



# Editorial

Well here we are, after a marathon stint of layout and production of epic proportions, which saw student editors from all around Melbourne squashed into the limited facilities of the very humble *Lot's Wife* offices. Not surprisingly, the age old adage of "too many cooks spoil the broth" was proven over and over again as we fumbled around under one another's feet. As the sun rose, the final items came together.

All in all this was a very ambitious project, and in the middle of the eternal and tedious meetings it seemed like this would never happen. Meetings, meetings and more meetings that never seemed to end or eventuate into something constructive. Trying to have a meeting with eleven editors is a nightmare !!! And that's if we all turned up. Editors are used to telling people what to do, not being told. Ego's clashed, and the deadline drew closer. Somehow, though, this is finally here, and as the last few minutes ticked away in a frantic rush to get the bloody thing to the printers we really felt the presence of the ghosts of all the Melbourne people (check the contributors list!!!). Some laid out, some lazed out and some were noticed by their absence. Anyway, petty grievances aside here it is! Read it, think about it, compare it to your usual paper, but most of all enjoy. At least then our sanity will have been spent on something worthwhile.

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And a big thanks to Denise Ogle for all the work she's about to do.



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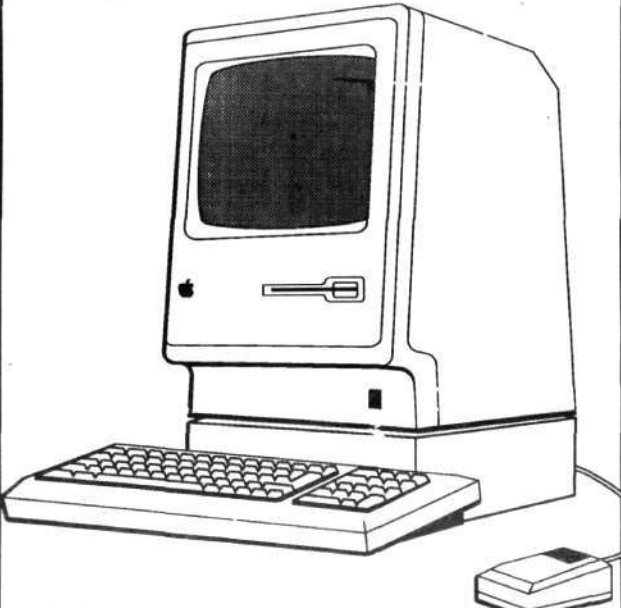
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# DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH

Dear Mr President,

I would like to write you this letter with regard to the political situation, the most dramatic and unsolvable conflict of Afghanistan. It is not only I who would like to see millions of others and stability in my native country Afghanistan. There are millions of others who want to see peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Afghans in general were taught to believe that when the Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan, the Kabul regime would be overthrown within a week, and the Mujahideen provisional Government would replace the Kabul Communist Government, Afghan Refugees from all over the world would be able to return to their homeland, Afghanistan.

After the 15th February, 1989, most refugees in Pakistan and Iran prepared themselves to cross the border into their homeland within a day or two. However, the hopes of these and other Afghan Refugees has died once again. The Kabul Communist regime was not overthrown after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. Peace did not come to Afghanistan. Afghan refugees could not return to their homeland.

The killing, torturing, racketing, bombarding, of the Afghan people has continued, if not with more, intensity.

•The Resistance Movements.

The Afghan nation and the international community has been waiting for the last decade for the Afghan Mujahideen warring factions come to an agreement amongst themselves and bring peace to the Afghan people. This could be by political or any other peaceful means. But up to this day, peace has not come to Afghanistan. These factions have failed to demonstrate the spirit of reconciliation beyond a compromise agreement.

One cannot deny that there has not been one step taken by one of these factions to prevent the



**Abdul Khaliq Fazel writes an open letter to the President of the United States suggesting the traditional Afghan way to resolve conflict, a Jerga (conference) may be the only means to finish Afghanistan's never-ending war - a battle which has left 29 of Abdul's relatives dead and 300 seeking refuge in neighboring countries.**

spreading of civil war in Afghanistan. It does worry that Afghan nation that the warring factions are most bitterly divided than ever before.

The nine-month old government of the Afghan Mujahideen hovered on the brink of political bankruptcy, because from the beginning of the establishment of this government, the Mujahideen factions produced no compromise on the fundamental issues which stand in

the way of political settlement. As this has been very crucial to the Afghan nation in general, by finding no ways to prevent a widespread bloodbath in Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal from that country.

I would like to express some very pertinent questions in this paper....How many Afghans have been killed from both sides in the unplanned and unorganized attack on the city of Jalalabad in March 1989? How much in cost and

wealth and money has been lost in terms of destruction of that city? What was the result of it and what did we benefit from it? In conclusion, the pro-Soviet Najibullah government got the upper hand, the Kabul and Moscow propaganda machine was going like a speeding car. The Soviets and their puppet government in Kabul have built up its image of superiority over Mujahideen in the result of the Jalalabad attack.

One cannot deny that once a war, like the Jalalabad one, is lost, of course the moral of the fighters of losing side becomes low.

Attacks on the major cities like Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and so on means the loss of more civilians. The government of Najibullah may be losing 10 people, the Mujahideen may be losing 10 to 15 Mujahids, but the loss of the civilians may reach into the hundreds. These losses of civilians and Mujahideens of the innocent Afghan troops, those who are taken by force to join the Kabul military force, has made the Afghan people openly condemn the government of the United States and the Soviet Union. People are saying it is now the government of the United States of America who is holding the key to Afghan peace.

Of course, the Kremlin leadership enjoys these kinds of statements made by the Afghan people. Nevertheless, the political, financial and moral support of the American people and the American government to the Afghan Mujahideen and the Afghan refugees within the last ten years is unaccountable and it has been appreciated by the Afghan people. But now, we Afghans do not want to lose the name of bravery that we have won, the name that in World History only the Afghan nation has defeated the Red Army of the Soviet Union. This name of bravery has been won by the deaths of one and a half million men, women and children and of the loss of our country, which is now totally destroyed and the creation of five million of our people as refugees and the suffering they have endured.

Now the Afghan people are impatiently waiting and hoping for agreement on a national ceasefire, on interim power-sharing arrangements between the warring factions and the establishment of an electoral council to oversee the first free Afghanistan elections for more than two decades.



Before it becomes difficult for all parties to prevent some kind of new civil war and a widespread blood-bath in Afghanistan; before it becomes impossible to overthrow the Communist regime out of Afghanistan; and before the Communists nail themselves permanently to the power holder of Afghanistan: Let us not wait and sleep for hopes. Let us take the courageous steps of peace and stability.

Let us open a dialogue, not with the heads of the Khalq and Percham Party, but with other interested people of the Kabul regime, non-party members of the Government. If it does not bring peace to the surface, it could at least open an avenue for peace and stability. Before the Soviet Union and other countries in the world blame the United States for not bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan, the government of the United States should take this courageous step of introducing the new, reasonable and workable way of solution to the Afghan conflict. I am sure that there will be people around the world whom will have different points of view from my own, but nevertheless one will ask how long that war in Afghanistan should go on? To bring an answer to this question, I would like to put to you, Mr President, my suggestion for a solution to the Afghan conflict. Please let me express my view in the following lines....

The Afghan people for centuries have solved their conflicts through a conference. This conference could be called in the Afghan term as (Jerga). Conference can bring everyone face to face and bring all the matters being put one the table. The conference (Jerga) of the Afghan people could work out the way for the future government in Afghanistan. To do this one has to be realistic and visible, as this has been an understandable concern of every free Afghanistan loving person.

I would like to ask the government of the United States to please use your authority to work for a peace settlement conference (Jerga) to be either held in Islamabad, under the security of the Pakistan government or in one of the West European countries. The conference (Jerga) should be fully sponsored by the U.S. Government and under the supervision of the United Nations.

Excluding any factions from the power-sharing or interim coalition government may lead to the rehabilitation of that faction. To prevent a full-scale war, I therefore suggest the inclusion of all factions in the peace talks. I should openly say this means the inclusion of the present Afghan Communist government, however, only on the condition that the barbaric and tyrannic leaders of this government, who were directly responsible for the massacre and killing of more than one million Afghans during their

eleven years in power, would be excluded - once an elected democratic government is swept to power then within one year those people should be brought to justice. I believe the rank and file of Khalq and Percham factions should be given a chance to lay down their weapons and become productive members of free and democratic Afghanistan.

I do not believe it is so simple to achieve a peace settlement, without the participation of the United States and the Soviet Union - and there has been an end to Soviet arms shipments to the Kabul regime and the United States to the Mujahideen. The

Parliaments.

5. All Afghan Military Generals now living in exile.

6. Some very well known Afghan Diplomats and politicians.

7. Only two representatives of the Kabul Government, excluding those barbaric leaders of the Khalq and Percham factions who were directly responsible for the massacre of more than one and a half million Afghans during the last 10 years in power.

8. Other attending members to the conference should be as observers. These are the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, West Germany, Britain, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Iran,

stand in the election for a Parliament and Senate.

15. The elected provisional government should be fully assisted by all the other attending members to the conference with regard to the refugee problem, economical, social and political development of the country.

16. The elected provisional Government should agree to establish a commission of inquiry to look into the crime and distraction committed by the leaders of Khalq and Percham factions, including those people who have assassinated various Mujahideen commanders and intellectuals inside and outside of

Generals of the Afghan governments, King Zaher Shah and President Daud.

This meeting should be asked to research a peaceful plan for bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan.

All these well known ex-Ministers and politicians of the ex-governments are experienced and expert on the thinking of the Afghan people. These people are respected by the Afghans and have a good background in the Afghan community. These Afghans, ex-diplomats and politicians know the Islamic structures, the culture, the wishes and the thinking of the Afghan people. They also have the knowledge of the international political, economic and social environment. Each of these people has backing from the people of their tribes, villages and cities. Therefore, the research and the plan they work out for the peace and stability of Afghanistan would be welcomed by the overwhelming majority of the Afghan people and would be suitable to the international community.

Mr President, I am hoping that one of the above plans is liked by you. My first wish in this life is peace and stability in Afghanistan, as is the wish of most Afghan people. During the past eleven years I have lost twenty-nine members of my family in the fighting and all of them have been killed by the Communist regime. More than three hundred of my close relatives are now living as refugees in Pakistan, Iran and other countries - as is the case with other Afghan families. Therefore, I do not want to see more members of my family and other Afghans killed, imprisoned or refugeeed in other countries. We Afghans want peace, stability and once again a peaceful and free Afghanistan. So please help us to achieve this goal, which we believe is our right.

We will be waiting for your action and reply to this letter.

Yours faithfully,  
Abdul Khaliq Fazel B.A.,  
M.A. (Pre) Political Science  
University of Melbourne.

### Afghanistan - the fighting zones



settlement would also have to bring an end to any foreign intervention in Afghanistan. It is clear that in every peace settlement there has to be indication of willingness to reach compromise agreement. To achieve that, there has to be a pre-plan discussed with various factions. To my understanding and knowledge the following peace plan would be suitable for every faction directly involved with Afghanistan peace at the present time and if there is a council or conference going to be organised for peace, then the following parties should take part in it. Without these parties, any plan would not be workable.

Participants to the Conference should be:

1. Seven leaders of the Mujahideen factions and one General Commander of Mujahideen from each Province of Afghanistan.

2. Two leaders of the Iranian based Shia Mujahideen.

3. Ex King Zahir Shah.

4. All ex Afghan Ministers now living outside of Afghanistan, including leaders of the ex Afghan Senate and

Pakistan, Canada, India, Australia and the representative of the United Nations.

9. This conference should be given the chance to establish the first Afghan Provisional Government, its President, Prime Minister and Cabinet.

10. The President, Prime Minister and the ministers should all be elected in the conference and only the Afghan members should have the right to vote.

11. Those who are voted to the portfolio should be automatically accepted to their positions as elected Government members.

12. Those attending members of the Conference who oppose the standing of other members should be criticized by the observer members of the conference.

13. This elected provisional Afghan Government should be automatically recognised by the attending observer countries.

14. The elected provisional Afghan Government should only be elected for one year and during that one year, this government should promise to prepare the general election in a peaceful environment in Afghanistan and give all factions the chance to

Afghanistan.

If the above plan seems difficult to organize, then my second peace plan for Afghanistan conflict would be that the Government of the United States of America should hold a meeting of the following Afghan people:

All ex-ministers and Military



# UNA Youth

United Nations — La Trobe University

Probably more than any other international organisation, the work carried out by the United Nations often goes unnoticed in the Western world. News items in daily papers in the last week illustrate some of this work.

**IRAN** — United Nations relief workers in Iran provide essential aid and coordination in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.

**ETHIOPIA** — The Ethiopian government agrees to Eritrean and Tigrean rebels' requests for United Nations observers at vital talks to be held in the near future.

**POPULATION** — Research by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has indicated that the world's population in 2025 will reach 8.5 billion people, up from 5.3 billion today.

Despite its lack of recognition, the United Nations has often been a ground breaker in global opinion-making.

**ENVIRONMENT** — A great idea which has taken two decades to catch on. World Environment Day is observed annually on June 5 to commemorate the anniversary of the opening day of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, and attended by 113 nations.

Twenty years ahead of its time, the conference's Action Plan outlined 109 recommendations for measures to be taken by governments and international organisation to protect life, control contamination from man-made pollutants, and improve cities and other human settlements.

Based on recommendations of the conference, the UN General Assembly set up the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Environmental Coordination Board, and a voluntary United Nations Environment Fund. UNEP in particular has led the world in environmental protection, law, and research since 1973, inventing the concept of 'sustainable growth' along the way.

**THE UN WORKS** — The fact that the UN has not solved the world's environmental problems (or stopped all its conflicts, all its human rights abuses, and so forth) raises an important point. The United Nations is not a world government, nor is it a paper tiger. It is a little of both. Almost all of the world's countries have representatives at the UN, yet none of them has to abide by what the UN decides. Very often the United Nations creates a climate in which change is possible, rather than change itself.

**UNAA** — The United Nations Association of Australia is one of scores of UN Associations throughout the world, which have their headquarters (World Federation of United Nations Associations/ WFUNA) in Geneva.

Here in Victoria, the UNAA in association with VCAB, is currently developing materials for the VCE International Studies course. We are also developing a UN Clubs in schools program, and many schools are eagerly awaiting the imminent publication of the UN Clubs Handbook.

Universities are also an obvious place for

UN Clubs, which would hold debates, present speakers and films, and whatever else you want. Let us know.

At the UNAA's annual State Youth Conference and National Youth Conference, hundreds of students have the opportunity to participate in mock General Assembly debates on international issues, take part in discussions and workshops, and hear from nationally recognised experts on such topics as peace, human rights, diplomacy, disarmament, development and aid, the environment, to name but a few.

Through the annual Media Peace Awards, the UNAA gives special recognition to worthwhile peace promotion, human rights problems, or conflict resolution stories and programs in all sections of the media; print, radio and television. The UNAA Media Peace Awards are becoming increasingly prestigious, with the possibility of an ABC telecast this year.

Future projects include an 'International Issues' radio program on public radio, and an annual Global Environment Conference.

If you are interested in 'the big picture'; Human Rights, Peace, Education, Disarmament, International Diplomacy, the Status of Women, the Environment, World Health, Development, and more, call the United Nations Association.

Linda Gelme (UNAA office) on 482 3655, fax 481 7963; Daniel Cooper (UNA-Youth) on 528 6356, fax 584 6356; Lisa Burford (La Trobe Uni) on 479 2057, fax 478 1591.

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# STUDENT ACTIVISTS:

## *Rest In Peace?*

Yiota Kontomichalos — La Trobe University

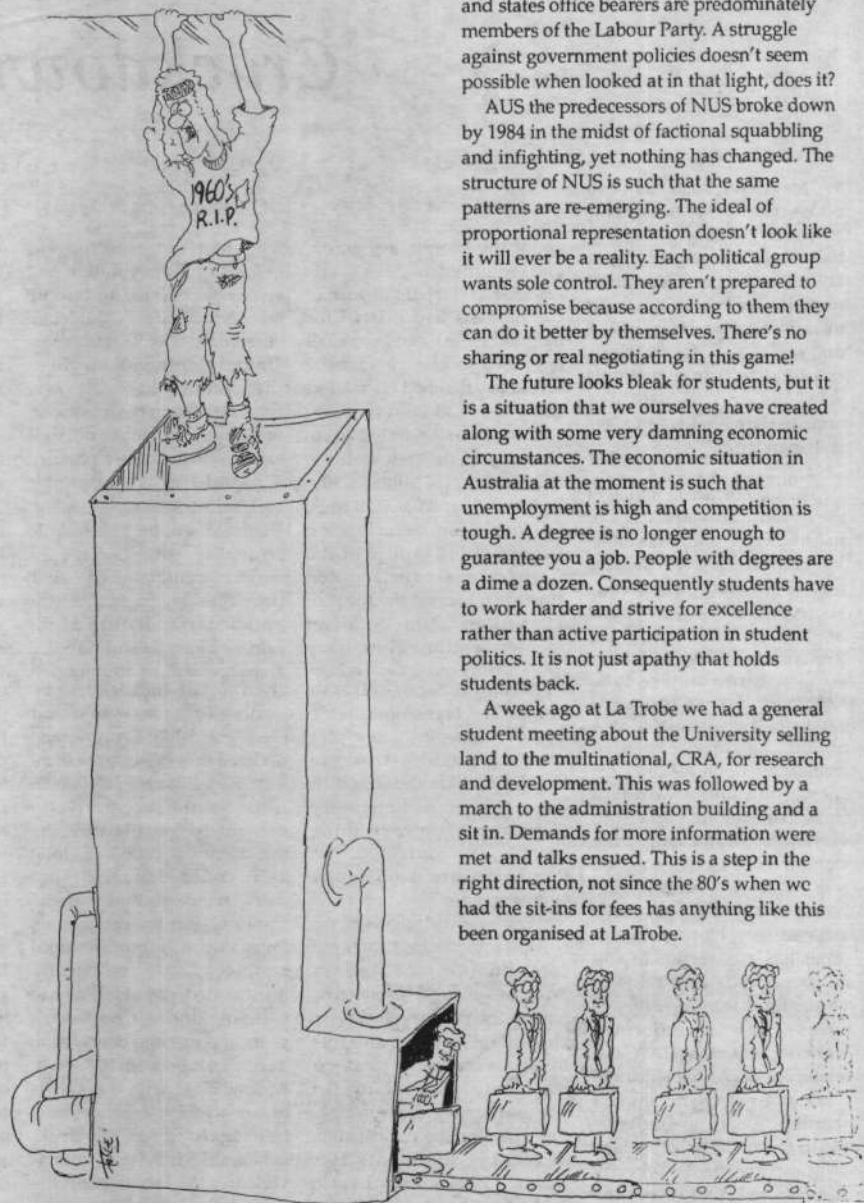
Students have been getting a lot of flak lately about their apparent conservatism and their lack of action towards quite serious threats to the education system. The activist seems to have given way to the politician. The dictionary defines the meaning of activist as one who practises a doctrine that emphasises vigorous action in controversial matters; particularly political. The meaning of politician is one who is experienced in the art or science of government.

Students who participate in their Unions and SRC's seem to be more competent at keeping their office in order and operating their computers than organising rallies and days of action, although to be fair this is not completely their fault. How do you stir up a reaction in students who seem to be interested only in their studies and their social life?

The move from activists to politicians has been insidious but it is upon us. In the 60's when the student movement began to take the shape it has today, students were hungry. They hungered for more power, more rights and more say in how their education would shape them. They were also luckier in that they were operating in a time of economic security whereas the students of today are not as secure. They didn't have Austudy but most of them had some sort of economic support and therefore the time to involve themselves in political issues. The student of today usually juggles a job, their course and their social life. That does not leave much time for political activity. Students are also less inclined to be classified as radical and loutish. When we don't organise we're criticized for our apathy and when we do we're put down and stigmatised. For that, the mainstream media is largely to blame. They haven't progressed in any way in the way they stereotype students. At demonstrations they still persist in presenting the image of the hippy activist or the punk with green hair. It seems they do not notice that students have changed in the last decade. It is no longer necessary for us to be defined as a mass of like-dressed people who don't have a separate identity. The sixties generation started the groundwork of the superstructures we see today. The modern office. The fax, the phones, the computers, the unions and the access. Access to mainstream media and technology that was supposed to free students from oppression within the education system, allowing them to be a strong force in the fight for freedom from oppression in the wider world.

How can anyone be revolutionary and active (in the definition of activist) when they are snowed under in paperwork, got a schedule full of meetings and a dozen phonecalls to get through? Student politicians are for the most part too busy trying to keep the bureaucracy they have created for themselves together.

Will they ever get through all the paperwork and get into the real issues? We've sold our 'activist' image for respectability and we have conformed to the ideals of a bureaucracy. Do updated facilities and access



to the latest technology really empower us, or have we sold out for nothing? We have become entrenched in the very system that we despised and in keeping it running like a well oiled machine our energy is spent on maintaining rather than changing the status quo.

What they wanted in the 60's / 70's for the student movement was certainly not this. I would imagine there would be bitter disappointment amongst past activists at the way the real issues are being pushed aside in favour of pushing forward the party lines and the petty squabbling.

The kindergarten playground takes on a new significance; the bullies have never let up, they still want everything to themselves. They've met the challenge and become baby politicians. There is no united struggle; the forces of bureaucracy have us exactly where they want us institutionalised and helpless.

We have a National Union whose national and states office bearers are predominately members of the Labour Party. A struggle against government policies doesn't seem possible when looked at in that light, does it?

AUS the predecessors of NUS broke down by 1984 in the midst of factional squabbling and infighting, yet nothing has changed. The structure of NUS is such that the same patterns are re-emerging. The ideal of proportional representation doesn't look like it will ever be a reality. Each political group wants sole control. They aren't prepared to compromise because according to them they can do it better by themselves. There's no sharing or real negotiating in this game!

The future looks bleak for students, but it is a situation that we ourselves have created along with some very damning economic circumstances. The economic situation in Australia at the moment is such that unemployment is high and competition is tough. A degree is no longer enough to guarantee you a job. People with degrees are a dime a dozen. Consequently students have to work harder and strive for excellence rather than active participation in student politics. It is not just apathy that holds students back.

A week ago at La Trobe we had a general student meeting about the University selling land to the multinational, CRA, for research and development. This was followed by a march to the administration building and a sit in. Demands for more information were met and talks ensued. This is a step in the right direction, not since the 80's when we had the sit-ins for fees has anything like this been organised at La Trobe.

In this whole year there hasn't been one single event that has caused so much excitement amongst student groups on campus.

So we return to the question are students more conservative in the 90's? The answer is an emphatic NO! It is circumstances which have rendered us inactive for the most part. Because our institutionalisation is still relatively recent, we must first learn how to use the equipment we have in an efficient and effective way. We are all responsible for our future not only the few 'hacks' that get involved. History has proven that quiet times in the student arena are followed by quite vigorous shake ups. Are we experiencing a periodic lull now, or is this the death of student activism?

# SOS FREEDOM

## The Golani and the Romanian Crackdown

By Robert Horvath Law 111

Research by Adrian Chernok and Cesar Carstea

"Men have been found to resist the most powerful monarchs and to refuse to bow down before them, but few indeed have been found to resist the crowd, to stand up alone before misguided masses, to face their implacable frenzy without weapons and with folded arms to dare a no when a yes is demanded."

Thus Clemenceau spoke of the novelist Zola's defiance of mass violence and antisemitic prejudice during the Dreyfus affair, but today his words seem to epitomise the struggle of Marian Munteanu, the Romanian student leader savagely beaten on June 15 by a gang of pro-government miners and now isolated in a prison hospital, denied medical attention for probable concussion and awaiting a show trial for incitement to violence. Even by the standards of the Ceausescu regime, last month's mob violence in Bucharest was extraordinary. Never in recent times has a government and its propaganda apparatus so virulently distorted reality to arouse an uninformed working class against the intelligentsia. At the climax of their rampage, the miners chanted "Death to students! Death to intellectuals!" whilst digging up the University Square that had been the crucible of the revolution, a grotesque spectacle that at once realised the worst nightmares of the student protesters and captured the enormity of Romania's post-revolutionary tragedy.

The day after the miners departed I telephoned a history student friend in Bucharest to ask about the situation. "What can I say?" he began. "The University is destroyed. The student league office is destroyed. They destroyed everything." He paused before adding: "But you see now that we were right when you were here in February." It was then that most students were beginning to have doubts about the National Salvation Front government. Revelations

about the Front's formation, and evidence that its leadership nucleus of former communists had existed for months before Ceausescu's fall led many to ask whether the revolution that had claimed so many lives had been in reality a carefully orchestrated coup. The role of the new defence minister Nicolae Militaru, who had been named a KGB mole by Romanian defector Ion Pacepa in his exposé of the Ceausescu court, *Red Horizons*, became the focus of allegations of Soviet involvement in a conspiracy designed to bring Gorbachev-style reform communists to power. The French magazine *Le Point* has outlined a plot that resembles that in Czechoslovakia described in the BBC documentary "Czechmate" in everything except its outcome: in Romania there is no happy ending in sight.

Whatever the origins of the conspiracy, the Front's rapid consolidation of power produced enough suspicion to poison the post-revolutionary euphoria. Iliescu's claim that his government was a legitimate product of the popular struggle, seemingly confirmed by the participation of leading dissidents like Doina Cornea and Laszlo Tokes, became doubtful with the resignation of Mihail Lupoi, a hero of the fighting to defend the TV buildings. Lupoi explained that the Front was formed when its nucleus of eleven former communists met after Ceausescu's escape and made a membership list for a provisional government, first putting down their own names and then adding for the sake of credibility the heroes of the opposition who only heard of their appointment on TV. Unease increased as the Front exploited its control over the television and most of the print media (still dominated by Ceausescu era editors) to wage a vitriolic campaign against Romanian exiles (like the leaders of the opposition Peasant and Liberal parties)

who had not suffered the ordeals of the revolution and were now coming to buy up all the factories. N. Malcolm observed in *The Spectator* that "in developing its ideology, the Front has cleverly concentrated on the one aspect of Ceausescu's public doctrine which was genuinely popular: a kind of xenophobic nationalism which asserts that Rumania will be beholden to no one."

The cynicism of such propaganda and the authoritarian nature of the regime that disseminated it were revealed in an interview given to *The Independent* by leading Front strategist and ideologue Silviu Brucan, who declared that in Romania there were 22 million stupid people who would be perfectly content to be ruled by the intelligent one million as long as it could deliver higher living standards and material comforts. But the campaign's impact upon Brucan's "stupid people", a politically uneducated populace whose suffering during Ceausescu's years of terror and deprivation defies comprehension, only became clear with the events of January 28. In what can now be regarded as a dress rehearsal for the recent violence, the Front, using the pretext of defending the revolution against a coup d'état, brought miners on express train into Bucharest to break up a large opposition demonstration, which had dispersed by the time they arrived, so they spent the night ransacking the offices of the opposition parties.

This unexpected eruption of thuggery and the politics of terror was a decisive turning point in the radicalisation of Romanian students. A couple of days later the architecture faculty was similarly attacked for displaying a photo of Iliescu playing horseshoes with Ceausescu and Elena. By now a collision between the youth that had fought in the streets of Bucharest to topple the tyrant and the communist

nomenklatura that had filled the vacuum created by his fall was probably inevitable. On February 2 Iliescu had praised "our wonderful youth, whose blood has restored our sense of national dignity" and Prime Minister Roman had observed that at the climax of the uprising "80% of the insurgents were aged less than 25" and in future it would be essential to promote leaders from the younger generation.

The prestige derived from this pre-eminent role in the revolution made the student movement a natural focus of dissent and pro-democracy opposition activity. The aim of the new independent Student League was not only to defend students' rights, emphasised League Vice-President Mihai Gheorghiu in a recent interview on 3ZZZ with Romania experts Adrian Chernok and Dan Rabinovici, but also "to become involved in the struggle for the democratisation of life in Romania." When I spoke with student representatives at the league offices in mid-February they were unanimous in their hostility to the Front as an obstacle to democracy. Mathematics student spokesman Radu Manolescu, who addressed Western TV cameras to condemn the miners' June 14 rampage, told me then of the universal student apprehension: "Look, we can't all be paranoid." And added with considerable understatement: "Something's fishy here."

Given the opposition of the students, who as a body had a claim to speak in the name of the revolution, Iliescu's reliance upon the miners was politically astute, for they are famous in Romania for their defiance of Ceausescu in a brutally crushed 1977 strike. He called them back into Bucharest on February 19, the day after another large opposition demonstration with heavy student involvement outside the Front headquarters was wrecked by a rabble of hooligans

(suspected to be provocateurs) who smashed the windows and stormed the building; a propaganda coup for the State TV which provided hours of coverage of the vandalism and carefully edited highlights of contemptuous interviews with an assortment of arrested drunks, tramps and gypsies who were presented as the main participants in the protest.

After this setback, the student movement received fresh impetus on March 11, when another group with impeccable revolutionary credentials, the citizens of Timisoara, who had fought the Securitate alone for five days before the uprising spread to Bucharest, promulgated a declaration contending that former communist activists should be banned from standing for public office on any electoral list for the next three consecutive legislatures. This article of the Timisoara Declaration, which became increasingly controversial as opinion polls showed Iliescu and the Front headed for an electoral landslide, became the central demand of the protesters who occupied the University Square in Bucharest on April 22.

In an interview with *Le Monde* the dissident philosopher Gabriel Liiceanu described the first month of the occupation (before the election) as the protest's "sublime stage." As spokesman for the demonstrators repeatedly emphasised, they did not represent any political party. The most prominent participants were the Student League, human rights groups, and prominent intellectuals such as Liiceanu, the essayist Octavian Paler, the literary critic Petru Creția and the poet Ana Blandiana, who with Doina Cornea spoke to the crowd from the university balcony in support of the protest's key demands: 1) Exclusion of the nomenklatura from power; 2) Compensation for those wounded during the revolution; 3) Free flow of information in the news media; 4) Dismissal of the Interior Minister; 5) Transfer of the assets of pre-revolutionary



unions to their democratic successors. To emphasize their commitment to this programme, 119 of the protesters went on hunger strike, 3 to the verge of death. There were several unsuccessful attempts to dislodge the demonstrators after they cordoned off the Square, which they declared a "neo-communist-free zone." Following a charge by truncheon-wielding police on April 24, the demonstrators quickly regrouped, chanting "Freedom, we love you." On May 17, in response to Iliescu's statement that he expected the

Ceausescu years was the statement to *Le Monde* of another Iliescu associate who now heads the Securitate's successor: "I wish for Romania and the entire world that this political personality of an extraordinary calibre may, through his election, leave indelible traces on history."

Indeed Iliescu's political personality was so extraordinary that it inspired not only born-again Stalinist clichés, but also an utterly subversive folk counter-culture on University Square whose songs, slogans and graphic art will undoubtedly leave

showed Ceausescu changing into Iliescu via a multitude of corpses, to emphasise that the new president is a product not of the revolution but of the old tyrant. One of the most perceptive observers of the festival of the *golani*, Cristula Stefanescu, concluded: "The protesters have transformed their demonstration into a bitter yet joyful event...A new cultural phenomenon, a folk culture with strong political overtones, was born almost overnight."

But for the Front's propaganda machine the *golani*'s counter-culture was

before the election an article about Yalta considered so important it was subsequently issued to foreign journalists in a press bulletin that described its author as a distinguished historian (and omitting the detail that his last published work was a sychophantic collection of essays glorifying Ceausescu's "Golden Epoch"). The crucial passage reads:

"The bones of a whole Romanian political class, cynically sold to Stalin by the exponents of the British-type democracy some are preaching in University Square, lie in a common grave. The survivors

comely smile reflecting his moral purity." In a BBC interview Marian Munteanu admitted that this "regression" phenomenon after the elections was a source of bitterness for Romanian intellectuals. The campaign of the *golani* had lost its momentum. Their demand for the exclusion of the *nomenklatura* became utterly unrealistic once the Front had a popular mandate. Some hunger strikers continued fasting to pressure the government to establish an independent TV station, but the Student League closed off the university balcony (a



square to be "cleaned out" the following day, almost 100,000 people joined the protesters.

From the beginning the destiny of the protest was intertwined with the course of the election campaign. The often spectacular bias of the state news media and the meagre resources of the historical parties combined to make a Front victory inevitable, a prospect that became increasingly menacing as the May 20 polling day neared. Many discerned an embryonic personality cult in the orchestrated adulation that greeted Iliescu at public rallies, where crowds sank into rhythmic chants like "When Iliescu comes out, the sun comes out", "O Lord if you love us then protect Iliescu", and "Iliescu be as strong as was once Stephen the Great." An Iliescu advisor told a Western journalist: "These acclamations please the president and confirm his analysis of the situation that the people want him." Even more reminiscent of the

indelible traces on history. When Iliescu insulted the demonstrators with the same word Ceausescu used to describe the December revolutionaries, "*golani*" (hooligan or tramp), the taunt became a term of honour and a leitmotif of the occupation, where lapel badges proclaimed the wearer "a university-educated hooligan" and even small children had "little hooligan" written across their shirts. Amongst the protest-songs regularly heard in the square, the most popular begins: "Once upon a time/ There was a big gang of hooligans in Romania/ Who removed the slave system." Slogans on signs and banners proclaimed: "Zoe and Nicu [two of Ceausescu's children] have got a new father."; "Don't worry, Ceausescu, Iliescu is a communist"; "Iliescu, we don't want a villa [privileges]/ We want your resignation." Similarly uncompromising was the revolutionary graphic art on display. A poster titled "The Sinister Metamorphosis"

an easy target, its very otherness an obvious contrast to Iliescu's pose as the defender of national values against all things foreign. "*Golani*" might now mean "pro-democracy activist" to the students, but it still meant "hooligan" to the miners, who were also duped into believing that most of them were drug addicts. Complained Marian Munteanu; "Many people are opposed to our demonstrations, and we are accused of frightful things by the government press."

Even the students' commitment to democracy could be impugned. During the campaign, Iliescu declared his aim was to install a special, "original" kind of democracy in Romania rather than Western-style democracy. This evasiveness was attacked in a *golani* song, which said the "hooligans" wanted freedom, "not neocommunist or neofreedom" or "original democracy and blatant lies." In response the Front's daily paper *Azi* printed one week

of this shipwreck should nurture only one thought of vengeance: not against the effects but against the causes and causers of the Romanian tragedy."

At the core of this gross distortion of historical reality lies the Front's manipulation of the politics of vengeance, directing hatred away from the "effect" (they, the *nomenklatura* that presided over Ceausescu's terror) to the distinctively foreign "causes" (Britain, America and the pro-Western students campaigning in University Square).

The Front's landslide election victory was a serious blow to the students. The official press was soon indulging in the stock phrases of the personality cult lexicon to praise Iliescu, comparing him to national heroes like Prince John the Indomitable and describing him as "audacious in saving the country" a man who "inspires us to feel confident, courageous and secure" and as possessing a "sincere and

scaffold was set up in the square to enable debate to continue) and the prominent dissidents of the Group for Social Dialogue called for the occupation to end. According to Liceanu these final weeks degraded the *golani* cause: there was infiltration by provocateurs stirring up trouble with nationalist arguments and the people of Bucharest were totally alienated. A *Times* journalist likened the square to "a squalid, unhygienic and underpopulated Woodstock".

By now there was much truth in Iliescu's gibe that the *golani* had more impact on Bucharest's traffic than its politics, and the government's decision on June 11 to open talks with the 19 remaining hunger strikers was probably far less important than the promise of a fundamental change of tactics by Marian Munteanu in a BBC interview that same day. The Student League President vowed: "In future, the demonstrations, or any other form of democratic

protest are going to be much better organised and we will get in touch with the workers' unions - something we've neglected so far." Within two days Iliescu's response to this threat to the Front's power base showed the students what he meant by "original" democracy.

More than 1000 riot police charged without warning into the square before dawn on Wednesday June 13, setting fire to the tents of hunger strikers, beating about 100 dissidents and arresting 230. Within hours this deliberate violence provoked running street battles between police and protesters armed with clubs and petrol bombs. The rioters torched the lower floors of the main police station and rampaged through the TV headquarters without serious resistance but when they attacked the Interior Ministry building that houses the Securitate, the authorities responded with live bullets. Six died and 462 were injured in the fighting.

Significantly Marian Munteanu was arrested at his home at 7am only to be released later in the day when the rioting had become uncontrollable. Around 4pm he addressed demonstrators in the University Square, asking for calm and order. Later he admitted to the BBC that he found it impossible to stop the destruction and claimed that amongst the rioters who set the police headquarters on fire and attacked shops were people who had nothing to do with the University Square demonstration. This allegation has been substantiated by a cassette recording of low frequency police band radio during the violence, which heavily implicates the government. One particularly incriminating walkie-talkie exchange has officer 53 telling officer 54: "Do you see any possibility of informing the president? We are starting to burn all of the buses. This was the agreement." The cassette also points to the involvement of the new Securitate chief, Virgil Magureanu, the man who eulogised Iliescu's extraordinary political personality. After the recording was given to Western journalists, it was denounced by the Front as a forgery, but its authenticity was recently affirmed by the US State Department. Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist W. MacPherson, who listened to the cassette in Bucharest, wrote in *The Washington Post* (21/6): "It certainly sounds convincing. The background noise, the sense of urgency, the confusion are all there."

The rioting gave Iliescu the

pretext he needed to unleash the miners against the students, the intellectuals, the independent media and his political opponents. As chaos reigned in the streets, he appeared on state TV to condemn a "legionary rebellion" (a direct allusion to the 1940 revolt of the fascist Iron Guard), called on "good people" to denounce those involved and demanded of Romanians as a whole "an increased degree of combativeness." Philosopher Liiceanu has pointed to the active participation of TV in the events of June 13, which blamed leading dissident intellectuals for the rioting. Those exposed as fascist coup fomenters included Ana Blandiana, Gabriel Liiceanu, Octavian Paler, Doina Cornea and Marian Munteanu. In short, noted a Romanian Human Rights League spokesman, "all those who had most clearly declared themselves opponents of the Front."

A 4am the next morning Iliescu declared to the miners who had just been brought "spontaneously" to central Bucharest on special trains and buses: "You shall be the guardians of this vital part of the capital...You, or the bottom of society - smash these people in the city who think they are better than you - educated, privileged!" For the next two days they terrorised the city, systematically ransacking opposition party offices and university faculties identified with the *golani*. At the height of the rampage Iliescu released a statement condemning "irresponsible newspapers which manipulate lies and calumny, inciting direct violence and destabilising action", and a couple of hours later the miners were wrecking the facilities of the leading opposition daily *Romania Libera*. Much of the violence was indiscriminate. Sexual harassment and molestation of young women were widely reported. But the beatings generally reflected the obsessions of Front propaganda. Likely victims included those young enough to be students and those with dark enough skin to be gypsies. Two women in separate incidents were attacked after being mistaken for Ana Blandiana. John Sweeney of *The Observer* watched a man being beaten almost to death by a gang of miners, and knowing that to intervene would be suicide, he reflected: "It must have been like this in the thirties when the brownshirts stomped around Berlin."

Marian Munteanu narrowly escaped death at the hands of the miners. He arrived in

hospital with a broken leg, a broken hand and a serious head wound. When a reporter there asked him what he thought about Iliescu, he mocked the president's personality cult: "Who? Which Iliescu? Which President?" (When the miners weren't beating people, they pinned up colour photos of Iliescu). Asked about the government's motives, Munteanu replied: "For power. They did it with fear. You are seeing a new dictator now. I wouldn't want to be in his place because you know I believe in God and all of us must answer God's question for what we have done." Asked about the miners he said, "Poor miners" before the doctors wheeled him away. Later he added from his hospital bed: "The miners are not responsible for what's happened. The real responsible people are Iliescu and Roman."

### The re-emergence of the Securitate is the crowning evil of Iliescu's 'original' democracy.

Many other students beaten by the miners were also "arrested" and taken for interrogation to the "former" Securitate base at Magurele 16km south of Bucharest. Accounts of their ordeal are chillingly similar to those of Securitate treatment of protesters arrested on the first night of the revolution. Student Mihai Iliescu told *The Sunday Times* that prisoners were crowded into one huge room: "There were people with broken arms and legs. We were told, 'Wash your wounds in the puddles.'...We had to stay on the floor the whole time and we were told that if we weren't quiet, the miners would be brought in again to deal with us." He also explained how they were interrogated: "We were taken out in groups of 10 to 15, and threatened with long jail terms. They tried to force us to give incriminating statements against anti-communist protest leaders such as Dumitru Dinca and Marian Munteanu...During the interrogation some people were beaten - but it was difficult to see what was going on as the others were always spreadeagled up against the wall."

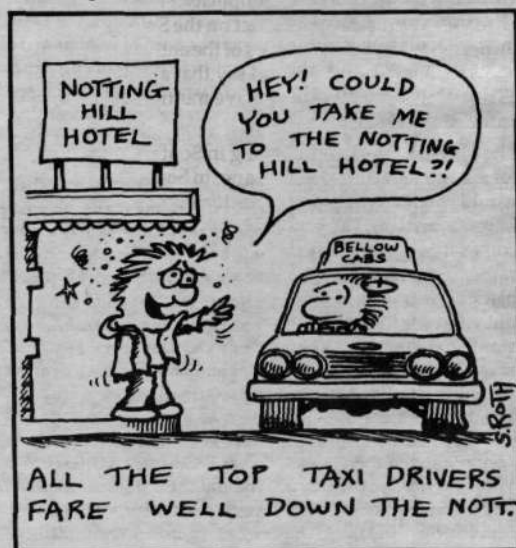
The re-emergence of the Securitate is the crowning evil of Iliescu's "original" democracy. John Sweeney notes that during the violence secret policemen swaggered around the streets, demanding papers but refusing to show their own, and donned fancy dress: freshly-pressed miners

jerkins and spotless gumboots. All this was forgotten on June 15 as Iliescu appeared at a mass meeting of miners to thank them for "saving democracy". He explained that the purpose of their bloody rampage was "to avoid bloodshed and disorder" and concluded ominously: "I hope we will maintain and develop this spirit of combativeness." Three days later, as the Front-dominated parliament voted its approval of police actions during the miner's terror, the public prosecutor announced that Marian Munteanu had been arrested and charged with incitement to violence, disturbing the peace and defending the offences of other students. He was transferred to the hospital wing of Jilava prison, where for three weeks he was denied visits from his family. When his mother was finally permitted to see him on July 7, it was revealed that he had been denied medical attention although suffering bouts of amnesia as a result of his head wound. He has announced his intention of declaring a hunger strike in protest.

The spirit of the *golani* remains defiant. The day after the miners withdrew, 500 students converged on University Square to sing: "Freedom, we love you." On July 3 the National Conference of Students meeting in Bucharest passed a resolution proclaiming Munteanu "a symbol of the non-violent struggle for democracy and freedom" and demanded his release. The delegates also published an open letter to the miners, which declared that "the pain we felt was not due to your blows but to the applause that welcomed you into Bucharest. That persuaded us beyond doubt that we must not give up the struggle for justice and truth through the word and peaceful actions."

The popular hostility that isolates the students as they confront official persecution is certainly one of the dark triumphs of the Front's propaganda machine. Mihai Gheorghiu, vice-President of the Student League admits that "the reactions of the people in the street have become very strange. When the word 'student' is mentioned they get very irritated as if we have harmed them." Liiceanu claims that two weeks of unbiased television would utterly change the balance of power in Romania today, but until that happens world attention will remain an essential defence of the students against state violence. The Student League has sent an "SOS for Freedom" to universities and student organisations around the world asking them to express their solidarity with the league, the University of Bucharest and Marian Munteanu. Interviewed on 3ZZZ, Mihai Gheorghiu asked Australian students to send protest letters to President Iliescu demanding Munteanu's release, and emphasised "We would also like the students in Australia to maintain interest in the plight of the students in Romania."

Ana Blandiana, the dissident poet now vilified as a "fascist", wrote during the early days of the revolution that it was only the sacrifice of the young that made the "miracle" of Ceausescu's overthrow possible, "raising us from the century's icy caves to its burning heights" and proclaimed that the revolution was "a children's crusade." It is now the responsibility of the democratic West whose freedoms so inspired the *golani* to speak out in their defence as they face that menace understood so well by Buchner: "Revolution is like Saturn. It eats its own children."





# Donald Woods

By Kate Hawkins and Sarah Porritt —  
Monash University (Clayton)

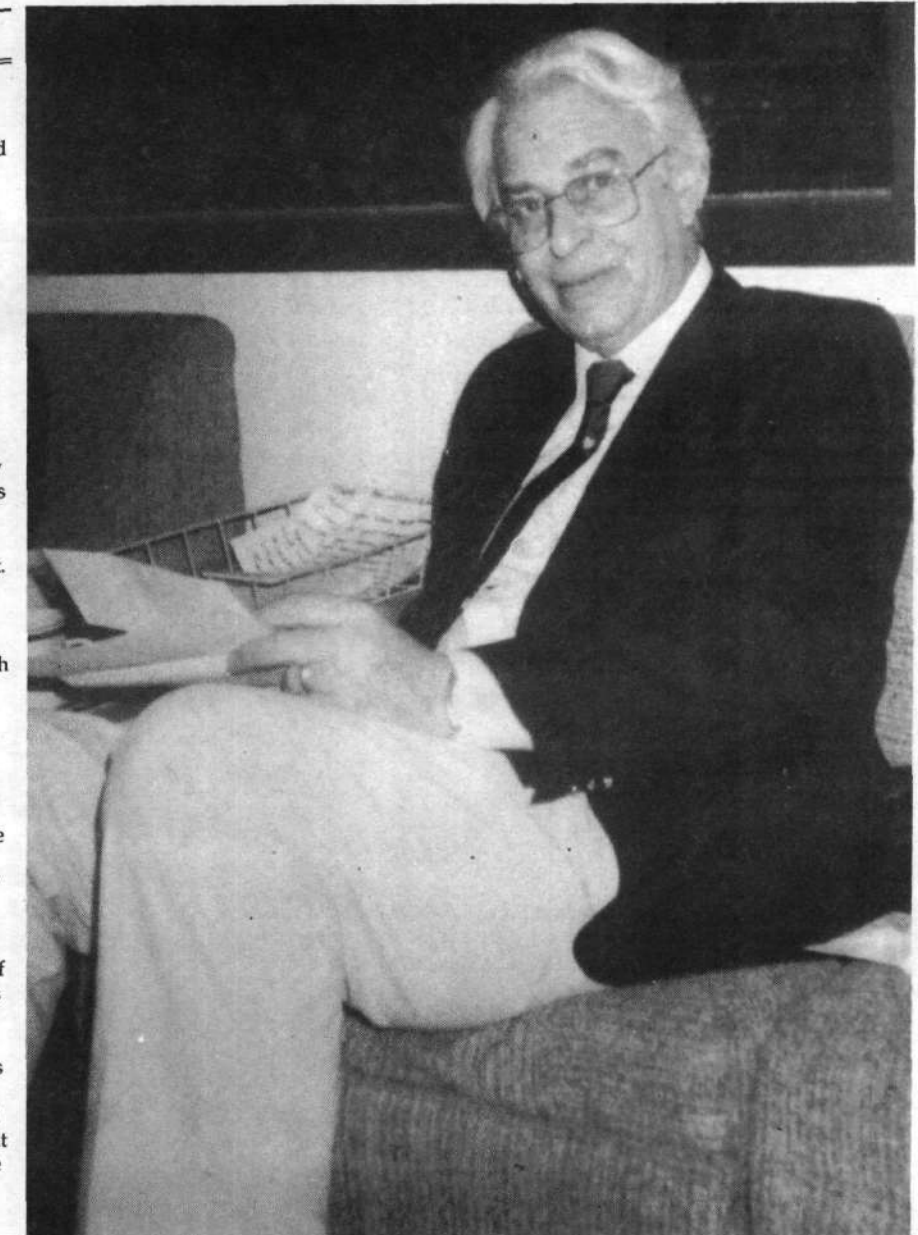
As a fifth generation white South African, editor for twelve years of one of the country's most respected newspapers, and having escaped the country after being formally silenced, Donald Woods is in a position to make some pertinent observations about the state of South African politics and the anti-apartheid movement.

While in exile, he has made a living as a broadcaster, writer, and lecturer on South African affairs. He has written six books on apartheid and South African politics, including the biography of Steve Biko, black activist and founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, who died in police custody. Woods is cautiously optimistic about the current political developments in South Africa, but is critical of recent news reports that concentrate on tribal and political rifts within South Africa's anti-apartheid movement. He sees Mandela as the most representative leader; "He is followed by the biggest majority. Butesi has only got relatively few supporters and from what you hear they are dwindling with each passing month as people go to support Mandela. I don't think people are getting the right impression if they imagine South Africans riddled with dissent on a tribal basis. The truth is that there is great unanimity amongst the blacks. Of course there will be factions here and there that don't agree, and I don't think anyone would want it any differently; and when democracy comes I'm sure this will be reflected."

The story of his friendship with Steve Biko, his dealings with the South African Government and his escape from the country are the subject of Sir Richard Attenborough's film *Cry Freedom*. As is brought out in the film, Woods' resistance to the government's racist policies has not made things easy for him or his family. In 1977, he was forbidden to speak in public or to talk to more than one person at a time. His phone was tapped and his mail intercepted. His daughter was burnt by acid after putting on a t-shirt sent to her in the post. Woods rejects claims that the film is rendered ineffective by its simplicity. "It has directly multiplied their impact on the South African Government. Members of the anti-apartheid movement all over the world say that after *Cry Freedom*, their memberships have multiplied quite dramatically.

The film has now been showing in South Africa for six weeks. I don't think many in South Africa would call it an over-simplification because they know it actually happened. I think such criticism comes from people who would like to see a rather more rarified, intellectual treatment of the black consciousness philosophy, which really is not what we tried to do at all. If some film-maker wants to make such a film he is welcome. . . I, myself, feel that if they did it would be seen by very few people, but it might give them great satisfaction."

Woods began his days at university as a conservative in 1952, but by 1977 had been "banned" for his scathing editorials, and his criticism of the Nationalist Party and his open support of the



Black Consciousness Movement. Despite the support his paper gave the black movement, he never saw himself as taking up the black cause. "My own cause just happened to co-incide with what many of the blacks want. It wasn't something I planned, it was something I found myself getting into through my friendship with Steve Biko. I've never regretted it. He was a very educational influence on me and I learnt a lot from him."

Such an influence has made him more aware of the plight of minorities in all countries. He views the position of Australian Aboriginals as similar to that of the black South Africans, but believes a solution to Kooris' problems is achievable under the current system of Australian Government; "I think it needs a major onslaught to find a solution. A lot of the problems Aboriginals have has to do with the despair and the feeling of alienation and the only way to break through that cycle

of despair is through educational programs geared to getting one generation of them educated so that they can at least articulate and conceptualise the things they want to aspire to."

Donald Woods' recent visit to Australia was sponsored by the Refugee Council and Austcare in order to publicise the plight of refugees. He does not consider himself to be a typical refugee, as he and his family have enjoyed their time in exile, which is one of the reasons he felt he should state the case for refugees who had it tougher, and for black South Africans who haven't access to the media. He sees the cause of black South Africans and refugees as interrelated, as "...opposing repression in any part of the world is the same thing as helping refugees escape from repression". He urges all with an interest in human rights to lend their support to either of these two groups or local anti-apartheid groups.



# SOCIALISM:

by Geoff Drechsler (Labor Students) — Monash University (Clayton)

## Introduction:

With the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, many political commentators believe they have witnessed the failure of socialism, *fait a compli*. US State Department Deputy Director of Policy Planning, Francis Fukuyama, in an influential article written last year, even purported that human society was in fact at the "end of history"; the thrust of his article being that liberal capitalism had outlasted all rival political systems, most particularly socialism and its derivatives. The next phase through which human society was to pass, was some almost utopian period of prosperity, free of ideological clashes. This is almost fanciful and, more importantly, either ignores or presents in an unrealistic light left-wing political theory. The basis of any consideration of Eastern Europe must firstly be to consider what exactly constitutes socialism.

## Developments in Eastern Europe:

The community perception of the reforms and changes in Eastern Europe has been one of the sweeping introduction of free market systems, by previously suppressed liberals and democrats, which have taken over the archaic, centrally-planned socialist economies. This simplistic analysis is most often incorrect in two counts: where the push for reform is coming from and what the actual nature of the reforms are.

The push for reform within Eastern Europe has more often than not come from within the ruling Communist Party. Two obvious examples of this are Boris Yeltsin and of course Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union, as well as Alexander Dubcek in Czechoslovakia, formerly a communist and the architect of "socialism with a human face". Other political groupings like Civic Forum in East Germany have often contained very progressive individuals or have been progressive overall themselves.

The nature of the reforms are also not clear. The terms "market" and "market forces" are bandied around as if Eastern Europe were about to adopt a form of Western-style capitalism. Market relations are compatible in a socialist system for the purposes of organising and co-ordinating



specialised economic actors. Yugoslavia is an example of this where much of the decision-making is done at the grassroots level, with individual enterprises run by workers' councils only having the aim of satisfying consumer demands, which is determined through full market relations.(1) It is probable that Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Bulgaria and Rumania will head down this path of partial introduction of market forces, or a market economy with a large public sector. The Rumanians are already talking about a "social market economy", which would include a substantial public sector and considerable social and welfare guarantees.(2) A system like this avoids the pitfalls of a centrally-planned economy, which can be grossly inefficient, but at the same time avoids the gross inequities of fully-fledged capitalism. Perestroika ("economic restructuring") is as the name suggests; a restructuring of the Soviet economy which involves greater autonomy for individual state enterprises. This incorporates, as well, a greater degree of worker participation in the decision-making process through the introduction of industrial democracy. It is quite different to the previous Soviet experience of the partial re-introduction of capitalism with Lenin's New Economic Policy in 1921. Enterprises and businesses were actually given back to individuals to run. Lenin, himself, described it as a retreat to capitalism in order to advance to socialism; this being necessary to compensate for the backward nature of the Soviet economy which had just gone through a revolution and a civil war.

## Socialist Principles and Stalinism:

The cut-and-dried perception of what is socialism is due to its unfortunate historical development; this being the creation of a monolithic model of socialism by Stalin, with its distinctly totalitarian streak. The facilitation of this is due in a large part to Stalin's influence on, and control of, the world communist movement. This in turn directly influenced socialists and Marxists not in communist parties. The Soviet Union, or some derivative or replica of its economy and society elsewhere, have been the only actual existing examples of anything purporting to be socialism. Within the left, ideologically, the dominant paradigm became Soviet-styled Marxism. Unfortunately, more

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# A Thing Of the Past or A Vision for the Future?

often than not these were far from a good representation of what socialism should be or could be. The world communist framework which Stalin set up was centralised very much in the Soviet Union. With it in place, he was able to influence most of the communist parties abroad and control those in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet Union, unlike when the Communist International still had some control over the direction of the international communist movement. Stalin dissolved it in the 1930's.

A characteristic of this monolith overall being its lack of dynamism to cope with any sort of dissent within it. This in turn was a manifestation of its totalitarian nature. Examples of this rigid structure include the armed reaction to the Prague Spring, the numerous purges within the Soviet Communist Party, and the split with China; the world communist movement splintering from this point onwards.

The model of socialism, "socialism in one country", Stalin created was very much a bastard-

disation of classical Marxism. In many cases he turned Marxism on its head. An example of this is the huge bureaucratic, totalitarian state apparatus which he created. The state in classical Marxism withers away as societies moved closer to achieving "full communism". The model of "socialism in one country" itself clashes with the role of an international revolution in achieving socialism as Marx saw it.

Many on the left since the Second World War, particularly in the West, have subscribed to one of the Marxist critiques of the Soviet Union which were all originally derived from Trotsky's writings. One of these revolves around the argument that the Soviet Union has assumed the character of a capitalist state again. The dynamic of the system once again being capital accumulation as in the West. This theory been called the "state capitalist thesis". (3) The other, taken from Trotsky's earlier writings, maintained that the social goals of the October Revolution, had been maintained, but

the Soviet state had been hijacked by a bureaucratic caste. This creates what Trotsky called a "degenerate workers' state". (4) Having considered the Soviet Union, or any of the centrally planned states, socialist in the first place is even questionable.

Unfortunately the legacy of Stalin has done the cause of socialists around the world considerable damage. Socialism should not be a grand plan following a particular model, but a set of principles which activists are looking to set in place. A socialist society should be a society characterised by social equality, economic equality and democracy.

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4. Ibid. p19.

## CLYDE HOTEL

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# NUS Anti-apartheid campaign

National Union of Students — La Trobe University

'The apartheid crime against humanity remains in place; it continues to kill and maim; it continues to oppress and exploit. Reject any suggestion that the campaign to isolate the apartheid system should be wound down. It is only those who support apartheid who can argue that the Pretoria government should be rewarded for the small steps it has taken. There are some in the world who wish to support the South African government by giving it rewards and carrots. But we, representing the overwhelming majority of the people of our country, turn to you for support, which we need more than ever before.' — NELSON MANDELA

Despite the publicity given to recent actions of the De Klerk Government, nothing has changed for the majority of South Africans. The legal underpinnings of apartheid are substantially unchanged and the economic and political structures remain in place. In order to reinforce this reality, the South African state continues to use police and military to repress the broad struggle within the country.

Through the NUS ANTI-APARTHEID WEEK, Australian students are being asked to give their support to the international campaign against the racist system that is apartheid. The campaign will have a special focus on the contribution of women to the struggle and the role of the education sector.

Women have, and always will have, a crucial role as organisers, supporters and fighters of the national liberation movement and the armed struggle. The apartheid laws reserve special hardship for black women. On August 9, an International Day of Solidarity with the Women of South Africa and Namibia will be held. It will commemorate the corresponding day in 1956 when 20,000 women from all over South Africa rallied in Pretoria to protest against the racist state. This action occurred despite official obstruction and in the face of great personal cost — a situation which continues.

This campaign partially aims to force the release of Evelina De Bruin who has been sentenced to death for her part in the struggle

for freedom in South Africa. Hundreds are still incarcerated in gaols in the name of racist law and order.

The education system within the country has been an important arena for the struggle of black South Africans. The government has pursued a deliberate policy of denying quality education to the millions of blacks. Whereas for whites, education is heavily subsidised, blacks must deal with a separate education system which is chronically under-resourced and with inadequate facilities, let alone having the army and the police on campuses to the extent of being invigilators during examinations, i.e. enforced education for servitude at gunpoint.



In response, students have conducted a lengthy and organised campaign on campuses and in schools. Boycotts and

protests have been a visible aspect of this campaign which has been a part of the larger mass movement, only to be met with violent state machinery — the army, the police and death squads. In the last 10 years, state sponsored terrorism has forced about 50 per cent of each two high-school generation to drop out.

Australian students have previously expressed their support for the struggle of black South Africans. The National Union of Students has adopted an official policy of support for the African National Congress and the Mass Democratic Movement in South Africa. As part of this support, and to encourage greater awareness and activity amongst Australian students, NUS is launching an anti-apartheid campaign.

The initial focus of this campaign will be the Anti-Apartheid Week, to be held from August 6-10. Over the longer term the aims of the campaign include:

- pressure for the maintenance of sanctions;
- ending investment and other contact by our institutions with South African companies and those involved in the South African economy, e.g. Shell, BHP and others;
- establishing a series of undergraduate scholarships for disadvantaged black South Africans in tertiary institutions, Australian government provides scholarships for postgraduate studies, a well appreciated but ill-advised assistance.

This is a national campaign which is being co-ordinated at a state level and focused around the International Day of Solidarity on August 9. It is intended that there will be a series of actions on campuses across Australia on this day for example, general meetings where ANC representatives can speak and that anti-apartheid policy be adopted by student organisations.

ANC support groups will also be holding a series of events during this period, as well as the Union of Australian Women, and students are asked to give their support.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact:  
— you campus student organisation;  
— NUS state branches.



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# Racism & Immigration Controls

Marc Morel (International Socialist Organisation) —  
Foolscreay Institute of Technology

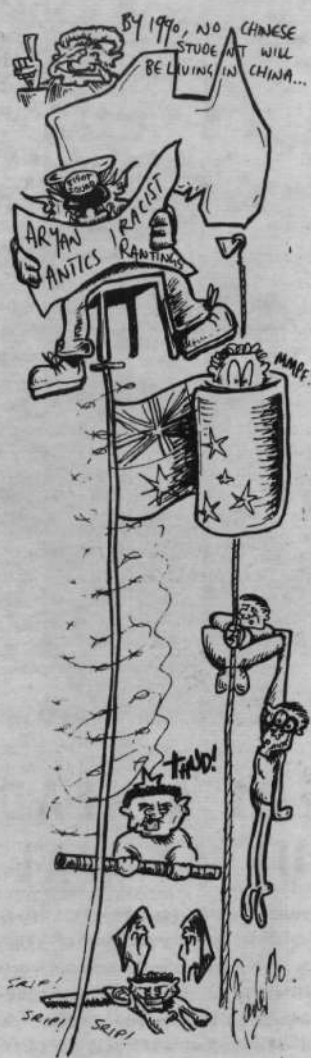
The immigration debate has once again been brought to the fore by Hawke's offers of permanent residency to Chinese students facing persecution after the Beijing massacre. The huge racist backlash that followed, accusing Hawke of hypocrisy - and immigrants of "roting" the system is linked to the growing anti-Asian investment hostility over the Multi-Function Polis, and, just recently, racist NA posters plastered all over the Melbourne area. People like John Hewson and National Action defend their attacks on immigrants as being in "the national interest", and try to pin the blame for things like the foreign debt, and falls in living standards on these national "enemies". But whose interests are these racists really defending?

The Labor government has, in recent years, sharply increased the number of immigrants allowed in, and there are some members of the ruling class who want the level raised to over 250,000 per year. These people see large-scale immigration as a way of continuing to attract large-scale capital inflow, massively building up the economy and the power of the Australian ruling class in the world. Others are more concerned. They argue that multiculturalism threatens to break down the existing British-centred nationalism that has served the bosses so well. And they can see that nationalism and the kind of ideas that have persuaded workers to accept seven years of wage cutting in the "national interest" are really important to the ruling class. The tragedy of the Australian left is that with a few honourable exceptions, it has generally succumbed to the dominant racism, and sometimes even promoted it.

Capitulation on the question of racism has always been linked to accepting Australian nationalism. That's easy to see in the days of the white Australian settler state, when racism was fundamental to the Australian nation, but it's just as true today. If your starting point is nationalism, then the rights of ordinary people in other countries lose any central importance. You accept the division of the world into hostile, competing nations, rather than exposing the really fundamental division in the world between bosses everywhere and the workers they exploit. You identify with the "economy", or the "social cohesion" of your own country before you identify with the plight of Vietnamese "boat people" being turned away in their thousands from refugee camps in Hong Kong, or the Hawke government's refusal to freely admit the Cambodian "boat people". But what is it that differentiates "us" Australians from "them" Asians? Race and nationality.

Some members of the left in Australia argue: "Illegal immigration should be policed more closely", "immigration has by and large been seen

as a benefit", "The limits on intake are not Australia's ability to recruit migrants, but its ability to ensure successful settlement" and so on. How does any of this benefit the working class in its struggle against capitalism? Who's going to do this "policing", and in whose interests? For whom has immigration been seen as a benefit? When has racist capitalist Australia ever been able to "ensure successful settlement" for migrants, and anyway, successful in whose eyes? Sure, immigration has been successful for the bosses, but how successful has it been for the immigrants?



Rather than giving a lead to militant or class conscious workers, a great deal of the left engage in the argument: "What's best for Australia". It's a starting point no different from that which leads the ACTU to promote wage restraint, changed work practices and higher productivity.

Revolutionary socialists have always taken an entirely different standpoint. Whilst immigration has only ever been allowed by the government if it thinks it's in the interests of the bosses, we have always been opposed to immigration controls

against ordinary people. The starting point for our analysis is that racism and nationalism are weapons for the ruling class in its efforts to divide the international working class. So we argue that anyone who wants to come to live in Australia should have the right to do so. Once you start denying people the right to live where they choose, you end up with a racist policy. It's unavoidable. For the ruling class, immigration remains important for expanding the home market. Likewise, racism remains important, to divide the working class and guarantee that there will always be pressure on immigrants to accept the shit jobs at the bottom of the ladder. But the changing Australian economy, and the change in Australia's relationship to the dominant imperialism have partially disconnected the two. No longer is immigration a way of guaranteeing the triumph of the "British race", no longer does racism exclude non-British (or non-white) immigrants. Mainstream Australian nationalism now encompasses non-English speaking traditions, and is far more oriented to economically penetrating world markets than keeping out Asians.

But that doesn't mean that the ideas of White Australia have disappeared. Ideas live on long after the conditions that give rise to them have evaporated. Racism especially is continually regenerated by the insecurity and competition of capitalism, and Australia's position as a junior partner for American imperialism in Asia will always mean the potential for a ruling class sponsored revival of anti-Asian racism. With all that in mind, it is no accident that the so-called "Blainey debate" took place shortly after the worst recession in 50 years, and no accident that other racists can get away with going on the offensive after seven years of falling living standards have generated real resentment amongst Australian workers.

What the changing conditions do mean is that there is a section of the ruling class that is hostile to a restricted immigration strategy. It also means that there is a section of the community who see the danger that if anti-Asian racism is stoked up, they can be the next victims.

Because racism is such a fundamental weapon for dividing the working class, there is no way the bosses can fight it. At best they will try and tone down the voices of outspoken racists, but they won't fight racism in general — indeed they are responsible for the conditions that nurture it.

The government cannot devise an immigration policy that doesn't have racial implications, and these implications are inevitably drawn out by the racists in society. What we must do is realise that the only humane thing to do with immigration controls is to abolish them.



# The Realities of Racism

Joseph Quail — Footscray Institute of Technology

Racism is a funny topic. People talk about it in the third person or with academic overtones, the way our parents talk to us about sex; with fake openness masking the inner confusion, embarrassment and unease they really feel. Unlike sex, however, racism is an ugly, dehumanising reality that belittles both victim and racist. Moreover, it's a reality that exists everywhere, but is hidden by societal conventions and outright lies. (Let's talk about the Multi-Function Polis...only the economics of it, of course. Of course.)

The frightening thing about racism in the modern world is its shift away from gross stupidity into more "respectable" areas. More respectable? Oh yeah. Think about this; racism in its original meaning meant the belief (wrongly) that one race, the white one in particular, was innately superior to all other races and that this superiority was biological. When modern science proved the idiocy of this argument, the confirmed racist turned to other areas, such as the Bible, using spurious arguments about the "inferior" races being destined by "God", to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. Unfortunately for them, science didn't do religion "no favours either". The result is that today, the Bruce Ruxtons of the world no longer use arguments that rest on quicksand; instead, they talk about preserving "culture", and other such garbage, which is basically euphemism for the arguments used by previous generations. Why is this so frightening? After all, haven't we a right to protect our culture and heritage? Don't all the "Ethnics" go on forever about their culture? True enough. When we cross the line, however, from celebrating our culture to attacking other cultures simply because they are different, then we become racists.

We've all become so inured to the MAD syndrome that it's now crossing over from the military to everyday life. (To those of you who don't know: MAD stands for Mutually Assured Destruction. ie The USSR and the USA agreed that peace could only occur if both sides had the ability to totally destroy each other. This ability, or so the argument went, would ensure that neither would attack the other in a pre-emptive nuclear attack). It's this obscenity that seems to be dictating the "protect our culture", racism of today. In other words, we "protect" our culture by attacking others. Do unto others before they do you? Racism is so ingrained into our national psyche, that we now have difficulty recognising it when it occurs. Frequently, we concentrate on the overt signs of racism, such as racist slurs, graffiti,

or racist-motivated violence. This reaction, however, occurs in only a minority (relatively speaking), and is usually confined to the alcohol-swilling, intellectually stunted idiots of society. In general, society currently disapproves of outward manifestations of racism, if only because of the stigma attached to it.

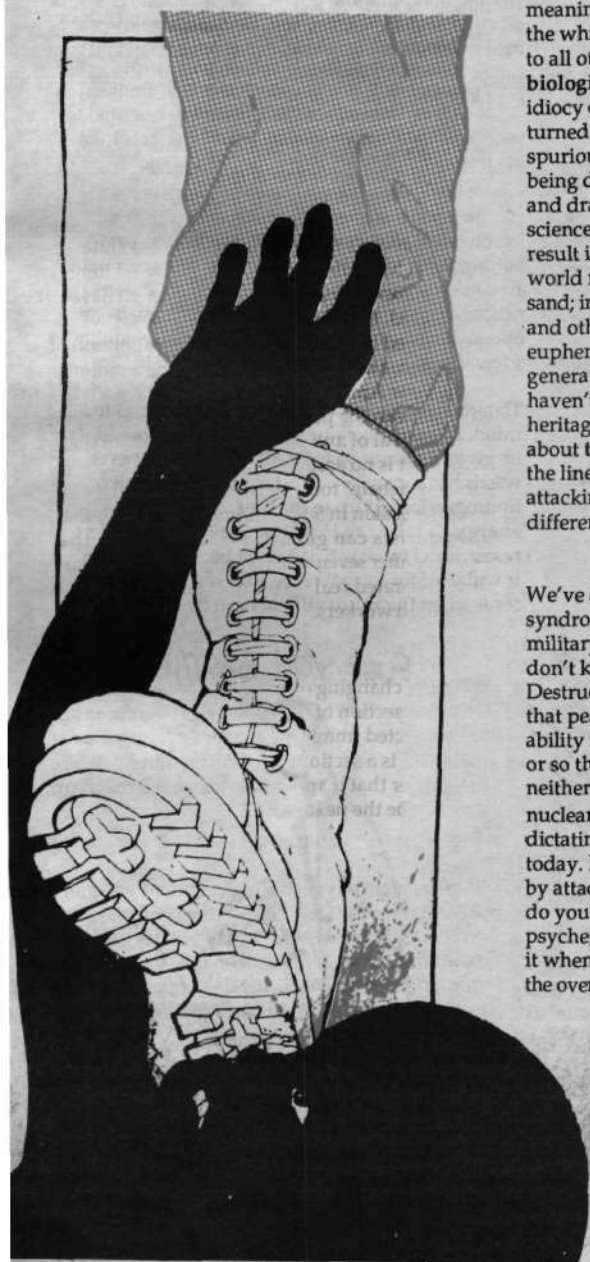
There is, however, another type of racism which, unlike the overt hatred expressed by neo-Nazi groups such as National Action, is unthinkingly accepted by the majority of people. This is the racism of "differences", best illustrated by an example. Think about men and women talking to each other. Regardless of how you may think, one thing remains fundamental at all times; the conscious or unconscious awareness that you are talking to a woman or a man. This being a simple biological fact, is a reality that can't be helped, and nobody would really want to change it anyway. Nor is there any reason to. When, however, this awareness turns to sexism, that's when it becomes reprehensible. Similarly, when cultural awareness turns to racism, it becomes just as putrid.

This fact, unfortunately, is not as widely recognised as it should be. Specious theories on "social cohesion", and other rubbish are instead advanced to explain the xenophobia in our society. We're told that large numbers of immigrants will dilute or change our culture. Not only is this wrong, but it assumes that Australia is so weak, that its culture will immediately succumb to "The Asians". This is not only insulting, but inevitably, such an attitude creates an unconscious "us versus them mentality". It is this mentality that then gives rise to the racist policies of groups such as National Action and the Liberal party.

In itself, emphasising cultural differences is valid enough. What is not, is when you begin to base your actions on the perceived differences in various races. For example, the patronising attitude towards Koories by the government, and its sequel in the community, anger towards Koories and their demands for justice.

How we deal with this problem is important. Simply saying you're not a racist, or deploring anti-Asian racism, while being a good start, will not solve the problem. We have to change the very way we think if we want to make any fundamental changes. And it is only change that is fundamental that will be long-lasting enough to ensure racial harmony.

How do we go about doing this? To tell you the truth, I don't know. Racism is a result of centuries of exploitation, ignorance and a built-in biological fear of anything that is different or that we think may threaten us. How to change something so fundamental in our natures is, frankly, beyond me. What we have to do is make a start, and an admission that we do have a problem is a start, just as alcoholics first have to admit that they are alcoholics. We have to admit that we all, in some way or the other dislike things that are different to us, and we must want to change.



# A Punter's

By Luke Harris — Monash University (Clayton)

A storm of electrons surges along a thin copper wire, finally releasing its energy via a strip of hot metal in a hollow glass sphere: then let there be light! Modern civilisation has produced vast amounts of power available instantly at your convenience, but has simultaneously hidden the cost and the dangers. Today, industry, the ordinary consumer, and almost every valuable form of transport depend upon the use of fossil fuels, the splitting of the atom, or hydroelectricity; one finite, the next lethal and the last environmentally damaging. Fortunately, there are a host of alternatives, some restricted in nature, but others that may well be unlimited.

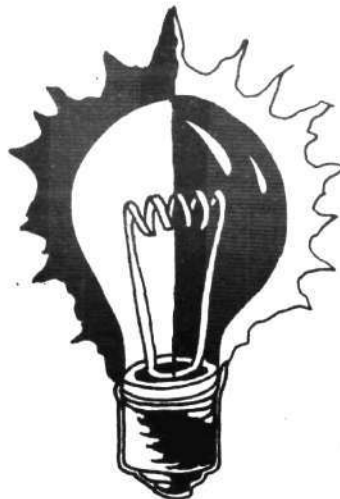
Coal and oil essentially contain the stored solar energy of plants that died and have decayed over many millions of years, and can be refined to a variety of combustible states. Seems like a free lunch, but they are dirty to burn, and grace the atmosphere with unwanted compounds of sulphur and heavy metals. In a world system hooked on hydrocarbons, this can be borne, but pollution is only half the problem. We are also running out of resources. Burn a litre of Super, and it is gone for ever, pushed down the energy slope and irreversibly broken down. New oil reserves are harder to find, and exponential growth rates may even eat their way through the far more plentiful supplies of black and brown coal. Natural gas is fairly clean, but Mother Nature isn't replacing it as fast as we gobble it up. Sugar-cane can be refined to an ethanol fuel, as it is in Brazil, but this reduces land available for food crops at a time when this can ill be afforded.

*"Burn a litre of Super and it is gone forever, pushed down the energy slope and irreversibly broken down".*

The momentum of rivers can be converted by turbines into electricity, but the flow must be constant and at high velocity, which means dams must be built. The result is a drowned upstream environment, and increased turbidity and unseasonal flows downstream. Even if all suitable rivers were dammed, our demands would far exceed the output.

A split atom releases a lot of energy, making a handful of uranium as efficient as a tonne of coal. Unfortunately, nuclear fission gives us radiation, and some rather virulent radioactive elements with a half-life longer than a Collingwood losing streak. Which is not to be too flippant, because nuclear power can be insidiously dangerous, with by-products just right for

the manufacturers of missiles in their search for a better bomb. A well-designed and run station may in fact be safe, but the point is do we really need to take the chance, and has adequate information ever been provided as to the risks?



Wind is pure, free, and kept in perpetual motion by our constant companion, the sun. Prop two or more blades on an axle up a tower, and they can turn fast enough to power a few homes or charge batteries. The trouble is, most places aren't windy enough, and the number of "windlights" needed to generate a useful amount of power would be immense, and a visual blight.

*"Wind is pure, free, and kept in perpetual motion by our constant companion, the Sun".*

The winds of the oceans, the currents, are beyond us as of yet, but the power of the tides can be tapped by the agency of large booms that funnel their twice-daily ebb and flow through ingeniously designed turbines. This technologically elegant, non-polluting power source has the interesting side-effect of slowing the earth's rotation by a minute amount each year. Reasonable tidal range is needed, and it will never be more than a supplement.

Heat differences can yield energy, and the biggest of all is several kilometres beneath our feet, where the magma meets the crust. Sometimes rifts and faults allow molten rock and geothermal heat to surface. Piped water can be heated past boiling point to run steam turbines, and warmed air could be used to heat entire towns in cooler regions. Away from active areas, drilling may be an option, because crust temperatures increase rapidly a few thousand metres down.

Think of hydrogen and the "Hindenburg" comes to mind; but some believe this volatile gas should be given a chance as fuel. All of the oil that ever was is but a droplet in the face of the amount of hydrogen locked up in the oceans, but it takes energy to take the H out of the H<sub>2</sub>O, as well as research and funding that has not been forthcoming. It will wait for us, however, and keep an eye out for it when the Saudi oilfields run dry.

FUSE, YOU BASTARD



PONS ATTEMPTS  
COLD FUSION

**Or, a few**



# Guide to Power

The direct conversion of solar electromagnetic radiation into electricity is becoming much more advanced, with one photo-voltaic cell recently surpassing the 30 per cent efficiency level. The best receptors are very expensive, but as demand grows, more will be produced for less per unit. Apart from the process used for manufacturing the cells initially, pollution is nil. Powering the US would require a solar array rather larger than Tasmania, and hence the covering of much land. One suspects that environmentalists would be as vocal in their complaints about this as they were calling for alternative energy sources in the first place.

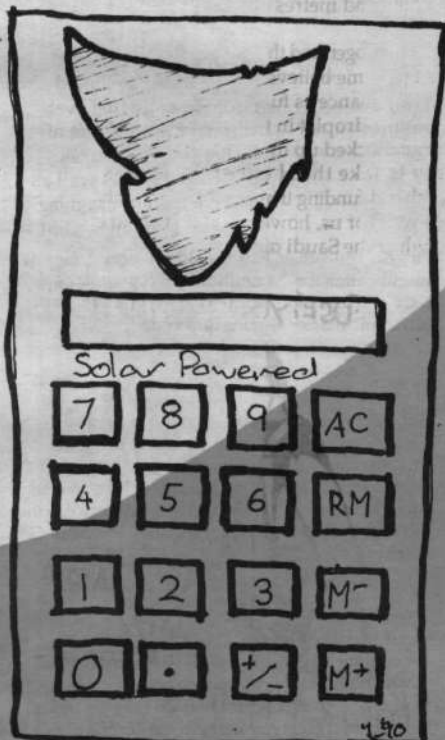
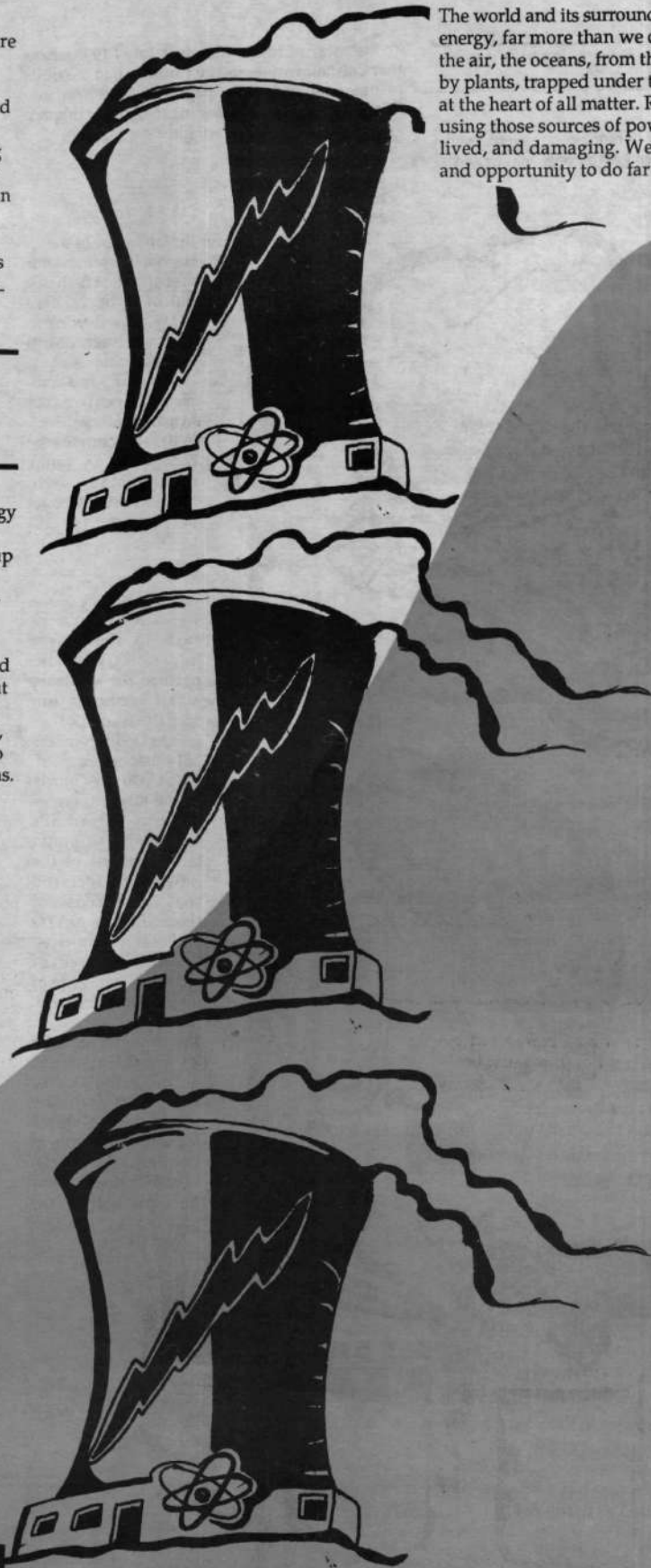
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*"Powering the US would require a solar array rather larger than Tasmania".*

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Forcing atoms together and producing a net energy outflow is a tricky business. Nuclear fusion physicists use lines of magnetic force to bottle up a thin wisp of gas, and then zap it up to incredible temperature. Currently, the reaction always breaks it down before stability is achieved. If this non-toxic, non-polluting method of generation is ever perfected (and enough researchers are trying) it will, without exaggeration, change the earth. In the very distant future it would cause thermal pollution, but at that stage we could simply transfer it into space, just as we could with solar-power stations.

The world and its surroundings are coursing with energy, far more than we could ever use. It is in the air, the oceans, from the sun itself, bound up by plants, trapped under the crust and entombed at the heart of all matter. Rather foolishly, we are using those sources of power that are most short-lived, and damaging. We have the intelligence and opportunity to do far better.



**ight choices.**

# A Day in the Life of a Planet

by CHRIS FOLEY — Monash University (Caulfield/Frankston)

July 1 1990 — a day of momentous events, yet foreshadowing even greater possibilities and surprises.

To the 'aware' Chisholm student, July 1 1990 means that Chisholm mysteriously vanishes into the mists of time, and that they magically transform into 'Monash students' - moving in time, yet not in space - we have entered...the Twilight Zone...

As we hurtle through time on our supersonic chariot (the good ship 'Merger'), we streak over the landscape of the... realm of possibility rumours scream towards us... pause for a moment... then flash past out of sight... here today, gone tomorrow, back next week... Must we shift campuses?... Will our half-completed courses be recognised by Monash?... Will our courses be recognised by future employers?... Yes!... No!... Maybe!... I don't know, I just work here...

Yet we are not alone in such a headlong, confused rush to the Never Never. July 1 1990 was also the port of departure for the lean, clean noNazi' reunification class ship the Bismark II — where Deutsch marks only are now accepted, thank you very much. In the jubilant atmosphere of Bismark II's launching, the proud joint captains of the new ship declared that hundreds of thousands of NATO and Soviet 'tourists' would sail free of charge as a gesture of international free will.

Yet strangely enough for a maiden voyage, no projected course was filed with the offices of the ship's managing directors in London, Paris, Washington or Moscow. To maintain the

suspense, the media has dutifully reeled off rumoured ports of call for the Bismark II... Political Union, via the West German constitution (state be state)... Political Union, via the drafting of a new West German constitution... War, via intervention from the East... War, via intervention from the West... German annexation, via Polish territories... German annexation, via Czechoslovakian territories... German economic domination, via the East... German economic domination, via the West...

The mass media's eager listing of rumoured ports of call go on and on, like a fire with regular doses of petrol...

The big question is - what should we make of all this?

I could slam our merger with Monash as the desecration of our educational standards!

Or I could praise the merger as actually raising our educational standards!

But since the whole thing appears to be so secretive (or vague?) that no-one seems to know what's happening. Anyone who does seem to know is remaining very tight-lipped about it all. So any comment at this stage could be in the realm of fantasy.

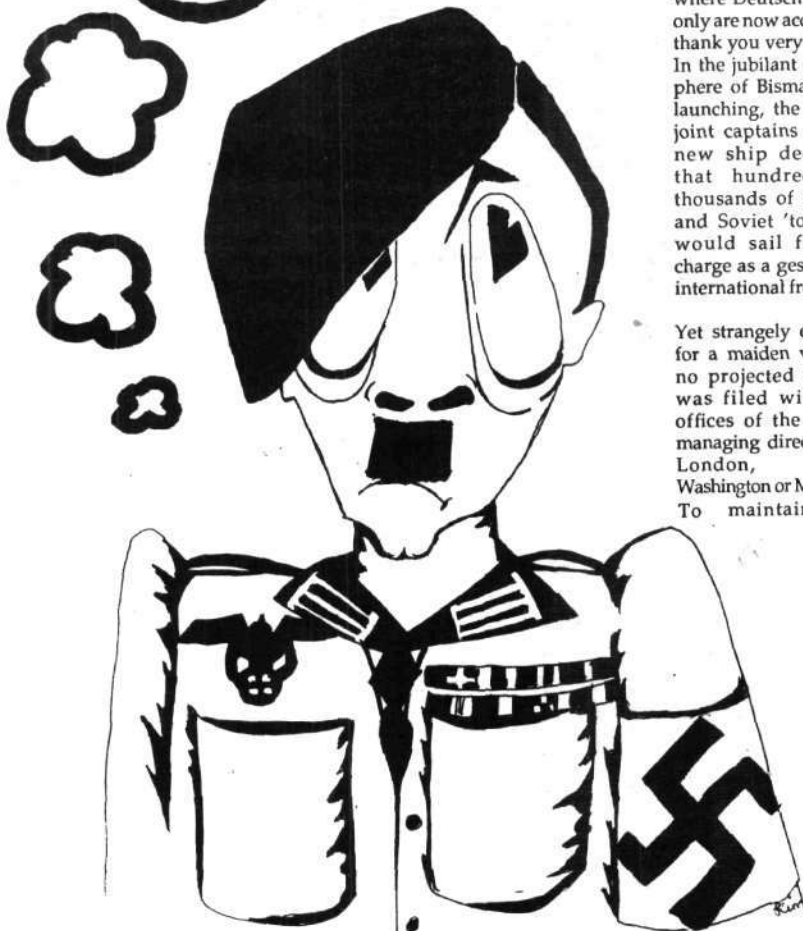
I could slam German reunification as the resurrection of Nazism, militarism and extreme racial and cultural intolerance!

Or, on the other hand, I could praise German reunification for the multitude of economic benefits that Europe will soon reap when its natural economic master regains its throne!

But, dear reader, despite what our primary education taught us about Germany being the incarnation of the evil in this world, and that the 'free world' must be ever vigilant to keep in chains, such characteristics were not born with, nor did they die with, Adolf Hitler. Nor are they uniquely German!

But if we can be certain about anything concerning July 1 1990, it is that it was a day in which many things happened, which could in turn lead to many other things, none of which may eventuate... or in short, it was typical day in the life of a planet...

Yours in eager anticipation of a repeat of yesterday, today and tomorrow...





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-How to acquire the skills you'll be needing to justify having so much fucking money (with a special section on use of religious tests).



-How to behave if your tutor is a suspected Soviet spy and how to make money from this.



-How to find the Common Market Value of your course and make money from this.



-How to legitimise racism with false logic and fictitious biological facts and make money from this.



-Why a country with 30% of its population living below the poverty line is more productive than a country where no one is starving and how to make money from this.



-How to undermine the contribution women have made to this country and how to make money from this.



-Why the words 'conscience', 'responsibility', 'the environment' and 'freedom' should all be replaced with the word 'nationalism' and how to make money from this.



CHAPTER 17 - The Role of Women

- Minimalising Feminism's Impact on the Patriarchal System.



The first step is to erase all traces of evidence endorsing women's contribution to Australian society. Monuments to women of the past must be destroyed for they only corroborate the testimony of feminist liars. Caroline Chisholm's paltry offerings to the Great Machine of Colonisation must never be recognised. Her name must be torn from the side of all Government institutions and her face must never shame the Empire's currency.



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# ALTERNATIVES TO

## Detergents

Barry Buchanan — La Trobe University

Firstly, we were worried about pesticides in our environment — little poison pellets dropped on us from above, sprays used around the home. Then, when we switched to alternatives around the home, (and let's face it, the annual ritual of a dish of rat poison wasn't that hard a habit to give up). Then, we realised that the nasties were still being used on the food we ate (hence the scare last year that 'apples were carcinogenic' when it was actually the spray used that was giving us cancer). Now, just when you thought it was safe to step outside your trendy, designer colour co-ordinated hazardous chemical rad suit, it's time to start thinking about household cleaners.

It's not exactly time to start singing prayers if you've been using standard chemical cleaners all this time - incidents of poisoning from these seem few and far between. But in line with the general 'alternative' movement of the times, kicking the chemical habit completely might not be such a bad idea.

Very few of us actually want to live in a house that hasn't been cleaned so long the floor actually touches the ceiling, and a recent *Choice* article ended up with the slogan 'Just because it's got dolphins on it doesn't mean it's environmentally sound'. How do we reject the big nasty chemicals and still live in a spotless surrounding the TV housewives of the '60s would be proud of? I'm glad you asked!

Firstly, whatever you buy, make sure it's phosphate free! That's the single most important rule to remember. Phosphates are no fun. Next, set up an alternative cleaning cupboard.

Recycling's one of the big things at the moment, right? So keep all your homemade (phosphate free) alternative cleaners in recycled jars. Go out, and buy some of the following:

- Bicarbonate of soda
- Lemons
- Pure soap
- Borax
- Vinegar
- Cloudy Ammonia (NEVER mix this with bleach of any kind)
- Washing soda
- Eucalyptus

With these, and a bucket big enough, I can clean the world! To make a general purpose cleaner, use 2 litres of hot water, 1/4 cup cloudy ammonia, 1/4 cup of vinegar and 1 tablespoon of water.

For dirty grouting, mix 1 tablespoon of the above with 2 tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda. Brush paste onto stains with a (recycled) toothbrush, wait five minutes and scrub off.

For baths and basins, soap and hot water or borax on sponge or eucalyptus on sponge will do quite nicely, thank you very much.

Carpet spots ('what's your carpet doing eating fried food anyway?!?') either rub in baking soda or soap powder and vinegar.

Clothes can be washed in soap powders with things like 'pure soap' or 'biodegradable' written on them. Watch for those phosphates! Grease stains can be treated (if they behave well) with cloudy ammonia and water, Bi-carb or borax rubbed into dirty spots also helps.

If anything wants bleaching (like your KKK hood) try one part borax to two parts hot water. Or a change of ideology.

Yellow soap is fine for washing dishes. If you have a washing machine, 'Herbon' (who have a pretty good 'alternative' reputation) make a guaranteed environmentally friendly washing powder you can get from health food shops, pharmacies or Myer food hall. Leave burnt saucepans to soak overnight in salty water.

For cleaning windows: methylated spirits and hot water, dry and shine with (recycled) newspaper or one tablespoon of vinegar and one litre of hot water.

General toiletries: general brand names to look for: Blackmore's, Amway, Herbon, Swipe, Mill Creek shampoo, Aloe Vera, Velvet, Simple soap, Castille, The Body Shop (while it's here!).

Toothpaste: Red Seal, Blackmore's Herbal or (for the real hippy in you) bi-carb soda. (Maybe as a dare after a party or something. I dunno.) Or there's always finely ground sage. This sounds a lot tastier, and is supposed to white and strengthen your fangs as well.

If you happen to get anything dry-cleaned, air it out for a couple of hours before bringing it into the house. The chemicals used can apparently give you one hell of a headache. ('God, you must have had a wild weekend! What did you do?' 'I got my clothes

dry-cleaned. Man, I feel wasted.' 'Say no more!!!')

There you have it. See, it wasn't that hard to give up the major chemical dependents of your life was it? You're helping the trees and the land and the birds and the fish and yourselves and your friends and — the list goes on and on and on. Isn't it a wonderful feeling being nice to so many things? Doesn't it make you feel like a wonderful human being?

And for those of you (like me) with a fat poppy syndrome, who have this irrational and totally unjustified belief that no-one in genuinely worth millions of dollars, and that on any sort of comparison basis no-one can really be said to have earned that much money (because nothing any individual can offer is worth that much) there's the added inner glow (not the nuclear sort) that comes from the knowledge that you're sticking it up the major chemical companies.

Now, after your organic vegetarian dinner you can relax in a kind, sensitive chemical free environment, before donning your compassionate fake fur coat and vinyl gloves and shoes and going out to the discos to smoke four packets of cigarettes, (and that's just the legal ones) and drinking enough beer to finance the takeover of another third world nation.

If this still isn't enough, by the way, check out Friends of the Earth (at 232 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy) or the Environment Centre in the city (or maybe the greenies on campus). Remember, the world can always use a little more love and caring.





# When you say yes...



## say yes to safe sex.

Making the first move might be scary, but more guys than you think have sex with other guys. It's natural, and if you're safe you'll have a great time.

And what's safe? Kissing, cuddling, licking, stroking, wanking, oral sex (avoid cum in the mouth) vaginal and anal sex with condoms and water-based lube (such as KY-gel).

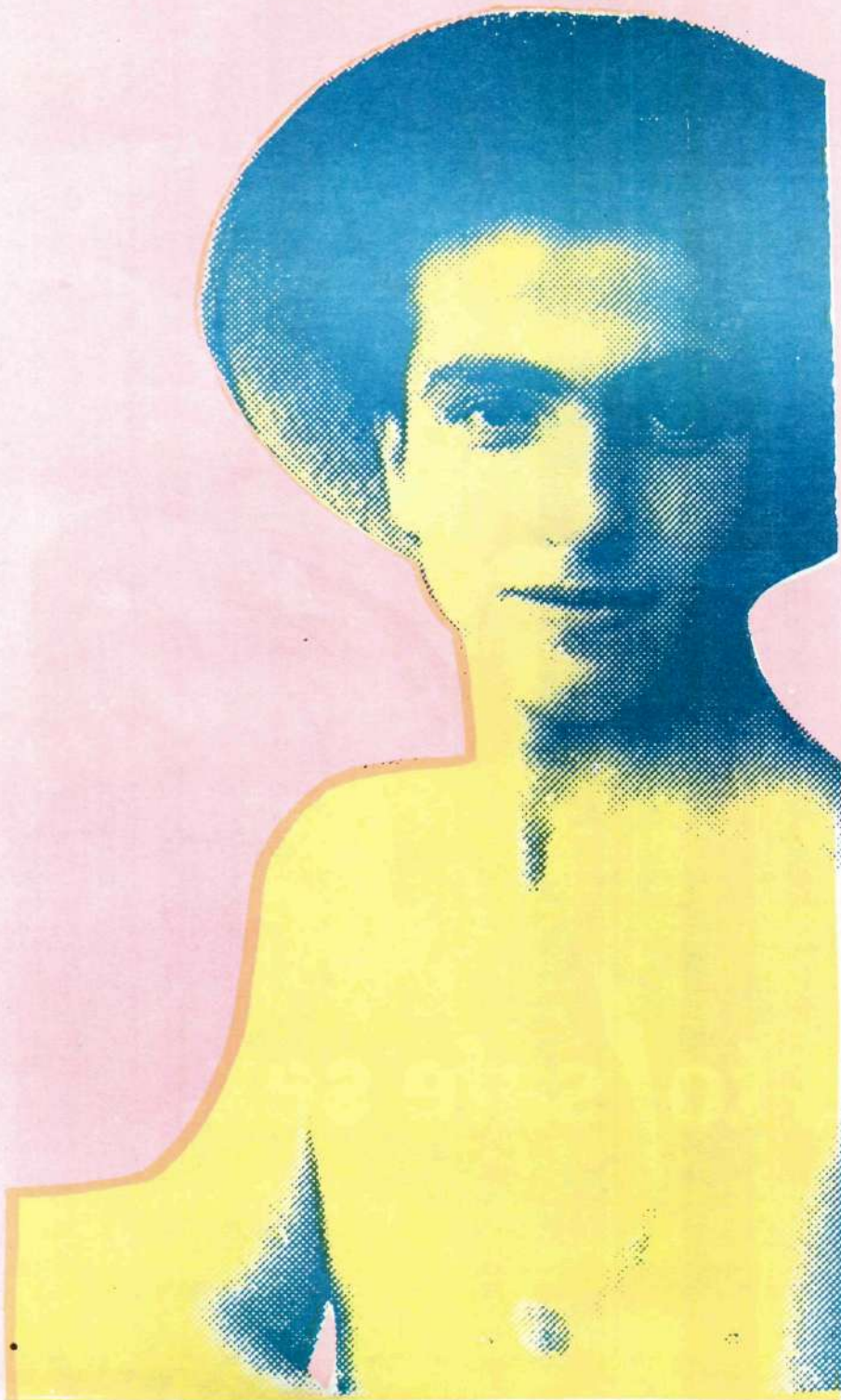
For more information on safe sex and discussion groups for young gay and bisexual men, call Mark at the Victorian AIDS Council ☎ 417 1759

Produced by the Victorian AIDS Council 1990





# boy to boy



by Damien Ridge — Monash University

## YOUTH PROJECT TEAM

**M**ark had just moved into the flat below. He was moving back home with his father. I had noticed him a few days ago, arm in arm with his girlfriend. She didn't look happy. I remember thinking that he looked kind of handsome.

My flatmate was fixing Mark's father's TV a few days later, and asked if Mark had a girlfriend. His father said that Mark had just broken up with his girlfriend, and that he was more likely to have a boyfriend. Mark was to be married next year.

Being young and gay or confused about your sexuality can be difficult in our society. Way back in the 1950's Dr Kinsey shattered the official dogma surrounding sexuality in the US that held that only heterosexual relations within the bonds of marriage were acceptable. He found that more than one in three guys had sex with other guys, at least for a short time. Today, gay sex is seen as a normal variation in sexuality by many. More and more, young guys are gaining the confidence to question their sexuality. Some of that sexual dogma still exists, and gay sex is still stigmatised by some.

The advent of AIDS has complicated the picture somewhat. Over the 10 years since the first hints of a new disease emerged, we have learnt an enormous amount. We now know that sex can be safe as well as a lot of fun.

This article looks at the prevention of AIDS in youth, and in young gays in particular. It is useful first to consider a history of AIDS and its implications for the prevention of HIV transmission. (Note: HIV is the name of the virus that causes AIDS).

AIDS has been described as a "powerful idea", beyond just a physical disease; powerful because it is about sex and death together. It forces us to face truths about ourselves and our society. It turns blood and semen (usually a source of life, and often imbued with symbolic meaning in many cultures) into so-called "agent soft death". It also breaks down the immune system; a ready metaphor for the breakdown of social and sexual values.

HIV is just a genetic package, surrounded by a protein coat; it doesn't have a moral system by which to operate. Nevertheless, the AIDS pandemic is far more than just that of a disease; there is also the pandemic of reaction to AIDS.

The reaction to AIDS powerfully shapes the course of the pandemic. Social, cultural, political, economic and behaviour factors all have a significant impact on the pandemic. In trying to prevent HIV transmission, educators must also consider these factors.

We initially heard about AIDS through the mass media. Overseas studies have shown how the media has generally presented AIDS as a disease that "other people" get.





Even though AIDS was clearly established outside of the gay population as early as 1982, the media in Australia and overseas continued to emphasise that AIDS was a 'gay plague'. Further, the impression given was that of a disease that infected specific groups characterised by what was considered to be their deviant sexuality. Even more than this, gays were being seen as responsible for this disease, which was by now threatening the rest of society.

The "reality" of AIDS invented by the media reflects the history of epidemics. Minority groups have often been wrongly blamed and punished for epidemics, and epidemics have subsequently been used to control certain minority groups. For instance, in the US this century, men with syphilis were rarely quarantined, whereas females suspected of "soliciting" were detained until considered non-contagious.

Even today, prostitutes are being identified quite wrongly by the media as spreaders of HIV. Remember the "Sharleen case" last year. The truth is that absolutely no prostitutes in Victoria have been found to have HIV (i.e. they are HIV negative) by the Melbourne STD Centre in the last 6 years. The adoption of condom use by this group has been tremendous. In fact, the prostitute is more at risk from the male client who may not be so keen to use condoms. Interestingly, the heterosexual male is hardly ever considered to be a spreader of STDS.

Many people are surprised by the truth. AIDS most probably originated in Central Africa and, in fact, antibodies to the virus have been found in blood samples from Africa taken as far back as 1959. Today, AIDS is a heterosexual disease of enormous proportions in Africa. Indeed, on a global scale, AIDS has always been more a disease of heterosexuality than one of gays. It is just that in the Western world, AIDS happened to appear in gays first.

Now this is changing in the Western world as the pandemic evolves. Already, hundreds of people in Australia have caught HIV from heterosexual sex.

We are already paying for our failure to comprehend the significance and facts relating to AIDS. In the USA for example, the Reagan Administration ignored the initial spread of AIDS for years because it was a disease affecting gays, and thus unimportant. Reagan never publicly mentioned the word AIDS until shortly before he stepped down. In the June 1990 edition of the National AIDS Bulletin, the mouthpiece of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, it has been reported that one in four (yes, that's 1 in 4) men between the ages of 25 and 44 in New York are HIV infected (HIV positive). Shocking figures indeed, and many blame Reagan for allowing the epidemic to blow up in the USA.

It is generally acknowledged that gays have made extraordinary changes in their sexual practices, unprecedented in modern health promotion efforts. A quit smoking campaign is considered successful if it can convince a few percent of

people to give up smoking. To convince over 75% of gay men to have safe sex all the time is phenomenal.

Other sections of the population are yet to make comparable changes in their sexual behaviour. There is particular concern for youth and especially gay youth.

Despite the dangerous assertions of religious fundamentalists and others who are using the AIDS issue to push their own sexual mores, monogamy has little to do with preventing AIDS. Never has there been a society in which the patterns of sexual behaviour were restricted solely to monogamy or chastity, and Australian in the 90's will definitely not be the first.

Research shows that sexual activity in youth has probably become more common since the 60's. Youth tends to follow a pattern of serial monogamy, often with short periods of time between partners. In this light, the promotion of condoms for vaginal and anal intercourse is the only responsible safe sex message. To deceive youth into believing that sex within a "monogamous relationship" is safe, is a dangerous exercise. To expect youth to find a lifelong partner in their first sexual encounter is unrealistic. Educational messages to youth must be aimed at preventing AIDS, not sex. Condoms are proven to be very reliable for preventing AIDS when used properly, and have quite rightly become the cornerstone for AIDS prevention.

There is a problem when directing health educational messages to youth; they tend to resist the messages of health promoters. In exasperation, Blum in the US has claimed that adolescents are the only group whose health status has not improved over the last 30 years.

The characteristics of young people that make them resistant to safe sex messages include:

- a sense of invulnerability, ie "It can't happen to me";
- an inclination for risk-taking behaviour and experimentation;
- desires for peer approval;
- a need to build self-esteem;
- a lack of negotiating skills;
- problems with accepting condoms (image problems);
- a false sense of security, if only sleeping with one person.

The Victorian AIDS Council recently set up the Youth Project Team (YPT) as a response to these problems in educating youth about safe sex. The YPT mainly aims its education programs at gay youth, since the Health Department is supposed to be looking after youth in general. The YPT consists of young people designing programs for young people. It recognises that youth educating youth is a powerful way of changing behaviour. Peer support for behavioural change is one of the most effective means of getting people to practise safe sex.



Gay youths are particularly disadvantaged when it comes health (by "health" I mean physical as well as psychological). The acquisition of a "homosexual identity" is often a long process, beginning in early childhood and extending through adulthood. For males, the average age of awareness of gay feelings is about 13 to 14 years. Adolescents in general crave a sense of belonging, but because homosexuality is still generally stigmatised in our society, the adolescent in the "coming out" period may encounter social isolation and discrimination.

Martin in the US has commented that gay adolescents in the coming out phase are often faced with the growing awareness that they may be among the most despised in our society. This process has been likened to psychological child abuse, sanctioned by society and practised on a huge scale.

It is not surprising that gay youth may have difficulty in adopting safe sex. Remember that self-esteem and peer approval are needed to adopt safe sex successfully. In the age of AIDS, society's attitude to homosexuality amounts to more than just child abuse. Death of our gay youth is a high price to pay for our inability to accept, support and love them. The YPT acknowledges that it must seek to provide support for young gays as part of its effort to promote safe sex. It must provide positive role models for young guys who have sex with other guys. We know that at least one in three guys will have sex with another guy, and there is only a blurred distinction between gay youth and straight youth. The YPT wants to aim educational material at guys who don't see themselves as gay but still sometimes have sex with other guys.

The YPT has a challenging task. With limited resources, the YPT has up until now produced safe sex information for young people who are readily accessible, eg those who go to gay nightclubs. With the recent appointment of a full time youth education worker, the YPT wants to expand its outreach. Over the following months, the YPT is placing safe sex ads in various college and university papers as well as music magazines. The ads will appeal to guys in the coming out phase as well as to guys who are experimenting sexually with other guys. The message is simply that it is easy to be safe at the same time.

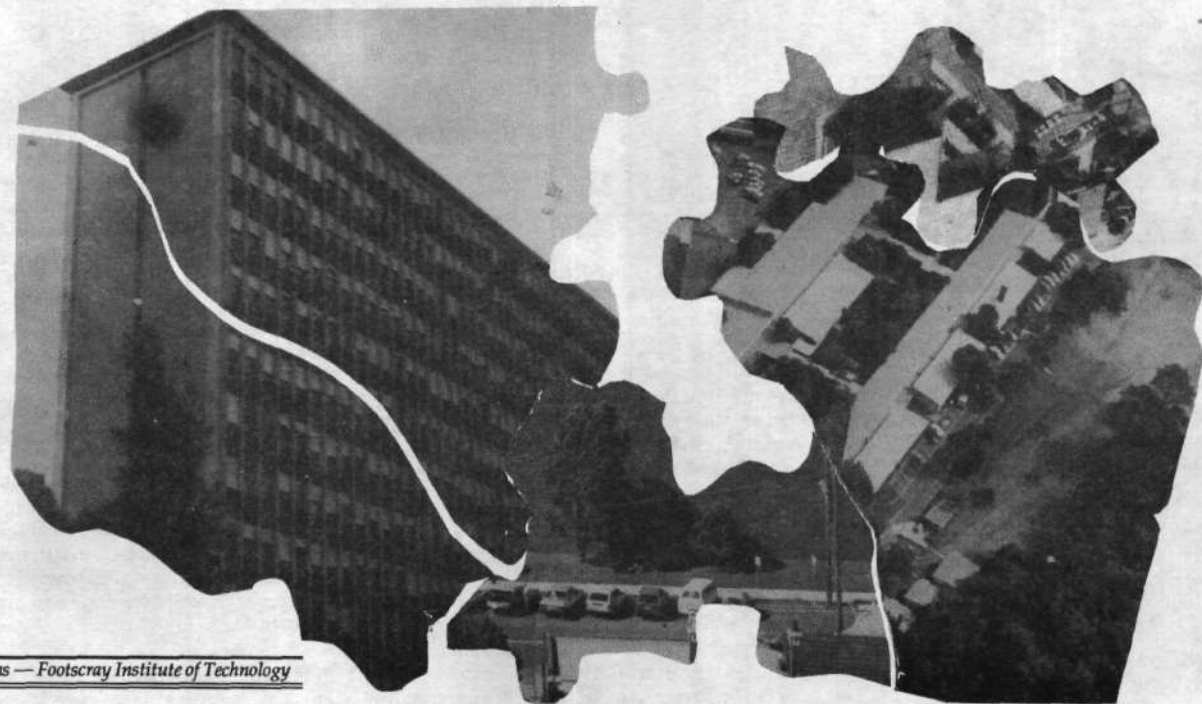
The major project for the YPT this year will be the production of a safe sex kit for young guys. The kit will include a booklet, condoms, lubrication, postcards, etc. These will be made widely available.

The YPT meets every second Tuesday 7.30 p.m. at the Peter Knight Centre, 117 Johnston Street, Collingwood. All are welcome to attend. Ring Mark Goggin on 417 1759 or Damien Ridge on 520 2736 for more details.

Youth Project Team.



# AMALGAMATION — What does this mean?



Terri Soumilas — Footscray Institute of Technology

Students from campuses from all over Australia have been confronted with the issue of amalgamations of Universities and CAE's.

The Amalgamations, or merging of education institutions have been orchestrated by the current labour government, as part of their restructuring of the education system in Australia contained in the infamous Dawkins' White Paper released in 1988.

## WHAT IS AMALGAMATION ?

This is something that a lot of students have been trying to understand since they began. Announcements of amalgamations were made to the media with little consultation, with education sector, let alone with students. This type of procedure has been quite indicative of the method adopted by this government.

Basically amalgamation is the merging of education institutions as directed by the 'grey coats' of Canberra. On the surface we will see the end of the Binary system, and the introduction of a Unified system. The distinction between the traditional Universities and the C.A.E.'s had become so blurred as to be meaningless. With this we will see the major restructuring of institutes funding guidelines. Institutes will be funded depending upon the way they conform with the 'National Priorities' set by the government. In the White Paper it states that 'an increasing share of total higher education resources should be directed to those areas of study greater relevance to the national goals of industrial development and economic restructuring.' Higher education will be directed by the whim of the government of the day and its Big Business backers.

Most Student Representative Organisations have participated in the 'negotiation' procedures that have been established by the Government and Institutes to implement their particular amalgamation. The Amalgamation of FIT, RMIT and Western Institute has received a lot of political attention as well as what appears to be the 'fairest' negotiation procedures. (students have 3 votes on the Implementation Steering Committee). Issue based Working Parties have been set up across the three Institutes, where most 'interest' groups and individuals are represented. What lacks the most

is a basic cohesive structure. We have individual working parties making decisions on particular issues then recommending them to the 'Implementation Steering Committee', what happens to these decisions and how much these will be acted upon, has not become apparent yet. Solid exchange of critical information does not occur, such as the funding, no-one really knows exactly what the funding situation will be and how it will affect each Working Party.

Within the Amalgamation at FIT, RMIT and Western Institute student organisations have been the right exist and to determine their own structure, and that there will be no diminution in student services. While we are extremely happy with this, we still approach it all with caution, as we haven't been given the right to continued control of the General Service Fee.

The Government policy on Education — The White Paper - has inherent contradictions that places the economies needs over educational needs. Therefore an Amalgamation brought about through the White Paper (ie: most amalgamations) inhibits the University's ability to respond to needs that are not economically based. Simply providing extra places in education without looking at questions of income support, housing,

childcare, secondary education and issues for people from non English speaking backgrounds, will defiantly inhibit any real development in access and equity. There has been clear indication that the bulk of the resources are will be directed specifically to Post Graduate courses, which in turn will undermine Undergraduate courses.

At the time of writing this report, we had just received a copy of the 'Draft Relative Funding Model', and like most bureaucratic papers, it is presented in a form which serves to alienate the 'average' person in being able to understand it. It is a mathematical analysis that seems to lack a 'humanitarian' background. Funding will be allocated by disciplines and disciplines are placed into clusters. These clusters are developed along lines of tradition, that is established Universities. Which leaves us wondering why all this amalgamation reshuffling, when the traditional Universities will be the ones to gain the most in this new funding model. More on this issue once we've had time to analysed it properly.

All Tertiary Institutes will become Universities, therefore the distinction between Institutes and Universities will no longer exist, therefore the hype being fed to CAE students re, increase status isn't really valid. Most of all, University Status means nothing if the appropriate funding is not made available.

This general reorganisation in structure and guidelines comes at a time when the student movement is weak and therefore not able to defend itself. We have been swept along with the current, most of us have gone along with the amalgamations, basically because we have not wanted to be forgotten within this major upheaval of education in Australia. We don't know what the benefits of these amalgamations are, let alone the educational cost.



Most students come to Uni in a car. Cars are warm and dry and can get us from home to University without all the walking and waiting usually associated with public transport. On the other hand, each time we drive, we are causing environmental damage and helping to perpetuate a car-based planning for Melbourne at the expense of public transport. We each have to take responsibility for our personal choice of transport. Here are some facts about the impact of cars.

# About Cars

by Kate Creighton — Monash University (Clayton)  
MAS Transport Officer

## CARS POLLUTE

Cars pollute in many ways; the most direct effects on human health are from car emissions.

### CAR EMISSIONS

**Nitrogen Oxides:** These are irritants and are poisonous. In Melbourne, 81% of nitrogen oxides discharged into the atmosphere are from motor vehicles. In 1980, Australia was producing 915,000 tonnes a year, or 62 kg per person.

**Hydrocarbons:** These form a visible smoke with unburned oil. They are carcinogenic. In Melbourne, 43% of the non-methanic hydrocarbons are from motor vehicles. In 1980, Australia was producing 423,000 tonnes per year, or 29 kg per person.

**Carbon Monoxide:** Odourless and highly poisonous. In Melbourne, 88% of the CO produced is discharged by motor vehicles. In 1980, Australia was producing 3,704,000 tonnes a year, or 252 kg per person.

**Carbon Dioxide:** CO<sup>2</sup> is the main greenhouse gas. Cars emit 200 grams per passenger kilometre of CO<sup>2</sup>. Trains emit 60 grams per passenger km and buses emit 59 grams per passenger km. In Sydney in 1988, over 2 million cars were producing 106,000 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> each year.

**Lead:** Airborne lead from leaded petrol exhaust goes into the atmosphere and can be inhaled directly or through breathing lead contaminated dust or eating lead contaminated crops. Lead affects liver, kidneys, brain and central nervous system. Lead can accumulate in the bones and can cause mental retardation, kidney failure, and reproductive disorders.

**Smog:** Hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and other atmospheric components combine under the influence of sunlight to form ozone. Ozone is very poisonous and very difficult to control. Ozone reacts with other pollutants to form smog. Ozone is a powerful irritant. It causes permanent damage to the respiratory system, chest pains, coughing, wheezing, congestion, sore throats and nausea. It also affects the immune system. Up to 33% of some crops are damaged every year by ozone.

**CFCs:** 35% of CFCs in Australia are in car air-conditioning; that's 4.5 million tonnes per year that eventually gets released into the atmosphere.

Aggregate pollution costs were estimated at \$787 million for Australia in 1989/90.

### CAR WASTE

**Tyres:** In the USA 200 million tyres are dumped every year. This leads to some big problems. Mosquitoes breed in the stagnant water at 4,000 times their normal rates. Fires burn slowly and are almost impossible to put out. They leave an oily residue and produce toxic fumes.

### OIL, BATTERY ACID, TRANSMISSION FLUID, CAR

**Polish:** These often end up down the drain and into streams, rivers and the ocean. A recent European survey has found that 75% of all the oil contamination in the sea came from land.

### CARS KILL

The World Health Organisation estimates that 250,000 people die each year from motor accidents. That is only a fraction of the number seriously injured. Many millions of domestic pets and native animals are killed on the roads. Our nocturnal marsupials are particularly vulnerable. Avoid night driving.

### CARS AND ENERGY:

Cars are inefficient energy users. A car wastes 94% of the potential energy in its tank. A car wastes 14.1 units of energy as crude oil for 1 unit of work on the road. One slice of bread will supply enough energy to propel a cyclist nearly 6.5 kilometres. A pedestrian can get 1553 metres. It doesn't come close to starting a car, and once the car is going, it would move 175 feet.

About 40% of Australia's energy is used by transport. Melbourne's transport needs consume as much as 30% of the total energy consumption of Victoria. Private vehicles use about 55% of the total transport energy.

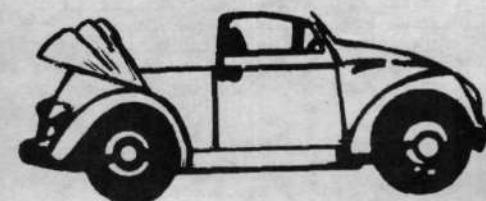
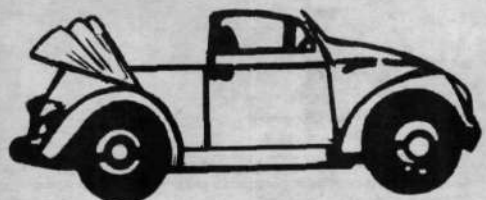
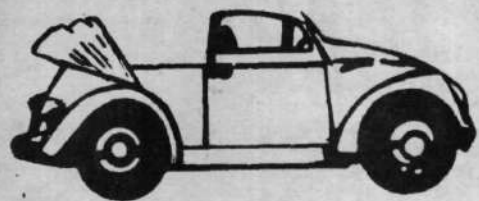
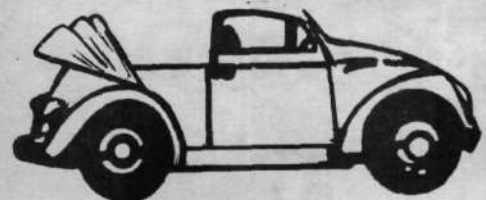
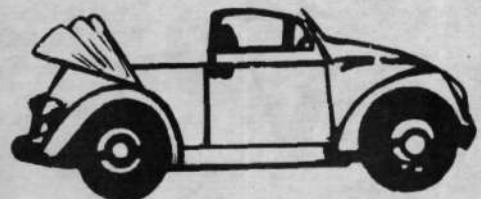
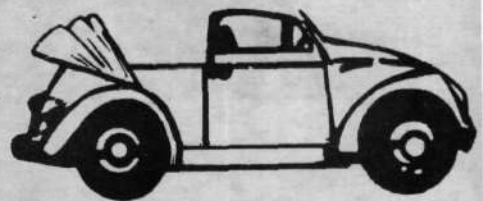
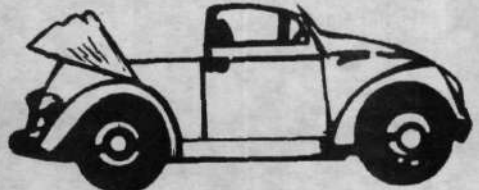
### CARS AND OUR SOCIETY:

Dependency on the private car brings greater independence but also greater separateness from each other. Cars alienate.

In a car-based society, people travel further to work, shop and visit. The local neighbourhood loses its significance, and community ties and interdependencies become weaker. Cars have enabled cities like Melbourne to spread across the countryside with little regard for the amenity of life at the local scale.

Planning for cars means car parking, wide roads and little provision for cyclists or pedestrians. Those of us who cannot or do not drive are disadvantaged. We have to live with the ugliness and danger of roads, we have to travel further for our daily needs and lose the support of our local communities. One third of the area of industrial cities is used for roads and parking. Melbourne uses about 40%.

Our choice of travel is important. It helps to shape our city and our lives, it has impact on health, society and the environment. Finding alternatives to the car is something we can each do that will make a difference. You can explore some alternatives to driving by trying out the car pool, giving public transport another try, or checking out a good cycling route to university.



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# Work Opportunities

## 1. Work Opportunities

The most accessible way for Australians to work overseas is through working holiday schemes. These are government to government agreements which allow those who meet certain criteria to work in each other's country for limited periods. Australia has these agreements with the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Ireland and The Netherlands. The spirit of these reciprocal schemes is that your primary purpose is travel, with work being incidental. Information is available from Student Travel Australian, or the embassy of the country you intend to visit.

Work opportunities are available all over the world, throughout Europe and the United States, to South East Asia and the Middle East.

### Europe

Opportunities for work really only exist in the West. Western Europe is divided into two economic trading blocks - the European Community (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

If you are eligible for a passport in any of the EC countries, then it should normally be legal for you to work in the other countries of the EC as well, but not those of the EFTA.

### United States of America

The USA is one of the most difficult places to attempt to obtain a visa which will allow you to work. To avoid this, there are some programmes which allow you to experience work in the US, with a minimum of bureaucratic hassle.

SWAP has a programme for students over the age of 18 to work between 1 November and 19 March. Most SWAP participants find work in the snowfields. Do some research, however, before launching into the first snowfield that appears on the horizon - there are varying degrees of difficulty in finding a job, and you should go for the positions which offer perks to their employees (accommodation, ski passes etc) to offset the high cost of living.

Camp America provides work experience in summer camps.

### Central and South America

Work opportunities are rather limited. One avenue to explore is The Resource and Action Committee for Latin America (RACLA), who organise for work in a voluntary capacity in Nicaragua for periods of one month to a year. For more information contact RACLA, 21 Falls Street, Leichhardt, New South Wales, 2040.

Secondly, the Australian Cuban Friendship Society organises Cuban Work Brigades. In reality, work is not a major part of the activities, and the scheme is more for the holidayer as costs are approximately \$3,300 each. Participants do, however, gain more of an insight into the culture than the normal tourist. Information on this is available from the Friendship Society, Box 1, 52 Victoria Street, Carlton, 3053.

### Japan

Aside from the working holiday visa scheme, you can try the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET). The scheme involves teaching English in a Japanese school for 12 months. Some applicants may also be placed in local government. Salary and travel expenses are funded by the Japanese government. Applications are available from Japanese Consular offices.

### Hong Kong

There are two major ways of getting a foot in the door - either approach major employment agencies or corporations that have offices in Hong Kong (many professionally qualified people are

emigrating from Hong Kong as 1997 draws near, leaving many vacancies) or contact the Labour Department, 16th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central Hong Kong.

### Taiwan

There are numerous teaching positions available in Taiwan, and although it is illegal to work without a work visa, many can and do so because of the demand to be met. Most work is in Taipei, however other major centres provide good employment prospects.

### China

Opportunities for work in China are almost always as a teacher or consultant in a specialist field.

The Department of Employment, Education and Training administers a teacher exchange for experienced EFL (English as a first language) teachers. Contact Bilateral Programs, Department of Employment, Education and Training, P.O. Box 826, Woden ACT 2606.

Also see AFS International Exchanges (Other Organisations), listed below.

### Korea

As for Hong Kong in many respects - much teaching work is available or contact corporations with overseas offices.

### The Pacific

Little opportunity for work, as the major industry is tourism which is catered for by locals. Long term work however, may be found via Volunteer agencies.

### Middle East

The only work available is for those with professional skills, and must be organised from home or London. Some British employment agencies fill requirements for experienced labour in the middle east. Teaching, again, is a optimistic prospect. The Kuwait Gulf English School periodically recruits teachers, and can be contacted at P.O. Box 6304, 22073 Salmiah, Kuwait.

Israel provides work in the tourist industry - one of the safer areas is Eilat, a tourist resort at the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba. The Peace Cafe on Agmonim street is used as a place to pick up casual work, but you need to be there before 7 am in the morning. The main tourist season runs from late October to late March, outside of which is too hot for comfort.

Kibbutz are found throughout Israel and provide an opportunity for work experience with a difference. Essentially a communal organisation, the work is likely to provide a valuable insight into the custom and culture. There are two ways to join a kibbutz - either find one when in Israel or organise a placement before leaving so that you are guaranteed a position. Contact the Kibbutz Program Desk, 584 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004 ph 51 6921.

### Africa

Work is difficult to get and keep in Africa - with the exception of South Africa, but given the political unrest there is may not seem the safest or most ideologically soundest option to pursue. What work is available in other parts of Africa (generally the southern or eastern areas) should be organised from Australia, not on the road.

Apart from volunteer agencies, the most available work is teaching. Recruitment is commonly via advertising in the press (usually The Australian) or by recruiting through Aid agencies. Alternatively, write to the appropriate embassy with specific requests.

by Helga Soendsen — Monash University (Clayton)

Most students have either travelled, or want to at some time in the future. The problem for most of us, however, is a lack of time and money. Working or studying abroad can partly solve this problem. If time is a problem, then spending your time constructively - either studying or working - is a perfect justification for going overseas and learning about a new culture. You might even have a good time as well! Money wise, a work or study exchange also makes sense, as there is often some kind of financial support provided.

So where do you start?



# Volunteer Work

Volunteer work is not something undertaken for financial reward. Obviously the benefits are less tangible, but are often far more memorable and valuable to the participant. Selection processes are often rigorous - requiring detailed information and often numerous interviews. This is not only to ensure that only the most appropriate people are chosen, but it also gives the applicant the opportunity to assess their own interest and commitment, as a volunteer placement is not to be accepted lightly.

There are many agencies which provide information and exchange services. Personnel agencies and other government organisations (like Universities) sometimes recruit personnel for positions overseas. Other possibilities include the Red Cross, and the various Churches.

You can also write to the embassies in Canberra with a specific request.

Listed below are some of the agencies which may be able to assist with volunteer work exchanges.

## Overseas Service Bureau

Several volunteer agencies exist in Australia. The Overseas Service Bureau, through its Australian Volunteers Abroad Program, is

responsible for placing the majority of Australian volunteer development workers overseas. Serving the Africa, Asia and Pacific region, in excess of 120 volunteers annually leave Australia to embark on two year terms.

The Bureau also places a small number of people under the United Nations Volunteers program and any special projects that arise from time to time.

The Bureau can be contacted via P.O. box 350, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065, ph: 419 1788.

## Australian Executive Service Overseas Program (AESOP)

The Australian Executive Service Overseas Program (AESOP) attempts to fill requests from public and private enterprises in developing countries for short term, technical assistance. Most volunteers are required in the Pacific region, however opportunities in the Asian region are opening up.

Most expenses are covered (travel to appointment, living requirements), however, your time is given free.

The first step is to register with AESOP - contact the General Manager, AESOP, P.O. Box E50, Queen Victoria Terrace, Canberra, ACT 2600 ph (062) 73 2285.

## Community Aid Abroad (CAA)

CAA occasionally recruit volunteers for particular aid projects overseas. Most postings are for 12 - 18 months, and wages are approximately one third the Australian equivalent. Contact CAA, 156 Gore Street, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065 Ph 419 7111

## Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA)

APHEDA is the development agency for the Australian Council of Trade Unions, and sponsors development projects between Australian unions, and grassroot community organisations in developing countries. Contact APHEDA, P.O. Box 3, Trades Hall, Goulbourn Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000.

## The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS)

CCIVS is a permanent committee of UNESCO. One of the roles is to provide information on short term voluntary service. To obtain copies of this

information, send four international reply paid coupons to Maison de l'UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75015 Paris, France, and ask for a copy of the directory Workcamps Organisers.

# Other Organisations

There are also several other organisations which provide opportunities in the international arena.

## AFS International Exchanges

AFS International Exchanges organises programs in China, Sri Lanka and India. Contact AFS International Exchanges, 20 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney NSW 2000, Ph: (02) 267 2020

Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (AISEC)

The aim of AISEC is to facilitate the placing of students of business and computing into businesses around the world. Contact AISEC at your campus, or G.P.O. Box 3586, Sydney, NSW 2001.

## Australian Sister Cities Association

161 municipalities in Australia have a "sister city" in a country overseas (there are 22 countries presently involved). If you live in a city which is part of this association, then your local council may be able to arrange exchanges and visits to the relevant sister city.

Contact your local council to see if it has any affiliations, or P.O. Box 12, Hampton, Victoria 3188.

## British Australian Vocational Exchange (BAVE)

This scheme enables students to link with paid studies and jobs in Britain over our summer holidays. The majority of positions are usually in commerce/computing/engineering or lab work.

See either the student employment/careers service or contact BAVE direct via Careers Research and Advisory Centre, Bateman Street, Cambridge, England for more information.

## Camp America

Camp America is a hugely successful scheme which enables students to participate in a summer camp (June to September) in one of three programs - Camp Counsellor Program, Campower Program (camp maintenance) and a Family Companion Program (family help).

Full board and pocket money are provided, and travel from Australia is subsidized.

More information is available from Student Travel Australia, or Camp America, P.O. Box 7, Surrey Hills, Victoria 3127 Ph 830 5816

## Earthwatch

Earthwatch is a non profit organisation which sponsors field research around the world. Costs vary from expedition to expedition, but generally begin at \$1000.

Contact Earthwatch, 39 Lower Fort Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Ph (02) 251 327.

## Experiment in International Living

The primary focus here is to increase awareness, acceptance and understanding or perceived differences among people. The period of the "experiment" is a maximum of one month. Costs vary depending on the destination, but there is a \$200 administrative charge.

For more information contact P.O. Box 1238, Armidale, NSW 2350, Ph (067) 72 8100

## Goethe-Institut

Primarily a German cultural centre, the Goethe Institut also administers a variety of scholarship schemes to the Federal Republic of Germany, and also teacher exchange programs. Costs vary with the scholarship or exchange undertaken.

Contact Goethe Institut, 606 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria, 3004, Ph 51 8838/3214

## Lions Club

This scheme is restricted to 16 - 22 year olds. If you do happen to fall into this category however, contact your local Lions branch.

## International Agricultural Exchange Association

Open to those between 19 and 29 years old who wish to find out more about agricultural methods in other countries, and who have appropriate experience. Placements range from seven to 14 months. Participants receive a trainee allowance during their placement.

Contact 50 Oxford Street, Paddington, NSW, 2021 Ph (02) 332 4699.

## International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE)

Your application requires information on your training and your country of choice, and then the committee attempts to make an appropriate match. Available only in the technical areas (engineering, maths, science, computers etc)

Contact IAESTE c/- Graduate Careers Council of Australia, P.O. Box 28, Parkville, Victoria, 3052

## International Camp Counsellor Program (ICCP)

Administered by the Young Mens' Christian Fellowship, this scheme is similar to Camp America (see above).

Contact YMCA, 196 Albert Road, South Melbourne, Victoria 3025 Ph 699 7655

## Rotary International

Rotary offer a range of educational and vocational scholarships for overseas study. Contact your local Rotary group.

## Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP)

Organised by Student Service Australia (SSA) (an affiliate of the National Union of Students), this scheme is co-ordinated with student service organisations of participating countries.

Contact SSA, P.O. Box 399, Carlton South, 3054 Ph 348 1777.

This is only a small sample of the range of schemes available to either work or study abroad. The best place to go for further information is Student Travel Australia, who can help you out on not only finding the right scheme for your needs, but also with whatever travel arrangements you have to make.

All information in this article is from the STA guide to Work and Study Overseas, available from your local STA.

# La Trobe University sells out to multinational

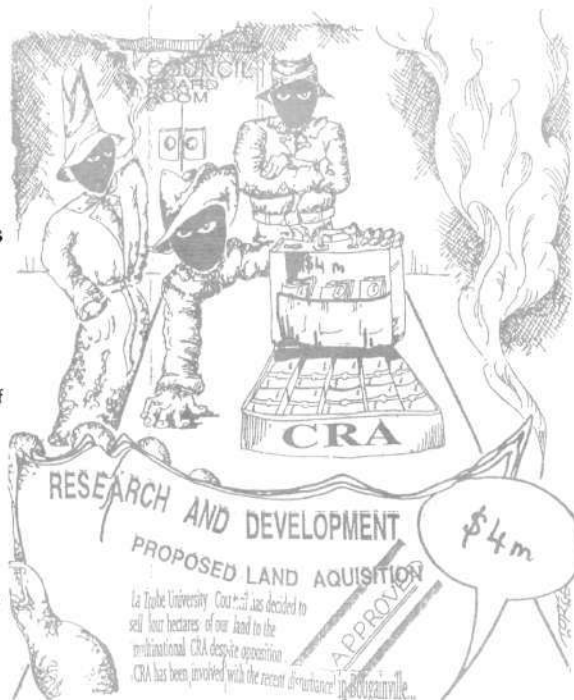
Angie Mitropoulos — La Trobe University

What you are about to read is confidential information. Look around you and make sure there are no students peering over your shoulder. There is big money at stake here, so we can't afford to let anyone in on the deal that may mess it all up ... this is bigger than the both of us. In fact, this is so big ... well, what CRA wants CRA gets ...

In 1986, the La Trobe University administration approved the development of an on-campus 'Research and Development Park' and an off-campus, but closely integrated, 'Research and Development Estate'. In effect, this entails La Trobe — a public educational institution — providing the infrastructure and subsidising research for private corporations. This is simply one manifestation of the Dawkins agenda. Public education is to be starved of public funds in order that it becomes more servile to the economic interests of private corporations. A memorandum to La Trobe Council members declares the intention not to use any funds received through such a 'partnership' for 'teaching and research purposes' (memorandum C90/69: 2/7/90). That is, the 'powers-that-be' in University Council don't intend to use any funds accrued through the sell-off of La Trobe for what La Trobe is meant to be: an educational and research institution.

In the same year, the La Trobe administration, through the Technology Precinct Advisory Committee began negotiations with Conzinc Riotinto Australia (CRA), a subsidiary of the multi-national corporation Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ), for the leasing of lands specified for the 'Research and Development Park'. The Technology Precinct's public relations glossy cites CRA as having representation on the Advisory Committee itself. This raises questions regarding the capacity of the Technology Precinct Advisory Committee to be anything other than a vehicle for CRA's interests. Recently, CRA's Appropriations Committee approved the funding of a research and development branch at the La Trobe on-campus 'R&D Park' 'only on the basis of outright purchase of the land' (own emphasis quoted from the memo as cited above).

It seems that what CRA wants, CRA gets ... This is not surprising given the character of the so-called Advisory Committee. Nor is it surprising given the scramble for funding that the Dawkins agenda has inspired. La Trobe University administration is now bending over backwards to sell off four hectares of the land to CRA, despite La Trobe's own feasibility study which recommends that no land be sold. This raises significant questions about any relationship between a public



academic institution and a private multinational corporation.

Namely:

- for whose benefit is any research and development going to be undertaken at the R&D park?
- is this simply a back door approach to the wholesale selling off of La Trobe to private corporations?
- to what extent should and will public education be called upon to subsidise private corporate interests?

Such questions lead to unsettling answers in the light of CRA's track record ...

Who is CRA? (sic)

CRA is the major shareholder of Bougainville Copper, which has for 20 years failed to give the indigenous landowners at Panguna proper recognition and compensation for environmental destruction of their lands, despite approximately \$300 million profits per annum. Subsequently, mining on Bougainville was halted by 'militants' — as CRA prefers to call the indigenous Bougainvilleans in its 1990 Annual Report to Shareholders. CRA was also one of the first companies to be involved in uranium mining in Australia, and as recently as 1989 was involved in exploration for uranium in a designated national park, on Aboriginal land: Rudall River in Western Australia. In the company's 1988 annual report, the managing director T. Ralph wrote that Australia's 'long debate over the uranium issue has cost us very dearly, especially in terms of market share' (p.55). It seems that CRA finds debate about its activities frustrating to its drive for profits.

Furthermore, CRA's activities involve the radioactive mineral 'monazite' contained in sand which CRA continues to mine against the wishes of local farmers and residents in the Horsham area. Such mining poses a grave threat to the safety of the water supply.

CRA is the subsidiary of the notorious multinational, Rio Tinto Zinc: RTZ holds 49% of CRA shares. RTZ is notorious for their destruction of rainforest and indigenous culture in Brazil, and has massive investments in South Africa.

Whatever the current policy of La Trobe on ethical investments, such activities fall well outside the bounds of anything that may even be called socially responsible research and industrial activities.

La Trobe University should reject any links with research and development activities which are socially and environmentally devastating. A public educational institution should serve the public interest and not (as is the case with the sell-out to CRA) bow down to the principles of a destructive greed.

For any corporation, the only questions at stake in research and development is to what extent such R&D aids in the accumulation of profits. But the social and environmental consequences of such R&D need to be brought to the forefront of our thinking. We can no longer afford to rip up vast tracts of forest as in Brazil or condone the amassing of profits on the oppression of whole populations as in South Africa, or turn a blind eye to the poisoning of water supplies in Australia and uranium mining.

For these reasons, La Trobe should not only reject the sell-out to CRA, but also, and in the long term more importantly perhaps, lead the way in generating research which aids, in the solving of our global environmental and social problems, rather than contributing to and supporting such obscurities. To that end, prior to the establishment of both the proposed 'Research and Development Park' and the 'Research and Development Estate', La Trobe University Council should adopt and implement a Research and Development Charter which regulates the kind of research and development work that La Trobe will be engaged with. Such a Charter should promote public research along the lines of environmental sustainability and social justice, and clearly rule out recent and development which has a destructive environmental and social impact.

Underlying the specific issue of La Trobe's sell-out to CRA is the broader issue of what kind of R&D La Trobe should engage in. It is this latter point which is clearly the challenge and which is also the most difficult. But it is also the most crucial.



# The Credibility Factor

by Chris Foley — Monash University (Caulfield and Frankston)

To many students in Australia, student politics is one big yawn...!

The impression I've got from both present students and also graduates (even those who lived through the much idolised student radicalism of the 1960's) is that the student unions 'don't do much' of real educational worth. Student politicians (like politicians everywhere) are generally perceived as all wind and no substance, just being in it for the power and the glory (and their CVs) and they don't really care.

This belief has resurfaced over our much-loved HECS issue.

Our student politicians are seen as spending much time and energy espousing the cause of 'free education', of education for life, not just pay packets, of justice for all, not just for some, and so on. Yet in reality, they have achieved nothing of substance.

To many students in Australia, student politics is one big yawn...!

Strange as it must seem, however, something is being done. You may have heard that NUS (National Union of Students) is planning to take the Federal Government to the High Court of Australia and attempt to prove that the Act of Federal Parliament which includes our much-loved HECS is constitutionally invalid.

Sounds like hot stuff doesn't it?

Well, on face value, it is.

Underneath, it appears to be a very hotly debated issue among student politicians, with much debate as to its merits (or lack of); as to whether it will succeed or fail; as to whether it will raise awareness of the value of free education, or not; as to whether in fact NUS is busy doing nothing with our money (which is generally thought of more than most student unions)...

But there is a greater issue at stake, which I feel that money can never buy and that is integrity and commitment.

Though student politicians endlessly debate the merits of one course of actions over another, all they end up producing, in the eyes of student generally, are words, not actions.

For all the political speech-making, the central problem remains - where do we actually stand on education, and how much are we prepared to risk to achieve it?

To the average student, far removed from the corridors of power, such questions may seem esoteric. But to many from our elected representatives, it is indeed a heavy burden to bear. A situation which leads to indecisiveness, frustration, anger, and even despair.

For all its detractions, this High Court challenge is all we've got at the moment (which may seem like a silly argument) to have ourselves taken seriously by our law-makers, and by the nation generally.

But there is a greater issue at stake, which I feel that money can never buy and that is integrity and commitment.

We could drop it, and wait for something better to come along.

But student unions in Australia have been doing this for decades. When, I ask, is it time?

Do we need to wait another generation for student representatives to say it is time, and mean it?

What is the perfect political vehicle?

How much lower must the credibility of student unions fall in the eyes of students before we are ready?

Are all these arguments just an excuse for not doing anything?

If we cannot use what we have (however poor the materials may seem), what would we do if we actually got the materials we want?

When are we going to put our money where our mouth is?

Remember, it's the credibility factor...

## A TURN TO REMEMBER



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CHOY EXR 01

# Access and Equity

The concept of equity is significant in and affected by the changing nature of the Australian economy, and it reflects the renovation of capitalist ideology to include equality of opportunity. While this ideology is a definite advance for social justice implications, it is helpful to analyse its benefit to capitalist economies. Equity provides an integral mechanism in the alteration of the apparent basis of capitalism's means of production. Previously, the ruling classes possessed the means of production (wealth and property), but this was transparently related to success in life. In the renovated form of late capitalism, equality of opportunity suggests that it is not who you are, but what you do in life, thereby clouding the previously transparent "success" relationship. In this context equity concerns reinforced social control, and give the impression of humanitarianism without changing the power structures in society.

The Australian economy is geared to tight fiscal monetary policies, and the influence of business. Hence funding cutbacks and cost-saving schemes are justified in terms of defending a nebulous "national interest". Within this climate, the tertiary education sector has had to succumb to drastic modifications (a unified national system of education), such as the "user pays" system, amalgamations and course rationalisation, which includes cuts to humanities in preference to science or business subjects.

Within the present educational debate, the concept of access and equity has been recurrently raised, though not comprehensively. The proposed unified national system of education which is said to provide a "fair chance for all" should apply especially to the students who seem to be forgotten in the quest for centralisation. Unfortunately, the debate has centred on the impact that the changes will have (both now and in the future) on institutional autonomy, rather than the impact on the students within the system. Furthermore the debate has denied the equal importance of access and equity, preferring economic rationalism. This simply results in competition for limited funds and the prospect of funding being tied to graduation rates. When the quality of tertiary education is equated with the number of graduates, selection criteria automatically favours students who offer the least risk of attrition and failure. As such, the competition for limited funds and the shortage of tertiary places will re-establish the principle of selectivity rather than equity of access to higher education. This form of competition is more likely to fragment rather than unify the educational sector, and a scarcity of places will encourage more conservative selection procedures and thus limit access to disadvantaged groups. With economic rationalism there is no room to rectify existing traditions of elitism within the tertiary sector, let alone to initiate incentives for a more equitable system. The principles of access and equity are being manipulated in government strategies. In this context, access carries a simplistic notion of "more places being offered to students" while equity carries the distorted meaning and equation with the "expansion of the tertiary sector".

by Ann Feely and Linda Soukoulis — Footscray Institute of Technology



The Department of Employment, Education and Training is implementing a program, "Fair Chance for All" which is designed to address access and equity. The program guidelines provide specific categories of disadvantage. While initiatives included in the program (namely, the documentation of equity programs on a national scale) are to be applauded, the program loses credibility in terms of the funding allocated to it: \$4.00 per student at FIT. What the government in fact is directing institutions to do, is to provide entrance, access and equity principles in their policies and practices without providing the funding to back these initiatives. Hence cost-effective decisions are acted on in isolation from broader societal concerns (such as the lack of transport), and without concise evaluation of demographic targeting. Targeting should mean actively seeking out disadvantaged groups by allowing them to participate in education on their own terms.

Strategies to address participation, access and equity in higher education cannot be comprehensive in nature, or implemented effectively if they are dependent on tight fiscal policies. Of equal consequence will be programs that suffer a lack of real commitment from institutions that have a dismal record of progressive entrance policies.

There is a dangerous contradiction in implementing programs (progressive ones such as access and equity) amid economic priorities and the centralist urge which disadvantages smaller outlying institutions, creates two types of tertiary education, namely the real universities and the amalgamated kind, and undermines regional equity. The hope of conservative institutions wholeheartedly adopting vital access and equity programs can only be achieved by a demonstrated commitment in government policies and expenditure. The government is threatening to implement financial penalties if institutions do not provide sufficient equity programs and strategies; however, this may be in competition with the prospect of graduation rates being tied to funding. Institutions are bound to react to the most financially favourable outcome.

Poor participation rates and the lack of access and equity in the higher education sector relate to numerous issues of disadvantage, some of which are time-honoured in the broader community, such as resource poor areas and residents, and some issues which are the direct result of centralist and regressive education policies of the 80's, such as HECS, privatisation and rationalisation of courses.

Regional equity needs to address issues such as the lack of public transport, and public amenities (childcare). Ironically, disadvantaged schools face a tragic shortage of career guidance and information programs that can facilitate entry into higher education for students. Resource-poor students need to be targeted, and data needs to take into consideration non-financial aspects as well, such as school experience, attitudes, and parental environment. Targeting groups through special entry schemes should also be comprehensive, in that ALL courses should have special entry provisions, rather than the past practice of offering entry schemes to achieve bums on seats in the less popular courses. Wastage rates of students within the tertiary sector needs to be monitored, and solutions need to be found to rectify any patterns that emerge, in an attempt to retain students.

Ideally the tertiary sector should be the forum to tackle ideologies that perpetuate disadvantage; however, the reality of most tertiary institutions is that they remain hegemonic enclaves. Simply increasing access of students from disadvantaged groups will not guarantee that the students progress or complete their study, because the higher education sector perpetuates the very mechanism which created their disadvantage in the first instance. In this context the whole tertiary sector needs to monitor and overhaul curriculum materials and attitudes that will alienate students and possibly lead to their academic failure. Institutions should be responsive and relevant to their students, and consider ways to overcome class, gender and ethnic barriers.

The incompatibility of access and equity objectives with "Dawkins-style education" is no more evident than in the hardship created by the introduction of HECS. The incentive to graduate with



a ten to twenty year debt is made even more repellent with the day to day financial cost to the student while undertaking tertiary study. Special entry schemes are meaningless if students can't afford the education being offered. Austudy, offers a meagre solution in that the scheme needs to be expanded to include students living at home, the rate of payments need to be increased to a liveable income, and personal income tests need to be relaxed so that students can either work part-time or devote all their time to study. Presently, the situation forces students to either accept only the Austudy payment and live in poverty, not accept Austudy and work full-time while keeping up grades, or to break the law, although the government has recognised the last fact with the introduction of more cops to police Austudy.

The concept of providing access and equity to

overseas students since the recent privatisation of education is laughable. Since the introduction of full fees, overseas students have been denied the most basic of rights, and have suffered racism, detentions, deportations, bureaucratic interference, rip-offs and outrageously expensive and pathetic courses.

Government and business have a vested interest in the education sector; equally, there is more pressure on academics to justify courses with a specific function. This results in cutting down on the full range of human expression linked to the quality of life and arts, for which universities are renowned. Thus the objectivity of criticism is also reduced as the tertiary education sector is increasingly tied to industry in this highly technological age.

The government, social scientists and educationalists have devoted much time and rhetoric to address the notion of access and equity in higher education. Equally, government priorities in the higher education sector are harnessed to economic priorities which include a demand for a functioning and productive workforce. The rationalisation of education includes in its philosophy the pretence of addressing the imbalance of access to higher education. The radical changes sweeping the higher education sector are based on an economic rationale, one which ostensibly broadens access to education but which in fact undermines access and equity outcomes. As such, access and equity are in danger of becoming little more than well-meaning rhetoric which ignores the structural and class barriers inherent in higher education institutions, and which reinforces capitalism's renovated ownership of production.

## A New Generation of Student Activists

Are you bored with the idiotic, brain dead, mind-numbing stupidity of the normal social clubs around your campus? Do you feel the need to do SOMETHING that is intellectually stimulating, AND good fun at the same time? Then why not join ASIN?

ASIN is a national network of individual students, campus clubs, student councils and national student organisations working on issues of inequality in and between 'first' and 'third' world countries and Australia's role in perpetuating inequalities in our region, the Asia-Pacific. We recognise that students in Australia are in a position of relative freedom and privilege compared to students in other countries, and we therefore recognise our responsibility to support those students (and other activists) involved in struggles for social change elsewhere in the world.

ASIN was established in 1984 (following the demise of AUS, the Australian Union of Students) to facilitate this solidarity work on Australian campuses, and with considerable effect over the years: ASIN has organised and participated in numerous regional conferences and workshops, demonstrations, much lobbying and educational material via the national newsletter, fund-raising and other support for student groups elsewhere in the world, run campaigns and facilitated an ongoing student activist exchange programme between Australia and the Philippines.

ASIN is one of the Australian members of ASA, the Asia-Pacific Students' Association, (the other member is NOSCA), which is an international body of active national student organisations from various countries in our part of the world. It comprises 42 different organisations in 31 different countries, from Nepal to New Zealand. ASIN is currently the coordinator of the Pacific sub-region of ASA.

As Australians, we possess a fortress mentality and the belief that we are part of Europe and the USA. This is purely a myth. Australia is geographically part of Asia. It is one of ASIN's aims to foster a proper awareness of Australia's geographical reality. We're trying to encourage participation in international forums so that Australian students will have a greater understanding of our regional role.

ASIN is involved in providing support to solidarity movements abroad and those within Australia especially issues involving Burma (now Myanmar), China and the Philippines. We hope to raise awareness raising in Australia, as well as getting Australians to play a constructive role

instead of an imperialistic one in our region. We are encouraging human and realistic appraisal within our region and acting as an international link between visitors and Australian students.

In order to support solidarity movements outside Australia, the need to respect and understand other cultures is important. When possible, visiting student activists are involved in discussions about the events and progress within their country. This allows personal accounts of events to shed an alternative perspective (remember, Brian doesn't tell you everything) on international events.

Although the likelihood of mass revolution occurring is unlikely (if appealing), we still have the ability to voice our views, particularly issues concerning foreign policy. ASIN aims to give alternative news on events that occur within different countries from their point of view. We promote person to person contact and encourage all people interested to join and participate in meetings, expressing their views. ASIN is interested in expanding its membership. Regular intercampus gatherings are held and an effective national network is being set up.

The problem with most student groups is their inevitable "demise", following the graduation, or passing out, of the students who previously took an active interest in it. In an attempt to prevent history from repeating itself, ASIN not only aims for new membership, but provides educational, organisational and communication skills to students willing to join. This "new blood" ensures (we hope) that ASIN will be an ongoing venture committed to the various social problems that new generations of students encounter.

Interested in joining? Get in touch with the ASIN contact person on your campus. Contribute to the newsletter. Research Australia's role and impact in our region (Asia-Pacific). Participate in local, national and regional meetings. Be an activist, an ASIN activist.

### AIMS OF ASIN:

- TO TURN HEAD BANGERS INTO THINKERS
- PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACT WITH ACTIVISTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

- TO TURN HOUSEWIVES INTO REBELS
- TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENTS EG BURMA AND CHINA
- TO TURN SQUARES INTO TETRAHEDRONS
- ACTING AS AN INTERNATIONAL LINK BETWEEN VISITORS AND AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS
- TO TURN THE LABOR PARTY INTO A LABOR PARTY
- TO TURN CHOCOLATE CLUB MEMBERS INTO WEIGHT WATCHERS
- TO LEARN FROM KOORIES AND SUPPORT THEIR DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE.
- TO ALLOW AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS TO RECOGNISE THEIR OWN BACKGROUNDS AND PREJUDICES, AND ENCOURAGE CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND UNDERSTANDING
- TO ENHANCE SOLIDARITY EFFORTS

### UPCOMING ASIN ACTIVITIES:

- ASA/NOSCA/ ASIN Workshop on people's liberation; September 16-18, Sydney.
- ASA/NOSCA Activist exchange programme (Filipino, Burmese, Malay, Indonesian, student activists coming to Aust. in August & September)
- ASA Pacific Sub-regional consultation coordinated by ASIN — 1st week September (involving Fiji, PNG, East Timor, Aotearoa, Australia) - Melbourne.
- ASA Workshop "Student press & people's causes" - Yogyakarta, Indonesia - December
- 1991 Human rights & education programme II: Focus on women - Nepal, Environment workshop - Malaysia, Anti bases & militarisation conference - Philippines.
- & Lots, lots more. For details on any of these, contact Adam or Diana 882 6451 or write to ASIN c/o SRC Latrobe Uni, Bundoora, Vic. 3083.

### ASIN Contacts:

- Latrobe SRC: Damien (Lawson) at SRC 479 2977
- Monash: Pier (Moro) Third World Action Group. Contact through Clubs & Societies, AH 560 6742
- Melbourne: Nick (Houston) AH 387 9004 or contact through Clubs and societies.
- FIT: Vera, SRC BH 688 4357
- Regional/General: Adam & Diana 882 6451, all hours.
- RMIT: Monika or Kevin at SRC 660 2058/2055

# This Is a Story Written at a third sitting

*by Nick Strauss — Footscray Institute Of Technology*

This is a story written at a third sitting, a story thought up on a bike ride to school, a story better told in pictures or, better still, by being there.

As it is, in the right column, you'll find 4 empty boxes, you can go to the places talked about and draw your own conclusions. As you're doing it, recognise that there are many different ways of reading the concrete signs of the new reality in the education system. As an individual it's almost impossible to gain any sort of overview, we remained locked into the local narratives — "my course has been cut", "the Austudy cops came to my door" etc etc. Despite this, each of the narratives is valid - and this is my story — my verbal sketching of the empty boxes.

These boxes are all things that won't go away. My reading of the 4 empty boxes wants to try to explain more ephemeral images, such as the past president of Melbourne University Student Union denouncing student demonstrators, a middle-of-the-road Farrago ticket using Tracey Chapman as their musical accompaniment, undercover police attacking students at the Maribrynong student village demonstration in March, the queues of students patiently waiting to hand in their HECS forms and the sallied rows of Australia's student representatives patiently listening to John Dawkins waste their time at the last NUS conference. These images are gone and so what we are left with is 4 empty boxes to fill in with comments and memories.

[... but it's interesting to note the power of such ephemeral images when caught for ever - such as the picture of the 1988 mob of student politicians from Melbourne Uni and MCAE dining with Pennington - celebrating "their" "successful" amalgamation - just ask students who've had their courses cut as a result ...]

The first box would be the Graduate School of Management [GSM] at Melbourne University [in Leicester St, Carlton, south of the main campus]. Behind the post-modernist facade is the first privatised faculty in a Victorian university. The facade tells you that this is the face of things to come. In the GSM the managers of capital and labour learn their new tricks. In many ways it's easy to read as a concrete example of the reconstituted alliance of education and capitalism - it was always there, only now it can flaunt itself.

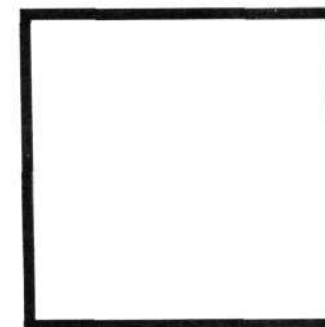
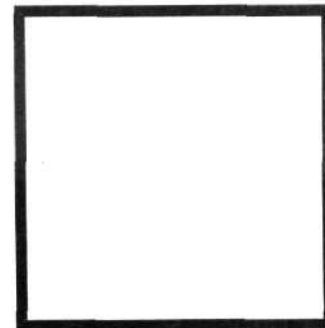
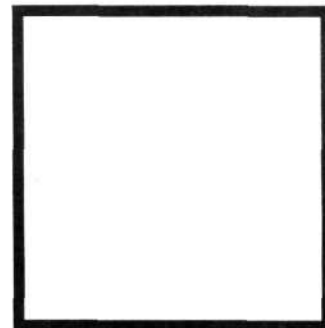
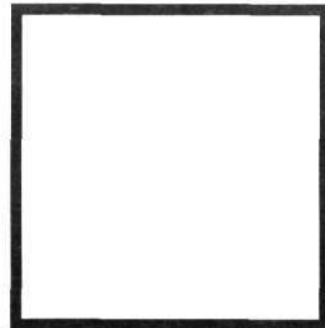
The second box could be a bromided reversal of the Melb. Uni. GSM. Sitting on the carpet at the Ballarat road end of G Building at Footscray I of T, where cucumber sandwiches flew at the police

and at the official opening by Dawkins in 1988. G Block has post modernist architecture, without the facade, and when it rains the water seeps through the cracks, but the heating dries it before the smell of rotting carpet spreads. FIT has "done well" under Labor: three new buildings with student numbers doubled and a banner of "equity and access" held high. With FIT becoming part of a new university, the ruling class project of clouding the reality of class with the smoke screen of equality of opportunity seems almost complete. But the ideological effect of becoming a university and being able to join the new middle class is not seamless in its success because of the gap between the fiction and the reality — the "I still can't find that fucking book" effect, and the waters of discontent seep in: sooner or later the ideological heating system will fail ...

The third box would be the view from the Registrar's office at FIT [go and occupy it and see for yourself that this could be any of the senior management's offices]. It's room K546 and informs the reality of the renovation of the Higher Education System, facing the citadels of capital in the city and the yuppifying inner western suburbs, but facing away from the "west which the Institute serves". It's an office which will soon be gone and with it, a new tear rips into the ideological fabric of control — even without questioning what "the west" is [eg the local owners of industry?]. Once FIT stops having an administration that "cares about the West" because it has been amalgamated away, then there'll be one less ideological heating-system repair group.

The fourth box is the new facade on Union House at Melbourne Uni ... y'know, the ugly bits of plastic visible from the concrete lawn. Here we see an interesting dual facadism — firstly, the ugly bits of plastic - but worse, behind the facade of "student control of student affairs" the politicians of the future are training as surely as the bosses at the Graduate School of Management down the road are. To give them their due, though, student politicians enjoy the illusions of real industrial power they indulge in; so maybe they can get the title of "ideological heating system repair people" [with reference to our second empty box.]

But what can one say ... we live in a time where tram tickets are themselves transformed into texts of resistance, telling of how long you've been able to chat up conductors and avoid inspectors. Resistance has been relocated from the macro level of the Union House to the tram tickets in the pockets of some of its inhabitants.





# The Price of Individualism

by Chris Foley (Student Association) — Monash University (ex Chisholm)

The new God of Individualism is presently all the rage in our society. Everyone is now claiming the right to have control over their own lives, their own bodies, over what they wear, what they do, what they say, what they think. To be part of the crowd you now have to, in fact, deny you are part of the crowd.

We are now all rejoicing in our new found freedom to be ourselves, and to cast off the old shackles of conformity. Hurray! Hurray! Hurray!

But what is the cost of such a freedom? In our society, complete individualism results in an unconscious denial that we can have real control over our own lives and the type of society we want to be a part of.

Our society is dominated by groups and institutions which compete amongst themselves for control over shaping and forming society to their own advantage, regardless of the cost to other people who just happen to lie in the same society.

In the midst of all this, individuals, like you and me, just haven't got a chance. If you don't believe me, when was the last time you (as an individual) told the Ford Motor Company to sell you a new Ford Capri cheaper than it is sold in the US? Or told Bob Hawke and his government that you don't want to pay your HECS? If you did, they'll just laugh at you, because individuals don't matter in their calculations. Only other groups with similar or greater muscle matter to them.

Starting to be real depressed now? Are you starting to think that what you, an individual, has to say is meaningless, and worthless, because it is just one drop in the ocean of humanity. So why bother saying anything at all?

When we accept this powerlessness, we then accept being trampled upon. We accept being pushed around. We accept it all because 'everyone's doing it.' So how, we think, can just one person, just one solitary voice, dissent?

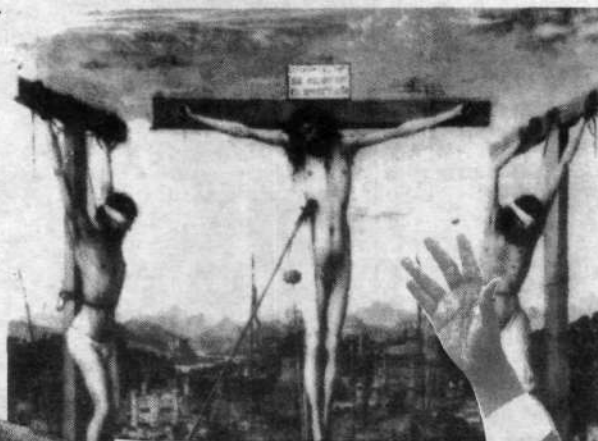
Real power (ie the ability to get what you want in the face of opposition) in our society lies not with the solitary individual, but in the power of collective action. But collective action must always begin with an individual; an individual who seriously desires to say something, who knows that they have but one voice, an individual who is determined not to take it any more.

Throughout history, wherever there has been powerlessness and injustice, individuals have spoken out and united other individuals to a cause. These very people are now listened to the world over. Not just by one or two people, but by millions, and tens of millions of people. People all over the world flock to hear the words of these individuals and realise, 'Yes, this is what I want to say, too...this is what I want to do, but I never had the courage to admit it!'

The names of these lone voices now roll off the tongue like a litany of saints: Martin Luther King...Jesus Christ...Mahatma Ghandi...Nelson Mandela...The list of such names goes on and on, yet the mind-blowing part of it all is that all these people began as lone voices crying out in the wilderness of despair.

These few names I have listed (out of so many) cried out for justice, cried out for ordinary people - like you and me to throw off the heavy chains of fear and despair, of isolation and division, and to unite to create a world where such chains of oppression no longer bind us, no longer enslave us.

But it takes only one voice, one solitary voice to unite a world of individuals... Could you be such a voice?



ROSE PETALS FOR A FALLEN LEADER



15

Once, just a few days ago, I was travelling on a packed tram. After a few stops I smelt something that made me think that one of my fellow commuters had been making love not long ago and had neglected to wash afterwards.

My musings as to the source were interrupted by a commotion in the middle of the tram. A very tall man was heaving about, holding on to the handles and falling this and that way. His clothes looked tired and uncomfortable as if made for another man.

His face, inside the black hair, was a hole. The eyes were not to be seen. Here was the far-less-happy-then-I-had-imagined source of the smells. In his heavings to and fro he crashed into other people and trod on their belongings. With disgust and pity, and shame, people gave way. One female, the type with short hair, was sitting behind him, and time and time again in his swaying his buttocks pressed against her face. In a decisive voice she called for the conductor. Still we tried to skulk away or ignore the alien menace. The human hung on the handles mouthing off some insults to the lone protester when finally the conductor came. Here was someone who had to take responsibility. We were all glad we didn't have to. The rolling giant sat down on one of the benches that had somehow cleared. I could never work out if he did make any remarks as to the conductor's aboriginal ancestry, I guess that's just incidental.

Everyone had hoped that things were back to normal. But the menace was sitting next to a young girl, probably a student, considering the time and the tram. He began making remarks as to how beautiful she was. How strange to hear complements from such a source. She tried to ignore him. He went on as his body turned towards her seeking vile comfort for his being. She stood up and walked to the door. He followed and went up to press himself up to her. She whimpered helplessly. The conductor walked over. The tram stopped. The human left.

The girl, totally exhausted, slowly sank back into her original place and began to cry silently. I, everyone, sat; as we had sat and watched and listened. Everyone alone with his or her thoughts. The empty middle of the tram soon again filled as people realised that here was a space that was unoccupied. The tram, that society of people, shook on slowly through the night.

Konrad Kaminski



**T**he old world has been washed away in the night. It is unexpected. When, still groggy with sleep, you draw back the curtain with a lazy arm, you are startled by the transformation, the fresh crispness of the world. Looking closer, you are disappointed to see that the old world does still exist, though it is now covered by a thick layer of frosting. The new world has merely super-imposed itself on the old ... pressing down from above. The arms of the fog gently caress the naked earth like a long-absent lover, blanketing, cleansing, loving.

A little boy wearing rainbow gumboots and a red poncho dawdles up the road. Seeing the safety house sticker on the gate, he drifts through the misty garden and knocks lightly on the front door. You have been by the window but have not seen him come. He is so small in the eyes of the thick air.

The tears freeze on his face as they fall. He is on his way to school. He has taken a wrong turn on the way and does not know where he is. You smile. You take his trembling, icy hand in your own snugly mittened one. He clings to you as the fog clings to the earth.

The glass of the window has separated you from the true lust of it. Once outside, the fog is a part of you. It penetrates your clothing and your skin, wrapping itself around you. I am you, it says.

You draw the fog inside you. With every desperate breath, you fight to keep it inside you, for that would be the key to eternal life, but it seeps out through your nostrils and joins up with all the rest.

The streets are empty of people and full of fog. Maybe there is not enough room for both. But you know this is not true - it is it that gives the earth life. The green earth lives for these moments of passion, just as you do.

But how can you store fog? You remember that when you were a child, fascinated by the unpredictability of the weather, you'd run outside gleefully after a hailstorm and pick up the smooth, round stones, greedily scooping them into your mouth. Then, while crunching the coldness, you would collect the perfectly shaped stones and store them in glass jars and plastic ice-cream containers, putting them in the freezer so that they would never be lost.

'I am late,' says the orphan. You feel betrayed, for a moment you have really believed that fog obliterates time.

You reach the school gate and he wrenches his hand free of yours. He mumbles something which could be a thank you but could also be anything else, then dives into the haze. The fog swallows him - he is gone. You call after him but your voice is frozen and thrown back at you.

Can it happen, you wonder as you suck in the damp air - can you drown in fog?

Sighing, you turn away. You picture yourself walking through an endless arch of cloud, as of on a journey to heaven - as if at the end there will be a shining light. Because the world is round and encircled by fog and to be searching for the light would be to search for the end of a world which has no end.

And nor do you want to find an end.

Later, when the yellow beams of the triumphant sun begin to dissipate the rich fog, you are angry but powerless. It drains away, and the world, somehow rejuvenated, shines with a new life - the life of one fulfilled - one who has loved. You watch as it disappears, wondering if it will ever return. You want to open it now - oh temptation - but you know you never shall - because once it is opened it will be gone - gone before you can even raise it to your lips to savour its inebrity.

# Into fog

By Kerryn Riseley

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# CONNECTIONS

Love — you are a Mona Lisa.  
A quaint half-smile to fool the masses.  
You are priceless. . . unattainable.  
many flock to watch you leer at  
them  
the beautiful facade. . .  
Boxed away - fodder for centuries  
of utopian fantasy.  
You promise the world unparalleled  
devotion (I love you)  
Slut. . . whore (I want you)  
The assorted pricks clamour to see  
your splendour,  
you mock their idiotic desperation  
they mourn their Mona Lisa —  
chastised by glass and anonymous  
suits.

With urgent clamouring, you press  
your body up against her canvas  
lips. . .  
'Ma pauvre petit enfant'  
They utter yearnings too profound  
for words (deeper than a bed. . .  
longer than a groan)

Love is sweet - as mother's breast  
milk that flows through sleepless  
nights.  
Pussy cat, pussy cat. . . my feline  
friend,  
soft and warm upon my lap,  
purrs. . . as she bites — with primal  
force  
the flesh that held her prisoner to  
an evolution of woe.  
Cry my darling. . . I will hold you.

Save my soul agape<sup>(1)</sup>  
I lay at my saviour's feet.  
Wash away my lust, my Lord —  
with perfumed oil to cure the dead.  
Taste the paradise  
in God's perfect plan.

Come hither you weary Lancelot,  
come bruise your head against my  
heart.  
Cantillate o noble fool  
And count your feeble blessings;  
Poetry, chivalry, stupidity!  
Proclaim your oath of love  
to your cherished harlot.  
'She showed me such courtesy that  
she did not scorn my soft talking;  
so that I want to thank sweet love  
who made me worthy of so great an  
honour.  
as I am inscribed in the book of  
love, my song you will tell your tale  
with courtesy, when you see my  
lady: since I have been made her  
servant.<sup>(2)</sup>

She throws down a moist lock of  
her laughter. . .  
beckoning her lover, once again,  
to fulfill the hungry urge, of  
elusive. . . phantasmic. . .  
desire. . . Woman o woman  
they will always sing your praises. . .  
and bind you with shackles. . .  
O chasm o mystery —  
you martyred chameleon.  
Love's ideal is a book-pressed  
flower;  
void of substance  
or human failings.

My soul forever a weary gypsy,  
she waits alone, for death's gentle  
persuasion.  
Her secrets will adorn her coffin,  
her wrinkled face speak of ancient  
wisdom —  
passed from mother's tongues to  
mothers. . .  
And yet...who will sing her anthem  
long after her lovers are  
memorabilia?  
who will heed her cry from beneath  
the ground?

The earth consumes her organic  
lover. . .  
with gradual passion. . .  
Woman - she is eternally fertile.  
Is this then, what you call 'earthly  
love'??  
Perhaps. . .  
Time awaits no-one —  
how cruel to all but the young and  
the ignorant.

The primeval Mona Lisa sits in  
regal grandeur,  
with eyes that once possessed lustre  
and watery sheen. . .  
now long to close - for the purity of  
sleep.

her nose with its beautiful nostrils. . .  
smell the rotting canvas coffin.  
Her cheeks once tinged with a  
warm, rose hue  
are pasty and exhausted.  
Her mouth once curled flirtatiously. . .  
it now smirks stoically at passers-by.

She cares no longer for your admiration.  
She's oblivious to the re-hashed  
hype  
Of romance. . . love. . . and longing.  
I smiled like this  
to start with, friend. . .  
for I knew what was coming.

Aurora Diele  
1990

Footscray Institute Of Technology.  
(1) Agape' - is a Greek word meaning divine  
love.  
(2) Stanza taken from untitled poem from  
The Penguin book of Italian Verse.

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**B**illy Baxter is a legend in this town - a legend which started with his cultish DJ spot on Triple R. Then Mr P. Kelly naughtily helped the mystifying process on a bit, and voila, many recognise the name 'Billy Baxter'. After witnessing their rise to the top of the Melbourne independent scene, I can say that few local performers match Baxter's style and flair, or meld so completely with their group as a single unit. On



vinyl, their sound matches the best this town can offer, and when those dudes hit the stage, you're in for one helluva concert. His are shows to remember, and having been fortunate enough to have seen the band and their main man live innumerable times, I can confidently say he's a most engaging and entertaining performer. With no fear of injury, he puts on a great show with death-defying stage antics, clever commentaries, and, of course, his unmistakable, attractive vocals. Billy's just a real 'sweet

'Homecoming'. I asked Billy what was behind the intensity of 'Melancholy Mal'; 'He's locked in to what he does. Mal's actually got a mischievous sense of humour but he's a pretty serious cat on stage, concentrating on what he's doing coz his guitar stylings are the backbone of our sound...you'd find it hard to replace Mal.' John and Archie on bass and drums are also an important part of the outfit providing the solid rhythm foundation. 'They're happy doing what they're doing, and they do it well.' Though in the backline, their enjoyment is obvious, thus adding to the warm atmosphere that surrounds this band - companionship between all, including the audience.

*they are a band with no gimmicks, superficial additives or MSG*

Not all their songs are originals, though they could start a cottage industry based around the real way to do cover versions. Dream Syndicate, Neil Young, and even Van Halen may boast that they've been

covered by The Hollowmen. Their version of Husker Du's 'Don't Want To Know If You Are Lonely' is currently particularly popular. The covers are never carbon copies; they become Hollowmen songs to the core despite the diversity of the sources. Tempo, instrumental format, vocal interpretation, harmonies - all are investigated till the result is a song Billy et al do best.

Black Sorrows so the harp has returned to add it's idiosyncratic touch - an occasional accent to The Hollowmen's sound. This is all part of the restructuring of songs that is common with The Hollowmen; rearranging the music, emphasising different individual sounds, changing the instrument format etc. There is a sense of responsibility here to the punters that is part of why you'll want to see every gig The Hollowmen do. They are an addictive gang to the extent that a totally pleasurable experience is one you want to relive often.

They are a band with no gimmicks, superficial additives or MSG; 'Gina doesn't dress like Collette, I'm not spunky, and Archie doesn't have tattoos, a bare chest, and skin-tight leather pants. In those areas of rock marketing or image cliché, we haven't got a lot. It's basically us up on stage in our streetgear just playing music.'

'A lot of stuff you can't play because production values aren't up to scratch, and I appreciate that it would make for a hotch-potch. But there's also a lot of real good stuff that they could program...I think they're scared that if they program one indie band, it's gonna open the flood gates...And they perceive it to be a hassle to have to go to the Punter's Club and stand with two hundred people dressed in black with funny haircuts in a crowded room, when they're in their Bon Jovi tour jacket and ReeBoks...They're lazy, they don't want to put the time in to search good music out.'

Radio stations and recording companies are missing the boat. Earlier this year, Hollowmen 'showbags' were sent to the States and interest is brewing. Yet another Australian band could be lost to the huge American market. Remember The Church who played four shows here and then quickly disappeared overseas where their talents are appreciated to do a REAL tour?

A topic never far from the agenda with an independent band is financial survival. Billy is struggling a bit, having to sell parts of his record collection to pay the rent. But

Brigid Marasco talks to Billy Baxter - founder and leader of 'The Hollowmen'

# HOLLOW, but not shallow

guy'. But before superlatives flow, webs of ignorance must be swept from the minds of those (poor folk) who know not The Hollowmen.

Debuting to the Melbourne music punters in 1985, the band has since released seven vinyl gems. Never backward in coming forward to play live, the band has entertained all comers at most of the live traps around town. I spoke to Billy Baxter, vocalist and harp player to go beyond the surface of this criminally ignored independent outfit.

In the history of The Hollowmen, there have been various line-up changes around the two core members, Billy and Mal Stanley. Though a common circumstance, especially amongst 'indie' bands, this outfit saw a significant change when Barb Waters joined The Hollowmen. Initially comprised only of males, the addition of Barb's vocals inevitably changed the sound of the band (if not its name). As Billy describes it; 'It was through that stroke of fortune that I came to realise that a woman's voice really suited the material, and the harmonic, dynamic possibilities. It changed the whole way we perceived everything.' Barb eventually left to join The Crown of Thorns.

Replacing Barb, and a steady part of the current line-up is Georgina Hearnden. Obviously, female vocals are entrenched in The Hollowmen's psyche. With the band for about two years, Gina is no compromise. With her competent songwriting and guitar-playing ability, and sweet voice, suited to both solo singing and the harmonies that are an integral part of the band, Gina has really enlarged the gap that Barb left vacant. Fully illustrative of her up-front part is the current single, 'Electric', a song she co-wrote and sings. She's also a favourite with the crowd who often call for her to sing her version of Concrete Blonde's, 'You're The Only One Can Make Me Cry.'

Contrasting starkly with Billy is guitarist Mal. His stage persona is more subdued, yet still intense, most clearly seen when he sings his own songs, amongst the most poignant in The Hollowmen's repertoire. One example is his brilliant 'Shades Of Blue', a truly moving piece of music and lyrics. This trend of heart-tearing song continues with 'So Long', 'I Didn't Know' and

For hardcore followers of The Hollowmen there is sadness in knowing that some material has been laid to rest in the terms of live performance; 'There's a real lot of stuff we don't do anymore basically coz not a lot of bands have had five records out, so we've got a real lot of older stuff...that older material has stayed back with the ghosts of that era.' So The Hollowmen have matured and evolved. 'They're still good songs but there's other things that we should be doing as opposed to filling a set with older material.' Other songs and formats have been dropped for other reasons; 'We used to do a lot of acoustic kinda stuff with just me and Mal and Gina, but we're trying to unify that a little bit - unify the sound of the band and make it sound like a band entity.' The purpose of the band unification attempts? 'I think it's important after five of six years kicking around with no perceivable image in the public side of what the band is. Now we've got a solidified line-up, and we've got an LP out that I think is pretty good...good because it sounds like a real group.'

This year has seen guest performers in the live shows. Jen Anderson was recruited to engage with her violin, and Philippa Nihill has been tinkling the electronic ivories/plastics. However, the band's earlier gigs this year were devoid of Billy's harp playing; 'I just wanted to give the band a different sound. We've got keyboards and we've got violin at the minute, a harmonica would not enhance the sound in any way.' Jen has since been reunited with The

things seem to have cheered quite a bit lately. However, whether the crowded gigs, or top three on the indie charts translates into financial security, I know not. But why has this band been wiping themselves out financially for so long? It is the pleasure of making music with the idea of that music getting out to a lot of people - 'that to me is



important. I don't want for a big car or lots of clothes if that's what success and fame are, but if they mean that more people are listening to your music then I'd say 'Yeah, that would be great.' 'We're serious about making music to last and music for people to hear.'

*they could start a cottage industry on the real way to do covers*

# The Fureys & Davey Arthur

## *The Legends of Irish Music*

By Sandy Guy — Monash University

Backstage at the Melbourne Concert Hall, and after five hectic weeks on the road, the Furey brothers: Eddie, Finbar, George and Paul, and their adopted brother Davey Arthur, are in fine form, obviously revelling in the special euphoria that follows yet another hugely successful, sell-out concert. These hard working globe-trotters, all marvellous musicians in their own right, bring a special kind of magic to the stage, a magic which makes them enormously popular in all parts of the world. They are enjoyed and admired by people from all walks of life; from playing for the Pope at Drogheda to teaming up with Annie Lennox at the wedding of old friend Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics (it was Eddie Furey who got Dave Stewart going on the guitar in the "old days"). Finbar Furey's skills on the Uilleann pipes have to be seen to be believed; it is an absolute joy to listen to the eerie, soulful music of the pipes in the hands of a master like Finbar. It is obvious that these brothers have played music together all their lives - the performance is tight and extremely well orchestrated - each seems to know what the others are thinking.

On this tour of Australia, the Fureys are promoting their new album *The Scattering*, a strong and beautiful collection of music dealing with many issues, particularly those facing young Irish people, many of whom have been forced to leave their country through economic need. Songs like *Lost in London*, echo an emigrant cry, as do the beautiful *Tara Hill* and *I Will Love You Till I Die*. These songs, I'm sure, will join other memorable Fureys' classics such as *When You Were Sweet Sixteen* and Eric Bogle's *The Green Fields of France*.

Buy *The Scattering*, it is an album to play late at night when all is quiet, when you need to feel calm and listen to beautiful music. Finbar says that the next Fureys' tour of Australia will be a "Fureys' Festival", where they will be joined by various members of their respective families. Certainly, a Furey's concert is a very special, not-to-be-missed event, so let's hope it's not too long until the Fureys again grace our shores.

A special mention must be made of the guests at the recent Melbourne Fureys' Concert. The Travelling Wallabies, playing Irish and Australian folk music, were a delightful start to a memorable evening. Christy Cooney's wonderful *Sister of the Moon - Kakadu* is a musical *tour de force*, which combines folk music with the haunting background of the didgeridoo. The Travelling Wallabies can be seen each Thursday night at Molly Bloom's Hotel, Port Melbourne. Their latest release, *Sister of the Moon - Kakadu*, is available for sale at Molly's, and is a boon to any music collection.



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# Todd Woodbridge

By Evie Stavrou

Many tennis fans have seen him in action in the Australian Open, the French Open and Wimbledon. Todd Woodbridge is one of Australia's best tennis players and is revealing his talents all around the world.

Currently ranked just under one hundredth in the world, the nineteen year old from Sydney is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport. Training in the Institute for the past five years, he has been in the 'pro-circuit' since last year.

Being involved in tennis since the early age of four, Todd has been playing junior tennis for most of his life. "Australia has one of the best junior systems in the world I've come through. Also, with the McDonald's Junior Tennis Australia program, juniors can progress very well. The results of the juniors indicate that." He adds, "Australia is now getting more depth than ten years ago."

As a pre-scholar, Todd went

along to the tennis club with his mother who played competition three times a week. To many people's surprise, he was able to have rallies over the net with members.

Todd was copying strokes incorrectly, so he received coaching. "It was my decision - I was not forced into playing tennis, if I was going to continue playing, I had to learn the proper way."

His most memorable achievements so far, have been the set he took off Stefan Edberg last year, and in 1988 he played (in his first senior match) the defending Wimbledon champion, Pat Cash, in the Centre Court.

Having played against players that are not very composed on the court, Todd says "such behaviour can be distracting. On the other hand, you can use it to your advantage, because you know that you have made it tough for them."

"The player's psychology is very important. A lot of the time, performance depends on the

confidence and will that a player has," he adds.

His short term goal is to crack the top hundred in the world and eventually claim his place in the top ten.

To achieve his goals, Todd says he must be dedicated and very committed. "You can only admire players that work so hard to achieve things. Lendl is so determined and dedicated."

As a child, Todd admired Ken Rosvold and later Stefan Edberg. "I now play against Edberg and that magical childhood admiration is not the same."

So what is it like to travel around the world and play against and sometimes with, the world's greatest players?

"Travelling for the past four years certainly makes you independent. You meet many interesting people around the world and see more."

On the other hand, you don't see your family and friends and your social life changes."

"Todd Woodbridge is one of Australia's best tennis players and is revealing his talents all around the world."

HOT NEWS • COMIC REVIEWS • HOT NEWS • COMIC REVIEWS • HOT NEWS • COMIC REVIEWS • HOT

By Alvin Chong

it never rains, it pours. The big guns are back in business. Item one: The Return Of Frank Miller. After his lengthy two year hiatus from comics (to work on the screenplay for Robocop2) the one who shocked the world with 'The Dark Knight Returns' is back with two guaranteed stunners.

The first title, published by Dark Horse Comics is 'Give Me Liberty.' Set in a nightmarish future America where the Blacks are kept in prisons disguised as 'Housing Facilities', the story traces the life of Martha Washington, a black girl, through her childhood in the prison, where she had to kill to stay alive; to her joining the 'Peace Corp', a parody of the US Army.

'Martha is simply a survivor,' Miller says 'Her first motivation is freedom, even though she can't define it at first.' The artwork for 'Give Me Liberty' is done by Dave Gibbons, who also pencilled Alan Moore's 'Watchmen' series. The connection with Moore doesn't only end there. The idea of Martha becoming a female soldier is very similar to Moore's early work which was done for 2000 AD, 'The Ballad of Halo Jones.' There is a lot of violence in the book which in many cases, seems pointless. There are images of a man with an ice pick through his neck, and in a particularly disturbing scene, we see soldiers who have been gassed dying, in vivid detail, like a visual 'Dulce et decorum est.' This first issue falls short of expectations. The character of Martha is not well enough defined. Her sudden shifts from being rather normal to being psychopathically violent is confusing compared to Miller's skillful treatment of Batman and Daredevil.

Miller's second four issue mini-series, 'Hard Boiled', also by Dark Horse Comics, promises to be even more violent. In a story that seems to be a cross between 'The Terminator' and 'Total Recall', Miller has a pitiless cyborg mowing down lots of people while searching for his identity and purpose. The artwork is done by Geoff Darrow, who is known for his vividly violent and sexual visual imagery. It seems as though Miller is keen on fully exploiting the medium to its fullest with this title. There's an explosion of freedom coming and some writers and artists are going to find out what happens when you do some of this more extreme stuff - what it does to your story and to your reading experience,' says Miller, who is already a legend with his former works, which include the astounding 'Daredevil' run. The biggest thrill about reading his work are the visions he has. Visions about the future, but more importantly, visions about a man's soul. The dark, hidden things which worm their way into someone's life and affect all his actions. The death of Bruce Wayne's parents became real when Miller handled it. Miller will not be the pioneer in the field of graphically violent comics. Japanese comics have always featured extreme violence as a norm. Why, then, should he do something that has already been one to death by another culture?

Marvel comics launched the new Spider-Man title amidst much hype. Simply called 'Spider-man', the new title is written and drawn by superstar Todd McFarlane. Already tipped to become the comic phenomenon of the 1990's, issue one sold out almost as soon as it hit the shelves and has gone into second printing. The first run of five issues is entitled 'The Arachnknight Returns' and pits Spider-man against his arch-enemy the Lizard. McFarlane's artwork is stunning and these comics, now sold for \$3.75, are going to at least quadruple in price in a matter of weeks. The most exciting collector's item for a while.

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# Laugh & Buy

by Katy-J & E'ROCKIN' — Monash University (ex Chisholm)

An exhibition of the world's funniest television advertisements, from the 50's to the 90's. Walking through the various rooms showing ads such as Coca-Cola, Vegemite, Cadbury's NEW, NEW Caramel Whip. There was even a Tom & Jerry movie playing on a TV in a mouse's hole. Then it was through a tunnel to see the Holeproof socks ad., the three foot high Toblerone bears (made of fake fur), the Kodacolor blowfly and the Arnott's Ruffles chip-eating chair.

In the TV room, a myriad of the funniest ads from Japan, the UK, USA and Australia. One of the most comical was for Carling Black Label (UK). It was a send-up of the Levis' "Laundrette" ad, ("I heard it through the grapevine"). The guy takes off his clothes, throws them in the machine and sits down in his boxers. One guy waiting for his washing says, "Hey, I bet 'e drinks Carling Black Label." The other says, "No 'e doesn't. 'E would've taken 'is pants off."

Another was the Hoover vacuum ad with a white hare sitting on the couch. "Hoover, it gets rid of pet hares". Most of the successful ads on TV are funny. The exhibition listed 13 criteria for the success of an ad:

1. Cast CUTE animals
2. CRASH things all over the place
3. Add a dash of CULTURE
4. A little ELVIS goes a long way
5. Reflect on HISTORY
6. Give a JOKER an even break
7. PARODY television advertising
8. Turn a SALESMAN into a comedian
9. SPLASH water all over the place
10. Go SURREAL
11. Send up TV
12. Make the point with a TWIST
13. ZAP viewers with a jolt



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Ken Done

Exhibition

Caulfield Arts Complex

by Katy-J & E'ROCKIN' — Monash University (ex Chisholm)

Critics and fellow artists have labelled Ken Done's art as a commercial product. In classifying his work this way, the general public have also come to think of his work as too commercial because it is seen on mass-produced scarves, t-shirts and greeting cards.

As is well known by anyone with an appreciation of art, looking at a reproduction (be it on a post card or on a t-shirt) is a far cry from experiencing the colour and brushwork of the painting itself.

Fortunately enough, to be shown through the gallery by the master himself gave us an insight into what goes through Done's mind when he is painting these unique pieces.

In "Windsurfing On Anzac Day", Done's influence from Sidney Nolan comes through. The painting was inspired by Done one Anzac day when he, like many others, were windsurfing

on Sydney harbour. The painting shows this view and below it lies a Sidney Nolan-type figure in an Army uniform.

Done loves to paint the beach. Surfers that look like young gods, women in sensual poses, knots of people, spaces on sand, umbrellas, skateboard riders and freshwater girls.

Another of his specialities are birds. In "Lunch With The Parrots", you can't really see the parrots. It's a cocophony of colour and patterns that you imagine could only be parrots. "Reef" gives a perspective of underwater life, with blues and greens that resemble some of Monet's work.

Most impressive was the film about Done's work on a BMW, taking two days and with only one run. Done said he thought Andy Warhol's must have taken only 15 minutes! With paintings inspired by Fred Williams, Claude Monet and Sidney Nolan, we soon changed our minds about Ken Done.



# Witness in the Anteroom To Hell

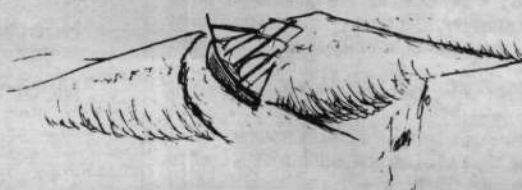
By Karen Goodwin — Monash University (Clayton)

The Jewish Museum of Australia is currently holding an exhibition of the work of Leo Lowit and Paul Schwartz. These men constantly sought the redemptive quality of art during their period of internment in the Jewish ghetto Theresienstadt, which was used as an assembly centre from which the Nazis conveyed thousands of Jews to extermination camps.

Although carefully monitored by the SS then guarded by Czech gendarmes, the internal administration of Theresienstadt was the responsibility of the Jewish inmates. Both Lowit and Schwartz filled positions in the Accommodation Allocation Department, and thus had access to materials for painting and sketching. In the midst of filth and wretchedness, near starvation, extreme overcrowding and the ever-present threat of transportation, Lowit and Schwartz created a body of work which speaks eloquently of both some of the conditions and structure of Theresienstadt; and of the artists as individuals.

Schwartz was enrolled as a graphic design student in Prague, and in the ghetto concentrated on honing his artistic skills. He produced an accurate, precisely labelled collection of the material details of the Theresienstadt. Piquant faith in his future career, together with biting irony and a need for escape, lead to the portrayal of his surroundings in soft, aesthetically pleasing hues. An advertising brochure for the Department is inscribed with the words: *'Coloured scenes of Terezin, in which Terezin is even more beautiful than in reality'*. The majority of Lowit's work deals with some of the more abhorrent realities of the physically and spiritually debilitating environment. A small group of satirical cartoons exposes some of the execrable features of the Nazi regime.

Part of the exhibition comprises relics from Theresienstadt such as a special 'currency' which purchased nothing; food coupons and identity cards. There is also an excellent documentary audio-visual. 'Witnesses in The Anteroom to Hell' is showing until August 19, and is an illuminating testimony to a squalid period of human history.



Thursday 7th June 1990

The Playhouse.

by E'ROCKIN' & Katy-J — Monash University (ex Chisholm)

"Now sit right back and you'll hear a tale, — A tale of a fateful trip..."

The opening sea storm scene; hence 'The Tempest', and the subsequent desert island setting reminded us Culture Vultures of "Gilligan's Island" reruns, but that's where the similarity ended (praise the Lord!). The bombastic introduction confused us slightly — after all, it takes a practiced ear to understand every word in a Shakespearian play - but we were soon engrossed in a tale of happiness that is lost, and only acts later, recovered.

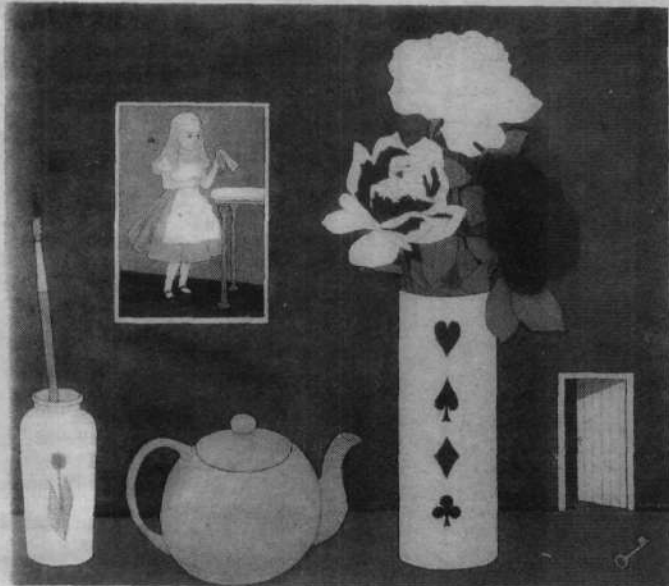
Apart from the majestic use of language, no doubt the reason why Shakespeare's plays continue to be so enjoyable almost 400 years after their creation, but also the morals have modern-day relevance.

'The Tempest' extolls the virtues of loyalty and love, displayed through a series of cross-relationships between nine main characters. Perhaps idealistically, the stronger forces of love and loyalty work synergistically to overcome greed and perfidy. "Now that I have pardon'd the deceiver. . . Let your indulgence set me free"[Act v, Scene 1, Line 20].

It is not only Shakespeare's morals that are relevant today; most of his plays include noteworthy lines such as "Prithee, do not turn me about: my stomach is not constant" [Act 2, Scene 2, Line 123] for a typical Chisholm beer-swilling student to use in those more delicate moments, or "You cram these words into mine ears, against The stomach of my sense." [Act 2, Scene 1, Lines 113-114], for when your nagging parents are making you SICK.

The MTC productions of Shakespeare are always enjoyable, and at around \$16 for a concession ticket (cheaper still if you subscribe), this challenging art form is a good night's entertainment.

# Alice 125: A Celebration



In the past 125 years, millions of children have grown up with a little girl called Alice, a talking, hasty White Rabbit, a violent Queen of Hearts and the glorious hunt of the Jabberwocky. 'Alice in Wonderland' is 125 years old. To celebrate, Melbourne University's Gryphon Gallery and the Carroll Foundation are exhibiting a large collection of Alice-related works in the city plaza.

'Alice in Wonderland' is a wonderful masterpiece of adventure, fantasy, humour, logic and linguistics. Written by the Reverend Charles Dodgson (who assumed the name 'Lewis Carroll'), the book is now very popular with adults as well as children.

The exhibition 'Alice 125: A Celebration' is large; very large. Inside its labyrinth of displays one can sympathise with Alice when she despaired of being trapped in Wonderland. The art displayed is varied: it ranges from abstract paintings, illustrations, sculptures, videos and textile work to exhibits of Carroll's photographs and Tenniel's illustrations for the original publication of 'Alice in Wonderland'. The artists are largely Australian, and include John Perceval, textile artist Meg Cantor, Charles Blackman, and 'Animalia' illustrator Graeme Base as well as numerous other illustrators, sculptors, animators, painters and textile artists from all walks of life — professionals and amateurs.

There are the obvious exhibits: illustrations of children's copies, cartoon strips of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', and associated paraphernalia that reminds us that Carroll's stories, magazines and parlour games were extremely popular in Victorian England.

There are some exhibits concerning the book in the real world: celebrating the success of *Alice*, photographs and personal belongings of young (and old) Alice Liddell (the inspiration for Carroll's tale) and some background on the life and other works of Carroll.

The most interesting works displayed is that inspired by the fantastic adventures, twisted logic and nonsense of 'Alice in Wonderland'. Most of the exhibition falls into this category. There are several attempts to transform Alice from Wonderland to an Australian setting, many of which are quite awful. Doris Gingingara, an Arnhemland artist, has provided the best — a semi-traditional panel of nine scenes. To Gingingara, the Australian outback is Wonderland brought to life: bandicoots with boomerangs are able substitutes for talking rabbits with white gloves, and fat frillneck lizards making great models for Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Some of the most spectacular work deals with Alice's dream (the fact that it was a dream, as opposed to what she dreamed), which is the most common theme. These pieces are can be startling and horrifying — 'Alice Falling' (Stanley Wong) is an example. Another popular theme is the hunt for the Jabberwocky, that incredible masterpiece of nonsense that Alice discovers in 'Through the Looking Glass'.

Overall, however, the exhibition has the slightly pathetic, obsessive feeling of a shrine — to Lewis Carroll, the success of the book and to Alice Liddell. There is even a major display of Alice Liddell's 'favourite' possessions, and a photograph of her receiving an honorary doctorate from an American university for her role of inspiration. We do get to see a few of Carroll's photographs of young Alice, but there is a tactful omission of his hobby of photographing naked young girls.

Sometimes exhibits appear to be present to make up the numbers, their only justification being that they are 'about' Alice. For instance, the exhibition proudly displays over 125 (the catalog names 136) translations of 'Alice in Wonderland' and boasts that this is the most of any book by a single author. But some of the translations... For example, a binary translation? Or a barcode translation?

Most of the translations are legitimate, and those that have an illustrated front cover are fascinating. 'Alice' is a chameleon, varying from a West African to a South American to a Chinese to a Scandinavian girl ... in the same way that Christian communities around the world personalise their Jesus Christ.

The criteria for exhibits seems to be any loose connection with 'Alice'. Hence we even get a continuous replay of a certain garlic add which has about four seconds of relevance. The upshot is that the exhibition is too large. However, if you are interested in seeing other people's interpretations of the most prominent fantasy in the English speaking world, have a look. If you're a Lewis Carroll fan, I promise that you'll delight in the number of good exhibits. The exhibition is not restricted to Alice in Wonderland; there are some excellent illustrations of the 'Hunting of the Snark'.

Admission is \$4, and the excellent catalog is \$10. The exhibition is in Melbourne until 23 September, in the City Square Plaza.

G. Art. Smith.

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# Rumors

by E'ROCKIN' & Katy-J. — Monash University (ex Chisholm)

Robotics technology clashes with art: the white 'Mazda' sign graffitied by the sponsor onto the Comedy Theatre's crushed blue velvet drapes, provided the only thought-provoking material for the evening (ie, how COULD they do it?).

'Rumors' is set at a party celebrating the tenth anniversary of the deputy mayor of New York. The happy couple, however, are conspicuously absent. The few invited guests try to solve the mystery of their hosts' absence by piecing together gossip they've heard at the tennis club. In the process, they unearth disturbing rumours that are being spread about themselves and their partners.

The whole event would have been a write-off for us had it not been the Melbourne premiere of Neil Simon's latest play and hence, necessarily attended by several of the more select members of this city's society (ourselves included, bien sur).

Row S, R, Q...we sailed nonchalantly down the aisle of the stalls, noting that our seats were closer to the stage than those of other major celebs and the likes of Pete Smith and Annette Allison. Row K, J, I...here we are, row H. Shit to Christ — there's Peter Couchman and some hussy sitting in OUR seats!

Quicker than I could invite him to read the fine print on my steel caps, a passing

penguin pointed out that our seats were actually in the dress circle. . . Instead of chewing the fat with Lillian Frank, or Derryn with his blow-waved beard, we had to sit out the show between two wannabe socialites, both sporting fake minks with a penetrating 'eau de mothball' aroma.

'Rumours' is a farce, and is therefore purposely unrealistic, so the author's exploration of relationships and attitudes relies on the situation and humour for substance.

We found the play to be a banal attempt dotted with predictable humour. While the plot was original, the script was not. A few good sight gags, managed by Graeme Blundell's sleek

direction, relieve the play's drudgery. The actors developed the individuality of their characters well, but failed to hold their New York accents throughout. This may seem a petty criticism, but trust us, Australian-American is not SMOOTH on the ear for two solid hours.

The audience abounded with 40+ year olds, who seemed to be laughing heartily, either for first night support, or else because they could relate to the 'entertainment'. If you insist on making up your own mind, remember that you can get a group booking concession for Wednesday matinees.

by Kerry Nelson — Melbourne University

Rumour has it that Neil Simon's latest play is sure to be a sensational hit. Surprisingly, despite the prolific number of Broadway hits he has written, *Rumours* is Simon's first farce. However, the web of cynicism so neatly combined with a delightful overdose of humour makes us hope that this farce is not his last.

Despite the few fluffed lines (probably due to a touch of opening night jitters,

or the effects of the magnetism rising from the audience), the characters effectively captivated the entire Comedy Theatre. The brilliant talents of Jacki Weaver, and an all-star cast kept the audience silent, but for those frequently timed lines commanding outbursts, often of near hysteria.

The many derogatory inferences concerning the durability of BMW's, made by Lewis Fiander's character Lenny Ganz, may be hard felt by BMW owners, and the occasional slips from American accent cannot be viewed as a sign of weakness in the script.

Rather, the fact that the characters worked off each other extremely well, providing a constant repartee that allowed no dull moments, predicts the future of another successful stage show for Melbourne.

The high demand for a range of mannerisms to complement the hilarity of the situation, was well satisfied by each actor's ability to effectively portray the many mood changes from nervousness to aggravation to despair.

The stage setting was also very good and stage use brilliant; the intensity of

Charlie's situation was expressed by incredibly clever stage work.

Perhaps the social status of these rich characters, and the threats that this evening imposes on their futures is Simon's way of poking fun at the plight of the wealthy, and this becomes a vital ingredient of *Rumours'* humour. *Rumours* is playing at the Comedy Theatre until August 25th.

Bookings at Bass or Comedy Theatre — 662 2222



## Stitches

*Stitches* is a fantastic live comedy venue and although still in its' infancy, has hosted some of Melbourne's most popular and talented conveniences. The Doug Anthony Allstars, Mark Little, Rachel Berger, Tim Smith and Andrew Goodone are just a few who have performed sell-out shows. Likewise there is the exciting potential of new and original inhouse productions. The first of these is *A Chook In A Top Hat* which is set to run throughout August.

One doesn't usually expect the food at the theatre restaurants to be even edible, let alone enjoyable. I was pleasantly surprised with *Stitches* most exceptional quality and variety. 'Dinner and show' offers three courses with a choice of main from Tandoori Chicken, Eggplant Lasagne and Trevally wrapped in poached lettuce. The cafe menu is more varied and interesting with a selection of pasta, steak, vegetables, chicken and soup dishes. These are available for most of the day.

Located on the Esplanade end of Fitzroy Street in St Kilda (next to the Lager Bar), it offers great views and character. Highly recommended for a great night out.

## In Duty Bound

Katy-J & E'ROCKIN' — Monash University (ex Chisholm)

St. Martins Theatre

Avoid any performance of a play that is being taught as a year 11 or 12 VCE text. It's not that the play is poor, but rather the audience is poor. A diet of American sit-coms and a television-dead intellect have left these kids without the slightest understanding of theatre etiquette. Call it a beef - yes it is; for this, the opening night, was marred by the inappropriate behaviour of more than two thirds of the audience.

Having got that over with, *In Duty Bound* is Ron Elisha's story of a young Jewish medical student, Jack. Jack's parents have stereotypical expectations of their son: to be successful, make lots of money and marry within the religion.

When Jack meets and falls in love with a 'shiksa' (a non-Jewish girl; is that how you spell it?) the pork really hits the fan. Horrified, the parents go to great lengths in order to split the couple up. They set Jack up with an ugly, fat Jewish girl who gives up her job and sets out to fulfill her quota for strengthening the Jewish race by having four children; thus

Jack's parents are happy once again.

Part 2. Ten years later, an unfulfilled Jack goes to his parents to tell he is leaving his wife. In a frustrating conversation, Jack tries to explain to his 'stuck-in-their-ways' parents why he is so unhappy. When his wife rings up saying she has swallowed half a jar of Valium, he says, "She'll sleep it off!" and leaves the house in search of happiness.

by Maria Malvestuto — La Trobe University

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One is naturally suspect upon visiting a new theatre restaurant in Melbourne. After such suburban classics as the Swagman, Dirty Dicks, French Knickers and Nero's Fiddle, *Stitches* is a refreshing alternative offering worthwhile food, atmosphere, and entertainment.

# Books, Books, Books, Books

Reviewed by Melbourne University

## The Secret Life of Jesus

Robert Macklin

Pan: \$12.99

This is a revealing book that shows the other, covered up life of Jesus - as man. It shatters many of the myths and constructs of Jesus, and the churches that have manufactured this religious figure for their own purposes. It tends to lose credibility, however, as it relies heavily upon many of the same forces it simultaneously discredits.

Nevertheless, it does provide an alternative to the existing image of Jesus - "the best known person who ever lived". An alternative that is as constructed as the original, but one that opens up possibilities that begin a challenge to Christianity as we know it today.

It is a book that will no doubt be rejected and ignored by the "devoutly" religious, while becoming a bible for the atheist. For the open-minded person it is well worth the read - provided an open mind is kept throughout.

By Luke Harris — Monash University

## Clandestine In Chile

by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

In 1973, the turbulent politics of Chile took a disastrous turn, with the violent ascendancy of a right-wing military government under Augusto Pinochet. Whether he genuinely considered himself a national guardian, or was acting at the behest of big business, the major result for ordinary people was the descent into fear, and the very real chance of death if they dared criticise the rule of the armed forces.

Many activists and intellectuals went into exile, often just ahead of the warrants for their execution. *Clandestine In Chile* is written through the eyes of just such a man, Miguel Littin, a filmmaker marked for death by the military for his outspoken support of Allende. After several years in exile, Littin received the chance to return, albeit in disguise (as a Paraguayan businessman) and help to co-ordinate in secret the making of a film on Pinochet's Chile, to bring news of the abuse of human rights back into the Western media.

It is thus he entered Chile, very much on the lookout for popular dissent, and making intrusive left-wing diagnoses with irritating frequency throughout the book; one doesn't have to be a socialist to dislike what Pinochet has done. Via Littin's portrait and biased vision, the reader begins to get an insight into Chile's stratified and convoluted society, a composition of many different races, as demonstrated by the name of their national hero, Bernardo O'Higgins.

The random violence of the military and the atmosphere of suspicion is depicted chillingly: "I concentrated on the people in view. They were walking unusually fast . . . no one spoke, no one looked in my specific direction, no one gesticulated or smiled." Again and again, Littin's ruse almost fails in his haste to get the true picture. Such is his incompetence, nervousness and sheer stupidity that only equal amounts of these qualities on the part of the police saved him from capture. "To make matters worse, I had forgotten to talk like a Paraguayan, and then tried to make a last minute adjustment . . . she then asked me where I was from. When I told her she exclaimed 'the Uruguayans are very good in bed. what about you?' I had no alternative but to get stuffy." Escapades with ID cards, passwords and disguises simply take up too much space, yet they are often unintentionally funny.

Overall, the book is an economically written reminder that Santiago's clean streets and modern cars are little more than a facade, a veneer over something mindless and evil. If only it were longer, and the protagonist a little more perceptive, then this book might be a true classic.

Reviewed by Melbourne University

## Hunter's Moon — A Story of Foxes

Garry Kilworth

(Allen & Unwin: \$9.95)

Essentially a "Mills & Boon" tale, told in fox language. If anything, it comes across mushier and more cliched than the usual romance because of the continual, corny conversion of everything into fox language and the fox world as a whole.

Not a nature lover's delight, as the title may misleading portray, rather a light, "nice" read for those that like that kind of thing. Definitly not for the intellectually demanding reader.



## 1991 Rhodes Scholarship

### For study at Oxford University

Applications for the Victorian Rhodes Scholarship close at the University of Melbourne at 5 pm on 3 September 1990. Both men and women are eligible to apply.

Applicants should be Australian citizens, have passed their 19th but not their 25th birthday by 1 October, 1991 and have achieved a bachelors degree (preferably with honours) by October 1990.

Application forms containing full conditions of eligibility are available from, and may be lodged with, the Registrar's Enquiry Office, Ground Floor, Raymond Priestley Building, University of Melbourne. Late applications will not be accepted.

J. B. Potter, Honorary Secretary,  
Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee  
for Victoria.

arm37393



# Chocolat Reunion Venus Trap

## CHOCOLAT

By Emma French La Trobe  
University

Written and Directed by Claire Denis  
Stars: Isaac de Bankole, Cecile  
Ducasse, Guilla Boschi

Venue: Kino Cinema, Collins Place,  
45 Collins Street

Season commences September

Set in northern Cameroon, West Africa, *Chocolat* depicts colonial life in a small subdivision of the provincial government in the late '50s, just before Independence. This subtitled film is the first solo feature by French director Claire Denis who herself lived in various parts of colonial Africa as a child, so there are certain autobiographical resonances. Most of the film consists of the adult protagonist France's flashback to her childhood and it is her reactions, and those of her adult companion (played by Isaac de Bankole) black domestic servant, that are focussed upon.

France (Cecile Ducasse) is the daughter of Marc Dalens (Francois Cluzet), the French district administrator at Mindif, and his wife, Aimee (Guilla Boschi), but Protee is the person she spends most of her time with. Indeed, she can often be found outside talking to the blacks, watching the antics of her parents and their guests with Protee from outside the house when she is supposed to be in bed, or surreptitiously gallivanting around the property with him. Protee watches with her and yet is also watched, since he is the object of Aimee's frustrated lust. The social taboo placed on any possible exploration of her reciprocated feelings makes the fairly self-absorbed Aimee deal with her attraction by being cool, formal, even harsh towards Protee. He is, however, for the most part, too self-respecting and controlled to show her anything other than the gentleness, efficiency and devotion for which he has been assigned a position of such responsibility.

The film builds to a restrained climax, catalysed by an assortment of French passengers who are staying at the homestead while their plane, having been forced to make a sudden landing, is being repaired. Luc Segalen (Jean-Claude Adelin), involved with this group, is a seemingly saintly, though ragged ex-seminarian, who decides to transform himself into a clean-shaven, white-clad intellectual but who still has a penchant for 'roughing it'. He eats with the blacks and uses their outside shower, setting out to rile Protee, who he sees as threatening to upstage his contrived purity. Thus he draws attention to the racial division which is the film's principal theme.

There is not much dialogue or action in the film - instead there are long still shots like frozen memories, and these things, as well as the great attention to emotional and spatial detail, serve to



evoke a certain stillness which echoes the displacement the characters feel at finding themselves at such an isolated outpost. The film is thus a slow-moving, visual rather than verbal study of relationships, and its impact relies not only on the considerable tension that the treatment of their undercurrents manages to generate, but on our ability, having been thrown into this flashback with no narrator, to decipher the implications, which is what the adult France herself is doing. Through excellent acting an infinite amount about subtle codes of behaviour is conveyed, especially in relation to white treatment of the native Africans, and it is precisely because there are so few words that we see how submerged, and thus how deeply ingrained, the level on which these attitudes are made manifest.

## Reunion

by Tim Sowden — Melbourne  
University

Set in Stuttgart in the early 1930's, this film explores an unlikely friendship between two boys, and, while not entirely devoid of romance, it stops short of the explicitly homosexual. That one is of aristocratic stock and the other, a middle-class Jew hardly provides a secure foundation for the relationship. The friendship persists nonetheless, even against a backdrop of rising Nazism that yet widens the gulf between their respective backgrounds.

Be warned; this is as excitable as the plot becomes. *Reunion* is nothing if not predictable. The insidious growth of the Third Reich will ultimately triumph over young love, driving the youths back to the opposing camps of persecuted and persecutor. Hans, the Jew, will abscond to New York before genocide becomes a national preoccupation, and Konrad, the aristocrat, will don the swastika and join the ranks of the German military.

The bulk of the drama is seen as an articulation of an old man's memory. After some 57 years, Hans returns to the Fatherland and the town where so much of his youth was spent. Travelling on the pretext of business, he becomes a victim of his own desire to know what became of his beloved Konrad.

*Reunion* draws from a vast inventory of cinematic norms and few aspects of the film, technical or otherwise, are without precedence. The Jewish persecution in pre-war Germany has suffered much over-exposure in recent years, and its poignancy, at least in films, is questionably dulled. Yet *Reunion* addresses this cinematic platitude only superficially, without comment or bite. Neither is the relationship between the youths satisfactorily portrayed and it never really develops beyond a *Brideshead* model. I do suspect that the director has even borrowed from *Cabaret*; note the personification of Nazism, a nasty character whose grim visage repeatedly presents itself in flashbacks and on television.

If you have a tendency to to enjoy films that are not taxing in terms of intellect or emotion, and have a failing for happy endings, who knows? You may well enjoy *Reunion*.

## VENUS TRAP — Die Venusfalle

by Katy-J & E'rockin' — Monash  
University (ex Chisholm)

Brighton Bay Cinema

A voyeur's delight, with tremendous cinematography and a dazzling array of largely brain dead femmes. They want Max for his incredibly seductive qualities — and he wants them for a good old romp. Promiscuous is an understatement, and *Venus Trap* is a story, more of the chase than of the kill. Perhaps it is just as well there's not a single condom to be seen, but we are spared the explicit details in most cases, with the exception of one sequence — something along the lines of the *Kama Sutra* translated into German.

Dialogue is used rather sparingly, and this heightens the impression that we are very much journeying into the mind of our Max. He shows no desire to curb his insatiable libido; in fact, he openly discusses it at a sophisticated dinner party - in front of his main lover, Coco - much to the amazement and fascination of the guests.

Just as he is unsure where his next 'lay' will be and with whom, so are we — and the predictability of many such as this doesn't even eventuate. Even the finale leaves the audience uncertain.

Max's lover Coco is chloroformed by his other belle's husband and he leaves with her in a fireman's hold.

A bizarre tale with no real solution; a joy to view, yet hard to believe Max isn't satisfied with the voluptuous Coco who wants to be "hunted, chased and bagged in the bedroom".

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