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On dit

NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION

Library Note : On Dit, Vol. 49, No. 10, June 1981

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE
22 JUN 1981



Sling off at Fraser...

EDITORIAL

So who else made "New term resolutions"? I suppose ours were somewhat different to yours. With the first exams of the year out of the way, most students are looking at such sweeping lifestyle changes as studying instead of watching *Monkey* before dinner. Take the advice of a moderate - don't resolve to do too much; whatever you decide to change change slowly and leave some time aside for other activities than study. This way you'll keep your promises, or at least it won't matter if you break them.

As for us, apart from the average resolutions - no drinking, no smoking, more work before deadlines and more exercise, we made some decisions about the paper's direction. You'll notice them hopefully over the next couple of weeks. If you don't like them, come down and yell in our ears. (We'd love to see you.)

On dit will hopefully contain sports this term if we can get some sports writers. If you want to *read* sport, please help us write it. We will also attempt a larger news coverage. Do we hear a cry for reporters? And remember, we don't pay for news tips (except in kind). If you promised some help for *On dit* at the beginning of first term, please come and see us now that we are more organized and able to help you. We need to be representative in order to justify ourselves as a paper.

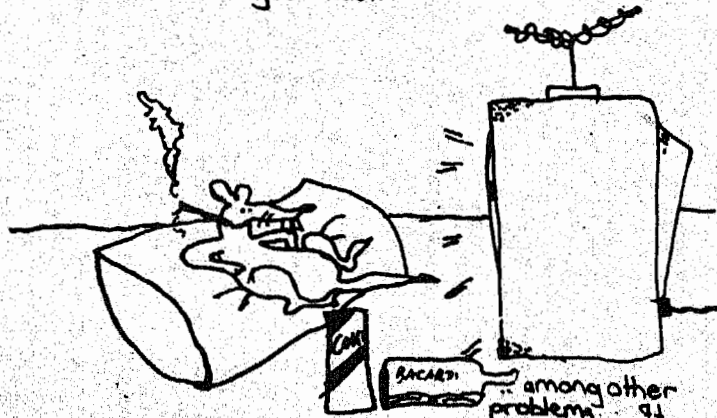
Now we would like to ask another favour of all of you. *On dit* needs feedback quickly on how people feel about a weekly paper. Would you like to see it as part of *On dit's* duty to come out weekly? At the moment there is a constitutional minimum of six per term - we do the rest just for you. Please write or drop in with your opinion. Then we will think about running a referendum issue in the end of term elections to make *On dit* a weekly officially.

But now back to talking about resolutions, here is one I'd like to see us all making. The Razor-Gang may seem a very tired and boring issue only fit for student hacks. In reality it is something that could affect many if not all students adversely. If we don't fight back and all attempt some positive action, then we deserve what we get - a big fat zero. This week is a national week of Action against unjust cuts by the government. We'd like to see all resolving to take some role in the battle - Take part before Frazer takes your education, your welfare and your TEAS. See you all sometime during the week.

James Williamson
Paul Hunt.

Scandal Mongers: Nick Xenophou, Graham Slaney, Wendy Lacoan, Leonie Nowland, Jenni Lans, Richard Preston, Geoff Hanmer, Alan Rushbrook, Tim Dodd, Chris Barry, John Snowwell, Jenny Hein, Dennis Medlow. Thanks to those who helped with the insert.

Lessons in psyche
Do not take your rat from the labs unless you want the A.S.P.C.A. on your back....



Letters

No Appeal To Men

Dear Editors,

My initial reaction to the four letters (*On dit* 4.5.81) commenting on Tracy Korsten's article on harassment (*On dit* 27.4.81) was one of frustrated anger. This caused me to contemplate writing a letter with a point-by-point demolition of the "arguments" contained in at least three of the letters (the fourth was written by a woman and I will return to it later). This would have been easy enough since I am accustomed to encounters with such collections of patronising, misogynist, and defensively incoherent trash - which are depressingly common amongst the male population of our sick culture. After I calmed down, however, and regained some perspective, I decided that I wasn't prepared to invest any energy whatsoever in intellectual arguments with males who are so obviously well socialised in their masculine roles that they are likely to be beyond recovery.

I found Erola Domenica Barone's letter to be, at best, unresponsive. It upsets me when even women join the majority of males in minimising, or even denying, the existence of women's oppression - since it puts me, as a biological male, in the difficult position of telling a woman that I feel she is wrong about issues concerning her predicament as a woman. I confess that it scares me to risk attracting accusations of being in competitive and one-up power struggles (which I am, since I am far from shaking off my own socialisation).

Nevertheless, that is how I feel in this instance. I also feel puzzled by Barone's need to state that women are not fragile porcelain. I couldn't agree more (and I felt that to be one of the points the article was trying to make); but individual women vary considerably in the strength and determination they

manifest in their struggle against oppression. From talking to women about these issues I have found that few respond to harassment by being cool and, if they do, it usually is a front which hides varying degrees of anger, fear, humiliation and hate. Since all women are the potential victims of all men (there are many cases of raped females ranging in age from babies to women in their seventies), simply "ignoring any hangups that men may have about treating women differently" does not alter or fight women's oppression in any way.

Finally the only criticism of Tracy Korsten's article that I wish to express is that I feel it was a mistake to appeal to men in the first place. Men still believe that they have little gain and everything to lose from their liberation, and it is a strong conviction of mine that men generally will not change until they are forced to do so. I believe that women's best strategy at present remains one of separatism, as advocated in radical feminism, in which women can grow and emancipate themselves, leaving men behind. This may force men to look at themselves critically and hopefully change; but why should women limit their development while men work through their shit? I also don't believe the battle of the sexes to be a myth. The fact that there are casualties (rapes, murders, beatings and sexual harassment) and weapons (patriarchal structures, sexist advertising, etc.) is sufficient evidence. Therefore I feel that women are most powerful when they are united, not with men, but in solidarity against, and present a collective front opposed to all male oppression.

Claude Giacaz
Psychology Department

Engineering problems

Dear Editors,

At the end of last term we had the harassment article in which appeared reference to the harassment of women in Engineering. I am not going to dwell on the obvious sarcasm and bias of that article; however I feel compelled to defend the Engineering faculty against the accusations that were made.

Comments were made such as the Engineering women being butch, or that they are only after men. One statement made was that male Engineering students refer to the woman in their group as a "wrinkled old bag". These statements were cited as "specific examples" of sexual harassment, when in fact the only contact the authoress made with any Engineers was via a friend of a friend.

Consider for a moment any first year female Engineering student. How do you think she now feels? What do you want her to think she has got herself into? The number of girls doing Engineering now is increasing at an incredible rate. In 1980 and 1981 alone we have seen four women graduate as Civil Engineers, exactly the same number to have graduated in the previous hundred years. Obviously, right now many of the horizons in Engineering are changing, and the few who cannot think enough to

accommodate the changes are not reason or licence to insult and discredit the whole Engineering faculty, to which an undeserved stigma is already attached.

Ask any female Engineering student, and she will tell you her problems are not coming from having to cope with fellow male students or lecturers, but from her doubts about what will happen after graduation, when she must come up against people who have not seen or experienced the quality of her professional skills or any other woman Engineers before her. The thought of not gaining acceptance by her employers or the workers she supervises until say several years of trial have passed, is the real cause of a woman Engineering student's worry and concern.

This is a very real and difficult problem to combat, and one I fear they will have to combat predominantly on their own as it appears.

I say three cheers to the women in Engineering. You are great to work with and your presence and contributions are improving the standard of our profession.

Peter Cox
Final Year Civil Eng.
Vice-President AUES.

notices

TYPING

Experienced in typing all types of student work, from small essays and job applications to massive theses. Electronic Olivetti (daisy wheel) typewriter with four type sizes and many

features not available on other machines. Contact Chris in Student Activities Office (ext. 2406, 2760 or 2383) or at home (phone 261 2927).

AN INVITATION TO STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN INFORMATION DAY

Prospective students of the University need information about courses, subjects and student life generally, prior to both their application for tertiary courses and their enrolment in particular subjects. In the past this information has been provided by academics. The Committee of Deans has approved of student participating in this activity, subject to the same guidelines as apply to participating academics. The organization of both Information Day in mid-year and the programme of talks about subjects just prior to enrolment the following year, is the responsibility of the Information Day's Committee.

As a first step toward student participation in the forthcoming Information Day on July 28th, the Information Day's Committee invites all interested students to a meeting on Thursday July 2nd at 1 p.m. in the Student Counselling Service.

Essay expression

Dear Sirs,

Over the last few weeks you have advertised the existence of an Essay Library, where essays of various grades from various disciplines are available for perusal by students. While it is often helpful in the process of writing an essay to be able to look at one already completed, it is not always easy for students with difficulties in the writing or organising of essays to know how to go about achieving a polished, effective final product. I would draw the attention of *On dit* readers to the existence of an English Expression Programme, which assists students to develop communication (written and verbal) skills. This assistance is offered on an individual or group basis in the Student Counselling Service, George Murray Building.

Ann Noble,
Tutor,
English Expression Programme

A Place in Japan

Dear Sirs,

We would be very pleased to offer free accommodation with Japanese families to two students of your University engaged in Japanese Studies for period of one month from mid July to mid August. This is the home stay program for better mutual understanding. There would be a one week English Speaking Camp in the middle of the stay.

Would you be kind enough to let us know if any of your students would like to take advantage of this offer.

Yours truly
Yasuo Teshima
President of Kagoshima
Gaigo Center

Contact the address below: Eds
Kagoshima Gaigo Center
4-1, Daikoku-cho,
Kagoshima, Japan 892.

Martindale Hall

Dear Paul and James,

Martindale Hall Committee
The Union Council has asked that you give publicity through *On dit* to a vacancy on the Martindale Hall Committee.

A nominee of the Council is required to serve on this interesting University Committee.

Could you please ask interested persons to give me their names and contact departments.

David Muir
Secretary
Adelaide University Union

THE ALL NEW

1981
AUS CONCESSIONS LIST is available now from the Student Activities Office. It lists discounts and concessions for students from all sorts of firms all around Adelaide.
GET YOURS NOW!

"What Price Education?" - An informed discussion with Elstob (Labor), Chapman (Liberal) and Janine Haines (AD). Open forum.

Time and Place: Lunchtime on Thursday, 18th June, 1981, UNION HALL - chaired by Prof. Don Stranks.

FRISBEES

If you've ever aspired to be a Frisbee star or would just like to know what you can do with a Frisbee, then come along to the Little Cinema on Wed. 17th at 1.00 and see a film of the 1980 World Frisbee Championships. The aim of this meeting is to form a Frisbee Club within the Uni. The film itself is well worth a look and it's FREE.

ANNUAL BALL - Ukrainian Australian Graduates Association invites you to their Annual Ball - Saturday 20th June, 1981, 8.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m. in the Ukrainian Community Hall, 66 Orsmond Street, Hindmarsh. Chicken supper and champagne provided - Music by Leo. For tickets ring 46 3452: 356 0665: 277 7094: 268 2842.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY POLITICS STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Meetings will be held on a weekly alternate basis in Rm 139, First Floor Napier Building
Meetings will be held on Mondays 6pm and next week on Wednesdays 1pm.



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Uni Telephones -no exchange of views

ON DIT HAS received a letter from a member of the University's staff criticising a decision made concerning a new telephone exchange to be introduced for the Uni. The writer is against the decision for a number of reasons - explanations in the letter follow. The person's name will not be printed although it has been given to *On dit*. It seems not only students have fears about some sort of retaliation or bias.

Staff and student views are welcome on the proposals and *On dit* would encourage replies in its pages.

The letter follows:

Recently we have had stirring speeches from the Vice-Chancellor and other members of the University Council attacking Frazer's 'Razor Gang' and the cuts in university funding, especially the introduction of fees for certain categories of students.

Touching as these pleas of poverty are, coming from the mouths of local establishment figures, it is regrettable that administrative actions are not matching the radical rhetoric.

In the 16th April issue of *Lumen*, under the heading 'Major Phone Improvements', is a lesson for students and staff. This news item informs us that a total of \$450,000 will be spent on a new telephone exchange for this university.

There is no evidence provided that we really need this half million dollar expenditure at this time. Most staff find the present arrangements entirely satisfactory.

The letter also includes an instruction on how situations are manipulated at this university. There is no indication that staff - let alone students - were consulted in this matter. The decision is simply announced *ex cathedra*.

There is some staff concern that the new system, allowing multiple internal connections, can be used to spy on conversations. Perhaps that is not always a bad idea, if there are good reasons to suspect that a staff member is using his telephone for non-academic

purposes. However, such a policy should be debated openly first. So much for privacy and consent.

But, worse is just the sheer waste of money. Is this expensive alteration needed now? Although an attempt was made to justify the change on the grounds that it will ultimately save some money, the facts are that no economic costings have been presented to students or staff to show what real gains (if any) might be anticipated.

Furthermore, any gain is likely to arise only by a fiddle. Not mentioned in the *Lumen* article is that, when the new telephone exchange is operational, there will be fewer extension lines. This will effect some cost saving. However, it is a cost saving that can be done NOW - without spending a cent for a new system. A few years ago a modest step in that direction was taken when a small reduction in extension lines was effected. There is no reason why a much larger reduction could not be done.

It would be useful to consider alternative ways that the university could spend \$450,000. That represents one hundred additional fellowships for one year at \$4,500 each. It could be used to improve the collection of books and journals in the Barr-Smith Library - and reduce the queues, and the eye-strain from attempting to read microfilm!

Nor is this the only example of the waste of money on this campus. There was a plan to build an additional underground car park near the Union Theatre. There was no need for extra parking - and there was only a token amount of consultation with the staff. Thanks to vigorous staff protest this particular piece of planned extravagance appears to have at least been delayed.

Can we honestly go before the community at large and claim a shortage of money when we are squandering what little we have? Anyway, it looks like another record year of profits for Telecom and its suppliers.

Recipe for success

HOW MANY OF you students out there in academia are trying to keep your stomachs full on an ever-lessening real value of TEAS? How many of you are actually eating wholesome meals to build up your grey matter and sustain your normal bodily functions?

Do you have a problem?

On dit can help.

To be revived this week is *On dit's* stomach wrenching RECIPE CONTEST where you bring before the *On dit* readership each week your latest (or earliest) culinary delights. Give all relevant details including cooking instructions, approximate cost per meal, how many it serves, edibility and digestibility, first aid instructions etc. In keeping with student poverty, try and keep the cost down.

Besides helping the general university populace (and the government's new health scheme) the winner will receive a free meal for two from the

British Hotel (58 Finnis Street, North Adelaide). Entries will be judged on cost, variety, taste and other suitable grounds. The judges are highly qualified in the art of student feeding (i.e. Eds' mothers) and the Editors might also be trying an "odd" entry or two.

As the old saying goes, "you've got to be in it to win it", so get your entries into the *On dit's* office or box in the SAUA office by Thursday 12.00 (normally Wednesday 12.00) to win a free meal for two at the British.

Strike a blow for student apathy! Strike fear into the refectory sales figures! (See your favourite editor die of food poisoning.) Rush down to the *On dit* office now and write out your entry.

On dit Staff

NB: Sticker on the back of a car reads, "This car is constipated, it wouldn't pass anything."



Last year's Prosh - Possum (of the Sunday Mail) kidnapped!

PROSH Back on course

A STUDENT MEETING is to be held on June 23 in the South Dining Room to decide the fate of this year's prosh day. If this does not score a large attendance of enthusiastic students the '81 prosh will join the '79 and '80 prosh days in history as disorganised and boring events that, but for the efforts of a few hardy ones, brought a decided yawn from the rich and famous of Adelaide, traditionally the prosh day targets.

Prosh, after an inglorious boycott by University, Union and Students' Association alike in '79 and '80, looks set to leap back into life in '81. The memory of the 1978 day of violence has faded into the distance of time. The 'new prosh' will be a fund raising exercise - no more smashing

windows or breaking down doors. Official activities will be organised with charity in mind.

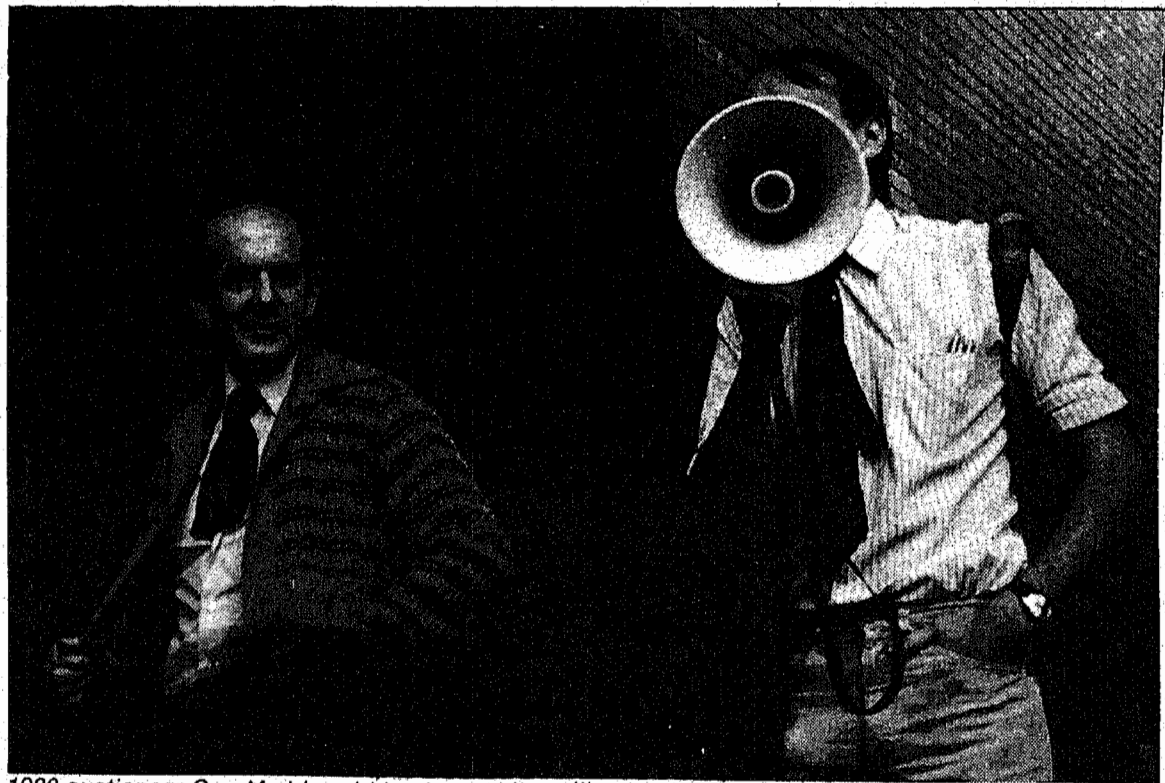
The day will still, of course, provide students with a way of releasing pent-up frustrations and anxieties which have accumulated through the years. Fund raising ideas suggested include an old style procession through the streets of Adelaide, a 'Rockathon' in which various Adelaide rock bands will attempt to play continuously in the hopes of creating some form of record; a prosh breakfast on the morning of the last day; a prosh ball on the final night of term; an all night movie marathon and, of course, the selling of the *Prosh Rag* - a radically different form of newspaper.

Money raised from these events is given to charity.

Student pranks which occur on Prosh Day also play their part in generating public interest in Prosh Day which allows more money to be gathered.

This year, there appear to be two options: to have the original traditional form of prosh, or to develop other different fund raising activities. If Prosh Day is to be revived, it requires student interest and support. Permission and help which will be required for Prosh Day to be viable, must be obtained from the University and the Union; the Student Association and the Adelaide City Council. Therefore, if you are interested in the proposal for the resurrection of Prosh Day, show your support at the meeting on June 23rd.

Jim Psyridis



1980 auctioneer Guy Maddern hides face while selling a slave.

Going, going, gone.

WHEN THE WEATHER closes in and rain becomes a regular feature on the university grounds, when frozen motorcyclists decorate the car parks and getting out of the shower becomes a fact of super human will, it can mean but one thing - that the time is near for the University's annual lost property sale.

Lost objects of all shapes and sizes will find their way into the hands of the official disposer to go to the highest bidder. Wallets, watches, wellies, bags, books, water-pistols, knives,

guns, coshes, virginites - all lost, will go come rain or shine.

This year, Peter Maddern has scored the job of official disposer from his brother Guy who Peter said refused to be associated with this gala event ever again. Hence when the lunchtime of Wednesday 17 comes about, you will be treated to the thundering wit of this well-known clown prince of elitist humour. "Jobs for the boys" says Peter, who also didn't particularly want his name connected with any other auction than one of antiques or

gold futures.

But really, going by past years, it is amazing what you can pick up and for how little at this annual auction. Big time dealers haven't latched on to the cheap goodies available so competition on bidding won't be great. Whether buying or watching in the excitement of tiny amounts of money changing hands, come and see free enterprise in action. Remember, Christmas is but five months away and, no they don't take bank card.

James Williamson

Bilbo



TENNIS ELBOW

That charismatic leader of the Labor Club and contender for ALP pre-selection for the Federal seat of Kingston, Mark Duffy, fractured his arm playing tennis recently.

Bilbo is not usually one to sling off at others' misfortunes, but Mr Duffy sustained his injury by attempting to leap the net at the end of the game.

Mr Duffy will be disabled for some weeks, but Bilbo hopes other students enjoyed the break.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

After years of consideration, the University Library Committee has decided on the style, size, etc. for the sign over the entrance to the Barr-Smith Library from the Hughes Plaza.

The Committee was quite pleased with itself in that it had made a decision. However, due to funding cuts it will be some years before the sign is actually purchased and placed in position.

Bilbo suggests that a cheap sign stating that the Library Committee had made a decision would suffice until then.

CLOWNSILL

Bilbo has nothing funny to say about the Union Council which at its last meeting decided to make meaningless the much-debated and potentially valuable position of *Union President*.

It was once intended that this new position would be established to take overall responsibility for the Union's activities, leaving the employees, including the Secretary, to get on with their work. However, the Union Council has decided that the Secretary will be employed to retain the political role of being last in the line, top of the tree, etc. and the President will be elected to be a "spokesperson". Bilbo hopes that the Union Council is not wasting everyone's time, energy and money with the present proposal.

ELECTIONSELECTION

Your ferretting hobbit is now pleased to tell of some rumours and facts on potential runners in the coming elections.

On dit, usually a promising contest, has as yet one-and-a-half teams in the running. Sometime contributor Timothy Dodd is teaming with Christine Barry. Bilbo doesn't yet know their tactics for election or their plans for *On dit*, but believes they are serious contenders.

Also in the race is SAUA Executive member Linda Gale and it is rumoured that she'll be running with Paul (*Dire Straits*) Klaric.

The President of the Students' Association could come from anywhere, but at the moment rumour has it there might be a race between Mark Jamieson, current SAUA

Executive member, and Paul (I also did *Stevie Wonder*) Klaric. It is believed that Mandy (First Woman President) Cornwall has suggested that any woman running for President could use the slogan - "Just a second".

The Adelaide University Union will also be electing a President via the Union Council. Two potential contenders for this position are Ken McAlpine and Simon Maddocks.

Now that Bilbo has introduced these characters they will be under continuing public scrutiny, through this column at least, in the weeks leading up to the elections.

LEFT IN THE LOBBY

The Australian Union of Students has been doing a lot of work on the recently-announced Razor Gang decisions on education including lobbying, conferences, lobbying, telling students what's going on and lobbying.

This week there will be an AUS National Week of Action which includes many activities with student involvement and participation. This has required a lot of planning and work for the benefit of students.

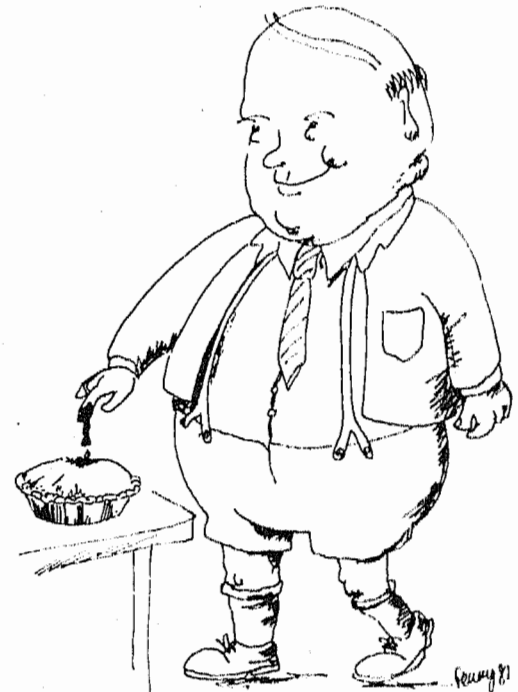
The Education Vice-President of the Students' Association, Julia Gillard, was out of town for much of this work, as she was in Canberra on an AUS mission to persuade parliamentarians to go against the decisions of the Razor Gang.

Bilbo wonders if AUS sees talking to politicians as more important than talking to students or getting students to talk to politicians.

Tonkin caught with his finger in the pie!

DURING THE OPENING ceremonies of the new building at the Underdale campus, this intrepid, furry-footed creature witnessed an enlightening demonstration of our beloved Premier's deep concern for tertiary education. From his vantage point on the mantelpiece next to the clock, and wearing his Tuesday afternoon waistcoat, Bilbo was appreciatively sniffing the air while students doing their practical exam for Food and Nutrition II prepared mouth-watering masterpieces reminiscent of those his old Took grandmother used to cook in her Hobbiton kitchen. His nostalgic train of thought

was rudely interrupted by the entrance of Dr Tonkin and entourage. Not content with merely disturbing the proceedings of the exam, Dr Tonkin and Miss Helen Reid, Headmistress of Walford CEGGS, further disrupted the students' work by leaning over their shoulders and revealing their own favourite recipes for ham-savoury and such-like. Bilbo tentatively suggests that perhaps examination conditions are already harsh enough without these two stalwarts of politics and education peering into the soup. Piggy trying to get his share of the pie perhaps? Bilbo humbly concludes with a promise to give Dr Tonkin a very hairy eyeball when next they meet.



Paranoid Grott Returns

WELL, BACK TO Uni. at last. While most of you out there in *On dit* readership land have been sleeping off the past week or two in holiday hibernation, my team and I have been busy investigating yet another University cover-up.

Regarding my investigations, several people have asked who I really am, and which demented *On dit* reader writes this column every week. I am happy to reveal all. My name is Ernest Guthrie Grott (my friends call me EGG), I study Computing Science and Applied Morphology at the University of Adelaide. However, don't go rushing off to the Records Office to confirm this; the University has, and will continue to, deny that I exist, even though I always fill in my enrolment card properly and pay my Union Fees on time. Thus the University, in its

own small way, helps contribute to the aura of mystic that surrounds my job as an investigatory reporter for the student newspaper. The editors of *On dit*, the magnanimous Paul Hunt and gracious James Williamson, are under strict instructions not to reveal any personal information regarding myself, or the faithful few who assist me in my work. It is only fair that my anonymity remains intact, for there are many people in this institution who have much to fear from my reports in *On dit*.

But although I wish to remain subtly hidden in the University community, anyone may contact me by writing a letter to me via *On dit*; simply drop, throw, leave it in the office with an editor and I will get it sooner or later. I am always looking for things to investigate so if you know of any under-

cover operation happening in the Uni. please tell me about it and I will do my best, or worst, depending on your viewpoint. Needless to say, all donations of the monetary kind will be gratefully accepted.

I am also told that I should not contain my investigations to the exploits of that strange breed *Academicus Lecturus* but that I should also look at what the whole campus is up to. All I have to say to that is that Uni. academic plots are definitely more interesting than student politics, but I may have a few things to say near the end of second term. I already have a comprehensive file on several people in the Union, and my intelligence sources are very comprehensive.

Now that I have explained at some length some points that have been confusing some of my readers, I have no room left to expose my investigations. Never mind, I'll write it in next week. This will give the Comp. Sc. Department time to rip up their files and start to deny everything.

Ernest Grott

LOBBYING

After the AUS Education Funding Conference in Sydney, about thirty delegates went down to Canberra to lobby politicians about the Razor Gang decisions.

One of the main purposes of the lobbying was to try and get detailed information on the implementation and exact content of the decisions. For example, we asked how high would fees be, what sort of student loans scheme was envisaged, etc. It was soon obvious to all of us that the government simply did not know the details of any of these decisions. All the Razor Gang

recommendations had clearly been made in a hurried, ill-thought out way. This confusion on the government's part will add to our campaign to reverse the decisions.

The Liberal politicians themselves seemed to fall into two categories. One section believed education simply wasn't an issue and dismissed everything we had to say. However some of the politicians expressed their personal opposition to fees and seemed more interested in our case. Certainly Members of Parliament from marginal seats are quite worried about the public reaction to the decisions.

The Labor politicians on the whole seemed very sympathetic to our case and many offered to help the AUS *Fightback*

Campaign.

This initial lobbying exercise is being followed up by an AUS National Delegation of five people from each State who will attempt to work on the Liberal politicians who seem sympathetic to our case and the backbenchers who are worried about their seats, in an effort to get them to fight the decisions in the Party and even cross the floor when the legislation is voted on.

These decisions can be changed if enough students get off their arses and join the campaign. There is a lot you can do without sticking your neck out too far. If the government is allowed to go on making these irresponsible decisions we will soon be living in a society benefiting the rich and oppressing the poor.

Setting Presidents

YOU'RE LUCKY TO be reading the President's column this week. If I hadn't noticed that term had started again and rushed over to tell *On dit* it just wouldn't have happened. As it is they had trouble getting this week's together and missed last week altogether!

While the Israelis drop bombs on nuclear power stations in Bagdad, Australia's communications grind to a halt and Prison Wardens march on the State Parliament, Adelaide Uni. students have their own major matters of State to deal with. *We've been drafting amendments to our Constitution!*

Some of the most important changes include cutting the Constitution to half its size by hacking out lots of minor details and putting them into Regulations. We've also suggested that the paid elected officers needn't be enrolled to study during their term and, least of all, we're increasing the *On dit* pay so that it's equal to the President and Student Radio Directors. Do you think they're worth it? If you're interested come to our next SAUA Executive meeting on Tuesday at 3.00 p.m. in the Union office.

These Constitutional amendments will, of course, go to students as a referendum at the Annual Elections in July. Speaking of elections, we're thinking of limiting the amount of posters and leaflets that candidates can produce to promote themselves. Some campuses banned printed material altogether at elections and force their candidates to chalking on pavements and other novel ideas. Let us know how far you'd like to go to save trees.

You should be aware by now

that this week we're moving again to campaign against the Razor Gang. I won't repeat the rhetoric here, but make sure you keep up with the details of what we're doing through the articles and leaflets about the place. Things will be hotting up even more leading up to the budget. Even the *National Times* is excited by the magnitude of our campaign.

While the fight about education funding continues to rage, the University's Internals are taking radical steps to solve its own crisis. Academics have proven to be so sluggish in doing anything to solve the problems that the University Executive Committee has laid down a ten point plan of action to overhaul the lot.

After being harranged at length by the Chair of the Committee, Harry Medlin, the Executive adopted proposals to demand action from the departments and take some major initiatives themselves. We'll be meeting for three solid days this week to get stuck into solving the funding problems thoroughly. You'd think the University should compensate the Students' Association for keeping their President locked behind closed doors for so long!

Watch this space for further up-dates of the business arising from the Minutes on the agenda of the adjourned extended extraordinary meeting (in camera) of the Executive Committee of the Education Committee of the Council of the ... zzzz

But if you want excitement come into the Students' Association and I'll talk you into running for the elections. **Mandy Cornwall**

Radio Role

IN AN ATTEMPT to critically look at Student Radio for first term, we were hard put to describe what Student Radio's role is, and whether we are achieving what we want. Our view is that Student Radio is a part of both the aims of public radio and of the Students' Association as well as being a media outlet for tertiary students.

The aim for the programme is to reflect an informed "student view" of public affairs and also of what is worthwhile music. In a lot of ways we need to be pace setters, trying the present alternative views on what's happening in the world.

However, this is not to discourage individual variation, but to have as many students as possible working within one broad aim of creating an informative and accessible radio programme.

MUSIC CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED

Keeping up overall consistency with our music has been a major problem. What is needed is a person (or persons) with up to date musical knowledge, who is interested in seeing that quality non-commercial music is broadcast.

If you are into rock music why not take your talents further than your stereo. The

skill of being able to programme music for radio is one well worth developing. Come into 5UV and talk to one of the Co-directors.

CURRENT AFFAIRS/SPOKEN WORD

To create informative radio more input is needed. News, information and specials have not been taking as high a profile as we would like. Preparing four minutes of an interview or news commentary takes a lot longer than four minutes, with the research, interviewing, editing and production needed.

However, if you have the ideas, Student Radio has the pack up skills to turn them into good radio. Many students are wary of over-committing themselves outside of their study, but they can be complementary. Have a talk to your tutor about including radio work in your projects. For example, if you are doing research for an essay that backgrounds current happenings (local or international), if you feel that information you have found should be more widely known, or if you want to interview that 'expert' to get information not in books, other people might like to hear about it too.

Add this to the skills of radio

scripting in concise accessible language or interviewing skills, and you can find that working in radio can be as productive for you as it is for Student Radio's programme.

Come into 5UV and see us soon.

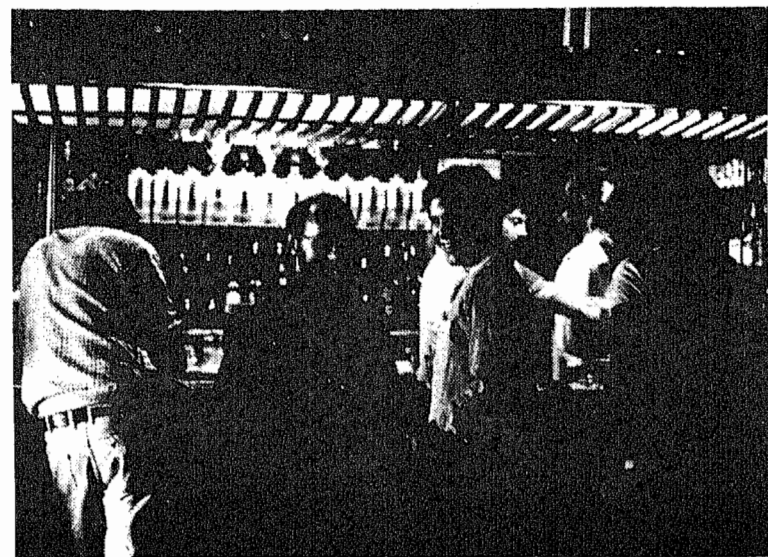
Nonee Walsh, Trevor John Student Radio 5UV on 531.

On dit will now be running a weekly TOP 12; a list of the top 12 songs played on Student Radio. If you're expecting it to line up with 5AD's top 40 we're afraid you'll be disappointed.

Here's this week's mind bending list.

SR TOP 12

1. GEN X - Poison
2. THE CURE - Primary
3. THE SPORTS - Against the Dance
4. JACKSON ZUMDISH - Flyblown
5. THE EXPRESSOS - Thumbs on the Ground
6. THE SELECTOR - Cool Blue Lady
7. LENE LOVICH - New Toy
8. THE PASSIONS - I'm in Love with a German Film Star
9. MEN AT WORK - Who Can It Be Now
10. PLASTICS - Diamond Head
11. MADNESS - Crying Shame
12. THE REVILLOS - Scuba Scuba.



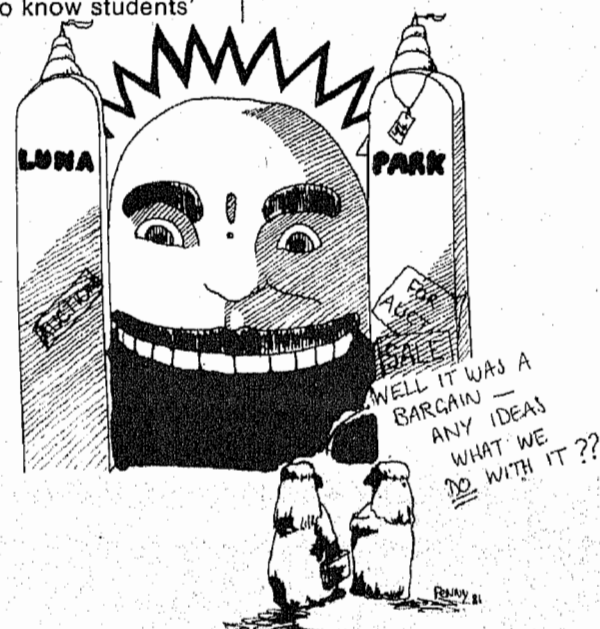
Low alcohol Bar

THE CATERING Management Board (CMB) is considering introducing low alcohol beer into the Bar. The decision is yet to be made and will be dependent on a Government decision on the excise level for low alcohol beer and on "consumers" reactions to the proposed move.

The move could be expected to cause some controversy due to its emotive nature. The CMB would like to know students'

opinions on the issue. Watch *On dit* in the coming weeks for a discussion on the pros and cons of low alcohol beer. Anybody who feels strongly about the issue and would like to put pen to paper is welcome to come down and see the Editors sometime this week, with or without glass in hand (Oh, you're not allowed to take them out of the Bar, are you?).

On dit Staff



Luna Park waves good-bye

ADELAIDE SEEMS a long way from Sydney, and Adelaide University even further away from Sydney's famous Luna Park fun fair. Yet amusement travels far, and Luna Park is well entrenched in Australia's history; it is one of Sydney's high spots and has had a long history beginning at our own Glenelg. Personally I haven't had much luck when it comes to Luna Park; an uncle killed when he was dismantling the Big Dipper ready for its trip to Sydney, an abortive visit a few years ago that was washed out by rain, and my last visit to the Park during which I saw it as its saddest, the day it was sold off in a thousand pieces to the highest bidders.

The auction of a dismantled fun fair is bound to stir some feelings of regret. We all have fond memories of Fairy Floss, fast rides, and Carousels, but the sale of Luna Park was uniquely glum. The day was persistently wet and dull, the reality of the end of a fun fair, the end of an era of Australian flippancy, hung heavily in the air. The rickety Big Dipper, the delapidated River Caves, and the scorched remains of the Ghost Train, recently burned to the ground taking lives with it, looked every bit their age and showed every sign of their tragic end.

Yet under the rain drenched Auctioneer's tent, the atmosphere was anxious and fast. The bidding was high. "Way In" signs and other such trinkets sold for around \$100. Some went to people refusing to let this landmark of childhood frivolity exit completely from their lives; more often such souvenirs went to shrewd speculators anticipating their future value. The Carousel was sold for \$141,000 to an American. The crowd boomed and hissed in response, but the Carousel nonchalantly continued to circle around its well worn path, ignorant of its future.

Luna Park no longer exists except as remnant souvenirs in the windows of antique shops or as interesting conversation pieces in the lounges of trendy apartments. The only standing reminder of what passed before will be the laughing clown's face at the entrance, saved as a piece of national heritage by the loving lobbying of The Friends of Luna Park. The atmosphere has gone; it is dissolved and fragmented, merely a memory. Luna Park, that aging bulwark of Australian amusement that began its life at Glenelg, has retired.

Jane Jacobs



A Sporting Chance

HOW MANY ARTICLES SO FAR THIS ISSUE HAVE REALLY INTERESTED YOU?

It seems that what a large proportion of the student community want to read about is in some way associated with sport. The University Sports Association is made up of 43 Sports Clubs, and the number of students who participate each week would be well over 1000. These students devote a major slice of their leisure time to their favourite sports, and yet from week to week there is virtually nothing contained within the pages of *On dit* on University Sport.

Ever since *On dit* was first published in 1932, sporting clubs have filed reports on a semi-regular basis and as a rule the back page was devoted entirely to sport.

Since 1969 the back page has been void of any such contribution. This year sports clubs have had an influx of new members. This response seems to be in some way indicative of the renewed interest that students are taking in sporting activities, and how a fit student is a more well rounded person.

The lack of sports stories is no fault of the present Editors. However to return the pages of

On dit to their former glory, by gracing the pages with sport, somebody is required to liaise with the clubs, and the Editors, such as a Sporting Editor (not that the present Editors aren't sports).

If there is any person who is prepared to act as a Sports Editor, either on a reporting basis or simply organizing the collection of reports from individual clubs, then the Editors or I would be more than pleased to discuss details with interested parties.

Richard Smith

friend - preferably one who can spell - and make a twosome). The sooner you decide to do it, the easier the job is. If you are interested, bring in an application to Mandy Cornwall or just come in and talk to Simon Maddocks or Linda Gale (last year's co-editors) about what the job involves.

Then again, if you just want to contribute an article or two, bring them into the Student Activities Office at any time. Give the new Editor(s) something to start working on straight away.

Linda Gale

Counter Production

YES FOLKS, it's time to think about the *Counter Calendar* again; the 1982 edition this time. For a start, many of us are just recovering from the May 'holiday' exams. What better time could there possibly be to write a brief article about those first term options and units, or to jot down some notes about the first term

lecturers and course content, so that when you get around to writing an article about your full-year courses you still remember what first term was like?

An even more adventurous thought is that you could apply for the exciting and rewarding position of *Counter Calendar* Editor (or get together with a

Speaking with...



Sir Mark Oliphant. Photography courtesy of *The Advertiser*.

Sir Mark Oliphant

Sir Mark Oliphant, physicist and former Governor of SA, now lives in Canberra where he presides as Australian social seer extraordinaire. He was once a student and later a professor at Adelaide University. Tim Dodd spoke to him earlier this year at the Australian National University.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Tim: Are you pessimistic about the future?

Oli: Yes, I'm pessimistic, simply because we've fallen into a terrible trap which we've created for ourselves. The technological age is so different from the ages that have gone before that we get virtually no help whatever from history in solving the problems of the present. We have come to rely completely on the "technological fix". I believe that science, properly applied, can solve all the material problems of mankind if it's given a chance to do so but unfortunately it's used for the wrong purposes. I think in the end it could destroy mankind, or at any rate, destroy civilisation.

Tim: What is an example of science being used for the wrong purposes?

Oli: Well, nuclear weapons, or the terrible misuse that's being made of computer technology which is dehumanising work in favour of mechanisms.

Tim: It ought to be a very sobering matter for scientists who see their work misused. What can they do about it?

Oli: I don't think they can do very much except call attention to what is happening again and again, and not get lost in the scramble for money. I don't know what's gone wrong with man in the technological age. People have lost the ability and the desire to do anything for fun; they always want to do

things for profit.

Tim: Is it now more difficult to justify science?

Oli: Yes I think it is to some extent but the difficulty is that scientists are just a cross-section of ordinary humanity and you can buy scientists to do any job however dirty just as you can buy lawyers or doctors to do any job however dirty. We find at the present that more than half of the scientists in the world are working on defence problems, and by defence problems nowadays one means methods of major destruction. It's very difficult to justify this morally.

Tim: At the beginning of this century science and technology offered great promise to a wide spectrum of people including artists and political reformers. It's all gone wrong somewhere ...

Oli: It's gone wrong because of motives. Science can still do marvels for mankind but it's got to be taken out of the hands of the military, and the entrepreneurs and the exploiters of technology.

Tim: But many people have become disillusioned with science in the last decade or so. Have they good reason to be?

Oli: Well, they've got the reason that they can see what it's doing. It's not science, it's technology that does the damage, but modern technology is the fruit of science. The transistor and its bastard child, the chip, are the products

Sir Mark Oliphant has established for himself a position which is unique for a scientist in Australia, that of social seer. For someone who was a physicist, Oliphant has had an unusual career.

When the Dunstan government appointed him as Governor in 1971, it ended a string of British appointees to this post. Most of the previous governors were unremarkable ex-British army major generals. Oliphant's appointment was in a different league. It was plain from the beginning that he had no intention of sitting out his five years merely to collect his pension at the end. During his years as Governor he was a frequently heard commentator on local and national issues.

He is a person of unorthodox

political views. Although he has leftist sympathies on many issues, he has gained a reputation for political unpredictability. While Governor he had a number of disagreements with Don Dunstan. The most notable was over what Oliphant perceived as the Dunstan government's tolerant attitude toward child pornography. Yet in 1976 there was a much publicised controversy between Oliphant as Governor and the Festival of Light. Later, in 1978, after his retirement from the governorship, he publicly supported the sacked Police Commissioner, Harold Salisbury. Certainly Oliphant has been a political maverick. Whether his unorthodox attitudes are a result of deep-thinking or

naivety is a matter for judgement.

Oliphant is a physicist, and a distinguished one. During his early years of research in the 1930's, major upheavals took place in the physicists' view of the universe. And these breakthroughs were not without their social consequences. As a result we now have (on the debit side) the atom bomb, the silicon chip, nuclear power and the so-called "second industrial revolution". Oliphant was close to those who did basic research in these areas and he made important contributions himself.

So when discussing the social problems of our time, Sir Mark Oliphant is one who is eminently qualified to speak. **Tim Dodd**

of the study of the solid state of matter.

Tim: Should we not build computers?

Oli: Oh no, but I think we have to do it with our eyes open and with complete knowledge of the social implications. This may mean in the end that a lot of people either work very short hours or not work at all. But there are a lot of terrible problems in this area in Australia. For instance, the utter reliance which is being placed by the present government on the exploitation of natural resources, mining in particular. The mining and agricultural grazing interests do not absorb people. They are so highly mechanised nowadays that the number of people employed is a minuscule proportion of the number seeking work. Now if we are going to rely on the exploitation of natural resources then something has to be done in the way of heavy taxation of the companies to enable other people to live without jobs and to enjoy a reasonable standard of living. At the moment people are right on the breadline.

Also, I believe, we should upgrade the attractions of science

and technology for students, so that they can go into the workforce with a background that enables them to appreciate the problems of a technological age even if they don't spend their lives in science and technology.

Tim: You believe that science can solve our material problems. How can this be brought about?

Oli: Only by endeavouring in every way we can to make clear what the problems are and to see that we don't elect to our governments the nitwits that we do at the present time. They're mostly lawyers and economists and so on who don't really understand this technological age. We should have businessmen to look after the business side. Alert businessmen, men with an open mind who are willing to grasp new opportunities.

Tim: What about scientists?

Oli: I'm not sure that scientists are particularly suited for government. Engineers and applied scientists yes, but I think that scientists are too apt to be carried away by the marvels of the situation and not have their feet sufficiently on the ground.

THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB, NUCLEAR ENERGY AND URANIUM

Tim: You were involved with the people who designed and built the first atomic bomb. What was the justification for this first nuclear weapons programme?

Oli: In 1940 and 1941 we were quite convinced in England that the Germans were making progress in this field. They'd captured the heavy water plant in Norway and we had had cryptic messages from Niels Bohn in Copenhagen and we felt it was essential that if this thing was possible, the Allies should get it first, before Hitler did. That was the reason why we all set to work wholeheartedly on the project. Britain at this time was busy making aircraft for mass bombing of Germany (a mistaken policy if ever there was one) and had no resources to spare, so we went to America.

Tim: But Hitler was defeated in May 1945 without using the atom bomb. Why did the bomb programme continue?

Oli: By that time it had got a momentum of its own. There

was still hope in people's minds, that something would be wrong and that a chain reaction wouldn't be possible. But we wanted to be certain of it. That was the reason for carrying on. A great many scientists were dead against the use that was made of the bomb. Niels Bohr was terribly upset by it. The reason being of course that by using the weapon against the civilian cities we gave up all moral right to grizzle if nuclear weapons were ever used again.

Tim: Can we turn now to nuclear energy? What is your opinion of nuclear fission reactors?

Oli: I can't get very worked up about them. There's an awful lot of nonsense talked about them. Suppose a major disaster occurred, for instance the Three-Mile Island reactor had actually blown up. A few thousand people would have been killed, but we kill tens of hundreds of thousands of people on the roads every year and don't blink an eyelid. There's got to be a sense of proportion about these things. Also the by-products from burning coal probably kill more people than any nuclear accident would kill.

Tim: The big problem as I see it is the waste products from fission reactors.

Oli: That's a technological problem and we're used to finding solutions to technological problems. The main problem arises in transporting the material. If you're going to have a centralised recycling plant it means the stuff has got to be carried to the plant from the reactors. This is the dangerous thing. Also the plants are incredibly vulnerable to bombing in wartime. So these are the problems, but the actual reactors themselves are as safe as any bit of technological equipment that man has produced.

Similarly with uranium mining. I can't get very worked up over that. If the right precautions are taken, if the miners wear gas masks to sort out the radon that comes when you disturb the ores, then there's no danger to the miners.

I could understand it if the Labor Party was really consistent towards this. The Labor Party has expressed itself against uranium mining and the export of uranium but the miners are at work mining and stuff and the transport workers and the waterside workers have both decided that they'll handle yellowcake. So where do you stand? When there's money concerned there's no such thing as morality.

Tim: Aren't you being ambiguous? Is it moral to mine uranium or not?

Oli: Well I feel that it's wrong myself but I can't get worked up with the dangers of it.

Australians worry that they might get a little bit of radio-activity on themselves. They don't face up to the realities of the situation. We have agreed to sell uranium to France which has not signed the non-proliferation treaty and is a maker of nuclear weapons.

Tim: The danger of nuclear weapons. Is that why you believe the mining of uranium is wrong?

Oli: Yes. It's because of the possibility of making nuclear weapons. The other things are of no importance really.

THE DUNSTAN GOVERNMENT

Tim: You were the Governor of South Australia through the major part of Don Dunstan's period as Premier. What did

you think of the reforms he initiated?

Oli: Some I thought were very good. Some I disagreed with intensely. I thought that his promotion of promiscuity and his over-liberalisation of life was silly because no society has ever been able to live under these conditions. You've got to have some sort of agreement amongst people in the community as to what are the rules of behaviour towards one another and particularly towards children, because they are the coming generation.

Tim: Do you believe that the laws in force under the Dunstan government allowed child exploitation?

Oli: Yes I do, very much so. But I think a lot of his (Dunstan's) ideas were good. I think his support of the arts and his liberalisation of the arts so they weren't crippled by censorship was good. But he just went too far.

Tim: What would you have done if there had been a constitutional crisis in South Australia similar to the one in Canberra in 1975?

Oli: Well being an ignoramus from the political point of view, I don't suppose I would have the courage of Sir John Kerr who was a lawyer and knew his constitutional law. But clearly the Dunstan government was afraid I might do something because they dashed straight to the House and passed a law - which was an invalid law by the way - making it impossible.

Tim: What useful role does the Governor play in our system of government?

Oli: One has to try and think what are the alternatives. Do we want a president like the United States? Do we want a peanut farmer or a broken down actor to run the country? Or do we want to have some sort of system of government which is really democratic? Within its limitations the monarchical system which we've inherited does that.

The Queen, in theory, has a lot of power but, in almost everything, she does what her ministers want her to do. So does a governor. But this doesn't stop her or the governor from arguing like hell if they think a thing is wrong. I think this is very helpful.

ON THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Tim: There has always been a gulf between the scientist on one side, and people who study humanities on the other side. Is this necessary?

Oli: I don't know. The classicists, and people of that sort, I have found myself much closer to than I could be to the social scientists. I think this is because the classicists with their Greek and Latin followed a rigid discipline. It's very similar to science in some ways. Language and structure and the implications of words. But I am very upset and disappointed by the social sciences and their failure to come to grips with the problems of the time.

Tim: Are they really using the scientific method?

Oli: Well they pretend they are. Like the economists. But there's no agreement amongst them which means that it cannot be a scientifically based profession. It's much more of an art than a science. I think there are certain parts of social sciences that may have some validity though they've led us up the garden path. Yet they are trusted in a way that the scientist isn't. And they have a terrible jargon.

Britain's '2nd Class'

IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE, the "coloured" person was not the victim of vicious racialism. In the ever-lasting fight against Islam the Europeans hoped to use the non-white "Christians" (thought to be the descendants of the lost tribe of Israel) to defeat the Arabs.

In the thirteen and fourteenth centuries, the Negro had a good image in Europe, although *Othello* and *The Tempest* attest to some xenophobia. After the discovery of the New World however, the American Indian came to replace the African Negro as the "Noble Savage". Thus supplanted, the Negro image declined, so that by the sixteenth century Leo Africanus was characterising blacks as animals.

Then there was slavery, giving rise to eighteenth century justifications for doctrines of inequality. Racism in Europe was not institutionalized, and though slavery has long since been abolished, prejudice remains.

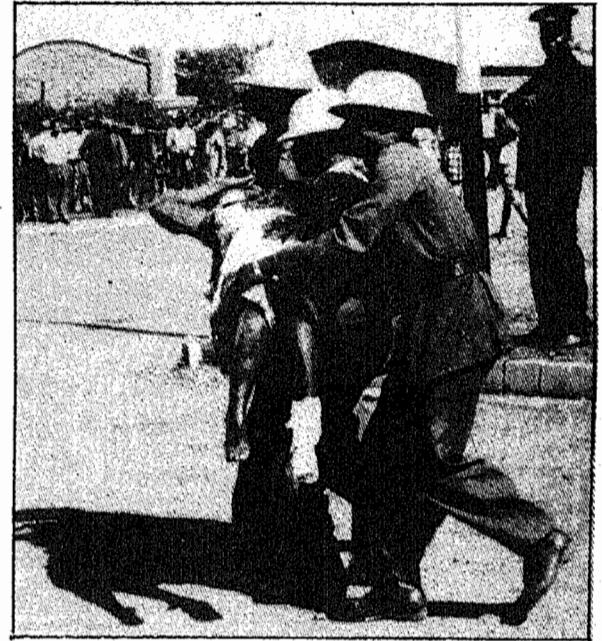
In the eighteenth century, William Blake wrote: "White as an angel is the English child." Today, some 500,000 English children are as brown as plum-pudding. They are the offspring of two million immigrants, mainly from Pakistan and the Commonwealth countries of the Indian subcontinent and the Caribbean.

The overwhelming majority of non-whites in the United Kingdom are British subjects, some forty per cent born in Britain. This fact has not diminished racial antagonisms, since Britain's emergence as a multiracial society has caught the white majority by surprise. Politicians continue talking about an "immigration problem" when the real issue, ignored for more than a decade, is the deteriorating pattern of race relations.

In 1948 the Labor government, in gratitude for help given in winning the war, declared that citizens of the Commonwealth were also citizens of the United Kingdom. An implosion of the Empire followed, until 1962 when Government began placing restrictions on immigration. Yet it seems that as the immigration rate has declined, racial tension has increased.

During the last general election, a bloody race riot exploded in the West London district of Southall, which houses the capital's biggest concentration of Indians and Pakistanis. Last January, a house in a West Indian neighbourhood burnt down, killing thirteen young blacks. There is no evidence to suggest that the fire was anything more than an accident or, if it were not, racially inspired. But the black community has been quick to use the tragedy as a focus for their anger at white intolerance. This culminated in the largest riot to date - in South London's Brixton, where 70,000 West Indians live in the small row houses and clusters of apartment buildings.

Black buoys bobbing in an unfriendly white sea, the dark-skinned minorities have so far been unable to build a nationwide civil rights movement to defend their interests. Nor are they likely to, since the minority is divided into several subdivisions - including people from the West Indies, India,



Pakistan, Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean and Bangladesh.

The government has done little since the Race Relations Act of 1965 to encourage racial harmony. Only 83 out of the 22,000-man London police force are of Asian or West Indian origin. The government does not support programs aimed at teaching immigrants how the British system works. The burden of assimilating non-white immigrants into British society has fallen on a few hard-pressed services - the school, the local community relations offices and, above all, the police.

Many white British, the most prominent being Enoch Powell, believe that the coloured citizens should be offered financial help to return "home". The problem is that for many, they are already home, and intend to stay.

The misconception is well illustrated by the words of an interviewer, who once asked a black Guardsman at the Queen's Palace: "How come you've come all the way from Pakistan to serve in the Guards?" Replied the soldier: "I don't come from Pakistan. I come from Birmingham."

Race first became a political issue in 1968, when firebrand Enoch Powell gave a speech to a Tory audience in Birmingham:

"Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad! We must be mad, literally mad as a nation, to be permitting the annual inflow of ... dependents ... As I look ahead I am filled with fore-boding. Like the Roman, I seem to see the river Tiber foaming with much blood!"

Powell was consequently sacked from the shadow cabinet, but he received much unofficial support. Only a few weeks ago, the same Enoch Powell was warning of a racial "civil war".

Even the present Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, has, in order to increase her popularity, given her covert support for the anti-immigrant sentiment. In early 1978 she said:

"The moment a minority threatens to become a big one people get frightened. The British character has done so much for democracy, for law, that if there is any fear that it might be swamped, people are going to react and be rather hostile to those coming in."

On the basis of numbers alone, the appearance of two million non-whites representing 3.5% of the population of 56 million should not appear threatening. Sociologists point out that most immigrants take

jobs that Britons are no longer willing to accept: such as hospital workers, garbage collectors and bus conductors. Newcomers tend to flood into rundown neighbourhoods, where they speak their own language, buy their own foods and fabrics and band together in a completely alien community. The concentration of the coloured community provokes white fears and magnifies them disproportionately. As unemployment tops the two million mark, the fuse is lit for a racial explosion.

In the April 12 *Guardian Weekly*, Peter Jenkins identified three illusions stifling better race relations:

"We have three myths of potentially great destructiveness. There is the racist myth that the nation is being poisoned by an alien people who are responsible for unemployment and the deprivation of urban life. There is the left-wing Socialist myth of incipient Nazism. There is the Enoch Powell scare of inevitable racial violence on a scale which can only be adequately described as civil war."

Powell's argument rests on the assumption that a multi-racial society is an impossibility. This is not necessarily so. There are encouraging signs: the British people, though often harbouring anachronistic colonial prejudices, do not historically hold one race to be inferior to another; British society is not organised according to any racist principle. But unless government adopts a more realistic approach to race problems, and the myths are dispelled, then ugly scenes will persist.

Brixton does not look like a slum, but it is rapidly deteriorating London's first true ghetto, a stagnant backwater of black despair and crime. Many of the youths there are second and third generation native Britons. Unlike their parents, they cannot easily accept segregation - they consider themselves British and so are understandably angry at their alienation.

The situation is not beyond control, but solutions must be found soon, as the coloured community is finding its voice. As a young Birmingham Asian points out: "Gone are the days when we didn't make a whimper. Gone are the days when we kept quiet about discrimination against us. Gone are the days when we accepted second-class citizenship."

Tony Butcher

Speaking with...



Sir Mark Oliphant. Photography courtesy of *The Advertiser*.

Sir Mark Oliphant

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of the study of the solid state of matter.

Tim: Should we not build computers?

Oli: Oh no, but I think we have to do it with our eyes open and with complete knowledge of the social implications. This may mean in the end that a lot of people either work very short hours or not work at all. But there are a lot of terrible problems in this area in Australia. For instance, the utter reliance which is being placed by the present government on the exploitation of natural resources, mining in particular. The mining and agricultural grazing interests do not absorb people. They are so highly mechanised nowadays that the number of people employed is a minuscule proportion of the number seeking work. Now if we are going to rely on the exploitation of natural resources then something has to be done in the way of heavy taxation of the companies to enable other people to live without jobs and to enjoy a reasonable standard of living. At the moment people are right on the breadline.

Also, I believe, we should upgrade the attractions of science

and technology for students, so that they can go into the workforce with a background that enables them to appreciate the problems of a technological age even if they don't spend their lives in science and technology.

Tim: You believe that science can solve our material problems. How can this be brought about?

Oli: Only by endeavouring in every way we can to make clear what the problems are and to see that we don't elect to our governments the nitwits that we do at the present time. They're mostly lawyers and economists and so on who don't really understand this technological age. We should have businessmen to look after the business side. Alert businessmen, men with an open mind who are willing to grasp new opportunities.

Tim: What about scientists?

Oli: I'm not sure that scientists are particularly suited for government. Engineers and applied scientists yes, but I think that scientists are too apt to be carried away by the marvels of the situation and not have their feet sufficiently on the ground.

THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB, NUCLEAR ENERGY AND URANIUM

Tim: You were involved with the people who designed and built the first atomic bomb. What was the justification for this first nuclear weapons programme?

Oli: In 1940 and 1941 we were quite convinced in England that the Germans were making progress in this field. They'd captured the heavy water plant in Norway and we had had cryptic messages from Niels Bohn in Copenhagen and we felt it was essential that if this thing was possible, the Allies should get it first, before Hitler did. That was the reason why we all set to work wholeheartedly on the project. Britain at this time was busy making aircraft for mass bombing of Germany (a mistaken policy if ever there was one) and had no resources to spare, so we went to America.

Tim: But Hitler was defeated in May 1945 without using the atom bomb. Why did the bomb programme continue?

Oli: By that time it had got a momentum of its own. There

was still hope in people's minds that something would be wrong and that a chain reaction wouldn't be possible. But we wanted to be certain of it. That was the reason for carrying on. A great many scientists were dead against the use that was made of the bomb. Niels Bohr was terribly upset by it. The reason being of course that by using the weapon against the civilian cities we gave up all moral right to grizzle if nuclear weapons were ever used again.

Tim: Can we turn now to nuclear energy? What is your opinion of nuclear fission reactors?

Oli: I can't get very worked up about them. There's an awful lot of nonsense talked about them. Suppose a major disaster occurred, for instance the Three-Mile Island reactor had actually blown up. A few thousand people would have been killed, but we kill tens of hundreds of thousands of people on the roads every year and don't blink an eyelid. There's got to be a sense of proportion about these things. Also the by-products from burning coal probably kill more people than any nuclear accident would kill.

Tim: The big problem as I see it is the waste products from fission reactors.

Oli: That's a technological problem and we're used to finding solutions to technological problems. The main problem arises in transporting the material. If you're going to have a centralised recycling plant it means the stuff has got to be carried to the plant from the reactors. This is the dangerous thing. Also the plants are incredibly vulnerable to bombing in wartime. So these are the problems, but the actual reactors themselves are as safe as any bit of technological equipment that man has produced.

Similarly with uranium mining. I can't get very worked up over that. If the right precautions are taken, if the miners wear gas masks to sort out the radon that comes when you disturb the ores, then there's no danger to the miners.

I could understand it if the Labor Party was really consistent towards this. The Labor Party has expressed itself against uranium mining and the export of uranium but the miners are at work mining and stuff and the transport workers and the waterside workers have both decided that they'll handle yellowcake. So where do you stand? When there's money concerned there's no such thing as morality.

Tim: Aren't you being ambiguous? Is it moral to mine uranium or not?

Oli: Well I feel that it's wrong myself but I can't get worked up with the dangers of it.

Australians worry that they might get a little bit of radio-activity on themselves. They don't face up to the realities of the situation. We have agreed to sell uranium to France which has not signed the non-proliferation treaty and is a maker of nuclear weapons.

Tim: The danger of nuclear weapons. Is that why you believe the mining of uranium is wrong?

Oli: Yes. It's because of the possibility of making nuclear weapons. The other things are of no importance really.

THE DUNSTAN GOVERNMENT

Tim: You were the Governor of South Australia through the major part of Don Dunstan's period as Premier. What did

you think of the reforms he initiated?

Oli: Some I thought were very good. Some I disagreed with intensely. I thought that his promotion of promiscuity and his over-liberalisation of life was silly because no society has ever been able to live under these conditions. You've got to have some sort of agreement amongst people in the community as to what are the rules of behaviour towards one another and particularly towards children, because they are the coming generation.

Tim: Do you believe that the laws in force under the Dunstan government allowed child exploitation?

Oli: Yes I do, very much so. But I think a lot of his (Dunstan's) ideas were good. I think his support of the arts and his liberalisation of the arts so they weren't crippled by censorship was good. But he just went too far.

Tim: What would you have done if there had been a constitutional crisis in South Australia similar to the one in Canberra in 1975?

Oli: Well being an ignoramus from the political point of view, I don't suppose I would have the courage of Sir John Kerr who was a lawyer and knew his constitutional law. But clearly the Dunstan government was afraid I might do something because they dashed straight to the House and passed a law - which was an invalid law by the way - making it impossible.

Tim: What useful role does the Governor play in our system of government?

Oli: One has to try and think what are the alternatives. Do we want a president like the United States? Do we want a peanut farmer or a broken down actor to run the country? Or do we want to have some sort of system of government which is really democratic? Within its limitations the monarchical system which we've inherited does that.

The Queen, in theory, has a lot of power but, in almost everything, she does what her ministers want her to do. So does a governor. But this doesn't stop her or the governor from arguing like hell if they think a thing is wrong. I think this is very helpful.

ON THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Tim: There has always been a gulf between the scientist on one side, and people who study humanities on the other side. Is this necessary?

Oli: I don't know. The classicists, and people of that sort, I have found myself much closer to than I could be to the social scientists. I think this is because the classicists with their Greek and Latin followed a rigid discipline. It's very similar to science in some ways. Language and structure and the implications of words. But I am very upset and disappointed by the social sciences and their failure to come to grips with the problems of the time.

Tim: Are they really using the scientific method?

Oli: Well they pretend they are. Like the economists. But there's no agreement amongst them which means that it cannot be a scientifically based profession. It's much more of an art than a science. I think there are certain parts of social sciences that may have some validity though they've led us up the garden path. Yet they are trusted in a way that the scientist isn't. And they have a terrible jargon.

Britain's '2nd Class'

IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE, the "coloured" person was not the victim of vicious racialism. In the ever-lasting fight against Islam the Europeans hoped to use the non-white "Christians" (thought to be the descendants of the lost tribe of Israel) to defeat the Arabs.

In the thirteen and fourteenth centuries, the Negro had a good image in Europe, although *Othello* and *The Tempest* attest to some xenophobia. After the discovery of the New World however, the American Indian came to replace the African Negro as the "Noble Savage". Thus supplanted, the Negro image declined, so that by the sixteenth century Leo Africanus was characterising blacks as animals.

Then there was slavery, giving rise to eighteenth century justifications for doctrines of inequality. Racism in Europe was not institutionalized, and though slavery has long since been abolished, prejudice remains.

In the eighteenth century, William Blake wrote: "White as an angel is the English child." Today, some 500,000 English children are as brown as plum-pudding. They are the offspring of two million immigrants, mainly from Pakistan and the Commonwealth countries of the Indian subcontinent and the Caribbean.

The overwhelming majority of non-whites in the United Kingdom are British subjects, some forty per cent born in Britain. This fact has not diminished racial antagonisms, since Britain's emergence as a multiracial society has caught the white majority by surprise. Politicians continue talking about an "immigration problem" when the real issue, ignored for more than a decade, is the deteriorating pattern of race relations.

In 1948 the Labor government, in gratitude for help given in winning the war, declared that citizens of the Commonwealth were also citizens of the United Kingdom. An implosion of the Empire followed, until 1962 when Government began placing restrictions on immigration. Yet it seems that as the immigration rate has declined, racial tension has increased.

During the last general election, a bloody race riot exploded in the West London district of Southall, which houses the capital's biggest concentration of Indians and Pakistanis. Last January, a house in a West Indian neighbourhood burnt down, killing thirteen young blacks. There is no evidence to suggest that the fire was anything more than an accident or, if it were not, racially inspired. But the black community has been quick to use the tragedy as a focus for their anger at white intolerance. This culminated in the largest riot to date - in South London's Brixton, where 70,000 West Indians live in the small row houses and clusters of apartment buildings.

Black buoys bobbing in an unfriendly white sea, the dark-skinned minorities have so far been unable to build a nationwide civil rights movement to defend their interests. Nor are they likely to, since the minority is divided into several subdivisions - including people from the West Indies, India,



Pakistan, Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean and Bangladesh.

The government has done little since the Race Relations Act of 1965 to encourage racial harmony. Only 83 out of the 22,000-man London police force are of Asian or West Indian origin. The government does not support programs aimed at teaching immigrants how the British system works. The burden of assimilating non-white immigrants into British society has fallen on a few hard-pressed services - the school, the local community relations offices and, above all, the police.

Many white British, the most prominent being Enoch Powell, believe that the coloured citizens should be offered financial help to return "home". The problem is that for many, they are already home, and intend to stay.

The misconception is well illustrated by the words of an interviewer, who once asked a black Guardsman at the Queen's Palace: "How come you've come all the way from Pakistan to serve in the Guards?" Replied the soldier: "I don't come from Pakistan. I come from Birmingham."

Race first became a political issue in 1968, when firebrand Enoch Powell gave a speech to a Tory audience in Birmingham:

"Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad! We must be mad, literally mad as a nation, to be permitting the annual inflow of ... dependents ... As I look ahead I am filled with fore-boding. Like the Roman, I seem to see the river Tiber foaming with much blood!"

Powell was consequently sacked from the shadow cabinet, but he received much unofficial support. Only a few weeks ago, the same Enoch Powell was warning of a racial "civil war".

Even the present Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, has, in order to increase her popularity, given her covert support for the anti-immigrant sentiment. In early 1978 she said:

"The moment a minority threatens to become a big one people get frightened. The British character has done so much for democracy, for law, that if there is any fear that it might be swamped, people are going to react and be rather hostile to those coming in."

On the basis of numbers alone, the appearance of two million non-whites representing 3.5% of the population of 56 million should not appear threatening. Sociologists point out that most immigrants take

jobs that Britons are no longer willing to accept: such as hospital workers, garbage collectors and bus conductors. Newcomers tend to flood into rundown neighbourhoods, where they speak their own language, buy their own foods and fabrics and band together in a completely alien community. The concentration of the coloured community provokes white fears and magnifies them disproportionately. As unemployment tops the two million mark, the fuse is lit for a racial explosion.

In the April 12 *Guardian Weekly*, Peter Jenkins identified three illusions stifling better race relations:

"We have three myths of potentially great destructiveness. There is the racist myth that the nation is being poisoned by an alien people who are responsible for unemployment and the deprivation of urban life. There is the left-wing Socialist myth of incipient Nazism. There is the Enoch Powell scare of inevitable racial violence on a scale which can only be adequately described as civil war."

Powell's argument rests on the assumption that a multi-racial society is an impossibility. This is not necessarily so. There are encouraging signs: the British people, though often harbouring anachronistic colonial prejudices, do not historically hold one race to be inferior to another; British society is not organised according to any racist principle. But unless government adopts a more realistic approach to race problems, and the myths are dispelled, then ugly scenes will persist.

Brixton does not look like a slum, but it is rapidly deteriorating London's first true ghetto, a stagnant backwater of black despair and crime. Many of the youths there are second and third generation native Britons. Unlike their parents, they cannot easily accept segregation - they consider themselves British and so are understandably angry at their alienation.

The situation is not beyond control, but solutions must be found soon, as the coloured community is finding its voice. As a young Birmingham Asian points out: "Gone are the days when we didn't make a whimper. Gone are the days when we kept quiet about discrimination against us. Gone are the days when we accepted second-class citizenship."

Tony Butcher

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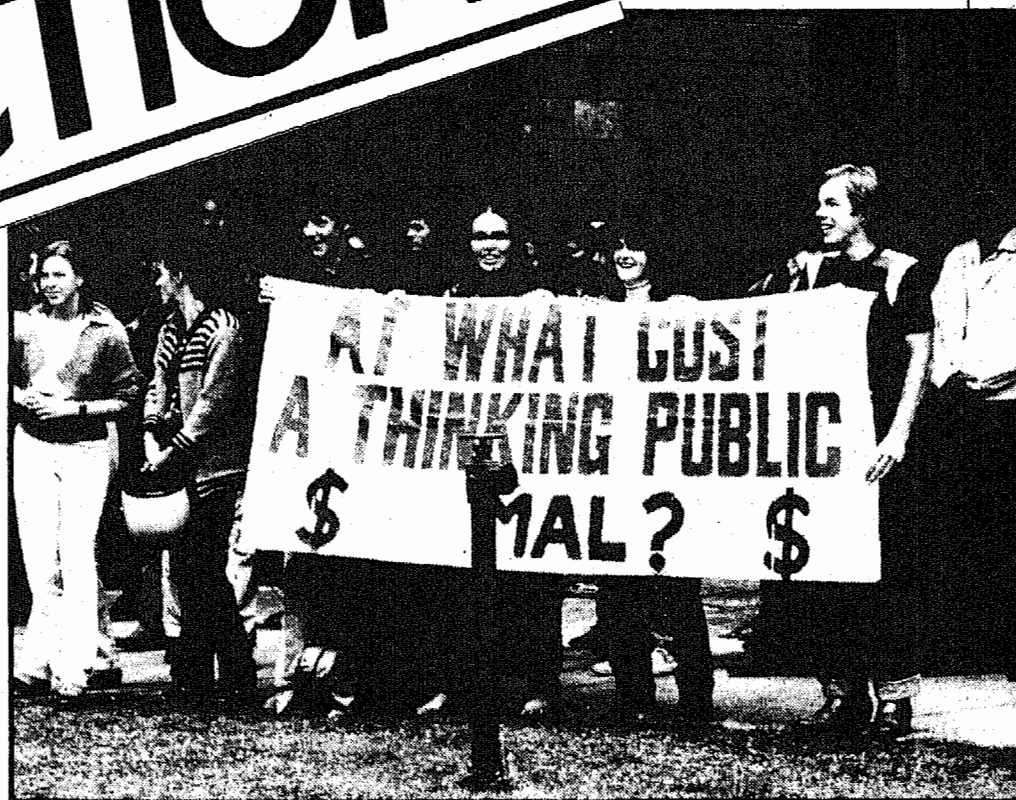
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This week we will begin taking our case to the community by distributing community broadsheets, petitions and form letters at Arndale Shopping Centre on Thursday night. Each campus in South Australia is getting involved in this activity. The more people involved the more effective we will be so come to an organising meeting if you want to help out on Wednesday at 2.00 p.m. in the Student Activities Office or simply put your name down on a list in the office. This work of taking the issues to the public will continue on Wednesday 24th with a public meeting to be held in the Adelaide Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. There will be two speakers talking on the Razor Gang decisions and their implications. Your help is needed to make the campaign successful and to hopefully change the government's mind!

Get involved in any or all of these activities this week.

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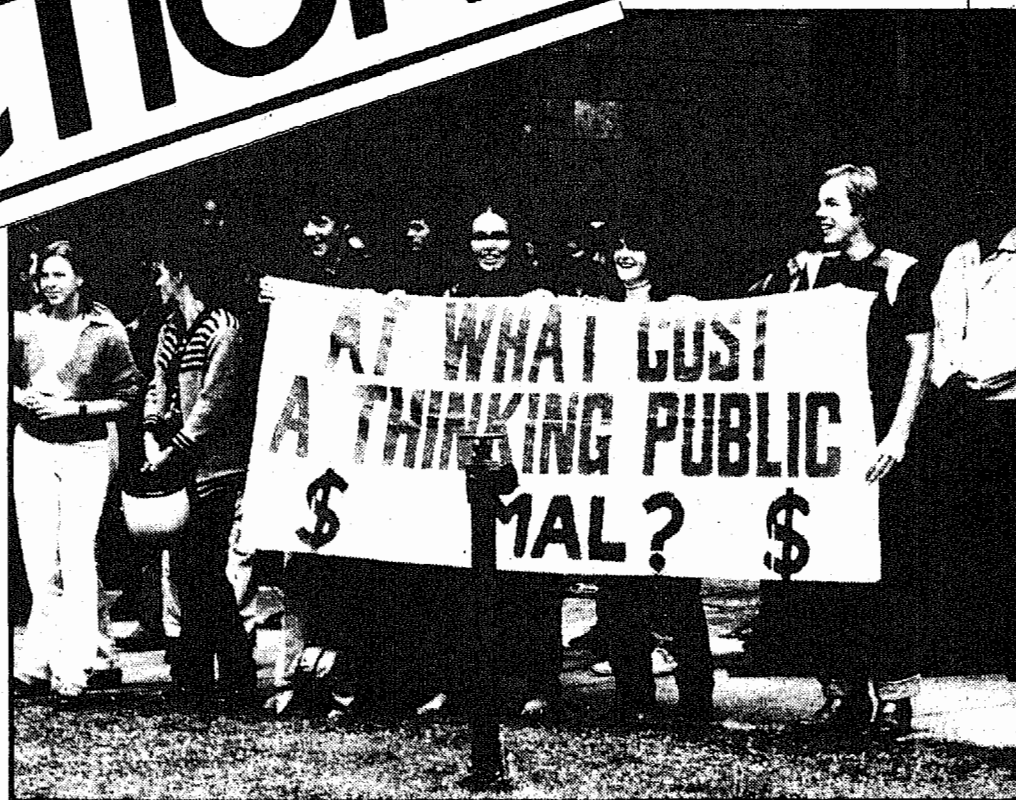
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During this *National Week of Action* information will be available about all the public sector areas at stake, not just education. (See the timetable below and articles this issue for more details.) The AUS campaign will emphasise the entire government attack on the public sector and will be run in conjunction with bodies like ACTU. In South Australia we will be co-operating with a coalition of trade unions and public interest groups in our

opposition to the cuts. The strategy of the campaign is to take the issues to the general public and argue that the government is not fulfilling its responsibilities to the Australian community if it inadequately funds health, education and welfare services. Impacting the community is a major task so pooling resources with other concerned organisations is vital. Planned activities include pre-Budget demonstrations and leafleting marginal electorates.

This week we will begin taking our case to the community by distributing community broadsheets, petitions and form letters at Arndale Shopping Centre on Thursday night. Each campus in South Australia is getting involved in this activity. The more people involved the more effective we will be so come to an organising meeting if you want to help out on Wednesday at 2.00 p.m. in the Student Activities Office or simply put your name down on a list in the office. This work of taking the issues to the public will continue on Wednesday 24th with a public meeting to be held in the Adelaide Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. There will be two speakers talking on the Razor Gang decisions and their implications. Your help is needed to make the campaign successful and to hopefully change the government's mind!

Get involved in any or all of these activities this week.

ACTION!

AUS NATIONAL WEEK OF



SOWETO DAY: The Real Terror of South Africa

When It Happens

**Tuesday June 16th. Soweto Day
Forum 1p.m. Little Theatre, Level 2, Union
Building.**

- * Aboriginal and African Music
- * Speaker on "Soweto 1978 and Apartheid", Verne Hoffman
- * Speaker on "Aboriginals, Racism and the Razor Gang", Ruby Hammond.
- * Spokespersons from the ALP and the Liberal Party on "Apartheid, Racism and Australia".

Wednesday June 17th

North Dining Room, 1p.m.

Debate "That the User Should Pay."

Speakers for

- * Mr D. Healey

Speakers against

- * Prof. B. McFarlane
- * Prof. G. Harcourt.

Gallery Seminar, 7.30p.m.

"Health Care in Australia"

Speakers

- * Mr John Cornwall (State Opposition Spokesperson on Health) "Healthcare in A.U.S.TRALIA".
- * Lange Powell (South Aust. Council of Social Services) "Recent Changes to the Health Scheme".
- * John Powning (Foundation of Medical Education in Community Medicine) "Community Health Scheme".

Thursday June 18th

Union Hall 1p.m.

Post Graduate Students' Association public meeting, "What Price Education?"

Speakers:

- * Grant Chapman (Liberal Member for Kingston)
- * Senator Elstob (ALP)
- * Janine Haines (AD)

Information handout: at Arndale Shopping Centre Thursday 18th, 6.00p.m. Meet at Students' Association Office at 5.30p.m. We need people to help hand out leaflets, form letters and petitions.

Meeting in the SAUA Office Wednesday 17th 11a.m. to organise this. Please come.

ON JUNE 16th 1976 the struggle of the South African people against Apartheid underwent a significant change in direction. The movement began as a peaceful struggle which aimed for legislative reform and winning the day with reasonable argument.

This changed in 1961 when a peaceful demonstration was fired on by the police at Sharpeville, and 69 people were killed. With the introduction and implementation of the Suppression of Terrorism and the Suppression of Communism Acts, any organisation against the government policies, or indeed any participation in open discussion or debate, became illegal. The black political parties were forced to go underground, and many leading campaigners were imprisoned or forced into exile. The following years were years of underground activity and of campaigning through the UN and other world bodies to awaken world opinion against Apartheid.

In 1976 the nature of the struggle changed again. The lead was taken not by exiled, imprisoned or banned campaigners, but by high school and tertiary students.

The change began with widespread protests against the Bantu Education System; a system which allowed black students to count up to six in their first year and up to twelve in their second, which made education "optional" for blacks, while charging them fees for the right to attend school, and which enforced teaching in Afrikaans.

Paying out the Users

The Liberal Government has proposed the philosophy of the 'user pays' as a basic policy in their health programmes: "encouraging the general community to accept greater personal responsibility for their health costs through the application of the user-pays principle."

This should be termed more accurately as the "payer-uses" principle. The elderly and low income members of private health funds in SA have lower claim rates and utilization of services when compared to the middle aged and higher income members. More importantly however, the question of who pays for health care is closely tied to the question of what causes illness.

The last five years in Australia have seen an upsurge in calls for "individual responsibility for health", programmes aimed at changing lifestyles. "Life Be In It" campaigns to get people jogging, stop smoking and

The immediate demand of the students who went on strike in June 1976 was that they should be taught in English rather than Afrikaans. The strike was centred in a city called SOWETO, or the South West Township, a satellite slum of Johannesburg. Soweto was created to provide a place to live for the blacks who work in and around Johannesburg, since the law does not allow blacks, 'coloureds', and whites to live in the same areas. The student strike was compounded by a series of industrial strikes, and an almost universal boycotting of the transport from Soweto to Johannesburg.

On June 16th Soweto became a battlefield. The South African police tried to break the back of the protest, and in the ensuing hours and days, hundreds of people were killed, and thousands more injured. The exact figures are still not known and, thanks to police cover-up, never will be.

Many of the people killed were students; some were involved in the strike and others were simply caught up in the general violence. For days after the major crisis on the 16th the police were shooting on sight everywhere in Soweto. Stories are told like that of a primary school child who was kept at home by her parents, who did not want her involved in the strike. Three days after the 16th, when they thought that things had settled down, they sent her to the shop to buy some milk. She was shot and killed by the South African police. One small child walking on her own to the shop.

Since June 1976, the South

African Liberation struggle has been much stronger, as the children and young people of Soweto, and the other townships to which the strike spread, continue to take the lead and give a new strength and power to the movement. The date of June 16th is the focus for activity in South Africa and around the world, both to commemorate the deaths of the people who died, and to continue the struggle for the eventual abolition of Apartheid and the establishment of the basic principles of democracy and equality in South Africa.

Already the South African police have been busy arresting those whom they see as potential trouble-makers, and as the anniversary of the 1976 uprisings draws closer, there will be an intensification of police violence.

At Adelaide Uni. on the 16th (this Tuesday) the Students' Association has helped organise a forum to be held in the Little Theatre at 1 p.m. Speakers will include Vernon Hoffmann, a black South African, Ruby Hammond, an Aboriginal spokesperson, and Lynn Arnold MLA, a Labor Party Spokesperson. SACARE (the South Australian Campaign Against Racial Exploitation) has co-ordinated the placing of "In Memorium" notices in Tuesday's *Advertiser* for the 124 people who the police admit they shot within the first four days of the Soweto uprising.

All over Australia and all over the world, people will be marking Soweto Day.

Linda Gale

drinking alcohol etc. The source of illness identified is the individual's lifestyle, smoking, diet and lack of exercise. The individual is responsible for his/her illness because of the injurious habits they have indulged in. This ignores the social origin of illness; urging people to watch their diet whilst allowing the proliferation of fast food outlets (McDonald's etc.) and the use of additives; urging people to stop smoking while leaving the corporate and government vested interests untouched; and ignoring the obvious social nature of occupational disease, industrial accidents and environmental pollution.

This concept is also based on the assumption that individuals have control over the social forces which determine their lifestyles. It fails to recognize, for instance, that people on the dole have no control over the level of unemployment, the availability of jobs, or the level of benefits. It fails to recognize that typists and women in factories, whose work is of a repetitive nature and suffer with tenosynovitis, have little control over the rate of work and their work conditions.

Pulling the strands together,

this ideology effectively blames the victim and therefore neatly 'legitimizes' the transfer of health costs to the individuals. If you get sick because of your lifestyle you can pay for the health care required. The cost of health care should be a social responsibility in the form of a National Health Service, financed by progressive taxation, especially as illness has its origin in the political and economic structure of society (e.g. work conditions, unemployment, etc.).

The health changes highlight that in twenty years from the 1960's the health care and financing system have moved from individual responsibility to universal access and financial equity with Medibank, followed by a progressive erosion of its services and returning to one where responsibility is shifted back to the individual.

Effective opposition to these changes must be based on a coordinated campaign, involving students, health workers, teachers, trade unions, public servants, the unemployed community in general. Everyone is affected by these changes ... no one escapes.

Penny Miller

UNION COUNCIL REPORT

money talks

On the 9th June, a group of people who are collectively called Union Council met in the North Dining Room. *On dit* reporter Dennis Medlow was there to catch the action. For those of you who missed out, here's the story ...

I NOW HAVE serious doubts as to whether many councillors realised that if the latest Union Council meeting had been delayed four minutes longer than it was, then the meeting would have lapsed (the meeting must start within half an hour of the advertised date) since quorum (required number of councillors to be present) was not reached until 5.56 p.m. (26 minutes after advertised start). This was a near thing, but not really as serious as I'm trying to make it sound.

Insuring a Union

With finance now coming under scrutiny, the issue of student insurance popped up. The Union takes out an accident insurance policy on each member of the Union and it was recommended that the existing policy be dropped in favour of a new one which could support optical cover. The present insurance scheme costs the Union approximately \$4000 a year. The Secretary, David Muir, said that in previous years the Union had been breaking even with regard to claims sent in and paid. Guy Maddern said that students should realize that this accident policy is in no way a replacement for private health insurance; merely a supplement to it, adding that the medical costs would be far above the amounts paid by the insurers.

Spreading Out

Planning, or what we do with what we've got, is now considered. The major topic is does STA (Student Travel Australia) get its office extension or not; if so what's the deal in regard to rent, etc. The Manager of the STA office, Mr Con Panoussi, was there to explain the situation to Council. The proposal is that the doors to the arcade on Level 4, near the book shop, be replaced by a wall and the resulting alcove walled in to provide another room for the STA office. This retains the Level 4 foyer area for bookshop and/or student use. About this time confusion reigned over what motion was actually before the meeting and many people (yours truly included) were unsure what was happening. A motion was finally carried to the effect that Council approved the STA extension and notes a paper prepared by that hard-working soul Simon Maddocks (CSC) Chair, etc. etc.) which listed the office extension, a student lounge/study area in Level 4 Foyer, and a health food shop in the southern end of the Wills Refec.

STA would be willing to contribute \$500 towards extension building costs but Con was unhappy about several proposals put forward by Council. It was finally decided that rental shall remain unchanged, that STA con-



tributes \$500 towards the extension costs, and that the situation be reviewed when the lease next comes up for negotiation next year. The final question, when can STA expect the extension? The answer ... as soon as possible.

Fierce Competition

Still on planning, but now attention focuses its unwanted gaze upon resolution 5 which basically says that the Planning Committee recommends that Union Council establishes a policy which will prevent competition between existing businesses on Union premises. Eventually a motion was passed which said that Union Council would deal with competition between tenants.

The Union Secretary and Mark Jamieson have been inspecting various areas in Union House with regard to ascertaining the likely places for study areas for students. The report said that areas on Level 5 and the area currently occupied by Student Counselling were places that should be considered closely for a student study area.

The TEC and other stories

Anne Gooley (Education Research Officer) tabled her extensive report on the Tertiary Education Commission's report. She also delivered a verbal report on the same subject. I will not attempt to cover the large amount of information she presented in this article. Anne also wrote a long letter

composed of a list of questions regarding TEAS, loans scheme, fees etc. to the Minister of Education in the Federal Government, Mr Fife. It should be interesting to see what some of the answers are when we get a reply.

And now for an item not on the agenda. Linda Gale brought up the issue of a \$15,000 grant to AUS that was decided by a student meeting in the Refectory last term. This was the first I had heard about it as with other students I associate with. Why wasn't it more widely publicised? Anyway the estimate was that 8% of students attended this meeting (what about the other 92%?) and the decision was that \$15,000 should be given to AUS to help in the Education campaign, and that this \$15,000 should come from reserves.

Guy Maddern said in opposition that the reserves are budgeted for capital items and suggested that the money be raised from a levy on the 1982 statutory fee. The money would be considered as a loan from reserves to be repaid from the 1982 levy. The issue suddenly became that of where we get the money from, not whether we should get it or not. Council raged on this for ten more minutes until Peter Zeleny asked whether AUS has put plans forward as to what they will do with the money. Ken McAlpine replied in the affirmative but financial

allocations have not yet been worked out since AUS doesn't know whether it will get the money or not.

David Muir rescued Council from confusion by saying that it doesn't matter where the money comes from; we can afford it since we are in a very good financial position, but we need some surety in how it is spent and that the Union should be wary of any political implications that may arise from this donation. Simon Maddocks supported this by saying that the Union's professional officers should not be required to get involved in this issue. At this moment in time Nick Murray said that \$15,000 would be three to four weeks' pay for a medium to good mercenary (maybe Nick has some private ideas of his own about what to do with the money).

AUS will be setting up a special bank account for this money and money from this account will be spent in strict accordance with the AUS Constitution. A motion was then carried that the money be paid as a gift through the SAUA, thus avoiding the Union getting involved in any political results. The Secretary said that it would take two weeks to get the money to AUS. Mr Rundle moved that AUS keep us fully informed on the campaign. Simon Maddocks suggested that the AUS local secretary should report via the Education

Research Officer: Linda Gale, the person with whom all of this started, said that this was "silly and frivolous" since it is a big campaign and AUS has got more to do than keep us continually informed on it. Should we be kept informed of where our \$15,000 is going?

Yet Again

The staffing in the Student Activities Office is a contentious issue and one I am loath to discuss in this paper, yet this is the third time Council has needed to consider it. The previous times the issues were discussed in camera (i.e. all non-Councillors kicked out of the room) but this time Linda Gale's in camera motion failed, after Peter Maddern's dramatic speech about the fact that students should know about the matter as it has been going on for too long. Congratulations Peter; good speech and it's true, students should know, but I will not say anything about it in this article (maybe later). Hang on to your seats readers; you may hear about it in a later issue of *On dit*.

Food, Food, Food

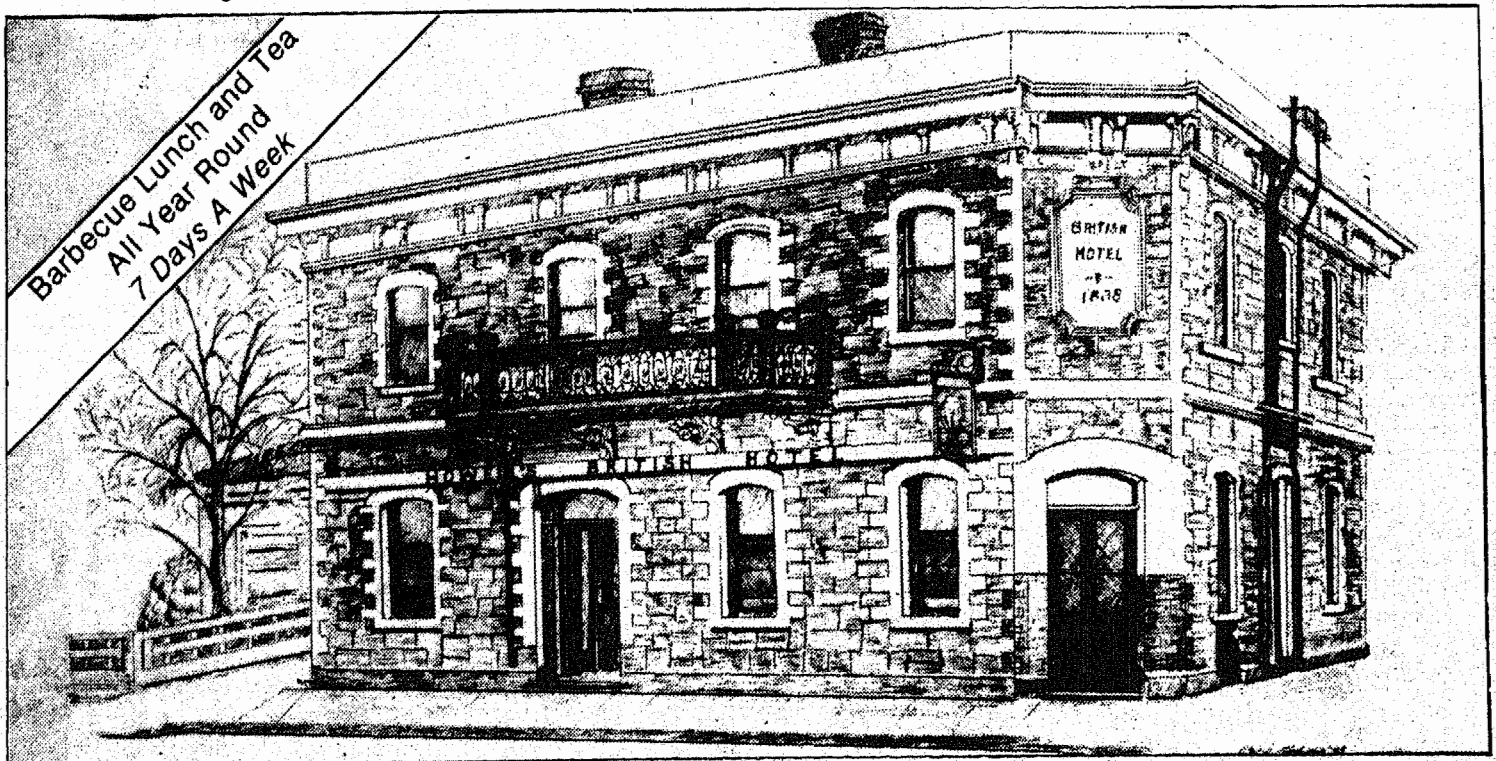
The vending machines are operating 2½ times better than break-even points. The Catering Department's financial figures for the past month are very encouraging with the Department making a net profit of \$8,647. Some vending machines will soon be installed in the Napier Building ground floor foyer.

The Touche Ross Stage 1 Report on Union Catering was noted and I will say more about that in a later article also.

Union Restructuring

The solicitors have chewed and chewed and given us the constitutional amendments for the introduction of a Union Presidential system. These were amended in Council and an amended version will be available soon. These amendments to the Constitution must be voted on by students at a referendum to initiate them. *On dit* will have a detailed report on this next issue. (This means more work for me.) Until then I have run out of things to say.

Dennis Medlow.



BRITISH HOTEL

58 Finnis St., Lower North Adelaide.
supports student employment

LEECHING ON THE

Mining in South Australia (like the rest of Australia) is supposedly about to "take off". Under the encouragement of the present State Liberal Government, various companies have been heavily involved in the exploration for mineral deposits - of value to them for profits and of value to the State for employment prospects and industry expansion and spin-off effects. That's the theory - everyone gains.

Alan Rushbrook takes a look at the commencement of Uranium mining in South Australia which includes the use of a new process of uranium extraction, called leaching. He raises some questions about its safety and "has a go" at the mining companies' motives on the way through.

As an alternative, the Adelaide Uni. Pro-Nuclear Association finally makes *On dit's* pages and asks the apt question, "Why Nuclear Energy?" They have a dig at "vested interest" accusations directed by CANE at supporters of nuclear energy by suggesting that anti-nuke groups themselves are financed by oil companies. Who will win the fight in one-up-manship?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S MINING 'boom' has started. Mining of uranium is to commence shortly seventy-five kilometres north-west of Broken Hill, at the **Honeymoon** deposit. This jubilant announcement came shortly after the public release of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on April 9th.

To make the occasion even more exciting, the uranium isn't going to be extracted using the conventional open-cut or underground mining methods; instead we will be using the United States' latest technological export - solution mining. Solution mining, or leaching as it is sometimes aptly referred to, is a process where chemicals are pumped into the ore body and later drawn up containing dissolved uranium.

There are, however, a few problems with this process (but nothing that can't be overcome by silence).

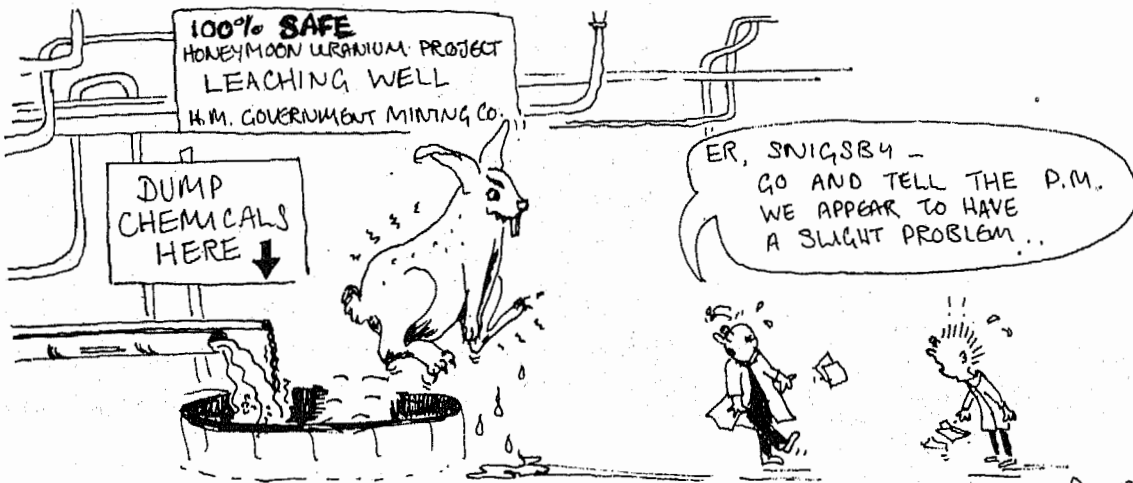
Problem One: Separating the uranium and then drying and packaging it.

This process produces airborne radioactive material which is costly to control. To overcome these inhibitive costs in the United States, this last stage has been centralized and a bulk station deals with the products from ten to twenty solution mining plants. However we needn't worry about the mining companies involved not taking sufficient precautions; they are not just in the business for profits are they?

Problem Two: Disposal of waste products

Another problem occurs when the waste products are to be disposed of. They plan to dump waste products into two disposal wells, one for low toxic materials and another for liquid waste materials. Because of the relatively harmless by-products they'll be throwing into the first well, including caustic soda and ammonium diuranate it won't be monitored as they don't envisage it doing too much damage. The second well for highly toxic materials such as sulphuric acid and radium, they aren't quite sure about. For the moment they plan on pumping it straight into the well and monitoring it. If the readings become too high it will be recovered, neutralized with lime (I didn't know lime neutralized radium) and pumped back in. But as they're not quite sure what to expect they have left their options open, as stated in the EIS (p. 41).

STATE



'Development of the liquid wastes disposal system and the accompanying monitoring system ... will be based upon performance of the initial disposal system.'

I hope their initial disposal system is more successful at not contaminating the ground water than it seems their initial tests at the mining site have been.

There has been an unconfirmed report that a bore on the property on which the mining title is held was shut down because its water was 'radioactively contaminated'. When this report was investigated the bore in question had had its pump dis-

connected and no samples could be taken, and 'rumours' about contamination were denied.

But we must expect things like this to occur, just as we must accept our National Parks being mined (e.g. Kakadu), Aboriginal lands being taken away, our rivers being contaminated (the Australian Atomic Energy Commission has measured the concentration of uranium increasing one hundred fold in stagnant waters in the Alligator River region), our water supply being radioactively contaminated, and fewer civil liberties (government ministers have dictatorial powers if there is a nuclear

accident).

But we can't let anything stand in the way of our own exploitation.

The benefits we are going to get from Honeymoon must obviously outweigh the costs, otherwise the government wouldn't have helped them so much. The Federal government relaxed its policy on 75% Australian ownership of uranium mining projects and allowed Honeymoon to go ahead with only 63% Australian equity. Mr Fraser has also been very generous in the tax concessions it allows for mining companies while our State government helps to provide geological and technical assis-

tance.

The government has a lot of confidence in the uranium industry. Early last year a Select Committee was established to look into developments in the Uranium industry since the Ranger Inquiry, and the safety of workers involved in the mining, milling, transport, further treatment and storage of uranium in SA. Obviously the government must feel these questions are irrelevant as it's willing to commence uranium mining projects without waiting for the findings of this Committee.

The uranium mining companies must have a lot of confidence in the government. Before a mining project can be started there must be an environmental impact study. The companies had enough confidence in the outcome of the Honeymoon EIS that they were willing to invest over half a million dollars into their project before the release of the EIS.

It's nice to know that we have got such a reliable government; it's a pity they're not as responsive to public opinion as they are to corporate needs.

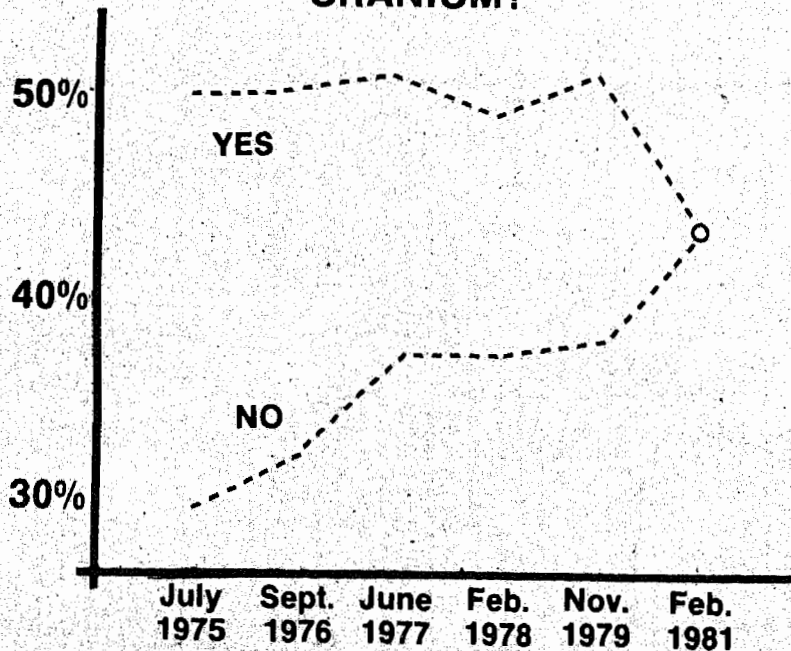
The figure shows the progressive results of Gallup Polls, with the latest one, in February 1981, showing that 43% of the people interviewed believe it is wrong for the government to encourage sale of Australian uranium, 43% believe it's right, and 14% don't know. I'm sure that most of these people made their decisions in ignorance, not knowing the full implications of uranium mining. The uranium producers don't just want our uranium, they want to make a lasting commitment to our society; that is, not including deformities and radioactive waste. As Mr Grey from Pancontinental Mining Ltd said, their greatest challenge

"will lie not so much in the market place or in the field of technology required for exploration and production, but in the socio-political arena ... It [is] imperative that some basic changes be made to the relationship of the mining industry to the political and social structure of Australian society."

Well I'm glad they're on our side. If they weren't I might have something to worry about. You can rest tight now, knowing that Australia's future is no longer riding on the sheep's back, but is riding on top of a hole (though the ride may be higher we've got further to fall).

Alan Rushbrook

SHOULD GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGE THE SALE OF URANIUM?



N.B. The preceding question in the 1981 Gallup Poll quoted above may have encouraged a "No" answer.

WHY NUCLEAR ENERGY

MANY GROUPS ARGUE that nuclear energy is being implemented throughout the world solely due to its economic advantages. While it is true that nuclear energy is to many countries the cheapest way to generate electricity, it is also the safest economically viable source of electricity generation available in the world today. This is the other reason why there are 230 reactors in operation and another 232 under construction today. The safety of nuclear energy is well documented but those who wish an end to the industry, brush this off as "vested interests" looking after themselves.

The supporters of nuclear energy are labelled by CANE and similar groups, as having a vested interest in nuclear energy. While this is true in many of the multinational companies involved in uranium development, and one would be a fool to deny it, this cannot be said of all the proponents of nuclear energy. However such vested interest is not unique, as I am sure the leaders of the — "anti-groups" are aware. The enormous propaganda campaign that is being waged against the nuclear power industry is not a cheap one and the money must come from somewhere. Even the Australian effort, which is not up to the standard (or cost) of the international campaign, is an expensive venture. Where does this money come from? Uranium poses a threat to the oil industry. Of the electricity produced in Japan, 43% is oil-fired and 20% of that produced within the OECD countries is still oil-fired. The oil conglomerates have a lot to lose with the loss of this enormous consumer of the rapidly depleting oil reserves (each 1000MW station consumes 30,000 barrels of oil per day). In fact some oil multinationals and other organisations involved in the oil industry are sponsoring campaigns against the uranium industry. The Ford Foundation acknowledges supporting anti-nuclear groups to the tune of 5.8 million dollars. When this is combined with the political point scoring to be achieved from this issue when used in an irresponsible and emotive way, it leads to vast sums of money being poured into the campaigns against nuclear energy from these vested interests.

Nuclear energy is not 100% safe; no energy source is or ever will be. The very nature of the technology prevents this, and any calls to this effect are ridiculous and bring discredit on the group asking the impossible. The only rational way to approach the energy debate and to decide whether an energy source is safe or not is to compare it with the alternatives and weigh up the comparative risks. Unfortunately, the anti-nuclear and other "vested interests" groups do not approach the debate rationally.

If we look at the mining side of electricity production and consider the relative dangers of coal and nuclear fuels, the following figures emerge.¹ Per billion MWhrs of electric power,

Fatal Accidents:	
Coal	189 Lives
Nuclear	2 Lives

Days of disability;
Coal 1545 Days
Nuclear 157 Days
and compare²

1000 deaths by black lung amongst coal miners with 20 deaths by excess lung cancer amongst uranium figures;

these figures show that there is no support for the idea that, per MWhr of electricity produced, uranium mining is more dangerous than coal mining. In fact they show quite the opposite.

In the actual running of a power plant, many critics of nuclear energy maintain that it

is here that the dangers exist.

However, this is not the case. Various enquiries³ have estimated that the excess deaths due to a 1000MW power plant are between 20 and 150. This is due to the pollution emitted from these stations such as Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide, both of which are related to cancer and respiratory problems. Those reports which consider the possibilities of accidents estimate that less than one death per year will occur for an equivalent sized nuclear power station. Admittedly, the deaths due to the operation of a

nuclear plant are difficult to calculate precisely (due to the lack of accidents that have led to fatalities) but when countering the 1975 Reactor Safety Study Report⁴, even the anti-nuclear "Union of Concerned Scientists" only estimated a value of 2.4 deaths per reactor-year, using their own predictions for catastrophic reactor accidents.⁵ (These figures are not surprising when one considers that in December 1952 the unusual air pollution in London resulted in 3,900 excess deaths and that nuclear energy is an extremely clean form of electricity generation that emits few pollutants.)

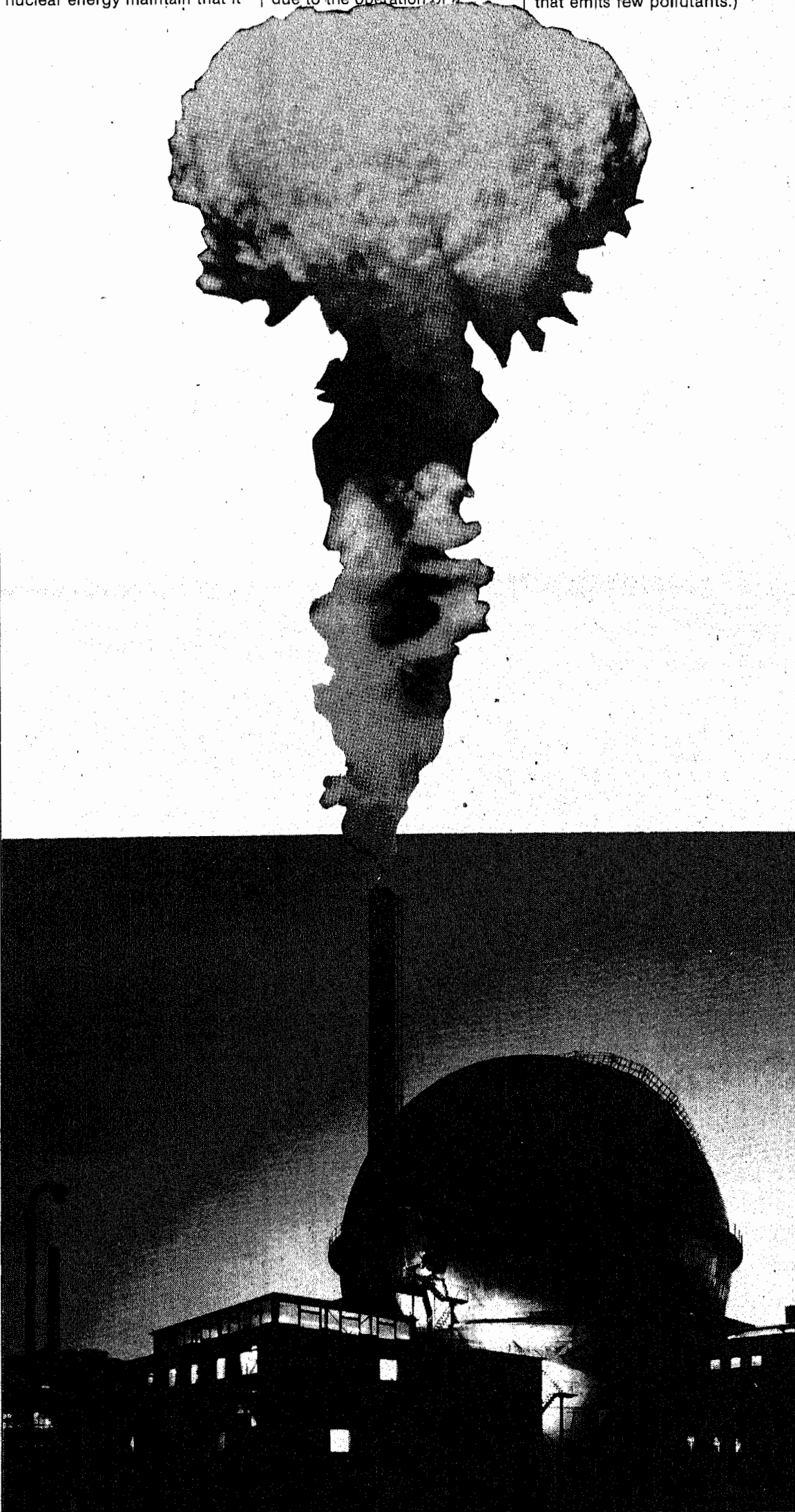
Finally, we come to the waste problem. It is here that there is some controversy, and where the opponents of nuclear energy use their emotive arguments and display their lack of understanding on the issue. We often hear that plutonium is the most toxic substance known to man. This is, of course, totally untrue; it is in fact ten times less toxic than lead-arsenate and thousands of times less toxic than some biological poisons such as Botulism toxin. The storage of nuclear wastes presents large but not unsolvable problems. We often hear that the half-life of some of the fission daughters is millions of years. This is true, but the longer the half-life the lower is the intensity of the radiation from an equivalent amount of radioactive material. In fact, within six hundred years the emitted radiation from the waste is actually less than that from the original uranium fuel.

The total waste produced annually by a 1000MW reactor is about two cubic metres⁶ and the small quantity makes it practical and economical to use highly sophisticated disposal methods. The method most favoured in the U.S. is the deep underground burial of stainless steel canisters containing the wastes incorporated into a borosilicate glass. These will in turn be buried in geologically stable salt formations at depths in excess of 600 metres. At this depth they are effectively sealed off from man's environment unlike the original uranium deposits which were within a few metres from the surface.

Nuclear Power is far safer than coal or oil-fired plants of similar capacity when all aspects of the power cycle are considered. Other alternatives such as Solar Biomass or Geothermal, while not viable for the supply of industrial base load electricity, are suitable for isolated and low grade uses and should be utilized whenever possible. Energy promises to be one of the most important issues of the future and all supplies must be researched as possible contributors to the world's energy budget.

Adelaide Uni. Pro-Nuclear Association

1. L.B. LAVE, L.L. FREEBURG. "Health Effects of Electricity Generation from Coal, Oil and Nuclear Fuel."
2. "Energy Conference June 1974" CENTRE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & THOUGHT COLORADO.
3. "Council on Environmental Quality. Report of the Nuclear Policy Study Group." U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION. COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.
4. U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION. "Reactor Safety Study - An Assessment of Accident Risks in U.S. Commercial Nuclear Power Plants."
5. "The Risks of Nuclear Power Reactors - A Review of the NCR Reactor Safety Study", UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS.
6. "The Disposal of Radioactive Wastes from Fission Reactors" - BERNARD L. COHEN.



Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor at Windscale. Photograph courtesy of United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

Sounding off

If you've recently been doing the rounds of the hi-fi shops in the hope of assembling a system and are somewhat bewildered by the seemingly endless array of products struggling for your attention, don't despair. Believe it or not there are hi-fi products which represent exceptional value for money in terms of the sound quality they offer per dollars. Not only are these products well priced but they actually sound superior to most of their competitors regardless of cost.

ANYONE ASSEMBLING a system on a budget or who is not prepared to spend \$4,000 but still wants accurate disc reproduction, owes it to him/herself to consider the NAD 3020 integrated amplifier. Don't let the 20 watt power rating fool you, this amp. is one of the all-time great amplifiers, and possibly one of the best available today, and is capable of driving most loud speakers to sufficient volume levels. It sounds many times more powerful and expensive than it's appearance would suggest. The best part of this little integrated amp. is its pre-amp. stage, which can be used separately from the power amp. and is better than most of the

pre-amps on the market. This means if you want to upgrade all you have to do is add a good quality power amp. of higher power. For the price of the NAD one could almost say that you are getting a ridiculously cheap (\$239.00) top quality pre-amp. with a 20 watt power-amp. thrown in for free.

A top quality budget system which will sound more like music than most \$2,000.00 plus systems, would consist of a JH turntable fitted with their own Audiolab tone arm (\$279.00) which really is the only high performance turntable to consider unless you've got over a thousand dollars to spend on one of the top

English belt drive heavy-weights. Speakers tend to be pretty much of a choice made on personal preference, but the most accurate mid-priced speaker would have to be the BBC design-based Rogers LS3/5A studio monitor (\$660.00). Other speakers which I feel are worthwhile checking out are the Lin Kans (\$660.00), or Mission 700 (\$498.00). There are a couple of cartridge choices depending upon your budget; the Grado F3E+ (\$49.50) or the Garrott P77 (\$100.00). Any other cartridges are really not worthwhile considering because they cost more and don't sound any better. In fact most of them in the \$50-\$100 price bracket sound worse. If you're going to spend over \$100 on a cartridge

it is really only worthwhile if you are contemplating a moving coil cartridge.

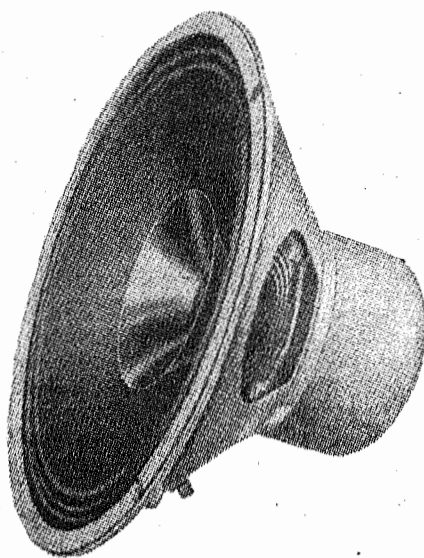
A system comprising three components is ideal for potential upgrading because all the items are good quality and little needs to be changed over or sold off at a loss. All you have to do is add one or two sub-woofers for the lowest frequencies and a Haflen power amp. and you're approaching a state of the art sound quality for minimal outlay.

The Hafler power amp. is a product very similar to the NAD insofar as it offers performance far in excess of what its cost would indicate. It is generally considered to be one of the best power amplifiers available, regardless of cost, which is not bad considering that many of

its competitors sell for up to four times the price of the Hafler (\$875.00). David Hafler has gone on record as saying that it's not his amps that are cheap, it's just that the other amps are too expensive. Much the same could be said of the other products mentioned, because in the light of performance per dollar, most other manufacturers must have a hard time justifying their high prices.

If the prices mentioned still scare you into thinking about buying an el cheapo rack system as an alternative, don't!!! You can still have good sound if you're prepared to use your hands. The JH turntable is available as a kit and speakers of similar performance to those mentioned can be built from commercially available drivers, and plans are readily available. The Hafler power amp. is also available as a kit at a saving of \$100.00 over the assembled price. I've approached dealers who sell the gear mentioned in this article and they are prepared to negotiate a price for university students upon presentation of a student card. If any dealer rubbishes any of the gear described, I would seriously doubt his credibility and honesty and I would also be suspicious of any alternatives he tried to sell me. Through my involvement in the hi-fi trade I know the difference between what is good and which is more profitable, so beware.

Peter Limmin



Holden on with Gemini

TE Holden Gemini SL

INFLATION HAS REALLY caught up with us when it costs nearly \$7000 to put a 1600cc car on the road.

Add to the Gemini SL's \$6326 purchase price \$137 for rego., \$196 for stamp duty and \$500 for comprehensive insurance and you have a total on-road cost of just over \$7000, which is quite a bit of money.

Is the Gemini worth it?

If you're determined to buy a small four cylinder car to get you around, the conclusion is a qualified yes; qualified because although the Gemini is a reasonable car, better than at least a couple of its competitors, it's not as good as it could be, or as good as most of the new generation of Jap. front wheel drives.

As a simple town car the Gemini performs admirably, but its refinement and package efficiency are definitely inferior to the newer breed. In choosing between the Gemini and Laser/323; Civic or Colt, an average buyer is going to be struck by the Gemini's poor rear seat leg-room as well as the lack of drive-train refinement; possibly they may notice the fairly lethargic performance. Equally they may well be struck by a slight price advantage in Gemini's favour, but then again they may not. The 1.5 litre five door GL Laser is priced at around \$6300, which must be worrying GMH and their sales teams. The other fwd's give away at least \$500 to Gemini, but when we're talking about a total price of around \$7000, \$500 isn't the compelling argument it once might have been.

So how well does the Gemini do its job?

On the road

Around town the Gemini is a breeze with its light controls and good visibility. The turning circle is good, and the taut suspension responds well to lane-changes and the dodging and weaving sometimes involved in city traffic. Unhappily, the car is still fitted with a hard feel steering wheel; this may be changed soon. Power is something the car doesn't have too much of. Around town it's sufficient to keep up with the traffic, but you may as well not enter the traffic light grand prix.

At around fifteen seconds from a standing start to 100 kmh, the Gemini is slower than it need be.

The General should coax a few more horses from the 1584cc OHC engine, or more helpfully, a little more torque at low revs. Somewhat oddly, the pedals are set quite closely together. Although the brake/accelerator relationship is good, I occasionally found the edge of my right size nine grazing the clutch pedal. As well, the steering column is angled toward the centre of the car, which looks odd but in practice is unnoticeable. Washers and wipers are operated by a convenient stalk and minor controls are well placed.

The indicator/flash high beam control gives forth that oh-so-typical Japanese clunk when signalling; at least the brake pedal doesn't follow suit with the usual Japanese click.

While in the lower three gears spoils what is otherwise an excellent gearbox; the lever is light and throws are reasonably short.

Some driveline snatch is evident on the first/second change.



Zooming around in the Gemini.

One thing the Gemini does very well is hang on; road holding is of a high standard. Handling is well balanced if the car is set up for corners; otherwise understeer predominates. Not the tyre scrubbing Holden understeer of yore, just a gentle widening of the line as you press on. Unfortunately, there's not nearly enough power to get the tail out through faster corners, so adjustments to line have to be made by backing off. Steering is informative at straight ahead and on lock. Overall, excellent dynamics that would see many a 'sports' car in your dust. A little less reassuring were the brakes, which faded quite severely over our test route. Although the car was stable under brakes, sudden hard applications would induce traces of lock-up from different wheels. Used normally the brakes are progressive and bite satisfactorily.

On rough dirt, the car hopped about a fair bit, with corrugations giving rise to wheel tramp. On smooth dirt the car was very pleasant, with oversteer easily controlled.

Fuel consumption on test, which included some hard driving, was a creditable 9.8 litres per 100km, or around 26

miles per gallon. Driven carefully, the Gemini should be easily capable of around 28-30 mpg.

Crusing at 110 kmh, the car is reasonably relaxed, but takes forever to accelerate. Punching past slower moving traffic was sometimes a problem.

Top speed is around 155 kmh.

The seats are reasonable, but would be improved by cloth facings, a feature only offered on the SLE.

Ventilation as usual was inadequate for hot days and lowering the windows was made harder by incredibly small winders; surely GM could pick out another handle from its parts bin.

All up, the car is appealing despite some failings. It doesn't have the poor handling characteristics of the older Japanese offerings. In fact handling is excellent, a fact which tends to underline the lack of grunt.

Matched up against the rwd contestants in our marketplace, Gemini offers good value. It's a pity that GM hasn't sourced a fwd small car (the 'J' car is bigger) from either Europe or Japan, a decision it may well live to regret with the introduction of the Laser.

Watch for the Laser test next week.

Thanks to Peter Ross and City Holden for the test car. Geoff Hanmer

FACT BOX

The Holden Gemini SL

Engine Four cylinder in line with cast iron block and integral crankcase. Five main bearings. Aluminium head with chain driven OHC. Single twin choke carburettor. Engine mounted north-south driving four speed transmission through a single plate diaphragm clutch. Salisbury-type axle.

Suspension

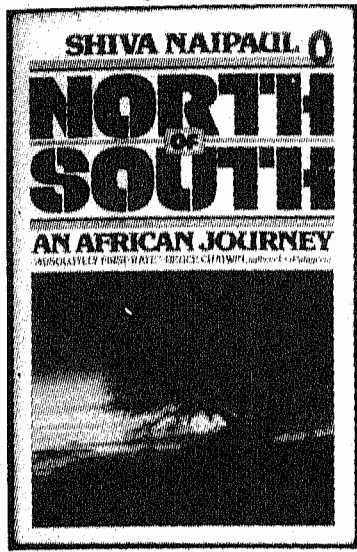
Front: Unequal length wishbones with anti-roll bar and progressive role coils. Anti dive.

Rear: Live axle with torque tube trailing links panhard rod and anti-roll bar. YR78 S13 tyres. Rack and pinion steering with track rods from end of rack.

Brakes Disc/drum power assisted.

Petrol tank 52 litres (cruising range approx 600 kms).

Critical Diary?



North of South
Shiva Naipaul
Penguin

Shiva Naipaul appears to have gone through Africa only too ready to criticise its people and their practices. *North of South* is not so much an account of the continent or the nations he visited, but a travel diary tending to dwell on the individuals he met rather than the politics, general population of socio-economic conditions. These are of course mentioned but never in much detail.

As he travelled through Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia, Naipaul wrote of his travel and the people he met in a somewhat pedantic

style. The book is neither imaginative, amusing nor particularly informative. Indeed were it not for *Arabia Through The Looking Glass*, I would not believe that such a type of book (that is neither wholly documentary nor totally based on personal encounters) could be a pleasure to read.

Naipaul seems to have succeeded in meeting the most banal of people and although his knowledge of the countries involved may have been great, he did not seem very interested in conveying much of it to his readers. Seemingly desperate for material, he has added unnecessary details - I don't particularly have any great desire to know how some woman exposed "The pale tops of her breasts" when I'm supposed to be reading about Africa - while omitting information which could have given the book some purpose.

North of South lacks any sensitivity to the problems faced by the people in those particular countries. It affords insufficient information about them and is, in short, restricted by Mr Naipaul's sureness of his superiority over both their black and white inhabitants. As far as I am concerned, it is not worth reading for the stories about Naipaul's encounters with the 'locals'; neither is it worth reading to find out anything of Kenya, Tanzania or Zambia - because more information would surely be found in an encyclopedia. My advice - find another book to read.

Anne Pye

REVUE TYRANNIQUE —naked, bold and harsh

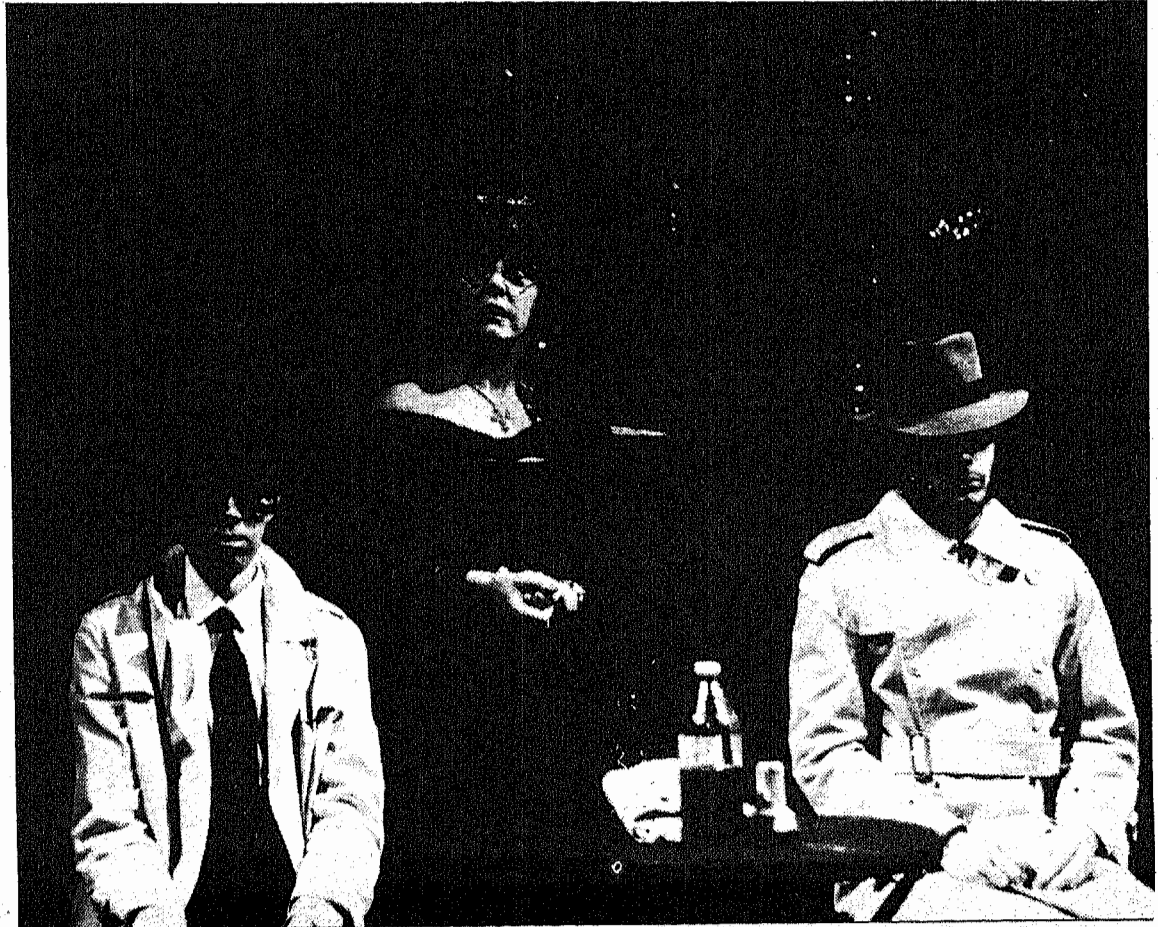
WHILE MOST OF you have spent your holidays in relative comfort, in pursuit of relaxation and intellectual renewal, some of us (about seventy) have been banging bits of foam rubber on to wood, tucking strange seams, painting muck on to our faces, playing pianos, designing posters, forgetting lines and falling over props ... you guest it, 'Another opening of another Show'. This time it's *Revue Tyrannique*. Pinter, Miller, John Lennon, Sylvia

Plath. All these and more will be making appearances by proxy to tell us something about oppression - in ways you may never have thought possible.

Research for the show was carried on during the holidays by about ten people under the supervision of Sue Elliot, contacting such organizations as Amnesty International and Greenpeace. Publicity, lighting, sound, make-up, costumes, etc. have all been handled by

students, assisted by members of staff - Jim Vile, David Roberts and Sue Elliot.

It's all singing, all dancing, all acting, colourful, musical, shouldn't-be-missed, and (dare I say it) it has a message. This, of course, will only be revealed to those who deign to come along and see the show. It's in the Little Theatre, 8.00 p.m. Wed. 17 - Sat. 20 and only \$1.50 to students (\$3.00 Employed).



Revue Tyrannique
Little Theatre

It is, at present, popular for the theatre to perform material which nakedly expresses bold and often harsh themes. The aim of such theatre is to shock the audience and thus encourage action. *Revue Tyrannique* follows in this tradition. The skits succinctly express the tyrannical side of mankind and the injury it causes.

We are shown the stupidity of racism; faced with the question of "who and what is insane?"; shown the horrors of torture; the cruelty of children; the oppression of a woman bound to the home; of an overprotected child; of a family man who is unable to support his family; and a cripple who feels isolated from her friends. Many of the tyrants are ordinary, "respectable" people and thus the plight of the oppressed is more hopeless. The sketches are aimed at gaining audience sympathy, and scorn apathy and passivity.

However, despite being presented

with physical and mental violence, intense oppression and harsh injustice, I was rarely made to squirm in my seat. This was not due to lack of energy, though perhaps more poignancy is needed. I responded with most sympathy to one of the simplest scenes where a girl quietly tells of how she was tortured. Her past suffering seemed so real and we learnt a great deal about her character in a short space of time.

I also liked the cabaret dancers immensely. They provided lighter interludes between the more vehement sketches and by their constant appearance, added unity to the whole production. The deep, infected sores and bruises they have on their bodies reminds us that often gaiety and friendliness are a veil through which mankind can hide from the existence of physical and mental torture of violence and oppression.

The sketches vary from the music hall style of these cabaret dancers through to absurd theatre, intense

drama, and the sardonic. They are cleverly strung together so as to contrast and exemplify each other. However, we meet so many characters, so quickly, that much of the show remains in my mind as merely a blur of colour and action. Perhaps a few seconds' pause between the skits would allow each message to sink in. Such brief pauses, in the early sketches, would also make it clear that the plots of each scene are unconnected; a fact which I did not realize at first.

The unobtrusive and simple set is most effective; the costumes extremely apt. The play is carefully directed so that no one seated on any of the three-sides of the stage has the sensation of "looking at backs".

The Adelaide Uni. Drama Students' production for 1981 is challenging and well worth seeing. It plays in the Little Theatre next Wednesday to Saturday.

Sharon Holmes

Vital Experience

It Bleeds, It Sleeps.
Fools' Gallery
Unley - May/June

Fools' Gallery is a professional theatre collective which was set up in Canberra in March 1979. The company's aim is "to create relevant social theatre", through researching and creating their own dramas. The result of this process is the four part theatre event *Images From the Background*, from which Adelaide has seen the first two pieces, *Standard Operating Procedure* and *It Bleeds, It Sleeps*. The first of these two, shown in the Australian Drama Festival in April, was a brutal examination of the oppression of women by different societies and cultures through the ages.

In *It Bleeds, It Sleeps*, the company picked up from *SOP* and examined in more detail the position of women as seen by society, which has perpetuated various myths and upheld the traditional opinion about family relationships and romantic love. Fools' Gallery expresses a savage view of such myths and fairy tales, which are shown up as restrictions and stereotypes enforced on people.

Such myths create the "curse of women's existence which the company is rebelling against. It is also significant that, in the same way they create a "curse" for the men, who are also trapped into stereotyped roles, such as the heroic prince; although they do have a right of choice and a phallus, of which women have neither.

The examination of these stereotypes would not be as dramatically powerful but for a superb comprehension of modern family life. They

are able to incorporate incredibly accurate representations of domestic tiffs and quirks into the dialogue, while continually transposing the fairytale characters into modern times.

It Bleeds, It Sleeps is, in parts, a very funny play. Its comedy makes us laugh, but also makes us aware of what we are laughing about.

For me, the most exciting thing theatrically about this company is its stunning creation of imagery, both visual and vocal. In this field, the physical and vocal power of Jo Fleming was very impressive in both productions. It is unfair, perhaps, to single out individuals as the ensemble work of this company is magnificent. The company members have a very close interaction of philosophy and action, with the resultant power of the ensemble work being exemplary to all theatre groups. This power is reflected in the set, which is a dramatic event in itself, with its visual images of women's status, such as Snow White's perspex coffin and the cracked mirrors.

Having seen the two excellent productions, *Standard Operating Procedure* and *It Bleeds, It Sleeps*, I am anxiously awaiting the return of the company with the final two "Images", *Original Sin* and *Be-ing*, as these are sure to be powerful theatrical events. The theatre of Fools' Gallery is exciting and vital. *It Bleeds, It Sleeps* is not a comfortable night at the theatre; it is a dramatic expression of the crises that might be encountered in one's own life. It is theatre to be experienced, not theatre to be "seen".

Collin Mann

Round the bend by The End

The End
Compiled by Richard Stanley
Puffin Books, 1980
\$2.50

Here's the chance that you have been waiting for to wreak havoc on the lecturer of your choice. Simply wait until your intended victim is safely in his/her own office, then with an accomplice, stand outside the door and read any passage selected at random from this book; it will literally be 'the end' of your victim. Note that it is important for you and your accomplice to wear the appropriate safety apparatus, earplugs, bad joke repellants, etc.

Seriously though, this book, with its special foreword by Fungus the Bogeyman, is enough to send the bad joke collector into raptures for a week or two; for instance ...

"What sort of lighting did Noah put in his Ark?
Flood lighting."

or ...

"What happens when a frog's van breaks down?
It gets toad away."

There's also a few for those people with a sadistic streak who collect really 'off' jokes ...

"What's green and turns red at the flick of a switch?
A frog in a liquidizer."

These jokes, compiled by Richard Stanley, were taken from children all over Britain, and from the rest of the world. In my opinion, Mr Stanley has done for the world of humour what Ethel Bloggs did to small red snails living at the bottom of her garden. The compilation however is a work of genius, and the book is divided into

sections so that the worst joke in any given subject can be referenced in seconds. Some topics listed in the table of contents are ... Global Groans, Shaggy Dogs, Knock Knock, Elephants You'll Never Forget; the list goes on *ad nauseum*. But, it must be admitted, the crowning glory of the book comes from the specially written foreword from Fungus who has a few bogey comments on the book from which can be gained valuable insights into the world of bogeydom.

Nevertheless, what more can be said about a book that is simply a collection of the worst jokes in the world, except that every copy should have a government health warning stuck on the bottom of the front cover.

Dennis Medlow

GOVINDA'S

VEGETARIAN FOODS

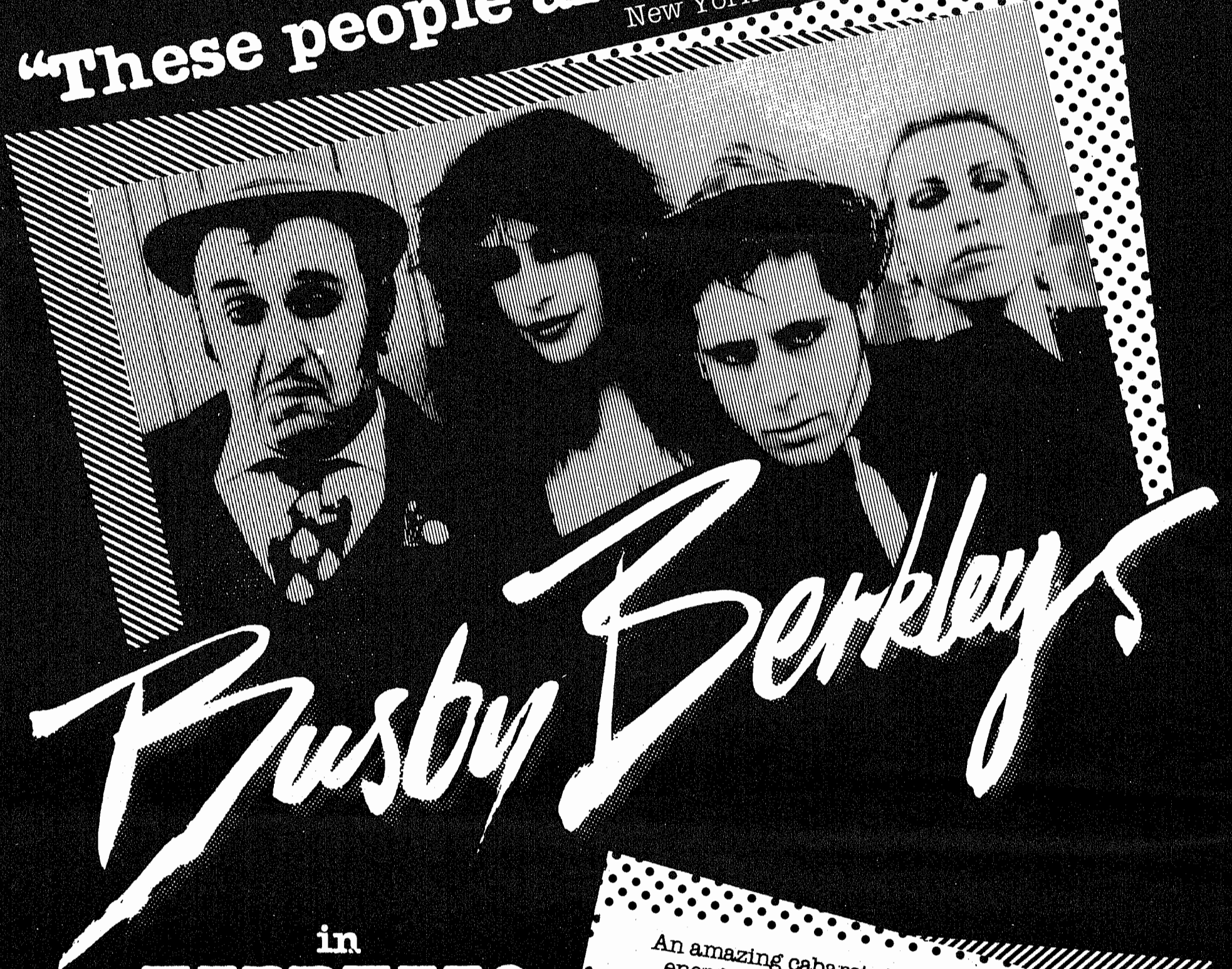
All You Can Eat for \$3.50

A Revolution in Taste
at 13 Frome St., City.

Mon.-Thurs. 11.00 am to 4.30 pm
Open from 11.00 am till 8.30 pm Friday

10% discount to students with ID card
and an appetite

"These people are weird"
New York Magazine



Rusby Berkleys

in
**EZPREZZO
BONGO**

**AT THE
SPACE
THEATRE
LICENSED
CABARET**

From Wednesday June 24
for a strictly limited
season
Monday to Saturday
8.30 pm

BAR OPENS 8 PM

Late show Saturdays
at 11.30 pm

**BOOK NOW AT ALL
BASS OUTLETS**

An amazing cabaret show packed with the
energy of the '50's, punk, new wave and
rock and roll.

This weird collection of Melbourne's most
original cabaret performers recently came
back from a barnstorming four year tour from
Berlin to the Bronx with their bizarre show.

**"Excellent' is the word . . . So good I must
see it again tomorrow"**

ABEND ZEITUNG, MUNICH

"Decadence that is great fun"

VARIETY, NEW YORK

"Absolutely crazy . . . incomparable"

TIP, BERLIN

"So cabaret, so decadent, so Berlin"

RITZ MAGAZINE, BERLIN

"A tasteless triumph"

MELBOURNE AGE

**SPECIAL PRICE FOR
STUDENTS AND
UNEMPLOYED**

Monday June 29 and Tuesday June 30

Reeling

by Nick X

THE NEW Video-Film Group will commence the first of a series of lunchtime screenings this Thursday at 1.15 p.m. in the Little Cinema. The programme will have an emphasis on alternative cinema and cover a wide range, from the silent comedy classics to American Avante-Garde.

Screenings are free to members of the Group, and with annual membership costing only \$2.00 it's certainly money well spent.

The Group is also involved in film-making with a variety of film and video equipment. For anyone interested in any facet of film or video production,

membership of the Groups is essential.

Late Night Shows

Up in Smoke, the outrageous Cheech and Chung classic will be the first film in a programme of Late Night 'Specials' this term. Screenings will take place on alternate Friday nights at 11.30 p.m. in the Little Cinema. *Up in Smoke* will be on this Friday (the 19th). Made for a mere \$1m (a pittance by US film industry standards) this saga of two 'dope heads' raked in forty times its cost, bringing a whole new meaning to the words 'gross box office takings'.

Nick X and the mysterious *Unknown Reviewer*, can be heard on Student Radio 5UV, Thursday Nights at 10.30 p.m. Tune in this week for reviews of The Final Conflict and Tellini's latest, the controversial Orchestra Rehearsal.

Cliches abound

Every Man for Himself Valhalla

Jean-Luc Godard

In retrospect, *Sauve Qui Peut* reveals itself as a clever parody but while seeing it, it appeared as a sordid and disconnected 'artistic work' with the occasional joke thrown in. Having never before experienced or had the (dubious) pleasure of viewing a Godard 'masterpiece', perhaps I am not able to appreciate the subtleties of the film; however I did not find it particularly appealing and certainly wouldn't rave about it - as some people have been known to do about Godard. Maybe it's simply an acquired taste?

The story revolves around a divorced man (Jacques Dutronc), his ex-mistress (Nathalie Baye) and a whore (Isabelle Huppert). Their lives casually interact, meet and then separate. *Sauve Qui Peut* studies the breakdown of the relationship between Dutronc and Baye, while allowing insights into Huppert's clientele/practices etc. ... It tends to rely heavily on extraneous thoughts and looks at life and people rather than following a series of events.

Cliche situations abound - Mr Person and the prostitute, the all-

powerful pimp demanding his share of the profits, the wife asking for alimony ... These deliberate moments emphasize the peculiar twists that bring interest and humour to the film. Such momentary glimpses of life that shock, surprise and amuse - the porter who shouts "But I love you, let me ream you; the whole navy reamed me", the farmgirl who demonstrates how the cows "sometimes give you a rough lick". Unfortunately at the time of viewing, these amusing details were forgotten in the general aura of violence and unpleasant behaviour. Perhaps Godard was simply trying to convey a feeling of bitter disillusionment with the world ...

If you like to think about films and examine them in detail in order to grasp the concept used as a basis for direction, then *Sauve Qui Peut* is excellent. It is not a pleasure to view, it is not visually appealing, and it is not immediately entertaining, but it does reveal far more than one would expect; a well planned plot and insights into Godard's reasons for making such a 'piece'. On the other hand, should one really have to struggle to be entertained?

Anne Pye

Sliding into obscurity

Breaking Glass Forum

Hazel O'Connor

Breaking Glass may be a great showpiece for Hazel O'Connor's undoubtable talent but it is by no means a film that has anything outrageously new to say. In fact, the plot is so old and has been done so many times that it completely undermines any pretensions of originality.

The film begins with Kate (Hazel O'Connor) performing in various 'dives' about London until she is rescued by Danny (Philip Daniels). Danny decides that he is to be Kate's manager and proceeds to obtain some decent gigs (after some struggle of course) and eventually a record contract - by bribery. Does it sound familiar now? Well, listen to the rest ... Inevitably a new producer (Jon Finch) arrives and disrupts Kate's (now close) relationship with Danny while smoothing the raw sound produced by the band. Thus the story goes with the rough-edged kid off the streets undergoing a transition into the jaded superstar.

The ideas behind the music were good. Unfortunately the final style of delivery is more palatable (as well as understandable) than the original sound; thus somewhat weakening the concept of the production (wanted by the record

company) as a debasement of sound/style/whatever.

The whole presentation, i.e. hair, clothes, etc. may have been an eye-opener when *Breaking Glass* was originally released but through the film being withheld from screening (certainly in Adelaide) for such a long time, it appears simply as what can be expected from a New Wave musician on a post-punk scene. Hence *Breaking Glass* has lost its one asset as a movie (surprise) and has become simply a vehicle for some excellent songs about the result (or causes) of the depression in England. Although such 'protest' songs are hardly new, they are well used as a foil to the neo-nazism and other ills besieging the UK in the present recession.

The observations both about record companies and the 'pop world', and the situation in Britain, are not inaccurate. Nevertheless *Breaking Glass* will never be a 'great' film and possibly in years to come, if remembered at all, it will only be because it was Hazel O'Connor's first starring role. Unless people are sufficiently interested in the seamy side of England, it is unlikely that *Breaking Glass* will not slide back into the obscurity from where it came and leave behind little more than an image of blonde frizzled hair and heavily made up eyes ...

Anne Pye



BERKLEY'S BACK

Whenever Australian artists go overseas with an aim to being successful, it seems not only must they play the local competition at their own game, but also that they must soundly beat them. Going by the press clippings, this is exactly what the *Busby Berkleys* have done in Europe and America.

The *Berkleys* originally hailed from Melbourne in the '70's playing regularly at the *Last Laugh* theatre restaurant in Collingwood. A cult grew up around their amazing brand of biting '30's musical parody which by reputation would have brought out the coward in Noel Coward.

The four *Berkleys* travelled to Europe in 1977 to play in Amsterdam's *Festival of Fools* and hopefully to pick up six months'

work. Four years later they had become one of the more successful cabaret acts in Europe and in New York with their fast delivery show full of madness, music, parody and laughs.

People who have already seen *The Berkleys* should see them again. As a result of two and a half months writing in Italy they have an entirely new act which satirises all the music of the past thirty years from the '50's glitter to punk. Called *Ezprezzo Bongo*, the show is still basically cabaret. It could be described as theatre of the blind. The set consists of three venetian blinds behind the band (any resemblance to the latest Roxy Music show is purely coincidental) which are rattled, "played", hacked up, jumped through and left in tatters

at the end of the show.

In front of these, the band performs and jibe at lightning speed. Apparently, the pace is double that of *Flying High* and none of the jokes fail. Even the more jaded elements of the press and promotions fields are left struck dumb by their antics. *Gay News* in New York simply described them as weird.

Busby Berkleys will be in Adelaide from June 24 at The Space. They sound like they will definitely be worth a look. Book now or you may miss out. As for us, we'll be moving mountains to get an interview with *The Berkleys*. I mean, after four years in the dives in two continents, they've got to have something to say. James Williamson

Erase the Titanic

Raise the Titanic Hoyts Mid City

Raise the Titanic, loosely adapted from Clive Cussler's successful novel, is a fairly routine, but very expensive, adventure story that succeeds only in wasting the talents of an above average cast headed by Jason Robards, Richard Jordan, Alex Guinness, David Selby and Anne Archer. It's the latest effort from that noteworthy paragon of the arts and one-time World Charleston champion, Lord Grade, a movie magnate not widely renowned for the intrinsic dramatic quality of his productions. Reports of the budget range between twenty million and thirty million dollars, but it would probably be fairly safe to bet that most of it was spent on the scale model of the *Titanic* and the underwater special effects, which are excellent.

The plot, such as there is, is quite straightforward. Once again the U.S. authorities are racing against the villainous Russians - complete with stock Hollywood Russian accents - to find yet another mineral substance that will render all nuclear hardware obsolete. But here's the twist; the only known

quantity of this substance - Byzantium - was supposedly loaded on board the *Titanic* after pitched gunbattles with Czarist agents, seventy years ago. If you can believe the story up to this point, the rest won't be too difficult to digest.

A senior American admiral, woodenly played by two-time Academy Award winner Jason Robards, dispatches a salvage team under the command of an incredibly obnoxious hero, Dirk Pitt (the usually selective Richard Jordan) to locate and raise the *Titanic* from its watery grave.

In the tradition of countless other B-adventure sagas, our rugged man-of-action hero clashes with a brilliantly crusading scientist, fairly well played by David Selby. It also transpires, to almost nobody's surprise, that the scientist's intrepid reporter girlfriend (Anne Archer) used to be our bearded hero's live-in lover, adding another bone of contention between the two men.

After some terrific underwater sequences (probably the best thing in this film) in which the hero predictably saves the scientist's life, the *Titanic* is eventually raised and we are given what the director must

have rather optimistically considered to be an unexpected shock; the sealed boxes on board the *Titanic* contain nothing but gravel. Our devilishly clever hero, however, soon deduces where the missing Byzantium must be hidden. But he leaves it to the idealistic scientist, now (i.e. following the script of God knows how many old adventure/Sci-fi movies) his bosom pal, to decide whether the government should be told of the whereabouts of this potentially lethal weapon. No prizes for guessing the rest.

Apart from Selby, only the wonderful Alex Guinness (restricted, unfortunately, to one very brief scene) gets even close to creating a character of more than comic book proportions. But the rest of the main cast, bad judgement aside, can scarcely be blamed for failing to bring any depth to a cliché ridden script, and the real star is Grade's model of the *Titanic*. If not for a large budget that permitted such a lavish scale of production, *Raise the Titanic* would be almost indistinguishable from most of the minor adventure films of the 1950's and 1960's.

Peter Rummel

The Doomwatch Principle

The spaceship crawled inelegantly through the galaxy. Corruption had set in. The tell-tale marks of putrefaction had ruined its once graceful beauty and its previous speed, power and efficiency had decayed into clumsiness and dangerous inefficiency because of the incurable malignant cancer that festered within.

It was a massive craft, possessing its own private, carefully balanced ecosystem: vast areas of photosynthetic material which produced most of the ship's oxygen; complicated and carefully controlled air-conditioning systems, temperature control equipment; an even more complex array of computers that took care of the thousands of unique species of flora and fauna that lived inside its gigantic vaults. It was, in fact, a colossal Ark, carrying not only plants and trees and fish and birds, but many other varied animals, and, in particular, a species known as *Homo Chrynids*.

And it was there that the problem lay: the Chrynids; the dominant species; the controllers of this splendid Ark. But, not only its controllers; they were the disease that was destroying the craft.

The Chrynids were the most abundant species on the entire ship. They infested the vaults like a disease infests a body. They were powerful, they were technologically brilliant and remarkably intelligent. Yet also, remarkably stupid and short-sighted.

Unfortunately, the Chrynids had divided themselves into factions, and each faction controlled a particular vault. Occasionally fighting broke out as one faction attempted to take control of another. Yet, although these wars were responsible for a great amount of destruction (- their weapons were immense and massively destructive) this was not the major problem, for it was only while a war was in progress that the destructive forces of these weapons were unleashed: it was the ever-growing, continuous attack of its technological progress that was the main threat to the ship's well-being.

There was only so much fuel on board; a limited amount of photosynthetic material; even more limited space in which to live. Yet, the Chrynids consumed these limited resources with gay abandon. The ship had only enough space for 200,000 Chrynids. Already there were 169,000 and they were rapidly producing, ever-growing. The more Chrynids that appeared the more photosynthetic material, animals and space was needed to support them, yet, as the species increased the more resources were consumed and the less became available.

Not only did they gradually deplete the available resources



because of this over-population, but they began tampering with the machinery that controlled the craft. They invented machines that saved them time and energy, but which slowly corroded the metal panels of the ship's walls; they destroyed vast vaults of photosynthetic material in order to create more space for the factories necessary to build them, and the houses necessary to contain the workers. Any animal that the Chrynids did not eat or use were either eradicated, or left to survive the damage the Chrynids had created by their intrusion into the environments of these animals. The Chrynids never ceased to take and consume, to destroy and mutilate, seemingly oblivious of the disastrous effects.

And so the ship crawled on, a mere parody of its former glory, slowly falling apart, slowly crumbling, until the Chrynids and all aboard finally were transported no further.

It should be obvious that the Chrynids are representative of Man, and the Spaceship is Earth. Once Man was merely a small part of the vast ecosystem of this planet, but He has now elevated himself to a position of such power, such technological advancement, that He is the controller of the planet, the guardians of this Ark.

The principles that guide Mankind's actions are usually economics and the desire for dominance, rather than benevolence or moral concern. Short term profits are more important than long term benefits. Therefore, He, like the Chrynids, is acting so thoughtlessly, so recklessly, that he is endangering His planet, rather than caring for it.

According to Sir Macfarlane Burnet, the eminent Australian scientist, there are five problems that threaten the well-being of our planet:

1. Over-population
2. Exhaustion of planetary resources

3. Pollution of the environment by radioactive and other un-biological materials.
4. The threat of major climatic change, and
5. Modern weapons of war.

No one can deny that these problems exist. No one, surely, can deny the need to solve these problems? Yet what is Mankind doing about them?

He is still acting in a way that increases the urgency of these problems and it is, perhaps, only the 'lunatic-fringe' (though, hopefully, an ever-increasing one) that attempts to deal with these drastic problems.

Even if we decide to give in and let the ever-expanding technology take its course and destroy *Homo Sapiens*, we still have a moral obligation to protect the other species on our planet. What right have we to destroy them as well?

In the 1960's Kit Pedler and Gerry Davis created *Doomwatch*, a series which explored some of the terrifying tragedies that modern science

could engender. There have been many 'Doomwatchers'; people who have realised the great potential for destruction in our present way of life, and who have tried to warn people of the threats. Yet they have continued to be largely ignored. We are still not doing enough. We are still in danger. Most of us are waiting for some kind of Godot - some amazing technological breakthrough which will save us all. Yet nothing comes. Nothing will come. The creators of our technology have raised us to a position that is virtually god-like - yet they are no longer the people who can save us. We cannot look to the scientists or technicians to save us. The responsibility lies with us all. We, all of us, are morally responsible for the actions of our society, as, simply by living in such a society, we are supporting the destructive actions of that society. None of us can singly take the blame, yet none of us can have a clear conscience. It is up to us all, every man, to change.

"We are still a long way indeed from understanding what we are doing ... but, if we take to heart the basic principles that ecologists are now discovering, we may still avoid the thoughtless acts that could rupture the web of life and devastate our world."
(David Attenborough)

"A viable and humanly tolerable world - a stable human ecosystem for the earth is conceptually, ecologically and socially possible, but it will not be reached unless men and women of vision, purpose and intelligence can devise ways of controlling, modifying and redirecting those patterns of behaviour that were consolidated in the course of human evolution, and which have brought us to the brink of chaos."
(Sir Macfarlane Burnet)

It will all take time. And it needs the effort of every human being. The only possible chance of our planet's survival is if more people join that so-called 'lunatic-fringe' and help solve the problems that promise destruction.

Soon, here at the University there will be *The Green Earth Society*. We shall be a group of concerned people who will try to help those who are struggling against the impossible odds against us. We shall be only a small addition to the fringe. Yet, the more people who become concerned with the problems of our planet (problems we are responsible for), the more people who put this concern into practice, the more chance we have of survival.

There will be an Inaugural meeting very soon: if you are interested, please come along.
The Green Earth Society



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It is a loose addition to that issue.



The mindbending international bestseller is now available in
Corgi Paperback.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON
ALTERED STATES

CONTENTS: About the movie • Introduction • Doubts about
reality • Mind without body • The tank • Psychedelics

ALTERED STATES

DAZZLING MOVIE "ALTERED STATES" PROVIDES LITERALLY STUNNING LOOK INTO THE UNKNOWN

"This one has everything: sex, violence, comedy, thrills, tenderness. It's a combination of *FRANKENSTEIN*, 2001, *ALIEN*, *LOVE STORY*. It opens at fever pitch and then starts soaring — into fantasy, into a dream of delirium and delight. Madness is its subject and substance, style and spirit. It moves with the loping energy of a crafty psychopath and with Ken Russell, its director's intention of blowing the moviegoer's mind out through his eyes and ears. Ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to *ALTERED STATES*"...

Richard Corliss, *Time Magazine*.

One of the most powerful, suspenseful and horrifying movies of recent years opens Australiawide in July. Directed by one of the movie world's most fascinating directors and written by Paddy Chayefsky (who also wrote *NETWORK*), the film has won rave reviews from US critics. Its impact at the American box-office has been enormous.

The idea of the film is literally mindbending. A brilliant young scientist, Eddie Jessup, begins experimenting with altered states of consciousness. What is consciousness? On one level it is the rational waking state of mind which enables us to function in our daily lives. But what altered states of consciousness exist? Dreams? Hallucinations? The perceptions of the madman? Are there other states of consciousness contained perhaps in the two-thirds of the human brain for which science has to date found no purpose? What is memory? Why and how do we summon glimpses of the past from the billions of stored memories inside our heads?

Jessup tries to find answers to these questions by going inside his brain, using a hallucinogenic mushroom drug which he takes while immersed in an isolation tank — a tank containing a water/salt solution at body heat in which all sound, all sight, all feelings, touch, taste and smell are eliminated.

He comes to the conclusion that "our other states of consciousness are as real as our waking states. And that reality can be externalised — a change in mental consciousness can change the physical body."

He imagines or remembers himself as primitive man, he becomes that lithe, voracious, ape-man. He views the birth of the world, he enters into it, becomes it. The experiments get out of hand. Can he return?

US critics have called the movie "mind-boggling", saying Ken Russell has found the key to blending the elements of drama, fantasy, science-fiction, romance and horror into a single film with a language of its own.

When the film opens in Australia, there is no doubt that audiences here will be treated to both a dazzling sound and visual effects extravaganza, as well as to a thought-provoking and involving drama.

INTRODUCTION

At a time when much of our scientific curiosity has focused on the heavens ... on outer space ... a few dedicated scientists have turned in the opposite direction.

They have journeyed within the collective mind of man. And they have found mysteries as deep and provocative as those of the cosmos itself.

What is consciousness?

On one level, of course, it is the rational, waking state of mind which enables us to function in our daily lives.

But what altered states of consciousness exist? Dreams? Hallucinations? The perceptions of the madman? Are there other states of consciousness, contained perhaps in the two-thirds of the human brain for which science has ... to date ... found no purpose?

What is memory? Why and how do we summon glimpses of the past from the billions of stored particles in our personal computer banks?

We know that the essence of life is transmitted, from generation to generation, through the chemistry in our genes. Perhaps memory is transmitted, as well, the way we pass our skin pigmentation, physical characteristics and survival instinct to our heirs.

If so, how far back do such memories go? Do we have the capacity to revisit our primal selves or travel even further, recalling the life forms from which we evolved before the so-called dawn of time?

Many scientists believe that the answers lie in altered states of consciousness. If their speculation is confirmed, it will pose fresh questions.



Once having embarked on a journey to our own origins, what will we find? And will we change ... anatomically and biologically ... a question raised by the altered brain waves of psychedelic researchers and the changed appearance of schizophrenics from lucidity to madness.

It has been proven that total isolation — achieved through immersion in a sealed tank of water, at a temperature and viscosity where the body experiences minimal gravity — can bring on an altered state of consciousness. So, too, will a host of substances, such as the "sacred mushrooms" of Central America.

In the novel, *ALTERED STATES*, Paddy Chayefsky assimilated this vast body of knowledge and took the experimentation to its next fascinating and frightening stage. The motion picture, *ALTERED STATES*, is based on that book. The following brief historical perspective has been prepared to contribute to your enjoyment of what we believe is an extraordinary screen experience.

DOUBTS ABOUT REALITY

In 1964, John Lilly, a physician and psychoanalyst with training in neurophysiology, biophysics and electronics, stepped into a tank of blood-warm salt water, closed the top of the tank and floated on the surface in total darkness. He had taken a dose of

LSD, obtained under his grant with the National Institute of Mental Health. As the experiment began, he felt deeply anxious. "It wasn't bodily death that I feared," he wrote later. "It was getting into spaces in which I would lose control and from which I would perhaps not be able to come back."

In his dark and neutral environment, free from all distracting stimuli, Lilly quickly found "it was very easy to leave the body and go into new spaces." He discovered that his body could take care of itself and he could return to it "if things get too tough out there."

"I moved into universes containing beings much larger than myself," he wrote. "The first time I entered these spaces, I was swept, pushed, carried, whirled and in general beat around by processes which I could not understand, processes of immense energy, of fantastic light, and of terrifying power."

Despite his conviction that he could survive the LSD tank experiments intact, Lilly took enormous risks — physically, emotionally and professionally. He had devoted himself to exploring a variety of states of consciousness that the scientific community had deemed to be pathological.

But Lilly was fully aware of the implications of his work. He was attacking the fundamental assumptions distinguishing sanity and madness and he dared to call his altered states of consciousness "real". In doing so, he put himself in the vanguard of an increasing number of Western scientists who have been exploring areas of consciousness that were once the exclusive province of mystics, priests and sorcerers.

William James, the enormously respected British psychiatrist, became the first scientist of his stature to undertake the study of spiritual reality. James experimented with both nitrous oxide and peyote and reported back in 1929 "we experience our normal waking consciousness, whilst all about it, parted from it by the faintest of screens, there lie potential forms of consciousness entirely different."

James was shattered by his experience, both emotionally and physically. "These shows are expensive," he told a friend after an experiment with peyote. "The experience, however, was worth one such headache and indigestion, but was not worth a second."

The scientific exploration of other forms of consciousness got its biggest push when Aldous Huxley consumed mescaline pills and described his experience in *The Doors of Perception* (1954). A creative writer who was also a scientist, Huxley wrote that he underwent a transformation comparable to a genuine mystical experience. This was proof to him that the mundane world could be transcended and what appears to be reality is not necessarily important.

Until that time, scientists had been reluctant to study "consciousness" because of the unreliability of personal reports. The English language lacks a vocabulary to describe different states of consciousness. But Sanskrit has dozens of words to describe various mystical states and Indian Buddhists have classified 121 mind levels.

Not surprisingly, Western scientists interested in looking

objectively at how the mind works began to look to the East. In the 1950s, researchers in India and Japan began to bring yogis and Zen monks into the laboratory to study their brain waves, heartbeat and respiration during meditation.

They found yogis who could suspend their heartbeat for up to 18 seconds, reverse the digestive system, reduce their metabolism so that breathing seemed to cease and make their pulse indiscernible. Instead of taking drugs, the yogis and monks practised autoregulation as a means of changing consciousness. For the first time, scientists obtained hard evidence that physiological changes parallel reports of changes of inner experience.

Anthropologists, sociologists and psychologists began to look at mystical states with less suspicion. Researchers took to the field in search of sorcerers, yogis and medicine men. In 1955, Robert Gordon Wasson and his wife, Valentina, made their way



into Central Mexico and under the guidance of a *curandera* became the first white persons in modern times to partake of the sacred mushroom ceremony.

After the mushrooms were eaten, the candle in the room was put out and in total darkness the visions began. "They were sharply focused, the lines and colours being so sharp that they seemed more real to me than anything I had seen with my own eyes," Wasson said. "I was seeing the archetypes, the Platonic ideas, that underlie the imperfect images of everyday life."

In August, 1960, a scientist at the University of Mexico and Dr Timothy Leary, then a Harvard psychologist, went to a villa near Cuernavaca. Leary ate seven mushrooms given to him by the scientist and experienced a momentous drug state. "During the next five hours, I was whirled through an experience which could be described in many extravagant metaphors, but which was, above all and without question, the deepest religious experience of my life."

Carlos Castaneda in 1961 met a Yaqui Indian from North-western Mexico while passing through a border town bus stop in Arizona. They became friends and the Indian, who, in the books about his experience, Castaneda called Don Juan, introduced him to peyote, jimson weed and psychotropic mushrooms. Don Juan was a *brujo*, or sorcerer. Castaneda became his apprentice for four years, during which time Castaneda underwent "peculiar states of disordered perception, or altered consciousness which I have called 'states of non-ordinary reality.'"

The mushroom powder smoked by Castaneda had severe effects, making him feel that he had left his body and could travel in a disembodied state. "Personally, I seemed to have reached a dangerous threshold. I told him I felt I could not go on; there was something truly frightening about the mushrooms."

After withdrawing from the apprenticeship, Castaneda returned for a second cycle, now convinced that our "commonsense" view of the world is not final but only one interpretation. "You only look at the surface of things," Don Juan told him.



Use of synthetic psychedelics, including the potent LSD-25, became widespread in the United States in the early '60s and often was misused without adequate supervision. "When one takes a psychedelic 'for kicks' and suddenly finds himself confronting what seems Ultimate Reality, it is then too late to retreat, and panic frequently develops," said John Aiken, a leader in the psychedelic movement. The drug was banned and LSD research came to an abrupt halt in 1966.

But psychiatry would never be the same. Psychedelics had opened new dimensions of reality and scientists could no longer exclude the possibility that unusual experiences have the actual character of a reality normally not perceived.

Researchers also realised that psychedelics were only one of many pathways to altered states and that other roads were available, including tank isolation and meditation. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi brought Transcendental Meditation to the West and it became popular in the laboratory, the office and the kitchen. Scientific journals published articles on the physiological effects of TM. Meditation became accepted as a fourth major state of consciousness — one in addition to sleeping, dreaming and waking.

Some members of the scientific establishment still oppose all inroads of mysticism into sociology and psychology. More discerning critics still urge caution: "Imagination has gone too far ahead of rigor and the result looks remarkably like insanity or perhaps like nightmare, the sister of insanity," Gregory Bateson, one of the country's most original thinkers, wrote in his latest book, *Mind and Nature*.

MIND WITHOUT BODY

People all over the world routinely use substances to alter consciousness, and have used them for thousands of years. Alcohol, caffeine and hemp derivatives (among them marijuana) are the most commonly used agents, but by no means the only ones. And degrees of alteration range from a scarcely perceptible jag to total coma.

Even the earliest cultures realised that drugs were dangerous, a threat to survival of the group. They placed drug use technology in the hands of priests or persons who claimed a relationship with the supernatural.

Why is man so insistent on leaving his waking, alert state? Why, in the words of Baudelaire, does man crave "the taste of the infinite"?

Andrew Weil suggested in the *Natural Mind* "that desire to alter consciousness periodically is an innate, normal drive analogous to hunger or the sexual drive." He considered this urge to be cyclical, like the cyclical urge to relieve sexual tension. This raises the possibility that the urge to experience altered states of consciousness "is certainly deep-rooted, perhaps a specific characteristic of the spirit of man," said Robert S. De Ropp in his book, *Drugs and the Mind*.

Altered states of consciousness can result from hypnosis, sleep, anaesthesia, biofeedback, seizures, fasting, drugs, meditation, ceremony, sex, dancing, tank isolation or weightlessness. (Astronauts a hundred miles up found their sense of sight so heightened that with the naked eye they could see dirt roads in Mexico, the wake of a water skier on the Salton Sea and the street lights of small towns in Australia.)

Arctic explorers and mariners lost at sea have experienced altered states. Strange experiences have been reported among Amazon Indians and ascetic European monks. When we dream a dream that seems 'more real' than normal, that realism can persist into the waking state and alter it.

No matter who experiences them or by what path, altered states have many of the same basic elements: they are hard to describe in words, they transcend time and space, have a sense of truth and result in intensified emotion and disordered perception. The voyager must be able to return from the altered state at will — otherwise he or she is deemed to have crossed over into madness.

Literature, from *Lear* and *Hamlet* to *Moby Dick*, has ranked madness with divinity. Quite naturally, modern psychology and psychopharmacology have begun to look closely at the process

of mystical enlightenment. Not much is known yet about states induced by meditation, but meditation is perhaps man's oldest spiritual discipline. It appears in every major religion — the entranced yogi, the Buddhist in Zazen, the Sufi dervish twirling in dance, the kneeling Christian or the Jew at the Wailing Wall.

In each religion, the core experience of the mystic is the same. The "I" or ego dwindles and is replaced with a sense of self as part of the cosmos. An accomplished meditator loses the usual sense impressions, in fact loses self without becoming unconscious. He or she sees something so profound and intense that it can't be expressed in language but is believed by them to be the highest human experience.

Studies of meditators show that these states are associated with the increase of one brain-wave pattern — the alpha rhythm (9 to 12 cycles per second). This is true of most people when they relax with eyes closed in quiet mental state. Zen masters can maintain it with eyes open and carry through to *satori*, Zen's highest state of consciousness, where the theta rhythm (5 to 8 cycles per second) dominates.

Biofeedback, a means of self-monitoring, gives conscious control of brain waves even to the relatively undisciplined. When the subject produces alpha waves, a device provides feedback through a light or tone. He or she can learn to link the signal with a particular kind of mental state and gain control of it.

The Eastern mystics have taught the West that not only brain



waves but heart beat, blood pressure, body temperature and gastrointestinal activity are all capable of conscious control.

Psychedelic drugs and isolation tanks are also shortcuts to a Zazen or Tai Chi of the inner world. Floating in the darkened, warm tank, "one eliminates all distinctions of Self and other and merges with his own deeper Self," Lilly wrote in his recent book, *The Deep Self*. "It allows us to expand our awareness of our internal state of being, of our internal flow."

He found that he could experience any transformation of Self or "can transform, be transformed into, any form." But Lilly said he had to learn to be tolerant of what he found in these inner realities. He "learned to allow that which would occur spontaneously to develop to his current limit of tolerance." Sometimes, Lilly said, he went beyond the limit, and would have to "jump back into my body."

THE TANK

Behind a posh antique shop on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, across the parking lot, is another store, the showroom of the Samadhi Tank Co. The company's partners, Glenn and Lee Perry, encourage customers to try a float in one of the isolation tank models.

For an hour, one can drift off in total darkness, floating on a buoyant solution of Epsom salts kept at neutral temperature,

neither warm nor cool. There is virtually no sound, since the ears are immersed. The body, feeling weightless, assumes a position where the muscles are comfortably balanced.

In effect, anyone with \$2000 (or \$1200 for the economy model) can buy a tank and return to the womb. It is a supremely relaxing and euphoric experience, thanks to Dr John Lilly, a combination of the Wright Brothers and Charles Lindbergh, of tank isolation.

Lilly built his first tank in 1954 while working for the National Institute of Mental Health. To study the mind, Lilly concluded, it would be necessary to isolate the central nervous system from all known outside forces. He wanted an "isolated mind, studying its own processes, free of feedback."

The first experiments, done with Lilly totally immersed in warm salt water and wearing only a breathing apparatus and hood over his head, were uncomfortable and dangerous. He built another tank when he moved his work to the Virgin Islands, and a third one at his dolphin laboratory in Miami. In 1966, having come to question his work with the dolphins as his knowledge and respect for those animals grew, Lilly let them go and committed himself to the journey into his own "inner spaces."

Lilly expanded his tank isolation work in 1973 at Malibu, establishing a home there with five tanks in outlying buildings. Those who did the research work there with John and Toni Lilly called it the Lilly Pond. By then, he had perfected the tanks, discarding salt for the more benign Epsom salts and using a technique of floating on the surface in an enclosed, well-ventilated but warm space with an easily opened door to minimise the fear of confinement.

When Lilly started with tanks, the current professional assumption was that without outside stimulation the brain would "go to sleep". But Lilly and more than 500 others who used his tanks found that the brain created its own input.

The brain allows us to have "waking dreams" in the dark and see fully lighted 3-D objects. Once a person has adjusted to the tank, Lilly wrote, "one notices that one's thoughts have shifted from a directed type of thinking to reveries and fantasies of a highly personal and emotionally charged nature."

The tank becomes a place of rest and solace for Lilly, but it also becomes a place where he can reach his emotional and physical limits. Reports of inner reality alienated him from his scientific colleagues. He found he had to censor accounts of his work, since he was already at the dangerously unaccepted edges of credibility. "Some experiments still cannot be discussed," he said in his most recent book.

"There are times in which I feel the search must stop," he said in *The Deep Self*. "It is too much to ask of my biology as a human."

PSYCHEDELICS

Some substances more readily induce transcendental states of consciousness than others. Alcohol, perhaps the most widely used mind alterer, gets poor marks from drug researchers. After the first blush of euphoria, when the censorious superego is put to sleep, alcohol produces a dulling of the senses and impairment of the intellect.

Not so with psychedelics — both natural and synthetic. Before the ban on widespread experimentation went into effect in 1966, researchers found psychedelics to be an unparalleled way to alter consciousness. The drug enhanced the capacity for experiencing and, in the words of one expert, allowed "unconscious and pre-conscious material" to become vividly conscious. These drugs allowed researchers to shortcut the disciplines of religion, philosophy and mysticism.

Two leading experts on the therapeutic use of LSD, Robert E. L. Masters and Jean Houston, identified levels of consciousness in psychedelic experience. "The deeper the level reached, the more profound the personality changes that may occur," they wrote. At the deepest levels, which they termed "symbolic" and "integral", subjects reported experiencing evolutionary processes. "He may experience a reliving of the evolutionary sequence on up through the existence of man," they reported.

Under the influence of psychedelics, images unroll as if a

"Technicolor motion picture were being projected inside one's own head, with the possibility that one may become an actor in the drama," said Masters and Houston. "They are typically brilliantly illuminated and vividly coloured, exceeding in beauty and richness anything seen in the external world."

Integral-level experiences, which they said are rare, are religious and mystical in nature, intensely subjective and private. "The patient feels that he has reached the ultimate depth level of consciousness, there to experience fundamental reality, essence, Ground of Being, or God."

In some reports, ingestion of psychedelics resulted in feelings of animal transformations. One anthropologist considered himself a sabre-toothed tiger. Another subject under the influence of yage, an alkaloid produced from an Amazonian plant, reported that he felt like a snake. "I did not merely feel 'like a snake', but in some sense I *was* a snake, that somehow I had reached a level of experience where I could contact a potential 'sakeness' residing within," wrote Peter Stafford in a book on LSD.

Obviously, psychedelics do not represent a soft and always amiable escape from reality. As Alan Watts, the philosopher, wrote in the *California Law Review*, the psychedelic trip "can very easily be an experience in which you have to test your soul against all the devils in hell."



Aldous Huxley, in attempting to explain how mescaline, a psychedelic, affects the mind, theorised that the brain acts as a sort of reducing valve to protect our human minds from the mind of the macrocosm — the many levels of reality beyond the one we ordinarily consider to be reality. When the reducing valve is impaired by mescaline, the macrocosm pushes its way into the mind of the macrocosm, which explains the overwhelming character of certain mescaline experiences."

Masters and Houston called this a perception of a world that "has slipped the chains of normal categorical ordering." Its similarities with madness, especially schizophrenia, were striking. And this similarity in altered states of consciousness meant that psychologists and psychiatrists, through the use of psychedelics, could temporarily enter the previously closed and chaotic worlds of their patients.

This led to a new appreciation for the role of abnormal brain chemicals and their relation to schizophrenia. It triggered a search for substances that could cause brain circuits to deviate from normal activity patterns and result in crazy behaviour. That quest has turned up several substances, including one similar to mescaline that is found in some schizophrenics with abnormal hormone systems. This discovery closed the loop, convincing researchers that the schizophrenic and psychedelic states are related.

"Altered States" is a Warner Bros release starring William Hurt, Blair Brown, Bob Balaban and Charles Haid. Produced by Howard Gottfried and directed by Ken Russell, the screenplay was written by Sidney Aaron from the novel "Altered States" by Paddy Chayefsky. Daniel Melnick is the executive producer. The music was by John Corigliano.

