

# LOT'S WIFE

OUTRAGEOUS



***'Not Everybody's White' this Week . . .***

***'Not Everybody's Straight' next Week***

**Multicultural Week 7 - 11 August, Gay Lesbian Week 14 - 18 August**



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## News

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## ELECTIONS

The 1989 MAS Elections will be held from the 4th to the 8th of September and nominations are being called for the following positions:

Lot's Wife Editors (Paid: \$16,279 between the editors (1989 honorarium))

3 Members of the Publications Committee

15 members of the Public Affairs Committee

Education Chairperson

Activities Chairperson (paid as social director \$10,400 (1989 Honorarium))

Administrative Executive:

1 Chairperson (paid: \$15,467 (1989 honorarium))

1 Treasurer

1 Secretary (paid: \$15,467 (1989 honorarium))

1 Publicity Officer

1 Inter Campus Liaison Officer

2 Members Without Portfolio

9 Delegates to the National Union of Students

Student Welfare Action Board:

1 Chairperson

1 Health Services Representative

1 Careers and Appointments Representative

(must be at least 3rd year)

3 members of the Union Board

2 Members of the Union Catering Committee

2 Members of the Union House Committee

1 Ombudsperson

3 Members of the Academic Progress Investigatory Committee

1 Member of the Art Advisory Board

1 Member of the Affiliations Committee

1 member of the Alpine Lodge Committee

2 Members of the Arts and Crafts Committee

2 Members of the Biomedical Library Committee

3 Members of the Bookshop Board

1 Member of the Building Committee

1 Member of the Clubs and Societies Council

1 Member of the Grounds Committee

1 Member of the General Library Committee

1 Member of the Hargrave Library Committee

2 Members of the John Medley Library Committee

1 Member of Law Library Committee

1 Member of the Main Library Committee

3 Members of the Parking Committee

1 Member of the Religious Centre Advisory Committee

1 Member of the Safety Committee

1 Member of the Sports and Recreation Association

Nomination forms & further information are available at MAS office. Nominations close Wednesday 23rd of August at 12 noon. Paid positions have job descriptions which are available at MAS or can be viewed at Lot's Wife.

## Austudy Police

It seems that the poorer members of the student population are about to get a taste of what the poorer members of society are regularly subjected to. In a recent press release the Minister for Employment and Education Services, Peter Duncan, announced the extension of Austudy monitoring.

Anyone who has been on Unemployment benefit, pensions or the like will be familiar with the sort of monitoring that the government uses to stop paying benefits to needy people. These people have been harassed explain to Social Security everything they do in order to keep being paid their benefit. Now Austudy recipients will be forced to reveal their life story to the government. If the monitoring of Austudy recipients goes the way of the DSS monitoring of beneficiaries then students can expect government bureaucrats knocking on their door demanding to know who sleeps where, how the household runs and to give a guided tour of their homes to prove it. Even the minister admitted that this would be a disincentive to people applying for, Austudy even if they are entitled to it.

Meanwhile NUS (remember them?) are claiming victories on the Austudy front. They think that the government may grant Austudy on the basis of need rather than academic progress; a welcome advance, if it happens. NUS now gets to choose who represents students on the Austudy Review Tribunal, a victory for whom? NUS has had an Austudy planning group set up by the government and has deferred the need for students to supply their tax file numbers to DEET for a month. These may be small victories, but if the Austudy bureaucrats go the way of the DSS in monitoring students receiving benefits then Austudy will become a trial to claim for, like other benefits have.

## Open University Government

Over to the east of the Union building just near the Robert Blackwood Hall lies the Administration Building. Within this building is a large chamber which most students cannot gain access to. It isn't someone's private office, it's the chamber where all of the important decisions about Monash are made. This is the Council Chamber.

The Monash University Council meets about once every six weeks in the council chamber but the meetings are closed to everyone but members of the council. The only way we humble students, and staff, can find out what decisions are made about the future of Monash and our educations is by chasing up minutes which come out a couple of weeks after each meeting. It's impossible to tell whether these minutes are complete or not.

At a recent meeting of the Higher Education Round Table, University Councils were called on to open up the governing bodies to the public, or at least members of the University community. This is a very reasonable request, especially in the light of the amalgamation and the proliferation of closed working parties working out the future of the institution we are being educated by. Furthermore, in terms of openness Monash is one of the worst institutions, its Council being described as closed, with Council papers and agendas published with certain parts censored (The Australian 26/7 p17).

Isn't it time we had access to the body that runs the University, after all; what do they have to hide?

## Part Time Students' Union Board Representative

Nominations are also called for the part time students representative on Union Board. Nominations open on Wednesday August 9, nomination forms are available from the warden and nominations must be lodged with the warden before 12 noon on Wednesday the 23rd of August. Nominations should be accompanied by a photo and a policy statement of not more than 250 words.

Candidates must be enrolled as a part time student or engaged in employment (including home duties undertaken in respect of the student's family) occupying at least 25 hours per week. If more than one nomination is received an election will be held in conjunction with the MAS elections which will take place in the week September 4 to 8. All enrolled part time students are eligible to vote in this election. The successful candidate will hold office from January 1 until December 31 1990.

# Amalgamation Confusion Continues

In twelve months time Monash will be transformed into a multi-campus University after the annexation of Chislm and Gippsland. The structure of the University and the Union will be decided upon this year and will go to Parliament in the Autumn session next year. However, although the amalgamations most far reaching effects will be educational, the structure of the union is presently causing the most problems.

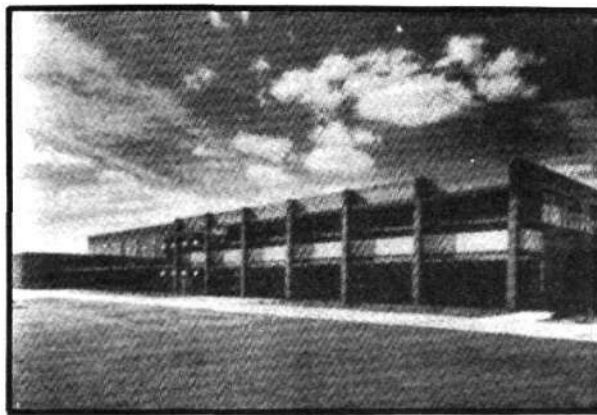
A significant number of the problems being experienced in determining the structure the union are being caused by the secretive nature of the decision making structure, with working parties meeting behind closed doors and selective information being distributed by Graeme Sweeney. This has caused consternation among staff members who are reacting against the proposal for a student union as they are under the impression that their job security will be threatened.

The University has reacted by calling a meeting last week to explain the effects of amalgamation on the Union and its staff. Professor Hay attended the meeting to explain the effects of the amalgamation however he was short on the details. The administration is not being specific about the structure of the Union after the amalgamation as the meetings of the working parties are still going on and Council hasn't dealt with the matter in detail. While it is true that the working parties haven't yet reported on their findings, it would be reasonable if we could be told what is being discussed and what is being proposed.

While most of the debate about the amalgamation has taken place behind closed doors the issue has become a lot more public with the catering staff circulating a petition. This petition expresses concern about the setting up of a student union unless it can be proved that catering will be left to operate without interference as long as it is operating smoothly. Students are being asked to sign this petition before the issue has been discussed properly and yet again communication between students and staff is not really happening.

A further development is the calling of a Union General Meeting. These are rarely called meetings which every member of the Union can attend. The Union General Meeting will consider the motions passed at a recent staff meeting which opposed the setting up of a student union. This was the meeting called by Graham Sweeney and reported in the previous edition of *Lot's Wife* Vol 29 No. 12. Although there have been a number of meetings lately it seems that most of these meetings are being called by the employers and the staff Unions aren't being well enough informed about the situation and will thus be at a disadvantage when negotiating for their members. The Union General Meeting will require a massive attendance for the motion to be binding, however this is possible if a lot of staff and students turn up. At least it will be a chance for everyone to find out what the hell is going on!

The structure of the student association is another issue which hasn't been properly discussed. If there is to be any change to the structure of the student association it must be put to the students first. So far all we have had was one small forum earlier this year to consider the amalgamation. If there are proposals being put to the merger implementation committees which suggest changes to the MAS constitution then they must go before a Student General Meeting. After all it was a Student General Meeting which decided, and has made changes to,

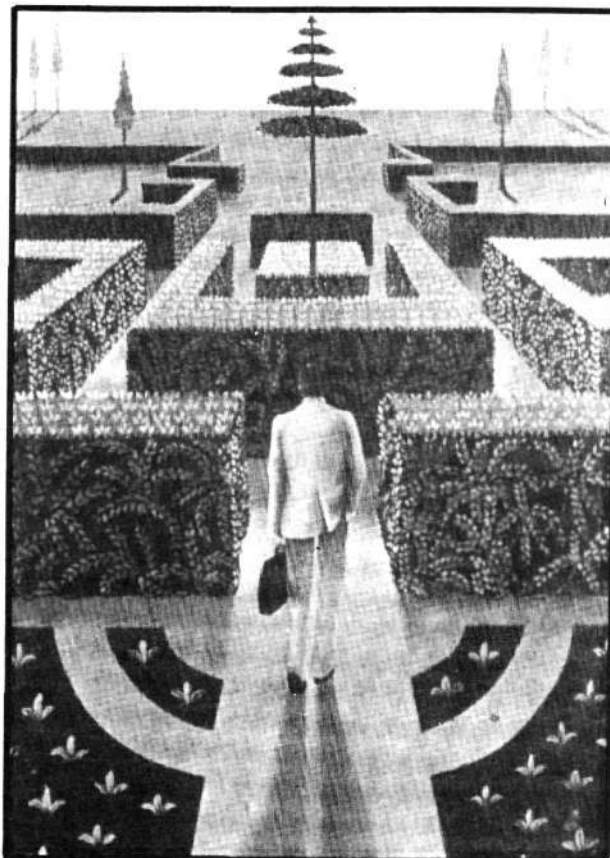


What will the Union look like after the amalgamation?

the MAS constitution, and the bureaucrats in the Student Association cannot suggest changes to the constitution without approval from a Student General Meeting. Furthermore, rumour has it that one of the proposals being put up at the merger implementation committee on student services is for one student newspaper across all the campuses of the new Monash University. Not only is this a very complex proposal it hasn't been discussed with anyone, let alone the editors of *Lot's Wife*. If changes are to be made to MAS the students must be consulted and be part of the decision making process, this is after all

the reason we have the MAS structure and not a top-heavy SRC structure.

The whole process of the amalgamation is occurring behind closed doors without people being told what is going on. The problems arising in the Union are largely a result of the fact that very few people are being involved in making the decisions which will shape the Union structure which comes out of the amalgamation. Whatever happens to the Union concerns every member of the Union and everyone should have input into the decisions which seem to be being made behind closed doors on our behalf.



Which way forward for Monash Union?

## Abortion – a woman's right

The right to choose when to bear children has always been a fundamental issue for the women's movement. Back in the nineteenth century, women were demanding the right to refuse sexual intercourse with their husbands and the campaign to legalise contraceptive devices and education about fertility control was a major issue. Women of all classes wanted to control their fertility; they wanted the right to control their own bodies. Access to cheap and safe abortions became an important focus of this campaign because of the harsh reality that thousands of women were killed or maimed by illegal backyard abortionists. Abortion did become a privilege of the rich and seeing as few women have had independent incomes, paying for abortions has often left women indebted to men. And this is really the crux of the issue: it is about a woman's right to control her own body and make choices that are not dictated by others.

'Not the church, Not the State; Women Must Decide Their Fate' became a major slogan of the contemporary women's movement in the ongoing struggle to legalise abortion. Without adequate safe contraception and abortion, women's bodies are taken out of their control by men who rape them literally and through the patriarchal institutions of the church, the courts and the parliaments. It comes as no surprise in the current conservative climate and backlash against the gains made by the women's movement over the last twenty years that opponents of women's rights have once again turned their attention to abortion. The recent US Supreme Court decision and the current private members bill before the Australian Parliament from Senator Haradine which seeks to remove abortion costs from Medicare claims are two examples.

For the past fifteen years in Victoria, abortion has been available to women if they could argue that continuing the pregnancy would damage their physical, mental or emotional health. This is basically the *Mennhennuit* ruling, a court judgement which stopped women seeking abortions and their doctors from being tried as criminals. Abortion has become an option for women as long as they know it is available, they can raise the \$200 over what is covered by Medicare and they are not harassed in making their choice by misogynist organisations like the Right to Life.

Another major slogan of the Right to Choose campaign has always been 'Every Child Should Be a Wanted Child'. The wisdom of this is more obvious than ever as increasing numbers of children all over the world, including Australia, live in poverty. Anti-abortionists are conspicuously absent in campaigns to redistribute wealth and improve the lives of the poor.

It is no coincidence that the current attack on abortion rights is happening at the same time as women are being called upon to have more children, to stop being selfish and putting their careers ahead of their duty! Despite all the efforts of the women's movement it appears that for many men, women's bodies are still there for their use.

**Rally: against the Private Members Bill to end Medicare funding for abortions.**  
**Saturday August 12, 10.30am 230 Collins St City**



## Amalgamations: Heating Up!

In the process of the amalgamations with Chisholm, a whole series of different proposals is being examined. One of those from the Monash Association of Students and the Chisholm Student Union is a proposal in its infancy that suggests the establishment of a Student Union in the new Monash University.

To most of us, it comes as a surprise that we do not have a Student Union already! Despite the impression, our Union is not a student's union where the members are able to participate in the decision making process, but is instead a Union that does not involve its members in its decision making.

A Student Union, while it is administered and its services operated by the staff employed by the Union requires that the democratically elected student office bearers take on the responsibility for the actions of the Union. This is appropriate when you consider that students pay to their Union the sum of \$282.00 per annum. If the people they choose to have represent them aren't going to be responsible for the Union's activities; who is going to be?

Student Unions also require high levels of participation from their membership. It is not good enough that our current Union has had only three general meetings in 10 years! The members (especially those paying the amenities fee) should be consulted more often than that, just as MAS consults its members at the Student General Meetings held once each term.

Students know what students want and need. It is this that makes Student Unions so strong. While our commercial and catering services are the best that can be provided and no one is suggesting changing them, our general wants and needs cannot be met without the Union being our Union.

We should all remember though that this is not just a Clayton Campus (Monash) issue. This is an issue that concerns also our Frankston and Caulfield (Chisholm) cam-

puses and could eventually involve Gippsland and some of the campuses of Victoria College. Interestingly, we are the only campus of all of the institutions that does not have a Student Union!

Eventually it is to be expected that there will and should be only one student organisation across all of the campuses. This would not significantly change the day to day operations of any of the services currently provided. What would happen though is that the Student Union would act as one to protect our rights and ensure our safety. It is after all the concept of a Union that there is strength through unity. A new Student Union would provide a voice for all students in the new institution, a voice as large as the institution itself.

Currently, the Union at Monash duplicates itself at the bureaucratic and administrative level. While one administration (MAS) provides a great number of welfare services and facilities with an almost complete bureaucracy and infrastructure. The other administration (the Union) provides all of the commercial and catering services in our Union with a complete infrastructure and bureaucracy. Putting the two together, especially in terms of administrative equipment costs (such as computers) will make your amenities fee go further!

Equally, having all arms and services of the Union working together would ensure that there was more co-operation between the services and this would inevitably lead to a greater cohesion and better range of services.

Naturally many staff are concerned that their jobs may be affected as a result of the amalgamation. While this is a valid concern, I do not believe that the staff in the Union building need feel concerned about the security of their jobs. Clearly under the Heads of Agreement between Monash University and Chisholm Institute all staff are guaranteed their jobs, their superannua-



tion, long service leave and terms and conditions. This is only appropriate and MAS fully endorses this.

Further to these concerns though, many staff are expressing concern that under a Student Union they will have students as supervisors. This is not the case. Nor will the supervisors be responsible to students. The only staff who will be responsible to students directly will be the Chief Executive Officer (Warden) of the Union and those few staff who work directly for students (as is currently the case in MAS). Staff will be responsible to the Chief Executive Officer, just as they are now.

To ensure that all staff are protected, just as all students should be protected, MAS will of course consult with all staff and trade unions. It is important that this process begin soon to put aside people's understandable fears and to ensure that any new Union looks after everyone!

Student Unions are not new in Australia. Very few institutions have anything different. MAS hopes that all students will support a new Union; a Student Union; a Union for our future!

Fatima Alisak  
Chairperson, AE MAS

## TAKE THE SKINHEADS WITH POPE TEX MANSON



## Vale Steve and Elyse Keaton

Perhaps it was an allegory? That particular shnozz could have made it a fable. Whatever, it was something of a time and place removed from this spherical conundrum. The tale concerned he of the vitriolic voice box and machette-like tongue. Whereas some would lapse like the leaves of spring, others tumbled as if Charles Brown's kite itself had parted the clouds. Blue skies I crave, blue skies I breathe. A story from the vast reaches of Bobo-time, when all was never as it seemed and the Grolsch flowed like colostomy casks.

What with Nicholson and Keef receiving the third world's GNP in kind, as some type of hobby development fund...

Announcing the grand opening of the new Anarchy youth drop-in centre for homeless waifs and wavering hoofers. The imposing structure is just down the road from the new-look Masada meridian. Glimpses of silver spoons snagged midway through glass partitions. This is the area of which we speak.

So, enough of these esoteric ditherings of cloudy vitriol... a springboard of opportunity—the netherworld. (That wasn't me, I just transcribed the voicings of the drunk who loomed over the table. She also mentioned something about the base purpleness of the High St tram as it cruised by—a kitchen whiz with no sink.)

Within a building of monumental Sydney significance, the American equivalent of Lord Snot was presiding. Dan Quayle had come to town. No president had come for us, we'd have to dunk a PM in the drink for that privilege. No siree Bob we got the vice pres.

Hell's Angels, Narraween Life Saving Club and Westpac have the same team colours—again according to this erstwhile companion, in the midst of devouring my fags. I haven't checked the validity of this observation, but she informs me that it exemplifies life... or something.

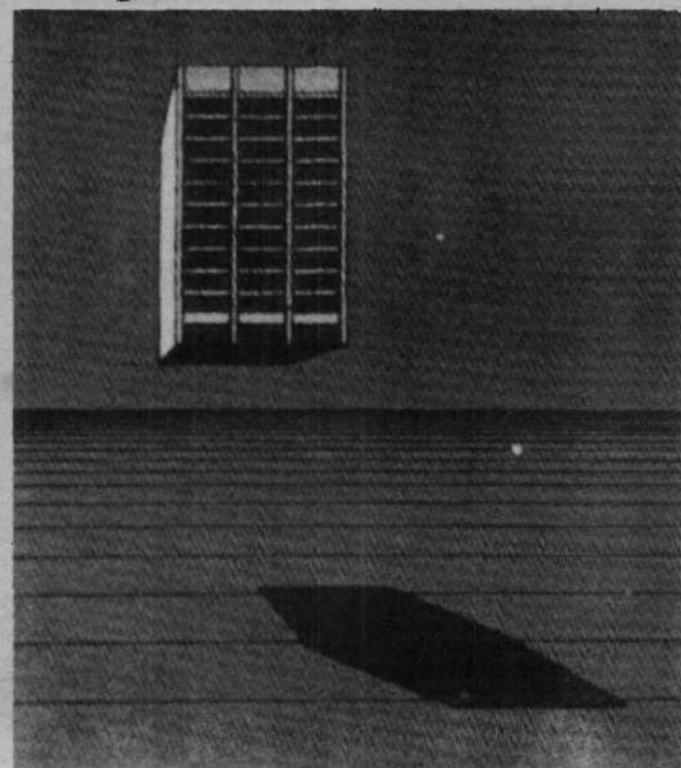
Anyway, Bob's not dead—so we got Quayle. My informant was in the street, a sea of blue reeking of crackling—(the antithesis of sport and crack.) so, amongst this police convention were one or two adoring plebs, but considering the Uncle Lou issue shades they were wearing, they were probably part of some NATO protection racket.

My informant stood near the pigs on horses. He spied an obese chinless wonder approaching the mounted thugs. With camera dangling, he came towards the meanest, nastiest, ugliest one of all. He of the shining fangs and wrap around visor. Its gloves grappled the reins as the mind-corpses shuddered into action. Anticipating a confrontation with a surly enemy of the state the spectre reared the other dumb animal, preparing for flank-groin contact.

Our informant looked on in horror as the unquantifiable element went for his pocket. The pig flinched in preparation for a tour of dutiful brutality, but soon sank back into the saddle with despondence as the McFeast enriched wonder produced the fruit and drawled the question, 'Does your horsie like apples?'

The insignificance of the said Quayle is directly attributable to the lack of cohesion in this tale of woe.

Sittin' all day in the Calliope Hotel, writing sad-eyed illawarra llama of the lowlands for you.



# Australia Invaded

US troops have landed in northern Australia to lay the foundations for an invasion force. Over the next couple of months the Australian military forces will attempt to protect our shores from the invaders. In the midst of all this the Australian media is being very quiet, to the point of virtually ignoring the 'war' going on up north.

The invasion, although being carried out by US troops, is actually coming from an unknown country, Kamaria. Furthermore Australia is paying hundreds of millions of dollars for the dubious privilege of being invaded.

Kamaria lies about 500 kilometres to the north of Australia, or so it is claimed. We, at Lot's Wife, may not be geographers but the only country we could find at this location was Indonesia.

Kamaria is actually a fictitious country dreamed up for the 'Kangaroo' series of military exercises which Australia has been holding since 1973. Its location, where Indonesia really exists, is explained off as a coincidence, but is it?

Australia exists in one of the most stable regions in the world. Apart from the Fijian crisis, the French hanging onto New Caledonia and the continuing invasion and occupation of East Timor by the Indonesians the region is relatively safe. This underlies the location of Kamaria in the military games. Australian military intelligence con-



Where the FUCK is Kamaria anyway?

reflect a significant shift in defence policy from relying on the great and powerful ally, the US, to becoming a franchised part of the US military by taking over some of their commitments in the Asia/Pacific region. The Hawke government is moving Australia into a role as Pacific Police, re-defining defence strategy in terms of a national interest which extends over one tenth of the earth's surface, and which is defined as the area of Australia's direct military interest.

The rise in defence spending and the enormous scale of the exercises currently underway in northern Australia suggests that Australia is under some kind of military threat. Nothing could be further from the truth; the Dibb report even went as far as to say that 'Australia faces no identifiable direct military threat'. Indonesia, even though it is in the same geographical position as the fictitious country attacking Australia at the moment, Kamaria, is very unlikely to attack Australia, especially since it is still fighting a war to defend its invasion of East Timor which is a lot smaller and easier to successfully invade.

The only possible threat in our region comes from the possibility that Indonesia may intervene in some way in Irian Jaya in the former Australian colony of Papua New Guinea. Even this is remote. Furthermore, the Australian government has shown little interest in opposing Indonesia's expansion elsewhere in East Timor and in doing so has shown that Australia regards being friends with Indonesia as more important than self-determination for the peoples in the region. On top of this Australia provides over 8 million dollars in military aid to Indonesia (1985/6 figures) which is second only to the military aid to Papua New Guinea.

All of this leads to questions about the priorities of the Hawke government. While they are cutting welfare, education and other budgets they are increasing the military budget in a region which a government report agreed posed little or no threats. While all this expansion and enormous military games are going on why is the media saying so little? Without public debate Australia is going ahead with a far more expansionist military policy. What are the reasons behind this and whose interests are being served by these policies?

siders Indonesia the only possible threat to Australia in the foreseeable future and the government needs an excuse to hold military exercises.

The necessity for military exercises stems from a number of factors. Morale has been a problem for the Australian military for years. Conditions in the military aren't very good and neither is the pay. Trying to encourage people not to leave the armed forces means giving them some incentive to stay. Letting them go out and play with military toys is one way of amusing military personnel enough to keep them.

Australia is also spending millions of dollars on the acquisition of new toys. On the shopping list at the moment are new spy bases, naval bases, submarines, the notoriously useless frigates, planes missiles and helicopters. With the current balance of payments blowout Australia's new militarism will cost billions, most of which will be spent overseas. While these new toys may add to the job satisfaction of Australia's defence forces they do little to improve the overall well being and security of Australians.

Australia's build up in defence forces are being justified as self reliance. In reality they

## Media Bias?

The recent findings of the broadcasting tribunal that Alan Bond is not fit to hold a broadcasting licence have caused a lot of controversy. Much of the media coverage has been outrage at the tribunal exercising the power it was set up to wield. The broadcasting tribunal was set up to monitor the electronic media and to give licences to those it sees are fit to be broadcasters, they are not overstepping the mark, they are doing their job.

Back to the case of Bond and the Nine network. Most people are well aware of the repressive nature of the Pinochet regime in Chile. Bond owns a controlling interest in the telephone company in Chile. This is the telephone company which is notorious for tapping phones for the secret police in Chile.

So what is the Nine networks 'objective' opinion of the Pinochet regime? Recently George Donikian, now a Channel Nine newsreader, went to Chile to see what the regime was like. He, along with almost no-one else (except maybe his boss, Bond) regards this 'repressive regime' (his words) as enlightened. How a repressive regime can be enlightened is a mystery. Maybe it has something to do with the influence Bond has over what is said on Channel Nine, the sort of influence the broadcasting tribunal is trying to prevent by taking his licence away.

## Oil Spill To Stay

The oil which spilt out of the Exxon Valdez earlier this year is beginning to solidify. This is causing problems with the clean up operation. Of the major problems one stands out. Since the oil is hardening it is becoming more expensive to remove.

Exxon's reaction to the increased cost of the cleanup, caused by the fact that it hasn't already been cleaned up, as it should have been in the first place, has been to call off the clean up altogether. Exxon has spent \$1.67 billion (US) already and seems to think this is enough. It seems that they consider their money more valuable than the environment.

This comes after the records relating to the oil spill were mysteriously shredded by Exxon apparently by accident a couple of months ago. It also comes after the Alaskan government criticised the clean up of the oil spill so far.

Meanwhile, Exxon is probably still making a healthy profit, the wildlife in Prince William Sound is dying and market forces have failed again to make companies pay for the effects of their profit making operations.

## Some Things Just Can't Be Privatised

The Thatcher government's penchant for selling off anything the government owns is well known. Her government is presently trying to sell off the English version of the Electricity Commission.

However, they have struck a problem. The nuclear power generators are too much of a liability to sell and it is obvious that no-one would want to buy them. As such the government is to spend £4.5 billion to retain eight Magnox nuclear power stations until they are decommissioned. This means that the bulk of nuclear power generation will still be in public hands after privatisation.

This backdown by the Thatcher government reflects the fact that nuclear power is just not economical. It is a silly solution to the greenhouse effect, not just on safety ground, but also economically. The fact that the Thatcher government feels it can't sell these loss-making facilities to private enterprise also points one of the major problems of privatisation. You can only sell an enterprise which can make a profit, and as is happening with the selling of electricity in

England the private sector is being sold the profitable parts of the industry while the government is left with the unprofitable sectors. When the private sector makes a profit with electricity and the government makes a loss they will probably explain it as private sector efficiency.

## Rapes and Pillages

On Monday August 7 the Daily News had a notice that a 'Rape and Pillage' men's Basketball team was entered in the Monash Sports and Recreation lunchtime competition. This is a trivialisation of a deplorable crime and the team should change its name immediately or withdraw from the competition.

The name comes in the wake of the Melbourne University Agriculture and Forestry 'Rape and Pillage' theme for their annual ball. Showing no sign of remorse or apology for their actions the ball went ahead. Thankfully it was somewhat stifled by the Brunswick City Council which didn't allow the distribution of ball promotion showing the offensive slogan.

In a society of increasing sexual assault, when women and men cannot walk safely around on and off the campus, these mockeries of horrendous actions must be deplored and action taken against the offenders.



# Women's History, Queen Victoria Hos

'It should have happened 20 years ago.'

Ninety years ago the women of Victoria founded their own hospital, run by women, for women - The Queen Victoria Hospital. Now after a strong campaign to prevent the government selling the hospital site, one tower has been returned to the women of Victoria to establish a women's centre.

Suzy Rea tells the story of the campaign and explains the challenge to re-establish a women's centre in the city run on feminist principles.



In 1896 Dr Constance Stone, the first woman to practice medicine in Australia, and nine other women doctors, established a women's outpatients clinic in a small church hall in Melbourne. Unable to gain support for a women's hospital from government or private sources, a public meeting was called and the 'Shilling Fund' was launched. Every woman in Victoria was asked to donate one shilling to go towards establishing a women's hospital to be run on feminist principles, ie for women, by women.

Over three thousand pounds was raised and in 1899, the 'Queen Victoria Hospital' was opened in Little Lonsdale Street. It was the third hospital in the world run by women, for women. In 1946, the hospital moved to Lonsdale Street and remained there until August 1987 when it was moved and absorbed into the Monash University Medical Centre at Clayton.

At the opening of the Queen Victoria Hospital in 1899, a woman got up to say that a women's hospital organised on feminist principles was a great idea, but a bit late. It should have happened 20 years ago!

In 1899, the Board of Management of the Queen Victoria was 100% women, and not until 1956 were male medical students even employed. Male patients started being admitted in 1963 and, by 1986, there were only two women left on the Hospital Board.

The Queen Vic Hospital, a women's initiative had been gradually lost to women over the years and by the time it was moved to Clayton few Victorian women were even aware of the auspicious history of the hospital.

Women Reclaim Our History However, in 1986, a small group of women rallied to the cause when they became

aware of the Government's intention to move the hospital to Clayton and sell the Queen Victoria Hospital site to raise money for the State Library and Museum. They formed the Constance Stone collective. They questioned whether the Government had the legal and moral right to sell the site as our foremothers had raised the money and bought the hospital for themselves and for us. The collective organised a public meeting which drew an enormous number of women from a wide range of backgrounds and ideologies. At the meeting women mainly expressed concern over the loss of a centrally located health service, the lack of consultation with Victorian women by the State government and the need to establish a women's health service located in the city. A new collective formed to co-ordinate the Queen Victoria Hospital Action Campaign and meetings, petitions, letters and submissions were organised.

## Social Involvement and Winlaton Girls Detention Centre

Winlaton is a detention centre for young girls aged between 14 and 17 and is located in Nunawading. In many cases, the girls at Winlaton have not committed 'crimes' but are there for their own protection. At times they have been abandoned or mistreated by guardians; they run away continuously, play truant or they may themselves have applied for care and protection from the state.

Social Involvement visits Winlaton every second Tuesday for about two hours. There we share the girls activities. This may mean we watch TV together, share a game of billiards, talk or help the girls develop skills they are lacking, such as writing letters or reading. Other evenings we may organise activities which include skits and sporting games or very occasionally we may be permitted to take a small number of girls away from Winlaton.

The aim of this program is not to act as spies or intruders. Instead, we provide the company of people roughly the same age who have a genuine interest in giving something new to do the break the monotony of Winlaton life. They feel freer in some cases talking to us, knowing that every word is not psychoanalysed and put down on their 'record'. A continuous commitment by the volunteer may result in a friendship which will help in the rehabilitation of the girl. However, the development of such a friendship is a very slow and difficult process and cannot be expected to occur overnight, as trust is slow to develop.

The volunteer also stands to gain from time spent at Winlaton. Involvement leads to a greater awareness of people; those who have not been as lucky as ourselves and are now now being helped to re-enter society. It also leads to an awareness of your own attitude towards people. Friendship with the girls can result in personal satisfaction and the hope that once they leave Winlaton they never again have to return.

Social Involvement always needs volunteers - please phone Peter on 885 3769 or Elena on 885 1589 for more information.

## Melbourne Arts Centre

Free lunchtime concerts to be performed at the Melbourne Concert Hall.

## WHAT'S ON

Monday, August 21, 1.10 to 1.50pm - **Miwako Abe** violin and piano recital. Japanese born Miwako Abe, along with accompanist Keith Humble, will perform an exciting programme including Mozart and Ravel.

For full programme details, consult the *Age* on Saturday preceding concert. Programmes subject to change without notice.

### Robert Blackwood Hall

Friday August 11: Schools Concerts 10.30am and 1.30pm (duration 75 minutes), evening performance 7.30pm - The Music Department of Monash University present **Gatutkoko Lahir** (The Birth of Prince Gatutkoko). This colourful program of Javanese dance drama and shadow puppetry is accompanied by a sixty- instrument bronze gamelan orchestra. These concerts are led by Poedjono, himself a master puppeteer, dancer and musician from Java.

Admission: Adults: \$10, Students \$7. Tickets available from Robert Blackwood Hall Box Office, phone 565 3090 for evening performance only.

Monday August 14 at 1.15pm **Lunchtime Concert** - experimental music, directed by Warren Burt. Presenting a live interactive computer music system concert. **Admission Free.**

### Forthcoming Plays

**Farewell Welfare - Take A Seat We'll Be With You In A Moment...** an original play performed by the St Kilda Drama Group. Directed by Noelle Taylor, with music by Jane Hammond, 'Farewell Welfare' will play at the St Kilda Cricket Ground on Friday, August 11 at 8pm, Saturday August 12 at 2.30pm and Sunday August 13 at 8pm.

Tickets are \$6, Concession \$3 (supper provided). For bookings, please phone 536 1427.

Caryl Churchill's **Top Girls** - Monash University. Caryl Churchill has written for the stage, television and radio for the past 30 years, and has had great exposure on Melbourne stages

of late: the internationally acclaimed **Cloud Nine** had two very successful productions in 1988, staged by the Monash University English Department and the Victorian College of the Arts; the award winning **Serious Money** was performed by the Melbourne Theatre Company and **Softcops** was recently performed by St Martins Youth Theatre. **Top Girls**, written in 1982, has played to audiences in England, Germany, Greece and the US, as well as a 1984 MTC production.

Produced in association with the Monash Student Theatre Company and the Monash English Department combining their considerable creative resources, **Top Girls** can be seen August 10-12, 15-16 in the Manton Room, Menzies Building at 8pm each night. Tickets are available from the Alexander Theatre Box Office, and credit card bookings may be made by phoning 565 3992. Tickets will also be available at lunchtimes in the Union Foyer and at the door. Tickets: Adults \$8, Concession \$5.

### Radical Women's Calendar

**The Chiano Struggle in the US: Centuries of Resistance to Racist Persecution** - Friday August 11, 7.30pm.

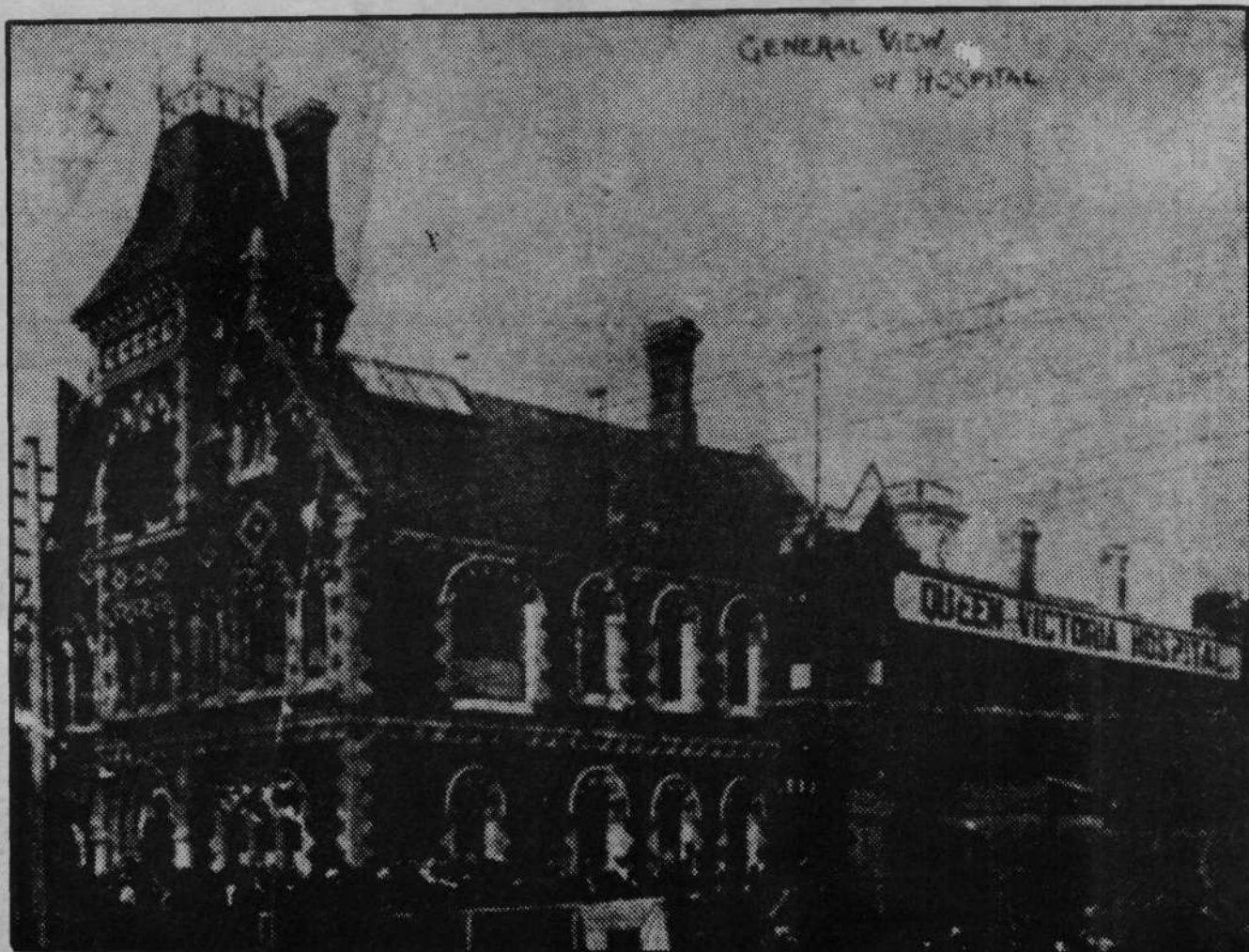
Don't miss the opportunity to hear international visitor **Moises Montoya** speak at his only public forum in Australia. The venue is the Solidarity Salon, rear of 1 Appelby Cres, West Brunswick. A Mexican dinner will be served at 6.30pm (\$4 donation) and all are welcome. The event is co-sponsored by Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party.

**Rally for Women's Reproductive Rights** - Saturday August 12 at 10.30am outside United Airlines Offices, 233 Collins Street, City.

Are you angry about the recent US Supreme Court decision which erodes abortion rights? Do you want to send a clear message to Federal Parliament to defeat Harradine's attempt to remove Medicare rebates for abortions? Are you determined there will be no return to butchery of women wanting abortions? Then tell all your friends and workmates to come along.

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

# Women's Health: Hospital



In July 1987, in a token gesture to placate the campaign, the Cain Government announced that a 'women's health information service' run by 'Healthsharing Women' would be established in the Queen Victoria eastern tower. As the Queen Victoria Action Campaign was requesting ownership of all three towers, not just one small service in the eastern tower, the campaign continued. In December 1988, the state government publicly announced its intention to sell the Queen Victoria Hospital site to finance museum and library improvements. At a public meeting shortly after this announcement it was decided to utilise the Greensborough byelection to gain publicity about the issue and to force the Premier to meet with campaign workers. A delegation was successful in meeting with John Cain where he acknowledged women's claim to the site on historic and moral grounds and agreed that the delegation could meet with members of relevant government departments, to consult on the future use of the three towers facing Lonsdale Street.

Despite the Premier's promise, the delegation was told there would be no negotiation unless they could produce documentation of a legal claim to the site. Members of the campaign also learned that the legislation required for the site to be sold was already before Parliament. (In 1899, when the Queen Victoria Hospital was established in Little Lonsdale Street, the hospital had a freehold title; meaning that the Hospital Board owned the land. However, when it was moved to Lonsdale Street, the Government changed the freehold title to a permanent reservation title which meant that the land could only be used for the purposes of the Queen Victoria Hospital. This is why they needed legislation to revoke the permanent reservation title in order to sell the site.)

As the relevant government departments had basically dismissed the campaign delegation even though they had been promised consultation, it became obvious to the campaign that it was necessary to lobby the Liberal/National Party Coalition in the hope of winning

support. It was a letter from the Country Women's Association to the National Party's Upper House Leader that was the catalyst in securing the tower. The CWA proposed a strategy blocking legislation required for the sale of the Queen Victoria Hospital site. After much negotiation, the National/Liberal Coalition agreed to block the legislation in the Upper House, unless the government agreed to some of the campaign's demands.

On May 26 1989, the last day of Parliament, the Premier met with the delegation and a bargaining process began. He had no choice but to bargain at this stage as if he had ignored the campaign's demands the legislation would be blocked. They finally agreed to include in the 'Lands (Miscellaneous) Bill' a clause which ensured the future of women's history.

The Government of Victoria handed over the eastern tower of the Queen Victoria building, on a 200 year lease, at a peppercorn rental to the women of Victoria. It was a small victory in that the campaign had not got freehold title or all three towers, yet it was still a victory, both hard fought and hard won!

Establishing the Women's Centre On June 7 1989, women attended a public meeting to celebrate what had been achieved. Unfortunately, the meeting was stacked by right wing women who were there because they thought there would be an election at the meeting to decide who would control the tower. The meeting lapsed into chaos, with lengthy debate about the meeting procedure.

A further public meeting was held on July 12. Approximately 700 women attended the meeting at the YWCA, and due in part to the able chairing of Lecki Ord, the meeting was a success. After two hours of debate, the following resolution was passed: moved by Trish Caswell and seconded by Jan Armstrong; both of Trades Hall Council. (a) That this public meeting requests the Premier of Victoria to undertake a fair and thorough consultation with the women of Victoria, through the Victorian Women's Consultative Council, for the establishment of a women's centre in the eastern tower of the Queen Victoria

Hospital. (b) That this consultation be concluded by March 30 1990, having covered the following issues: (i) The organisation of the management of the centre; (ii) use and purposes of the centre, and (iii) funding/resourcing. (c) That following the consultation, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet should call for all tenders for the creation of a legal entity to manage the Queen Victoria Women's Centre and that the successful tenderer be announced by June 30 1990. (d) That the Victorian Women's Consultative Council advise the Premier on appropriate selection criteria and selection processes for the tender on the basis of VWCC's consultation with Victorian women.

Many feminists who attended the meeting with the aim of preventing a right wing take over of the women's centre expressed disappointment at the result. Some saw the motion as handing the tower over to the Government as the representatives of the Victorian Women's Consultative Council are appointed by the Government. Others felt that since feminists had the numbers, something better could have been achieved.

However, the women involved in formulating the motion argue that the only other alternatives would have been to hold an election at the meeting to establish a group which would have become the management committee of the women's centre. This would probably have resulted in a group which the left and right (including the 'Right To Life') were represented. They say that the difficulties of working in a group with such diametrically opposed political views would be enormous.

A broad consultation with women of Victoria would also have been a difficult task for such a group.

The women involved in the campaign believe that the motion previously stated will ensure a more thorough consultation process and enable the establishment of a women's centre run by women for women—on feminist principles as our foremothers had established a century ago. One tower is not much space, but it does continue a tradition we should be proud to further.



# GAY

## Gay And Lesbian Week Programme

Tuesday August 15  
10am- 2pm

HUG Table

HUG badges  
FREE fairy floss  
pamphlets  
information

Downstairs in  
the Union

Exhibition

Gay Identity  
Law Reform, Discrimination  
Gay Map of Melbourne

Upstairs Union  
Foyer

10am- 2pm

Wednesday August 16

12pm- 4pm

HUG Table

Exhibition

Video Afternoon

Gay and Lesbian

video

Report in Daily News

Friday August 11  
8pm

Cocktail Party featuring  
Miss Athina And  
The Mouthfuls Joe  
Nap Room Melbourne  
University Union

## Why Do We Have A Gay And Lesbian Week?

**W**hat is the purpose of having a week of at least a series of days devoted to drawing attention to gay and lesbian issues? As President I have often been asked this question. The answer, at least to me, is quite apparent.

In our society, there is in existence, a great deal of discrimination, hatred, ignorance, fear of gays/lesbians of people whose sexuality is not purely heterosexual.

We have anti-discrimination laws in place to protect minority groups of different races, religion and political beliefs. *Wimmin* and homosexuals are in theory protected by these laws as well. But as we are all aware, overtly sexist attitudes still disadvantage *wimmin*. Similarly gay *wimmin* and men are faced with covert and overt discrimination. For example, gay men who are lovers have been prosecuted for having sex in the privacy of their own home in Queensland. If convicted in Queensland gay men face jail terms of up to fourteen years. One would think we are still in the Victorian era, not on the eve of the 21st

century! We are luckier in Victoria to have more progressive legislation and society. Gay weeks serve to remind the University population of this.

Gay people represent the 'silent minority'. At the most conservative estimate, one in every ten men or *wimmin* is exclusively attracted to the same sex. According to Kinsey, at

least 30% of men have had or still pursue sexual contact with other men. But these are mere statistics. How do these figures translate into real terms, and more importantly, how does it affect actual people? Some gay people either cannot accept their sexuality or their peers exert pressure, whether intentional or not, for gay people to remain in the closet.

Being openly gay requires strength and support. An openly gay person is one who is honest about her/himself and shares this honesty with others. However, an openly gay person is also potentially a target of ridicule, harassment, violence and discrimination. We, as gay people, are caught, to coin a cliché, between a rock and a hard place.

Universities have traditionally been the forum for open discussion and the unleashing of the rigid constraints of high school. It is the place where our minds and bodies are subject to new experiences. As students, we meet and socialise with a myriad of people from other backgrounds, attitudes, races and of course, sexuality. Gay week, therefore, aims primarily to establish that gay people do have a distinct and rightful presence in our University. We do exist.

Myths stemming from ignorance, religious/cultural teachings, have been perpetuated about gay people. Most gay people are not the flamboyant drag queens which feature prominently in narrow minds. We are, in fact, average citizens, contributing to society unobtrusively. Yet it is this fear of 'rocking the society's boat' which oppresses us. However, overt gay radicalism marginalises gay people, reinforcing the differences, rather than the things we have in common with straight people. A

balance must be struck, where acceptance and awareness occurs simultaneously.

Gay Awareness Week in 1987, and Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week in 1988 highlighted the success of HUG. Heterosexuals Unafraid of Gays. HUG, to me, came close to achieving the balance I talked about. Awareness was raised by people wearing the HUG badges. Acceptance of gay people, a far more complex issue, was achieved in part by open discussion.

The activities planned for next week aim to integrate awareness, celebrating the gay presence and highlighting cases of injustice perpetrated by some homophobic elements within our society.

The key to Gay and Lesbian Week this year is participation and showing support for gay issues. Understanding, or at least the removal of some myths, can only be achieved by adopting a progressive attitude and being open minded.

Talk to us, not about us.

Colin Ng



# WEEK

## Coming Out

*'There is nothing more difficult . . . than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.'*

—Niccolo Machiavelli

First you come out to yourself. You admit that erotically your primary interest is in other men. Many gays say that they have 'always known' from earliest childhood. To others the knowledge comes as a shocking revelation, usually in their teens or early twenties. For some, after years of thinking themselves heterosexual their true orientation, having crept up on them, becomes clear at last. And there are those who know, but hold out for varying periods of time as they go through the motions of a straight existence.

Occasionally a very young man will believe himself to be gay when he is not. Typically he is an adolescent who feels extremely isolated and lonely and develops intense feelings for an adult of the same sex. This sort of crush, very often on a teacher, is usually a matter of growing pains rather than true homosexuality.

Men new to their gayness sometimes believe that if they have sex with a male, or even think about it, some terrible Jekyll-Hyde change will come over them. The truth is that nothing special will happen. You will not turn into anything, develop a sudden, unconquerable yen to wear dresses, jewelry and make-up, or become a woman. You will not now lust for little boys, turn girlish, or begin to talk in a lisping manner. You will not start to hate females, lose your sense of morality, or go wild over the colours purple, lavender, pink, or green. That's all nonsense. If nobody could tell about you before, nobody can tell about you now.

Coming out is not always pleasant even under the best of circumstances, and it can be an extremely difficult process. Very often a man has to re-assess and restructure his whole existence.

Along with the strains of adjustment several problems may arise from within. Difficulties frequently have two sources. First, in Australian society where virtually everyone is raised to be heterosexual, we all learn as children that homosexuality is a sickness or a sin. At the least we are lead to view it as a faintly amusing misfortune. When a man realises that he is one of them, a certain degree of self-hatred is almost inevitable.

Evidence of this is visible all through gay life. A man having an uninhibited weekend says he's whoring around; his partners in casual scenes are tricks, a dehumanizing term originally used by

female prostitutes to refer to their customers. Some gay men, though gentlemanly and polite among heterosexuals, are barely civil with their own kind. Social isolation, superficial relationships, rejection of responsibility, and self-destructive patterns of life are not unknown in the gay world.

Second, many gays feel that they have had very much less than idyllic upbringings. Anyone who has grown up in an atmosphere of unusual conflict and hostility is more apt to have unresolved tensions which can affect his adult relationships. And a fair number of us have been forced to leave home before we were prepared to live on our own. This is not to say that psychological problems are the unavoidable legacy for every gay man. But the potential is there, particularly under the strains of the process of coming out.

With all the negative emotions it can raise, the discovery of oneself as gay usually brings to an end months or even years of doubts, confusion and anguish. A dizzying sense of elation may take their place. Remember that other people in your life may find it difficult or impossible to share whatever feelings of release you may have.

Coming Out To Friends Be prepared for some surprises. The friend you've regarded as most liberal may turn out to be the one who can't handle the idea that you're gay. Others may accept it intellectually but will become uneasy when confronted by tangible evidence of your sex life, such as your lover.

Roughly speaking, your straight male friends who do not feel secure about their own sexual identification are likely to reject you.

Even those straight men who are not hung up about gayness may fear guilt by association if they are known to be friends with someone who is gay.

The problem is that few hetero males are self-confident sexually. Many fear their own quite normal homosexual impulses; their role stereotypes, being few and difficult to live up to, inspire self-doubts and anxiety. Thus gay men become useful to them as scapegoats and also to highlight their masculinity: 'Maybe I'm not Superstud, but at least I'm no goddamned faggot.'

All this said, let us point out that some heterosexual males will not be bothered by your sexual orientation, so don't write off all of them.

Straight female friends are more likely to take your news without getting upset. You can expect a nasty reaction in only a few cases. The first again, is the woman who is not confident of her sexuality. The men in her life all have to be possible lovers, or how can she prove she is a woman? This type is a small minority among females. The second is the woman who, although you may not know it, happens to be in love with you. Naturally she is going to be disappointed. Finally, if you've been dating a female merely to pass yourself off as Mr Macho, she's not going to enjoy learning that she has been used.

### Coming Out To Your Family

For the young man these are the most usual reactions:

1. Your parents will accept you as you are. This is not common, and with the best intentions in the world they may take a long time to come to terms with your situation.

2. Your parents will try to understand, but the news will make them feel guilty, as if your gayness is their fault. They probably will think your life is headed for ruin if you persist in your homosexuality, and therefore will pressure you to change. They may want you to go into psychotherapy, join the armed forces, or, if you are quite young, enrol in military school. What they don't realise is that sexual preference is extremely resistant to change by any known method of treatment, and that putting a homosexual man in an all male environment is like locking an alcoholic in a liquor store in order to keep him out of cocktail lounges.

3. Your parents will not react. They will refuse to believe you and the subject will never be brought up again. You may feel like an outcast and even though life remains the same on the surface, relations with your parents can go hollow very fast.

continued next page



No, I'm not kidding! If you came out publicly, do you know what that would do for our image?

# GAY WEEK

## The trenches under fire

On May 13 a historic state election in Tasmania saw the return of enough Green and ALP members to topple the Gray Liberal Government. But conservative forces reacted strongly to reassert their political agenda and to attempt to stymie the newborn ALP and Green Accord. The first item on their agenda (and the last on that of the ALP/Greens) was the gay law reform issue. On 15 June an anti-law reform rally was held in Ulverstone - arguably the most homophobic town in the state.

The rally was certainly part of a wider political scenario than gay and lesbian equality but it was also a blatant affront to us and our community which it would have been impossible to ignore. Many said: 'Why go with the odds stacked against you?', but our aim was to take advantage of the rally by turning our weakness into strength and their strength into weakness.

So, with badges, banners and handouts emblazoned with the slogan 'Talk To Us Not About Us' we set off to Ulverstone from every part of the state.

We arrived in this rural centre of approximately 10000 people at dusk and immediately took to the streets to distribute information about gay law reform and about being gay. Despite initial fears of abuse or harassment our reception was surprisingly positive. Obviously the more bohemian sectors of Ulverstone society do their shopping after dark.

Public education over, we converged on the Civic Centre. On one side of the entrance stood several of our number holding a banner and distributing pamphlets. On the other side a man in a pin stripe suit was distributing anti-gay material in front of little white cardboard signs with messages like 'Remember Sodom' (I'm 25 so it's vague in my memory).

But this remnant of Atlanta in the fifties was nothing compared to the Nuremberg-style demagoguery which confronted us in the auditorium. A Federal Liberal, two members of the Tasmanian Upper House and an Ulverstone Councillor (whose last great push was for the reintroduction of flogging for convicted thieves) revelled disgustingly in the opportunity to whip an already irrational crowd into a frenzy of hate by recounting in minute detail the perverse things gay males do with

bottles and cups, and our plans to genetically engineer perfect boys for our own pleasures! (The speakers were silent on lesbians.)

We began at the only point possible - an affirmation of our gayness.

Despite being 40 against 700 we dominated question time. Echoes of 'I'm twenty, I'm gay and I'm proud' and 'I'm a lesbian, a mother and a Christian' had barely faded before a proposed motion about gay law reform gave us equal speaking time. Sometimes it was difficult to be heard above people chanting 'kill the gays', but eventually we made our point, and in so doing undermined theirs.

The strength of our opposition in Ulverstone lay partly in its numerical superiority and its overwhelming hostility. Our audience's irrationality, crudity and incapacity to even hear us out contrasted tellingly with its willingness to talk about us ad nauseum. As a result we, quite fairly, found the sympathy of the media (and, we hope, the public) swinging to us.

But more importantly their strength lay in their ignorance. Having never met open lesbians or gay men before, they happily swallowed and endorsed all the lies served up to them by the ultra-conservative politicians who addressed them. But

when confronted in the midst of their hate with the reality of homosexuals who looked, spoke and acted much like themselves, this strength became a weakness. As we addressed them, doubt crept into their response and by the end of the evening most of us who had announced our gayness were surrounded by a knot of inquisitive, questioning Ulverstonians.

We made an impact in Ulverstone because so few people in that town had ever confronted publicly the reality of homosexuality. For this reason it may be impossible to use the same tactic to make the same impact anywhere else.

But regardless of how unique our experience in Ulverstone may have been it has provided us with the confidence to continue and the will to win.

In the words of one exuberant activist, we have come too far to give in now. She was quite right. In Ulverstone we showed the world our commitment to equality and nothing can stop us now.

Rodney Croome  
(Re-printed from *Outrage*  
August 1989)

## Coming Out

continued from page 9

4. Your parents will reject you. Melodramatic as this may seem, gay people do get thrown out of their family home, disowned, and told never to come back. It happens frequently, in fact.

If you are an older man, living on your own and perhaps located at some distance from your parents, you don't have the problems that a younger man has - it is easier to leave well enough alone. Whatever you decide, maternal and paternal health should be taken into consideration. A bad heart and shocking news don't mix.

At any age, your parents may want you to keep your gayness a dark secret. Remember, that it is for you alone to decide; it's your life and nobody else's.

Brothers and sisters can be very unpredictable at any time. Homophobia, often in the form of exaggerated fears for their children's safety in your presence, or sibling rivalry, or the fear that if you are, maybe they could be, or jockeying for position in Grandpa's will, can affect their reaction. In judging this you are your own best guide.

On all sides the potential for hurt is great. Whatever you decide to do, tread very carefully and consider what is to be gained by your revelation and what lost.

### Coming Out Completely

In order to manage this successfully, it is necessary to be the son of unusually understanding parents, to live among unthreatened, sympathetic people, and to work in a situation where you are not required to project a stereotypical hetero family-man image. Otherwise, you must be very brave in the face of much hostility - verbal, physical, social, economic - or very rich.

### Not Coming Out

In gay parlance the closet is where men who pass for straight hide their true desires. Given the ways of our society, the closet does have its advantages, and even openly gay men sometimes find it convenient to appear straight. Some closet cases manage a double life very well, wife and family none the wiser. Not every marriage is what it seems: some are composed of a gay man and a lesbian, or perhaps an understanding straight woman.

On the other hand, life in the closet with its repressions and falsifications can create great strains on one's mental health. The closeted gay man will never be supportive of other gay men or causes, and he is the first to guffaw at faggot jokes. Self-hatred is extremely difficult to avoid; indeed, choosing total secrecy is in itself a harsh judgement against one's true nature.



Heterosexuals  
Unafraid  
Gays

And there are practical problems. Exposure, such as an arrest in a toilet, can ruin a life, and blackmail can be a continual hazard. A woman who finds out she has wed a man who really thinks of her as window dressing may seek vindication in a divorce court.

### The Etiquette Of Coming Out

There are gay men that everybody can spot, that nobody can spot, and that only other gay men can spot. Some of us are upfront all the time by choice, some of us are deeply closeted, and a lot of us range somewhere in between. Every gay man has the right to decide for himself just how open he will be about his gayness, and this may vary with time, place and situation. Among ourselves we maintain two unique courtesies.

First, you do not identify anybody as homosexual to any person who is heterosexual. This may sound like a needless warning, but it is easy to screw up, uncloseting a man who will not appreciate the favour. Example: you go to a gathering at a gay friend's place. It seems that everyone there is homosexual or straight-but-indifferent. But one of the guests may be your host's dear aunt Minnie, who dropped in unexpectedly. No matter what, you're always wiser to make no assumptions. As the phrase goes, don't let your hair down, not until you are sure that no harm will be done.

Second, in school or job situations, or anywhere else outside the gay world, homosexual men communicate information about their sexual outlook in a certain subtle way. For instance, you go on a coffee break with a guy at work, and in the course of the conversation he mentions that last Saturday he went 'to the bars'. Since its common among gay men to make the rounds of several drinking spots in an evening, the plural of the noun is a little signal. Or, he might take out a matchbook with the name of a local gay bar printed on its cover.

By these quiet means the man is telling you that he is gay and that he believes you are too. A straight man cannot respond because he won't pick up on the signal, and a gay man can choose to ignore or acknowledge it. Thus nobody is cornered, exposed, or made paranoid. This form of communication is called dropping a hairpin.

### How Far To Come Out

Just how open you want to be is a decision to make only after carefully considering your own feelings and personal circumstances. Some men chose the closet, others refuse to hide at all, still others don't want to make a big fuss about it and effeminate men may feel that they have no choice in the matter.



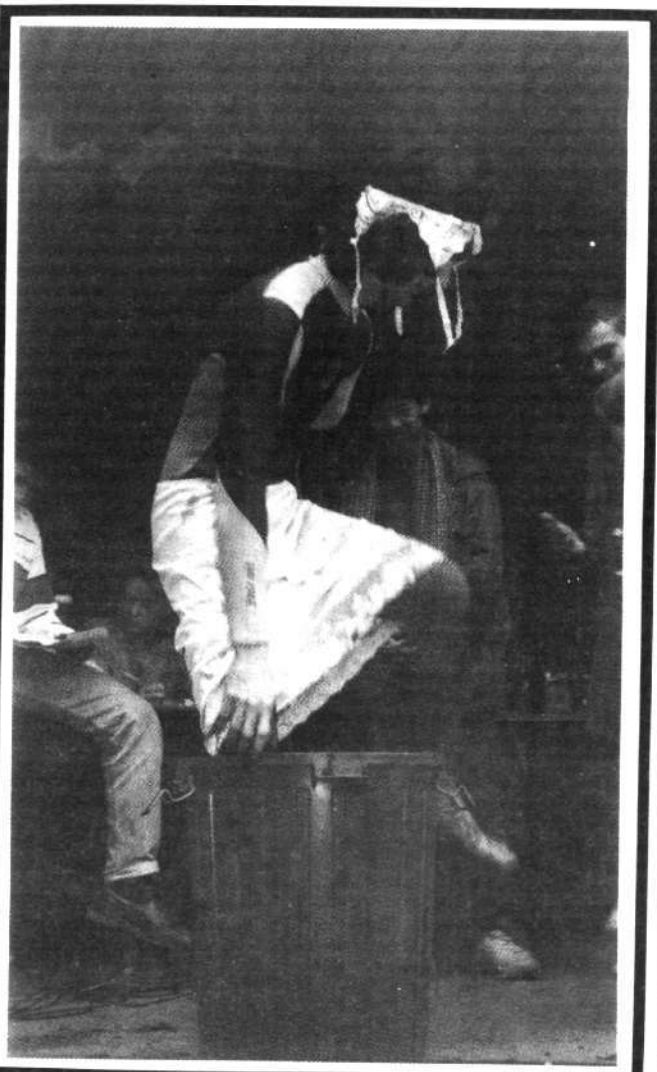
# The week that was...

**M**onday morning, a cool breeze under a cloudless sky as the daily crowd arrives at Monash University for work. First years carry curious looks on their faces anxious to find out if the stories they've heard are true, whilst later year students grin in anticipation. Staff members, though many are oblivious to the upcoming event for the most part carry a disapproving or concerned look.

The Small Caf and the Grill Room fill with people reading copies of the centre page of Lots or the 12 page glossy program (sorry it's not recyclable but you can make Combusta Bricks out of them). Lunchtime arrives and the beer starts in earnest. It's Green Week 1989... In the upstairs foyer a bit of ad lib comedy led the way for a superb performance by Found Objects which consistently held a crowd of over 400 people. Simultaneously, Nini Reid destroyed all her opponents, their tricycles, and 12 pots of grog in front of similarly sized crowd outside. 2000 people attended the Metro that evening which was highlighted by two incredible backflips by Windsurfers extraordinaire Wings.

As students staggered into lunchtime the next day holding their heads, they were subjected to the embarrassment of having to sing aloud in the Starmaker show or subject their ears to this cacophony. 300 students crammed into the West Wing Cellar Room to watch 15 anonymous students smoke themselves into a higher state of being.

The Rogaining which took place outside was the ultimate expression of our freedom of self-abuse. In the spirit of beer and athletic excellence, 34 martyrs to the VB cause sprinkled about the forum, skulled beer at predetermined points, staggered to the Finish and then allowed nature to take its course. This awesome display of endurance was watched by both hundreds on the forum and thousands ignoring their lecturers in the Arts Building. Will Tuckfield won with an astounding and disgusting 1:19, defeating eventual Iron Bong winner David Obrien, who was still recovering, and last years winner Sean in the playoffs.



Wednesday morning brekky outside the Union saw hundreds of hungry and thirsty students making the most of the snags and beer provided. Breakfast turned into morning tea and then into lunch before the crowd moved upstairs to experience the Iron Bong semi-finals. Superlative efforts by Dave, Nick and Scott saw them smoke themselves into the final to be held the next day.

Thursday lunchtime saw an unprecedented 1300 people cram into the upstairs foyer for the Iron Bong Final which Dave went on to win in record time and then stunned the audience by drinking the bong water. The Boat Races which began soon after were dominated by Richardson Hall - boy, do they know how to drink! The Richardson women's team threw aside all their opponents until they ran up against none other than the Richardson Men's team. In the best of 3 play off the men scraped home 2-1, but not before various competitors had left their mark all over the stage floor.

The Union Night that evening saw 1200 punters drink 130 slabs of VB and 27 bottles of spirits. This obviously didn't effect their appreciation of the bands - Mad Turks, Reptiles and Hunters, which provided scintillating entertainment all night. Afterwards - 1.30 am - in the Activities office, pizzas and bottles of champagne were delivered to eagerly awaiting member of the activities committee as part of the scavenger hunt and by the way, no thanks go to the shits who put laxatives into the pizza.

Friday lunchtime and 600 people gathered outside the main library for the scavenger hunt presentation. Students were treated to a display which included a coat-hanger sculpture of a couple rooting 'The Crew' managed to win. A kidnapped library staff member and a pickled and jelly-slipped Harvey Kalman. As for the two students arrested trying to dye the Melbourne Uni pool green, the activities committee would like to remind you that it 'does not condone anything that is illegal, however inspired.'

The Crew managed to win. Congratulations to the MAS activities committee for a great week.



# West Side Changes Everything

Thirty years ago, a young unknown composer on Broadway was looking for something new. American theatre, and in particular music theatre, was past its heyday. Movies were the new cultural signature – Hollywood was the place to be for people going places. But the money-hungry magnates and the other Tinseltown princes weren't counting on what the young Leonard Bernstein had to offer. Together with lyricist Stephen Sondheim and writer Jerome Robbins, he was to come up with a masterpiece that would change the face of theatre in the twentieth century.

West Side Story was the show that gave music theatre a social conscience. Audiences couldn't stand up and walk away from this one, contented and complacent, happy to forget the trivialities they'd seen on stage. West Side story captured the essence of the age – it wasn't the American Dream, it was the American Reality. Dealing with gang warfare and race hatred, delinquency and youthful violence, it portrayed a truer picture of life in the States during the Fifties than 'Grease' or 'Happy Days' would ever show us. It is for these reasons, among many

others, that West Side Story is today considered to be one of the great classics of modern world theatre.

Originally conceived as a contemporary interpretation of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', the show is also very much a love story. A tale of an impossible love between a Puerto Rican girl and an American boy, it starkly conveys the futility and destructiveness of race conflict. The message at its conclusion, however, is one of hope – that understandings can be reached, if both sides are willing to forgo their pride for the sake of compassion. But in this show, as so often in real life, disaster must occur before either side can come to its senses.

**... it starkly conveys the futility and destructiveness of race conflict.**

West Side Story has as much appeal as ever to audiences in the 1980's. It is full of vibrant energy and life, and brings to the stage the blend of color and wit that can be appreciated by all



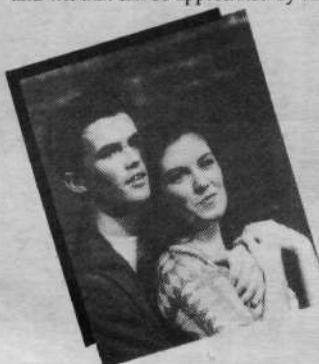
ages. From an artistic viewpoint, West Side Story represents the definitive work of the last three decades. Musically it is as demanding to play as it is thrilling to hear. Individual numbers from the score have been made famous worldwide in their own right – who doesn't know the snappy, upbeat 'America', or the moving ballad 'Somewhere' ('There's a Place for Us', made so famous by Barbra Streisand. The great tenor challenge 'Maria' lives on as one of the world's most well-known love songs, and the sardonic, hilarious 'Officer Krupke' says more

about the relationship between kids and authority than most of us care to admit!!

This show surely represents one of the most daunting challenges that any Theatre Company could ever take on. And in 1989, in its most ambitious project ever, MUMCO, Monash's own Musical Theatre Company is putting West Side Story to performance. Many of the different theatre groups on campus have contributed to the formidable assignment, which calls on a broad range of talent than anything attempted by any Student Theatre group in Australia for years. Some of the most

**West Side Story represents the definitive work of the last three decades.**

promising young talent from Monash the Victorian College of the Arts, Rusden, the Melba Conservatorium and elsewhere has been assembled in the Cast, Production team and Orchestra of this show, and the results of their work will be revealed on August 25th. The Alexander Theatre, which has recently





# OLD STORY

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ted the vastly successful professional Play Season, is the venue for this exciting Premiere, and tickets are on now for all of the eleven shows. Prices and times are as follows:

to Sat August 25 to 26: 11am  
 t August 26: 2pm;  
 ed to Sat August 30 to  
 , September 1 to 2: 11am;  
 ed to Sat September 6  
 9: 8pm

ickets can be booked in person at Alexander Theatre or by phone on credit card on 565 3992. Student tickets are available at \$8.90, with \$10.90 Monash Staff and Group bookings \$15.90 for Adults. Seats are selling for what must be the best value for money in Melbourne, so be quick if you're not to miss out.



MUMCO PRESENTS

## ALEXANDER THEATRE

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## Action - An Angry Young Man

People who have encountered Joe Connellan, either through unfortunate coincidence or by choice, know him as one of life's great critics. Whether playing Theatresports as if it were Aussie

**Few people could be said to have argued more . . .**

rules footy, commenting tri-cycle races for Green Week or just being the biggest smartass in the Criminal Law 'A' stream, Joe always manages to end up on centre stage, voicing his opinion. Few people could be said to have argued more in the name of their religion. Few people could be said to have argued more . . .

Theatre enthusiasts will remember him as the dope-smoking, brimstone-preaching Daddy Brubeck from 'Sweet Charity'. This year, however, he has shed the long blond wig and donned a baseball jacket as the Bronx hooligan Action in West Side Story.



Madeline Garlick  
 Photos by Simon Younger

# They can't see the forests for the

Just after Christmas 1988, the Federal Government announced the granting of a fifteen year export woodchip license to Harris-Daishowa to enable them to continue logging in the South East forests of NSW. Harris-Daishowa have been woodchipping in this region since the early seventies; using clear-felling techniques that result with the almost total destruction of the logged area (any examination of a landsat image of this area will reveal the truth of this). The renewal of this license is particularly disastrous because in order to sustain their operations, the woodchippers are now using National Estate Forests of unique wilderness value.

## The Campaign

Since early this year, the NSW Forestry Commission and Harris-Daishowa have been building roads and intensively logging Coolangubra, Tantawangalo and Egan Peaks forests. All these areas are listed on the National Estate because of their unique and pristine values. The tall, straight eucalypts and their underbrush are home to over 230 species of animals, including the koala, the long-footed potoroo, and the powerful owl. Much of this area is untouched and is the last refuge for many species that were once widespread in the area. The area is also a vital natural corridor between NSW and Victoria. Many organisations have called for the protection of these forests, including the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and many of the NSW Government's own advisers.

Instead, both the State and Federal governments decided to allow the destruction to continue. Despite recent reports to the contrary in the mainstream press, the most important areas are still being logged and the road that will traverse the Coolangubra wilderness is to go ahead. This is despite federal government policy to refuse export woodchipping of forest communities not represented in existing parks and reserves.

Some indication of how the arguments are being conducted within the bureaucracies is gained by examining the submissions of the Forestry Services and the NPWS regarding the protection of Coolangubra. According to the NPWS 'The Coolangubra proposal is the last remaining forest fragment in wilderness condition in the region; it has a very high level of biological diversity which has been maintained for more than a century - if not protected, it will be eroded.' The outrageous logic of the Forestry Service when presented with this fact is evidenced by their contention that 'the roading and harvesting intended will put the issue (of wilderness value) beyond doubt.' (SE Forest Report, No 2).

There are essentially two major arguments with the practice of woodchipping: It is bad economics and it is environmentally disastrous.

The undesirability of woodchipping as opposed to saw-logging in the economic sense has even been recognised by the Minister for Resources, the Hon Peter Cook, who has stated that 'woodchipping is the lowest value, lowest effort way to export forest products - relying on exports of woodchips sells short the resources on which our children depend' (April 21, 1988). Woodchipping for export is by no means essential to our balance of trade. The entire Daishowa operation provides less than \$60 million in annual export revenue, a pittance compared with the wood trade deficit of almost \$1.5 billion. Much of this exported chip is in fact imported back into Australia as paper products at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars more than the original chips.

The actual process of logging the trees, although referred to as selective logging by the Forestry Commission, is in fact virtual clear-felling, that is, it removes all of the underbrush by fire and leaves about ten per cent of the original tree cover. The environmental arguments against this method, in general and in this specific region, are convincing and shouldn't be ignored. The roads are not simple bush tracks but are sometimes over a hundred metres wide in order to enable access for logging trucks. This entails widespread devastation of the areas that aren't being logged and forms an unnatural barrier to many of the animals, while at the same time allowing the spread of weeds and essentially ruining the wilderness value of the forests.

The removal of the trees obviously results in the removal of the animals that live in their hollows and nest in their branches, but also the forestry timescale for re-logging of a coupe (logging area) does not allow for the next generation of trees to grow to a sufficient age to develop these hollows. After logging, the logged area becomes a prime target for soil erosion and soil and logging debris, which wash into the rivers after heavy storms, pollute water supplies and kill aquatic life. Specifically, to quote the South East Forests Association Campaign Handbook: 'Loss of the forest cover means that water cannot be retained in the soil, and gradually released', instead it is lost all at once. As a result, 'floods become more severe in the first decade after logging' (p 9). These factors combine with the fact that creeks will dry up sooner than if the forest had remained intact. The effects of this on the local community will be severe and long lasting; 'The Tantawangalo Creek catchment area supplies 32 per cent of the domestic, livestock and irrigation water needs of the Bega Valley Shire. The effect of logging on drought and surging tourist demand (for water) are urgent concerns. Rainfall on the south coast of NSW is highly variable, and the area often experiences severe droughts and water rationing.'

Since the beginning of this year, and all through the winter, there has been a concerted campaign by a wide group of conservationists, interested people and local citizens to prevent the destruction of this important and beautiful area. Operating under the umbrella name of South East Forests Association (SEFA), they have maintained a constant presence in the area, and have successfully kept the issue on the political agenda, despite efforts by both governments to downplay it. The campaign is not a wholesale anti-logging campaign but instead has the objective of changing forestry practices so that they are more in line with long-term responsible forest management.

The following is a list of the specific objectives of the campaign:

- Gazetted of adequate reserves in the South East, and allocation of sufficient funds to manage them for their high conservation value.

- Introduction of less intensive, more selective logging in forests outside the reserves. This includes management for both woodchip production and non-wood values such as recreation.

- Phase out of export woodchipping and the establishment of value-added activity in the use of pulp-log and saw-log resources.

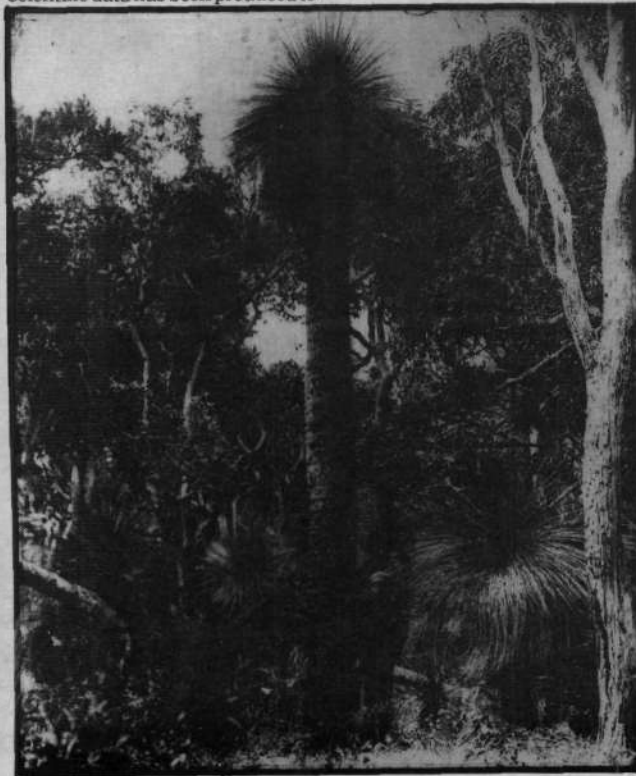
## Tactics

Since 1980, the residents of the south coast have used every conventional means to make the governments see the short-sightedness of their policies and to change these policies. Alternative management practices and strategies have been proposed, some as recently as June this year, and countless scientific data has been produced to

show the importance of protecting these valuable ecosystems. None of this has altered the governments desire to sell off our heritage for a few quick dollars. Because of this and because the destruction is happening now it has become a necessary and justifiable part of our campaign to take direct peaceful action to achieve our goals. The aim of direct peaceful action is to influence the public in a positive way, and through the power of public opinion, change the positions of politicians and save the south east forests. In addition to this, peaceful resistance has, at times, been used to prevent certain areas being logged at all.

Since the direct action part of the campaign commenced, there have been over 700 arrests, and actions are occurring weekly that are adding to that number. Why are people being arrested? The NSW Government has enacted legislation last used at the Terania Creek campaign, but initially introduced during the first World War that enables them to declare public forests a prohibited area - any person entering that area is liable to be arrested. Of the 700 arrested so far, a hundred or so of them have been interested people simply going for a bit of a bushwalk to familiarise themselves with the area.

They're not all long-haired 'Greenies' - Jenny Kee, a democrat member of parliament, Helen Caldicott and Sting - all came very close to seeing the inside of Eden jail (apparently, it was only the number of journalists that stopped it).





# woodchip dollars



I was arrested on the Anzac Day weekend along with 150 others, including Jenny Kee, in a mass arrest action that had been planned over the previous three days by all those intending to participate. One of the most important principles of peaceful resistance as it is being practiced in the campaign is that it should allow and encourage people's involvement, and thereby it should empower them. In practice, this means that all decision making should be done on the basis of consensus. By consensus, we mean that the ideas and input of all participants are gathered and synthesized to arrive at a final decision agreeable and workable to all. Obviously, as that groups gets larger it takes longer to reach an agreement, and so it is less likely to arrive at total consensus. In the event that consensus can't be reached, those people who feel they can't necessarily agree with the decision or overall direction may be asked if they are willing to abide by the group decision.

hopefully, put our point across without being threatening.

We left the base camp, which was situated on a local co-operative farm, and drove in convoy to the site of the action. The police had expected us to be arriving at the main entrance to the forest, but instead we sailed right past them to a nearby fire track where we had planned to have the action. Needless to say, they were not impressed. Our action consisted of simply moving en masse into the forest by advancing through the police line. Once across the line, we moved off into the forest, heading for the logging coupe in order to witness the disaster that euphemistically is called selective logging.

About 40 people had been arrested at the police lines while the rest of us managed to avoid being caught. A friend's 13 year old brother, when given the opportunity to escape arrest, instead took the choice of being arrested and spent an hour in the paddy wagon and several hours in the lock-up in Eden. Ninety of us walked for a couple of hours through the bush and then along the logging 'road', which was more like one giant mud flat, with a police escort or two. When we finally emerged at the main gate, we were met by a rousing cheer by our supporters, and also by a trip to Eden lock-up with the police.

On being arrested, I found that my elderly companions went by the name of Lord and Lady Fairleigh-Cunningham and had come down from the north coast to participate, and I have learnt that they have been arrested several times since. In the cell, the 30 or so of us occupied the time by singing, giving group massages in a circle, and playing a game that is now almost an institutionalised part of the campaign. It's a pretty silly game whereby we form a circle with everybody facing the person in front's back and then trying to sit on the knees of the person behind us. This is the easy part as the circle is self-supporting - the hard part comes when we all take a step forward. The record now is about ten steps with a circles of about 50 people in a cell. Well, you have to do something when you are in a cell for three hours or more!

original conditions were too harsh and that bail should not be used as a punishment. They were released on May 3. It is interesting to note that the effectiveness of these actions was highlighted by the fact that the UN took an interest in the case and had asked for information to be sent to Geneva.

On the Queens Birthday long weekend in June this year, another mass arrest had been planned, this time with about 1500 planning to be arrested. Because of the amount of people planning action, the police department decided to declare the forest open for the day. This was a victory of sorts for the campaign, because it shows that nobody can ignore a large number of people. It also poses the question of the summer holidays, when we hope to have that number or more at the forest.

The campaign is by no means over or winding down - they definitely need all the help that people are able to give. If you are interested, come along to a Conservation Club meeting, Tuesday lunchtimes in Rm 357, Menzies Building.

Luckily for us it was only three hours. Police lock-ups are pretty depressing places to be. Unfortunately for five of the group who were arrested on that day it was their third arrest, and they were

given bail conditions, which they refused to sign because one of the conditions was that they would not approach the forests again - obviously because they were aware of the nature of the campaign, it was impossible for them to sign the conditions.

Over the next few days they were shuffled between various lock-ups in the South East region and then finally the three women were taken to Mullawa maximum security prison in Sydney, where they were put in the remand section along with murderers, thieves and heroin users (why any of these people were there is not understandable, surely they should be in rehabilitation). The two men arrested decided after a few days to sign the form, but the women decided to hold out, which they did until an enlightened Sydney magistrate ordered that the

Australia has already lost two thirds of its native forests and has the highest rate of mammal extinction in the world, and yet the Prime Minister's Environment Statement didn't even mention these forests, forests of vital natural importance and remarkable beauty, forests that need to be protected today. Conservation is more than the planting of trees, it is the preservation of ecosystems for all time.



# Sport - With the



## Insomniacs



**Calcavecchia downgrades the shark!!**

The final round of the British Open is to golf what the Melbourne Cup is to horse racing. Even those who find the actual sport boring are suddenly armchair experts; glued to their television sets. The 118th final round of this most traditional and coveted of all sporting contests was to be no different.

This years setting was the lovely, surprisingly sun-drenched Royal Troon course in Scotland. We humble servants of the armchair were tuned in to Network Skase. Troon just happens to be the Gaelic word for nose, which is quite appropriate given the dreadful BBC coverage. It certainly did get right up one's troon. Skase is probably the Gaelic word for advertisement.

The excitement was to come from many different quarters. Australian golf's glamour boy Greg Norman scorched around the sunburnt course. He birdied the first six hole to race to 11 under. The Shark then dropped one at the 'Postage Stamp', Troon's tiny eighth hole, but he quickly regained his birdie touch to finish with a course record round of 64. All he could do now was sit nervously in the clubhouse as

the field chased his score of 13 under.

American Mark Calcavecchia began the case with some fine putting and a miraculous 'slam dunk' pitch at the twelfth, whilst Jody Mudd's name was anything but as he also stayed in contention. However, the front runners were yet to come.

As with horse racing, someone or something occasionally upsets the book makers. This time it was unfancied Aussie Wayne Grady. 'Grades', as he was known by the chummy Channel Seven commentary team, had the temerity to lead the field into the home straight; the final day.

Unlike Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, Grady may well have uttered an 'it's elementary, my dear Watson' as his far more illustrious playing partner struggled to stay with the pace. After five holes it was the Australian who had moved clear, sitting at 15 under.

At the end of the day, however, it wasn't quite enough. The gallant Queenslander dropped two shots on the last five holes to join Norman and the fast-finishing Calcavecchia in a four hole play-off.

Like soccer's penalty shoot-out and

tennis's tie-break, golf also prostitutes itself to the whims of television. Hence the play-off, no longer do they come back tomorrow for a decent 18 hole decider; now it is do or die.

'I don't care. He's had a good tournament.' Lyn Grady, on husband Wayne.

Norman birdied the first two play-off holes to have the crowd roaring once again. Could the tide be returning down under? Calcavecchia stayed in touch when he birdied the second whilst Grady, with a pair of pars, needed a miracle.

Hole 17, play-off hole 3, and suddenly the tide was turning. A monkey was clawing at Norman's back. Calcavecchia held firm whilst the two Aussies bogeyed. Then disaster. Like sand through the hourglass, so are the bunker shots of our lives. Norman hopped from bunker to bunker whilst the American calmly birdied the final play-off hole to claim the famous silver jug as his very own.

**Kareem always rises to the top!!**

On October 18, 1969, a young man named Lew Alcindor made his professional basketball debut for the Milwaukee bucks against the Detroit Pistons. This was to be no ordinary debut. America's ABC television network rearranged its schedule to televise the game live; and no wonder.

Alcindor had just led UCLA to three successive national college titles, had inspired Power Memorial High to a 95-9 record and had invented a shot called the skyhook which no-one could counter.

In 1971 the Bucks won the NBA title in only their third year of competitive basketball. In 1975, Milwaukee traded their star attraction, now known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar after his conversion to Islam, to the LA Lakers for two players and two draft choices. Five Lakers Championships since then indicates that the Bucks were on the wrong end of the particular trade.

In the final game of the 1988-89 season, the Detroit Pistons completed a clean swoop of the Lakers to win the NBA title and thus draw the curtain on the greatest career in NBA history. Kareem's 20 seasons at the top saw him play more games, score more points and block more shots than any other player, as he picked up six Championship rings.

A final farewell tour was announced - three games in Australia and the great man's final appearance in Taiwan. Surrounded by a team of ex-NBA stars, Kareem could say goodbye and expose American basketball to a new audience at the same time. It was to the first of these games that the Insomniacs were inevitably drawn.

A full house at the National Tennis Centre, urged on by the silly antics of the Sydney King's court jester, laughed as Gino Tagliatoni's MMM team defeated a celebrity rabble in a half-court scrap and then roared as the Aussie Boomers defeated Kareem's Travelling Daedals by five points, 120-115, in an epic struggle.

Shortest man on the court and MVP was Phil Smyth, playing his 197th game for Australia. He provided 25 points and was, as ever, the calm and well-organised general which the Boomers needed in offence. Melbourne's very own scoring machine Andrew Gaze set the crowd and the team alight with 27 points and a couple of magic defensive steals during the tight last quarter.

Our Safeway Award, for the man who gave best value for money, went to Damien Keogh. In his short time on court the Sydney guard landed 3 pointers, provided assists and, early in the game, pulled off the steal of the night from between the legs of Dwayne McLain to set up a Boomer basker.

Best for the Daedals was George Gervin. The Iceman was unstoppable in offence and full of all sorts of slippery manoeuvres which left the Australians standing.

But the man everyone had come to see was Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, all-time NBA high scorer, inventor and master of the skyhook (basketball's only unblockable shot), veteran of six NBA Championships, 18 time participant in the All-Star game, etc, etc, etc.

Two and a half minutes into the second quarter he landed his first basket, a skyhook, and the crowd went mad. This was hardly Kareem's best game (he even missed two foul shots in a row), but every time he reminded us of the old magic, with a timely block from an attempted slam of a behind the back pass under the basker, the applause was warm and heartfelt. Basketball is losing one of its greatest treasures, and we wish him good fortune in his well-earned retirement.





# Creative Writing

## Thomas' Travels

Thomas sat in his stockinged feet, a blanket over his legs. It seemed he had spent his entire life sitting in that chair, dependent on other people for the very necessities of life. Taking a sip of water, Thomas knew he was overreacting. Still the past eighteen hours of his twenty-two hour flight from Rome to Melbourne did in fact seem like a lifetime. The incessant drone of the engines, the rock hard seat and the continuous bustle of people around him. Yet Thomas was no virgin traveller, no not him. I mean we're talking about a veteran, seasoned, worldly traveller here. We have here a man who knows the exact seat number and letter he wants on any type of airplane, with any airline. And that seat with literally miles of leg room, a window to lean against when you sleep and positioned right next to the emergency exit. It is the seat you never seem to get. The seat in which whoever sits always seems to look incredibly smug and comfortable. The seat where when you see the bastard sitting there, looking contented and smug, you are unable to stop yourself muttering 'bastard' under your breath.

Not only did Thomas know where to sit, but he also knew what to have with him. His baggage was never overweight. His carry on luggage was never too large. He always had a book with him, tissues, headache tablets and the million other things us mortals always seem to forget to bring on board with us. But it doesn't stop here either. Thomas' bags were never searched. They never ended up in Tibet or Botswana. Thomas was in possession of the one and only passport in the world in which the bearer looked good, even great, perhaps even fantastic! And most amazing of all was Thomas' relationship with Customs Officers. Yes, that rare breed of humorless, monotonic, deadpan faced robots would smile when they saw him. They would grin and chuckle good naturedly as they exchanged pleasantries, occasionally even telling a joke or two. It was a phenomenon no one could explain. (Custom-humor is very serious to the point of being downright unfunny and boring, yet Thomas always laughed along politely.)

But, I hear you protest, hang on a minute. You're not telling us the important stuff; the answer to the one vital question: *Why?* The answer to that question however, I can not give, for no one has been able to discover it. I do have a theory of my own, but first a little history...

Thomas, that tall, burly, bushy-haired, moustached-man, was a salesman. Not just any salesman either. Not your run-of-the-mill door to door encyclopaedia pusher, not your life insurance peddler, not your real-estate criminal, not your bond punter or stock swindler or even your company trader. Not Thomas was a Gravel Salesman. A man of rare distinction, continuously on the move, selling his age old product. In fact, ever since Thomas was a baby he had wanted to be involved in the Gravel Industry. He had begun work in a Gravel Factory, working first as a junior, and later as an engineer, on the huge machines which produce the tons and tons of gravel demanded each day. From there, Thomas went to night school to accelerate his rise through the corporate hierarchy. Studying such diverse areas as Gravel design, Gravel Usage, Ancient Gravel History, Modern Gravel History, Eighteenth Century Gravel History, Gravel Integration, Impressionist Gravel, Cubism Gravel, Economic Gravel, Pop Gravel, Gravel Culture and many, many more. Thomas achieved honors, recording the highest marks ever in the history of the Harved Institute of Advanced Gravel Study. (Established in 1895 by Sir Harvy Harved, the founding father of Gravelology.) With these marks, Thomas attained the position of Gravelor, later becoming a Professor of Gravelology. Sadly academia held no attraction for Thomas, who could surely have gone on to rival even Sir Harvey Harved himself. This led to Thomas quitting night school and beginning work full time at the Gravel Factory. Rising swiftly through the ranks, Thomas soon became Head Salesman, a position coveted by all down at the factory, and it was at this position that Thomas stayed. Oh sure there were offers of more money, higher positions, even talk of a possible partnership in Westercalfman and Sons Gravel Emporium. But Thomas was content as Head Salesman, content with his travelling life.

continued next week

## Halls

'I came in from the wilderness  
A creative void of form..' 'B Dylan.

The sun shone through mine window  
Across the blackened floor,  
With finger burns from previous souls  
staining the painted walls.

The wind moved the leaves outside  
with alien innocence  
The whispers through mine conscience  
of the fake togetherness.

Peering outside from womb B2  
Into a speckled afternoon  
The air is like it always is:  
A sad soft single tune.

The dust dance as if time  
Amid the mortal clutter:  
Artefacts, obstacles, possessions,  
Things upon another.

The dancers finally die  
on my written sounds,  
For the sunshine fades from view  
and silence all surrounds.

As the air makes love to the night,  
And spiders creep from their rooms,  
I search for an early release  
From my single tomb.

L

## Dare

The wind had caught her hair  
slapping and ripping it against her cheeks.  
Higher, she tossed it  
higher until amidst twirling acacia pollen  
she had been ablazed in light!

Seventy-dollar dreadlocks,  
her love had shown her the shop  
and the wind had blown around her neck,  
a challenge.

Unwarily, she commuted among the  
Gods and philistines,  
breathing in the dust and the smelly air -  
shaved head and glowing.

Peh

# Performance '89:

## the site of disjunction

In 1967 Michael Fried criticised minimalist sculpture claiming that the over-determined position of the viewer/spectator ushered the 'theatrical' into the hallowed halls of the visual arts (1). The minimalists opened up the space between object and receiver by repositioning the subject's relation to the work. Narrative was displaced, or at least decentered, by the 'relative' position of the viewer to the work. Minimalisation also displaced the idea of the artist's signature since works were often fabricated by mechanical rather than human means. Thus the relationship between artist, object and spectator was undone and re-written.

Minimalism's challenge to formalist modernism has been read as one of the most recent ruptures in the modernist/post-modernist debate, however, earlier 'challenges' to convention are evident in Dada and Surrealism. The idea that post-modernism erupts in a pluralist field in the visual arts is a construction of theory written retrospectively. Pluralism is apparent throughout the twentieth century, especially if critics are prepared to look further than an established 'canon'. The imposition of one voice seeks to deny the multivarious tongues spoken throughout the disciplines.

There is a particular irony apparent in Fried's famous criticism. The declared 'theatricality' of minimalism, which allowed the spectator a role beyond that of 'beholder' displaced the autonomy of high modernism. However, the dissolving of the spaces between the arts (sculpture, dance, theatre, sound, video etc) also allowed the reinstatement of the artist's personal experience. The individualism apparent in much body art was distinctly different from the cool installation fabricated by minimal artists. Post-minimal art reclaimed narrative, myth-making and subjectivism along side other interpretations which deconstructed the role of the artist and the institution of the museum. The conflation of a personal and a political response is evident throughout performance art in the 1970s and into the '80s.

In the 1970s, 'alternative' lifestyles, personal therapy, Zen methods of disjunctive teaching and ecological/biological readings of the subject in relation to art were prevalent. The artist's existential experience was heralded in much body art and ritual. Nature was valorized as if it were somehow devoid of culture and the instinctual response of the subject was claimed to be 'free' of the constrictions of language.

In the 1980s, utopian ideologies have been unveiled and their investment in humanist philosophy made explicit. In the 70s such an analysis was not widespread and the possibility of change appeared immanent. Now all change appears to be sublimated under the grand scheme of late capital: hyper-space has displaced the 'real' and a more sophisticated analysis prevails. In a post-modern, imploded world, the artist as utopian agent had little chance of survival. Despite the odds, artists still attempt the impossible: some have developed a more

sophisticated practice which addresses recent shifts in theory, others continue a discourse in optimism unperturbed by theoretical arguments.

Constructions of theory read art in predictable frameworks: artists become aligned with particular 'schools' of thought depending on where their works fit in the overall scheme of language and its multivarious displacements. Criticism and theory has played an important role in the art of the post-modern era. Myths associated with individualism, the 'avant-garde', narrative and subjectivism have been undone. Many of the sites of artistic discourse have been deconstructed and unveiled as the sacred house of humanism. However, the converse is also apparent when 'radical' theory is applied to conventional art practices. In the age of discursive institutions (mis)readings are abundant. The 'liberation', or more fashionably the *jouissance*, of deferred meanings and inter-textual play displaces the notion of origin.

Anti-humanism disrupts the certainties of a would-be centred subject. The murky scene of mythical desire is uncovered and the false premises of guarded dreams revealed. In a society alienated on all sides, such pronouncements are not welcome. In the visual arts, the search for lasting 'truths' and ancient myths continues in the hope that the unspoken may be said.

In Performance '89 disjunctions and repetitions will become apparent to the audience. In works of individual artists, boundaries are indistinct: artists act as bricoleurs shifting and shaking philosophies in an irreverent play. In the 80s some artists have become articulate in the theoretical debates—they address their position in society and their experiments in practice through rigorous readings. Regardless of the audience member's preferred viewpoint Performance '89 promises to be controversial. The artists presenting live works and lectures in this exhibition have not had the opportunity to show their work in a collective context

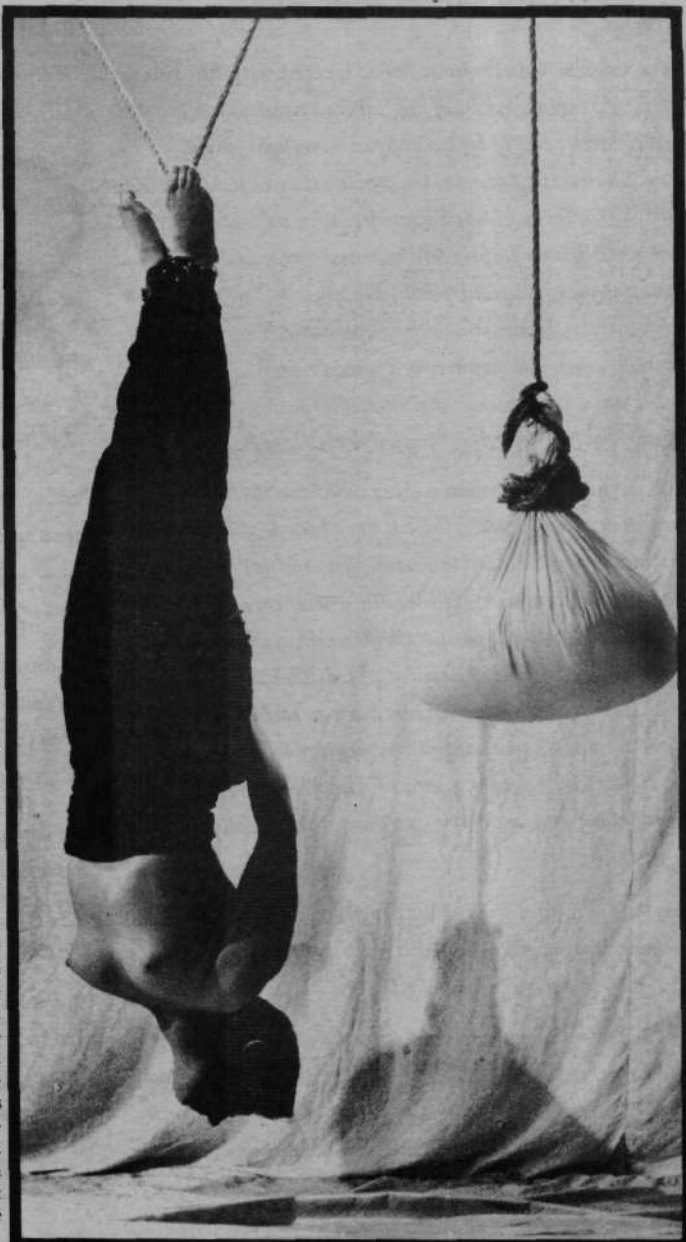
for many years: they come together under the auspices of the Department of Visual Arts due to a specific research project on Australian performance art.

On Thursday, August 31, Jill Orr and Kevin Mortensen, two of Victoria's and Australia's most well known performance artists will present their work. Both artists have represented Australia in major overseas exhibitions (Paris and Venice Biennales) and have both been described as myth-makers (Robert Lindsay, *Relics and Rituals*, NGV, 1981). However, it is apparent that both artists untie their own texts.

Orr's work appears to be a paradigm of 70s art: ecology, links with the landscape and existential alienation are loudly proclaimed. However, Orr also speaks as a woman: one enshrined by the myth of otherness; connected to nature/devoid of culture. Jill Orr deserves the attention of a critical viewer prepared to see past humanist myths: a viewer willing to consider the notion of women as lack in a psychoanalytic sense. Orr does not speak for women: she is not a 'theoretical' or 'political' artist in any overt sense. However, the images of her own body tell the tale of woman unspoken. The myth of woman-as-nature is enshrined in the performance works: she becomes the *Bleeding Trees*, the crucified image of *Headed South* and the sacrificed self of *Lunch with the Birds*. Orr represents the myth of woman in these performances yet the masquerade of the feminine speaks through this silence: the other who knows not what she wants.

Kevin Mortensen contradicts himself and parades as giver and receiver of lying truths. Like Orr there is a tendency to valorize the mythical: to act as the shaman. Mortensen does not have the secret of a veiled truth, he is always, already the master read through the image of the male persona. In some works the artist has been successful in deconstructing the myth of a humanist discourse: in other works the mythical is (re)produced as 'truth' without displacement. Many of Mortensen's best works have played along the axis of male/female identity or induced hidden sexual themes. *The Opening Leg Show Bizarre* of 1972 was a celebration of difference(s) juxtaposed in weird environments at Pinacotheca gallery. The more sophisticated performance *The Rowing* (NGV 1980) employed four naked men in an enterprise which aimed to raise 'the blind'. The thrusting back and forth produced a circular motion through a complex arrangement of pulleys: back and forth, up and down, and around about yet the veil still remained.

Graeme Davis will also be presenting a performance on the same day. Davis's works have been diverse: like Mortensen he often resorts to 'natural' stories insisting that the pleasures of corporeal existence outweigh the frustrations of technology. However, Davis has also produced works urban technology. However, Davis has also produced works which speak of a disjunctive masculine. His employment as a psychiatric nurse and his experience as the father of a female child produced works like *Invalid Product as Subject* (Adelaide Festival of Arts, 1980) and





## The Drunken Stupors

The Drunken Stupors played at the Royal Artillery Hotel in the city last Wednesday night. Their brand of infectious power pop was just the thing to refresh one's memory as to what real music sounded like.

The five piece, with no sign of synthesizer, turned up their amps to 11 on the Spinal Tap scale and sped through their 15 song set. The two guitarists took turns to lead, and their nifty slush puppy-like riffs were wickedly catchy. Perhaps even more enjoyable were tongue-in-cheek cock-rock moves the band came up with to set the foot-tapping crowd alight.

Despite the general non-caring attitude the band chose to exude, it was quite clear that the boys really have got talent and their songs are both perfectly cynical and full of prurience - the traditional ingredients for angst ridden song writing. Take for example the lyrics to Bounce: 'I like to bounce, my brain weighs half an ounce.' Other standouts in the set were 'I got nervous when I saw Cherry Lane was closed', 'bomb the fifth', 'John Cain' and 'rocket' - all heckishly quick, but never thrashy; the Stupors never losing sight of rhythm.

From what I could tell there were three covers in the set: a mean gorgeously sixties-style cover of 'You've got good taste' (of Cramps fame); The Morose Subhumans track 'slave to my dick'; and the classic 'Jesus entering from the rear' by Feederz - all of which were well worth the effort.

Sure, there were a few timing hiccups and none of them really could remember the chords to their unrehearsed encore, but these seemed to add the credibility so lacking in commercial music, to the performance. I'm sure these boys will never make the Countdown Revolution - the lead singer has short; the excellent drummer wasn't concerned about how his biceps looked; Their songs were written to please themselves and not a record company accountant; There wasn't one obligatory lead break that didn't fit in with the rhythm of the songs - but I'm sure the boys won't want to be on Countdown anyway. Besides, they wouldn't let the lead singer into The Metro with a Datsun 180B insignia hanging around his neck.

The moral here is that the Stupors aren't making music to get rich. Their songs are quick and loud and will be catchy for a long time to come. For those with a taste for music that hasn't been programmed into them, try the Stupors next time they play. For all you others, who are probably reading this whilst queuing for U2 concert tickets, when you get to the head of the line and the sign says 'Sold Out' think hard about what it means.

Gary F. Vogel  
Eco IV

## The Great Big Opera Company - fun and glamour return to pop muzak

Lusty, lush, uplifting, sublime entertainment. This is what the Great Big Opera Company (GBOC) provides its audience.

This three member band has been thaumaturgic to its sometimes unbelieving audience with its great big sound and brilliant voices. The band was formed in 1985 for its first production 'A Desert Chanson With Tangos' - a part of the Next Wave Festival at the Universal Theatre. Over the ensuing years came recitals, festivals and other projects for Spoleto festivals such as 'Basically Brecht', 'Absolutely Weill' and 'A Dangerous Hour'. Last year, the band assumed its current line-up and they 're-launched' themselves at the 1989 Melbourne Comedy Festival.

The ensemble comprises Allan Walker, aka Archduke Allan D'-Obstetrix, Greg Riddell, aka Greg Galore and Jon Jackson, aka Dame Jon Jackson. Allan majored in piano studies at the Queensland Conservatorium and composition and conducting at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education. Greg majored in composition at the Melbourne Conservatorium and Jon has studied technical produc-

tion (also at darling Downs) and voice at the VCA Opera Studio. With this background the GBOC is able to restore to its former glory the music which once belonged to its roots. Yet now is predominantly resigned to super-market muzak - music of Burt Bacharach and The Great Pop Queens of the 50s and 60s such as Connie Francis, Dusty Springfield and Nancy Sinatra. GBOC numbers include 'Macarthur Park', 'Step Inside Love', 'I Only Want To Be With You', 'You Don't Have To Say You Love Me', 'Diamonds Are Forever', 'Downtown' and 'Nutbush City Limits' - each lavishly reinterpreted.

Jackson's voice is immediately striking - he has a powerful counter-tenor which, applied to these songs, enables the audience member to be convinced they are privy to a taping of 'The Cilla Black Show' or similar. Jackson embraces each song with awesome strength yet conveys it with passion and gusto.

This though is not all the GBOC have done to revitalise their material - the arrangements are full and layered

producing a huge, bold and raunchy sound. This is produced by Allan and Greg and their associated keyboard and synthesizer.

The GBOC do not just perform: they entertain. Jackson links songs with witty dialogue of his childhood experiences: absorbing piped music in the Myer creche, his protection at school by the 'mole patrol' (Jon is an honourable member) and visiting the local RSL with his father.

The GBOC is out to entertain and uplift 'You don't have to be depressed just because the arse has fallen out of the market' muses Dame Jon '... we won't let people leave the show feeling the same as when they came in.' When popular music is dominated by disposable, vacuous and dull ditties it is refreshing to find a band committed to having fun, that is talented, unique and very very entertaining. More than a band - an uplifting experience.

The Great Big Opera Company play at Inflation on Wednesday nights ('Glory' - English music of the decade), the Royal Derby Hotel on Sundays and soon to return to the Prince Patrick. Free double passes at MAS Activities office.

## Withdrawal Piece by Lloyd Jones

Lloyd Jones' unique combination of art and theatre is again utilised in the performance 'Withdrawal Piece'. Within the recurring motif of an artificially devised closed space we have to look and try to comprehend the 'reality' before us.

The separation between actors and the audience attempts to be broken down through an intimate introduction of hand shaking, name swapping and an Italian opera. However, this beginning still maintains a distance as a string separates us the audience, who are left standing against a wall, from the actors.

There are evident recurring motifs within this segmented performance. We experience the notion of restricted personal space through a variety of ways. The most powerful attempt to achieve this is when masks are used to restrict our vision whilst we are bound to moveable chairs. A combination of false reassurances, movement and noise produce the effect of uncontrolled energy; leaving us with an overwhelming feeling of alienation and disorientation.



It is quoted in the programme that, 'The Technological Revolution' is upon us and we are beginning to realise that the quantum theory has relevance for all of us, not just a few far out physicists. Being uninitiated into the laws of physical science we were bewildered as to the relevance of the quantum theory, however this did not stop us from experiencing the emotion-

al and intellectual elements within the play. As a performance piece it defies any concrete analysis other than that which the individual gives it. Each event within 'Withdrawal Piece' serves as a rebound wall for our personal fears and anxieties.

'Withdrawal Piece' is playing at La Mama until July 30. Be prepared to book as standing is limited to 12.

Marilyn Kelmman Joanne Boyle

## Performance '89:

Surrogate (Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide, 1980).

Stelarc, who has returned to Australia for an extended period of time after many years of residence in Japan, will present a lecture on his work with demonstrations of the *Third World*. Stelarc's suspensions using hooks into the skin are controversial assaults on the body in the name of technology. The artist is an articulate spokesperson for the twenty-first century, although his vision of human

existence in an extraterrestrial landscape does not appeal to some people. The *Third Hand*, a robotic prosthesis, was demonstrated for NASA in the hope that it might be useful on the space shuttle. As an artwork, it is a pioneering project developed in the 70s before sophisticated equipment was widely available. Stelarc gave a lecture at Monash last year while on a brief visit to Australia: those who missed him the first time have the opportunity to see for themselves. There is no il-

lusion in this work: video documentation of suspensions and electronic soundworks manipulated by pulse, heartbeat and blood flow are graphic descriptions of the events. Speaking of a humanist/anti-humanist split in post-modern culture takes on another dimension in relation to Stelarc's performances: the moral/ethical issue is pronounced, although the artist will have more to say on this subject.

Performance '89, Department of

Visual Arts, in the studio, Thursday August 31 and Friday, September 1 - all day, both days. Watch this space for further details.

Anne Marsh  
Department of Visual Arts

Notes: (1) Michael Fried, 'Art and Objecthood' in G Battcock (ed), *Minimal Art, a critical anthology*, M Dutton, New York, 1968 pp 116-147 (first published in *Artforum* June 1967).

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## Life, the Universe and a Philistine

Dear Editors,  
I must admit, in replying to the comments of Messrs Woods, Connellon, Gardner and Neil, a degree of astonishment. As a firm believer in human rights, I am shocked at the vehemence with which these individuals have come out opposing Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU), a principle that would protect several important rights of the human individual, which are currently being violated by the compulsion being inflicted on students by their forced membership of the Student Union.

I believe that compulsory membership of the Student Union is an obscene and gross violation of human rights. In the first instance, it violates the right of freedom of association by compelling students, on the threat of expulsion from this university, to join a peripheral body. To me, it does not matter whether it is an association as innocuous as a lawn bowls club or as insidious as the National Union of Students. It is enough that I, and other students, are being forced, against our wills, to join that association. That constitutes a violation of our human rights, as surely under bureaucratic compulsion as if we were being coerced by threats of violence. This is the stuff that dictatorships are made of.

In the second instance, the fact that we are being compelled to join and in doing so, having a compulsory union fee extracted from us, constitutes a violation of our property rights. I call on my critics to re-check their premises. While to me, it does not matter if the compulsory membership is free or costs \$300 to the Union per year constitutes a compoundment of the violation of our rights. That is to say, in forking out payment of compulsory union fees, we are being robbed by the bureaucracy. There is no difference between a bureaucrat giving us the choice between paying or being thrown out of our courses, and a bushranger pointing a gun at us and asking 'your money or your life', except that the bushranger is more honest.

This conception causes the collectivist economic arguments of my critics to collapse. Where there are no inviolable property rights, eg, Monash University Union, then any economy cannot flourish. What is to stop anyone from robbing you in the union foyer of your wallet or the shirt off your back, if your property rights are not respected? And my critics have already established (in their own minds at least) that the compulsory union has the right to violate your rights to your own property, by compelling you to pay annual tribute to it. To proceed from these violations of human rights inflicted on students by the compulsory union to reply to the particular complaints of my critics.

I have been accused of being a cultural philistine for maintaining that Student Theatre should not be funded by compulsorily acquired union fees. Again, I must, ask my critics to recheck their premises. What virtue is there in forcing students to fund Student Theatre by threatening to have them expelled from their courses

if they refuse? That is the bottom line. I personally believe that it is impossible to possess a significant and meaningful culture that is based on the coercion of its members. You cannot coerce an individual at gunpoint to be creative or culturally significant. The mind, the spirit and the talent of the human individual cannot be controlled that way. The best that any coercive totalitarian regime can achieve is mechanical imitation. The analogy holds for compulsory student unions. I am not a philistine.

Where our compulsive union is politically inclined it also fails. As it does not face the threat of losing its members if it does not perform in the political arena, its elected officials become quite complacent. I can point in this instance to the under-whelming performance of MAS with regard to the amalgamations. What about tertiary fees etc? What has our union done for us? Nothing! If it had been voluntary, perhaps in order to persuade more students to join it, the union might have been more active in fighting the fees and the amalgamations. But it is too late now.

As a member of the Executive of the National Union of Students, I am perhaps, ironically, the greatest violator of 'students' rights. According to the NUS letterhead, NUS 'represents' a quarter of a million students around Australia. I apologise to those students, 99 per cent of whom would neither know of me nor care about NUS one way or the other, and so many of whom have either not chosen to let NUS represent them or whom have decided that they do not want NUS to represent them, I can only offer in mitigation of my crime that I have not profited from my position in this compulsory union and that I have both sought to reveal the truth about NUS to students and that I only sought election to the NUS executive with the principle of VSU in mind.

With regard to David Neil's suggestion that the Liberal Club should not, if they are serious about VSU, ask for C&S funds. I agree ten thousand per cent. You tell them. I already have.

As for Mr Neil's comment on the Amazon Rainforest getting burned down to graze hamburger meat, I must disagree. The reason that this act is occurring is due to the collective (ie government) ownership of the Amazon. If the Amazon was owned by private citizens rather than by the Brazilian Government, then it would not be viable economically to commit this blind atrocity. Private owners would be rational enough to treat their own property far more responsibly than a government. Need I add on this theme of social conscience that the nation with the greatest social conscience, the USSR, still eagerly hunts whales?

The bottom line is this: compulsory membership of the student union is a case of 'Join or Else...' and 'Your money or your life!' I do not consider these to be civilised or enlightened premises on which to base an association. I do not consider myself to be New Right, but completely Right. To those who consider my position extreme, I believe that a quote from the American Senator Barry M Goldwater appropriate; 'extremism in the defence of liberty is no vice. Moderation in

the pursuit of justice is no virtue.'

These are our freedoms at stake here. If we sacrifice them here and accept this sacrifice as just and opportune, then we will never stop sacrificing our freedoms. There is no moral difference between a compulsory student union ruled by the bureaucrat and the totalitarian state ruled by the bullet.

Yours in voluntary unionism,  
Ernest Zanatta



## Some countries don't have advertising, they don't have Liberals either...

Dear Lot's,

It is interesting that David Neil argues for Compulsory Student Unionism (CSU) on economic and moral grounds. It is for economic and moral reasons precisely that CSU should be abolished in universities, and, more broadly, is the core of the wrong in any closed shop union arrangement.

One benefit of CSU, so says David Neil, is that he can buy a cup of coffee for 60 cents at the Caf whereas at the Pancake Parlour it will cost him \$1.50. That's fine for him, and for all other coffee-drinkers. And, until you consider the fact that part of the reason it is cheaper is the general subsidy that catering receives from us, the students, through the compulsory fee, it is a 'bargain'. But is it fair to compel the rest of the student population uninterested in this benefit to subscribe those who choose to take advantage of it? This is the principle which applies equally to all the other 'plethora of activities' provided as a result of CSU (incidentally, a cup of coffee in the upstairs Caf will cost \$1.20. Other foods, such as dim sims, servings of pasta, etc, are sold at prices no cheaper than similar off-campus retailers).

There is a wide range of union-provided services, such as Catering, Lot's Wife, Student Travel, etc, but what about the quality? The union monopoly of said services guarantees economic inefficiency and a comparatively low standard of service. This is due to the fact that regardless of demand for the service, regardless of performance, they will receive a consistent allocation of funds. Further, this is not only for consumers (because whether or not you use the service, you still have to pay) and this obviously is not by choice, rather, it is compulsion and, simply, if you don't pay, you don't get a university education.

A situation of more than one

competing union, with voluntary membership, of privatisation of some union services, would raise the standards of service, provide economic choice for the consumer and still offer to those who want it a good deal in a wide range of activities. It can and does work; certain universities in Australia, such as the Australian National University and the University of Queensland have privatised many services which

previously were monopolised by the union - the result being the maintenance of low costs without compelling people to fund organisations which they don't support.

I find it surprising that for someone with such a social conscience and concern for members of his community, the necessary violation of two basic human rights are of no concern to David Neil whatsoever. Article 20 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated that: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; no-one may be compelled to belong to an association.'

The fact is that the majority of students don't view the situation as David Neil does. If they did, there would be no such thing as CSU - if it really was a beneficial situation for 'the average student' then there would be no need for compulsion. There is no reason why students wouldn't voluntarily contribute to a truly mutually beneficial association.

Rosemary Morris Arts I

## 'And on the eighth day, God made Unionism Voluntary'

Dear Lot's,

I feel at this time that it is necessary to clear misconceptions about Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) which have pervaded your pages over the last several issues.

Firstly, the views represented by Ernest Zanatta do not reflect the Liberal Party's policy. I can only repeat again what John Howard said, namely that the political part of the union, MAS, is the only part that would be voluntary. Students amenities will continue to be funded by a compulsory levy. I would like to add that this stance has been reiterated by both the new leader, Andrew Peacock, and Shadow Minister, Peter Reith.

The policy does not, as Mr Zanatta and Mr David Neil (Lot's Wife, July 14) seem to suggest, have a fatal attraction with the user pays principle. The rationale is simple. MAS claims to be the representative body of all students, it says so in the University Statute establishing

MAS (Statute 2.10 Article 3.1) and we are told this by the MAS 'Ministry of Truth' through its official organ 'Update'. I question this claim in light of one stupid factor. Almost invariably, less than 20 per cent of the student population find MAS relevant enough to them to be bothered voting in MAS elections. Let me draw a brief analogy; I know a few who would claim that the Queensland National Party, with 36 per cent of the vote, were representative. Yet the people who hold positions on the MAS Administrative Executive (AE) often require the votes of less than 8 per cent of the student population to win. Still we hear the claim ringing across the campus that they are representative merely because of the words in a University Statute that few students have even heard of.

The appointment of student representatives on amalgamations working parties is an illustration of this arrogance. I would ask the AE Chairperson to outline:

1. Notwithstanding time constraints, what efforts were made to notify the general student body that these vacancies were available to facilitate expressions of interest in assuming the position?

2. For each of the representatives appointed by the AE, briefly, their previous interest and activity in student affairs, their qualifications for holding such a position and political affiliations if known. People such as Mr Moody and Ms Keper are well known to many students but others are not so.

Though the amalgamation with Chisholm is a wide and considerably complex issue which I do not seek to debate at this time, this is a suitable incidence to illustrate my point.

It is no good for MAS to cry that if students became involved they would be better represented, because it is obvious that in the majority of cases non-involvement implicitly suggests a desire not to be represented by MAS, or at the very least ambivalence.

Neither the Liberal Party nor the Club deny a students right to free association; that view is merely reinforced by stating that he or she has there corresponding right to choose not to associate. If a student feels that he or she would be well represented by MAS he would be free to join; similarly if the student felt inadequately represented they would be free not to join. This can have only one effect. It would force MAS to be more accountable in order to attract membership and at that point it would become truly representative of its membership.

Though I would dearly love to discuss Mr Neil's pectoral distortion of the Liberal philosophy, there is no need. The services he alludes to will be maintained intact and MAS will become truly representative to boot. It seems that the people who oppose the Liberal Party's VSU policy most are the careerist student politicians at MAS who will be the only losers upon implementation of such a policy.

Peter Vitale  
Liberal Club

## Not a bad idea

Dear Lot's,  
SM Ruben's article on voluntary euthanasia was magnificent. It is pleasing to know that there are people around with thoughts on contemporary moral issues other than the primitive ones religion embodies.

The article highlighted two crucial points. Firstly, individuals should have the right to do with their bodies as they please, whether it be abortion, VE or just a face lift (so long as it harms no other human - of which the foetus is not yet one). Every individual, whether liberal, socialist or conservative, has certain fundamental rights: one of these should be the option to use VE.

Secondly, it rather appropriately made mockery of certain religious ethics. Religion is out dated, out of touch and is less significant than in other less intellectually free thinking time (apart of course from its tremendous capacity to keep causing wars) while it claims that

God is all good, it condones the extinction of unnecessary human suffering. While both sides in a war claim 'God is on our side', religion will ironically not allow the voluntary and concerted ending of one's life. Religion is hypocrisy and backwardness epitomised.

Congratulations to you Reubens, and also to whoever wrote the informative abortion article on page three. When will women and men finally be given (legally) in all respects, the license to use their bodies in a manner they see fit?

David Pringle  
Arts

## Fatima Contradicts herself?

Dear Lot's,

In response to the AE Chairperson's Report (Lot's Wife, No 12), Ms Fatima Alisak in her report on the Monash-Chisholm Amalgamation suggested that: 'With the amalgamation, MAS believes the time has come for Monash to have a Student Union'.

Alisak has contradicted herself by saying that the Union, from the time of its inception, would 'never allow students at Monash to control their own destiny and [would] make students virtually

powerless'. Her conclusion that we have not had a 'Student Union' while now we need one, flies in the face of the history of the democratically elected Student Union we now have.

For Alisak to postulate about student representation and democracy as 'the principle aims and objections for a student organisation' is too general and contains no specific information on what MAS plans to do over the amalgamation issue.

To be 'democratic in policy formation' means more than asking for public input from students. Firstly, as students we are not informed of the specific direction of MAS, and secondly, are not guaranteed that the concerns of the students are, or will be, considered and therefore represented.

It is an indictment on student politics when a democratically

elected Administrative Executive, such as MAS, claims that it doesn't do its job properly and proves it by not honestly informing the students in the direction MAS should supposedly take.

It is important that MAS in general, and Ms Alisak in particular, inform us in detail of

MAS is a student body, not a political body; to suggest that we

need a new Student Union is to divert attention away from their current responsibilities.

their (MAS) plans for the amalgamation - not just the operation of the working committees - so that the student body can decide if we need a Student Union, and or, the future

direction of the present student union in the Monash/Chisholm amalgamation.

Troy Lynch  
Eco II



## The life and times of an angry young man.

Dear Editors,  
It was with feelings of outrage that I recently read that while our editors were on holidays a working party was formed to discuss the proposed Monash/Chisholm amalgamations, and they they were not invited to participate.

Maybe it was because they were nowhere to be found as they were on vacation. Or possibly it was because it was a working, rather than a non-working party that was required. It seems incredulous that the editors complain that the world didn't stop simply because they did.

In the years that I have been at this institution, this year's group of misfits who call themselves editors takes the cake. They ask 'who chose the people' to go on the committee? Dearest editors, the role of editors is to inform us,

the readers, who was responsible for the choice, not to waste student resources so that we can inform you who made the choice.

Next, the editors complain that students should be given a chance to show that they can act responsibly, and complain about the irresponsible behaviour of Warden Sweeney in unnecessarily worrying staff.

Does accepting a salary, paid for from student funds, while you take a six week break, sound very responsible? In the past, editors have used the vacation breaks to prepare bumper editions of the student newspaper.

Further, you complain that the issue discussed at the meeting was security of employment for staff. I would have thought this would have been of the highest priority, particularly for the staff involved. Given that there are four paid staff involved with the student newspaper, whom you are

supposed to oversee, your unprofessional and irresponsible abdication of duty by taking a holiday at our expense is a good indication of what we can expect in the future from people such as yourselves if the union and staffing is ever under your control.

While in principle I totally support student control of student funds, responsibility is something that comes by demonstrating competence in the areas that one already exercises it. Those who oppose student control of the union need do no more than point to yourselves as a sad indictment of what can happen when students are put in control of their own funds.

Peter Nugent

PS: You incorrectly speak of students being effected rather than affected. An effect is something that is produced by a cause or an agent - affect means to influence or change. Or possibly you're right.

## Holy fascist of a Hippos Hiccup

Dear Lot's,  
Introducing the Susan George lecture at the Robert Blackwood Hall (July 25), Vice-Chancellor Mal Logan complained about the price this book is selling for in the university owned bookshop. Maybe he should get off his arse and break with the university's (which he is figure-head of) fascist, monopoly capitalist policy of only allowing one outlet for the sale of new books, and they could allow the Monash Book Co-Op Ltd to sell books, and he could stop the university's continued policy of threatening the Co-Op with expulsion if it ever tries to sell new books.

These sort of issues couldn't have looked good to your new mates in the One World Club, would it Mal?

C. Rosewarne

## 100% pure wool

Dear Ed's,  
Sock it to 'em David (Lot's V29 No 11). Tell it like it is.

Ben Aveling  
Sci III

PS: I may have to change my opinion of Engies.  
Ed's note: David doesn't wear socks!!

## Catermail

Editor,  
I am writing to publicize certain events surrounding the so-called 'petition' being run by Union Catering staff.

I do not wish in any way to suggest that Catering should not continue to operate in the efficient, high quality manner we have all grown accustomed to once the student union is implemented. However, I would like to point out that a petition must, by its nature, be a voluntary exercise - entered into by the petitioner after have read and fully comprehended the conditions. It is not something to be signed in a 'Caf.' queue while buying food or waiting to be served.

Even more importantly it is not something to be signed under duress. I was appalled to observe several colleagues refused service until they had signed the petition, and when one exercised his right to refrain from signing, he was verbally abused.

This is clearly unacceptable, and runs against all principals of democracy. Further, it undermines the very concept of a petition itself, and makes a mockery of any attempt to show what students really believe.

Yours sincerely,  
Ariel Bud.

## 'Vomit-inducing'

Dear Lot's,

In the last issue of Lot's Wife, someone or some people decided to head a letter by Dien Rice with the heading 'Holy Shit!'

Presumably, the people involved were the elected editors. The practice of regularly deriding the letters submitted into Lot's Wife and the people who write them is

a nearly vomit-inducing practice which makes a display of the

editor's smug feelings of their own moral superiority. What makes the editor's endeavour worse is that Dien Rice's letter was appropriate and needed to be written. Anyone who is

lamebrain enough to write in a newspaper that Islam probably spread marijuana use through Africa should be corrected, and this correction should not be

ridiculed by the editors of the newspaper.

However, I guess it is possible that the editors only intended the heading as a pun, 'Holy' being related to the topic of the letter.

But why did they specifically use the heading 'Holy Shit!' above Dien Rice's letter, instead of some other more imaginative title, such as 'Holy Hootnanny of a Hippos Hiccup!' or 'Holy Hullabaloo Heads a Heaving Humus Ho!'

James Rice

## Creative Passion

Dear Lot's,

Thank you for your 'Creative Writing' section, and thank you, especially, to Wendell Gee for her piece 'These Days', which appeared in last month's edition.

This was such a beautiful, lucid composition; effulgent, perceptive and passionate. It read as honest and unpretentious. Wendell, whoever you are, wherever you are, thank you.

Paul Bateman Arts I





# Monash Daze

by ADS-BTG + J

(.... or, educating Trent)

TRENT AND KINA  
RECOVER IN THE CAF  
THE MORNING AFTER  
SLASH'S PARTY....

WEST  
END  
CAF

GOOERRR  
BURP

Err...no, I  
don't think  
it's my  
scene

Are you still  
coming to the  
Chokky Ball  
Trent?

OK THEN!  
Zzzzz  
WEIRDS!  
0000

WEST  
END  
CAF

YUPPIE

NEXT DAY, KINA TAKES  
TRENT TO GET HIS EARS  
PIERCED....

MONASH PHARMACY

EAR  
PIERCING  
\$10

ALL FINISHED

This is  
going to  
hurt!

Pierced ears!...  
splutter... you...  
radical... you....  
hippie... you....  
...you...crumb bum!

Yeah sure  
dad  
Silly old  
bastard

THE NOTT. HAS  
EVERYTHING!

GRUBB Food; Lots of the  
Beautiful people;  
Great Service; ~~AND~~ OF  
TERM ~~debauchery~~!  
(it will ASFOUD YOU!!)

etc etc ETC... (oh I would  
go on forever!) .....  
AND er by the way - it's  
possible now and then to get  
a few good BEERS  
there as  
well!

NOTTING  
HILL HOTEL

Ferntree Gully Rd. \*

JPP

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# To Farrago With Love

i first met nicholas at the gram-mar

he immediately struck me as a boffo sort of chap

even then he expressed sartorial splendor and sincerity with his tb spattered gym suit

i remember how in the showers after rugger i'd drop my soap so i could rise slowly and cast wistful glance at this emaciated beauty

i would cream my jeans as i encountered that chest's cigarette burned collection of purple welts in the shape of a crucifix

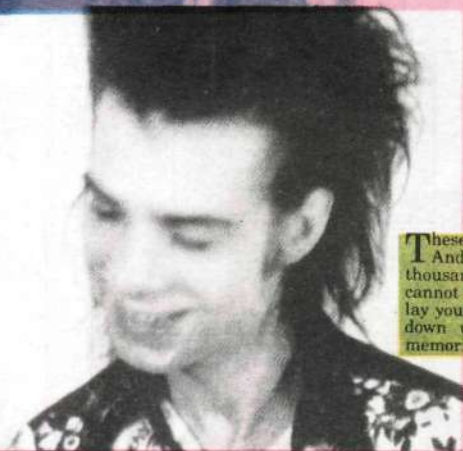
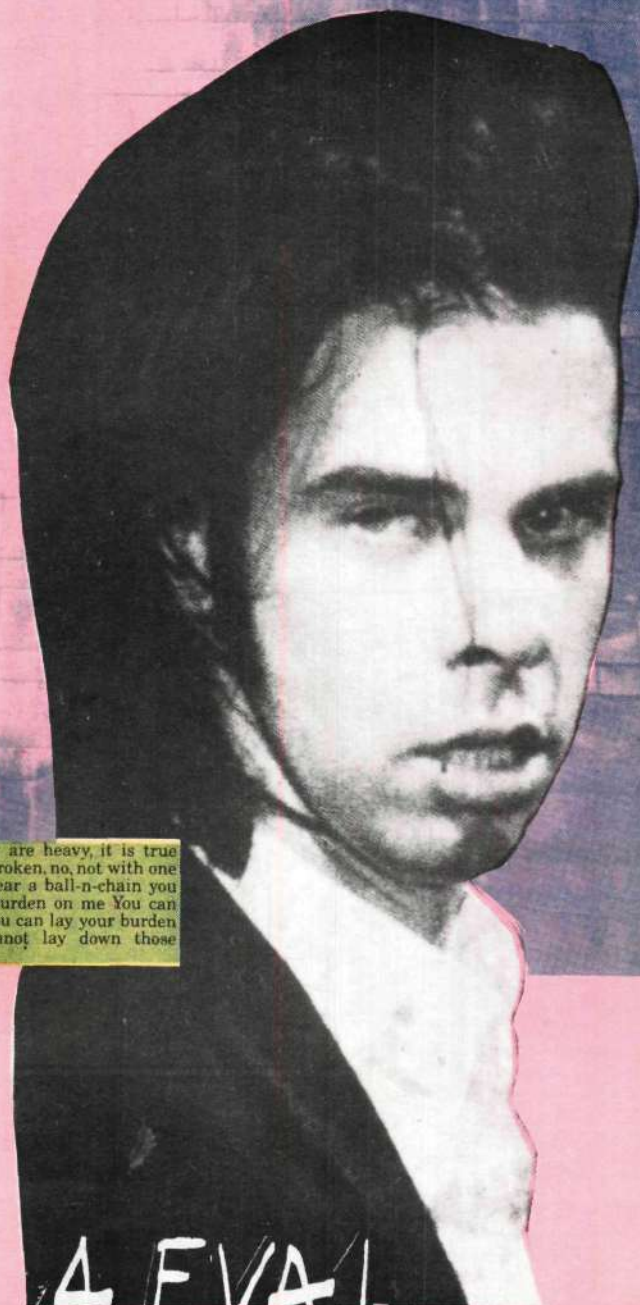
how i swooned over those dark soulful eyes, like pools of limpid lurchi

that streamlined chinless wonder, all gel and black, what a honey!

he bled on me once, i'll never forget that

hugo's come and go, but nick is forever

i love you always



These chains of sorrow, they are heavy, it is true  
And these locks cannot be broken, no, not with one  
thousand keys O Jailer, you wear a ball-n-chain you  
cannot see You can lay your burden on me You can  
lay your burden down on me You can lay your burden  
down upon me But you cannot lay down those  
memories.

## DEATH 4 ME 4 EVA!