth largest exporter of weaponry and a prominent exporter of uranium. Our government supports the US in placing pressure on New Zealand for its anti-nuclear

Australian uranium is sold to France, a country which explodes nuclear bombs, twice the size of that which destroyed Hiroshima, in the Pacific

Though the radioactive clouds formed by the accidents at nuclear energy plants at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, had no noticeable affect on the Australian environment, the result of our continued involvement with the mining and selling of uranium must be questioned in the

light of this mishandling.

Coupled with the participation in the US tracking and surveillance

ventional weaponry, Australia is placed in the midst of a diplomatic

If, as the Americans claim, the bases play such a vital role in verification, then why not go all the way to help create an international system verification and monitoring of arms control and disarma measures. After all, who verifies the

We live in a world in which one million soldiers are fighting 19 separate wars. We live in a region that has seen political unrest in Indonesia, Fiji, Palau, Irian Jaya, New Guinea and New Caledonia in the last five years. A region that is subject to regular nuclear tests on an unstable coral island.

The Asia-Pacific region can no longer be thought of as a profitable colonial out-post. However, political security comes from economic prosperity, and the role of Australia as a producer and consumer of the region's material assets cannot be overlooked.

Increasing our unconditional aid from 0.36 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the United Nations recommended per-

improve regional security and co operation. The political and economic stability of our neighbouring nations would expand markets and increase trade opportunities, as well as help ensure the independence of countries

The extent and number of problems facing us are numerous, as are the number of groups formed to try and resolve them. But basically, we are all aiming for the same goal: a just, safe and nuclear-free world. The 'jigsaw' will bring together groups and emphasise the inter-relationships bet-

This year's march will be held on

Sunday August 7 at 2 pm.
The giant jigsaw puzzle with pieces from various groups will be put together and banners displayed. If you would like to participate in the jigsaw puzzle, contact the Campaign for International Co-operation and Disarmament (CICD). They will give you a blank jigsaw piece your 'piece' of peace, phone CICD on 663 3677.



Austen Tayshus resorts to easy targets by JENNIFER NIFLSEN

I WASN'T surprised, upon looking in the dictionary, to discover that 'ostentatious' means 'pretentious show; display intended to impress others'. The 'Australiana' version, comedian Austen Tayshus, suited this definition down to the ground. However, despite his best intentions, Mr Tayshus certainly did not

Austen Tayshus graced Monash with his presence last Monday, July 25 at lunchtime and was greeted by a capacity crowd. Most seemed to enjoy the gig, but there were more than a few who, like me, walked away feeling somewhat fucked over by the material thrown at us.

Austen Tayshus walked a fine line between comedy and the invidious, and hardly managed to stay on the comedy side. His performance was punctuated by a flair for inconsis-tency which saw him moving from some quite witty comment to base lines such as 'you spastic'. The sadder part is that people actually laughed at the latter.

He covered a range of material from drugs, Paul Hogan, yobboes, himself, and Aboriginal issues. Some he treated quite well, making quite sharp observations. Others were banal and schoolboyish.

He relied on cheap shots and got plenty of mileage out of belittling one poor member of the audience which, although the guy took it quite well, was opportunism at its lowest level. While it is a legitimate function of comedians to cut down the smart ass tall poppies in an audience, they've got to be a little more creative than Tayshus to maintain their perfor-mance in the realm of comedy as opposed to straight out abuse.

His routine 'Highway Corroboree' brought to light some important issues, ones that need to be brought into the mainstream. However, his attitude to the issues raised was clear from his introduction: 'This piece is my bit for the Aborigines' or (my translation) 'I can be as tokenistic about this issue as any government'.

It wasn't his particular bent to be offensive which turned me off - it was his way of doing it. There are plenty of things to be offensive about without having to resort to reinforcing gender and race stereotypes, though many of today's comedians continue to resort to these easy targets.

Despite the obvious success for the Activities Committee in drawing such a large crowd, I would've thought there are much better comedians around. At least, you'd hope so.

A model for Aboriginal sovereignty

by JENNIFER NIELSEN

AT THE Barunga festival held in the Northern Territory a couple of months ago, in his inimitable fashion, Prime Minister Bob Hawke, made loud noises about reaching a treaty between the Aboriginal nation and the white Australian population. However, some within the Aboriginal community do not think such a treaty is enough and are suggesting that a wider agenda be adopted by the Aboriginal people.

One such person is lawyer Michael Mansell, who feels that Aboriginal sovereignty is the only viable option for Aboriginal people. On Thursday July 21, Mansell was the guest speaker at the Aboriginal Studies lecture, speaking about his model of Aboriginal sovereignty and of its

In his opinion, Aboriginal people have come to a standstill in their fight against white oppression and that, at present, their approach is ad hoc and ked unity and direction. Given that Aborigines are not a homogenous group and come from a diversity of ckgrounds, he added that this not surprising, but it was a still a matter that they had to resolve gether. He also suggested that one of their weaknesses had been that they always replied to the white da rather than dictating their own. As he sees it, the future of the Aboriginal people hinges on their being able to regain their sovreignty over this land.

He pointed out that current strategies to aid Aboriginal people were not adequate. For instance, land rights legislation is fine in the short term but it, by implication, legitimises the white invasion of Aboriginal land, and always remains subject to the whims of white parliaments. Being only legislation it can be repealed and the rights over the land are determined by a statute rather than by the Aboriginal people themselves. Moreover it is a short term measure which fails to realise the Aboriginal people's longterm needs and aspirations.

Similarly, there are problems with relying upon a treaty, because unless it is given legal and political credence and recognition, it is nothing more than a piece of paper. Unless, he said, the Hawke government was prepared to draw up a treaty which was recognised at the international level, such a move was a waste of time. He gave the example of the situation in New Zealand, where the treaty between the Maoris and whites was not recognised by the New Zealand High Court, rendering the rights that it embodies useless.

Sovreignty on the other hand, returns ownership of the land to the Aboriginal people forever. It can never be reclaimed by whites. It also reinstates the jurisdiction of the Aboriginal nation, and completely outs white laws and interference. This is the only viable solution for Aboriginal people as it will realise their aspirations and go much further to solve their day to day problems.

Already the Aboriginal nation meets the requirements set by international law with regard to the self determination of a people. It has definable territory, a specified population (as the example of Narau shows, a large population is not necessary), a system of government (already nomadic peoples have been recognised in international law as having a system of government in the Western Sahara Case) and the



ENNY TWE

capacity to enter into relations with

So what does his model of sovreignty entail? Mansell himself describes his model as a conservative one, based on political pragmatism. His is a model of a nation within a nation whereby the two nations live alongside each other, rather than one being subordinate to the other.

The territory that he suggests should be returned to the Aboriginal people is all the land now categorised as crown land, which comprises roughly half of the Australian continent. The other land would remain under white control. The land returned, unlike land transferred under land rights legislation, would be solely under the jurisdiction of the Aboriginal recoile.

Within that territory, a system of government would be formed which would emphasise local Aboriginal community control rather than the white centralised form of government. This he says, would allow each community to adopt the laws—which might include white laws—that it sees fit. This approach recognises that some Aboriginal communities have had more exposure to white interference and allows communities to choose whether it is relevant to retain parts of white law.

He acknowledged that it would be necessary to reach some reciprocal arrangements between the Aboriginal and white nations in order to allow movement from area to area and to prevent either area becoming a haven for fugitives from either side. Though a complex problem, he says it is not impossible, and likened it to Europe where one can move through many countries in a day.

There would be no restrictions on free movement — if there is mutual

respect between the two nations, why would it be necessary? Citizens of both nations would have to abide by the laws of the other while in its territory, though provision may be needed for leniency for those who break laws they are not familiar with while in the other territory.

while in the other territory.

Presently about \$1 billion is earned from the use of crown lands. Thus revenue for the nation could be gained via the use of crown lands, as well as from compensation payments from the white nation for its 200 years of use of the land.

Mansell acknowledges that the matter is far from resolved, even in the Aboriginal community itself. Their discussions and those in the white community are still in the embryonic stage. However, the matter is being discussed — something he sees as positive in itself. In fact, a second

reason for his visit to Victoria was to attend a meeting to discuss these

As Mansell described, domestic agreements are not adequate to realise the Aboriginal people's goals, and only agreements that can be enforced in the international arena are useful to them. Already attempts by his and others to bring the idea of Aboriginal sovereignty to the government have met with little enthusiasm. As he says, their demands cannot be won solely from within Australia and international pressure is necessary.

For whites, it is time to acknowledge that wrongs are still being perpetrated on the Aboriginal people today, and to put the demands of Aboriginal people on our leaders' agendas.

Maranathas: out of place

by Adam Burns

The other week the bar referendum had been tallied and some major newspapers reported the fact that Monash University is to remain a dry campus — at least for the present. Whilst I am ambivalent over the issue, the publicity surrounding the regult was seen by some as a clear directive to jump on the wagon [pardon the pun] to promote their own evil causes. A fanatical religious cult, calling themselves the Maranatha Christian Church, invaded the Union Building.

As Russell Bancroft stated in his article printed in the last edition of Lot's Wife, these people are lunatics. Whilst I personally have nothing against lunatics per se, they have no right to preach their propaganda anywhere near the Union Building.

One of the reasons the Clubs and Societies Council was created was to give opportunity to groups of students to present their political/philosophical views to others on campus. These groups are, on the whole, represented by the regis-



tered and affiliated groups of Clubs & Societies [C&S].

They can also work in conjunction with Monash Association of Students [MAS], the Public Affairs Committee [PAC], and until last year, the excellent student-run Community Research Action Centre [CRAC -RIP, gone but not forgotten].

Any group that believes it has sufficient student interest to involve itself in campus activity has many avenues to approach the relevant organisation. The Maranathas have never been and are not recognised or supported by any of these organisations, and by the grace of any God but theirs, they never will be. This cult therefore, by Union regulations, has no right to hand out their propaganda, and spread their ideology to Union members in the Union Building.

Along with others of their ilk, their insidious indoctrination, and their blatant outright bigotry, classes them as nothing less than obscene. Maranathas, Moonies, the followers of Da-free John, and especially the Church of Scientology [to name but a few] all have similar reputations for their incredible psychological manipulation, their outright blackmail and even violence inflicted on members to make sure they stay 'faithful'.

Having known several friends involved in some of these groups who have had their lives utterly smashed, I see a great need in a constant effort to de-brainwash people who have been sucked into these cults.

There are one or two small community support groups [not government funded] that try to help individuals overcome the psychoconditioning and emotional blackmail that are trademarks of cults such as these.

However in general, victims and families that have been affected by this evil social disease have nobody to turn to. If there are sufficient replies to this article, I will respond with a more detailed account of some of the more bizzare goings-on of these cults.

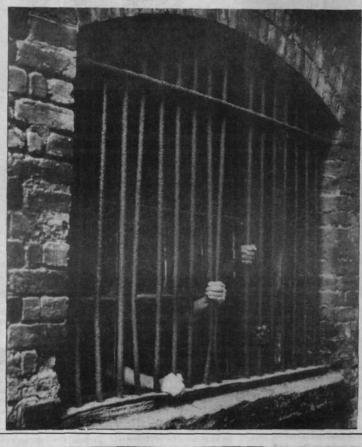
And most importantly, if you see any of these groups on campus, politely inform them that they should not be here, and if they do not leave or stop harrasing students, inform the Union security staff. They, of course, have a right to appear before Clubs and Societies Council or Executive to ask for registration or full affiliation, but to be frank, while I am chair, I don't like their chances.

I don't intend to apologise for the strong language I have used in this article — I feel strongly about the issue. The only type of 'mind games' that I approve of is the song sung by John Lennon.

Adam Burns is the Chairperson of the

AMNESTY Internati@nal

A silent cry for help



by MARIE CASEY

KARIN Eitel from Chile a student; , Naila Ayyesh from Israel a mother, an old Iranian woman; the 16-year-old daughter of a Palestinian family in Beirut. These women have something in common. They have all been brutally raped and tortured while in custody (AI Newsletter April '88). Women of all ages, nationalities

and professions face forms of sexual assault while in custody. Rape is the intentional infliction of pain and suffering, both physical and mental, on the victim. As such, it is a violation of international law as reflected in article five of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Rape is an effective form of torture against women. It achieves the desired results: false confessions and information on people considered dangerous. As a form of mental torture, rape is also effective. Witnessing of other women being raped and the threat of further attacks makes sure the victim does not complain. These understand quickly their vulnerability and the brutality which can be used on them as a matter of

Even nature seems to side with the attackers. It compounds the mental and physical pain of rape, with pregnancy and miscarriage which destroys any strength the victim still has. One Chilean woman who was raped, drugged and tortured with electric shocks, became pregnant. There were long delays before she received medical attention, even after she began suffering severe pain and bleeding. Three months after being detained she was hospitalised as a result of a miscarriage.

Torture and sexual humiliation is always a further option. The use of a baton or stick with barbed wire thrust into the vagina will ensure the disclosure information by the victim, while instilling fear and silence into the victim. Electric shocks and mutilation are an ever present remin-der of these women's lack of power.

Unjustly, rape is the one crime of violence which throws more shame on the victim than the perpertrator. In India in 1986 Gunta Behn Ramji, a 22-year-old tribal woman from Sagbara, was stripped in front of a crowd as she was being arrested. She was roughly handled and raped by four poolice officers on the way to the police station. She later tried to file a complaint, but the police would not co-operate and doctors refused to examine her without written authority from police.

In Beirut, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly beaten by three Amal guards on her shins and with a leather belt all over her body, while being held in an Amal detention centre in May 1986. One interrogator forced a coca-cola bottle into her vagina and tried to rape her. She also said she had been beaten on her head with a stilleto

Women, despite the dread of retribution, are crying out from countries all around the world; even in the silence of fear there is a plea for help. The response to their cry has to come from people who are not afraid to accuse their attackers, and who understand the violation that has been

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So see the editors at Lot's Wife soon.

Dukakis for President?

by DARREN O'CONNELL

'DUKAKIS for President' That's the cry from the Democratic Convention in Atlanta; and from around the US there is increasing support for the presidential aspirations of the Governor of Massachussetts. But it has become apparent that, if Dukakis and the Democrats are to take the White House come November, a lot of credit for that victory must be given to the Reagan administration.

As Dukakis claimed in his powerful acceptance speech at the convention. the Reagan era is over'. But if the Dukakis brand of liberalism were to win office it would mean an unpredicted return to the days of Johnson's Great Society — a resurgence of the liberal ideal, with its source deep in the eight years of Reagan rule.

The liberal consenus, which reigned over American life from the Truman through to Kennedy, Johnson and beyond, seemed in ruins after the national disasters of Vietnam and Watergate, and was apparently buried by the Reagan Revolution in

But the rise of Mike Dukakis and Jesse Jackson to national prominence heralds a return to the thinking of that era. The two leaders have been able to do what their predecessors were unable to do: manage and involve. Their message is both popular and effective. mainly because of the Reagan administration's record.

Apparently in order to write his me into the history books, Reagan has set out in the last years of his administration to create peace with the USSR. There seems no other possible explanation for his turnaround in thinking. Reagan has indeed created, with the help of

Gorbachev, a much calmer international atmosphere than the one generated when he came to office proclaiming the USSR 'the evil

Mike Dukakis is essentially a domestic politician. He has won his popularity and national prominence through his role in the revitalisation of his state's economy. The Governor is a novice in the world of foreign relations, which looms as a problem but seems much less significant since the Moscow summit.

The ascension of 'Reaganomics' with its supply-side formulae was, as Dukakis put it, a relief for the 'privileged few' because of its attack on inflation and push for lower taxes. But there was also a dramatic rise in poverty, especially among blacks, and the creation of an 'underclass' thousands of Americans who are born in poverty and most likely will die

under the poverty line.

One of the better solutions to the poverty problem, the 'ET' program, has been very successful in Dukakis' home state, Massachussetts. The program provides job training for the unemployed poor, child care so that women (another pressing area of poverty) are able to work, and social benefits for those who can't hold down a job. The 'ET' program has been very effective and has now become one of the tenets of the Dukakis campaign.

The Dukakis version of liberalism is probably closest to that of Kennedy's 'corporate liberalism'. The Massachussetts revival was caused by a revolution of technical development in the state, inspired and led by the Dukakis government. Dukakis has shown his ability to manage the economy and retain his liberal ideals. This was a problem

which particularly worried the Johnson administration, which found its grand vision - the War on Poverty - compromised by the country's ment in Vietnam. Dukakis seems to have put to rest the myth that liberalism is not economically

The 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago turned into a battleground because of division and disillusionment. The Democratic Party finally seems to have healed the scars of 1968 — by including rather than dismissing the minorities. Jesse Jackson, more than any man before him, black or white, has been able to involve a great number of black, poor and disaffected US citizens in the mainstream of political decision making. As Tracy Chapman sings, 'Finally the tables are starting to turn, talkin' about a revolution'.

Reagan, too, made nationalism fashionable again. The ruin of the sixties and Watergate left a depleted pride. Dukakis now calls for a return of the American dream - but for all Americans. 'If anyone tells you that the American dream belongs to the can tell them that the Reagan era is over'. Dukakis revived the frontier image, as did Kennedy, and spoke of 'a new era of greatness for America'. It was Jesse Jackson, Dukakis claimed, who said to every American, vou are a full share-holder in our

For a political party whose members' pursuits and interests are so diverse, the Democrats showed a remarkably united front at Atlanta. Perhaps not since the electoral coalition of the Roosevelt and Truman presidencies has there been such diverse representaion under the one umbrella. Dukakis' nomination should be able



Michael Dukakis

to deliver the votes of the northeastern establishment. The Governor is also a son of a Greek immigrant and speaks fluent Spanish; the latter will particularly useful in the crucial Californian vote. The choice of Lloyd Bentsen as running mate hopefully will bring the Democrats a large portion of the southern vote, particularly Texas, which has eluded the Democrats in most recent elections

Finally, the careful treatment of Jackson during the convention will, Dukakis hopes, deliver the millions of Jackson supporters to the Democrat ticket. As Jesse Jackson stated so

eloquently: 'his parents came out on immigrant ships, my ancestors came out on slave ships. But whatever the different ships then, we are both in the same boat tonight.

It had been thought that not only the liberal dream, but the American dream was dead. Reagan revitalised the American dream, and Dukakis and Jackson have rekindled the fire of liberal idealism. If Mike Dukakis stands triumphant on November 4 as the forty-first President of the United States, he may claim, with a touch of Spanish, 'Viva the American Dream!'
Viva the liberal dream!'

GOUGH WHITLAM SPEAKING ON THE YES CASE FOR THE REFERENDUM :00 MONDAY, AUGUS

STAIRS

Haven't you forgotten something?

people aren't prevented from entering university by a lack of finances, students seem to have forgotten an important fact. A significant number people do not have the raw academic ability to make it to university no matter how hard they try. Students are telling these people that they have to pay for the education of those who do have the ability.

I think that almost everybody at Monash would have gone to school with a number of people who, no matter how hard they studied, were just never going to make the grade academically. Should these people have to pay for us to go to university? they do. 'Free education' sounds nice, but if the government funds education it just means that every Australian taxpayer pays for

Some might argue that those who don't get the marks for university fail to do so because they haven't studied saying that people who can't pay an up-front fee haven't worked hard ough. The point is that it is a lot harder for certain groups to get the money (like single parents) and some people are simply unable to get it. Similarly, it is a lot harder for those with little raw academic ability to get the marks and, unfortunately, the bottom line is that a significant number of people have so little that they couldn't get the

Another argument is that those with enough raw ability deserve education at the expense of those without it. Why? They did not earn their raw ability, it is not something that you work for. It is a gift that some get from birth. People without that raw ability are purely unlucky — it's not their fault. Yet they are told that they have to pay for something that they, through no fault of their own.

Some may say that the number of

insignificant. These people should consider the following: while not all students who do HSC try hard, most do. They do so because, first, there is a lot more pressure to get HSC these days and, second, the alternative is in most cases to be out working and

Despite the fact that most candidates study hard, 20 per cent must fail each year. I suggest that a high proportion of this 20 per cent are the kind of people that I am talking about. We can add to this group the

12 because they knew they would never pass no matter how hard they studied. Together, these groups make up a significant percentage of 17 year olds. A greater number, I suggest, than those who have the raw ability and wish to undertake tertiary studies but will not because of the tax. Indeed the tax, unlike raw ability, doesn't prevent anyone from going to university, though it may of course act as a

The graduate tax question has been treated as if it only involves the issue of whether it will stop people from in fact the question involves weighing up priorities. Is it worse to have a tax which prevents no-one from attending but may stop them wanting to do so or is it worse to force people who, through no fault of their own are prevented from attending to pay for the education of the 'intellectually

Whatever your answer is to this, please remember that every time you cry 'free education' you are saying to se people 'you can't come university but you must pay so that

The mystery of the equitable education

by PETER NUGENT

'FARCE and graduate reflexivity'. which recently appeared in our prestigious journal (Lot's Wife, July 13) certainly lived up to half of its title. Seldom has appeared such a conundrum of confusion, offered as reasoned argument, by people whom the general community finds irrelevant. Had our academic authors listened to my good mother's maxim of 'it is better to close your mouth and let people think you're an idiot than to open it and prove it', much of the following could have been avoided. This, dear readers, is yet another investigation into the tertiary tax and the mystery of why many academics oppose it.

Act I - The case of the riddled anomaly

The opening scene is that of a few middle class academics and graduate research students sitting in a secluded staff room, somewhere in the Menzies ilding. A copy of the Wran report on Higher Education lies on a coffee table. Our intrepid investigators Cheryl Dissanayake and Greg Rumbold - after much deliberation write to the student newspaper.

'The (Wran) Committee's report is riddled with anomalies, contradictions and ill-conceived arguments, but most importantly, it is based on a blatantly false premise . . . the only people who benefit from higher education are the students who utilise this service'

A thought crosses the minds of our sleuths: 'Wasn't the Wran report written by graduate research students? Our daring detectives put such big thoughts behind them for they are on the trail of something big. They soon discover that those who benefit from higher education are those who never receive it, and hence conclude that it is ludicrous to tax those who receive a tertiary education. They have found their first lead in solving the mystery of Equitable Education

Act II - The case of the elitist educators

After several more cups of coffee, Tim Tam biscuits and a workshop on 'How to deal with inferiors', Cheryl and Greg take to the streets, soap-box in hand, and nence their empassioned pleas.

'Who would educate the taxpayers children . . . Who would care for their health . . . Who would protect their legal rights . . .' (Who would write articles for Lot's Wife?) . . . concluding 'the higher payments received for these positions are a result of the greater expertise and responsibility

They have uncovered a second clue: the more you earn the better the person you are. Our private dicks, Greg and Cheryl, must be very good

muddled mathematician

Returning to the Sociology Department, Greg and Cheryl make another discovery - statistics. 'Graduate's starting wages are less than 90 per cent of average weekly earnings Graduate's wages have been steadily declining in value relative to the wages of other workers . . . Students forgo \$60,000 in earnings during study . . . and they accumulate debts of up to \$10,000°

Our third piece of this jigsaw emerges — students lose lots of money by studying. The minds of our private eyes race as they piece this information together but, to their dismay, they do not solve the mystery uncover another dilemma Graduates are poor. But the more you earn, the better you are. Hence graduates aren't very good people. Conversely, graduates receive higher payments, because of their greater expertise. Hence graduates are very good people. From first year philosopy Greg and Cherly realise that a graduate cannot be both good and bad at the same time so, returning to the Staff room, they continue

Act IV - The tricky trickle down tax

After further research, several more cups of coffee and burrowing their way through a delicious chocolate cake, our academic moles unearth another piece of information - the trickle down effect. It is found that 'if the government wishes to increase funding for higher education, the most equitable means to do so would be to spread the cost amongst all tax-payers, but it is also discovered that professionals, like doctors and

demanded by these positions'.

Act III - The mystery of the

effects of the tax by simply passing it on to the consumer by adjustment of fees-for-service schedules'

Since professionals will avoid tax anyway, say our rummaging researchers, why bother trying to tax them at all? This is what is known as the trickle down effect. The paying of tax trickles down to those who do not have a university education.

Act V - A class of our

Unable to find satisfactory answers in their scholastic seclusion, Greg and Cheryl, with a copy of The Socialist in one hand and Des Capital in the other, go on an excursion to their parent's factory in the western suburbs, to find out why their

employees don't go to university. When a good income can be earned in a trade, where the monetary benefits are immediate, no need is seen for higher education. It is only when the benefits of higher education are seen that they are sought', write our two investigators. We have already learned that one does not profit from higher education, so what other benefits could there be?

And now the most important clue of all is uncovered - a conspiracy to keep working class people poor. Our dedicated delvers conclude the following. If a working class person goes to university, she must give up a ell paid job to ensure future poverty. Naturally, one would have to be stupid to go to university under

But what of those who have already been tricked into obtaining a tertiary degree, and who cannot find a challenging and rewarding job on a factory production line stuffing chickens? It was they who created the myth that those with tertiary educations don't have to pay tax, in a cynical attempt to lure the working class to university, ensuring that they will become as poor as graduate

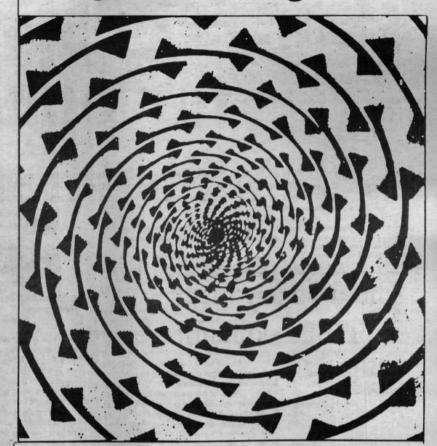
Being poor can drive people to do many things, but this latest scam - to steal jobs of the wealthy working class and give them to poverty stricken tertiary graduates - is possibly the most cynical enterprise ever uncovered. Thank God we have graduate research assistants like Cheryl and Greg to expose such schemes





Against the grain

Ellanor Ellanor To hear once more Your mournful rap Strike my door Ellanor Carnivor Taste my juice Eat my head Claw my body Meat blood red That bitter taste Regards the waste Hunger bitter Ellanor Ellanor Carnivor Vegetarians queue Accept their fate As afterthought Upon your plate Nevermore Ellanor Ellanor Carnivor



by WILHELM POPP

DISTORTION often occurs in the media because of a confusion bet-ween fact and opinion. Facts are definates; absolutes are immutable no matter what forces apply. Opinion is entirely subjective and very transitional. But opinion is often based on fact, or so we like to believe. And ions, as we know, change. But if the facts upon which they are based have not changed, what has?

The answer lies in interpretation. And it is the circumstances in which we form our opinions that affects how we interpret the given facts. As any good social science student know (and a good many other students who deal in the ambiguous realm of facts), it is not what the facts actually are in raw concrete terms, but how one interprets and presents them that really counts. One and one may be two to you and I, but just talk to any advanced maths or philosophy student and see what they say.

So what has this to do with distortion in the media and facts and opinions. Well the media presents (interprets) itself as a fountain of facts. Facts about who shot who, where and when; who said what and why; and so on. All nice easy concrete facts. Very straight forward stuff

Wrong. Facts may represent the 'truth', but they are also boring. Facts need to be dressed up, made appealing and desireable if they are to be accepted. Nobody wants to hear or see things they don't like. We 'fact' consumers out here in TV land (and newspaper/radio, land) will much more willingly consume the 'facts' if they are desireably presented. Why else would we have five news pro-grams to present the same facts everyday?

Hence distortion. In their presentation facts are distorted to better fit a consumer image. The media prefers to call this distortion 'interpretation' or the reflection of editorial opinion! This type of editorial interpretation is evidenced most in the print media, where it is easier to manipulate a given set of facts to present a desired image. The visual nature of television makes it much more difficult to inter-pret ('pictures never tell a lie'). So the whole product ('news') is packaged into an easily digestable program. But this is another discussion.

Distortion of the facts also occurs in other areas. Take for instance the much debated topic of tertiary fees, or the 'graduate tax' as it is now interpreted. There are all sorts of facts and figures being bandied about by both sides as to who will be affected, who should pay, and how else tertiary education should be funded.

Whether one's position is pro or anti tax (depending on one's philosophy), convincing inter-pretations of the facts can be found (constructed) to support one's belief. But how is the lay person to decide which interpretation best resembles the 'truth'. Or in other words which interpretation least distorts the

Are the anti-taxers right in claiming that any tertiary tax imposed on students will deter lower income groups from aiming for higher education? Or are the pro-taxers right in asking why these same low income groups should pay for the education of an upper class elite? Have more people from disadvantaged groups been able to attend tertiary institutions since fees were abolished in 1974? Who does benefit from tertiary education those with it or the whole community?

I'm sure both sides could provide us with a plethora of 'facts' that answer these questions in their favour. There would be countless studies and figures available to prove either side. The Wran committee's recommendations and the responses of student groups have done just this. And if both sides are using the same facts, as they must be, then their arguements can be little more than interpretations. Neither side can

At the moment the general feeling amongst the student body—the vocal and active part of it—is anti-tax. What little opposition there is, is easily stifled (as happened at the recent SGM).

Without straying too far from my topic I will just say that it is a pity there isn't more open and critical debate about this, and other, issues. I'm sure many students are not so anti-tax, or are not sure what to think about the whole issue, but are to intimidated by the very angry and self-righteous anti-tax lobby to question the generally assumed anti-tax student stance.

Anyway I hope this example has illustrated my point. That is that there is no cut and dry 'truth'. The actual facts may be unalterable, but they are still open to interpretation. People use facts to justify their opinio ignore them when they don't fit in as desired. (The media is notorious at this.) All one can hope for is that people recognise that they are indeed inter-preting the facts to fit their argument, and that their argument is not necessarily the only 'right' one. One should be able to separate one's personal feelings from one's 'factual' base. Only when we do this can we hope to partake in rational debate, no atter what the topic.



IF WHAT YOU READ SHITS YOU OFF.

DO SOMETHING! WRITE AN ARTICLE

Sinn Fein's scenario for peace

Paul Corrigan, a Sinn Fein councillor for Fermanagh District Council in Northern Ireland, recently gave a public lecture at Monash. Dimitri Serghis caught up with Paul during his whirlwind tour of Australia, promoting Sinn Fein's struggle for a viable political solution to the 'Irish problem'. The tour was sponsored by 'Australian Aid for Ireland'

LW:Could you give an outline of Sinn Fein's relationship to the IRA?

PC: Sinn Fein is a political organisation, a legitimate 32 county political party, and is registered and recognised as such, both in the north and south of Ireland.

It has its own organisational structures. It is fully involved in the electoral processes and has various policies — social and economic policies, agriculture, foreign affairs and the like - but of course its predominant aim and first priority is the reunification of our country.

The IRA is a separate organisation. It is a guerilla type military organisation which is committed to restoring freedom to Ireland.

As a military, guerilla organisation, it is involved in a military campaign against the British army in the north.

Sinn Fein supports the right of that organisation, and indeed supports the right of any individual, to fight militarily for the freedom of this country.

LW: What success did Sinn Fein gain in the last general election?

PC: It is only, of course, since 1981 that Sinn Fein has become fully involved in the electoral process, in both the north and south of the country. We have had huge successes in the first and only local government

elections that we've contested to date. We have won a very appreciable percentage of the Nationalist Republican vote; we have councillors right through the six counties and we regard it as being very successful.

Now, in the south we have also a great number of councillors spread throughout the 26 counties. We have also contested the elections to the parliament (or the Dail* as it is known) in Dublin. Our success rate there hasn't been as good as we would like but it has to be seen against the background of a number of obstacles.

Possibly the most important is the banning of Sinn Fein spokepersons from the national television and radio

stations. This is a most repressive piece of legislation and censorship. whereby our candidates in an election campaign are not allowed access to the television or radio.

LW: Was that passed through Parliament?

PC: Yes, it is known as section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, which prohibits Sinn Fein, because and only because we recognise the IRA's right to involve itself in the military struggle in the north of Ireland against the British occupation forces.

As is recognised throughout the world today, election battles are fought and won on the television screen. For us to be handicapped in such a manner... is a major stumbling

LW: Given recent events such as the accident at Inniskilen involving the IRA, can you see Sinn Fein deviating slightly from its support of the IRA, in a bid to get more positive publicity?

PC: No, I don't say that Sinn Fein would ever deviate away from that particular point because we recognise and support fully the right of the IRA to be involved in military activity.

Now you have mentioned an instance where civilian people have been injured and unfortunately some have been seriously hurt. IRA operations have occasionally gone wrong for one reason or another, but it is not the policy of the IRA to plant bombs which would endanger civilian life. It is something which they try to avoid at

LW: What is the message that you hope to bring to the Australian

PC: The message is very much contained in our discussion document entitled 'A Scenario for Peace' which we published over twelve months ago.

In that document we've tried to identify clearly the problems as they exist in Ireland, and we have tried to put forward our solution to those

Briefly, the British occupation of our country is the basis of the major problem in Northern Ireland. Until Britain gives a declaration to withdraw

from Northern Ireland there is no hope whatsoever of permanent peace, justice and stability returning.

It cannot come in the context of a partitioned Ireland. That has been proven time and time again over the past 60 years of the life of the state of Northern Ireland.

We have demanded that Britain must give that declaration to withdraw. Then, following that, all the people that are party to the dispute should sit around the table and discuss their differences. We must also discuss a new Constitution for a 32 county Ireland and hold enough free elections to decide on a new form of government.

In Sinn Fein we are a socialist party and we would like dearly to have a 32 county socialist republic. However, we do recognise that we cannot force any particular type of government on the Irish people. It would be up to the Irish people.

LW: Do you see any kind of solution, with the scenario that you have just mentioned, happening under a Thatcher conservative government in Britain?

PC: Well, I do believe after all these years, that British government ministers and Maggie Thatcher herself, must surely be looking at and thinking of the possibility of a British withdrawal.

They have tried so many various initiatives over that past number of years, all of which have failed and have failed miserably. Britain must be fast running out of options at this stage and must be seriously looking at the one remaining option that hasn't been tried. The one which so many people believe to be the only one which will have success

*The Dail (pronounced 'Doil') is the lower house of Parliament in Eire, the Republic of Ireland.



Maggie Thatcher is in Australia now and to mark this prestigious occasion, RAT (Rally Against Thatcher) will be held this evening (Wednesday, August 3) at 6 pm in the City Square. Be there and show her what you think of Thatcherism — her modus operandi based on support for the oppression in South Africa and Ireland, anti-gay rights, anti-abortion, anti-unions and racist immigration laws (among other things).



Paul Corrigan



THE LAST GIG OF IT'S KIND AT THE LEGENDARY ..

PRIMEDEWALES

THE Prince of Wales hotel (the POW) in Fitzroy St, St Kilda, is famous for its dark, smoky and loud atmosphere, in which 'freaks' and people dressed in black gather to see 'alternative' rock bands. All that is changing. One of the new owners said that the POW was moving with the times. According to him, St Kilda is growing up: with building development, rising rents and the drugs scene being cleaned up, he wants the POW to attract a different crowd. So instead of noisy rock bands, there will be cover bands playing, and a jazz quartet on Sundays.

To mark the passing of the POW as a rock and roll venue, Clinton Porteous, for 'Lot's Wife', spoke to three gurus of the alternative rock scene in Melbourne: Gavan Purdy, Fred Negro and Michael Lynch.

Gavan Purdy is the promoter at the POW. He also manages This is Serious Mum (TISM) and several other bands. Gavan is the power broker of the alternative rock scene.

St Kilda legend, Fred Negro, is always playing in bands. One of his bands, I Spit On Your Gravy, became famous for its relationship with the police. He does the artwork for the POW and is also playing in a band called The Brady Bunch Lawn Mower Massacre, though he's not serious all the time.

Finally, Michael Lynch used to be the promoter at the POW before he went to work for the government, booking bands. He partners Gavan in managing several bands. Some people say Michael has been in the music business too long and is becoming bitter, twisted and cynical.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A HAPPY, INNOCENT LITTLE PUB OVER-LOOKING THE SEA...

LW: What do you think of the change of format at the POW, where the owners have decided to have free cover bands rather than alternative rock bands?

G: For myself, it's no personal loss but it's pretty sad for the whole music scene in Melbourne. I'm not upset or bitter. I'm just concerned that, for the bands I work with, it's going to be difficult to get them gigs.

F: I think it's fucked, it's the death of

really good original music because there's lots of really good St Kilda bands who won't be able to get a job. The POW was always the place that would give them a go.

M: Well, on a personal level, I couldn't care less because I can barely stand to step foot in the dump. On an industry level, it's not a good thing. It's not a good thing that any pub closes. But I think they're stupid pricks and I hope they fail and do all their money. LW: The POW is famous for its Thursday nights when people can

Thursday nights when people can get in free and see three young bands playing. What did you think of those Thursday nights?
G: The Thursday night was a good indication of whether a band was going to take off or not lit t

indication of whether a band was going to take off or not. If there was a little bit of interest in a band, the word would get around and they would get the biggest crowd they ever got. If they played a good show, they were usually on the way to establishing themselves, which was the case with Huxton Creepers early on, and TISM. F: They were a St Kilda institution as well as an Australian institution. When the Seaview Ballroom and the POW both had their free Thursday nights, people used to walk up and down Fitzroy St between the two — the Thurdsday crawl.

LW: What are some of the most memorable gigs you've ever experienced at the POW?

G: I always have very fond memories of Harem Scarem's final gig, which was a really emotional night with 1200 people just going crazy. TISM have done some great shows here. More recently, the return shows of Shower Scene From Psycho with the screening of the film 'The Trip' ... that was pretty funary.

F: X one night with the Cosmic Psychos — that was a classic. That old guy Brownie McGee — that was one of the best. Funhouse, one night they played with the Gravys.



M: Well, the most memorable ones I would never remember. There is, of course Harem Scarem's final show, which was an extremely emotional night Gavan was crying a lot that night — I remember having to comfort him... The fabulous TISM 'Defecate On My Face' launch. Any night I made money was a big highlight.

LW: How do you think bands found

the POW as a place to play?
G: I think bands felt like this was their home ground. For some bands, say punk bands, they couldn't play anywhere else. This was the one room where bands could actually make money. Because it's so hard for bands to make money, of course, they were happy playing here.

happy playing here.
F: Fantastic, best place. The first and last gigs that the old Gravys ever did were at the Prince — it's a top place. You go in there and if you know the

band that's playing, you go in and steal their beer rider. No other pub like it, and the people — they're all

LW: There have been a fair few venues close down lately. Do you think the live rock music scene in Melbourne is on a bit of a downer? G: It's not on a downer. One thing that really disappoints me is the nature of the times, which seems to be that everyone is bored, which filters right through. It's kind of the in thing at the moment to say you're not impressed with anything. There are a lot of good bands but they're not getting much of a go because no one is going out to see them or not one likes them. Things are definitely changing, but it's hard to predict what's going to happen.

F: Yeah, but there's still a lot of little pubs around which could put on bands if they wanted to. I mean, all those people have got to go somewhere and some enterprising person will start up a new pub somewhere.



M: Yep. The live music scene is on a bit of a downer because there are no decent bands; all the bands are shithouse. If there were decent bands, people would go and see them and buy their records. It's not because people want to go to the Metro or to Chasers — people hate going to those places but there's no decent bands to see. It's really simple: If bands were any good, this wouldn't be a problem. There would be lots of venues but there aren't. There's only one band that pulls crowds, buddy, and Gavan and I manage them.

LW: There are moves to start developing St Kilda, but there's also a movement to oppose them. Does the 'Save St Kilda' protest have a chance of stopping development?

ment?
G: The council is trying to change the style of this little town and turn it into a South Yarra by the sea. Which means they want people who haven't got high incomes out, and they want rock and roll out. They've made that patently obvious. In the long run, the council and the developers will win out, and that's a terrible thing.
F: St Kilda will keep going but it will change a bit. They're trying to get more South Melbourne, Toorak and South Yarra type people in with these proposed residential high rises. But it's a working class area really. Any

protest has always got a hope.
LW: Friday, August 5, is the last
night that alternative rock bands
play at the POW. What's going to
happen that night?

G: Hopefully it will be a good night. I felt that X was an appropriate band for having the last show here. So I built a line-up around them including Intoxica, Shower Scene From Psycho, Drum Machine and Fred Negro's new band, Brady Bunch Lawn Mower Massacre. I figured those bands and the people in those bands are all people who have been associated with this room, at some time, so it should be one hell of a good night.

F: Everyone will be there. We'll invite Fred Nile and 'Truth'. We're in the Regal Room so it will be our own St Kilda party and we've got heaps of special guest singers, who'll be singing protest songs.

See you there!

Clinton Porteous

THEN HE BECAME A HARDENED AND CYNICAL PUBLIKE ALL THE OTHER BUILDINGS AROUND HIM ...



CAN'T COME IN HERE DRESSED LIKE THAT MATE... HOW MUCH DO YOU EARN A YEAR?

And the Big Pigs fly...

Like a child in his fantasy Punching holes in the walls of reality All my life I've wanted to fly But I don't have the wings and I wonder why.

— 'Breakaway', Big Pig

BELIEVE it or not, Big Pig will fly. Already this high energy Australian pop group is soaring into the overseas music market with its dynamic dance sound. Blending the tribal rhythms of no less than three drummers with gospel wails and blues harmonica, Big Pig reworks the forceful drive of New Order, Talking Heads and the Eurythmics without the technocratic wizardry of drum machines — preferring instead to harness the energy of a seven member line up almost entirely concerned with percussion and vocals.

But it isn't the huge sound alone that will make this pig fly; as a promotional interview with Sherine (one of the lead singers) made obvious, the band's image and exposure is programmed for international success. LW: The album 'Bonk': are you happy with it, and why did you decide to mix it in England? Sherine: We're happy with it; it was our first outing onto vinyl and was a bit of an experiment on our part and the producers' part; it took a lot of thought and time to work out how to record our line up of three drummers and no guitars. And it has come out all right for us. We just had these songs and we wanted to get them down and get them out, so people could tell what we were about. But obviously the album has gone gold here in Australia and we've been able to tour the world in a very short space of time, so we're happy. It all happened very quickly. LW: What role did your self titled

LW: What role did your self titled mini album from about 18 months ago play in your direction?

Sherine: We recorded that EP by ourselves, pretty much live in the studio. It was pretty rough; we had to remix those songs for national release on the 'Bonk' album. We didn't have time to work on the drums then, whereas with this album we did.

LW: What have you learned from touring with INXS and Brian Adams

Sherine: INXS have been touring the world for some time now, they are very professional. They have amazing production and they embrace a lot of technology in their live show. So when you hear our sound against their sound, they are huge. We are still learning about producing our sound live. Brian Adams we only did two dates with and he is quite different from us. INXS are similar to us because they are a pop band. But even the rock'n'roller Brian Adams had backing vocals, without anyone even miming them. They don't even pretend.

We almost got onto the Brian Ferry tour and that would have been good too, because there is so much to incorporate into a live show now and it's good to see how other people do it. We never had the chance to do stadium rock before, and you have to be so much more expansive in every thing you do. We have to get bigger. Bigger, bigger all the time.

LW: What do you think it will be like going back to the Mentone Hotel? Sherine: Pubs are fantastic, because of the intimacy. You get feedback from the audience. You say something to the audience, and someone in the front row makes a comment back. You can't get that in a studio. That is why people make comments about bands that have been on tour for nine months and say that they look tired, bland and boring. You don't get that feedback, it's mass feedback, so there are no little incidents to relate to. In a big show you have to relate to a broad range of people and cultures, whereas in a club you can get a real feel for the people, because they are right there in front of you.

LW: Oleh had the idea for the band from London, heavily influenced by a Japanese rhythmic group called the Kodo Drummers. How has this concept changed and evolved into what we now see as Big Pig?

Sherine: When Oleh saw the Kodo Drummers, he already had the idea for the band of multiple drummers. Seeing

the Kodo Drummers just made him aware of how to put it into practice. The way the band is arranged is with all the music written down. There is no improvisation. Primarily, the band Oleh started in London was a drum vocal band that was a lot more esoteric and raucous. But then he wanted it to be a pop band so he added a harmonica and a keyboard. It has evolved a lot from there, not only in the melodic side but also in the vocal side of things, because the initial line up only had people who were interested in the idea but weren't necessarily experienced.

LW: What about the ordered, controlled image, and the mechanistic sound that goes with that? Is that Oleh's idea, too, or is that something which evolved when the group got together?

Sherine: The funny thing about this band is that when it started out it was very calculated. But the development of it has been much more instinctive. What I'm saying is that the future isn't something that you can predict; it is something that evolves out of the present lineup. The beauty of having a ineup where everybody is committed to what we are doing, a lineup that hasn't changed in the past two years, is that ideas can grow. The thing about these aprons is that the aprons won't change, but we will. When you see us live and we've all got these aprons on you start looking at the personas and the people behind the aprons, as opposed to something that they're generating with clothes.

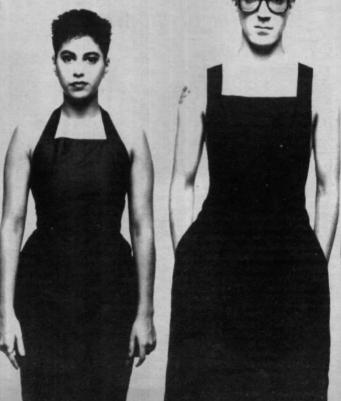
LW: The classic Australian way to

LW: The classic Australian way to go is to play pubs and build up a following. You seem to have done the reverse.

Sherine: We didn't want to be a band that started out that way, because it seemed that a lot of bands lost momentum. It is so obvious that bands can go across and get on some shows, get some press, and start breaking out in other areas at the same time. Kylie Minogue is a fantastic example of this type of media exposure. She is the first artist that Mushroom has signed up purely on that basis - as a media star - not on the basis that she had done ten thousand gigs around Melbourne Whether you like it or not, that is the way it works. We wanted to be an international band. We didn't want to be in Australia for five years and then be told that the record company had enough money to send us over to do a few dates in America. We just didn't want to do that, we just refused. That was part of the reason for going over to London, using that as an excuse. We wanted to be out there, we wanted to be first, letting people see what we were about. So that we don't look like we are following someone else.

Big Pig has no intention of becoming a provincial Australian bush hog, and there seems little doubt that they have the style and substance to avoid this status. So if you want to see them before they start playing venues like Festival Barn and the Entertainment Swimming Pool, you had better catch them in the next couple of weeks at the pubs and clubs around Melbourne.

Stephen O'Connell



Patrick White: fiction and the unconscious', by David Tacey. Oxford University Press. \$29.95

DAVID Tacey's 'Patrick White: fiction and the unconscious' is a detailed and earnest Jungian analysis of all of White's novels excluding the first, 'Happy valley'. The chief strength of the study is its clarity. Tacey consistently explains both the direction his argument is taking and the Jungian terms he is using the Jungian terms he is using

Tacey's argument is that Patrick White is an unconscious genius. By this, Tacey means that the substance of White's work is to be found in the pervasiveness of certain archetypal symbols which make their way from the unconscious into his novels Predominant among these symbols are those which represent the male unable to escape the thrall of the

mother, whether it be a natural mother or an earth-mother.
In this way Tacey purports to shift emphasis away from the conscious life of the text — what Patrick White sought to achieve - to the unconscious life of the text slipped inadvertently from Patrick White's pen.

Tacey's approach produces some interesting, coherent readings. For instance, Tacey analyses the opposition between Arthur and Waldo in 'The solid mandala' as an opposition between psychic progression and regression, with

regression prevailing. He thereby captures the force of the apocalyptic ending of the opposition. As Tacey articulates (in the face of much contrary critical opinion), the ending is not consoling but haunting and horrifying.

The suggestiveness of such readings, however, is short-lived. Tacey does not confine himself to the shift of emphasis from consc to unconscious, but extrapolates to unconscious, but extrapolates from this opposition what becomes a censorious truth evaluation. Tacey's argument, ultimately, is not just that the meaning of White's novels eludes and exceeds White's intentions, but that White is an impediment to his own texts. That is, for Tacey, that White thinks he understands his texts and constructs them around various meaning giving them around various meaning-giving frameworks: Christian mysticism in 'The tree of man' and 'Voss', Jewish mysticism in 'Riders in the chariot', the 'Jungian' mandala in 'The solid mandala'. These frameworks are, for Tacey, impositions on the 'genuine' elements in the texts, the archetypal symbols White inadvertently uses The real creator of White's novels is not White himself, perhaps not even White's unconscious, **but** the unconscious. Patrick White's texts'

for Tacey, would be far better without Patrick White.
Patrick White emerges from this book, then, as something of a charlatan. 'We respond to White's fiction, Tacey says, because the forces at work in the author are also alive in us'. The unconscious does the work; White takes the credit.

Commenting on 'The solid mandala', Tacey writes: 'Arthur Brown personifies the indwelling genius which has performed for White, has helped him establish a genuinely mythic literature in a new country, has been responsible for his rise to local and international acclaim.

In many ways, this book is not really about Patrick White at all. The shift Tacey actually works is that from he who is 'duped by the unconscious', Patrick White, to he who can understand the unconscious and provide the 'intellectual correctives', David Tacey.

Tacey comes, then, to issue prescriptions for Patrick White's psychic health (and incidentally for Australia's and the world's psychic health), and prescriptions for reading White's texts. Each text must be read as a manifestation of White's mother-complex.

The mother-complex mandate precipitates some highly selective readings — for example, the most significant of the female characters in 'The Vivisector', Kathy Volkov, is ignored, perhaps because she is a girl, not a mythic mother — and some forced interpretations — for instance, when Le Mesurier in 'Voss remarks that the serpent has entered Rhine Towers, he is not, as Tacey has it, referring to Mrs Sanderson however motherly she may be. Mrs Sanderson has resided at Rhine Towers for years; Le Mesurier is referring, rather, to the 'daemon'-possessed Voss, who has just arrived at Rhine Towers. For Tacey, Patrick White is 'an

authentic explorer of the unconscious without a map'. The problems of 'Patrick Whites 'fiction and the unconscious' may be summarised in regard to Tacey's use of this metaphor (which will be repeated).

In this book Tacey supplies the 'missing map'. Like any map this one highlights particular features. Tacey's map is predisposed to locating the Jungian archetypes in White's work. This is the illuminating and interesting aspect of the book

Every map also ignores certain features, portrays blanks where we know there is life. Tacey, I think, criticises (and eventually pities) Patrick White because the Jungian map is blind to features of White's work. Because Tacey does not see them, he sees them as defciencies in White's art. Time and again we in White's art. 'Time and again we sense in White an acute absence of the intellect,' Tacey writes in discussing 'Voss'. But this is because Tacey sees the unconscious, mythic motifs, and not the intellectual project. The desert in 'Voss' may well symbolise 'a seductive presence at the borders of consciousness', but it also symbolises - as Tacey's prose unwittingly implies - the borders of knowledge, in which the Faustian striving of Voss is enacted. That is, the novel is an examination in White's art. 'Time and again we That is, the novel is an examination

of the European Intellectual tradition, and is dotted with parodies and allusions Tacey will not see.

Tacey's explorer metaphor is a tautology, explorers, by definition, do not have maps, they make them. In a dynamic interaction with the landscape the map, or text, is produced. What Patrick White is constantly engaged in is this process of mapping, of charting the ways people move through an unfamiliar landscape. The texts are the maps. To use a secondary map to interpret the original one and then to berate White's work on the basis of the blind spots of the secondary map is to miss a lot of the beauty of the landscape.

Glenn Nicholls

The Gentle Arts by Jennifer Issacs. Lansdowne Press, \$49.95 (hardback).

HIS BOOK is a record in beautiful coloured pictures and plain and simple words of hundreds and hundreds of treasures. The book is a treasure itself. I love it. It has big shiny pages with plenty of text and with coloured photographs of the things women have made — quilts, drawings, women nave made — quilts, drawings, tablecloths, cakes, etc. — for their families and homes throughout the history of Europeans in Australia. The book was written and designed with affection and excitement, and it is filled with fascinating information about the lives, ingenuity and skill of the women of this country.

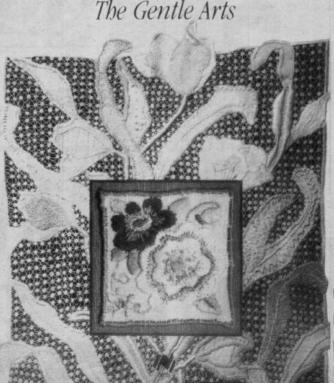
inves, ingenuity and skill of the women of this country.

Some of the stories told are so tantalising. For instance you see a photograph of a white knitted quilt made in about 1890 by Selina Edis in Kyabram. It and others like it were made as Salina set and worked by firelight or as Selina sat and worked by firelight or by the light of a kerosene lantern. Selina did not marry but spent her life caring for her brother's children. So far the story is not very unusual. But Selina's story is not very unusual. But Selina's brother had not one wife but three, all of whom died leaving children who were brought up by Selina. Selina kept her glory box containing an array of white embroideries until the 1930s when she built a bonfire and burnt the contents of the box. Look at the photograph of the the box. Look at the photograph of the quilt and weep for the glory box and for Selina. See also the story of Florence Kirkby's wedding petticoat frill.

The author of *The Gentle Arts* has the gentle arts in her blood. She is the grand-daughter of Gertrude Peperell

HENNIFER ISAACS

200 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S DOMESTIC & DECORATIVE ARTS



who, in 1947, won first prize in *The Sun* knitting competition (*The Sun knitting competition?*). Gertrude lived to be eighty-eight and in her eighties, having formed a lifelong habit of never being idle, she was still knitting. She also became at that time a student of the painter and doll-maker, Mirka Mora, and made dolls which are photographed in The Gentle Arts.

This is a book about the Australian tradition of 'making do'; about heat, flies and distance; about children, home and garden. It is divided into chapters with such titles as: 'Custom, Tradition and Necessity'; 'Nourishment and Nurture'; 'Comfort and Warmth'. It contains a list

of notes and sources, a bibliography, and an index with headings such as: bishops' copes blowfly problem, the cloaks, possum and kangaroo skin tea ceremony, the Australian washing day woolly sandwich There are 27 entries under the heading 'lace'.

The objects pictured in this book are described as 'silent but eloquent family documents', as part of 'women's secret language'. The photographs will stir in you many memories of things long lost. You will turn again and again to the text, to the pictures and back again. You may be inspired to create your own pincushion from the jawbone of a Tasmanian tiger (first find your tiger), or you may run up a woolly sandwich*.

Carmel Bird

*A woolly sandwich is a rug made from scraps of old woollen cloth. The pieces of cloth are joined with a big running stitch and the rug consists of several thicknesses, the layers that will not be seen consisting of flour begs or discarded woollen clothing.

ILMFILMSFILMSF



Sam Waterson and Dianne Wiest in a scene from Woody Allen's new film, 'September

'September', Rivoli Cinema. Now Showing.

HAVE you ever sat staring at the big screen, engrossed in a serious movie, while people around you titter and giggle in all the wrong places? And when you finally appreciate something really funny, you laugh out loud — and there is silence from the rest of the audience. In Woody Allen's new movie 'September', I got the feeling that the audience was trying to read something into the film that simply wasn't there.

It is a movie in which everybody loves someone who loves somebody else. Lane (Mia Farrow) has some friends around at her holiday house. Lane has a crush on Peter (Sam Waterston), but he is hopelessly in love with Lane's best friend Stephanie (played by Dianne Wiest). Meanwhile, Lane's good friend and neighbour, Howard (Denholm Elliot), who helped

her over a nervous breakdown, is infatuated by Lane herself.

The mood becomes strained when Lane's parents drop in unexpectedly, and this leads to a climax which reveals the mysterious past surrounding Lane's problem. Elaine Stritch as Lane's mother is superb, and she is ably supported by the evergreen Jack Warden as Lane's father-in-law.

The movie is set entirely in an old country house, and while the story flows smoothly throughout, it has the feeling of a stage performance. The script is quite disappointing but the outstanding cast make the most of even the worst cliches.

All in all, I enjoyed 'September' as much for the acting as for the reaction, which left certain members of the audience in a verbal punch-up during the credits. Apparently, I was not the only person who was annoyed at the antics of some so-called movie goers.

Dimitri Serghis

Obums

Lita — Lita Ford (RCA Victor)

LITA Ford is the former ultra sultry lead vocalist and guitarist of British all-women rockers, Girlschool. She's put out a few solo albums in the past few years, and done a lot of other work since then. She's one of those artists who manages to walk that fine line between heavy rock and heavy metal, and this well produced album continues the tradition. It maintains a distinctive style while still remaining accessible to those who might be deterred by the 'one-track' lyrical content.

The album manages some progress, though this is a little laboured at times. Lemmy from Motorhead cowrote 'Can't catch me' which is one of the best songs that I've heard for a while. It reflects the thrashier new direction that Motorhead has taken

lately, while still giving Lita plenty of room to move.

Nikki Sixx from Motley Crue helps on 'Falling in and out of love', which is one of the more skillfully crafted songs on the album.

'Close my eyes forever' is the other feature song, co-written by Ozzy Ozbourne, who also features on vocals.

The rest of the album provides little variation from the usual work of Lita and keyboardist David Ezrin. The guest artists help to lift this album well above the hole of mediocrity it could easily have fallen into. It shows Lita Ford's strengths and weaknesses. She is a versatile performer, and often works at her best with other people, but is unable to provide substantial material for herself.

Ned McDonald

FRIDAY'S AT



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\$BERMUDA\$

ON THE EDGE

Rally Against Thatcher.



#Supporter of the racist regime in South Africa & and suppressor of the Irish people

#Viscious campaigner against gay rights & rabid anti-abortion crusader.

#Notorious union basher & wrecker of the British Health Service.

#Leading proponent of racist immigration laws.

COME TO THE RALLY & MARCH

ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3rd - AT 6.00pm

CITY SQUARE

PHONE 600 0179 FOR MORE INFORMATION

a public meeting

A public meeting to discuss perspectives of the future of social ownership in Australia, and the Hawke government's progamme of privatisation.

Speakers include:

Kiri Evans - National Union of Students Sue Slamen - ABC Staff Union

John Halfpenny - Trades Hall Council

Julian Pocock - T.A.F.E. Student and Apprentices Network

Sue Bourke - V.S.T.A.

PH · SUL Mills, RMIT SRC lan Wilson, Melb Uni Authorised by the Social Ownership Support Association.

Melbourne Town Hall Tuesday August 9th 7:30 p.m.

Garnet H Carroll prize

It's musical award time

If you staged a musical between October 1, 1987, and September 30, 1988, and think it is good enough to win a prize of up to \$500, lodge your nomination with the assistant registrar of the Faculty of Arts by September 30,

Each nomination must clearly specify who or what is being nominated, and detail the name of the show, the performance dates, the company or group staging it, the venue, and the nominator's full name and address.

Enrolment for September school holiday programs, Monash University, Monday 19 to Friday 30 September.

ENROLMENT for the September school holiday programs for the children of staff and students aged between 5 and 13 years, will take place in the Guy Manton Rooms, Menzies Building, at the following times:

Monash Staff -Monday, August 8, 1 pm to 3 pm Monash Students — Thursday, August 11, 1pm to 3pm

If possible it would be preferred that parents pay in full on enrolment, however, a \$10 deposit will be acceptable, provided that the balance is payed no later than Friday September 9. Full payment must be received by this date or parents risk forfeiting the place they have booked.

The equivalent of 60 full time places will be offered, between the hours of 8am to 6pm. Half day, full day and weekly sessions will be available. An equal number of places will be allocated to staff and students.

Three separate venues will be used on campus, with 20 children placed at each venue according to age, or family requests, if possible. We look forward to providing interesting and fun-filled activities. For more information phone Bernadette Muir, Child Care Coordinator on 565 3186/3126.

SICH national conference

'Reflections: directions in community issues' - a conference about social movements and social change. University of NSW, Sydney,

August 28 to 30.

Workshops and seminars on: Aboriginal movement, education, women's movement, migrant issues ... and more! All welcome - suggestions and papers or other input

encouraged.

Subsidised travel available (train/bus or petrol), billeting and low-cost accommodation can be arranged, and free child care has been organised. Cost: \$15 for 3 days or \$5 a

Contact: Heather Dowd (03) 419 7168

or: Students Initiatives in Community Health (SICH) office.

PO Box 657, Bondi Junction, 2022 NSW Phone (02) 389 1700 (reverse charges).

MAPS

dinner and dance

Saturday, August 13, 7.30 -12.30 pm at University Club. Disco music and good food for only \$20 single/\$40 double! This includes pre-dinner drinks, orange juice and wine (bar service available). Tickets are available now from the MAPS office, first floor, Union (ext 3199), and tables can be organised on request, so don't be deterred from going

MAPS holiday | workshops

Sat Aug 13	Exam preparation Workshop	10.00am - 1.00pr
Man Aug 15	or Supplied Management	
Mon Aug 15	Exam preparation Workshop	9.30am - 1.00pm
Mon Aug 22	Essay/writing skills Workshop	9.30am - 12.30pr
Tue Aug 16	Career support groups	11.00am
Wed Aug 17	Career support groups	11.00am
Tue Aug 30	Career support groups	1.00pm
Wed Aug 31	Career support groups	

Tea and coffee provided

essay writing skills workshops essay writing skills workshops cost \$2 (members) and \$4 (nonDetails are available from the members). Bookings are necessary.
noticeboard in the MAPS lounge, or by ringing Jenny in the office (ext 3199).

The avam proporation and the essay writing skills workshops are \$2 (members) and \$4 (nonmembers). Bookings are necessary.

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The avam proporation and the essay writing skills workshops cost \$2 (members) and \$4 (nonmembers). Bookings are necessary.

The career support group workshops are free, but bookings are necessary. The exam preparation and the sity Counselling Service.

Women jailed for poverty

This month's Radical Women meeting, on Sunday, August 7. will feature Jude McCulloch, from the Women Against Prisons Collective. She will examine the conditions faced in the prison system and why women are inside. She will also report on recent organising to combat the situation. Venue: community meeting room (at the back of the Campbell Turnbull library), cnr Melville Rd and Irvine Cres, West Brunswick Time: 4 pm sharp. Dinner: 6.30 pm (\$3.50

Monash ALP Club 1988 Arthur Calwell **Memorial Lecture** to be delivered by The Honorable John Cain, MP Victorian Premier

Date: Thursday, August 11 Time: 7.30 pm to 10.00pm Place: R1

All Welcome

Monash University Prize For Poetry

UNDERGRADUATES are now invited to submit entries for the Monash University Prize for Poetry, valued at \$150. Entries must be lodged with the Registrar by 5pm on Wednesday, September 21.

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

Basketball Club cocktail party

WELL folks, it's that time of the year again. The annual Basketball Club cocktail extravaganza is only week away. All member should make a determined effort to 'be seen' at this prestigious event, one of the more notable advantages being the opportunity to consume twelve full, and some times double, strength cocktails for only \$15.

Other advantages include the opportunity to don one's finest, as the function is strictly black tie, and to meet other members of the club, presumably of the opposite sex. Last year there were a few noteworthy 'couplings' - obviously successful, as this year we will be celebrating not one, but two anniversaries; no good friends of Cameron, Anne, Floss and Justin

should miss out. But seriously, the cocktail party, to be held at the squash rooms, Sports and Recreation, 8 for 8.30 pm, is always great fun. Tickets are now available from Janet at \$15 per head. All members and friends are welcome, as are any students who are reading this article and think it sounds like a good time. Remember that dress is for mal, and we do not admit without a ticket.

Finally, any members who can help out with rosters, we need help on Saturday afternoon. Can you supply any of the following you supply any of the following food processors, empty drink con-tainers, raffle donations, stereo/ tapedeck, cakes and biscuits? There is a notice on the noticeboard which you can fill in.

Here's looking forward to seeing you on the August 6.

Date: Saturday, August 6, 8 for 8.30 pm Venue: squash rooms, Sports and Recreation Dress: black tie

Price: \$15 Contact: Janet 569 4546

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES VICTORIA PRESENTS CAMPUS BATTLE OF THE BANDS GRAND FINAL

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access).

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LETTERS

Political thuggery

Dear Lot's.

THE use of political thuggery at the SGM on tertiary fees should outrage every student committed to the idea of a democratic university and freedom of expression

A small group used intimidation, provocation, physical aggression and other means to prevent views other than their own being freely expressed.

Their tactics were those of juvenile 'brown-shirts' rather than a democratic students and should be anathema to our university. Surely, students have the right to listen and judge diverse opinions and an obstruction to this is an insult to free-speech, especially at a student meeting.

Full marks to the student who reminded the meeting that the 'resolution' hadn't a claim to represent the majority view of Monash students.

The tragedy is that it may be the majority view, but because of the thuggish behaviour of a tiny minority we are unable to say.

Ruth Browning

Selfish student unionists

Dear Editors

I WAS very distressed and angered by the hypocritical attitude and unfairness displayed so-called democratic group that plea for equal rights for students at this university.

These professed humanitarians that run the student union debates concerning the impleme ntation of a university graduate tax, appear to monopolise the speaking, motions carried, and choice of speakers

This displays an unfair and narrow image, by abusing a particular speaker outside their network. Through their provocation, a brawl was started, totally distracting from the real issue of

I hope to see that these over emotional and selfish people come to their senses and allow a fair go to all as they profess. That is what they are ironically fighting for, rather than an individual plea for attention and sole rights to the stage.

A concerned observer (name withheld by request)

Dirty little protestors

Dear Ed's

WHILE I am on record as oppos-ing the motions passed at last eks SGM. I do not deny the rights of those that supported the motion to take what course of action they believe appropriate, provided it is legal.

On Thursday morning last w I arrived at uni to find graffiti across the walls and pavements voicing opposition to the graduate tax. Worse than the fact that it is ugly and reflects badly on our university, vandalism is illegal, and should not be condoned under any circumstances. Every second week the university has to bring someone out to jet clean the walls. It is costly and a great waste of resources that could be better spent elsewhere.
I have no problems with posters

being put up or chalk being used — spray paint is another thing. Tim Gaspar,

Law IV

PS. May I recommend a dictionary for those opposing the graduate tax. Don't use slogans like 'educa-tion is a right and not a privelege' until you can spell 'privelege correctly.

Thoughtless sit-in

To all the dipshits who took part in the 'sit-in' of the Administration building on Wednesday July 10. Well done people, you really achieved heaps!

You successfully kept at least two good people (security) from going home that night and having dinner with the family. Other than dinner with the family. Other than that, and probably dirtying the new carpet (talking of which, Mr VC how come your area of the university looks so damn nice when the rest of it is in a shambles??).

All groups here have their ratbag elements, and I guess you're ours. Did you ever stop to think that the University Administration has nothing to do with fees and taxes? That's right - nothing Which is exactly what you did for 'the cause'.

So successful was this display of thoughtlessness that you even had to go back the next day to do your little peacock display for the medial That's real forward planning.

When you all grow up and leav this institution you'll discover that all your actions have reactions (shades of physics here) — the reaction from 'the outside world'

is not good people.

Let's think before we act next time, think of what you're doing to others, think of the impact of your protest — if it's neglible, or negative, like this, don't do it.

This has nothing to do with my feelings towards the graduate tax.

Chris Cameron,

Deliberate deception(?)

Dear Editors.

I MUST take to task the 'information' contained in your page 3 article 'NUS: on the brink of collapse (he hopes)', Lot's Wife, Vol.28 No.11 by Ernest Zanatta

Whilst I don't deny Ernest's right to present 'facts' in the best possible light to support his claims, I find his understandof the status of NUS (National Union of Students) in NSW either grossly inadequate, or deliberately misleading.

First, the New South Wales State Union of Students HAS BEEN accepted as a state branch of NUS. Being present at the NUS Executive meeting that moved the acceptance, I can recall no 'dubious technicality' entering the debate for or

against our acceptance. Secondly, the member bodies in NSW include the majority of universities in that state, with three other campuses likely to affiliate before the end of the year. In total, there are 41,000 members in NSW, with a further 29,000 possible before the end of the year (institutional amalgamations would guarrantee further membership of 13,000 students in 1989). NUS is strong and growing in NSW.

Finally, I can assure Ernest that the NSW Independents (including myself) will be present at the next National Conference exerting our 'moderating influence' on the proceedings. I notice Ernest's attack on NUS is predicated by which political organisations he perceives to be running the show. In this assertion he falls for the usual traps that some conservative detractors of the union face:

(a): that if people outside the union wish to change some aspect of it, all they need to do is join and be part of the democratic process.

(b): that he fails to coherently argue that there is not a need for a National Students' Union, clearly there is such a need.

I certainly hope that the under-representation of 'con-servative' students in NUS can be redressed by their active and constructive involvement in the union's education and services activities

Yours Sicerely,

David Brown General Secretary **NSW State Union of Students** (NUS - NSW branch)

TIRED AND FRUSTRATED.

HE HEADS FOR THE CAF.

Sex and insecurity

Dear Lot's

IT IS truly unfortunate that women need to feel slim to be attractive to ales, and indeed to themselves.

Security in self is not dependent, in any way, upon others that is the situation for either males or females then there can

only be a false security. What is necessary absolute faith in yourself and self worth — without it, no self security can exist.

Why do I instantly talk of insecurity in relation to the need to diet and then binge?

Simple. If one believes totally in elf worth then that self worth is obvious — have you noticed that people who are totally secure with themselves are able to force people to relate to them, and indeed, even to be attractive for that

The need (?) to be slim and sexually attractive is a fundamental negation of security in one's own self — a total denial of acceptance of the person you are.
If you can totally accept your-

self then determination, 'will', self-control, will naturally follow. If you want to change, and believe you can, then you will.

And have any of you ever asked yourself: If the society I live in quires me to be slim and attractive in order to be accepted by that society, then do I want any part of that society? It is so easy to see that this is the case, then that society is so totally blind. If it's blind in that sense then we can presume it to be blind in many other ways

If you are someone who is secure because you have gained acceptance in a society, upon the basis of being good looking and slim (and I mean: 'upon that basis'), then you have denied yourself any other quality but that.

I know women who are truly beautiful in another sense that they are honest, kind, and caring and confident people. People in their own right who are beautiful for that reason.

And if you need to be slim to lead a happy life, and if you need to be sexually attractive to lead a happy life, then let me tell you something - you had better like sex, because that is all you are asking for in life

David Locke

NFD -No fucking debate

Dear Lot's Wife

I HAVE recently enrolled in an additional subject for the second half of the year. As I have already completed a full second year, the subject was classified 'Not for Degree'. A letter was then sent to me informing me that if I wished to take any further NFD subjects I should be aware that 'the Australian Government has recently changed the funding arrangement for universities so that money will no longer be provided for students taking NFD subjects.
As a result, it is likely that the university will charge NFD enrolments in the future'.

This surprised me as I had not heard anywhere that such a situation was going to occur. Making further enquiries, I discovered that the charge was likely to be about \$500 for one second year economics subject (one eighth of a year's work). Apparently some students are already being charged this amount for second semester NFD subjects.

I asked whether or not special consideration would be given to students who change courses (and so must count subjects as NFD). Basically the reply was that the administrative details had not

been finalised but that:

1. students in the Economics Faculty wishing to take additinal economics subjects beyond the bare minimum would probably notbe charged;

2. students from other faculties taking economics subjects NFD

will probably be charged;
3. students who have already completed a degree will also be charged.

Clearly this will happen across the board in all faculties. This is just another example of the government's narrow view of vocational education. A simple degree (in a reasonably narrow field) is to be funded — but no

It is very interesting that very little has been said of this. Perhaps the fact that the charge is to be made 'up front' has caused the adminis-tration to be very wary in making its existence well known. I don't think there is much doubt that an 'up front' charge of \$1000 for a first year subject will prevent some people from taking such an additional subject.

Study for interest is being dis-couraged, and the production of three year graduates has been made the government's major priority.

Blair Comley, Science III



OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE MING WING WHERE LARRY & DEBATING THE EMANCIPATION OF THE OPPRESSED WORKING CLASS: I'M MORE WORKING CLASS!









LETTERS

Homemade bread will save the masses

Dear Ms Barclay,

MUST we be forever abused by the intellectual elitism of today's breed of modish, bourgeois feminists. Such people as those who use without either thought or consideration all the verbal barbarities of modern, nouveau Freudianism and yet can still condemn as stupid those lesser intellects amongst us without the advantage of the latest psycho-logical lexicon; those for whom 'mysogyny' might as well be a Greek name? None, however, should be greatly surprised by such displays of academic exclusiveness for it is in this way that feminism reveals itself as it truly is, a middle class ideology serving of a capitalist society. Feminism advantages no-one but the bourgeoisie and in fact, quite inimical to the interests of ordinary workers.

It is the essence of feminism that it seeks to destroy the selfreliance of the family structure and so leave workers even more exposed to the foul winds of labour market exploitation. The full thrust of modern feminism is to force women into the marketwhere their precious livelihoods are left to the tender mercies of our selfless entrepreneurs.

I have observed during my travels through the countryside that rural folk perform more of their labours within the household itself. Country families who enjoy home grown vegetables, homemade bread and wine, and range eggs traditionally performed by the wife — are far less vulnerable to the forces of market supply by which city dwellers are so ruthlessly exploited. The semiindependent family structure effectively protects workers from the worst abuses of the capitalist system.

It is interesting to note, and by no means a coincidence, that most feminists come from middle class and university educated backgrounds. More precisely, the feminist ranks are drawn from the salariat, that privileged sub-class of workers which is used to control their working class comrades and for which it is duly rewarded by the capitalist system. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that it should be the privileged salarian sub-class which is the most enthusiastic supporter of an extension of capitalist exploitation, from which it, together with its capitalist allies, will be the sole beneficiaries.

Though the capitalists and feminists of the world may wriggle and writhe in the ideological pit of their own making, let it not be forgotten that it is with the workers that the true potential power lies. The working class is not the reactionary ostrich of feminist mythology, with its head stuck in the shifting sands of a past Its traditional ways to protect it still from the worst vicissitudes of rapacious capitalism. Today, the capitalists and their feminist proxies may threat and thunder at their choosing, but in the day after revolution, deathly silent they shall forever remain.

Matthew Llewellyn

Return to Sender

To Miss Carmel Chang,

DUE to exams, I have withheld a reply to your letter until a further date. Please forgive this inconvenience. Thanks,

Tan Tang Hee

Questionable comparison

Dear Lot's Wife

MR MORGAN and Mr Yong do make valid comparisons between discrimination in Japan and Australia in their letter (Lot's Wife, July 21). However, the comparison of discrimination in different societies is rather questionable.

Comparisons are apt to make the discussion on racism evasive. and fall into a logical trap that 'two wrongs make a right'. For instance, the comparison of the extent of discrimination means little for the Koori people suffering here in Australia, and Koreans suffering in Japan. What is important is th fact that they are discriminated against. So I find little point in comparing the racism in different

What is necessary for any domi-nant group in any society to eradicate discrimination is to try to realise the plight of minority

realise the plight of minority groups and change the situation.

As previously stated in my article (Lot's Wife, June 29), being Japanese, naturally I have experienced very little racism in Japan, such as that experienced by Mr Morgan and Mr Yong, I am grateful to Mr Morgan and Mr Yong for opening my eyes to the racial problem in Japan. Many of my friends are Korean residents in Japan, and it is true that they are discriminated against to a large degree. Being Japanese I feel very ashamed of such aspects of my society. Once I return to Japan, I do hope to be actively involved in fight against such racial discrimination.

Here in Australia also, to make the country a genuine 'multi-cultural' society, I do hope everyone would think about racial issues seriously.

Masayo Shimo

Lack of understanding

Dear Lot's.

DAVID Morgan and Ben Young, in their letter to Lot's Wife (July 21), exhibit a lack of under-standing of Ms Shima's article (June 29) when they launch into a description of racism in Japan and suggest that it is a disturbing sign that Ms Shima is larnely ignorant of this

What Ms Shima tries to explain in her article is that being discriminated against is a difficult phenonemon to be aware of without having had the actual experience. Her purpose in describing her personal encounters with racism in Australia is to heighten awareness amongst Australians of the

She herself acknowledges that before she came to Australia she had not been very aware of racism in her own country, Japan, because she had been a part of mainstream society and not been a target of discrimination.

Having lived in an Asian country for four years I can well understand Ms Shima's point regarding the difficulty of identifying Certain encounters viewed in isolation may not seem to involve racism, since the motivation behind human action can be varied. It is only when the same treatment or reaction is encountered on a persistent basis does it become possible to explain the conduct as being racially motivated.

Racism, like sexism, can be very subtle. In order to combat it, it is important to recognise that it is occurring on a wide scale, day to day basis, even at an institution of higher learning such as Monash.

Vicki Fisher, Law V

Write to me!

Dear Student

Hillhope you can help me. I am 19 years old and in October I will become a student at Oxford University. I'm very interested in travel. I'd really like to write to someone in Australia with similar interests as myself, so we can find out a little about each other's country from a source other than

A little about myself. I come from ewcastle in the north east of England. I'm interested in acting and TV and would like to work in TV eventually. I enjoy music — playing (guitar) and listening ('60's' stuff). I also like swimming, eading, etc.

This year my jobs have included post woman, sales assistant, leaflet distributer, and civil ser-vant! I've been trying to raise cash for university.

If anyone is interested in Britain (political issues, music, student issues etc) I would be very grateful if they would write to me. Many Thanks

Denise Rogers, 192 Clarewood Court, Stanhope Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5HG, England.

27 editor salute

FIRST, I would like to thank the 27

editors for their encouraging ed's note with well wishes! Secondly, the 'real' quotation is indeed without 'THE' (compare LW July 21 with LW July 23) — a stake on my part).

Thirdly, good news for all Jack and Sal fans. It is now certain that Jack and Sal will start their new term as Wardens of Farrer Halll Therefore, in Aussie terms, good on you, Jack and Sall

A campaign is over.

Sybren Flias Hannema



fs p n o p r t

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Monash student at vachting World titles

by TIM JOHNSTON

SOME of us will spend the last week of the August holidays trying furiously to get our academic lives into order. Others, probably most, will be just generally partying. Second year engineering student, Jeff Wood, on the other hand, will be braving the cold water off the coast of Falmouth in England contesting the Laser Class World Championships, From August 27 onwards, Jeff will be one of 100 competitors attempting to win one of the hardest regattas in the world.

Last year the championships were held in Melbourne with more than 20 countries being represented. This year there will be more countries reperesented but organisers decided to restrict the fleet to 100. The series will consist of seven heats with the best six results going towards each competitor's final score. What makes this World Championship so hard to win is that instead of battling against

The Laser Class is governed by an international committee which allocates each state, province or district a certain number of boats that are allowed to attend the Worlds. Victoria has two such places.

Jeff earned the right to attend the regatta after gaining a second place over all in the Victorian Championships earlier this year. Only recently Jeff managed to win the Victorian Midwinter Title, a victory that will certainly bolster his confidence and leave him with a positive frame of mind for the World Championships.

Like any sport at the international level, World Championship yacht racing is not cheap. Although each competitor is allocated a boat and equipment during the championship, Jeff still had to find the money for airfares, accomodation and various other things. Thankfully he managed to find sponsorship through Ian Chisholm, manager of MacPherson's

50 or 60 boats, there is almost twice the number of competitors.

Homewares, and Richardson and Sheffield, the English cutlery makers. Rip Curl also helped out with a wet

> The conditions Falmouth are relatively good breezes of about 20 knots. Although Jeff is used to these conditions sailing on Port Phillip, he has been doing a lot of training, including a workout at the gym each morning.

Australian Stuart Wallace is the current champion in the class and although he is not attending, other Australians are determined to keep the title down under. The Americans, Brazilians and English will probably be the toughest competition during this week-long regatta.

Jeff will leave for England on about

August 12, allowing him two weeks of warm-up and training. Quietly confident, this engineering student could place in the top ten if he sails well. If not, he still has the experience on which to base what could be a very successful yachting career,



MONASH SKIERS TAKE TO THE YARRA

by WENDY OWENS

WHO says waterskiing is for summe only? For those of you who didn't know, the Monash Waterski Club has been skiing about once a fortnight at heated Hazelwood pondage, just an hour and a half from Monash. These Sunday trips provide a unique opportunity to learn how to waterski very cheaply, and at the same time meet a very friendly group of people. We have our own boat and equip-

ment, courtesy of your union fee and our fundraising, but we also have a very enthusiastic committee that is eager to see more people skiing because waterskiing is such a damn good sport. If you'd like to take a few days' break over the holidays, keep an eye on our noticeboard (next to the State Bank) for details about our waterski camp, possibly in the second week of the vacation.

On Friday, August 5, we are holding our annual riverboat cruise down Yarra, and this provides an excellent chance to meet some of our members, or just enjoy the cruise, food and drink which you'll get for only \$22 (or \$24 if you're not a member).

Your ticket will also get you in to Zuzu's for free afterwards. The riverboat cruise is a formal occasion, and is traditionally one of our biggest social events of the year, so everyone most welcome to come along You'll have to hurry, though, as Friday is the last day to buy tickets from the Waterski Club's table opposite the Grill Room at lunchtime

If you would like any further information, come and see us at the table or give me a call on 570 5635. We'll certainly make you very welco

Wendy Owens is President of the





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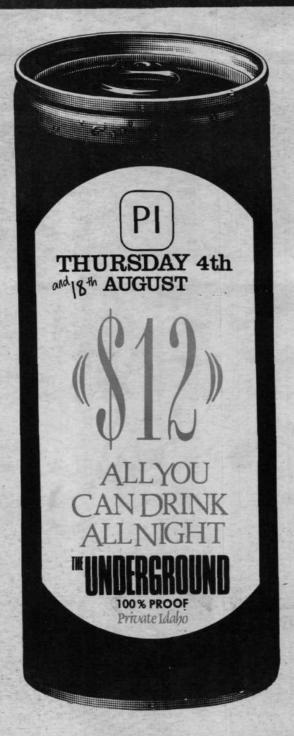
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Debbie Strong, Nicole & Jacqui
Pillinger, Georgina Doyle, Lara
Anderson, Kim Cole, Andrew Cohen,
Michael Johns, Scott Ballis, Andrew
Gibson, Dannyel Vaughan, Rick Anderson,
Dave Jackson, Paul Lidgerwood Dave Jackson, Paul Lidgerwood.

IF YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE PEOPLE YOU'LL BE THERE! IF NOT, COME AND JOIN THE ACTION