

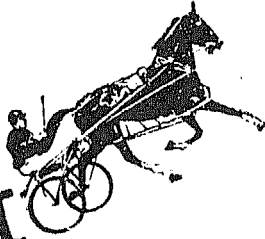
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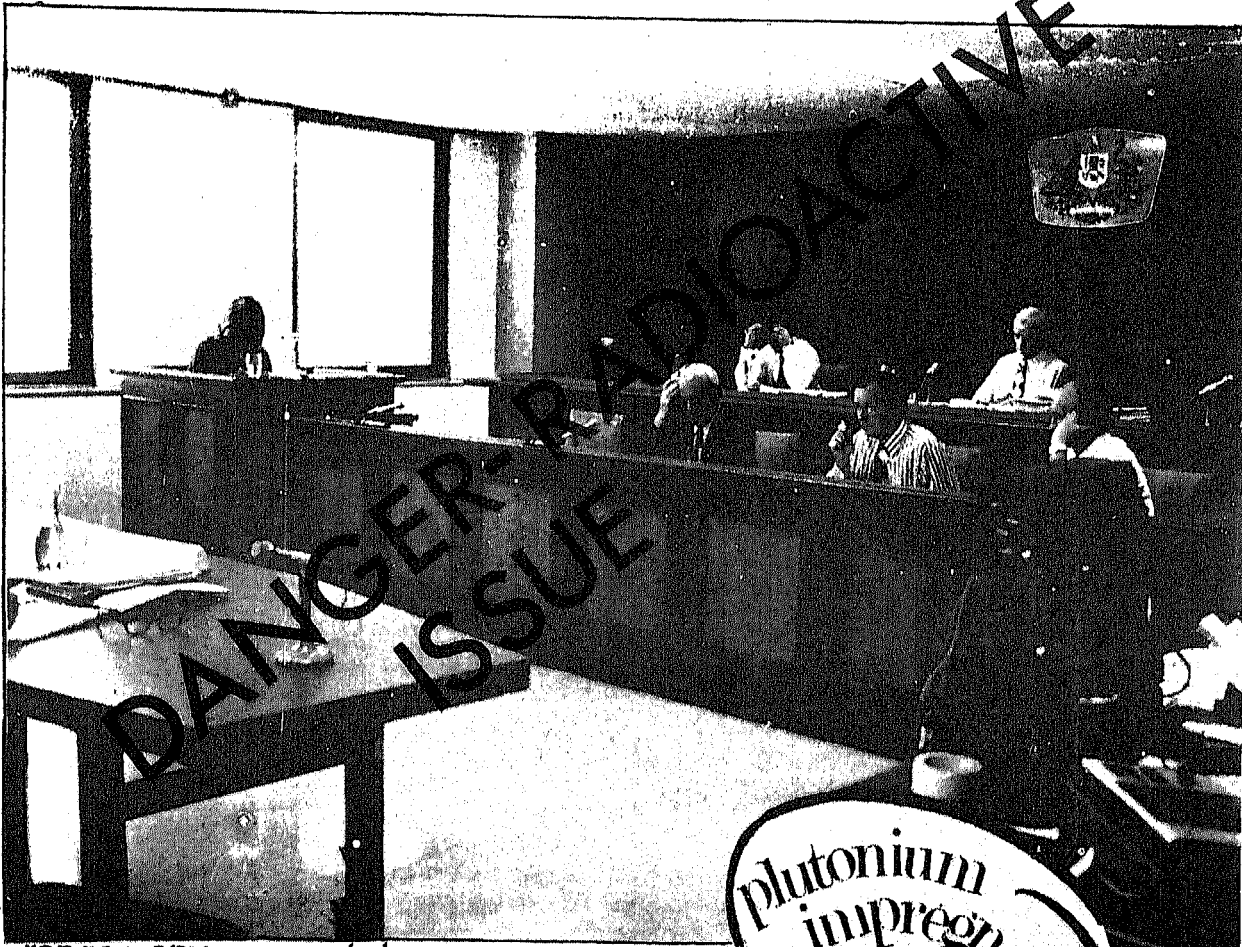
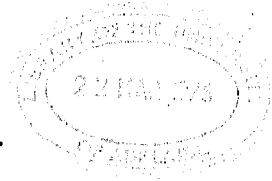
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vol 44



ranger environmental enquiry

Inside:

TIMOR. CHOU EN LAI. AUS.

# EDITORIAL

Freedom or coercion, elites or democracy, the state or the neighbourhood, centralization or decentralization, economic problems or people problems, technical feasibility or human desirability, a growth economy or a 'needs' economy ..... These are the sorts of issues being considered in the Uranium debate.

The stakes are not small. On the economic, centralized, elite....side are companies like the Ranger Company who stand to make millions of dollars out of mining uranium. In environmental, human terms one only has to read Amory Lovin's article in this edition of 'On Dit' or talk to people like Weislaw Lichacz to see how crucial the decision actually is.

It is important to realize that this debate is not divorced from our own lives. It is not a technical issue but a moral and ethical one. It is as basic as choosing the lifestyle we wish to lead. Students must support F.O.E., C.A.N.E. and 'Science for the People' in their stand against uranium.

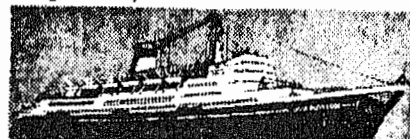
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# f.o.e. versus the ranger Co.

## an interview with weislaw lichacz

This interview took place while the Ranger Environmental Enquiry was in Adelaide.

The Ranger Enquiry has immense significance for the future of Australia, and also for the world at large.

While we in Australia are deciding whether or not to export our uranium, the voters in California will decide whether or not California will ban all nuclear power development.

Thus, despite poor press coverage, this enquiry will contribute to one of the most vital decisions ever to be made by mankind; whether to go nuclear, or to find alternative sources of energy. Whether to base our civilisation upon centralized nuclear energy or upon decentralized alternate sources.

Weislaw Lichacz, a technology student from New South Wales, has followed the enquiry for six months now as it makes its way around Australia. We interviewed him on Tuesday 24th February in the On Dit office.



COULD YOU BEGIN BY TELLING US A LITTLE ABOUT HOW YOU BECAME INVOLVED WITH FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND THE WHOLE URANIUM CAMPAIGN?

Well my name is Wieslaw Lichacz, and I was doing a course in Environmental Biology at the N.S.W. Institute of Technology...and I was learning all sorts of beautiful things about the environment...actions of animals...all the sort of inter-relationships...and they were very beautiful...but every day I would look around and see these things disappearing before my eyes, and so I wasn't learning Environmental Biology any more - I was learning History. So I decided to get into something that really made sense and was actually doing something active to stop the destruction of the environ-

ment with our present growth policies and so on. So I actually helped form the Friends of the Earth in Sydney after the Fig Street expressway was going to go through thousands of low-income houses and destroy suburbs and cause massive money to go into that development. We then started looking at energy and how this expressway fitted into that whole energy thing. We noticed that Uranium was starting to get a lot of 'bulldozing', that certain people were putting effort into this Uranium thing - they were doing so much work to get the thing through in a very short time space. So we forgot a lot of the motor issues and started work on Uranium. This was while I was still doing the course in technology... I actually got excluded from that course on the grounds of not believing in exams, and not sitting for the final exams..

and also the work I was doing for FOE was so time-consuming that I didn't have any chance of getting any marks for any of the other things as well. But I put in a submission saying that the work that I was doing for FOE and the community in general was far more important than the formal requirements of the course and they accepted that...so I'm going through the pipeline again as a student on the progressions committee right now.

Meanwhile, for the last six months, since September, I've been following the Ranger Enquiry around Australia. It's sat for about fifty four days so far, and produced about eight thousand pages of transcripts! I've tried to be at all the hearings, but missed a small number through lack of finances.

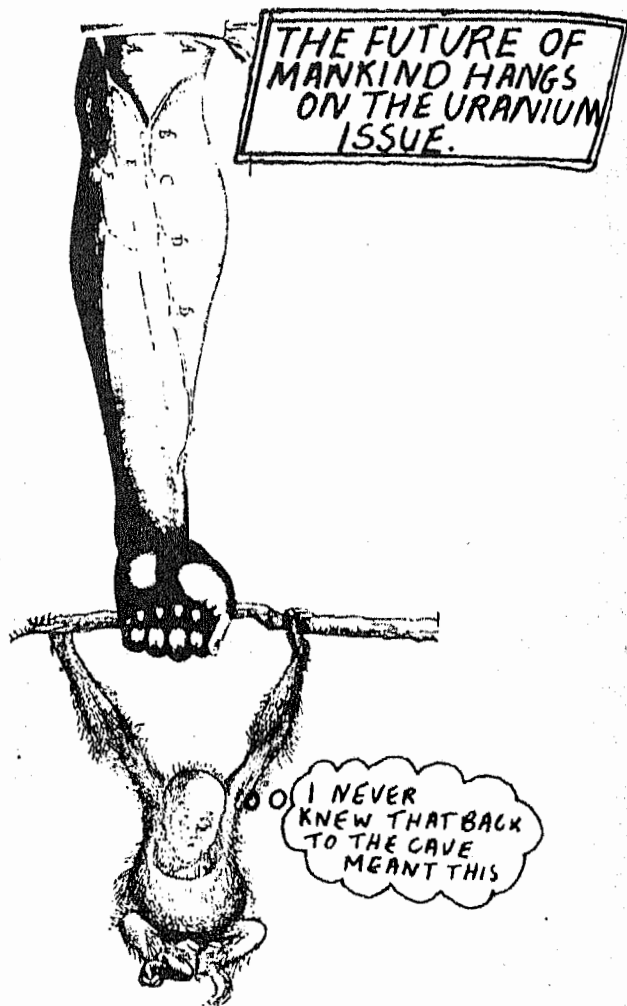
BEFORE WE GO FURTHER INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE RANGER ENQUIRY ITSELF, COULD YOU GIVE US SOME GENERAL BACKGROUND ABOUT THE URANIUM ISSUE, AND HOW IT'S BEEN APPROACHED BY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH?

Well, most of the arguments that could be put forward have been put forward...the thing now is that we see the same amount of technical and economic evidence on the one side that we see on the other side, and so it's basically just a decision now for the general public: But what we see at the same time as this is that the general public is that Uranium companies and the Government that is in power at the moment are just forging ahead committing Australia to exporting Uranium. [Derek] Anthony just came back from a recent trip to Tokyo...he met with some opposition as he was leaving the airport and when he came back...and also while he was in Tokyo...but they're making firm commitments and they're actually pre-empting the findings of the Enquiry...and so what we've had to do is to try and show them down at every stage that we possibly can.

the enquiry is one method...it's costing I think, nine million dollars a month for every month it's delayed...in terms of the whole cost of setting up the mining at the Ranger site near the Arnhem Land Aborigines.

We've set up a protest camp called Camp Concern in the Northern Territory, right near the proposal, where people are living off the land, trying to live out the politics they are trying to push...and also to maintain a kind of communications exchange with the aborigines and with the people in Darwin so that we can find out and keep the people informed about what's happening down here in the South because there has been a lack of communication between the two.

HOT DAMN!  
THIS COULD BE  
THE START OF  
SOMETHING...



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE AT CAMP CONCERN?

It's just on the end of the wet season at the moment. There were ranging from six to ten people after we'd been established two months, but in the wet season roads are cut off, floods and so on...the population dropped right down as people went around Australia on a recruitment campaign trying to gather together some more people to go up there - and we just got frantic calls a few weeks ago, just as Anthony was leaving for Japan,

Saying that we should try to get a lot more people up there. So if there are any people who want to do something in this whole Uranium thing, and live off the land, live with nature, understand the natural forces that are at play, and also put yourself to very good use, Camp Concern would be a very good place to go..

I SEEM TO RECALL HEARING RUMORS THAT A VITAL BRIDGE LINK BETWEEN DARWIN AND THE MINING SITE MIGHT BE BLOWN UP AS A LAST RESORT, AND THAT CAMP CONCERN IS SITUATED RIGHT ALONGSIDE THAT BRIDGE.

As a matter of fact there has been a submission lodged to this enquiry by someone from Darwin, who painted a scenario of people being chased by police for blowing up one of the bridges crossing the Alligator River and setting back the Uranium miners about nine months until they get a chance to rebuild the bridge after the wet season...the police were chasing them over all of Arnhem Land, and the aboriginals were actually defending them...This could be the outcome if the Government goes ahead and completely disregards the evidence put forward by the groups like Friends of the Earth, and many other conservation groups in legal and proper methods...the methods that don't involve any civil disobedience. The bridges may be blown up. As a matter of fact there have been a number of advertisements in aboriginal papers asking for braves to go and live off the land and to wreak sabotage on the Uranium mining project.

One important thing has happened since the December 13th election results were announced. After the elections there were about, I think, seventy-five mining leases taken out by Pan Continental, and Peko Wallsend. Now, since we have people there right on the spot, we were able to lodge quite a number of objections to these mining lease applications in the Mining Warden's Court.

WERE THESE LEASES IN THE AREA NEAR CAMP CONCERN?

Yes, they were basically around the whole of the Alligator River region...we're not sure why they were all taken out...I imagine they just got this sort of extra surge when they heard the Liberals had taken power...and they started taking out all these leases, imagining that they'd have a fairly free go to put these leases right through their whole rigmarole.

AND WHAT ARGUMENTS OR OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED BY CAMP CONCERN?

Well we've managed to delay the hearings of the Mining Warden's Court until June - which will then take into account the findings of the Ranger Enquiry, as well as what's happening overseas...the engineers dropping out of the General Electric Co. for example...middle ranking engineers who dropped out of GE in support of the Campaign Against Nuclear Power in California.

WERE THESE WELL RESPECTED ENGINEERS?

All three of them had about fifty-four years in total of experience in working for GE in all phases of the nuclear design, modifications to the nuclear plants and so on...the main

reason they resigned is because Californian legislature is putting the whole question of nuclear power development to the vote...and the campaign against nuclear power and FOE in the States are working very hard to try to inform the public of nuclear power developments and their hazards...

THESE ENGINEERS TURNED BACK ON THEIR LIVE'S WORK AFTER DECIDING THAT IT WAS DANGEROUS TO USE NUCLEAR POWER.

They had very strongly worded statements saying that the nuclear power developments are just an incredible danger to mankind at this stage in our evolution...One of them had actually had his mind jogged at an Italian Hotel...the bell boy asked him what he was, and he said he was a nuclear engineer, and the bellboy said that's not a very nice thing and since then this guy has changed his whole way of thinking.

It's these little sort of things like the bellboy that we are trying to promote. We're conducting a search for conscientious objectors in the industry...this is another function of the camp we set up in the Northern Territory. We're also looking for them at Kathleen...but that's extremely difficult, because those who have been looking after Kathleen for the last eight years under care and maintenance, have formed themselves into a very close-knit group and everyone knows exactly what everyone else is doing...but at least we have made some inroads there with the unions. Mary Kathleen will be the first presently-mined Uranium that's to go out of Australia...shipped by road to Railhead, to Cloncurry, and then off to Townsville to go off in boats to wherever it's going to be exported to, and so we're hoping to get a lot of support in Townsville for our proposal to place black bans on the export of Uranium...especially if this enquiry is still hanging in the air...we've actually set up an office in Townsville working out of the Commonwealth Centre and we are working basically within the unions to keep the rank and file informed about what is going on and keeping a very close watch on the material that will be shifted from Mary Kathleen... The other factor is that it appears that in Darwin the unions have fairly well blocked off the Uranium from going out of the port. The waterside workers are so much on side, and won't have anything to do with Uranium going out of Darwin. The NT Trades and Labour Council has actually placed a black ban on Uranium, and the Transport Worker's Union has black banned anything to do with Pan Continental Uranium...



However, the very first Uranium that looks as though it'll be leaving Australia is from a two thousand ton stock pile at Lucas Heights in Sydney... that Uranium was extracted from Rum Jungle and other Uranium plots in NT, and I guess a little from Mary Kathleen. That particular Uranium will be going out from Sydney ports, or perhaps from Port Kembla because it was actually shipped into Lucas Heights through Port Kembla down near Woolongong... we've been working with the unions there and there is still a lot more work to be done to get most of the rank-and-file people informed about the Uranium situation and exactly what might happen in Sydney.

We're also hoping that a lot of the local residents around Lucas Heights will be given civil defence type notices, announcing exactly what might happen to this Uranium that's locked up at Lucas Heights, and asking them to keep their ears and eyes open just in case it starts coming out.. when that does happen we'll straight away have this phone networks so that we can inform the unions so that lockouts can occur and so on...

OK, SO THAT'S A BRIEF COVERAGE OF THE BACKGROUND TO THE RANGER ENQUIRY. WHAT ABOUT THE ENQUIRY ITSELF?

Well, as I said, I've tried to follow it everywhere and have covered most of its sittings. It's a real pity though that we couldn't raise enough money to go out to Gove, because we felt that it would be very important to see what the mining had done to the aboriginals out there.. Apparently, it was very destructive. The evidence that the aborigines had given out there was not of very much use to the inquiry because...well the whole set up was very intimidating, where they were confronted by an all-white commission, and all-white advisory to the commission, and there was just one witness, one aboriginal giving evidence to this incredible body. And it is usual that aboriginals prefer to talk in groups and they exchange ideas and so on and they correct each other's mistakes before they finally commit themselves to decisions - and the commission had made prior arrangements to meet in traditional meeting situation with the aboriginals, but they just went back on that...

We then moved onto Sydney and listened to a lot of evidence from companies, cross-examination and so on... the usual nuts speaking like Sir Phillip Baxter and Sir Ernest Tideman who are basically just scientific bureaucrats you might say, they have no scientific background anymore.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THEY'VE GOT NO SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND?

Well they're basically political people and they're just involved in the whole politics of getting things done...like

Sir Phillip Baxter has this fear of the population explosion and sees the only real solution of the population explosion as being a nuclear war... Sir Ernest has got lots of other very strange ideas. He actually put forward his little solar hot water heater on top of his house that he built himself as being a proof that solar power would never work because it used to pile up with dust... I guess mainly because he didn't have time to hose it down every now and then...

HOW IS THE RANGER COMPANY DEALING WITH THE ENQUIRY, AS COMPARED TO FOE'S METHODS?

The companies have hired someone from the International Public Relations Consultancy, and are spending quite a lot of money to present their case.

We ourselves put in a submission for three people to follow



the enquiry, and we requested six thousand dollars, mainly for the transportation and communications, for the purpose of relating most of the matters of the enquiry to the environment groups around Australia presenting evidence. That submission failed.

The companies, according to our quick calculations, would be spending about five hundred thousand dollars, just for hotel bills, transport bills, and stuff like that...

#### WHAT'S THE PUBLICITY BEEN LIKE?

An interesting aspect is the upsurge of media involvement in the enquiry. Initially the coverage was very scant, and newspaper reports almost zero. It wasn't until Commissioner Fox said that for Fraser to try to curtail the enquiry by June the 30th, would be illegal, because the Act states that no minister could shorten or interfere in the proceedings of any enquiry set up under the Environmental Protection Impact... Since then there has been a great upsurge of interest in the enquiry... We actually had a demonstration on the same day he made that announcement, marching from the Opera House to the enquiry. We even met a miner from Kathleen who said there are trucks already moving around there, except he was a migrant miner who had never had the Uranium situation explained to him, and he said that there were trucks of rock being shipped around and there wasn't anything dangerous about it, you could just walk over the stuff and not feel any effect. But when it was explained that he could start feeling cancer effects after six to eight years he started getting a little bit worried.

#### FOR HOW LONG WILL THE ENQUIRY BE IN ADELAIDE?

It's going to be here for a couple of weeks by the looks of it - there have been twenty-six submissions waiting to come forward to the commission.

#### WHAT IS THE NATURE OF EVIDENCE BEING SUBMITTED IN ADELAIDE?

The main thing here in Adelaide is that the people giving evidence here so far are all against the development... people from the Liberal Movement, the Australian Party, Scientists, people who have worked with nobel laureates, ordinary farmers, and just ordinary people. There is even the holder of a Uranium lease in the Northern Territory - she will continue to renew that lease as her sign that she wants that Uranium left in the ground.

#### CAN YOU TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION?

The commission is made up of three commissioners, and it seems as though they want to hear both sides of the argument - at the moment they seem to be overwhelmed by the environmental side of the argument, because we're putting

forward a really common sense argument, and the only thing the company has to fall back on is the economic considerations, garnished of course with a little bit of environmental bullshit... they still show a total absence of any knowledge of what the environment is all about.

#### WHAT ARE THE GARNISHINGS THAT YOU ARE REFERRING TO?

They say it's going to provide employment for the aboriginals, it's going to enhance their situation, even though at the same time people like the Pan Continental Board of Directors says that the aboriginals must move forward, without any consultation with the aboriginals whatsoever. LOOKING BACK OVER THE WHOLE ENQUIRY, DO YOU FEEL IT MAY COME OUT AGAINST URANIUM?

Personally, I think it'll come out against because of the common sense arguments being put forward by the environmentalists, and because the company is just relying on the economics of Uranium - and even the economics of Uranium mining is very shaky at the moment.

#### HOW COULD STUDENTS FROM ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY BE OF USE IN OPPOSING THE MINING OF URANIUM?

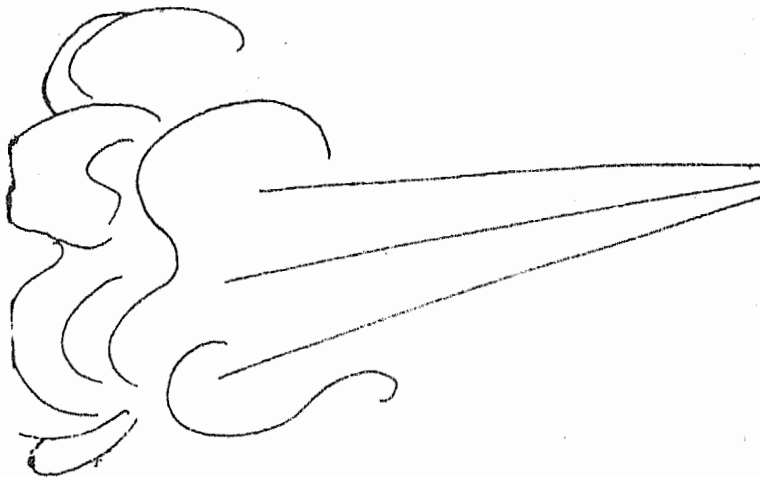
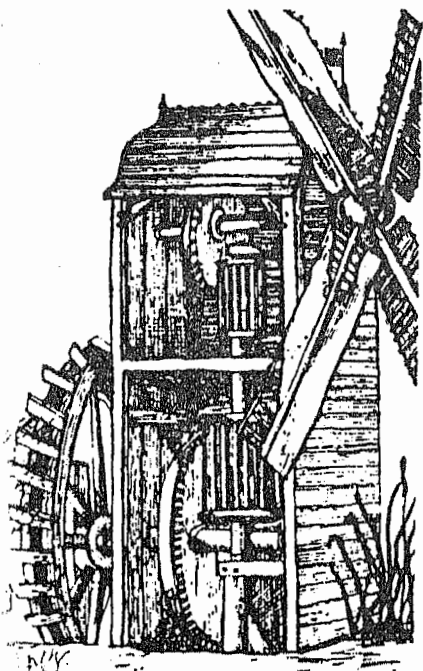
There's a bikeride planned against the mining of Uranium, to the Iron Triangle I think it is... also to Canberra in May - which coincides with when the commissioners start writing up their reports of their interim report or whatever it is, for June. This will have an impact both on the commissioners and on the general public, who have listened to all the media reports, and are awaiting the findings of the enquiry. It will also be happening at about the same time as the legislation is going through in California - the most important legislation which is happening in the States at the moment... some newspaper reports claim that it is more important than the presidential elections this year... this is the nuclear power debate in the U.S. Also it should have a big impact on the NCP-Liberal Government which is in power at the moment, as well as the Opposition.

#### CAN YOU SEE ANY PARTICULAR ROLE FOR THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY IN THIS MATTER?

I found that throwing these issues around at lectures and in courses, the lecturers had to think about them and finally to incorporate them in courses... so you could get a situation where you could get credit for working on this Uranium/energy issue. It would be very good if many of those who have some of the material that we are putting out, or help us write more information, or just help generally. I'm supposed to be, or end up as, a Scientist, but I see myself more as trying to get the information out to the public, liberating information.

#### SO YOU DEFINITELY CAN SEE A ROLE AS ACTIVISTS FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THE WHOLE QUESTION OF URANIUM.

I hope this is what most Science and Engineering students would see of themselves.



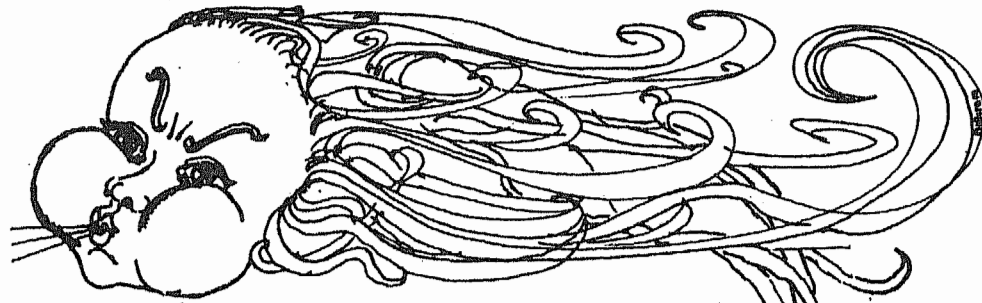
# amory lovins

Amory Lovins is a graduate of both Harvard and Oxford Universities; he is today a consultant physicist - concentrating on energy resource strategy. He advises such organizations as OECD, several United Nations agencies, the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study and the MIT Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategies, and is the representative in Britain of the United States branch of Friends of the Earth.

Lovins has broadcast extensively and is author of four books - amongst them "Nuclear Power: Technical Bases for Ethical Concern" (1975 U.K.) and "Non-Nuclear Futures" (Ballinger 1975) - and numerous monographs, papers, articles and reviews.

What decision should we make regarding the exploitation and use of one of this country's more sought after minerals? What are the moral considerations that should be taken into account in deciding whether or not we mine uranium? The following is a shortened version of a talk given by Amory Lovins in Union Hall last year dealing with these issues.





I guess I should warn you that in technical debates you should never believe an expert, particularly one who is trying to sell you something. In fact such a warning doesn't even go far enough because the most important issues in the nuclear and energy debate are not mainly technical or economic but rather social and ethical....and are thus the legitimate province of every citizen, whether technically trained or not.

Inevitably in any discussion of nuclear power, technical and ethical views get mixed up with each other and much of what may appear at first to be a technical disagreement is really a difference of personal perceptions and values.

For example, in nuclear debates many important pieces of information are unknown or unknowable, there are enormous uncertainties. Some people view uncertainty as grounds for caution while others view it as license for plunging ahead. For some people if you can't prove a thing will be harmful they'll say right it won't be harmful for other people, if you can't prove it won't be harmful they say watch out, it may be harmful. So in the low level radiation controversy, for example some people say that safety hasn't been proved, and some people say that harm hasn't been proved. Both are scientifically correct, both positions can be technically proved and you just have to decide for yourself which position is ethically preferable.

You don't have to be a nuclear engineer to decide whether the people involved in nuclear energy are infallible enough for your taste.

I'd like to survey very quickly some of the areas in which nuclear risks are most obvious. I should start by giving you a feeling for the magnitudes involved and why this is a serious problem....Let's talk for the moment about one reactor of 1,000 electrical Megawatts and let's assume it has been running for a while....That reactor will contain a great many radio-isotopes. Let's choose one of them,

iodine 31. There is enough in the reactor to contaminate the air over Australia to a height of ten kilometres - to about 8 times the maximum permissible level for that isotope. Likewise, in the reactor there is enough Strontium 90 to contaminate the annual fresh-water run-off of the lower 48 united states about 12 times the maximum permissible level for that isotope. A large reprocessing plant would contain about 150 times as much Strontium 90. Now, these examples are not intended to imply that that kind of widespread and uniform distribution could ever occur, if materials did escape they would have a higher concentration over a smaller area. The only point of the examples is as an illustration to suggest a need for the most diligent containment.

I can give you another example, Plutonium 249.....Some people believe that this material is so poisonous that an inhalation dose able to give lung cancer to everyone on earth is contained in a piece about the size of a marble. Maybe that hypothesis is completely wrong, it is neither proved nor disproved. If it is completely wrong then the present standards under attack from several directions are completely right then the piece involved would be about the size of a beachball. That still isn't very reassuring because there is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a ton in a modern power reactor or something like 2 or 3 tons in a fast breeder reactor.

World stocks are projected to be thousands of tons in a few decades and this again suggests the need for exquisite care in dealing with this material. Particularly, in the case of Plutonium because it is chemically very reactive and tends

to escape rather easily, just through its own chemical properties.

### Problem Areas.

Now let me start surveying a few problem areas, bearing in mind the sort of problem magnitude I've just illustrated. I don't want to get into an engineering discussion of reactor safety. There are many unresolved engineering difficulties but they're highly technical in character. I think its perhaps of greater interest for a general audience for me just to point out that the main variables in the discussion are unknown or disputed..... Therefore, there is a political risk which you can't really avoid. You see, the technology itself involves hazards which are long term or exotic or catastrophic, or cannot be detected with our senses. They depart generally from social experience.

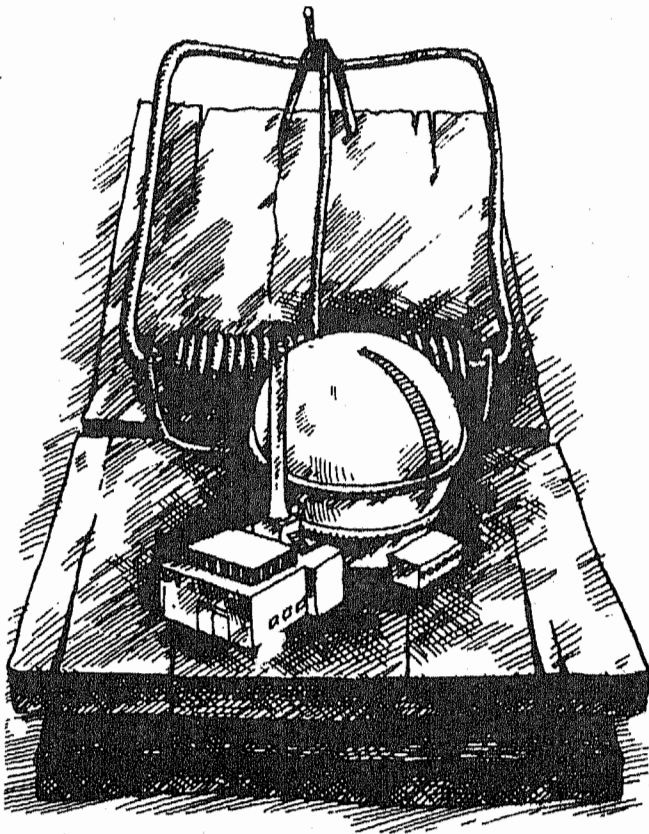
It is especially awkward because experts, even non experts, can look at exactly the same facts about reactor safety and reach completely opposite conclusions. We've had lately in the states upwards of 1,000 reactor accidents a year published.

Some of them are trivial, some of them are major. They all tell rather the same story. Let me just mention a few of them which have happened lately, which happened to stick in my mind. We have rather frequent failures, about one a week of the high pressure, emergency cooling systems relied upon to prevent catastrophic accidents. One of those recent failures occurred when three valves didn't work, one of them because of a design fault no one had thought of, another because there was a four foot length of old pipe stuck inside it, and third one because the circuitry and the electronics controlling it failed. It turned out under investigation that the protective diodes in curcuietry were so arranged that when you tested them, it would say they were alright and the test would at the same time destroy them. That sort of thing really impresses me with human ingenuity in inventing new kinds of mistakes.

A reactor engineer can look at these sorts of experiences, which we have generally several each day in the U.S... and he can say, well we haven't had a reactor do itself in. Precautions and resourceful operators have worked, how clever we are. I can look at the same set of examples and say how far ahead the ingenuity of the mistakes is compared with the ingenuity of the designer. How long can we go on being lucky and this difference of view is not a technical dispute.

### NUCLEAR WASTES.

When we move on to the subject of wastes there are generally two classes of radioactive wastes which last a while. There are the fission products which you need to look after in most cases for 9 thousand years. Some of them last longer but aren't very plentiful. Then there are the trans-Uranic elements, the actonides, that you have to look after for periods ranging from a million to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million years...Periods which are not so much geological as theological. The high-level wastes...the very concentrated ones can probably be converted to a solid form so that when the tanks spring a leak, it won't dribble out quite so fast. Unfortunately, the glass or whatever solid it is may not stay inert and insoluble for a long time and even if it did that still wouldn't solve the basic problem, which is that we have no peace on earth for which a responsible geologist can guarantee stability for long enough. You're really stuck with the stuff and because of all the geological contingencies which can arise its a principle that the waste ought to be retrievable. So if something goes wrong some member of the technological priest-hood can get it back. However, this implies a kind of hierarchical social rigidity or homogeneity so that you'll have a tranquil enough society, that the technological priest-hood can go about its work unhampered. For an extremely long time.



It is obviously a business with a long future. But I think it is legitimate to ask whether we can expect to have a tranquil, peaceful societies for these extremely long periods and to count on human ingenuity and dedication looking after the wastes continuously for that long. Again, we are faced with unknown or unknowable risks and attempts to make political decisions about them tend to strain the competency and perceive legitimacy of our political institutions.

### NUCLEAR TERRORISM.

A third big problem area, really at the top of the list of my concerns is safeguards, that is the measures one takes to see that terrorists, non nuclear national or subnational groups, lunatics, criminal syndicates, or their agents, can be kept from using nuclear materials for violence or coercion. For example, an enterprising fanatic can fairly readily make a few kilograms of reactor grade plutonium into a crude but very convincing atom bomb - or into another kind of weapon of mass destruction. One doesn't have to go to the trouble of actually making it because the embezzlement of nuclear materials can be made undetectable in principle, despite any current or conceivable system of accountancy - (measuring the material you have to see if anyone has taken some) - and for that reason the threat that someone has taken it is always credible.

The magnitudes are very discouraging... we are told that in 20 years at least 20,000 bombs worth of strategic material will be in transit each year. Within the same international community which has consistently failed to stop bank robberies, aircraft hijackings and the black market in heroin and the effects of even a single clandestine bomb could be so great that I would doubt whether any society would want to incur even a remote chance of it.

The central social problem of trying to prevent this, trying to make irrational or hostile people safe for the technology instead of the other way around is not only that the safeguards may fail, but that the more successful they are, the more repressive they are likely to be. We have had studies in several countries lately of what sorts of measures one would take to make it harder for people to make their own bombs.... Such proposals include a national nuclear police force, open or secret, private armed guards, a lot of surveillance of nuclear workers and their friends and relations, surveillance also with wire-tapping and infiltration of any groups thought to be potentially threatening, and new police powers infringing on traditional civil liberties. In short, it appears that a civilian nuclear sector can bring about the kinds of political changes which military nuclear deterrents are designed to prevent.

I'd like to stress that the kinds of threats I've been discussing are not imaginary or academic. A colleague of mine in London has recently been making up a documented chron-

ology of some hundreds of actual incidents of nuclear threats sabotage of electrical facilities and so on - and I think as an aid to your imagination, perhaps I should mention some of the things which have already happened.

Last year, quite a few senior Italian military and intelligence officers were arrested for allegedly plotting a right-wing coup in which public panic was to be generated by adding to the water supplies some radioactive materials to be stolen from a research centre. In 1961 French Scientists testing an atomic bomb in Algeria reportedly had to destroy it lest it fall into the hands of rebellious French generals... Mutinous sailors a few years back temporarily seized control of a US air-craft carrier Kitty-hawk with a sizable nuclear arsenal.

This year a respected analyst has reported that according to US Army exercises nuclear weapons and military stores can be penetrated without detection in spite of armed guards, fences and the most modern electronic barriers. Five years ago authorities in Florida were prepared to pay one million dollars to someone who sent them a crude drawing of a hydrogen bomb and threatened to explode it. It turned out it was a 14 year old schoolboy. In the past few years at least 7 threats of home-made plutonium bombs have been received by US authorities. Some of these are still being investigated. An undergraduate at M.I.T. working alone and from the open literature on commission from a T.V. station recently succeeded in designing in five weeks a crude atomic bomb which if made according to his detailed instructions would have a good chance of a 1/20th to 2 kiloton yield according to the weapons experts at the Swedish Ministry of Defense.

Let me round off this list with a few related human failures. There are 120 thousand people in charge of handling US nuclear weapons. Each year about 3% of them, that is several thousand of them are relieved of duty as security risks, mainly owing to drug use. Four years ago the US national emergency warning service which is subject to strict control, broadcast an erroneous alert that a nuclear war was starting - it took them 37 minutes to find the right tape to say it was all a mistake. The man in charge said "I can't imagine how the hell I did it." In 1973 when the US went on strategic alert the NATO authorities in New York apparently didn't find out about it for several hours....

I suggest that these kinds of incidents and many like them are not a good omen in a world where traffic in nuclear materials is supposed to increase by orders of magnitude in the next few decades and where the incidence of a very sophisticated sort of international terrorism will be increasing.

Now lets suppose for a moment that everything I've been saying is wrong and that nuclear power is in fact as clean, safe and benign as its proponents suggest. What we have to look at now is the kind of system.

.....That it locks us into. And I ought to start that argument by pointing out that a centralized, electrified system is qualitatively different in its capital intensity from the kinds of energy systems we're used to. If you want to supply a unit of heat to a consumer each day with nuclear electricity you'll have to invest about 20 times as much money as you would with NORTH Sea Oil and that in turn is several times more expensive than the fossil fuel systems on which our economies are built. That kind of capital intensity led the strategic planners of the Shell group in London among others to conclude several years ago that no major country outside the Persian Gulf could afford to electrify most of its economy I can easily illustrate the kind of ridiculous number that you get into with electric systems. Pres. Ford has proposed a ten year US energy program (76-85) which would cost about a trillion dollars (a million million dollars) - Today's dollars - That's about a current GNP year and that means that over that 10 years not a quarter as usual but more like three quarters of all the net private investment in the country would have to go into the energy sector. To put it another way,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all the discretionary investment which was at societies disposal to go into schools, houses, industry hospitals, parks, roads or whatever would suddenly disappear - it would go into the energy sector and it's not hard to see some deserved political barriers in the way of that kind of diversion of national resources.

Centralized electric grids greatly concentrate political and economic power at a time when many people want them further diffused and in the electrical world your lifeline doesn't come from people you know running an understandable local technology but rather from a highly bureaucratized, remote technical elite who probably have never heard of you and may not care all that much about you.

Decisions about who will have how much energy and at what price become centralized and generally the people who use energy get divided from the ones who supply and regulate it. Now if you combine that with the federal versus local or federal versus state conflicts of a strong central authority saying you will have a reactor here, and a coal mine there or an off shore oil there, whether you want it or not, the result is a kind of centrifugal politics with the edges flying away from the centre and a lot of stress in between. That is proving in the northern hemisphere perhaps the most potent restraint on energy expansion.

Likewise, on an international scale the electrical systems are the most prone of any to technological dependence on multinationals and to commercial monopoly by the same, and they can't be transferred to poor countries without bringing with them a sort of 'cargo-cult' mentality and other inappropriate cultural values and patterns. The scale

and complexity of centralized electric grids, (as I'm very aware living in England). Makes them very vulnerable to mistakes and disruption. It's a very vulnerable system. A few people can turn off a country. Probably now a single rifleman can black out most cities and again if societies that depend on such vulnerable systems want to become less vulnerable, they are driven to a kind of garrison state. They are bound to paramilitarize the technology and move it further from grass roots politics. Finally because the centralized and electrified high technologies demand so much money and skill and time to develop, even to explore seriously, any commitment to them tends to foreclose other options. In many ways it's partly that you have sunk all the capital in these expensive systems, partly that you have built up big industries and research establishments and so on that identify their own welfare with that of the program. You develop big constituencies with a lot of political power. You've let wasteful use of energy run on unchecked so that the numbers are that much more intractable, it's that much harder to catch up no matter what you do later - You have delayed or lost the time in which you could have been developing softer energy technologies and you have produced a pervasive distortion of political priorities and energy and everything else.

CAN IT DO WHAT WE EXPECT IT TO?

Now I've just been arguing that nuclear power is environmentally socially threatening and that even if it weren't it would still be a bad idea because of the kind of energy system it locks us into. Let me complete the argument very briefly by suggesting that if all of these things were not true then nuclear power would still be unable to do what we expect of it. Now I could argue that on economic grounds, that we can't afford the big systems. Let me argue it instead on logistical grounds. Using rate and magnitude arithmetic - (how fast you can do things). If world energy use went up 5% a year as many govts. still hope and we built one reaction a day, in fact if we commissioned one a day, starting now, then in 2,000 we would still be getting most of our energy from fossil fuel which we would be burning more than twice as fast as now. The numbers are so big you can't catch up. The same things are true on a national scale. Take Denmark, it is the Japan of the west, a small country but you can scale the results to Australia if you like. Suppose the Danish Energy and Electricity use goes up 3-4% a year, (the govt. would consider that disastrously low). Suppose also that the Danes start now on a huge nuclear project, for them. 'at is one nuclear reactor every other year - Then in the year 2,000 they will still be 90% dependent, as now on imported fossil fuels for their national energy supplies. The rest would presumably come from Westinghouse or some such place and if you look a little further at the engineering, you quickly conclude that nuclear systems cannot sustain rapid growth at large scale because they are so terribly complicated. We've had a number of official forecasts in the

states lately to the effect that solar technologies can only surpass, some time during the 1990's the most optimistic nuclear projection. Just because the solar systems are so much faster.

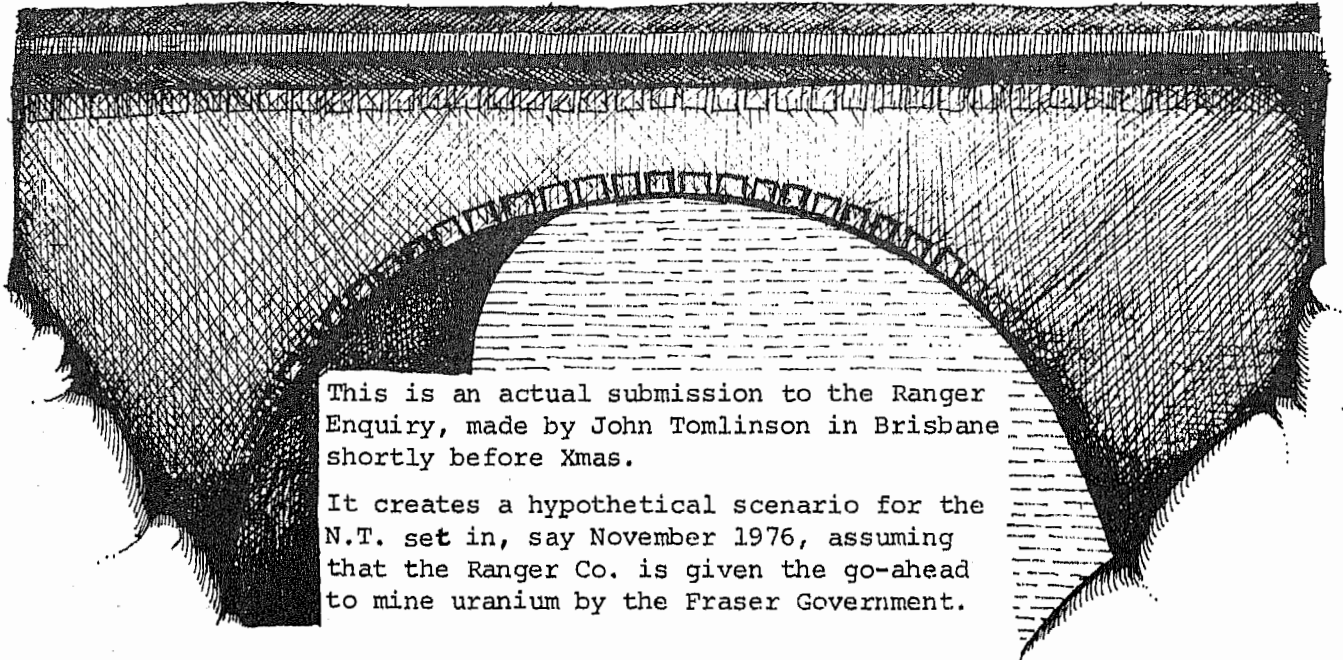
Now that leads me peripherally to what we ought to be doing instead of nuclear power, that is really another talk in itself. I've tried to outline it a bit in the introduction to "Non Nuclear Futures"...but I can sketch the rough outlines just in a couple of minutes...in a rather conclusory way...Let me start with the proposition that increasing energy supply tends to be slow, costly, risky and of temporary benefit. Decreasing energy demand tends to be cheap, safe and of permanent benefit. Decreasing energy demand on a large scale and over many decades does involve social change. It turns out though that that kind of social change is more compatible with traditional values and more plausible and more pleasant than the kinds of social change, some of which I have outlined, which you would need in a vulnerable, electrified, high energy society. So the first element of a sensible energy strategy for rich countries is to use energy very much more wisely and efficiently than we do now. It is the best energy source. The second of 3 elements of a good energy strategy would be to move as quickly as we can to living on our energy income, sun, wind, organic conversion and so on - using technologies that are generally on a rather small scale, house or neighbourhood scale and that are electrified only as far as it is necessary. That is not very much in most industrial countries. A small fraction, maybe 5% of end use energy really has to be in the form of electricity and for other end uses it's a long and costly way round. Now many of the energy income technologies are already available, and already economical but even so, and despite very rapid progress in this field, it will take us 40 or 50 years to switch over to living on our income and what we should do meanwhile is really the third element of the strategy and that is to use fossil fuels briefly and sparingly. Meanwhile, in order to build a bridge to that economy of energy income. We do have transitional technologies which are much cleaner and more efficient than the ways we are using fossil fuels now and which are of appropriate scale and adaptable - so that as the energy income technologies come along we can plug them right in. It turns out when you compare this sort of policy path with the one being pursued today that the two have very similar rates and costs. In fact even in countries like Japan you can get to an energy income economy at least as quickly and cheaply as you can get to a nuclear economy and with much lower risk. That I think is one of the two most important things to come out of this kind of analysis and the other is that if you go far down - the high energy, nuclearized, electrified path you cannot get back again, you foreclose the option. This is why it is important to make this sort of choice very soon and for Australia to use her resource policy as a lever to try to move other countries such as Japan in a more sustainable direction so that they will no longer feel that they have to keep on grabbing Australian resources.



*What can one man do, my friend  
What can one man do  
To fight pollution in the air  
That's closing in from everywhere*

**SMASH CAPITALISM**

# handy hints for concerned environmentalists (or how to blow up bridges)



This is an actual submission to the Ranger Enquiry, made by John Tomlinson in Brisbane shortly before Xmas.

It creates a hypothetical scenario for the N.T. set in, say November 1976, assuming that the Ranger Co. is given the go-ahead to mine uranium by the Fraser Government.

The Commissioner,  
Uranium Inquiry.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is my submission to the enquiry. It is a serious submission. Although it is based on predictions all of which may not come true I believe the main points raised are exceedingly relevant to your enquiry. Should the enquiry not take account of this evidence the enquiry will be the less useful on that account. I am prepared to be questioned in this submission.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN TOMLINSON,  
B. Soc. Studies B.A. (Hons) M.S.W.

The following story is entirely fictional and is not meant to represent the views, attitudes or behaviour of any individual or organization alive, dead or moribund; any similarity between this story and reality is entirely accidental.

76 - WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR.

DARWIN: 3/11/76.

Police arrested two men - Peter James KENNEDY (26) and Tony BLAIR (23) - labourers - no address given - on charges of malicious damage, resisting arrest and assaulting police.

The charges followed the destruction of the South Alligator Bridge on the Arnhem Highway last Saturday night.

The men were arrested at the Pine Creek Hotel. Two young women are currently being questioned - they were with Kennedy and Blair at the time of their arrest. It is believed that all four were members of, or were closely associated with, an organization called 'Spaceship Earth'.

Police had suspected for some time that environmentalists were associated with the explosion which shattered 3 piers of the bridge, a major crossing between Darwin and the Uranium province of East Kakadu.

A spokesman for the Department of Northern Australia said today that it would be 4 months, at least, before vehicles would again be able to travel between the East Alligator Crossing and Darwin. Arrangements were made on Wednesday to transport the personal effects of tourists stranded by the destruction of the South Alligator Bridge.

The tourists' cars are being looked after by the police officer at Jabiru until the old road dries out sufficiently for conventional vehicles.

The Executive Officer for the Environment Foundation of the N.T., Mr. Phillip Baxter, dissociated his organization from the attack on the Bridge. Mr. Baxter acknowledge that Spaceship Earth had been involved with the Environment Foundation in attempts to convince the Government of not mining Uranium. He said "No member of this Foundation has taken any part in any discussion to engage in illegal activity, more particularly, no member of this Foundation would have anything to do with blowing up the South Alligator Bridge."

Mr. Baxter indicated that during 1975 the Foundation had co-operated with Spaceship Earth even to the extent of providing them with space in the Foundations offices - he, Mr. Baxter, said "this arrangement had been terminated at a special general meeting in June this year. It had been the more aggressive and anti-law response of some members of Spaceship Earth which had led to the Foundation's decision to dissociate themselves."

Police issued a description of two men they still want to question in connection with the detonation of the South Alligator Bridge and the explosion of mining equipment at the Ranger Mining Camp at Jabiru. The men are both of medium build - one is part Aboriginal with short hair and is heavily tattooed on both forearms - the other has a ruddy complexion, long blond hair, full beard and grey eyes. The men were last seen driving a 1972 cream coloured Land Rover towards the East Alligator Crossing. Police warn that both men may be dangerous.

DARWIN: 4/11/1976.

Mr. Ben Simpson, President of Spaceship Earth, N.T. Branch, today dissociated his organization from the bombing of the South Alligator Bridge. He admitted that Peter James Kennedy, Tony Blair and their girl friends Leslie Little and Norma May Hewitt, who were last night charged with being accomplices of Kennedy and Blair were members of his organization.

Mr. Simpson denied that his organization had ever discussed the blowing up of the South Alligator Bridge to stop Uranium mining.

"Throughout 1975 Spaceship Earth had attempted by every legal means to convince the Federal Government of the harmful effects of Uranium mining, we shall continue to try to educate the public of the dangers of Uranium mining and of nuclear energy" he said.

Mr. Simpson said he was convinced that the general public was concerned about the destruction of the environment caused by the Uranium miners - we will win by legal means. "It is Government at both a local and Federal level which needs to resort to quasi-legal means in support of the Uranium miners."

Mr. Simpson was referring to the recent ratification by the Legislative Assembly and the Federal Parliament of an agreement with mining companies without having considered all relevant environmental impact statements.

DARWIN: 5/11/1976.

Police announced they were closing in on the two men they still wanted for questioning in relation to the South Alligator Bridge bombing. They believed the men were holed up in part of the West Kakadu escarpment country. Earlier today police had taken possession of a cream coloured 1972 Land Rover which they found camouflaged on a side road off the Arnhem Highway.

The Commissioner of Police said he had been disappointed by the response of the Rangurai Aboriginal Council who had refused access to police into an area of their country which they claim to be sacred. The Commissioner said that the police had surrounded the position and that a special magistrate flown to Jabiru had subsequently issued a warrant to search the area.

The Commissioner added "If we had not been held up I believe we would have apprehended the men by now." "It is thought that some Aboriginal communities might support the fugitives because of the mistaken belief that as well as opposing Uranium mining the men will support the land rights case now being heard for the West Kakadu area."

DARWIN: 6/11/1976.

In the Darwin Magistrates Court today, Peter James Kennedy, 26, and Tony Blair, 23, Leslie Little, 19, and Norma May Hewitt, 22, were formally charged with malicious damage, resisting arrest, and assaulting police. All pleaded not guilty and were remanded until the December sittings of the Supreme Court, bail was disallowed. The Police Prosecutor, in opposing bail, stated that none of the four were employed and he believed that there was a danger of further offences being committed.

Later in the day, Tony Blair was also charged with being in possession of one gram of cannabis - no plea was entered and the case was adjourned to January 26. Police still have not located two other men they wish to question in connection with the bridge explosion. A spokesman for the police said that the net was getting tighter and it was just a matter of time.

DARWIN: 7/11/1976.

Police reinforcements were sent to Rengurai Community on the request of Police searching for two men believed to have been involved in bombing the South Alligator Bridge, a major crossing between Darwin and the East Alligator Region. A police spokesman said the fighting started after heavy drinking at the Community. He said it had nothing to do with the search.

A lawyer with the Legal Aid Service said a telegram had been received at the Darwin Office from the Rengurai Council complaining about police intimidation and demands for women made by the officers searching for the two fugitives. The lawyer said the Council was extremely upset about the police search being concentrated in a sacred area. The Council Chairman had been prepared to organise a search by his own people of the area and was very upset by the police action. The lawyer called on the Commissioner to withdraw his officers and allow the Council to search the sacred area, the lawyer demanded that each officer leaving the sacred area be searched in front of a council member as they were withdrawn.

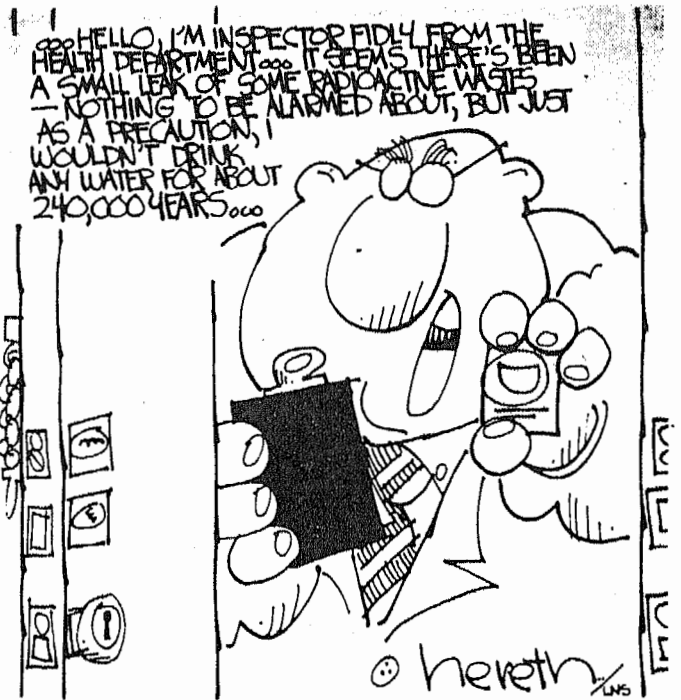
DARWIN: 8/11/1976.

A police spokesman said that fresh evidence had come to hand which led police to believe that the two men they are seeking in relation to the explosion at the South Alligator Bridge have moved out of the West Kakadu area and are trying to return to Darwin. Road blocks have been set up and residents of the Jabiru and Jim Jim areas are asked to secure all vehicles.

In response to questioning on the dangers of further spillage from holding bins at the East Alligator plains site, Mr. Keller said that no radio-active material had actually leaked into the East Alligator River, only one small lagoon had even reached a level at which it could be regarded as contaminated and there was no chance of further leakage as a more careful screening process had been instituted following discussions with the Department of Northern Australia. "Mr. Phillip Baxter, Executive Officer of the Environment Foundation, commenting on Mr. Keller's assurances about spillage from the Kakadu Mining operations said "While it is true that at this stage radio-active material has not reached the main river system, this is only because of the late wet. Even if the water level only reaches average heights the seepage from the raised water basin will mean substantial radio-active effects will be noted in the East Alligator River itself by January 1977. It is quite possible that the whole of the contaminated lagoon could be inundated as it was in 1974."

DARWIN: 9/11/1976..

Mr. Keller, a spokesman for the N.T. Mining Council, addressing a Rotary Meeting at the Don Hotel last night,



said that the Mining Companies would not let the actions of a few individuals stop a \$10 billion-dollar exercise. Mr. Keller said that the companies had decided to fly materials into Jabiru until the Bridge could be reconstructed. The Mining Council will supply engineers and heavy equipment operators to work on the reconstruction in conjunction with Department of Housing personnel. Mr. Keller went on to deplore press attacks on the agreement between the Mining Companies and the Government. He said "It is this sort of fabricated journalism which encourages fringe elements in our society to act out their childish fantasies."

Mr. Baxter called on the Department of Northern Australia to release the minutes of discussions between its officers and the Uranium miners. He said that the Departments efforts to control pollution deserved to be questioned following last year's disclosures about its connivance with Nabalco at Gove to mislead the public as to the dangers of Nabalco disposal procedures in Melville Bay.

A police spokesman said that there were no further development in their search for two young men wanted for questioning about the South Alligator Bridge explosion.

DARWIN: 12/11/1976.

Heavily armed police surrounded a cyclone damaged house



in Nighcliff this morning and arrested two young men believed to have been wanted for questioning about the South Alligator Bridge explosion.

John Ferago, 24, Public Servant, and Jack Guruk, 21, part-Aboriginal labourer, appeared in the Darwin Magistrate's Court later in the morning. Both men were charged with malicious damage, destruction of property, and Ferago was also charged with entering upon an Aboriginal reserve without a permit.

The Police prosecutor Sergeant Michael O'Hara, told the Magistrate, Mr. Brown, that the police had extensive evidence linking Ferago and Guruk with four other members of Spaceship Earth currently on remand. Sergeant O'Hara said it had been Ferago's land rover which had been found abandoned last week in the West Kakadu Area during part of widescale search.

No plea was entered by Ferago and Guruk and they were remanded to custody to appear at the December hearing of the Supreme Court, in Darwin.

#### DARWIN: 13/11/1976.

A rank and file meeting by members of Darwin's Trade Unions last night voted to extend a ban on the movement of all mining equipment to the Kakadu area. Mr. Ernest Murray, spokesman for the unionists, said the N.T. Labour Federation would look at the possibility of calling out all union members working for Uranium miners at all the Kakadu sites. This would mean that they will not be able to up-grade the airport at Jabiru sufficiently to fly in anything but minor items and, he said "they'll only be able to do that if they can get scabs to fly it in from Queensland - no Northern Territory airline would touch them."

#### DARWIN: 14/11/1976.

A spokesman for the Mining Council in the Northern Territory called today on the Legislative Assembly and the Federal Government to bring in troops to safeguard the legitimate interests of the Mining Companies operating in the Kakadu area. The spokesman said "Lawless elements backed up Trade Union supporters and pseudo-respectable environmentalists were now dictating what Governments could and could not do."

Mr. Murray said the unions did not support the extreme action of blowing up the South Alligator Bridge but admitted that the action had prodded the unions into re-lookng at the issue. Mr. Murray said that in the last few days his and other unions had been approached by many respected environmentally conscience local people to stop the mining until a Kakadu region impact statement could be studied in detail. "The unions have for a long time

felt uneasy about the haste with which agreements have been negotiated with Mines Companies."

The Minister for Northern Australia commenting on the call by the Mining Council said "One bridge has been blown up, people suspected of having taken part in that action have been arrested and are at the moment in prison. Some sections of the trade union movement have decided to place a temporary ban on the transport of equipment, and some environmentalists have called for the halting of mining. This does not constitute a threat to law and order. The Government has committed itself to repairing the South Alligator bridge as soon as is humanly possible and I will not support any action, such as the introduction of troops, which could further exacerbate tensions and hold up repairs on the Bridge."

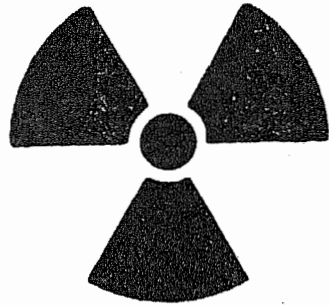
"The Government, as my colleague the Minister for the Environment said recently, has made a thorough study of the environmental situation in Kakadu and we are satisfied that no dangers exist as a result of the planned mining of Uranium in any of the areas where mining leases have been granted. The Australian Atomic Energy Commission, is actively controlling and monitoring the mining and treatment of Uranium 24 hours a day. Their reports to this Government completely assure us that no danger exists. I promise the people of the Northern Territory that if any danger became apparent, the Government would order a close down of mining until further study of the situation could be made."

#### DARWIN: 18/11/1976.

Yesterday a huge explosion blew a hole estimated to be six metres deep and 40 metres wide in the South Alligator crossing on the old Oenpelli road. Warning signs had been placed on the road and leaflets left at the scene indicated it was the work of an organisation calling itself "The Friends of the Six". The leaflets left called for the release of six people currently on remand in Darwin following the bombing of the South Alligator Bridge on the Arnhem Highway. The leaflets said that the crossing had been detonated because the Uranium miners had begun using this alternative route to get supplies through to Jabiru.

An unconfirmed report, just in, indicated that a bridge at Barramundie Creek on the Jim Jim/Pine Creek Road had also been bombed. A works supervisor who returned from the South Alligator Crossing said that there would be no way of repairing the Crossing until June, by which time the water should have subsided sufficiently to allow a thorough investigation. He said that if the report about the Bridge on Barramundie Creek was accurate then there would be no road traffic into the Kakadu district until April/May 1977.

RALLY against URANIUM  
and NUCLEAR  
POWER



Sat., March 13th 10.00am

Speaker : Peter Duncan M.P.

Rally in Hindmarsh Square ...  
move to Elder Park

THIS MAY BE the GREATEST ISSUE for SCIENTISTS  
of the TWENTIETH CENTURY

open letter to the academic staff

Science for People  
C/o S.A.U.A.

Dear member of staff,

Science for People is composed of active science students who are committed to developing a critical understanding of the relation of their future work as scientists to the needs of society. We believe that at present the training of science students places a much greater emphasis upon the acquisition of technical skills than upon the development of moral awareness and social responsibility. Science for People hopes to be able to involve students in an attempt to overcome this problem.

In relation to the present controversy over the mining of and export of Uranium, Science for People strongly supports the stand of Friends of the Earth and the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy. We feel that the question of whether or not to go ahead with full-scale nuclear development is the most vital question facing humanity at this time. It is one which calls for responsible action from all those connected with Science or Engineering, and from the community at large.

We are therefore making the unusual request that all staff and students from the Science and Engineering Departments cancel lectures between 10-12.30 a.m. on Thursday the 11th of March, in order to be able to attend the large Anti-Uranium meeting on at that time in Union Hall. This meeting will present the case against Uranium two days before the March Against Uranium through the City and follows the Ranger Environmental Enquiry's stay in Adelaide. May we add that the South Australian Attorney-General, Peter Duncan, has committed himself to a stand against uranium, and will be speaking at the rally and march on Saturday 13th of March.

The case against uranium will be presented to students in Union Hall on Thursday 11th by concerned students and staff, and speakers will include:

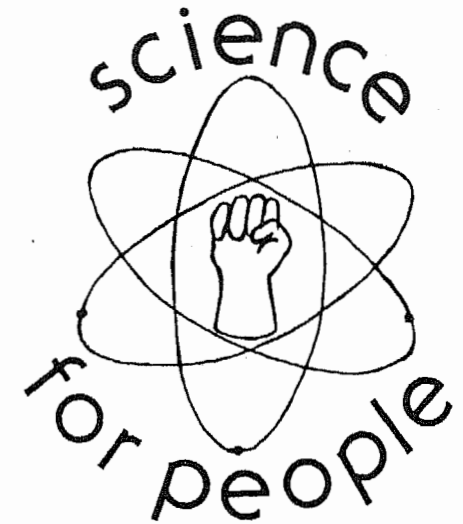
Prof. Green, Maths. Physics  
Dr. Szekeres, Maths. Physics  
Dr. Coulter, IMS.  
Dr. Noye, Applied Maths.  
Dr. Reeves, Micro-biology  
Dr. Dyer, Genetics

and perhaps other academic staff of the University.

We intend to have video coverage and recording of the meeting, which will include question and discussion time. We are attempting to arrange for the attendance of secondary students and will, hopefully, have coverage by the general media.

We recognise the novelty of our request, but sincerely hope that as a science or engineering teacher you will show your concern and encourage the attendance of your students, for we believe that this may be the greatest issue to face the scientists of this century.

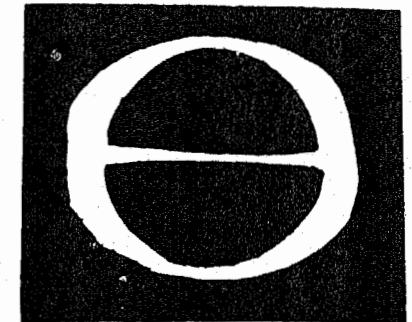
Thanking you, Science for People  
Friends of the Earth



Science for People and Friends of the Earth both strongly urge all Science and Engineering students take a stand with the:  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY.

This is one of the most important and responsible decisions that Scientists of this century must take.

anti-uranium meeting  
Union hall  
thurs 11th March  
10am-12.30



# another union fiasco

Dear Editor,

As Chairman of Union Council, I must bring to the attention of Union members the unsatisfactory state of affairs in our Union. At the moment, Union Council is unable to conduct its business because too many elected, voting members are failing to attend meetings, and without apology.

Council has not met in legal session for three months. Remember too, it is our Union Council which administers the \$6000,000 plus of members' statutory fees.

December Council was abandoned part way through due to a lack of a quorum. Councillors present took the unusual step of refusing to accept the apology of John Gilbert because it was flippant. John has since resigned. Several members were absent without apology.

Recently, I wrote a polite letter to all Councillors reminding them of their responsibilities, and advising Councillors they should resign if they couldn't meet their obligations. The December fiasco must not happen again, I said. I received no feedback on this letter, and I assumed that the message was received and taken notice of.

Yet, at the first opportunity, the "December fiasco" re-curred. Last night, the February meeting (which was delayed to 1st March to ensure a quorum) was abandoned after half an hour. Thus the February meeting will now be held mid-March (15th, 5.00 p.m. in the Dining Rooms). And part of the business of this meeting is to ratify decisions made at the December Council "meeting"! One would be mistaken for thinking the Council was responsible for a tuck-shop with a \$1,000 budget, rather than a multi-million dollar enterprise with over 100 employees and responsible to a membership of about 10,000. Absent without apology from last night's meeting were: Kay Anastassiadis, John Arkinstall, David Hall, Lynnett Queale, Charles Lott, Mike Kay.

As Chairman, I must see that the course of Council business runs smooth. Whether Council meets or not, some decisions have to be made. So I am forced to act as a President and make decisions on behalf of the Council for later ratification by the. Union business is necessarily being carried out by a relatively few Council members, each with an unfairly large workload. This is not the intention of the Constitution. I have written in the strongest terms to the six above, demanding that they apologise and show cause why I shouldn't demand their resignations. Three people have tendered resignations to date for various reasons - Jim Hyde, John Gilbert and Margaret Osman. Some more will probably follow. There will be a by-election soon. Surely there are Union members:

- (a) competent to make decisions,
- (b) willing to devote the time, and
- (c) able to serve the Union as a whole and not a particular vested interest.

Any electorate gets the representatives it deserves. I appeal to members to make sure with their votes in the by-election that they deserve better than we've got at the moment.

I would be pleased to hear from any member with comments or questions. I can be contacted through the Secretary on phone extension 2401, Union Office. Perhaps members would like to attend the next Council Meeting and witness for themselves their representatives in action.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Andrew,  
Chairman.

Union Council.

P.S. I have enclosed for your interest a table of attendances, apologies and absences without apologies for Councillors at Council and Committees. Various Councillors are members of one or more committees, and some have a larger load than others.



# tribute to Chow En Lai

Chow En-lai, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China died on January 8th, 1976, in Peking.

During his youth he travelled to Europe and organized a branch of the Communist Party in France in 1921. Later he returned to China and became Director of the training program of the Political Teaching Department of the Revolutionary Army. He later became political commissioner on the Long March, voted for Mao at the Tsunyi Conference

in 1935 and never seriously challenged him thereafter. He devoted himself to the implementation of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

The leadership he gave to the Chinese revolution through the long and bitter years of the revolutionary war was matched only by his devoted efforts after 1949. The best evidence of this is that the Chinese people have been raised out of oppression and misery, a new value was placed on human life and new forms of social organization were brought to the people.

Another important part of his revolutionary work was dedicated to the unity of all the Chinese people, to the victory of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and to the development of the movement to criticize Liu Piao and Confucius and for the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat in China, and China's most widely travelled official. He was a master diplomat. He was active at the 1954 Indochina conference in Geneva, but one of his outstanding roles, however, was at the 1955 Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung - which laid the foundations for unity among the non-aligned bloc and made it a contemporary effective force. He also scored considerable success in Russian, African, East European and Asian tours. He was widely believed responsible, along with others, for the Siao-American re-establishment of cordial relationships in 1971-72. His diplomatic skill and pragmatic approach contributed much to political, economic and social stability of China. His shrewdness, charm, sense of humour and remarkable store of knowledge were clearly evident in his work as a negotiator and supervisor of foreign policy. He relinquished the rest of Foreign Minister in 1958.

Premier Chou En-lai was one of the great men of China who belonged to the whole world because of the part he played in the advancement of honour dignity and revolutionary international solidarity. He supported the third world in their struggles for freedom and justice, provided them with effective assistance and expressed always the active solidarity of the Peoples Republic of China. His unremitting efforts for the solidarity of the peoples of the third world inspired them in their great task, promoting a more just international political and economic order. In other words he strove to establish and develop relations with all other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, in uniting with all forces in the world that can be united with, and carrying out the struggle against imperialism, hegemonism, colonialism, and modern revisionism.

Premier Chou En-lai's extraordinary revolutionary life in the service of peace and the development of China and the world will forever be a sincere motive to learn from and to remember.



## Repression.

To ensure compliance with these policies, Fraser has "industrial relations" legislation on the agenda. It is very repressive and will be the immediate cause of confrontation with unions. He plans to:

- make some traditional trade unions collective bargaining actions into a criminal offence.
- use the tools of his new industrial laws selectively against particular trade unions, to "pick them off" and to divide the unions against each other.

These laws and techniques include:

- Fines.
- Appropriation of union property if Fines are not paid.
- Unions will be compelled to reveal where their bank accounts are held, so that their funds can be "garnished" if fines are not paid. A side effect of this could be the "freezing" by the Government of union strike funds.
- Deregistration of obdurate unions will be used as a tool of Government economic policy, and "tame-cat" unions encouraged to poach the membership of deregistered unions. This will create bitter divisions in the union movement.
- Enforcement of Government controlled secret ballots for union elections. The Government hopes this will act as a conservative force on the actions of union leaders.

The extent to which the Fraser Government is prepared to impose these repressive measures will be tested in the next three months, and will depend on the preparedness and resistance of the organised trade union movement.

We may suggest that two unions in particular will be singled out for the treatment, partly because they have wage claims in the pipeline. The first is the Waterside Workers Federation, on which Fraser may test the tool of deregistration, because its membership is quite small and privileged relative to other groups of workers. The second is the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union, which has a reputation of being Australia's most militant union, and its defeat would be a feather in Fraser's cap. He may feel that by taking on the AMWU that he can break the back of union resistance in the country.

Whether the unions are prepared to successfully resist the Fraser offensive is impossible to estimate. But watch closely for the first shots.

Lawrie Rivers,  
on behalf of a group from the  
Economics & Politics Depts., who  
will be contributing material for  
this column each week.



"As you perhaps know, some of our policies have been questioned of late."

# EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

## OPTIONS IN ASSESSMENT.

In the Assessment Committee Report it was recommended that each student should have available to him or her as many optional forms of assessment as are consistent with the stated aims of the course and which are practically and administratively reasonable. (2.4)

It was also recommended that teachers should discuss with classes at the beginning of the year the aims of the course and methods of assessment which are consistent with those aims. (3.2)

Judging from the opposition in the Education Committee by some departmental heads a number of departments wont be implementing the choice recommendations. How ever other departments will and will have class discussion on the assessment options available.

The purpose of this article is to present various methods of assessment. The assessment referred to is that which counts towards the final grades in a subject.

## Examinations.

The most general method of assessment is the examination of which there are many forms.

Most people are well familiar with the specific question - problem solving type of examination, and the general essay type of examination.

Short answer papers are designed to test factual knowledge and cover large areas of the syllabus. A further extension of the short answer papers are the so called objective tests.

These include:-

a) Alternative Response papers in which a lot of statements are offered and students are asked to select one of two responses e.g. yes/no.

b) Multiple Choice papers in which students are asked to select an answer from a number of statements supplied for each question.

c) Matching Statements from two lists.

There can also be a variation in exam conditions from the usual exam of fixed time, no texts allowed and no warning of questions before hand.



1. In some subjects, particularly with essay papers, students are told the questions beforehand. This seems a bit pointless. If the students have the opportunity to prepare beforehand, why not have an essay rather than an examination.
2. Another reform is the open book exam where text books can be brought into the exam room and referred to in answering the paper. This is handy for students with a bad memory for detailed formulars etc. Unfortunately such exams are usually marked harder.
3. It is sometimes suggested that students should be able to go overtime if they haven't finished the paper. The reason being that some students are disadvantaged by the time limit. However such a provision is rarely put into practice.

Written examinations are often not a fair test of a persons knowledge and ability. Some students are disadvantaged by the exam conditions and surprisingly perhaps, some students are able to get through or even do well on knowledge crammed for the occasion.

Total reliance on end of year examinations is to my mind bad educational practice, a view supported by the Assessment

Committee Report, but there are dangers in so called continuous assessment where a number of assessments contribute to the final grade. Some examiners seem to think their own subject is the only one being taught. As a result students become overloaded with assessments throughout the year and have a battle meeting assessment deadline after deadline. Continuous assessment has become continuous harassment. The Assessment Committee Report recommends against too frequent assessment.

Other types of exams are oral exams which are not widely used and practical exams. Oral exams can be rather threatening but can be useful, say for discussing project work with the student. Practical exams can also be rather threatening and unless properly organised, can be ineffective in testing a student's real ability in practical work.

The Assessment Committee Report recommends that wherever practicable assessment methods should include a component based on pieces of work of a substantial nature of value to the student, such as a thesis, research project report, research essay, film tape etc. (2.6) and where appropriate choice of assessment might allow work done in working situations i.e. outside the course and even outside the University (2.7)

Such assessment to my mind is far preferable to examinations. Doing projects, writing essays etc. can be frustrating when things are not going right, but once problems are overcome, there can be considerable sense of achievement. In writing essays the value to the student is reduced if other people's work is simply copied and some departments are critical of essays as a means of assessment because of this. Despite this I would like to see more use made of essays, projects, etc. for assessment purposes.

Throughout University an emphasis is placed on individual work and as a result students are virtually put in competition with one another. There seems to be a principle of individual effort for individual reward operating.

Surely most real life situations involve or should involve co-operation and collective action and what better place to start than at University. Co-operative projects are not common but do exist and should be encouraged.

One type of assessment, tried especially at Flinders University, is poor group assessment where say a tutorial group hears a paper presented by one student, discusses it and finally awards marks.

The success of such assessment depends very much on the group and one job of the tutor is to assist the group to work properly and act as a resource person.

I would like to see this type of assessment tried and evaluated thoroughly at this University on a small scale to determine its strengths and weaknesses and where it is most appropriate.

There are many forms of assessment and an article of this length can only touch on them. If you want to know more why not discuss the matter with your lecturers and tutors.

Further information on assessment is available through the Education Group, C/- Student Activities Office.

Peter Love.

#### EDUCATION NEWS SERVICE (ENS).

This publication is the successor to the AUS Education Magazine "COLD COMFORT". It is a syndication service providing articles for publication and is sent to AUS Committees, subscribing student newspapers and general subscribers. The subscription rate is \$5 for 10 issues. Individual copies are available at the Union Shop for 50 cents a copy.

ENS focusses attention on education issues of special concern to students. It is planned to include features on part-time education, trainee teacher studies, political economy courses, social responsibility in science, assessment, student rights and discipline in the coming editions. Contributions on these and other topics are invited and can be forwarded to either of the addresses given below.

Education News Service is produced in Adelaide (contrary to the charge that everything AUS is based in Melbourne) and this year a collective is being formed to produce it, i.e. to collect and write articles, collect and draw illustrations, and layout.

The first meeting of the collective is to be held on Wednesday 10th March, at 7.30 p.m. in the Student Activities Office, University of Adelaide. People interested in working on the collective are invited to attend.

Enquiries may be directed to Peter Love, Co-editor Education News Service, either at the Student Activities Office, University of Adelaide, or 42 Cornua Avenue, Daw Park 5041, Phone 276-9621.



# TIMOR

 part 2

## Australian policy on Timor.

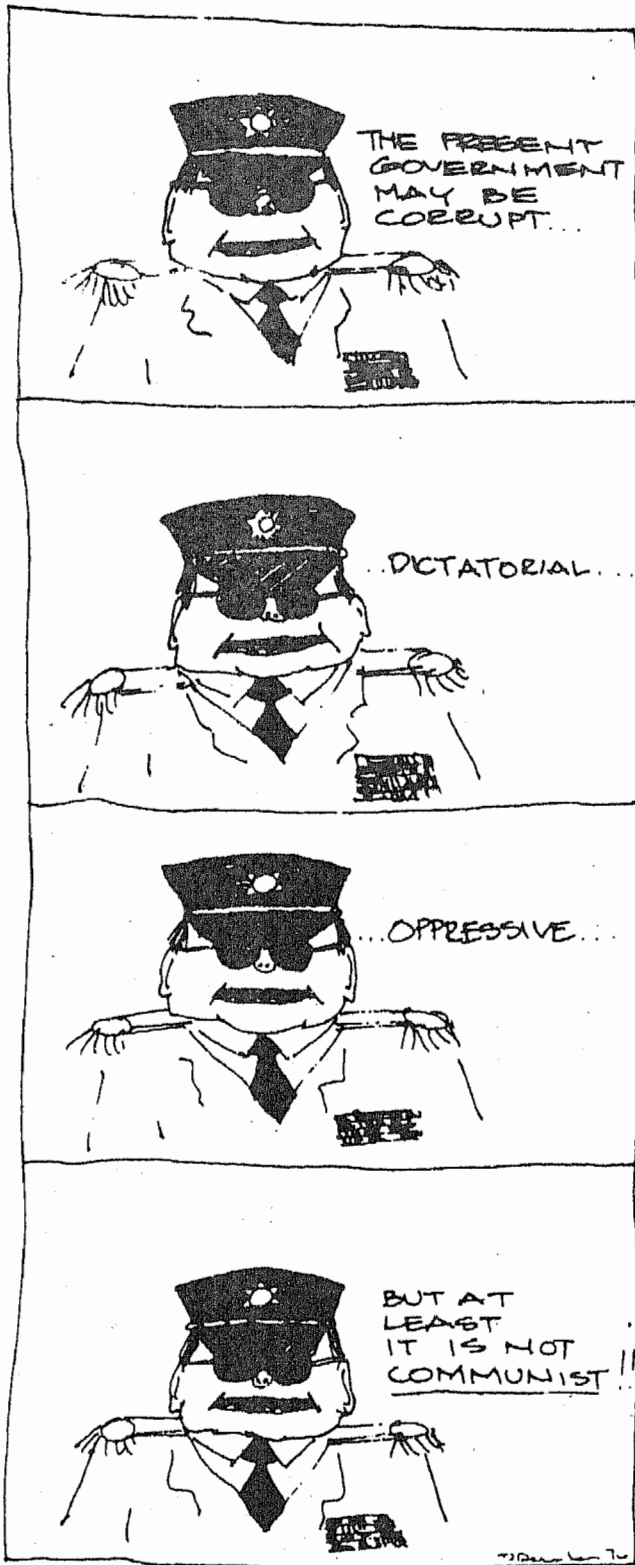
In the early sixties a number of Australian journalists had visited Timor and written articles which were highly critical of the Portuguese colonial rule; as a result journalists were banned from visiting Timor, and it became even more isolated from the outside world.

There must have been quite a few Australians who wondered where this place, Timor, was when Gough Whitlam, deputy leader of the Labor Party, giving the Roy Milne memorial lecture in Adelaide in 1963, said: "Eastern Timor must appear as an anachronism to every country in the world except Portugal...we would not have a supporter in the world if we backed the Portuguese...they must be told in no uncertain times that the standard of living must be rapidly raised, and the right of self determination fully granted... through the U.N. we must act quickly to meet this problem." The ALP at its Federal Conference in Adelaide that year committed itself to the 'liberation of Eastern Timor' but this policy was dropped after the 1966 Federal Conference.

So the Labor Party came to power in December, 1972 with no policy on Portuguese Timor. The Australian Consulate in Dili had been closed in 1971 by the Liberal government, the official reason being given as "reduced consular and visa functions which did not justify the expense of maintaining it."

The potential for Portuguese Timor to expose contradictions in the Australian Labor government's new foreign policy was noticed by quite a few people in early 1973 following the publication of that year's annual report on Portuguese Timor to the United Nations General Assembly by the UN's Special Committee on Decolonization. The report hit the front page of the Australian Financial Review, which alleged that BHP was exploring for minerals and TAA was flying Portuguese troops to the colony in defiance of General Assembly resolutions which Australia had supported. Certain sections of the press and community groups, including the Australian Council of Churches and Catholic Bishops educational agency, Action for World Development, and the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, were quick to issue statements calling on the government to sever all commercial links with the colony.

Timor was to be an exception to Australia's attitude to independence for the Portuguese colonies. In July 1973, the



Department of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on Portuguese Timor in which it stated: "The Australian Government fully supports the principle of self-determination and independence for non-self-governing territories, but, in the absence of any indications of a significant indigenous 'liberation' movement in Portuguese Timor or of any international efforts to change the status of the territory, Australia's present commercial relations do not appear inconsistent with our U.N. policies and obligations."

The Lisbon Coup.

Immediately following the Armed Forces Movement coup in Lisbon on April 25, 1974 there was considerable confusion in Timor. Due to poor communications between Portugal and the colony, most people in Timor first heard about the changes in Portugal by Radio Australia, directly or indirectly. Although it was not immediately obvious what would be happening in Timor as a result of the coup, there was general elation among the small group of Timorese who had been opposed to Portuguese rule. This small informal group had met every Sunday morning, in a park in front of the government offices. Most of them worked for the government in low positions or were high school students. They had some idea of the existence of the liberation movements in the Portuguese African colonies, but had no contacts with them.

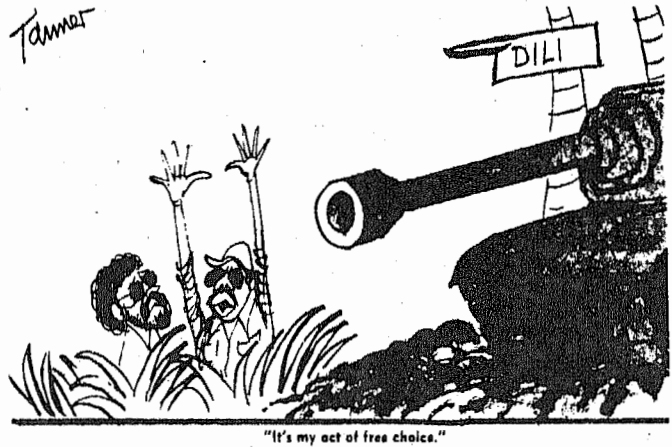
Immediately the news reached Timor that Portugal would be granting independence to its colonies the informal anti-fascist group organised itself into a political party. They called it the Associação Social Democrática de Timor, ASDT, a social democratic party. The two most important changes following the Lisbon coup, for the founders of this party, were the removal of the secret police and informers and the fact that striking would no longer be illegal. The Committee for the Defence of Labour was formed by the ASDT, which organised a strike of workers within a few days of the coup, as a result of which they got a 100% rise in wages.

ASDT issued its first manifesto on May 22. Its political activities were to be based on the right to independence, the rejection of colonialism, and the immediate participation of worthy Timorese elements in the administration and local government; no racial discrimination; a struggle against corruption, and a policy of good neighbourliness and of cooperation with the countries of the geographical area in which Timor is situated.

But the predominant feeling in Dili was by no means pro-independence. A group of administration workers, fearing that the new order might mean some loss of privileges for themselves, formed the União Democrática Timorense, UDT, which was essentially a union to protect the status quo. Among the founders of the UDT were mainly Timorese who

had benefited from Portuguese rule. Among them were members of the Portuguese fascist party, Accao Nacional Popular, which had been disbanded immediately following the April 25 coup. UDT President, Lopez de Cruz, editor of A Voz de Timor, had been a member of this party, and he and Costa Mouzinho, UDT Vice-President and Mayor of Dili had been its representatives to the National Assembly under Caetano in Lisbon.

The third party in Timor was formed about a month after the Lisbon coup. It was founded by Osorio Soares, who had been thinking of joining the ASDT but "only if it sought independence within Indonesia rather than on its own." He wanted to call his party the Associação Integracao Timor Indonesia, the Association for Timor-Indonesian integration, but this was not allowed by the Portuguese authorities, so it was renamed Associação Popular Democrática Timorense, commonly known by the initials APODETI. Another leader of APODETI Amaldo Arujio, made great capital out of a visit to Jakarta,



"It's my act of free choice."

where he announced to the Indonesian government and press that APODETI had the support of 70% of the people in Timor. He also freely admitted to the Indonesian press to having spent the last 29 years in prison on a charge of collaborating with the Japanese during the second world war.

The Whitlam-Suharto talks  
Jogjakarta, September, 1974.

ASDT supporters were not expecting such a quick rebuff to their aspirations of independence as they got when they heard the outcome of the Whitlam-Suharto talks over Radio Australia. According to a Foreign Affairs official who briefed journalists, Mr. Whitlam in his talks with President Suharto on September 5 had said: "an independent Timor would be an unviable state and a potential threat to the area"; however "the Prime Minister was thought to have made clear that the people of the colony should have the ultimate decision on their future."

Up till this time President Suharto had not made any statements on Timor, although considerable coverage had been

given to the Timorese parties in the Indonesian press, particularly APODETI. The statement from the Whitlam-Suharto talks had an immediate effect in Dili: the leaders of ASDT realised that their main battle for independence was going to be against Indonesia and not against Portugal.

The ASDT, at its General Assembly on September 12, 1974, voted in a new manifesto which, among other things, changed the party's name to Frente Revolucionaria de Timor Leste Independente (Revolutionary Front for Independent East Timor), or FRETILIN. The idea behind this was that FRETILIN would aim to be a broad front representing all pro-independence forces in East Timor and not be identified with any particular political philosophy such as social democracy. It would later appeal to the Portuguese for recognition as the legitimate representative of the Timorese people as FRELIMO was recognised in Mozambique.

One of its first actions as FRETILIN was to organise a demonstration against the possible incorporation of Timor by Indonesia, as had been suggested during the Whitlam-Suharto talks. 5000 people marched to the Indonesian consulate, where a note was handed to the Consul, Mr. Tomadok, asking his government not to intervene in East Timor.

Also on September 12, 1974, Sinar Harapan, a Jakarta daily, reported that a meeting had taken place in Kupang, capital of Indonesian Timor, between the Governor of the province of East Nusatenggara Timur, El Tari, and the General Secretary of APODETI, Osorio Soares. El Tari had agreed, at this meeting, that he and his government would be prepared to assist the struggle of APODETI. Soon after this, Radio Kupang started broadcasting a nightly one hour program in the local languages of East Timor (not spoken in Indonesian Timor) in which the general theme, repeated nightly, was

that FRETILIN is communist and is always killing innocent villagers and cutting off babies' heads while UDT was more fascist than the Portuguese colonialists. In March 1975 I listened to several of these broadcasts, through an interpreter. Whenever the subject of Australian policy came up, as it did frequently that month, it was always quoted as the first part of Whitlam's statement made during the talks with Suharto in September, 1974, without the qualification that the Timorese should decide their own future.

Later the Indonesian army newspaper Berita Yuhda started a series of articles on the growth of communism in Portuguese Timor. It accused the Timorese students who had returned from studying in Lisbon of being Maoists, a Chinese captain in the army was accused of giving military training to Chinese civilians in Timor and four generals from Peking supposedly entered Portuguese Timor via Canberra. This appears to be the beginning of a strange sort of propaganda campaign within Indonesia to discredit both the Portuguese authorities and FRETILIN and UDT. Berita Yuhda was the first Indonesian newspaper to start this type of propaganda but later Sinar Harapan and the government news-agency Antara also started publishing similarly inflammatory articles on Timor which could as easily be demonstrated to be untrue. All the parties in Timor took the opportunity to show their strength during the visit of the Portuguese Minister for extra-territorial co-ordination, Dr. Almeida Santos, during October 1974. A crowd of 5,000 met him at the airport. For many villagers it was their first visit to Dili, and many of them brought out 400 year old Portuguese flags from their religious shrines, which touched the Minister very much. But he mistook it as an expression of love for Portugal, and UDT interpreted it as support for their policies. About half the crowd had FRETILIN flags and a few hundred supported APODETI. (continued next week)



# AUS education

## Part TEW

Education was one of the less controversial areas of council planning, perhaps because the needs of students in areas such as TEAS and housing are so obvious and the archaic nature of the institutions in which we are working is so real to us all.

However, education remains the most important area of AUS activity particularly with the AUS education department increase in size to include a trainee teachers officer. Indeed we did see both some necessary consolidation in areas such as TEAS which remains a priority for 1976, and some important new initiatives.

Firstly, there seemed to be a recognition of the need for on-campus student activism in the area of education for either educational reform or improvement in student conditions. This means an emphasis in the Education Department on:

1. The "development of campus organisations" (that's jargon for getting together and helping groups of interested students like you) to tackle such areas as "democratic student control over learning methods and course content" and to tackle locally, welfare needs such as housing.

2. The provision of well researched resource material, speakers etc. necessary for such groups to improve student conditions.

Secondly, there was the recognition by AUS of the special needs of two large groups of students who perhaps face the greatest problems - trainee teachers and part-time students.

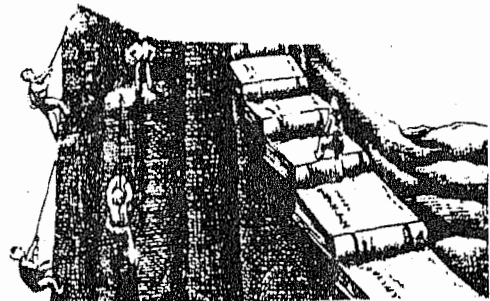
There will be a trainee teachers conference over Easter to discuss and work out ways of tackling problems ranging from compulsory lectures and inadequate welfare facilities to the role of teachers in society. And we now have a trainee teachers officer.

Discrimination against part-timers and special problems such as getting release from jobs and extra external responsibilities will be researched by the education research officer and a special conference will be held in August at which part-time students can get together and work out ways of overcoming such problems.

How did it happen? Groups of students with common problems got together, worked out in conjunction with local people who were in contact with AUS what AUS could do to help tackle their problems and put up their proposals to council, where students from every campus are represented.

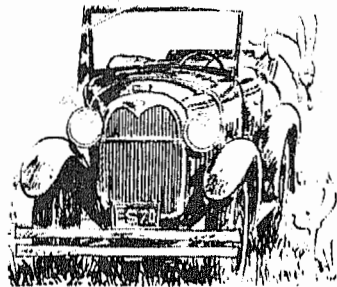
Finally we saw the structure of the department opening it up to greater influence by and feed back from campuses and enabling better planning and communication. Education policy has increasingly lacked clear practical initiatives, and priorities have been left to the department which is loaded with many areas to work in without minimum achievements defined in each area. These trends are largely continued in this years council motions. However, the education department has now set up a policy collective or working group, with representatives from each region, which can work out how campaigns can best be run, what activities are of highest priority at a certain time, what balance there should be between representation to government bodies and on campus organisation etc. The South Australian representatives will then work with and communicate the decisions on such question of a regional education group, which will be able to define areas of need in S.A. as well as organising joint campus campaigns on common areas such as TEAS and housing and sharing resources, knowledge, skills, etc. to better enable each campus to change specific structures, courses, etc. This collective is open to all students and all meetings will be advertised and open. Thus there is a continuous line from all students to influencing the activities of AUS in these areas.

Details of all motions considered by council are on file in the SAUA for anyone to go through. Anyone interested in working in areas such as assessment reform, course change, tertiary allowance reform, student housing, the role of the university in society, or education reform can contact Peter Love, AUS Education Officer for Adelaide University in the SAUA or the AUS Secretary, John Murphy.



# AUS Travel

IN NEED OF A PUSH START



The most important issue in the Travel sessions at AUS Annual Council was that which concerned the apparent contradiction between unions political perceptions and struggles and that of the unions consumer orientated service. The chief battle line was between on the one hand those who felt that AUS Travel was just a service organisation who had at best a minimal social consciousness and responsibility, and those on the other hand, who argued that the service sections of the union must work in conjunction with, and not stand in isolation from, the unions political struggles. The motion which brought these opposing sides into confrontation, and raised the most heated debates, was the one moved by Bob Hanney of Adelaide Uni., and it concerned the demand that AUS Travel cease all travel arrangements with Indonesia until that country ends its aggression against, and attempted annexation of, the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

The Travel Board felt that its chief responsibility was in the field of revenue and should do dealings with Indonesia, particularly in light of an alleged threat against it by an alternative right wing student travel group, funded by the Liberal Party. The Travel Board also argued that any action they may take would have insignificant effect on Indonesia apart from aggravating some of the already vindictive Indonesian officials. The allegations of an alternative student travel body under cross questioning were never substantiated, but even if it were true the best method to defeat a right wing attack is on the political front. AUS offers cheap, non profit travel service, (as a matter of interest it lost \$130,000 last financial year) and with a sound political perspective would be a powerful weapon against a threat for the right. As to the significance of cessation of travel to Indonesia it must be realized that Bob Hanney's motion, was aimed to give support to the people of East Timor, in conjunction with a general trade union boycott and that AUS Travel was to take a leading role, but not an isolated role. Bob's motion was lost in favour of a weaker motion, put forward by the N.S.W. regional organizer Greg Giles. The latter motion instructed AUS Travel to ban flights to Indonesia only in conjunction with a general trade union ban. (The Travel Board opposed both motions). It is important to realize that Indonesia at the present time is in a weak position due to the nature of its own fascist military oppression and corruption, and its dependence on imperialist powers such as U.S.A., Japan and Australia. The Indonesian Military elites are very susceptible to criticism from Australia, and want to (in conjunction with the

Australian Government) suppress any opposition or news about the genocide they are committing in East Timor. Their own puppet deputy Governor in East Timor, Lopez da Cruz has admitted to the killing by Indonesian troops of 60,000 East Timorese, that is, one in ten of the total population. The immediacy of Bob's motion and its calling upon the A.C.T.U. to come to the party in a general trade union ban, such as the seamans and postal unions boycott was what was needed to set the ball rolling. But as it was lost Greg Giles motion must now be followed through with, so that AUS Travel, if the general ban is implemented quickly, end all travel arrangements with Indonesia.

Two fringe arguments also highlighted other aspects of AUS Travel. The first argued that AUS Travel should have arrangements with Indonesia as we also have dealings with other repressive regimes, and it would thus be pointless to single out Indonesia. What this denies is any conceptualization of political strategy and tactics or priorities, and the vital need for AUS to fight in every way for the people of East Timor at this crucial stage. What this motion puts forward is the view that we should go to all countries, even those which AUS Travel refuses now to go to, that is South Africa and Chile. The record argument wanted AUS Travel to be wound up, and its money allocation to go to political work. This latter argument denies not only that AUS Travel has a political role to play, but also that it serves no worthwhile function at all, but this is to overlook the value of AUS Travel in uniting the union by providing a service that appeals to a good deal of the membership, thereby aiding in the fight against right-wing succession moves.

In conclusion AUS is by no means all bad and it is in the process of politicizing itself, this can be seen in a small way in its moving away from sexist advertising, it just need a big healthy push.

This article could have been written by Greg McCarthy.

# What happened to The U in AUS

Ralph Bleechmore

Severe deficiencies were still evident after Annual Council this year. Widespread reports from many campuses and Regions of student dissatisfaction with the Union were ignored by sections of the leadership. Some delegates still have not seen the development of AUS, as a 'UNION' of 261,000 students, from its origins as the debating society of 16 campuses 6 years ago. Their approach to the allocation of funds to various activities has not changed - the 'pot' has just got bigger. The administrative systems and the efficiency of the secretariat and the format of Council are yet further evidence.

Representivity, taken most seriously by the Adelaide delegation does not constitute an afterthought for many delegations. The urgent need to "member-orient" our programs and "Union building" as a priority were ignored by interests who have no commitment to our National Union and its need to strengthen, perhaps even to survive. The trend in most Trade Unions towards 'selective-benefits' is placed on the lowest priority. A comparison between the budgets of priorities of any trade union (including the most militant) show a gross deficiency in AUS priorities that must be rectified. AUS can only be as strong as its members support and activity.

Decentralisation of power from Melbourne to Regions has proceeded far too slowly (in 1975 funding was reduced). The growth of sectarianism is also evident, causing multiple problems, not the least of which is a lack of consideration for AUS's survival as a viable union and also an inability to compromise with the needs of other sectors of the Union to receive adequate funding. The result is alienation and a serious lack of solidarity amongst activists and officers. However, despite these many failings and disappointments, several excellent initiatives were taken up in the form of (1) a Trainee Teachers Department as part of Education, (2) a reasonable commitment to Cultural Affairs in the form of AUS Cultural Affairs Australia, (3) a healthier commitment to funding of Regions (S.A., Tasmania, N.S.W. etc.) (4) strong support for the East Timorese in setting up of the DRES (Democratic Republic of East Timor) office in Melbourne. The Services Department continue to give improving service to students, problems are evident in travel but are being resolved, and the growth of AUS Friendly Societies is spectacular. Curiously, these popular services have largely been the result of efforts by student Boards of Management and the work of professionals rather than the directives of Council.



Wisely, it was decided by both protagonists in the Palestine debate that it was not a year in which students would wish to be involved in major debate on the question. All of us need our National Student Union - but not one which is preoccupied with individual and group interests but one based on the activity of its members and protecting their rights and interests. This must not lead to conservatism or a 'welfare' union. AUS, acting in the historical role of students must continue to lead in progressive issues but far more closely related to its members, its real strength and 'raison d'Etre'. It will accomplish this with the help of us, its members, or it will fail and cease to exist as any viable force.

For interest, here is a breakdown of expenditure finally decided at the Final Finance Session (ending at 9.30 a.m. in the morning).

From an income of \$661,775.

Education Dept.	\$68,387
Media	\$50,350
Black Resource Centre	\$27,520
Overseas Students	\$25,870
Women	\$24,450
International	\$21,500
Services	\$17,936
Culture	\$13,000
National Affairs	\$7,500
* Social Action/Environment	\$1,430
Pres./V.P.	\$35,496
Annual Council	\$34,870
National Executive	\$8,850
Secretariat	\$42,200
Admin (Finance) - incl. Reserves and Contingencies	\$79,150
Admin Staff	\$76,385
Admin Communication	\$71,475
The Regions (total)	\$61,300
Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, WA and Tas.	
TOTAL	\$667,669
Deficit	\$5,894



\* Moves are being made currently to add some \$6,000 to this sector, sadly down in priority since last year.

## JAN HAMMER, THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS.

Nemperor NE432 (on Atlantic through WEA).

Fortunately my fears of Rick Wakeman 'doing' the Creation have not materialised - the much more talented Jan Hammer has beaten him to it. Hammer succeeds in creating just the right atmosphere for each of the Seven Days without resorting to grandiose bombast.

Jan Hammer, originally from Czechoslovakia, is best known as a former member of John McLaughlin's Mahavishnu Orchestra, but he has had an extensive and varied background working with such diverse people as Sarah Vaughan and Elvin Jones. He is certainly one of the most technically gifted, and more importantly, one of the most imaginative synthesizer players around. It should be emphasized, however, that he is not merely a synthesizer player - he is also an excellent pianist (both acoustic and electric), a good drummer and talented composer. It is well worth hearing his work on other albums, particularly John Abercrombie's "Timeless" (ECM 1047) and Horace Arnold's "Tales of the Exonerated Flea". (CBS SBP234510).

This is an excellent album and it has been superbly recorded, although the actual pressing quality of my copy leaves something to be desired. Apart from Hammer who also produced and engineered the record, the only other musicians used are percussionist Earle Johnson and violinist Steve Kindler. Hammer has a superb ear for textures and a fine sense of dynamics he makes original music rather than synthesized imitations of other

instruments or cold, emotionless electronic noise. He makes some absolutely beautiful sounds without ever sounding like someone playing with a new toy. Most of the tracks have lovely, expectant openings, which lead into music which is sometimes tranquil, sometimes soaring and sometimes intensely rhythmic.

In lesser hands this could have been a load of inflated, boring drivel. This album will come as a revelation to you if your previous exposure to synthesizer-dominated music has been to studious Germans, get rich-quick English rock stars and records of electronic "Hair" or Bach. It improves rather than pales with repeated listening and is unreservedly recommended.

Doug Spencer.

# JAZZ ROCK

DAVID BLUE, COMIN' BACK FOR MORE.

Assylum 7E - 1043 (distributed by WEA).

I have only had time to play this album once, so it is difficult to tell just how good it is. It is certainly a model of intelligent, tasteful (for 'tasteful do not read 'bland') production, by L.A. Express drummer John Guerin who also plays excellently.

David Blue is a Dylan influenced songwriter who has been given the nod of approval by Dylan himself who plays harmonica on one track - the harmonica playing is hardly

noteworthy but presumably the nod of approval is. It is hard to appreciate the lyrics at one listening, but they sound at least passible and the songs, whilst not particularly arresting in themselves, are all quite listenable. Not only is the list of musicians playing on the album very impressive, but so is the actual playing! There is some fine, searing guitar-heroes listed, probably Robben Ford and Dick Hamilton plays restrained synthesizer, particularly on 23 Days which is a welcome antidote to the unimaginative overkill used by most exponents of this much abused instrument. David Blues singing is hardly startling, but it is quite pleasantly languid and unforced.

This album is recommended to those who buy many records; for those on a more restricted budget, give it a good listen. Although it does not aim for the intensity of his mentor's latest "Desire" I enjoy this record much more - realising one's limitations is a virtue which saves Blue

from sounding like a parody of himself, unlike Bob Dylan. On the other hand, I cannot really imagine Blue writing or performing anything to approach Dylan's most powerful songs.

Doug Spencer.

## FLORA PURIM, STORIES TO TELL.

Milestone M9058 Festival (import) \$5.95.

Flora Purim came to America from Brazil 3 or 4 years ago, because she had trouble getting work in that country, this very same problem had caused husband Airto to do the same some years before. Soon after arriving she and Airto joined Chick Corea's superb group, Return To Forever. It was with this group, and their two excellent albums, that Flora Purim's reputation, as one of the major singers in modern jazz was established. She also appears on two Santana records, "Welcome" and "Barbol-etta".

One of the most pleasing aspects of this album is the variety, from beautiful ballads, "To Say Good-bye", which features Ron Carter's amazingly perfect bass to the more jazz-rock inclinations of "Silver Sword". On this track Carlos Santana is the featured soloist, and

unfortunately it seems as if he had trouble finding his way during his solo, although it is still a good example of his guitar style. Another important aspect is Flora's use of scat vocals, she often uses her voice as a solo instrument, for example on "Silver Sword" she states the theme in duet with Carlos Santana's guitar.

Possibly the weakest track is the title one, as it suffers from distracting lyrics which mean nothing

as they are basically just the title of songs she performed while a member of Return To Forever. Flora handles the three ballads beautifully, and on "Search For Peace" and "To Say Goodbye", she is ably assisted by Ron Carter, and by Miroslau Utrons on "O Camador". Latin influences creep in on the up-tempo "Cosa Forte" and "Vera Cruz" as well as on the slower Jobin Tune "Insensatez", these give the album a variation that does not conflict, but in fact compliments the other styles represented.

Overall it is an excellent album by one of the strongest voices in the new jazz, and much credit must also go to the powerful

Miles Davis has nearly always been regarded as one of the major leaders of modern jazz, and it has only been in very recent years that critics have begun to question his journey into jazz-rock a La Davis. Such critics usually cite two old Davis bands to support their belief that he really was the leading pioneer - those bands being his mid-fifties and late-fifties groups, both of which featured one of jazz's leading saxophonists, John Coltrane. Even though I disagree with what many so-called critics about the present state of his music, it is easy to see why constant reference is made to these earlier groups, and this record provides an excellent insight into the middle fifties era. To say the least, it is superb, there is no weak track, just four sides of some of the finest jazz the fifties produced. One of the most pronounced qualities of this music is

# and blues

group of musicians who back her, as well as those already mentioned, the album includes George Duke on keyboards, Airto on drums and percussion and Earl Hugh on guitar. Mention must also be made of some very tasty trombone solos by Raul De Souza.

Mike Prescott.

MILES DAVIS, WORKIN' AND STEAMIN'.  
Prestige L45591/2 (Festival).

This is one of the Milestones, Prestige, Fantasy re-release series, which is probably the best such series to ever appear, both in terms of quality, quantity, as well as price, \$7.95 for double albums.

its timelessness, it would seem very likely that if such a record was released today, it would sound as fresh just as much as it did in 1955.

For those interested in details, the album consists of 2 entire 1956 albums, "Workin" and "Steamin'", and the group is comprised of: John Coltrane (tenor sax); Red Garland (piano); Paul Chambers (bass); Philly Joe Jones (drums); And Miles (trumpet).

So if you are disconcerted with the 70's Miles, or you just want to hear good music, then this is a must, and at \$7.95 it is a bargain that shouldn't be missed. Mike Prescott.

Views



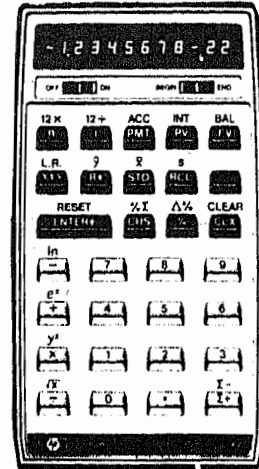


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# ads

HELP NEEDED FOR FELLOW STUDENTS.

OR  
STUDENTS ASSOCIATION BY-ELECTIONS.

Nominations for various positions within the Students Association will be called for probably during the second and third weeks of March.

Positions which have fallen vacant include:-

- Executive Committee - Co-ordinating Treasurer.
- Public Affairs Committee - 1 member.
- Social Activities Committee - 3 members.
- Media Committee - 2 Video Officers, Bread and Circuses Editor.
- Education & Welfare Committee: Chair person Secretary.
- AUS Committee: Women's Officer.

Here is a chance to get involved in helping your fellow students by getting the Association moving as a committee member. Think about it. If you want more details or want to discuss the situation, have a chat with me.

Geoff Adam, President.

## LOST.

3 keys on red holder labelled "IHad Darkroom".  
Please return to Bill Veitch,  
C/- Work Action Office.

*Spend an Evening*



### **SPECIAL OFFER** **DINNER FOR TWO PRICED FOR ONE**

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# what's on...

## tuesday 9

12 noon, EMMANUELLE. Brought to you by AUFG. Union Hall.

Admission: AUFG Members - 40¢  
Others - 80¢

## wednesday 10

1.00 p.m. - Education Group Meeting  
5th Level Union Building, behind the Games Room. Look for the signs. Those interested in education and welfare issues on campus are invited to attend. (Room 1)

1.00 p.m. - AU Surf Club. Meeting in Sports Association. All welcome.

2 p.m. MANDINGO. Directed by Richard Fleischer. Starring James Mason, Susan George. Union Hall.

7.30 p.m. - "Education News Service".  
Meeting. People interested in working on this publication are invited to attend.

## thursday 11

1.00 p.m. Regular weekly meeting. L.S.F.  
L.S.F. Rooms, Near Chapel. ALL WELCOME.

10-12.30 - Staff and students against nuclear energy: Meeting in Union Hall. Organised by Science for people, FOE and CANE.

1 p.m. ON DIT MEETING.  
MEETING FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH ON DIT, ON DIT OFFICE

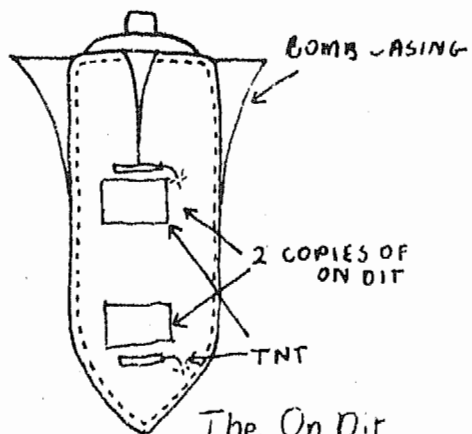
## friday 12

Friday 12th March - Saturday, 13th March.

FESTIVAL OF RECENT AND/OR AWARD WINNING AUSTRALIAN FILMS.

Four sessions. All screenings at New Little Cinema.

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