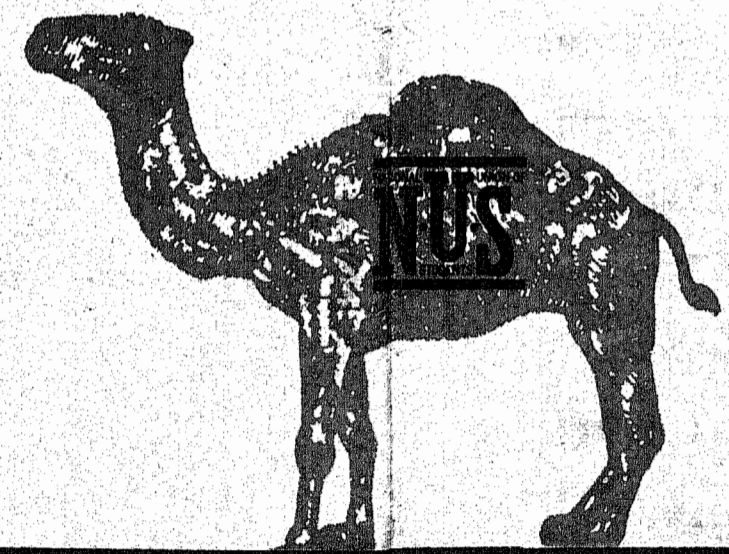
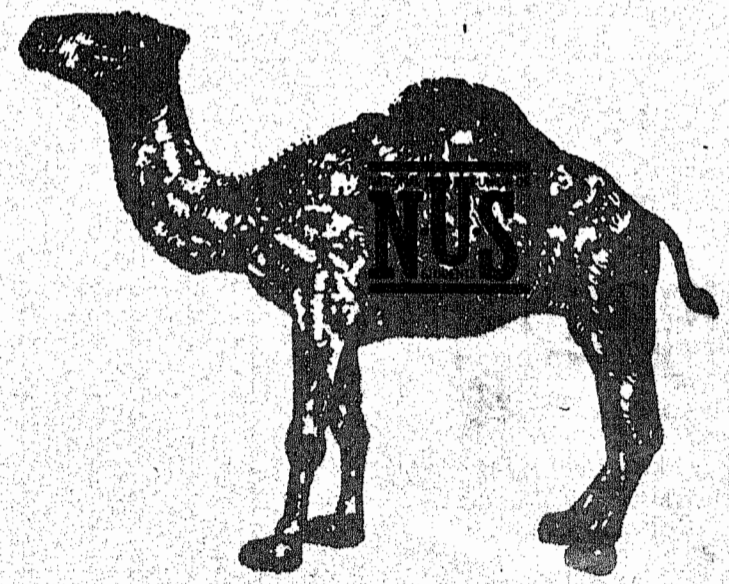
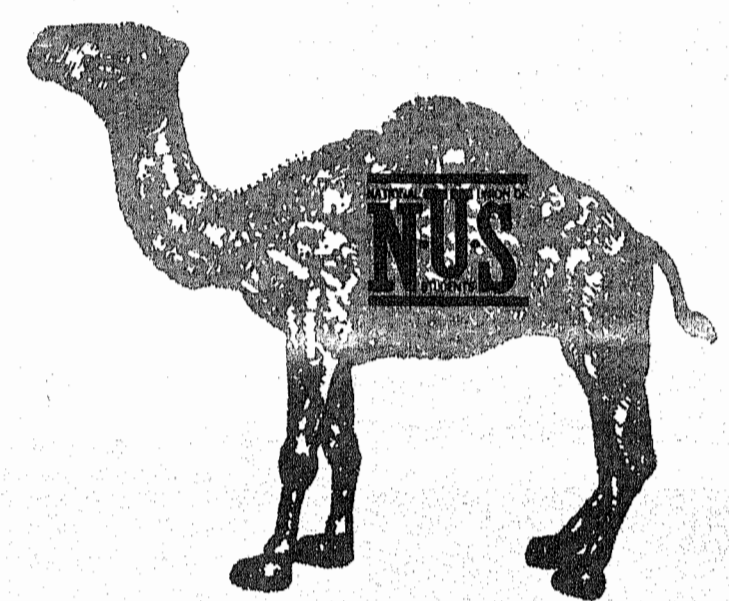
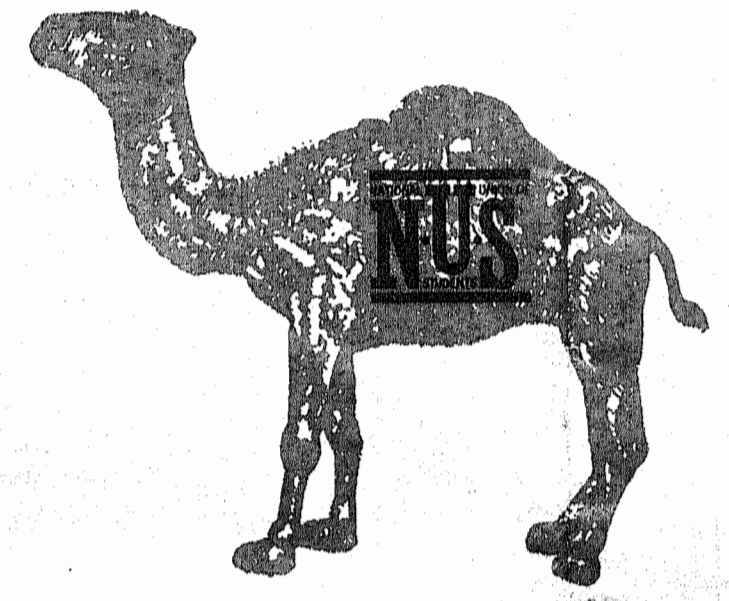
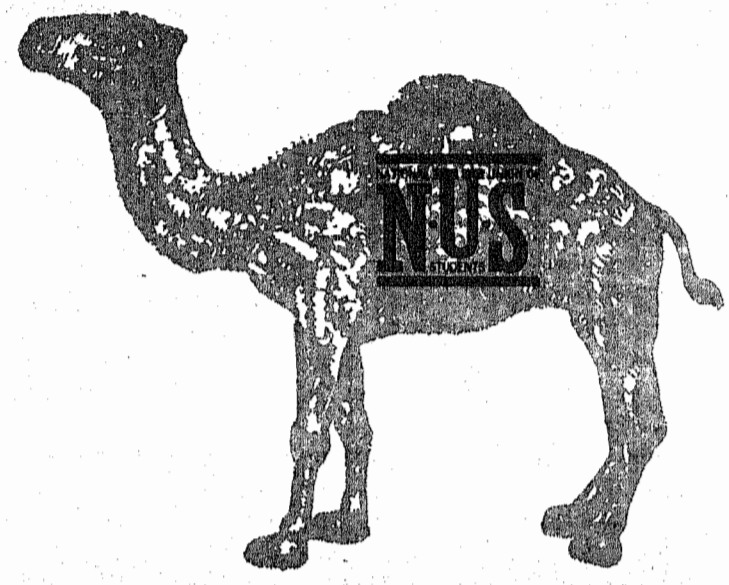
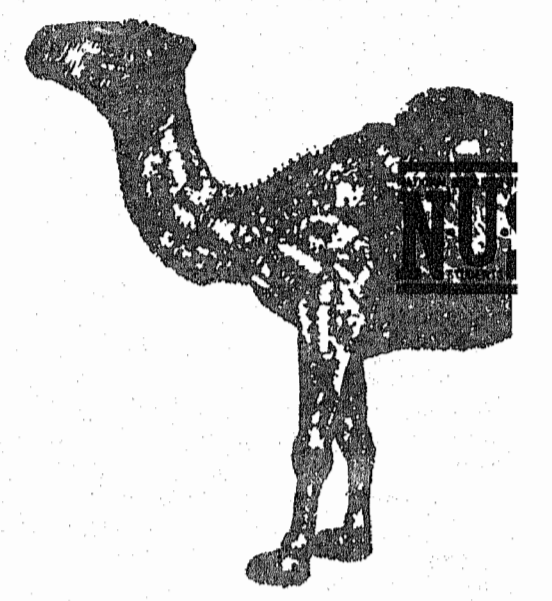
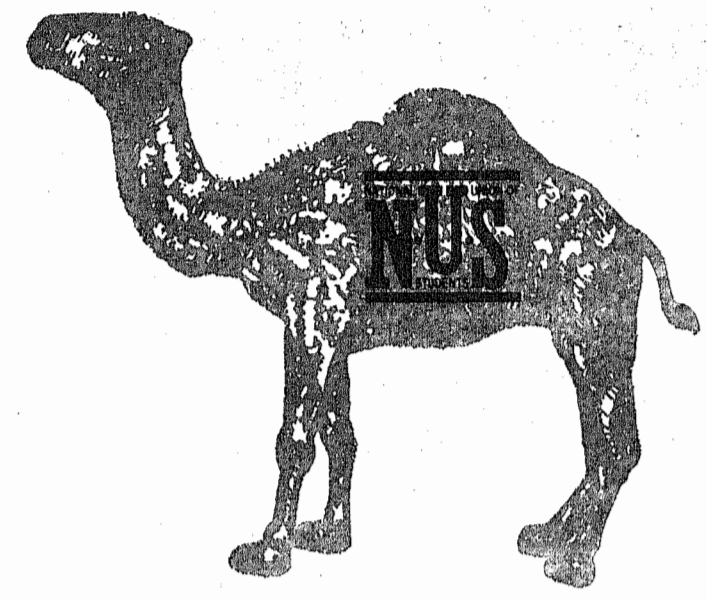
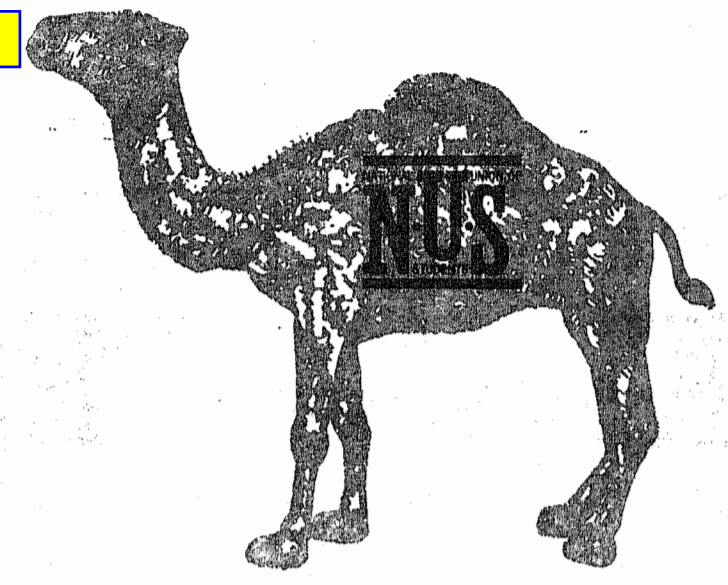


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Library note: This issue has been wrongly numbered and should be Vol 58 No 19.



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OnDit





Newly Appointed Trouble Shooter Prevents Near Riot in Uni Bar

The Union Administration, in all its wisdom has appointed a new Operations Manager who has spent his formative working years as a prison officer in Yatala.

Although he has not been here long he has already brought some of the flavour of South Australia's foremost Labour Prison to the University.

On the last Friday before the holidays, a number of students had gathered in the bar to see the half semester out with a few quiet ones. As is sometimes the case, a few students got a bit exuberant and chucked a few things off the balcony. Apparently a pint glass was seen flying towards the cloisters at one stage.

The usual procedure in such cases is for one of the bar staff to go outside and tell the students that the balcony is being closed. This time, things were different.

The new Operations Manager got on the blower to Hughes Plaza and summoned four security guards to the bar. They then muscled their way onto the balcony and formed a human cordon in the doorway, searching vigilantly for the wrong-doers. The balcony was then closed and the Operations Manager remarked proudly to his colleagues "That's how we used to do it in Yatala."

Does the Union believe students need similar treatment to prisoners? The Union needs a kick up the arse if it thinks this is the case. It seems to think that students owe it a favour, when it is itself employed by the students. Who's serving who, anyway?

Couple of the Week



During election week they were bitter feuding enemies. The public face is of antagonistic demons thrashing competing ideologies. But all too often they oh so quickly forget, and quicker than you can say 'Kafka' they're into it like polar bears at a seal pup. Here's Natasha Stott Despoja, (President elect no less) in the arms of failed no hoper Liberal got-a-job-in-the-Treasury-thankyou-very-much Andrew Taylor. On Dit says "here's to ya!"

CAPTION COMPETITION

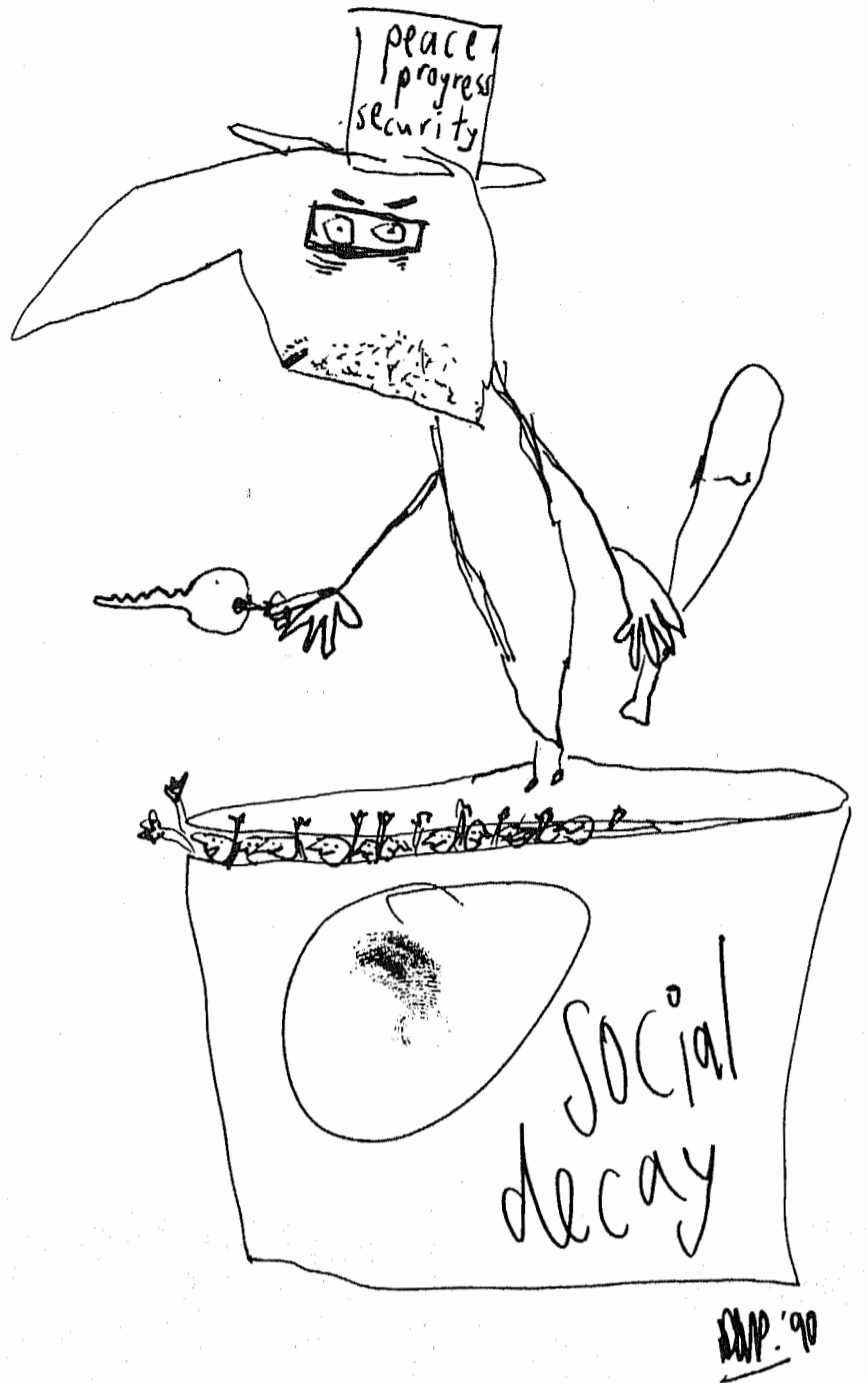
Well kids we were flooded by two big entries packed full of fuckn' awful captions to this picture of a man in a skirt shovin' his hand up a cows bum. Funnyeh? Well here are the better ones from Mr twisty turny Ben "Publicity" Allen and "Hey the Campaign was serious" Paul "sauve fuck" Champion. Don't say we didn't warn you.



Paul's:
You Scottish are so tight flsted (Schnnrrk)
Bust a move (giggle)
Re-enactment of the battle of Loch Salordie, demonstrating why the late arrival of the McFarther clan wasn't the crucial reason for victory (hah schlnergle)
The Scottish Space program hits

full swing as Angus McFarther attempts to caber-toss a cow to the moon.

Ben's:
Who's for a fist up the arse again (dear oh dear, sad but funny)
Can I shave your back (???)
They could not take his pride



Kiss Your Austudy Goodbye

At least 10,000 students stand to lose all AUSTUDY benefits by the end of the year.

A spokesperson for Minister Peter Baldwin, Mr. Graves, told *On Dit* that changes to the parental assets test introduced in this year's Budget will leave an estimated 10,500 students in the secondary and tertiary system without AUSTUDY.

The parental assets test has been tightened to include assessment of land, equipment and personal effects. Students from families with more than \$400,000 in assets will be unable to receive any AUSTUDY.

These changes are of particular concern to students from the country. While the majority of country families have land and equipment assets exceeding the \$400,000 limit, Agriculture Department statistics for 1990-91 show that the average farm has a net disposable income of between \$10,000 and \$13,000.

The tightened assets test falls to consider the position of families on the land. For many country students it appears that the only solution the Government can offer is that their parents sell some assets to put them through their course.

The Government believes that country students will only face such difficulties in the short term. Mr. Graves told *On Dit* that "the Government accepts that someone in temporary low-income circum-

stances."

"The fact is, however, that we're talking about net assets, that is, net equity after debt, of \$400,000. Now if you can compare somebody who has got assets of that level regardless of what industry we're talking about, including agriculture, they're in a better socio-economic situation than someone in the vicinity of average weekly earnings."

The rationale for the AUSTUDY changes seems to be that country students are wealthier than most, and the present downturn in the agricultural sector is only a temporary one. This falls to recognise that while country families may be rich in assets, they are often cash poor, and that a temporary downturn means a period of three to four years- the time it takes to complete an average degree. It also fails to take factors such as family size into account.

Graves told *On Dit* that the Government is aware the changes will create problems for country students.

"The rural sector is in one of its periodic downturns at the moment, so that's accepted. If that rate of return is on average and over time of the magnitude you're talking about [\$10,000- \$13,000 p.a.], then they've got problems, and the loss of AUSTUDY is far from being the biggest of them."

The Government denies that the changes will only be to the detri-

ment of country students.

"There's no reason to think that the majority of students affected by the changes will be from the country," Graves said.

"The assets test applies to all forms of assets- people whose parents own flats and are engaged in whatever form of business and investment- they will all be affected also."

Although revenue raised from HECS has been much higher than expected, the Government has stated that none of this money will be put into areas such as student services and AUSTUDY, despite indications to the contrary earlier this year. Speculation from within the National Union of Students and the Government itself suggested that the money would be used to lower the qualifying age for the independent AUSTUDY rate from 25 to 21. The Government now denies that this was ever the case, and argues that the changes made to AUSTUDY have made it more accessible anyway.

"I never heard it put that way," Graves said. "The NUS sought to do this, but to lower it to 21 would from memory have cost \$65 million."

"What has happened is that a higher than expected proportion of students are paying upfront and a lower than expected proportion are going to pay through the tax system later on. This will be offset in later years."



NUS Office Bearers Smith (left), Deverall (first from left) and Freeman (second from right)- Despite over 10,000 students losing AUSTUDY benefits, NUS issued a press release claiming the "reforms will help the majority of students receiving financial assistance."

"In terms of the AUSTUDY changes, the parental income test remains the same, the personal income test was relaxed from three to four thousand dollars, the spouse income test was tightened, and the parental assets test was tightened. If you look at the justification for the various figures applying for all four, it's fair to say that there's a fair bit more equity across the board than there was."

The Government has found itself a surprising ally on this last point- the National Union of Students.

In the days after the Budget was brought down, NUS sent a press release to newspapers and Government departments describing the AUSTUDY changes as "a mixed bag" for students, containing many very positive reforms. NUS quite reasonably welcomed the change to allow students to earn \$4000 per year (up from \$3000) without

their AUSTUDY being affected.

However, the Union also said it was "reasonably happy" with AUSTUDY changes across the board, stating that the "reforms to AUSTUDY will help the majority of students receiving financial assistance."

The press release was written and authorised by NUS Office Bearers Kate Deverall (President), Bridget Freeman (Women's Officer) and Damian Smith (Education Officer). Strangely enough, all three are members of the Australian Labor Party.

With 10,500 students about to lose all AUSTUDY benefits and the National Union of Students congratulating the Government for such reforms, it seems certain that the tightening of access to AUSTUDY will continue unabated.

David Penberthy

Equal Opportunity Officer and Honoraria Referenda Go Down

Constitutional amendments proposed in the recent referendum have been defeated by a conclusive margin.

The proposal to replace the Women's Officer with an Equal Opportunity Officer was poorly received by the student body, going down by a margin of 554 votes (78%) to 154 (22%).

The "Yes" lobby maintained for the duration of the referendum that its proposal in no way represented an attack on the Women's Officer or the status of women. Arguing that the position should be broadened to include all areas of discrimination, and that the position be open to men, the Yes lobby expected to receive wide support from students.

The intensity of the "No" lobby's work in the referendum seemed, however, to swing the question their way.

Imminent academics and politicians from both ends of the political spectrum lent their support to

the no case, arguing that the Women's Officer position is a necessary and productive one.

Also aiding the "No" lobby was the fact that the wording of the proposed amendment was so unclear that, even if successful, the SAUA Constitution would still have allowed for the existence of the Women's Officer position.

Women's Officer Amy Barrett was "extremely pleased" with both the turnout and the result.

"This indicates what was already quite clear - that the vast majority of students believe that the Women's Officer provides an essential and valuable service," Ms Barrett said.

The second proposal, to fix honoraria paid to the Education and Vice Presidents at \$1,500 p.a., was lost by a margin of 413 votes (58.7%) to 258 (36%), with 41 informal votes (6.7%) being cast.

In his report to SAUA Council, Returning Officer Robert Brice said the voter turnout was "relatively



Women's Officer Amy Barrett "Extremely pleased" with the Referendum result.

high" considering its close proximity to the Annual Elections. He recommended, however, that Council consider limiting Constitutional referenda to twice a year, one in first semester and a second coinciding with Annual Elections.

"This will go some way to ensuring a wider student involvement... and ensure better and more efficient use of SAUA/Union's limited resources," Mr Brice said.

David Penberthy

NUS and the Pantomime Camel

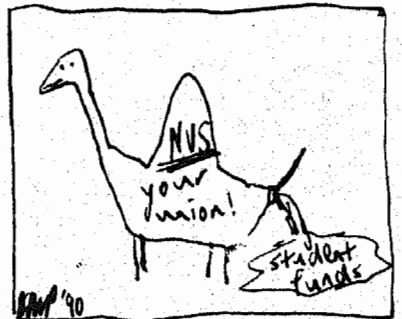
Sources within the National Union of Students have revealed that the National Executive is embroiled in a bitter dispute - over a camel's hump.

President Kate Deverall, Education Officer Damian Smith and Women's Officer Bridget Freeman came up with an idea to promote NUS by placing its logo on the side of a pantomime camel in a Melbourne Pageant.

The going rate for advertising space on camel humps is \$300 - a price Deverall and Freeman thought reasonable. So reasonable, in fact, that they decided to go behind the back of National Executive and authorise a cheque for three hundred student dollars.

When NUS office bearers and executive members across the country got wind of the idea, shortly before the National Executive meeting earlier this month, Deverall, Smith and Freeman had some considerable explaining to do.

NUS claims to be balancing a



very tight budget, and the \$300 camel idea was, unsurprisingly seen by most NUS office bearers as a frivolous misuse of funds.

The owner of the pantomime camel had reportedly completed the transaction with NUS, making it too late for National Executive to back out of the contract.

NUS Education Officer, Damian Smith, party to the original idea but not a signatory to the cheque, has been asked to pay for the advertising out of his own pocket.

Whether or not this is the first in a series of pantomime ventures by the National Union remains to be seen.

David Penberthy

Teaching Academics How To Teach

Thanks to Bob Hawke, "Australia - the clever country" has become a popular catch phrase in the media and public arena. Ironically it is also thanks to Mr. Hawke that funding for Higher Education has been the subject of savage cuts during the reign of the Hawke Government.

At the same time, institutions are being forced into mergers as part of the rationalisation process.

The Students' Association is concerned about the implications of these cuts and other factors which affect teaching. This half-Semester we are looking at this issue.

Traditionally, the culture of this University has been focussed on research excellence. Little priority seems to have been given to teaching. While the research role of academics is indeed an important one, in fact one which should enrich their teaching, it should not be allowed to override the requirement that they perform to at least an adequate standard in the area of teaching. After all, they are employed on the basis that they pass on some of their knowledge to their students, so that the overall pool of knowledge increases and expands. Unfortunately, the lack of

emphasis placed on the quality of teaching means that the system is open to the employment of teachers who are less than capable of performing their teaching duties to a satisfactory level from a student perspective. The University has made efforts to address this, and has included teaching skills as part of promotion criteria. Nevertheless, we are concerned that teaching is still not given the status and priority it deserves.

Cuts to funding have caused increases in class sizes and staff/student ratios, increases in materials costs for students and greater pressures on staff and students generally.

In the context of radical changes to the University structures due to the rationalisation of the education sector, it is more important than ever to ensure that quality teaching is properly emphasised. We have the opportunity now to make gains in the area of teaching quality through the mergers with Roseworthy College and the South Australian College of Advanced Education. This is particularly so in light of the fact that the college sector has traditionally placed greater priority on teaching.

In response to these concerns, the Student's Association is con-

ducting a Teaching Survey this half-Semester. It is hoped that the survey will give us some indication of the nature and extent of problems experienced by students - the experts in receiving education - in relation to teaching practices at this University. The survey also gives students an opportunity to articulate those qualities they have

appreciated in their teachers.

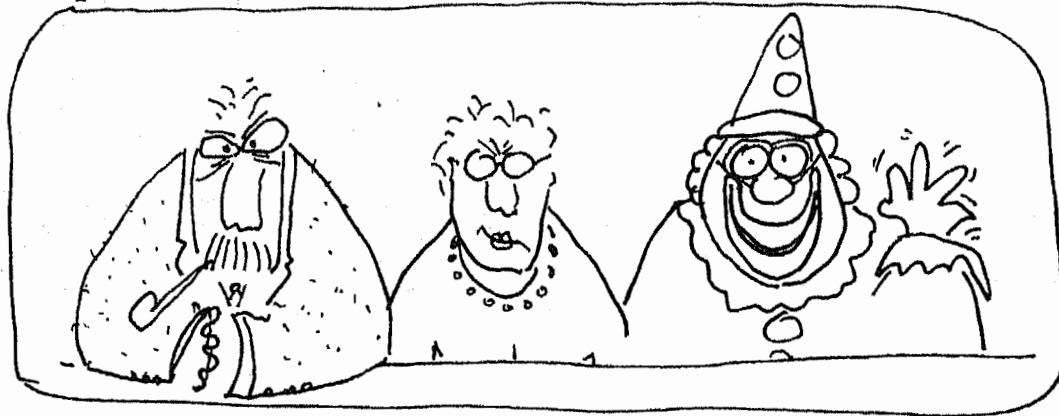
More information about the survey is contained in the latest edition of the Students' Association publication, Education Bulletin, which should reach your pigeon holes next week. Included in the Education Bulletin is a copy of the survey.

Please take the time to fill out

the Teaching Survey - only you can provide us with this important information, because, as we have already pointed out - you are the experts.

Wendy Wakefield
SAUA President
Natalie Meyer
Consultant

Pick the academic!



Participation of Mature Age Students At Record Levels

Figures released in a report prepared by the Department of Employment, Education and Training show a 25 percent increase in the number of mature age students commencing undergraduate studies over the last ten years.

The report documents a rise of more than 12,000 mature age undergraduates, from 52,000 to 64,000, during the period of 1979 to 1989.

"Females contributed significantly to the increase, their numbers rising by nearly half compared to a five percent increase in male numbers," said the Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services, Peter Baldwin.

The report also noted that the mature age share of all undergraduate commencements declined from 54 percent in 1979 to 45 percent in 1989, but attributed the fall



to the Government's success in increasing Year 12 retention rates and Government efforts to provide extra places in higher education to meet the increased demand that resulted.

The number of mature age students enrolled at Adelaide University in 1989 was 893, representing 33.1 percent of the total number of

undergraduates who commenced studies last year.

The paper on mature age students is the seventh in a series providing information on the composition of Australia's higher education student population.

Article reprinted courtesy of Lumen

Student Demo a (Small) Success

Between 150 and 200 students marched on September 12 to protest against attacks on higher education by the Hawke Labor Government.

The students met in Victoria Square and marched down King William Street towards Parliament House.

Addressing the crowd were Anita Hood (NUS SA State President), Rob Houghton (Flinders University Students' Association President), Steve Andrews (NUS Executive) and John Spoehr (United Trades and Labour Council Repre-

sentative).

The speakers all stressed that HECS was preventing the equal participation of marginalised groups in higher education and creating tremendous financial burdens for students in general. They were also critical of changes announced in this year's budget, particularly the tightening of access to AUSTUDY.

Students participating on the day said that despite the relatively small turnout, the march was in full voice and was a great success.

David Penberthy

Safe Disposal of Needles

The discovery recently of used syringes and needles in various locations on campus is causing great concern to the University and in particular to the Director and staff of the Health Service.

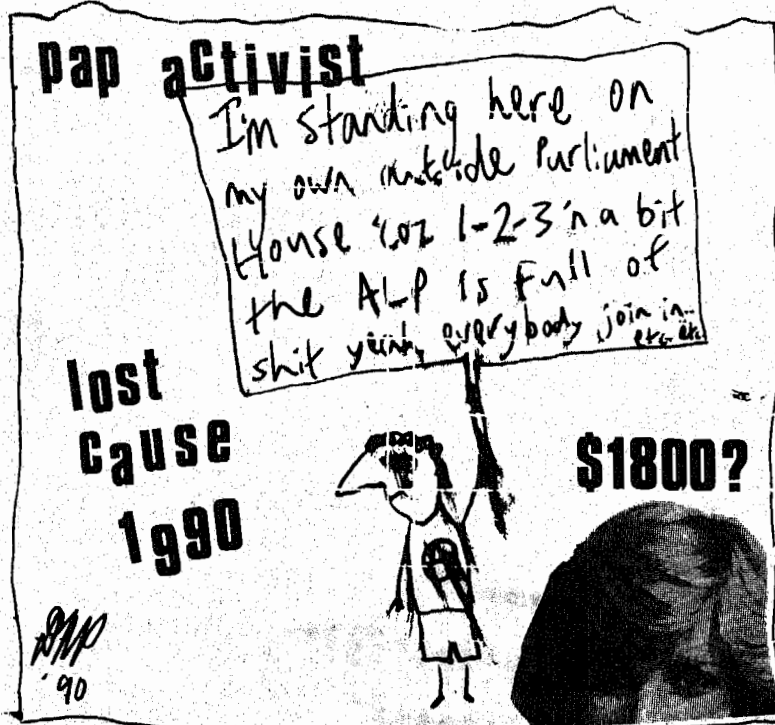
The unsafe disposal of these syringes and needles may be the result of larrikinism as mentioned

in the press by the South Australian Health Commission; if not we urge IV drug users to dispose of their syringes and needles in appropriate containers for sharps.

Advice on locations for needle exchange and disposal is available from the Health Service. Anyone wishing to obtain this information

may simply call into the Health Service and ask to speak to Sister Chadwick. The matter will be treated in strict confidence.

Dr J. Setchell
Sr Chadwick
Health Service



Yuan and Boyd-Turner to contest for Union President

The Union Board elected in the August elections meets for the first time tonight (October 1) in the North dining Room, Union Building at 6 pm.

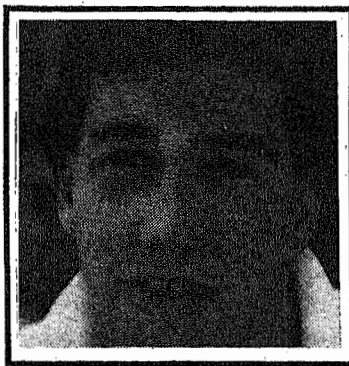
The major task of the meeting will be the election of the Union President and four Executive members, Chair of the powerful Finance and Development Committee (plus six ordinary members), Chair of the Catering Committee (plus three members) and the Union Board delegate to the Union Activities Committee.

The vote for the crucial position of President, Union Executive and FDSC Chair look to be all close affairs. At the time of writing it appears that Mel Yuan (Independent) and Nicolas Boyd-Turner (Liberal Club/Engineer) will nominate for Union President. Both Yuan and Boyd-Turner will have to rely on votes from outside their respective caucuses to win. Boyd-Turner appears to have the more difficult task in this respect but the vote may be complicated by a third nomination, possibly from Engineer Nick Hannaford.

The Union faces another crucial year in this era of fundamental change at Adelaide University. Award restructuring for Union staff



Mel Yuan (Independent)



Nicolas Boyd-Turner (Liberal/Engineer)

is a top priority with the Union still to respond to Trade Union position papers on the subject. This task will require a President who is a deft negotiator with a hands on knowledge of the issues and personnel involved. What is definitely not needed is a heavy handed ideologically driven approach that ignores the subtleties of the unique situation of student employed staff.

This type of work has little to do with narrow representation of (perceived) Faculty interest. Consideration of how staff is to be utilised for the maximum benefit of students while maintaining staff morale is obviously the desired

goal. Present confrontational industrial practices from staff, student reps and management cannot continue.

Also important in 1991 is the building redevelopment programme. This will require close liaison with management and outside contractors and calls for utmost professionalism.

Satish Dasan (Independents), Union President 1987-1989, believes that Board members need to prove again after the debacle of the 89/90 Hamilton Presidency that student reps can think intelligently about the issues that con-

Union Board 1990/91	
Independents Mel Yuan Natasha Stott Despoja Asha Puvan Kumar Susle O'Brien	Medicine Sam Alfred Andrew Wicks Christine Frewin
Labor Club Marla O'Brien (Centre/Right) Amy Barrett (Left) Kamal Farouque (Left)	Engineers Nick Hannaford
Left Alternative Wendy Wakefield	Walte Phillip Murphy
Staff rep Richard Shipton (Steward)	Reform/Liberal Club Nicolas Boyd-Turner (Eng) Anthony Roediger (Sport) Anna Lucy Loretta Reynolds (Sport)

front them.

'They shouldn't try to reinvent the wheel everytime a problem occurs.'

Reading of the Union Board minutes reveals that most problems reoccur.

'Solutions can often be found there', added Dasan.

The incoming Union Board needs to be wary of proposers of "brilliant new ideas". It also needs to be particularly wary that Fac-

ulty based reps do not pursue narrow interests at the expense of other students.

This first Board meeting promises to be, as always, very entertaining. I hope they've read the standing orders.

Steve Jackson

Engineers arrested after pub crawl

Two engineering students were charged with wilful damage of public property on the night of the Engineering Society pub crawl.

The pub crawl was held on Thursday September 13 and began in the University Bar before heading off towards town. The students went up King William Street, through Victoria Square and then moved east towards pubs around the Pulteney Street area.

At approximately 10:30, a group of students were seen walking towards Pulteney Street by police. Two of them were carrying a red phone which they had ripped off a

wall outside a hotel in Grenfell Street.

The two women did not realise they were being watched by the police and continued to carry the red phone down Pulteney Street towards Hindmarsh Square. When they got to Hindmarsh Square they attempted to throw the red phone up into the branches of a tree.

It was then that the police moved in. The two students were charged with wilful damage of public property and drunk and disorderly behaviour. They were then taken to the station and, despite sincere protestations on their part, were consequently unable to complete

the pub crawl.

An engineering student who went to the Pub Crawl but does not wish to be named told On Dit that apart from the two arrests, the night was incident free.

"It was really a question of peaking too early in the case of those guys. By the time they hit Victoria Square they were pretty gone, and ripping the phone off the wall really just spoilt what was otherwise a hassle free evening."

No further details on the charging of the two students can be disclosed as the matter is currently in the hands of the courts.

David Penberthy

Engineers reply 'we are couth'

Do Engineering students really deserve their reputation as drunken, sexist yobboes? Peter Hill, President (and Women's Officer!) of the A.U. Engineering Society speaks with David Penberthy about women in Engineering and the recent comments made by Education Minister John Dawkins.

OD: Education Minister John Dawkins said a couple of weeks ago that one of the main reasons women do not participate in Engineering is because most engineering students "lack couth". Do you think this was a fair comment?

Peter: No, I don't agree with his comments. While I don't believe they are totally true, there might be some truth about them, but not a hell of a lot. His sources seem to be out of touch from what I can find after reading the article. I think the reason women don't do Engineering is because they don't know enough about it at a matric level. I knew very little about it myself and just knew that it wasn't a Science, Arts or Medicine degree and applied the skills I enjoy most.

OD: So you think the fact that women aren't getting into Engi-

neering is more a question of upbringing and education than anything else?

Peter: Yeah, when they're at school they enjoy other subjects such as English and History more. It's not a question of being forced into it, it's a question of what you enjoy. Dawkins's comments are also quite insulting to the secondary education system and to the families of these students.

OD: Do you think the Engineering School is the sort of environment women feel comfortable in?

Peter: The women I know doing Engineering haven't complained to me. A lot of the Engineers that wrote into the Advertiser and criticised Dawkins were women themselves, so that says something. Most women engineering students I know don't mind being engineers.

I don't think that it's really got anything to do with the environment in the Engineering School. Generally speaking, it's got much more to do with the fact that girls at school are encouraged to participate in the non-scientific areas.



Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaayyyy!!!

the industry of the CELL

"Genetic engineering is more significant than splitting the atom. We can now alter any species alive on Earth - and such power has to be used with great care."

CSIRO animal geneticist, Dr Kevin Ward.

"At the most extreme, new organisms could conceivably affect major environmental processes such as weather patterns, the nitrogen cycle or other regenerative soil processes."

UK Royal Commission on Pollution, Inquiry into Genetic Engineering.

The Federal Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology* has invited all interested individuals and organisations to make submissions to its Inquiry into Genetic Engineering. They will report particularly on the impacts of engineered plants, animals and microbes deliberately released for experimental and commercial purposes, and the need to replace voluntary guidelines with laws. Related topics raised in submissions will also be considered.

This inquiry is a unique opportunity for the public to have a say about industries based on Genetic Engineering before they are established rather than after problems arise.

What are Genes and Genetic Engineering?

Though individual living cells are invisible to the naked eye, together they make up all living things from single-celled bacteria to ourselves, with billions of cells. Genes control the chemical messages within cells that determine the form and functioning of both the cell, and the organism's various organs. These codes of life consist of four chemical building blocks, arranged in pairs, like the treads of a spiral staircase. Millions of different combinations of the basic chemicals determine the different genetic makeup of each kind of organism.

Genetic engineering is a set of techniques and processes for adding to or removing parts of these genetic codes, to create engineered plants, animals, micro-organisms or humans that are different in some way from their natural counterparts. Some examples of recent work include, blue roses, research mice containing a human cancer gene, pigs and fish that grow faster and bigger, and herbicide tolerant crop plants. Such changes may be passed on to the offspring of the engineered organism if its germ (reproductive) cells are altered.

In principle, scientists now have the technical ability to alter the genes of any living thing. The technology allows genes to be transferred between totally unrelated species - humans to animals, animals to microbes, plants to animals, and so on, in ways that could not happen naturally, nor be achieved through traditional breeding. For example, a tobacco plant with added firefly genes

glowed in the dark, a sheep 'crossed' with a goat produced a geep (or 'shoat' if you prefer), and 'neutered' ice-forming bacteria reduced frost damage to plant leaves on which they were sprayed.

Despite some refinements in the understanding of genes, and the scientific and industrial ability to manipulate them, such knowledge is still far from complete. Nor can it provide a comprehensive description or explanation of living things and their behaviour as they are also influenced in important ways by such factors as the environment, learning and social context. So, before any Genetically Engineered organisms are deliberately released for experimental or commercial purposes from the thousands of laboratories around the world, many issues and consequences must be thoroughly discussed and a strict set of rules applied. The current inquiry is an important forum but a more general community debate is also needed.

Corporate Interest and Patenting

Corporations and governments want to establish industries based on the genetic engineering of wild and domestic plants, animals and micro-organisms. They envisage products with the potential to revolutionise agriculture, the drug and food processing industries, human and animal health care, environment management, waste treatment, minerals recovery, and a variety of other activities.

There is still scant evidence that this untried technology can deliver the miracles claimed for it, yet the Australian government, through CSIRO, now spends around \$120 million a year on Genetic Engineering research and development, and companies about \$80 million. Whether many of its proposed applications will ultimately be practical and commercial successes, and acceptable to the community, remains to be seen.

Corporate interest in Genetic Engineering is premised on their ability to gain patent ownership over any organisms and products that are created. Nothing in Australian patent law prevents the patenting of living things and the Patents and Trademarks Office is now examining many applications for patent ownership of biological materials, including transgenic mammals that produce useful

chemicals in their milk, herbicide tolerant plants, and methods for manipulating genetic material. Patent owners would have protection for 16 years, the same as for inanimate inventions, such as pop up toasters and ball point pens. The altered offspring of patented organisms would also attract a royalty during the life of the patent.

Several organisations, including the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the Australian and NZ Federation of Animal Societies oppose animal patents. Over 10,000 petition signatures have so far been submitted to the Australian Senate, seeking amendments to the Patents Bill 1990, to prohibit the patenting of biological material. The Australian Democrats are proposing amendments to achieve this goal and more public support is sought for a ban.

Selective breeding has gone on successfully for centuries without patent protection to encourage innovation and will continue to be the main source of agricultural productivity gains for the foreseeable future. It would be a grave injustice if, by the addition or deletion of only one gene from a plant or animal, it became subject to patent ownership. The work of generations of traditional breeders, and the undomesticated biological resources of the world, could be appropriated by corporations.

The potential of other alternatives to Genetic Engineering should also receive favourable consideration when research funding is allocated. Corporate control and community welfare are rarely synonymous and the hidden costs of every technology must also be counted.

Trees, birds, pigs, sheep, cows, bacteria, viruses, seaweed, insects, humans - and a lot more, both domestic and wild - are being genetically engineered around the world. Out of the laboratory, they have the potential to upset the ecological balance and reduce biodiversity if altered genes are transferred to other organisms, or they out-compete their domestic or wild relatives to extinction. Once released, they may spread and proliferate, and cannot be recalled to the research facilities. Laboratory organisms were especially weakened so they could not survive outside but the things designed for deliberate release must pro-

per in order to serve their purpose. This means that assessment and monitoring programs, at least as stringent as for the introduction of exotic organisms from overseas, are necessary to ensure the risks are reduced to an absolute minimum.

The basic criteria to be applied to all Genetic Engineering proposals is their capacity to contribute to long-term ecological sustainability and the maintenance of biological diversity, criteria already accepted by the Federal Government for assessing other projects. Herbicide tolerant crop plants and transgenic fish, are among the applications that would not meet the standards because they are being promoted to justify environmentally destructive practices.

The assessment of risks and costs should include ecological, social justice, ethical, consumer, animal welfare and other legitimate concerns. These should be fully investigated, assessed, understood and widely discussed by the whole community before we finally decide on a case by case basis whether to accept Genetic Engineering and its products.

The Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee (GMAC) which advises on the genetic aspects of the technology acknowledged a shortage of environment data in Australia when they said, "There is a general lack of documented evidence, in Australia and overseas, on the performance of transgenic organism may not always exhibit the expected characteristics and an unplanned genetic exchange with another species might occur". They rely on careful planning to reduce the risks.

The Federal Government will fund more research on Australia's flora and fauna to begin filling some of the gaping holes in biological knowledge. Until these reports are in, no further releases of live engineered organisms should be permitted.

Genetic Engineering Regulation

The present regulatory scheme of guidelines and voluntary compliance over Genetic Engineering is weak and unenforceable. The GMAC, based in the Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services, is the lead agency to advise on the genetic uncertainties of release proposals. Voluntary guidelines are administered through its specialised subcommittees and an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) in each research institution. The GMAC has given advice on seven field tests and one commercial release to date.

Neither the GMAC nor the Minister can approve or prohibit releases. Other bodies in State and Commonwealth Governments would assess non-genetic matters,

but the basis for regulatory action remains ambiguous.

Existing EIS requirements are also unsuitable as most assess inanimate structures (buildings, roads, etc) rather than live organisms. New assessment concepts, procedures and regulations should go beyond just "commercially significant" plants and animals and also test native species. The present approach disregards the intrinsic ecological worth of most undomesticated organisms and their as yet unrealised values.

Both the Victorian Law Reform Commission Report (Juen 1989) and an Australian Environment Council Report (October 1987) recommended specific new national uniform legislation, requiring mandatory notification, environmental and social impact assessment, monitoring, and public notice, of all proposals to release live organisms. This would be the simplest regulatory system to administer and would minimise differences in standards of assessment.

Public Control

The public has the right to decide whether Genetic Engineering goes ahead or not. Information on proposals, now treated as 'secret-commercial in confidence', should be freely available in advance of any approval to as wide a section of the public as possible.

Most media coverage builds up the potential benefits while ignoring the risks, hazards and other issues. A more balanced approach in all forums is needed.

Regulators, the industry and genetic engineers have confined the small public exposure of their work to scientific matters. Now that Genetic Engineering is coming out of the laboratory it affects and concerns us all and those involved have a responsibility to plainly explain the broader implications.

Everyone should stake their claim now, to participate in the genetic engineering debate and to control its outcomes by making a submission to the Inquiry.

Bob Phelps
Genetic Engineering Campaign
Officer
Australian Conservation
Foundation
Tel: (03) 416 1455

*Paul McMahon
The Secretary
Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Industry, Science
and Technology
Parliament House
Canberra, 2600
Tel: (03) 277 4594

the myth of the

SOVIET MENACE

The myth about Russia has been a powerful one. For many decades now Western citizens have been deluded by stories of a Russia which is sinister and mighty, a Russia bristling with threatening technology, and a nation which has the capacity to swamp the West unless deterred in the strongest possible terms. What I suggest we are witnessing with the utter and irrevocable collapse of the Soviet communist system, is the end of this myth, this great prime-time show, telecast by the Soviets and Western nations alike. In my submission, there can be no doubt that in recent years at least, the myth about Russia's power has been in truth just that, and further we cannot seriously deny that all major world leaders must have known for a long time that the Soviet system was already bankrupt, and "hollow at the core". The question which should be asked is, what does this say about our Western leaders?

For readers who may be naturally sceptical at these statements and their implications, I offer by way of persuasion the following rhetorical question. If it is common knowledge among the intellectuals of the Soviet Union, and generally among its people, that almost nine-tenths of the 200 million-plus population lives in poverty, can we assume that Western (and especially American) authorities, with their proven ability to spy and unearth information anywhere in the world, would be unaware of Russia's perilous economic and social situation, and its actual inability to constitute a real threat to world safety?

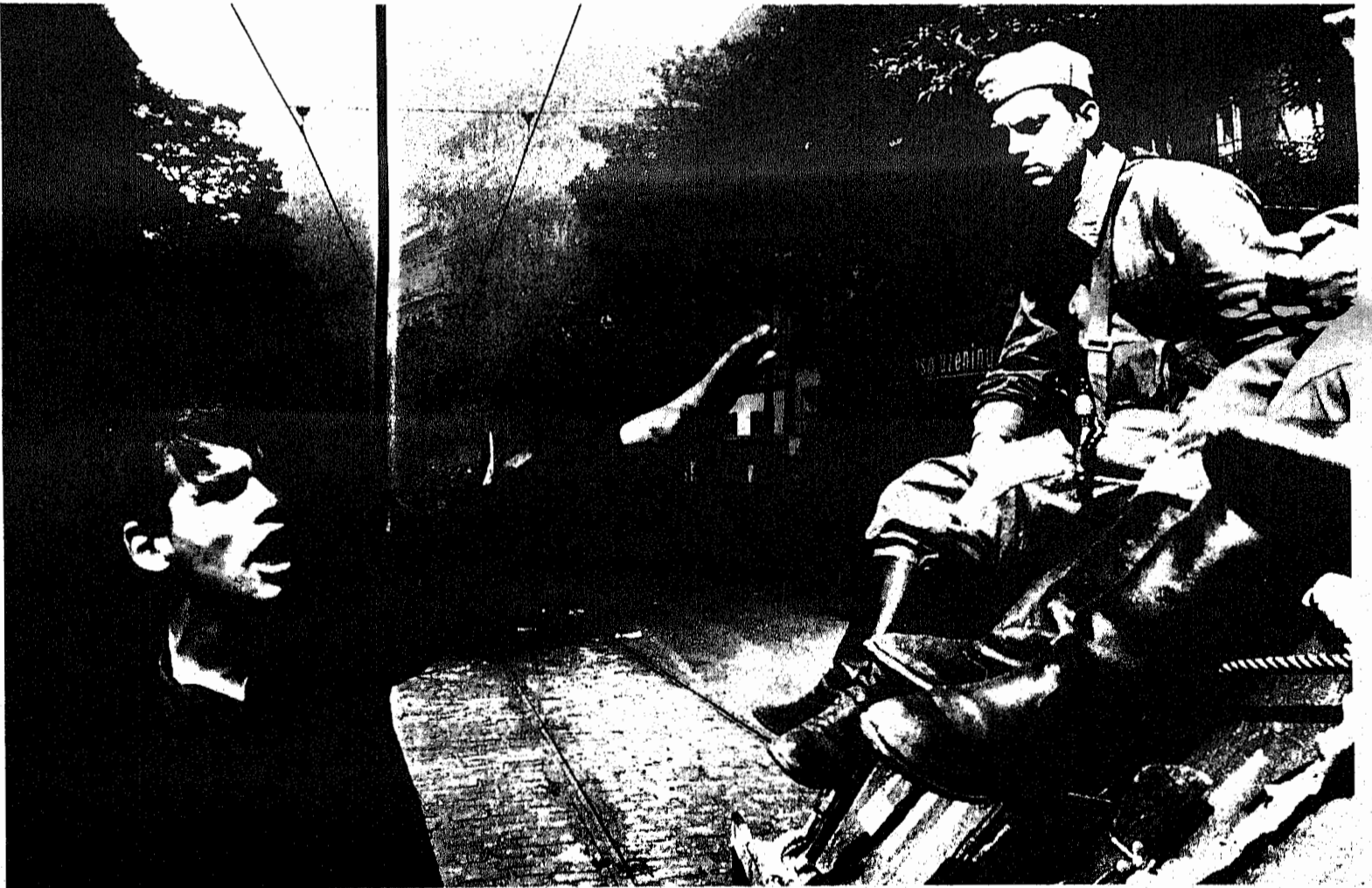
Such an argument must surely be untenable. A decade ago CIA estimates put Soviet GDP at 60% of USA's domestic product. Soviet economists today have made it clear that the figure is, and always has been, closer to 25%. In other words, per capita income in the USSR is but a quarter of that in the US, and keep in mind that this is only a rough average. Estimates telecast on the television media in the last two weeks are that some 86% of Russians live in chronic poverty, and that Soviets must work ten times longer for a kilogram of meat compared with American workers.

On an anecdotal scale, a friend of mine visited Leningrad three months ago, and found that the city, which is massive and presumably one of the best in Russia, was in a state of morbid decay. For example, its international airport was smaller than Adelaide airport!

Are we to assume that this position was reached in Russia overnight? And that our leaders just didn't know? Surely this level of poverty must reflect on, and severely limit, the ability of Russia to threaten the West?

My view, and I stand ready to accept criticism on this point, is that the Soviets have not allowed TV camera into their country until recently, not to prevent technological secrets from being revealed to the world, but really to stop us learning about the poverty of her people and that the Russian state has long been on its knees.

And this brings me to the more subtle and important point of how the West has used and indeed fostered the Russian myth to its own advantage. Older students will no doubt remember the mileage made by Sir Robert Menzies, former long-time Australian Prime Minister, out of "the Reds", and how he unscrupulously sought to divide the Labor Party, focussing on its "Commie membership".



Menzies' government survived one Federal election, a decade before he retired by just one seat, largely because he selfishly exploited the Russian myth.

It might be argued that the 1950s and 1960s are too distant a time for us to be sure that world leaders were already convinced of Russia's basic impotence, so I would support my argument by turning to more recent times, particularly the Arms Race of the 1980s. No clearer example could be found of American politicians, especially those in the Republican party, deceiving the Western public about a Soviet threat - with untold psychological damage done to the youth of the US and the world on fears of imminent nuclear war - as one way of (amongst other ends) maintaining peace-time spending

on weaponry and armed forces, thereby fuelling US economic growth. The rising level of defence spending in real terms and as a percentage of US GDP supports this argument.

It is important to keep any notes of cynicism as much in the background as possible, but it would not surprise me in the least if Russia in fact does not have a nuclear capacity capable of wreaking the amount of destruction that US politicians pretend it has.

Furthermore, it would be no surprise to learn that all the successful rocket launches by Russia over the years have been assisted by American scientists, that the Soviets' foray into Afghanistan was backed up by the Americans, and that tit-for-tat spy expulsions were all carefully staged by diplomats

of the US and USSR, and so on, to perpetuate the "powerful Russia" myth and thereby to allow politicians to corner public's minds for their own grubby ends.

It seems quite possible, indeed probable, to me that the Russian leaders, in a terribly weak position at home, would be prepared to go along with the West for whatever aid or assistance they could receive in return.

I have sought to argue in this article that the West, and primarily the United States, has played a leading role in the creation and continuation of a myth that Russia constitutes a threat to our safety. The corruption of the Soviet Ideal (and the simple fact that a system which does not offer personal reward is unworkable in practice), must have been known by world

Is the decline of the Soviet system a recent phenomenon, or has it always been a complete shambles? Steve Thompson argues that the apparently immense economic and military power of the USSR is a myth the West has created to serve its own interests.

Words of Anger and Vitriol (From an Anonymous Writer)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Evonne Moore from the Dept of Environmental Studies (On Dit, 20/8/90) certainly has some "quaint" ideas (if they can be called that) on what a plunging birth rate means to Australia.

Evonne is able to sprout her words of wisdom that "... much work has been done in recent years to defuse some of the alarmist claims about the ageing of Australia's population ...". May I ask - What studies and by whom? Evonne, dear, you seem to have conveniently forgotten to play evidence at all into your rather emotional and simplistic view. To help you out I'll give you some "factual" information on the effects of Australia's ageing population in respect to the so called shining examples of Sweden, West Germany and Australia.

Initially the arguments (well simplistic opinions at best!) raised by Evonne are that as the population falls so the government funding will be redirected from education into supplementing the pension and secondly that Australia spends "only" 20% of GDP on welfare expenditure now and to the year 2030.

Wank, wank, wank, Evonne, aren't you tired?

Firstly, it is a proven fact, especially using Evonne's own examples of Sweden and West Germany, that Evonne has no idea.

Both Sweden and West Germany are classified examples showing that the size of social welfare spending is inversely related to fertility, and that this has a cyclical effect that results in an ever climbing welfare budget and an ever decreasing fertility rate (see Holm - A Re-Appraisal of the Social Security-Fertility Hypothesis and/or B. Maley Policy. Winter 1990). That is Evonne, if you still not sure, the lowering of the birth rate results in higher spending on welfare. Not as was implied that the lower the birth rate the lower the welfare spending. Facts and evidence, Evonne, not piss and wind. The government expenditure on welfare is currently 26.3 billion dollars, the largest single item on the Federal Budget. In 1974/5, the Federal Budget allocated 28% of its funding to welfare, in 1990 this has exploded out to 47% of the total Federal Budget is being directed solely towards welfare. Where the hell Evonne's 20% came from is mind blowing. As for Mark Priadko forming the real issue broadsheet, good on ya. It's good to see that some people (all from the economics dept?) are able to look at issues devoid of political interests and see the real issues at hand.

A concerned social welfare student

P.S. What right have you to state that every new born is "...creating enormous environmental pressures ...". If you're that worried, stop breathing.

letters

The HuMANist Society

Dear Eds,

I recently attended a meeting of the University of Adelaide Humanist Society. Dr Peter Woolcock discussed attitudes to life which were a welcome change from those views which currently abound on campus. I look forward to discussion and debate at future meetings.

However, the outmoded language pervading the otherwise informative introductory leaflet served to make me suspect that, as a woman, both my presence and contribution would be seen as secondary.

I can only assume that the literature was from stock printed in the '50s!

Julia Anaf,
2nd Year Arts

Right: The pamphlet distributed by the Adelaide University Humanist Society

THE HUMANIST ATTITUDE

Humanism is an attitude to life which relies on man's own ability to solve his problems. It is a reasoned and undogmatic view focusing attention on this life and this world.

Humanists consider that man should be guided by the full use of their own intelligences and by systematic enquiry. They deny that workable ethical standards can be founded only on 'revelation'. Unlike believers in a religion, most humanists hold that morals and the rules of social conduct are best based on an acknowledgement of human interdependence and a critical appraisal of actual experience. This does not mean that humanism is synonymous with 'materialism'. The development of individual intellects and abilities is of great concern to the humanist. He recognises a need for the Arts as well as the Sciences.

As a movement, humanism is concerned with the well-being of all individuals and the rights of each individual. A special humanist characteristic, therefore, is the quest for social action. Humanists are vitally interested in education, mental and physical health, the world population problem, the abolition of racial discrimination and in many other aspects of social organisation. Indoctrination is strongly opposed. Humanists object particularly to the political and religious indoctrination of children. They point out that a major purpose of education is the development of critical thinking and independent judgement. Thus, the promotion of a genuinely liberal education is a primary and constant aim.

On occasion, humanists find themselves opposed to religious pronouncements on various issues. However, 'antireligion' is by no means a purpose of humanism. In fact, it will support and cooperate with religious organisations in instances where agreement occurs, but will oppose them where liberty and toleration are threatened.

Humanists endeavour to present their views firmly, but with tolerance. They insist on their right to full freedom of expression and to the practice of basic civil liberties. They will not only defend this principle for themselves, but, as far as possible, will assist majorities and minorities alike to have their voices heard without interference or coercion.

Humanists do not rely on traditional writings, divine pronouncements, or any other form of what may be claimed as absolute authority for solutions. They consider that man should depend on their own efforts to improve conditions on earth. Instead of seeking refuge in a dogmatic system, the humanist relies on his intelligence and remains tolerant towards new ideas whose views are constantly self-critical and subject to revision in the light of new knowledge.

just when you thought it was safe

PROSH 1990 IS BACK

SECOND FRIDAY AFTER THE HOLIDAYS OCTOBER 12

Mr Sean Heylen and Ms Natasha Stott Despoja
cordially invite applications for the 1991 O'Directors:

- 1 - 2 O'Camp Directors
- 1 - 2 O'Ball Directors
- 1 - 2 O'Week Directors
- 1 - 3 Counter Calendar Editors
- 1 - 3 Host Scheme Directors

... for their most cherished children ...

"The 1991 Freshers"

BYO: Ideas

RSVP: Friday, 19th October, 5.00 pm
Students' Association Office

Authorised by Wendy Wakefield, President of the Students' Association

be there or be square!!

letters

Sorry Steph

Dear David and Steve (and Dave K for the illustration),

The placement of the "fuck-the-environment" article in the last edition of On Dit (10/9) showed characteristic tact, sensitivity and subtlety.

I trust you had your fun. Pity it had to be at other people's expense. Or did you not consider that?

With love and acid rain,
Steph Pribil

Dear Steph,

We apologise for the article. It was meant to be a satirical piece on the way the environment has become the flavour of the month and is being championed by people as if it were a fashion accessory not a genuine issue.

However, it was pretty stupid of us to stick it next to your review of an environmental book. It was by no means a deliberate juxtaposition but, we repeat, a pretty stupid and inconsiderate one, and we apologise sincerely.

Yours,
Dave and Steve.

Disabled Articles "Lack Perspective"

Dear David Penberthy,

The eloquence that you display in your contributions to On Dit convinces me that you are not totally stupid, but, in regard to your article about financial assistance for disabled students it is perhaps you who is being hypocritical.

While it is meritorious that you are voicing the concerns of someone in need of assistance, you have things completely out of perspective. You are championing the cause of a few people whilst blaming the University for trying to provide hundreds, maybe thousands more people with a tertiary education by loaning (not granting, loaning) \$1.5 million to Lincoln College to cover the costs of constructing a new building. This new building will provide housing for 67 students every year and will make at least some contribution to solving the problem of trying to house the increasing numbers of high school graduates in country areas of this state who wish to gain a tertiary education.

Next time you write an article on the subject, don't try to hide anything, represent both sides of the story and place things in proper perspective.

Paul Gaylard,
2nd Year Civil Engineering,
Resident of Lincoln College

Dear Paul,

Perhaps you should read my articles again. In no place do I say that Lincoln doesn't deserve the money. As you say, the \$1.5 million loan will be put to good use by Lincoln and will be of benefit to a large number of students.

The only point I was making was that if the University can find such a large amount of money to loan, interest-free, to a College, then surely it can find enough money to help a disabled student complete his studies.

Your suggestion that I was trying

to hide things is unfounded and unfair. I spoke to both the University and the student about the problem. When you consider that the University did everything it could to avoid public disclosure of the disabled student's position, perhaps it is the University which is doing the hiding.

Yours sincerely,
David Penberthy, Editor

A Large Pile of Patronising Crap From the Evangelical Union

Dear M.R.,

We write in reply to your letter of 10/9 to express concern at the allegations you made with respect to your friend's contact with the Evangelical Union. Without full details it's difficult to know how we can best deal with the situation. We are saddened that we came across as being judgemental and condemning; as you correctly state, it is God who is the only judge. It is now our intention to judge, nor are we able to, since we are only too aware that by nature we all deserve God's judgement.

This is because we have all rebelled against God and so are unable to live up to His standards. In fact, if we're really honest, we can't even live up to our own. God, being holy can't just lower His standards, nor can He ignore our rebellion. If he let even one person off, everyone including Hitler, Saddam Hussein and us would have to go scott-free. Right would be wrong, wrong would be right and there would be no justice.

God would be perfectly justified in condemning everyone, but together with being just, God is also loving and has chosen not to do this. Instead, He sent His son, Jesus into the world (i.e. God became a human being). Unlike the rest of us, Jesus didn't rebel against God and always lived up to God's standards. In dying on the cross, Jesus, who didn't deserve punishment, willingly too upon Himself the punishment we rightly deserve. In rising again, He showed that He really is who He claimed to be, and that His dying for us really worked.

God calls us to admit that we have rebelled, to turn from that rebellion and to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our lives. On the basis of what Jesus did on the cross, God freely offers total forgiveness and eternal life (yes - in heaven!). This is a gift from God that we receive by faith, not something which we can earn.

However, if you choose not to accept this gift, God has no option but to carry out His judgement. This isn't something God wants for people, neither is it something we want, but the Bible makes clear what the basis of God's judgement is.

The question then is: have you accepted, and has your friend accepted this gift which God is offering? Whatever your friend came to us for counselling (sic) about, our main concern must be her relationship with God. If her other needs weren't dealt with sensitively, we apologise and we are also sorry if she has accepted this gift from God and was told

otherwise or if your approach was insensitive or unloving.

We would appreciate it if you or her could contact us with more details about what happened on that Tuesday, so that it can be dealt with more fully.

Andrew Cheah (Medicine)
Judith Hah (Maths)
Evangelical Union

Two Fat Ladies, God Exists! Clickety Click, Jesus Rose Again! Legs Eleven, The Bible is Mathematically Correct!

Dear Heath Anderson,

I can really relate to your letter in On Dit (August 27th issue). Christianity seems so boring, pointless and basically a waste of time and effort. Let me share with you some of my experiences with Christianity.

I grew up in a religious family but in High School came to the conclusion that religion was hypocritical and that God didn't exist. I became an atheist doing what I wanted when I wanted.

By the time I came to uni, I got into the new wave/punk scene and was anti-Christ and anti-Christians. In fact, I went around uni telling people to have nothing to do with "these crazy Christians" who were teaching the bible. I was very hostile to any Christian that dared to tell me Jesus was "the way."

As I began to meet Christians in some of my courses, I found that they were not as bad as I had thought. I began to ask questions and found a lot of my answers on "life, death and the Universe" clearly explained in the bible.

I was challenged to read the bible and so I did. I said in my heart, "God, if you're really real I want you to show me". As I read the words of Jesus, his words became to me truth and touched my heart.

You might think I'm being very emotional here, but it is true. My exterior hard image didn't allow for me to be emotional and corny, but that is what happened.

But, that still wasn't enough to convince me totally. I wanted more evidence. As I began to look at some of the evidence for the bible and Jesus' claims that He is Lord and Saviour, with Rory McDonnell's help, I found out some very interesting facts. One of my most amazing discoveries was biblical numerics. This proves mathematically that the bible is 100% inspired by God.

After a series of events, including the viewing of the previous version of Hells Bells, I came to realise that Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

I found that Christianity as a way of life is very exciting and freeing. Jesus said, "you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). My life in the last five years has not been boring and definitely not a waste of time.

Going to church on Sunday, doing good works or merely professing you are a Christian doesn't make you a Christian. A Christian means having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The bible

says that Jesus paid the penalty for man's sin through his death on the cross. It is by totally putting faith in what He has done on the cross that we can have forgiveness for our sin.

God has changed my life and countless others who have decided to make Jesus the centre of their life. Contrary to the opinion of some, everyone is not being turned off Christianity by our message that Jesus is Lord and Saviour. In fact, Campus Challenge have led many students to Christ, especially recently, evidenced by the increase in the number of bible studies. There are constantly new testimonies of students who have been changed by the good news of Jesus Christ. I hope you can get to know this change too, Heath.

Yvette McDonnell.

An "Unbelievably Fulfilled" Person Speaks Out

Dear On Dit and Mr Malek,

In response to the response to eight reasons to not be a Christian, I am afraid that the truth (yes Mr Malek and god fearing friends) the ultimate reality to why we don't have to be Christians will be revealed, and a correction of your distorted view of history.

I argued previously that Christianity has been and is responsible for many wars and misery. Your come back was that:

(a) I am not a History major: very good - I said that I am doing science.

(b) that real misery occurred when Christianity was withheld from the people, especially the dark ages: Consider the horror that befell the North American Indians, the Aztecs, Incas, African Nation, the Aborigines, those in the Spanish Inquisition. Do we dare to poll how many people on campus did not enjoy the recent christian uprising - come on editors, let's do it!

Forgive me if I am wrong but your main argument ran like so:

Non christians cannot be really happy, there is something missing in their lives and they will not be fulfilled until they come to terms with their loving God above.

I am non Christian, and actually I am unbelievably fulfilled: even more so when I get a red 911 Porsche. Many other people are likewise very happy and fulfilled. I cannot believe the arrogance that Christians such as yourself have in saying yours is the only way to that lofty thing, "Enlightenment". You seem to think that you have a monopoly on personal fulfillment.

There are many ways to have a good life - the tiniest fraction is to mindlessly believe in gods. Here are some of my values/philosophies: -Survival, contentment with peace in society and nature, perseverance, acquisition of knowledge, to build on weaknesses, resilience in the face of adversity, strength in spirit. These are also the values of a particular martial art. That is one path that has led me to my present level of knowledge, I am still young and still expanding my horizons.

The only person that can save you is yourself - not a book or a

god. Many people will find their own unique path; and there are many, but not all lead to the top.

In closing, I will tell you that I have experienced a religion - I have long, first hand knowledge of Christianity. It was my conscious decision (like many other people) not to believe in a god.

I hope that you (and all people) find strength to stand and grow without the crutch of religion.

I actually signed my name Heath En (joke) don't pray for Heath Anderson - he probably doesn't need it, nor do I.

Pax and Reality
Gordo (not God)
2nd Year Science-Geology

¡Viva La Oficina de Mujeres!

Dear Students,

Now that the student body has again expressed strong support for the position of Students' Association Women's Officer (with 77% in favour of upholding the position), perhaps student funds will cease to be wasted on futile attempts to abolish the legitimate and crucial role of Women's Officer. The latest referendum cost over \$1,000 in student funds. Was this worthwhile use of money considering the student body had expressed clear support for the Women's Officer in the recent student elections?

The credibility of the Women's Officer should no longer be open to question given the demonstration of support for the position by students groups such as the Overseas Students' Association and the Labor Club. These groups have made provision for a women's representative which reflects the genuine student concern about the status of women at Adelaide Uni. Another advancement for women is that a network of women are developing among women at Adelaide Uni, women on other campuses and the women's groups in the wider community.

However, until inequality between women and men is totally eradicated from the Adelaide University campus, the Women's Officer remains vitally necessary. Recent instances of sexual harassment, combined with more subtle forms of discrimination (such as sexist course content) means that women are far from achieving equality on this "enlightened" campus.

The dedication and motivation shown by previous women's officers has resulted in many positive achievements for women at Adelaide Uni. Yet, there is still a long way to go before equality is established.

Long live the Women's Officer!
Jo Wilton
Cath Bolton
Penny Wong
Helen O'Brien
Ty Newnham
Kate Thornton

Grieving, Teaching and Politicking

SAUA President Wendy Wakefield gives a run down on what's happening in the new-look Student's Association.

Welcome to the home stretch for the 1990 academic year! With only six weeks to go before exams, I am certainly starting to panic about the one subject I'm enrolled in, and I suppose there are a few more panickers out there - you're not alone!

Assessment and Grievances Policies and Appeals Procedures

The Students' Association has been jumping up and down about this issue for some months now. As a result, the University has produced a proposed set of policies and procedures which is making its way through the University Committee system at the moment. They have been approved by the Executive Committee of Education Committee and the Merger Implementation Committees of SACAE and Roseworthy, and have been presented to Education Committee. Education Committee decided to refer the report to Departments for comment. Some members of the Committee expressed concerns about the report, and about the resource implications it would have for Departments.

The Assessment Policy, Procedure and Appeals set out general policies and procedures for students to make appeals. The University has never had such a set of policies and procedures which prevail across the whole institution - at present the Faculties and Departments each have, or don't have in some cases, their own policies, and many Faculties don't have clearly set out appeal procedures for students.

The General Assessment Policies provide that assessment should be "appropriate to the learning objectives of the subject"; where appropriate students should be provided with choices in assessment; feedback should be provided where appropriate; assessment should not be too onerous; students should have the opportunity to redeem work where practicable; students must be informed before or within the first two weeks of Semester what the assessment requirements are, and should have the opportunity to discuss these requirements; wherever practicable there should be more than one assessor; and that Departments should take care to guard against bias, perhaps through the use of an anonymity system.

These policies are fairly vague and use the phrases "wherever practicable" and "where appropriate" often, giving Departments flexibility in a lot of areas. I would argue for example that feedback is essential in all assessment. How-

ever, these policies are a good start, and would provide some protection for students.

The appeal procedures give students the opportunity to appeal to a Departmental Assessment Committee in relation to these policies, assessment schemes, and the fairness of assessments, and final grades. If a student is not satisfied with the outcome of a Departmental Assessment Committee, s/he may appeal to the new Student Academic Appeals Committee. This Committee is made up of two outside members of Council, two members of the academic staff and two students who are enrolled in or members of the Department(s) concerned in the appeal. The students and staff are chosen from a pool of six students and six staff.

A most important section of the report is titled "Right to a Second Assessor". It gives students the right to have work marked by a second assessor if the student so requests. This is a right which we don't have at the moment, which is evidenced by complaints I have received recently from a student who was refused a second assessment of a piece of work, and there was not much that we could do about it. It seems that some Departments are concerned about the practical implications of this proposal. Firstly, it would cost the Department far too much money and time. If every student in particular subjects appealed for a second assessor. I think this is a false assertion to make, as I am sure that every student would not appeal for a second assessor, as most are satisfied with the first assessment. There are also assertions that in some Departments, there is only one academic with the requisite expert knowledge in the subject to assess it, so that a second assessor would be impossible. Given that the South Australian College of Advanced Education and Roseworthy College, not to mention other institutions around the country such as what used to be Chisholm College (before the amalgamation with Monash University) have had this provision, this difficulty must be able to be overcome.

The proposal also sets out mechanisms for students to take up other grievances. It sets out procedures for complaints in relation to academic programmes, that is "the structure of the subject, its objectives and means of assessing the objectives"; individual staff members; and administrative decisions. Sexual harassment and equal opportunity issues are dealt with by the Equal Opportunity Unit.

The proposal gives students fundamental rights which we have not had in this University to date. If adopted, the proposal will become Council Policy, which every Faculty must follow. It will be interesting to see what will happen if Education Committee substantially amends the proposal, because it will mean that University Council will receive different advice from the Merger Implementation Committees, who approved the proposal.

These policies and procedures form part of a package which also includes a revision of the Statutes on misconduct and examinations & assessment. The proposed Statutes have already been approved. These Statutes were in urgent need of revision, as they were unworkable, unclear and outdated in parts.

The new proposed Statute Chapter XII sets out the procedures and penalties for misconduct by students. Misconduct is defined as

"any act or omission of a student prohibited by statute, rule, regulation or by-law of the University, and any other unjustified act or omission of a student which adversely affects the University or any member of the University in his or her capacity as such."

It sets out the functions and powers of the Mediator, who is an academic appointed by University Council. Complaints of misconduct against a student are referred in the first instance to the Mediator, except where rules or regulations provide that complaints go to a "lower tribunal", such as for example the Library Tribunal. The Mediator must attempt to resolve the complaint by conciliation. The complaint is only resolved if both parties agree to a settlement. This settlement is then signed and must be adhered to - that is, you can't go to the Board of Conduct after a settlement has been signed.

Apart from this, the constitution, role and powers of the Board of Conduct are also set out in this Statute. The Board of Conduct is made up of a Convener, who shall not be a student or member of staff, and who has legal qualifications and experience, and a pool of four academics and four students. For each case the Convener selects two of each of the staff and students. The Board hears those complaints which have not been resolved by mediation, and appeals from lower tribunals.

I will keep you up to date on the progress of the assessment and grievance policies and procedures. The mergers with the Colleges have provided Adelaide University with the opportunity to implement fundamental student rights. The Students' Association will keep fighting to ensure this opportunity is taken up.

Postgraduate Students- Angela Renfrey

For those of you who have been waiting for something on the seminar program front we are pleased to announce the PGSA THESIS WRITING WORKSHOP. Such workshops have been held at several universities around Australia both this year and in previous years and the PGSA Executive thought that it was time to offer some assistance to our own struggling theses writers. Also we feel that with the Graduate School in the offing its time to lead by example and give prospective candidates for the position of Dean of Graduate Studies some idea of the sorts of services, such as workshops, that we feel the School should be providing in the future.

The workshop program will be divided into two sessions, firstly a general session, in which the areas of commonality will be addressed (e.g. submission and examination procedures, library services), and individual Faculty Panels which will deal with specific problems. The program has not been finalised yet and we are still looking for people to be on the faculty panels. In particular we would like to hear from postgradu-

ates who have recently submitted their theses and who have recovered sufficiently to want to talk about it, so that each panel can look at current practical problems of thesis preparation. Although the workshop is aimed at people in the later stages of their thesis work newer postgraduates should remember that forwarned is forarmed.

The Equal Opportunity Board has a new postgraduate member. Chris Bourke was endorsed by Education Committee at the August meeting and at the September meeting of the PGSA Executive. Chris is doing a Master of Public Health Degree and was President of the Residents' Association of Kathleen Lumley College, the postgraduate college, last year. Having also worked as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Melbourne University Chris is ideally placed to bring a broad spectrum of issues before the Board. If you have any equal opportunity issues to discuss, messages may be left for Chris at the PGSA office or you can contact him directly on 228 5029.

Swansong of a Women's Officer Natasha Stott Despoja

Unfortunately my final column was not published, outlining my arguments against the replacement of the Women's Officer position with an Equal Opportunity position. Nevertheless, Adelaide University students demonstrated their overwhelming support for the Women's Officer position with 77% in favour of retaining it.

Issues affecting women on campus will be highlighted in the coming weeks with the annual Blue Stocking Week. The week, beginning Monday, October 15, is in celebratory memory of the first female academics who donned blue stockings. Last year's events included forums featuring Janine Haines and Carey Herbert, a party, a fair day and a band in the bar. This year's will focus on issues including women's health, gender in the curriculum and problems facing Post Graduate women. This Tuesday's Women on Campus meeting will discuss events and

Issues for Blue Stocking Week 1990. All women are welcome at the meeting which is in the Women's Room at 1.10 p.m.

Trite but True

1990 has been a productive and positive year for the Students' Association in all areas, this is due to a group of committed people.

Thanks to: Sharon, George, Anne and Alan, Women on Campus, NUS(SA) Women's Committee, OSA, On Dit (Boys Club), Independents (ONYA), NSA, Suzanne, Melissa, Kathy, Angela, Anthea, Dave S, Bernard, James, Andrew and Shirley.

Congratulations to Wendy on a successful two thirds of your term and Good Luck to Amy for the next 12 months.

Special thanks to Mel for unfailing support and sense!

ONYA!

Teaching Survey

Look out for the article in this edition of On Dit and for the Education Bulletin and survey which you will get in your pigeon hole next week.

SAUA Council

The first meeting of the new SAUA Council was held last Wednesday night, and was well attended by SAUA Council members, Education and Activities Standing Committee members and visitors including the President of the National Union of Students, Kate Deverall, who was on her way to Perth. We discussed the teaching survey, the upcoming Orientation and Planning Re-

treat and all of the new office bearer presented reports, the most memorable being Kamal Farouque's Finance Vice-President Report, as the SAUA has not had such a detailed (it was even written) financial report from an FV-P for the last three years! We were very impressed. I don't want to detract from the other officers, Susie O'Brien, Amy Barrett and Jo Gilbert, who have all settled in now and are working on the various issues in their portfolios.

The next meeting of SAUA Council will be held on Wednesday October 10 at 6.15pm. All students are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

Living History

An Interview with Manning Clark

The first time I saw Manning Clark in person was in the Union Hall in March 1988. During his brief speech, it became clear to me that a man of his age and experience would have quite a few stories to tell.

Now, two years later, those stories are shared by Manning Clark in his autobiography, the first volume of which is *The Puzzles of Childhood*. Prompted to begin by friend Susan Ryan - former Minister for Education and current publishing exec - Clark needed just six weeks to complete the manuscript. The result is a complex, sometimes confusing, always candid account of Clark's boyhood and the influence wielded by his parents.

But how does one begin to tell a story that began seventy-five years ago? "I always thought that I would do it in chronological order," Clark explained. "First of all, I would



"Everyone has a Swanee River - the place where their heart is 'turning over.'"

study my father, then my mother, then the birth of the children, and so on. As an historian, I believe it is my job to tell the story, and the story does proceed chronologically."

The first two chapters are concerned with his mother and father and their respective families. These forty-odd pages are crucial in understanding the events and circumstances, and thus the beliefs and emotions, portrayed in the rest of the book. They are also the key to a greater appreciation of Manning Clark as both an histo-



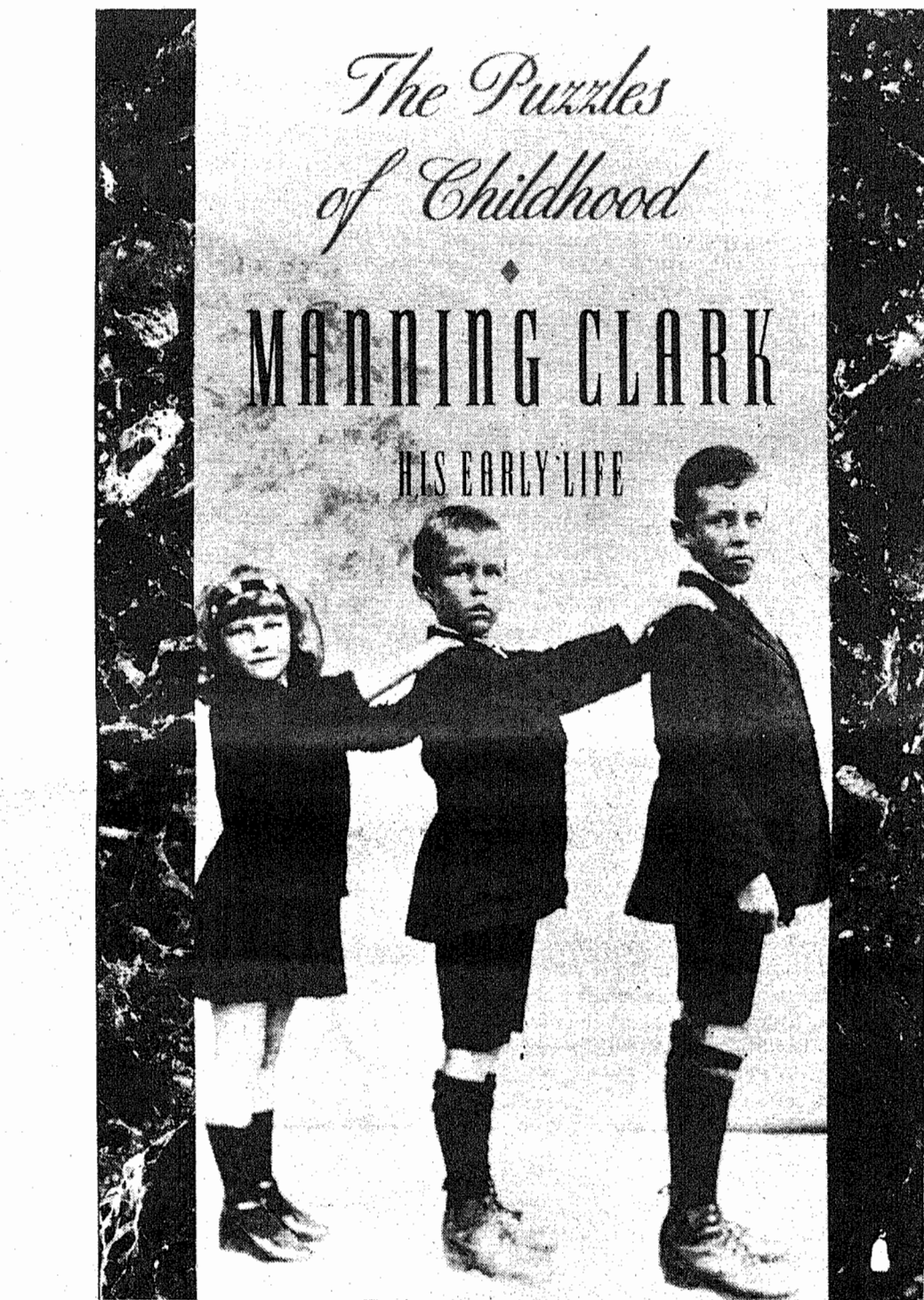
"I hold what I call a religious view of the world without subscribing to any particular group of doctrines."

rian and a fellow human being. As I pointed out to the author, these chapters, and indeed the book, are based substantially on what his parents were thinking throughout their lives. It seems to me that Clark presumes too much on their behalf, but according to him this is not the case.

"I had the letters that were exchanged between my mother and father in their early days of courtship and of marriage," he explained.

"While my mother was alive she threw hints that things weren't always what they ought to be, and she had this very mysterious remark: 'There are things in my life, Mann dear, that I hope you'll never know anything about.' That was one thing ... and then after my mother died in 1943, my father spoke to me quite a bit ..."

Another major element of Clark's autobiography is religion. Given the fact that Clark's father was a Church of England minister, and his mother a woman who constantly asserted "I am going to ask my Father to help me, He will not



Professor Manning Clark is one of Australia's most respected historians. His new book, The Puzzles of Childhood, deals this time with his own personal history, and is the first volume of his autobiography. Stephanie Pribil spoke with Professor Clark about his life and work.

desert me in my hour of need," I find it interesting that Clark should be a Doubting Thomas. When I asked him whether this applied to a particular religion or to the general idea of God, he replied, "I've never actually become a formal believer, I suppose. I hold what I call a religious view of the world without subscribing to any particular group of doctrines."

Considering the religious atmosphere of Clark's early years, I am fascinated by his comment in the book that "death was one of the great unmentionables of [his] childhood". Why would that be, given the Church's faith in the afterlife? "That always puzzled me in childhood," Clark mused. "If people really believed they were going to live after death, why not

talk about it?" He admitted, too, that he was yet to come up with an answer, although he added, "I think most human beings want to be remembered and the only immortality a person can have is in what he or she leaves behind."

Now, please do not think that *The Puzzles of Childhood* is a heavy tale of religion and death. Clark tells his story well, using suitable tones to convey the pain and confusion and humour and pleasure found in growing up. In my opinion, the most touching part of his book is found in his affectionate anecdotes of life on Fraser Island.

"Everyone has a Swanee River - the place where their heart is 'turning over'," he writes. "Mine was, and always will be, Phillip

Island." In recalling this stage of his life, Clark mentions that he "could not live without an enthusiasm, there had to be an idol." I asked him if the need had changed since childhood, to which he replied, "No, I think I've always had an idol," but politely declined to say who it was.

Now, years after he left Phillip Island, Clark himself has become "an enthusiasm" for many, and is much respected. Yet he does not feel worthy of it because, he said, he is deeply aware that he should have done much more. "I believe very strongly the remark: 'Between the conception and the creation falls the shadow. Life is very long.'" So what has been the urge behind Clark's work? He answered slowly, "I really wanted to find out what

it's all been about, what it all means ... I don't think I ever found the answer. I think anybody who finds the answer is a crashing bore, actually!" Clark also pens the slightly nightmarish story of his time spent at Melbourne Grammar School. Every school has its bullies, I suppose, and in the case of Grammar they were known as the "Long Dorm Boys". Their campaign of harassment could be dismissed as traditional school-boy pranks, except for Clark's words towards the end of his book. "The faces of the Long Dorm boys will never go away ... I think of them as the ones to whom Australia belongs, the types who rule Australia ... They are the self-appointed standards men." I do not find this a very comforting description of Australians and I asked Clark if he sees Australians as having in common any fundamental characteristics. I was quite



"...The only immortality a person can have is in what he or she leaves behind."

relieved at his reply. "The physical environment has an enormous influence on people in Australia. The vastness of the sky and the huge distances give one a sense of what limited powers we have to alter our lives, which gives us some sort of fellowship with each other." And what about Russell Ward's idea of the typical Australian? "Well, that's one possible point of view, but there are many. There are all sorts of human beings, thank God; there's not one Australian type, there are many Australians."



"There are all sorts of human beings, thank God; there's not one Australian type, there are many Australians."

Having finished the two volumes of his autobiography, Clark still shows no signs of slowing down. A publisher wants to publish his public occasion speeches, and Clark is also thinking of publishing portions of the diary he kept while writing the history. Sounds like he'll be pretty busy.

And you ought to be busy catching up with his latest offerings. If you have any interest in Australia (and you should!), *The Puzzles of Childhood* is an intriguing book. Almost as fascinating as the man who wrote it.

Manning Clark's *The Puzzles of Childhood* is out now in Penguin Books for \$12.99.

The second volume of Professor Clark's autobiography, *Quest for Grace*, is due to be released on October 15. (Penguin Hardcover, \$29.99)

is the future small?

Cities of the Past

Cities have, for the most part, been founded according to the fertility and accessibility of the soil. Areas of deep and rich alluvial soils that are amenable to the handplow have proved the most attractive. Food is not an easily transportable item and human life can only exist where there is sufficient food. The unequal distribution of other natural features of local geography; valleys, rivers, bays and inlets for example, have also had an enormous influence upon the location of our urban centres. The lack of agricultural land can be supplemented by a rich harvest of fish, or marine, life. In all such cases, there existed at some point in the past, a pristine and organic harmony between the town or city and the countryside that supported or surrounded it.

Ancient Athens, for example, despite conducting extensive trade with other cities, was, unlike many cities of a similar size today, more or less self-sufficient in terms of providing its citizens with everyday food and energy requirements (bread, meat and olive oil for cooking and lighting). The population and size of the city was intimately linked to the agricultural expertise and to the overall fertility of its surrounding ecological regions. Ancient Athens should not, however, be thought of as a small and isolated community, maintaining and sustaining at its height, a population approaching some 250,000 persons.

Imperial Rome was the first city to reach one million inhabitants. Rome's size and dominance within the Mediterranean region was, unlike that of Ancient Athens, not achieved upon the basis of improving the fertility of its own ecological region but upon the systematic imperialist conquer of vast tracts of Western Europe and of North Africa.

Unlike the cities of Ancient Greece, which were independent, eco-regionally self-sufficient and ruled by no-one but themselves, Imperial Rome sought to become the city of all cities - the master city to whom all other cities would be answerable. The size and extent of Imperial Rome was achieved not through the systematic improvement and maintenance of its own bio-resources, but rather, through the systematic despoliation of others on a truly vast scale unprecedented in all of previous history. Thus began the historical breaking point between the city - the organic product of human social life - and its surrounding ecological regions; a rupture which has only widened and urgently needs to be healed.

With the collapse of the Roman Empire, European society once again returned to a more eco-regionalist phase of urban development. No longer subject to the centralised imperial state dictates of Rome, individual towns and cities all over Europe again began to develop along a more independent, self-sufficient and more eco-regionally integrated way. At first, merely collecting together for security behind temporary walls of defence made of wooden stakes or earth, the people gradually constructed for themselves the great walled cities of the medieval era. The wall, although originally constructed for defensive purposes, nonetheless served to place definite limits upon the size of the city, and also tended to instil a sense of civility and purpose among its citizens. The inhabitants of the city were masters of their own city which they had founded, built and improved upon. The city was answerable to no-one, let alone a distinct imperial power, and the beautiful squares, monuments and civic buildings are testimony to the vigour of the early medieval city that laid the foundation for all the great cities of Europe.

Similar to the Greek cities of the pre-Roman era, the walled cities of medieval Europe, although carrying on extensive trade, were intimately dependent on local bio-resources, and upon the fertility and health of their surrounding ecological regions. In the villages, the country people planted millions of miles of hedgerows and windbreaks, and terraced millions of miles of hill-side to prevent soil erosion, rotated their crops and improved the overall fertility of the soil. The people of the city in turn, exchanged articles of agricultural and rural produce for articles of craft and industry unavailable at the level of the small and isolated village. There existed a happy marriage between the individual city and the countryside that surrounded and supported it.

The tendency towards the independent and eco-regionally integrated city was, however, in permanent opposition to the egoistic intrigues of kings and warlords who had, by strength of force, co-opted labour and produce from village and city alike to build their own walled castles and keeps and who derived their spurious authority to rule from tribal traditions, barbarian conquest and the centralist ideals of Imperial Rome. Although the era of the free and self-governing city lasted for many years, the city dwellers became arrogant and came to disregard the needs of the country folk who had supported them for so long. The once fierce independence of the individual town or city was undermined by the feudal lords and kings who gained ascendancy through taking full advantage of the breakdown of the city/eco-region relationship. Soon all the people of the land were forced to swear allegiance to a single king, who imposed taxes and dues not for the benefit of the individual city and the ecological region in which it was situated, but in order to support the activities of the monarch and his court. Although the monarchy certainly did not neglect to supervise the planting of forests (eg. the New Forest in England), local bio-resources were frequently and ruthlessly exploited in order that they might fuel the warring ambitions of kings. Royal orders from the English monarch came to turn over good agricultural land to the growing of hemp (cannabis) to provide rope for the English Navy. The Almerian desert of Andalusia (Spain), as hot and dry as any that exists in Australia today, was once a beautiful forest which was clear-fuelled on the orders of the Spanish king to provide timber for the ships of the Spanish Armada, so that he might invade England. The development of garrison towns for the purposes of conquest and protection as well as those cities founded upon the whim of an individual monarch (eg. Madrid or St. Petersburg founded by Charles V and Peter I) are prominent examples of where the institutions of State have artificially initiated urban life (at great human cost) in areas that are at first sight not organically suited to the development of large-scale human co-habitation.

Where the monarchy finished, the state and parliament continued.

In England (where the industrial revolution was first realised) for example, over 3,000,000 acres of common land which had previously been used by all of the village or town as a whole was fenced in under the 'Acts of the Enclosure' for the benefit of the gentry, the state and its cronies. Paddocks manured for centuries by countless generations of the villager's cattle were literally stolen by legal trickery and state violence to fund and support the antics and exploits of the government at Westminster (London). Peasants who had maintained and nurtured the soil for generations were thus forced from the land

Graham Purchase in the second of a series on ecology and capitalism argues that (post)modern cities are losing their grip on ecological necessities. A new city reality based on decentralisation and self sufficiency is needed. The great problem is, how?

the HUNGRY city



to work in the factories of the newly industrialising towns and cities.

London was the first city after ancient Rome to reach a population of one million, and in less than 50 years it had reached two million. Fifty years later in 1900, it had redoubled to 4 million persons. The growth of London, like Imperial Rome some 2000 years previously, was dependent not upon local or even national bio-resources (the fields of England were virtually deserted at this time because everyone was working in the cities) but to the systematic despoliation of countless others. The development of the British Empire, like that of the French or the Dutch, was dependent upon irreparable environmental exploitation on a global scale, causing extensive damage not only to particular ecological regions, but to entire continents. Australia, for example, on the other side of the world from their imperialist-state oppressors in London, was ruthlessly exploited for its short term benefit. The introduction of animals ill-suited to the prevailing ecology (hoofed animals such as sheep and cattle, unlike kangaroos, greatly damage Australian soils), the wholesale destruction of local bio-resources (eg. the use of South Western Australia's Jarrah forests to provide sleepers for London's railways) and the genocide of the native population who, through bush-burning techniques, had managed the delicate ecology of this dry and arid continent for many thousands of years.

Cities of the present

Renewal and decay is a natural cycle which affects our political and social institutions as much as it does our trees and forests. Empires and cultures rise and fall like leaves blowing in the autumn wind. Likewise the imperialist or colonial state era like that of its predecessor, ancient Rome is at an end. The apparent disintegration of the Russian Empire (the last of the full-bodied empires of the 19th century to do so - though of course, subject to the Marxist-Leninist Coup d'Etat in 1917) are perhaps the last death spasms of a social and political arrangement which was without question enormously destructive, utterly wanton and anti-ecological in its approach to global and eco-regional stability.

The legacy of this fast disappearing era does however weigh heavily upon the ecology of our planet. It has fostered an attitude and a behaviour towards the urban and rural geography of the land that from the modern ecological point of view is almost certainly designed to lead us to catastrophe. Our great cities have simply expanded to the point of absurdity. Their surrounding eco-regions that had once nurtured and supported them in their early growth and development in a balanced city/country relationship are laid to waste under miles of monotonous suburbs or shantytowns. The rich organic fabric that had once bound the city and its environs together as an integrated ecological region is covered over by hundreds of square miles of freeways, tarmac, steel, brick and concrete. A virtually inorganic environment whose stability and viability is further undermined by the large concentrations of industrial activity required to supply such large populations with basic articles of manufacture. Large scale industry tending to create a large scale pollution problem that poisons and degrades those areas of eco-regional ecology that have successfully survived the onslaught of the expanding metropolis. The agricultural land, for many hundreds, if not thousands, of miles is ruthlessly exploited in order to provide food for these massive urban agglomerations that have completely out-

grown their natural eco-regional limits. Vast tracts of former wilderness or carefully maintained small-holdings that had once consisted of many regions and an assortment of diverse eco-systems are turned over to a single crop e.g. wheat, turning huge parts of the Earth into highly industrialised agricultural factories.

The tendency to live in ever larger cities with scant regard for the ecological and social consequences is perhaps the singularly most destructive result of the imperialist and the present national state era. It is obvious that cities, if they are to remain sustainable as well as taking a responsible part in a future global federation of ecological regions, they must be constructed in such a way that they can feed, house and provide the basic articles of manufacture of their population without undermining the ecological viability of their surrounding regions or of recklessly exploiting the temporary abundance of others.

Cities of the future

Our cities have become massive and ever-expanding urban cancers upon the delicate eco-regional fabric of our living planet. Several centuries of global imperialism, whether by capital or state has left us with a city/country relationship which is no longer sane, let alone ecologically sustainable. Cities such as Mexico City or Tokyo presently numbering around 25 million people are like the dinosaurs of the imperialist and national state era; the separation between the city and its surrounding country regions brought to the point of disaster. Such concentrations will, regardless of our wishes, have to decentralize. For, if we turn our planet into a desert by persisting in the forms of agro-industrial practice needed to support such large and concentrated populations, it is inevitable that we will have to adapt our population densities according to the dictates of desert conditions.

The redistribution of our population into smaller and more modest sized cities more closely integrated with the ecological region in which they are located does not imply a retribalization of humanity or a return to small-scale communities of the past. Still less does it imply a futile hippy escapism through attempting small-scale communal experimentation in our remaining wilderness areas. The city, unlike that of the nation-state (which attempts to arbitrarily rule any number of cities and regions from the parliament situated in our capital city) is the organic product of a large and intensely social species, and although modern ecology shows us that their size must be limited to the carrying capacity of the earth, this does not imply a return to small-scale communities of the past. Ancient Athens for example easily managed to support its city of 250,000 persons on relatively poor soils without any of the technological knowhow that we possess today. Besides, the earth, if treated wisely, is much more abundant than is generally supposed. Many of the world's largest cities are built on extremely fertile land. Paintings of London less than 150 years old clearly show sheep grazing around St. Paul's Cathedral in central London (and this was at a time when the population of London had already reached several millions). It is frequently the case that hundreds, if not thousands, of square miles of potentially fertile lands, still capable of adequately feeding several million people, and having once supported a diversity of agricultural practices, and an array of active fauna and flora, remain hopelessly under-utilised under an inorganic urban sprawl.

If we are to attempt to rationally construct a new social-ecological order based upon the global federation of ecological regions we must begin to reconstruct our cities and towns in eco-regionally more sensitive ways. We must find new eco-viable and eco-regionally integrated ways of organizing our cities. Managing them as through they were gardens, the agricultural and industrial activities of which should be intimately linked to the prevailing ecology of the region. The challenge of the next century being that of finding a compromise between the human need and desire to live in large and concentrated populations with the fundamental requirement to care and improve upon the ecological health of the eco-regions in which such populations are situated. It is pointless to list the millions upon millions of improvements and changes that we must undergo in the course of our everyday life-styles in order that we might initiate a new and ecologically inspired phase of urban evolution and begin to construct the urban agrarian eco-communities of a future stateless order consisting of a federation of global ecological regions.

The aim and ideals of our endeavours (however vague upon details) remain certain: to construct vigorous and eco-regionally harmonious cities whose parks, gardens and thoroughfares are planted with native trees, the flowers and fruit of which attract birds, insects and other animal life peculiar to the area, and whose rivers are havens for fish and waterbirds. Acidity where even the inhabitants living right at its center would have their vegetables and low-level energy needs provided by local market gardeners and energy suppliers whose raw materials are derived from the organic wastes of the inhabitants themselves (via moderate sized organic composting and recycling complexes deployed on a suburb by suburb basis). A city that has implemented clean, low-energy transport and communication networks that do not require thousands of miles of unproductive and lifeless tarmac, poison that atmosphere or drown out the song of an abundant variety of native bird life that had again come to flourish at its centre. A city whose botanic gardens and suburban nurseries team with the seedlings of its regions' most rare and endangered native tree and plant species. A city whose surrounding agricultural lands are carefully tailored to the prevailing ecology of the region, the extensive plantation style farming having been replaced by a diversity of smaller and organically engineered concerns interlaced with areas of native forest, shrub and grasslands. A self-governing and independent city-region that had come after centuries of state imperialism to carefully re-integrate itself with the local bio-geography of the region and take a proper, responsible and equal place in the global federation of ecological regions.

Looking at The Other

No Way Out
by Jean-Paul Sartre
Shifting Point Theatre
Company
Carclew Ballroom
3-6 October

The Carclew Ballroom proved to be an excellent setting for the latest production of Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Way Out". The newly formed Shifting Point Theatre Company chose well, with a spacious and intimate venue with seating on three sides. The idea of performing such a play as the first for a young company is undoubtedly ambitious. The strength of Sartre's plays is the great philosophical depth which he gives them. Understandably this is sometimes difficult to translate into believable characterizations. Theatrical success with Sartre relies upon an ability to present the roles in a manner comprehensible to all.

No Way Out was written in the same year that Sartre's mammoth philosophical work, Being and Nothingness, was published. The play draws its theme from a major part of this philosophy: the problem of the existence of other people. For Sartre there is no pre-defined human nature, you are what you make of yourself. To understand what you are you rely on other people's images of how you appear. This image depends upon how you act, rather than your intentions, as it is only your actions which are known to others. While you are still alive others see you as an object, you are classified as this or that. You are denied the freedom to become anything else. This can be escaped from if you shut your eyes to deny the existence of others or look into a mirror to try to see yourself as others do. With these possibilities removed, you would constantly be at the mercy of others.

This is Hell- the setting for No Way Out.

We are introduced to the three main characters as they are brought into a Victorian drawing room one by one. Garcin (Nigel Bell) is a pacifist, who died a coward and caused the death of his wife. Inez (Kim Liotta) is a lesbian, responsible for a murder and suicide. Estelle (Bernadette Cashel) is a society bimbo who killed her child and caused her lover's death. As they gradually reveal their past lives they realise that they each require something from one of the others. Garcin needs Inez to believe that he is not a coward, Inez needs to seduce and control Estelle and Estelle needs Garcin to be attracted to her. None of them are prepared to give the other what they need, so they become locked in a vicious circle. Since they are dead they are unable to develop and change what they are, so what others think is more vital than ever.

Sartre's brilliant dialogue makes the translation from philosophy to drama possible but it is only through fine performances by all involved that the situation is made believable. The tension between the three protagonists is apparent from the outset without any loss of the natural flow of the play. The experience of the cast shows through, especially Kim Liotta's Inez, who is impossible not to loathe. Simple and subtle lighting turns the Carclew ballroom into something apparently no bigger than your lounge room. Russell Fewster's direction must also be congratulated for such fine coordination of the roles.

The only criticism of the production is the unnecessary change of references to Sydney and Adelaide from Paris and Switzerland. This is a fine work of theatre very well presented and highly recommended, make sure you don't miss the last four performances of a remarkable play from this talented company.

Nicholas G. L. Heldegger



Shifting
Point
Theatre
Company

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE'S

NO WAY OUT



Directed by Russell Fewster
Cast Kim Liotta
Nigel Bell

Bernadette Cashel
Jeremy Stewardson

Design by Kate Jenkins
Costumes by Soo Lu Bow

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CARCLEW BALLROOM

11 JEFFCOTT STREET NORTH ADELAIDE

22, 26 - 29 September 3 - 6 October
at 8.15 p.m. except Thursdays 10 p.m.

Unley Youth Theatre on drugs

Unley Youth Theatre's new production beginning October 4 at Wright Hall, Pembroke School, highlights the dilemmas of legalising drugs.



It was written, according to co-authors and directors Amy Gebhardt, Hannah Birdsey and Elizabeth Siebert in response to the way teenagers and the 'drug problem' are portrayed in both other productions and the mass media generally. The co-authors, all members of UYT, decided that better than asking why people decide to take drugs would be to examine the reactions of socially influential people to drug use. The result, 'Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen', is a staged debate between a politician, a doctor, a mother, a judge and Josh the teenager that avoids painting right and wrong but 'brings the issues into focus'.

This somewhat refreshing pragmatic and liberal attitude comes largely due to the indecision about drug related issues from the co-authors themselves. While admitting that they knew from personal experience what drugs can do to people, the co-authors acknowledged that the culture that comes with (heavy) drug consumption was largely due to its prohibition.

Also being performed is the Derek Bowskill one act play 'Burn Up'. Gebhardt described the impressionistic play as about asserting creative drives against social pressures to chase material goals. 'Burn Up' has been heavily workshoped and incorporates music, movement and speech to create a

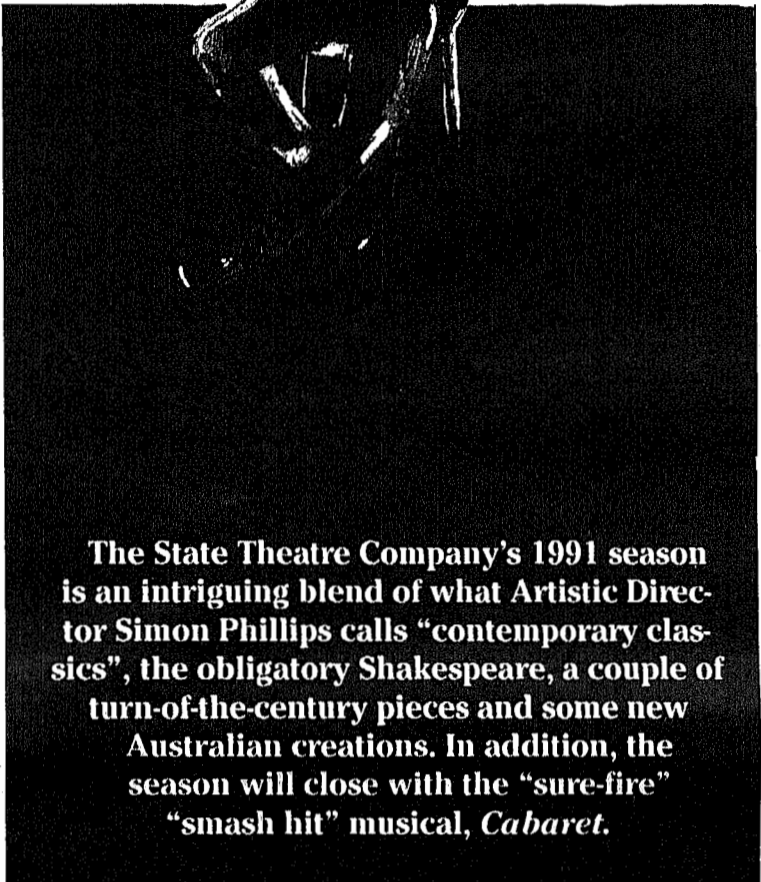
piece that defies attempts to place it in a genre.

Steve Jackson

**Good Evening Ladies
and Gentlemen
Burn Up
4-6 October
Wright Hall, Pembroke
School 8 pm \$3/5**

State Theatre Company
1991 Season...

EXPAND YOUR MIND



The State Theatre Company's 1991 season is an intriguing blend of what Artistic Director Simon Phillips calls "contemporary classics", the obligatory Shakespeare, a couple of turn-of-the-century pieces and some new Australian creations. In addition, the season will close with the "sure-fire" "smash hit" musical, *Cabaret*.

The season bears the clear stamp of Phillips's youthful, energetic approach to the theatre: plays chosen for their sheer exuberance or impact rather than out of a sense of duty.

There is a hint of cynicism however, in the choice of *Julius Caesar* to open the season in February. The play that is seemingly on every Year 10 English syllabus, *Caesar* remains tainted for thousands of people by the boredom of class-

room stuffiness:

"Discuss the differences of character as shown in the speeches of Brutus and Mark Anthony", "Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look. Discuss". It was a big yawn. What worse introduction could students have to the study of Shakespeare? A huge cast of Publius, Lepidus, Ligarius, Trebonius, Cilius, Lucilius, Titanius, Lucius, Octavius, Dardanius, Pindarus (as well as two Cinnas) etc. etc. and "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him" is all most people remember of Julius, and indeed, much of Shakespeare after having it thus thrust at them. Let us hope that Phillips's production will refresh and revalue the play for such people. The programme guide is interesting in this regard:

"News and current affairs programs have become amongst the most popular of any on television in the last decade. Yet watch any one of them and you might be witnessing the inspiration for Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, written almost 400 years earlier. Possibly the first political thriller ever written, this great play is packed with intrigue and icy tension".

Does this not hint at a modern-day reappraisal of the noblest Roman of them all? Don't be surprised if the play is whisked away and reset in Hitler's Germany, Mussolini's Italy, JFK's America, Peron's Argentina... who knows - maybe even post-Glasnost Russia. See a Fraser-like Brutus stab a Whitlamesque Caesar with his Dunhill flick-knife. The Australia Council would love it.

Definitely not on any Year 10 syl-

labus is Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* (1891) as translated by Edward Bond, the author of this year's problematic *Restoration*. Reputedly about masturbation, the play is potentially geared up to attract both *The Room with a View* crowd ("A hauntingly beautiful study of adolescence in Edwardian society...") and the bohemian rads: "...caused a massive controversy when it was first produced in 1906. It was banned from public performance in England until 1963" (Wanking isn't mentioned in the program note, however, it's "burgeoning sexuality" and "awakening consciousness"). It looks interesting and different, and if well directed by Cath McKinnon, it should be a good contribution to next year's COME OUT and a good chance to see a rarely-performed work done well.

It's back to school for the next two works on the programme, Beckett's *Happy Days* and Williamson's *The Removalists* - staple stuff for any Matric English extension. Who would have guessed that dotty old Maggie Beare from *Mother and Son* would end up buried up to her waist, and then her neck, in a mound of earth, exclaiming, "this is going to be another happy day"? I find the idea very appealing. Ruth Cracknell will relish the part of Winnie - a bravura solo performance - and it will be good to see what a professional theatre company will add to a much-discussed play usually reserved exclusively for amateur

performance.

Robyn Nevin will direct *The Removalists*, providing an opportunity to look back at Williamson's early work (1971). Williamson's latest works, *Emerald City*, *Top Silk*, and now *Stren* have been popular but critically mauled: has he lost his touch or are the critics demanding too much? Attitudes towards Australia in 1971 will be interestingly different, or I suspect, disturbingly familiar.

Many will be looking forward to Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (1966), often seen as a true modern masterpiece. Starting with the absurdist premise of one couple moving in, uninvited, to another's house, the play offers more savage wit and observation from the author of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe*, though with four characters tearing each other apart, not two. It has been described as possessing "the usual Albee combination of theatrical brilliance and heartlessness." Roger Hodgman will direct.

Stephen Sewell is generally regarded as one of Australia's best and most consistent young playwrights, and Simon Phillips has commissioned from him a new play, *King Golgrutha*, which will premiere at the Playhouse in late July. As the title suggests, the play (still in draft form at present) will not deal directly with Australian political machinations but by analogy in "a Gothic comedy of epic proportions".

The classic Australian novel *Jonah* (1911) by Louis Stone has been turned into a musical by Alan John and John Romeril (whose *Lost Weekend* opened at the Space last year with John Gaden). It has already been turned into an ABC tv serial (1981) and has been called "the first great novel of Sydney". A period piece about the larrikin gangs of the early 1900s, *Jonah* deals with a tough, hunchbacked bootmaker and also the great Mrs. Yabsley, who "never saw any play equal ter wot 'appens in this street".

In October, a stylish and mad-cap French farce, *A Flea in the Ear* by Georges Feydeau will be performed with John Gaden playing the central twin roles, directed by George Ogilvie. The play promises lots of changed identities, marital infidelities, opening and closing doors and well-crafted froth and bubble and high spirits which, along with *Cabaret*, will end the year on a popular note.

In 1939, Christopher Isherwood published a linked story collection *Goodbye to Berlin* which was later made into the play *I Am A Camera* and then the musical *Cabaret*. *Cabaret* itself was filmed in 1972 with Liza Minnelli and Joel Gray and

won several Oscars. Now, in 1991, the STC will present it at the end of their season as a pre-Christmas moneyspinner. Shrewd, very shrewd, but a great idea, likely to attract not only large but wide audiences. It is set in pre-World War II Berlin at the debauched and suspicious Kit Kat Club and is the basis for all those scenes in war films where the Nazi generals go to the sleazy nightclub filled with all sorts of weirdos. One innovation for this production will be the STC's collaboration with the Australian Dance Theatre. The musical may also give wider opportunities for female roles, which seem to have been curiously restricted in the rest of the season (*Julius Caesar* for example, has only two female parts of any content) - just as there is no play by a woman, which will irritate some.

Overall this is a popular and well-chosen programme next year, at least from the audience's point of view. New Australian musicals can be a bit of a worry (along with the Australian tendency to seize upon slight works of "classic" national literature and milk them to death), but there is not one play that does not already have the potential to win great popular and critical support in the 1991 non-Festival year. It is a season put together with flair and evident enthusiasm, set to deepen Simon Phillips's stamp on the company, and an improvement to the more hastily assembled 1990 programme.

Geoff Griffith.



French cinema doggy style

Baxter
Directed by
Jean-Louis Le Tonton
Trak

Have you ever noticed that films seem to come in runs? Hot on the heels of Milo & Otis comes Baxter, an animal film like no other I have ever seen.

Baxter is to Cujo what Brazil is to 1984. By combining some truly chilling moments with a very dark sense of humour Baxter provides an insight into life, love, fear and death. Baxter is a bull terrier, an ugly breed in anyone's language, whose past haunts him, and whose fears and 'unnatural urges' manifest themselves in violent and malicious acts against his 'owners'.

Baxter is given to his first owner, an old woman, by her daughter; a woman who is bored with her husband, her mother, her work in the dog pound, and her life in general. Baxter's sociopathic nature first manifests itself in the contempt he feels for the old woman. He's a creature driven by his base instincts. The hate he feels for the old woman is contrasted with the lust he feels for the young woman who lives over the road. The sight of Baxter sitting by the upstairs window watching and listening to the young lovers fuck is a very eerie scene. It is interesting to note that there is little real violence displayed in the film, most of it is implied violence which serves to make the mood of the film just that little bit more spooky. We never

see Baxter kill the old woman, but we know for sure that it was him who did it.

Baxter goes on to ingratiate himself into the lives of the young couple over the road which for a while satisfies his lustings. The young couple radiate youth, vitality, and most of all sex. Baxter's association with the young woman represents a form of barely post-pubescent masturbation. His sexual urges are powerful, but kept in check by the presence of the husband. When the woman becomes pregnant she becomes less interested in both Baxter and her husband. The two males share the rejection and confusion and spend more time with each other. Baxter's first impression of the baby when it arrives is that it is weak. He measures everything by its power to dominate. The sight of Baxter plotting to kill the baby is unnerving but at the same time amusing.

"I'll wait till they aren't looking then push it in with the fish. I'll call for help when it's too late."

Ironically it is when the woman and man are inside fucking madly against a wall that Baxter is given the opportunity to carry out his plan. The frenzy of their fucking is interrupted by Baxter's mad barking. The baby is saved in a blur of motion. Baxter's only comment is "I barked too soon." Baxter is truly evil.

Baxter's final owner is a small boy obsessed with Hitler's final days. So obsessed is he that he builds a scale model of Hitler's bunker in the local dump. Baxter has at last found a human just like himself. He respects the power the boy exerts over him because it



stifles his own 'unnatural' urges. Baxter is full of sexual guilt. The boy in turn is in lust with Eva, a local girl with a pedigree dog called Princess. The shame Baxter feels when he fucks Princess leads him to despise the boy for not being

ashamed of him. Baxter loses respect for the boy and in turn feels that the boy has betrayed him. Baxter decides that the boy must die, leading to a bizarre physical conflict at the end of the film. Eventually Baxter's desire to obey

overrides everything and Baxter is purged of his sins.

There is so much in this film it is worth seeing a few times. A few glasses of red before-hand helps too.

Dave Sag

Don't Stop For Men at Work

"Men At Work"
Directed by
Emilio Estevez
Hoyts Cinemas

A movie written and directed by Emilio Estevez and starring one of the sexiest men in Hollywood, Charlie Sheen, should be an occasion to turn down a pot roast but 'Men At Work' is no such film.

The sensitive among us would say it is racist, sexist, homophobic and misogynist, but that is not its problem - it was just plain boring.

Maybe Estevez was attempting to lampoon Hollywood's love of car chases, tits 'n arse, Vietnam, the environment and buddy movies, but if this was meant to be a 'Repo Man' for the nineties, it succeeded more in replicating 'Police Academy'.

Estevez has obviously seen a lot of movies in his time as 'Men At Work' is clichéd and unoriginal to the point of blatant plagiarism. Look closely and you will find 'Weekend At Bernie's', 'Better Off

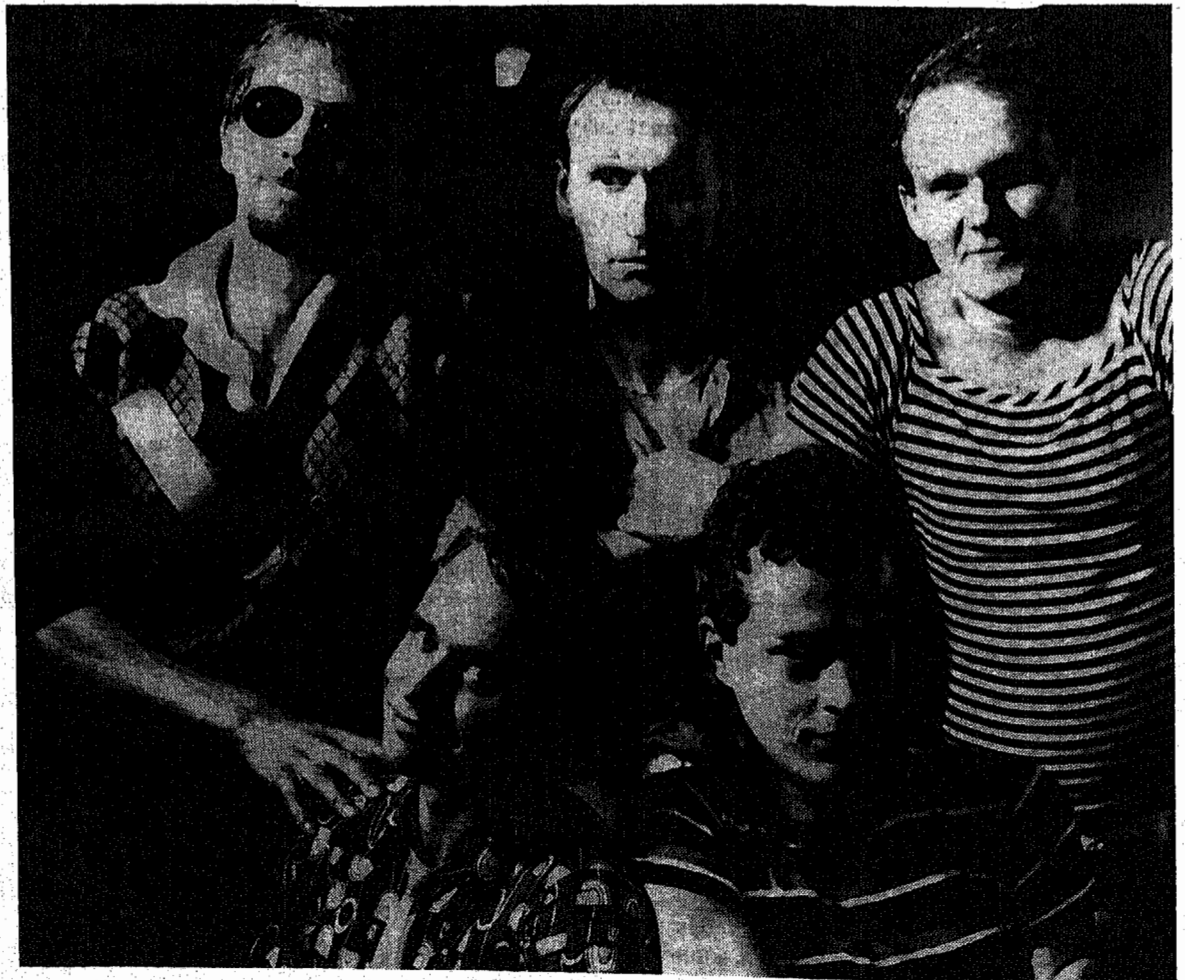
Dead', 'Police Academy 1 - 12', 'Blues Brothers', 'E.T.', 'Stake-Out', 'Wall Street', 'Bikini Shop' and 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles'.

According to the all time icon of pop culture, John Michael-Howson, the poor quality of 'Men At Work' was directly responsible for Charlie Sheen's descent into the underworld of drugs, sex and more drugs, and his subsequent rebirth at the hands of Hollywood's premier faith healer Betty Ford.

My personal theory is that Emilio Estevez is ridden with an all-consuming jealousy of his brother, who is better looking and does not have such a silly name. Leaning heavily on biblical precedent, Emilio has attempted to kill his brother's career with the murder weapon being one very bad film.

Emilio Estevez would do well to remember the end of the story because if he puts his name to another dog like 'Men At Work' he too will be kicked out of his Garden of Eden.

Better luck next time, Emilio.
Simon Morris and
Roz Chenoweth



A Woodstock For the Nineties

Heathers
A Michael Lehmann Film
Trak Cinema

Albert Camus once said that the only decision in life which really matters is whether or not you commit suicide. If he had seen *Heathers*, he would have said that the only decision in life which really matters is whether or not somebody makes you commit suicide.

Michael Lehmann's *Heathers* is a lucid and nasty comedy which slices its way through the twinkie cake world of American teen cinema. Superbly scripted by Daniel Waters and brilliantly performed by Winona Ryder and Christian Slater, it subverts both the Tilt City High School and John Hughes/ "Young Adult" genres with wit and precision.

Winona Ryder is Veronica, an attractive, intelligent WASP girl studying at the caricature Westenburg High. She is racked by predictable teen dilemmas - social standing, drinking ability, fashion decisions, getting the right date for the prom. Basically, she's got angst. But hers is different to most - as she says, "my teen angst shit has a body count".

Veronica teams up with JD (Christian Slater), a bomb-crazy eccentric (who has more than a touch of the Jack Nicholson about him). Veronica's desperation to be in with the "Heathers", a trio of pastel-clad power brokers who "everybody wants as a friend or a fuck", leads her to JD, who senses that her attraction to the Heathers

has hatred as its concomitant. This hatred translates into a desire to kill, and rather than resort to simple murder, JD and (albeit tentatively) Veronica stage a series of hilarious and complicated "suicides", with Veronica forging suicide notes on the victims' behalf.

Psychologists have written that teen angst is brought on by the first realisation of mortality. In the two wings of American teenage cinema, horror and college films, angst materialises in the form of life-threatening beasts of either a monstrous/supernatural or Football Hero/Prom Queen nature.

Heathers successfully melds physical and social death into one hideous conglomeration. The suicides, faked and genuine, are a vehicle for the dissection of the links between life and death, or, more importantly, the grey area in between. The desire to die in a flamboyant fashion and be remembered (or at least talked about in the schoolyard for a few weeks) is recognised by Veronica when she begrudgingly admits that "Heather is more popular in death".

As most of us can remember from school, the immediate reaction to the suicide of a classmate is one of genuine private grief by close friends, and mendacious public trauma by acquaintances. Veronica and JD realise this after they make the hateful football jocks, Kurt and Ram, "kill themselves" in a (hilarious) simultaneous homoerotic snotout suicide pact, in which they adorn their corpses with a number of accessories indicating the "true nature" of their relationship - a floral carry-

bag, a copy of "Stud Puppy" magazine, two bottles of agua mineral and a Joan Crawford postcard.

Although Heather was a bitch and Kurt and Ram "had nothing to offer the world but date rape and AIDS jokes", they become college heroes. "Suicide gave Heather depth, Kurt a soul and Ram a brain", Veronica observes, as the collective collegiate psyche reflects on the loss caused by the passing of these three assholes.

Heathers does not set itself up as arbiter on the moral pros and cons of teen suicide. In John Hughes' *The Breakfast Club*, the declaration by "The Brain" that he has toyed with the idea of suicide is resolved with a glib "But life is worth living!" and the recommendation that he put his gun away. None of this middle class pap in *Heathers*. It acerbically dissects the way society fails to deal with suicide. Rock band "Big Fun" has a number one hit with "Teenage Suicide - Don't Do It!" Kurt's father stands sentry over his son's football costumed corpse at the funeral and proclaims "I love my dead gay son!" And Veronica, racked with confusion after hatching three neat murder/suicides, deliberately burns her hand with a cigarette lighter (and the ever-cool JD uses her hot flesh to light his cigarette).

JD sums it up best when, in hatching an elaborate plot to blow up the entire school and leave a collective suicide note, he says "This is a school that was destroyed not by society but because it was society." It may be a piece of throwaway pop existentialism but



it's the sort of thing which will make parents try to ban their children from seeing the film. Which is good.

Heathers, like *Repo Man*, is a film which brims with attitude. It captures a bleak and seductive teenage sentiment - that life is basically meaningless and it is only through cynicism that we survive. Christian Slater as JD plays up to this well, the way he smokes, the way he smiles out the corner of his mouth, the way his idea of a good way to spend the last hours before the apocalypse is in a rowboat with his sax and a flask of

tequila.

Ryder's Veronica shares his cynicism but lacks the lunatic streak, and Ryder plays her as a slightly detached but pragmatic participant on the pretty degrading world of college life.

Shot with a Lynchian eye for colour and dialogue, *Heathers* is a ridiculously funny, ridiculously dark piece of cinema. A welcome kick in the guts for the teeny genre and a veritable essay in cool, *Heathers* will stand for years as a cult classic.

David Penberthy

Stealing the Show

The Big Steal
A Nadia Tass and
David Parker Film
Hoyts Regent Cinema

Since the *Blood Oath* (ony a Brine) experience, Australian movies have held a different charm for me. I therefore approached *The Big Steal* with a fair measure of trepidation. Thank God my fears were assuaged.

After his success in *The Year My Voice Broke*, Ben Mendelsohn returns to give another entertaining performance as the insouciant larrikin-hero of this teen-angst debacle. He plays Danny Clark, a working-class kid who craves two things in his adolescent life - a Jaguar (not the animal variety) and this speshal girl (played by Claudia Karvan) in his college. The movie centers around his attempts to procure (and hold onto) both bird and wheels, and the 'hilarious' events that surround it.

I applaud the directors for resisting the temptation to ape American teen movies, giving *The Big Steal* an Australian identity

instead - many of the jokes are highly colloquial, pertaining very much to the Australian way of life (jibes at Queensland for instance), and to the increasing acceptance of Australia's multiculturalism in a fashion that is evocative of sitcoms like *Acropolis Now*, and the phenomenally successful play *Wogs Out of Work*: Ben's best mate is more than adequately portrayed by Angelo d'Angelo, a philandering Greek who is proud of being a "dago" and who flaunts his cousin's Menaro to all and sundry. Angelo has definitely come a long way since his participation in the very shabby Australian soapie *Return to Eden*.

There is however, always the possibility of overdoing the Ocker sub-species-exploration bit so that the end result resembles a grotesque caricature of this loutish personality prototype. Luckily, Mendelsohn appears to realise this danger (perhaps subconsciously?), and injects a certain ingenuous charm into his performance that gives relief to the otherwise would-be-almost crass character.

Danny Parker's father is also



superbly performed - a true fruitcake, loopy almost beyond belief, but endearing. His role in *The Big Steal* is a definite turn around from an earlier performance as a psychopathic killer in *Georgia*, a lesser known Australian film. There is a gentle benevolence that belies his maturity; a quality that was obtrusively absent in *Georgia*.

There is however one obvious

weakness - this compulsion to tie up the ending in neatly labelled little packages - that reflects on the possible insecurity underlying this movie effort; hence the unwillingness to leave room for any speculation by the viewers.

Although not a gut wrencher of a movie, *The Big Steal* is inoffensive and mostly entertaining, and, if it does not aspire to greater heights,

can be considered a success. Tass and Parker seem to work well together, and the fruit of their labour is generally quite palatable, so to speak. One could say that *The Big Steal* will not hurt the Australian Film Industry's image. There have been much worse.

Fay Khoo

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Administration: regulations and guidelines,
submission and examination, grievance procedures.
Library: facilities for postgrads., library searches,
sources on writing/ editing/ referencing/ organising.
Typical hindrances: resources etc.

10.15a.m. - 12.15p.m. Faculty Panels
First draft, editing, pitfalls, time management.

12.15p.m. - 1.00p.m. PGSA Ordinary General
Meeting

At this meeting, faculty and committee
representatives will be elected, and constitutional
changes voted on.

Bargain priced lunch in the Bistro for participants.
RSVP the PGSA Office, 2285898 by Mon. Oct 15.

Burton and Speke, I Presume

Mountains of the Moon
A Bob Rafelson Film
Hoyts Regent

Based on the journals of explorers Burton and Speke, *Mountains of the Moon* is a breathtaking cinematographic venture that charts the adventures of these two men into the wilds of Africa to seek the mystic source of the Nile. Besides its obvious anthropological interest, the film is a convincing portrayal of the events surrounding the discovery of Lake Victoria.

It is comparable in many ways to *Gorillas in the Mist* - however, the difference arises in the way the white man/woman is depicted in their roles. As Diane Fossey, Sigourney Weaver is personified as becoming one with the animals, assimilating easily with nature. Burgin and Glen (as explorers Burton and Speke) are conversely portrayed as forceful, invaders/conquerors.

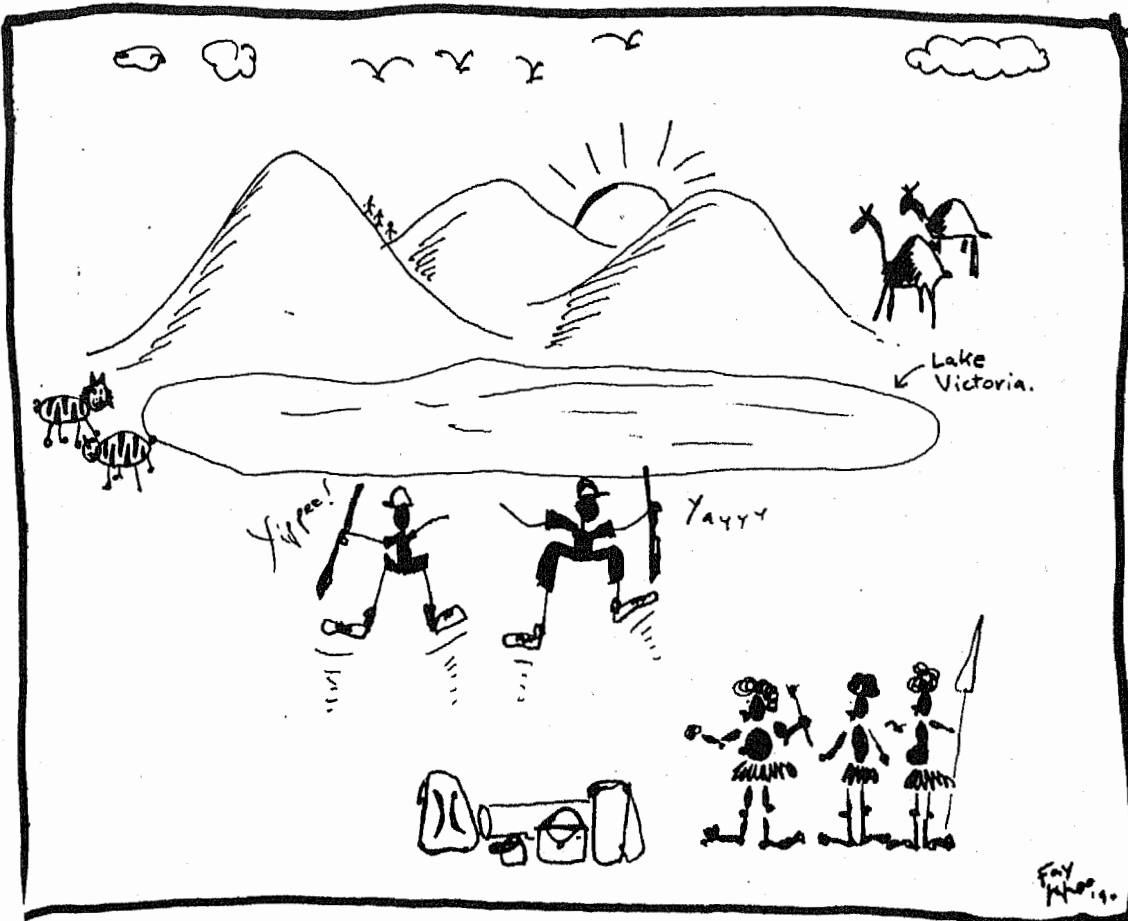
There remains, in *Mountains of the Moon*, a tacit sensation of barrier between white and black that is never ultimately resolved. I cannot help thinking that the idea of woman as being close to nature, the enigmatic Other, is again here transposed into the plot.

Indeed, the abyss between cul-

tured and uncivilised is a prevailing sub-theme in the movie - Africa is regarded by the men as a mysterious continent waiting to be explored, her secrets to be bared; like the feminine Other in comparison with the masculine Self (represented by Burton and Speke).

There is an undeniable honesty furthermore that persists throughout - allusions to Speke's homosexuality are delicately threaded into the pattern of the film. Indeed, Speke kisses Burton when the latter is perilously ill during a quiet moment, and the poignancy of the action, I believe, should dispel the possibility of any anti-homosexual sentiment. There is nothing crude or stark about Speke's sexuality; and the movie progresses without any disruption from this.

The acting in *Mountains of the Moon* is of a high calibre - both Burton and Speke are portrayed evocatively. There appears to be a compatibility between the two that assists in authenticating the credibility of the whole movie itself. The length of the movie is also skilfully given relief by director Rafelson with a bit of geographical tennis - the camera switches from Africa to England to Africa and so forth, and the patriotism of the 'Mother Country' is cleverly satirised by the use of contrast between the two countries. Ulti-



mately however, the movie conveys a sense of human goodness - of a possibility of unity between white and black that transcends language barriers - there is sadly, too, an overwhelming sense of futility that is a consequence of

consuming human greed which also illustrates the black side of human nature.

It is difficult to describe the myriad of elements that make this movie special in only a few words, perhaps the best I can say is, go

and see this movie so that you can sort it out for yourself, but it made an impression on me.

Oh, and the animal shots were great too.

Fay Khoo

Dabbling with Death

Flatliners
A Joel Schumacher Film
Chelsea and
Hoyts Cinemas

Definitely one of the better commercial films showing in Adelaide at the moment, *Flatliners* delivers a mind-boggling visual overdose of tension and sick anticipation (of the heart-sinking-to-the-pits-of-stomach variety). Despite its medical thriller facade, it manages with a little technological assistance to overstep boundaries of the factual precision of science to enter the more hazy world of occult and ephemeral impressions that encompass pre-natal experiences. Consequently it bears little relativity to precursors of the medical thriller tradition such as *Coma*. The horror in *Flatliners* is more immediate, and much of it is gleaned from the viewer's sickening recognition of the possibility of the movie being transposed into reality.

Our one guarantee in this life-death - is an issue almost as popular with the media as the environment, and everywhere we turn, it seems to kick us in the face. *Flatliners* is no exception.

The plot revolves around a group

of medical students preoccupied with the anatomical and psychological state after death. They take turns at being lethally injected by each other (becoming clinically dead - hence flatline), 'exploring' the Great Beyond for the few minutes of their 'death', and then returning to life by having their hearts jumpstarted by their colleagues.

Although not an original concept (*Brainstorm* in 1983 was much along the same lines, pursuing the notion of what lies on the other side), it nonetheless has a fleshiness to the plot that is lacking in many other movies.

The cast is proliferated with burgeoning stars the likes of Julia Roberts, Kiefer Sutherland and Kevin Bacon - the precocity of their acting is evidenced by their successes in tinsel town - all of whom give convincing portrayals of their characters. Julia Roberts, a devastating beauty by anyone's standards, has rapidly moved from one successful role to another, proving herself to be an actor of magnitude by the sheer diversity of her characters, from a Southern Belle in *Steel Magnolias* to a prostitute doubling as Cinderella in *Pretty Woman*, and now as a Medical student obsessed with the notion of after-death, the only woman



among her male counterparts. loose and here shows surprising depth.

Kiefer Sutherland and Kevin Bacon are both suitably cast in their respective roles - Sutherland as a frenzied, ambitious and slightly repugnant medical student whose overriding obsession leads him, as the leader of this project (and his fellow students), to the edge of sanity. Kevin Bacon, conversely, plays the renegade. He is the conscience of the group, providing the voice of sanity and balance when chaos screams. Bacon has matured since his role in *Foot-*

loose and here shows surprising depth. This movie is intense, and as is always the case with commercial movies, it persists in inserting a little didactic message to justify the validity of what is portrayed. Here, it is the consequences suffered when tampering with Death, and the subsequent lessons that must be learnt, in order to be exonerated. Almost like Catholics going to confession really.

There are the usual unexplained gaps in the storyline - like, how did they get such sophisticated medical equipment, and the exclusive and private use of an apparently functioning church - but I suppose when you pay to get the shit scared out of you, it doesn't really matter who owns what, does it?

Fay Khoo



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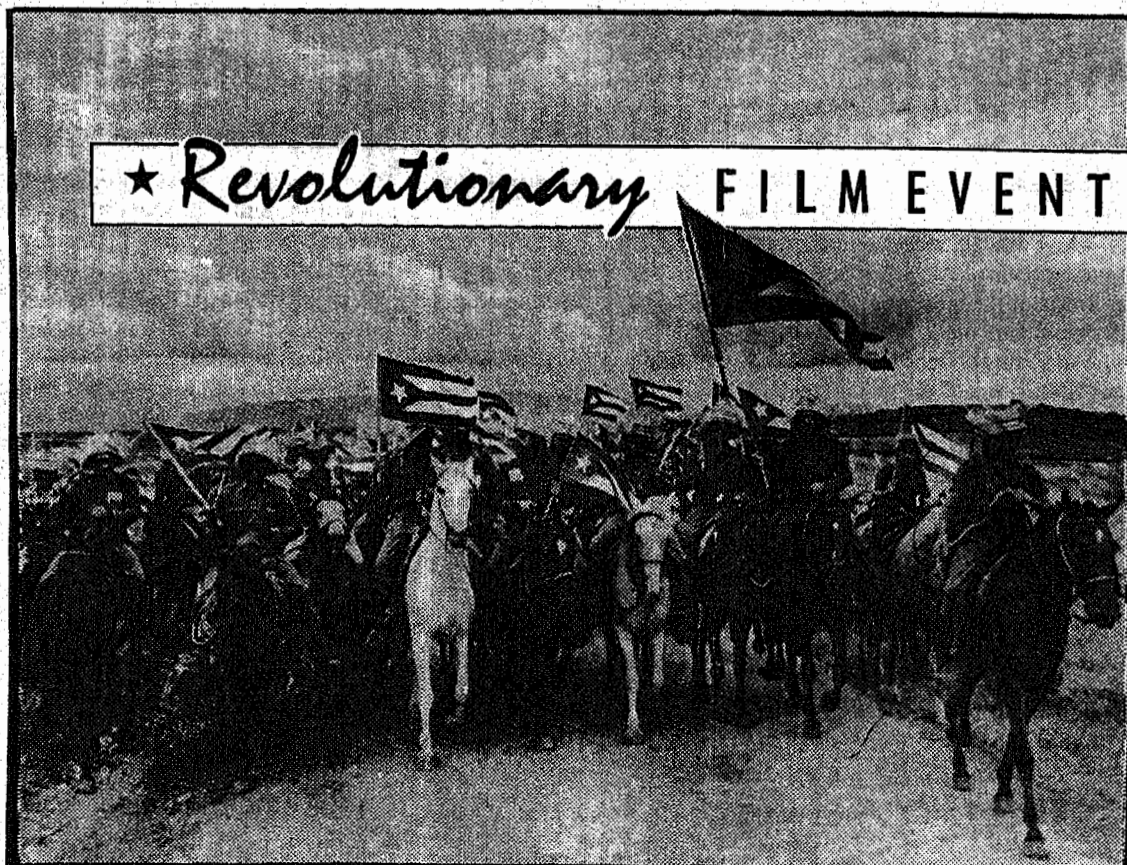
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Our initiatives are to:

- * Create an Environmental Officer to help reduce paper wastage;
- * To provide more facilities for students such as a public telephone and food vending machine in the Law School foyer;
- * Make progress on the Law School pond;
- * Promote the interests of all law students in the reform of GDP.

VOTE:

- 1 **Steve THOMSON** for LSS President
- 1 **Ariarne WINTER** for News Letter Editor
- 1 **Pat CONLON** for Treasurer
- 1 **Jamie WATTS** for Secretary

(Our other LSS Team members, Anne Lindsay, Tim Diddin, and Lucy Turonek have already been elected.)

KATE CEBERANO

performing at the Royalty, Angus Street
Monday October 8
Tuesday October 9
songs from her latest album 'Like Now'
book at BASS



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
Adelaide, South Australia 5001

NOTICE TO UNDERGRADUATES

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.
There having been received the same number of nominations as vacancies for undergraduate members of Council, I declare

SATHISH KUMAR DASAN
CONRAD MAURICE MATHIAS

elected to the Council each for a two-year term commencing 24 October 1990.

2. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

There having been received fewer nominations than the number of vacancies for undergraduate members of the Education Committee, I declare

ANTHEA ROWENA FRANCES HOWARD

elected to the Education Committee for a two year term commencing 1 January 1991.

E.R. DINES
Acting Returning Officer

A La Recherche du Gigs, Albums and Incidents Perdu

Jonathan Richman's personal notes written
in the first and second person

"Mr. Richman was born in Boston in 1951. He started to draw pictures all day long at the age of 5. Played baseball all day long from the age of 9. This would not leave time for anything else, would it?"

"He took up guitar at 15, started playing in public at 16, and by 17 had caused many people to leave coffee houses... quickly...with their hands over their ears, and by 18 was sure he wanted to sing professionally. He promised himself that if it ever became work instead of fun he'd quit that day. And...if it ever does, he will."

"His first place to stay in Manhattan was on the couch of the personal manager of this Velvet Underground. After two weeks the manager and his wife and the other person staying there felt that Jonathan...well...might be more appropriately situated somewhere else. (Since this is me writing this thing I can say that this means I was such a stinking, disgusting slob that even my friends couldn't stand it and two weeks must have been plenty. Of course now I'm much more mature)."

"One afternoon in frustration at not being able to find a place to sing his new songs (among which were "Roadrunner", "Pablo Picasso", and "Girlfriend" later to become popular when he sang them with his band), he went up to the roof of the cockroach-infested Hotel Albert. Strumming an electric guitar without any amplifier (that means ya can't hear it), he stood near the edge of the roof and yelled his music at the pedestrians eight stories below. Mr. Richman was delighted with the attention he was getting as the crowded sidewalk on University Place at 10th Street started to overflow with people staring up at him. But...he thought it was 'cause he was so great and not the real reason which was they thought he was maybe going to JUMP or at least that he should be giving the matter some serious consideration. Then the police arrived (I knew it was time for my show-stopper, so to speak)."

"People who wonder why I'm not that proud of The Modern Lovers LP should know that on a good night we did "Roadrunner" ten times better than you ever heard it recorded. We got this kind of dark Rolling Stones vibe in our rhythm sometimes. And Ernie and Jerry and David were way handsome and the girls flipped. Just ask anyone who was there. Me, I looked more uptight and weird than the other three, but I could always dance great. Ernie was the one I could talk to the best. He was a poetry fan and he'd recommend guys for me to read. But my days as a brooding angst-ridden adolescent were numbered."

"Having very much enjoyed his twenty-first and twenty-second years, Richman wanted some happier songs for his twenty-third. After all, he wrote the lonely brooding pieces that were most of his old band's repertoire when he was a pre-twenty year old and...times had changed for the better. You know what they say, "The more success a young man has with young women, the less he has the need to point his finger at others." So, he needed less songs putting down hippies and college students and more songs with like, melody. And...he needed some songs which would make pre-teens laugh. See, he'd already started playing a lot for kids and the regular "children's songs" just weren't funny enough. Richman's idea was not to make songs aimed specifically at children, but ones they could enjoy along with the rest of an audience. Sometimes this works and sometimes it doesn't and Mr. Richman sure doesn't consider all his efforts in this to be successful especially the earliest ones. But, the larger part of his songs were still more or less adult subject matter - those songs which had subject matter."

"In summer '78, Richman, after D.Sharpe had left to be in Carla Bley's jazz group and Curly went back to school, went solo again. See, Jonathan's fussy (You can't mean that. After reading this thing so far he seems so...easy-going...almost egoless) He loves for people to dance but...he wants them to not just hear every word but feel every nuance (impossible demands like this, both for the audience and musicians is one of the many reasons you don't want me for your boss. If I hire you - quit!"

"There's also mystyle of decision making. The good news is that once I've made a decision I'm sure I'm right. The bad news is that 24 hours later I'm still sure I'm right but now I have the opposite point of view. One time in oh...'84 at The Bottom Line nightclub in New York, we were at soundcheck and Guardabascio noticed me looking at his drum kit. Even I wasn't sure what I was thinking - but Michael knew. "You want me to tear this down, and just use the dumbek tonight. Right?" (A dumbek being a small Mid-Eastern type hand drum he happened to have with him). I nodded sorta sadly. And I would do stuff like this all the time. Take it from me - it's better for everyone that I'm a solo act."

jonathan richman...



a love-sick modern kinda guy

Jonathan Richman is one of the most underrated songwriters in the history of rock music. Since his debut as Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers in 1970 he has consistently come up with novel tunes which stick in your mind like nursery rhymes.

Part of the attraction with Richman's music is its simplicity. He has always played with a view that owes more to story telling than rock music-limiting the instrumental sounds and volume to allow the audience to take in his child like lyrics and swinging guitar sound.

Richman's lyrics dwell upon failed and everlasting romances, usually of the teenage variety, fading memories of youth, and moments of bliss to be cherished forever. In dealing with such seemingly inconsequential topics Richman always turns m into tremendous life events, most of which are extremely comical due to the ambiguity surrounding whether he is, in fact, singing them with a sense of irony.

I suspect that he isn't. Songs like "Icecream Man", "I'm a Little Aeroplane", "My Old Corner Store", "Pablo Picasso" and the immortal "Hey There Little Insect" (containing the unforgettable lines "Hey there little insect, please calm down, so we can have fun and fool around") are all stunning, and not only for their sincerity.

Richman has played with a score of brilliant musicians, including Jerry Harrison of Talking Heads fame, an original member of the Modern Lovers.

Johnathan Richman is playing this Tuesday night at the Tivoli Hotel. Don't bring your cigarettes as he plays strictly non-smoking gigs.

David Penberthy

The Student's Association has tickets for \$12 (\$3 cheaper than those for sale publicly.) Also, the first two people to tell the SAUA secretaries what Pablo Picasso was *never* called will get a free ticket to the show.

**Hallelujah
Happy Mondays
Factory/Festival**

Happy Mondays are one of a long series of pop/dance bands to come out of the largely industrial, commercial city of Manchester, England. Like the other heavily stylized bands from Manchester, Happy Mondays have achieved an incredible following considering their records are so hard to obtain. In fact, it seems that image, rather than vinyl, has played the main part in the success of Happy Mondays.

The Happy Mondays' latest album, *Hallelujah*, contains some well-known songs and two versions of the title track. "He's Gonna Step On You Again" is covered and the Happy Mondays' most famous song, "Wrote For Luck", is remixed. The end result is a clever album that will appeal to people who like irreverent dance music.

Shane Carty

**The Ride
The Lizard Train
Greasy Pop**

Are they glam rockers gone into a smack-induced heroin dive? Or are they six-string guitar heroes who have an off beat (B)lack rhythm sense that's going straight to hell? Either way this irresistible and long long awaited album from one of the big three indie bands in Adelaide (others being The Mark of Cain and The Exploding White Mice) is guaranteed to stay glued to your turntable.

The three piece Train produce on this their second lp offering, an assaulting wall of grunged out pure pop that demands maximum volume. Gone are the drifting noodly introspective bits found in their first album 'Slippery'. The Ride may have noodly guitar bits with guitarist/vocalist Chris Willard gargling into the mike about navel gazing and death, but the production here is direct and punchy. Self indulgence is avoided. Song structure is tight.

This is no better shown than on

Play it again SA•FM

**Crystal Set
Del Amitri
Live at the Old Lion
Monday 14th September**

It is perturbing that The Crystal Set, an Australian band on the verge of breaking from their cult confines, was granted only 35 minutes on stage while Del Amitri, a Scottish band with a TV-publicised hit record, played a set in which length outweighed interest.

Del Amitri were actually not so bad. In their opening and closing stanzas, they were energetic, proficient and fun, particularly the lead singer and bassist, who sped around the stage like he was Cyndi Lauper's dog being taken for a walk. "Nothing Ever Happens", their best song, was forceful and memorable live, and indicated that Del Amitri have the capacity to rise above the average band.

But they looked faintly ridiculous when, in their umpteenth encore, they played the hit, "Kiss This Thing Goodbye", for the second time in an hour (a la SA•FM). Given that during the middle section of the concert a number of innocuous songs were played, it appeared that Del Amitri could not come up with 100 minutes of music. But, given that there were many moments of quality and a couple of excellence, that seems unlikely, which only makes the mediocrity more confusing.

Had the Crystal Set's vocals not been muffled when amplified, they could have stolen the evening from Del Amitri. The Old Lion seemed empty as they began, the audience congregating around distant bars. A young girl sitting near me slurped what was probably her first beer, with a giggle proclaimed herself drunk, and settled back to read her Dolly magazine. The "real" band, evidently, was not due for another hour.

But slowly, the Crystal Set's carefully constructed layers of guitars filtered through, and although no one in the audience was moved to great acts of reverence, everyone listened and many seemed impressed. After "The Fool", which was superb and the evening's highlight, one person was even compelled to call out, "Oh, well played", above the polite clapping.

Hopefully, we will see the Crystal Set again soon, this time in an environment where they can truly impress. And hopefully, Del Amitri will also return - although they were uneven, they aimed to entertain and the rapturous crowd response showed they succeeded.

Patrick Allington



the HOT first track 'She Gets Me' and the one minute thirty eight second thrashed 'Motorcycle of Love'.

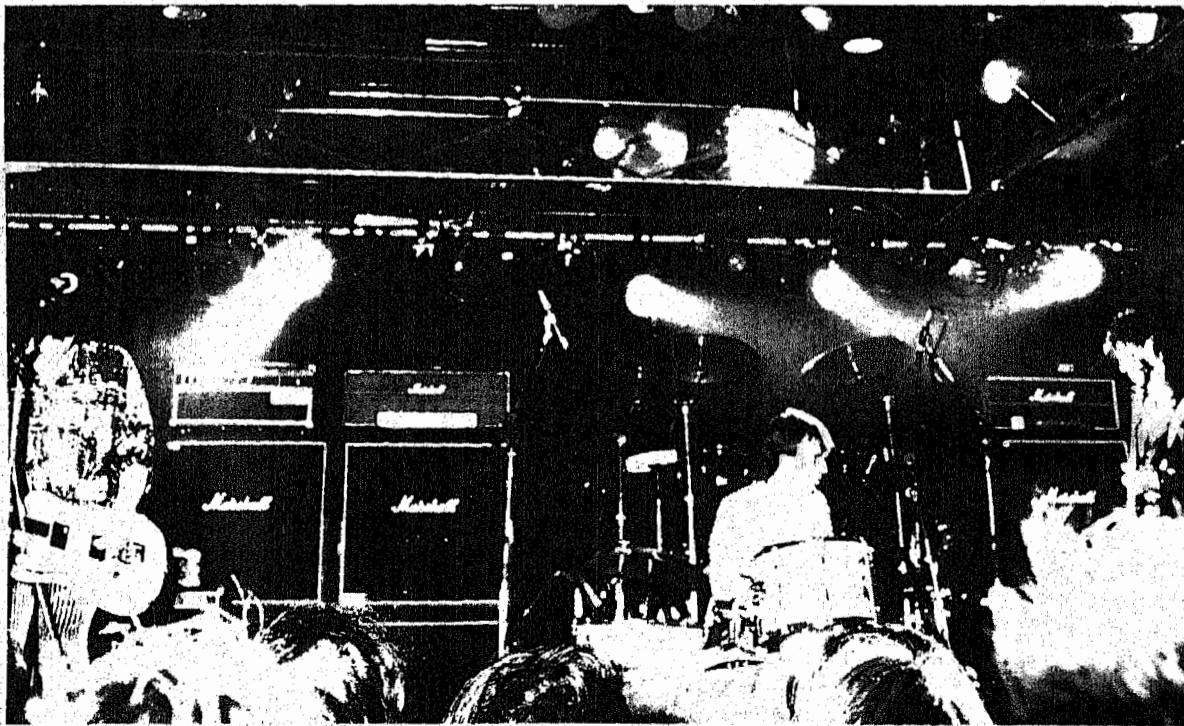
Side two of this record rivals anything I've heard this year. It really slips into gear with the second track 'Motorcycle of Love'. Next is the eerie hypnotic and insistent riff of L.I.P (with lyrics to make Fundamentalists cringe "Suicide/just an accident"). The stomping tom toms in 'Jesus Christ the Monkey' is also a highlight.

Lyrical nothing much has changed for the Trains. Life is dark and love is either sticky sweet romance or one step from the grave. This may turn some off. But the imaginative use of rhythms from drummer David Creese that breaks up oft used chord progressions, and the excellent production of Tony Elliot that highlights the album's intense highs and lows make this album one that improves with each listening. Catch 'em live next time they at the Old Queen's.
Steve Jackson

**Jimmy Barnes
Two Fires
Mushroom**

Poor Old Jimmy. The Great Oz pub rocker image is a bit of an albatross around his neck. This record comes across as an effort to break that mold - along with the haircut, the trendy video to "Lay Down Your Guns", MTV calling him 'One of the world's Best white soul singers' (?). For the most part this is what you would expect: Barnesy has put out the same album since "For the Working Class Man" with a few details rearranged for contractual purposes (covers, song names etc.) in a constant attempt to break into the American market. He has enlisted some talent to do it too: Songwriter Desmond Child (Kiss, Alice Cooper, Cher) along with Ross Wilson on "Sister Mercy" and Chris Bailey on "Fade to Black" (not the Metallica song but this would be an interesting career move) as well as Bruce Hornsby, Brian Setzer and Johnny Diesel as guests. Curiously there are no traditional anthems here. But like I said, it is the same stuff, just a little funkier as a concession to current trends. Fans will buy it and sing along in the Princess Berkeley (in between "Khe Sahn" and "It's a Long Way to the Top") just as sure as the sun will rise tomorrow and the Great Aussie Pubs will have 1\$ Beer n' Bubbly.

James Sanchez



The Lizard Train. From left Chris Willard, David Creese and Shane Bloffwitch.

classifieds

Buddha House- Centre for Advanced Buddhist Studies

Some of the Classes Available-
Learn to Meditate Class (free)
Mondays 6 pm

Introduction to Buddhism
Mondays 7.30 pm \$20 for term

Guided Meditation (free)
Sundays 10 am

Ongoing Teachings -
The Precious Garland
by Khensur Rinpoche
Tuesdays 7.30 pm*
\$8, \$6 (conc), \$4 member

Ornament for Clear Realisation
by Khensur Rinpoche
Thursdays 7.30 pm*

Three Principle Aspects
of the Path
by Jampa Gendun
Fridays 7.30 pm
Facility fee \$5, \$3 (conc),
\$2 member

The Graduated Path
to Enlightenment
by Khensur Rinpoche
Saturdays 10 am* (Highly
recommended for new students)

For more information contact
3 Nelson Street, Fullarton,
Tel: 79 9153

Women's Dinner - A Celebration

All women are invited to a dinner to be held at Adelaide Uni Bistro on Thursday, October 4 at 7.30 pm.

All members of Women on Campus and Feminist Law Students are welcome as well as women from other campuses.

For further information contact Jo Wilton (Law School) or attend the next Women on Campus meeting at 1 pm on Tuesday, October 2.

STOP PRESS... ARTISTCARE EXHIBITION UNION GALLERY

LEVEL 6
UNION HOUSE
GALLERY HOURS 10am - 5pm
Date: 1st October 1990
Exhibiting a calendar cover competition.

It is a national competition we will be exhibiting South Australian entrants.

CURATOR Louise Sharman
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Become a volunteer adult literacy tutor at the Bowden/Brompton Community Centre.

Phone 340 3013 for details.

The Australian National University Scholarships

The Australian National University offers PhD and Master degree scholarships over a wide range of disciplines in the social, natural and physical sciences to persons who hold or expect to hold a bachelor degree with at least upper second class honours or an equivalent qualification.

Vacation scholarships are also available in a number of Research Schools and Centres to undergraduate students who are currently enrolled and who intend to complete an honours degree the following year; such scholarships are normally tenable for not more than 12 weeks during the December-February period.

If you would like further details about any of these scholarships, please write to:

**The Registrar,
The Australian National University,
GPO Box 4,
Canberra, ACT, 2601**

CANCER SUFFERERS ... 1 in 3
CANCER DEATHS ... 1 in 4



Can you spare 2HRS
to help reduce these
startling statistics?
We need helpers for
FIGHT CANCER WEEK
OCTOBER 20 - 28 1990
Contact the Appeals Dept.
Ph: 267 5222

ANTI-CANCER FOUNDATION

Have you and your mates got some spare time in October? Why not join the battle against cancer. One in four people die from cancer. The Anti-Cancer Foundation is trying to reduce this startling statistic but need your help for a couple of hours during 'Fight Cancer Week', October 20 - 28th.

In fact an army of helpers are needed for their residential appeal. The appeal is one of the Foundation's largest fund-raisers.

This year the Anti-Cancer Foundation needs to raise \$2m to fund services for cancer patients and their families and various prevention education programmes.

You must remember Sid Seagull and his Slip, Slop, Slap message or the 'Quit' Smoking Campaign. These projects are partly funded by the Anti-Cancer Foundation.

However, without appeals such as 'Fight Cancer Week' and the support of people like you, they cannot keep up their good work.

So why not give up a bit of time, or better yet get some friends together to help the Anti-Cancer Foundation with their residential appeal.

For any further information, or any offers of assistance, please contact Suzanne Wright or Kim Jordan on 267 5222.

DAMNING EVIDENCE

OF CREATIVE LIFE ON CAMPUS
1990 STUDENT & STAFF EXHIBITION



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OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 19

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PRODUCTION NOTES

ON DIT is the weekly newspaper of the Student's Association of the University of Adelaide.
The editors have complete editorial control although opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily their own.

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If you wish to contact ON DIT write to:
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CLARIFICATION
Last Exit to Brooklyn is published by Paladin, not Picador, as printed in On DIT No. 17 (Sep. 3)

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this week to the amazing Fay Khoo for her undying, unpaid commitment to the paper.