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# REPUBLICAN DEBATE "SHOULD WE KEEP OUR QUEEN"

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12

1 PM UNION CINEMA.

LEVEL 5, UNION HOUSE

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN? SHE AIN'T NO HUMAN BEING

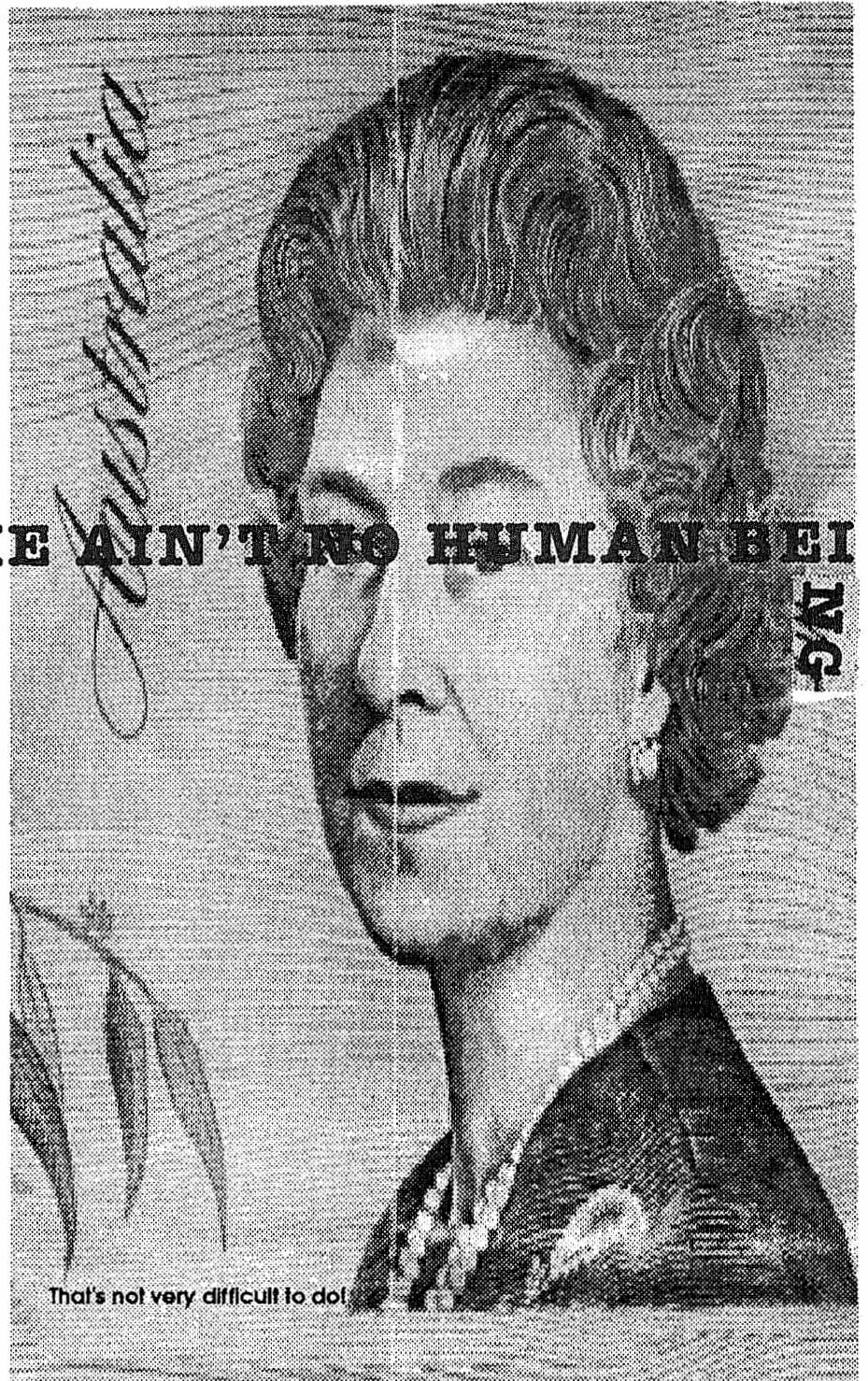
JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE  
Republican Association  
Labor Club  
Liberal Club and  
Debating Society

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Jo Dyer (Debating)  
Julian Grenfell (Liberal)  
Paul Abfalter (Labor)  
Stephanie Pribil (Republican)  
Charlie Abbot (Liberal)

plus speakers from the floor

Chair: Maria O'Brien (Debating)  
Timekeeper: George Selvanera (Debating)



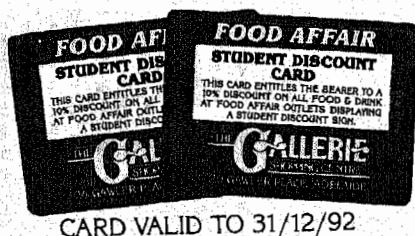
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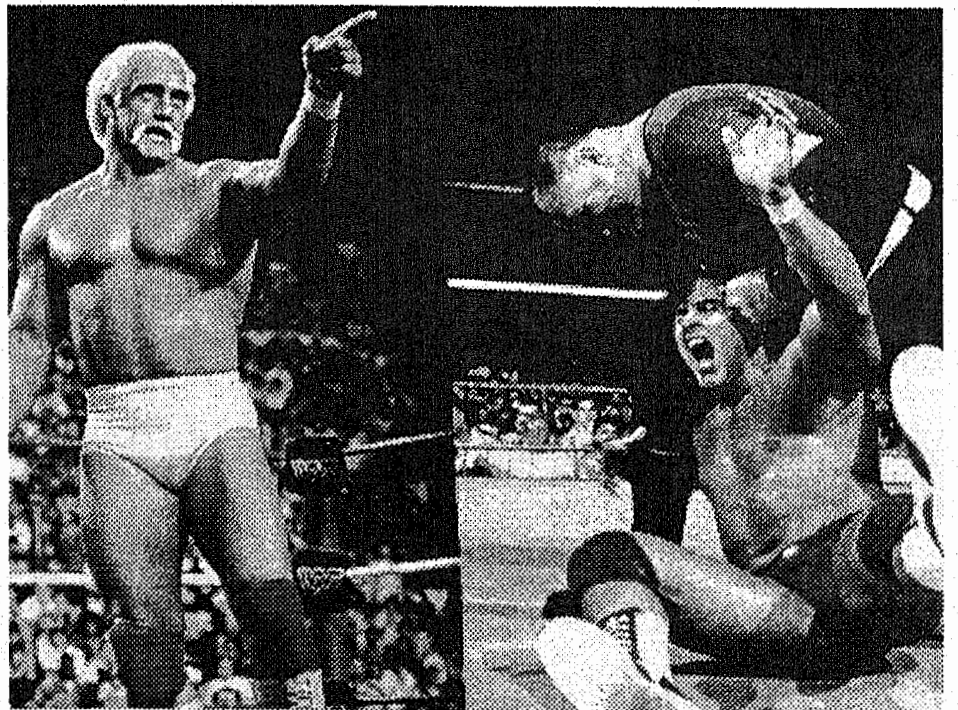
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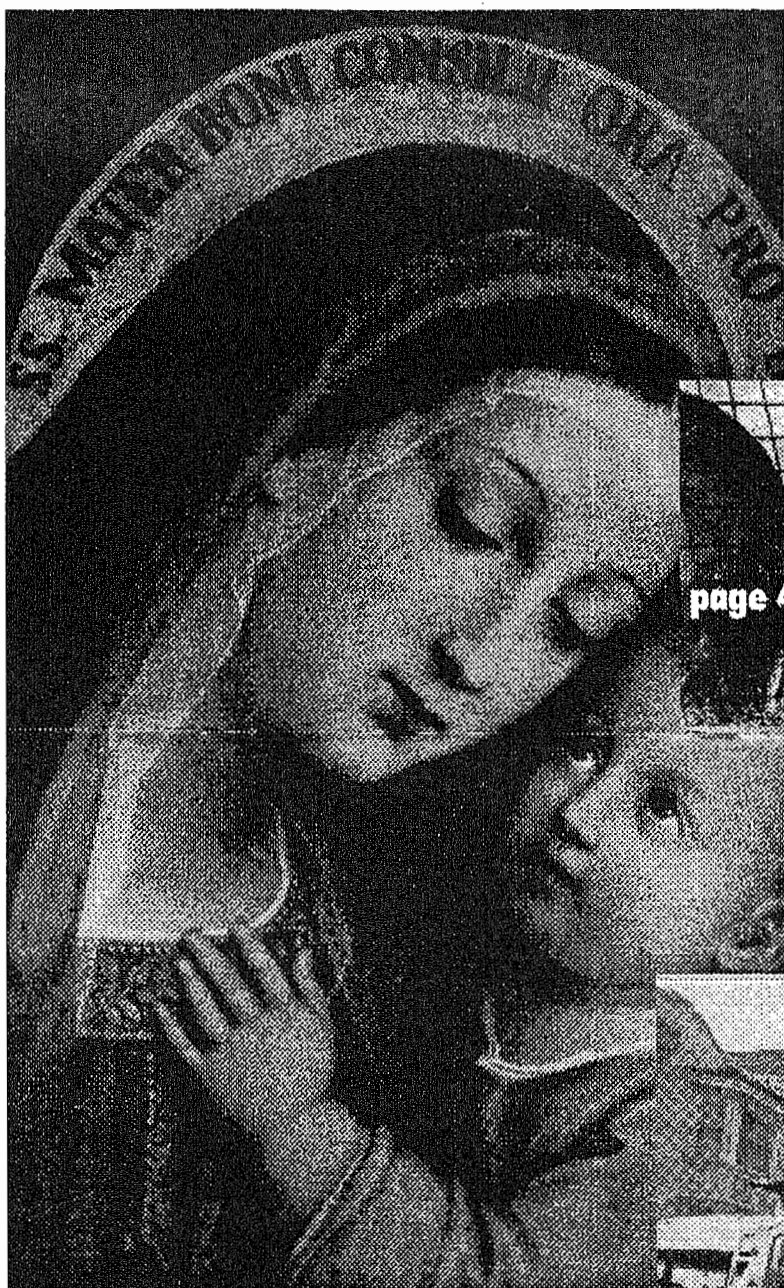
## THE DEBATE



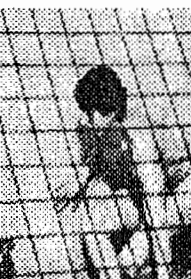
**LABOR VS LIBERAL** in a frolic to end all others  
**Senator Chris Schacht and Alexander Downer MP**  
**"That fightback will improve Australia's economic well being"**  
**Tuesday 11 August 1pm Barr Smith Lawns? Mayo**  
**Published by Paul Abfalter Labor Club and George Karafiotis Liberal Club**

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## Seduction Notes

**EDITORS** sam maiden & vanessa almeida  
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**FREIGHT** guhan 'arts funding' sabapathy  
**PRINTING** cadillac colour web  
**THANKS** monica, andrew, richard vowles, annabel, francis, rachel and andrew for the cool party, and to the charming young men on the other side of the pillar on Thursday night who learnt how small this town is the hard way.



page 15

*On Dit is published weekly by the Adelaide University Student's Association. Opinions published are not necessarily those of us, them, or anyone in particular. Our phone number is 2285404 and 2232685. You can find us in the SW corner of the cloisters in On Dit lane. Thank you and goodnight. Although considering it is now 4am on a monday morning I should say good morning.*

# Students demand an end to dissection

## Dissection: Don't Do It!!

**"No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come."**

- Victor Hugo

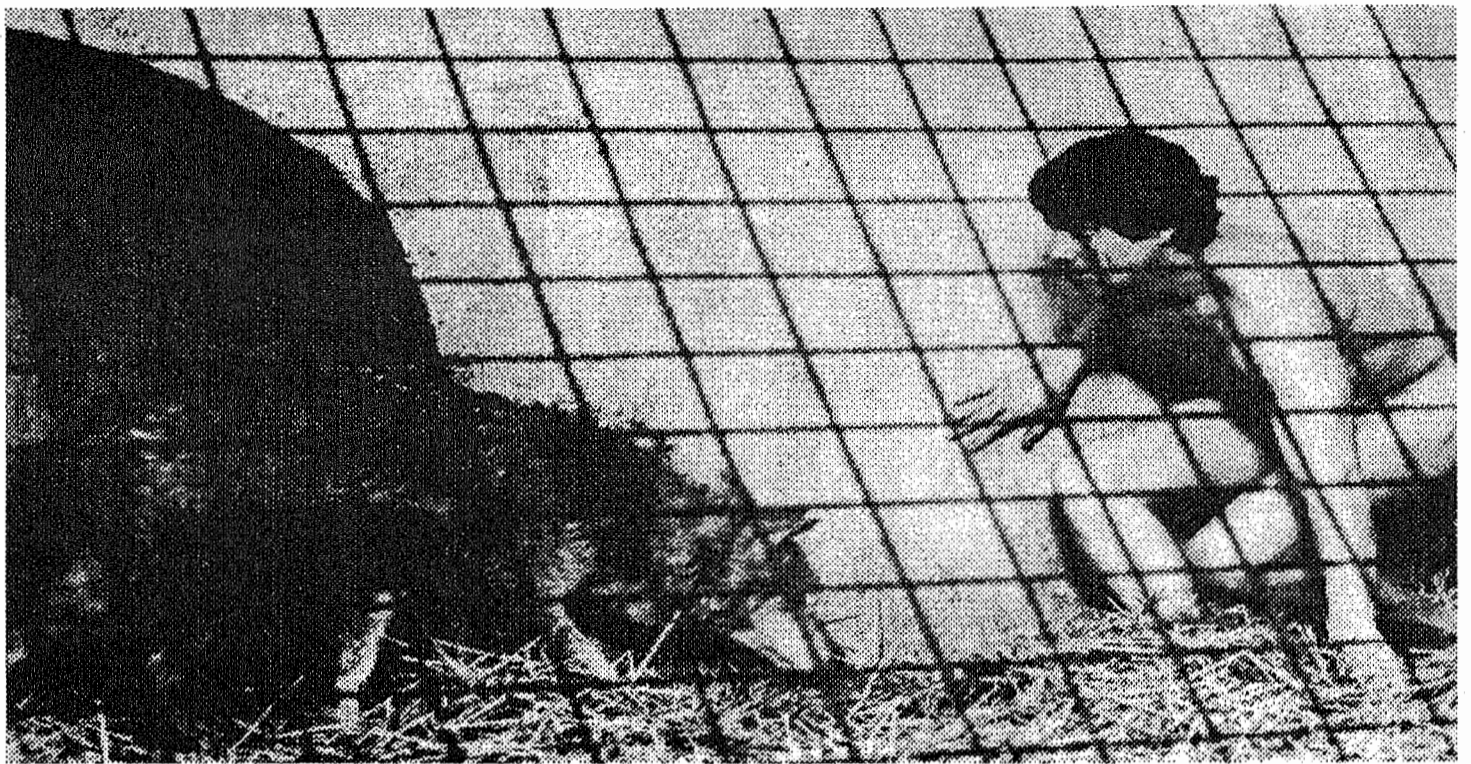
**The time when approximately 700 Biology I students will be dissecting insects, rats and toads is approaching and for those students enrolled in the course, now should be the time when you are questioning the morality and necessity of such an exercise as part of your education.**

From one Biology I student who will not be dissecting this year, I will put forward the reasons for my conscientious objection and my support for the alternative practicals being offered by the Biology teachers.

## Why Abstain?

- A large percentage of Biology I students do not come from the faculty of science but from other faculties such as Arts, Agricultural Science and Mathematical Science but have decided to enrol in the course due to a particular interest in biological science. These students have no interest in making a career out of Biology, yet many rats and toads will be sacrificed for them. It can be logically derived from this that it is ridiculous to assert that it is necessary for these students "to know the anatomy of the mammalian reproductive system and to understand how egg and sperm are produced and transferred" (to quote the Biology practical manual for the rat dissection) for the purpose of fulfilling their motive for enrolling in the course. How about those science students who do want to pursue biological science and make a career out of it? Yes, "to know the digestive, respiratory, circulatory and skeleto-muscular system of the cane toad" (to quote the Biology practical manual for the toad dissection) may be necessary, but not in first year when so many fellow students are not taking the course with the same motives as they have and even then such knowledge should be obtained through authentic models and computer programmes (yes, these are available to universities in Australia) not through sentient creatures. Therefore, all students have a reason to object to dissection and to do the alternative.

- The Biology teachers 'reassure' students in the toad dissection manual that toads are a pest to Australia and they have been imported from Queens-



land. I do not know how they were killed but the odds are that it was far from humane. (Animal Liberation recognises the need for population control but asks for humane treatment of these animals.) Similarly, the rats used in Biology have had a life of misery, being bred in the sterile environment of a laboratory and used in first year psychology experiments, constantly being moved from cage to cage, maze to maze. By taking part in dissections, students are supporting the industries which thrive on animal exploitation. The alternative practical supports an ethical idea not an unethical one.

- It is startling to hear many discussions on campus between either psychology or past Biology students about practicals involving rats. In each and every one of these conversations the sentient animal is being discussed as a subject of ridicule, a 'mere thing' that

**By doing the alternative demonstrate that we as students will not tolerate disrespect for our ethical standpoint**

students are given the 'sheer delight of "conditioning" in mazes or ruthlessly carving'. (It may not be surprising to hear that these conversations were between males.) By making animal experiments and dissections a part of a course, the academics involved are

endorsing this viewpoint of animals as mere resources not worthy of any form of respect and who knows what repercussions this has when such students come into contact with animals in situations other than those they encounter in educational institutions. The alternative practical is completely innocent of these charges of desensitisation of students and the encouragement of disrespect for animals.

- The youth of today are more concerned about the relationship between nature and humankind. We are one of the first generations to be seeing firsthand the detrimental consequences that has resulted from the long held belief that "nature is expendable and we can use its resources as we please because we are the mighty human race". We have come to terms with the fact that this viewpoint needs to be reassessed if life is to be sustained on earth. The fostering of this new age viewpoint, that nature should be treated with respect should be encouraged. This is clearly not being done in the Biology laboratories during dissection practical sessions. On the other hand, the alternative practical demonstrates one's pride in being a member of this new conscientious generation.

## The Alternative

What is the alternative? Well, they (the notorious Biology academics) have not been professional enough to give any details to abstaining students about what the alternative practical will consist of but reassure us (and they have to stand by their word) that it will be as time consuming as the dissection practicals, be of equal difficulty and will be marked fairly. Students need to

approach Dr Margaret Davies in the Zoology Department before 17th August telling her you will be taking the alternative practical, and on 18th August your new ethical dissection manuals will be put into your pigeon hole. We realise that this puts students in a difficult (and unfair!) predicament. Clearly, it is another tactic by the academics to deter people from taking the alternative. But unfortunately, this is the situation and if the dissection cause is to be furthered one has to not succumb to their deliberate intimidation. The alternative practical needs to be supported if this unfair forcing of one to subdue compassionate emotions is to be rid of.

## What is Needed?

The Anti Dissection movement on this campus is sure to be an ongoing campaign and, no doubt, as each year it grows in supporters, and insight into the whole situation is more thorough, the movement will gain in strength.

Sign the petition in the SAUA office saying that you oppose the use of students' fees to support needless animal exploitation.

**As a Biology student, refuse to dissect! Don't be apathetic and overlook the anti dissection positions convincing arguments! Be courageous by refusing to succumb to the dogmatism and intimidation of the Biology academics! Challenge them! By doing the alternative demonstrate that we as students won't tolerate such disrespect for our ethical standpoint! Show them and other students that the alternative practical is the ethical thing to do and it isn't necessary to dissect to do Biol-**

# Federal Budget- more bad news for students?

**Budget heralds further attacks on Education Education is a right, not a privilege. However, the ALP government has continued to drastically cut back on AUSTUDY and the funding of universities, whilst the Liberals' proposals are no better. Yet in these times of great hardship for students, there seems to be little student action. This is not because of a general apathy, for most students are angry, but there has been few student groups willing to organise any mass protest.**

When the Whitlam government abolished tertiary fees and introduced a primitive income support scheme, higher education became an option for broader sections of society. Now, a Labor government is in the middle of removing the option of a decent education for all.

In the August budget of 1986, the Hawke government introduced a \$250 'administration fee'. The student movement argued then that this was the initial stage towards full up-front fees, and the advent of HECS has shown that the fears were well grounded. HECS is yet another setback to the idea that there should be a social responsibility for the socially useful task of education.

Now, the proposition that full up-front fees are around the corner is very realistic. Most overseas students are forced to pay fees, as are many postgraduate students. These fees range from \$6,000 to \$33,000 in some courses at the University of Melbourne.

At the same time, we are hearing proposals from different sections of the education bureaucracy and other right-wing forces that will severely limit access to education and continue commercialising, privatising and deregulating education. The infamous 'Chapman Report' aims to tighten the eligibility rules for AUSTUDY, thereby saving 5% of its 1.1 billion dollar slice of the budget. Whilst 2/3 of students were eligible for AUSTUDY's 1970's form, only 1/3 are currently eligible, with many of these not receiving the full rate. The independent rate of AUSTUDY is 70% of the poverty line. Yet to be eligible for this, a student has to be over 25 years old, or have an extraneous reason. This drives many students to marriage to get any AUSTUDY at all.

Students may have been living away from home for years, yet they can still be means tested on the parents' income. On top of this, Chapman has proposed (and this will certainly be in this year's Budget) a loans scheme to be used as well as AUSTUDY. This could have some students leaving university with a debt of tens of thousands of dollars.

Whilst the ALP government has been cutting back on income support, it has also cut back on funding for university places. From \$9,870 funding per full-time tertiary student in 1983 to \$8,858 in 1990, over 10% has been cut not even allowing for inflation. To meet the demand of tens of thousands of qualified school leavers who can't get into university, the government has funded 600 extra places.

At the same time, the government is trying to encourage more entrants in TAFE courses, providing an extra 11,000 places this year and pledging to fund another 22,000 next year. Yet this year 30,000 were turned away and an estimated 135,000 will be turned away next year. TAFE has a greater attraction for government funding because it is already funded at half the level of tertiary education and many courses already carry fees, as well as an administrative charge of up to \$460 a year.



As well, most TAFE courses are directly related to careers and are defined by the needs of big business.

This orientation is increasingly the case with tertiary education. Currently around half of all courses are vocational. Engineering, science and computer courses have an increasing number of places whilst arts faculties are attempting to meet increased demand at a time of funding cutbacks.

The policies proposed by the ALP are magnified by the Liberal Party. The Libs advocate entry to university through a voucher system where a prospective student is given a 'voucher' which could be used at any institution, entitling that institution to a certain amount of funding. This system would give total freedom to any university to accept students on the basis of fees alone and would leave open the possibility that the vouchers would be funded at less than the cost of providing that course. This would either drive down the quality of education or force institutions to charge full or part fees. Campuses with 'better' reputations could be able to attract large fee-paying students, further reinforcing reputations and stalling the development of 'lesser' universities.

If the proposals of both major parties differ only in the pace of change towards full-fees education, then how can we prevent it? Only through mass action can the student movement influence these two parties. Demonstrating to show our dissatisfaction, our anger, is the most effective form of protest. The student movement needs to

show the government of Australia, Labor or Liberal, that it is pissed off. We know it is possible to organise mass opposition to the attacks on education - as shown in 1986. The challenge for the student movement is to find the ways to draw together the broadest campaign of opposition to these attacks. The key to this will be putting forward the political demands that are the most likely to bring the largest amount of people into a campaign to defend and improve the education system.

Considering we are all part of our society, then Resistance's demands are surely common to all of us.

- We demand free education for all.
- We demand an immediate increase in AUSTUDY of at least 25% and wider eligibility.
- We demand increased funding to universities.
- We don't want a loans scheme.

(The political demands of many student organisations and 8 pages of information on education in Australia is available in this week's 'Green Left Weekly' (Issue 66). Sponsored nationally by many student groups, this is a comprehensive look at the state of education today.) We students are angry at under-funding and over-crowding. Given that the Budget appears next week, and is likely to further degrade our education system and the time is ripe for demanding.

*Free education for all.*

**Adelaide University Resistance Club**

## Young writers perform

The SA Writer's centre, in association with Carclew Youth Arts Centre Tapas Restaurant are presenting a third season of New Writing Performed at Tapas Restaurant on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th of September. The guests will include the internationally acclaimed poet Les Murray, as well as Peter Goldworthy, Biff Ward, Barry Westburg and other prominent local and interstate writers and will cover a range of styles, from poetry to comedy.

Submissions from young writers interested in being involved are now being sought. Writing of any kind will be considered - poetry, prose or whatever - all that matters is that work be original and entertaining.

To be eligible, you must be 28 or under, and should send a sample of their work - 3000 words of prose or 10-15 poems together with a stamped addressed envelope to:

New Writing  
c/o The Literature Project Officer  
Carclew Youth Arts Centre  
11 Jeffcott St  
North Adelaide



# A cause for celebration?

**October of this year marks the 500th anniversary of the "discovery" of the Americas by Christopher Columbus in 1492. European and American governments are funding celebrations to commemorate this event to the tune of millions of dollars and promoting the arrival of Columbus as "a meeting of two worlds"**

Yet, this "meeting" was no cause for celebration for the indigenous people of Latin America. While the traditional imperialist history books carp on about introducing Christianity, "civilisation" and modern development, the true facts of the matter include misery, disease, persecution and the systematic genocide of nearly an entire people. It is estimated that the entire population of Latin America dropped from 40 million people in 1500 AD to 12 million people in 1650 AD. That's more than two thirds of Latin America's entire indigenous population. European conquerors trampled over the highly sophisticated and developed indigenous culture through environmental exploitation, cultural destruction and an imposed social order and religion.

By now, the parallel with Australia should be obvious. The destruction, exploitation and near total annihilation of the Australian Aboriginal population following Arthur Phillip's arrival on this continent's shores mirrors perfectly the events following Columbus' arrival in the Americas.

It is for these similarities that Australia should be particularly emphatic and supportive of the 500 Years Campaign being conducted this year to celebrate 500 years of indigenous and popular resistance to colonisation of the Americas. The

campaigns celebrate the courage and dignity with which America's inhabitants faced the atrocities and barbarities of European colonisation. Imperialist invaders assumed that the natives of "Pacha Mama" (the original inhabitant's name for the American continent) were backward and uncivilised. In fact, they possessed complex social, economic and political structures which the First World is only now beginning to show interest in. For example, the agricultural techniques of indigenous people are now the subject of serious study from the First World, as is the astronomy and mathematics of America's original inhabitants. That this culture and knowledge was completely ignored in favour of exploitation of the land its people makes a mockery of the "meeting of two worlds" catchphrase behind the 1992 imperialist celebrations.

Instead, Latin America's conquerors concentrated on extracting all the wealth they could from the continent, mining it for precious minerals, burning its forests to grow new crops like sugar and cocoa for profit, and introducing foreign plants and animals. The shocking rape of Latin America's environment paled in comparison to the treatment its original inhabitants received from the colonists. Millions were forced to work in mines as slaves - those who protested were simply exterminated.

Today, Latin America's relationship with Western capitalist countries may be less obviously exploitative and barbaric, but it essentially remains unchanged. Although Latin America's governments are now elected, they are comprised of the political representatives of the ruling classes and rule with repressive policies no different to those of the previous military dictators. These governments serve the interests of Transnationals and First World Capital, continuing to service the enormous external debt at the expense of their own people, of which 35% are unemployed and over half live in poverty.

It is in response to the Latin American situation - past and present that the 500 Years Campaign has arisen.. Part of the

campaign will concentrate on revealing aspects of the America's history and culture which has been hidden since colonisation, including religion, society and art.

Because suffering of native Latin Americans continues today, the campaign will also focus on the current situation, particularly the foreign debt crisis and political oppression.

The 500 Years Campaign is both a protest against the glorification of Columbus' "discovery" of the Americas as a "meeting of two worlds" and a celebration of courage with which Latin America's indigenous people continue their ongoing struggle. In Australia, the campaign has a number of particular objectives which include informing Australians about the problems facing Indigenous people in the American continent and fostering solidarity and mutual support with Australia's Aboriginal population.

If you are interested in the campaign, come to Meeting Room 1 on 12th August, 1 pm, when the Amnesty International and the 500 Years of Indigenous and Popular Resistance Struggle Committee will screen a video about the campaign with some guest speakers from South America. You can also find out more about the campaign or make a donation by writing to P.O. Box 91, Kilkenny, 5009, S.A.

**Georgina Safe**

## STA cuts services

**The real reason Adelaide lost its bid for the Commonwealth Games is that the public transport budget wouldn't cover the cost of importing rickshaws from Kuala Lumpur to replace the dying public transport system.**

If, after the 16th August, you find yourself missing more buses than usual, it's because the STA has eliminated the service you were using. On that date, the STA will transfer its operations from the Hackney depot to Mile End. At the same time, existing resources will be poured into a differently shaped service network with many of the existing services being lost *en route*. The diminution of services will mean that less people will be able or likely to use public transport. Incredible as it may seem, the resultant decrease in patronage is precisely the aim of the STA's covert strategy of which these new cuts are a part.

In 1988, the STA hired an American public transport mercenary, G.J. Fielding, to ratify the policy they had been implementing since 1985. The particular qualities Mr Fielding brought to the project were the ability to say "yes" in every language ever used to write the words "Hail Bus Here", and the security that he wouldn't have to live in Adelaide after sentencing the public transport system to death.

The STA's annual reports since 1986 show that there has been a decrease in the number of passenger journeys, concomitant with an increase in operating cost recovery every year hence. That is, the more passengers the public transport system loses by making itself unattractive, the more public money it saves. An example of the myopic logic the STA uses to balance its budget was last year's attempt to rescind student travel concessions. The anticipated increase in revenue of up to \$6.6 million from higher fares would have been small change compared to the savings from an expected patronage de-

crease (i.e. students) of approximately 9% in the four peak hours of use each day.

The STA must wait gleefully for the impact of cuts which are becoming more regular than Frank Blevins. They need only to nudge the feedback cycle by making public transport less accessible, which deters users and in turn justifies further contraction of the service. More than 70% of persons who do not usually travel to work on public transport cited the inadequacy of the service as the reason they didn't use it.

The limbo in which Adelaide's public transport floats, between an adequate self-funding system and the total dismantling of a palsied public burden, kept alive, to quote Mr Fielding, for "... those individuals without cars (who will often be of modest means)" cannot be maintained. While cities like Toronto, Seattle and Brussels are investing in their transit systems as integral components of urban development (and consequently turning them into cost efficient public assets), the STA persists in driving our public transport system backwards with the handbrake on.

Not investing in public transport infrastructure to build a reasonable system is expensive for the public. The cost to the community of infrastructure for increased private transport to replace public transport is orders of magnitude higher. If the State Government is allowed to pursue policies which find tooth extraction more cost effective than fillings, Adelaide will soon become a congested city with a toothless frown.

**Patrick O'Connor**



# Illegal fees

## ILLEGAL FEES

In a letter to tertiary institutions dated 22nd July, 1991. The Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) stated its guidelines on illegal student charges.

Institutions, by charging fees other than the HECS are in breach of the Higher Education Funding Act 1988 (HEFA) s. 18(1) which reads as follows;

13(c) The State will ensure that each university and college of advanced education situated in the state does not charge any student fees in respect of that year or a part of that year.

This means that charging a fee for late enrolment and late withdrawal from a course is, in effect, illegal. Further, whilst the Union fee is exempt from the DEET guidelines (since it entails membership of a student organisation separate from the state.), institutions are however illegally levying students for its late payment.

However, when the DEET guidelines appeared last year as an attempt to define to students and institutions alike what is legal or otherwise, it was clear that the government had once more changed the rules to suit its own purposes. Thus fees for late enrolment, etc., now masquerade under the warm title of "fines and penalties". As DEET explained; "such a charge is levied solely or principally as a disincentive and not in order to cover administrative costs or raise revenue." But it can indeed be argued that the very bending of the rules by the government exemplifies exactly how important charges like these are to raise revenue and cover costs.

It seems, though that there is still uncertainty under which category certain charges lie. For example in the library a borrowed book deemed missing collects not only the replacement cost of the item, but a "non refundable handling charge of \$30.00." Under the DEET guidelines, this is indeed an illegal charge.

Monica Carroll, the SAUA Project/Research Officer said last week that, by the DEET definition, the library should not be charging for reshelving in the first place. Indeed, it is the stance of the Students Association that the definition of such charges should be made clearer to all students. As MS Carroll said: "We don't think the solution is to turn the library charge into a 'penalty or fine', but rather to abolish the fee altogether."

The second principle used by DEET to categorize charges involves course materials. The letter argues that the purchase of lecture notes or fees for computer usage are not classified as fees "so long as it is not a compulsory" requirement for course completion. This presents more than a few problems. In the case of field trips for some science students, non attendance is looked upon as a disadvantage, however obviously many students will be at that disadvantage for financial reasons. In the same sense, where the purchase of photocopied lecture notes may not be compulsory per se, to pass a given course, possession of such notes may be imperative.

The whole issue is more complicated than it appears and certainly demands greater clarity. The SAUA is currently seeking from the University a list of fees being charged to students in the hope to make clear which fees are indeed legal and those that should be abolished.

The legal/illegal fees question raises the further issue of the adequacy of university funding. This is particularly contentious at the moment with the current university budget blow out. It is important at this time that students are not made responsible to cover departmental or university losses.

Fiona Dalton

# Republic Debate

Sydney was celebrating its 150th birthday. There was cake. Music. Parades. Naval ships. Naval officers. And the Australian Republican Movement. Of course.

For, on Saturday, 18th July, the Australian Republican Movement marked the first anniversary of its formation with a seminar and public meeting at the University of New South Wales.

Chaired by the irrepressible Malcolm Turnbull, the morning seminar dealt with the issues of electing the President and determining the powers of the President in the forthcoming republic.

After Professor George Winterton and political scientist Elaine Thompson presented their contrary views, the audience was invited to participate in the discussion. And what a bun fight it was! Arguments - about New Federalism, states' rights, political factions, immigration and the price of tea in China - flew thick and fast. With a wave of his hand, Malcolm Turnbull pointed out that these very interesting issues were really quite separate from the issue of republicanism, and *let's get down to business*.

After the media's figurative feeding-frenzy at lunchtime, the day continued with the public meeting. Chaired by Geraldine Doogue, the meeting included speeches from Tom Keneally, Malcolm Turnbull, Professor Donald Horne, Franca Arena MLC, diplomat and writer Alison Broinowsky, and President of the Sydney Uni Republican Club, Michael Fullilove. "I came here," said Tom Keneally, "to argue against the purblind view which has it that there is utterly no nexus between our Constitutional arrangements and our general national health ... I argue that so many of our present problems grow out of an old dependence." Right on, Tom.

Feminist blood was stirred by Franca Arena's speech in which she pointed out that our Crown still guarantees preference in the line of succession to male heirs over female heirs. What ever happened to equal opportunity, I ask you. Student Michael Fullilove, a mere young thing at 20, earned for himself a standing ovation, while Tony Pooley, Executive Officer of ARM, had the audience rolling in the aisles. How does he keep a straight face?

And the last news is this: you do not have to go to Sydney to join in the republican frolics. Republican frolics are coming to you right here on campus. Get yourself along to the debate, "That we should keep our Queen" (Wednesday, 12th August, Union Cinema, 1 pm) then to the IGM of the AU Republican Association (Tuesday, 18th August, Jerry Portus Room, 1 pm) and finally to the lunchtime visit from Tom Keneally and Tony Pooley (Thursday, 20th August, Union Cinema, 1 pm). Citizens and subjects, be there.

Stephanie Pribil

# Adelaide Men's movement

**On Friday evening of 17th July, I, with around 40 others attended a meeting presented by the Adelaide Men's Centre. The Adelaide Men's Centre, an affiliate of the COPE Centre, was established some time ago to address problems pertaining specifically to men.**

Not only does the group offer a counselling service but numerous seminars, film nights and other educational programmes addressing men's issues. This particular evening we were to watch a film, 'A Gathering of Men', which would be followed by an open discussion in response to it.

Prior to the meeting, I had little idea of what to expect. What I did know was that the film was focused primarily on the growing men's movement in the United States and particularly on the man responsible for its formation and coordination, poet, Robert Bly. Initially, I was a little dubious. Not only was I afraid that we would be flooded with a lot of selfish introspective wank, but also that the film and movement may in some way be intended to downgrade the achievements of the feminist movement. This fear, however, was pre-empted

by Bly himself who, within the first few minutes of the film, stated categorically that the men's movement was in no way intended as a backlash against the women's movement. By the end of the film, I was convinced of this. In fact, far from being a threat, the goals of the men's movement, if achieved, could arguably aid women in their uphill battle.

To examine every message which the film was attempting to impart would be impossible here. Very simply though, it was an examination of the difficulties that men face in relating emotionally, particularly with other men. Robert Bly proposes various explanations for this. One theory is that from the time of the industrial revolution, men have been forced out of the home to work. As a result, Bly argues their families only seem them when they are tired and frustrated and often don't see their father/partner in any other light. This, Bly goes on, poses a particular problem for sons because it means that they are denied strong male role models; men who can relate to other men and women on an emotional level. The implication of Bly's argument is that daughters do not experience the same difficulties in relating emotionally because they find role models in their mothers or in other women who have freer and closer emotional relationships and with whom they often spend more time. The

film does acknowledge the fact that this situation may alter, and similar problems arise, as more women move into high-powered and stressful careers. For historically determined reasons, however, it remains today a primarily male problem and a problem with no simple solution. Since many men experience emotional problems derived in part from their role in the work force, then it is clear that men's emotional problems are intimately tied to our social and economic structures. Furthermore, they are reasserted by traditional ideological perceptions of the male as the protector and provider. Bly does not propose a radical social or economic transformation as a means of finding solutions. What he does propose is that men develop an awareness of the problems they have in relating intimately with one another and that the older men make a positive effort to develop closer relationships with their sons and other younger men.

Although directed largely at men, the film had obvious significance for women also. This fact was particularly clear following the film when we broke into two groups (male and female) to discuss our responses to it. Some women, particularly older women who had husbands, children and in some instances grandchild-

dren, responded with intense emotion to what they had seen. For many of them, the film had illuminated the lack of emotion in their own relationships with their husbands and in particular in the relationships which their husbands shared with their children. At the same time, many of these women clearly felt inspired and liberated by the film. They were determined not only that these relationships should improve, but were relieved that men were starting to take emotional responsibility for themselves and others, thus relieving the woman of the burden of being the 'family psychologist'.

Robert Bly has been attacked by various feminist critics and yet it seems to me that before the feminist movement can realise its goals it must be willing to incorporate not only a far greater number of women but men also. Surely a movement which encourages men to express themselves emotionally and thus encourages greater openness between men and women is a step in the right direction for both sexes.

Kate Wait





# THE SEXUAL PERSONAE

**Monica Carroll (finally) gives us the second part of her feature on provocative writer Camille Paglia.**

**Camille Paglia exhibits an unflagging zest for throwing tact to the winds when expounding her views on sensitive social issues.** She has achieved notoriety for her unabashed "pro-pornography, child pornography, snuff films" stance, designed to encourage the censorious counter-attacks of feminists.<sup>1</sup> Paglia does not see pornography in terms of exploitation, but considers the crux of the matter to be one of acknowledging the all-pervasive influence of Mother Nature: the "ritually limited visual expression of the daemonism of sex and nature. Every shot, every angle in pornography ... is yet another attempt to get the whole picture of the enormity of chthonian nature."<sup>2</sup> The female body is as anxiously provoking as it is alluring.

By this logic, pornography is "Art" owing to its "ritual exhibition of primal mysteries. Art makes order of

nature's cyclonic brutality. Art ... is full of crimes."<sup>3</sup> Paglia's rationalisation of pornography presents it as the most graphic expression of paganism's continuity in Western culture. She considers it necessary for society to be in communion with its murkier depths and uglier tendencies, and thus holds that pornography should be visible. Attempting to banish it from society's eyes is futile, for it will continue to flourish underground, enhancing its appeal. That which is forbidden does have a way of becoming more highly charged in attraction value, but on the other hand, familiarity certainly breeds contempt. The ready availability of the so-called 'soft core' type (a la *People magazine* and its ilk adorning the entrances of the corner shop and the newsagency) in our society makes normative the belittling of women's equal worth.

The 'soft' variety of pornography is embarrassingly less than adult, its sniggering voyeurism confining sexuality to adolescent prurience, whereas 'hard core' pornography that is sadistic possesses a pathological force that is alarmingly less than human. Paglia's

inclusion of child pornography and snuff films among her libertarian causes displays her willingness to cross the border into crank country for the sake of incurring the wrath of feminists. While Paglia's Nature-centred explanation for aspects of pornography probably possesses more than an element of truth, it does not follow that pornography ought to be considered in symbolic terms, rather than those which focus on its simultaneously sordid and pathetic character and its implications for human dignity.

Paglia's attitude to prostitution is no less reflective of her penchant for making quirky observations/assertions. Valour is not a quality one would normally associate with men who make use of prostitutes, yet Paglia designates the act as one of "valiantly striving to keep sex free from emotion, duty, family - in other words from society, religion, and procreative Mother Nature."<sup>4</sup> There is no attempt to understand or even consider the viewpoint of the woman providing the 'service'. Paglia may discern a grand design in pornography and prostitution, but by shifting the focus to intellectual analysis, she diminishes the scope of such complicated issues. Social and ethical considera-

tions cannot be so easily brushed aside.

The loathing which feminists reserve for Paglia is hardly surprising. She is dismissed as an apologist for patriarchy, a woman who takes pride in denigrating other women, and one of the vanguard of the backlash against feminism, all the more dangerous because she is a woman. Paglia is unmoved by their enmity. She considers herself a feminist who opposes what she regards as feminism's deterioration from its original objective of achieving political equality for women to an ideology predicated on a victim mentality. She castigates feminists for ignoring men's achievements (a valid viewpoint), but manages to relegate to irrelevance feminism's considerable impact on Western society in seeking to advance the status of, and possibilities for, women.

One can agree with Paglia that there is a tendency in feminism to refuse recognition of the limitations of human nature. Similar optimism (despite the lessons of history and our own times) is found in other left-liberal and left-wing ideologies. Paglia scorns the belief that problems can be solved by legislation and social engineering, owing

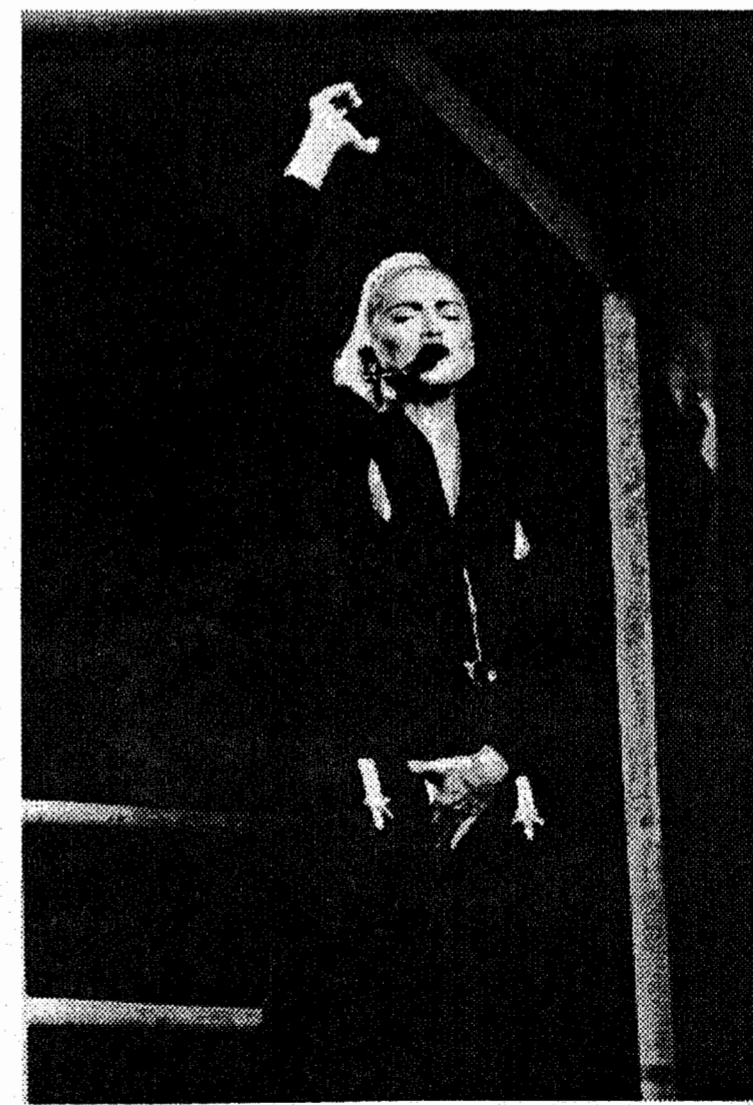


to their origin in the dimension of turbulent, irrational human nature. However, her brand of realism degenerates all too readily into an 'anything goes' mentality, which antagonises not only feminists but other women, and men, who oppose attitudes that reinforce some of the worst aspects of the ways in which men have traditionally related to women. Paglia argues that women are empowered by their erotic hold over men, but such a view is only too reminiscent of the novelist Balzac's declaration that woman's glory lies in her ability to arouse the passions of men, and as such her true destiny lies in her being a 'chattel'.

The issue of rape is a social minefield into which Paglia strides. Whereas she does not dismiss rape lightly in *Sexual Personae*, considering it "no more to be excused than is murder or any other assault on another's civil rights"<sup>5</sup>, elsewhere her approach is cavalier. In a two part interview with the popular music magazine *Spin* (published in the United States), among other opinions let fly by Paglia were those to do with rape; she said that feminists over-reacted to rape and women had to anticipate rape if they placed themselves in certain situations. She considers the kind of sexual

freedom she and other women fought for in the 1960s to be one in which women are fully cognisant of their gamble with men: "... go for it, take the risk, take the challenge - if you get raped, if you get beat up in a dark alley in a street, it's okay ... Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and go on."<sup>6</sup>

Rape is a brutal fact of life, but Paglia's pragmatism is less than balanced. She stresses the need for women to assume control of their sex lives and recognise the aggressive sexual drives of men, but her deterministic perspective of men's sexuality does nothing to answer the question of why the onus should be on women in matters of sexual consent and coercion. While it is true that individual responsibility does not have enough currency among social commentators in the prevailing left-leaning intellectual climate, Paglia's invocation of personal responsibility in the context of rape is a travesty. She offers an alibi for potential and actual rapists, informing women it is they who are ultimately responsible for men. Her prescription for dealing with sexual harassment has been doled out on talk shows, and in essence is a jeremiad against women who fail to make their feelings and intentions clear.



**Madonna - "revealing the eroticism and sadomasochism ..in Roman Catholicism"**

The *Spin* magazine interview exemplifies Paglia's bellicosity. Outside *Sexual Personae* with its coruscating prose and stimulating arguments, her manner is rasping and, not infrequently, consummately callous. Her opinion on domestic violence is symptomatic: "It's so misinterpreted, the way we have to constantly look at it in terms of male oppression and tyranny, and female victimization. When, in fact, everyone knows throughout the world that many of these working-class relationships where women get beat up often have hot sex. They ask why she won't leave him? Maybe she won't leave him because the sex is very hot. I say we should start looking at the battered-woman motif in terms of sex."<sup>7</sup> It may very well be the case that domestic violence in some cases evinces a pleasure-pain predilection; the economic reliance of women on men cannot constitute the sole reason for the continuation of these kinds of relationships. However, Paglia displays again her tendency to trivialise contentious social issues in her reaction against what she sees as feminism's eagerness to underestimate defective human nature's unpredictable and tempestuous aspects. Sexual arousal through the perpetration of, or subjection to, violence may be a neglected angle from which to look at the problem, but the fact remains that domestic violence is made no more palatable by, nor are solutions any more feasible with, the kind of speculation Paglia advocates.

On a more positive note, Paglia accepts and promotes the validity of popular culture. Her appreciation of the Madonna phenomenon extends beyond the singer's gargantuan status as popular icon to the realm of archetypal impulses. Paglia insists that paganism survived in Roman Catholicism, pointing to art which exemplifies tumultuous nature in its fusion of eroticism and suffering: two instances are the St Sebastian motif, a comely, near naked youth transfixed by arrows, and Renaissance artist Bernini's famous sculpture of St Theresa of Avila swooning suggestively under the impact of a mystical experience. According to Paglia: "The latest atavistic discoverer of the pagan heart of Catholicism is Madonna ... She doesn't completely understand it herself. When she goes on *Nightline* and makes speeches celebrating the body, as if she's some sort of Woodstock hippy, she's way off. She needs me to tell her. But this is what she's doing - revealing the eroticism and sadomasochism, the pagan ritu-

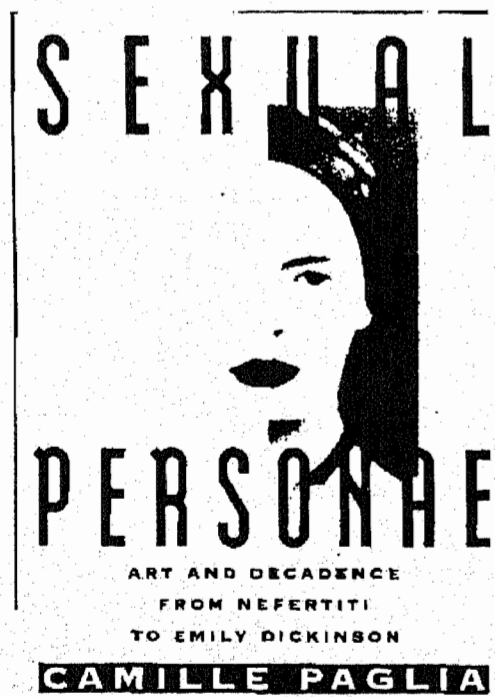
alism and idolatry in Roman Catholicism."<sup>8</sup>

Paglia provides new insight to the theatrical and therapeutic elements of Madonna's lapsed Catholicism. Madonna is not so much the patron saint of the profane, as the ritualist almost obsessively enacting the quandary of desire and denial, by turns intimating and flaunting the pleasure that can be derived from both. The video clip of *Like A Prayer* is the signal instance of the astuteness of Paglia's observation. The volcano of outrage that erupted over the video clip had its origins in Madonna's use of religious symbolism rather than the backdrop of burning crosses and the energetic dancing in church. The catalysing factors were Madonna giving herself the stigmata with a knife and her progression from kissing the feet of a statue of the black saint Martin de Porres (not a black Christ as some alleged) to a devoutly sensual encounter with him on the church floor. The inseparable themes of dominance and submission ran rampant throughout Madonna's *Blonde Ambition* show, and no doubt will provide material for Paglia's forthcoming book in which she endeavours to demonstrate the essential paganism of popular culture.

Camille Paglia welcomes attention; the less congenial the better. It is all grist to her mill, which will keep grinding irrespective of adverse publicity. Paglia's views articulate some hard facts of life and provide a feisty critique of fashionable ideologies, but they are problematic in their emphases and conclusions. Nevertheless, the challenge of *Sexual Personae* compels its readers to define their ideas more incisively. Short of Paglia being spirited away by the makers of a snuff film before the publication of her next book, there is little reason to suppose she will not continue her maverick's progress.

#### Footnotes

- 1 - Page 48, "The Bete Noir of Feminism", *Time*, January 13, 1992.
- 2 - Pages 34 to 35, *Sexual Personae*.
- 3 - Page 34, *Ibid*.
- 4 - Page 140, "Women on Men: The Uneasy State of Masculinity Now", *Esquire*, October 1991.
- 5 - Page 23, *Sexual Personae*.
- 6 - Page 104, "Antihero, part one", *Spin*, September 1991.
- 7 - Page 84, "Antihero, part two", *Spin*, October 1991.
- 8 - Page 46, "She Wants Her TV! He Wants His Book! A (mostly) polite conversation about our image culture", *Harper's*, March 1991.



**"Paglia considers herself a feminist who opposes what she regards as feminism's deterioration from its original objective of achieving political equality for women to an ideology predicated on a victim mentality."**

# Is there a case for the legalization of drugs?

**Whenever someone argues that drug laws should be liberalised, that person is targetted. The proponent is viewed as someone who believes that drugs are good, which clearly sets her/himself apart from the general community, and therein means the arguments for drug law reform are lost amidst a morass of moralism. In saying this, let me make it clear that this is not an article that argues because heroin might be fun it should ergo appear between the chocolate bars and packet pasta at Woolworths.**

I seek to make no comment on my personal view of drug use, rather intend to show the problems in maintaining the current criminal drug governance system. The first point that must be made, is one of contextualisation. As a society, we must accept that people have always taken drugs, are currently using them and will into the future. It is simply not

enough of a justification to assert that because you believe people should not take drugs that, that of itself, means a system of criminality. Any discussion of what system should be employed to govern drugs has to be made on the predication that there are users. On this necessary predication, the existing regime falls down on three points:

1. medical
2. social; and
3. humanitarian.

Firstly, analysing the medical component of this argument. Under a criminal system, the demand for drugs, like anything, will be satisfied by an illegal black market. The risks of being a supplier in this market are clearly high and therefore much higher prices must be asked to offset this risk. Furthermore, an unregulated system of organised crime means an absence of quality control procedures, with drug users entirely dependent on the charity and compassion of those persons illegally supplying for quality substances.

The reality of these factors is that drug users are often put at enormous health risk. The findings of the Liverpool Mersey Clinic support this. At this clinic, such drugs as heroin, cocaine and methadone are available freely under the National Health Scheme. They acknowledge that a drug like heroin runs a career life with little, if any, long term neurophysiological effect when used in controlled and educated circumstances. Consequently, there are many cases of heroin users eventually ceasing use after an extended period of time without deleterious effect.

This is juxtaposed with the actuality of what kills drug users or at least places them in serious health jeopardy. The fact that drugs are often cut with other substances, such as battery acid, talcum powder and bleach. The fact that the pure constituency of the drug may be variable leading to overdose. The fact that unsafe equipment is often used in an environment where HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are very real concerns. And finally, the fact that the exorbitant prices charged for drugs generally leads users to some form of crime to sustain habits. A 1987 Bureau of Crime Statistics report indicates that



**What makes particular drug consumption acceptable and others not?**

nearly three in every four drug users in Australia are in that situation. Therefore, it is obvious that the medical problem of drugs is not one of the drugs per se, it is one of the results of a criminal system. It is one of high prices and impurities. The argument that is often put up against this is that drugs are addictive which, of itself, is an undesirable thing. Well, yes, many drugs are addictive but they will be taken regardless of the system that intends to control their use. In addition, this is not a general case. In the USA, for example, 20 million people have used cocaine but only 2 million use cocaine regularly. This hardly suggests mass addiction. Secondly, the social problem of maintaining the existing criminal regime. It is worth noting that as organised crime does satisfy the function of supplier to what must be seen as axiomatic demand, there is then strong incentive for those suppliers to consolidate their positions. At the extreme level, we see the emergence of the Columbian drug barons whose stop at nothing campaigns of fear and terror are able to generate. This in turn encourages corruption of public officials. The Barry Moysie affair in South Australia is a sobering reminder of the attraction to corruption resulting from criminality. Together with this is the point already made. The inflated prices that drug users must pay to sustain habits entices nearly 75% into criminal activity. When

in Amsterdam, possession of 2 mg of heroin was decriminalised, a fall of 85% was recorded in the following year for crime associated with the substance. Following from this is the point that in order to combat the increased crime associated with drugs, increased energy must be expended by our police forces and legal system more generally. We have jails, as in other countries that adopt a policy of user reduction, overflowing with drug related inmates. In Australia, one in every two prisoners is serving time for a drug related crime in a prison system that fosters a better and more hardened criminal upon her/his release. The cost of fighting drugs in Australia is estimated upward of \$2.5 billion annually. This says nothing of the opportunity cost of those funds and the time efforts of personnel. This says nothing of the vast medical cost of caring for those who have died or who have been placed in dire health straits as a consequence of criminality. This also says nothing of the incalculable human cost associated with such tragedies. Finally, the issue of humanitarianism. What we as a society must acknowledge is that people will always

**"The inflated prices that drug users must pay to sustain habits entices nearly 75% into criminal activity"**



**In Easy Rider Wyatt and Billy sit around a campfire, smoking marijuana and trying to have a sensible conversation**

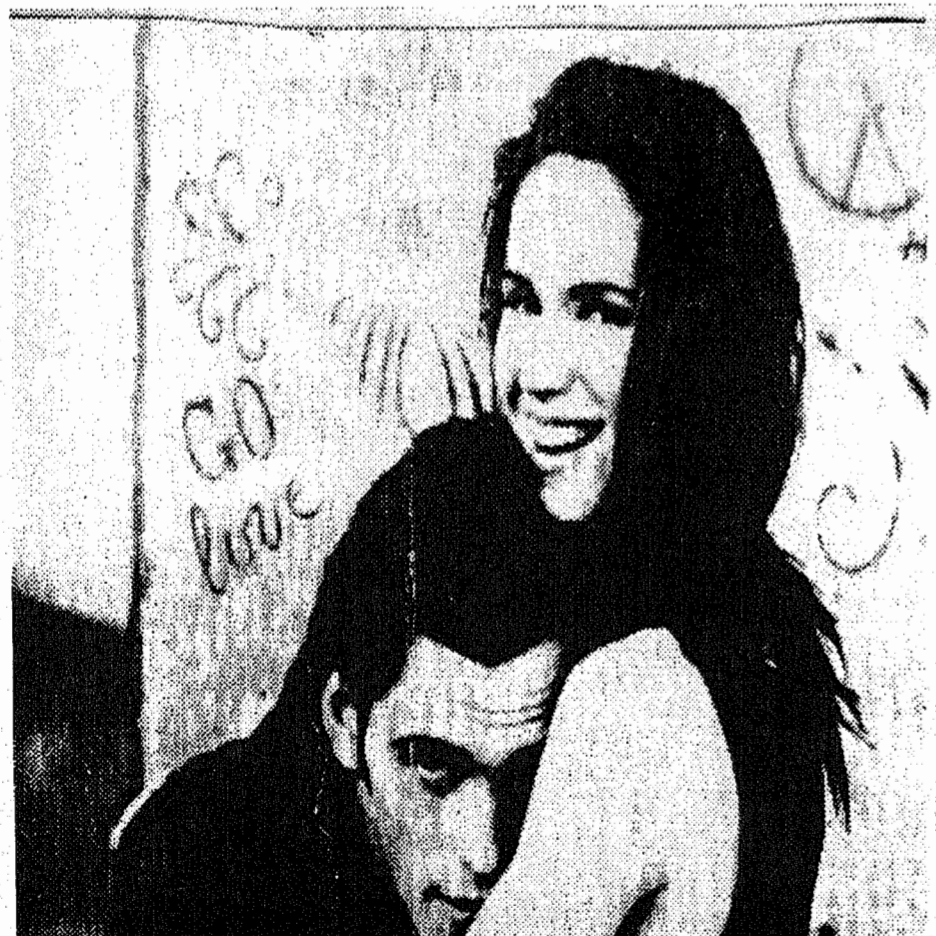
take drugs and subsequently in accordance with our responsibility to individuals, for their good and the broader collective good, ensure that such drug taking occurs in conditions whereby potential harm is minimised.

It is interesting to note that when in the Netherlands drug laws were liberalised, actual drug use fell as did criminality; with the nation now boasting lower than average rates of drug use and lower criminality related to drug use relative to the rest of the western world. This is attributed to the fact that with effective education about drugs and related issues and by removing the excitement incentive of doing that which is illegal, people have backed away. But for those who haven't a much safer, less threatening environment has been established. In the Australian context, tobacco consumption has fallen starkly through an effective education campaign. Not so, however, for those illegal drugs which are all characterised by increased consumption.

Therefore, a policy of harm minimisation can have positive effects on any user reduction objective.

What harm minimisation also does, however, is remove those incentives to organised crime in the area, free up police and judicial resources to chase real criminals and not your drug users who are compelled to engage in crime to sustain habits, frees up medical resources, allows for comprehensive education campaigns and improves quality control procedures. George Bush pompously and stupidly proclaimed that through toughening existing drug laws in the USA, his country would be drug free by 1995. It won't be. What we will see is the continued contemptuous dismissal of the deaths of fellow human beings, the contemptuous dismissal of encouraging crime and the contemptuous dismissal of resource wastage. The only people who gain from criminality are those involved in the tentacled structures of organised crime. And it is their concerns, I would have thought, that should be contemptuously dismissed.

**George Selvanera**



**Dillon and Lynch as junkie outlaws in 'Drugstore Cowboy'. Does the illegality of drugs glamorize their consumption?**

# On the poverty of Student Life

**When the National Union of Students representatives met with the Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services, Peter Baldwin, in early June, he made it very clear that the government is seriously considering introducing a loans scheme in their budget. The scheme under consideration proposes that students eligible for AUSTUDY would be able to 'trade in' part of their AUSTUDY grant for a loan worth twice the amount.**

This is defended as giving the students a "choice". The government is fully aware of Australian Bureau of Statistics figures which show that the average expenditure for a full-time student living away from home is \$10,624, whereas the maximum away from home AUSTUDY rate is \$6,123 per annum. In recession, when there is little part-time work available, it is clear that the only choice students will have is poverty or debt.

The government also knows that the current AUSTUDY grants scheme is inequitable and contains many anomalies. Nearly every government or independent report on AUSTUDY has recommended that the age of independence be lowered to at least 21 years of age. NUS believes that the age of independence should be 18 years of age. One government report, commenting on the parental income test, remarked that the predecessor to AUSTUDY, TEAS, provided support for low income and 'average' families. Now its successor, AUSTUDY, through stringent income and assets tests, is directed to families on very low incomes. The level of parental income allowed before allowances were reduced (has) declined from 100 percent of average weekly earnings in 1974, to 64 percent in 1990.

Instead of repairing widely-recognised deficiencies in the AUSTUDY grants scheme, the government is considering the introduction of a regressive loans scheme. A long term implication of this proposal may be that the loan scheme will develop while the deficiencies in the grant-based scheme will remain or be exacerbated. Once the loans scheme is introduced, the danger is that, over time, the AUSTUDY grants scheme will be significantly eroded. The value of grants or their availability will be cut, forcing students to take on loans, live in poverty, or not participate in tertiary education.

In 1979 the Liberal government introduced the Visa Charge for overseas students. Initially \$250, by 1987 it had grown to nearly \$7000 per annum. Since then, under the ALP, the 'subsidised' program has been phased out and replaced with full fees for overseas students. The provision of tertiary education to overseas students is no longer seen as overseas aid but as a profit-orientated export industry.

When the ALP government rejected its free education platform and introduced the \$250 Higher Education Administration Charge in 1987, it said that this would not lead to tuition fees. The following year they allowed tertiary institutions to charge fees for postgraduate courses. In 1989 they introduced the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), promising

that it would not be increased above inflation. In 1991 the ALP increased HECS above inflation.

The supporters of fees and student loans base their arguments on three assertions.

First, great weight attached to that fact that, in general, students obtain greater income from employment on graduation than non-graduates. This ignores those students who do not complete their studies, and students who do not obtain large salaries such as unemployed graduates.

A recent survey by the Graduate Careers Council of Australia (GCCA) has shown that the number of graduate unemployed rose from 8.3% in 1990 to 15.3% in 1991.

The vast bulk of students in areas like the humanities, social sciences, nursing, teaching, and general science enter comparatively low salaried employment and the GCCA have also shown that graduate starting salaries are at their lowest since 1977. The median starting salary for graduates being 86.8% of average weekly earnings. The majority of TAFE students, who are charged up-front fees and would also be subject to loans, enter employment with salaries considerably lower than higher education graduates.

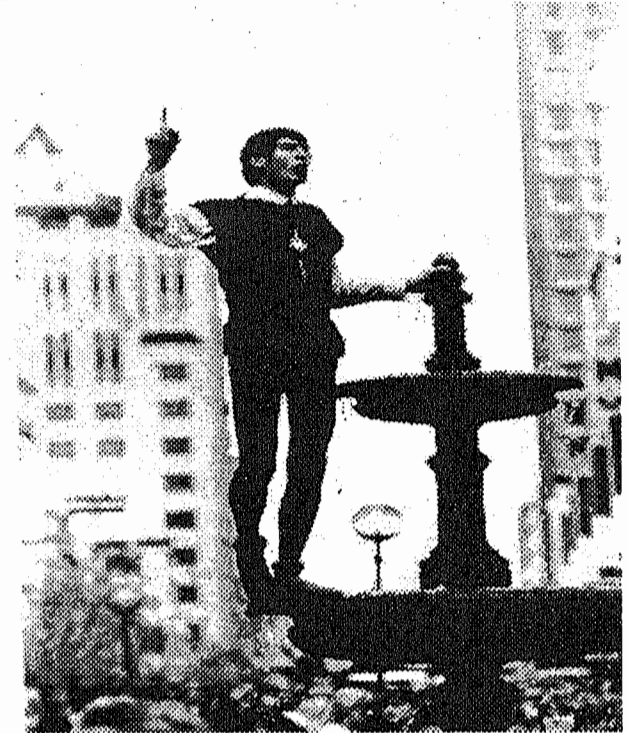
HECS and a system of student loans will mean that graduating students will face the burden of considerable debt for long periods of time after completing education. Those students are more likely to come from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds, and are also more likely to enter low paid professions such as nursing, teaching and other public service roles where slow wage growth will limit how quickly they can pay off their debt. Yet it will be these students who will leave higher education with a combined debt from HECS and student loans of around \$20,000.

Second, it is argued that students in higher education come predominantly from privileged backgrounds. However, tuition fees and loan schemes themselves act as a barrier to educational participation for low income and disadvantaged groups, further entrenching precisely this inequity. A 1989 study of the effect of HECS found that it was discouraging participation by students whose parents did not have tertiary qualifications and mature aged students. (Most mature aged students are women and tend to be from lower income backgrounds). A 1992 government study found that over one fifth of rural Year 12 students from low socio-economic backgrounds indicated that HECS would likely frustrate their intention to go on to higher education. The report also found that fifteen percent of Year 12 respondents from single parent households strongly agreed that HECS was an important reason for not undertaking higher education.

American experience has shown that the shift from a grant to a loans-based incomes support systems has led to reduced participation in higher education by black students.

The third argument used is that the government cannot afford to pay for an expansion of education and AUSTUDY. In fact, if we look at the Commonwealth record on funding of tertiary education we will find that there has been a decline in public funding from 6.3 to 4.7 percent of GDP from 1975 to 1990. Higher education expenditure declined from 1.35% in 1975 to 0.94% in 1991. Ron Cullen explains that the recent growth in higher education places has clearly been funded by students. The growth since 1988 has been less than 20%. An undergraduate student currently meets 25% of the average \$7,800 cost of an undergraduate program... It is clear who has funded the growth.

Students should not be penalised for this government's lack of commitment to education. If we want to create an equitable, non-class based education system, we should be increasing both the availability of AUSTUDY and the total number of tertiary places. The National Union of Students believes that the fairest way of funding education is through a progressive taxation system where *all* people are taxed according to their *actual income and wealth*, rather than their educational history background, or assumptions about future earnings. A government committed to an accessible and equitable system must substantially increase the availability of AUSTUDY grants and ensure that AUSTUDY provides an adequate living income. Loans are by the only threat, consider:



(a) In discussing how to fund the initial outlay for loans scheme in his original document, Chapman floated the idea of substantial increases to HECS.

(b) In 1991 the Vice-Chancellors recommended that the government allow institutions to "charge whatever level of fees market conditions and commercial responsibility justify" for Australian undergraduates.

(c) The Industry Commission, a government body which in 1991 also floated the idea of full fees for Australian undergraduates, has recommended to the government that it be given a brief to examine higher education funding generally. The government is considering the proposal.

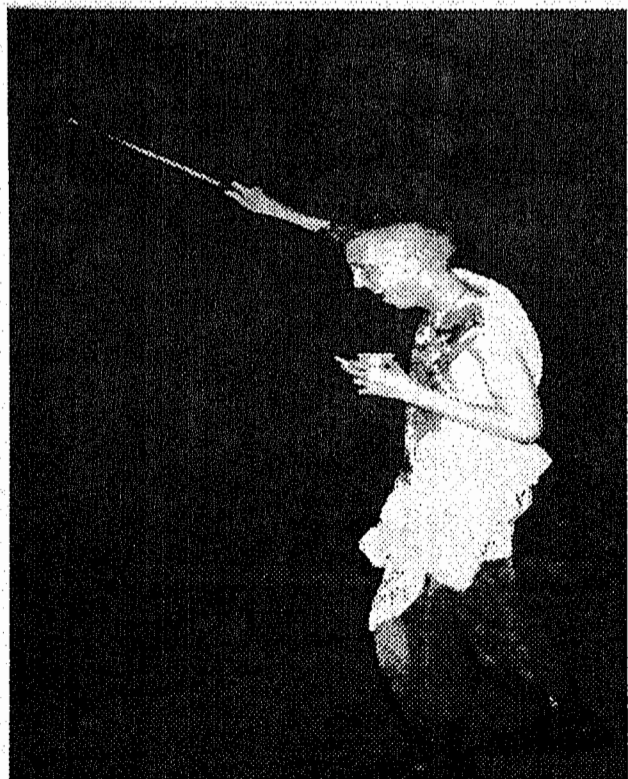
(d) The Liberal-National Coalition has endorsed both loans replacing AUSTUDY and fees for Australian undergraduates charged at whatever level institutions desire.

It will not stop here. If we do not defeat this loans scheme now, it will open the door for the Coalition to introduce full-costs fees and to scrap AUSTUDY.

NUS urges all students to become actively involved in the education campaign this year, to oppose student loans and to fight for the removal of tuition fees, and increases in the availability and level of AUSTUDY allowances. Join an education action group on your campus, contact your student organisation, or NUS on 410 0114.

Just prior to the Federal Budget there will be a week of events and protests from August 10 - 14.

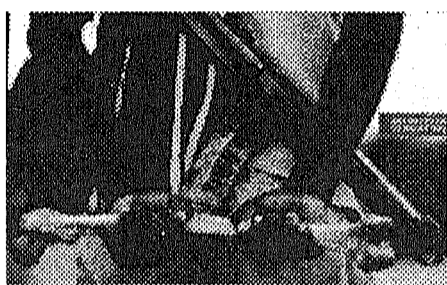
**Rob Houghton, NUS National Education Officer  
Ben Ross, NUS Victoria President**



# Benetton

*making money out of misery*

Italian clothing company Benetton has a reputation for two things in particular - its sponsorship of Formula One racing and its catchy advertisements. The clothes? Well, I guess they've sold a few jumpers along the way too. Remember the Benetton ads of old? A typical ad featured about six individuals of different races, colours, ages and sizes all logged up in Benetton gear and smiling at the camera whilst holding hands below a slogan reading "United Colours of Benetton". Slightly over-obvious but certainly an effective marketing strategy. Apparently linked arms and smiley faces are no longer putting Benetton jumpers on the backs of worldwide consumers because the wacky, zany company admin have come up with a new marketing ploy. Substitute "Suffering Sells" for "United Colours



**"..linked arms and smiley faces are no longer putting Benetton jumpers on the backs of worldwide consumers because the wacky zany company admin. have come up with a new marketing ploy. Substitute 'Suffering Sells' for 'United Colours of Benetton and there you have it."**

of Benetton" and there you have the essence of the new campaign.

Probably you've seen the new advertisements, in which photographers of dispossessed flood victims, a soldier clutching a thigh bone behind his back and a dying AIDS

victim surrounded by his family are used to sell clothes. My particular favourite is the photograph of three mourning Italian women gathered around the body of an assassinated Mafia member. A pool of scarlet blood has escaped from the shroud over the dead man's body, providing a striking contrast to the white of the shroud and the black of the mourners' garb. In the corner of each photograph is the green logo: "United Colours of Benetton".

Benetton claims that its heart is in the right place and that its intentions are noble: "It is not our goal to tell people what to think but instead to encourage them to think." Unfortunately, this rehearsed bollocks is not going to fool anyone. The whole thing is an exercise in brand names recognition and contrived social conscience. But let's take a look at why Benetton may have decided to use such a campaign and why it thinks it will work.

The company is targetting women aged 18 to 34, who are more socially conscious than ever before. The ideologically sound angle of the advertising is clearly aimed at these women to make them feel good about spending big bucks on "Clothes that Care" and about being linked with a company that would rather use the reality of human exist-

ence than glamour or glitz to sell clothes. Benetton would probably argue that the projection of a false "beauty myth" is more intrinsically wrong than their attempt to raise awareness about the world's problems and make them react on a personal level (and

maybe buy a shirt as well). And certainly they have a point here.

However, the fact remains that the company would not use these images of suffering if they did not increase sales, or shock horror, made people stop buying. The fact is that the campaign has worked for Benetton like a charm. Benetton is an international company and as such needs a universal marketing strategy which won't alienate or favour any particular countries.

The images chosen by Benetton favour no particular countries - suffering is depicted all over the world - giving Australian consumers the change to feel a "compassionate oneness" with the dying AIDS victim on the other side of the globe, or "sympathetic horror" with the Italian women.

Benetton also wants to be seen as a subversive, fresh, hip and informed company. Young people will presumably get off on buying from such a "controversial" company at the "front" of the human rights movement. Unfortunately for Benetton, you'd have to be blind or just bloody stupid not to recognise the not-so-little Benetton logo in every shot and the fact that "controversial" and "human rights" currently makes excellent business sense. Altruism is thin on the ground indeed. Take the photo of the dying AIDS sufferer. Artists have enhanced its raw horror and pain with pastel tones and airbrushing so the whole tableau acquires the aura of religious art. The man dying in the bed bears a remarkable similarity to Christ, emphasised by his calm, almost saintly expres-



sion and the grief-stricken family which surrounds him. The man's family has reportedly donated the money Benetton paid for the photograph to AIDS research, and who can blame them? The blame rests with Benetton which has sanitised and manipulated human suffering for mass consumption. It is one thing for images of suffering to feature in the mass media to raise awareness of the human plight, it is another for these images to be used to sell clothes. Benetton's advertising campaign demeans and ridicules human suffering - reducing it to the level of a saleable commodity. What will be next - photographs of Hiroshima used to sell Coca Cola, or the L.A. riots used to sell Nike?

Some may argue that the company has nobly taken on the task of waking us up to the realities of the world, and their bravery in putting their brand name to such graphic images of human suffering is commendable. But the question must be asked whether Benetton will continue to do so if the pictures don't increase sales, or even worse, if people stop buying their product out of a sense of horror. I think not.

**Georgina Safe**



## Good Pinot Noir

*the holiest of grails*

Pinot Noir is the most fickle and difficult of varieties of grape from which to make wine. It is the variety which produces the famed Burgundies of France and yet is almost equally infamous in Australia. In general, our efforts at making pinots have resulted in thin, vacuous wines and the few that have had reasonable fullness of flavour have utterly lacked the combination of delicacy and intensity that so excites "burgundy-heads". Australian winemakers should be consoled by the fact that producing the ethereal splendour typical of really good pinots is not so easy in its European home either. Australia's wine drinkers should also be consoled: there are signs that our producers are starting to get it right.

So, what should a budding pinot-fancier be looking for? For starters, forget the discount bins at your local wine outlet. Miserly yields, the need for very select soil and climate conditions and the enormous inputs of worry, skill and dedication required to make good pinot mean that decent examples are rare at

under \$15/bottle. This can be a very dodgy outlay if all one is likely to receive for such an outlay is a bottle of cherry cordial with a pretty label. At present, these factors, in combination with the Aussie fascination for guts, body and above all, guts in their wines conspire to make pinot a nasty term in the dollar-psyche of your average marketing entity. Why bother? Why? Because fine pinot has an intense, lingering flavour which can be utterly haunting

**"..fine pinot has an intense lingering flavour which can be utterly haunting and which transcends direct physical taste - it is an intellectual, totally sensual experience.**

and which transcends direct physical tastes - it is an intellectual, totally sensual experience. It is absolutely not suited to a noisy, crowded "night on the piss" - the bolder, heavier shiraz and cabernet wines most often drunk in Australia are much more suited to situations where immediate impact is required to overcome such distractions. Yet in situations where

you are free to be a little reflective and investigate the subtleties of these wines they can often prove surprisingly flavoursome and satisfying.

So, what does pinot taste like? Some are light and "pretty" - delicate cherry, plum and strawberry flavours over a long, crisp and elegant spine of acid and light tannins. Fuller flavoured styles have a range of earthy, spicy nuances and some have a lovely "root-veg-

etable" (nothing to do with pumpkins - see the new Jarmusch film!) taste and texture reminiscent of borscht. In general, pinots are soft and silky, the better ones having a delicate richness and great length and depth of flavour without being heavy or cloying. For those who have ever suffered from tannin-overload, after tangling with heavily oaked Barossa shiraz's,

for example, these are wines with sustained and satisfying flavour that stands up without reliance on heavy oak or over-extracted fruit. In fact, these standby's of the commercial "big red" are anathema to the length, intensity and subtlety of fruit that typifies good pinot.

As I alluded to earlier, there are a growing number of pinots in Australia which exhibit these features. Among them I would recommend the wines of Giaconda (NE Vic), Scotchman's Hill (Geelong), Bass Phillip (Gippsland), Hillstowe and Ashton Hills (Adelaide Hills) among others. At a recent tasting of his wines, Phillip Jones of Bass Phillip cited length, intensity, subtlety and spice as the primary characteristics of great pinot. Those listed above combine at least some of these virtues - a good wine merchant, some patience and a desire to have ethereal wine flavours permeate to your mental private parts can make the search for the holy grail of wine-making a highly rewarding one.

**Scott Wasley**

# President

## Enrolments

The University is looking into the current enrolments procedures. Ideally, they would like to establish a system of touch phone enrolments whereby students phone in their subject choices on a 0055 member. Despite lengthy deliberations as to the merits of December enrolments, postal enrolments and even October enrolments, this debate has been shelved until the possibility of phone enrolments has been fully explored. However, a fee for amendments to enrolments has been mooted as a way to reduce the number of changes students make. At present, the Arts Faculty alone has at least 2,000 enrolment amendments per year. I do see the need for some measures to curb this enormous number, however, I fail to see why students should pay for the inadequacies of the enrolment / advice / counselling process. Some students are lazy shits and if they have nothing better to do on a sunny day may gallop off and amend their choices but many students are victims of a convoluted, complicated system.

## Information Day

I gave a speech welcoming potential students for Information Day, telling them what a fine institution this is - I have to say it sometimes!

## AVCC Code of Ethics

The AVCC (Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee) is planning a national code of ethics for University students. Dr Elizabeth Dines (Academic Registrar) is establishing these guidelines which I am giving her input into.

## TAFE/University - Balancing the Sectors

I am reading, at the moment, a discussion paper on balancing the growth in the TAFE and University sectors - looking at the role of each and how they accord with our labour needs, market forces and community vision. At present, it seems university growth has been halted in favour of expanding the TAFE system and such neglect will have a severe impact on the level of our academic services and capital works if it continues.

## Did You Know ...

That Adelaide Uni only gets 60% of its total funds from its 3 year government budget?

That 45% of total enrolments in Adelaide University courses are women.

That only about 40% of Adelaide University students enter straight form school.

That there are 534,538 students at university in Australia.

# education vice president

## Loans - last chance to defeat them

The next two weeks will be of vital significance in deciding the future of student financial assistance. The federal Cabinet will be meeting in budget session to determine whether a scheme of student Loans will be merged into the AUSTUDY scheme, with student organisations vehemently opposed to the introduction of Loans planning a last ditch effort to express student dissatisfaction. NUS will be spending much of the next few weeks in lobby meetings with members of the ALP's Centre Left faction, hoping to bring them around before the final decision is taken. I have also submitted an article on the inherent inequities of Loans written by Rob Houghton, NUS Education Officer for this week's On Dit. On campus this week we will be running some events to provide you with information on what Loans will mean for students and how you can get involved in opposing them. Wednesday will be our coordinated day of action. You should venture into the Students' Association office (in the north eastern corner of the cloisters) to send a fax in our all day fax jam, come along to the debate on Loans that we have been trying to set up for lunchtime on the Barr Smith Lawns this Wednesday, collect some information from the stall outside the refectories and sign form letters there during the day. Please do what you can to get involved - if student Loans are introduced this year, it makes the path to compulsory Loans that much easier for successive, more conservative governments.

## Student Representatives

We are due at the time of writing to hold a meeting of the Student Reps Standing Committee tomorrow (Thursday). This follows the distribution via mail of the SAUA's Information Kits for student reps and will be used to promote various SAUA Campaigns that will be forthcoming in the next few months and to

discuss recycling opportunities for all faculties and departments.

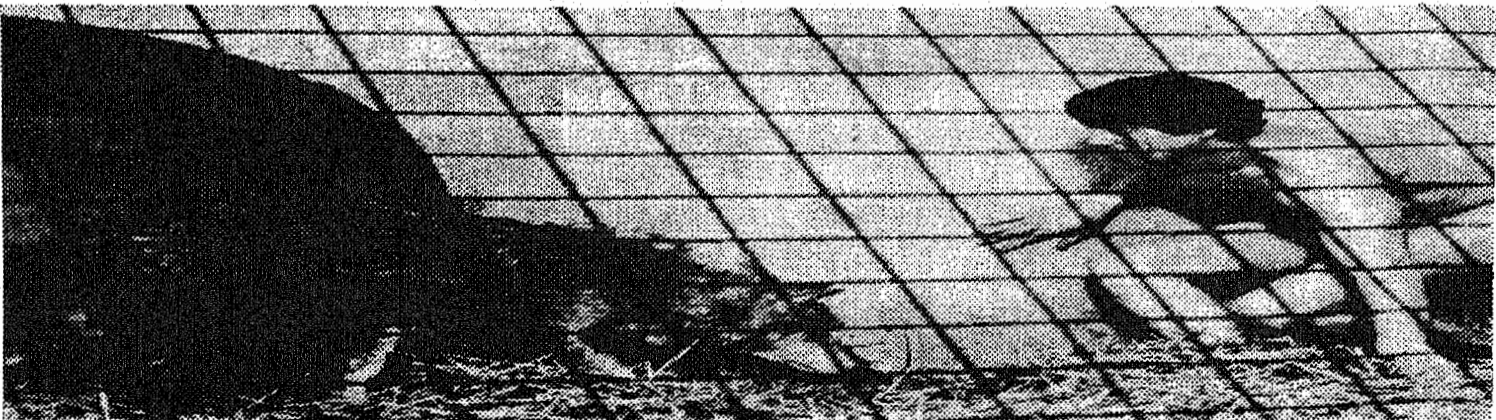
## Restructuring the University

Last week's ESC meeting engaged in some interesting discussion with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Falconer about suggestions to change the structure of the Uni's Faculties and Departments in an attempt to better allocate and distribute resources. Debate will be continuing about the academic worth of entering into plans with the imminent building refurbishments of the Schulz and Napier buildings making discussion on the issue more pressing from the administration's point of view.

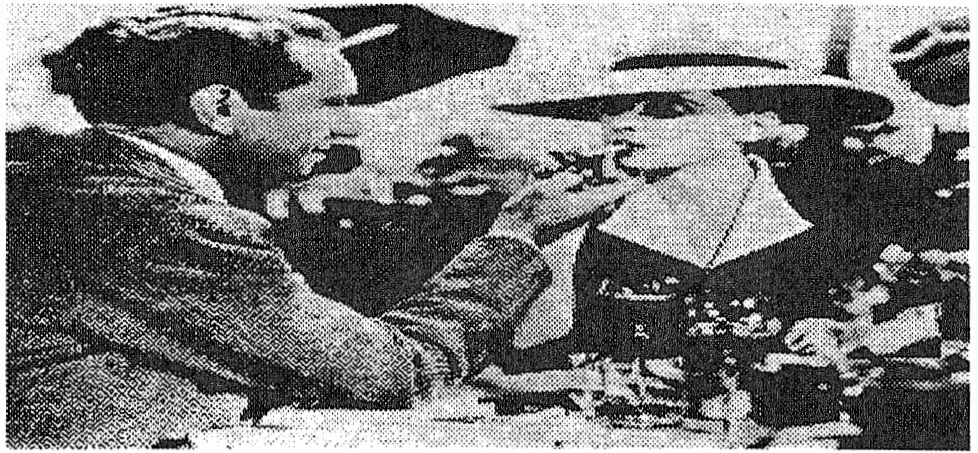
## Library News

Work has begun on a set of student proposals for reprioritising services in the University's Libraries, given that future funding increases are extremely unlikely. Stay tuned for more information after this week's Loans work. Only six more weeks until mid-Semester break!

**Misha Schubert,**  
Education Vice President.



voter covers as hordes of candidates engage in primitive mating ritual for first prefs



mine

## Student Affairs Committee

Here's a quick run down of some of the issues discussed at the August meeting.

- DEET is currently taking up the issue of charges for student materials - field trips, lab manuals, readings etc. It appears we are contravening the Higher Education Funding Act at present.
- The registry and the STA are getting together to discuss the issue of student cards. Flinders and USA have similar concerns so hopefully something can be done.
- CASM students are finally getting their computers!
- There are reviews underway on Aboriginal students at Roseworthy and at CASM. Discussions are underway on the subject of postgraduate and undergraduate insurance. But the question is - who will pay?
- The issue of compulsory or regular student evaluation of teaching is being referred to the new Professional Development Committee. It is an important part of the new promotion procedures for all academic staff.
- There is a review underway on supplementary exams, particularly medical sups. Sounds like bad news...

**Susie O'Brien**  
President

# women's officer

Last week's very quiet rescission of the Publications Classification Board's decision to restrict the magazines Picture and People to sex shops has seen the return of these little treasures to the shelves of newsagents, delicatessens etc.

This decision was made under pressure from Australian Consolidated Press and its assorted tentacles, and on the condition that street posters advertising each edition only display a small reproduction of the cover. Additionally, the covers themselves must be toned down, so as not to include images that are degrading to women. I would like to hear from students about their opinions on this latest development.

## Self Defence

Interest has been expressed by several women in an intermediate self defence class, to begin in approximately six weeks' time; after the current beginners' classes are completed. This will also be an eight week course - price dependent on how many sign up for it, but still very cheap! Give me a call on 228 5406 if you're interested in improving those self defence skills!

## Elle Dit

The finalised date for Elle Dit is the 14th of September - making the cutoff date for contributions the 9th. So get writing those stories,

articles, poems, cartoons, anything! Also if you're interested in the production side of things as well, come to the next Women On Campus meeting (Thursday, 1 pm in the Women's Room) to help plan the paper. I am planning some activities for the week between 14th and 18th September, the week Elle Dit is released. These will mainly consist of speakers who appeared at NOWSA. If you attended NOWSA and there is a speaker you would like to invite back, or if there is a subject you would like there to be more discussion about, then please let me know. Now is the time to plan these events!

## Waite women

The next Women's Advisory Group meeting will be held at the Waite campus. If any student women have concerns they want raised at this meeting, please contact me.

The NUS Women's conference in Sydney from 28th September. I will supply more information as it arrives about the content and agenda of the conference, and would be happy to receive input from any interested women.

Until next week...

**Annabel Crabb**  
SAUA Women's Officer

# Lara's Penny

**A short story by David Mills**

Lara was your typical precocious six-year-old. She was fond of notebooks and secrets and surprises and presents and spies. In her bedroom closet, behind the undies and things, was a little box full of her treasures, and just now, Lara gingerly opened the cardboard lid of her treasure box, delicately taking out her most recent acquisition: a thin brown coin, bearing the logo of a kangaroo. To make sure she was alone, Lara looked around her room and under the bed, but she already knew that nobody in the entire world knew what she was doing. The thought appealed to her. She looked down at the penny that she was not turning over and over in her hand, and an idea formed in her head. She would play a game!

Up the street from Lara lived a terrible boy named Mark who was forever getting into trouble for stealing things. Lara was a little afraid of him; after, he was seven years her senior and once he made her cry by turning a hose on her.

Lara bit her lip in excitement. She would show that boy! She would hide her penny in her front garden tonight - right under Mark's nose! It would be very daring, because ... because why? ... because what if Mark found the penny in the middle of the night and ran away with it? Lara was apprehensively thrilled. With Penny in hand, Lara slipped out of her room and was just about to step out the front door when her stepmother spotted her.

"Lara?"

"Yes?" Lara replied meekly.

"Where are you going?"

"Just outside."

"To do what?" Lara's stepmother queried ferociously.

"Just to play."

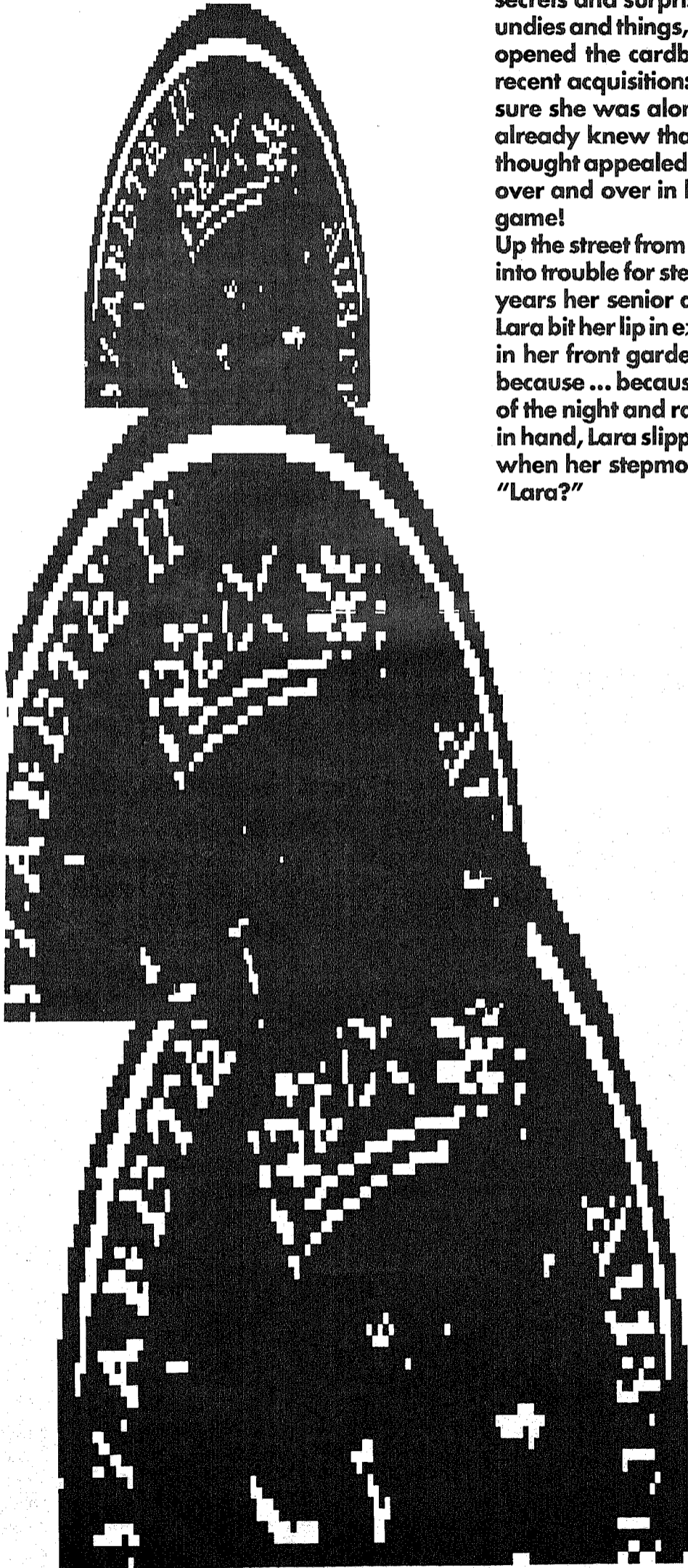
"Well, very well then. But I want you in before dinner, so you can clean up your room and set the table. And don't *slam* that door!" she called as Lara ran outside. Lara pouted. Who was this strange, passionless woman, Lara thought, and why was she having such an impact on her life?

Lara's eyes darted around the garden. Where would be the best place to hide her penny? In the letterbox? In a tree? Under a stone? She eventually found a small patch of dried leaves, so, after a suspicious glance around for spies, Lara placed her penny under the leaves and camouflaged it. Then, gurgling with excitement, she ran off.

That night, after she had been put to bed, but before she was asleep, Lara imagined long fingers in the darkness, probing the garden to find her hidden treasure.

"My penny!!!" Lara screamed out loud when she woke up in the morning. Immediately, she jumped out of her bed and ran outside, still in her nightie. Excitedly, she ran to her hiding place and removed the camouflage, getting dirt and frost on her hands as she did so. Exposed under a dry leaf lay the penny. Lara laughed out loud and picked it up. She had shown Mark this time! Joyously happy, she danced back to the house.

David Mills



# REVIEWS ALBUMS music SINGLES

## It's A Shame About Ray The Lemonheads Shock

There are certain events in life, in anticipation of which I am willing to postpone any plans I might have to isolate myself on a desert island, in the vain hope that I may be spared any further exposure to sensationalist Liberal Club propaganda. The release of the new Lemonheads album is one such event.

Although the Lemonheads certainly ain't what they used to be, with Evan Dando being the sole surviving member of the original "Hate Your Friends" line-up, and their melodious thrash having gradually been replaced by more mellow tunes, Evan nonetheless did not fail to deliver the goods.

In general, most of the songs were more like Love's "Brass Buttons" than anything else the Lemonheads have done before. It was a while before I began to like the title track "It's a Shame about Ray", although I am still not terribly impressed with the film-clip, which shows sexy shots of Johnny Depp, buddy of Evan, portraying poor of Ray. My favourites would have to be "Alison's Starting to Happen", which is probably about the most hardcore song on the album and boasts tales of Alison's bodily mutilations, as well as "Frank Mills", a cover of a song from "Hair".

So, for the tiny price of just \$15, you get some groovy tunes and more importantly, a photo of Evan (plus two other losers), which you can have enlarged and use to wallpaper the back of your toilet door.

**Catharine Abell**

P.S. Rumour of a tour date in December (Evan plus two or three people whose names he has pulled out of a hat.)

## Def Leppard Get Rocked

### Def Leppard Concert

Def Leppard performed in Adelaide at the Entertainment Centre on Tuesday, 14th July. This was the first time that Adelaide audiences were given the chance to see the band, since the 7-day Weekend Tour marks only the second time that Def Leppard have performed on Australian soil.

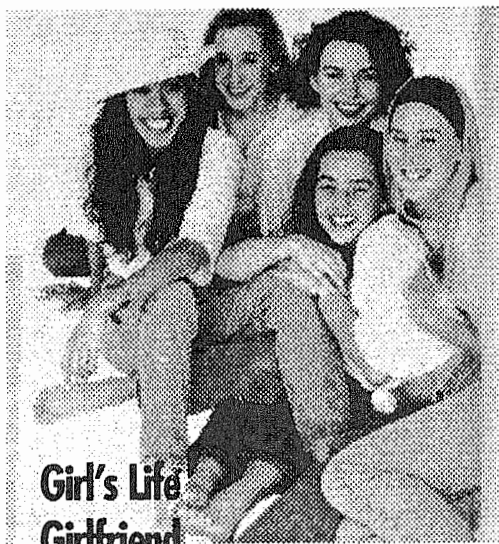
The concert was played on an "in the round" stage that allowed everyone in the audience to have a similar vantage point. A revolving pedestal was used by Rick Allen (the one-armed drummer) to complete the effect.

The use of spectacular lasers, lights and sound enhanced Def Leppard's performance. Songs from "High 'n' Dry", "Pyromaniac", "Hysteria" and their latest album "Adrenalize" added up to equal an entertaining concert. Lead vocalist, Joe Elliot, must be commended on his ability to maintain audience contact throughout, an element which is crucial to the success of any concert. His task was certainly made easier by such songs as "Pour Some Sugar On Me", "Rock It" and "Let's Get Rocked".

This 5-piece British band has a new member in guitarist, Vivian Campbell from Dublin. He has replaced Steve Clark, who died from drug and alcohol abuse in January of last year. Like Phil Collen and Sav, Campbell is a competent guitarist who was finally selected after auditioning a few months ago.

Def Leppard sought to please and their concert, which lasted for over two hours, didn't disappoint.

**Marian Clarkin**



## Girl's Life Girlfriend

BMG  
Single

Ooh yuck! Siobhann, you must be a young starlet rich enough to do something about those close set eyes. Lorinda, that nose! That nose! And Jacqui, well, you've won me over with that Debrah Conway smile. What other criticisms could be levelled at such a twinkling collection of Sweet Valley High innocents? Their arrival to the stereos of thousands of Dolly readers world-wide couldn't have been more timely. A gaping chasm was left after Kylie suddenly discovered what that strange void between her big toes was good for. Concerned mums everywhere hoped for a worthy successor as a new role model for all the girlies who love "Home and Away" and horsies too. Mum got the bonus plan with Girlfriend. Instead of one Shirley Temple, she got five and only one of them can be seen wearing hot pants.

One CD. Five lily-white, parent-pleasers. One song. Four mixes. Ugh! Ripped off springs to mind when you buy a CD only to get four vaguely differing rehashes of the one track. Ah-ha! This CD even has a karaoke mix. But who honestly wants four versions of rather bouncy Barbie and Ken pop? Slide out the Tom Cruise poster, go to the Terrace to scream at NKOTB and perhaps the Girl's Life Rap will come bleating out by track number four.

Who needs sugar in their life when Girlfriend exist? Put on "Girl's Life" and bop by the bedside but be warned, Mum, I bet they only pretend to be virgins.

**Rohan Thompson**

## Hateman in Love Hallelujah Picassos

Festival

This bunch of weirdos hail from Auckland, New Zealand, but I don't think you'll see them on Flying Nun. This album is consistent in one thing - it's totally inconsistent. Ranging from growly rock to aggressive rap, piano ballad to pop and even off-beat ska and Butthole Surfers style hijinks, it can be a little off-putting. The worst feature of this album is the mushy production which really destroys the potential of many of the songs. The best feature is the song "Embryo Blast" with a simple but catchy chord progression, laid back vocals and a weird break with electronic noises zapping through the growly guitars. If they ever get this one recorded with decent production, I'm buying it. Unfortunately, the rest of the album isn't as outstanding.

They are also a wee bit brattish and outspoken. Here's a sample:

"Guns and Roses, white motherfuckers, hippy poseurs".

It should be noted that except for one of them who looks Maori in origin, they've got pearly white skin.

Oh well.

**DJK**

## Pain Lies on the Riverside/ Heaven Wore a Shirt

Live

Radio Active

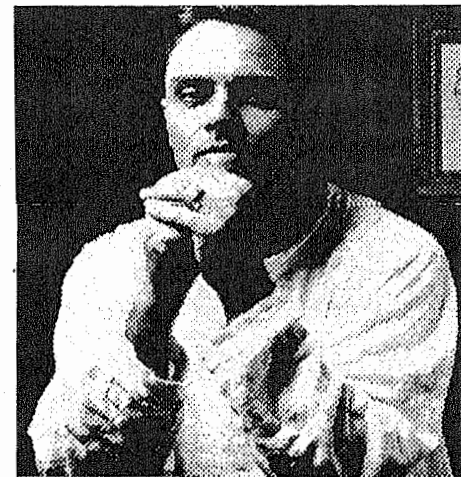
Single

Following the release of "Operation Spirit", is a two song CD single by "Live".

This is a relatively young band with some musical potential, but still these songs, "Pain Lies on the Riverside" and "Heaven Wore a Shirt" lack a cutting edge. Their sound struggles and becomes mashed together with an incompatible combination of acoustic and electric guitars. The bassist tries hard but is yet to really create a convincing original bass line.

It is listenable and can be enjoyed under the right conditions but this band has a long way to go before they create their own sound.

**J.W.**



## I Can't Give You Anything Rikki Morris

Mushroom  
Single

The press release for this single reads as follows: "Rikki joined his wife, Debbie, for a short stint as one of Jimmy Barnes' backing vocalists for the show-case 'Soul Deep' concerts ... he thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

Erm ... 'nuff said, I think.

**Rohan Thompson**

## Eve of Destruction Pretty Things

CDS / Possum

A mildly irritating version of this much abused song. Organ and acoustic guitar (12-string?) are overwhelmed by throaty 'cock rock' style vocals. Presumably, the second song is an original and it explains why they picked a cover as the single. They also need a new vocalist.

**DJK**



## Hair The Australian Cast Recording

Hair was originally written in the '60s when youth everywhere was alive with the revolutionary spirit. The Original London Cast Recording reflects this spirit and as a consequence, it gives you the feeling that people really can change the world. Unfortunately, the Australian Cast Recording has no such effect.

"Hair" has been around for a while now and most of those who were originally inspired by it have since grown up and decided that it is a much better idea to avoid making waves and thus ensure that they will always have those possessions which make our lives so comfortable. This is reflected in the Australian Cast Recording, the tone of which is decidedly nostalgic. One gets the feeling that the members of the cast are having heaps of fun dressing up in cute '60s hippy gear, but are glad that when the show is over, they can take their pay and go shopping on Chapel Street, etc.

Unless you feel like a trip down memory lane, I wouldn't advise buying a copy of this recording which is, more than anything else, indicative of the dawning of the age of indifference.

Catharine Abell

## Naughty Adamski MCA

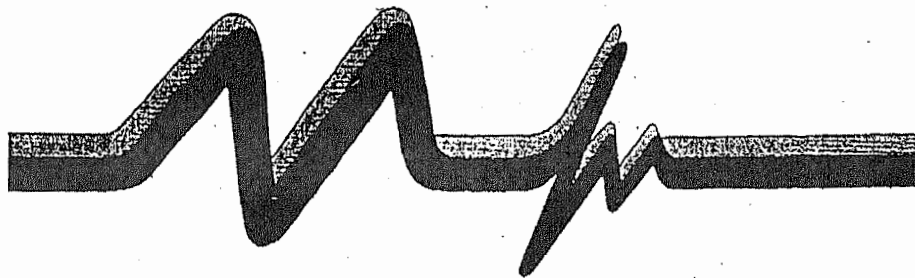
Adamski is the type of boy who likes to sit in front of his sampling machines all day long, writing little songs. He makes these songs by joining together little beeps and toots, and merry little noises they are too.

Songs like "Born To Be Alive" and "Time Capsule" make you feel really nice, a bit like the feeling you get when you brush up against the living room furniture really. And then you hear "Get Your body!" with Nina Hagen's insane vocals and you exclaim, "Oh wow! this must be a nomination for Song of the Year, surely!" and you feel really happy.

And then you are disappointed. One dreary song follows another. You find yourself wincing at the overproduced sound. You have a nagging sense that the whole thing could be just so much more dynamic. You scream for an end to tracks like "Back to Front", "The Sky is Falling Down" and "Head-On-Collisionism". Eventually, you find yourself throwing your stereo at the wall.

And then you ask yourself: "What the hell is this guy trying to prove, anyway?"

David Mills



## Triple M-FM Top 20 + 1

	Artist	Format	Title	Label	LW
1	Sonic Youth	CD	Dirty	Geffen	-
2	L7	CD	Bricks Are Heavy	Liberation	1
3	Exploding White Mice	CD	Collateral Damage (A)	Normal	10
4	The Chills	CD	Soft Bomb	Slash	6
5	Girl Monster	CD	Monstereo Delicio (A)	Mushroom	4
6	Club Hoy	CDS	Walk Away (A)	Festival	14
7	Truck Train Tractor	Demo	The Package (A)		9
8	Throwing Muses	CDS	Firepile	4AD	-
9	Teenage Fanclub	CDS	What You Do To Me	Geffen	-
10	Magnapop	CD	Magnapop	Play	-
11	P J Harvey	CD	Dry	Too Pure	2
12	Ed Kuepper	CD	Black Ticket Day (A)	Shock	-
13	TISM	CD	The Beasts Of Suburban (A)	Shock	8
14	Def FX	CD	Blink (A)	Phantom	-
15	Hiphophrisy	CDS	Television, Drug of the Nation	Island	19
16	Bliss	Demo	Purple & Green (A)		15
17	The Jaynes	CDS	Babe (A)		-
18	2 Unlimited	CD	Get Ready	Liberation	17
19	Wierd Al Yankovic	CD	Off The Deep End	BMG	-
20	Spiralled	Demo	Stranger Things (A)		-
21	Hard-Ons	CDS	She's A Dish (A)	Waterfront	-

(A=Australian LW=Last Week's Position)

THE TOP 20+1 SHOW - SATURDAYS 5-7 PM  
ON TRIPLE M-FM 93.7





# HOCUS POCUS

*Is God really dead, or did he fake his own suicide?*

**O**nce upon a time there was a country called Syria. It still exists, but was far more interesting over two thousand years ago when it was a small nation growing up in that steaming hot-bed of social evolution and bad tempers that is now known as the Middle East.

It had a difficult adolescence, being ruled (and rolled) over, in turn, by the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arab warriors of Islam (first the Omayyads and then the Abbasids), the Seljuk Turks, the Crusaders, and the Egyptian Mamelukes, until they were finally conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1516, who held power until the Great War, when it was given to France. Since 1946, it has existed in a state of relative independence and peace - but only relatively.

Anyway ...

These guys (and gals) had a fantastic religion, centred around a fertility goddess called Astarte (also known as Attar, Ashtoreth and Ishtar). It demanded, amongst other things, legions of sacred temple prostitutes and holy orgiastic rites. Devotees were stimulated into wild sexual abandonment by wine, music and incense. Pretty cool, huh? (The condom, by the way, wasn't well-known back then; the preferred method of contraception was a vaginal plug of lint and honey, so safe sex was right out.)

Church attendance was never a problem, as you can imagine:

"Kids! Are you undressed yet?"

"Aw, Mum, do we have to go to church this week?"

eternity and eventually forgotten. Jw might have been Lord Of The Lint And Honey Plugs, or something equally uncool, and is lost to us today because of it.

"Darling - have you got the - thing in?"

"Don't worry, dear. I'm safe."

"That's a relief. Now, where were we?"

"I can't remember. Let's Astarte again ..."

So, the cool gods and the gods of the victors are the ones that lasted. This seems to be a universal rule: just as that illusion we call History is rewritten by the "winners", so too is the celestial pantheon. Christianity might have vanished, but for its adoption by the mighty Roman Empire. If the Muslims hadn't been so bloody-minded, Islam probably wouldn't have lasted even as long as the seventh century AD.

Note also that both Islam and Christianity profess the belief in a Universal God (different ones, of course, although Mohammed generously acknowledges parts of the Jewish Old Testament): This is a relatively new idea, evolutionarily speaking, and has inspired some of the grossest examples of Empire-building ever seen in the History of Mankind.

Is there really a connection between Christopher Columbus and God? Of course there is. One of his declared motives was the conversion of any peoples he might discover. The idea of Big Boss In The Sky fuels expansionism because it appeals to our primal instincts. Columbus wasn't just discovering new lands in order to see them settled, he was seeing unknown ideological territories that were ripe for invasion.

The One God is just like any other macho, self-serving Alpha Male:

"This is My territory. See how big it is? Better let Me be boss, or you'll get stomped upon by My Holy Messenger."

---

**"Devotees were stimulated into wild sexual abandonment by wine, music and incense.. Church attendance was never a problem, as you can imagine."**

---

???

Astarte took on aspects of a goddess of war when she was adopted, along with her country, by the Egyptians (and does that say something about the Egyptian sex-life?). She became the same Aphrodite (more or less) worshipped by the Greeks. Even today, she is sometimes evoked in modern Wiccan ritual as a lunar Goddess, when the Feminine Principle is required. The point of all this is (if there is a point): the ancient Syrians had *another* god named "Jw". Nothing is known about him - nothing at all. His name itself was only deduced by clever linguists studying the etymology of personal names popular at the time. And there is no connection, apparently, between Jw and the Israeli God Jahwe, which might have suggested his survival-by-absorption.

The Mighty Jw, perhaps worshipped by tens of thousands in his heyday, some unknown time before the appearance of the Christian Messiah, has disappeared almost without trace from the faces of Earth and Heaven!

Now, isn't that just a little disturbing for all you people who believe in God?

If not, then consider this:

Syria was a small nation, constantly under attack from its neighbours. Back in those days, gods were dime a dozen; every town had one. When a nation conquered another, the deities of the defeated were relegated to minor spirits or ignored altogether. The popular ones, like Astarte (and we all know why she was popular, don't we?), were adopted by the victor's society and perhaps, over time, became big league players.

But the boring ones, the difficult ones, the ones that demanded flagellation and self-sacrifice, were kicked into Limbo for

So, we have missionaries. And crusaders. And TV evangelists ...

When, back in the Old Days, there were a plethora of gods, it was easier to concede that one might be partly mistaken in one's belief. After all, there were so many that they *all* couldn't exist. And, let's face it, when someone armed with a very sharp stick pokes you in the small of the back you'll bow down and worship just about anything.

Victor and Vanquished. Cool and Uncool. Fanatical and Slightly Less Fanatical.

One third of the world's population is Buddhist. Think about it. Jesus and Astarte. Astarte and Jw.

*Victims of politics.*

Sad, isn't it?

**LAD**

Quote of the week:

**"The function of law and theology are the same: to keep the poor from taking back by violence what the rich have stolen by cunning."**

**Robert Anton Wilson**



# Pervy Poison Ivy

**Poison Ivy had all the ingredients of a truly tacky sordid cult flick, but somewhere along the line a humourless Hollywood type had far too much creative control. The plot is an oldie but a goodie - mysterious stranger turns up and proceeds to wreak havoc by bonking the entire family.**

Identical in fact to all those French films they used to play at cinemathèque which involved some silent but violent lodger who walks around in the fog and gets stuck into everything including the family dog.

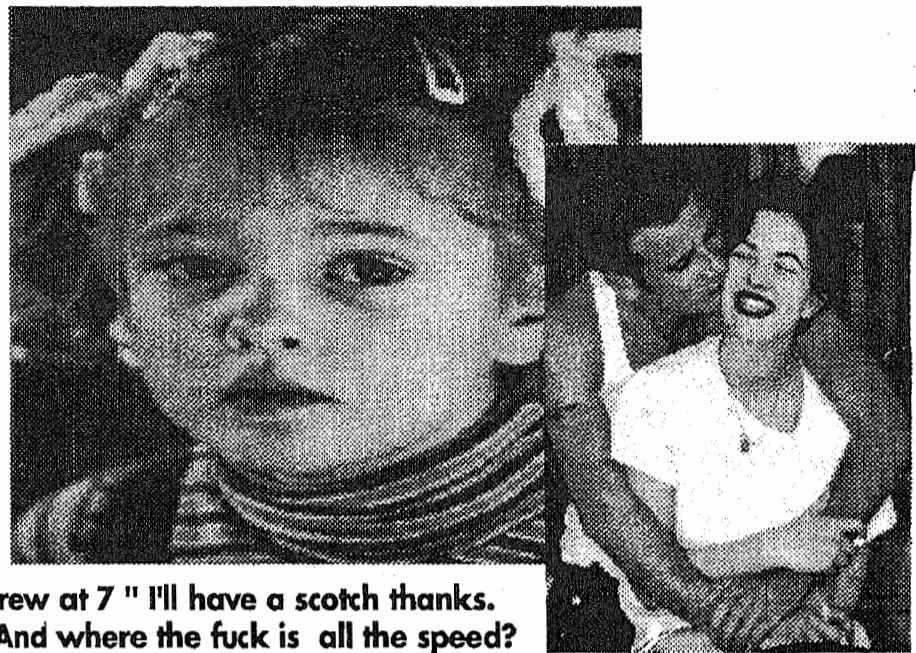
But I knew we were all in trouble early in the piece when the entire Lonely Club X audience had clearly transported themselves - sportsbags, trackie pants, half hearted hard-ons and all for the premiere.

You name it, they had it - from inappropriate guffawing at vague sexual innuendo, to the man sitting behind us who sat motionless in his chair as the credits ended with something funny going on in his pants.

**"Why didn't Drew just root the family senseless and then leave them to wash the manchester for no other reason then the fact that they were clearly a bunch of no good, suburban, Republican voting, unimaginative losers?"**

Drew Barrymore of "I didn't mind a bit of smack as a toddler" fame stars as the evil temptress who spoils all our expectations by only screwing the father. Drew does manage a quick toungeie with the girl from Roseanne who plays her schoolfriend in the film, but completely breaks with genre by not getting stuck into Cheryl Ladd. Frankly, any film in which a former Charlie's Angel is seduced by the girl who kept ET in a cupboard as a seven year old and had a serious cocaine habit at twelve would have been well worth seeing. So I was quite dissatisfied when Ms Ladd spent the entire film lounging about in ridiculous apricot nightgowns grasping lustily for her oxygen mask a la Frank (shes got emphysema), only to be shoved of the balcony in an absolutely unfathomable display by Dirty Drew. And here's the problem - plots like this are ridiculous so a generous, even over the top sense of humour is of vital importance. Instead, in Poison Ivy the audience is held captive while ludicrous,

banal and slightly repulsive sex scenes are played out between Drew and The Dad. The whole film was so clearly directed at the sexually inadequate little sportsbaggers who were in abundance at the first showing. Anyone who doubts this is directed to



**Drew at 7 " I'll have a scotch thanks. And where the fuck is all the speed?"**

the ridiculous scene in which Drew dances in front of the Dad wearing a strapless sequined cocktail dress and then feigns multiple orgasm (lots of head rolls and fluttering eyelids) when the Dad has barely lifted up the poor girl's dress. This all takes place of course on the same bed where emphysema ridden Cheryl has just dropped off to sleep. This film was in no way aided by the tinkly/elevator/porn shop music which built up to big drumrolls every time penetrative sex was involved. Where were the scenes in which Drew tells the Dad to do something about his premature ejaculation problem and then skips up the stairs to do a line of coke with

Cheryl? Why did the writers make inadequate attempts halfway through the film to explain Drew's bad behaviour? Why didn't Drew just root the family senseless and then leave them to wash the manchester for no other reason then the fact that they were clearly a bunch of no good, suburban, Republican voting, unimaginative losers? It is in fact almost difficult to put into words how explicitly grotty and ultimately boring this little raunchfest turned out to be.

**Sam Maiden**

# Absolutely Horrific Hair

**"Hair" is an abomination. Let's not beat around the bush here, it's downright embarrassing. It is also something of a tragedy since the cast is clearly talented and the musical, unlike this production, actually had something to say.**

The subtle as a sledge hammer irony of the anti-establishment message of Hippie culture being used to flog everything under the sun including this tawdry little Chippendale's meets Young Talent Time offering is never lost. The Young Talent Time feel cannot be over emphasised. Indeed such intense memories of Saturday night with Johnny Young were flooding into my mind that had the entire cast burst into "All my Loving" and dragged out Tina Arena no one would have been confused. There really is a place for Tiny Tina in a production such as this.

She would certainly improve on the lead female in this production who played the role of a protester with all the conviction of a Beverly Hills 90 etc barbie doll. You

could almost sense her rush to get of the stage and into an overpriced foccacia. Speaking of which the crowd outside provided much in the way of sun dried celebrities. Samela Harris was there, and so was a very velvety looking Don Dunstan, who looked particularly the part in a rather stunning ensemble. If the social pages are anything to go by this is a retiree who doesn't exactly sit at home watching Country Practice or something. The production labours under the enforced American accents, which many of the actors appeared to have difficulty reproducing. While there is no need to engage in various companies favorite trick of 'updating' productions into increasingly bizarre concoctions, one wonders why they didn't just let the poor buggers use natural Australian accents. Considering all the issues raised - race, the vietnam war, hippies, drugs, sex and rock n' roll are in no way alien to Australia, I don't see why they had to trap me in a room full of shrill Americans for three hours. This is not an

exaggeration - Hair just goes on and on ... Which would have meant value for money if the production was good, but as you may have gathered by now it didn't exactly fry my burger. This is of course only my opinion. Plenty of people will probably go to Hair and think it's better than some similarly repulsive musical that is heralded as better than some other fine piece of crap like "Les Misery bulbs" or "Cats". The production also laboured under, a rather temperamental sound system did not help as the horror unfolds. Watching this thing was in fact frequently painful. At some times it sounded very much like you were changing radio stations in full stereo horror.

Terry Serio of Johnny O'Keefe fame plays Berger, the leader of a gang of aimless teenagers who spend their days experimenting with sex and drugs. His strutting around the stage, sexual innuendo directed at the audience, "well look at this here zuchinni" accompanied by quick groin thrust often verges on the

embarrassing, as does his complete over acting at times. Mr Serio would certainly do Chippendale's proud as he thrust his suede loin cloth in the faces of various horrified punters. Here is an encapsulation of the Horror of Hair - an original aim of challenging sixties mores transformed into a Girls Grabathon at the Strip joint's Ladies night. Need we even add that the whole kit and kaboodle is sponsored by KAFM - the same people who brought you the "Sc that's what your getting up to" campaign for their breakfast show.

I don't no what was going on in the producers minds other than dollar signs, but it certainly wasn't art.

**Sam Maiden & Vanessa Almeida**

# ADT - On the move

## The Golden Slave Australian Dance Theatre

At last the Australian Dance Theatre is set to stun Asian audiences with its first overseas tour for six years. To farewell Australia, the Company performed a short season of "The Golden Slave", consisting of two previously seen



"If you're thinking hair nets and pink ballet shoes, you are very much mistaken! ADT's work is bold, often controversial and occasionally even disturbing but always a stunning tribute to humanity."

pieces "A Far Cry" and "Black Sand" and a new addition to their repertoire, "Softly Softly". But sorry - performances have concluded and they won't be back until September.

If you haven't already seen Australia's premier dance company, then you really ought to be ashamed of yourself - because they are based right here in Adelaide and boast many of our most talented dancers and choreographers.

If you're thinking hair nets and pink ballet shoes, you are very much mistaken! ADT's work is bold, often controversial and occasionally even disturbing, but always a stunning tribute to humanity. As open minded as I like to think I am, even I shifted in my seat during Douglas Wright's "A Far Cry". Described as "... a milestone in contemporary dance", this piece is bound to shock Asian audiences with its erotic and confronting exploration of sexuality.

Set to the music of Bartok and inspired by the paintings of Picasso, this piece is not for the faint hearted. Repression, forbidden desire, lust, masturbation, homosexuality, dreams and nightmares all raise their ugly heads; and the costumes, or should I say lack of, are more than a bit risqué. This is daring and provocative theatre - a definite masterpiece.

"Black Sand", choreographed by Leigh Warren, takes us to the beach as the dancers create the movements of the ocean and its animals, accompanied by music from Peter Crosbie. To contrast with this the people are included in the setting as they spend a lazy day on the beach.

A perfect conclusion to the evening is "Softly Softly", the only new piece on the program. Leigh Warren and the dancers

create a magnificent mixture of sound, colour and movement, set to the cool melodies of jazz pianist Keith Jarrett.

ADT is sure to impress overseas critics with this festival line up - and we hope more tours are planned for the future so it's not just Adelaide that is able to appreciate their fine talents.

## Taasha Coates



# Legendary

## The Legend of King O'Malley

*The Legend of King O'Malley* is the latest production being performed by the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild, directed by David Reed and Sarah Neville.

Through acting, music and dance the story of the American-born O'Malley is conveyed, from the time when he was a revivalist preacher in the US, until his death aged 99 in Australia.

Amongst O'Malley's achievements include his attainment of a parliamentary seat in South Australia and being in the first federal parliament. As a minister, he played a fundamental role in the foundation of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the Trans Continental Railway and the City of Canberra.

This award-winning script by Michael Boddy and Robert Ellis, came first in the open section (plays) of the Captain Cook Bicentenary Celebrations Literary Competitions in 1970. It also won best script in any medium and the best play in the 1971 AWGIE Awards, in addition to the Producers and Directors Guild Award for the best script in any medium.

"The Theatre Guild have produced an energetic and fast paced performance which crams decades of history into a relatively short space of time."

The Theatre Guild have produced an energetic and fast-paced performance (which crams decades of history into a relatively short space of time). Plenty of movement, humour and variety ensured that *The Legend of King O'Malley* was without a dull moment. The interesting use of props, costumes and

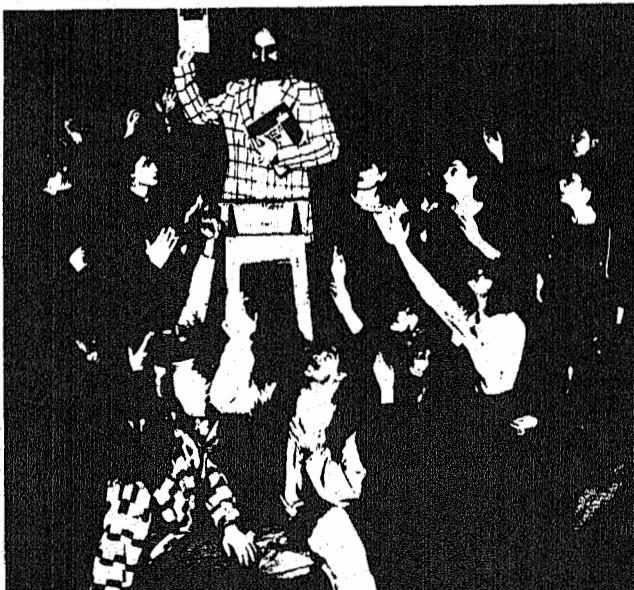
lighting added to the visual effectiveness of the play, as did the large and versatile cast.

David Grybowski, who played King O'Malley, was well-cast as the protagonist, as was Howard Sumner who played the ironic Angel. Edwin Duryea was convincing as the "Little Digger", Billy Hughes, and Amanda Finnis gave a memorable performance as the vivacious Mis Federation in true vaudeville style.

*The Legend of King O'Malley* was not only an enjoyable slice of Australian history (some of which was invented!), but it also shed some light on the birth of Australia as a federation. This play is a must, especially for those with an interest in significant historical events in our history and also is relevant to today's republican debate.

*The Legend of King O'Malley* is being performed at the Union hall from 12th - 15th August at 8.00 pm. Tickets \$8/\$12. Bookings 228 5999 or BASS.

## Marion Clarkin



JUNCTION THEATRE COMPANY  
presents

IT  
came from  
CANBERRA

Showing in the Gallery on Monday  
at 1:00

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Alternative Media Group

Annual General Meeting, 1 pm, Meeting Room 1, Monday, 10th August.

There will be an Amnesty letter writing meeting on Wednesday, 12th August at 1 pm in the Jerry Portus Room. Write a letter for human rights.

## Anti Apathy Meeting

There is going to be a really fun meeting of all anti-apaty-ers at 1 pm on Monday, 17th August in the FOE Club rooms. This meeting is a must do for all with an interest in being active on campus. Anyone who is interested is welcome.

## Advertising

Wanted to sell - Burton Air 6.1 Snowboard with Burton Air bindings, 161 cms, 1992 season - used for only two weeks. Sell for \$650 o.n.o. Contact Josh - 332 5540.

## Community Aid Abroad

Tuesday, 1 pm, Meeting Room 1. Tabatha Wallis-Smith will be speaking and showing slides on her student exchange to Brazil last year. Everybody welcome.

## CWOS Industry Visits

Mid Semester Break!  
Monday, 21st September, 1992: Trip to Barossa Valley. Depart Victoria Square 9.30 am, return 4.30 pm. Visit: Adelaide Brighton Cement Works; S. Smith & Sons Yalumba Winery; Historic Angaston and Tanunda. Adults \$10, Children \$5 - Includes lunch!  
Wednesday, 23rd September, 1992: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm - Visit Bridgestone Tyre Factory at Salisbury and Boral Resources Quarry at Para Hills. 1/2 day visits - No charge! 2.30 pm - Visit the Adelaide Convention Centre - next to the Hyatt on North Terrace; 3.30 pm - Visit the Australian Taxation Office. Learn about the tax system, processing of returns and methods of assessment.

Friday, 25th September, 1992: 12.30 pm - 4.30 pm - Visit: Adelaide Oil Refinery - Port Stanvac; Solar Optics - manufacturers of spectacle lenses, 1/2 day visit - No charge! Contact Greg or Palma at CWOS on tel. no. 237 6915 or 237 6930 to reserve your place!

## Debating Society AGM

Thursday, 13th August at 1:00pm in the Cinema.

## Friends of the Earth

Tell the STA and the State Politicians how you feel. Friends of the Earth is having a letter writing day on the 6th August. The focus will be on the lack of an adequate public transport system and the proposed further cut backs. FOE will provide the paper, the envelopes, the addresses of state politicians and stamps - all you have to do is write. To be held in the FOE club room on Level 5 of the Union Complex (next to the Games Room at the southern end) from 1 pm.

Woe is me. Due to sad and unforeseen circumstances, I have in my possession two pairs of Doc Martens which do not fit me. ... Perhaps they fit you?

One pair is matt black, yellow stitch, and the other a very groovy and quite unique green suede. Both size 7 (English men's size, or whatever) ... never worn, both fully British made, unlike some of the less sound Australian ones that are wont to fall apart. In the Adelaide stores, these could set you back anything from \$158 to \$198 (honest, I checked) but I will part with them for \$140 o.n.o.

Put a note in my pigeon hole (French 7th floor, Napier - yep! Convenient) or call me at home on 43 8670 a/h.

**Cressida Wall**

## Intramural Basketball

The Intramural Basketball season will again be starting in September. Would all team organisers please ensure that all entry forms are returned to the Centre for Physical Health by 4.00 pm, Friday, 4th September. Games to start mid September. Late entries will not be accepted.

Please note that all intramural competitions are based on fun and learning and are mainly for people who do not play in a regular competition.

For entry forms or any further information, please contact Diana Pedrick on 267 2926.

## Lunchtime Frolics

Tom Keneally, AO, author, Chair of the Australian Republican Association, and Tony Pooley, Executive Officer of the Australian Republican Association, will be visiting us, and indeed talking to us, on Thursday, 20th August in the Union Cinema (Level 5, Union Building) at 1 pm for 1.15 pm start. All are welcome.

## Going to Melbourne?

Want to share transport costs? I need a lift around the 21st August or thereabouts. Phone 289 2406 and ask for Helen.

The Republican Club, the Debating Society, the Labor Club and the Liberal Club will be presenting a Republican debate. To be held on Wednesday August 12th, at 1:00pm in the Cinema. It should be educational and entertaining - everyone is welcome.

## South Africa in Turmoil

The International Socialist Organisation is holding a forum at which Sandra Bloodworth, a member of the Melbourne branch of the ISO who recently returned from South Africa will be speaking about the situation there. All welcome. Tuesday, 11th August at 1 pm, Union Cinema, level 5, Union Building.

## Student Christian Movement

Kay Stringer will be discussing Feminist Theology and Women in the Bible. First of two-part discussion. Thursday, 1 pm, Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Union Building. All welcome.

## Wanted

String Quartet for a formal 21st on 31st October, 1992, 8 pm - 10.30 pm. Contact Alison on 295 4270. Rate negotiable.

## Third-World Tourism Forum

A public forum to discuss the details and effects of tourism upon third world countries is being held Wednesday 12th, 7.45 pm in Union Cinema. Presented by SCM and World Council of Churches.

The University of Adelaide Alumni Association Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter presents Biodiversity, a lecture by Dr Hugh Possingham. "Long term issues like climate change, land degradation, and evolution mean that we should be thinking further into the future when we make decisions about nature conservation... Biodiversity has come to play a central role in nature conservation issues." Friday 21st August, 7:45 pm. Lecture theatre Napier GO3. Further information can be obtained from Adrienne Eccles, 228 5808.

## Students' Association of the University of Adelaide 1992 Annual Elections

Polling Dates:

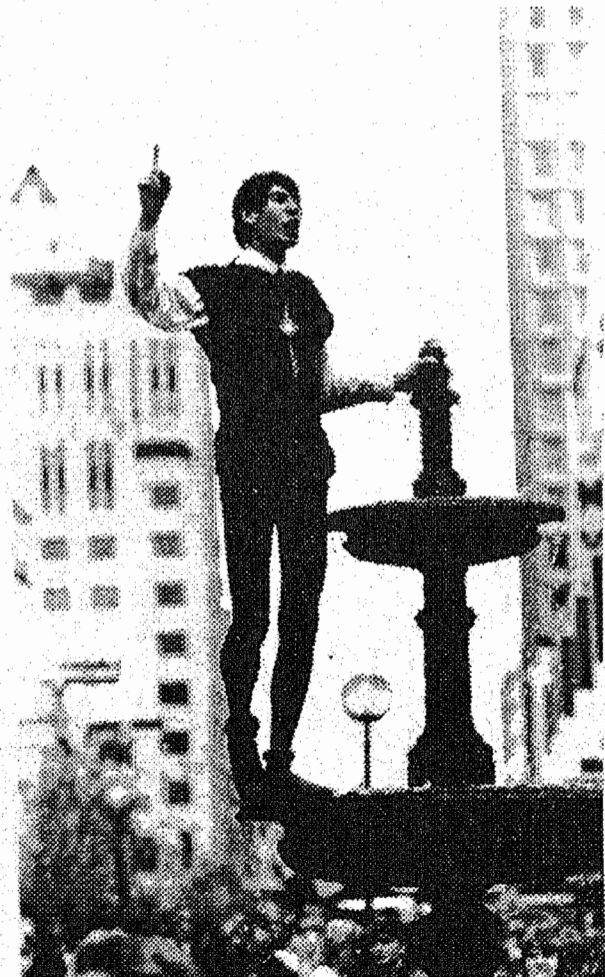
31st August - 4th September, 1992 inclusive.

The following positions will be elected at the Annual Elections:-

1. President
2. Education Vice President
3. Activities/Campaign Vice President
4. Women's Officer
5. Environment Officer(s)
6. Orientation Co-Ordinator
7. On Dit Editor(s)
8. Student Radio Director(s)
9. Eight General Members of SAUA Council
10. Six General Members of the Education/Services Standing Committee
11. Six General Members of the Activities Standing Committee
12. Four Members of the Women's Standing Committee
13. Five National Union of Students' Delegates

Nominations for the above positions will open on 6th August, 1992 at 9.00 am and close on 14th August, 1992 at 5.00 pm in the Students' Association Office (4.00 pm at Roseworthy Student Union).

Nomination forms and further details will be available in the Students' Association Office and Roseworthy Student Union. Authorised by Susie O'Brien, President, Students' Association of the University of Adelaide.



The deadline for Classifieds is the Wednesday before publication. Please keep your ads short. Thanks.