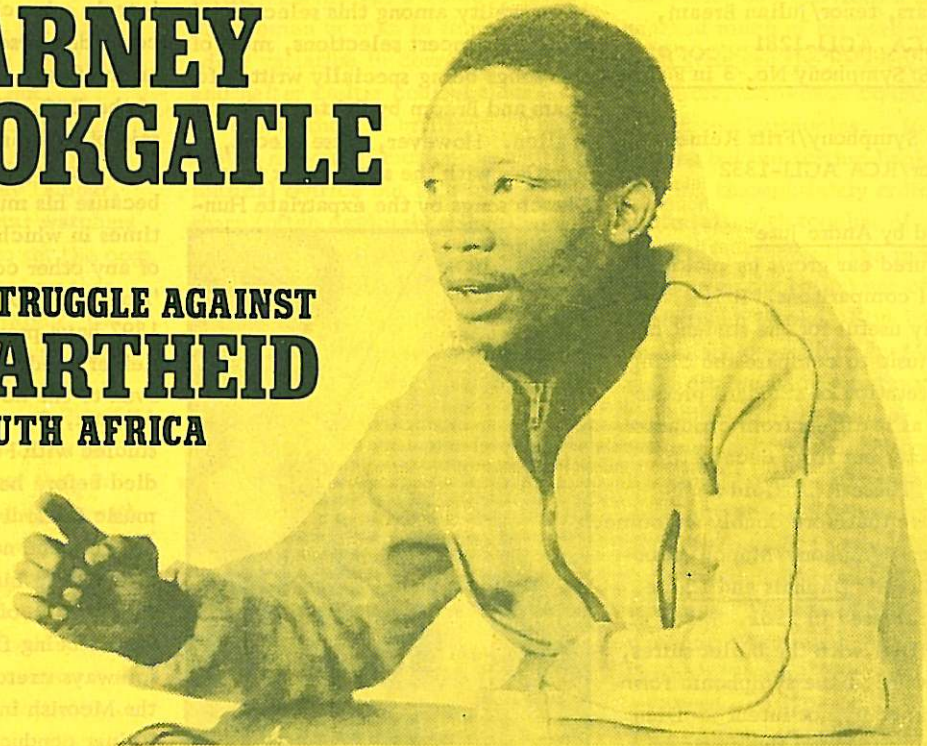


# Report from Soweto

Former secretary Soweto Students Representative Council

## BARNEY MOKGATLE

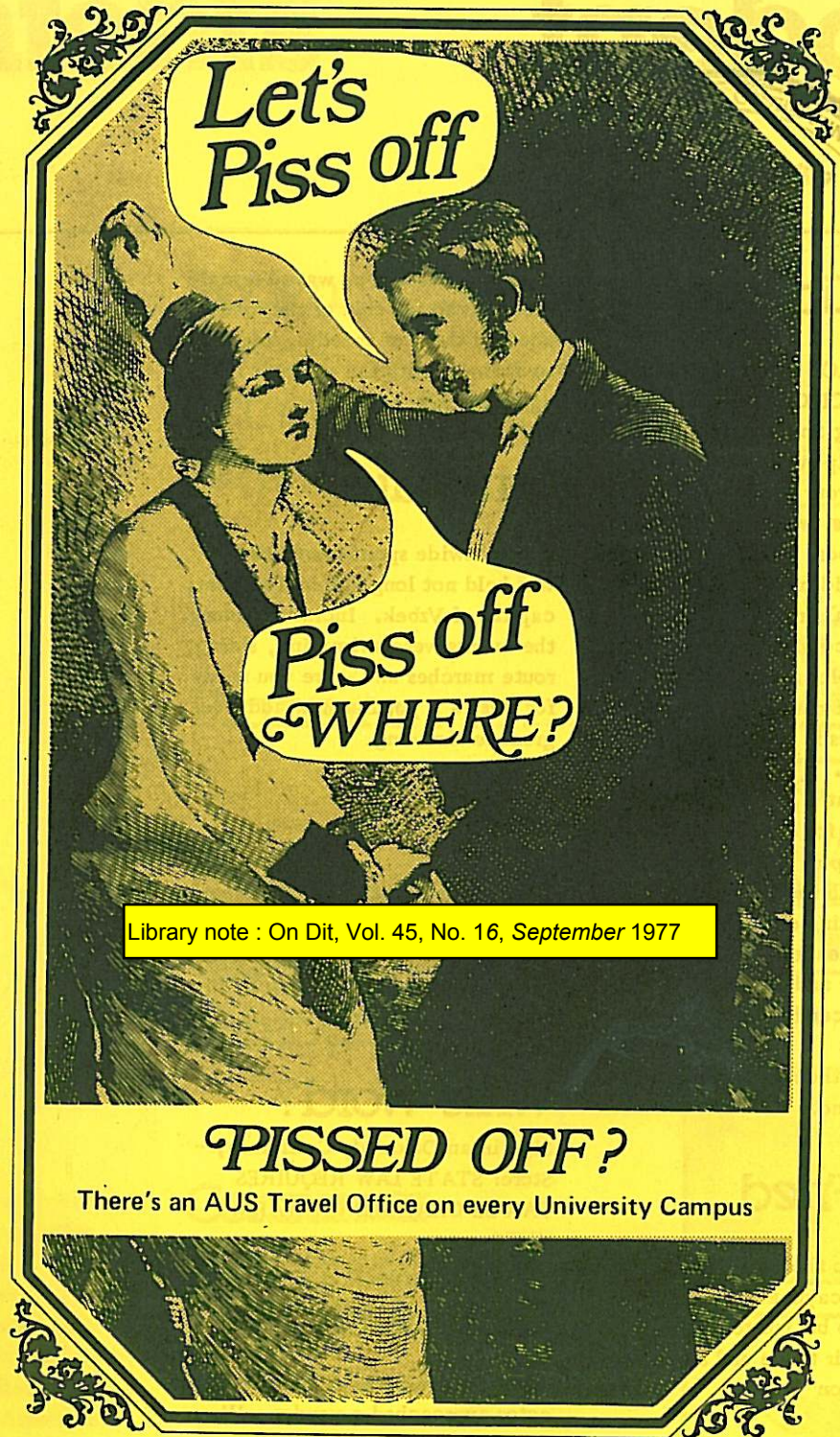
THE STRUGGLE AGAINST  
**APARTHEID**  
IN SOUTH AFRICA



### Public Meetings

CANBERRA	Thurs Sept 1, 8pm. Meetings Room. Student Union. ANU
SYDNEY	Fri Sept 2, 8pm. Trades Hall Auditorium.
NEWCASTLE	Sun Sept 4, 7.30 pm. Workers Club.
ADELAIDE	Wed Sept 7, 8pm. Shannon Hall. Trades Hall.
HOBART	Thurs Sept 8, 8pm. Southern Teachers Centre. 2 Edward St Glebe.
MELBOURNE	Fri Sept 9, 8pm. Assembly Hall. Collins St.
BRISBANE	Mon Sept 12, 8pm. Room 53, Trades Hall.

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Library note : On Dit, Vol. 45, No. 16, September 1977

### PISSED OFF?

There's an AUS Travel Office on every University Campus

Australian Union of Students Travel Service



# Rodent

## Hey Kid

WANNA DROP SOME SPACE DUST SAN FRANCISCO (ZNS-CUP)  
-Introducing Space Dust - the candy that can help you explore the far reaches of your mind.  
It's the latest sweet treat from General Foods, but the come-drop-a-hit-of-acid pitch has raised the ire of several critics.  
The candy consists mainly of sugar, artificial color and flavorings laced with a bit of natural carbon dioxide which makes it pop and crackle on your tongue.  
However that's not all it does. Researchers for columnist Jack Anderson report that critics are alarmed with the General Space Dust marketing strategy. General Foods has pleaded innocent in the whole affair and continues to test-market the candy in Arizona and Colorado...  
but without the reference to exploring your mind.

## Well Fried

According to the New Orleans "Times - Picayune" a man "was sentenced to be put to death in the electric chair twice and serve 20 years in prison".

## Corrupt Cop

An Anna, Illinois, man was arrested on a charge of impersonating a police officer and taking kisses as bribes. Police claim the man

dressed up as a cop, waved female motorists to the side of the road, accused them of speeding and offered to dispense with the ticket if they agreed to kiss him.

## Far Out

A nationwide sports competition was held not long ago in Tashkent, capital of Vzbek. Included among the events were swimming, skiing, route marches and - are you ready for this? - a popular new addition: grenade throwing.

## Wet

It is reported that during last year's flood disaster in Big Thompson Canyon, Colorado, a local movie theatre screened a film titled "In search of Noah's Ark".

## Write Word?

Sign in an Oakland, California, Store: STATE LAW REQUIRES TAX BE CHARGED ON WARM NUTS.

## Censored

When the University's security director approached a vendor selling T-Shirts emblazoned with dirty words outside the University of Wisconsin's football stadium, the pitchman defended himself as a man of high moral principle, saying he didn't carry the T-shirts in Children's sizes.

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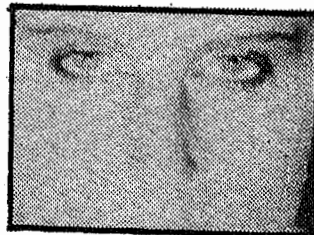
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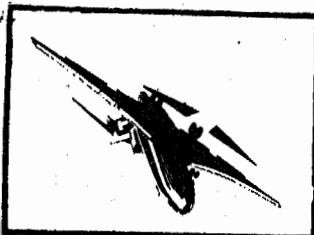
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This is On Dit, Volume 45 No 16, for the period September 5-19. The New Look and Layout was discovered by Allan Coup. It was edited by Nick Xenophou, with some photography by Julian Glynn, and published by Geoffrey Adam on behalf of the Students Association. The extraordinary typing is by Linda and Rosie with the beautiful printing by Frank and Glen. Next issue is September 19, with a copy deadline of September 7.

# Letters

Dear Editor,

I thought we'd explained this seven bloody years ago, and now we have to explain it again - why women have to exclude men from Women on Campus meetings. Of course, its obvious that men like Terry Connolly have not even bothered to read the literature that's been around for a long time, or talk to us, before they decided to expand our consciences with their words of wisdom. However, being the kind and considerate and ever-patient people that we are and realising the difficulties involved in understanding this complex and delicate question, we shall painfully and carefully explain it to you yet again.

(1) Women in this society, and so the university, have particular problems because they are women and it is valid and necessary to discuss these problems.

(2) Our experiences (including this year) confirm our belief that the solutions and strategies to overcome these problems must come from women themselves. Women have in the past talked about the problems that they specifically face, privately amongst themselves. Yet, these discussions are considered "gossip" sessions by men. Now when we do the same thing on a larger basis it is "discriminating against men". When are women allowed to talk to each other about our specific problems? At a meeting we had earlier this year, to which some women who thought we were being "exclusivist" brought men, those men cross-examined the women at the meeting, so there was no opportunity for

discussion amongst ourselves. That experience forced all the women there to change their minds about having meetings open to men. When the street theatre group from the Rape Crisis Centre came to the Barr-Smith lawns, I was shocked at the violent and paranoid comments made by many of the men present, such as "Get a bottle and we'll show you how to do it properly". In contrast to this, we had an interesting and helpful discussion on rape which only women attended-for many, their first women's meeting at Adelaide University.

(3) If men genuinely support us, and do not simply mouth empty ideals about being non-sexist, they must understand that we have a right to control our own campaigns and that in order for us to be effective at all, we need to have some women only meetings. It is ludicrous to accept this and then to give us no financial support for these campaigns. We are not about to withhold our union fees because we don't play football. One can only see the unfairness of Connolly's attacks in this light.

Susan Lewis

Dear Sir,

I write to protest at the unfair and ill-considered attack on the Union Bistro recently published by you. Your correspondent should stop and consider how lucky she is. She can eat at the Bistro extremely cheaply, compared with anywhere else in Adelaide that offers restaurant service, and be assured that all profits are being used on student facilities. Not many working en-

vironments offer such congenial lunch rooms.

If your correspondent were to go out to any one of Adelaide's restaurants, she would find herself paying multiples of the Bistro prices. In addition, she would be unable to enjoy unlimited salads and free coffee (the Bistro Coffee cups are twice the size of those at the Festival Center). I doubt also if she would be able to obtain such generous serves, or go in dressed as she pleased.

The food may not be of top quality, but by the same token, you don't have to go very far to get much worse, and at twice the price. There is nothing wrong, on the whole, with the preparation of the food, and if your correspondent's gourmet palate is offended, all she has to do is call a waitress to have it either recooked or replaced.

Your correspondent does not have to tip the Bistro staff to enjoy pleasant, friendly service, and if she wishes to complain, she can be assured that the Catering Manager and his staff are always available. Despite the apparant inability of many of the patrons to say "please" or "thank you", the cashier always manages a smile.

I guess the only thing else is left to be said, other than if your correspondent finds the Bistro so unpleasant, there are plenty of alternatives. Their prices, service and atmosphere are also alternative.

Yours faithfully  
GORDON P. LAVERICK

# Letters

I would like to reply to some of the allegations made by Mr Michael Danby in the interview he made with "On Dit" in your last issue. In particular, I would like to deal with the attacks that he has made against the Council of Australian Labor Party students, its affiliate groups and individual members (CALPS).

CALPS is a federation of ALP campus groups throughout Australia. Delegates from all states except the Northern Territory came together in Melbourne several months ago to form a National body. All delegates were elected by their respective clubs to attend this founding conference. All the decisions that were made were done on the basis of a democratic role. Any further policy for our organization outside of CALPS conferences will also be determined by a majority role of affiliate groups. Mr Danby was quite welcome to participate in that conference. Unfortunately, we chose to attend it sporadically - making very few contributions to the discussion. Now, he suggests that some people were engaged in "taking over" CALPS. Perhaps he would like to inform us who has "taken over". I have little doubt that what Michael Danby is really saying is that his group and his policies were rejected by the overwhelming majority of ALP clubs throughout Australia, and therefore some amorphous 'group' has taken over CALPS. I challenge Mr Danby to say exactly what or who this 'group' or 'groups' are, or who are the individuals involved are. One can have little respect for a person who chooses to make vague

generalisations without having any substantiated evidence.

What is this "independent, democratic socialist line" that Mr Danby talks about? I suggest the only line Mr Danby has is the same one followed the Liberal Student Federation and the National Civic Council - that which is dedicated to the destruction of the Australian Union of Students.

CALPS, as an organisation dedicated to the aims and ideals of the Australian Labor Party strongly believes that the best defense students can have is through their own self-organization through the Australian Union of Students. However much we might disagree with our Union Leadership, we will defend it against any attacks from the Fraser Government, or any of its associated grouplets like the Liberal Student Federation, or by any white ants who would weaken our union from the inside.

We don't agree completely with AUS policy on many issues. For example we strongly disagree with the concept of a "living wage for students", preferring instead a graded system of TEAS payments based on the total income received from sources outside of TEAS. We will fight to get our policies adopted at AUS Council by getting our members elected, by students, to attend the Unions Annual Council. We reject the suggestion that a direct elections system for the officers will improve the democratic structure of AUS. Mr Danby has openly admitted that it will give enormous advantage to those individuals who have the backing

of large political machines and financial resources. And the only reason he can say why it would be advantageous is because we might have "greater representation" among the windbags in Canberra. For the sake of political expediency Mr Danby is quite prepared to make a disgusting mockery of democracy! The present collegiate system, which requires students to vote for their representatives to AUS's highest decision making body means that individuals who do not have the backing of large groups will be able to articulate their policy to other election representatives.

This system is exactly the same one as that proposed in the Union structure policy of the Australian Labor Party. CALPS completely agrees with ALP national policy. It is Mr Danby who has breeched party policy. I suggest that if he is a loyal member of the ALP then he should at least support the policies of his party.

Now have Danby's proposals fared among the students. The direct election proposals, which Mr Danby's associates put to an AUS Constituent Ratification Resolution was once overwhelmingly defeated in campuses throughout Australia by a margin hearing 2 to 1. The Melbourne University succession move was thrown out by a large majority of students. What about the support for the executive of AUS? A block of students from Mr Danby's group, various christian and Zionist groups, Liberal Students Federation, the Maoist-Students for Australian Independence (although this

# Letters

amorphous group has several other names) and the overseas students service vigorously supported a proposal calling for the sacking of the entire AUS executive. The result 2/3 of Australian campuses voted against the sacking. Is this a record of support or success? It indicates a record of pathetic failure, a total incapacity to win any support what so ever from any significant sector of students. As a result of this failure, Danby's associates in moving against AUS have resorted to using the Law Courts to stop Melbourne University affiliation fees from going to AUS. Is this any respect for the democratic decisions of students. I would suggest that this is the reaction of sore losers, of people more concerned with political manipulation than with any "democratic decision". The remark Danby made that AUS President Peter O'Connor being a Trotskyist because he supports the policy of a living wage for students and because he was voted in by members of the SYA in AUS Council is really quite ridiculous. This man's logic would baffle Plato and Hegel. Mr Danby supported a proposal totally endorsed by the students for Australian Independence and the Liberal Students federation (strange bed-fellows indeed)! By his own logic, Danby must be a Maoist and a Fraserist at the same time! Michael Danby is a member of the Australian Labor Party and is consequently eligible to be a member of CALPS and its affiliated bodies. He may, at any time move affiliate resolutions - through

a campus ALP club to change or refine the policy of our organisation. Any Resolutions passed by the majority of our affiliates means that the organisation's Leadership must support that policy. So far Mr Danby has not put forward a single resolution. We eagerly await any proposals he may want to put. Contrary to whatever image the media may have portrayed about Michael being on some sort of holy crusade against the wil forces of extremism and communism, we find that record of a man who has absolutely no concern for political morality. He has used the Australian Labor party as a progressive cover for his policy of destroying the Australian Union of Students. In doing this, and in openly breeching PARTY POLICY, he has done a disservice to the ALP's credibility among students. He has colluded with groups and organisations that are actively engaged in destroying the Australian Labor Party. In a vain effort to achieve his ends, he has completely neglected the democratic decisions of students'. He has supported those who have used the courts to get what students failed to give them - much in the same way that Charles Court or Joh Bjelke Peterson have used the law to attack trade unions. It is Mr Danby who in all cases has shown himself to be the extremist in his desire to stop AUS functioning at all costs. I suggest that Mr Danby resign from the ALP immediately so that he may openly join the ranks of those whom he has worked with for so long. ALP students would like to get on with the job of

increasing the credibility of our party among students - a credibility which Mr Danby has done so much to shatter.

JEFF RICHARDS - National Convenor, Council of Australian Labor Party Students.

Dear Editor,  
Following a visit to the Bistro on the 2nd August, I find it necessary to write concerning the actions of a patron who embarrassed my guests and as I understand, is well known for her behaviour in the "public restaurant". While eating our meals the woman sitting at the next table proceeded to (a) breastfeed her baby and (b) change its nappy. To some reading this, both may not affect them and some may even see us as narrow minded. However, my company while not narrow minded, were embarrassed by her actions and felt that she should politely be told of the short walk to women's toilets where such things can be done privately. Had it not been her rudeness to one of the waitresses, who doing her duty in removing the plates from the table was subjected to abuse in the midst of the Bistro patrons, I may have let matters lie. However, having dined at the Bistro on countless occasions and finding little to fault with the food and service, it irks me to see a student act in this manner. Perhaps breast feeding can be excused although it is incorrect to expect others not to be upset but the changing of a dirty nappy while her table companion and those around her were

Continued page 31

# Campus News

## S.F. Movie Marathon

When! We begin midnight, on the night of Friday, September 16th. Where? Little Cinema, University of Adelaide. Tickets are available from the Union Gallery, Adelaide University. Only \$4 for four movies. You can bring your own munchies, sleeping bags, pillows, rugs etc. This should be a fun evening, so bring your friends. The Marathon is organized by the AU Science Fiction Association. Any profit will go towards showing more SF movies. We need your support. All this and more - will even have cartoons! Free tea and coffee!

ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES  
SMARTER BROTHER  
USA, 1975. Directed by Gene Wilder. Unions. Stars: Gene Wilder (Sigi Holmes), Marty Feldman (Sgt. Sacker). London 1891. Sherlock assigns the 'Bessie Bellwood' blackmail case to his younger brother Sigi. This Sherlock Holmes has little to do with the original. The film is patchy, but has some very funny sequences, 'Smarter Brother' is a promising movie; better in parts than as a whole, and essentially a showcase for the individual performances of Wilder himself, Marty Feldman, Madelina Kahn, and, particularly, the perpetually energised, rubber-faced Don Dehuise.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE  
USA, 1972 Dir. George Ray Hill 103 mins.

Stars. Michael Sacks (Billy Pilgrim), Valerie Parrine (Montana Wildhacks) An excellent film, based on Kurt Vonnegat's novel. It tells of Billy Pilgrim, an optometrist who becomes 'unstuck in time' from the present, the future on Tralfamadore, the past of the Dresden bombing simultaneously. Although the book is greatly simplified, the story remains powerful and fascinating. Good photography and special effects.

FLESH GORDON  
USA 1974, Dir: Michael Benveniste, Howard Zichm 84 mins. Stars. Jason Williams (Flesh Gordon) Suzanne Fields (Dalz Arder), William Hunt (Emperor Wong). The world is being ravaged by a sex ray which induces uncontrollable orgies, and Flesh embarks with Dale in Dr Jerkoff's phallic rocket to combat the ray's source on the Planet Porno. Need I go on? Yes it's corn, but it's fun. Best thing about this movie are the special effects a la Harryhausen.

THINGS TO COME  
USA, 1936 Dir: William Menzie Stars. Raymond Massey (John Oswald Cabel), Ralph Richardson (The Chief), Cadric Hardwicke (Theotocopoulos). Areal classis! Screenplay by HG Wells himself. Based on his short story, 'The Shape of Things to Come'. WWII ends in 1966, and we follow the events in Every city, USA. Black & White.

## Films

The Student Counselling Service is offering the opportunity to

participate in a series of lunch time films on a variety of "Social issues", with an opportunity to discuss the film afterwards if it raises any questions.

WHERE  
Group Room  
Student Counselling Service  
1st Floor, George Murray Building  
WHEN  
TUESDAY between 1 pm and 2 pm  
STARTING TUESDAY 6TH SEPT. '77  
PROGRAMME

SCAG (Heroin) 21 mins. U.S. Story of two young people who for different reasons turned to heroin use and experienced similar problems. This film explores the physical, emotional and social consequences of shooting heroin.

MARIJUANA 34 mins. U.S. This film focuses on the most frequently voiced reasons given by the marijuana user on behalf of its use and legalization. Covers research and interviews with teenagers and young adult users and also police, doctors and psychiatrists' comments.

## Legal Aid

Got Problems with:-  
\*Car and motor cycle accidents?  
\*Landlord v Tenant?  
\*Family Law?  
\*Anything else?  
Adelaide University Union S.A.I.T. and A.C.A.E. Unions have considered to help you.  
Legal Advice is provided by Grad. Dip of Legal Practice Students. Supervised by qualified solicitors

# Campus News

of S.A.I.T. Legal Workshop. Legal Aid Service starts 14th September 1977 - Wednesday & Friday 1-2 pm. Make appointments at WORK ACTION, Adelaide University Union ("Contact Centre") Telephone 223 2685 or Adelaide University extn. 2915. Remember this service is provided by your Union and it is FREE.

will be happy to discuss any educational or development problems with you. Our NEW reduced FEE SCALE makes our rates highly competitive, and we retain our excellent concessions for student-parents. We accept permanent bookings of two to ten half-day sessions per week, and provide a guaranteed CONTINUITY OF ENROLMENT from year to year for a proportion of children. We accept children in all age groups from three months up to five years. ENQUIRIES should be addressed to the Director, Trischa Fitzhenry, at the Centre at any time during the year.

#### MPCC STAFF

1 S.R. Nurse, 1 Kindergarten Teacher, 3 Mothercraft Nurses, 1 Art Teacher, 4 Child Care Assistants, p/t cook, p/t typist, p/t cleaner.

#### MPCCC HOURS

Monday to Friday each week:

Morning Session  
8.30 to 12.30 (or 1.30)  
Afternoon Session  
1.30 to 5.30 (or 6.15)  
All Day Session  
8.30 to 5.30 (or 6.15)

#### MPCCC FEES:

(a) Family Incomes less than \$10,000  
Fee varies from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per half day session.  
(b) Family Incomes more than \$10,000  
p.a. No. of Sessions/week:-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Weekly Fees (\$)	4	8	11.50	14.50	17.50	20	22.50	25	27.50	30



#### OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

In addition to the statement from Messrs Cooper, Goldberg, Jacobs and Berce, two letters of relevance have been received by the President of the Students Association (Mr Geoff Adam). One verifies the facts in the statement, the other contains a statement concerning the present position of the Board of Discipline.

The first is from the Vice-Chancellor Professor D.R. Stranks. The important section reads as follows:-

"The admissions by Messrs T. Cooper, P. Goldberg, K. Jacobs and M. Berce are corroborated by my own investigations following a request for assistance by the Returning Officer, Mr J. Malbon". The second is from the Chairman of the University's Board of Discipline, Professor D.J.D. Nicholas.

# Campus News

CONFIDENTIAL TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE S.A.U.A.

Mr. G.J. Adam,  
President,  
Students' Association,  
University of Adelaide.

19th. August, 1977.

Dear Geoff,

SAUA Elections - July, 1978

In regard to the above elections, the following information is supplied to you and is confidential to the electorate of the S.A.U.A.

Messrs. Tim Cooper, Phil Goldberg and Kim Jacobs declare that we were involved in actions that led to the attempt to lodge fifteen votes which were subsequently detected as false votes. Further Mr. Michael Berce's involvement was to obtain a number of blank ballot papers from the medical polling box.

We, the four undersigned,

- (a) will not become involved in any S.A.U.A. affairs in the future,
- (b) point out that we acted independently and not on behalf of any club or organisation,
- (c) totally regret our actions and involvement in this matter and sincerely and humbly apologise to the electorate and to the S.A.U.A., and to the Returning Officer.

certain students of this University".

The General Student Meeting referred to by Professor Nicholas will be held towards the end of the first week of Third Term. Watch notice-boards for details.

G.J. ADAM  
PRESIDENT

Yours sincerely,

*M. Berce*  
.....  
M. Berce  
*T. Cooper*  
.....  
T. Cooper  
*H. Goldberg*  
.....  
H. Goldberg  
*K. Jacobs*  
.....  
K. Jacobs



The important part of this letter states:-  
"As you know, the Disciplinary Board was convened by the Vice-Chancellor and its deliberations to date have been concerned solely with procedural matters... Unfortunately, a few of my colleagues (on the Board) are not available for comment but those with whom I have consulted agree with the following statement:  
The Board of Discipline will not at the present time continue with its deliberations. It will await the outcome of a meeting of the Students' Association called today to discuss a statement submitted to Mr Adam by

## Plutonium Disappears

(ANS) - Enough plutonium is missing in Britain to make 15 atom bombs. The UK Atomic Energy Authority and British Nuclear Fuels have admitted that 100 kilograms of plutonium and 100 kilograms of enriched uranium have disappeared since 1970. They claim that while they do not know where it is, they believe it has not been stolen.

## Battered Wives

(ANS/SA) - Speaking of statistics, there is a set from the United States which speaks pretty clearly of the need for women's liberation. About 28 million American wives, more than half the nation's married women, are abused physically by their husbands, according to a new wife-beating study. Richard C. Levy, author of "Wife-beating, The Silent Crisis", calls battered wives, "the missing persons of official statistics". By physical abuse Levy meant those who receive an occasional slap as well as the victims of regular thrashings.

In the category of extreme violence, he concluded from one study that "there are at least 4,700,000 badly battered wives in the United States today" - or 10 percent of all American women.

Levy based his estimate on the nearly identical findings obtained by social scientists in seven separate surveys.



## Pacific Plot

(ANS) - A member of parliament for the Cook Islands in the south Pacific claims he was drugged and abducted in a political plot. Mr Paul Tangata, who was opposition

whip in the Cook Islands legislature, made the allegations after he was released from the Oakley Park psychiatric hospital in Auckland, New Zealand. He says that while on the island of Fiji, he was arrested by several policemen who forcibly injected him with a sedative.

Then, he says, two Cook Island doctors took him aboard a DC-10 airliner and took him to his parent's home in Grey Lynn in Auckland, and then the next morning to the psychiatric hospital. During this time he was continually sedated, and at no time was he told where he was going, what he was supposed to have done, or what was supposed to be the matter with him.

Mr Tanata rejects any suggestion that he had suffered a mental breakdown. "I had felt from some time that something like this was coming. As an outspoken member of parliament I felt that I was in some danger of being victimised in one way or another".

According to Cook Island officials in Auckland, Mr Tanata has automatically forfeited his seat, and a by-election to fill the vacancy will be held in September.

Mr Tanata is one of two opposition representatives of the island of Atiu, which has a population of about 1000. Should the ruling Cook Islands party under Sir Albert Henry capture the seat, it would give them a two-thirds majority they need to amend the constitution.

## Ha Ha

(ANS/Socialist Action) - Although the official Soviet press is not noted for its sense of humour, the following excerpt from Washington Post correspondent, Robert Kaiser's recent book "Russia: The People and the Power" suggests that this may largely be a question of untapped resources:

"There is a joke about this (privileges of the Kremlin bureaucracy) involving Mr Brezhnev and his late mother, who (in the joke) still lives in a country village. Mr Brezhnev had invited her to his hunting lodge in Zavidovo on the Volga, and shows here around the panelled dining room, the sunken bath, the swimming pool, the forest stocked with deer and bear. "Well, Mama," he finally says, 'how do you like it?' 'Oh', she replies, 'it's marvellous! But aren't you afraid the Bolsheviks might come back?'"



Each of the individual rulings handed down by labor courts. The courts have rejected petitions by fired dissidents to be reinstated in their positions. Zdenek Mlynar, one of the leaders of the movement, was turned down by a labor court after appealing for reinstatement as head of the entomology department of the National Museum of Prague. The charter has been signed by more than 700 persons.

## Racial Humour, Carter Style

(ANS/Seven Days)-Billy Carter, the president's brother, is reputed to be gifted with the sharp wit of a backwoods philosopher, but his recent joking has been anything but wise. Billy was in Oakland in early April to throw out the first ball at the Oakland A's season opener, and during a cocktail party for 400 A's season-ticket holders, Billy quipped that the reason his last name matched the first name of Carter Gilmore, a local city council candidate who is black, was "We all left a nigger in the woodpile somewhere".

Billy and the majority of the guests thought the remark was humorous, it was reported, but when Gilmore asked for a formal apology, Billy said, "It was not meant as a racial slur, and I will not apologize".

## 80 Lose Jobs

(ANS/IP) - A statement released June 8 in Prague charges that eighty signers of the human-rights document Charter '77 have lost their jobs in reprisal for endorsement of the appeal. The Charter 77 group appealed to the Czechoslovak parliament to examine

# URANIUM

## ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF AUSTRALIA'S EXPORT OF URANIUM.

For the past two decades the Australian economy has experienced a dramatic shift away from traditional industries and into mining. Recently, we have been shipping out minerals at as fast a rate as possible to whoever will buy them, and subsidising this exploitation of our resources with massive doses of taxpayers money. Concurrently, Australia has seen a rash of failures of small businesses and a vast increase in unemployment in the manufacturing sector and a relative decline in farm incomes which has questioned the viability of many previously profitable farm businesses. Two questions of crucial importance to all Australians at the moment are whether there is any causal connection between these developments, and what the effects on the Australian economy are likely to be in the event of adding billions of dollars worth of uranium to our mineral exports.

In an economic model developed to deal with a related question, Dr. R.G. Gregory of the A.N.U. distinguishes three relevant sectors of the Australian economy:

1. The traditional export sector of wheat, wool and meat producers and exporting manufacturers,
2. The new export sector of the mineral industry,
3. Import competing manufacturing industry, heavily protected in Australia by tariffs and subsidies. Each of these sectors is tied to the others by the balance of payments constraint. Any major increase in

the value of mineral exports such as the export of uranium would initially reduce the price received for existing exports. Our trading partners would not allow the balance of payments swing so far in Australia's favour. In Gregory's view, a lower price in the traditional export sector would reduce the quantity supplied on the basis of simple supply/demand analysis, and therefore in time significantly reduce the size of the traditional export sector. In addition, the price of importables would decline, and their quantity demanded therefore increase to the detriment of the Australian manufacturers competing in the domestic market with overseas producers.

In simple terms, in order to maintain an equilibrium in the balance of payments, any increase in mineral exports must be associated with a similar increase in imports to "make room" for the new quantity. Alternatively, the level of exports can be kept constant if while the mineral export sector expands, the traditional export sector contracts accordingly.

### Tariffs

One proposed solution to the problem faced by the import competing manufacturing sector is increased protection for Australian produced goods through quotas and increased tariffs. The real benefit derived from any general increase in tariffs is nil. A uniform tariff increase would leave the import competing sector unchanged since its effects would be exactly offset by the exchange rate change that would be required to maintain equilibrium

externally. It would have the effects of increasing the existing inequities of income distribution but would leave the relative sizes of export competing sectors unchanged. In addition, any assistance to one sector can only be at the expense of the other sectors of the economy since the three sectors are inextricably linked by the balance of payments constraint. Any increase in the tariff level will reduce the equilibrium price ratio of traded to non-traded goods and reduce the equilibrium quantity of exports. If in order to protect local industry the tariff level is increased the traditional export sector and/or the mineral export must cut back exports accordingly.

### Devaluation

Sections of the manufacturing export sector have proposed restoring previous price ratios through devaluation as a solution to their problems of competing in overseas markets, and foreign reserves in overseas banks have put pressure on Australia to devalue its currency. In order to reach a new balance of payments equilibrium upset by the increase in exports, the price of traded goods must fall relative to non-traded goods. This can happen either through appreciation of the Australian dollar, the opposite of devaluation, causing the price of traded goods to fall, or through further inflation of the domestic price level, causing the price of non-traded goods to rise. Any devaluation will set relative prices at an artificial and inappropriate level, and the price of non-traded goods must change to restore the balance of payments equilibrium, i.e. the rate of inflation in Australia

must be higher than it would otherwise be.

### "Adjustments" in Industry

"Adjustment", an hygienic euphemism for closing shop, sacking employers, and investing one's capital elsewhere, are unavoidable.

The mineral export sector has grown gargantuan at the expense of the other sectors of the economy in terms of declining markets, decreasing profitability and vastly increasing unemployment trends which will be greatly accentuated if multi-billion dollar uranium exports go ahead. Exchange rate changes cannot relieve industry of the adjustments that are necessary given the shift to mining.

A significant proportion of the difficulties experienced by export and import competing industries arises from changes in the Australian cost level relative to those of our trading partners especially through the difference in relative inflation rates explained largely by the rapid growth of mineral exports. Paradoxically, the more minerals we export the worse off we will get, given the structure of our economy. Adding rapidly expanding uranium exports to our existing mineral exports will lead to a vastly different Australia; a country with higher permanent unemployment, a lower standard of living than we have known for many years, and more dependant than ever on the interests of the foreign owners of our major enterprises.

And the export of uranium will certainly be as rapid as the companies can make it. Some buyers, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines, would be happy to buy anyone's uranium at any time, but one must seriously suspect that safeguards in these countries would be scantily observed, and that having a nuclear weapon to throw at the neighbours looms large as a motivation in the minds of their dictators.

Another consideration is looming larger in the minds of decision makers amongst more responsible and trustworthy potential buyers, and that is that nuclear power, despite the optimism of the 1950's, is simply not economically viable. "Waste management" is as costly to companies in terms of dollars as it is to the rest of us in terms of environmental disasters. The U.S. nuclear power industry reached its peak in 1973 and has since declined. Cancellations and deferrals of plant construction outpaced new orders by more than 25 to 1 in 1975. Since 1972 there has been no plutonium extraction from spent nuclear fuel in the U.S. - the process is simply too expensive. Two new extractor plants have been cancelled, one after having had \$6 million already spent on it.

The real estate, storage facilities, tanks, guards and security services can only be supplied at a high cost which recurs annually not for ten or twenty years, but for ever. The plants themselves can only be used for about 30 years, before which time they develop metal failure. However, their radioactivity is such that once useless, they will not be able to be dismantled for about 400 years. Those who have uranium to sell are well aware that if it is left for another five years there could well be no market at all. Export, if it is to take place at all, will have to be rapid, which will mean to the Australian economy a sudden and considerable turn for the worse along the lines of the present decline. Only a handful of the unemployed from manufacturing industry can hope to find jobs in the capital intensive and ultimately short-lived mining industry. Goods and services available to Australian consumers will be fewer, and more difficult to get. The billions of dollars profit from Uranium mining will be divided between multinational companies and a few big Australian companies

with large foreign shareholdings. The net contribution to our economy, taking into account the taxes paid, subsidies and assistance given, and the disastrous effects of the necessary restructuring of the economy on the living standards on the vast majority of Australians will be both considerable, and wholly negative.

Rod Felmingham

# I'm sorry, but that information is not available.....

COMPARED WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS SWEDEN, AND EVEN THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM, PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION IN

AUSTRALIA IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. SPORADIC CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED WITH A VIEW TO SECURING REFORM OF OUR SECRETIVE AND OUT DATED

BUREAUCRACIES. BUT TO DATE THEY HAVE ALL BEEN STYMIED BY EMPTY AND MISLEADING PROMISES, OR PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUND BY POLITICAL CRISES.

An articulate and exasperated pensioner the other day complained about the problem she was having getting information regarding a comparison between public service pensions and benefits, and those applicable to pensioners who had paid into a superannuation fund.

She was under the impression the information would have been highly embarrassing to a Government which takes pride in its austerity measures, while it bolsters bureaucrats with election time hand-outs to buy support.

Anyway, she got in touch with her local member to see what he could do for her. This local member, being a conscientious sort of chap, wrote a letter back saying how nice it was to hear from her, and would she please remember to vote for him in the next elections, and he was looking into the matter - or words to that effect.

What with one thing or another, and the matter being referred to the

Treasurer and the Minister for Social Services, and more letters, and more phone calls, and more letters about a year and a half has gone by, and the local member has probably lost a vote in the next election. That is, if the pensioner who wrote the letter asking for the information in the first place lives that long. The point of all this is that the information she was seeking should have been public knowledge to the extent that she could have been referred to a newspaper cutting, or a pamphlet or some news release parliamentarians are wont to pump out, and she would have had all the information she was after. That would have been the end of it. But instead she has a real bee in her bonnet about the whole thing and her cholesterol count is probably shot to ribbons.

## RIGHT TO KNOW

She finally got in touch with the Committee for Freedom of Information to see if we could do anything about

shaking up Canberra's fact evaders. All we can do at the moment is sympathise with her. Because there is no written guarantee in any law, statute, by-law, clause, subsection, appendix or anything that passes for the rules and regulations that govern our lives, that gives any person the right to know what information the government holds. Even knowledge and facts that are supposed to be public knowledge and can be confirmed from other sources, can be difficult or even impossible to obtain if it's not asked for by its correct title or identifying code.

All the pensioner achieved, because of this lack of a guarantee to freedom of information, was to add revenue to the postal and telecommunication industry.

The Victorian Committee for Freedom of Information, and similar bodies acting in other states, and on a Federal level, is trying to ensure that this right, which should have

been guaranteed in the constitution, is one that every Australian has. So far we have found there is support for such a proposal from both sides of the Victorian Parliament.

Admittedly some of the verbal support has been guarded and conditional - more on a tow bob each way basis - but it has been there "in principle".

This type of support for progressive and obviously needed legislation is nothing new on either a State or Federal level. Successive Liberal Prime Ministers in the 60's after Menzies, said there was a need for more open Government. And as early as November 1972, Gough Whitlam said a Labor Government would introduce a Freedom of Information Act along the lines of one in operation in the United States. Labor filed to put any such legislation into operation before the Governor-General took a hand in the country's government.

Since then Malcolm Fraser has said

there is a need for more open government, and indeed some such legislation is under consideration at the Federal level. But as yet nothing has come of it.

In the meantime Australian are asked to vote on, consider, evaluate and make decisions about matters like uranium mining, the validity and credibility of their police

forces, resource development and exploitation, without the access to all the information the various State governments and the Australian government hold in their files. This sort of current information about the operations of the government is the keystone to democracy. Without it conjecture and rumor replace facts as the basis for electoral decisions, and there is a general distrust of the unknown element that the government on any level is becoming. In a democracy the public has the right to know the business of its government. Threats to civil liberties and fundamental rights are

inherent in the relatively unchecked operations of any mushrooming bureaucracy, which is the section of government operations usually placed in charge of information and has no direction regarding this information's compulsory release. Instead the direction is to the total withholding of any information and cases like that of the pensioner.

## SWEDISH MODEL

The precedent for successful government operations under Freedom of Information was set by Sweden in 1809, when a citizen's right to know was incorporated in the constitution. Sweden it will be noted, has demonstrated an extremely stable form of democratically elected government. On a continent where governments seem to fall and change more often than the guards at Buckingham Palace, there has only been one change of government in more than a generation. So Freedom of Information is no threat to stable government. Unless that government is inherently un-



stable, in which case it should be exposed before its instability is reflected in the state of the nation.

#### INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY

In Sweden, the method a citizen adopts to exercise the right to know is very simple. The interested individual merely demands the appropriate files or papers from the public servant who has them in his or her possession. The public servant must then decide whether the documents demanded, or any part of them should be considered private. Where information is withheld, appeal to a higher authority is available.

Based on the premise that all information is available to the public unless it is covered by specific legislation, such as the need to protect national security, any official who actually has the papers must decide individual requests for them on the basis of governing laws and regulations.

The simplicity of the Swedish system in operation, as opposed to the Australian non-system, which the pensioner had to go through, proves that very little information is withheld by the government. The system has a very low cost of operation, because the citizen is not confronted with costly law suits to obtain the information he seeks. The public servant may not err on the side of secrecy, but must take a legally defensible stand to withhold the information.

There is one major drawback with the Swedish system - there is no provision for individual files on individual people to be protected under a cover of privacy.

This is an objection that committee members have come across in trying to promote Freedom of Information legislation, namely, what safeguard exists for the privacy of the individuals files from prying eyes. Although the two matters are closely related, they should for the sake of simplicity be regarded separately. The Victorian Parliament is already

considering the matter of privacy, and no doubt this will include more than enough safeguards. Like any new legislation that for Freedom of Information, could easily be sidetracked into a labyrinth of non-relevant considerations, and the overall broad support lost in petty-fogging legal and technical arguments.

With Freedom of Information legislation the individual would at least be able to find out what was on his own files held by various government departments, and determine whether it was relevant and accurate. No such right exist today.

America introduced Freedom of Information legislation in 1967.

The original concept has been amended following its introduction, and despite bureaucratic fears the system has not ground to a halt. Instead there is a better informed public, more vitally interested in the operations of its government. In contrast Australia's government operations are based on a system of deliberate secrecy. So much so that it is even a secret in many cases that the secrets exist. Jim Spiegelman

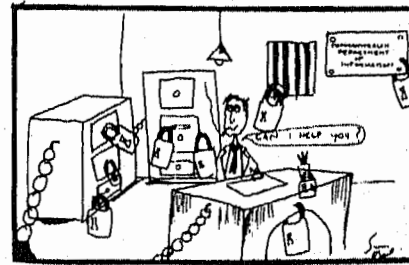
in his book "Secrecy" cites in his opening chapter the case of a Detective Sergeant Phillip Arantz, of the New South Wales Police Force, who was dismissed for releasing a report on the incidence of crime in New South Wales. The computer figures he released to the Sydney Morning Herald simply outlined the number of crimes committed in New South Wales and the percentage rates of satisfactory resolution of the crimes within various classifications. The official charge upon which the dismissal of Det. Sgt. Arantz was founded went beyond an allegation of unauthorised disclosure. It also asserted that Arantz divulged the information "with the knowledge that his actions would cause embarrassment to the Police Commissioner and the

Government". As Spiegelman points out: "Embarrassing Governments is what democracy is all about." The information that the policemen released would not have fallen under any of the categories that would normally have been considered secret. After all as a dis-aggregate the figures would mostly have appeared in various newspapers, court transcripts, police running sheets of daily occurrences and even company records. If anyone had gone to these sources and painstakingly evaluated the figures, they would no doubt have been similar, if not identical to those released by Arantz. While situations like that exist, no wonder public servants adopt the attitude "When in doubt, conceal".

Meanwhile the pensioner is still trying to find out about the pensions, and we're trying to make sure she has the right to find out.

If you know of any specific instances of government or bureaucratic concealment could you contact us with details, so we can follow them up and use them as part of a case for FOI legislation in this State. Contact can be made through our secretary, Nancy Heyen, 3 Neville Street, Mentone, 3194; or phone 933 118.

by MIKE RAATH



# A pre-graduation career plan for engineers.

**1** Join one of the Defence Force undergraduate schemes and receive an excellent salary and allowances to stay right where you are and graduate. In your vacations, spend some time with us learning the ropes and gaining practical experience in your field.

**2** When you graduate, spend a few years as an officer on a short service commission. Develop experience in executive management, engineering administration and leadership. Build yourself financial security and enjoy a uniquely rewarding lifestyle while you do.

**3** At the end of your short service commission, we hope you will like the life enough to stay in the Defence Force on a permanent service commission. If you decide to leave us, use the experience you have gained to become a valuable man in the commercial world.

## The first step.

Begin your career plan by dropping us a line today. Tell us a few relevant facts about yourself, and be sure to indicate which of the three services - Navy, Army or Air Force - you would prefer to join. (Note: Air Force applications have now closed for 1978 entry.)

Write to: The Director General of Recruiting, G.P.O. Box XYZ in your nearest capital city (please add postcode) and tell us:

1. The type of engineering you are studying - civil, mechanical, aeronautical electrical, electronics or communications.
2. The degree or diploma you are studying (including electives).
3. The year you expect to graduate.
4. The University or Technical College you attend.
5. Which of the three services you would prefer to join.

Then we can advise you of the career opportunities that apply particularly to you. And, if you wish, we can arrange for you to come in and discuss your career plan on a professional basis.

Authorised by the Director-General of Recruiting, Department of Defence

TSOP65.204.77

THOSE FABULOUS FURRY **FREAK BROTHERS** Gilbert Shelton

**OUT OF DOPE AGAIN!** I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE FAT FREDDY'S CAR AND GO SCORE US A POUND!

OH YEAH, I'LL NEED TO USE YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE, TOO — MINE GOT REVOKED...

IS THE CAR WORKING ALL RIGHT?

HUNH? OH YEAH, EXCEPT THE TURN SIGNALS DON'T TURN OFF BY THEMSELVES... AND THERE'S NO SPARE TIRE... AND THE WINDSHIELD WIPERS DON'T WORK...

...AND IT PAYS OUT OF GEAR, AND YOU HAVE TO PUMP ON THE BRAKES TWO OR THREE TIMES BEFORE THEY START TO WORK, AND...

WHEN I FEEL LIKE SOME KINDA KAMIKAZE PIRATE...

...127, 125, 130

THANK YOU! COME AGAIN!

NOW, IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT HOME...

UH-OH...

SPUT COUGH (EXPIRE)

OUT OF GAS! AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BUSIEST INTERSECTION IN THE CITY!

FAT FREDDY FEELS-GOT TO WARN ME ABOUT THAT...

HONK HONK BEEP

I'LL RUN SCORE SOME GAS RIGHT OVER HERE!

OH NO! A COP SPOTTED THE CAR? AND THAT POUND OF GRASS IS SITTING ON THE FRONT SEAT!!!

(WHISPER) I JUST RAN OUT OF GAS!

LET ME SEE YOUR CAR PAPERS AND DRIVERS LICENSE.

(CONFUSED) I HOPE HE DOESN'T NOTICE I DON'T WEIGH 235 POUNDS (OR HAVE BLONDE HAIR!)

HEY! THIS LICENSE IS EXPIRED!

ER... UH... WELL...

FWUMP

LONG LIVE THE MARINUS VAN DER LUBBE INTERNATIONAL FIREBOMBING SOCIETY!

HEY, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU IT'S ALMOST OUT OF GAS! CAN'T DRIVE AND DOESN'T WORK! AND OH YEAH, MY LICENSE IS EXPIRED, I THINK...

WELL, THEN, I GUESS IT'S ONLY FAIR TO TELL YOU THAT THE FBI IS AFTER YOU.

**FAT FREDDY'S CAT!**

I'LL SEARCH OUT THE COOKBOOKS IN THEIR REFRIGERATOR AND DESTROY THEM!

SURE ARE A LOT OF COOKBOOKS UNDER THE 'HOVE!

I'LL BURN 'EM UP WITH MY "ANTI-SEMITIC" FLAME!

ISN'T THAT AGAINST THE "ANTI-SEMITIC" FLAME?

THOSE FABULOUS FURRY **FREAK BROTHERS**

**PHINEAS IS "LOOKING FOR A JOB"**

YOU WANT A JOB, HUNH? OKAY, CAN YOU RUN A PRINTING PRESS?

WELL, IT'S EASY! I'LL SHOW YOU!

(I'LL SCREW UP SO BADLY HE'LL HAVE TO FIRE ME!)

YOU LOOK LIKE A SMART KID! YOU'LL PICK IT UP QUICK!

THE SALARY IS TWENTY AN HOUR!

SURE ENOUGH, PHINEAS LEARNS QUICKLY!

ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT IT NOW!

YOU'LL WORK THE NIGHT SHIFT! HERE'S THE KEY!

I'M HERE ALL ALONE! I THINK I'LL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRINT UP A FEW DOLLAR BILLS!

GOVERNMENT AGENTS! FREEZE! HANDS UP!

CRASH!

YOU "WARN THE SUSPECT OF HIS RIGHTS," FLOYD! I'LL SEARCH THE PLACE!

I CAN'T FIND ANY PORNOGRAPHY, FLOYD!

NO DIRTY BOOKS? WELL, WE HAVE TO LET HIM GO, THEN!

YOU MEAN...??

YOU WORRIED ABOUT THAT STACK OF DOLLAR BILLS? HAW HAW HAW!

WE WERE LOOKING FOR SMUT! THAT COUNTERFEIT MONEY DOESN'T UPSET US MUCH ANY MORE!

NOW! IT TAKES SO MUCH MONEY TO BUY ANYTHING NOW, THAT THE STUFF AIN'T WORTH THE PAPER IT'S PRINTED ON!

WOW! WHAT A WEIRD DREAM!

MIGHT NOT BE AS WEIRD AS YOU IMAGINE.

**FAT FREDDY'S CAT!**

I NEED A DRINK OF WATER!

...BUT SOMEBODY PEE'D IN THE TOILET AND DIDN'T FLUSH IT!

YOU PEE IN MY DRINK I'LL PEE IN YOURS!

# Unisex Salon: But who has hair on their chest?

Daisy Bates

The look is soft,  
sexy. Condition  
superb. Colour  
subtle. That's  
hair for '77.

Unisex Salon Centrepoint Sydney  
Phone 233 3438, 233 3589, 233 3830

## CONSUMER MANIPULATION THROUGH ADVERTISING

The increased consumption of manufactured, packaged goods and food products has been the aim of the industrialised western nations ever since the industrial revolution (with the exception of war years when there were only limited supply of material and goods). The basic assumption on increased consumption is the strengthening of economy and the enhancement of the "quality of life". Major social institutions on the whole go along with this assumption and through direct and indirect means try to convince the public that bigger is better, more money spent on goods comes back to the public in increased benefits, such as better social service and increased attention to community needs. Yet increased unplanned, compulsive consumption leads to undesirable social trends where still useful products are discarded. This leads to waste of resources and human power with tacit acceptance of planned obsolescence and the disposable society. Bernice Allen of the University of Ohio makes a point when she says: "We have no proof that more material goods or more gadgets made anyone happier. In fact evidence seem to point in the opposite direction." It is politically always expedient to point to increased economic power. This way political parties in power can justify the reason for their existence. There are a number of organisations in existence which aim is to make people spend more. During the fifties in the US advertising became a multi-million

dollar industry. Advertising is designed to shape our purchasing decisions. Advertising companies employ motivational research and public relation efforts to find out the reason for our behaviour so we can be more effectively manipulated in our habits to buy products and services offered by business houses.

Motivational research uses knowledge gained from behaviour and social sciences to identify high anxiety, body consciousness, hostility and passivity in order to catch the right psychological moment to make a sell. For example a Chicago advertising agency made a study of the female menstrual cycle and its psychological consequences to make more effective appeals to buying trends.

Advertising through the media infiltrates and effects everybody's life. It shapes consumer norms, political trends and invades the privacy of one's mind. More and more advertising firms hire social scientists as motivation experts. Motivation research seeks to learn what motivated people in making choices. In a buying situation the consumer generally acts emotionally and compulsively reacting in the subconscious that is associated with the product. With the advent of supermarkets, researchers found that seven out of ten purchases are decided in the store and are impulse buying.

In order to increase profits the more expensive items are displayed at eye level. Items that the store wants to sell quickly are displayed near the door. The so-called

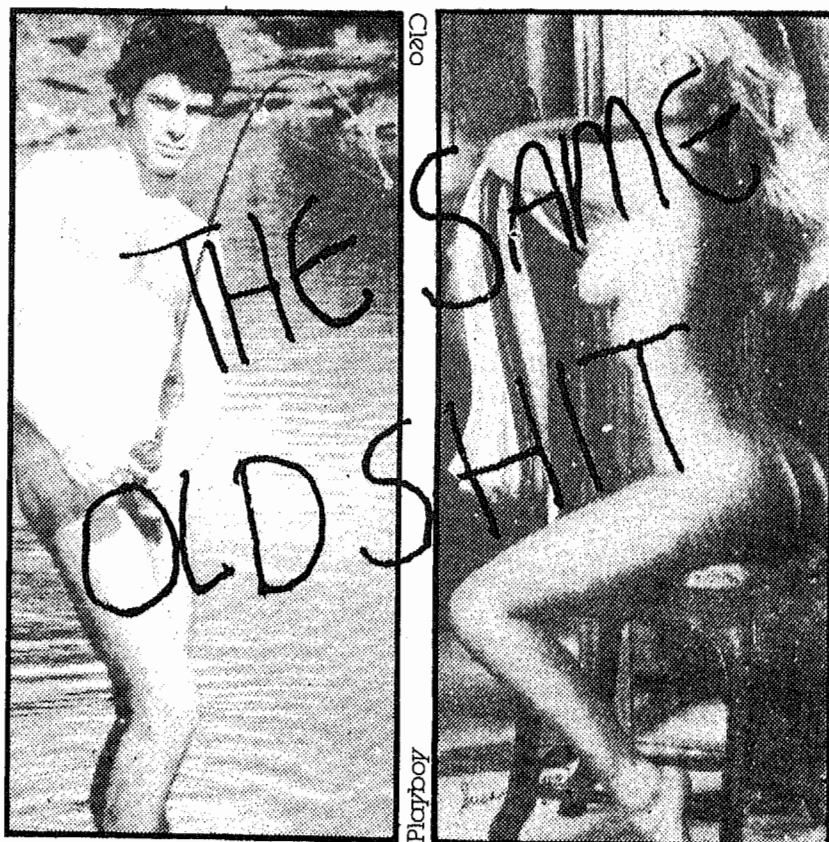
"specials" are often not cheaper than items not as widely advertised. Women are persuaded to buy promise and hope. Skin creams seel better than soap, because soaps (generally) promise to make women clean, whereas creams promise to make them beautiful. Guilt feelings about advertised products such as sweets are overcome by depicting them as energy givers. The fear of flying is overcome by appealing to the housewife that her husband will be home earlier if he flies. Advertisers employ a number of traps and create desires and wants to create sales. Examples: They sell emotional security in form of freezers. People who experienced food shortages during the war felt secure by having a well stocked freezer. They sell reassurance and worth. Drug companies emphasise the doctor's worth as a healer. They sell creative outlets. Cake mix companies reassure the housewife that they are creating the cake together. They sell sense of power. Power boats and high-powered cars are implied in advertising as extensions of male sexual power. They sell immortality by convincing men that they can dominate their families after their deaths by buying life insurance. Sexual overtones have been used in selling for a long time. First the emphasis on the female was to get a partner. Later femininity as a desired quality was stressed in advertising. Lloyd Warner in his book Social Class in America classified American people into six classes. (1) The upper-upper, (2) lower-upper, (3) upper-middle, (4) lower-middle, (5) upper-lower, (5) lower-lower. The upper-lower and lower-lower classes constitute sixty-five percent of the population and ad men were advised to make them targets for their campaigns. The lower middle class Protestant portion of the women comprised the most moral part of the society and they were found to

be preferring a pale skinned girl to a bare-breasted Polynesian to launch a perfume. People in upward mobility got convinced that bigger is better. Most car manufacturing companies were able to seal big cars while medium and small car sales lagged. Even people who could not really afford to buy big expensive products usually bought them as an extension of themselves to serve as status symbols. The acquisitive consumer is described as one who is concerned with showing off his possessions. The conspicuous consumer is seeking to fit into a role demanded of him or her by his or her status. He or she possesses a standard allowing him or her readily to measure what others have, namely, cash. Children are consumers of today and buyers of tomorrow. Jingles are created to be catchy in tune to appeal to youngsters. Even pre-school children are found singing TV commercials and quickly learn brand names. And unlike the TV sets you can't switch them off. Salespersons are advised by motivational research experts to make friends with children in order to make a sell. Games of fads sell for millions and provide a quick profit for the manufacturers. Manipulation of children's mind in the fields of religion or politics would cause a storm of protest if they were done in the way that commercial products are advertised. Political parties employ ad agencies in order to sell their ideologies and candidates. Policies and candidates are presented in attractive packaging to draw in people who possess little definite political commitment. Candidates are advised on presentation, dress, tone of voice and expression, and to emphasise the quality that would win prospective voters. Candidates can be merchandised like breakfast cereal. Corporations demand that their present and prospective employees be team players. They should accept company policies and

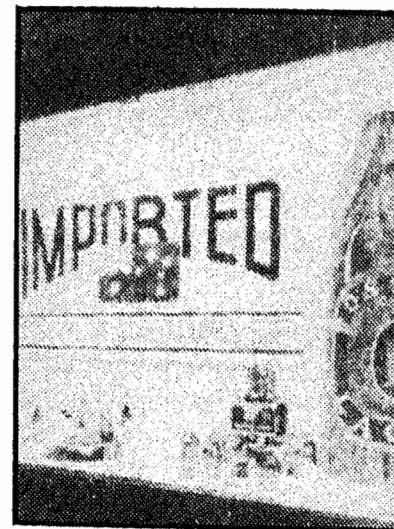
directives without question. The emphasis is on team effort rather than individual strive. Wives of executives are evaluated for their qualities of which the most desirable are: highly adaptable and gregarious and the realisation that the husband belongs to the corporation. There is some evidence that the public becoming accustomed to having its attitudes manipulated by PR experts. One example of manipulation is illustrated when manufacturers put the same kind of detergent in three different packages. Yellow, blue and blue with yellowish streaks. The housewives reported that the first was too strong, the second did not make clothes clean but the third packet was just wonderful. Biocontrol is a new science of controlling mental processes, emotional reactions and sense perceptions by bioelectrical signals. There are some important moral questions to be asked if this present

trend in motivational research and public relation exercises are going to be continued. Who is going to decide when manipulating becomes socially undesirable? What is the morality of treating voters like customers? What is the morality of getting people to sign hire purchase agreements for goods they don't need and can't afford? Why advertisers imply authority for ads which in actuality does not exist. (University test claiming toothpaste effectiveness). The continued trend in greater consumption, the disregard for the limited availability of natural resources can, when shortages occur, make us doubt our institutions as representing our aspirations. With the content manipulation of our buying trends, media, entertainment and the privacy of our minds, people appear to become more inert with standardised views, standardised tastes and eventually standardised emotions.

ROBERT WELLISHCH



Dwarfed by towering inhospitable skyscrapers I clutch a giant 25 ounce can of Fosters Lager to my sweaty breast. The nostalgic beating of my alcoholic heart against the side of the can sends fluffy beer foam oozing out on to the sidewalk. A red, white and blue dog (boy! I must be pissed already) nudges against my leg. Almost scuttles me. He laps up those precious puddles of Fosters from the sidewalk. He raises his hind-leg nonchalantly and pisses onto my shoe. This monstrous beer-can reminds me of being down under, sniffing the heady scent of eucalyptus and stuffing hot meat pies and sauce (not Ketchup) down my gullet. Somehow here it's not quite the same. Beers don't travel well, especially cooped up inside tin cans for 10,000 miles. Makes me brimful of pride when I pass my neighbourhood liquor store and see that can of Fosters sitting stolidly in the window with a toy koala bear perched on its lid.



## MEANWHILE

A little over ten years ago a company in Brooklyn called Reiter Bros. who are distributors of small quantities of exotic beers from Turkey, Israel and elsewhere, brought Swan Lager into the United States, the first time Australian beer had been shipped in any quantity into this country. Two businessmen, Tom and John Liebman, associated with the Reingold beer brewing company in New York, sold their concern to Pepsi Cola and went into the importing business, bringing 6000 cases of 12 ounce bottles of Fosters across the stormy seas to America. The shipment was delayed, arriving in February 1966, a bad time of the year to market beer here. It never really caught on and the Liebmans went out of business. It was up to a man named Paul Lohmeyer to get Fosters into the American beer market once and for all. Mr Lohmeyer is now the president of All Brand Importers Inc., national distributors of Fosters in the United States. He had heard how American soldiers in the Pacific during the Second World War had been exposed to Australian beer. It had been super-popular and he felt that set a good precedent. He also decided that the product needed a definite image so he changed the 12 ounce bottle to the 25 ounce bull of a can. Touche! I gave Mr Lohmeyer a call to find out how he had been so successful at marketing Fosters in the United States. Only after I had convinced him that I was a harmless, freelance journo did his jaws loosen. Mr Lohmeyer's competitors are apparently most eager to find out how Mr Lohmeyer pulled it off. Bless their hearts of capital! Direct advertising is hardly responsible for the great popularity of Fosters although there has been some of that. Apparently Robert Redford drinks it. So do tennis stars Rod Laver and John Newcombe. Money magazine's February 1976

edition had an article entitled "Oceans of Beer from Overseas". In New York Fosters stands practically a sole ambassador for Ockerland. Australians could easily be imagined to be avid beer guzzlers with perhaps a penchant for a bit of sun and surf. In fact we are only outdone by the West Germans and Czechs with regard to per capita beer consumption. New Yorker magazine in their early January edition published a very comprehensive article on Australia written by a writer called Shirley Hazzard. With its full-bodied mellifluous style the New Yorker article was an attempt to summarise all that is about Australia. Full compliments to Shirley for filling those uninformed Yankees in on how Gough and Mal are slugging it out for Ockerpower, how Patrick White is a bonza writer, Right on! She however made only a passing mention of the "Australian capacity for alcohol and oaths". She dressed her Mr Average Australian flag to wave, forbade him to sing anything but "God Save The Queen" and "Waltzing Matilda" and told him to learn a lengthy text about himself so he could eruditely boast and rid himself of his national inferiority complex once and for all. He looked a little uncomfortable standing there on the written page in his freshly laundered uniform. It seemed like his yellow and green polka-dotted bowtie was strangling him. I could have sworn he was dying for a beer. Bagels and bunyips may not go together but I am eternally grateful to you Shirl. You did a great job. Now whenever a buddy of mine at the bar asks me what's going on down under I shove a xerox copy of Shirley's wonderful article under his schnozz and shout him a Fosters. Everything then somehow doesn't seem so bad anymore.

by David Schulberg in New York.

# AUS TRAVEL.....

# 1

## STOP PRESS

1. It is now almost certain that A.U.S. Travel will re-open on September 12th with full support of all Airlines and Creditors. No-one has been stranded and all flights are going ahead as scheduled. Full statement in next 'ON DIT'.
2. First article is by Michael Dunn, second is reproduced with thanks to the National Times and the third with thanks to Frank Knopfelmacher.

For as long as AUS has owned its own Travel Company, the commercial dealings of AUS have been a prime source of rumour scandal and intrigue. For very many students there was a glaring contradiction in a supposedly "Left-wing" union running a capitalist enterprise. But for the very top of the AUS machine this was seldom a problem. But now there is another central feature which both the commercial and political wings of AUS share - bankruptcy!

### What was Travel based on and how did it affect the Union?

When Travel was started up it was said that it would back up the Union's political work. New members would be brought into AUS and it would benefit AUS financially. And there was always that throwback to the landed upper classes of Victorian England: The Grand Tour or "Travel broadens the mind". Well, now that Travel has spilled, the Union has lost \$50,000 in shares, as well as the other dubious benefits.

The arguments for the Travel Company were always politically dishonest. If people needed a Travel Company to bribe them into AUS, then in fact the political work of the Union was being weakened and undermined. The cheap Travel schemes encouraged people to put up with the real problems of the

Union. AUS lacked direction in its political activities. This paved the way for the rise of the AUS bureaucrats, the people who developed the smear machine that turns out slander against honest critics and the AUS Executive which chums out endless censure motions and Budget cuts against anyone who opposes it. For a long while the mess of AUS's internal politics was not properly tackled. It is only now that Australia faces a deepening political and economic crisis which demands a solution and demands clear leadership that things have come to a head. Overseas students facing growing repression at home need to do more and need more support, whilst Australian students facing the complete run-down in education and massive unemployment need to get organised. The Union machine has had no real answers, other than to lash out at the growing Australian Independence Movement. The collapse of Travel puts a halt to the bribe. There are now only two alternatives: rebuild a new, progressive AUS, or opt out.

### How did Travel affect AUS internationally?

This is the real crunch. Cheaper fares offered by AUS Travel helped to develop a whole new market for the tourist industry. It would come as no surprise at all if someone like Quantas moved in with a student

discount fare when Travel is finished off.

But for the countries that students tour, the tourist industry is no holiday. Tourism panders to the foreigner. Money is poured into developing a pastiche of feudal culture in Asia, whilst the culture of the people themselves is ignored or repressed. The people of the cities eke out a miserable living selling trinkets to tourists because foreign capital is not interested in national development and national self-reliance. The smiling faces of the Travel brochures neither reflect the social degradation of the vast majority of people in the Third World (where AUS Travel did most of its business) nor does it reflect the tremendous struggles of workers, peasants, squatters, etc for their economic independence and democratic liberties. Whether we have lost money through the Travel crash or not, the end of AUS involvement in the tourist industry will definitely improve our relations with fraternal student unions in Asia. It is only a shame AUS did not pull out of its own accord, when Asian students first pointed out to AUS the mess tourism made of their countries.

### Why did Travel Crash?

It is a principle of the AUS machine never to explain anything fully, and it is also a principle of commerce.

Because students are not united as creditors, the only people Travel has to worry about are the company creditors - the major airlines such as Thai International, Malaysian Airline Systems, Qantas and TAA. As far as we are concerned, getting at the truth will be a complex affair but we can certainly make a determined effort.

### Question:

When did the Directors of Travel (O'Connor, Sheehan, Macaulay, and Jackson) find out about the Travel spill? Was it before the close of voting on the General Spill?

### Answer:

The general spill voting closed on Monday August 7. The AUS Executive has threatened legal action against anyone who says that the Directors knew before the preceding Thursday August 4. Still time enough for some campuses to change a vote.

### Comment:

It is odd that the Executive passed such a bit threatening motion before anyone had accused them. It is very, very odd that Directors of a \$25 million Travel Company had no idea of their financial position until August 4. Bankruptcies do not fall out of the sky.

### Question:

What reasons have been given for this sudden spill?

### Answer:

Devaluation, falling off in charters, and "accumulated financial deficits" all amounting to over \$1 million.

### Comment:

This is also very odd. Devaluation is probably a throw-away argument because the threat of devaluation had been around for quite a while and the mining companies were certainly taking good advantage of it. Potentially disadvantageous monetary movements should have been kept to a minimum. Falling off in charters is a bit more substantial since this is the basis of

Travel's market and the margins of profits have always been very narrow in this area. Sometimes they have been suspiciously narrow. Some people have suggested fraud. "Accumulated financial deficits" however seems the most likely. Travel gets most of its money from investing in the short-term money market in the period between the time when students pay for the ticket and when Travel has to pay the airline (about 2-3 months). Now if deficits had "accumulated", perhaps over a number of years, then surely the Directors must have had some idea of the problem? Maybe not the exact amount, but certainly the general trend. You have to be monumentally incompetent to have no idea of your accumulated financial deficits until they exceed \$1 million!

### Question:

Is there any way the Directors might not have known about general trends?

### Answer:

Only two ways exist: first, internal accounting and book-keeping was so anarchic they did not know whether they were coming or going; second they relied on external auditing which was \$1 million in error. Or both.

### Comment:

If internal accounts were in a mess, then it was the fault of the Directors for not fixing it up. It is very easy to blame employees since they cannot answer back. But as it turns out, the book-keeper had formerly been employed by another member of the Travel Board who advises AUS Travel on investments, and who presumably would have told Travel if he thought the employee was not up to scratch. External auditing errors is a possible answer, but then auditors stake their livelihood on their reputation, and if they made such a hash of it then they stand to lose heavily. AUS Travel's auditors are amongst the biggest. If AUS Travel's de-

ficits are accumulated, are the auditors' possible errors also accumulated? Again, we are forced back to the idea that the Directors of AUS Travel are demented, incompetent, or only telling half the truth in saying they had no idea of the problems before August 4.

### Question:

Will Travel be able to trade out of its losses?

### Answer:

I must be considered extremely improbable.

### Comment:

AUS Travel does not sell chocolates which you get the moment you pay. Would you put your savings into a Company that is in provisional liquidation and has declared itself insolvent in the off-chance that it might be running 2-3 months later? Prices will have to rise and turnover be maintained and lifted and creditors must be prepared to extend credit. If the airlines were not prepared to bail Travel out before now, are they likely to do so now after Travel's confidence has been shattered? Only if they are given big concessions, maybe seats on the Travel Board. In that case it would be over company no longer, and AUS would be a front for the airlines. That would be a good argument for winding up the whole show right now.

The official story is most unconvincing. The obvious political effects if that story is false are a further incentive to cover up. Maybe the liquidator will spill it out. Maybe the Special Council (September 17-18, Sydney) will bring it out. But the guts of the matter rests on whether we can seriously believe that the Directors knew nothing before August 4, such a short time before the end of voting on the General Spill, and whether the losses just fell from the sky. Our inquiry must be pursued to the end.

2

just like crashing your car (again?)

**LESS THAN** a year ago, Gregor Macaulay, manager of AUS Travel, flew to London with three colleagues. Their mission: to offer a loan of around \$212,000 from the apparently healthy AUS Travel funds to help save their ailing British counterpart, NUS Travel, from going under.

NUS Travel turned out to be in a worse state than Macaulay realised. The AUS loan did not go through. Shortly afterwards, NUS Travel collapsed, and Macaulay flew back to a tranquil scene in Australia, content in his belief that AUS Travel was the biggest and most prosperous student travel business in the world.

The irony is that AUS was unwittingly offering the British students money it did not have. Last week Macaulay's own empire collapsed in circumstances that still leave a lot to be answered, with at least 5,000 customers stranded around the world.

Another 5,000 are thought to have fully or partly paid AUS Travel money for air tickets which have not been issued. They are unlikely to get back their money or their trips.

AUS Travel's last public balance sheet shows that at the end of March last year it had assets of \$5,272,701 including nearly \$1.4 million cash on hand.

Against this, its liabilities were \$5,198,250, of which just over \$5 million was owed to airlines and agents.

The records also show that AUS Travel made an operating profit of nearly \$151,000 in the year ended March, 1976, after losing \$130,000 the previous year.

Somewhere in the last 17

months, things went bad. Ten days ago, on August 4, the company's directors were told by its auditors at 11.15 pm, that it had suffered a loss of about \$1 million and had liabilities of more than \$3.5 million.

All last weekend, frantic efforts were made by AUS Travel to keep the operation alive. Long negotiations were held with the three overseas airlines carrying most of its passengers, Qantas, Thai International and Malaysian Airline System.

It was proposed that an arrangement be agreed whereby the airlines would provide the necessary cash to carry the company for the time being until (or if) it could get back on its feet.

For all three, the stakes were high, but especially the two Asian airlines, as AUS Travel represented about 5 per cent of their business, and they each stood to lose sums reputed to be more than half a million dollars if it went under.

According to AUS officials,

Thai and MAS agreed to the scheme, but Qantas did not. Qantas declines to tell its side of the story.

By Tuesday of last week, it was clear AUS Travel's position was hopeless. The company appointed a provisional liquidator, Noel Buckley, and petitioned the Victorian Supreme Court saying it was insolvent and unable to meet its debts.

The parallels of the AUS Travel troubles with those of the British student travel service are amazingly close. Both student unions are run by left-wing leaderships (although of different complexions), both had been going through a tortuous debate about the conflict of their socialist principles and the running of student travel,

insurance and other services unashamedly geared to high capitalism.

Soon after the collapse of NUS Travel in Britain, The Times Higher Education Supplement wrote: "The socialist NUS was ambushed by the inexorable logic of capitalist enterprise, with all its pitfalls and problems..."

"The attempt to secure NUS's place in the hearts (and pockets) of the nation's students has now jeopardised the entire future of the organisation."

The same could now be true of Australia. Most of the country's 250,000 affiliated tertiary students saw the prime benefit of their compulsory \$2.50 membership fee being the cheap travel and insurance offered by AUS — by far the cheapest in Australia.

AUS Travel was started as a separate company in 1973 by Macaulay, 30, himself a former AUS president and leader of the anti-Springbok demonstrations in the early 1970s.

The company was quick to exploit the boom in discount travel, with the three airlines, especially Qantas, being willing participants. Its student traffic grew by a steady 30 per cent a year until last year, with some fares on the Britain and Asia runs being offered at half the scheduled price.

But lately troubles had begun setting in. AUS Travel's relationship with Qantas deteriorated towards the end of last year. The airline stopped advertising in the AUS newspaper, Acxis (whose name later changed to National U), reportedly because Qantas disliked the political and sexual overtones of much of its material.

While few people questioned Macaulay's drive and business hustling skills, not everyone at

AUS Travel got on with him. Some were offended by his tough style, and last year there were several staff departures.

Then at last January's annual AUS Council, AUS Travel was called upon to explain its intervention in the NUS affair.

The incident was cited by some left-wing students as a highly questionable decision.

The AUS Travel board produced a report which said: "An arrangement was devised whereby NUS could seemingly receive an overdraft facility to overcome the seasonal liquidity problems, while at the same time no AUS moneys would be actually lent."

"This involved the depositing of a sum in Australian dollars with NUS's bank in London which would be held against their bank overdraft."

"However, the proposal was not acceptable to NUS's bank as obviously should NUS Travel not live up to its financial expectations the bank would be left carrying the can for the NUS loss."

Two left-wing Melbourne students, David Spratt and Frank Timmerman, last May published a highly critical account of the affair called: "AUS student travel: still getting nowhere fast."

It is ironically now being brandished by AUS's right-wing opponents in their attacks on AUS Travel's board of management.

Spratt and Timmerman wrote of the incident: "Why were AUS Travel representatives not aware of NUS's situation when their (NUS's) bank obviously was?"

"Why was AUS Travel guaranteeing money to a company it had not fully assessed: or if it had assessed it, why did that assessment not reveal the true situation?"

3



"And why did the AUS Travel general manager rush off to the UK at one hour's notice followed by a lawyer and two student travel board members if there was no possibility of AUS Travel losing money? Was it necessary for four of them to go to London simply to mourn NUS Travel and oversee the expansion of AUS Travel operations in London to conveniently fill the gap in the market?... Unfortunately the facts remain clouded."

So do the facts about last week's crash. It seems almost unbelievable that a company showing the moderately healthy returns of last year could now be in the red to such an extent.

Certain sources suggest that AUS Travel recently was caught with some charter flights which it was unable to fill.

AUS Travel has stopped short of winding itself up, and asked that the provisional liquidator take charge of its affairs pending the further possibility of a "scheme of arrangement" with the airlines.

Macaulay spent most of last week negotiating this, but whether AUS Travel can rise from its smouldering ashes will not be known for several weeks until the auditors have assessed the state of its assets in its 14 Australian and six overseas offices.

The only certain thing is that the affair will reopen the political wounds in AUS itself, which had appeared to be healed with the recent rejection of a spill motion against the moderate-left union leadership.

An extraordinary National AUS Council has been called for September, and already there is talk of mass secessions by affiliated campuses.

PEOPLE AND institutions must be judged not only by what they do, but also by what they are prepared to put up with. Connivance is a species of moral and political complicity. This is the context in which the significance of the Australian Union of Students must be assessed.

It is no longer possible to plead ignorance, for the delinquent and sinister character of that organisation has been publicly exposed throughout 1977, at considerable personal risk, by a small group of student activists, among whom Melbourne student Michael Danby took both the lead, and the main blows, physical and political.

Throughout the year Danby was singled out and subjected to a remorseless campaign aimed at his destruction, in which bashing alternated with character assassination, and in which all communist factions, not only or even predominantly the Maoists, participated. They were merely the most clumsily visible ones.

It is widely held that Danby's bashers are known to the police, and that they are within easy reach of apprehension, yet the police are unwilling to take appropriate action.

Thanks above all to Danby, and a few others who have taken the *via dolorosa* of genuine resistance to the gang, the following facts have now been established in public view:

(1) The AUS is directed exclusively by a set of feuding communist outfits, it has close affinities with terrorist operations, and it contains a proportion of personally disturbed and potentially dangerous individuals.

(2) The processes through which the juntas keep themselves in power include outright and gross electoral frauds, crude physical terror and personal blackmail, including coercion and blackmail of alleged sexual deviants.

(3) Whenever and wherever students get a fighting chance they vote overwhelmingly against the present structure of the AUS.

(4) The only party-political contests in the commonly accepted usage of the term, which the present structure and personnel of the AUS permit, are contests between rival communist and related extremist factions, such as

the CPA, the Trotskyists, the Maoists and, very occasionally, the anarchists. The factions operate either overtly or as "entrists" in other campus organisations such as ALP clubs, and sometimes as "entrists" in rival extremist organisations. It all resembles a small matted heap of self-devouring and other devouring snakes.

(5) The financial base of the AUS is largely local, procured for them quite legally from compulsory levies raised from all tertiary students by tertiary administrations, acting on instructions of tertiary councils and senates, with the blessing of the relevant federal authorities and most (though not all) state governments. And some tertiary principals have been known to go well out of their way, and beyond even of their shameful and largely self-imposed call of "duty", to side with AUS "heavies" against student resistance.

(6) The travel and insurance facilities of the AUS were touted about by the AUS executives quite brazenly and with blackmailing hints of threatened withdrawal in the recent "election" campaigns. The bankruptcy of the AUS travel agency struck most students like a bolt from the blue one day after the AUS executives announced its "victory" in a recent spill motion. The "problems" of the AUS travel agency circulated as inside dope among AUS watchers for months, and they must have been known to the government.

The only interesting political question about the AUS at present is, therefore, not related to the communists but to the conservatives. Why do the conservatives pay them, shield them and coerce students to subsidise them? The principal reason for the connivance of tertiary authorities is quite simple. The standover methods of the AUS can be pretty nasty. And it does not hurt at all to pay protection money if you don't have to dip into your own pocket. So there. Except for very isolated individual cases it is no longer tendentious or obnoxious to unintelligent "liberalism" which makes tertiary bosses into accomplices of totalitarian thugs. It might have been thus ten years or so ago, but it isn't any longer. Too many academic dignitaries have since been locked in too many campus lavatories. And in the hounding of innocuous quarry as well as in the pursuit of their personal interests

tertiary bosses can be, at times, quite cunning and ruthless, a side of their character which is quite at variance with the sort of latitudinarian benevolence they are, at times, putting on when confronted with the duty to deal with ruthless thugs.

Since the federal government has not found its bearings on any major matter of policy it would be idle to expect that they can act properly on the relatively minor matter of the AUS. It seems that the relevant officials regard the AUS as a body of "ratbags", an unfit object for adult preoccupations. In tolerating them they may even save themselves the real trouble of having to negotiate with yet another serious pressure group — a truly representative student organisation, speaking responsibly and rationally on behalf of a growing constituency and capable of formulating searching questions and uncomfortable yet fulfillable demands. As matters stand at present, with the AUS being what it is, anything a student organisation raises can be treated dismissively.

As for the state governments, the ALP ones cannot act without triggering off destructive internal brawls with communist colonists and their associates inside the ALP, and among the conservative state governments those of Western Australia and Queensland are about to take action. The principal culprit among the state governments is the Hamer administration.

Underlying all this there is the basic question: why are Australian conservatives so hopeless? Why are they so cowardly and inept in anything not directly connected with the cash-nexus and personal-corporate enrichment? Why is there nothing in Australia — no Popper, Oakeshott, Aron, Hayek or even a *Moyzibian* — between the vulgar money baron and his journalistic and legal retainers?

The reason why the modern university is wide open to the kind of abuse of which the AUS is merely an instance has, basically, nothing to do with communism or the iniquities of the left. It lies in the structural-economic surrealism of the modern university as explained by Buchanan and Devletoglu (*Academia in anarchy*, Stacey, 1970) a book discussed by this columnist

on a previous occasion in some detail. (*Whither campus*, NR, 2 August 74.) It would be quite mistaken to assume that the left is the only benefactor from the academic chaos.

As a matter of fact, within the quite haphazardly assembled random sample of academic "scandals" known to me at present the "worst" cases do not involve the left at all or in an incidental way only. Academic leftists are neither more nor less honest than the rest of us. They are however more political, more systematic and consistent on public issue and, in a sense, more "principled" and selfless.

They hang together and look after their wounded ("solidarity"), and they are groping persistently and remorselessly for levers of political and ideological power and influence, rather than for the till.

The left has, by and large, the brighter, the bolder and the more dedicated people in universities, people skilled in the ways of power and ideological influence, rather than in the art of material acquisition, and this is why they are winning. It is as simple as that.

Frank Knopfmacher

# High Fi

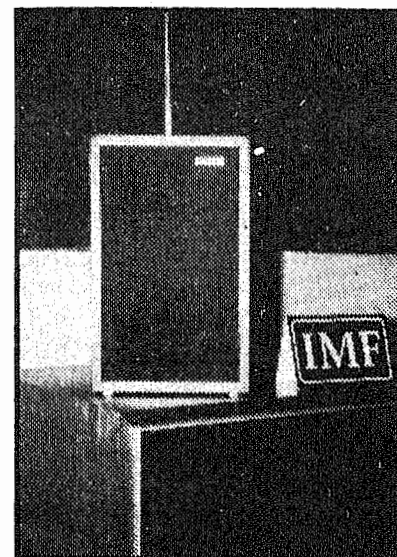
Characteristically University students have been known as trend-setters and their dealings in the world of hi-fi are no exception. In fact they represent probably the largest hi-fi buying sector of fixed occupation in the whole community. In response to this, On Dit has conducted a careful in-depth review of ten pairs of hi-fidelity bud speakers in the highly competitive medium price bracket. We chose this area as budspeakers are the link in the hi-fi chain where most improvement can be gained from extra (relative) expenditure and careful listening tests before purchase. AS it is seldom possible to do this at length in a domestic setting and on a comparison basis we have undertaken the task for you. This was all made possible with the generous co-operation of the Blackwood Sound Centre and Challenge Hi-Fi both of whom supplied the loudspeakers. The latter firm also loaned a Sugden C51/P51 amplifier combination, the superb performance of which was used to check results gained from our standard set up. After some running around to get the gear, our panel (of 5 plus friends) assembled in our large lounge test room. This measured about 30' x 13', was fully carpeted and acoustically very good with a high timber ceiling. In this we had our standard test equipment a Yamaha CR-600 receiver (about 40w/channel and a high quality FM source), a Yamaha 8006L cassette deck and my trusty connoisseur BDI turntable/SME 3009/II tone arm/Shew V 15 III cartridge combination. Our reference for sound accuracy was a double set of

Stax SRX-MKIII electrostatic headphones - which are known to possess as close to an aurally perfect response as makes no difference. The loud speakers were compared with respect to overall clarity and closeness to our references, and also regarding their suitability for various types of music. We used Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D, selections from BadmanTurner Overdrive 'Not Fragite', Floyd's 'Dark side of the Moon', Puerak Symphony 9 (1st movement), and several opera and solo instrument pieces. Before I give you the eagerly awaited (sic) results, some brief information on the individual loud speakers.

The largest speakers tested were the AR (Acoustic Research) 14's, \$497 recommended retail and measuring about 24"x 15"x 12". The smallest and most expensive (at \$550 rec. retail) were the Chartwell LS3/5A which measured on incredibly small 10"x 6"x 5". Between these extremes were the small Bose 301's (\$375 rec.), AR 16's (\$378 rec), IMF Super Compact's (\$405 rec) Celestion UL6's (\$360) and the tiny spender SAI's (\$454 rec), and alightly larger, the B.I.C. Formula 2's (\$378 rec), B & W DM4's (\$419 rec) and Monitor Audio MA5's (\$399 rec. retail). All the loudspeakers were two-way units except the IMF's and the B&W's - we were interested to see what effect this had on the critical midrange band. Also all the speakers bar the AR's and Base 301's were British. In general we would say that at least 25W/channel was required to drive any of them ade-

quately, but with quite good amplifiers up to 60W/channel or so (like my Kenwood KA-5500) at less than \$300, an extra reserve of power can be obtained quite cheaply. The condition detailed and standardised, we can now launch into the review. At the outset it must be noted that all of these speakers are well established brands which have been given good to excellent reviews in the hi-fi press both in Australia and in England. We have tried to rank them as regards quality irrespective of price and give some idea of the sound balance and uses. The panel was unanimous in selecting the Chartwell LS3/5A as being the finest loudspeaker tested, by a clear margin. They were clean, and very accurate and uncoloured - perfectly balanced with respect to our reference headphones. Naturally because of the enclosure size they did not have thunderous deep bass, but what was there was tight, detailed and accurate. They sounded especially good when driven by the Sugden amp. which is very musical and puts out an incredible amount of bass energy. The transient response was excellent and the upper midrange/treble attack and clarity has to be heard to be believed. These loudspeakers are so good that I was able to listen to them for nearly 8 hours continuously at loud volume levels without any fatigue at all, and still wanting to hear more - they even do nice things for smoke on the water. This is a real testament to their lack of colouratism. In our opinion they are finer than the highly regarded

Spendor BCI's which sell for over \$700 a pair. We also compared them with their bigger stablemates - and they left them for dead. Only using Spendor BCIII's or IMF Professional's were we able to surpass their accuracy in the mid/treble range. For anyone with developed music tastes broader than heavy rock,



and possessing more than 25w/ch (into 15 ohm loads), these speakers, when used on the correct stands, must be virtually unbeatable - even at \$550 a pair. In fact with a subwoofer becoming available soon, they may even rival the big boys. The Monitor Audio MA5's and B & W DM4's were the most favoured runners - up to the Chartwells, the majority of the panel favouring the DM4's. Although their sound was more coloured overall than the MA 5's and lacked treble, they were otherwise well balanced and had a greatly extended midrange fullness that the MA5's simply lacked. The MA 5's were very clean but were not at home with the human voice or sob instruments because of their lack of midrange, the B & W's were favoured here and (marginally) with organ music. The Monitor Audio loudspeakers had better bass extension and were not coloured in this region as the DM4's were, and possessed the treble that the DM4's

lacked - in fact they seemed to be a bit over - accentuated in this region. Although both loudspeakers were excellent and enjoyable on rock music, the MA5's may well be preferred for this material on the grounds of their greater clarity and better response at the extremes. But on vocal work, and solo violin or flute the B & W's really shine on account of their midrange (the most powerful tested) and sweet treble. It becomes a matter of personal preference, with our choice being the DM4's because they can reproduce classical music very well as well as the heavier modern varieties.

The very popular Bose 301's, although quite a pleasant sounding good speaker cannot really compete with the top three. They lack midrange like the MA5's, but do not have their great uncoloured bass, the 20r's also have a peaky treble and a fairly coloured overall sound.

Another good and pleasant sounding loudspeaker is the IMF Super Compact, they have quite excellent bass extension on organ music but again lacked midrange, even though they are a 3-way system. Individuals liking a bass/treble balance may prefer them to the B & W DM4's, but they still lack the extreme top treble and are not quite up to the standards of the similarly balanced MA5's. In contrast, the offering from B. I. C. - the Ventury System 2 was better balanced, the contour control giving worthwhile added flexibility, but colouration was to our ears unacceptable compared with the alternatives.

The other fine contender in these stakes was the AR14 system. These were much cleaner than the B.I.C.'s but in common with many of the speakers tested, lacked an adequate midrange - this was especially apparent in comparison

with the Chartwell's, DM4's and B.I.C.'s which had plenty of energy in this region. Overall, the AR14's are an excellent quality speaker, quite suitable for classical music, but we place them a fraction below our top 3, especially once price is considered.

Perhaps the most interesting loudspeaker evaluation was between the diminutive Chartwell LS3/5A and the only slightly larger Spendor SAI mini monitor. The former is made under licence from the BBC, who have recently purchased 400 of the latter. At similar prices, they present quite a contest. Although both would be excellent for people wanting good reproducers of voice and classical music, the Chartwells were clearly superior.

They were a couple of shades cleaner than the spendors and possessed superbly detailed treble, which was a region that was almost non-existent in the spendors. The SAI's had slightly deeper bass but it was coloured and "muddy" by comparison. Their midrange was also more coloured, although nicely "present" like the DM4's. In addition to their clarity advantage, the Chartwell's happily soak up a lot more power than the Spendors, taking the full power available from our Sugden reference amp, whilst the Spendor's are rated at only 40W program. Unhappily, two loud speakers were quite unacceptable to the panel's ears as quality reproducers for any kind of music. These were the AR16's and Celestion UL6's. Both were "tinny" and lacked any sort of body for singing, brass etc. Both missed the lower frequencies and sounded so "cleaned up" that little substance was left at all. We do not recommend purchasing these loudspeakers.

Kym Bills

# A CONFERENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

**National Conference for a Democratic Constitution**  
**23-25 September 1977 Exhibition Building Melbourne**

If you are a unionist, a lawyer, a migrant, a student, a politician, an academic, or simply an ordinary citizen of Australia, you are welcome to attend the National Conference for a Democratic Constitution.

The conference has been organised to provide an opportunity for people to discuss and debate the issues of political rights and democracy and how these can best be incorporated into a new Australian Constitution. The agenda is based on five major themes:

- Democratic institutions
- The future of federalism
- Liberal democracy
- The Constitution in its social and economic context
- Changing the machinery of change

The conference will be addressed by a cross section of Australia's most prominent politicians, lawyers, economists, academics, social scientists, unionists, ethnic representatives, writers and others representing a broad range of political views.

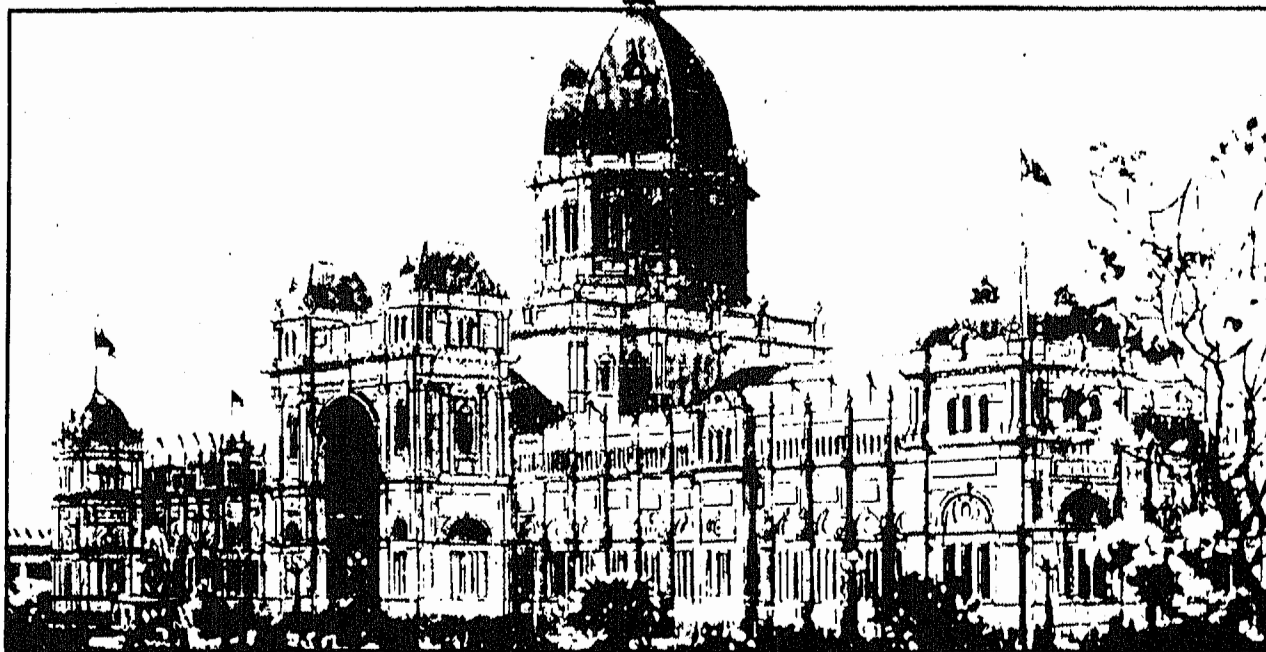
However, the conference is not intended to be an academic and legal occasion. Those of all political

opinions who are willing to think seriously and openly about constitutional change are welcome. The conference will hopefully be the first major step in building an ongoing movement, essentially involving all sections of the community and aimed at achieving real constitutional change in Australia.

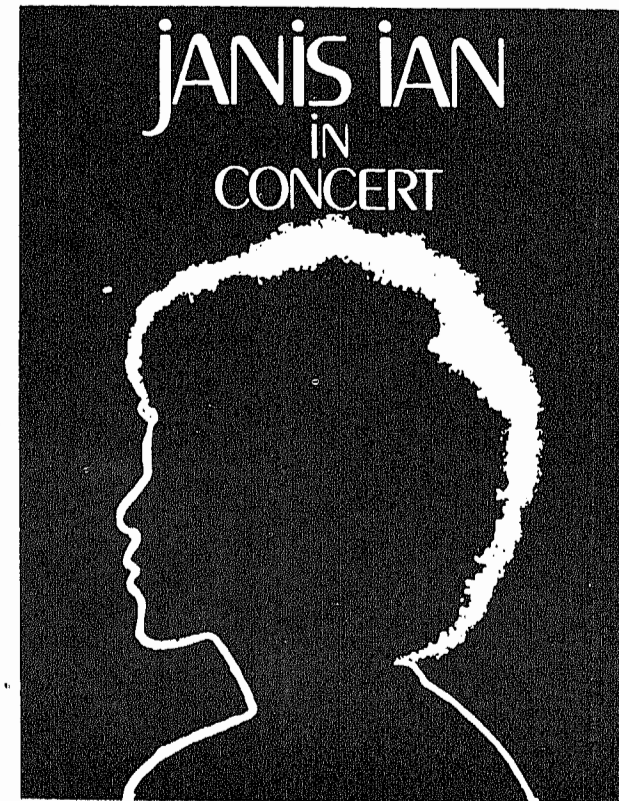
It is not intended that the conference aim at the production of a detailed and systematic set of 'conclusions', but such resolutions as are passed at the conference would be a basis for wider discussions within the community, hopefully leading to the establishment of a directly elected People's Convention to draft a new Australian Constitution.

The conference is being sponsored by:

Gordon Barton	Professor Colin Howard
Professor Manning Clark	Sir Richard Kirby
Dr H. C. Coombs	Rev. Dr J. D. McCaughey
Bruce Grant	Paul Munro
John Halfpenny	Myra Roper
Frank Hardy	Christina Stead
Bob Hawke	Patrick White
Donald Horne	Judith Wright



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 Apollo Stadium  
 Wednesday September 28th,  
 8.15 pm  
 Book now at Allans, \$8.90 inc.  
 Group concessions - phone 2232050.

From LETTERS page 6 eating is not only vile but unhygienic and such actions should be banned. One only hopes that the Catering Manager or similar will condemn such occurrences and the Bistro will again be an enjoyable and clean place to eat.

**MORAL:** There's a time and a place for everything.

PAM SIMONS  
 Secretary AUWHC  
 ex Vice Pres. Sports Association

## O-CAMP DIRECTORS & COOKS

Nominations for Directors and Cooks for the 1978 Orientation Camps are now open, until Wednesday 21st September. Nominees should include in their application details of relevant experience and the reason(s) why they are interested in the position. The Directors shall be selected by a Committee and therefore should be prepared to present a tentative program of activities and plans for organizing the camps (ie plans for advertising transport etc).

Cooks should be prepared to present tentative menus and plans for organising the food for the camps. Preference will be given to a group of nominees who will work together in the directing and preparation of food for the camps. Nominations should be in writing and handed to Geoff Adam, President of the SAUA in the Student Activities Office. Further information is also available from Geoff Adam.



# Records



## Weather Report

HEAVY WEATHER  
CBS SBP 234974

Over the years, Weather Report have had many problems in their line-up, revolving mostly around the rhythm section. But ever since leader Joe Zawinul accidentally heard bassist Jaco Pastorius audition for Epic Records and the percussionist, Acura too over the drums from Chester Thompson, the band has found both cohesion and a sense of permanency. The album is the first testimony we have of the new stable line-up, and this has resulted in one of Weather Report's finest creations. The most noticeable difference is Jaco Pastorius, whose bass has added a flowing quality to the music, without losing sight of the original role of the bass. The group are regarded as the leaders of the "fusion music" (i.e. jazz and rock) but I think it would be more apt to call them the only true fusion band - the competition is that far behind.

MICHAEL PRESCOTT

## Little Feat

TIME LOVE A HERO  
WARNER BROS WEA BS3015

On this album, Little Feat and friends again breeze their way through their easy rollin' style of song. This is a well produced package, with good vocals, and Sam Clayton's percussion, the string arrangements and the horns from

the Tower of Power horn section all enhance the music well. And although the band couldn't be much tighter you can still detect that feeling of relaxed playing come through the speakers. Yet despite all this the album seems to lack musical innovation, and left me with the impression of having "heard it all before". Little Feat devotees, though they may be disappointed at the rationing of Lowell George's slide playing, will no doubt enjoy it anyway.

MARK CRONSHAW

## Poco

INDIAN SUMMER  
RCA ABL AB989

Indian Summer is the follow up album to Rose of Cimarron, the album which really establish Poco in Australia. However, this album is not as dynamic as its immediate predecessor and is inclined to lack variety. The country rock style of Poco is easy to listen to, and each track is well balanced so that the music and lyrics blend rather than one dominating the other. Bassist Timothy B. Schmit continues his fixation for writing love songs, Paul Cotten, who writes almost half the material on the album, at least varies his topics for lyrics a little more. He is responsible for an interesting track giving the history of the band, beginning as a group of 'fire country rockers' and noting Richie Furay leaving. Guitarist Rusty Young wrote the final and probably the most dynamic track

## Iggy Pop

THE IDIOT  
RCA APL12275

This is Iggy Pop's latest album. Iggy rose to fame as lead album for the legendary "Slooges", a leading American punk-head band. Iggy himself has done some amazing things in his time; including covering himself with peanut butter from head to foot and committing near-suicide by gashing himself with broken bottles (to upstage Alice Cooper). This album has been produced by David Bowie, and the sound is heavily lessened by use of synthesiser. Iggy's vocal style is a very lazy, Lou Reed, jaded, yet edgy delivery; and these two combine to produce a very 70's sound, although he often seems near death, in his vocal inflection.

SIMON STRETTON

# Records

on the album. All the material is written by members of the band and each style is dearly distinguishable yet not vastly different. Poco have developed into a solid combination but need a little more variety in their soft brand of country rock to really top it off. Overall a good album.

ALAN MOYLE

## The Kinks

SLEEPWALKER  
ARISTA A14106

Coming from one of the most original and prolific bands of the

'60s' era, this recent release is quite a disappointment. To the "occasional" kinks listener the music on this album will hold quite a few unpleasant surprises; are, noticeably, is the fact than main-man Ray Davies once totally original singing style has changed for the worse - his voice now is nastily Americanised, sounding something like a cross between Steve Miller and Steve Harley. The songs, too, are quite indispensable pseudo-profound ditties; in fact, the only imaginative music on this set seems to come from guitarist Dave Davies. In all, the whole thing is a bummer (but

notice the airplay it's got); and the kinks seem to have lost sight of their past glories. Thank God we've still got The Who.

GERRY BARRETT

## King Fish

LIVE 'N KICKIN'  
UA L36226

This groups' sole claim to fame is that they boast the talents and (probably) financial sponsorship of erstwhile Grateful Dead guitarist/singer Bob Weir. However, on this in-concert set, Weir tends to play a background role, letting the rest of the boys get down to "jamming to the hilt" (as stated on the backcover blurb). Actually the music is quite cliched - goodtimey rhythm 'n' blues with a couple oldies thrown in for good measure - but it's all well done, with the harmonica playing of Matthew Kelly providing some exciting moments. It's very danceable, and this is why bands like Kingfish are successful; the stuff they play may have all been done before but it will be done again, because it's a successful formula, has been for 20-odd-years. Parts of the album are remotely Dead-ish, but nowhere near as "downhome" and countrified. Overall it's just pleasant American boogie music.

GERRY BARRETT

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# Records

## T. Rex

"DANDY IN THE UNDERWORLD"  
EMI BLN5005

The new T. Rex.....?....same ol' Bolan, quite similar boogie-good boogie mind you but,.... maybe I expected too much, like peroose this here band lineup Miller Anderson, Ansley Dunbar, well for some session star watchers that would be enough to set the cogs grinding. This is not to say that for all this recognised talent, the album isn't clearly recorded and well performed. There's even a bit of "odd" timing on side 2 (off for March Bolan)..... This is beginning to sound worse than is accurate. Truth is, I'd agree with some other....."recognised critics" (for what their worth) that "Dandy" is worthy of a place alongside "Electric Warrior" and "The Slider" as Bolan's best efforts, but how relevant is that to anything apart from Bolan's career. Give it a listen an hope for a significant progression in later offerings.

PETER JOLLY

olde huge American backing), but even on brief listening, I realized this wasn't your usual overblown, misplaced Yanky "superpackage". Little Miss M. has a voice to rival any woman or man in the business - wider variation in character than most and helter skelter control that's debatably short of brilliant. The mount not only functions as a strictly musical ovifice but as a source of sharp (often deviously risqué) wit, and quiet mood setting. I wasn't initially intent on liking this album but my opinion was forced to change when, after listening to the whole double set on headphones in a dark loungeroom, I realized that this recording had succeeded in doing what few other "live" efforts had come close to - in the closing seconds of side four I had a distinct feeling of exhilaration and "concert sighfulness". Usually only experienced after an actual concert. You may not get the same feelings but the sheer entertainment, musical solidity and occasional cutting comment makes "Live at Last" worth taking in.

PETER JOLLY

## Bette Midler

"LIVE AT LAST"  
WEA (Atlantic) SD2-9000

Don't put this lady down as lightweight, oversweet pop, or any such contemptable creature. There's a lot more to her than many would guess. I often wondered what the whole Bette Midler thing was about. F'r'sure, she's got ye olde lavish stage show and backup band (ye

## Ian Matthews

HIT AND RUN  
CBS SBP 234973

Ian Matthews was the singer on the first two Fairport Convention albums. Since then he has made seven solo albums, plus two with Matthews Southern Comfort and one with Plainsong, two bands he formed while in England, making this, in effect, his eleventh album, his

fourth since moving to L.A. It is also one of his worst. Matthews seems content to just sing the songs, and consequently his voice lacks the purity and conviction that marked much of his earlier work. Also gone are the haunting melodies, with soft, laid-back country backing, and strong harmonies, - in its place, a tight but unexciting backing band playing through fairly ordinary rock material, with touches of soul, jazz and funk, made all the more disturbing by the (over) use of saxophone by Stephen Hooks. Five of the nine tracks are co-written by Matthews and guitarist Jay Lacy - but none stand up to such Matthews gems as "Keep On Sailing" and "Wailing Goodbye". Backing Matthews along with Hooks and Lacy are Dan Whaley on bass and Tris Imboden, who drums tastefully throughout. Best track is the uptempo "Times", which bears an uncanny resemblance to Richard Farina's "Reno Nevada" which appears on Matthews' '70 classic "If You Saw Thro' My Eyes", but this track too suffers from the unnecessarily extended sax solo at the end. This album is probably as good as most that make the album charts but will come as quite a let-down to those who have followed Ian Matthews' career closely.

VICTOR FLIERL

# Music

RAVEL/Daphnis and Chloe  
Boston Symphony/Charles Munch,  
conductor/RCA AGLI-1270

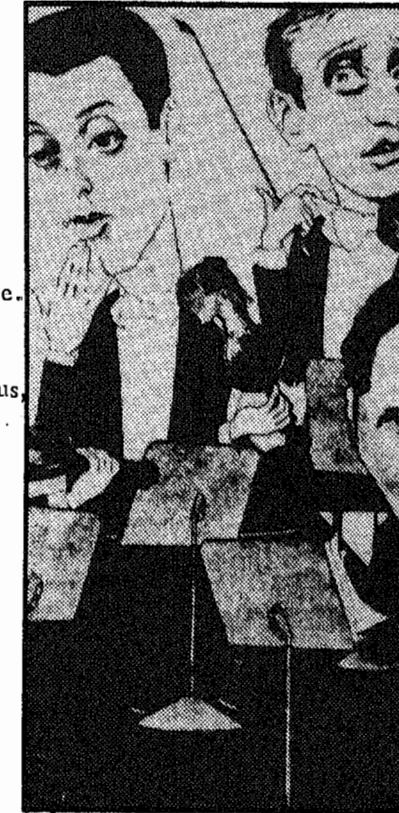
MUSIC FOR VOICE AND GUITAR  
Peter Pears, tenor/Julian Bream,  
guitar/RCA AGLI-1281

BRAHMS/Symphony No. 3 in F Opus  
90  
Chicago Symphony/Fritz Reiner,  
conductor/RCA AGLI-1332

Reviewed by Andre Jute

The cultured ear grows by making continual comparisons. It is especially useful for the student of serious music to compare the change in interpretation of standard pieces not only as it differs from conductor to conductor but from decade to decade. These RCA Gold Seal reissues are therefore doubly welcome. The Boston Symphony/Munch recording of Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe was first released in 1961. Many of us more familiar with the ballet suites, are not aware of the symphonic form (though probably not intent -- Diaghilev commissioned the music as a ballet) of the full score. Munch, I should think, was well aware of Ravel's 1928 statement that "The work is constructed symphonically according to a strict tonal plan by the method of a few motifs, the development of which achieves a symphonic homogeneity of style." It is true that they have been remastered (by Bernard Keville with Peter Dellheim as the producer of the reissues) to take advantage of advances in recording technique since the originals were cut but the changes in interpretation over time -- ever so subtle -- are not disguised. These reissues serve as

a benchmark not only of great interpretations but as a measure of the march of time. Music for Voice and Guitar is a bit of an oddity among this selection of standard concert selections, most of the songs being specially written for Pears and Bream by Britten and Walton. However, these pieces, together with the settings for four French songs by the expatriate Hun-



garian Matyas Seiber and a setting of Shakespeare's O Mistress Mine from Twelfth Night by Fricker, could easily be described as 'instant classics' -- a claim, I hasten to add, that RCA does not make, preferring to use the original cover notes on all these records.

The name of the Chicago Symphony has since its inception been associated with the works of Brahms. This interpretation of his third symphony is truly a benchmark recording. One could do worse than quote the founder and first conductor (1891-1905) of the CSO, Theodore Thomas, who said of Brahms that he would 'outlive his more popular contemporaries, because his music is freer from the times in which he lived than that of any other composer of his day. 'How true those words spoken in 1897 have proved! Conductor Fritz Reiner needs little introduction even to the novice at serious music. Albeniz, Granados and Falls all studied with Felipe Pedrell. Two died before he did. Pedrell's own music is hardly ever performed these days but the names of his pupils are a tribute to his ability and nationalist spirit, each of the selections on this record being firmly based in Spanish folkways stretching as far back as the Moorish influence. Again, Reiner conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, sharing his insights with us while never force-feeding the listener. (Comparisons may be invidious but one sometimes wishes a few younger conductors would not be quite so eager to bare their petty egos on record). A word about the quality of these reissues: Tjey are indistinguishable from recordings made this year. The sound is of high quality. I was especially impressed with the 'clean', forward sound on the voice and guitar record, where it would have been impossible to lose superfluous noise without damaging the rich depth of the sound.