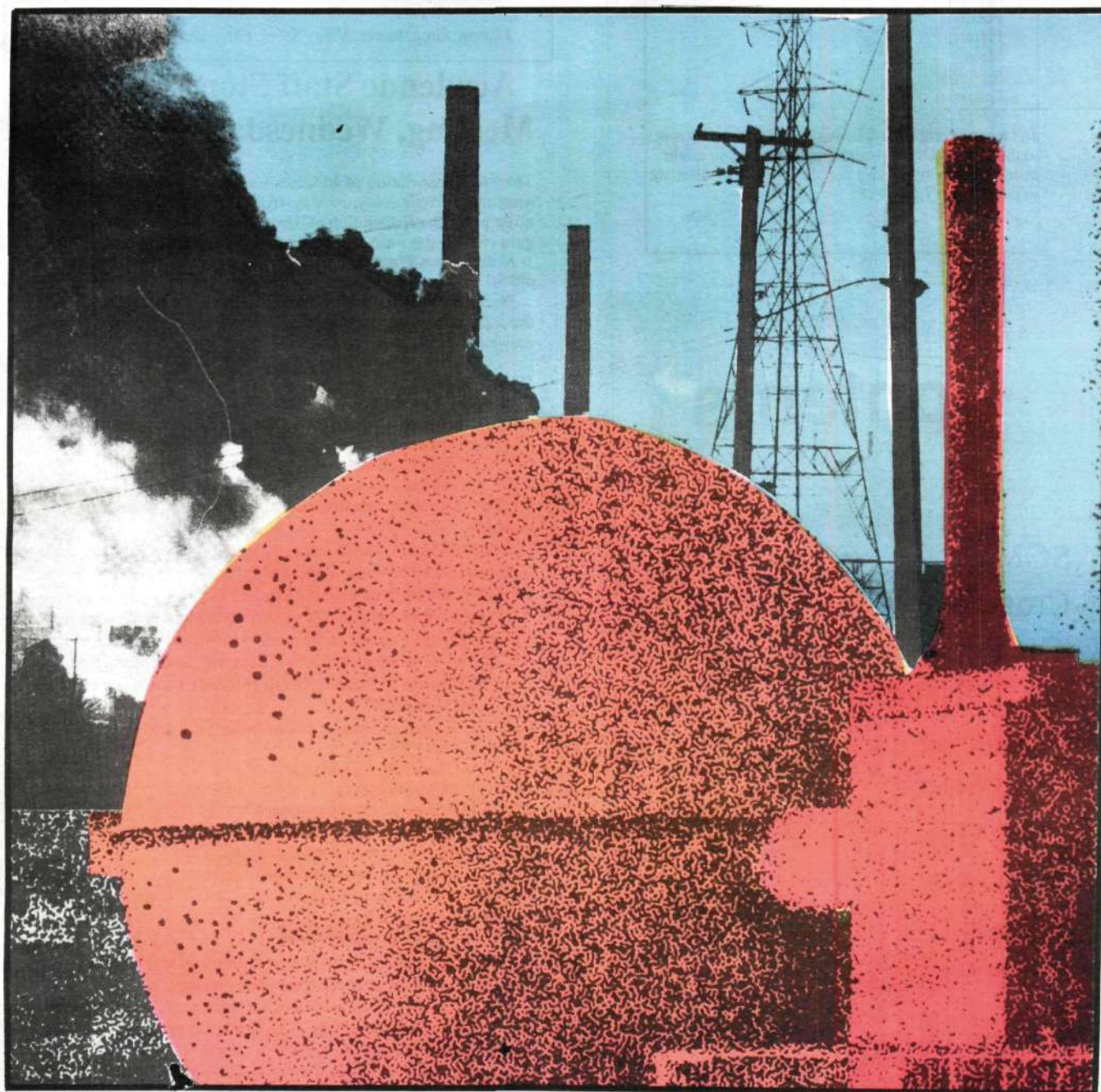


# LOT'S WIFE

Registered for Posting as A Periodical Category B Publication Number VBH 3707 Volume 29 Number 9



## NUCLEAR POWER

*No solution*



CAUTION  
RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIAL



CAUTION  
RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIAL



CAUTION  
RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIAL





# WhoDunWot

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## LOT'S WIFE NEEDS

Your

Articles  
Poems  
Pictures  
Ideas  
Reviews  
Letters  
Abuse

In fact any contribution is welcome, just come down to the Lot's Wife office and drop them in, you might even meet the mysterious people who stay up all night to put together Lot's Wife.

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## Being at Monash!

I'm doing work experience here at Monash for one week. So far I've only been here for three days. I'm working in *Lot's Wife*, so I can see that it's not an easy task getting the paper out on time. For this edition, everybody's been running around pulling their hair out 'coz they don't think the papers going to make it to the printers on time (7am at Shepparton). So they have no choice but to stay at *Lot's* until early hours of the morning so that the paper will be there for you to read. I've learnt a lot from being here, I didn't realize how much work was involved when producing a paper

— now I know how a paper is produced from start to finish. And it's not easy work. After seeing this I can't believe that I still want to be a journalist. I must be crazy!

Apart from that it's been really great. Every person that I have met has been really nice. University is heaps better than high school; there's no snobs who judge you by what you're wearing or how much money you've got. In fact, I haven't met one person who does judge you. Where as at my school, everybody's judged in one way or another. It doesn't matter what you wear, someone will find something that's wrong with it. Well, all that I can say is that it's been the best three days, and I can't wait until I come to university in a few years time.

Katie Le Cras

## Academic Staff Stop Work Meeting, Wednesday May 24

The Staff Association of Monash University has called a stop-work meeting on Wednesday, 24 May, from 1.30 to 5.30pm to protest at the attempts of the Association of Australian Vice-Chancellors (AUIA) to gain sweeping powers to declare academic staff redundant.

Academic staff have been asked to cancel classes and to take no part in any official activities such as meetings, graduation ceremonies etc.

We regret any inconvenience caused to students, but at the same time, we ask that students show their support for staff by staying away from classes and other activities on the afternoon of Wednesday, 24 May

### What it is about, and why you should take part.

The Vice-Chancellors of Australian Universities want to be able to declare that certain academic positions are 'surplus to requirements'. This means that persons holding such positions can be retrenched.

Who is safe from being declared 'surplus to requirements'?

Ask yourself these questions:

- 1. Has there been a decrease in student demand in any course(s) you teach?
- 2. Could Monash decide to cease, scale down or vary any course or activity in which you are involved?
- 3. Is Monash likely to have inadequate funding?
- 4. Is there a possibility that there may be changes in the work methods, structure, nature, extent or organisation of your department or faculty?
- 5. If your department or faculty is moved from Monash to another campus of the amalgamated 'Greater Monash', would you be unwilling or unable to relocate?

*One 'Yes' answer puts you at risk of losing your job.*

### The Vice-Chancellors' Demands

The current negotiating position of the Vice-Chancellors' Industrial Association (AUIA) is that 'surplus to requirements' means: any academic position which becomes surplus to the requirements of a tertiary institution because of:

- (a) an actual decrease in student demand for any course(s);
- (b) a decision by any tertiary institution to cease, scale down or vary any course or other activity conducted by such institution;
- (c) financial exigency;
- (d) changes in the work methods of such institution, or of any department, section or other part thereof including changes to the structure, nature, extent of organisation thereof;
- (e) changes in the location of any function or activity conducted by such institution where the holder of an academic position(s) is unable or unwilling to relocate

### The Pay-out

If you are made redundant because you are 'surplus to requirements', how adequate would you find the redundancy package offered by the Vice-Chancellors?

You would get 13 months salary if you have been at Monash for 20 or more years, or are over 45 years of age — 7 months salary otherwise.

### The Stop-Work

This is the time to make a stand.

Academics around Australia will stop work on May 24 to show their opposition to their employers' demands.

In Melbourne, a stop-work meeting starting 1.30pm will be held at Trades Hall, Lygon Street, Carlton.

Transport will be provided, leaving Monash at 12.30pm from outside the Alexander Theatre for the Trades Hall, returning after the meeting.

### Protect your job Protect your future

*It would help the Staff Association of Monash University (SAMU) Committee if you would indicate your need for transport by putting your name on the list on the University Club noticeboard, or leaving a message with Patricia Corby, SAMU Executive Secretary, Faculty of Education, ext 4997, by Tuesday May 23.*

# LOCKED OUT!

Students marched on the Administration building only to find the doors locked for the first time in eighteen years and admin only willing to let three students in to discuss student safety at Monash. The demonstration came out of the Student General Meeting held to discuss the Campaign Against Violence.

The frequency of rape at Monash has been the object of a campaign to make Monash a safer place for students. This is not a new issue at Monash. Since the place was set up 26 years ago the University has constantly been denying that violence occurs on this campus. This year, probably not for the first time, students have been organising to make the University admit that Monash is not a safe place.

The Student General Meeting demanded that security be made a priority at Monash. In particular, motions were moved by the Campaign Against Violence to demand that the University Council recognise that rape and other violence occurs at Monash; that floodlights be installed across the campus; that the shuttle bus service be improved and funding increased; that students be given access to the security log-book and that security at night be improved so that security staff can adequately deal with cases of sexual assault on campus and at Halls and South East Flats.

These are not excessive demands, they are common sense. Yet the reaction of admin was one of basically attempting to block any demands being met or rationally discussed by the students. The three students who were allowed an audience with Mal Logan, Bill Cunningham and P.B. Wade were given the run-around in a non-violent manner. Access to the security log-book caused the greatest reaction. Logan, Cunningham and Wade claimed that giving access to the log-book would be an invasion of privacy on the grounds that there were students' names, addresses and ID numbers in the book. Even though it was explained to them that they could edit out names etc. and only leave the events recorded in the book for the perusal of students they still wouldn't grant our simple



request. They have condescended to let us see specific portions of the log-book if we can provide times and dates, although they will probably require some kind of significant proof from us. What are they trying to hide? If they are so sure that violence doesn't occur at Monash, as they have claimed for 26 years and still do, why won't they let us look at an edited copy of the entire log book?

The issue of lighting is under review, that is, we've forced them to pay lip-service to improving the obvious deficiencies in the lighting on this campus. Wade wanted students to provide comprehensive information on deficient lighting and the areas that are most used at night, by the end of the week. When was the last time these people stayed on campus doing something productive after dark, we ask? They offered to provide lighting in one car park, and on

several of the darker paths (bear in mind that according to Cunningham the path along the side of the library isn't too bad. What does he do? Walk around with infra red glasses at night or something?). Mr Wade used this opportunity to raise the significant financial considerations that prevent the provision of adequate lighting. It seems they don't have enough money to provide adequate lighting for student safety, yet they seem to be able to afford new grates to go behind the doors of the admin building, cars for all the Deans and Mr Wade himself.

Increasing security numbers is currently 'under review'. Haven't we heard this before?; security is apparently always under review. Mr Cunningham deigned to inform us that Monash has 'one of the best security records of any campus in Australia'. Considering the multitude of

reports we have received concerning violence at Monash one wonders exactly how bad the other campuses are. Cunningham also claimed that there are sexual harassment officers available 24 hours a day. Why haven't we been informed of this before? Security is clearly not sufficient at Monash and there aren't enough security guards patrolling at night. Current security personnel are doing a good job considering the lack of funding and the understaffing they have to put up with.

The security bus service is another underfunded and unpublicised service. The trio of administrators agreed that they would consider running the security bus service from 5.30pm till 10.30pm, but don't hold your breath waiting. Mr Cunningham pointed out that there are precautions that women can take. He felt that a good example of these is women travelling in large groups, and said he could arrange for the well lit car park to be patrolled for fifteen minutes every hour during which time it would be safe for people to go to their cars. Cunningham suggested from quarter-to-until the hour. Outside these times (like at a quarter-past the hour when lectures end) patrols will be maintained at their current, unsafe, level. However, he did offer to negotiate about bus stops, if we can figure out where the security bus is now.

Admin's approach reeked of paternalism. They are treating us like kids who they feel they can satisfy with a few empty platitudes. It's time we told them we want to be safe at Monash, and we're not going to accept their lip-service. We want to see improvements in the security around this place now.

Other items on the SGM agenda included uranium, re-cycling and amalgamations. The uranium motion called on the ALP policy committee currently reviewing ALP uranium policy to reject the opening of new mines, the opening of an enrichment plant and storing nuclear waste in Australia. The re-cycling motion called for a comprehensive re-cycling scheme on campus and the appointment of a re-cycling officer. The amalgamations motion called for student representation on decision making bodies concerned with the amalgamation. All of these motions were comfortably passed.

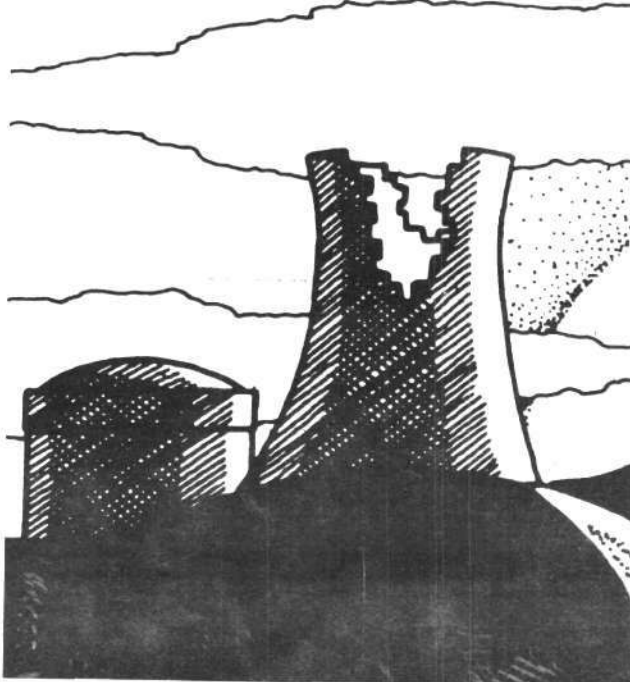
## ALP to sell-out on Uranium again?

Melbourne, on an autumn day when the sun's hardly been able to pierce through the smog, is not all that warm and exciting a prospect, when its five o'clock in the exhibition gardens, and with the fog of the evening settling in, it can be damn bleak. However, it all depends on whom you're standing around with. A good anti-uranium demo always warms the blood, yelling and chanting with joy; almost as good as being able to abuse a mining company rep (this time ALP politicians and number crunchers). Given the ALP's appalling 'pragmatic' record on peddling the 'deadliest industry' on earth, this could well have been quite a hot evening.

At every turn recently, ALP heavies have attempted to push uranium mining, processing and power facilities. Wran speaking on the greenhouse effect has tried to suggest that somehow nuclear power may be preferable to coal powered generation whilst ignoring all the problems inherent in nuclear power. It is even argued that uranium could assist Australia's flagging balance of payments begging the point that: 1. the world is already oversupplied with uranium and 2. that the government should be looking at its own economic policies to solve this problem. Then again good old job creation arguments are trotted out, always sitting over inflated figures, but don't mention that, or the dangerousness of those jobs, or the disastrous environmental and social impacts of such mines.

No, the ones who really are behind the mining push are the mining companies, in times of record profits let's just be that bit more greedy and let's do it while we have the most compliant political party in power, yes, the ALP. Remember Roxby Downs (ALP electoral fodder), think of Ruddal River in Western Australia and don't forget the slack environmental standards at Kakadu. Yes for those reasons and the reality that no matter what the ALP's stated policy is, the politicians act to stay in the power that is now their great intoxicant. So, at a demonstration at their current chronically pro-uranium policy (let alone the mere thought of opening up the country to any more mining), public outrage was quite on the cards at the exhibition buildings. A campaign aimed at the public forcing the ALP to step in behind. It didn't happen instead the opposition was co-opted into legitimising the process of the ALP's further back peddling on the issue.

One would have thought that at least the environmentalist movement would have learnt from its own mistakes, let alone those of others, but no we say and heard very good submissions by environmentalists whose commitment is not in any way under question. It's just that the decisions they were seeking to change were most probably already made in the boardrooms and party rooms of mining and government, the people hawking uranium have better access to the ALP - its power structure ensures that this is so. The ALP in government will only be anti-uranium when its too scared not to be.





# LIBERALS IN SWILL

**M**onash Law graduates Michael Kroger and Peter Costello have both been in the news recently concerning their positions in the Liberal Party, with Costello topping sitting member Roger Shipton

in Higgins, and Kroger's role in all three public blood lettings being popular copy. Much has been made of these recent changes in Liberal Party personnel by the media. As usual the presentation of 'important events' style coverage often masks more than it reveals, change taking place in a series of jerks (pardon the pun) and leaps. The information rarely being placed within a context of time and change. Where any 'background' has been given it is presented in the form of interviews with political cronies who eulogise the 'golden-haired boy' of the moment, in terms the Australian male usually reserves for his car or football team (in the case of the 'new-male' maybe his pub-brewed beer).

*The presentation of material building their individual public profiles has been handled quite differently; Kroger; the head kicking numbers grinder and Costello the messianic political rejuvenator.*

The presentation of material building their individual public profiles has been handled quite differently; Kroger the head kicking numbers grinder and Costello the messianic political rejuvenator. Some commentators have linked Costello's political rise with Kroger's footwork. This is

probably more correct than these people realise, as it was in these roles that they came together to help forge Centre Unity during their active student days. Now, as then, they push the public image to anyone gullible enough to swallow it that their involvement together is mere co-incidence.

Indeed when Costello first got involved in Monash politics in 1976 he was, and remained into 1977, more aligned with the ALP than the Liberals. (1) Then again, he was opposed to uranium mining as well. (2) It wasn't until during 1977 when the Centre Unity ticket was formed at Monash that any formal links became apparent between Kroger and Costello. At this stage Centre Unity was only a Monash object; later it spread its wings against/into the Australian Union of Students (AUS).

Centre Unity was made up of the Evangelical Union (Costello's power base, he originally ran for the Public Affairs Committee of MAS as a Christian candidate.

Maoists (who were losing a leadership power struggle within AUS to the dominant Trotskyist/Communist Party of Australia leadership, and who, therefore, aligned themselves with anyone they saw opposing this group or any group they felt supported AUS).

These groups in membership and voting size (EU largest and the Maoists smallest), formed a formidable bloc of votes (over one thousand members) at both elections and Student General Meetings (SGMs). Given that the coalition of groups (made up of Anarchists, Communists, Environmentalists, Feminists, Gays, Drug addicts/Small Caf sitters and Socialists) who opposed them rarely numbered more than one hundred individual members, it was indicative of the wide popular opposition to the right-wing policies of Centre Unity that they often were hard pushed to win their campaigns.

While it is quite acceptable for people to change their minds on an issue (after all Michael Kroger had moved from vehemently opposing Malcolm Fraser in 1975, to supporting him by 1978) (3), Costello did a major change about on the issue of direct elections of AUS office bearers when he propelled himself into national student politics.

He had, had mixed success at Monash having defeated the left in electoral terms and winning an SGM to sack the *Lor's Wife* (feminist) editors, but he had failed to achieve a paid position for himself in the MAS structure, and his political opponents were still as active and as strong as ever (if not a little worn out and shell shocked).

While in 1976 Costello had felt that on 'The question of direct elections of AUS executive I am against, because it would work out blatantly in favour of the wealthy and organised groups' (4); by 1979 being a member of an organised group and wanting an axe to grind against the AUS leadership, he was all for direct elections. Once again Costello and Kroger played coy about their alliance.

Centre Unity, under Costello's leadership, characterised themselves as interested in reform and the Liberals as being union wreckers or right-wing megalomaniacs: 'To most Australian students they [the right] will appear to be little better than the non-representative left who they hope to supplant'. (5) Kroger seemingly was quite happy to play the bogey man to Costello's reasoned approach. The Liberals (as the Australian Liberal Students Federation [ALSF]) were at the time unleashing a nation-wide attack upon AUS through the courts.

*It's hard to make decisions while the assassin holds a gun to your head, but it seems futile when they're allowed to pull the trigger as well.*

After having had his reforming overtures rejected at successive AUS Annual Councils, Costello and Centre Unity launched their own attacks against AUS through secession campaigns. These were very successful, with a number of campuses voting to discontinue their affiliation with AUS. At the same time Costello and a person called Dan Hogan (Melbourne University SRC President) launched their own version of AUS called The National Association of Students. This organisation never really got off the ground, but provided valuable media exposure for Costello. The fact that this scab union had no constitution, no elected office bearers and no membership didn't seem to perturb the reforming democrat who insisted upon these things in AUS. The lack of any policies concerning education didn't even rate a mention.

It is not all that surprising that a number of campuses left AUS, given that there had been a major discrediting campaign carried out by sections of the mass media, the Liberals, the National Civic Council and the Australian Jewish Students Society. The AUS leadership had not helped by being almost invisible on most campuses, and having moved AUS's political action away from any campus based policies it may once have had, and to almost ex-

clusively government lobbying (the AUS Women's Department was an obvious exception with strong campus and community support). Against this background it was easy to get students to leave AUS (not so easy to get them to rejoin as was seen later).

By mid-1979 AUS's financial situation was so bad as to prompt a Special Council to be called to discuss the 'crisis'. Of the Monash delegation of nine four were elected on left-wing pro-Union tickets and two on a pro-Union ALP ticket. The other three were Costello and his running mate on an AUS Reform ticket and Michael Kroger on a Liberal ticket. (6)

The crisis was the right-wing attacks and how the union should fight back - well that's how some saw it. However, the AUS leadership thought the best way to stave off the attacks was to give in to Centre Unity's demands. Centre Unity had been part of the grouping who had been deliberately destroying the union through the secession campaigns and more were threatened. It's hard to make decisions while the assassin holds a gun to your head, but it seems futile when they're allowed to pull the trigger as well. Still, the concessionist line won and limited versions of Centre Unity's demands were passed. The attacks continued. First Sydney University, where Centre Unity said they would support AUS, they didn't turn up and Sydney Uni voted out of AUS.

On a roll and claiming that the changes made at AUS Council weren't enough and that AUS would never change, Costello returned to home base, Monash, heading the secession campaign. This was to be a critical vote for AUS as Monash was the last big fee paying campus still in the union. However, Costello and Kroger hadn't heeded the election results and underestimated the strength of the opposition. This time they were the ones perceived as the outsiders, the pro-AUS coalition politely told the AUS leadership to stay away, and instead of getting bogged down in past events took Centre Unity head on in a left/right confrontation, and won: 981 votes for staying in AUS to 789 for leaving. The room booked at the Monash Hotel for the Centre Unity victory piss on stayed empty that night. While having crippled AUS, Costello left student politics, his last adventure a defeat back where it all began.

Costello kept a fairly low profile until in 1981 he resurfaced in Liberal clothing attending his first meeting of the Forest Hills Branch of the Young Liberals and being elected branch president. That old charisma again, or had someone done some footwork? He then served on the executive of the Victorian branch of the Young Liberals

- scoring a picture in the *The Age* when he married Tanya Coleman, a Liberal who had been active smashing AUS at the same time as Costello.

The early eighties were a low public profile time for Kroger and Costello until they appeared once again in the new attack on workers - now characterised as the New Right (propounding the same policies of previous decades, it's hard to see what's so new about them). In the Dollar Sweets case where the company took a union engaged in normal industrial action to the civil courts suing for damages for loss of company income. Costello and Kroger teamed their legal skills and won the case against the union.

At this time Costello surfaced as one of the founding members of the H.R. Nicholls Society, a grouping of New-Righters who are determined to push back the clock of industrial relations and working conditions in Australia. Among its members the H.R. Nicholls Society boasts: Andrew Hay, one-time staffer for Phillip Lynch and President of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce; John Stone, very dry former Treasury head and on again off again National Party frontbencher; Hugh Morgan, Western Mining Executive Director; Charles Copeland,





Peko-Wallsend Chief Executive, famous most recently for his attack on working conditions at Robe River mine; Wayne Gilbert, now famous for his handling of the South East Queensland Electricity Board dispute with the Electrical Trades Union; Dr Gerard Henderson, one time NCCer and advisor to John Howard. (7)

Costello in an article in *Business Review Weekly* quite candidly explained how the H.R. Nicholls Society sought to influence the Liberal Party: "We are looking to influence the debate as much as possible. There are not many of us, so the ideas keep coming from the same people. Basically, we come up with ideas. The Liberals and others say, 'Oh no, this is too radical for us. We have to get re-elected.' So we put them out into the public debate, writing articles and so on and the newspapers publish them and gradually people begin to talk about the ideas."

Then the Liberals suddenly say, "This sounds like a good idea. Who can we get to help us on this?" And the natural choice is one of us, because we've already been talking about the same thing. Sometimes the idea has lost a few bits and pieces on the way, so you write more articles and wait and see if it comes around the public debate again. (8)

Costello's move into parliament at the time of Kroger's state presidency seems a fitting culmination of events. It also signals a move to the right in the Liberal Party. Costello will not likely stay in the background for long; that's not why he is in politics. However any moves towards the leadership will wait until the numbers are well and truly there. Costello, at least while he's been associated with Kroger, has never run for an election unless the numbers were



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sown up, whether in MAS, AUS, or seemingly, the Liberal Party.

Costello's push for the leadership of the Liberal Party would at least be in the tradition of Menzies' anti-communism. He also tried to have the Communist Party proscribed, at least within AUS.

Students may look for some solace in the fact that both Kroger and Costello were opposed to the reintroduction of tertiary tuition fees. However, that was in 1979 and now that students are not the electoral base, this may no longer be the case. Anyway it would hardly sit comfortably with the H.R. Nicholls Society policies. It most certainly does not fit with the Liberal's 'Back to the Future' policy direction.

Clive Rosewarne

(1) Election Leaflets 'A.E. Election Expose, Dirty Tricks' Auth. Robin Davey 1977. 'Centre Unity- AUS Reform' Auth P Smith 1979

(2) 'A.E. Election Expose, Dirty Tricks' Auth Robin Davey 1977.  
(3) Letter *The Age* 21/3/75

(4) *Lot's Wife* interview 11/10/76

(5) *Lot's Wife* 13/3/78 p16.

(6) *Lot's Wife* 25/6/79

(7) *Business Review Weekly* 22/8/86 pp.48-62.

(8) *Business Review Weekly* 5/12/86 pp.24-25.

## WILDERNESS SOCIETY

This is part three of a series of articles outlining the social/environmental groups that exist in Melbourne in the hope of persuading students to join some of them and become active. The Wilderness Society (formerly the Tasmanian Wilderness Society) was formed in 1976 by a group of people concerned with the survival of the unprotected and increasingly threatened wilderness of SW Tasmania. After successfully campaigning to protect the Franklin River in Tasmania, the Wilderness Society's focus has widened and today the society has an active involvement in the protection of wilderness areas throughout Australia. The Wilderness Society has steadily gathered strength and support and now has branches throughout Australia. There are ten branches in Victoria alone.

### A Definition of Wilderness

Wilderness is remote and natural land. With various shades of definition, wilderness areas are large, remote tracts of land, uninhabited (by humans), essentially unaltered by modern human activity and are ecologically unimpaired. In the 200 years of white settlement much wilderness has disappeared. Only small remnants of wilderness are left. Today only 3 per cent of Victoria consists of wilderness. The Wilderness Society believes we need to protect these remaining undamaged areas for countless future generations of myriad species of life.

### Aims of the Wilderness Society

The aim of the Wilderness Society is to promote wilderness areas of national significance throughout Australia and to highlight the common elements that link areas as diverse as the wet tropics and the arid wilderness of S. Australia. In addition they aim to:

- promote the concept of wilderness;
- prevent the destruction of wilderness;
- secure the future of wilderness;
- promote the rights of wilderness. We need to protect wilderness because organisms interact and regulate the conditions for life. By extinction of species and destruction of ecosystems we degrade the capacity of the planet to keep on functioning in ways to support life. We can preserve wilderness, but we cannot reconstruct it. If it is destroyed, it is gone forever. To achieve these aims it is necessary to direct efforts towards influencing key politicians, government and industry officials, as well as developing an awareness of wilderness values within the community.

The Wilderness Society is therefore active in political lobbying and campaigning in addition to performing a role as a source of information and educational material. In addition, they try to change government policies, to stop the destruction of wilderness by means such as public meetings, rallies, films, publications and letter writing campaigns.

### How It Operates

The Wilderness Society is a non-profit

organisation, funded through membership subscriptions and sales from the society's activities. Other methods of fund-raising include street stalls, film nights and the society's Christmas mail-order catalogue. The Wilderness Society also receives a very small Federal Government grant to help meet its administrative costs like phone bills. The Wilderness Society has a small staff of dedicated people who, for a very modest salary, co-ordinate the society's activities. Most of the campaign

success is due to the voluntary work done by the society's members and supporters.

### Campaign Success

The Wilderness Society has successfully campaigned for the Franklin River in Western Tasmania, Kakadu Stage 2, the Wilderness Act in NSW, and the nomination and acceptance of the Daintree Rainforests for World Heritage Listing.

### Current Campaigns

1989 is a very important year for wilderness. Major decisions are to be made on the future of Tasmania's forests, Kakadu National Park, the SE forests of NSW and the semi-arid Mallee wilderness in Victoria. With the possibility of a Federal election at the end of the year, 1989 will, in many ways, decide the future of significant areas of wilderness throughout Australia.

### Meetings

Peninsula Branch Meeting: St Pauls School, Woodleigh, Golf Links Road, Baxter. 8pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Contact Bette Mitchell on 787 2351. Diamond Valley Branch Meeting: 23 Dudley St Eltham (The Eltham Community Health Centre - on the lower level), 8pm on the 13th of June. Contact Peter Homan on 439 1489 (H). Maroonah Branch Meeting: 68 Hereford Rd, Mt Evelyn, 8pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Phone 736 2146. Wilderness Society Action Meetings at 7.30 pm, 59 Hardware St. Melbourne.

### Membership

Members receive a monthly newsletter, 'Wilderness News' with information on wilderness campaigns around the country, forthcoming campaigns and social events like film nights, a copy of your local branch newsletter, and a membership card which entitles you to a five per cent discount at Wilderness Shops.

For general information on the Wilderness Society, ring Michael Fogarty on 670 5229.

## Threats to Wild Australia

1. Continued mining and mine pollution threaten Kakadu. Tourism management of Kakadu World Heritage becoming vital.
2. The Kimberley: Huge Kimberley wilderness on verge of rapid 'development'. Already partly degraded by uncontrolled grazing, mineral exploitation, scars, negligible government controls.
3. Hamersley Ranges and other WA national parks threatened by mineral exploration, sanctioned by WA Government.
4. Shark Bay: A marine coastal wonderland. Declares world heritage status. But rare mammals and ecology being damaged by pollution and inappropriate tourism.
5. Fragile desert environments. Permanent damage caused by vehicle access. Land clearing of mallee for farming during would damage to native vegetation.
6. South-west WA: Savage overcutting of karri/jarrah forest heritage.
7. Uluru and Katajantjara (Olgas): Tourist pressure immense and potentially continues in future years.
8. Lake Eyre region: Pastoralism and 4wd tourism very damaging to fragile ecology.
9. Arnhem Land: Mining companies constantly edging into Arnhem Land for minerals and has well-off resources. Northern Territory Government into going too far tourism.
10. South Australia: Virtually no remaining natural forest. No legislative protection of arid wilderness. Mining threats in national parks.
11. Western Tasmania: world heritage. Antagonistic state governments pose many threats, including rapid tourism proposals. Proper management of world heritage wilderness will require constant vigilance.
12. Tasmanian rainforests: Comprise 35% of all Australia's rainforests.
13. Cape York Peninsula: Largely undeveloped. Rambling, unexplored tourism grazing reserves, development roads, proposed rocket launching facility.
14. Victorian Alps: Long history of degradation by highland cattle grazing activity.
15. South West Victoria: Clearing of mallee for grazing destroying huge areas of natural vegetation and habitat.
16. National estate forests: Douglas Asplery, Great Western Tiers, Jackey's Marsh, Limestone and Southern Forests threatened. Massive export workshop industry liquidating Tasmania's forests.
17. Large areas of prime wilderness still unprotected and threatened by mining, hydro electric schemes, logging and equinequest government.
18. Proposed Tassianawaglo and Coolangubla national parks in Tassie.
19. Great Barrier Reef: Heavy tourism demand and big corporate money in environmental 'resorts'.
20. Daintree tropical rainforest: World's oldest rainforest. Containing management problems and development threats following World Heritage listing. Very heavy tourism demand.

# What's On

## Volunteers required for Youth Group

'Interchange' is an organisation which caters for the needs of families with a disabled child by providing respite care. They have found that the best form of respite for disabled teenager's families is a youth group, where members can explore new experiences, make new friends and, most importantly, have a good time.

The group is held on alternate Saturdays during the school term, and it is based at the Camberwell Community Centre. The program is integrated, so social and recreational opportunities for teenagers, with and without disabilities, is provided. At the moment, there are seventeen participants aged between 13 and 18.

As they are funded to be integrated, it is essential to ensure the participation of teenagers without disabilities. There are two main strategies to achieve this. The first is to provide activities which are exciting, fun and challenging; for example, water-skiing, Nordic skiing, horse riding and abseiling. The second is to ensure that they do not feel obliged to help with, or feel responsible for, the teenagers with disabilities. This is achieved by having plenty of volunteers for every session. There are three staff members and they aim at having five or six volunteers.

There are many benefits to be had from volunteering with this youth group. Integration is happening at schools and in the community - to have some experience with people with disabilities is a real advantage, and community service looks great on your curriculum vitae! But apart from these points, being a volunteer with Interchange is satisfying, fun and free. You will incur no expenses as a result of your involvement, nor do you have to come along to every group. If you can only make it once a month, that's fine.

Inner East Interchange services Kew, Hawthorn, Camberwell, Box Hill, Waverley, Doncaster and Templestowe. Another group has just started in Interchange Southern region, which services Mordialloc, Moorabbin, Sandringham, Brighton, Oakleigh, Malvern and Caulfield. This group also needs volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact:

Southern Region: Lyn Kelly - 532 0155  
Inner East Region: Kathy Moynihan - 836 9811

## Bharatam Dance Company

An Indian Classical Temple Dance accompanied by live music in a setting of brilliant colour will be seen in June at the Victorian Arts Centre. The Bharatam Dance Company, Australia's only fully professional cross cultural dance ensemble will premiere its first major production for 1989, *The Dance of Shiva* at The Studio, Victorian Arts Centre from June 7 to 10.

Choreographer and Artistic Director, Chandrabhanu, says it will be an elucidating expression of the symbols and myths of the human psyche.

The Bharatam Dance Company re-affirms its policy of heritage preservation with this season, which will also be presented in Perth in July. The company is also working to foster greater understanding of different cultures amongst young people through its extensive dance-in-education programs. They expect to present at least 65 performances in schools in 1989.

For further information and tickets, contact Tina Young, Bharatam Dance Company on 428 4395. Tickets: \$21.40, concessions for students, pensioners and groups at \$16.40 (no concessions Saturday night).

## German Government Scholarships

The German Academic Exchange Service is offering about fourteen scholarships for post-graduate study at universities, technical universities and academies of art and music in the Federal Republic of Germany. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree and be Australian citizens between 18 and 32 years of age.

Scholarships are awarded to students from any academic field, if study or research places are available. Students must pass an advanced German language examination before gaining final admittance to a German institution.

The scholarships provide a monthly allowance of about DM900 to DM1490, and a further allowance is made if the student is accompanied by a spouse. Travel expenses to and from the Federal Republic of Germany for the scholar are covered by the scholarships, and there are allowances for books as well as health and accident insurance.

The usual academic year is from April 1 1990 to March 31 1991, or from October 1 1990 to September 30 1991. However, the academic year for candidates in art or music is from October 1 1990 to September 30 1991 only. Scholarships may be extended under certain conditions.

Further information and application forms are available from:

The Secretary, Department of Employment, Education and Training (German Government Scholarships) PO Box 826, Woden ACT 2606

Telephone enquiries: Mr Gordon Shellsear (062) 83 7678. Applications close June 23 1989.

## Autumn Concert

*The Oriana Madrigal Choir and the Oriana Chamber Orchestra* presents an Autumn Concert on Friday May 26 at 8pm. Motets by Allergi, Byrd, Gibbons, Bruckner, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F, Schubert's Rosamunde Music and The Shepherd on the Rock Mass No 2 in G. Directed by Kingsley Sutton, with guest artists.

The concert will be held at All Saints Church, corner Dandenong Road and Chapel Street, East St Kilda. Admission is \$12 (Concession \$8) including supper.

## Centre of Southeast Asian Studies

Three new Working papers will be available soon from the publications office - now located in S526. The price of each will be \$5. The titles and authors are as follows:

No 53 *The armed forces of the Philippines: its perceptions on governing and the prospects for the future* by Viberto Selochan.

No 54 *The emergence of the modern Malayan economy: the impact of foreign trade in the nineteenth century* by John Drabble.

No 55 *NGOs in Indonesia: popular movement or arm of government?* by Phillip Eldridge.

Seminars take place on Thursdays at 11.15am in Room 515, Menzies Building, Monash University.

May 25 - Ms Cholthira Satyawadhana, Department of Anthropology. 'Millenarian Movements of the Non-Khmer Speaking Groups.'

## Hear ye all singers!

The *Australian Youth Choir* requires new voices, especially tenors and basses. If you are 17 to 25, social and interested in building the 'premier Oz group' then don't delay! Phone Helen on 232 5073 or Emmie-Clare on 882 5850, or just come along to rehearsal at Nunawading Civic Centre, Sunday's 7pm to 10pm.

The choir is available for concerts, weddings, private celebrations, conference entertainment and Christmas functions.

## Robert Blackwood Hall

Friday June 2, 7.45pm - *Kodaly Music Institute of Australia*, Victorian branch presents eleven children's choirs in a non-competitive festival. Admission: Adults \$5, Concession \$2, family (2 adults, 2 children).

Saturday June 3, 8pm - *Melbourne Welsh Male Choir* present their annual 'Night of Song', singing traditional Welsh Choral Music. Conducted by Bill Mead, and



June 1 - Dr Ian Mabbett, History Department. 'Religion in Early Southeast Asia: Writing for the Cambridge History.'

June 8 - Dr Tony Reid, Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History. 'Islamisation and Christianisation in Southeast Asia: The Critical Phase, 1550 - 1650.'

## Gay Workshop

*Gay and Lesbian Campus Coalition* are holding a workshop on Gay Sex on Saturday, May 20. The day starts with breakfast at 9.30am at La Trobe University. The guest speaker for Workshop One is the editor of 'Outrage'. Workshop 2 is entitled 'Womyn's Works', by Megan and Julie, followed by lunch (1-3pm), and finally another workshop discussing 'Pride Week' and 'Gay Studies', discussion of Gay issues on campuses (guest speaker is to be confirmed).

For further details, contact Student Gay Line, phone 565 4195 (or ext 4195).

featuring guest artist, Kenith Collins, well known Australian Operatic Tenor.

Admission: Adults \$16, Concession \$12. Tickets available at Robert Blackwood Hall Box Office on 544 5448. For further information please contact 801 1292.

Tuesday June 6, 8pm - Avila College present 'The Performance of the Creative Arts' featuring Music, Drama and Art. Admission \$6, Concession \$3, Family \$15. For further information and tickets, please contact 807 6677.

Friday June 30, 8pm - The world's most beloved choir, the magnificent *Vienna Boys Choir*. Admission: Adults \$29.90, Concession \$16.90. Bookings of twenty or more, \$24.90.

The What's On column is compiled by Sandy Guy, phone 565 3183

# GREEN WEEK IS COMING



# Rape

There is no difference between being raped and being pushed down a flight of cement steps . . . except that the wounds also bleed inside.

There is no difference between being raped and being run over by a truck . . . except that afterwards men ask if you enjoyed it.

There is no difference between being raped and losing a hand in a mowing machine . . . except that doctors don't want to get involved, the police wear a knowing smirk, and in small towns you become a veteran whore.

There is no difference between being raped and going head first through a windshield . . . except that afterwards you are afraid not of cars but of half the human race.

*Rape is about power not sex*



## The business of images

A businesswoman is aggressive

A businesswoman is picky

A businesswoman is bitchy

A businesswoman is pushy

When she's moody  
it must be her time of the month

She doesn't know when to quit

She's stuck-up

She's hard as nails

She's stubborn

She's been around

She's a lush

She's mouthy

She's emotional

She's power mad

She's secretive

She's impulsive

She's hard to work for

A businessman is dynamic

A businessman is good on details

A businessman loses his temper

A businessman is a go-getter

When he's depressed,  
everyone tiptoes past his office

He follows through

He's confident

He stands firm

He has the courage of his convictions

He's a man of the world

He can handle his liquor

He isn't afraid to say what he thinks

He's human

He exercises authority diligently

He is closed-mouthed

He can make quick decisions

He's a stern taskmaster



## Blaming the victim

*'Was he asking for it?'*

'Mr Smith, you were held up at gunpoint on the corner of First and Main?'

'Yes.'

'Did you struggle with the robber?'

'No.'

'Why not?'

'He was armed.'

'Then you made a conscious decision to comply with his demands rather than resist?'

'Yes.'

'Did you scream? Cry out?'

'No. I was afraid.'

'I see. Have you ever been held up before?'

'No.'

'Have you ever given money away?'

'Yes, of course.'

'And you did so willingly?'

'What are you getting at?'

'Well, let's put it like this, Mr. Smith. You've given money away in the past. In fact you have quite a reputation for philanthropy. How can you be sure you weren't *contriving* to have your money taken by force?'

'Listen, if I wanted...'

'Never mind. What time did this holdup take place?'

'About 11.00pm.'

'You were out on the street at 11.00pm? Doing what?'

'Just walking.'

'Just walking? You know that it's dangerous being out on the street that late at night. Weren't you aware that you could have been held up?'

'I hadn't thought about it.'

'What were you wearing?'

'Let's see - a suit. Yes, a suit.'

'An expensive suit?'

'Well . . . yes. I'm a successful lawyer, you know.'

'In other words, Mr Smith, you were walking around the streets late at night in a suit that practically advertised the fact that you might be a good target for some easy money, isn't that so? I mean, if we didn't know better, Mr Smith, we might even think that you were *asking* for this to happen, mightn't we?'

# El Salvador – after the elections

**Alfredo Christiani – a wealthy coffee plantation owner and candidate of the extreme right Nationalist Republican Party (ARENA) – has emerged as the new president of El Salvador after elections held on March 19.**

Christiani received 53 per cent of the vote compared to 37 per cent for his nearest rival, Fidel Chavez Mena of the Christian Democrats. But according to the rebel news service *Radio Venceremos* only 900,000 people voted out of 2.3 million who are on the rolls (39 per cent). ARENA received the support of less than 7 per cent of Salvadoran citizens.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) had called for a boycott of the elections after both ARENA and the Christian Democrats rejected FMLN proposals for negotiations to ensure fair elections.

The army was mobilised, particularly for election day; their indiscriminate shooting led to the deaths of three journalists. Two journalists were shot in the back after being 'mistaken for terrorists.' A Dutch television reporter, Cornel LeGrouw, was shot after his car passed through a checkpoint without being waved down.

## FMLN boycott

The FMLN boycott showed how little support the US-backed Salvadorean regime has. Christiani received the support of just 19 per cent of eligible voters, while the governing party of the last five years, the Christian Democrats, could muster only 11 per cent.

The swing from the Christian Democrats to ARENA was no surprise. With the civil war continuing out of control the economy has been stretched to breaking point and the government had been forced to impose unpopular taxes. It lost the support of the peasantry when it failed to deliver on promised land reform and has used the army against striking workers.

The economy would be in a much worse state if not for US military and economic aid, which has been running at around \$2 million a day.

ARENA's dominance of the political apparatus marks the demise of US policy aimed at propping up a creditable 'moderate force.' In claiming that it was not prepared to support the 'extremism of either the left or the right' the US had envisaged a long reign of the Christian Democrats.



When he was elected president five years ago, Christian Democrats leader Napoleon Duarte promised land reform and a crack-down on violations of human rights. ARENA, on the other hand, has been described as 'the party of the death squads.'

ARENA's founder and president, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, has frequently been named as responsible for the 1980 murder of the outspoken archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero.

## Dan Quayle flew in

Immediately after being sworn in as US vice-president, Dan Quayle flew down to El Salvador for meetings with political and military leaders. In public he repeated the warning that US aid to El Salvador after the elections would depend on respect for human rights. In private, he cleared the way for an immediate US recognition of an ARENA victory.

US State Department spokesperson, Charles Redman, said the leader of a US observer team had described the elections as 'free and fair.'

With this seal of approval, Christiani set out to fulfil his side of the bargain by trying to clean up ARENA's image. He promised to respect human rights and said his government would work 'to help people who need it most.'

But ARENA's new moderate image is primarily designed for international consumption and has little credibility in El Salvador.

ARENA and the Christian Democrats conspired to dismiss proposals from the FMLN that may have cleared the way for a more peaceful resolution of the civil war.

The FMLN's 12-point plan was delivered to incumbent president Duarte in January by Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, acting as mediator. It involved significant concessions on the part of the rebel forces who said they were also prepared to consider any serious counter-proposals.

The FMLN proposed a new electoral commission with representatives of all political parties, including those who have supported the FMLN. It suggested the postponement of the elections to enable this commission to reach agreement on procedures and promised a five day truce leading up to the elections in order to guarantee a non-intimidatory atmosphere.

Above all it stated that the FMLN would be willing to accept the outcome of the elections provided it had been convinced they had been conducted fairly.

While organisations like National Unity of Salvadorian Workers (UNTS) responded enthusiastically to the plan, both Christian Democrats and ARENA dismissed it out of hand.

ARENA's National Assembly leader, Sigfredo Ochoa Perez, called it a 'Marxist-Leninist trap to see whether the army or the government will fall first.' Duarte said it could not be postponed because a postponement of the elections would violate provisions of the constitution.

While the FMLN called for a boycott of the poll, a candidate representing a coalition of several parties that have been closely associated with the rebel forces participated. Guillermo Ungo of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) stood on a ticket called Democratic Convergence which included MNR, the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the Popular Social Christian Movement (MPSC).

While the official results put the vote for Democratic Convergence at only 3.7 per cent, Ungo claimed that many ballots cast for him were subsequently spoiled by electoral officials. The governing parties were keen to ensure that the right-wing National Coalition Party (PCN) ran third so that it, and not Democratic Convergence, would win a position on the Electoral Commission.

## Ungo's role

The fact that Ungo stood, even after the rejection of the FMLN proposal, has led to speculation of a rift between the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), led by Ungo.

After results were announced, Ungo is reported as saying: 'Fear and the FMLN boycott hurt us badly.'

However, before the elections, Ungo had said that while the FMLN had not supported the decision to participate, it had 'accepted and respected' it. Had the FMLN proposal been accepted the rebel forces could have then come behind the campaign of Democratic Convergence.

Ungo had also said that he was not contesting the elections in order to win but to highlight the need for a political solution to the civil war. The low voter turnout, the violence of election day, and the ARENA victory have certainly made it clear that this election will resolve nothing.

An FMLN statement released after the elections described the success of the boycott as 'a popular triumph, a combative repudiation of the elections, carried out after the blocking of the FMLN peace proposal and the defeat of the Reagan Administration's strategy in El Salvador.'

The swing of Arena was no surprise at a time when the internal war is continuing and the economy is stretched to breaking point. The departing government has been forced to impose unpopular taxes. It had also lost the support of the peasants because it had failed to implement the promised land reform and had used the army against striking workers.

Arena and the Christian Democrats compete for the support of the 14 wealthy families who have dominated El Salvador for over 100 years. Arena have gained increasing support over the last five elections. Last year Arena gained control of the congress when two-thirds of the mayors became Arena members. Most, however, have been forced to govern from exile and 26 subsequently forced to resign in regions under FMLN influence.

Christiani has attempted to clean up Arena's image but this is more for international consumption than the benefit of Salvadorans.

Democratic Convergence candidate Guillermo Ungo claims that many of the ballots supporting him were destroyed by electoral officials. Ungo said he wasn't contesting the elections to win but to highlight the need for a political solution to the war. Low voter participation and victory to the right wing make it clear the election will solve nothing he said.

The FMLN declared the boycott a success 'a popular triumph, a combative repudiation of the elections, carried out after the blocking of the FMLN peace proposal and the defeat of the Reagan Administration's strategy in El Salvador.'

# El Salvador in crisis

El Salvador has been in the state of crisis for the last nine years – the last five of which have been dominated by the right wing Christian Democrats, led by Napoleon Duarte and backed by the United States.

When elected five years ago, Duarte promised land reform and a crack down on violations of human rights. These promises were never brought to fruition.

US foreign policy in the whole of central and Latin America has been eroded over recent years, as more people become aware of and oppose the role being played by the US in its aggressive actions. The overt aggression towards Nicaragua has come under increasing criticism as the Sandinistas expose the lies of the US when it claims that the Nicaraguans are not democratically elected. Similarly, the policy in El Salvador, aimed at propping up a regime that has inflicted repression on the people, has become more marginalised.

In January this year, the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) put forward a series of proposals in an attempt to solve the country's political crisis. The FMLN have widespread support in both urban and rural areas, with many of the districts under their control. People of El Salvador have been subjected to horrendous attacks by 'death squads', just for being known activists opposed to the oppression. Trade union offices have been

firebombed and union leaders have been tortured, disappeared or been murdered. Even US supporters of the FMLN have disappeared.

The FMLN justifiably believe that if free and fair elections were held, they would gain victory.

At the time of FMLN forwarding their proposals, El Salvador was gearing up for an election in March. It looked certain to return the extreme right wing group, Arena, led by death squad leader, Robert d'Aubuisson.

The FMLN proposals were designed to convert the elections into a basis for a negotiated settlement. They were developed on the basis that the last five elections in the country had resolved none of the country's problems and that the majority of the population doubted the credibility of the election process.

In an attempt to achieve peace, the FMLN proposed that

- elections be delayed until September
- the government immediately and assassinations, torture and repression
- the army, police and paramilitary forces be confined to barracks on elections
- the Democratic Convergence be integrated into the central electoral council and the electoral code be based on consensus



# Namibia

## Independence and Beyond

Report of a conference held in Melbourne on May 6 and 7, 1989.

This conference was very well attended with representatives from the United Nations, Zambia, India, Japan, various liberation movements around the world, and from anti-apartheid groups from all around Australia.



The opening address gave a run down on the historical context of the Namibian 'problem' and how South Africa has continued to exploit Namibia's mineral resources in blatant contravention of UN resolutions. Also, how foreign companies help to exploit this wealth and the extent to which South African companies have assets all around the world. In particular, the way the South African companies De Beers (Anglo Saxon headed by the Oppenheimer family) have been able to monopolise the diamond trade and how

they have been able to get control of Australia's diamond industry.

The most surprising aspect to come out of this conference was the way South Africa has been able to exploit the process of independence for Namibia to suit its own needs. The clashes that occurred in early April between South African forces and SWAPO

'guerillas' were well documented in our media with the blame put on the 'terrorists'. What was not said was that the accord was extremely vague on the movements of SWAPO guerillas inside Namibia, that the UN forces were not even in the region to supervise any alleged breaches and that the kommandant of the UN forces, Mr Ahtisani, accepted at face value reports of the South African's without seeking independent confirmation, for instance local church groups.

So, not only did the UN forces bow to the

treachery of the SA and so lose all credibility with Namibians, but there seems to be evidence that this incidence was a calculated affair to show that South African strength was still omnipresent and that in all probability many civilians were also killed. This deviousness by SA is part of a grander plan which will be outlined later on.

Unfortunately for the Namibians, an eventual return to Namibia is only going to be the start of their trouble. First, once they reach the so-called assembly points, they will only be given seven days of 'pocket money', some food, a blanket and expected to return to their homes. Considering there is food shortages in some parts of the country, minimal internal transportation and no jobs for them, it's a wonder how they are supposed to 'integrate' back into their villages. The eventual fate of up to 6000 orphans with no families to go to is not even considered.

population. Considering that all the media is in SA hands, the dissemination of propaganda will not be difficult and thus it is probable that SWAPO will not achieve the two-thirds necessary for a majority. In this case, constitutional crisis would develop as the country would not have either a constitution or a legal parliament, leading to social unrest and probable SA intervention to 'restore order' until necessary — the struggle continues.

3. If all else fails, then there is the tried method of fostering a civil war by starting your own guerilla force, a-la Angola and Mozambique. It seems that a sizable number of Namibians have crossed the border to seek the 'protection' of South Africa. There they have been materially looked after, recognised as refugees and been trained. Once SWAPO wins, these people will then be held up as victims of the godless, communist regime to the north, and as upholders of liberty, freedom and democracy — and the struggle continues.



Contrary to the UN's ineptness at preparing a smooth transition to independence, SA knows very well what it's doing, and basically it can be summarised under three main points.

1. It will try to stop the elections. This will be done by staging 'incidents' like that in early April and creating a climate of instability and warfare throughout the country. It will then be able to proclaim that the atmosphere is not conducive to 'free and fair' elections and so will postpone them — the struggle continues.

2. To draw up a new constitution, the winning party will need a two-thirds majority to pass these regulations. In order to prevent SWAPO from achieving this, SA will create confusion in the country, for instance in a 'country' where no elections have ever been held it seems that 40 parties have registered by fostering ethnic division, ignorance and sheer intimidation within the

If one needed further proof of SA intervention it is probably useful to note that in the interim period until the elections on September 1, Namibia is administered by a South African appointed Governor General. He will have at his disposal, if one forgets the role of the regular SA defence forces, the local Namibian police who were expanded recently by the conclusion of 3000 ex Koevet members. The Koevet is the counter insurgency force that was widely used in the 70's and 80's in 'neutralising' SWAPO members and was accused by human rights(?), aid agencies and church(?) of perpetuating atrocities on the civilian population, widespread terrorising and the torture of prisoners.

In hope,  
Piergiorgio Moro

### VILLAGE GREEN HOTEL PRESENTS

SAT.27TH MAY : JAMES REYNE

SAT.10TH JUNE : JOE CAMILLERI and

THE BLACK SORROWS

SAT.17TH JUNE : IAN MOSS

CRN. SPRINGVALE AND FERNTREE GULLY  
ROADS,

GLEN WAVERLEY, 3150

TELEPHONE 560 8400

# more than just a conservation issue

As the twentieth century draws to a close, the last of the world's rainforests are in danger of being irretrievably lost along with the few remaining hunter-gatherer communities living beneath their threatened eaves. The destruction of these beautiful forests, abundant in life and resources invaluable to humanity, is being carried out in the name of 'development' in countries where many people remain trapped in circles of poverty, oppression and inequality which the desecration of rainforests will not end.

In response to the problems of environmental destruction, poverty and human rights abuse, a large number of people in western nations and Japan have supported conservation, foreign development and human rights organisations which have achieved considerable successes in their struggle for a clean and beautiful world free from oppression. For example, environmentalists have gained victories such as the declaration of national parks and the introduction of pollution-control regulations. Over 10,000 prisoners of conscience adopted by Amnesty International since 1974 have been released, many of them activists against human rights abuse and poverty. Organisations such as Community Aid Abroad have supported numerous development projects that help the poor and oppressed to gain some control over the means of survival and achieve better living standards.

However, much more needs to be done. In order for further campaigns to be won it would be a great advantage if environmentalists, human rights supporters and foreign development activists formed closer ties of communication and co-operation over particular issues. Two current controversies strongly suggest the need for united campaigns around issues of closely inter-related concerns: the destruction of Amazonian rainforests in Brazil and logging in the rainforests of Sarawak.

## Tropical Rainforests

Almost half of the world's tropical forests have been lost since 1945. In the 1970s the US National Academy of Sciences estimated that 200,000 square kilometres of rainforest were being destroyed or seriously degraded every year. Since that time the level of destruction has risen. And with the disappearance of more and more forest every day, countless numbers of plant and animal species are gone forever.

Tropical rainforests are far too precious to lose. They have provided the raw materials for up to a third of all drugs used in western nations, as well as genetic materials taken from wild relatives of commercial crops to improve yields and increase pest and disease resistance. Scientific studies by the US National Cancer Institute have identified numerous rainforest plants, such as the Pacific Yew Tree, that may join the list of those which have provided chemical materials used to fight cancer. Rainforests might also provide materials to help combat the AIDS virus.

Tropical rainforests have also given us an enormous resource of food and industrial materials, including everyday commodities such as coffee, tea, sugar, bananas, rice, fibres, waxes and raw materials for plastics and soaps. Scientific research has identified many other potential food resources and materials that could be developed from rainforests, but with every square kilometre of rainforest damaged or destroyed, more and more sources of material and information are lost along with the many jobs they could provide.

Even small scale logging or clearing on the edges of rainforest can have destructive ramifications for the forest ecology. Every time the forest shrinks in size or species number and diversity, its ability to survive is weakened. Even the degradation of a few square kilometres can leave many species extinct because of the intense crowding of life forms into specific areas. This is shown by the fact that the tiny country of Panama has about as many plant species as Europe, while the Amazon forest holds one fifth of all the birds on earth.

Rainforests provide very important environmental services. They regulate the flow of water to farms, reservoirs, irrigation systems and rivers, which means that deforestation can result in flooding, as has happened in India. The destruction of rainforests may also result in droughts and reduce the ecosystem's ability to process carbon dioxide, which is released into the atmosphere by the burning of tropical forests being cleared, thereby contributing to the greenhouse effect.

Yet the devastation of these invaluable forests goes on every day.

## Genocide in Malaysia and Brazil

In the East Malaysian state of Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, some of the last nomadic hunter-gatherer peoples are struggling against the devastation of their rainforest homelands by logging companies. For more than a year,

these people, known as the Penan, have attempted to maintain road blockades against logging companies while they appeal to the Sarawak state and Malaysian federal governments to protect their ancestral lands. However, the heads of government, some of whom have obtained personal timber interests, have refused to enter into dialogue with the Penan. In a country where serious opposition to the Mahathir regime is disallowed, the only hope for the Penan and their forests is action by people in other countries to pressure companies (such as the Australian company John Holland Holdings) to withdraw investments, and for government action against the importing of Malaysian timber.

Last year an area of Brazilian rainforest about the size of Belgium was burnt to clear land for cattle grazing. The destruction is increasing at such a rate that in ten years only one tenth of the present rainforest in Brazil is likely to remain. The forests are also threatened by mining and timber industries as well as by roads, especially the Acre to Lima highway currently under construction. With the destruction of the rainforests, the last of the Amazonian Indians will disappear.

Without the rainforests these hunter-gatherer peoples can no longer practise their traditional ways of life, and their cultural identities will be lost. With the demise of these people we also lose. There is much that we could learn about the rainforests and the social organisations of people whose cultures and world views are so radically different from, but just as valuable as, our own.

## Human Rights

Many Indians in Brazil have already died from diseases such as influenza brought into their regions by miners, roadworkers and other outsiders. There are also reports that Indians have been murdered at the instigation of ranchers or timber and mining invaders in their conflicts with the Amazonians over the land and forest.

The case of Chico Mendes highlights human rights abuses against those who attempt to save Brazilian rainforests. Mendes was a rubber tapper who led an alliance of Indians, rural people and tappers against the destruction of the forest. They set up blockades against timber companies and ranchers clearing the forest. Just before Christmas, Mendes was assassinated by two unknown gunmen.

The situation in Sarawak isn't any better. Under the 1987 Malaysian Internal Security Act, environmentalists, civil rights activists and Penan have been arrested. Although most have now been released, there were reports of police brutality against the Penan. However, opponents of the government have no access to the media, which is censored, and their political actions are restricted by the constant threat of state repression.

## 'Development' for whom?

The destruction of rainforests is justified by the wealthy and powerful interests responsible on the grounds that it is necessary for economic development. Yet the economic gains are likely to be very limited and they will only benefit a small part of the populations of Brazil and Malaysia.

Much of the profit from logging in Sarawak will go to foreign companies and thus leave the country. Most of the remaining profit will be taken by Malaysian business people and state officials, such as James Wong, the Minister for the Environment in the Sarawak State Government. Wong has a personal financial stake in the local timber industry. Little or no economic benefits will accrue to the peasants and workers of West Malaysia or even the town workers in Borneo.

In Brazil, big business and large landowners are major beneficiaries of the desecration of the Amazon forests, but a considerable amount of deforestation is also caused by gold prospectors and landless peasants who have lost their old lands to more powerful interests. In allowing peasants into this region, the government hopes to alleviate some of the poverty and unemployment that plagues Brazil, but clearing the rainforests will provide no real solution to the plight of the poor.

This is because of the ecological nature of rainforests, which grow in very poor soil. The reason why they are so abundant in plant life is because of the continual fall of leaves and other organic material to the forest floor, where

it soon decays in the humidity and thus provides a very fertile bed in which the forest can flourish. However, once the trees are taken away this cycle is destroyed. The forest floor becomes exposed to rain, wind and sun and the soil quickly erodes, especially if other plants have been cleared for farming. At best the soil can provide for one agricultural harvest, after which it is likely to become barren or only capable of supporting scrub, as has occurred in parts of Indonesia. This is a major reason why the clearing of rainforests in Brazil is so rapid. Landholders must continually move on and clear more forest to plant more crops. In allowing this to continue the government is hoping to avoid the much better solution of redistributing the enormously unequal ownership of land in Brazil.

This is also the reason why logging will only provide short-term economic gains for these countries. The long-term results will be environmental desolation and increased poverty as the homeless hunter-gatherer peoples of the rainforests join the growing ranks of the landless true unemployed and the poorly-paid.

It is clear in both these cases that issues of environmental conservation, economic development, human rights and the protection of hunter-gatherer cultures are by no means mutually exclusive. To effectively address any of these issues activists and organisations must take account of the relationships between them so that their campaigns might be formed with the broadest possible base of support and a clear understanding of the complexity and ramifications of particular issues. For example, environmental groups need to examine alternative strategies for economic development to solve problems such as poverty if their conservation campaigns are to be truly worthwhile. People concerned about human rights should be fully aware about why some people are being oppressed and seek the support for human rights campaigns of other people and organisations concerned with related issues. In ways such as these we might have a greater chance of achieving the victories that we are fighting for.

## What Can You Do?

If the rainforests and their inhabitants are to be saved and alternative development strategies found, much help will be needed from western countries. Already some gains have been made with the recent dismissal of charges against a number of Borneans involved in road blockades and a European Parliament ban on the importing of rainforest timbers from Sarawak. Some Australian environmental groups are already involved in the struggle to save the rainforests and hunter-gatherer communities of Malaysia and Brazil. You can join these organisations and become actively involved in their campaigns:

Rainforest Information Centre PO Box 368, Lismore NSW 2480

Rainforest Action Group PO Box 214, Healesville 3777  
There is also an international organisation trying to protect hunter-gatherer societies:

Survival International 310 Edgware Road London W2 1DY United Kingdom

If you are concerned about human rights then it is well worthwhile joining Amnesty International. Amnesty is a worldwide organisation with great respect and surprising success in securing the release of prisoners of conscience in many countries. A group concerned with human rights in Malaysia and Singapore has also recently been formed in Australia.

Amnesty International Hak Hak PO Box 118 Ormond 3204

The best Australian organisation dealing with foreign aid and development is Community Aid Abroad. CAA goes beyond charity by trying to bring about self-sustaining change in the situation of the poor in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Australian Aboriginal communities, especially through supporting economic projects which involve people in developing and managing schemes to improve their living standards. CAA is sensitive to environmental issues and in 1987 held a conference at Melbourne University about the relationship between development and the environment.

Community Aid Abroad 156 George Street Fitzroy 3065 Ph. 419 7111

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# Pope Tex seen at Cask Castle

Nothing happens at Monash – nothing happens in Melbourne. Your Pope pontificated on this as he attempted to glean inspiration for the much maligned Skinhead Bowling experience. Oh there was some news. A cretin-cull extravaganza in Canberra and a victory for careerist greenies in Tassie. KB's boys notched up their third win – he's getting those youngsters in shape.

Arriving at Cask Castle, slab in hand, we bid 'Hello' to Princess Bong. She was not impressed with the interruption. Once inside, Lord Cone immediately began a long diatribe about post-post office structuralism. The good Princess responded, embittered with misanthropic venom. She proclaimed that we all talked too much and that she'd had it. Cookie, needless to say, had no quick.

A clanking of bottles outside the the drawbridge signified two possibilities. It was either Stewy or the blond Adonis. It turned out to be both. The blond Adonis, resplendent with green fluorescent fiddle rabbit on about nothing while the Mudmen emblazoned student teacher threw a loose typewriter at the cave dweller's quarters.

So on we droned, non-entity to non-entity in a gossip of unceasing vitriol.

'Did you go to the Gothic gig?' intoned His Majesty Bong. 'If you didn't, piss off and NOW.'

'What Gothic gig?', someone in the fog of cigarette inspired pollution intoned.

'You know. Old Greek Theatre. Tired receptionist who hates smokers. Creek Greek with a nose you see first coming round a corner. Slanted floors. Skulls. Black corsets. And no one in the audience. Most cool indeed.'

No. No one present had been aware of this fashion manifestation and protested much more interesting activities on said night.

'But it was THE gig', screamed a voice which, years before, I would have recognised as being that owned by King Bong. Now however, cones of a magnitude known only to the simple inhabitants of Krackatoa had done their worst, and the voice was merely a feeble croak, dressed up as usual in fur, lamé and a general air of ennui.

And then the band started playing. Abbott and Costello on vocals. His cousin Mitch Miller played guitar and Annie Oakley, Little Joe and Stevie learnt bongos as they went. Over to Monterey City.

Then Garry played silver paper and sold them. One for too fucking much anyway. Talent, that is.

Kali Kali creamed their Yabbas and Bob Marley invested in a Box Set every gig he went to. It was the smash hit – it

changed the face of Thatchers everywhere.

The after the band they all went to the most over there rainforest and cut down some bark to draw and write with.

As I cleared off the last remnants of rotten tomatoes, yobbo spit, yuppie spit, children's spit, skinhead's vomit, grandmother's spit and finally wiped clean the dog piss off my municipal grey coloured uniform, I ruminated about my bookings. The midgets with callipers on her blue stumped legs who fell out of her wheelchair and concussed herself for a half an hour. Fortunately, by the time she came to, her meter had expired. I was polite and courteous as I offered my hand to her, but unfortunately she misinterpreted my gesture as one of benevolence – as in giving her a hand to get in her wheelchair – she did not respond in a civilised manner when I placed the ticket in her left calliper and booked her wheelchair for double parking.

She started yelling at me for help. I said, politely, I can't give you help because I wear a grey uniform. Men in blue uniforms give you help, I'm here to keep the streets honest. I patted her on the hump and with two bookings on the board a day was to be had!

I stood there in my underpants staring into the mirror, staring at my skinny legs, my pathetic pale belly, my jowlish face, and my 'not just there' ginger moustache.

What to do tonight? Shall I go and see Kali Kali Green and learn to play the bongos? Will I go to the Gothic gig? No, no one will be there. Will I go to cone castle? No, I think I'll find a hospital and book a few cars just for fun, you know the ones that park in no standing zones due to an emergency. Now before you think what a bastard, if you just lost your wife and four children in a car accident, wouldn't you want something to take your mind off things! Something trivial! I do a service for the community. I remember when I booked my first pedal car at kindergarten! I used to write tickets and stick them on the toilet door when grandpa with the plastic arsehole coming out of his tummy stayed in there too long.

After the stressful unkarma like happenings at Cask Castle, Lady Hawke and I hit the taxi trail. Gazza, the driver, was a manic reformed junkie who had discovered God and Genet. Lady Hawke got to sit in the front seat with the



reformed God fearing Gazza. Lady Hawke, after indulging in certain substances not readily available to the general public, replied politely to Gazza's insistent probing about out good night out. Gazza then eased into a stress-laden epic concerning his girlfriend (I'm calling her Cheryl because she sounded like a full-on Cheryl) who had left him. Lady Hawke soothed Gazza by stating coherently that the young lassie would be powering back in no time at all to rejoice in his new-found redemption, given by the great Space Admiral in the sky. Unfortunately, young Cheryl had pissed off for 18 months on her own caper and was having none of that from bodgy Gaz.

Lady Hawke ignored the foam-drenched gibberish and perused the sleet neat street. A pity Gazza the work experience Christian cabbie didn't have a bit of a gander at the road. He raved on ad infinitum about making a real woman out of Cheryl. This transformation involved cutting down to a wheelbarrow of smack per week and having children. 'I'm thirty now', he leered, hyperventilating over his archaic packet of Ardath.

We finally ditched the stigmata'd test case and proceeded back to the rainforest. Unfortunately it had become littered with pines during the interim. This was a mite disturbing, so we thought a bit of logic limitation was necessary. We went in search of mushrooms. But for that fascinating tale we must wait till next issue. In the meantime your good natured Tex will leave you with this advice. Try to avoid eating orange-coloured toadstools with imposing red dots.

See you later trend setters and remember as Persk says, 'Don't commit any fashion crimes'.



Trent gets nostalgic (and wasted) at the small caf.

# Nuclear Power

There's been a lot of talk lately about the greenhouse effect and how the global warming associated with it will lead to environmentally catastrophic results for life on earth. Associated with this has been the suggestion that nuclear power is the panacea for the greenhouse effect. Those suggesting that nuclear power is the answer have by and large been from the nuclear industry, which has been rubbing its hands at the opportunity to sell its unpopular and unsafe product in the light of the greenhouse effect.

## The greenhouse effect

The greenhouse effect is the result of over-use of energy by humans. It is caused by the release of gases, primarily carbon dioxide (the other offending gases being Chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, and methane), which occurs as fossil fuels are burnt. Oil and gas fired power stations, cars and factories are the main burners of the fossil fuels that lead to six billion tonnes of greenhouse causing gases to be pumped into our atmosphere every year. Meanwhile, the forests of the world are being destroyed at an ever increasing rate, reducing the earth's capacity to dissipate the gases which cause the greenhouse effect.

These gases form a sort of shroud around the earth. This shroud allows the sun's heat to enter the atmosphere, but not to escape. Thus the earth heats up. Although unprovable, due to the fact that weather records haven't been kept for very long, there is overwhelming evidence to suggest that the greenhouse effect is occurring. For example, of the eight hottest years this century seven have occurred in the 1980s, and 1987 was the hottest on record to that time.

The global warming caused by the greenhouse effect will wreak enormous environmental destruction. Warming the earth's surface alters the delicate ecological balance which keeps our planet alive. Polar ice caps will melt, at least partially, causing a rise in the sea level and subsequent loss of land. The effects of this can already be seen in low-lying Bangladesh where frequent flooding is compounding the problems this poor country already suffers from. Warming, combined with the massive destruction of trees, will mean a spread of desertification which means less productive land for food production and the loss of fertile ecosystems. These are only a couple of the effects of greenhouse. It is a problem we must avoid, but not at all costs.

## Nuclear power

Nuclear power does not create any greenhouse causing gases. So, the argument goes, we can solve the greenhouse effect by replacing fossil fueled power generators with nuclear powered generators. This is an opportunistic argument put forward by the nuclear industry. It is an argument which leaves out, deliberately, the effects of nuclear power, and ignores the facts about the viability of nuclear power. Many people have been arguing against nuclear power on the basis of economics, however, the question of the safety of nuclear power has been glossed over. It's time we took another look at the safety problems of nuclear power in detail, for nuclear power is the most dangerous way humans have ever thought of to boil water.

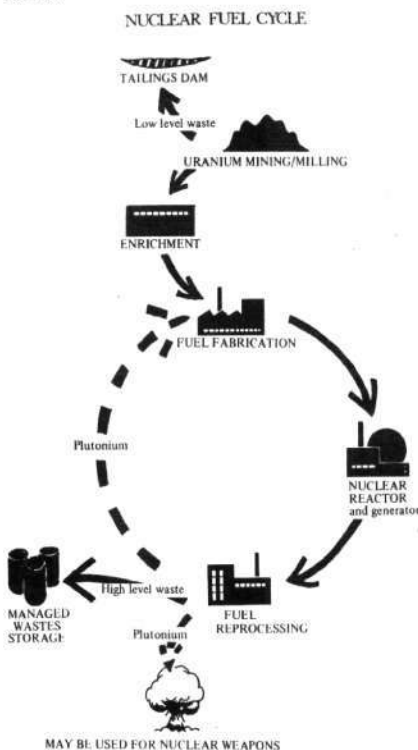
Nuclear power is dangerous at every step of its production. From mining to power generation there are safety hazards, and there are a lot of steps in the nuclear power cycle (see attached diagram).

The mining of uranium is a dangerous occupation. Aside from the usual dangers of mining there are a few extras when uranium is mined. Radon is released into the water supply and into the atmosphere at a greater rate than occurs naturally. Miners are exposed to radon gas, which is radioactive and there is a related high rate of lung cancer for uranium miners. Protection for miners reflects the dangers involved; proposed shielding for miners has included lead

sheeting for trucks and clothing, air conditioned excavator cabins to prevent inhalation of dangerous dust and the like. One wonders whether these procedures are being followed. If not, it has been estimated that it is safe for miners to be in the mines for only one hour per week.

The ore mined in a uranium mine contains very little uranium. For a tonne of ore there will only be around two kilograms of uranium. The milling process, which separates the uranium from the ore, produces tailings which are radioactive. These tailings have contaminated drinking water and been used to construct buildings.

After the extraction of uranium from the ore it must be enriched. The most common reactor, the light water reactor, requires enriched uranium, which is 3 to 4 per cent U-235. However, mined uranium contains only 0.7 per cent U-235, the rest being U-238. These two isotopes are chemically identical and thus very elaborate equipment is needed to separate the isotopes. This expensive process has the side effect of producing weapons grade material. Thus, any organisation which can enrich uranium can produce nuclear bombs.



After enrichment the uranium is shaped into fuel rods which are used in nuclear reactors. Nuclear reactors produce electricity in the same way that other power generators do; they boil water to turn turbines which produce electricity. In doing so they produce plutonium 239 (which remains radioactive for 250,000 years and is used for making nuclear bombs), strontium 90, iodine 131, krypton 85 and cesium 137, all of which are highly radioactive. Krypton is released from tall chimneys into the atmosphere.

The main waste from nuclear power stations consists of uranium, plutonium, strontium and other highly radioactive substances. There is no known way to safely dispose of these radioactive wastes. They remain radioactive and chemically poisonous for millions of years. Spent nuclear fuel can be reprocessed, however, there is a huge backlog of spent fuel to reprocess, and while it is waiting reprocessing it must be stored.

There is no known way to convert radioactive waste into non-radioactive substances. As such it must be kept stored for hundreds of thousands of years. There are various ways

this is done. One of the most common methods is to dump the waste in the sea. This is widespread and often consists of literally dumping waste, in 44 gallon drums, straight into the oceans. These drums do not last hundreds of thousands of years, in fact they last little more than a few years. Dumping of waste in the oceans damages marine life and causes radioactive waste to enter the food chain. Waste can be buried in the ground. Due to the necessity to keep radioactive waste away from water salt mines are used. However, even salt mines aren't completely dry and the waste canisters corrode and waste leaks out. There is a theory that waste can be glassified. However, no one knows how, or if, the glass can withstand the incredible heat and radioactivity for long enough or where to store the glass. In short no one knows how to store the waste created by nuclear power plants and we are leaving a terrible legacy for the next 10,000 generations.

The above safety problems only refer to a nuclear power station which is operating perfectly. The fact is that no technology is perfect, but nuclear power stations need to be. Nuclear accidents are incredibly dangerous. This can be seen in the most recent major nuclear accident at Chernobyl. This accident contaminated the food produced in the immediate area and Northern Europe and still does. It is estimated that the Chernobyl accident will affect 100,000 people's health in the next 30 to 40 years. However, Chernobyl hasn't been the only nuclear accident. Other (infamous) accidents have occurred in the US (Three Mile Island) and England (Windscale), and these are only the well known accidents. There have been at least 50 minor to large scale nuclear accidents since nuclear power was invented. There was even an accident at Lucas Heights in Sydney a number of years ago, and a fire there only a couple of years ago.

Of all the nuclear accidents possible the worst case, a meltdown of the reactor core, has not yet occurred. If this were to occur the number of thousands of people who would die would depend on the population density and climatic conditions. For example, there are three nuclear power plants at Indian Point, New York. If a meltdown occurred the 20 million people who live within a forty mile radius of the plants would have to be evacuated within a few hours. Furthermore, the radioactive cloud formed by a meltdown can go literally anywhere and poison people. So far there have only been a few accidents, that we know about, on

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# More dangerous than the greenhouse effect?

nuclear powered ships or submarines (the Russians have lost two subs). If (when?) these happen there will be further waste leaked into the sea and if an accident occurs in a port (such as Melbourne) the whole surrounding city will need to be evacuated immediately. Nuclear power plants aren't perfect, neither are the people who operate them. Accidents will happen and when they do thousands of people will lose their lives.

reprocessed, and the reprocessing plants which contain around 150 times as much radioactive strontium as a reactor. The effects of a terrorist attack on any of these facilities would be catastrophic.

Sabotaging a nuclear power station, or reprocessing plant is not difficult. There have been cases of airplane hijackers

It is implausible to suggest that affluent western countries can afford this sort of outlay. To begin with the construction costs of nuclear reactors have been rising, they are taking longer to build and orders are being cancelled everywhere except France and the Soviet Union. For third world countries the situation is even worse. Less developed countries would have to increase their nuclear power generating capacities 155 times to substitute nuclear power for coal. This would cost \$64 billion a year. The only way less developed countries could afford this is through foreign loans. Less developed countries would have to double their foreign debts just to build the nuclear power stations, to buy the uranium and operate the power stations would cause their foreign debts to treble.

Nuclear power is not only dangerous it is unaffordable.

## Alternatives

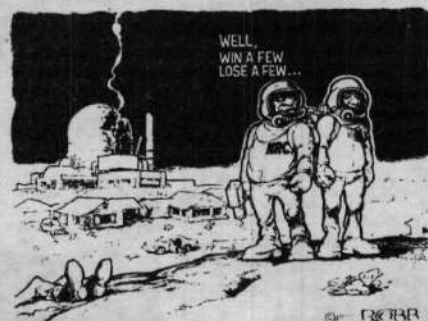
On top of all the problems that nuclear power causes it doesn't solve the warming effect of the greenhouse effect. Nuclear power only generates electricity. While industry may be able to partially substitute electricity for the fossil fuels it presently uses there would still be significant use of fossil fuels in industry. There are also the multitude of other engines, like cars, which don't run on electricity. What is needed is an alternative which will solve the greenhouse effect. This means radically altering our energy demands.

Substituting nuclear power for other forms of power generation assumes that the way we use energy is the right way. We can't afford to keep consuming energy at the present rate. Thus the first step is to reduce our power demands. Energy conservation has already produced the most effective strategies to combat the greenhouse effect, and it costs a lot less. Using less energy does mean changing our lives, but not radically. By designing efficient houses we can cut energy demand enormously. Passive solar heating can be used almost anywhere in the world and has the potential to cut heating bills by 100%. Some Scottish schools are heated using passive solar only and this has meant no-cost heating. This is only one example of many ways we can cut our energy demands.

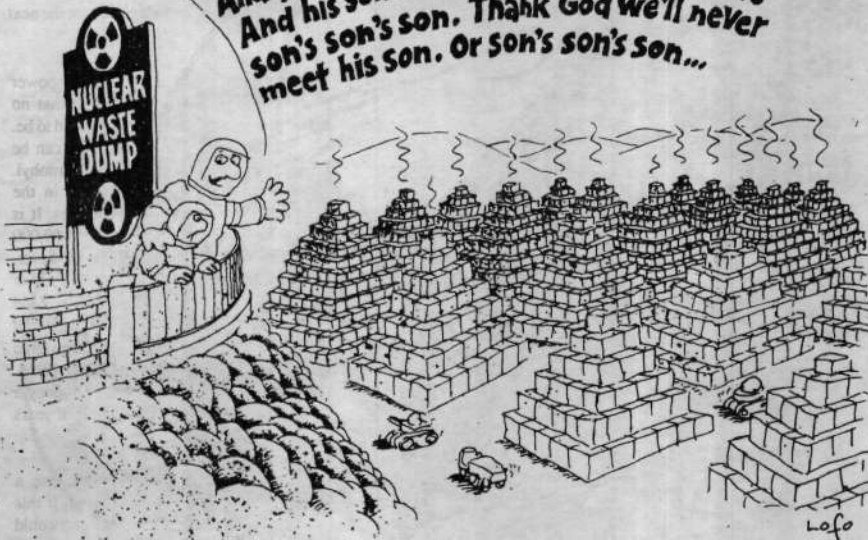
In conjunction with cutting energy demands we also need to use alternative means of generating electricity. Solar, wind, tidal and wave power generation are possible with today's technology. If a fraction of the money invested in nuclear power were diverted into researching these options they could become more efficient and able to more than make up for not using nuclear power. What is needed is the will to explore these options. The technology is there to be used.

Nuclear power will not solve the problem of the greenhouse effect. It is extremely dangerous, requires enormous and draconian security measures, is very expensive and doesn't solve the energy problems we have anyway. We can only prevent the greenhouse effect by treating the cause, that is, our over-consumption of energy, and by using safe alternatives to coal fired electricity generation.

David Stover



Soon all this will be yours. Then your son's. And your son's son. And his son. And his. And his son. And son's son. And his son's son's son. Thank God we'll never meet his son. Or son's son's son...



Once nuclear power was thought to be clean and safe. This opinion can no longer be maintained. Nuclear power is very unsafe, and the effects of the by-products produced, and of accidents, are deadly.

## Nuclear power and the state

By its very nature nuclear power requires a totalitarian state. After the enrichment process the fissile materials produced are of bomb grade, that is, you can make bombs out of them. Add to this the plutonium produced by commercial reactors, which can also be used to make bombs, and you have a large security problem.

Enriched uranium is made at separate enrichment plants (there is a rumour that the Australian government is considering building an enrichment plant in Australia) and must then be transported to the nuclear reactor. The plutonium waste, which is highly radioactive, has to be disposed of. Thus the transport of enriched uranium and plutonium has to be done with perfect security.

Obviously the opportunity exists for terrorists to intercept the nuclear fuel cycle at any point and steal weapons grade uranium. From this point the manufacture of bombs is not difficult. The information on how to produce nuclear bombs is not difficult to find. In the US a television station commissioned an undergraduate MIT student to design a nuclear bomb. It took him only five weeks to come up with a workable design, and his design was based on publicly available information and all the parts to make the bomb could be bought from mail-order catalogues.

Since the effects of a nuclear reactor accident are so severe there is enormous potential for sabotage. If a terrorist group were to sabotage a nuclear reactor and cause a meltdown there is enough radioactive iodine in the average light water reactor to contaminate the atmosphere of the lower 48 states of the US, and contaminate all the streams and rivers in the US. More dangerous are the storage areas where spent reactor fuel cores are stored waiting to be

threatening to fly the plane into a nuclear reactor. A West German parliamentarian joined a tour of the 1200 megawatt Bilbis-A reactor - at the time the largest in the world - carrying a 2 foot bazooka under his arm. He passed all the security checks in the place and eventually presented the bazooka to the plant's director at the end of the tour. In short, a well organised terrorist group could easily kill millions of people by sabotaging a nuclear power station.

Widespread use of nuclear power requires conditions of absolute stability, not only internally but also internationally. Widespread surveillance and police infiltration of all dissident organisations will become imperative, as will paramilitary forces to protect every stage in the nuclear fuel cycle, including transport of fissile materials and waste storage.

To take the nuclear option now means subjecting humanity to a police state for the next 250,000 years, or 100 times longer than all recorded history. Nothing short of a police state can ensure that fissile material won't fall into the wrong hands; that is, if it hasn't already.

## Nuclear economics

Nuclear power is prohibitively expensive. As a solution to the greenhouse effect it isn't viable. A recent US report by Bill Keepin and Gregory Kats of the Rocky Mountain Institute in Colorado shows how nuclear power can't solve our energy problems.

Assuming a modest forecast increase in energy use there would need to be an eighteen fold increase in nuclear power generation over the next forty years just to replace the power generated by coal fired power stations. This scenario also means that much of our electricity requirements will still need to be met by oil and gas fired power stations. To develop this sort of increase in nuclear power would involve an outlay of \$5300 billion, and the building of a nuclear reactor every 2.5 days.

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# Overseas Students in Australia - An Introduction

Giddy! Or, more appropriately, *Apa Khabari! Ciao! Ciak par boi! Hola! Shalom! Bonjour!* Chances are that there is someone at Monash, holding this very newspaper in their hands, who understands at least one of the above salutations. Those greetings do no more than represent a few of the various overseas students who are studying at any one given Australian tertiary institution today. However, the history of overseas education here in Australia over the past two decades has been one of intense turmoil and controversy. It is a story which I believe is well worth telling. Hopefully, by the end of this article, the reader (meaning you!) will have an inkling of the current overseas student situation, and its inkling of the current overseas student situation, and its history.

Originally, Australia was a participant in the Colombo Plan, which allowed for the education of students from fellow Commonwealth nations. Full scholarships were offered to students from developing countries who would otherwise have not had the opportunity to pursue their careers. The plan operated on a principle of goodwill and equality, and was largely quite successful.

All good things must come to an end, and the Colombo plan was no exception. Upon its expiry the Australian government operated on a policy of laissez-faire. Overseas students were most welcome to study in Australia, provided that they pay their own living expenses and the like. Student visas were an unheard of notion. The scene gradually began to worsen from this point onwards.

It was in 1979 that the government introduced overseas student visa charges. This was the precursor to the subsidised overseas student scheme. Any student who now wished to study in Australia was obliged to pay a charge of \$1,500 to be allowed entry into 'The Lucky Country'. Although there was marked concern at this change of policy, from the overseas student population; there was no concerted effort to protest. The simple reason for this was the fact that there was no cohesive and unified representation for overseas students as a whole.

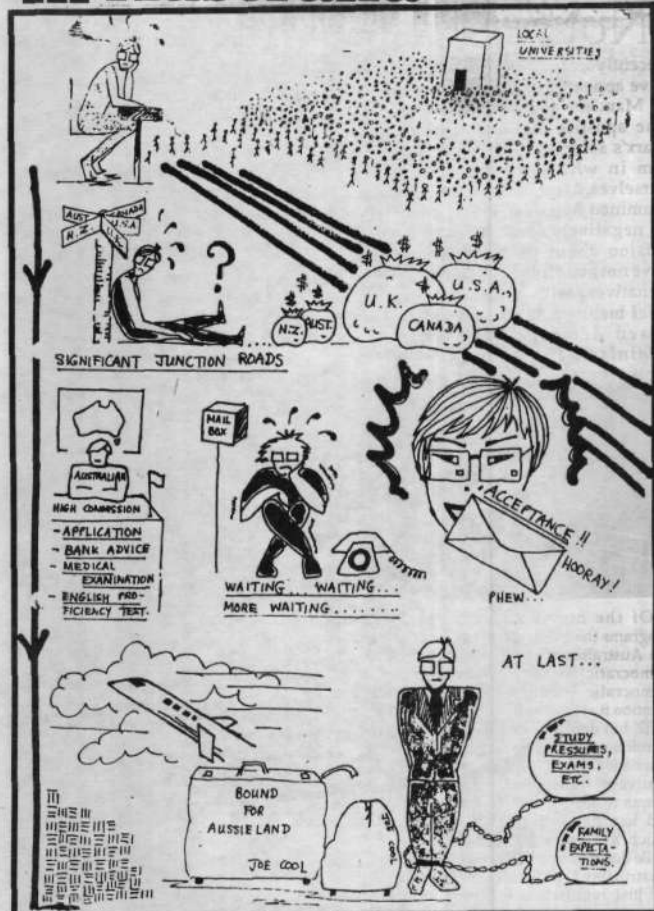
While still keeping within the context of this article, I would like to digress for a moment and make two rather arguable observations. The first concerns the fact that

the government persisted in classifying the subsidised scheme as foreign aid, even though overseas students were now forking out an extra \$1,500 a year. How can this be 'aid'? Secondly, there seems to me to be a direct analogy between the overseas student charge and the HECS (Tertiary Tax). All I am saying is that we empathise with the students' fight against the Tertiary Tax; we could be fighting a common war!

Back to the history lecture! There was a gradual increase in the overseas student charge over the next five years. However, a very significant development occurred in late 1984. This was the publication, within three weeks of each other, of the Jackson Report and the Holding Report. I will comment on these in a later article. The Australian Government, in their infinite wisdom, decided to adapt the proposals mentioned in the Jackson Report. This led to an attempt to introduce full fees for overseas students who wished to study in Australia post 1985. These developments set the scene for the foundation of overseas student organisations in Australia. Such organisations were founded in order to represent the views of the overseas student community. One such organisation was OSCAFF.

OSCAFF in 1985 stood for the Overseas Student Campaign Against Full Fees. It was an active response towards the government's proposal to implement full fees, a scheme of visa entry which would see the overseas student paying 100% of his/her tuition fees at the institute/s/he was studying at; tuition fees then ranged from \$8,000 to \$20,000. This was a rather dramatic (for want of a stronger word!) change in comparison to the minimal overseas student charge. OSCAFF, supported by the Student Associations at the time, were successful in obtaining a freeze on the subsidised scheme, whereby the OSC would rise yearly only in line with the rise in inflation. Five years after the implementation of the freeze, the overseas student charge has risen to about 55 per cent of the full fee cost for that course on average. At this point, we may emerge from the history mode and enter a more topical frame of mind!

The current scenario for overseas students studying in Australia is, on the outset at least, rather bleak. The government is planning to do away with the subsidised student scheme altogether. It is to be replaced with the full fees system and the Merit and Equity scholarship scheme. I hope to pick up on these in a later article. The long and short of it, as I see it, is that the



overseas students have been shown the shorter end of the stick. We have, in other words, been given a rough deal. With the National Liaison Committee For Overseas Students providing representation for the views of overseas students at a federal level, and OSCAFF, (which nowadays stands for the Overseas Student Council of Victoria), lending a helping hand, something may be done to alleviate this distressing situation.

On an ending note, I hope that I have provided you with a strong enough background on the situation with regard to overseas students and their history in Australia. I have tried to leave some scope for expansion in future articles. Above all,

however, I do not in any way make claim to being the be all and end all as far as overseas students' welfare issues go. Criticism for this and following articles is expected, if not invited (at the very least it shows that someone out there is reading this). If anything, I'd like to encourage discussion on this subject, if only because constructive dialogue will be quite helpful, both in terms of raising awareness and coming up with some form of solution.

Rudolph Lopes  
Student Welfare Committee  
Chairperson  
Overseas Students' Council of Victoria

## Free Education - A thing of the Past?

In Britain, tertiary education is free. This is about to change with a fee/bank loans scheme in the planning. Previously, a grant was provided but now students will be expected to pay for their education.

Thatcher's rationale for this is that universities are used by the privileged and that these people should pay their way and not bludge off the rest of society. Only two per cent of children from blue collar working-class backgrounds go on to tertiary study in Britain, while twenty-eight per cent from professional backgrounds do so. But the loans scheme will only make universities more elitist, effectively barring those students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The Tories have also introduced 'selectivity exercises', where colleges and departments now have to compete for funds on the bases of their students' success in getting jobs, the quantity of academic papers published and the amount of outside funding received. This is designed to tie the tertiary sector to the needs of corporations, at the expense of courses not deemed in the 'interests of the nation' and at the expense of access by disadvantaged groups.

But students in Britain are fighting back, as leading member of the British International Socialists (IS), Pat Stack (PS), explains. He shows that the arguments in the Australian students' campaign against Dawkins' graduate tax have emerged in the British campaign against the loans scheme; the need for mass, militant action; the obstructionism of the (British) National Union of Students; the need to see the attacks on education as part of a wider economic philosophy that we must attack.

IS  
What has been the strategy of the student movement?

PS  
Well, the NUS leadership have had a strategy based almost entirely around respectability, lobbying of government sources, winning friends in high places in the Labour opposition and gaining public opinion. At the same time they have called a number of demonstrations. At least one of those demonstrations resulted in forms of action completely different from those they really wanted.

IS  
Could you outline what the differences are among the layers of student activists?

PS  
The student union bureaucracy's position I've just explained. The left activists in the main are arguing for the need for mass militancy.

A demonstration called in London last (northern) autumn attracted between 50,000 and 75,000. That demonstration was supposedly going to consist of a number of feeder marches from different parts of London getting together and not planning to march anywhere in particular. A large group of the activists argued that the demonstration should be directed against Parliament (at Westminster). This is illegal. There's a law that says you can't march

within two miles of Parliament. When the NUS leadership tried to turn the demonstration away from Westminster Bridge, the activists argued they should cross the bridge and took the majority of students with them.

This involved them in a violent confrontation with the police, who were caught somewhat off guard. Students made fairly good progress across the bridge before the police had time to get any reinforcements. Once the police had reinforcements they very violently attacked the demonstration.

IS  
What was the response of the NUS?

PS  
Now coming out of that, it was clear that a very large number of people were very angry over what the police had done and were determined to have a second demonstration of a similar nature. The leadership gave an assurance that there would be another demonstration and it would be on a weekday. They didn't say it would march to Westminster. In fact, what they did was to call a demonstration on a weekend on a route nowhere near central London at all. The problem was that weekend demonstrations are always smaller with students, Parliament was shut and thirdly, the demonstration wasn't leading to any focal point, nothing.

So it was a big demonstration again, there were probably 25,000, 30,000 people on it, but there was a degree of anger over what had happened. There was again a motion passed, at the most recent NUS conference, demanding a weekday march.

IS  
Why do you think they've been able to get such large numbers out?

PS  
It affects every student in the country. I suspect that this campaign could, in the end, draw out students well beyond the left activist layer. It can probably even draw in people who are traditionally hostile to such

things, people who would even consider themselves as Tories.

IS  
So, you think the students can win?

PS  
It's possible for the students to win. The more militant the students are, the more determined they are to show they don't want it, the more that creates the student loans issue as a controversy in British politics. The more that happens, the more vulnerable the Tories can be.

There was an attempt to get student loans through Parliament about three years ago. It failed actually because of a revolt of Tory backbenchers who were worried their own voters might turn away from them because all their kids were suddenly losing their grants. The government has enough difficulties as it is. And to be honest, if the student campaign is militant enough then they may be forced to look at the loans issue again.

So they wouldn't need to spread the action among workers?

PS  
It would be very good if they spread their action among workers, and certainly that would guarantee a victory. I should think, if any significant group of workers came out on strike, then that would be the end of it.

We had to argue very hard with sections of the British left who insist that students can't win anything unless workers are on-side with them. It's simply an historical fact - the events in France in 1986 say it isn't true. And it becomes a cop-out. It becomes, 'well the workers aren't doing anything, so therefore you can't win, so therefore why do it?'

Anyway, the best way to get workers involved is to step up the level of militancy. The more militant and determined you are to fight for yourself, the more other people are likely to fight for you.

Kate Slaney and Alison Orell  
International Socialist Club



# Marx: The debate continues Not Marxism – But Democratic Socialism

Recently in *Lot's Wife* several articles have appeared concerning the merits of Marxism and its derivatives, the true apostles of these theories and Marx's solution to the capitalist system in which we presently find ourselves. Most of these articles have examined Marxism, either positively or negatively, and come to a conclusion about its suitability. They have not gone into the non-Marxist alternatives, with the exception of a brief mention. Marxism or a Marxist based derivative (ie: Marxist-Leninism) the only solution to capitalism.



Of the non-Marxist progressive programs the most realistic and suitable in the Australian context would have to be democratic socialism. What exactly is democratic socialism? Foster/Tsiolkas mention it at the end of their article 'What's Left?' but don't define it and Martin Kress mentions social democracy in his article, 'Is Marxism Dead?', which although a close relative is different. Social democracy attempts to make capitalism more humane and less harsh through a welfare state which avoids major structural change, while democratic socialism seeks to change the structure. (1) It involves nationalisation, not just regulation of major industries. These are similar in that they both can be achieved through a parliamentary system. A parliamentary system. Neither democratic socialism nor social democracy represent dogmas, though they overlap in many areas. An example of social democracy is the present Swedish system. Democratic socialism being distinguished as further left of the two theories. Sandercock summed up democratic socialism very well with the statement that it is an alternative to socialism which avoids the pitfalls – the immobility of revolution and the non-transformationary character of social democratic reform. (2)

Democratic socialism embodies a particular set of values. These include a commitment to direct democracy, liberty, equality, co-operation and state planning.

Direct democracy in this context refers to industrial democracy in the workplace. On a micro level, industrial democracy involves the workers in a particular industry, plant or office having the major input into the direction of that enterprise. In this context state planning is not bureaucrats simply assuming the managerial positions of the capitalists, as was the situation until recently in some 'socialist' countries, ie: the Soviet Union. State planning is carried out by the state apparatus, which should remain in place, but be restructured to be responsible to all of society. This responsibility must be ensured by a truly democratic process at all levels of economic decision making. The state itself is not a problem or threat. Its policies, actions and structure are merely a manifestation of the beliefs of the group which controls it. State planning should be a tool in restructuring the economy so that it serves the interests of all through the construction of a more durable structure which is not at the mercy of market forces or capital controlled by a small minority. The new restructured economy must also ensure that all enjoy the fruits of production.

The next question must be what is required to implement such a change in this country? An advanced industrial liberal democracy moving towards a post-industrial society most importantly needs a mass party working through the parliamentary process, but utilising extra parliamentary activity. The mass party must use existing liberal democratic institutions like parliament to further its progressive policies. This is often described as a revisionist or reformist program.

Any successful social change requires mass support as it seeks to change all of society, and in keeping with democratic socialist principles the party and its program must have a majority of support in society. This mass support lessens social upheaval which cannot be avoided but must be minimal. It is lessened because basically all within this society understand the aim and the methods and most importantly have an input. It is also lessened if the transformation is at a pace which the society can handle. This is determined by its present structure, culture and existing values, etc. No change can be achieved overnight, and thoroughness should never be sacrificed for speed.

This leads onto my next point – education. For the majority to understand what is involved, extra parliamentary activity must be undertaken by activists from the mass party within the labour movement. This can be a prime mover in social change, especially if it has a complementary structure, ie:

industry based unionism, the community in community groups, in social issues such as the peace movement, women's issues, land rights etc and the bureaucracy to ensure it is a tool for change and not a hindrance.

This program is the ideal outline. While not losing sight of its ultimate goal, any program must take into account political realities and conditions and be flexible enough to adapt. Theory is important but you must be able to put it into practice. This is the ultimate aim and the only way you will change society and the economy to benefit all.

## Existing organisations

The existing organisations which claim to follow a democratic socialist program, its elements or have a democratic socialist tradition are those affiliated to the Socialist International and include the Australian, New Zealand and British Labour Parties as well as the German SPD and the Scandinavian Social Democratic Parties. The Australian Labor Party could not be described as democratic socialist. Its economic and social policies are a combination of liberal economics and a social democratic program. While the changes to the economy and society have occurred in the right direction particularly in social justice, it has not gone far enough and has not encompassed all it should. This is largely due to control of the party by the right, who loosely follow a democratic socialist tradition (3). Probably the party which follows a democratic socialist program most closely at this time is the British Labour Party, it having lost its social democratic elements in the split which resulted in the formation of the Social Democrats at the beginning of the eighties.

## A reply to previous articles

Jeremy Smith, in his article 'Nothing's Left', referred to the serious revolutionary left. No left group in Australia can call itself serious if it proposes a revolutionary transformation as the most appropriate method of change. Revolution was a viable method of change in the Soviet experience of 1917, the Chinese experience of 1949 and the Nicaraguan experience of 1979. The reasons for this lie in the presence of a repressive regime in all three countries at the time of the revolution which limited political options open to the left. In addition all three societies had high levels of poverty, homelessness as well as a whole host of other social problems affecting a majority of the society or a large proportion. The intensity of these problems also gave rise to the need for rapid change, the resulting social tur-

moil being insignificant compared to the existing problems. These preconditions do not exist in Australia. As a result a different method is needed. Australian history has generated neither a violent nor a revolutionary political tradition. Neither has society divided along class lines, due to a higher degree of social mobility than other industrialised societies. With all this in mind a Marxist solution to Australia's capitalist system and its inherent inequalities is irrelevant as it fails to adapt itself to prevailing political conditions.

Also on the question of the Socialist Party of Australia's revolutionary credentials (producers of the *Guardian*) I seriously doubt if they exist, considering their adherence to a Stalinist party line and their opposition to 'perestroika', the most constructive move towards the realisation of socialism since the actual revolution of 1917.



Their fellow travellers the Socialist Worker's Party were once one of those 'bizarre Trotskyist sects', though more and more they seem to be moving towards a pro-Soviet line. This is hardly an improvement.

## Conclusion

The most important thing to remember while setting out to change a society is to have a program which should borrow methods and goals from socialist traditions but has adapted them to existing conditions. History shows that successful socialist movements have followed this course. An Australian road to socialism must be sought. This is, I believe, democratic socialism.

Geoff Drechsler  
Labor Students

# May Day 1989

This was my first May Day march and it was pretty much as I expected, lots of red flags, chanting and paper selling. Not really a surprise. The march started at Trades Hall on a rather sunny winter afternoon. The march and all the related activities had to be held on the following Sunday due to the lack of a public holiday. The march then wound its way through the city, along Russell Street and ended up along Swanston street, after which it headed down Batman Avenue and finished on the banks of the Yarra. It must have been quite a sight with the union and party banners as well as those of some migrant communities surrounded by a myriad of miscellaneous red flags. All this in a march easily the length of several city blocks. The reaction of the bystanders was interesting. By and large it was pretty much a sea of bemused faces who failed to understand why this bloke called Lenin deserved so much attention and what all these people were chanting about. Bit of a pity.

While this show of strength may be impressive, it is worth noting that at least eight different political parties were represented, if not more – even with the move to form larger, broader 'new' left parties. A reflection of the old saying that the left is never happy unless it's split, particularly the revolutionary left. The groups ranged from the blue collar 'old diggers' of the Communist Party of Australia, many of whom were political and trade union activists in

the Depression through to the newer political groupings like the International Socialists who lack an industrial base and have a much younger membership involved more in social movements. All these groups claim to be the true apostles of Karl Marx.

There was a noticeable absence of a large number of union banners, probably a reflection of the extent of the revolutionary left's influence in the union movement.

At the end of the march there were the obligatory speakers on various issues of both national and international significance. Many of the parties, pressure groups and migrant groups had tables with literature and food, which reminded me very much of the Peace Rally earlier in the year.

The experience which sticks in my mind is the encounter with this good natured, middle aged woman behind the People for Nuclear Disarmament stand, who after a short, general discussion claimed to be David Stover's mother. But since she had neither long hair nor bare feet I find this hard to believe.

Geoff Drechsler  
Labor Students



It's good to see the ALP marching with the BLF at Mayday, well, in NSW at least!

# Happiness, the world's way



Happiness and security are things that most people strive after. How do you find or obtain these things for yourself? What does our present day society have to say about this? And is what is being promoted really the way to happiness, security and success?

The world around us says that there are many ways in which happiness, security or success can be obtained, but we will look at only a few of them: wealth, good looks and the gratification of pleasure.

We are told that happiness and success are assured if we are one of the 'beautiful

people', having good looks, wearing the right clothes, going to the right places and being with the right people.

But is this really the case? In trying to be part of the 'in' group, is it really you? Or is it only an image or facade that you are presenting to the world, one that you are afraid people will see through? There you are, feeling insecure, so you maintain the facade at all costs so people don't see the 'real' you, and happiness goes out the door. Now you are less secure and no happier than you were in the first place.

Wealth, it is said, is the way to happiness and security. I mean, money can buy any-

thing, can't it? Some people actually believe this, but money only provides answers to some problems, like where your next meal is coming from.

Many times people have said that they would be happy if they had so much money, or such and such a thing. And yet when they have obtained it, then they say they must have something else as well before they can be happy. So it goes on and on, always wanting more and more.

As for security, have you noticed how as a person becomes richer, the fences around their house grow higher and larger, in an effort to stop people seeing or taking their wealth? They have become insecure about their wealth.

Some people do find happiness and security through wealth or their image, but this is at best temporary. It only takes a small incident to destroy this, for example, ageing, or an accident ruining your image, or a stock market crash destroying your wealth. Where does this leave you?

The instant gratification of our desires is also a way to happiness according to the world, so partaking in things such as sex, drinking alcohol or taking drugs will bring us happiness. Society may be right; you may be happy while you are doing these things, but what happens when you stop? Your problems are still there.

So some would say, 'If I drink and take drugs constantly, I don't have to come back to the real world; I can be happy all the time!' That may be true in the short term, but in the end you are worse off than before; your body wrecked, unable to handle any more, perhaps your memory gone because of all the alcohol consumed. What happiness is found in waking up with a hangover anyway?

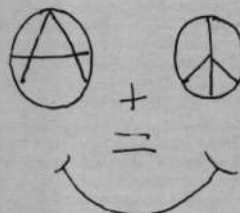
Coming back to sex, it may be good while it lasts, but if there isn't any commitment to your partner it's all just for fun. The consequences could be devastating. I'm not just talking about things like AIDS, but about the aborting of an unwanted baby, an experience which can be traumatic.

Do things like loss of memory, ruined health and abortions really bring happiness to those who suffer these things?

Society says that looks, wealth and the instant gratification of desire is the way to be happy and secure. You can believe it, but many people see it for what it is - a huge hoax.

Student Life is showing a film on Wednesday 24 May and talking about issues like those I have mentioned. The film is entitled 'They Lied to Us'.

Andrew Waterfall Science III



## SWEET

### Honey in the Rock

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"They sing with the smouldering promise of a volcano about to erupt."

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## Poor Man's 'New Age'

The current rise of the 'New Age Religion', and its paraphernalia - ranging from floatation tanks to crystals - points to the problems in self-searching in the '80s style. It's a case of buy your way to self fulfilment. Introspection is all well and good, but it must have the attendant 'goodies' for the overstocked upper-middle class couple to actually go for it.

Dalai-lamas, monks and buddhists are all very nice and quaint, but to actually go and live in isolation makes it very difficult to discuss the pros and cons of an orange-hued crystal at the local spa party. You see, demi-God Maclaine has given the well-heeled a perfect opportunity to assuage that nagging feeling of emptiness that comes from blindly pursuing possessions; the icons of 'success'. After getting all the trinkets of the household, Shirley is providing them with accessories for the soul.

The well fed, tastefully housed 'New Agers' feel compelled to 'get in touch with their inner selves' as I'm sure generation before them have. However, with the advent of the plastic card, inner peace is as close as your nearest 'soul' supermarket. Ms McClaine and her minions have got the product, while the 'New Agers' have got the money. Surely a match made in heaven... sorry nirvana.

All that has occurred in the life of the 'New Age' is that one life of purchasing has been replaced by another, only the product has been changed. This quasi-religious movement appears as an archetypal '80s event. Having the right gear is all that really matters; instant gratification over honest self-exploitation. If the 'New Age' movement has provided any positive contribution to today's society it is that it further illustrates the emptiness of seeking fulfilment by possession. The irony is that in attempting to escape a self-imposed spiritual vacuum, those who turn to the 'New Age Religion' merely replace it with another 'buy-buy' ethos.

Michael Ives



# Can women ever win?

Two recent films, *The Accused* and *Working Girl*, take a surprisingly honest look at the prejudices and stereotypes which keep women oppressed in this society.

They deal with quite different aspects of women's oppression - *The Accused* takes up the question of rape and *Working Girl* looks at discrimination at work. But they both deal with the inter-relationship between gender and class.

Tess McGill, in *Working Girl*, is smart and determined to move out of the secretarial pool into the yuppie world of New York's brokerage industry. She soon finds that in this male-dominated world, her sex is not her only problem.

Her hair isn't right, her accent reveals her working class background, and she's not one of the upper-class club. In spite of her very accurate feel for the markets and her qualifications painstakingly acquired at night school, the lecherous brokerage bosses will not take her seriously.

Sarah Tobias in *The Accused* finds the same class barriers when she tries to get justice after she's been subjected to an ugly gang rape. She's not regarded as a 'strong witness' because, as she herself puts it, she's a 'low class bimbo', while one of her attackers is a college boy 'with a future ahead of him'.

Both films have a certain optimism about them, making the point that we don't have to succumb to sexism and snobbery. Tess proves her ability and gets a plum job with a brokerage firm.

Sarah refuses to be simply terrorised by one of the men from the night of the rape, when he accosts her. Instead, she rams his truck with her car - an incident which convinces her yuppie lawyer, Kathryn Murphy, she was wrong to drop the charge of rape for 'reckless endangerment' as she did. And it leads her to prosecute the men who urged the rapists on.

## Problem

The problem with both films is that they rely on individual solutions, and a certain acceptance of the stereotypes they attack.

Tess changes her hairstyle and borrows her absent boss's clothes to begin her climb to the top. She has an encounter with Jack Trainor, the man she forges a business partnership with, so that he is crazy about her before he knows anything about her business deal. Therefore it is left ambiguous whether she could in fact have made it alone.

Sarah is believed by the jury because she is small and vulnerable looking. And her lawyer is a very acceptable, respectable woman.

Sarah and Tess were lucky. They happened to be supported by someone more respectable than themselves.

Both films draw out the complexity of both class and sex oppression. The middle-class women do not escape society's sexism. Katherine Parker, Tess's boss on *Working Girl*, relies heavily on flirtation and an artificial charm which no man in her position would think necessary.

In *The Accused*, Sarah's lawyer is told by a male colleague that if she tries to pursue the prosecution, she can't win. 'If you lose, you'll be seen to be incompetent. If you win you'll be a vengeful bitch.'

And they show that women's oppression does not unite all women, making them natural allies. In *Working Girl*, at first it looks as though Tess's female boss will be much better to work for. At least she doesn't expect to be able to put her hands on her all the time.

Katherine promises a mutually co-operative working relationship. But when Tess fills in for Katherine who has a broken leg, she finds her boss has been secretly working on an idea Tess had come up with which she had dismissed.

## Ruthless

When the showdown between them comes, Katherine is as ruthless and dishonest as any member of her class when their prestige is threatened.

In *The Accused*, the women who were at the bar the night of the rape do not rush to help Sarah. At some level they accept that Sarah asked for it. Wasn't she drinking and smoking dope, being loud and provocative with a room full of men? Women's oppression and sexist ideas are so pervasive that it is not only men who accept and help propagate them.

It's actually a young man who testifies in her defence, and who is prepared to state categorically that Sarah did not ask to be raped.

Yet the film's optimism in the final scenes is partly false.

The film poses the legal question in terms of the attitude of Sarah's lawyer. Once she decides to prosecute, everything goes her way. The fact is that in real life things are much different.

The courts are notorious for their assumption that the woman is to blame (which is not surprising when you consider that the courts are there to uphold the law of this violent, sexist society).

The man's defence has the whole array of sexist prejudices to play on in order to influence the jury.

Lots of women who suffer sexual abuse never report it because of their dread of dealing with sexist cops and hostile courts. In any case, successful legal actions may give female victims revenge, but they do not stop the incidence of rape, a fact we're reminded of by a note on the screen telling us a rape is reported every six minutes in the US.

A staggering one in three American women experience rape or attempted rape at some time. But it would be mistaken if a

film like *The Accused* was taken to reinforce the myth that most of these rapes are attacks from strangers. The fact is between 70 and 80 per cent are 'acquaintances' or 'date rapes' or members of the family.

Nevertheless, the film takes an honest look at the attitude that women 'ask' to be raped when they're only having a good time like many males, and shows the class snobbery which feeds and defends these attitudes.

And *Working Girl*, while it plays on the fantasy that working class kids can make good if only they will strive hard enough, doesn't totally fall for the idea. Tess's friends cheer her in her new job. But there is no suggestion they think they will follow in her footsteps.

## Reality

The reality is of course that even today, when women make up almost half the workforce, they are under-represented in skilled, professional or managerial positions. Most women are condemned to the secretarial pool or to low-paid factory jobs. Even where they are skilled and trained such as in nursing, their wages are notoriously low by male standards.

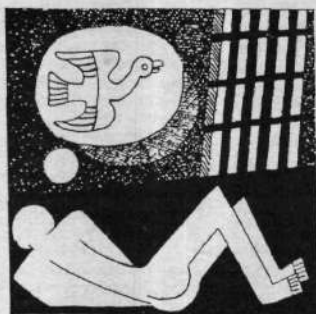
Both films gloss over the fact that as individuals, working class people are weak and vulnerable.

It will take a mass, collective struggle to fundamentally change this society which perpetuates sexist ideas about women and condemns all workers to unsatisfactory jobs, with women at the bottom of the pile.

In the meantime, any film which challenges this sexism and class discrimination, even if ambiguously, is preferable to those which glorify them.

Sandra Bloodworth  
International Socialists Club

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## Double Storeys/ Double Stories Union Theatre

Plots (Playwrights on the Skids) is a Monash Student Theatre award for an original play by a student. The 1988 Plots winner was Margaret Mappin's *Double Stories*. *Double Stories*, her second play, is most impressive on the page and should be as impressive on the stage if the calibre of the actors is anything to go by.

*Double Storeys* looks at the lives of the three individuals who have all in some ways rejected expectations of behaviour. While they all live alone, their lives show that to be alone is not necessarily to be lonely. The unseen influence on the play is the family who live next door to these three characters. Their fights and conflicts interrupt but finally does not disrupt the lives of Miss Radley, Harold and Ida, who to them are outsiders - mere odds and ends.

The central role of the elderly Miss Radley is superbly brought to life by Debra Jeffries, who Monash Theatre goers may recognize from, among other plays, her involvement in last year's very successful production of *Cloud Nine*. Debra has certainly been keeping abreast of the theatrical scene since appearing in the *Trojan Women* last year. Other veteran actors include Tom Bradley as Harold Robertson. Tom's experience in Shakespearean production and, indeed, such modern works as *Waiting for Godot*, means he is bringing a wealth of theatrical expertise to the role. His bigger claim to fame, perhaps, is that he is vaguely related to Derek Jacobi.

Similarly, Fiona Blair has vast experience in both acting and directing plays, ranging from an early role as infantile King David (a kindergarten production) to her most recent and recognisable role as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Behind the scenes, the enraged voices of Rosemary Tomselli and Martin Hourigan invade the serenity of the communal back yard. Simon Hill plays the sincere, encouraging voice of the estate agent. These three actors have between them theatrical experience ranging from nativity plays to Shakespeare to last year's PLOTS winner.

All in all, a brilliantly crafted play performed by an enthusiastic and talented cast - its success is ensured.

Evenings: 8pm May 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, June 1, 2. Matinees: 1pm May 25, 26, 31, June 1

Students \$3, others \$5

## Superb acting deserves Much Ado

Of all Shakespeare's comedies, *Much Ado About Nothing* must be seen as one of the more delicate to stage, direct or perform. The Monash Shakespeare Society's most recent staging of *Much Ado* is surely the most successful production by this group for some years. Led by Fiona Blair (Director and lead as Beatrice), and Tom Bradley (Producer and lead as Benedick) the production successfully countered and exploited most of the major difficulties and intricacies in this play, 'Doing in the figures of lambs, the feats of lions'.

In her direction of the play, Fiona Blair overcame many of the problems of staging. From the workable gender switching of some characters from the original script, to the tightness and balance of the movements on stage, the direction showed insight into staging Shakespeare.

Unlike many other of Shakespeare's plays, this text will not carry an ordinary director or actors, because the comedy is so dependent on the unity of the group. Direction was lacking in some scenes, but it is fair to suggest that Blair's own acting performance may

have denied her a more objective appraisal.

The casting of Tom Bradley was a success. Bradley and Blair complemented one another with almost uncanny ease and certainty. Tom Bradley's Benedick used Shakespeare's language as his own. With both actors, the comic use of expressions removed the language bar that often reduces interpretation for modern audiences.

Blair and Bradley exhibited tremendous sensitivity for the text in their roles. Of particular note is the scene where the two foes of wit declare their emotions and Benedick vows to revenge Beatrice's cousin. Not only was the acting in this scene excellent, but the problems encountered by the RSC (1988) in their presentation of this discourse were non-existent in this portrayal.

The cast, as a whole, was without weakness. Julian Beckedahl offered us a most delightfully pathetic, love struck Claudio, while opposite was a perfectly cast, very well played naive Renaissance maiden hero (Sandra Kanis). Debra Jeffries (Donna Duessa) had suitably marked contempt for all as she led her malcontents (Ken McAlpine and George Panagopoulos) to foil Claudio's love for Hero. Ken McAlpine, however, obviously preferred his other role as Balthazar, tormenting appreciative audiences with his vocal 'arrangements' - 'had he been a dog that should have howled thus, they would have hanged him...'

Matthew Harvey's portrayal of Leano (Hero's father) was a clever role that genuinely captured the elder statesman. He played well off Don Pedro (Shane Lucas) and his 'sister' Antonia (Barb Calton) with great reserve and control. Shane Lucas as the Prince of Arrogance dealt comfortably with the important role of linking other players throughout the acts.

Indeed the whole cast contributed to the staging of this production. The humour of the play was optimised and unusually well controlled. However, the farce of some scenes was overplayed, and that is my major criticism. Some scenes were too farcical. The subtlety of visual humour in the garden scenes (tempting of Beatrice and Benedick) was sometimes lost to slapstick. Likewise, the 'watch scenes' were funny but did not use the script, leaning instead toward visual and physical slapstick.

The costuming and set (Victoria Bradley) were superb; incredibly detailed and consistent throughout. Thus, on entering the theatre, the audience was immediately drawn into the atmosphere of the play. With an excellent production of tragic-comedy Shakespeare, they were not disappointed by the play either.

The Shakespeare Society's next production is 'Hamlet' to be directed by Blair.

## Choral Event a Major Success - Monash Society planning September Concert.

After months of preparation, rehearsal and anticipation, Friday 28 April saw the performance of David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*, by the combined choirs of Monash University, Melbourne University and MCAE at Robert Blackwood Hall. Since the beginning of the first semester, the individual choirs worked under their own conductors and combined for a camp of intense rehearsal and 'social exercise' before the performance, conducted by Faye Dumont. The work featured guest soprano soloist Merlyn Quaife and was received with great enthusiasm by the near capacity audience of over 1,150 people. By all standards, the event was a magnificent success. Earlier in the evening, the individual choirs performed items on their own - with MONUCS (under the skilled and dedicated Andre De Quadros) triumphing with four Slovak folk songs by Bartok, the dramatically haunting *Transyl-*

*vanian Lament*, by Kordaly and the dynamic and exciting *Tambur* arranged by Lajos Bardos. Congratulations must go to all those 205 singers involved, conductors and organisers and to Ms Katie Purvis, the convenor of the 1989 African Sanctus committee.

The next major performance of the Monash University Choral Society will take place in September at the Robert Blackwood Hall. Featured works are Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*. When *Symphony of Psalms* appeared in 1930, yet another facet of Stravinsky's art was revealed: taut, sincere, creating an effect of austere grandeur and 'profound religious conviction' the work must be considered one of Stravinsky's finest creations. *Solemn Vespers* by Mozart is a sacred work for soprano, alto, tenor and bass, chorus, organ and orchestra composed in 1780. It was the last work composed by Mozart for the Archbishop of Salzburg before his final break and departure to Vienna.

Such works require large numbers and therefore positions are available in all parts (especially tenor and bass). MonUCS rehearse on Tuesday evenings on the eighth floor of the Menzies Building in the auditorium, from 7pm to 9.30 pm and lifts home can be arranged. With this concert approaching and plenty of social activity planned for the rest of the year all newcomers are most welcome. No auditions are required. Don't just enjoy fine music - help create it!

Andrew Wajles

## Monash University Orchestra Autumn Concert.

The Autumn concert given by Monash University Orchestra on Friday evening, May 5, in the Religious Centre, could only be described as a triumph for this young amateur group and its musical directors. The players brought maturity and musical understanding to the well balanced program, which provided the appreciative audience of 150 with a stimulating variety of works, and the orchestra with challenges of technique and interpretation. MUO certainly took up these challenges on Friday night, resulting in a performance of vitality, precision and admirable depth.

The concert opened with the *Hebrides Overture* ('Fingal's Cave'), a performance which right from the opening bar successfully evoked Mendelssohn's 'romantic vision', and highlighted the particular talent of conductor David Adams: sensitive control of timbre, phrasing and dynamics, as for example in the delicate chordal screening of the main theme when it reappears (the 'melody out of the mist' effect). This work in particular demonstrated the outstanding improvement of MUO's string section, which handled the considerable demands of the program with skill and dedication to playing as an ensemble - lending power and conviction to the whole performance as only a well-rehearsed string section can.

The flute choir then performed a short, refreshing program of Quantz, Bartok and Haydn. Well-balanced voices, a pleasing fullness of tone and good ensemble playing were combined with lively interpretation to result in a strong and interesting performance that was not merely a 'light break' for the audience from the demands of the orchestral works. The orchestra then returned to play Sibelius' *Finlandia*, directed by Richard Green, whose distinctively vigorous style suited this powerful work. Its dramatic dynamics were exploited to full without becoming wooden; considerable shifts in tempo were skilfully handled without anything 'dragging' or sounding rushed. Transitions in mood were smooth and subtle, carrying the audience along vulnerable to the appearance of the moving main theme which, honestly performed, had the reviewer and several others in tears. It was an emotional performance; the conductor showed an ability to enter

fully into the spirit of the work, manipulating orchestral effects appropriately while still imparting a sense of freshness and immediacy to the performance. In this he was supported by the highly competent timpanist Brenden Russel, and especially by some excellent playing in the brass section.

After the interval, the performance of Mozart's *Prague Symphony* had a slightly shaky start: an additional rehearsal beforehand would have polished it up well. Nevertheless, it was a satisfying and thoughtful performance; David Adams' interpretation was steadily compelling, commanding attention from beginning to end. Wisely, no attempt was made to abandon the orchestra's usual robust approach for a more authentic, delicate style: themes and their elaboration were given generous, even expansive treatment. A clear highlight was the fine playing in the woodwind section, particularly solos from Cathy Ewart on bassoon and Christina Scott-Branagan on flutes, and also good work from the choir of french horns.

Overall, this was a fine and enjoyable performance. Some quiet string passages lacked substance, sounding 'thin', and occasionally a touch more refinement and finish would have improved the result. On the positive side, sound production was generally rich and strong, solos were characterful and well-articulated, and perhaps most pleasingly, the balance of orchestral timbres was consistently good. Lovers of orchestral music can certainly look forward to more good work from MUO this year.

Lesley Sutherland.

## Pieces in Search of Bits - Performed and Written by Micheal Freeland, Universal Theatre until May 28th

Micheal Freeland could not help but be deflated after audience reaction to the opening performance of 'Pieces in Search of Bits'. The show, devised by Freeland, consisted of a series of skits which attempted to convey his experiences attained through life and wordly travel. Unfortunately, instead of providing memorable or amusing moments, the audience endured sketches containing some very crass humour whose subject matter ranged from the explicitly sexual to racist and religious.

Promotions for that show had warned audiences of offensive material and Freeland definitely succeeded in offending most of his audience. They slowly drifted out of the theatre after skits. A mass walkout occurred after an Evangelist sketch where Freeland portrayed a Jimmy Swaggart like character who defamed religions other than Christianity, was unable to resist sexual temptation and Christianity itself is mocked was an exploitive faith. So severe was the walkout that an intermission took place by circumstance rather than plan.

On a night when even the props refused to co-operate, there were nevertheless some wittier instances; a sketch about a fire-eater came off quite nicely and clever use was made of a Frenchman puppet on a bicycle. Otherwise, the skits were forgettable, mainly because they lacked true innovation, Freeland even gained audience participation by 'encouraging' (in a rather intimidating manner!) members onto the stage. It may be that Freeland was making a genuine attempt to show the wrongs and stupidity of social bias through laughter, but the communication was devoid of the force and ingenuity needed to be successful.

The remaining audience heartily applauded Freeland's efforts, but sadly it was a disappointing show - that disappointment so vividly reflected on Freeland's face during his closing bow.

Dorothy





Jo Kennedy and Nique Needles on the road to nowhere in *Tender Hooks*

## Tender Hooks

*Tender Hooks* is a film about addiction – addiction to people you love, to your mates, to a way of life, and about coping with this addiction. It's about outsiders on the fringes of big city life.

The plot is primarily concerned with Mitch, played by Jo Kennedy ('Starstruck', 'Wrong World', 'Pack of Women') who is rebelling from her nice suburban background and works in an inner-city hair salon. She is sensitive, warm and nobody's fool. That is, until she meets Rex.

Rex, played by Nique Needles ('Bliss', 'Dogs in Space', 'As Time Goes By'), is a small time crim, streetwise and good hearted but too loyal to his mates. He is charming, incorrigible, and sweeps Mitch off her feet but unfortunately his talents are no protection against the law. The film examines the relationship between Rex and Mitch and the conflict between their attitudes. Rex, always on the move, has no real idea of love and can only express himself with stolen presents and comic book sentiments. Mitch, however, is looking for something more.

The film is very funny, with clever

sight gags and sharp one liners. But beneath this lurking comic exterior the film makes some poignant social comments. One example of the film's irony is where Rex, having saved his money and bought Mitch some prawns, is notably pissed off when he learns Mitch does not like them.

'I thought everybody liked prawns,' says Rex 'they're so fuckin' expensive.' Meanwhile, there is an advertisement being made with a cliched muscle-bound model trying to sell a hopeless product.

Again, when Rex is in prison, he scratches Mitch's name in his arm and when she comes to visit him he sheepishly explains: 'There's nothing much else to do here.' This is typical of the film's understated but effective way of highlighting social issues, rather than labelling the point.

This Australian production is enjoyable; the acting convincing, the script is witty and perceptive, examining how one can escape the 'Tender Hooks' of addiction. Provided one is prepared to enter at the level of the characters and not stand in back moralising and justifying, then this film should be enjoyed by almost everyone.

## Make No Mistake Keith Richards

Taken from the entertaining *Talk is Cheap* album, this number sounds like an out-take from a 'Black and Blue' session that Jagger got too chopless to turn up to. Richards' 'minimal' vocals didn't transfer well to falsetto in this funk-out, guitar-sparse piece with gratuitous horns. Listen to *Beggars' Banquet* instead.

## Mayor of Simpleton XTC

Virgin

It is rather suprising that XTC are one of the only bands to survive the late '70s early '80s techo-guitar pop capers. Anyway, this song is no great innovation. Featuring lyrics along the lines of 'love me, I didn't go to uni', it sounds a bit like The Smiths to me.

## Free World Kirsty MacColl Virgin

Kirsty MacColl sounds a lot like The Smiths with an accomplished vocalist and no pathos. Might as well listen to *The Queen is Dead*.

## This is Your Land Simple Minds

Dreary, atmospheric 'walk down back to the rail road track' number which, for some reason, has Jim Kerr doing a duet with Uncle Lon. It is on par with this band's cover of *Street Hassle*. Have a listen to *New York* instead.

## Happy Mondays Bummed Factory

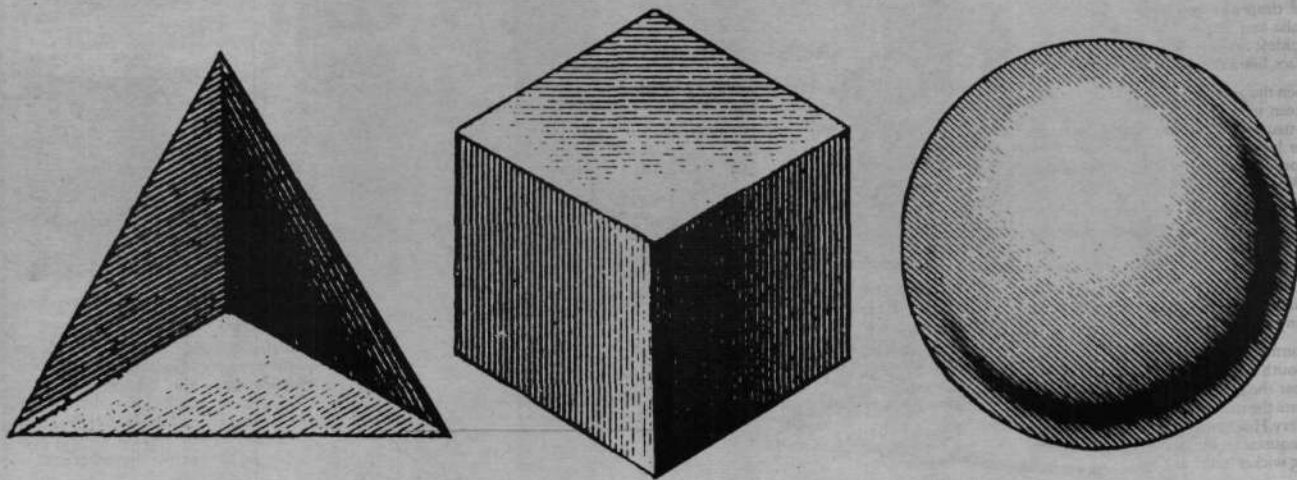
Techno-pop with a bit of flair and style. Impeccably well crafted synths and guitars combine with angst-lust lyrics to make the music appear not as bad as it sounds. This band, while reminiscent of, say, Simple Minds and New Order manage to avoid some of the vacuousness of the former and much of the dirge of the latter. But why do all these late '80s pommie guitarists sound like John Marr?

Brendan Rea



Tall man, single, dark, has asthma, bad breath. Seeks imperialist with fetish for black body armour, view to 'force'ful lasting relationship.

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# Sport with the insomniacs

Seventeen men on an aeroplane !!

'Personally, I have always looked upon cricket as organised loafing,' William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1925.

Every four years a group of Australian men climb aboard an aeroplane, drink it dry, and then parade their wares on the cricket grounds of England. Back home in Australia, thousands of people tote up monstrous power bills as the televisions and/or radios purr gently into the wee small hours following the various trials and tribulations of these men from the Antipodes. Clearly this is no loafing matter, whatever the good Archbishop might think.

The time has come, once again, for Australia and England to don the creams and contest another Ashes Series. The Insomniacs, like all cricket fans, just can't wait.

When the aeroplane touched down, our seventeen man touring party was greeted by the usual tabloid cries of being the worst to ever leave our shores. How soon they have forgotten our truly awful, trouble-ridden 1985 side.

## The rebels return

The proof of this particular pudding comes in the form of Terry Alderman and Carl Rackemann. Four years ago they were part of the rebel tour which split the Aussies in two. Now the rebels are back and team harmony couldn't be better.

Alderman and Rackemann, along with New South Wales speedster Geoff Lawson, will bear the brunt of our bowling attack. These are the men who must bowl England out. Merv Hughes may have a heart as big as his moustache, but he is as likely to be our leading wicket-taker as I am.

Merv's job will be to entertain the crowd and plug away on a good length. Alderman is the king-pin - the man who must take wickets. Somebody told us that Greg Campbell is a Tasmanian. He's about as well-known as The Bert Newton Show. Perhaps he'll be the new Bob Massie. Perhaps Laurie Levy will have duck for dinner tonight.

Tim May and Trevor Hohns both ended up on the flight to Heathrow, which is a little bemusing given that none of the six Test Matches have been scheduled for the Sydney Cricket Ground. That venerable home of New South Wales cricket seems to be the only spinning wicket this side of the sub-continent.

Given this, Hohns' spot probably should have gone to someone younger, like Victoria's Paul Jackson, for whom such a tour would have been invaluable. Still, as great fans of the near-extinct art of spin-bowling, The Insomniacs wish both men well.



Tim Zoeher has made enough Shield runs to warrant an Australian recall, but unless he does a knocap job on the more accomplished Ian Healy, he won't be seeing very much Test action.

## Our battling batsmen

In 1981, Australia's batting was as brittle as a Keating budget. They promised a lot, but delivered very little. Unlike with Keating, the media were quick to put the knives in. It is up to our current crop of batsmen to make sure that this does not happen again.

Mark Taylor, for all his sublime ability, reminds us of run-out kings Rick Darling and Greame Wood. Hopefully the selectors will stop the rot and keep Marsh and Boon together throughout the series. It was sheer folly to split up their successful opening partnership. Theirs is the base upon which a commanding total shall be built.

Dean Jones must bat at number three. Slower English wickets and slower English bowlers will enable the dashing Victorian to leave behind his horrific form of last summer. It is time for Mr Jones to re-establish himself in the test arena. His only danger is that Botham might 'do a Hadlee'. Then again, Botham might simply 'do a Botham'.

Young Stephen Waugh will show everyone just what he is good for as he compiles run after run in England - a moral cert to aggregate over 500 runs for the Test

Series. Another bonus is that, coming from Sydney, he'll be well used to the wet weather.

Tom Moody and Mike Veletta made so many runs on the batsmen's paradise out west that they just couldn't be overlooked. Mark Waugh must be wondering how many times the selectors are going to give Veletta a whirl. While the talented brother of Stephen is displaying his wares in county cricket, the lucky West Australian has been given yet another chance to prove himself at the highest level.

Moody seems a far more worthwhile selection. His polished Shield performances

had baggy green cap written all over them last summer. We hope that it fits.

Last, but certainly not least, we reach the modern day king of Australian cricket, the bearded wonder, Alan Border. On this, his final tour of England, Border would like nothing better than to win back those infernal Ashes. You can bet that he will give everything he has got to achieve that goal.

The tour starts in earnest when the first Test Match begins at Headingley on June 8. Channel Nine provides the pictures, ABC Radio provides the words.

## You're Crazy!

Yes I, Crazy 'Flying Jackhammer' Greg, have returned with the commencement of the new WWF series. At last all the thrills and spills of severe violence and all out fun has begun screening. And guess what, the event that we have been waiting for, the televising of the Summer Slam!

Dave Wagner v 'The Rock' Don Muraco. Look, just because you have stubble on your head and an ugly bushy beard doesn't mean that you can stand up to 'The Rock', a wrestler of super star status. I mean they must pay losers good money to step into the ring. So slaughter time began. After pulverising Dave Wagner, Don Muraco then executed a beautiful slingshot sending Wagner head first into the buckle. As Wagner slowly sunk to the canvas Muraco climbed the ropes and performed an immaculate flying knee drop. But Muraco ruined his brilliant performance by finishing off Wagner with a pitiful excuse for a pile driver.

Hart Foundation v Tom Stone and Chris Curtis

Now this was a good match, not because the teams were evenly matched. The reason it was admirable is due to the fact that the Hart Foundation are one of the leading tag teams in existence! The mere sight of 'The

Anvil' screaming 'Get Up, Get Up!' to a pulverised Curtis lying on the canvas was of course the end of the match. After severely pulverising his opponent 'The Anvil' picks him up off the canvas, and holds him while 'The Hitman' administers a perfect flying clothes line. Sheer poetry in motion.

Jack 'The Snake' Roberts v Harley Manson

Jake 'Phallic Substitute' Roberts just happens to be a great wrestler, but for Christ's sake why the phallic symbolism? I mean couldn't they find a better gimmick? Anyway, Harley Manson (of any relation to Pope Tex Manson?) put up a pathetic display and inevitably was put out of his misery by a move that Jake holds copyright to, the DDT. Oh yes a smattering of tomato sauce was added during the match just to give it a tinge of 'realism'.

Did anyone catch the special on Australia's contribution to the wrestling and pizza making scene, the wonderful Mario Milano? Yea I bet you didn't know about that, it was shown on Nine's Wide World of Sport and I only caught it by chance whilst lounging around consuming nicotine and lager. Not to worry, you can catch Mario Milano in his pizza place at Clayton. Anyway, till the next edition may the figure four leg lock be with you.

Crazy 'Hack Slaughter' Greg signing off.



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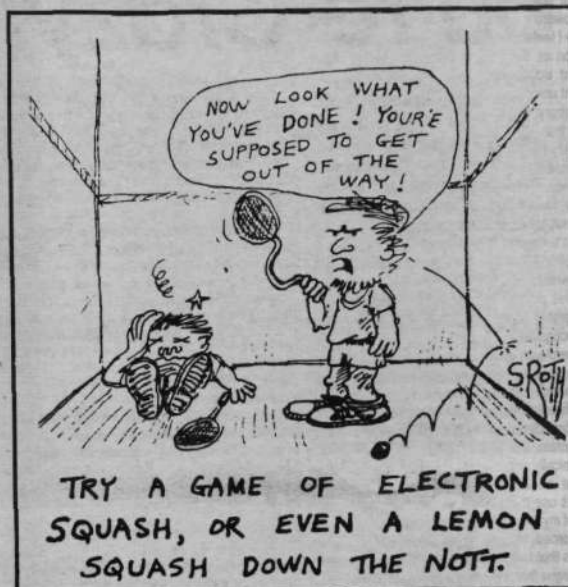
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## Rort

Dear Eds,  
I recently received a newsletter from the Mature Age and Part Time Students (MAPS) organisation.

Inside and all of the way through I found MAPS supporting a candidate in the University Council elections. They are a department of the Union and so used the money of all students to support this candidate, even the money of those running against the MAPS endorsed candidate.

MAPS supporting this candidate (Raymond Scott) is especially bad. MAS doesn't do it, why should we let MAPS? MAPS used to be a club but are now a department funded by all of us. They should not support candidates in elections the way clubs do because some (probably a lot of) people would not support Raymond Scott. I certainly would not support Mr Scott.

I think MAPS waste our money on their newsletter and never do anything for part-time students anyway. They may look after their own interests but never look after students who are just part-time and not mature age. If anyone doubts this, ask them how many of their committee members are under 25. The answer is none!

I'd put the question to part-time students: 'What has MAPS ever done for you?'

Answer: Not a bloody thing!!!

Greig Richards  
Arts IV

## Reporting

Dear Editors,  
The book is out and the Insomniacs have noted a reportable offence by Julian Collins, 'Cliche Coach'. Mr Collins will front the tribunal on the charge of unduly rough letter writing. In an action packed start to the season, the Insomniacs, with more issues on their minds than hot dinners at Lou Richards household, produced a summary of the ten time flag winning Tigers, but under extreme pressure from the defence, the paragraph was bundled out of bounds and lost in the crowd. The siren sounded and for the Insomniacs it was too late to kick that winning fourteenth goal. As the Insomniacs trudged disconsolately from the field, the cliche coach moved in with a powerful hip-and-shoulder that left the Insomniacs flat out on the VFL turf. We make and ask for no apologies - we play the game hard and take the rough with the smooth. So good luck to Richmond Football Club in the quest to be more than a week to week proposition and to upset more highly fancied finals contenders in the charge towards the September action.

Keep Punching,  
Insomniacs

## Scab

Dear Editors,  
It is with some concern that I write to you, concerning the comments of my protege, Peter Vitale, on voluntary student unionism. In his recent letter (Lot's 10/5) to your esteemed paper, I feel that Peter has misinterpreted the definition of voluntary student unionism and has misunderstood Mr Howard's position on this vital issue. Hence I feel morally bound to clarify the real position of the Liberal Party (as per its current education policy) on voluntary student unionism.

Contrary to what Peter claimed in his letter, that VSU would only apply to the politically-based portion of the union and that students would be levied regardless to maintain union facilities. I would like to point out that this is incorrect. The Liberal Party Education Policy clearly states that all student unions would be liberated, not just the political portions, from compulsory membership. John Howard himself has made his position an absolutely voluntary membership of student unions explicit on other occasions.

Regardless of what some on the left would argue, to volunteer membership of the Monash Union would not be the great disaster that has been predicted. The Union-provided services that we are paying to maintain are those which either are economically viable or those which should operate on a user-pays basis, as few students use them. I regard it as not just a waste of my money, but also as immoral that I am forced to pay on re-enrolment for services that I never use. Whilst only a fool would argue that the cats are subsidised (they make a huge profit each year) those services that are subsidised, e.g. Clubs and

# LETTERS

Societies, Sports and Recreation, Student Theatre, 3MU etc are those that do not benefit all students, although all students are forced to pay for them. Why should I be forced to subsidise someone else's membership in the Health Club called Sports and Recreation? Why, by paying the amenities fee, should I or anyone else subsidise the piss ups of a small group who happen to have access to Clubs and Societies funding? Isn't it far cheaper for each student to choose for him/herself whether or not to buy a can of beer, than to pay a fee of \$282 in order to get a couple of cans (perhaps) every term. Anyway, when did any of you last get a free beer from the Union? As for Student Theatre, to attend any performance costs enough already. Why should we pay for the production of the performance? In the real world, we are not induced to sponsor the arts automatically and compulsorily.



Justin Corfield

## Don't blame me!!

My Dearest Lot's,  
I write in response to the letter from comrades Smith and Dimopolous which is entitled 'Political Bias', and seeks to besmirch my character.

The letter came about as a result of a group of students trying and failing to affiliate a club named 'Resistance'.

Good comrades Smith and Dimopolous seem to think that my one vote on the Executive of Clubs and Societies changed their fate. In fact the issue was brought up by other members of Clubs and Societies Executive and I stated that I believed 'Resistance' should be a club which was fully affiliated. Had it not been for my actions, 'Resistance' would not even have been registered by Clubs and Societies.

Comrades Smith and Dimopolous were not at the Clubs and Societies meeting that decided to only register 'Resistance'. Had they been there the situation may have been vastly different. They could have put paid to suggestions that 'Resistance' is a violent organisation; they are not in my opinion; and may have become full affiliates.

I can hardly be held personally responsible for the actions of Clubs and Societies, and the non-actions of 'Resistance' members, and I resent the implication that I am.

Naturally I am sorry that the comrades feel hard done by, but that is hardly my fault, and certainly not something I am singularly responsible for.

Furthermore, I do not believe that anyone sees 'Resistance' as a threat but rather they are seen as a group of comrades who support free education, unions and progressive ideology just as I do.

I hope this helps the members of 'Resistance', and trust that they will cease venting their spleens against me.

Tim Woods Law III

## Democratise Education

Dear Eds,  
It was with a pleasant sense of surprise I discovered in the last edition of Lot's the article by/on Joel Kohn (Chairperson of the Anthropology and of Sociology). It was not only because it is one of the few times that a Monash academic has made the effort to contribute to the student paper, but also for his refreshing ideas about what studying is all about.

In these times of 'economic rationalism', 'efficiency' and 'academic relevance' it is good to see an academic having the courage to stand up and be counted for what he is and what he thinks. Having been at University for a few years now, I immediately felt empathy with his views on the 'sectarianism' of many subjects, their 'aloofness' from today's problems and the need to be more responsive to students, needs.

I think that it is about time a stand was made against power politics within the 'academic ivory towers' and a process of democratisation should begin by not only making courses more challenging, stimulating and holistic, but also by being responsive to student input. Professor Kahn is probably a lone voice, but it is up to us as students, and any like-minded academics, to organise and pressure for changes that will turn this university into a real island of learning'.

Piergiorgio Moro  
Masters in Geography

'By this I do not mean to be an elitist. Education is there to serve the masses and not vice-versa.'

## Too good to be true

Dear Editors,

I am profoundly concerned about the cartoon (?) Monash Daze, subtitled Educating Trent. I am a first year law student who owns a Laser. These are just two of the many similarities between this alleged cartoon character and myself. I find it somewhat suspicious that this character so closely resembles myself. Is this mere coincidence, or a twisted and malicious attack on my integrity?

I would remind you that defamation laws in Australia are notoriously rigorous. If this resemblance continues, I will be forced to take legal action.

Yours in anger,  
Trent Smith  
Eco/Law I



## Another Rort

Dear Lot's,

As the immediate ex-Chairperson of MAS, and a student who has been involved in campus affairs for the past four years, I write to refute claims by University Council candidate Raymond Scott, that issues such as campus security, childcare and student accommodation 'have been largely ignored by student representatives in the past.'

As Raymond is endorsed by the Mature Age and Part-Time Students Committee, I can only assume that his views are likewise endorsed by this committee. I therefore address the following comments to all members of the committee.

The issue of campus security has been of obvious concern to MAS for years. Perhaps this is why students campaigned for better lighting of the campus at night, for a free night bus service around campus, and for Sexual Harassment Grievance

Procedures and counsellors in each faculty. I don't know whether the MAPS representative to Union Board has told you yet, but at the last Board meeting students also got \$7500 to run a Campaign Against Violence. If you still aren't sure what's happening on campus you could ask one of the 2200 students who signed the petition in support of the campaign, or maybe you could have attended the last Student General Meeting, which culminated with three students meeting with the University Controllor, Peter Wade, and the Vice-Chancellor, Mal Logan, to discuss the inadequacy of campus security.

It was MAS representatives who demanded the provision of a Childcare Co-Ordinator who, at the direction of the Co-Ordinator, Ms Bernadette Muir, established a Childcare Holiday Program (used mainly by mature age students) and at yet another SGM last year, students demanded that the University buy more housing in Beddoe Avenue for the purpose of providing extra space for childcare. I would hardly describe these actions as 'ignoring' the issue.

On the question of student accommodation, MAS (through Student Welfare) provides access to emergency accommodation for students who need it. MAS has also liaised with Residents Committees from Halls on any problems encountered by students residing on campus. At the same time, it should be recognised that the Union's Student Housing Office was set up at the behest of student representatives.

No one could deny that any of the above issues have been completely dealt with. But to suggest that student representatives and many other students, have 'ignored' these issues is ridiculous, and nonsensical.

On behalf of all these students, I ask you to substantiate your allegations, or admit your ignorance.

In other words MAPS Committee and Raymond Scott, put up or shut up.



Yours in disgust,  
David Moody  
Arts/Law V

PS Just as an afterthought, how can the MAPS Committee as an executive of a Union Department endorse a candidate for University Council? Were MAPS members consulted before the decision was made? Who paid for Mr Scott's advertisement in the MAPS newsletter (the MAPS equivalent of Lot's Wife)? Were other Council candidates given this privilege? Finally, what price a plutocracy representing Mature Age and Part-Timers?



# Creative



John Farnham - A Class Act



You think that 'You're the Voice'  
For this, our 'Age of Reason'  
But Johnny you're a prostitute  
Singing songs of treason.



# writing

You sing of 'two strong hearts'  
Stuck like 'honey to the bee'  
Well how is that for fucking stupid  
Bourgeois imagery?



You're nothing but a product  
Of an endless industry  
That's made and sold then played  
On 'double-fucking-T'

Sweating on the factory floor  
Being played your joyous shit  
You're an instrument of owners  
Keeping workers in their pit.

Well before the Coke ads  
It was plain to see  
You're a lackey of the ruling class  
'Cause you sang for LRB.



Yes this is a case of class,  
Of us versus them  
Because your fucking manager  
Owns all of 'triple M'.

So if I ever met you  
My famous 'Whispering Jack'  
I'd take my fist for every worker  
And shove it up your crack.



Clinton Porteous

## Daze of our Lives

**Last week saw our male protagonist left in a stage of agonising deliberation. Yet, unbeknown to him, something of an equally problematic nature was occurring just an infinitesimal distance away.**

The object of his, as yet, experimental yearnings was also plagued by thoughts of a transcendental nature. Unaware of the positive force directed towards her unbearable luminosity of being, she too was pondering with an intensity which was definitely not of an insubstantial nature.

Could a union with purely spiritual context be a plausible problem to consider, or would the practicalities inexplicably involved in a matter of feminine thought decree it to be too time consuming and fantastical even to be postulated?

As the beat of her mind ticking over such probabilities reached its crescendo, she placed a hand to her throbbing temple, completely overwhelmed by (and anticipating exhaustion from) the ordeal ahead of her.

Should she submit to the lure of his spiritual forces, or would his aura prove to consist of purely negative ions, deeming his magnetic field impenetrable?

Such mental torture gave rise once again to the inherent practicalities of her nature. He was becoming an obsession, occupying the totality of her limited time and energy.

Should she forgo revolutionary thoughts of inner spiritual contact, such as those she had been addressing, or would her weaknesses override, resulting in a dramatic climax?

Such spine-tingling questions can only be answered through acquiring the knowledge contained in next week's unequivocal episode.

Shaie Paterson



## Ritenuto

A footprint in the sand  
Was left by a moment's grace  
Vanishing in the sea  
Of yesterday's embrace.

Like a balloon drifting from reach,  
It escaped my forgetting hand  
Floating away from touch  
Far from where I stand.

(Don't give me innocence  
That is naivety when I'm aged  
Or the simplicity of joy  
That is but the turn of a page.)

With a dying Countence  
I curse the timeless words  
In dead books: dead men's thoughts  
Saying nothing I haven't heard.

(Don't grant me wisdom  
That I'll forfeit when I die  
Or your money making me become  
One more pig in the sty.)

The days now become foul  
I'm sickened by their slow decay  
Rotting like wasted youth  
That once was children's play.

(Don't give me love  
That is gone when I am  
That I must live up to and transcend  
'Till I'm a shadow of a man.)

I sift these grains of thought  
In the sigh of an afternoon  
Coming to an agreement  
With the Earth and Stars and Moon.

A point between Infinities  
Is all I ask: a Moment's Grace  
Like the last look of Orpheus  
Upon Eurydice's face.

L





# MONASH DAZE ~ EDUCATING TRENT!

SMALL CAF

COME UPSTAIRS AND  
SEE THE BAND -  
THEY'RE REALLY  
GOOD



by ADS-BTG & J.

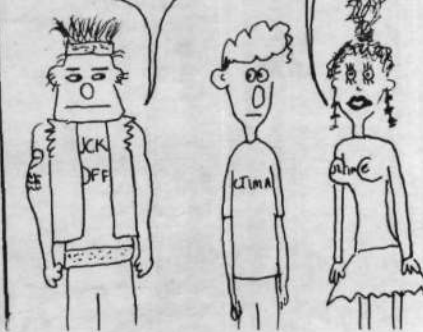
THEY'RE A FEMINIST  
POST-PUNK/THRASH  
BAND - GOOD, AY?



FEMINISTS? OH GOD!  
THEY'RE ALL JUST  
MEN-HATERS!



LOOK! FEMINISTS  
AREN'T ALL  
CROP-HAIRED DYKES,  
YOU KNOW



AREN'T  
THEY?

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## Plan ahead for your taxation return

Keep receipts for all educational and employment related expenses.

### Use your diary

Record travel undertaken (whether by public transport or by car) in relation to your course and record miscellaneous expenditure incurred in relation to your course.

### Develop the habit - obtain and retain receipts

When you incur an expenditure of \$10 or more on goods/services relating to your course, firmly insist on obtaining a receipt. Note on the receipt the date, nature of the expense and the supplier's name, then retain the receipt in this envelope.

When you incur expenditure of less than \$10, if possible, obtain a receipt. Alternatively where it is impossible to obtain a receipt (eg copytex cards) record in your diary the date, nature of the expense and the supplier's name. Each entry should be signed.

You should keep the diary as proof should you be asked for it, it is suggested you send a summary of the items with your tax return.

### What may I claim as a tax deduction?

Deductions arise from spending related to earning income. If you receive Austudy then you are in the 'business' of being a student, thus study related expenses may be claimed, eg: books, stationery, calculator, teaching aids, lab coats, enrolment fees (not reimbursed by Austudy), student union fees, costs incurred in taking field trips, photocopying, subscriptions related to field or study, telephone, etc.

If you don't receive Austudy then the only way you can claim self-education expenses is if you are doing a course that has sufficient connection with your current source of income or you are receiving a taxable scholarship.

Deductions relating to part-time employment could include: uniform, work tools and equipment, travel between part-time job and place of study etc, telephone calls in relation to your job and union fees.

For details of free taxation advice in July/August - see campus community services. The above information is correct as of October 1988.



# DOUBLE STOREYS

