

# LOT'S WIFE





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# Whodunwot.

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## News

### The Counter Faculty Handbook

Every year, students are asked to choose their subjects on the basis of information supplied by the faculties and the university. While the faculty handbooks give information about time tables and prescribed reading, students are unable to find out any information about the quality of the lecturers and the course content.

The Counter Faculty Handbook is produced each year by the MAS Education Affairs Committee to provide a forum for students' opinions of their subjects. The handbook is produced at the end of every year, before re-enrollment. The critiques contained within it are a useful guide for choosing subjects, since they are written by students who have actually done the subject rather than faculty members, who are not really interested in telling the full story.

To provide a handbook which is up to date, and cover as many subjects as possible requires involvement from students in all faculties. Boxes have been put at MAS and in the libraries for short comments on subjects. Whether you loved your course, hated it or felt indifferent towards it... Write about it. Let others know what is going on.

If students leave the assessment the subjects to the administration and the departments, students will continue to be ignored in the decision making process.

Writing for the Counter Faculty Handbook is an effective way of not only helping other students make a good course choice, it is also a way of making your feelings about your course known to the people who teach it.

Steve Boucher/MAS Education Chairperson

### Nominations/Elections – Student Theatre Committee

The Union Board has approved a new Student Theatre Committee consisting of the presidents of the Monash Players, Modern Dance, Monash Musical Company and Shakespeare Society, nominees from the Alexander Theatre and the English Department, and 'two other persons interested in student theatre – elected annually to the committee by the Union membership'

#### The aims and objectives of the Student Theatre Committee are as follows:

- 1) To encourage the maximum possible breadth and depth of student theatre at Monash.
- 2) To determine annually the priorities for the use of different resources available to the Student Theatre Committee – with special references to budget.
- 3) To select specific projects and to give them specific budgets.
- 4) To establish a framework for student theatre and the co-ordinator by developing and documenting plans and expectations for student theatre in the following twelve months and in the future.

Nominations for the 'two other persons interested in student theatre – elected annually to the committee by the Union membership' close at 5pm on Monday August 21. Nomination forms are available from the Union Inquiry Desk. Elections for the two elected positions will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday August 22 and 23 at the Student Theatre Office between 10am and 4pm on each of these days. Please bring your ID Card with you when you vote.

Wayne Murdoch Returning Officer.

## ROSS' PIZZA

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Deliveries to Monash Uni grounds  
and Halls of Residence  
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### Monash Co-operative Bookshop Limited:

#### Notice of Special General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th September, 1989, at 6pm at Monash University at a venue to be announced fourteen days prior to the meeting and again on the day in Daily News, as called by a petition of twenty members in accordance with Model Rule 63 to decide on the following resolutions:

1. That the number of directors be set at five.
2. That one director may be an employee of the Co-operative.
3. The election of between one and four (as the meeting decides) director(s) in view of the vacancy created by a non-member voting as a member at the thirteenth annual general meeting and in accordance with Section 105(1) (g) of the Co-operation Act 1981 (Vic.).
4. That the qualification of a director be: having been a member for no less than 30 days.
5. That nominations for directors be available to all members and be posted in the registered office of the co-operative.

Nominations are hereby called for the position of between one and four directors of the Co-operative as decided by the meeting. In accordance with Model Rule 89(2), nominations shall be signed by two or more members and be accompanied by a notice in writing under the candidates hand, signifying his/her candidature for office and shall be lodged with the MCBL Secretary: by mail c/- Monash Co-operative Bookshop Limited, Union Building, Monash University, Clayton, 3168 by 12 noon on September 5th, 1989, or by hand to the Secretary by 12 noon on September 6th, 1989.

Approved on behalf of the Monash Co-operative Bookshop, Vicki Strover, MCBL Secretary.

Please Recycle Lot's Wife Wednesday August 16 1989 Page 3



# AE Chairpersons Report

## Campus Security

On Monday July 24, I attended a long awaited meeting between 'Campaign Against Violence' and Administration.

### Representing Administration:

- Mr B. Cunningham, Manager of Central Services
- Mr H. Wright, Assistant Manager of Central Services
- Dr M. James, Equal Opportunity Officer
- Dr C. Tillman, Occupational Health and Safety, Monash Branch
- Mr L. Fitzgerald, Buildings Branch

### Representing Students:

- Ms Sati Ozbeck
- Ms Maira Dimopolous
- Ms Emma King
- Ms Fatima Alisak

who were the Co-ordinators for the Campaign Against Violence, and Ms Sarah Brydon, one of the two undergraduate student representatives on Monash Council.

The meeting was called to discuss the problem of sexual assault on campus and how to prevent it. The University administration wanted to hear from students what improvements were necessary to make Monash a safer place and to inform students what changes were taking place to increase security on campus.

## Lighting

Dr. Tillman informed the meeting that Lighting Consultants were coming to Monash to assess our lighting and whether Monash complied to 'Australian Safety Standards'. It is thought that Monash does not comply to these safety standards and that thousands of dollars will need to be spent to improve lighting at Monash.

For those of us who have 'tripped over our own two feet in the dark at Monash' it would come as no surprise to find Monash does not comply to any safety standards!

## Car Parks

It was suggested that two car parks be targeted as 'Safe Car Parks'. What this means is that at night these two car parks would be better lit and have increased security patrols.

Mr. Cunningham informed the meeting that extra staff had been employed to patrol the campus at night.

## Security Bus Service

Did you know that a security bus service operates at night for students and staff?

Timetables are available from the Union Desk.

At this meeting I presented a list of bus reforms compiled by a group of students who travelled on the bus to assess the needs of commuters.

Six (6) reforms were presented:

Reform 1: That the Bus Service operate from 5.30pm to 10.30pm;

Reform 2: Specific timetabling of bus stops, these timetables to be posted at the stops;

Reform 3: Floodlighting at all bus stops with visible sign posts;

Reform 4: Commuters to be dropped off at their cars or specific Halls of Residence or South Eastern Flats;

Reform 5: Increase the number of pick up points to include the bottom of steps of the Main Library;

Reform 6: Proper advertising of the Bus Service.

I am pleased to report that Mr Cunningham and Mr Wright were only too happy to implement these reforms, in fact many of them have already occurred.

Regarding advertising of the Bus Service, did you know it's advertised in the Daily News?

To further promote the service, permanent posters should be mounted in all the libraries, the Union, Halls of Residence, the South Eastern Flats and Staff Lunch Rooms.

As well as permanent mounted posters MAS, through Lot's Wife, will produce a poster which will advertise the Bus Service, timetable and pick up points.

Also to be publicised will be the names and photographs of the Sexual Harassment Advisers at Monash and telephone number for Sexual Assault Centres and extension numbers for emergencies and security on campus.

For those of you who may still believe that sexual assault does not happen at Monash, MAS was recently approached by a female student who wished to report an attempted sexual assault on campus.

Another meeting between students and administration is being organised to continue discussions on how to prevent sexual and physical attack on campus, let's hope the second meeting is as fruitful as the first.

**So you see, students can make and do make a difference on campus to improve security and service provision for students and staff.**

The Campaign Against Violence has organised a survey, hopefully to be distributed by administration, to further assess ways to improve security on campus for students and staff.

Please, should you receive this survey fill it out and return it, as this issue affects us all.

Before I sign off, I would like to remind everyone, Students and Staff that a Union General Meeting has been called for Thursday, August 17 in the Main Dining Room at 1.00pm.

The topic for discussion is 'The Effect of the Amalgamation on the University Union.'

I urge all those thinking of attending this meeting, that you think very carefully about any motions put forward at the meeting.

The Union Staff are at present concerned that should a Student Union replace a University Union, their jobs could be in jeopardy.

Under the 'Heads of Agreement', the document which governs the process of the Amalgamation between Monash and Chisholm; Monash and Chisholm have said: 'They will also give an undertaking

that no staff member will suffer a loss of salary or terms and conditions of employment as a result of the merger'. (Heads of Agreement Section 1.4 10th May, 1989.)

**And rightly so, staff's terms and conditions should be protected**

However, this does not mean that students cannot have a Student Union or that a Student Union would alter the Terms and Conditions of Staff members employed in the University Union.

There are two separate issues:

One: Terms and Conditions of the Staff employed in the University Union;

and

Two: A Student Union.

However, these two issues have somehow been entwined by person or persons to suggest to staff employed in the University Union that if students ran a Student Union their jobs would be on the line.

It's a sad day when staff are used as pawns and fed misinformation which causes them worry and leads to unnecessary antagonism between staff and students.

The right and proper channels for staff to voice their concerns are through their shop stewards, union representatives and relevant trade unions.

MAS is more than happy and willing to sit down and discuss the issue of Terms and Conditions with shop stewards, union representatives and the relevant trade unions and administration.

MAS has to date contacted the relevant trade unions and administration to organise a data and meeting to discuss staff's terms and conditions.

Thus I urge you all to think carefully if a motion suggesting that a student union would change terms and conditions for staff employed in the University Union was to come up.

Rather all of us should support the continuation of current Terms and Conditions for staff, regardless of who the employer will be in 1990.

So beware of any motions which tie these two issues together as they are separate issues and as such, should be dealt with on an individual basis.

Yours in Union,  
Fatima Alisak.

## News

## Union Challenged

Monash student, Stephen Kenmar, has gone to the Equal Opportunity Tribunal to challenge the compulsory payment of the full Student Amenities on re-enrolment. Kenmar attempted to refuse to pay the \$42 of the fee which he claimed was remitted to the Monash Association of Students. The Board has reserved its decision.

Kenmar's lawyers are old Monash students, Michael Kroger and Peter Costello. In fact while they were at Monash they were office bearers in MAS. Kroger was a member of PAC and Costello was AE Chair. It seems a bit ridiculous that these people who, while they were at Monash, were willing to stand for positions in MAS are now the same people claiming that Kenmar shouldn't have to pay for MAS on the grounds that MAS has political views which are different to his. Surely if they disagreed with the compulsory membership of MAS they would be above standing for positions in MAS, or have they changed their mind about MAS now that they no longer hold elected positions within MAS?

Kenmar has gone to the Equal Opportunity Board over a \$42 membership of an organisation which doesn't exclude anyone and is very democratic. If, as Kenmar claims, MAS has views which are diametrically opposed to his, he can stand for positions in MAS and all of the students can decide what political position MAS takes.



## West Side Story \$8000 Record Breaker

West Side Story, that Monash University cultural phenomenon, broke all previous Monash records last week by amassing sales in excess of \$8000.

Ross Mollison, Promotions Manager, speaking on behalf of The Alexander Theatre, said 'We can't believe it... thousands of tickets sold in just one week! It must be a combination of the brilliance of Bernstein with the multi-tudes at Monash. The booking phones just keep on ringing!'

All the editors at Lot's Wife can say is that West Side Story, featuring stars from The College of the Arts, Rusden and the Melba Conservatorium, is taking Monash by storm.

## Soviet Strike Ends, While US strike drags on

A few years ago it wouldn't have been allowed to happen. However, over the last month the Soviet Union has been in the grip of a coal miners strike which at it's height involved half a million workers going out on strike.

The strike has ended with the government granting most of the miners demands. This has led to the possibility of an independent trade union movement being set up in the Soviet Union.

This contrasts sharply with the reaction to a similar coal miners strike which is presently occurring in the US. While the Soviet Government dealt with the striking miners through negotiating, the US company has reacted by attempting to break the strike. The company which owns the mine has brought in scabs to do the work of striking workers, is also demonstrations held by the miners to identify the people attending and has hired a private police in case the strike turns serious.

The US strike revolves the company attempting to reduce workers conditions. They have dropped out of the health and pension schemes and employed a union busting law firm for the dispute which would ensue from this. This, in an industry which is dangerous and where, when the company is responsible for a workplace death it is fined \$47,500 and the union gets fined \$3 million for a campaign of civil disobedience. It seems that it's cheaper to kill people than try to save their jobs in the US.



# Why we need a student union

Reading the AE Chairperson's article in the last edition of *Lot's Wife*, it was good to see that a Student Union is high on the agenda of the office bearers who work for us. Many students will, quite incorrectly, think that we already have a Student Union when in fact, we do not.

We have an "Association of Students" which is only one of a number of constituted compartments of the Monash University Union. MAS has token representation on a number of union committees and does not control the Union Board in its own right, even though each student upon enrolment gives \$282 to the Union amenities fee, and students form the majority of the Union's membership.

I believe the following will help to outline what a Student Union is and why we should have one!

Student Unions do not create cosmetic changes to the facilities and services of the Union, they instead allow the students to participate democratically in the decision making of the Union. Currently, while MAS office bearers are elected, the people who spend the vast bulk of our amenities fee (\$282) are not elected—they are responsible to a body of unelected people; the Union Board.

A Student Union would have as its members only those who were elected. This means that those who represent us would be those whom we choose, who are responsible to us and more importantly, can be held responsible to us. This is democracy and for that reason alone most of us will support a Student Union over the current mess.

A democratic Student Union is a Union which would protect its members by speaking on their behalf and servicing their needs as they arise. Currently we cannot expect our needs to be serviced when the need first arises; the people making the decisions are not students; they do not know what students want.

For instance, the current Union Board has as its Chairperson, an academic who is appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. To make things worse, this Chairperson has two votes on the board, which may be exercised when a vote on the board is tied. I would argue that the people who know best what students want are not only other students, but are elected student representatives.

Only students are members of a Student Union and only students may vote in elections. Nothing could be fairer; after all, only

students pay the \$282 amenities fee.

Most of the Union's services are excellent, especially catering, and a Student Union would not seek to tamper with their efficient administration and service, but would seek to do what no one else can—implement new services and improve services when necessary, the way that students want them to be improved.

Currently the Union at Monash is one of only a few of its kind left in Australia. This is simply an old, tired Union. While it services many of our needs it is unable to accurately predict them and unable to act swiftly to look after our interests.

The tertiary tax is the best example. MAS ran a huge exemptions campaign and handed out information sheets at enrolment. The problems were as predicted: no information and some fear. So the students responded and got the University to deal sensitively with those of us who weren't quite certain of what to do. The Union, not run by students did nothing.

Similarly, the University put out a badly worded leaflet to inform students of how to fill out the HECS form, and merely handed it out in the Union building. MAS, run by students, redrafted the whole thing, reprinted it and then distributed it widely.

Students know what students need and want; for us, this means that a Student Union would provide services more effectively than the current Union. Of course, there are issues of responsibility and competency involved.

Student Union office bearers would be made accountable for their actions and decisions just as employers in other areas of the University are made accountable. In fact, student office bearers have to be more accountable in a sense, because they are elected. Imagine how much more accountable Graeme Sweeney would be if he faced an election every year as Union Warden. He probably wouldn't last one term. Guidelines for the new Monash/Chisholm Union will ensure that the proper process of accountability for all office bearers is maintained.

As Peter Nugent noted last week (*Lot's Wife* 9/8/89), student control of student affairs involves displaying competence in the areas that one already exercises it.

by Dimitri Serghis

## The Truth – Your Union; Working for You!

In the last edition of *Lot's Wife*, some individuals decided that they were going to see just how much MAS does for us and sum up by saying "nothing"! The reasons are too numerous to mention, but the astute political watchdog would realise that this is all a part of the grand plan to make the Union a non-entity. Yes, the bogey of voluntary student unionism! The writers made many unsupportable allegations. The worst of these is that MAS has not done anything for anyone this year. It is time, well and truly time we think, that MAS blew its own trumpet and told all students what it has done this year. We shall call this item then; the work of the Monash Association of Students in 1989.

### The Tertiary Tax:

1989 was the first year of the Tertiary Tax. What did MAS do about it? At enrolments we managed to get 2000 students to sign letters that MAS mailed off to Mr Dawkins. These were not simple protest letters but were sophisticated attempts to get exemptions for anyone who could get an exemption. Over 100 students at Monash are exempt from the Tertiary Tax. There are only 2000 students in Australia who are exempt! Thanks to MAS, everyone at Monash who could be exempt from the tax is!!!

At the fateful National Day of Action in March this year, Monash bussed 500 students into the demonstration. Monash students acted in exemplary fashion and did not break windows or attempt to harm horses. Most of the credit for this can be taken by those who arranged the Student General Meeting (SGM) the day before that slammed the use of violence in demonstrations. Who arranged that MAS.

### Participation:

With four terms and two semesters this year, the whole nature of the University year has changed. MAS, instead of wimping out of its responsibilities, has guaranteed that there will be at least four SGMs this year. The MAS Officebearers two years ago held one: In the Women's Room. Surely we have improved on that.

Both of the SGMs held this year have been quorate and we would expect that the

next two will be too. Very few SGMs in the last few years have been quorate. Why have two been this year? Because MAS works to inform students of what's happening and what they can do about issues!

To ensure that you are kept informed, Fatima's article in *Lot's Wife* has covered the issues that MAS is currently involved in. Sometimes Fatima has written 2000 words per week to keep you informed! Every week in Second Semester we are producing UPDATE to keep all students informed of what's going on. All MAS Officebearers contribute to each edition. Each edition has at least 2500 copies. Pick one up and find out what we're doing!

### Amalgamations:

These are the hot issue of the year, no one can deny that! What has MAS done? MAS has set up a committee to consult with all student bodies at Monash. This body is called the Amalgamation Steering Committee. On this committee there are reps. from MAGS, MAPS, OSS, C&S and MAS Committees. Twenty people in all. MAS funds this and also administers its affairs. MAS arranged for this committee on the amalgamations to meet its Chisholm counterpart. No one else did anything like that! And if you're wondering where MAS got the right to do this; it was at the SGM in second term! That's right; students told their representatives to do it; and we did! MAS has also held a forum on amalgamations. In the NUS Education is Australia's Future Week, we will hold another forum and students will be involved in lobbying local MPs. If you want to be involved, come to MAS and ask to be put on the list to speak to the MPs.

### Student Union:

MAS has had a policy of wanting to establish a Student Union for a long time, and that has been one of our first objectives in the amalgamation process. What is a Student Union as opposed to our current Union? A Student Union is democratic and it protects your rights.

A Student Union also spends your amenities fee as the students see fit; not as administrators see fit, while of course

taking into account the fixed costs of running our services. A Student Union is simply Our Union. It is a Union run by students and for students and provides services to students. We apologise to those who want their amenities fee spent by someone else, but we don't think many agree with you!

Earlier this year, MAS got an overseas student his deposit to Flinders University returned because he was now studying at Monash. The amount? \$6000. This we think is more than nothing. Two students who were denied their degrees because of administrative errors had them granted after MAS assisted them.

Some computing students earlier this year were accused of cheating because a computer ironically decided that there were irregularities in their incorrect answers. With MAS and the legal service the case against the students was dismissed.

Any student having problems with their lecturer or tutor, problems with marking or with timetabling comes into MAS for assistance. There are countless examples of this from this year alone. One of the most important things that MAS does in any year is to help those students who are concerned that they may be excluded. MAS assists them to write their letters to the Faculties, assists them with their cases and helps many students maintain their places in the institution. The same applies to those who cannot get into courses. Especially those students trying to change from one faculty to another. This year MAS achieved the impossible and actually got students transfers into faculties such as Law and Medicine.

MAS has even got the Union Board not to hold its meetings or its committee meetings on any religious holidays. Yes, MAS ensures that the religion of all Monash students and staff is respected.

### Activities:

MAS is terribly sorry to those of you who didn't enjoy Green Week, who had a terrible time at the Union nights, who didn't like the quiz night and who hated the Halls Boat Races Night. We also apologise for bringing Johnny Rotten out with Public Image Limited tomorrow night.

We would also like to apologise for the O'Week Union Night which was held outside, Hunters and Collectors during Green Week and all of the other bands that have been on this year.

To those who feel that all of this is nothing may we suggest that you ask the person sitting next to you what they think?

MAS is the only body to which all students can come and make complaints about anything that is going wrong in the University. MAS is the body that provides the Student Employment and Student Welfare Offices. MAS is all of us, using our collective weight to achieve benefits for students. These benefits can include such things as better information; real academic rights; a smooth and beneficial amalgamation; advice on anything; *Lot's Wife*; Union Nights and Green Week; attempts to bring back Supps. to the Arts Faculty; attempts to stop the University saying their is no security problem on campus and efforts to improve public transport and parking despite the University's unwillingness to do more than discuss the matter.

You may also be interested to read a list of all of the things that MAS is doing that we haven't expanded on. The Campaign Against Violence received its research money from the Union Board partly because of MAS support; many of its activities have been run from MAS; the MAS researcher, your researcher, has written much of the survey on violence on campus. MAS is actively involved in recycling, funding recycling weeks and recycling everything that can be recycled. Recently MAS got the Sinclair Number 630 bus to run more often in peak times, we hope those of you who travel to Huntingdale Station don't mind not waiting for buses any more. MAS moved the motion that ensures that Equal Opportunity will apply in the amalgamation process, this gives female students and staff a greater opportunity to participate than before.

That's more than Nothing! A lot more we hope. We also hope that those people who say MAS does nothing are happy now!

We hope that you are appeased!

Yours in Union;

Fatima and Tim.



# WHATS ON

## Student Theatre

**Moliere Mask and Mayhem.** A play featuring scenes from Moliere's *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, and several group devised sketches incorporating the famous Italian traditional Commedia Dell Arte characters and masks.

This play is directed by Alex Pinder, and is Monash University's official contribution to the Annual Festival of Student Written Plays (FAST), to be held at Sydney University in September 1989. Moliere Mask and Mayhem also holds excellent value for students of drama.

Venue: The Guy Manton Rooms, Ground Floor, Menzies Building, Monash University.

Melbourne Season: Tuesday September 5 to Saturday September 16, with a preview on Tuesday September 5 at 1.10pm.

Specific Dates:

Lunchtimes (1.10pm) - Wednesday 6, Thursday 7 and Friday 8, Wednesday 13, Thursday 15 and Friday 15. Evenings (8pm) - Wednesday 6, Thursday 7, Friday 8, Saturday 9, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13, Thursday 14, Friday 15 and Saturday 16.

Tickets are \$6.50, Concession \$4.50, and are available from Monash Student Theatre Office, Monash University, phone 565 3108. Tickets also available at the door.

## Going to the Northern Territory?

During the semester breaks, accommodation is available to students, sporting groups and community groups at Northern Territory University. Prices vary with the service required, which can be either bed, breakfast and evening meal. Prices start from as low as \$16 per night for a single room, bed only.

The residence is located on the Casuarina Campus of the university, and is five minutes walk from the beach as well as a large shopping centre. The city of Darwin is a 15 minute car ride or half an hour by bus. The rooms are study/bedrooms with shower and toilet facilities down the hall. The rooms are furnished with desk, bed, fridge etc, and each building has a television room and small kitchenette. A cafeteria is available for those wishing to purchase meals.

Interested? Then phone Martin Heskins on (089) 466 591, or write to: The Manager, NTU Student Residence, Northern Territory University, PO Box 40146, Casuarina NT 0811.

## Monash Film Group - Forthcoming Films

Friday August 18 at 7.30pm - William Hurt and Kathleen Turner in *The Accidental Tourist* plus *Dangerous Liaisons*.

Wednesday August 30 at 1.15pm - Glenda Jackson and Stratford Jones in *Salome's Last Dance* plus *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*.

Friday September 1 at 7.30pm - Sigourney Weaver and Bryan Brown in *Gorillas in the Mist* plus *Her Alibi*.

Full membership to Monash Film Group is \$11 for second semester, with free entry to all films shown on Wednesday and Friday. Casual \$5 for first night, \$3 thereafter.

The Masters of Illusion will screen at The Glasshouse Theatre, RMIT, Swanston Street on Thursday August 24 at 7.30pm. Admission is Free. For more information, phone 650 7692.

## Graduate School of Environmental Science

All lectures 5.15pm to 6.30pm in Rotunda 7.

August 16 - Sustainable Agriculture, Past and Future, Professor Derick Tribe, Crawford Fund for Agricultural Science.

August 23 - Why the farmer and town must be friends . . .?, Mrs Heather Mitchell, National Farmer's Federation.

August 30 - History of the MMBW, Mr John Knowles, GSES Graduate.

## Modern Image

## Makers Association

Modern Image Makers Association (MIMA), in collaboration with Anemic Cinema present *Masters of Illusion* - a screening of historic avant garde films, curated by Simon Crosbie.

Films by Pat O'Neill and Phillipe Garrel, both fiercely individualistic in their filmmaking, include *7632*, *Runs Good*, *Down Wind* and *Sidewinders Delta* all by Pat O'Neill, and *La Revealateur* by Phillipe Garrel.

## Enrolment for

## Monash University

## School Holiday

## Programs

Enrolment for the Monash University School Holiday programs, located on campus from Monday September 25 to Friday October 6, will take place on Wednesday August 30 at 1pm in the Student Welfare Office, first floor, Union Building.

Further enrolments will be taken after this date provided there are places available. Payment in full is required on enrolment. (Those receiving the Union subsidy or with financial difficulties may apply to the Child Care Co-ordinator for deferred payment.)

Fees:

Students: The Union provides a subsidy for students on low incomes - see the Child Care Co-ordinator.

## Staff/Other Students:

	\$	\$	\$	\$
25,000	\$40 per week	\$8 per day	\$4 per half day	
35,000	\$50 per week	\$10 per day	\$5 per half day	
35,000 plus	\$60 per week	\$12 per day	\$6 per half day	

Half day (8am to 1pm) full day (8am to 6pm) or weekly care is available. We look forward to providing interesting and fun filled activities. For more information, contact Bernadette Muir in the Student Welfare Office, phone 565 3186 or 565 3126.

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

## Scholarship Winners



Recently, three Monash students were among five winners of the Bourne Griffiths Scholarship. The Scholarship, with \$18,000 total prizemoney, has been awarded to Ms Karen Foo, Economics/Law student, Mr Stephen Walmsley, and overseas student Mr Tian Pouw Pun.

The Bourne Griffiths Scholarship aims to reward business-minded students, and urges undergraduates to complement important academic skills acquired through their studies by proactively developing commercial experience.

For further information regarding the scholarships, please phone KayLing Chee at Bourne Griffiths Boyd on 240 0266

## Melbourne Gang

## Show

Performed by the Scouts and Guides of Melbourne, *The Gang Show* is back to delight the whole family. This year's show, which will run for 10 performances only, is being held at the conveniently located Palais Theatre in St Kilda.

The show runs from Friday August 18 to Saturday August 26. For tickets, phone the Booking Hotline on 807 4363.

## Careers Night for Geographers

An information evening for undergraduate and post-graduate geography students will be held on Wednesday, August 30 at 7.30pm in the Theatre, Gallery Building.

There will be information on how to apply for jobs as geographers, career opportunities, how to sell yourself as a geographer, and organisations that employ geographers. Several Monash geographers currently working in related fields will present a ten minute talk on their experiences. They are Ken Marriott, Consultant; Margaret Jacobs, Public Service; Peter Edney, Telecom; Helen Garner, Real Estate Institute of Victoria; and Peter Newall, Conservation, Forests and Lands. There will also be a representative from Careers and Appointments.

Admission is free, and wine and cheese will be provided. The Careers Night is sponsored by the Geography Alumni and SMUGS.

## Robert Blackwood Hall

Sunday August 20 at 2.30pm - **Annual Sunday Afternoon Concert Series**, featuring the Elysium Ensemble. Admission Free

Saturday August 26 at 8pm - **Ballet Argentino** presenting dance and live music from Latin America. Admission \$10 (no concessions). For further information and tickets, phone 543 8030. Tickets also available at Robert Blackwood Hall Box Office and at the door.

Sunday August 27 at 2pm - **Melbourne Academy Boys Choir** present a musical afternoon to show the development of Choral Music at its best, based on the Kodaly Method of teaching. Led by Andrew Blackburn, Musical Director. For information and tickets, contact Wendy Tan on 801 5136.

Sunday September 3 at 2.30pm - **18th Annual Sunday Afternoon Concert Series**. Penelope Thwaites, piano recital. Presenting a programme of works by Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, LeGallienne and Shumann. Admission Free.



taking the  
Skinheads  
to...

# Woodstock II 89

Monash

## Battle of Bands

They came from far and wide – from this part of the country and the other bit – horse and buggy, motorcycles, Ventura busses, on foot, on qualudes, on time.

By early evening, the organisers had stopped trying to collect ticket sales. The fences lay in ruins as the multitude flocked to the Cellar Room.

'We had to take the roof of the Union off to fit them all in,' gasped organiser 'Diamond' Col Robertson. 'We made no profit,' explains this wily young entrepreneur, 'but it was great for the kids,' magic - this will never happen again. It was just magic - the vibe was, well - it was this generation's Woodstock.'

We asked how many people actually came. Col informed us that it was 300,002. 'That's right two more than that 60's piece of shit ever got,' chuckles Col. 'And we let them all in free!'

Of course Col has plenty to smile about. Having just clinched a cool 2 billion deal with the Multi-Death Corporation for record and video rights.

The night began with some usurpers masquerading under this moniker-something about dead pop stars. Senior media commentator Jimmy Wild Turkey begged for someone to show him their Hendrix or at least some anatomy.

The Mt. Waverly Good 'Ol Boys came to his aid revealing a passion not seen since the Jackson Five's now mythical cult smash, 'Blame it on the Boogie'. The jazz fusion followed so everyone lit up their J's. Judges Teddy, Humphrey and Yogi, well into the second slab began playing beer-hunter with at least two well respected student newspaper editors.

Princess Bong arrived with the hallucinagenics and the crows wavered into the mud baths – the air flew by, 6 tonnes of vegemite delivered by Simon Beazley himself.

The throng was becoming restless when Captain Mase startled all with a cool rendition of Star Spangled Banner. By this stage Wild Turkey was well and truly pickled and performed a collection of daring stage dives.

Peace, Love, Woodstock.





# THE GREAT DEBATE:

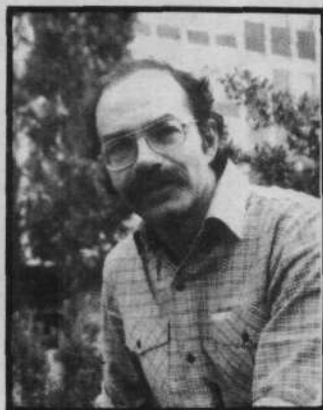


The notion of 'ethics' may cause us to think of a narrow morality of rigid do's and don'ts; alternatively of philosophical speculation with little application to our real lives – but our

On what should we base our views of right and wrong? Should a Christian perspective be rejected as irrational? Can a coherent, defensible system of ethics be maintained without any notion of God?

On Tuesday, August 29 the question of whether a secular or divine framework provides the better basis for the way we live our lives will be debated at Monash, by Professor Peter Singer and Reverend Alun Davies.

Peter will be known to many as a Professor of Philosophy at Monash, specialising in ethics, and as the Director of the Centre for Human Bioethics. The 'enthralled' Professor Singer (as his door sign proclaims him to be) is an active and controversial figure; campaigner for the rights of animals as President of Animal Liberation (Vic.) and, with Helga Kuhse, a leading contributor to the current bioethics debate. A firm atheist, Peter's own ethical convictions take shape in a utilitarian form; put crudely he believes that our actions should be those which most reduce suffering and increase happiness.



underlying ethical assumptions are reflected in and shaped by our values, beliefs and actions in almost every area of our lives each day, whether we acknowledge this or not.

'Utilitarianism is such a plausible, down-to-earth ethical system. I think we all know what suffering is, for example, and that we all know we'd rather be without it, and then you only have to generalise – put yourself in someone else's position, and you can see that it is a good thing to eliminate suffering as much as you can, and conversely to increase happiness.' This ethical framework leads him to a clear stance on several key issues. He argues for the 'right to die', defends abortion and argues for the rights of animals in his book, *Practical Ethics*. And while he has firm views on almost every topical issue, (our discussion ranged over environmental questions, multiculturalism and world poverty), his commitment to his particular version of utilitarianism is the common thread whatever the issue.

Peter is adamant about the relevance of debate on these sort of topics, 'In a way it reminded me of how things were when I was an undergraduate at the University Of Melbourne because at that time there were quite active debates on these sort of issues – there was an organisation called the Rationalist Society which would put on talks about 'Does God Exist?', producing arguments why belief in the existence of God was irrational, and also debates about ethics as well. There were also Christian groups which put on lectures of their own and quite often the two groups got together and organised debates. I think this debate is a worthwhile contribution to the intellectual life of the University – to see that there are important issues that could be discussed and talked about.'

'I think it's important in the context of this particular debate for people to understand that you don't have to have any kind of a religious background or framework for being serious about ethical problems. I think it would be a pity if people who don't have a religious background thought that, oh well, that means that ethics is just a matter of what anyone thinks – any view is as good as any other.'

**What is the better basis for ethics – human or divine?**

His motivation to take advantage of this opportunity for debate springs from a desire that people think through and come to grips with the issues, 'I'd like to persuade people about the importance of reasoning, argument, debate in this whole area.' Obviously he aims to present as compelling an argument as possible for the superiority of human ethical systems over those which depend on God but more generally to stimulate rational and informed thought, remembering the benefit that such debates were to the development of his own thinking. While recognising that many students will already have decided opinions on the question, Peter urges the need for an open mind, 'I think it's always worth listening to the other side.'

**'You don't have to have any kind of a religious background or framework for being serious about ethical problems.'**







# Man v. God

**On Tuesday, August 29 Peter Singer and Alun Davies will battle this one out - 1pm, Alexander Theatre.**

Arguing the other side in the Alexander Theatre on August 29 will be Alun Davies, a Christian minister and counsellor who pastors a church in Dandenong. He is also the President of Harvest Bible College, a large and growing college which aims to train people for effective and relevant Christian service within society. Highly trained in counselling psychology, Alun feels his constant contact with people in crisis has helped him develop a keen appreciation of individual people and strengthened his sense of the inherent value of human beings. Eager to dispel the misconception that ministers of religion are out of touch with everyday people he speaks of the grief and hurt he encounters dealing with broken,

***'Christianity is intellectually sound - I see no problems for belief in Christ and his teachings from rationality.'***

disillusioned and confused people each day. 'I'm often helping pick up the pieces of people's lives - in our society more and more people daily experience loneliness and alienation and I see the effects of that in individual's lives much more than most.'

Alun believes the Christian message has profound relevance for people today but stresses the need for sensitive and clear communication of that message. 'Christians can be too simplistic and dogmatic at times. What is vital is an attitude of understanding; we must demonstrate the relevance of Christ's teachings to individual lives and situations.' He believes he has become more tolerant during his ministry, responding to the increasingly complex circumstances of contemporary society, while retaining a firm conviction that there is a wisdom of God which we can apply in our lives.

'God's wisdom is not arbitrary. Its value can be proven if we make an honest attempt to apply it.' Alun's Christian ethics flow directly from his understanding of the character and nature of God and have application in every area of life. The essential dignity of human life and the need for respect and equality to be shown to all are central to his ethic of responsibility; responsibility both to God and to one another.

When asked, Alun saw no conflict between Christian belief and rational thought, 'Christianity is intellectually sound - I see no problems for belief in Christ and his teachings from rationality. Obviously in acknowledging God we are recognising our need for understanding superior to our own but this acknowledgement of God itself is not irrational.' In fact, like Peter, Alun values the process of debate and exchange of ideas and encourages those who attend to examine carefully the arguments and viewpoints of both sides. His attitude to the debate is not one of point-scoring, 'I've been asked to present a point of view and I will do that as convincingly as possible. But the real purpose as I see it is not to 'win' but to heighten interest in these vital issues and to encourage students to search out truth and meaning in life themselves. If Professor Singer and I can, to some degree, achieve that in this debate then I feel we will have succeeded.'

In particular he does not see the debate only as an opportunity for the atheist or agnostic to hear a Christian viewpoint but as vital in challenging the thinking of Christians or those of other religions as well. 'The Christian, as much as anyone, can ignore issues, stick their heads in the sand and avoid the struggle of thinking things through. I'd like to think this debate will challenge the comfort levels of the religious, bringing them to an understanding of their faith that rests on a secure intellectual foundation.' Alun believes that those who call themselves Christian have a special responsibility to work through and understand the issues.

***'God's wisdom is not arbitrary. Its values can be proven if we make an honest attempt to apply it.'***



# East Timor

With the release of the film *Buried Alive* Lot's Wife, Rabelais and Farrago interviewed Jose Ramos Horta, the Fretilin representative to the United Nations, and Gil Scrine, Producer and Director of *Buried Alive*. The interview covered more than just the politics of East Timor and will be run in two parts in this and the next issue of *Lot's Wife*.

**Lot's Wife** It's been a long time since the Indonesian Invasion.

**Jose Ramos Horta** Yes, it's been fourteen years now.

**LW** The Indonesians have been encouraging migration to East Timor and the migrants have been setting up businesses in East Timor.

**Jose** The people trading there are Indonesians, the Timorese are not benefitting at all from the so-called prosperity that the Indonesians have brought there. The Indonesians have built a lot of roads, but these roads are for military vehicles. What good are these roads when the Timorese need a travel permit to travel from one city to another, or when, in some areas, they cannot even move beyond a three mile radius after 4pm.

They have built schools hoping that they would convert the younger generation. However, the driving force today behind the nationalist movement and the great hope for the future is the students and the student movement; it has become very strong, daring, in spite of the repressive police state. There have been student demonstrations in the capital against the occupation. Of course you don't see it on the television – the Australian media don't care about it and the Indonesian authorities do not allow Australian coverage of events in Indonesia itself, and in many cases the Australian media are not interested. When we give them the information – reports and facts, they ignore it, as happened the other day with the *7.30 Report*. I spent three hours with Virginia Housigger, explained to her about the situation, then they used about thirty seconds of interview and the information that I gave her was totally ignored as she kept using terms such as 'waning Fretilin forces'. She came to the interview with a pre-conceived idea – ABC foreign policy of support for Indonesia, and if I said anything that was in contradiction, they would ignore it. That is the attitude of the media.

**LW** You obviously consider international education as being important part of the ultimate victory.

**Jose** Yes, it is extremely important. International solidarity, public opinion around the world – it is an important not only for us, it has been important in every other

struggle in the past. It was very important in Vietnam, in Nicaragua during the Sandinista revolution, and now it is very important everywhere, much more so in our case.

**LW** Do you think that international opinion of the work that Fretilin is doing is going to be what finally brings victory?

**Jose** No, not only that. Maybe the decisive element that we contribute to victory is armed resistance and the student movement in East Timor, as well as the movement in Indonesia itself against the regime.

**LW** The same would apply with Australia. The military aid that Australia gives the Indonesians, and the recent agreement with Timor gap with Australian and Indonesian governments carving up the oilfields, seems to be consolidating Indonesia's control over East Timor.

**Jose** Yes, Australia and Indonesia signed an illegal agreement to exploit the national resources, the oil, in the Timor Sea. This agreement is illegal because it contravenes United Nations resolutions and international law. The law of the sea convention of 1982

**'If necessary, Australia will be taken to the International Court of Justice.'**

establishes that third parties cannot exploit the nation resources of colonial peoples.

We are working together with Portugal and, if necessary, Australia will be brought to the International Court of Justice. The Portuguese Government has already issued a protest. The protest was lodged at the UN, and Portugal has made it clear that in due course it will take appropriate action, meaning that if Australia and Indonesia go ahead and ratify this agreement, we will go to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

What is ironic is that in the past, we heard Australian politicians and Indonesians say that East Timor is too small and too poor to be economically viable. Now Australian geologists and the Australian Government are saying that the Timor Gap oil will make Australia self-sufficient well beyond the year 2000.

**LW** This does seem like one of the underlying reasons for the invasion.

**Jose** The first reasons for the invasion were not economic, it was essentially a political consideration. The Indonesians feared that an independent East Timor would set a precedent, would be an encouragement for other groups that existed in Indonesia before, would awaken the separatist sentiments in Sumatra, West Papua, West Timor, so I think that was their overriding concern. Their public explanation was that they feared that an independent East Timor would be another Cuba in the region, but that was only for public consumption, particularly domestic consumption. But they knew very well that



Jose Ramos Horta

There was an established policy by Indonesia and that was to absorb East Timor one way or another. Of course, now the war in East Timor has been a great bonanza for some parts of the Indonesian military. It is in the interests of a lot of Indonesia's military to continue the war, because they pocket millions and millions of dollars. President Suharto's wife has a big business in Dili, in East Timor. As the war goes on they can justify a huge budget for the military in East Timor.

**LW** It must seem very clear that the UN reflects the world today. Where the power is at and who can corrupt who, who can manipulate who. You are persisting with that body as a way of achieving independence for East Timor you could also ask how can East Timor achieve independence if that's the way the world operates?

**Jose** International politics are as they are, there is a lot of corruption, a lot of pride, national interest, but it has been like that all along, even before the UN existed. It has not been a total disappointment. The single fact that the UN exists as an institution is already an achievement of humankind. For instance, we have a voice there, if the UN did not exist as a body, as an institution where I can meet 150 nations in one location imagine having to travel everywhere? The fact that we have been able to keep pursuing our agenda at the UN till today has been a defeat for Indonesia.

**LW** Fretilin must be quite strong in East Timor, how do you go about educating the people when, obviously, you can't speak about Fretilin publicly, if the movement is so strong.

**Jose** The war has spread over the whole of the country, everybody has suffered. I doubt if there is any family in East Timor that hasn't lost at least one person. In many instances that I know personally, entire families were wiped out. Some lost half of the family members, I lost three family members, two brothers and one sister. In this kind of situation a political organisation doesn't need to do much political work. I don't need to go and tell a group of villagers who have seen half of the village wiped out, that the occupation forces are bad. Throughout the country the Indonesians themselves, with their brutality, their repression, racism,





# Betrayed But Not Beaten



Gil Scrine

arrogance in the face of the Timorese people as a whole, including their former supporters, are the best political education ever.

What Fretilin does is organise these people in fighting units, either clandestine in the capital, or in other areas occupied by Indonesia or, fighting units in the mountains with weapons. The clandestine organisation has been remarkable. In spite of the tight military control of the airport, harbours and everything in Dili, Djakarta and so on, we get constant flow of information out about what is going on. We get photographs, etc, and that is a result of the clandestine network set up largely by the students, both in Dili, the capital of East Timor, and in Djakarta and Denpasar. The students themselves, most of them, 99 per cent, are Fretilin supporters.

LW How has the agenda of Fretilin changed over the past 14 years? Obviously it's been influenced by things which have changed the country but also from your experiences with the UN, that's obviously an influence.

Jose It hasn't changed much. We believed from the very beginning that it would be a long war. We always planned a long guerilla war and we had no illusions that it would be easy, that it would be over soon. In terms of our fundamental policies, they have not changed.

We always advocated non-alignment, we continue to adhere to that. Fretilin has always been a national front promoting education, literacy. It continues to do that today - in the countryside, there are schools in the countryside teaching Portuguese, local languages, there are health facilities set up by Fretilin people. Very rudimentary but they are there. These are our own efforts, efforts of the people. There are some agricultural activities, co-operatives in the mountains which help to sustain the resistance forces.

We never had any international links or any illusions about getting help from the Soviet Union or Cuba. We knew very well where the Soviet Union stood. All along they had a good relation with Indonesia, particularly since 1967. Indonesia was closer to China. With the decimation of Indonesian Communist Party, the Soviet Union was quite happy because Indonesian Communist Party was close to China. They didn't shed tears, and from 1967 on there was a steady improvement of relations between the Soviet Union and Indonesia. We had never any illusion that there would be any support from the Soviet Union. In my view the Soviet Union was as bad as the US, in terms of oppression and in terms of foreign aggression. In terms of their selfish national interest. The Soviet Union supports a given

movement or a given country or regime in proportion to its regional or global interests.

LW Post-Independence, can East Timor survive without support?

Jose Without the Soviet Union, yes.

LW East Timor would need some kind of foreign support from somewhere.

Jose Yes we would need foreign technology, co-operation with countries like Australia, Japan, Scandinavia. I would hesitate to have any Russian in my country. I have had a lot of experience with the Russians, observing them in Africa. They are the most racist arrogant bastards I have seen in my life. Cuba is different, although a lot of people say Cuba takes orders from Moscow, it's quite different, their attitude towards Africans and so-on.

LW You talked about the support you had with the students in Denpasar and Djakarta. What sort of links have you made with people who have come to East Timor from Indonesia through transmigration?

Jose Information that we have is that there is no link whatsoever. There is strong resentment against people who come from Java because they are colonisers. A lot of them are very enthusiastic exploiters of the Timorese. They take over the trades, they

total failure, a few hundred families, or not even that. Most of the people came from West Timor, Sumatra, from other islands as merchants, illegally and they settled there. These are the ruthless exploiters in Timor and they are very hated by the population.

LW While you are in Australia will you make any attempts to speak to the foreign affairs department here or with any Australian Government officials?

Jose I met in Canberra, last Friday, with Richard Woolcott, the head of the Foreign Affairs Department. It was an informal, casual discussion.

LW What was the result, the kinds of things you talked about?

Jose The result was nil. But I informed him about the situation and told him it would be in the best interests of Australia that this issue is resolved and that Australia should use its influence, if it has any, with Indonesia to convince Indonesia to accept elections in East Timor. Elections are very normal. As if we are asking for the moon, all we ask for general elections in East Timor.

LW What was his response?

Jose He said Australia recognised Indonesia's take over and there is little Australia can do.

LW It's interesting too, he was ambassador to Indonesia, then to the UN and is now head of Foreign Affairs.



Indonesian Atrocities in East Timor

take over the land, the housing and there have been incidents in Dili with the market being burnt down by the Timorese. Some of the Indonesian villages that they set up in Timor are attacked and burned by the Timorese villages.

Gil That's the pattern of transmigration throughout Indonesia, in fact West New Guinea is the same. Sumatra has been the same. The local people don't like the transmigrants and that's understandable.

LW Is that still a strong policy in Indonesia?

Gil It's on the wane. They're finding it hard to fund it and the environmental restrictions are making it difficult too. It's been a massive failure.

Jose There are 75,000 Indonesians in Dili at the moment, that's an estimate from Timor. Most of them aren't transmigrants. The transmigration program in East Timor was a

Gil He's reached the pinnacle, he's been such a good boy.

Jose He is a brilliant diplomat.

Gil He is a grocery clerk. He does what he's told and because the Australian Government has recognised Indonesia's occupation with de facto recognition, he does what he's told. So he tells Jose that he can't do anything. As soon as the wind changes he'll be the first to jump.

LW What about any other members of the main parties?

Jose I'll be seeing tonight Tony Lamb, federal MP, he is a great friend but by and large Australian MPs are by and large a bunch of losers. They are all scared of Indonesia, the few who support us are men and women of great integrity. By and large their main concern is either to drink themselves to death in a pub, now the five star hotel which passes for a pub in Parliament House in Canberra.

Continued Next Edition

# Police run wild



A dramatic increase in the number of fatal shootings by police in Victoria<sup>1</sup> and the circumstances surrounding some of the shootings have led to wide spread calls for a full public inquiry<sup>2</sup>.

On more than one occasion the tactics of the Victorian police have been compared with the Clint Eastwood character Dirty Harry. The Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council, Mr Bill Gillard QC put it more tactfully when he said the council believed some of the fatal shootings 'may have been avoided had other measures been taken. A frontal assault upon a dangerous criminal is likely to produce a violent reaction. Further thought and planning may have avoided violent confrontation.'

A less generous interpretation of police behaviour, but one that cannot be ignored, is that the police have no desire to reduce the likelihood of confrontation.

A lawyer representing a man charged in relation to the killing of two police officers said in court, while objecting to his client being held in custody, 'At the same time he probably is safer in Pentridge than on the streets where he could be subjected to a bullet in the back of his head.' This was obviously a reference to the police killing of Gary Abdallah, who had been questioned about the killings. Abdallah was shot a number of times including once in the back of the head.

In the wake of the killing of two police officers last year - The Walsh Street killings - a former senior policeman wrote of the culprits, 'When they are caught, and they will be caught, they should be

destroyed out of hand, as they have lost the right to human consideration.' Across the border, in New South Wales, after the shooting of two police officers, it is alleged that a police officer told an ABC reporter that Mr Porter (the suspect) would be 'blown away'.

Indeed, since the Walsh street killings one man, who had been questioned about the killings, and another who was considered a suspect, have been shot dead in circumstances that raise serious questions.

Comments by the Chief Commissioner of police have created the impression that the police find some people's lives unworthy and therefore see their loss as little reason for concern. After the fatal shooting of one unarmed man he stated, 'It's not as if he was in the habit of attending Sunday school.'

Headlines, based on information supplied by the police, such as 'Suspect shot during police search', 'Police shoot murder suspect dead', 'Bandit dies in police trap' and 'guard gang bandit shot dead' are obviously designed to turn public opinion against the victim and deflect any criticism of police methods.

The headlines, and the stories accompanying them, are often as inaccurate as they are sensational. The dead victims of police shootings are in no position to defend allegations made against them, and their families do not enjoy the same easy access to the media as the police.

The media reported, on the basis of information supplied to them by the police, that an escapee from prison, Russel Cox, had been involved in a dramatic shootout with police when he was arrested at a

shopping centre in July last year. Subsequently, the magistrate who heard the committal into charges against Cox found the only shots fired during the arrest were by police. Had Russell Cox been shot dead the police version of events may have gone unchallenged.

When Graeme Jensen was shot, newspapers ran contradictory police versions of what was alleged to have taken place. One newspaper quoted police as saying Jensen was shot when he threatened them with a weapon, when another newspaper wrote that police who examined the car found a small pistol inside and detectives believed that he may have been reaching for the pistol when he was shot dead.

In the recent fatal shooting of Gary Abdallah, the version of events first put forward by the police was later contradicted by the family and the victim's lawyer. Originally police maintained that Abdallah was hit twice after they fired several shots at him, when he pointed an imitation firearm at them.

The family informed the public that Gary had in fact been shot up to six times, including once in the back of the head, and the police subsequently admitted that seven shots were fired. The police story that they intercepted Abdallah in order to question him and then took him back to his flat, was placed under suspicion because Gary Abdallah was on bail and reporting to the police station three times a week providing ample opportunity for police to question him. The police's claim that Gary Abdallah was a murder suspect was also brought into question.

It is hard to believe that a person would threaten armed police with an imitation firearm, let alone refuse to drop it when faced with real guns. The family have denied police claims that Gary had an imitation firearm.

Yet, within hours of the shooting, the assistant commissioner for operations, Mr Frank Green, preempting any investigation said, '... he was satisfied that the... detectives had acted appropriately in the circumstances'.

On the other hand several days later, when the family questioned the circumstances of the shooting, the deputy commissioner, Mr John Frame, said that 'a thorough police inquiry was being made by the homicide squad, overseen by the internal investigations department'. He went on to say 'the investigation would not be helped by speculation about its progress'. The day after Abdallah died, having been in a coma for six weeks, a newspaper ran a story, complete with a graphic photograph, taken during an armed robbery, that the police had evidence that he was involved in the violent armed robbery. It stretches the imagination to believe that the timing of the story was coincidental. It also raised the question as to why, in the years since the robbery, the police had not questioned him regarding the incident, let alone charged him.

Clearly the aim of the story was to reduce public sympathy for Gary Abdallah and his grieving family.

The Police Minister, Mr Crabb, is also guilty of focusing on the character of the victim. Rejecting earlier calls for an inquiry he said 'no innocent bystanders were shot'. This suggests that the Minister believes that anybody suspected of a crime is not only guilty but that their death, at the hands of police, is not a matter of controversy.

The issue to be examined is not who the victim was but whether the taking of a human life was necessary and lawful.

As a result of mounting pressure, the Victorian coroner will be looking into the eleven fatal shootings which have occurred in the past two years 'with a view to seeing if anything could be learned from the overview'. The State Government has taken the rare step of appointing legal counsel to represent the Attorney General at the inquest of Gary Abdallah. The Deputy Ombudsman will also investigate that shooting.

However, the proposed inquiry is not sufficient to ease growing concern over shootings. A coronial inquiry falls short of the full judicial inquiry called for. A coroner ought not be involved in a review of their own decisions, which will be the case in five of the shootings. A review in these circumstances can not be seen as impartial.



In the past, the Victorian police have simply ignored the coroner's findings publicly rejecting criticism. There is no guarantee that the coroner's future findings will be taken any more seriously.

The calls for an inquiry outside the usual coronial inquest point to some recurring problems of investigating fatalities when police are the killers. The coroner relies heavily on evidence gathered by the police. Twenty years ago, a commentator said the legal system was ineffective in testing the legality of police actions leading to death because the police had a strangle hold of the administration of the law and they used this for the protection of their colleagues. The same commentator several months ago stated that the situation in Victoria has not improved.

It has been said; 'when police have assisted the coroner at inquests into deaths involving state agencies, it is clear the invariably their case has been directed solely at exonerating the police concerned from any involvement of responsibility'.

The coroner has put question marks over his ability to independently investigate police shootings by calling a press conference to warn against public comments on the shootings in the lead up to inquests. These comments were made the day after a witness to a police killing spoke out on television giving a version of events different from that of police. The coroner's comments sit oddly with his silence over public comments by the police after fatal shootings. The statement supports the police notion that it is only they who should be able to have their views put in the wake of a shooting.

When Graeme Jensen was killed by the police last year, his family demanded a Royal Commission. They disputed police claims that he had been involved in an armed robbery and said the police version of events, that he had tried to run them down, had overlooked the possibility that he was reacting out of fear at seeing guns pointed at him and that he was trying to get away. After these statements, a police spokesperson said 'What actually happened can be aired at the proper time and place for making and testing these allegations - the coronial inquest.' However, the police's version of events, including their suspicions that Jensen had been involved in an armed robbery in which a security guard had been killed, made front page news several weeks before.

The Premier, Mr Cain, was circumspect in his criticism of the coroner when he said that his comments should be interpreted as suggesting 'that the coroner had been selective in his admonition of a person who was doing far less than had been done by the police over a period of time'. However, he went on to say if there was disquiet on the issue, there might be a case for getting one of the coroner's assistants or deputies to carry out the inquest. Mr Cain also said 'the relationship between the police and the coroners has always been a close one'.

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, most which have occurred in police custody, has highlighted the problems inherent in the investigation of police killings.

In NSW where recently police shot and killed David Gundy, an Aboriginal man, the government and the police are resisting moves to have the death investigated by Royal Commission staff.

In Victoria, Chief Commissioner of Police, Kel Glare, has hit back at critics, maintaining that the police are reacting to increased community violence and violence specifically directed against police.

The placing of police shootings in the context of increased community violence does not in any way detract from the argument that each killing by a police officer has to be thoroughly investigated in the same way that killings by citizens are thoroughly investigated. Of all police powers, the power to use deadly force is the gravest. The police officer who pulls the trigger and kills is acting as investigator, judge, jury and executioner - in a society which has no capital punishment.

The Chief Commissioner argues that increased use of firearms by offenders has contributed to the increased shootings. However, in a number of recent fatal shootings by the police, the victim was not armed with a firearm. In three other incidents police claims that the victim was brandishing a firearm, or imitation firearm, have been disputed by the deceased's family and in one case the only surviving non-police witness.

According to police figures, the number of incidents involving shots fired at police has remained reasonably constant over the past seven years. Seven such incidents were recorded in 1988, which was one fewer than for the previous year and four fewer than for the peak in 1986. From 1982 to 1985 the average was seven incidents in a year.

On the other hand, it is believed that the shootings were in retaliation for the shooting of Graeme Jensen by police the day before.

The risk to police in not being armed must be weighed against the risk faced by the police and the rest of the community in them being armed. Seven policemen have been shot by other police since 1985, some fatally. In one other case, an officer's gun was taken by an otherwise unarmed offender who killed the officer.

Research has shown that weapons on police tend to escalate violence, especially when offenders are armed, thus increasing the likelihood that police will shoot.

It is not only police and suspects who are at risk. Bystanders, it appears, are increasingly at risk of being shot or terrorised by armed police. In the last twelve months, there have been three reported incidents of armed police bursting into the wrong person's home. In all cases, police entered with guns drawn.

The police also allege that there has been an increase in the number of serious assaults against them. It is difficult to assess the accuracy of this claim without independent research, as it has been well established that the police in Victoria will manipulate crime figures. In the same period that an increase in assaults is being alleged, there has also been a large increase in the number of police. Are police officers being assaulted more often or are there just more of them?

Any increase in the number of persons charged with assaulting police, may represent an increasing propensity by police to charge people with this offence. What goes on in a police-citizen contact inevitably is only witnessed by the police and that particular citizen. In many cases where a person has been charged with assaulting police, that person alleges that they were themselves assaulted by the police and the charge against them was designed to act as a cover for injuries the police may have inflicted upon them and to discourage complaints. If the accused decided to defend such charges, it becomes their word against a number of police. In the face of this, many people simply plead guilty.

Further, a person who alleges assault by a member of the force has little chance of redress outside of the courts. Most criminal lawyers have so little faith in investigations carried out by the Police Internal Investigation Department that they advise their clients not to complain. A recent review of the Internal Investigations Departments observes, 'Of the 380 complaints, 176, or 46 per cent, involved assault or assault related conduct, mainly the former. Of the 176, a mere 4 or 2.3 per cent were sustained. My enquiries fail to locate a single instance of assault not backed by the supporting evidence of independent witnesses in which a complaint was sustained. From a complaints stand point, I have not heard of a lower success rate anywhere. Were the results to be understood publicly, it would add fuel to the argument that it is a waste of time to make a complaint of assault against police in the absence of substantial independent, corroborative evidence.'

Research done by the Australian Institute of Criminology found that there was no substantial evidence that police officers throughout Australasia were: murdered at an increasing rate; shot at an increasing rate; and assaulted at an increasing rate. [10]

None of this is to argue that police officers are not entitled to use deadly force when defence of their own or other's lives is at issue. However, in a society where capital punishment does not exist, it is arguable that it is only in this situation that resort to deadly force is justified. Police standing orders state that 'A member shall not discharge a firearm at or towards another person except where the use of a firearm is not out of proportion to the mischief sought to be prevented.'

It is now time to question whether it is desirable to have all police armed at all times.

The police argue that even when on routine duties, such as traffic operations, there is the possibility that they will face armed offenders and therefore they always need to be armed. The Walsh Street killing, where two policemen responding to a routine call were shot dead, is cited as an example. However, in that case the guns carried by police did not save them and in fact one of the officers was shot several times with his own gun.

In one recent incident, an officer fired six shots in a busy suburban street at a suspect who was attempting to escape arrest. One of the bullets passed through the window of a near-by flat and landed between two teenagers who were sitting watching television. Four of the bullets hit the suspect's car, which he was attempting to drive off in, only luck preventing the driver losing control and further endangering the public. Yet the Deputy Commissioner of Police, John Frame, said shortly after the shooting, 'We are all looking very closely at the circumstances surrounding the use of the firearm in this case, and I am sure everything was done properly.' In another incident,

Christmas shoppers were reported to have dived for cover as a traffic police officer and a bank robber exchanged shots. The arrest of Russell Cox and the fatal shooting of Graeme Jensen both involved shots being fired in shopping centres by police.

The United States has chosen the path of fighting fire with fire, and has a murder rate six times our own. In some areas, American police patrol the streets in armoured vehicles fitted with battering rams. There police draw their weapons when pulling over people for traffic violations. The rate of killing of police in America is phenomenal compared to Australia.

On the other hand, in England only special squads carry firearms, and their murder rate is lower than ours.

Mr Glare argues that the police shootings controversy adds weight to the argument that the police in Victoria need more powers because offenders feel that if they can escape, then they can avoid detection.

There is simply no correlation between clear up rates of crime and police powers. All over the world the tracking down of offenders depends far more on community co-operation than the powers of investigation granted to police.

Anger over shooting incidents has the potential to harm police community relations. For example, since the shooting by police of David Gundy, the relationship between Aboriginal people and the police, has deteriorated significantly.

What's more, if the police are abusing the greatest power they have - the power to use deadly force - they are bound to abuse their lesser powers.

In a society which does not condone the killing of its members, the killing of any of its citizens by those authorised to use deadly force is an issue which cannot be ignored.

## Footnotes:

[1] There have been eleven people shot dead by police in the past two years, while there had been only ten fatalities in the previous thirteen years.

[2] Those supporting an inquiry include - a State Member of Parliament, the Victorian Bar Council, the Victorian Council of Civil Liberties, the Federation of Community Legal Centres, families of victims and Pentridge Prison Chaplain, Father Peter Norden.

[3] *Death in the Hands of the State. Inquest and the Alternative Criminology Journal.* Edited by Michael Hogan, Dave Brown and Russell Hogg. Let sleeping watchdogs lie. Michael Hogan.

[4] The Age 26/4/89 page 3. The eye witness said in an interview on Channel 10 that the shot man was not brandishing a gun at police as claimed by them but was asleep on the bed when police burst in and shot him dead.

[5] In one case of police fatal shooting investigated, it was resolved that the coroner's inquiry had not determined how many shots had been fired. The Age 5/10/88.

[6] Arthur Ganas, 25, unarmed. Shot five times, three times in the chest and twice in the head, by police while attempting to rob a service station. Two police officers were taking part in an operation code named 'operation panic' and were hiding at the back of the service station when the incident took place.

Gerhard Alfred Paul Sader, 36. Shot dead in a pre-dawn raid on his North Fitzroy bungalow in a police search for firearms and drugs. None were found. Sader allegedly produced an aluminium baseball bat, which an officer mistook for a shotgun. He was shot three times in the shoulder, chest and head.

Arthur Hames Nelson, 29. Shot by a constable after a chase over backyard fences in East St Kilda. Nelson, an escapee from a Canberra Remand Centre, allegedly lunged at the constable with a beach-umbrella stake. He was shot in the head.

[7] The Age 18/2/89 p 150. Mr Glare states there has been a 225 per cent increase in the number of serious assaults against police.

[8] *The Politics of Law and Order.* A paper presented to the Second International Criminal Law Congress at Surfers Paradise on 23/6/88 by Chris Richards, Project Worker, Federation of Community Legal Centres, Victoria.

[9] Professor Jack Richardson: *Review of the Investigation of Complaints by the Internal Investigations Department of the Victorian Police Force.* Commissioned by the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services in October 1987.

[10] *Description of Police Officer Murders and Woundings by Shooting and Bomb Blast 1964-1983.* Bruce Swanton assisted by Trish Psaila, Australian Institute of Criminology.

[11] *Victoria Police Association Journal*, August 1988. 'Policing the USA - Any Lessons for Victoria?' p 19.

[12] *Description of Police Officer Murders and Woundings by Shooting and Bomb Blast.*

Ed's note: In the Victorian budget, just announced, the State Treasurer Mr Jolly has directed moves to increase the numbers in Victoria's police force. No provision was made for moves to improve police training procedures.



WORDS(PIERRE JOSEPH PROUDHON 1848 PARIS) VISUALS(CLIFFORD PETER HARPER 1981 LONDON)

# WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



WHOEVER LAYS THEIR HAND ON ME



IS A USURPER AND A TYRANT;



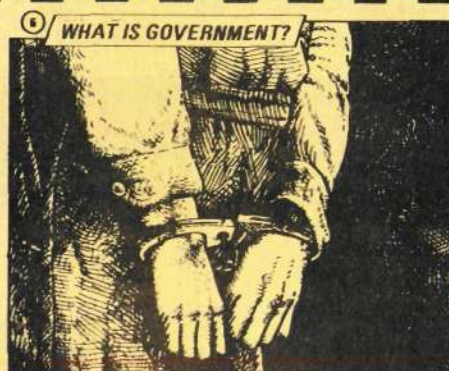
I DECLARE THEM TO BE MY ENEMY ...



GOVERNMENT IS SLAVERY.



ITS LAWS ARE COBWEBS FOR THE RICH



AND CHAINS OF STEEL FOR THE POOR.



TO BE GOVERNED IS TO BE WATCHED,  
INSPECTED, SPIED ON,



REGULATED, INDOCTRINATED, PREACHED  
AT, CONTROLLED, RULED,





13 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



MEASURED, REPRIMANDED, CORRECTED,  
FRUSTRATED.

14 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



UNDER PRETEXT OF THE PUBLIC GOOD  
IT IS TO BE EXPLOITED.

15 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



MONOPOLISED, EMBEZZLED, ROBBED,  
AND THEN,

16 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



AT THE LEAST PROTEST OR WORD OF  
COMPLAINT,

17 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



TO BE FINED, HARASSED, VILIFIED,

18 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



BEATEN UP, BLUDGEONED, DISARMED,

19 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



JUDGED, CONDEMNED, IMPRISONED,

20 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



SHOT, GARROTED,

21 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



DEPORTED, SOLD, BETRAYED,

22 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



SWINDLED, DECEIVED,

23 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



OUTRAGED, DISHONOURD,

24 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?



THAT'S GOVERNMENT, THAT'S ITS  
JUSTICE, THAT'S ITS MORALITY!



# Shame Police Shame

Every community legal centre is aware of and has grappled with the problem of the relationship between the police and the communities the centres work with. There have always been problems of police harassment of, in particular, the most vulnerable members of the community, and various solutions – liaison committees and meetings, 24 hour telephone services, encouragement to people to learn about and become confident in the use of their rights.

The extreme difficulties Flemington and Kensington are facing are not new ones, just very dramatic and frightening highlighting of the same problems. – Why there are no effective controls on the powers police misuse, why the police are not held accountable for violence and damage done by them, what are some long term ways of ensuring that we will be working with a better trained, more responsible police force?

There have been eleven fatal shootings by police in Victoria in the last two years. The three most recent of these have been of young men who have lived or had close links in Flemington and Kensington. Graeme Jensen was killed by police on October 11, 1988 – two days before the killing of two police officers at Walsh Street. The police have assumed a link between the two incidents, and have subsequently carried out in Flemington and Kensington a campaign of intimidation, harassment and extreme violence, an aspect of which has been the shooting of two more young men; Jedd Houghton, who died on November 17, 1988, and Gary Abdullah, who died on Friday May 19, 1989 after six weeks in a coma because one of the seven bullets fired into the back of his body lodged in his brain. There are serious questions about each of the three deaths still unanswered by the police, and the families and friends of the men will not be satisfied until there is an independent and public inquiry into the deaths.

The terror police have inspired in this community over the past six months, and the violent damage they have done, have been justified by the police by the events in Walsh Street. The police response to complaints and public outrage has been to stress the shock, anger and fear all police felt after Walsh Street and to say 'what can you expect'. What we are entitled to expect is a properly trained police force which behaves in a controlled, disciplined and professional manner, not as though they are going to war to wreak revenge.

Reactions of anger and fear on the part of the police are understandable, but they must be dealt with in a manner that does not reverberate on the rest of the community, causing death, damage, terror and an extreme fear and distrust of the police.

Since October there have been raids on people's homes, a serious increase in the level of harassment of people on the streets and in the pubs, and a growing sense of helplessness and fear in relation to the police.

The raids have been extremely violent; they have taken place very early in the morning, when people are most vulnerable – doors have been sledgehammered down, windows broken, women and children held on the floor with guns at their heads. Police have come heavily armed, and have not offered any acceptable explanations for their presence. In each case they have had warrants to search for firearms, but have not found any, but rather searched handbags, personal papers and address books and questioned people about their contacts with the young men shot by police. In a small, close knit community such as Flemington and Kensington, people know each other, have grown up together, been to the same school, played football together, etc – the fact that the people whose homes have been raided have known those men, have sons and daughters who grew up with those men is not surprising, and does not justify attacks.

Compensation has been offered in some cases for the damage done, but the fact that many people, including children, are still suffering the psychological effects of the raids has not been satisfactorily addressed.

The shootings and raids are at the more dramatic end of the spectrum, along which rest the increased incidence of strip searches, random arrests of large numbers of people for drunkenness in hotels, threats, random assaults. The atmosphere created is one of extreme fear and uncertainty; many people assume that their homes are monitored with listening devices, that they will be arrested if they go into the local hotel for a drink, that the police know where they are going, what they are doing, that they face each day the risk of being arrested, assaulted, raided or shot. There are two possible explanations for this atmosphere of terror, each equally frightening. One is that a small number of police are behaving in a manner which is uncontrolled and based on their personal reactions, and the other is that the situation is a result of planned policing, that it has been an organised strategy to generate a high level of fear in order to demonstrate power, obtain information, paralyse people's capacity to act. In either case large numbers of people are suffering. The effects of the police activity are felt not only by those who are described by police as Walsh Street suspects, but by their mothers, sisters,

girlfriends, children, friends and neighbours.

There will be, of course, long term consequences of this escalation of the 'war' between the police and the community. Even small children now fear the police, and do not think of them as a source of help. Because everyone's response to the police has hardened, the police expect hostility and lack of co-operation and deal with situations more aggressively. In our view, it is the responsibility of the police, paid and trained public servants, to take steps to stop this cycle.

At this point, we know that nothing short of a public independent inquiry will satisfy this community that the issues are being taken seriously. Coronal inquiries, limited to investigation of the deaths only, will not address many of the problems. Investigations by IID or the Ombudsman's office are also too limited, cannot address general issues, and cannot protect people from the fear of reprisals by police. Some of the questions which need to be addressed are:

- why did the shootings take place; why were the men killed; why were they not arrested and questioned?
- on what basis and evidence are search warrants for raids obtained?
- what can be done about the currently ineffective system for complaining about police behaviours and practices?
- how can recruitment and training processes for police be improved to ensure a more professional, controlled police force?
- how can reasoned discussion take place about police practices, ie: whether or not it is legitimate to generate a high level of fear among a large group of people in order to obtain information from a few?

These questions can only be properly answered in an open independent inquiry. The police must expose themselves to public examination so that people can feel safe, and more confident that there is such a concept as criminal justice.

## Are police getting away with murder?

There are an increasing number of cases of police raiding the wrong homes. No compensation is available to those who are subjected to this kind of terror at the hands of the police.

### Coronial inquiry not adequate

A coronial inquiry will be looking at a number of fatal shootings by police in a series of inquests and reviews.

The coroner has a close relationship with the police as he relies on evidence gathered by police to conduct inquests.

The coroner is not empowered to make comment on matters to do with person's criminal liability, and will only be looking at fatal shootings by police and not the large number of woundings, near misses and police use of firearms to terrorise and intimidate.

### Police Shootings – the case for a judicial inquiry

Without a judicial inquiry the question as to whether police in this state are getting away with murder will remain unanswered, and the lives of all Victorians will continue to be put at risk by the trigger happy ways of the Victorian police.

### Number of fatal shootings

In the past two years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people shot by police. There have been eleven people shot dead by police in the past two years. In the previous thirteen years, the police had shot and killed ten people.

### Victorian Police the most trigger happy in Australia

The number of shootings by police in Victoria outnumber those in other states. In the period from 1974 to 1988, statistics show that 53.5 per cent of woundings and 40.8 per cent of killings caused by police use of firearms occurred in Victoria.

### Police use of firearms endangers the public

In addition to the killings and woundings, there has been an alarming number of incidents in which the Victorian Police have brandished or fired their firearms in a dangerous and reckless manner.

In one incident this year, a police officer fires six shots in a busy street, narrowly missing people in the street and sending a bullet through the window of a near by flat.



# NEXT

A PUBLIC INQUIRY IS NEEDED

### Police raids

Police raids on houses are now accompanied by a heavy handed show of armed force even when the police have no reason to suspect the occupants to be armed. A number of people have been shot dead by police in these raids, and others have suffered enormous emotional trauma after being held at gunpoint and being told that if they moved they would be killed.



# Field officers: Policing the poor

'Hello, I'm from the Department of Social Security and we have reason to believe that you have been working and living in a de facto relationship while receiving benefits. We would like the answers to some questions.'

The current Federal Government is committed to the idea that cutting spending wherever possible is vital to the health of the economy. Spending in the area of social security - providing

financial assistance to those at the lower end of the income scale who need that assistance to make ends meet in this wealthy country - has been subjected to a number of cuts over the past few years. This has been accompanied by rhetoric about targetting welfare spending better by ensuring it does not end up in the hands of 'welfare cheats'.

A great deal of publicity has been given to cases where people have been overpaid a pension or benefit because they deliberately did not tell the Department of Social Security about income they were receiving, or that they were in a 'de facto' relationship while claiming sole parents pension. The picture the public has been given is one of masses of 'welfare bludgers' ripping off the system which, therefore, costs the government far more than it would if only the 'genuinely needy' received payments. Vigilant policing of people on social security payments is seen as necessary and justified.

This is far from the reality. While there are cases of social security fraud, they form a very small proportion of pensioners and beneficiaries. In fact, Derek Volker, Secretary of the DSS, has stated publicly that welfare fraud was an insignificant proportion of the D.S.S. budget and smaller than overpayments due to administrative errors by the D.S.S.

IN THESE DAYS ALL OF US



ARE CALLED UPON TO SACRIFICE...



(I HAVE DECIDED TO SACRIFICE...



YOU!



However, this perception, combined with the desire to cut costs by reducing the number of people on D.S.S. payments, has led to an increasing focus on policing (rather than helping) pensioners and beneficiaries. The Department of Social Security has a considerable number of staff - called field officers - whose job is to investigate people to see if they are receiving more than they should. They way some of these officers carry out investigations is disturbing. People have been treated as having no rights, and as being guilty until proven innocent. A number of pensioners and beneficiaries who have been investigated by field officers when they had nothing to hide are so distressed at their treatment that they will not claim pension or benefits that they are fully entitled to.

This is not just a matter of a few isolated cases. While not all field officers behave in this way, enough cases have come to the attention of financial counsellors, community legal centres and other welfare workers to make it clear that abuses of power by field officers have happened often, and are continuing to occur. Numerous welfare agencies have lobbied the Government to try and change the Social Security law and practice to at least limit this problem. So far, these calls have fallen on unsympathetic ears.

## Stand up for your rights

Given that there is no immediate chance of real change in the manner in which field officers operate, it is important for people to stand up for the rights they do have. Here is a list of things you should know if you are receiving a social security payment and are visited by a field officer:

1. You don't have to let a field officer into your home. You can choose whether you want to be interviewed at home or at the local DSS office.
2. The field officer cannot search your home even if you decide to let her or him in.
3. The field officer must identify herself or himself, and say they are from the DSS (Write their details down; if they treat you badly or unfairly, you will know who to complain about.)
4. You only have to answer questions if the DSS sends you a notice in writing telling you to do so. This notice will quote 'section 163'; if it does not, then it is not a 'proper notice'. However, some DSS officers believe you must answer questions immediately, even if they are not in writing. This is wrong, but officers who believe this may recommend payments be suspended if you stand up for your rights.
5. If the written notice mentions section 163, then the answers you give can't be used against you in criminal proceedings (although information obtained by the D.S.S. following on from your answers may be).

6. You have the right to a friend, interpreter or lawyer to be present at any interview.

7. You do not have to sign a copy of any statement the officer writes down. (You should only sign if you agree with the statement.) You have the right to a copy of any statement (or record of the interview) taken by the officer.

8. If a field officer makes a decision you think is wrong then you can and should appeal against the decision. You can appeal by contacting the Social Security Appeals Tribunal (telephone: 614 3161; address: 10-16 Queen Street Melbourne). There is also a review process within the D.S.S.; if you want to use this you should ask to see an Area-Based Review Officer. You can ask for a review and appeal at the same time. If the decision you are appealing against is causing you hardship (e.g. your benefit is cancelled and you have no money to live), you should ask for an urgent hearing.

9. If you wish to complain about the way a field officer has treated you, there are a number of places you can complain to:

- The DSS (you can write to either the Regional Manager of the local office or the administration office in the city: obviously, in either case the complaint will be considered by another member of the D.S.S.)
- The Minister for Social Security (Brian Howe), c/o Parliament House, Canberra 2600
- The Commonwealth Ombudsman, 405 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000
- The Privacy Commissioner, c/o Human Rights Commission, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

## WANTED SCIENTIFIC LEADERS AND EXPEDITIONERS

In December 1989 you could be one of a group of scientists and expeditioners who will survey the Daintree River area in North Queensland. Expeditioners are normally 17-25 years of age, but we also take a small number of carefully selected mature-age explorers.

The Daintree River area is a treasure chest of scientific discovery and you will be assisting in gathering valuable scientific data for the CSIRO, the Institute of Marine Science, the Department of Community Services, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and others. The going will be tough and the tropical conditions difficult.

If adventure and science appeal and you are interested in being an expeditioner, or you feel you have the necessary qualifications to be a scientific leader, fill out the coupon and mail it immediately to: The Australian and New Zealand Scientific Exploration Society, PO Box 174, Albert Park, Victoria 3206.


Please send me more details of the next ANZSES expedition.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Patron in Chief  
HRH The Prince of Wales



# Ghosts of the Civil Dead

## - The Inside Story

In 1983, United States Prison Marion enters a state of lockdown, where prisoners are allowed one hour each day out of their cells, to wash and to exercise in a steel mesh cage, pacing backwards and forwards like animals. The reasons for the lockdown occurring were the inspiration of the film 'Ghosts of the Civil Dead'. Ghosts has, over the past two months, been shocking and disgusting its viewers. However, the story of USP Marion, which still continues today, is much more menacing and frightening than the film.

USP Marion was built in 1962 as the 'end of the line' for offenders. There is no federal death penalty in America, so Marion was designed as the ultimate repressive institution. Most of the 350 inmates are there for 'failure to adjust' to either other federal prisons or those who are considered to be the most dangerous within the state prisons.

The most ominous of the divisions in this prison is the Control Unit, or the Hole: Sixty solitary confinement cells with nothing but a bed and a hole in the middle of the floor as a toilet. This isn't cleaned when one prisoner leaves and another comes in.

What an inmate has to do in order to be classified for Marion hasn't been established, not even in the courts, but there is the classification hearing. The hearing procedures for an inmate to be moved from the general population to Control Unit do not seem to give the prisoner much of a chance. He has the choice of being represented by a member of the prison staff.

Relationships are very strained between the inmates and their keepers, and it is highly unlikely that a prison officer is going to give an inmate he despises the necessary aid. Nor is the prisoner likely to trust the person who keeps him locked in a cage. In the actual hearing, the prisoner can call witnesses, but only if they are not deemed to be a security risk. If discontented with the hearings decision an inmate may appeal, but it must be in writing and within five days of the decision reaching him.

Everyone who has dealings with prisons knows that they survive on the balance of terror and respect between the inmates and the officers. Each understands that if he oversteps the line, the other will one day have a chance of retribution. David Hale, an ex-Marion prison officer who has admitted to bashing prisoners, understood this balance and saw it being destroyed in the events leading up to the 1983 lockdown.

There is no one event which can be blamed for locking Marion down. When on October 28 1983 two guards were murdered, very few people were surprised. The general view is that whatever happens to prisoners is their own fault, however, guards are in a position of power and are able to control inmate behaviour, and some abuse that power.

This was made obvious by the constant changing of rules, which ultimately frustrated prisoners. One day they would be allowed to bring blankets up to keep out the cold winter breezes, the next there would be an order for them to be brought down. One day sugar would be issued, the next it would be taken away. The inmates would receive no explanation for these occurrences, which would make the frustrations more intense. Nor if they were moved from one cell to another would they be given an explanation.

Then there is the SORT team. SORT stands for the Strategic Operations Response Team. Since the lockdown, the use of SORT has increased. One prisoner asked if his cell window could be closed and the following day in came the SORT team, decked out in full riot gear. When SORT come for a prisoner, all his personal possessions are removed from his cell and stored in another section of the prison. The prisoner is strip searched, particularly stripped of his dignity as they search every crevice and orifice of his body for contraband.

Contraband can be a number of things: drugs, weapons etc. Even a ball point pen can be classified as a potential weapon, let alone the two-inch of a hacksaw blade which prisoners may smuggle in their noses.

Every prisoner is desperate to escape the confines of Marion, and will risk even the possibility of an extended sentence if freedom is slightly visible.

So what happened in 1983? Prisoners were beginning to complain about the inconsistencies of the rules and about the violence with which they were treated when they aired their complaints. Inmates were stabbing each other, usually because it was a matter of kill or be killed. Anyone who has to live in such inhibiting conditions, surrounded by violence, is bound to be aggravated by other members of the population. The guards knew this and it was not uncommon for them to place two known enemies in the same room, or exercise them together.

One day before the lockdown, Hale was surrounded by a number of prisoners warning him that the balance was about to be tilted. However, during a hearing into the conditions of Marion, it was said; 'The court has serious reservations regarding the entirety of the testimony of former correctional officer David Hale.'

Warden Miller had arrived. Since his arrival, inmates recreation time was cut, possessions were gradually removed from the cells and industry in the factories slowly ceased. Miller had a reputation on the Bureau of Prisons. It was as if they wanted trouble when he was put in charge. After the Marion lockdown, he went to Lewisburg, which was locked down within two weeks.

On the morning of October 25, Tommy Silverstein killed a guard. He is quoted as saying at his hearing; 'True. I killed a guard, but no-one has ever bothered to ask why . . . I never thought of killing anything before I came to prison or H Unit' (Control Unit).

Anyway, if an inmate murders a guard he earns the respect of the other prisoners. Clayton Fountain, who was on the same cell block as Silverstein, had seen the morning's attack and decided to follow suit. He was being escorted by Jerry Powless when he put his hands into another cell and turned around with one cuff off and a knife. He stabbed Powless and then Ditterline who tried to step between the two. Fountain then rushed towards Bob Hoffman and proceeded to stab him to death. There were cheers from the other prisoners.

And so Marion entered the state of lockdown. Nearly six years later, it is still locked down. The violence of guards against the inmates has increased since the lockdown. Those who dare to challenge this repressive control are merely repressed more. In the words of one prisoner:

'Death and cruelty are no strangers to those who live and work within these cages as every, every action delivers a reaction.'

In order for the inmate to exercise he must pace around the perimeter of the cell avoiding the pile of shit, his own and other people's, in the middle of the room.

Jane Treleven

### Resources:

*The New Alcatraz* by Laurence Gonzales, Chicago, Feb 1986.

*In the Belly of the Beast* by Jack Henry Abbot, 1981. (a series of letters written in Marion) with special thanks to Mick Bell, Production Co-ordinator, Ghosts of the Civil Dead.

It is important to note that most prisoners who are seen to have failed to adjust are those who speak out against the injustices of their treatment.

The days are filled with boredom for prisoners and guards alike. The prisoners spend 23 hours a day in their cells with TV or radio if they have a good relationship with the guards. The guards spend each day opening and closing electronic doors and escorting each prisoner singularly to the mesh cage where they exercise or to the showers.





# Performance '89: Shifting Boundaries

**A**ppropriation by artists of life-processes, mundane events and objects has been apparent since Duchamp and the famous ready-mades. The idea that the word 'art' is an unstable and shifting concept which can be manipulated by artists is evident in works of art which exploit the established behaviour systems of the art world. The philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, who proposed that it was more instructive to investigate the use of a fragment of language rather than its meaning, the Ferdinand de Saussure's concept of the arbitrary relationship between signifier and signified, are important theories to be considered when addressing the appropriation strategies of artists.<sup>(1)</sup>

The idea of changing the object of art, expanding the field, and incorporating events and structures not ordinarily associated with art, is related to the notion of art as a shifting concept. In the 1980s such strategies are often associated with deconstruction. The work of a post-conceptual artist like Imants Tillers incorporates an appropriation strategy. Although 'origins' are generally considered to be under 'erasure' in the latest theory, it is interesting to note that Tillers and his contemporaries—Mike Parr, Tim Johnson—were all associated with an earlier conceptual/post-object movement in Australia.

The distance between art and life was displaced when artists attached their signatures to already existing parts of the world. Yves Klien's signing of the sky in 1947 and Manzoni's issuing of signed 'Certificates of Authenticity' (1961), which turned the purchaser of the artwork into an 'authentic' masterpiece, are both examples of the conferring status by artists on objects/things. This type of early appropriation where the artist-as-personality could raise the status of any object to the position of art tends to support a rather romantic idea of individuality at the same time that the action itself contests the notion of 'high' art. A contradiction is apparent within the irony of the act: a displacement which is still being addressed by artists today.

In the 1980s the critique of the institution 'art' has become more sophisticated. A political discourse, which contested the notion of the unique individual, developed throughout the 1960s and 70s as artists and critics addressed Marxist and feminist analyses. In the 1970s a shift in theory became apparent. The Althusserian challenge to humanist Marxism precipitated a change of focus for cultural-political theorists. The 'ivory-tower' of the avant-garde and the valorisation of an 'authentic' working class culture were displaced by an acknowledgement of the binary oppositional structure evident throughout society and fundamental in language.

The intervention of feminism, which also stressed the internalisation of the political, represented a preliminary shift. However, with the onslaught of structural analysis, feminism also developed a more sophisticated stance. The idea that 'the personal is political' moved away from a simple programme of 'consciousness raising', which assumed that 'knowing' would relieve the problem, and towards an analysis of unconscious.

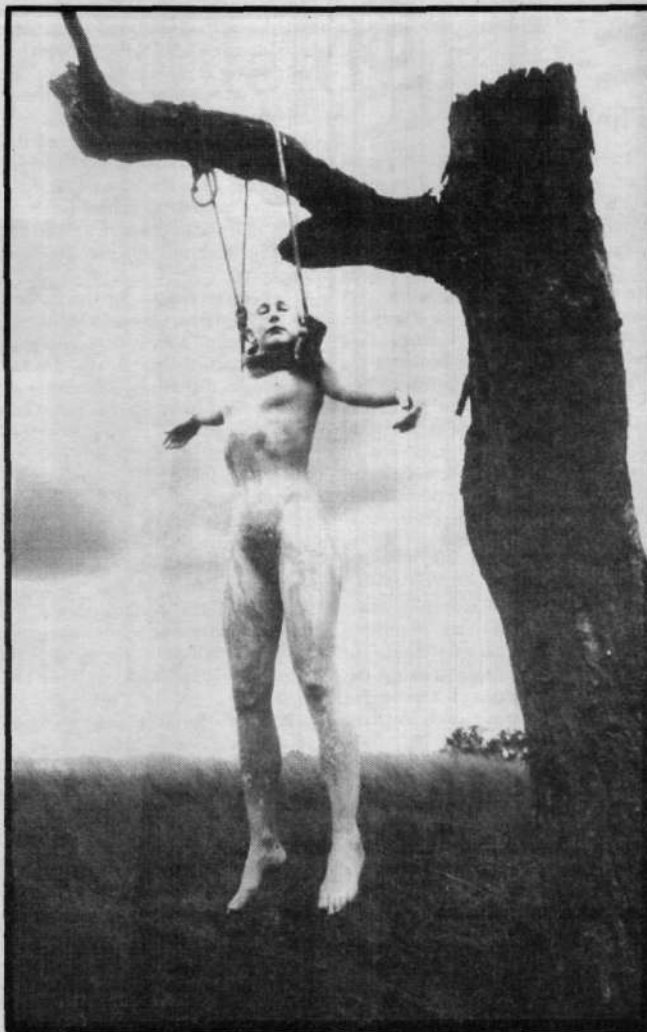
The way in which woman becomes 'feminine' through the socialisation of language began to be addressed in the mid-70s. The oppositional structures man/woman, sanity/insanity, good/evil, same/other etc. represent a hierarchical scheme which privileges the first term while highlighting the displaced term's dependence in the scheme of 'definition'. In this plan woman becomes the other of male desire and thus the structural psychoanalyst, Jacques Lacan,<sup>(2)</sup> can claim that woman does not exist.

Likewise the opposition art/life is constructed around the great orchestration of polarities. The gestures of the Dadaists, and with a somewhat different flavour, the Surrealists, exploited such a scheme. Artists continuing with similar actions throughout the sixties and into the eighties are operating in the wake of an interrogation already begun.

In the 1980s one of the most poignant questions for feminism revolves around the possibility of rupture with the aim of displacing a rigid binary oppositional structure. Artists involved in a critique of art and art world(s) are also addressing the structure of oppositions and/or exploiting the irony of such a construction. Lyndal Jones addresses the problem of woman's presence in performance by attempting to position herself in relation to a gaze already there. Jones's takes-on a difficult task by trying to subvert a scopophilic drive which 'objectifies' woman-as-other. Various ploys are used to de-centre the gaze: at times the work has been successful, however the plan is precarious. Performance works operating on the axis of presence/absence are difficult and sometimes bound to fail. This does not detract from the importance of the experimental practice and audiences must accept the possibility of failure. In an art world, once again seduced by the tactile surfaces of painted grounds and mythical symbols, the works of critical artists may appear obscure. However, if language is to be contested, a programme fraught with complexity, then many voices need to be considered. 'Returning' to history is only one opinion: exotic, eccentric and decentered tongues map journeys through many paths.

Jane Kent has produced one of the most sophisticated works of deconstruction, in the name of 'art', in recent years. *Between and Between* and the *Deep Blue Sea* (1987) was one of the most rigorous applications of deconstruction and psychoanalysis in an art world of context. Creating a polylogue of voices, housed in different venues and representative of diverse differences, Kent convened an art event which displaced the personality of the artist and allowed a non-sense programme to be transmitted across the airways. A twenty-four track recording studio mixed the many sites of intervention: each in-coming track received equal tape-time, however, because of the nature of track build-up a multi-various voice was already there. Kent invited the dissipated 'audience' to tell stories, jokes, nursery rhymes and give clues to crossword puzzles. The result was a kind of *jouissance*: a polylogue which erupted in mistakes.

Aleks Danko has orchestrated many jokes in his career as an artist.



Always irreverent and prepared to incorporate the ridiculous, Danko produces works of art about works of art or comments on the state of things which always verge on the humorous. In this carefully prepared scheme Aleks Danko has produced some very clever political comments. Often working in collaboration with other artists, Danko subverts his own authorial 'presence'. The performance/installation *Room* (1981) with Jude Walton, where neither artist was present, involved a large paper cube into which the audience members were confined by an ephemeral structure. The *Room* was a viewing space: colour slides were projected on all sides as the madness of domestic confinement played out its poignant parody. Kitchen utensils appeared on washing lines, displacements became 'reality' and the tension inside the cube reached a feverish pitch. Unable to live with the domestic madness the audience broke through the paper cube.

Peter Tyndal has been obsessed with the structure of the gaze throughout the eighties. He plays-out the irony of a Duchampian gesture by making works under the same title: *A Person Looks At A Work Of Art, Someone Looks At Something* is a ploy which aims to deconstruct the gaze by making the 'beholder' aware of his/her place in the scheme of the institution 'art'. Like Tillers, Parr and Johnson, Tyndal is a post-conceptual artist: he addresses the concept 'art' by attempting to parody the construct.

The artists presenting works on Friday, September 1, as part of Performance '89, represent various strategies of subversion. Each artist has expanded the conventional field of 'art' and addressed the institution of the art world in one way or another. Politics, humour and the rituals of everyday life have been incorporated. The work is critical on many levels and attempts to address the notion of 'art' by expanding its boundaries and in some cases by deconstructing the definition of art itself.

Anne Marsh Co-ordinator, Performance '89 In the Studio, Department of Visual Arts, Thursday August 31 and Friday September 1.

## Notes:

(1) The conflation of ordinary language philosophy and structuralist linguistics is problematic: the point is to stress the relevance of both theories rather than to imply similarities. See Ludwig Wittgenstein *Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief*, compiled from notes taken by Y. Smythies, R. Rhees at al and edited by Cyril Barrett, UCP, Berkeley, California, 1967. And Ferdinand de Saussure *Course in General Linguistics*, trans. Wade Baskin, The Philosophical Library Inc., New York, 1959. The ordinary language philosopher's contribution to the definition 'art' can be found in G. Dickie and Scafani (eds), *Aesthetics: A Critical Anthology*, St Martin's Press, New York, 1977.

(2) See Jacques Lacan, 'God and the Jouissance of The Woman' and 'A Love Letter' in J. Mitchell and J. Rose (eds), *Feminine Sexuality: Jacques Lacan and the école freudienne*, trans. J. Rose, Macmillan, London, 1982, pp 137-161.

# Theatre

## Reviews

### The Directors

I was able to see *The Directors* in its short season at the Arena Theatre, South Yarra, and I was disappointed. Remy Davison's play is about Jeffery Leigh (Andrew Maxwell), the Director of Merlin Theatre; an independent theatrical company in Melbourne and his quest to put on a play and keep his theatre. The play is somewhat autobiographical. *The Directors* is generally concerned with theatre life: the people, the corruption, the breaks and the disasters. Remy (who not only wrote but directed the play) rather than giving an insight, gives more of a bland picture with no new perspective, and ultimately one leaves the theatre feeling unsatisfied as nothing new has been experienced.

This play touches on a list of themes: racism, feminism, money and its power, homosexuality, reality and fantasy and the backwardness of Australians but instead of being implicit with the plot and challenging they seem to be pulled from nowhere and just left hanging.

In its advertisements *The Directors* is classified as a drama/comedy, and although the drama may be there (though one is tempted not to see the second act, for it would make no difference anyway), the comedy is a failure. It is wrought with clichés and desperately tries to be risqué—which it would have been, had it been written fifty years ago. Though there is one scene, which not part of the script which was brilliant; it involves George, the handyman (Paul Grimshaw) and Jeffery (Andrew Maxwell). While they are discussing why the theatre is going to ruin, part of the set (a paper window which had been taped to a board) fell away. The actors, realising this, ad-libbed to the general amusement of the audience.

On the technical side, the lighting was simple but adequate although the actors had to be set up in complete darkness and the costumes were scant, as was the set.

I appreciate that this production was amateur, but they still should aspire to a professional standard—and this was not shown in relation to acting. Many times actors either semi-dropped lines, and repeated themselves or seemed to reel off lines without any expression. Body language of the actors was a problem—for so often what they were saying with their bodies did not mirror the dialogue. In fact, there was one intimate scene where an actress stood side on, while here counterpart faced the audience and was in front of her and literally proposed to her over his shoulder!

Remy Davison may feel I am being too harsh on his production, but it is meant to be constructive criticism—not outright slander. Ultimately, I will be going to see his forthcoming production, *The Devil's Advocate* to see if this writer/director has developed.

Colin McNaughton

## Music: Lost - another link with the past

For many people, Herbert von Karajan represented the best and worst in the classical music business. The acclaim and prestige he enjoyed, and the influence he wielded, were matched only by the often bitter criticism of his style, his methods and his politics. Born in Salzburg on April 5, 1908 he was that towns most celebrated musician since Mozart. At one time, he held so many important posts in London, Vienna, Berlin and Milan that he earned the unofficial title 'Generalmusikdirektor of Europe'. Later, he became the driving force behind the annual Salzburg Festival. Clive James once likened his position there to Lee Kuan Yew's in Singapore.

The centre of his empire was the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, of which he was musical director from 1955 until shortly before his death. Under Karajan, the orchestra gained an unsurpassed reputation for the versatility and virtuosity of its playing, as well as for that characteristically rich, lustrous and refined sound which was as repulsive to some as it was seductive to others. It was the last of the great conductor/orchestra associations. There continues to be talk of a successor, but, like Muhammad Ali and the world boxing title, the conductorship of the Berlin Philharmonic will remain indissolubly linked with the name of its most publicised and controversial holder.

Karajan's personal, as opposed to musical, qualities are difficult to assess. We all know about the skiing, the sports cars, yacht and private jet, and no doubt he was every bit as wilful and autocratic as the archetypal maestro he came to represent. Yet the popular image of him as an egomaniacal monster, a kind of musical JR Ewing, seems difficult to square with the evident warmth with which many colleagues spoke of him, or with his choice of an uncompromising investigative journalist, Roger Vaughan, as his biographer. Karajan, after all, was never short of fawning admirers in the press. (Those interested in the darker side of Karajan's personality will find Vaughan's book well worth a read.) He never managed to live down his membership of the Nazi party, which he said he joined out of pure expedience.

It is as a recording artist - the pre-eminent classical recording artist of the stereo era - that most of us know Herbert von Karajan. A quick glance through the *New Penguin Record and Cassette Guide*, published in 1982 at the height of Karajan's career, will give a very adequate idea of how completely he dominated the catalogues. Luck played its part in his success on record. Karajan's accession to the directorship of the Berlin Philharmonic coincided almost exactly with the introduction of stereophonic recording techniques, which were to create a new market for recorded music within a few years. At this period of his career also (c.1960) Karajan's performances tended to be fiery and fanatically precise after the manner of his role model, Toscanini, whose own performances had shaped critical tastes for a generation. The happy conjunction of these circumstances gave Karajan a high critical reputation just when it mattered most. So far as the gramophone was concerned, he was the right man in the right place at the right time. Later, of course, Karajan's style would change,

but by then he was setting his own fashions.

The most famous of those early Berlin recordings was the Beethoven symphony cycle of 1961/2, still regarded by many as the finest of the four he recorded. It is easy to see why these performances caused such a sensation at the time. They have all the now-familiar hallmarks of Karajan's conducting: fidelity to the letter of the score, superb technical execution, great dramatic flair, a super-refined sensitivity to line and colour, and a highly evolved sense of structure and rhythmic impulse. One does miss in Karajan's Beethoven that sense, so profoundly conveyed in recordings by his predecessors Otto Klemperer and Wilhelm Furtwaengler, of interpretations steeped in a great cultural and intellectual tradition. But at least Karajan did not pretend to be something he wasn't. Other conductors have not been so wise.

Over the years, Karajan's style became still smoother, some would say more narcissistic, though never at the expense of his better qualities. His performances were often accused of being cold, but this was - usually - merely an impression created by their immense poise. His best performances had great inward passion. It was felt by some people that the terrible pain he endured in his last years from a crippling spinal condition gave a new depth to his music-making. Some of his later recordings, notably the famous 1982 Berlin Festival Mahler Ninth, seem to bear this out.

Disappointingly, Karajan was no great shakes as a Mozart conductor, even if he clearly did love Mozart, after his own fashion. To paraphrase a saying of Walter Legge's, Mozart must be played with style, not a style. Here, as was sometimes the case, Karajan's insistence on gleaming surfaces was an encumbrance. In the nineteenth-century repertory, he was in his element. His Brahms and Tchaikovsky performances, in particular, had great character as well as all the classical virtues. He knew Richard Strauss, and was one of his foremost interpreters. Above all, his Bruckner could take wing in the most breathtaking way. But if his mastery of large structures was unrivalled, he was not ashamed to lavish equal care on smaller showpieces. His recordings of such things as the Mussorgsky-Ravel *Pictures at an Exhibition* and the *Bolero* are very much classics of their kind. His twentieth-century repertory was more selective, but included, on record, acclaimed performances of works by the Second Viennese School, and of symphonies by Sibelius, Nielsen, Honneger and Shostakovich.

With the death of Herbert von Karajan, we have lost another link with an irrecoverable past. Along with the pianists Claudio Arrau, Annie Fisher, Mieczysław Horoszewski and Rudolf Serkin, he was one of the few surviving musicians to have learnt his trade in the golden age before the Second World War. His reputation will survive him. The hype and controversy that surrounded his life seem strangely unimportant now. Listening to some of his records these past few days, what strikes me is how beautiful they seem once more. I confess I thought I had tired of them. Perhaps we have all taken his excellence for granted.

## Banquet - Handspan Theatre. St Martins Theatre, South Yarra.

August 10 to September 3. Tuesday to Friday 8.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 5pm and 8pm.

*'The Third World is epitomised by cycles of oppression, its bureaucrats and politicians ignoring the needs of the people; it is about landlords and governments kicking people off their land; about the loss of self esteem; it is about men abusing women, women abusing children...'*

*Banquet* is the latest production to come from Handspan, one of the most consistent innovative theatre companies in the country. They are acclaimed internationally for their commitment to exploring multi media possibilities and the relationships to be found between people and their materials.

This production brings together some fabulously diverse skills and talents, managing to synthesise them into a common aesthetic of considerable force.

While the medium of puppetry and visual animation may appear an unlikely vehicle with which to explore the nature exploitation of the third world, in fact, there is none more appropriate. No other medium so inherently contrives itself from the relationships between the manipulators and the manipulated. Power status are operating forces in human nature that animation cannot help but reveal via metaphor.

This production of *Banquet* uses the cycle of food production in the third world and its domination by international corporations and governments to show the fundamental need of an uncorrupt system of demand and supply and how capitalism in the west fails to meet this need. It is an intangible dream for most peoples of the world that lives cannot be self-governing on even this most basic of levels.

*Banquet* is a strange assemblage of images and sounds, blending forms of eastern village parable and story telling with 'Powaqttsi' montages of development, industrialisation and ruination. There are some moments of pure theatrical magic in the show, as puppets crawl over moving piles of discarded televisions in search of food, and giant mechanised wheels take over the landscape crushing figures that fall: confusing, upsetting, destroying with a sadistic arrogance and pleasure.

The script of *Banquet* shows an obvious commitment to exploring and presenting the role and powerlessness of women in the third world and the production somehow holds a strong female element. Both woman and land are shown to be 'object'. The rape of a woman for failure to pay debt is both a resounding metaphor for the rape of the land and a horrific truth of systems of oppression.

Every Handspan production is a must, and this is no exception. My only problem with it was the 'St Martins' theatre, which is totally inappropriate for the company's work. That this company, despite its international reputation and contribution to theatre and puppetry in this country, has not secured enough funding to afford larger venues is indicative of the narrowness of funding bodies and unwillingness of companies to sponsor innovative theatre.

Rachel Griffiths





## P.I.L. – Allan Dias Speaks



LW: This is your ninth album and you reckon that there has been some transition in your music so how would you describe this album?

D: It's an album of music with influences from around the world. An album with an attitude and a stance that should make people think about what they're doing with their lives.

LW: How would you describe the attitude of the album?

D: Attitude is like expression. All we're doing is different ideas and we're encapsulating thoughts - dealing with problems in different contexts. Hopefully it's intelligent music to make people think as well as dance or veg out or do whatever they do when they listen to it.

LW: Does John Lyndon write all the music for the band?

D: We all share equally in the contributions to the album. And decision making - it's a democracy. It's easy for people to think it's the Johnny Rotten show but it's not. It might have been for a while in some of the other incarnations of PIL but this particular unit involves all four of us in the writing of the music and the control, as it were.

LW: By having John as a front man you tend to form opinions in peoples minds. Has that been debilitating for the band in its ability to express itself?

D: You get burdened with all these untruths that date back to '77 - Sex Pistols and it's just a lot of crap and misinformation that's propagated by the press and people have a large misunderstanding about the man and about the music and about this band and our music and that's why we're trying to shed some light on the subject and let people observe and make decisions for themselves.

LW: What do you think about your audience? Last time PIL toured Australia a whole lot of Bogans turned up and said 'Wow, we spent all night spitting on the band'. Do you reckon that there's problems with the audience when you get all these old Sex Pistols fans turning up being complete wankers?

D: That's been a problem for me but it's dwindled in the last few years. The audience is changing a lot. People who think spitting is hip and vogue are sadly mis-informed. They obviously weren't around in the punk days 'cause that had nothing to do with punk. That was just crap that was spread by the sensationalist press. Punk was about being an individual, about expressing

yourself, about making a stand. It wasn't about the uniform of Doc Martins and leather jackets and a mohawk that's just people who are too lazy to deal with their situation and they're a sad sight. Fortunately there's a new crop of intelligent youth out there who want and seek a stimulating music. They want to be moved they want to be uplifted and they're positive. They come to these shows wanting to be moved and hopefully they're greater part of our audience.

LW: So that's the sort of attitude you've encountered in other places? From what we see of Australian audiences you haven't got this intelligent youth. It seems to be more of a move towards a vacuumous ideology where nobo... really cares about anything.

D: That's because the legacy of punk has been misinterpreted. People have latched onto this not only with PIL but other bands that they can associate with. These people are not good to themselves, they should stay at home I think.

LW: That's a very good idea. A lot of the punk bands around here have problems with the anarchy and chaos wankers turning up.

D: That's 'cause these people are not punks, man. They don't know the first thing about what a punk is. They're just dropouts, they're like hippies who use it as an excuse to lay around and do nothing and not be productive.

LW: You would call yourself a punk band?

D: The word punk has no relevance to me anymore.

LW: Do you feel that PIL is putting itself out on a limb, you're not fitting in with more mainstream stuff?

D: You have an unusual situation here where you get an artist who rose to fame - someone like John - from an obscure point as far as commerciality is concerned. But once you sign a record contract then you're a commercial band whether you think you're not - whether you're music appeals to one person or to a million you're still a commercial band. Some people take a while to come to grips with that.

LW: It seems that nowadays if you want to get a message across you do have to compromise a bit.

D: I think it was a case of being clever. I know what I wanted to say so it was a case of being true to myself and saying it.



# Music Reviews

## The Triffids The Black Swan (White/HOT records)

An ambitious record that displays the Triffids at the height of their power. Attempting to experiment with half a dozen styles, they pull off most of them. The title suggests the West but like their earlier recordings, a sense of wide open Australia is inherent throughout.

Pushing pretension to its limits, the band is gratuitously, quietly confident as they rip off their contemporaries and themselves.

*Falling Over You* recalls the best moments of the Reeds, with its minimal combination of sequencers and guitar, while *The Spinning Top Song* is reminiscent of the first *The Triffids* album, while two or three sound a bit like the *Bad Seeds* with the grunge shaved off.

These numbers generally work but the band is at its best when pursuing their traditional sound. *Too Hot To Move*, *Too Hot To Think* and *New Year's Greetings* are inspiring and melancholic. The charming harmonies, pretty strings and guitars combine bril-

liantly with David McComb's meanderings;  
*Don't need no Eyewitness News*  
*No Seven Eleven*

*I got it made in the shade*  
*I sleep in the afternoon*  
*Leave my bed unmade*  
*Noone breathing down my neck, black coffee and a shave*

*I whistle a little of whatever AM radio plays*

Keyboardist Jill Birt sings a couple of pearls. The single *Goodbye Little Boy* is haunting, driving pop with an effective 70's guitar riff throughout. The lyrics of lost love, etc, tell the opposite side to Paul Kelly's *To Her Door*. Similar in style, this story is not quite so easily resolved;

*Why don't you leave me for good this time*  
*Do me a favour stop wasting my time*  
*I'm tired of drinking, fighting and crying*  
*Why don't you leave for good this time*

The musicianship and arrangements under Stephen Street's production are superbly understated and something of a concept album (like the Street produced Morrissey album) emerges - music that sounds best on a sunny Sunday morning when the win-

dows and doors are all open... Got the record, where's the weather?

Brendan Rae

## Tragic Mulatto 'Locos Por El Sexo' LP

Warp your mind today. This berserk record is Tragic Mulatto's third (to my knowledge) release and is fucking awesome.

Maybe a bit daring for the cautious listener, anyone who enjoys being thrown in the deep-end of music exploration should enjoy this.

Virsik

## The Exploding White Mice: Make It/Ain't it Sad 7"

Having heard the band's name often enough, but none of their music, I took this opportunity to broaden my musical horizons. What I got was two well produced hard rock songs, less manic than some of Australia's other independent bands, but with a fair bit of musical competence. Worth listening to.

Gordan 'Flash' Gavin

## Nick Kershaw The Works (MCA)

A distinct talent for blending percussion, some heavy brass punctuation and a sophisticated tempo create a few impressive numbers of Nick Kershaw's latest album. In a move toward more weighty, less poppy, music, a sombre mood sometimes overpowers good music with crazy qualities.

*Side One* offers a little light in *Wounded Knee*, a playful number with some honky tonk piano which encouraged me to flip the disc. I was well rewarded by the appealing *One World* with hints of Sting in it and *Don't Ask Me* which lays on the brass and xylophone and hops around like a rubber banana at a calypso gig.

*Burning At Both Ends* gives the album the spark it needs, with some terrific trombone from Charlie Loper. Kershaw's vocals come to the fore in the smooth ballad *Lady On The Phone*: not too sentimental and just a touch upbeat.

*The Works* is full of silly lyrics which are printed for your entertainment. For example 'The origin of the species/The date of Waterloo/Oppenheimer's shoesize and the latitude of Timbucktoo'. Just ignore them, they don't interfere with the music.

Annabel Crowe

# Sport - With the insomniacs

## Champion gunners set to spur on Liverpool!

Neil Armstrong's footprint is still on the moon and Liverpool are still the favourites to win the Championship. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Multi-million dollar bids for McMahon, Beardsley, Aldridge and Barnes have already been turned down by manager Dalglish. King Kenny clearly means business. He has already stolen highly-rated Swede Glenn Hysen from under the noses of both Spurs and Manchester United. Obviously the Big Red Machine (apologies to Cincinnati) is ready to reclaim top place astride English soccer's pedestal.

Trying to stop them will be Terry Venables and Gary Lineker. From Barcelona to Tottenham, these are the Championships of our lives. Chris Waddle has taken off to the richer, sunnier climes of Marseille. Now, in an ironic twist for English football, Venables is chasing the 'Hand of God', Diego Maradona; and they just might get him. Argentina's play-making maestro would be the perfect supplier of bullets for Lineker to fire.

Lineker's former club, Everton, were disappointing last term, despite their Cup Final appearance. With the departure of Trevor Steven to Rangers, it is difficult to see this season's story reading much differently, although the signature of Northern Ireland's bustling, young Norman Whiteside could lift them into the top eight.

## Young guns

What about Arsenal? George Graham's young guns have only the dreaded 'Championship hangover' to fear as they chase back-to-back titles. Any team which can turn up at Anfield and brazenly steal Liverpool's crown is obviously a super-confident outfit. This youthful confidence, in the form of Adams, Groves, Rocastle,

Thomas and the prolific Merson-Smith partnership, could just take the Gunners all the way once more.

Nottingham Forest manager, Brian Clough, is also at the helm of a youthful combination and, despite the loss of Neil Webb, they should once again mount a challenge, particularly in the Cup competitions.

Manchester United's youngsters, on the other hand, could struggle again this season. You can't get blood out of stone and Alex Ferguson won't be able to get a Championship out of a Cup side. Still, an injury-free Bryan Robson and an in-form Mark Hughes could make a lot of difference.

With the ugly spectre of the so-called Super League hanging over their heads, it was the smaller clubs who set the League alight last term. Can they do it again, or was it just a one night stand?

Derby have been riding high on the talents of Saunders and Shilton, one scoring whilst the other saves. Joining them mid-table will be Norwich, who have lost their dynamic skipper Mike Phelan to Manchester United's bulging chequebook. Ironic really, when one remembers their sparkling display at Old Trafford last season.

## Top flight bananas

Not far from Old Trafford, Manchester City will be keen to impress with their return to the top flight. The resumption of the Manchester derby promises to be one of the highlights of the season. City have already signed the quicksilver Clive Allen. His goalscoring talents alone should keep the inflatable bananas waving.

Also promoted were Chelsea and Crystal Palace. Like ships that pass in the night, their fortunes will vary greatly. While Chelsea chase the title, Palace will lead the charge for relegation.

Chelsea raced away with last year's Second Division title, and should acclimatise quickly to the rarefied atmosphere of the First. Unfortunately, their

eternal hooligan minority, may they rot in hell, will follow them to places like Mill Wall, where Cascarino and Sheringham kept the Lions in touch last season with goals aplenty. This term they will battle with that eternal mid-table side Coventry and the Trevor Francis-Don Howe inspired Queens Park Rangers for a spot in the top dozen.

## Rangers are motivated!

Mo Johnston, the Celtic player who cried wolf, may well be thrown to same on August 26th when that greatest of all soccer derbies, Ranger versus Celtic, takes place.

More than once, young Maurice promised the Celtic faithful that he 'wouldn't play for any other club in Britain'. The green-and-whites are rightfully outraged that Mo will now be playing against them. Hell hath no fury like the soccer fan scorned.

Rangers, under progressive manager Greame Souness, are raging-hot favourites to retain their title. Scottish internationals McCoist and Johnston look as good as any strike-force in Britain, while new boy Steven should slot in nicely alongside Butcher, Stevens and Gough.

Aberdeen and Celtic should present the biggest challenge to the men from Ibrox, while Dundee United are almost due for another good season. Last year's surprise packet, Hibernian, will have to rely on Europe for any success this time round.

Celtic have brought Paul Elliott back from Italy, where he enjoyed some fine seasons with Pisa, and have also picked up Polish international Dariusz Driekanowski. Manager Billy McNeill is obviously keen to leave Mo Johnston regretting his decision to join the arch-enemy.

A word on West Ham, who have sadly broken with tradition by sacking manager John Lyall. We fear they will be punished for not giving Billy Bonds the job, by floundering in the Second Division, despite the hopes of new manager Lou Macari.

Those Aberdeen sides which marched through Europe in the early '80s may be gone, but you can bet that everyone at Pittodrie is ready to taste success again. Watch out for a big season from the irrepressible Charlie Nicholas.

Scotland, unlike England, is still in Europe (be quiet and bear with me Geography students!) and the Rangers-Bayers Munich tie is a mouth-watering prospect indeed. Can the 'Gers overcome Scotland's usual reluctance to defeat German opposition? Only time will tell.

In 1979, then manager Terry Venables used a hypnotist to lift Crystal Palace back into the top flight. It will take more than a hypnotist to keep them there in 1989. We fear that their team of the Nineties will simulate 'The Team of the Eighties' and languish in the Second Division.

Joining them in the struggle to stay afloat in the First Division ocean will be Southampton, Luton, Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday and annual escape-artists Charlton, whose return to the Valley might not be enough to save them.

Also set to struggle are tiny, uncomplicated Wimbledon. The High Priest of Plough Lane, toughman Vinny Jones, has departed, whilst the bustling John Fashanu may also be on his way. Could this be the end of the Wombles dream?

## Barnstorming Wolves

Chasing promotion from Division Two will be Watford, Leeds United, Blackburn and the barnstorming Wolverhampton Wanderers. No man is an island, but Steve Bull is almost a football team. The 24-year-old goal machine is a lay down misere to score at least 30 goals this season. His partnership with Andy Mutch could proper Wolves back into the First Division.

Fulham and Preston, full of tradition, pride and history, should lead the way in Division Three whilst the two Bristol's could peak in the Cups, particularly the Sherpa Van Trophy. Goodluck to them all.



## Hot Air

Dear Editors,

I am sure that you will agree that when enough is enough, it is often more than enough! I of course say this in respect to your last editions' plethora of letters pertaining to voluntary student unionism. It was interesting to note that all were products of Liberal Club members who espouse the wondrous theories of 'freedom of choice'.

My views are well known, and I am sure that people will say and write enough this edition not to go over old ground, but I would like to point out why the words of the Liberal Club are really just so much hot air.

In a society where we interact on an everyday basis, where all students use the Union Services whenever they are on campus, it is startling that anyone would suggest that we should have full 'freedom to choose'. We as a group, not just individuals as Mr Zanatta apparently calls himself, must use our collective weight, and sometimes our collective power and economic power, to achieve benefits that we can all share in.

In the instance of the Student Amenities Fee split between the Union, MAS and Sports and Rec, we pool our money collectively to create an economic bargaining power that cannot be matched by individuals except for the chosen few. None of could afford to pay for any of the services currently provided on our own. This is not mere rhetoric in the Zanattasque tone; it is reality.

The best example I can use is that of the Student Employment Office, funded by MAS. In 1988 it provided 17,500 jobs to students. It cost MAS over \$150,000 to provide the service. Could anyone pay that much for a job? No. But together we can, and together we should!

My view is that voluntary student unionism will not serve anyone. It is as much a bag of rhetoric as anything we will hear this year, because, let's face it: together we are strong and well serviced, well represented and well protected, on our own . . . well, we wouldn't even have Lot's Wife to write into, would we?

Tim Woods  
Law III

## The Public Service; Your Friends

Dear Editors,

I found John Glazebrook's description of how public servants deal with their clients (Lot's Wife, July 14) familiar in form if not in content. In the department in which I work a similar process of 'bureaucratic reductionism' is at work in the wake of the 'second tier' wages/productivity agreement and the general squeeze on the public sector.

However, I see public servants becoming agents of oppression through expediency imposed from above as well as from their own intentional malice. For example, it has long been an

un-official policy to not enforce regulations regarding payment of clients medical bills. In my time there, I have seen thousands of dollars worth of medical accounts paid simply because there were too many to deal with through the official channels (incidentally, the main beneficiaries of this unofficial policy were private hospitals). But not so any longer. Now the rules are actually enforced. Ultimately, the real losers are the patients because until now they could be assured of their accounts being paid, no questions asked, and therefore avoid being hassled by hospital companies, ambulance companies, etc.

Despite this, attending specialists' fees, which are of course outrageous, are still paid automatically. This particular

'public servants'. The latter, as we all know, can do little better than follow orders.

Name withheld by request.

## Vitale - a spoilt kid

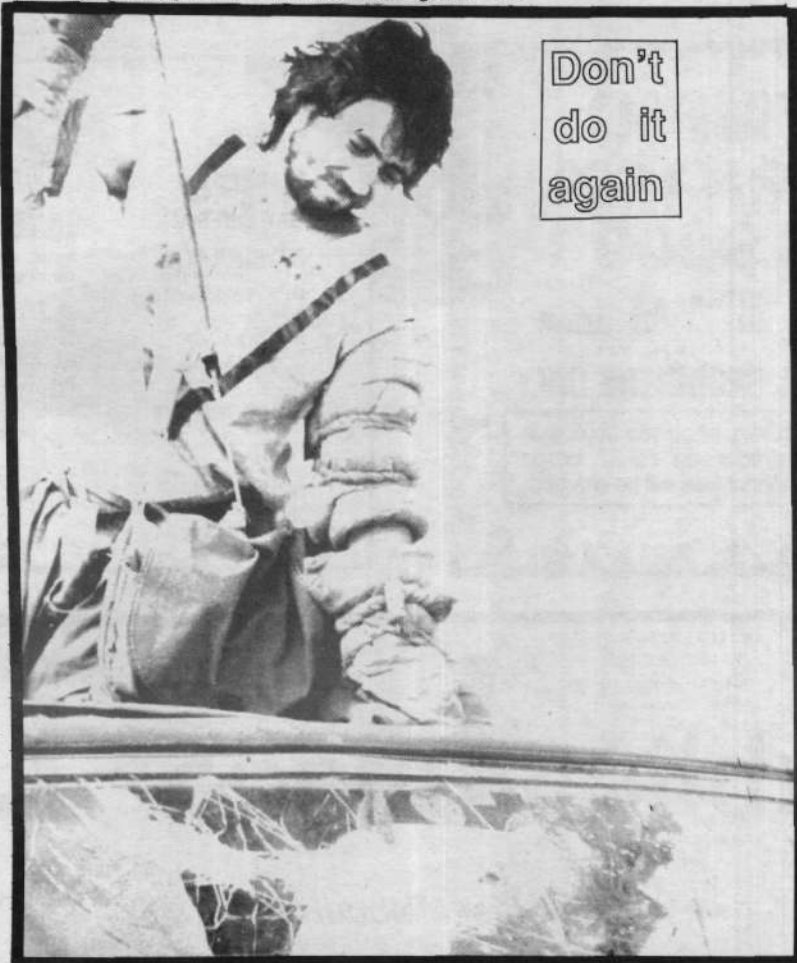
Dear Editors,

My eyes deceive me! Peter Vitale refers to MAS representatives as careerists! (Lot's Wife August 9). I assume that he means this as a compliment, since he too has been elected to hold such a position.

While we're on the subject, democracy tends to be a bit of an institution in the Western world. May I point out, Mr Vitale, that it does not necessarily involve compulsory voting. Australia happens to be one of the only countries in the world where its citizens are obliged to vote.

distributed. And it is through this representation that students are given a voice on the various committees which make critical decisions to affect students lives. This representation can only be effective if it is democratically elected, and is supported by all students, through universal membership of MAS. To elect a body of representation and then withdraw support because you don't happen to hold the same political views as the majority of the voting population (as you are proposing to by opposing universal membership) is analogous to a little kid taking a bat and ball and leaving the cricket game!

Kate Hawkins  
Sci/Law III



Don't  
do it  
again

unionism, they are saying to students 'we want your votes and your money, but we won't give you our love'. They expect us to support them but offer nothing in return. They envisage a union run on a profit basis, where they can rot it for all it is worth. The image of humanity they must have is, to a Christian, truly frightening. In speaking of freedom of choice they really mean freedom from thought. By leaving the decisions of how student unions should be run on the altar of market forces, they are saying they have no answer to the problems of students, no view on the problems of our planet. Rather, they say give the students a choice and we will lead them over the free market cliff, like the Gademine Swine.

When John Howard spoke at Monash, he mentioned the importance of Judeo-Christian ethic. The question I ask Vitale and Zanatta is: do you love your neighbours, will you help them and share your wealth, or will you watch them starve and say that is good, it means the free market is working?

The question I ask you good people is can you trust such men who have no vision of justice and fairness, nor any desire to help others? I feel sorry for them but, as Jesus commands us, I still love them! They do not know what they are doing.

Francis Walsh  
Arts/Law III

## Mumco Gang Brawl

Dear Eds,

I write to express my response, nay disgust, in regards the article by dear x-friend Madeline Garlick. 'Action: An Angry Young Man', in the last edition of your esteemed paper.

I feel morally impelled to defend the character of Action from such vindictive aspirations as cast upon him by Madeline, and society at large. He is branded a hoodlum and troublemaker, yet the article failed adequately to explain why. Action is an angry young man due to the brutal, alienating social and economic matrix in which he finds himself, poverty stricken, insulted and alone on the West Side of Manhattan in the last 1950s. It is his quest for self-worth and identity that leads him to join the Jets, and hence trouble.

'You make this world lousy': Doc 'That's the way we found it, Doc!': Action

It is such heartless aspirations upon his character that perpetuate the vicious cycle of alienation and violence, and it is *West Side Story* that seeks to explain this conundrum, and it stands as a testament to a will to understand without casting blame.

While on the warpath of irresponsible aspiration, I feel personally obliged to protect himself. It is totally irrelevant that every slur cast upon my character is true, because truth is no defence to libel.

Truth lies in the eye of the beholder, beauty lies in the eye of the beholder, and so will a very large cafe folk if you don't refrain from telling people I am like my dearest x-friend Madeline.

Peace & Love & Understanding  
Joe Conellan.

## To the Gods of Profit . . .

Dear Students,

As Christ instructed the apostles to cast their nets into the sea, and all were surprised by the enormity of the catch, so we should all cast our nets together. It was only through hauling in their nets together that the great load could be realised. As will be recalled, Our Lord did not say to each apostle 'put in your individual net and see what you can get for yourself', nor did he say to others 'that enormous catch belongs to James and John - don't give them a hand and likewise don't ask for a share'.

While non-Christians such as Vitale and Zanatta preach the virtues of individuality, it would be worthwhile for us to contemplate their beliefs in the light of the Christian Witness. By advocating voluntary student

department hires the same specialists. You may remember they went on 'strike' recently for even more money, which sure as eggs they got.

The department was also remarkably sluggish in picking up the fact it was financing private nursing homes which practiced such 'treatment' as beating patients and tying them to their beds. In addition, patient's welfare cheques are in effect paid directly to the nursing home, not the patient.

We can conclude from this that the current 'tightening of the public purse' does not, unfortunately, extend to the real beneficiaries of the state, namely private entrepreneurs. However, it should be kept in mind that 'the state' is not synonymous with

Nations such as the US, Canada and the UK do not have this type of system, and yet they are regarded as being 'democratic'. Your argument, that MAS elections are 'unrepresentative', is therefore somewhat illusory.

If people choose not to vote, then they choose to accept the decision of the majority who do! While every student is given the opportunity to vote and to participate in elections, then they are involved in a democratic system, and are free to endeavour to gain the type of representation they desire.

It is through this representation of students fairly elected to MAS that the only means for the majority of the student body to express their desires as to the way their \$282 amenities fee is



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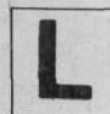
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# Creative Writing

## Thomas's Travels: Part Two

Yes, now this is all well and good, but how did this travelling salesman, this professor of Gravelology, become this superior of the travellers world, this immortal figure in the lives of all who knew him. Like I said, I have a theory. It all began slowly, the way most things, barring Nuclear Holocausts and avalanches, usually do. Thomas' first knowledge was gleaned through personal experience, through trial and error. But after so many years of travel, Thomas began to change. His body's physical shape changed, so as to fit more easily into the contours of a bus, train or airplane seat. His palate and stomach mutated so as to find airline, railway and even bus station food tasty and nourishing. The very vibes and ultra sensitive waves his body sent out also changed, so as to appeal more to the stewards, bus conductors, customs officers and even the licensed bartenders known as taxi drivers. So that when these pupils of the University of Fusion saw Thomas, when they sensed him, when their subconsciously picked up his vibes and realised these young Adolf Hitlers believed that here was a person on their side. A person whose life they should try and make easier, instead of harder. This extraordinary change in Thomas' genetic makeup was, I believe was, I believe, caused by his desire to travel more easily, with less hassles, delays, bureaucracy and inconveniences. All in all, a remarkable man with a remarkable story.

Yet there is more to tell, for our story ends not here and the end, when it does come, is a sad one. However, let us deviate for one small, but vital moment. Thomas was not a stupid man, for it would indeed have taken a stupid man not to notice these changes in him, but he shared his suspicions with his close friend, a German named Professor Heiniken Hegel Hergenslothensteinmekausenhosen. The Professor began to investigate these changes in his friend, becoming more and more intrigued as time passed. The Professor's interest in Thomas increased until it reached the levels of what can only be termed an obsession, centered on Thomas, the travelling Gravel salesman, and his remarkable gift for travel. Yet Professor Heiniken Hergenslothensteinmekausenhosen could not keep even the results of his most preliminary investigations to himself. He spoke first to one colleague, then another, then another. News of his find spread like wildfire. Many scoffed at the concepts and revolutionary ideas he was raising. Yet, what is even more bizarre, is the strange new following which sprang up, with the Professor at its head.

The movement, or religion, as they preferred to be called, was known as Thomasanityism. It was comprised of a small but dedicated bunch of people who dedicated their lives to the worship and attempted emulation of their God and Savior. Perhaps even more bizarre was the mixture of science into this religion, for it also involved the scientific study of Thomas' physical and genetic changes, with the dream of one day being able to induce these changes into normal human beings, via such methods as genetic engineering. Thomas, with a desire to quench their hero-worship of him, submitted to the test and experiments. It was, he told them, because his modesty objected to such royal treatment, yet Thomas himself was also more than a little curious. He was, sadly, never to learn the results of the studies. Not would anyone, for the whole project would shortly be suspended, never to be taken up again. But more of that in its proper place.

Thomas was on a routine flight from LA to Melbourne, a nonstop eighteen hour jaunt which he quite enjoyed, but which had been known to drive lesser men to take their own lives. It was early in the flight, only about two hours had passed since lift-off, (merely an eye blink for Thomas) when Thomas decided to visit the bathroom. He left his seat, smiling smugly, and walked towards the bathroom in a carefree way, similar to how you or I might stroll along the beach. Naturally enough there was no queue when he reached his destination (there never was), and Thomas selected a cubicle and stepped in. Closing the folding door behind him, Thomas slid the bolt, thereby simultaneously locking the cubicle and flooding it in harsh, artificial light. Having no need to freshen up (Thomas had attained a state of perpetual freshness), Thomas proceeded to empty his bladder and wash his hands. Of course, the paper towel supply had not run out, nor was there vomit, say on otherwise, in the sink. The trouble began, however, when Thomas went to unlock the door and discovered it jammed.

Thomas tried the door again, with the same result. And again. And again. And again. Sweat began to appear on Thomas' forehead and upper lip. Very uncharacteristic crescent shaped stains began to appear under his armpits. Thomas beat his fists uselessly against the door - no luck. He began to scream but his voice merely echoed uselessly in the seamy confines of his prison. Exasperated, Thomas sat dejectedly on the toilet, tears of rage and frustration forcing their way through his clenched eyelids. Thomas knew that the likelihood of a crew member discovering his predicament was slim. Unless a passenger happened to notice that cubicle 4 was constantly engaged. Thomas settled down to wait.

Luckily Thomas was a man used to dealing with time in terms of hours rather than minutes, and the remaining time passed quite quickly for him. Soon he felt the plane touch down at Melbourne airport and, with a relieved sigh, began to look forward to his liberation. Thomas waited. And waited. And waited. Soon however, impatience overtook him, leading to a renewed frenzy of screaming and fistbeating. But to no avail. No-one came. Thomas began to get seriously worried. He examined the facts, considered panicking as an option, decided in favor of it and began to do so with great enthusiasm.

A FEW DAYS LATER, Thomas was in real trouble. He could not understand why no-one had come to his rescue. Since his arrival in Melbourne, the plane had taken off and landed several times. There should have been cleaners. There should have been checks. There should have been cleaners. There should have been someone. Thomas had plenty of water to drink, but he was now in the very real danger of starving to death. A long, drawn out end, imprisoned in a toilet cubicle...

A FEW MONTHS LATER Barely conscious, his clothes hanging on his feeble, skeletal figure, Thomas slouched on the toilet in a state close to death. He now knew that no-one was going to rescue him. He had accepted the fact that he was doomed to die in this hell-hole of a toilet cubicle. It was only a matter of time, something Thomas had always been a master of, but which now would be the very force that would bring about his downfall. The clock ticked on...

Jamie Silver



# Creative Writing

## An Initiation

'I was only delivering a pizza. Hey, I mean I hardly knew the guys! I knocked at the door ...

'Oh ... it's you ... how are you Simon?'

'Andrew ...'

'Yeah, Andrew. So you got our food. Come in, have a bite yourself.'

'Nah, forget the boss, come and meet some of the guys.'

One hour later, I felt a little different; the conversation shot from wall to wall ..

'What's the best thing in life?'

'Melancholy creation.'

'Money.'

'The things you can do with it.'

'Melancholy creation.'

'Peace.'

'Yeah sure!'

'Winning.'

'Not having to win.'

'Ahh!'

'Sex!'

'Haa ha ha.'

'Football.'

'Wanking.'

'A pair!'

'Adrenalin.'

'A novel is born.'

'A novel what?'

'Experience!'

'Experience the feeling ...'

'Feeling kind of hip, I saddled up to her, put on my best forlorn divorcee impersonation and asked her if I could dampen her silicon padded shoulder with a few drops of my soul's elixer. She said she was celibate.

Not because of aids or indeed owing to my banal plea for skin friction but simply because sex would not be fashionable until spring. Her German Shepherd raised one eyebrow, sniffed, then urinated on my left Reebok.'

'The feeling of Norsca!'

'Pass the mouli.'

'Ta'

Martin Hourigan

Like a one-armed drummer,  
My heart skips a beat.  
Buried in the sea of sublime images,  
I sit motionlessly at my lonely cluttered desk,  
Thinking thoughts in my mind:  
Thoughts that will not end.  
Staring at the blank flat walls,  
That mirror the reflections of the cold  
Yellow icy-cold winters sun's sunlight.  
So that they are not white but yellow,  
Yellow like urine

Like piss  
Stinking piss.  
Mimicking the sublime images,  
That I was talking about earlier.  
The smelly walls  
I belt them -  
Listening to the plaster  
Crack.

It's the fact Jack  
I'm packin' my pack  
Fittin' the track  
No commin' back.

I want to fly with the one-winged ravens,  
Round, round, round.

Spinning in circles,  
Just circling and spinning.

I want to leave this god-less world,  
This world of straw.

So I can find myself,  
On my own.

Away from you, And all the shit you mean to  
Me.

A caring voice,  
Lee Flanagan

## A Comment on Existence

'Let us assume the outside world exists,' 'Bullshit man! Of course it exists; you're talking to me aren't you? You are the outside world for me. Okay, maybe you don't exist. I just perceive you, and that's what the outside world is. Well that could be true. It is possible. But you are still the outside world; I still see you that way. The outside world therefore does exist. It doesn't have to exist for you - not if you don't want it to.'

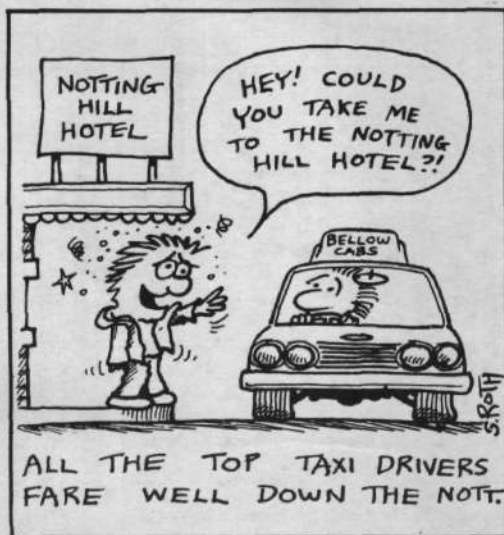
Katrina Roberts



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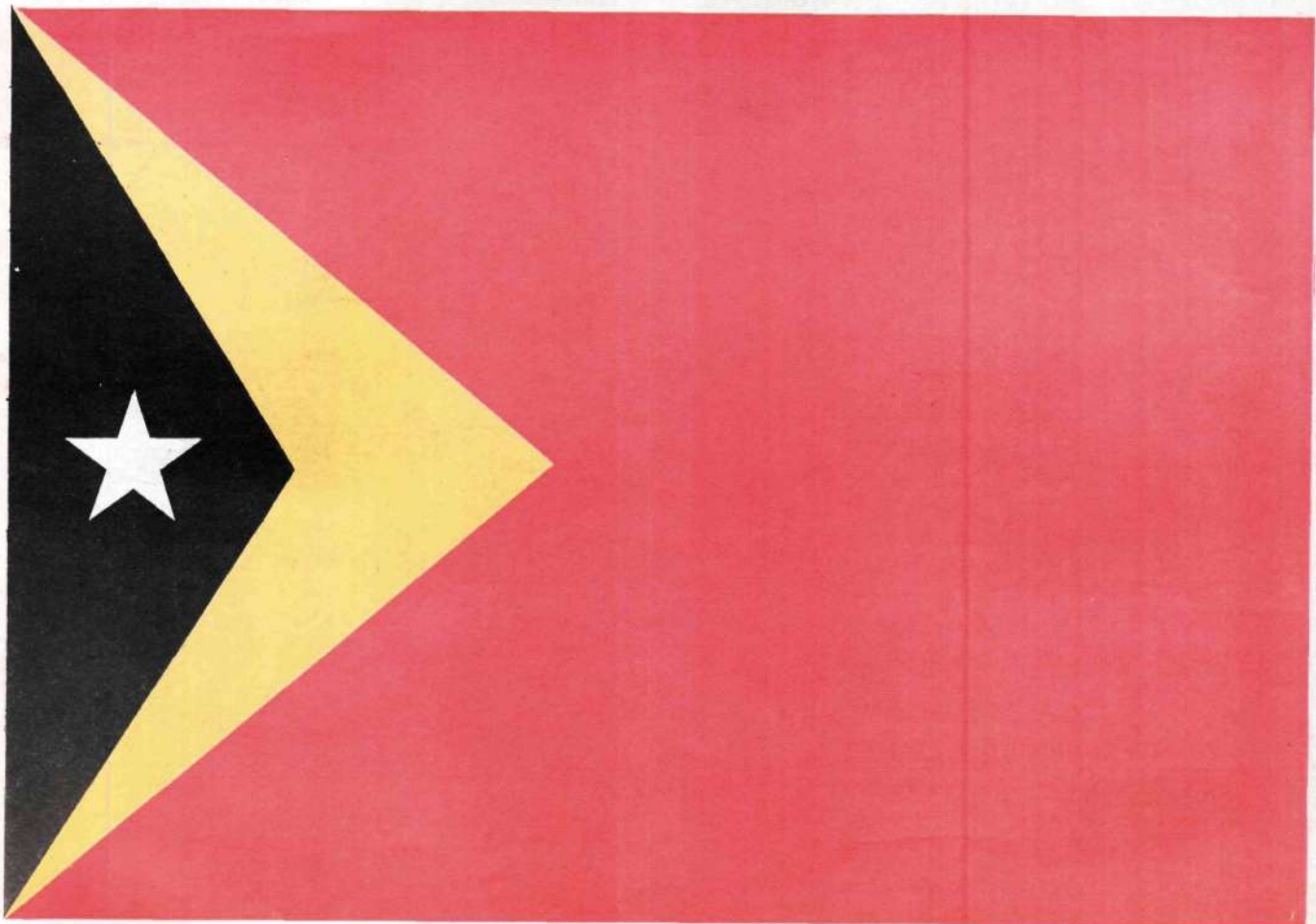


# STOP AUSTRALIAN MILITARY AID TO INDONESIA

**E**ast Timor lies 200 miles to the North of Australia, yet most Australians wouldn't even know it exists. Fourteen Years ago Indonesia Invaded East Timor which had just been liberated from 400 years of Portugese colonisation. At the time the Australian government said, and did, nothing to help the East Timorese keep their short-lived independence. In fact, Australia helped the Indonesians invade East Timor by giving military aid to Indonesia. Furthermore, even though the Indonesians killed four Australian journalists in East Timor, the Australian media, which is regularly sent information about what is happening in East Timor, refuses to report the genocide of the East Timorese.

Australia still gives military aid to Indonesia, in fact Indonesia is second only to Papua New Guinea in the amount of military aid it receives from Australia. In 1986 Australia gave over \$8million in military aid to Indonesia. In the life of the present government Australia has recognised the Indonesian regime in East Timor, thus giving it legitimacy. Meanwhile Fretilin, the most popular pro-independence group in East Timor before the Indonesian invasion, continues to fight a guerilla war and use diplomatic means to gain the independence of East Timor. Australia's military and diplomatic support of the Indonesians is contributing to the continued occupation of East Timor by the Indonesians and as such Australia, and the Australian Government, are complicit in the invasion and continued occupation of East Timor and the genocide of the East Timorese being carried out by Indonesia.

Australia doesn't give aid to countries like South Africa, why do we aid Indonesia which invaded one of our closest neighbours?



## SUPPORT EAST TIMOR'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE