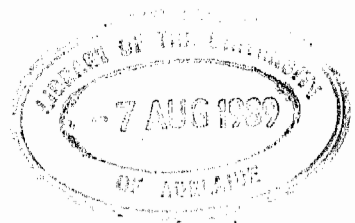


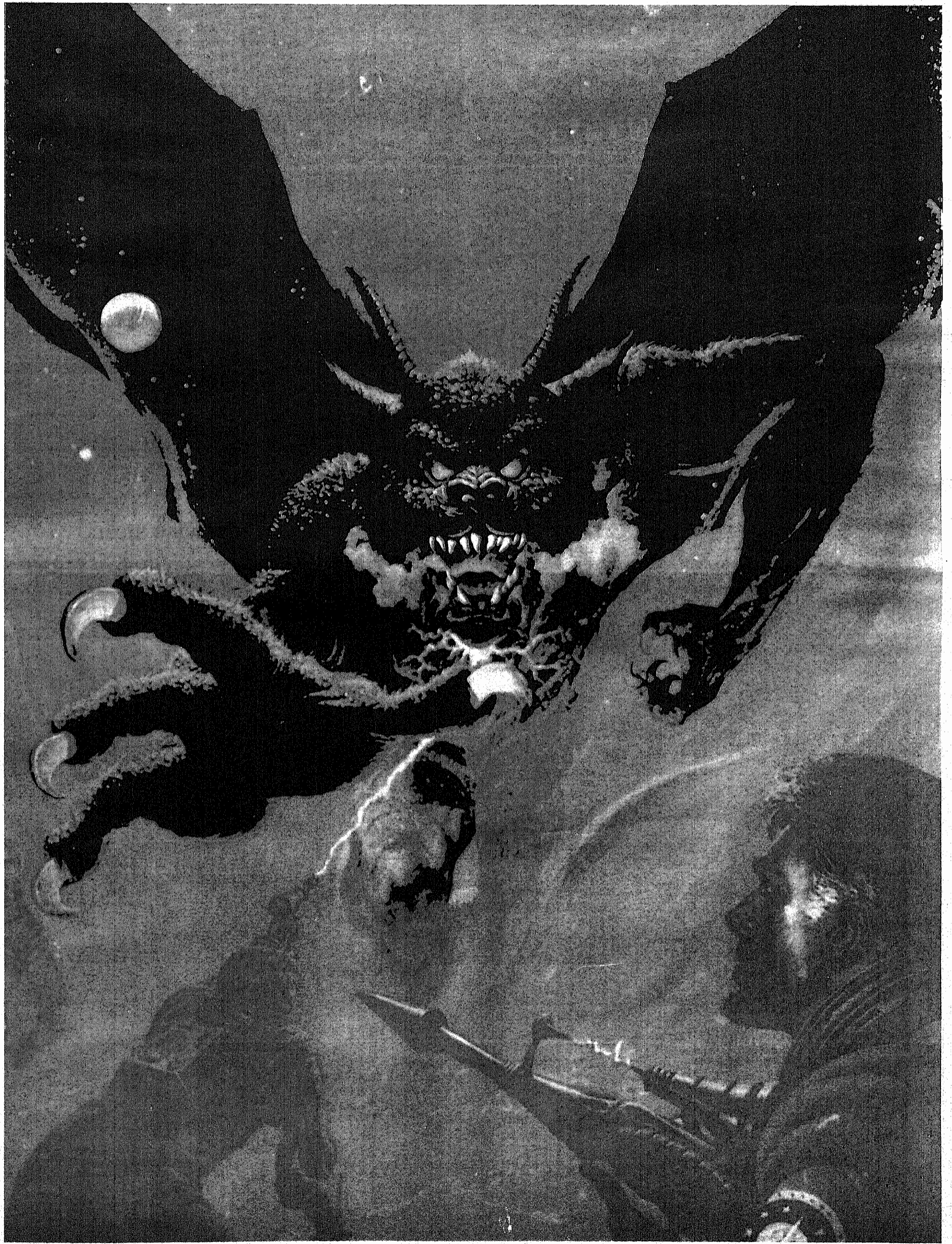
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the adelaide university students' association weekly

Registered by Australia Post • Publication No. SBF 0274



July 31 1989 • Volume 57 Number 13

A MORAL DILEMMA

Students face a classic moral dilemma this Saturday night, August 5.

They have but two choices - to stay away from the Lubricated Goat/Where's The Pope/Merging Groins Bar Night in the Union Bar and deprive themselves of the unspeakable opportunities which will present themselves or to be deprived by attending this Night of Nights.

Lubricated Goat has trotted all the way from Sydney. Where's The Pope have just returned from their annual pilgrimage to the Vatican where, surprisingly, they were refused access to His Holiness. Impromptu performances in the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Square cut short the lads' visit. And the Merging Groins have emerged from the squats of our city in preparation for their distinctive lawn mower imitations at the Bar Night.

OPULENCE !

As with many of you, I was appalled to read of Michael Jackson's extravagance in bathing with mineral water (it is Perrier, no doubt). However, outrage was replaced by something else when I read the contents of Billy The Horla Budgie's Avi Drops.

For those of you who do not keep our feathered friends as pets, Avi Drops are

drops of a health solution which can be put in domestic birds' water.

Imagine my reaction when I discovered that Billy The Horla Budgie has been bathing in Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B6, Nicotinamide, Biotin, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin B12, and Choline.

The shame of it.

TO ALL YOU PEDANTS...

Quite a few people pointed out the lack of a name at the end of Onditbus last week. No, it was not deliberate and I was not basking in anonymity. These same people, however, failed to note the deliberate 'mistake' in which I mentioned the 300th anniversary of the French Revolution. Whatever happened to simple arithmetic?

While we're on the subject of the French Revolution, I have always thought it a shame that Marie Antoinette lived in those times - were she alive now, she would be one of Balfour's top salespersons.

BEERY BOORISHNESS

I pose the million dollar question of the week - is John Elliott in the pay of the Australian Labor Party?

Elliott, the self-made Voodoo Economist and vulgar stooge of the New Right (those

people who take as their role models the mill and factory owners of the Industrial Revolution) has again been doing his best to ensure the Liberal Party does not win the next Federal Election.

I have never been aware of Elliott's status as Opposition spokesperson on Social Security, but I am sure many Liberal Party members and supporters didn't know this, either.

Elliott would be doing the Australian nation a favour if he gave up his inebriated and boorish blunderings through the Australian political scene, and allowed natural historians and scientists to determine if he is the missing link between ape and man.

Then again, it is unlikely, given his intellectual capacity.

TAXI MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

"She wants you to bring the pitchfork in and put it under the air conditioner."

Heard in a Suburban Taxi Cab. Such is the versatility demanded of taxi drivers.

MAKING A MEAL OF ONE'S WORDS

In 1982, John Dawkins was the Shadow Minister for Education. He supported free education with an intellectual tenacity unmatched by the Liberal Minister for

Education of the day (who was so remarkable that I cannot remember his name).

John made some excellent statements on the value of Higher Education, including this one:

"Any action which discourages higher education must be seen as short-sighted folly, but it is not surprising coming from a Government which has rejected sensible public policy development and has surrendered to the immediate demands of a committee headed by a man whose only obvious strength is his ability to maximise private profits."

If John were to eat even a few such words, surely he would have chronic indigestion for the rest of his life....

WISDOM OF THE WEEK

"The only trouble with free elections is that you might not get elected."

Vyacheslav Mickhailovich Molotov, Joseph Stalin's right-hand man whose signature sentenced thousands of Russians to death.

Monica Carroll

CRAFT AND LEISURE COURSES

SEMESTER 2 (Term 3 & 4) Start August 7th unless otherwise stated.

THE CRAFT STUDIO

The Studio is available for use to members of the Adelaide University Union, and the public. There is an excellent reference library, slide collection and projector, hand tools, pottery wheels, kilns, sewing machines and other facilities for all crafts offered.

Craft Studio, Level Four, Union House. Phone: 228 5857

ART AND CRAFT COURSES

BEGINNERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Term III starts 9th August
Term IV starts 20th September
6 Weeks
Time: Wednesdays 6-8 pm

LINGERIE

8 Weeks, starts 9th August
Time: Wednesdays 6-8 pm

BEGINNERS SEWING

8 Weeks, starts 7th August
Time: Mondays 1 - 2 pm

MORE ADVANCED SEWING

8 Weeks - Starts 11th August
Time: Fridays 1-2 pm

SILK PAINTING AND SEWING SILK CLOTHES

8 Weeks, starts 8th August
Time: Tues 6-8 pm

POTTERY

8 Weeks, starts 9th August
Time: Wednesdays 6-8 pm



The Studio is open for you to pursue a Craft of your choice, at the following times:

Monday: 10 am - 6 pm
Tuesday: 12 noon - 9 pm
Wednesday: 10 am - 9 pm
Thursday: 12 noon - 6 pm
Friday: 11 am - 6 pm

PRACTICAL COURSES

BAR AND WAITING

7 Weeks, starts 7th August
Time: Mondays 6-9 pm

CAR MAINTENANCE

8 Weeks, starts 7th August
Time: Mondays 6-8 pm

PUBLIC SPEAKING

6 Weeks, starts 10th August
Time: Thursdays 6-8 pm

CREATIVE VIDEO PRODUCTION

8 Weeks - Starts 9th August
Time: Wednesdays 6-8 pm



HEALTH AND FITNESS

YOGA

10 Weeks, starts 10th August
Time: Thursdays 6-7 pm

TAI CHI CLUB

Tutor: Gerard Menzel
Thursdays 2.30 pm

MEDITATION

5 Weeks
Session 1 starts 9th August
Session 2 starts 10th October
Time: Wednesdays 1-2 pm

MASSAGE

10 Weeks, starts 8th August
Time: Tuesdays 12-1 pm

ADVANCED MASSAGE

10 Weeks - Starts 8th August
Time: Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm

FOOT REFLEXOLOGY

7 Weeks - Starts 9th August
Time: Wednesdays 12 - 1 pm

STOP SMOKING

6 weeks
Time: Mondays 1 - 2 pm

LOSING WEIGHT

6 weeks
Time: Mondays 12 - 1 pm

SELF DEFENCE

6 Weeks - Starts 9th August
Time Wednesdays 7-10 pm

For further information regarding courses for this semester, refer to the Craft and Leisure Course Programme.

sacked journalists seek help

The Postgraduate Students' Association of the Adelaide University Union has been contacted by a spokesperson for 23 journalists who were sacked by Robert Maxwell's 'Pergamon Press' in England. The letter asks for support from postgraduates and academics; researchers who form a large part of the market for Pergamon Press books. Here is an outline of the facts behind this dispute.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) embarked upon a 24 hour strike in June. This came after four months of fruitless

negotiations with the management of Pergamon Press over their right to represent a sacked worker. The dispute arose when management ignored an agreement it had made with the NUJ, regarding their right to cover workers within Pergamon Press, and refused to allow the union to represent an editorial assistant who was sacked at the beginning of the year.

The 23 journalists who participated in the one-day strike all received letters indicating that, as a result, they had been dismissed. Even in England, where the Conservative Government has enacted a series of very effective anti-union laws, the right to strike still remains. Thus the journalists were unfairly dismissed for acting upon their legitimate and legal right to withdraw their labour.

Another worker within Pergamon Press, an officer in the personnel department, was also sacked, on the grounds that she had asked for leave because she "couldn't bring herself to work while these people were on strike". She was dismissed that day. The

company claimed that the protesting journalists were "a militant anachronism" and it would "not give in to brute force."

This is not the first time Robert Maxwell has taken such action. In March 1981, NUJ members were dismissed when they went on strike over a pay dispute. The NUJ was victorious that time and the workers were reinstated five months later.

The striking workers have received much support. The International Federation of Journalists has issued a statement condemning the dismissals and calling upon Robert Maxwell to reinstate the workers and open negotiations in accordance with agreed procedures.

The National Union of Students has also expressed support and students from the Oxford Polytechnic have made their offices, which are opposite Pergamon Press, available to the NUJ as a campaign base. One student was arrested at a picket. Support has also come from politicians. The Labour Party National Executive has called for the reinstatement of workers and Labour

Party MP, Tony Benn, addressed a rally in support of the journalists on Bastille day.

Ironically, Robert Maxwell, a professed socialist, was in France to celebrate the French Revolution. Some French print unions have expressed their support for the NUJ and have indicated that they are considering industrial action of their own.

The NUJ are asking Australian academics and postgraduates not to subscribe to Pergamon Press journals and to not submit research to Pergamon. They are also asking for letters of support from any interested person or group. If you wish to send a letter of support you can do so by writing to: Jim Boumella, Pergamon Press NUJ Chapel, 60 Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DQ, England. Letters of protest can be sent to: Robert Maxwell, Chairperson, Pergamon Press, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3, OBW, England.

Mark Leahy.

public speaking

The Craft Studio is again offering its very successful public speaking course for students and other interested persons.

Tony van Kalken who will be teaching the course, is a member of Rostrum, the national Public Speaking association. Rostrum has a number of branches in both metropolitan and country areas of South Australia. Mr van Kalken is undertaking a BA at the University and said he noticed students are sometimes under-confident in tutorials and even intimidated by the prospect of taking part in them.

He said this is where the benefits of a public speaking course are apparent:

"Not only is a public speaking course helpful in the area of academic life (and there it not only includes students but can help tutors to impart knowledge to their students) but at a professional level, including management, sales, and secretarial skills. A number of students, after they have graduated, will have to address a meeting or possess communicative skill for many situations."

In the courses Mr van Kalken has previously conducted, there have been people who were "terrified" at the prospect of speaking to groups. Over the six weeks of the public speaking course, however, these same people developed the self-confidence to overcome this and were able to communicate effectively.

Mr van Kalken stressed the difference between public speaking and debating; "They are not the same things - a good debater is not necessarily a good public speaker, and a good public speaker is not necessarily a good debater. Public speaking does not teach you to argue a point; it assists you in building self-confidence when speaking in a public situation of any kind and is the art of effective communication."

At the end of the Public Speaking Course, people who previously could not contemplate standing up in public and addressing a group, are able to do so without feeling too nervous. Mr van Kalken has been an enthusiastic member of Rostrum for 15 years and also tutors WEA classes, so those who undertake the course will benefit from his experience.

People who are interested in joining the Public Speaking Course should contact Sherry Dzonsons at the Craft Studio, opposite the Bistro, on level 4 of the Union Building.

Monica Carroll



production

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Design and Layout: Mark Gamtcheff.
Editing and Proof reading: Monica Carroll.
Advertising Manager: Ben Pearson.
Typesetting: Sharon Middleton.
Freight: Alex Wheaton.
Bromides: Andrew Joyner and Mark.

On Dit is a weekly magazine published by Mark Gamtcheff and Monica Carroll for the Students' Association of the University of Adelaide.

Postal Address:
GPO Box 498, University of Adelaide,
Adelaide, S.A.

Telephone:
228 5404, 223 2685.

The On Dit Office is located in the Lady Symon Building in the Union Complex, ground floor, south-west corner of the cloisters.

The editors have complete editorial control. Opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of the editors. Deadline for all material is 3pm each Wednesday.

On Dit is printed by Murray Bridge Press.



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Letters to the Editors can be sent to On Dit , GPO Box 498, University of Adelaide, 5001 or can be deposited in the SAUA or On Dit Offices to arrive no later than 1pm Wednesday. Letters should be short and to-the-point; in future all long letters will have their verbs removed.

A REPLY TO THE SIMPLE-MINDED MARTIAN

Dear Editors,
In reply to the creature with bumps on its chest and something distinctively male hanging from somewhere (its face), I would like to point out that if it is a Martian, it comes from Mars, not from some "far away unknown to your solar system comic planet".

I submit that a sentient martian capable of travelling to Earth would know this fact, and would probably be less simple-minded in its anthropological field work. It would ask, for example, why this myth of total male domination is so important to the belief systems of female humans enjoying the privilege (or right, whatever) of equal opportunity tertiary education.

R.J. Morley
Economics

P.S. Dear Martian, can I buy some of that substance you're abusing? I'd like to be creative too.

BAND BATTLES

Dear Editors,
It was with amusement that I read Stephen Hards' (no connection with his phallus) criticism of Monica Carroll in On Dit, June 5, 1989.

Dear Mr Hard-on, did you spend the entire duration of the "Battle of the Bands" on some far-away planet as a result of a Close Encounter of the Third Kind with a peppermint tic-tac, or were you off somewhere enjoying a quiet game of pocket pinball? The "unnecessarily drawn out cover" of Hendrix's "Hey, Joe" was not, as you so boldly state, performed by the Jaynes. In actual fact it was performed by the very enjoyable Young Lovelies. And if you think that the Jaynes play nothing but "depressing love songs" then perhaps you temporarily went deaf during their rendition of "This Is My House", the rockabilly anthem "Revolver", or their gutsy guitar driven number "Lead Them On".

I would also like to know what was so "original and imaginative" about the Stage performance of The Merging Groins? It has been over a decade since the Sex Pistols showed the world that it is possible to make money by getting up on stage and pissing on a board of brain-dead groupies who squirm about on the floor in orgasmic bliss! Was there anything different with The Merging Groins?

Dear Mr Harder-Than-Hard, you can abuse Monica Carroll until you are black and blue, but do you have to show your own ignorance in the process?

Yours sincerely,
D.S.
2nd Year

MERGERS - ONE STAFF MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Editors,
Alan Fairley's article Mergers in Turmoil was well expressed and to the point. It deserves an answer. This is an attempt at one from an ordinary member of staff, who has had no part in the merger negotiations, but has followed them closely and makes no claim to speak for anyone else.

Things are indeed in a mess. The main reasons for this, as I was saying a year ago to anyone who would listen, are:

- The original 3-University proposal, put

forward by the University of Adelaide, was an unscrupulous grab for power, made without any concern for or consultation with other parties. It amply deserves the general rejection it is still receiving.

- The 'collegial governance system' we are meant to be trying to preserve has never been allowed to work. Those involved in merger negotiations have made no real attempt to canvass staff or student opinion.

Opposition to the University of Adelaide/SACAE merger is neither new nor confined to a minority. What is happening is that people like myself, despairing of any proper consultation, are taking things into their own hands. The common theme of the protest letters (and of the Staff Association meeting) is the demand for a ballot. Surely Alan Fairley would regard this as legitimate?

One can only speculate why this long-heralded opposition has emerged at this time, but the following reasons seem likely:

- Indignation at the unseemly haste of the proceeding and at the lack of adequate consultation;
- The total absence of any academic arguments for the merger (there may be some, but we haven't heard about them);
- A feeling that, of all the possible mergers, a full merger with the SACAE will be most disruptive and (possibly) least productive;
- Increasing evidence that there will not be enough funds even to pay the cost of the merger, much less to give concrete rewards for merging.

Under the present Federal Government we will be financially clobbered whatever we do. If we merge, our funding will be at something between University and CAE level, and there is no indication of any capital project bribe similar to that attached to the Flinders/SAIT merger. The short-term trauma and long-term bureaucratic expansion resulting from mergers are well known from the SACAE's own merger; in our case, they would be worse, as the organisations involved are larger and more diverse.

In this situation, it is hard to see any better strategy than to:

- Try to remain unmerged for the moment, or at least to keep our options open;
- Prepare for massive cuts, which are coming whether we merge or not;
- Try to defeat the ALP Federal Government at the next election.

Yours sincerely,
David Hester

KIM'S ATTACKS

Dear Editors,
In the March 20th edition of On Dit this year, Kim Pedler made a "completely unsubstantiated (and) unwarranted" attack against the entire Engineering population. In the edition previous, Miss Pedler told us Medical and Dental students should pay full Union fees in their later years spent off campus, "in the interests of funding women's services". In her latest article, Miss Pedler tells us that many men are rapists, muggers and thieves, while all women "do not like to hurt anyone, physically or emotionally".

These are just three examples, Johanna Churchill and Jo Wilson (do you live together?) perfectly justifying Mr A. J. Anderson's completely substantiated and warranted attack on Miss Pedler. It is such

articles by Miss Pedler that "promote (and create) the tension between men and women on this campus", and not letters sent in by A.J. Anderson. Indeed, Miss Pedler does display "substandard qualities in a leadership role" - one cannot help feel that she believes women are superior to men.

I am sure there are many students of both sexes at this University who would do a much better job as Women's Officer than Kim Pedler. I am equally sure that Mr A.J. Anderson is one such person.

A Mechanical Engineering Student

P.S. I hope I haven't offended anyone by using the word 'male'.

KIM'S DISTORTION

Dear Miss Pedler,
What an interesting article on rape you have submitted from "The Women's Department of NUS Resource Handbook, 1989". Rape is a very tragic reality which should be addressed by all sectors of the community. Therefore, I applaud your efforts.

However, detracting from your achievement is your blatant discrimination and stereotyping of both sexes, but largely of the males. Does stirring into this literary cauldron of emotion an occasional impingement onto male character make your article more believable? I tried to mark every sexist degrading comment with a highlighter, but once the pen ran out I realised a spray gun would be more appropriate.

After reading your article, the following picture of the sexes emerges.

Men are "sexual terrorists" who are dominant and who know best. They have no conscience on sexual matters and participate in a society run by and for men. A sort of Rambo of the phallic kind. In contrast, women are seen as weak-willed, spineless creatures, totally at man's beck and call; who are incapable of original thought. They cannot form sound judgements ("unsure of men's trustworthiness") nor even communicate effectively ("we are not very good at saying what we want ..."). They are battery hens, "providing a fine service industry for men". Continuing the above metaphor, they are the Bambis in a Rambo's territory.

Sounds familiar doesn't it? Gosh, in my close circle of 100 acquaintances, I can profess to knowing one of each above type, or at least one who acts like each type.

It appears that not only is your view of the sexes wrong, Miss Pedler, but also your views on attitudes incorrect in some ways.

In the first instance, you seem unable to discriminate between indoctrination and the teaching of manners. "Praise is lavished on girl children who are agreeable and compliant...." As distinct from what? The encouragement heaped upon boys for being rowdy, crude and forceful? If these are the correct methods of "socialising" children does it follow that men internalise that women are always wrong? Not at all! This nurturing is merely encouraging what are commonly called manners, which are surprisingly gender free.

Secondly, current images of women have changed since Victorian times. I regard learned helplessness and incompetence to be among the most atrocious social skills and learned stupidity abominable. I also realise that women are no longer "within the home" only, and as I happen to appreciate

good food and cleanliness, I for one am more than comfortable with the tasks involved within these chores. Complemented with this is the fact that I form relationships with women whose company I enjoy, rather than with housekeepers for physiological reasons I cannot partake in fundamental child rearing (for example I can't breast feed) but have been known to babysit for friends.

Thirdly and finally, the image of women portrayed by the media has also changed. "Media representations of women are re-created ... However, we are only expected to look sexual and not be sexual." So the sexual revolution of the 60s (whose major achievement was to alter roles from the male satisfying himself at the cost of the female, to the equal satisfaction of each partner) was all a figment of the hippy's imagination. Strangely enough, the more media I see, the more I see the E-type (and proud of it) woman featured, which seems to be in conflict to the claim that "such women are rarely role models!"

In light of the above points, I am perturbed that the abovementioned article has been submitted to a women's resource handbook where I suggest (excluding Mr A.J. Anderson) that the readership is largely female. I only hope that the title "handbook" does not imply a reference text, or a legion of women's officers will continue with these incorrect ideals.

However, to be fair, I must maintain focus and praise the latter half of the article. I think this is a very truthful evaluation of a women's side of rape and doesn't deserve to be smeared by the blatant militant feminism of the first half of the article.

Thanks for distorting a good insight into an emotional issues, Miss Pedler.

Nick Fejer,
Elect. Eng.
(Gasp! Male and an Engineer! Ohh!)

SECURITY - RON RONEY REPLIES

The Editors,
To correct some misconceptions, On Dit 26th July, 1989 under the heading "Who's To Blame?" and unsigned,

- Be Reassured
- Security on campus is not a joke, our success rate confirms this,
 - Our annual budget has not been reduced to \$250,000,
 - We do have a system for promotion,
 - We do have a system of encouragement,
 - If being helpful and caring to staff and students gives the tag of "Caretaker Mentality", then we are proud to wear that title,
 - We will continue to wander around buildings to check doors and ensure that both your and the University's equipment or personal property is safe, after all that is part of Security's role,
 - We do have Night Security,
 - We do not have more staff on during the day, the number's remain static,
 - We only have male staff because no females applied for the last vacant position,
 - The last female Security Staff member resigned most likely from boredom. In 18 months not one female staff or student approached her for advice or assistance,
 - Yes, Ron Roney is to blame for the rostering system, in consultation with all

Continued next page...

From previous page

staff involved,

- He does have a choice and full control,
 - The day rostered staff perform Security duties, what else?
 - They are poised at the ready for 8 hours to rush to your defence X 3 X 8 hours = 24 hours,
 - We do not have drinking problems, "We will drink anything",
 - We fully support the University Administration but when necessary challenge some decisions.
- Be further reassured
- You have a great and dedicated bunch of people looking after your safety, and Yes, I will sign this letter.
- R. Roney,**
Facilities & Security Superintendent

WHERE IS OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM HEADING?

To all those interested,
Peter Adamson's article "The Shortest Job ..." was rather depressing but nonetheless true. Where is our education system heading? Total privatisation? It must be a real downer for today's teachers when they try to teach kids who can't even read or spell correctly. Basic skills that should be taught in primary schools are not being learnt. Why? Because the teachers have no way of controlling the kids these days.

Like Adamson says, he was up the creek whichever way he went. The same goes with the parents. We can't touch the kids these days. All those dipsticks up in their mega-million dollar parliament house do nothing but sit around and play with themselves and cater for the tiny minority of faggots who don't like their spoilt little Johnny coming home with a sore backside. What was it like 20-30 years ago? Kids had respect for their parents and their teachers. You know why? Because they were shit-scared of getting walloped by that bloody big stick sitting in the corner. Oh, yes, all you new-age parents, psychologists or what-have-you are going to get up on your bandwagon about negative reinforcement, etc., etc., but it works, doesn't it? Don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating violence as a means of total control, but a good smack on the head does wonders for most kids. Okay,

so it doesn't work for all kids. That's why we have the psychologists, etc., to find other ways of bringing them up, but looking at today's society, I thank Christ my old man gave me a kick up the backside every time I booped up. I know that if I have kids I'll do the same for them until they get old enough to "divorce" me.

Sean Alexander
Science

PETER'S PREJUDICE

Dear Editors,
In reply to 'the shortest job I ever had' written by Peter David Adamson, 'On Dit' 24th July 1989.

I found the article to be incredibly one-side and the author very narrow-minded. It downgrades public schools and their teachers and wrongly portrays students who attend the schools as hooligans interested only in disruption or part of a minority group who want to learn but lack the numbers to motivate change.

My parents both teach at Kadina High; a country school of some 600 students with good security and facilities, and I attend the school from year 8 to year 12 as did several others whose parents teach at the school.

I feel my education was more than sufficient and that the same high standard can be applied to subjects throughout all year levels. I do not feel at all disadvantaged because I attended a public school, if anything quite the opposite.

Obviously Mr Adamson has a very limited teaching experience in public schools to hold such a biased opinion and had no right to make such ambiguous statements.

Yours sincerely,
Lisa Jones
Science

SECURITY AGAIN

To 'Nameless - Who's To Blame',
Why does the person writing the article "Who's To Blame" (On Dit, Volume 57, No 12) not put a name to it as every other letter published.

The facts listed are somewhat misleading and to the most part incorrect.

- Twenty six persons are on security.
- Annual budget \$250,000 - are they working for \$9,000 a year?
- Caretaker mentality. Yes - the University staff still think 'caretaker'. Change does not

take place overnight. Security do "take care" and are prepared to help. That is part of our criteria. Remember the University title for security personnel - not guards or officers but attendants.

• Yes, we do wander about buildings, checking doors, lights and equipment - locking up and turning off. Isn't that a security role?

• Rostering, the system takes into account when the University is in most need of manpower - mornings and afternoons, when the populace is at its highest. How many people are on campus overnight?

• Yes. We do drink along with the majority of other University staff and human beings. We are off duty sometimes and entitled, like everyone else, to some pleasure.

• Slackness. Our response time of incidents is good. Try your luck with other outside bodies.

We are here to help, articles published by nameless persons don't.

Remember security is:-
"protection of life and property"
"preservation of the peace"
"prevention of crime"
"maintenance of law and order"

Need help - call us - telephone 5990 or why not speak personally to us, including "Who Is To Blame".

G. Fieldgate
Senior Security Supervisor

ABYSMAL COMMUNICATION

Dear Editors,
The letter by "Ben" in your issues of the 26th of July, expressing the author's extreme anxiety about the standard of lecturing should be a matter of great concern to members of academic staff and students alike.

It seems to be farcical that a number of tertiary institutions offer courses in engineering, sciences, architecture and other subjects, but fall short in providing the basics in academic life, the element of Public Speaking and Communication.

In all fairness, this University provides a training scheme in teaching budding academics to teach, but going by Ben's argument, there appears to be room for improvement on that score.

If we accept that premise, that lecturers and tutors are deficient in that area, could it be said that students need to be educated in

the art of self-expression. Quoting Ben's letter, reference is made to another correspondent who claimed that "... good teaching results in good marks".

We suggest that good participation in tutorials by students is just as important as it would be of great benefit in developing skills in communication which is a vital element in the projection of a graduate in society or in a career.

The vital importance of possessing the ability of self-expression and communication has been recognised by the Adelaide University Union in organising courses in Public Speaking. Four of these courses have been held in the past in conjunction with the Rostrum Tutors Panel.

It is very gratifying to see participants, having started with a morbid fear of speaking in public, delivering a speech in a confident manner at the end of the six-week course.

To anyone, who wishes to develop the ability to speak to groups or in seminars or workshops, this course is an essential part of one's journey towards a degree.

Sherrie Dzonsons,
Recreation Activities Officer
Tony van Kalken,
Rostrum Tutors Panel

LAURAN THANKS TIFF

Dear Ms Livingstone-Rossiter,
First of all, thank you very much for your exceedingly interesting response to my article on the Drumminor. It is pleasing to know that someone is actually prepared to read such articles. By the way, I must inform you that the Union does not actually sponsor such ventures - perhaps together we could convince them to undertake such a resolve.

Which leads me to my second point. Perhaps you could take your BMW (why BMW and not an Alfa, or Porsche, or Ferrari, or Mercedes?) and meet me in my borrowed BMW at the Drumminor in order to discuss the proposal mentioned above?

Yours sincerely,
Lauran Heufner

P.S. Could you possibly borrow Nicholas' Amex card too? Mine was recently recalled for defective credit payments.

students' association

Women's Officer
Kim Pedler

CURRENT ATTACKS ON ABORTION RIGHTS

In early June, Senator Brian Harradine (Independent, Tasmania) issued a press release stating that he will move, in August, a Private Member's Bill - The Abortion Funding Abolition Act, to greatly restrict women's access to the Medicare rebate on abortion. The only conditions under which women could get a Medicare rebate for abortion if the Bill was passed are, firstly, that if the doctor had not performed the abortion the "pregnant person in (the doctor's) judgement would have died", and secondly, if the doctor was unaware that "the undertaking of the medical

service would end the life of an unborn human being". Limitation of access to Medicare abortions is designed to restrict access to what many believe is a legitimate medical procedure. It is in effect denying a woman's right to choose in practical terms.

In an article in the International Federation of Business and Professional Women Newsletter entitled "The Issue That Won't Go Away", Sharyn Cederman stated that "despite the widespread community acceptance of access to safe, legal terminations, despite the clear need for the services provided (61, 879 abortions paartially funded by the Commonwealth Government in 1987-88) once again the anti-choice lobby is raising its head ... Regardless of one's views on abortion itself, there can be no justification for punishing the less affluent with compulsory childbearing ... Women are not to be treated like animals, unwilling producing offspring for those unable to do so."

SELF DEFENCE CLASSES

FREE introductory self-defence classes for women will again be held in the Games Room on Monday 14 August and Thursday 17 August.

Places are limited so please contact the Students' Association if you are interested in attending. For more information about rape, self-defence or sexual harassment, contact Women on Campus, The Rape Crisis Centre or the Students Association.

President
Juanita Lovati

AUSTUDY

Students who receive AUSTUDY might find themselves under pressure from the Government very soon. Poor communication and a lack of understanding (on the Federal Government's part) have caused two major problems to arise. No doubt the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Department of Education, Employment and Training (DEET) will handle these with the finesse and sensitivity of an elephant on roller skates.

TAX FILE NUMBERS

As at the end of the last fiscal year, more than 50,000 students receiving the AUSTUDY allowance this year had not supplied DEET with the tax file numbers (TFNs). While this is a nationwide figure and might not seem to be too serious, the fact is that it represents one out of every five AUSTUDY recipients. For the 20% who have not revealed their TFN to their particular DEET AUSTUDY Office, tax will be automatically deducted from their payments at a rate of 50.25%. Officials in SA have so far been quite co-operative and have sent out notices to be placed around the campus. Furthermore, an amnesty until July 31 has been secured so all

of those who have not yet applied for, or surrendered, their TFN to the Adelaide AUSTUDY Office (Da Costa Building, near the corner of Grenfell and Gawler Place) should do so as soon as possible.

There are plenty of space DEET Taxation Declaration forms here at the SAUA Office and, of course, at the AUSTUDY Office, where the forms must be lodged. Do not take the completed form to the Taxation Office, because it may well get delayed or lost in the system. And who can afford to have their AUSTUDY payments halved?

FRAUD CLAMP DOWN

Peter Duncan, the Minister assisting the Minister for Education, Employment and Training issued a terse press release saying that DEET would once again swing Benefits Control Units (BCU) into full action, in an effort to clamp down on students who don't declare all their income.

The last time BCU were in the limelight many complaints were received from students who felt they had been harassed and treated like criminals. Some had even been intimidated and confused into giving the wrong details and got themselves into a real mess.

The Government now will send out a form requiring AUSTUDY recipients to state whether the information on their original application has changed and if so, to notify AUSTUDY, providing details. This is particularly serious if the change is in estimated income. If you need any advice

about your AUSTUDY situation, please do not hesitate to see me in the SAUA Office, or Education/Welfare Officer, Maria Schuman in the Lady Symon Building.

MERGERS

Rather than boring or confusing you with a preamble (and I'm sure you've all probably had your fill of amalgamations anyway), I will get straight to listing the decisions made by the University's Education Committee last Wednesday.

Education Committee is the senior academic body of the University as it contains; the Chairpersons of every Department; the Deans of each Faculty; the Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellors; Senior administrative officials; Executive Members; and twelve students.

It decided to (1) support the continuation of merger discussions with Roseworthy, (2) request Council to establish with SACAE a working party of 3 academics and 1 student from each institution to report to both within 1 month on what the major academic problems are in merger and on what solutions to those problems there might be, because the Merger Implementation Agreement contemplated an examination of the conditions of merger between the Uni and SACAE in a degree of detail that was premature, (3) state, the University's responsibility to contribute to the settlement of the structure of the whole of the tertiary education sector.

It has also become clear that none of SA's

other tertiary institutions want to come to a round table discussion.

PROSH

Semesterisation has caused us a few problems not the least of which is what to do with Prosh.

With this in mind, an open meeting for all interested persons was called by Finance Vice-President Michael Vorin who chairs the SAUA's Activities Standing Committee. That meeting decided unanimously that, since the traditional dates fall in the mid-year break, Prosh '89 should be held on the last few days of Term III.

Therefore, the SAUA is looking for an energetic, fun-loving, hardworking person to organise Prosh '89 and raise lots of money for a worthy charity (yet to be decided).

Interested active people should apply to the SAUA at their earliest convenience, addressing their application for Prosh Director to the President.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Giving thanks to God who has made us acceptable to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of Jesus. Colossians 1:12,13

PGSA Research Officer
Mark Leahy

THE HIGH PRICE OF UNRELIABILITY
The implications of the University putting itself back to square one in the amalgamations process.

In her column, Juanita has given details of the Education Committee recommendations, in which the University continues to postpone merger negotiations with the SACAE. I shall be looking at the implications this has for democratic governance within the institution and for the future funding the University receives from the Commonwealth.

Firstly, funding: the Commonwealth Government has recently announced that it will be making available \$7 million dollars for amalgamations in Australia. This is well below what was expected. However, this should be weighed against the fact that some institutions have already received their funding.

For example, in South Australia, Flinders University & The SAIT have already received funding. It has been estimated that the University of Adelaide would receive approximately 10-15% of these funds. Again, this is nowhere what was anticipated when the University agreed to join the Unified National System, thereby accepting a contractual obligation to merge. Many of the people advocating against the continuance of the merger negotiations with the SACAE have used this argument in their favour.

OTHER FACTS

While there is some credence to their arguments a number of other facts should be taken into account. Firstly, the University of Adelaide was not actually merging with

the SACAE & Roseworthy at this stage. The Agreement which was to have been signed was simply an agreement to a process; an investigative process which would collect the evidence which is necessary for the various institutions to make their decisions whether to actually merge or not. It was, by far, the most rational & democratic merger within Australia.

The decision to actually merge would not have to be made until all of the relevant facts, regarding issues such as governance structures, course structures, administrative arrangements, staffing levels, etc. were put before the relevant constituencies for consideration. It is ironic, then, that many of the people who have been advocating the postponement of the merger process argued that this had to be done because we do not have enough facts.

Secondly, the actual funding for amalgamations is only a small part of the funding problem. The Federal Government is in the process of equalising funding - that is, establishing a national average for funds allocated to tertiary institutions. The University of Adelaide, when compared with other institutions, is the most overfunded within Australia, being above the national average. One of the reasons is because of our low level of EFTSU's (Effective Full-time Student Units). This means the Federal Government will, over the next few years, reduce funding to this institution.

One way of mitigating against this is to increase our EFTSU's - a merger with the SACAE & Roseworthy would have given us the level of EFTSU's the Government is aiming for. The result would be a funding cut which is less than the cut we would receive if we continue with the present numbers. Without such a merger, it has been estimated that we lose approximately \$10 million over the next three years. This will have a significant detrimental impact

upon students. Indeed, the Vice-Chancellor alluded to this, when he was advocating the merger process only a month ago. This is an extract from the University Council minutes of May 12th:

He (the VC) pointed out that in the circumstances of the Government's announced policy of equalisation of funding it was likely that in the future the University would in real terms be less well off than it was now. If the University decided not to merge with the SACAE it would have to consider reducing the number of programmes it offered in future academic years.

By acting in bad faith over the merger process, then, this institution will seriously jeopardise the the number and diversity of course offering and student services provided by the institution.

COLLEGIAL GOVERNANCE

A second implication of the postponement of the merger process is the continuance of the democratic (or collegial) governance system within the University. The University of Adelaide has one of the most democratic governance systems in Australia, guaranteeing involvement from students, staff and members of the outside community.

Dawkins, who prefers a managerial model of governance, has highlighted this institution as a "problem" one. However, he has, so far, been prepared to allow the University to continue with collegial governance, as long as it continues to work. By unilaterally breaching the decisions made by the academic committees (Executive, Education & Council), the Vice-Chancellor has severely endangered the continuance of democratic governance within the institution. A very reliable source within DEET has informed us that the Minister is extremely angry that the merger process has been de-railed and is

likely to put pressure on the State Government to legislate a merger, without consultation and to ensure that the new University does not have a democratic governance system.

It is ironic, then, that, by ignoring effective decisions made by a democratic governance system, which involved administrators, students, academic & general staff, the VC has brought into question the effectiveness of democratic governance. It is also ironic that, in May, the VC argued that "the University faced one of its most challenging times and the negotiation of a merger would be a test of the University's collegial governance" (Council minutes).

That test has been made and we have failed. Unless the University Council can be persuaded to reactivate the merger process in August, the ability for future students of this institution to be adequately and effectively represented within the decision-making structures is under serious attack. Or, as the VC put it: "Council needed to ask itself what type of University it would then be passing on to future generations of scholars." It is a pity that question wasn't asked when Council agreed to the VC's recommendation to postpone merger talks with the SACAE.

PS : On a brighter note, the campaign for Roger Delaney as VC is going well. Many people have expressed interest and it is receiving much cross-factional support (Left, Liberal, ALP, Port, Norwood, West Adelaide...). The fact that he recently refused to go into Channel Nine to pick up a colour TV he had won, because it would mean breaking the Port Adelaide Football Club's boycott on the media, indicates that he has the sort of principles required for a VC!

PUB COMPETITION

This is the first entry in our Pub Competition. Yes, the competition is definitely on. Send your thoughts on your favourite pub and we'll print the best entries. In the last issue of On Dit for the year, the winners will be announced and a number of prizes awarded. Don't worry - these will be good ones!

This week, Giselle Bastin tells us about 'the Tatts'.

**THE TATTERSALLS HOTEL
17 HINDLEY STREET, CITY.**

The Tattersalls (fondly known as 'the Tatts') is a pub for people with a discerning red wine palate - particularly the sort which comes in rather large, wide-necked bottles with screw top lids. The manager, I am told, owns the Normans winery and they make a very nice red wine (even their flagons are drinkable).

The outside of the pub is a refreshing sight after some of the horrors of Hindley Street as it is one of the few buildings which has not been painted a gaudy colour or made to look as if Colonel Light drank there in person. It is just old. The glass which covers

the liquor display in the front window is often smeared from the many faces that get pressed up against it - a bit like the window of Darrell Lea's across the road except the smears are a little higher.

The decor inside is - well, there isn't any but I will say this in its favour, there is no grey or cobalt blue, and no post-modernist triangular peaks or circles mounted over doorways.

There are four drinking areas. If you enter from the front there is a comfortable room frequented by a few middle-aged regulars and the occasional genial drunk. Inside, past a door which reads "Toilets and Lounge Bar" (no connection between the two), there is a bar which has been kept in its original state with an interesting carved display which holds the liquor. This room is my favourite as it has no windows so you can happily ignore the time of day and no-one can see that you are there. I have as yet to descend the stairs to see what it is like in the basement bar but it appears to be popular with middle-aged business men who rarely seem to come up again.

The Tatts is a pleasant venue in which to idle away the hours between the rigours of study. Importantly, one of the things it has most in its favour is its accessibility to the university. All you have to do to get there is jump on a Myer courtesy bus in Pulteney street or and it will drop you practically outside the front door.

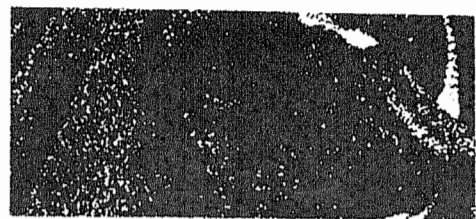


HIROSHIMA DAY 1989

10.30 a.m.
Saturday,
August 5th.

March starts 11 a.m.,
Victoria Square,
then to Peace Park
(opposite Memorial Hospital).

Various Speakers.



POLITICAL REPRESENTATION THE UNDERVALUED SERVICE

Penny Wong looks at the value of political representation and the way in which it is underestimated.

Australians have a tendency to damn all forms of political representation. How often do we hear people saying "those bloody politicians - they're all the same". Given the

current leanings of our politicians, I'm not sure I'd disagree.

However, there is a danger in equating the players with the game and throwing both in the rubbish bin. I have heard some extremely convincing criticisms of both our Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. I have yet to hear any argument that could convince me that political representation is not a good thing.

Certainly, all forms of representative democracy have their limitations. However, the basic underlying assumption - that each and every individual has a right to participate in a political process that affects them - seems to me to be an essentially democratic principle, the value of which should not be undermined. All persons who are part of a collective whole have a fundamental right to have a say in what this collective does. Those who argue otherwise would seem to me to be advocating a form of totalitarianism that is the antithesis of any democratic ideal.

THE STUDENT SECTOR

In the student sector, as in so many other parts of this society, political representation is often undermined. It suffers because it doesn't yield a profit, and today's emphasis

on economic rationalism equates value with economic return. Its very real benefits are glossed over, and the consequences of having inadequate forms of student representation are similarly ignored. But in the current context of both the Government's restructuring of the Higher Education Sector, and of this University in particular, political representation of students by students is essential.

Adelaide Uni is recognised nationwide as having (on paper at least) a particularly democratic form of collegial governance. The governance structures are such that both academics and students, as well as administrative staff, participate in various committees and councils that determine the direction and functioning of this University.

So simply in terms of the everyday running of the University, students can impact upon the process.

This is made even more essential by the Government's programme. Tertiary Institutions are having to respond extremely fast to a multitude of changes to Higher Education, and to concomitant government demands. As members of this University, students should have a say in the institutional response to these changes and demands. As students in the broader sense we should be responding to the

Government's agenda as a particular social group.

There are those who believe that student organisations should be more "services based". Certainly the Unions should be servicing students in a variety of different ways. But political representation is also a service, and the students at this University deserve competent and committed representation.

This means that the SAUA, and the Departmental and Faculty representatives, must be adequately resourced.

Contrary to many people's beliefs, students do care about what happens to them as students - they will care if their department cuts courses, they will care if staff/student ratios continue to rise, they do care if their assessment scheme is unfair, they are concerned with amalgamations.

The whole idea of an unquestioning apathetic student body, who are only interested in the Union Bar (not that the Bar is a bad thing), and who do not need to be consulted and represented I find arrogant and undemocratic.

Political representation with maximum consultation and participation of the wider student body must be a priority for any student organisation worth its salt. It is not an optional extra.

Wendy Wakefield gives a perspective on the Union's budgetary processes.

The Adelaide University Union is presently involved in the budgetary process. How our money (the Statutory Union fee) will be spent in 1990 is being determined now. While ultimately the decision lies with the Union Board, the Finance and Development Standing Committee receives submissions from the various areas and autonomous Associations of the Union and makes recommendations to the Union Board which consists of eighteen voting

Budget Decision-making

student members plus one voting staff representative.

It concerns me that some student members of the F&DSC have undermined the value of student representation by rejecting submissions from the Students' Association and Postgraduate Students' Association for compensation for elected office holders. These detailed submissions were rejected by the majority of F&DSC not on the basis that the work of the officers is unworthy of compensation, but rather on the basis that this expenditure could not be justified to the membership of the Union.

THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SUBMISSION

The SAUA budget submission, endorsed by SAUA council, includes an increase in

the Education Vice-President honorarium from the present \$20 per week to half the amount the President receives, as compensation for 20 hours per week spent in the SAUA. In terms of its impact on the the Union fee, this payment would amount to approximately \$1, according to the Union Accountant.

As Anthea Howard pointed out in her column (On Dit 26/7/89), implementation of the reform package for faculty and departmental student representation would amount to at least 20 hours work per week for the EVP. However, students should be aware of the fact that the current EVP spends much more than 20 hours on detailed submissions, reports, and attendance at both University and student meetings. The SAUA submission took into account the need for the regulation of this payment in the form of timesheets, so that the incumbent would not be paid unless timesheets were completed and authorised.

THE POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The PGSA submission is for an honorarium for the President who presently receives no compensation. The PGSA formerly notified the Union last year that it would make this submission for an amount equivalent to that received by the SAUA President.

The position of postgraduate students is different to undergraduates. Postgraduate candidature is for a fixed period of time - an MA is 3 years and PhD has now been changed to 3 and a half years. The only way to extend time is to "intermit" which involves postponing thesis or coursework for a period of between 3 months and 1 year. During this time the candidate must however forgo their scholarship.

Postgraduate students are not able to go part-time in the same way as undergraduates. And it should be kept in mind that only a proportion of postgraduates are on scholarships - others must work part-time in order to be able to afford to study.

The full-time President of the PGSA can therefore either intermit in order to devote her/his time to representational responsibilities and have no income, or attempt to do both full-time thesis and perform her/his duties as President, with the result that her/his academic career suffers. The last 4 Presidents of the PGSA have not completed their theses for this reason.

Students might not be aware that the sudden and far-reaching changes in Government Higher Education policy have severely stretched student resources to the limit. Hence, representatives within the Students' Association and the Postgraduate Students' Association are performing a greater amount of research and representation than ever. Despite being students with considerable study commitments, the nature of their duties requires a great amount of their time to be sacrificed for a professional level of representative work.

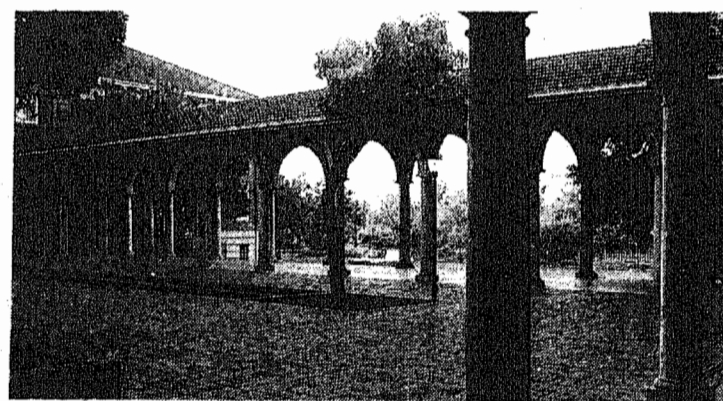
A RESOURCE CENTRE?

While these submissions were rejected, the expenditure of \$73,820 for a student resource centre was supported. The idea of a resource centre is a very good one, and was raised by the Union President, Sathish Dasan in his report to Union Board (3/4/89). His idea was to bring "together all the printing, photocopying and computing facilities [of the Union] in the one spot. It would therefore not only be accessible to union administration but also accessible to the AUU membership."

However, this commendable idea has not been followed up and researched adequately. The idea has only been discussed at one Union Board meeting, and was briefly mentioned at two F&DSC

meetings, and on no occasion has there been any formal recommendations or motions passed.

There is nothing on paper outlining the functions of the resource centre (ie would it be for clubs, or for essay-writing, or what?) nor where it would be located. There has been no consultation with the affiliate groups such as the SAUA, which had negotiations with the University regarding computer literacy. The University, with its present emphasis on computer literacy, has not been lobbied to provide funds for such a project. There has also been no research into whether computing facilities might be better off located in the faculties, a point raised at



the Union Board meeting when the resource centre was first mentioned. Students at the Waite Institute and CASM are the obvious members who need to be consulted on this point. There are no doubt many other issues which need working out.

I do not believe it is financially responsible to spend money on an unresearched project. Financial responsibility means allocating the resources we provide in order to provide the best possible services. It is not responsible to spend money first and work out afterwards whether it really was spent in the best way.

It is frustrating that an unresearched project gets support while the detailed submissions for worthwhile expenditure on compensation for representation is rejected, purely because it is seen as a politically dangerous stance to take.

Save Samoan Rainforests

Jeni Kendell, film-maker and environmentalist, was in town last week. She spoke at lunchtime Tuesday, to Friends of the Earth and presented an "illuminated talk" on Tuesday night. She writes of a scheme to save rainforests in Samoa:



Recently, Paul Tait and I were over filming in Samoa. We were there to cover the story of the forming of a Rainforest Park on the Island of Savai'i. We'd like to share with you the story of our trip, and also ask you for help.

The new National rainforest Park was created to protect the forests which belong to the village of Falealupo on the Island of Savai'i in Western Samoa. This is how it came into being.....

Dr Paul Cox, an ethnobiologist from Provo University, Utah, USA, had been working in these rainforests for five years. As he researched the flora and fauna of the forest he began to realise that there were very few pollinators and that the major pollinators were, in fact, bats. He then found that the bats flew around during the day as they had no predators.

The story of this discovery is very interesting. Dr Cox was studying a plant called "Freycinettia" which has at its tips bright orange fleshy flowers. He noticed that it looked like they had been pollinated by bats, and so every night for two weeks he sat and watched for proof of his theory. After two weeks, he went to one of the Chiefs of the village and said, "I've been waiting all this time to see the bats pollinate the Freycentias and I've seen nothing! Is it the bats that pollinate these flowers?"

"Yes," said the Chief, "but it's the daytime bats, not the night-time bats."

"But why didn't you tell me there are daytime bats?" said Cox.

"Because you didn't ask!" said the Chief. It seems this species, called *Pteropus samoensis*, is unique to Samoa and very rare.

There are perhaps only 500 of these bats. One day, while Dr Cox was continuing with his studies, he heard bulldozers start up down beyond the village. He ran down and spoke to the Chiefs and was told that their school was in such poor condition that the government had told them they would no longer send teachers unless they built a new school. The Chiefs, crying as they told Paul Cox, said they had been forced to sell their rainforest to the mill as they had no other way of paying for the school.

Dr Cox said, "If I sign a piece of paper saying I will undertake to raise the money back in America, is it possible that you can stop the destruction?"

"Yes", they said, and two Chiefs took off into the forest, running the 5 kilometres to where the dozers were working. They told the logging operators they must stop.

Six months later, having raised the necessary money in the States, Dr Cox arrived back at Savai'i to pay for a new school. There were school children singing and dancing and festivities all day.

Building of the school started the next day and the Falealupo National Rainforest Park was a reality. It was agreed that the forest would be kept safe for 50 years, that there would be no shooting of animals, and timber only taken for traditional uses with traditional tools. The people of Falealupo in return would retain their landrights to their traditional forest.

After the festivities, we went to see the Manager of the logging mill and asked what he would do next. He said his company "would just go somewhere else!"

We then went to the other end of Savai'i Island with Dr Cox's Swedish colleague, Dr Thomas Elmquist. We arrived in the pouring rain to see Chiefs of the villages of Tafua, Fa'ala, and Salelonga, who collectively own the rights to the rainforests extensively covering this end of the Island. We found them actually waiting for the Manager of the mill to arrive to sign the drafted contracts. It seemed that two villages had received the same ultimatum about their schools as Falealupo. The other village had half completed their hospital and then run out of money. The total cost to complete these projects was around \$220,000 and was totally unreachable by the local community except by selling their much loved rainforest.

These people have been living in the villages for 2,500 years and have always lived using products of the forest for their houses, boats, mats, clothes and food. Till this time the forest have remained little changed and the people have respected their "treasure" and lived in harmony with their environment.

Dr Elmquist and ourselves made the

same commitment as Paul Cox had made in Falealupo, and have till the end of August to raise the \$220,000.

Already \$100,000 has been raised, most of it in Sweden. The World Wildlife Fund has given funds for three years of study of the *Pteropus samoensis*. The IUCN is now considering putting it on the endangered species list.

The Samoans are wonderful people. So honest and generous and kind that we would like to help them in their endeavour to keep their forests intact and to be able to educate their children and look after the sick. Dr Cox said something that really affected me. It was this: "If we are to judge the quality of a people by how they respect their elders and children and look after the sick, then look at these Samoan people."

"Look at what they call Fa'a Samoa (the Samoan Way). The graves of the parents are outside the houses of the descendents; there are fresh flowers surrounding the hospital which are replaced every day to help the spirit of the sick; and there is no word for 'orphan'. Children are much loved. Family life is the core of their existence and respect for tradition is all important."

If you feel you could help us raise money for the schools and hospital, and in doing so save a rainforest, please send your donations to the Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn Victoria. Mark your donation "I would prefer this used for the Samoan Rainforest National Park." These donations are tax deductible.

We especially hope that schoolchildren here in Australia will want to help fellow children in Samoa with classrooms for their education.

In doing this our school children will be directly saving the rainforest trees, plants and animals of Samoa.

Please help if you can.

Adelaide Uni Friends Of the Earth will be collecting funds for the Samoan Rainforests. Either leave your donation at their stall, or pass it on via the Student's Association office.

EARTH ISSUES

The Green Arrow keeps us up to date on environmental issues.

NO NEED FOR GREED

S M Mohamed Idris is president of Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends Of the Earth, Malaysia).

Last December, he accepted a Right Livelihood Award (the alternative Nobel Prizes). As part of his speech, he made the following observations:

"At the forefront of the battle to save the forest are the indigenous people. In culturally and physically destroying the indigenous people, whose who live in the modern world are also destroying themselves. For the whole world is now slowly awakening to the realization that the economic growth and development patterns of the modern world are not sustainable; they are in fact, suicidal! The indigenous peoples are the true masters of sustainable living - the kind of sustainability that is genuine, not the type of sustainability that wants to do a technological fix-it job, but continues to waste resources for a meaningless "high-level" lifestyle."

THE THROW-AWAY MENTALITY

"The roots of deforestation are located in the industrialized countries, where most of the tropical wood, oil, mineral, metal, and fishery resources of the Third World end up. The rich nations, with a quarter of the world's population, use up four-fifths of the world's resources- and mostly for things that don't contribute to human well-being or happiness. It is the throw-away society of the North that is leading to the throw-away of the world.

"I will give you just one small example. In the deep forest of Sarawak, the Penan people eat their sago food with a unique kind of chopsticks, which they use for years and years. In Japan, the Japanese now use and throw away 20 billion pairs of disposable chopsticks a year.

"Some of the wood for these chopsticks comes from Malaysia. When we told this to the Penan in Sarawak, their response was: 'Why are the modern people so stupid to use their chopsticks once and throw them away? Don't they know this uses up the precious forests of the world?'"

TOWARDS AN ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE WORLD

"It is necessary for modern man and woman to acquire humility if we are to learn from the native man and woman. We must all intensify our actions to help save the world's environment, to build a new world that is socially just and equal, a world which is ecologically sustainable, a world which attains genuine peace because people have learned to live justly with one another and in harmony with nature.

"It is the responsibility of all of us who live in the modern world to heed the call of the world's indigenous peoples so that a new world will come into being, where all peoples can live according to human need and not according to human greed."

Monica Carroll conversed with John Fleming on the subject of bioethics and the areas it covers.

bio ethics

The word 'Bioethics' is comprised of two words - "bios", the Greek word for life and "ethos", the rightness or wrongness of human conduct in the life sciences. Thus the role of bioethics is to consider the impact of contemporary medical technology on human beings, to look at the role of doctor and patient and other health care professionals, and to work out what we want to be doing as distinct from what we can do. This, of course, leads to moral choices.

John Fleming of the 'Southern Cross Bioethics Institute' pointed out that Bioethics is essentially multi-disciplinary, involving not only the medical sciences but philosophy, theology, law, sociology, "and, of course, there's a hedonist critique of some of the issues and that has a school of its own."

He emphasised that dialogue between the disciplines is crucial in Bioethics; "A bioethical judgement that's misinformed ethically or misinformed medically, will be very bad judgement; that is why Bioethics is multi-disciplinary."

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BIOETHICS INSTITUTE

The Southern Cross Bioethics Institute of which John is Co-Director has a number of functions. It performs research - the necessary data is derived from medical, legal, theological, bioethical journals etc - in order to formulate solutions to extremely complex questions. It also helps clarify what the issues are in a particular problem so the solution may be more readily available, it helps facilitate discussion between professions, it has a role in keeping the public informed of bioethical issues and assisting public policy decision-makers (such as politicians) when called upon to do so.

John emphasised the things a Bioethics Institute is not:

"It is not a political action group - we have no pretensions or any such role, it's not there to sit in judgement upon the medical profession or any other profession, and it's not there to simply peddle one point of view only but encourages a variety of points of view in bioethics and discussion."

The Institute is funded by Southern Cross Homes but is autonomous in its workings and projects. It possesses an independent Board of Management, and a panel of consultants, comprised of experts from the disciplinary fields of bioethics. The Directors of the Institute (John and Dr Daniel Overduin) can call upon these people for advice, information, etc.

An example of this is the forthcoming national conference "Bioethics and AIDS" to be held from September 5-7 at the Festival Centre. It is being organised by the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute in conjunction with the South Australian Postgraduate Medical Education Association.

Giving assistance are consultants such as Professor Peter McDonald (Professor of Microbiology at the Flinders Medical Centre), Professor Anthony Radford (Professor of Community Medicine at Flinders Medical Centre), Dr Chris Kennedy (Medical Administrator at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital), Dr Peter Woolcock (Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at

Magill College of Advanced Education) and Dr Hank Duyverman (Executive Director of the South Australian Postgraduate Medical Education Association).

The Institution also offers Bioethics research notes, consisting of abstractions from learned journals in order to alert people to interesting articles and information. No comments are given on the articles. There are also book reviews. These publications are sent all over the world. The Institute also publishes material in journals and contributes to books.

The institution is also a member of the 'European Association of Medical Ethics Centres' so it has an international role to play.

THE ETHICAL TRADITION

In today's increasingly medically and scientifically sophisticated society, there is a greater need than ever for Bioethics institutes. People may perceive the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute, however, as part of the Catholic Church.

John points out that the Institution's position is not easily categorised:

"We don't say 'We argue a Christian line' - the Christian churches are quite capable of doing that. What would generally come from this Institute, however, is in harmony with the Christian tradition. It takes account of the sacred scriptures of Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Anyone who thinks the Institute has no intellectual content and is just an adjunct of the Catholic Church is being foolish (apart from the fact that there is intellectual content in the work of Church philosophers).

"The Institute has a range of consultants, from a variety of standpoints - we have Muslims, Christians, agnostics, and atheists. Dr Overduin, my co-worker, is a Lutheran. We're an independent, ecumenical body. We argue our case on the basis of what I would call the medical ethical tradition which has been around for several thousands of years from Hippocrates onwards. We refer to the great medical ethical codes of Helsinki, of Nuremberg, and of course, Hippocrates."

John refers again to the religious medical tradition, using the Third World situation as an example of blinkered secularism. He says the Western notion of abortion, contraception, and sterilisation as the answer to population growth is "arrogant":

"First of all, there's no guarantee it's the truth of the matter just because the promoters of this view think it's true, secondly you have to take account of the traditional culture of the people to whom you're offering these solutions. If these solutions are unacceptable, then go away and think again. The religious branch of knowledge is an integral part of the whole mix. The great thing about bioethics is that it requires you to be tolerant of views with which you don't agree and to take into account traditions, cultures, religions and philosophical viewpoints that are not your own."

John says the Third World people have the fundamental human right to refuse the imposition of Western secularised cures for their problems.

In answer to my question of whether he thinks people in general are re-thinking the focus of their attempts to solve the world's problems, John feels it is too early to say whether that is the case or not. He does cite a World Health Organisation project to produce a contraceptive vaccine being undertaken by the Australia's Flinders Medical Centre; "The purpose of this vaccine is not to prevent the sperm fertilising the egg, but to prevent the fertilised egg, the embryonic human being, from developing - it causes the embryo to die and be aborted. Now, who are going to be the grateful beneficiaries of this vaccine - according to those in charge, the Third World. Did anyone ask the people of the Third World? The dismissing of whole cultures, whole religions, whole philosophies shows an extremely narrow and impoverished mind."

Pointing to the "accumulated wisdom of many centuries" to be found in the Barr Smith Library, he says, "The world didn't begin at the twentieth century." He is concerned by the disregard for traditional thought, an anti-intellectualism of a different kind, and the idea that instant solutions to the complex problems of our society and the world's differing societies are the only viable means of coming to terms with these problems.

IN VITRO FERTILISATION

We moved to the question of In Vitro Fertilisation, a complex topic which has been simplified by the media. John discussed different aspects of the programme; "Firstly, the enormous wastage of human embryos in the IVF programme. Out of 100 embryos created in the glass dish, only 4 are likely to be born as babies. So that means 96 out of all the embryos created through IVF will simply die.

"Secondly, there is enormous pressure for the development of IVF programmes to allow experimentation on human embryos. We believe there are a quarter of a billion human embryos in deep freeze in Europe alone. Now if you consider the embryonic human being to be a human being that has a right to live, then the cavalier indifference with which embryos are treated constitutes a significant ethical problem as far as IVF procedures are concerned.

"Another thing is that the IVF programmes are notoriously inefficient; there's a small chance of pregnancy on a treatment cycle - 85% of couples who go on the programme will never have a baby. So you're looking at a whole range of couples who are subjected to enormous stress by the IVF programme. In "The Sunday Mail" of July 2nd, a book called "Infertility" by R Klein (Allen & Unwin) is mentioned, and the book is sub-titled 'Women Speak Out About Their Experiences Of Reproductive Medicine'. She (the author) strongly gets into the enormous pain and suffering of couples who go on a programme which is fundamentally inefficient."

The success rate of the IVF programme has been overestimated - at the most, 15% of couples are

Continued on page 22

Steve Thompson interviewed the Federal Minister for Education, John Dawkins, about his Higher Education policies.

Dawkins



The message is simple and clear: despite staff and student protests, no changes will be made to the Hawke Government's tertiary education policy before the next election.

This is according to the Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr John Dawkins, who says the Government is completely committed to Australia-wide amalgamations of tertiary institutions, and to the imposition of the "Graduate Tax" or Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) on students.

Since his plans for cost-effective education were announced in mid-1988, Mr Dawkins has received a great deal of criticism. He has probably faced more abuse than any other member of Cabinet, with the exception of Neal Blewett.

Officially, John Dawkins is "neither surprised nor alarmed" at student marches down city streets. Mr Dawkins says, "I am always willing to debate issues with students."

But it is well-known around Parliament House that despite the Education Minister's gruff and aggressive appearance, he is very reluctant to return to campuses and face angry students again.

The strain of the past year shows in Mr Dawkins' guarded handling of questions on tertiary education policy. Like a good batsman on a turning wicket, he greets most deliveries with a straight bat and plenty of pad.

NO COMMITMENT TO FREE EDUCATION

Mr Dawkins has no problem admitting the Hawke Government's policy is "no longer one of free education". But when asked how his policy change is consistent with the public's memory of traditional left-wing Labor ideology, out comes a forward thrust of the pad.

"It depends what you mean by 'traditional' ideology," he counters. "There have been changes, but the present policy goes beyond the simple monetary considerations of whether education is 'free' or not. The policy is designed to ensure nobody - by virtue of their own or their family's means - be precluded from studying at a tertiary institution. We want tertiary study to be more accessible."

The difficulty students have had with this line is in understanding how the Government sees a tax on study as encouraging a greater number of people to study.

The answer lies in the vast numbers of people who want to go to university but miss

out. The Government's education planners have predicted that these people will wear a Graduate Tax and still want to study at university or college.

As Mr Dawkins is quick to point out, there has never been a greater interest in tertiary education amongst Australian people.

The Ministry's statistics reveal an extra 110,000 places have been created and filled since 1983. The Graduate Tax does not appear to have slowed the record rate of applications in its first year of operation in 1989. An acceleration of admissions of tertiary students, not a decline, is predicted.

Mr Dawkins explained the Higher Education Contribution Scheme has been made a necessity only because all marginal efficiencies have been exhausted within the education system, and tertiary institutions must now expand if they are to educate a greater number of students each year.

The Graduate Tax will provide the funds for expansion: \$141 million in 1989, \$275 million in 1990, and \$427 million in 1991. This adds up to a massive \$843 million over the triennium, approximately half of which will be used for over 120 capital works of new buildings and equipment.

Of course, the Graduate Tax need not have been the solution. Mr Dawkins' proud announcement of revenue raising distracts criticism from the Government's reluctance to use some of its vast budget surplus to fully fund tertiary education. On the other hand, it must be conceded that students themselves should bear some of the cost of expansion, rather than the electorate at large. Students, it could be argued, will value their education even more if they have to pay for some of it.

THE SELLING OF THE GRADUATE TAX

Throughout 1988, Mr Dawkins tried to sell the Graduate Tax by promising the creation of 40,000 study places with Tax revenue by the end of 1991. The Minister says the Government has now lifted that sum to 50,000, and figures for the even greater number of places to be created after 1991 are soon to be released.

However, it remains a serious concern just who will be benefitting from that extra education. The sheer numbers of applications and admissions may raise, but the Graduate Tax may deter some groups from study more than others.

An interesting survey made by the Salisbury College of Advanced Education in South Australia revealed private schools in the State accounted for about 20% of Year 8

students, but over 50% of first year entrants in the College's arts and social science faculties came from private high schools.

EQUITY?

If we assume parents who send children to private schools are generally richer, it could be argued from this data that students from lower-income families are less likely to enter tertiary institutions, and more likely to be deterred by the Graduate Tax.

If no direct provision exists to ensure the 50,000 new positions created by 1991 will be filled by a majority of students from lower-income backgrounds, how will the Government's stated aim of "broader base tertiary representation" be achieved?

Far from padding up this time, Mr Dawkins went on the attack, outlining the four main methods his Department will be using to make universities and colleges "more accessible":

- pressuring all students to finish Year 12 by stressing the extra financial and career opportunities available once Year 12 is passed;
- "bridge-building" between high schools and university, largely by providing more information about study and life at university and the benefits from tertiary study;
- higher living allowances for tertiary students, in the form of AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY payments indexed to the level of unemployment benefits;
- more childcare services for students who are parents of young children.

"The Government believes the Graduate Tax has a very low priority in the minds of Year 12 students considering whether they will go on to tertiary study. As time goes on we will see more and more students from lower-income families going to university," Mr Dawkins predicted.

Contrary to plan, Mr Dawkins was starting to look quite settled. So far he hadn't even looked like playing a rash shot in answering my questions. I decided to go around the wicket.

"Mr Dawkins, could it be said then that Gough Whitlam went too far in making all tertiary education free?"

The Minister replied by saying he thought Whitlam's revolutionary step was "motivated by entirely reasonable and honourable aims". But he went as far as to criticise Whitlam's policy because "it didn't have the desired effect" of making universities more accessible for poorer students.

Encouraged by this minor flourish, I tossed up a short delivery; "So will the Government reintroduce scholarships to partly compensate for the Graduate Tax?"

The answer was a quick and sharp dispatch to the boundary; "No."

Mr Dawkins expanded his answer with the reminder that while undergraduates generally incur an \$1800 HECS liability for each year of study, postgraduate students are exempt from the Tax. Also, he "hoped and expected" employers would be willing to help students pay off their HECS liabilities as part of overall employment packages offered to graduates.

Along the same lines of cost-minimisation, Mr Dawkins indicated he opposed an increase in AUSTUDY payments before the next election.

AMALGAMATIONS

The other major issue presently worrying students is that of amalgamations. The plan is for two or more independent institutions to merge and therefore be able to offer a wider variety of study options and to save millions of dollars annually in administrative costs.

Students fear a lowering of the quality of their education, but Mr Dawkins says this fear stems from the commonly held but incorrect belief that the Federal Government will be cutting back on funding for amalgamated institutions.

As previously mentioned, funding will be increased by \$843 million above current levels between 1989 and 1991.

"In the long run, budgets for universities are expected to remain constant. It will cost the Government exactly the same," Mr Dawkins said. "All the savings gained from greater efficiency can be used by the institutions to improve their situations."

Mr Dawkins went further to provide a guarantee for all tertiary students; "The quality of your education will not be harmed by amalgamations. I am very confident that it will improve because of amalgamations."

The Minister was willing to make the following predictions:

- lecture sizes will probably increase, eg. from 200 to 250 students per lecture, which "doesn't harm anyone";
- tutorial sizes will probably be reduced, as spare lecture staff are utilised;
- some classes "may" have to move off the campus where they are presently being taught, "but this will be compensated by the greater range of options available";
- students should pressure institutions, not

the Government, to maintain or improve library resources;

•administration need not become remote from students' needs, "because all that matters within the administrative pyramid is at what level decisions are made, not what size the pyramid is";

•students' interests will always be respected in the amalgamation process via student union representation.

But it is not only students who have expressed concerns. Staff in Victoria have publicly voiced their doubts about amalgamations, and the staff of Flinders University in South Australia have actually voted against the planned merger with the South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT).

Flinders academics' reasoning is not entirely clear, but appears to be on the issue of the independence of their university, guarantees for staff tenure and whether amalgamations provide the best deal for students.

In any event, Mr Dawkins has staff at Flinders covered.

In a move that demonstrates his many years of timely political manoeuvring, Mr Dawkins has frozen funds for capital projects at Flinders University "until they make a final decision" about merging with SAIT.

"How can we allocate funds before we know which path they will be taking?" Mr Dawkins asks.

So, if Mr Dawkins can convince the few institutions which still threaten the amalgamations scheme to accept his proposals, then he will have pulled off a remarkable game plan; already the Minister is close to silencing opposition from both conservative academics and disgruntled students.

The only question remaining - apart from finding out how much money can be saved by mergers - is what political damage has been done by HECS and amalgamations.

Advancing down the wicket, Mr Dawkins had this to say:

"The public at large thinks our policies are good ideas. The unpopularity of the plans has been greatly exaggerated, especially amongst students, and far from our education policy being a large negative, in my opinion the Government's performance on education reform is a small plus."

So at the end of the day's play, with the Government standing firm before the next election, the score stands at: Students 0, Flinders University -1, and John Dawkins 2 not out.



be happy or not

Kenny Evans looks at the Devo phenomenon

"In the beginning there was an amoeba. It split in two and thus began de-evolution. The amoeba eventually grew to become brain-eating humans and other assorted mutations.....Man was basically an insane species of brain-eating ape that went out of control. He went insane because his forefathers ate the brains of their battle victims. What early man didn't understand was that by consuming his opponents' grey matter, he also took on the victims' fears and aggressions. Soon he became out of touch with nature and tried to destroy other species."

DE-EVOLUTION

This is the theory of de-evolution as explained by Devo, a kind of Darwin-gone-wrong nightmare that forms a foundation for the 14 year-old group's unmistakable brand of pop. So how did it all begin? Simple.....

Booji Boy, son of General Boy, and the infantile spirit of de-evolution had of course known about de-evolution for years. In fact, in 1975, in conjunction with the Church of the Sub-Genius, he wrote a book called "My Struggle". In it he penned a poem entitled "How Many Ropes Must A Poor Monkey Climb?" It is suspected that Bob Dylan ripped off the poem and turned it into an earlier song of his own, substituting 'roads' for 'ropes' and 'man' for 'monkey', etc.

Booji Boy's literary efforts caught the attention of two easygoing spuds, singer/keyboardist Mark Mothersbaugh and bassist Gerald V. Casale, both studying art at the Kent State University. Enlisting a veritable army of brothers - Bob Mothersbaugh ('Bob I' - guitarist), Jim Mothersbaugh (drums) and Bob Casale ('Bob II' - keyboards), the pair formed a band.

The noises the band made represented the sound of things falling apart, or 'devolving', thus the music was called 'DEVO'.

Jim soon left to join the Roland Corporation, which manufactures electronic musical instruments, and was replaced by Alan Meyers. With this line-up the group made the film 'The Truth About De-evolution' starring Booji Boy, and with it won the best short film award at the Ann Arbor Film Festival in 1976. Music, however, was at the forefront of the de-evolution - any

band's interests.

Devo began performing live in small clubs, telling the club owners that they were a Top 40 cover band. They would introduce songs by saying that they were by Aerosmith or Foghat, and then proceed to play original compositions such as Jocko Homo or Mongoloid. People threw things at Devo, but at the insistence of Booji boy they continued until one day people stopped throwing things and realised that they were all Devo too.

GROWING CULT STATUS

The group created their own label, Booji Boy Records, and released three independent singles: "Jocko Homo"/"Mongoloid", "Be Stiff"/"Social Fools" and a cover version of the classic Stones' hit "Satisfaction" backed with "Sloppy (I Saw My Baby Getting)". These 4-track garage recordings were distributed by Devo themselves in the US, and by Stiff Records in Europe, who licensed the singles. "Jocko Homo" became a cult hit in the UK.

Meanwhile Devo stunned a 'Saturday Night Live' audience with the most bizarre version of "Satisfaction" ever witnessed. This stirred the interest of major record labels and Devo subsequently signed with Warner Brothers Records (represented by WEA in Australia) and in 1978 gave birth to their first album, "Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!" produced by Brian Eno.

THE SPUDS BEGIN TO SOAR

The album was praised by critics and cultists alike, but received little commercial success. The group's second album, "Duty Now For The Future", was released in early 1979 to a similar reception, and people began to dismiss Devo as just a bunch of spuds making noise.

1980, however, saw the release of the new album, "Freedom of Choice". Riding on the back of the monster-hit "Whip-It", the album soared into the charts and potatoes became street-credible. Devo became a household name, and experienced their greatest popularity in Australia where in 1981 the 6-track EP 'Devo Live' sat at the top of the singles charts, going platinum, whilst the 'Freedom of Choice' album and a new album, 'New Traditionalists' firmly

entrenched themselves in the Top 10.

The Spudboys from Akron, Ohio, were riding the crest of a wave, enjoying sell-out concerts wherever they played during their 1982 Australian tour. The single from 'New Traditionalists' - "Beautiful World", climbed into the Top 10, people everywhere were wearing energy domes and plastic 'Devo-doo' hair-pieces and share market prices in the potato industry hit an all-time high.

THE SPUDS COME DOWN TO EARTH

But the corporate life-forms and suburban robots didn't fully comprehend the Devo philosophy and wouldn't accept that they were part of de-evolution. Society, along with Devo's popularity, was rapidly devolving, and people began feeding off the things they hated. The McDonalds hamburger is a direct result of de-evolution.

People were repelled and scared by the fact that de-evolution was real, and hid their fears behind laughter at Devo. The group's fifth album "Oh No! It's Devo" was mocked. The single "That's Good" was ignored and the video, which included animated scenes of a french fry fornicating with a doughnut, didn't find its way onto prime-time television for obvious reasons. The next single, "Peek-A-Boo", was scoffed at in mainstream music circles, and Devo was dismissed as a joke.

The group became relatively silent for a couple of years and then suddenly burst back onto the scene in 1984 with the album, "Shout", which hit the charts with all the impact of a bulemnic kitten. Unfortunately, Warner Brothers forgot to promote the album which was undeniably Devo's most danceable, technically astounding and infectious work to date.

DEVO DISBANDED !

A 12" version of "Here To Go" from the album was released in Australia in 1986, two years after the album. It became a popular nightclub track, but achieved little else. 1986 also saw the release of "The Best of Devo, Vol. I" and with it came shattering news that reverberated around the globe - Devo had disbanded! Apparently the potato-heads had hung out their Chinese-American friendship suits to dry, and never returned to claim them.

Essentially, what happened was that Warner Brothers wished to wash their hands of the group, and bought them out - in effect paying them not to record.

Booji Boy went into a deep cocoon-siesta state, and spuds everywhere lamented this great loss and grew despondent. Mark Mothersbaugh occupied himself by staging art exhibitions in Tokyo, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco, scoring the odd film and composing music for the US television show, "Pee-Wee's Playhouse". He also released an album in Japan entitled "Music For Insomniacs". Bob Mothersbaugh also did some film scores and the Casale brothers produced albums for several bands, including Martini Ranch which featured Alan Myers on drums.

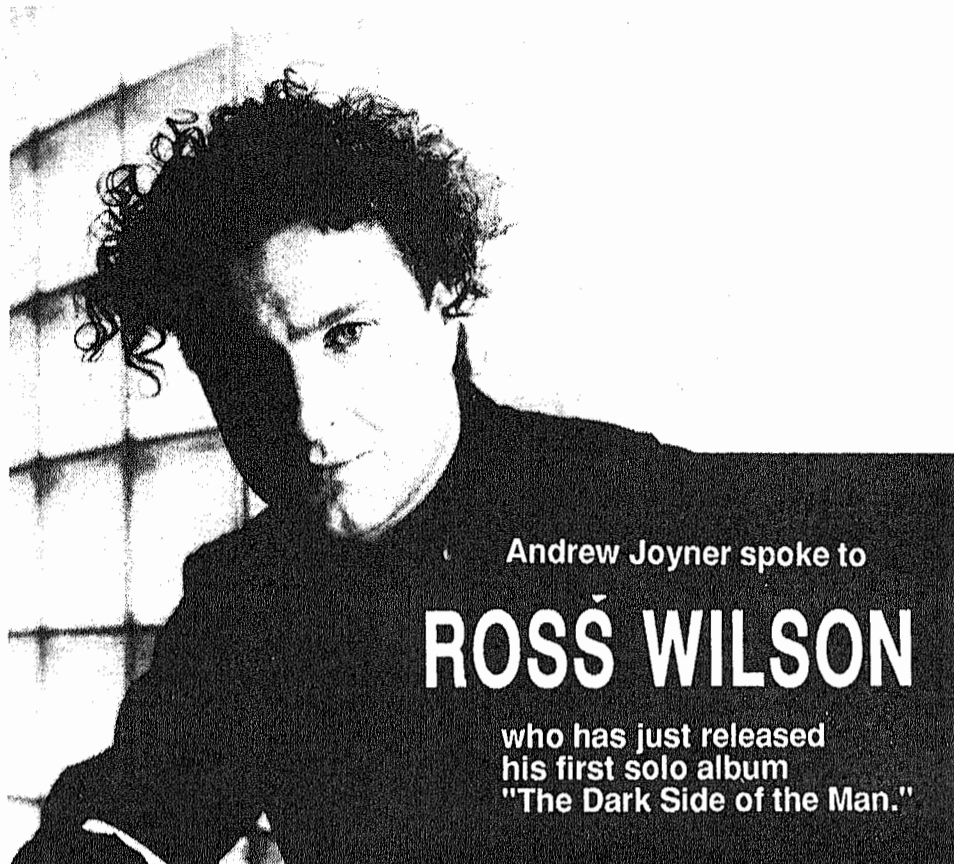
DEVO RE-GROUPED

Two years of mourning spuds and pent-up musical frustrations proved to much for the group, however, and in 1988 they suddenly re-grouped and delivered the new album "Total Devo" on the independent label, Enigma (licensed in Australia by Liberation through CBS). The world rejoiced, for Devo were obeying their genetic codes, Booji Boy had awoken from his cocoon-siesta state and the team was once again preaching the story of de-evolution to young and old alike. Alan Meyers had been replaced on drums by David Kendrick (ex-Sparks) but the song remained the same.

Apparently Devo signed with the small independent label simply because the company executives 'liked the music'. They passed up all of the major companies, including once that wanted them to produce something that sounded 'more like Sade'.

Assisted by their parents, General Boy, and Booji boy, Devo embarked on an American tour late in 1988 and this year released their first full live album, "Now It Can Be Told", a three sided offering not (as yet) released in Australia. The album contains all the classics of old, as well as new previously unreleased material including a suite of songs based on "Somewhere" from "West Side Story".

And how does the new album sound? Let us just say that tubers do conduct electricity and prancing Jocko Homos in shock wigs can't compare to the 14 year old legend that is DEVO.



Andrew Joyner spoke to
ROSS WILSON

who has just released
his first solo album
"The Dark Side of the Man."

Why did you decide to do a solo album?

Well, I write songs, and they're not always suitable for a group thing. I had a bunch of songs that seemed to be piling up, that were very personal and I just started to get the feeling that I should concentrate on me for a bit.

There seems to be quite a bit of disillusionment in the album. Did it spring out of any kind of personal disillusion?

It was more working my way through that. It's looking back at the first 40 years - music styles have influenced me while I was growing up and things had happened to me. But I'd hate it to be just a work of cynicism, however, because it's not. It's to do with learning from experience.

So you don't think there's any bitterness to it all?

Some of the songs have got a bitter edge because that's how I felt about those incidents. But I've learnt from it and I've now moved far enough to be able to look at it as an artist and to make music from it.

It's about me - the things that have happened to me. A song like "What's Wrong With This Picture", does have some comment to make about the effect of the media and how it sometimes can be destructive. But basically I'm laughing at the situation because I'm removed from it.

The majority of the pop and rock music audience is still very young. Do you ever find it hard to write songs within the pop framework when the majority of your audience is 20 years younger than you?

That's the whole thing about this record. I didn't write it for a teenage audience, but if they like it, that's fine. I wrote it, as I said, from a viewpoint of where I am now. I can only assume that there are people who have grown up who still buy records and listen to rock and stuff who are going to like this record. Because I like it, and I think I'm a pretty average guy. It's just that I write songs for a living rather than fixing air conditioners or something.

Does it actually feel like a living?

Yeah. But also, particularly having finished this album - I mean, I'm happy with it and I consider it a good work, a serious work - I feel better about myself, about calling myself an artist. I feel I've done something artistically worthwhile and not just a bunch of pop songs. It's the first time I've felt that way about an album, even though I might have consciously tried to construct something like that before. I think this album works from beginning to end as an entity.

Where do you think the jazz influence on the album originated?

In the last few years I've realised that to be quite an influence on me. Because in my childhood, my father, who had a huge collection of jazz albums, used to play these records all the time. Also, he was an amateur jazz musician, so I'd always hear him rehearse. There's been a bit of a jazz revival recently and I understood this music quite well because of the childhood influence, and I guess just becoming a more mature person or whatever, my taste had changed slightly, too. I had some days which I thought would lend themselves to these kind of arrangements.

How did you feel when you found that you had been selected for the Australian Music Hall of Fame?

Well, I didn't find out until it was actually being announced on the night.

The best part was that it wasn't a controversial decision, and everybody that was there was genuinely happy for me. They were pleased that I had got into the Hall of Fame, so if my peers thought I had deserved it, then that's enough for me. Apart from that I don't really have an opinion on it.

Have you set out in your career to always be involved with the "Australian Music Industry"?

All of this industry talk is a real trap. On the one hand, you have to look at it as a business because it's what I do for a living. On the other hand, I'm not a member of any music boards, and even though I've been asked to be on them, I don't really want to get involved with it, as it doesn't hold any real attraction. Perhaps I'm being lazy, perhaps I could do more, but I'm mainly

concerned with myself, and if people choose to write that I've got an influence because of what I do on that level, then I don't mind.

But I don't like being asked to be some kind of guru and to give my opinion on all this stuff because I don't think it's all that important. The thing has a life of its own, it just happens.

Do you think Australian music has any particular characterisation or is music just music?

It's hard to say because we are so influenced by American music of the twentieth century, since the invention of the gramophone.

That's still the prevailing influence around the world, and I think it's a good one, it's one of the good things that America's done - created all this good, rootsy music. If you're in America, stuff from Australia sounds more Australian than if you're in Australia.

As far as regional sounds go, I don't think there are any defined things except perhaps for the thrashy guitar thing that comes out of Sydney that's got a long history. Regional sounds are one of the things I think we're lacking. You can go to Louisiana and there's a Louisiana sound; you can go to Texas and there's Texas blues. West Coast rap is different from East Coast rap. You can define the styles quite easily whereas it's harder to do that here. I don't know why that's so.

In a way I think my music is Melbourne music. It's influenced by the fact that I grew up in Melbourne. I don't know what it is, but there's something in there.

Do you find these types of promotional tours tiring after so many years?

No, I like them. See, with promotional tours I do rocky things that a lot of other people don't do. I meet the girls that work in the shops and the retailers, and all that kind of stuff. I like to keep an eye on what's going on from the ground up. I don't want to be some type of secluded star. That doesn't appeal to me.

Ross Wilson is now recording a new Mondo Rock album to be released early next year and plans solo performances in Sydney and Melbourne later this year to promote his album.



LUBRICATED GOAT

Apart from the dedicated, few people in Australia have risen to support the cause of Lubricated Goat. Calculated stunts like the band's nationally telecast nude appearance on the ABC's "BLAH, BLAH, BLAH", certainly raised the Goat's profile but sadly this didn't transfer to the more relevant matter at hand - the band's musical output, both live and on record.

Meanwhile, the flow of overseas praise has continued. The US in particular has decided to take this interest further by inviting Lubricated Goat over for a national tour in August/September. Here in Australia most sections of the media still refuse to acknowledge the band's existence, perhaps hoping that they'll just go away.

And, going away they are, leaving behind a fine new six song recording entitled "Schadenfreude" - a powerful 12" EP that eclipses even Lubricated Goat's previous vinyl efforts. Along with the albums "Plays the Devil's Music" and "Paddock of Love", the new EP "Schadenfreude" will be released in America to coincide with the band's tour.

Enjoy the Devil's music while you can ...

Lubricated Goat will be playing at the Student Radio Bar Night on August 5 with Where's The Pope, and Adelaide University's own Merging Groins opening the night at 9pm.

still booming

From their first album, Melbournes Boom Crash Opera made a name for themselves as purveyors of energetic pop/rock with chunky choruses. On the eve of the release of their second album, Mat Gibson spoke with keyboardist Greg O'Conner about the band's current musical direction.

Apparently you're in the studio's at the moment recording the new album, is that right?
Yeah, that's right. Well, we're just having a break now after a few weeks of it.

The last album was pretty much full on pop/rock with some almost hyperactive choruses, should we expect the same from the next one?

Yes and no. The album is similar to the last one in some ways, but it varies too. There's a song in there with a Celtic influence, a bit sort of folky; dare I say it, there's also a ballad, or at least it's a slower track. Naturally there's also what everyone is expecting, lots of home grown, full-on rock tracks.

The album's more direct, I reckon, musically and lyrically. Probably because the band itself is more formulated as a band, y'know. We're a more crystallised band, more of a unit.

Why do you think this is?

Well, since the last record we've had more experiences together. Basically more living together, more partying together, more playing together, more arguing together. Most of this came from the 'Rough And Ready' tour. From just being on the road, baby. We toured real hard, playing every fuckin' pus hole from Queensland to New South Wales. On and off for about four or five months, we just fuckin' went for it.

You've already released one track from the forthcoming album - "Onion Skin". It's a fairly off beat rocker...

Richard's producing most of the album, but we got Pete Smith in to do that single for us. Pete Smith's worked with Sting and a whole bunch of others, and he heard our stuff and said "Right, I wanna work with these boys."

He really seems to have a feel for what we want to produce. We just went into the studio with him and laid it down. It was almost a live recording, the way that we did

it, and it really shows. The song has a real live feel to it, the way we like to do our stuff live.

Do you think that bringing in international producers affects the 'Australian' qualities of your material?

Well, no, not really. I mean, we view ourselves as an international band.

Lyricaly, though, there's always been a lot of very strong Australian imagery in your songs. Has this changed much and will there be more political/social messages in your material?

Well, I don't actually write the lyrics, Pete does most of that, but we haven't moved into the crusading market - "The worlds fucked and we're gonna fix it up" - bit. I mean, we write songs about people, y'know. Take "Onion Skin". It's about how we all present a public face rather than our true selves, like we wrap ourselves up in layers of other personalities, kind of like an onion with all its layers, and we don't let anyone peel back too many of them.

We like our lyrics to always have a slightly quirky edge. On the first album the words really revolved around Australia and Melbourne in particular. The new album isn't so parochial. It's a lot more diverse.



THE DUBROVNIKS LIVE

Tivoli Hotel, 22nd July, 1989

Boris Sujdovic - bass, vocals (ex-Scientists, Beasts of Bourbon)
James Baker - drums (ex-Victims, ex-Hoodoo Gurus, etc, etc, Beasts of Bourbon)
Peter Simpson - guitar, vocals (ex-The Spectres Revenge)
Chris Flynn - guitar, vocals (ex-Headstones)

The drummer, with long straight hair hanging over his face, hunches over the kit and thunders out the solid beat that holds the band together. The other three, black leather jackets to the fore, saunter on and launch into "If I Only Had A Gun".

Sydney-based band the Dubrovniks slipped into Adelaide last weekend for 2 shows only and some 300 braved deepest winter weather to see them at the Tivoli, offering up material from their just released album "Dubrovnik Blues".

"We want to be the dirtiest, toughest rock'n'roll band around," says Boris in answer to my question on how they would characterize themselves. Well, they aren't, but they sure can pump it out - solid, direct and simplistically enjoyable.

Their performance tonight runs through the singles that have struck a chord with discerning music listeners in this town. Their latest, "Speedway Girls" buzzes along, "My Coo Ca Choo" (an Alvin Stardust '70s Glam cover) shows a lighter side, and "Fireball of Love" is nothing less than fantastic. This incidentally I thought one of the best single releases of '88 - a masterful debut.

The Dubrovniks are off the road for the

next two months; James and Boris tour Europe with the Beast of Bourbon. Chris meanwhile will no doubt spend time crafting his style; he's only played five shows with them and shows some rough edges. On stage there's great rapport among the band, however.

Talk of Europe brings to mind another question: "What of the Dubrovniks' future and what direction do they see themselves taking?" Peter says (not at all convincingly), "We take each step at a time, no firm plans or direction - we'll see how people react to our album first." I venture to suggest that they're really aiming to become the next stadium rock attraction? James likes that one: "Yeah, that's it! Nothing like fucking Poison though, but a dirtier meaner version of Guns and Roses."

Further exploration reveals that none of us believe G'n'R to be anything more than a carefully planned publicity stunt.

At this stage, however, the Dubrovniks

work well in a low stage in smaller clubs, where you can see them really sweat. Tonight they march through much of the material from the album - good well crafted pop, much of it penned by Boris. Searing guitar leads shared by Chris and Peter, and still that rollicking thunderous bass and drums. Next, a raw and far from classic rendition of the old Creedence classic, "Fortunate Son", the vocals very creditably performed by Chris.

For my money, there's nothing so much the Dubrovniks resemble as an early version of the Hoodoo Gurus - with James at the back such comparisons may be trite, but the same elements of great rock'n'roll are there.

This band is surely one to keep an eye on when they return to touring.

Alex Wheaton



WONDERFUL!

They are wonderful, wunnerful people at SBS.

Free T-Shirts and preview videotapes is a style to which I could easily become accustomed, so the other stations had better start getting their acts together. I wholeheartedly recommend that you watch as many of their programmes as possible, because you should just remember who's paying for all this...

BEWARE OF DARKNESS

This Tuesday at 9 pm, SBS is screening "Throwaway Children", a documentary which outlines the horror of sexual abuse of children. As is stated in the publicity handout, the intended reaction from an audience is shock and revulsion, and the show is extremely explicit. It is not so much a case of 'portions of this show may offend' as 'portions of this show are intended to offend'.

"Throwaway Children" does not pretend to provide any answers, or seek a rationale for this horrifying phenomenon. It merely seeks to establish that the problem is real, child abuse does exist, and is much closer to home than any of us like to imagine.

The entire show revolves around a bizarre dichotomy between being repulsive and absorbing, but the first ten minutes are like a punch in the face. As the camera pans over the Los Angeles skyline after dark, as if judging from on high, we hear a recorded telephone call between an Italian paedophile and an American undercover agent. There is no introduction, and when I first heard the conversation, a part of me refused to believe that this could possibly be genuine.

The aural and visual effect that this minute of television has is so great that it would be remiss of me to dilute its message by attempting to print it; however, to hear someone who sounded as if he would be regarded as a 'respectable citizen' in his community, seriously discussing the atrocities he mentioned, in such a calm voice..... words such as 'shocked', 'disgusted' and the like ultimately mean nothing. Suffice to say that it makes one ask the question, "What sort of world is this?"

The very nature of sexual abuse involves exploitation and this is most explicitly brought out in the segment on Filipino boys who make their way from the big-city slums to the tourist resorts in order to prostitute themselves. The sight of ten-year-old boys parading themselves around a swimming hole while fat, disgustingly white, middle-aged European (and, no doubt, American and Australian) businessmen "check them out" from behind a cover of trees and bushes, is another image that etches itself permanently into the memory.

The film crew actually went through the process of 'buying' two of the boys, and as the pimp, who was barely sixteen, left the room, he said, without a hint of irony, "See you later.....have a nice time". They did a close-up on one of the boys' faces, and staring at this eight year old it was plain to see that he was already dead behind the eyes. His expression showed a vacancy and utter hopelessness that seemed to articulate what 'abuse' truly means better than a thousand social workers ever could.

The remainder of the show after this takes on a more standard documentary form, with the steady accretion of cases across a number of continents, and the odd shock revelation, such as the day when all of the children in a small Dutch town disappeared for two hours in a highly organised raid by a gang of child pornographers.

In relation to the Four Corners report on

false accusations of child abuse in Australia, the issue is important enough that the two deserve to be reconciled.

Firstly, the focus of the two was at least nominally different, as 4 Corners dealt largely with incest, and "Throwaway Children" was concerned with all forms of child sexual exploitation, particularly child pornography and prostitution.

Due to the relative newness of the issue to open public debate, there is an unfortunate tendency for polarised viewpoints to be araised, rather than letting the facts speak for themselves.

As I see it, there is no contradiction between being wary of the possible manufacture of child abuse cases, and the holding of a determination to explore any such cases to the fullest. To say that it is terrible for an innocent person to be convicted of child sexual abuse does not deny either that it occurs on a large scale or that those guilty of it should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Due to the nature of the people exploited in the crime (heavily dependent, afforded less credibility as witnesses) and the heavy burden of proof which must be borne under our legal system, the vast majority of child sex offenders will continue to go unpunished. In an effort to raise these conviction rates, those investigating possible cases may well step over legal or moral boundaries regarding acceptable procedure. The most important thing "Throwaway Children" points out is that we must not turn a blind eye to the whole issue.

Society can only fix its problems once it faces up to them, and "Throwaway Children" is the most important show yet produced in cataloguing this social disease. In addition, it contains some moments of remarkable power which serve as an example to all other documentary makers on what the genre should be like. I urge you to watch.

WEIRD NOT WEIRD

The one show which I thought might be interesting in Channel 10's new line-up was "Bizarre" (Weeknights, 10.30 pm), which I reasonably believed to be alternative comedy from the US. In reality, "Bizarre" is a simple American sketch show from 1980 (that's not a misprint) which doesn't bear much examination at all.

Some of the jokes are funny, most of them aren't and there are quite a few good ideas butchered in that laughlessly awful American style that we've all come to know and loathe.

The one word which sums up "Bizarre" is dated, which is to say that the clothes are awful, the premises for many sketches no longer applicable, the characters stereotypical by today's standards, etc, etc.

There's no point tearing "Bizarre" apart, however, because it's not so much bad as irrelevant to what makes Australians laugh in 1989.

I should probably be hoping that "Bizarre" at least holds its own in the ratings, otherwise in a few months we might have "Mike Walsh's Coast to Coast World" thrust upon us when the public finally gets tired of the new toys that it's been given to play with, but the 'stars' still have 8 months of their contracts to serve.

If 10 were half-serious about trying to win any ratings in the 10.30 slot, they could have at least bought some old "Saturday Night Live"s, which can't be too expensive by now.

Surely there's got to be something good in all of the new shows that Ten are shoving down our throats, and so I'll have another look next week.

Simon Healy

skin deep

Blake Edward's "Skin Deep" is a highly entertaining yet revealing comedy about one man's struggle to ascend from the abyss of his self-destructive alcoholism and womanising. This clever satire follows the increasingly disordered life of Zach Hutton as his selfish pursuit of pleasure transforms him from a Pulitzer Prize winner and internationally acclaimed author into a semi-tragic idiot, who manages to alienate almost everybody with whom he comes into contact.

The role of Zach is brilliantly played by John Ritter. Ritter plays Zach as a lovable rogue searching for a way out of the dilemma that has become his life; all the while oblivious to the actual cause - his own weakness. Zach is afflicted with the disease that is the bane of all authors, 'Writer's Block', and attempts to conquer his problem by engaging in a series of extramarital affairs which lead to him being thrown out of his house by his long-suffering newscaster wife, Alex, played by Alyson Reed.

Thus the comedy of errors begins. Through an ensuing sexual liaison, Zach buys a new house, only to have it burned down six months later by his live-in-lover Molly (Julianne Phillips), who is infuriated by his lack of genuine affection for her.

Zach then proceeds to take up residence in, and get thrown out of, a string of Los Angeles hotels, becomes involved with both a female body builder and the girlfriend of a jealous rock star, gets arrested for "cock-fighting", crashing into the rear end of a bus and speeding whilst driving under the influence, and completely humiliates himself in fancy dress attire at a black-tie function.

Throughout this escalating debacle are two stable figures who help Zach during his journey through this

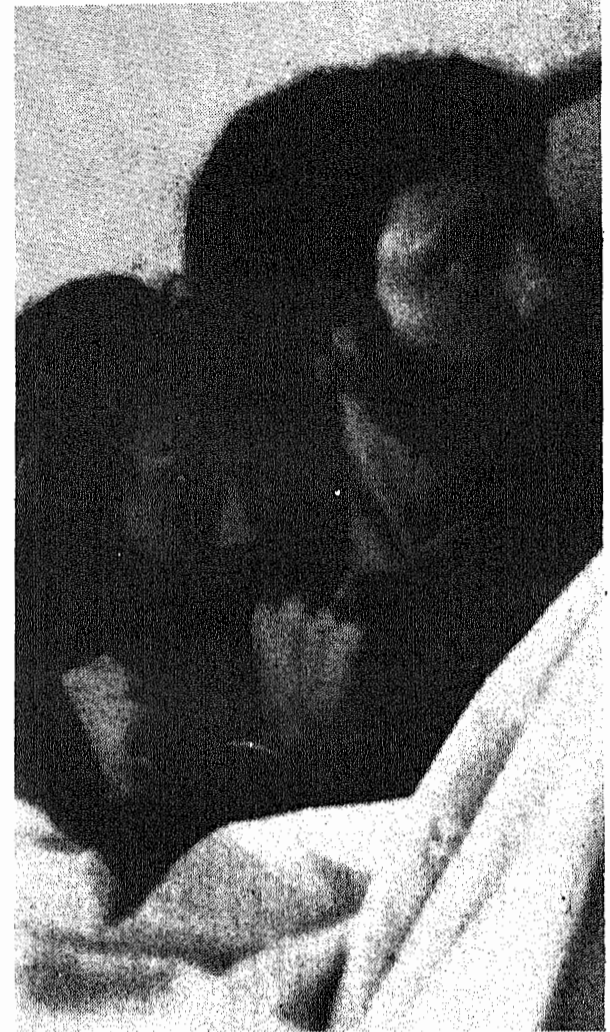
dark tunnel. Zach's barman, Barney (played well by Vincent Gardenia), whose premises Zach haunts, is a rock of sympathy, compassion, and good sense. Not only does Barney listen to Zach's self-indulgent, self-pitying, and mostly self-inflicted tales of woe; he also allows Zach to use his guest room on occasions with both dire and hilarious consequences.

Dr Westford, played in deadpan manner by Michael Kidd, is Zach's analyst, who, with calm simplicity, pinpoints the source of Zach's problem. Episodic fragments of the story are narrated by Zach from the psychiatrist's couch and reveal the gradual deterioration of his life. Amidst Zach's increasingly agonized dissertations, Westford offers appropriate suggestions that allow Zach to finally face the truth.

Credible performances are given by Alyson Reed as Zach's wife, Alex, whom Zach determinedly, if somewhat drunkenly, tries to win back, and Nina Foch as Zach's sardonic mother-in-law who treats her pet dog, Harry, with more respect than she gives to her disastrous son-in-law. Joel Brooks as Jake, Zach's much needed lawyer, remains suitably nonchalant as he is called in to deal with one emergency after another. Julianne Phillips gives an admirable performance as the volatile Molly, who is a reminder to Zach that his self-centred and deceptive behaviour towards others can rebound on him with unexpected and painful consequences.

"Skin Deep" is an extremely funny film which displays Blake Edwards' genius for comic irony. The dominant theme, however, is: Can Zach Be Saved? Zach must decide his ultimate fate.

Patrick Carroll



Hoyts
Regent
&
Glenelg
Cinema

fletch lives

As a rule I dislike American 'comedy' films. Their preoccupation with so-called humour that bludgeons the viewer even in films that aren't in the slapstick tradition is tedious. However, "Fletch Lives" provides opportunities for laughter through an array of comic situations with the inimitable Chevy Chase in control.

Chase plays Fletch, private detective, who is shown at the beginning of the film masquerading as a maid for an assignment. On receiving news of his inheritance of a Southern property, Belle Isle, from his deceased aunt, Fletch decides to throw in detective work and retreat to the plantation.

Fletch's daydreams of a storybook Deep South, however, plummet to earth. Belle Isle is rundown, its acres are veritable jungles, and to complicate matters, local lawyer Amanda May Ross (Patricia Kalember) dies mysteriously after Fletch has spent the night with her!

What follows is a hilarious mixture of the classic Southern ingredients of obnoxious red-necked policemen, a 'law unto himself' sherriff, Klanmen (of the inept variety), a Southern belle and real estate agent Becky Ann Culpepper (Julianne Phillips), racoon hunting, and the entrepreneurial Bible Basher, Jimmy Lee Farnsworth (R. Lee Ermey).

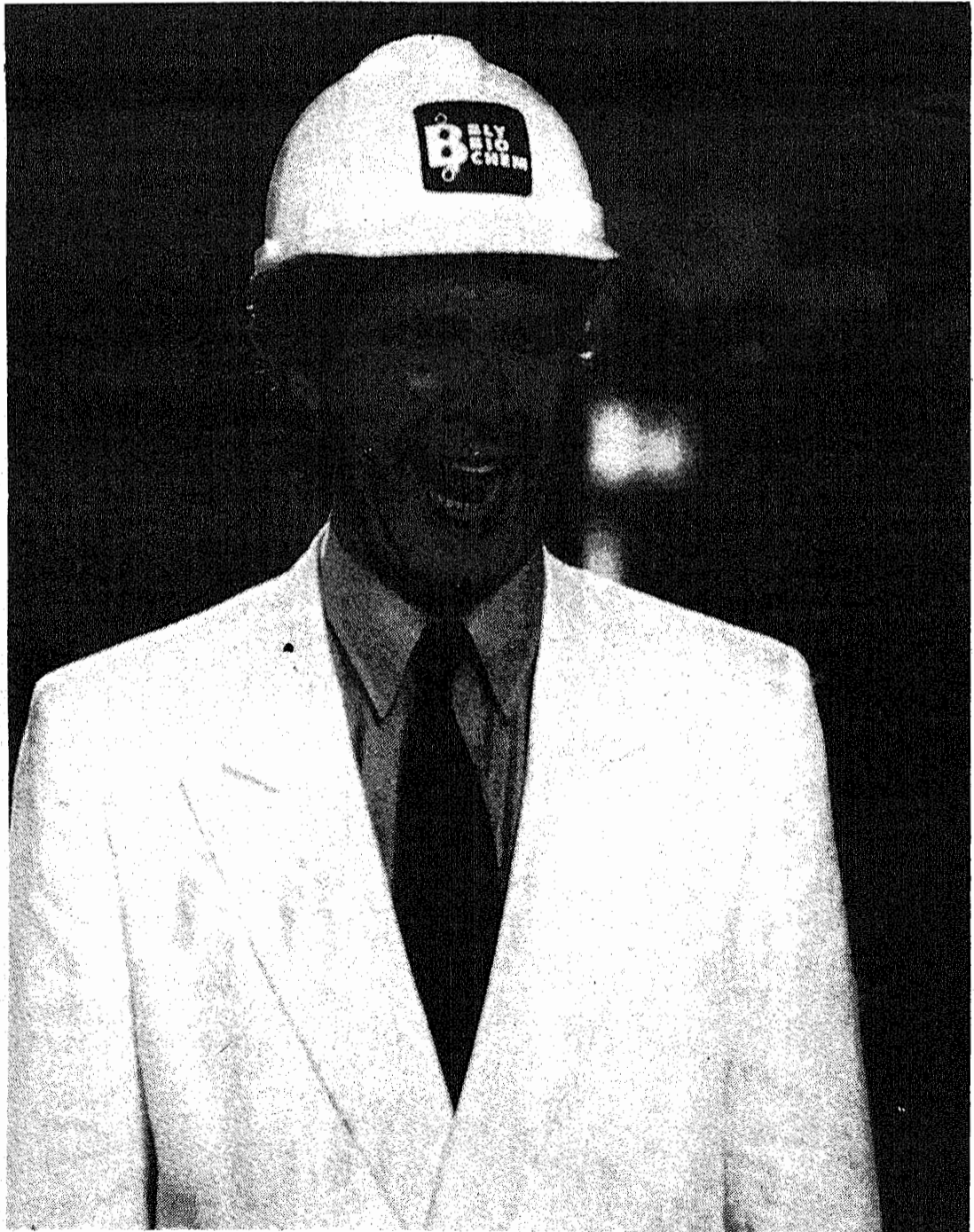
Fletch becomes aware that his life is in danger. There are a number of suspects, including the black employee of Belle Isle, Calculus (Cleavon Little), the proper Becky Ann who refuses to reveal the client whose interest in buying Belle Isle verges on the obsessive, and Jimmie Lee Farnsworth who wishes to extend his pride and joy, the money-spinning Bibleland.

Chase gives a versatile performance, two incidents in particular being memorable. In one, he disguises himself as a born-again Christian preacher to obtain information on Jimmie Lee's activities with the result that he is forced to conduct a healing service in front of a packed television audience. In the other, he assumes a rabbit, effete persona, pretending to be the heir of Harley Davidson to gain entry to a Nazi Bikie premise and look for clues.

R. Lee Ermey is brilliant as the wily, fraudulent preacher who has built an empire from his devotees' gullibility (at one stage in the film, Chase wryly remarks, "I don't believe in a God who needs to be heavily subsidised"), while Julianne Phillips credibly plays the charming Becky Ann who is concealing some facts from Fletch.

"Fletch" is an amusing film which takes time to develop situations, despite the predictable humour. If you are looking for escapism, "Fletch" will provide it.

Monica Carroll



Greater
Union
Hindley
Cinema

adelaide film event
drowning by numbers

July 27-
August 2

Chelsea
Cinema

Peter Greenway's latest film is both intellectually stimulating and completely entertaining. "Drowning By Numbers" is the tale of Cissie Colpitts, who is no ordinary woman. In fact, she is three women - grandmother, mother, and grand-daughter!

United by no more than their names, the three women drown their husbands consecutively. One of the men is a drunken bigamist, the second is an impotent, boring businessman, and the third is selfish and egocentric.

Fortunately for the Colpitts, the local coroner, Madgett, is an incurable game player and also in love with each woman. He consents to cover up their crime when promised sexual favours. When these are not delivered, the women are forced to re-organise.....to try to beat the game player at what he does best!

The Colpitts are powerful characters. Cissie One (Joan Plowright) is a 60 year grandmother, the most dignified and wise of the three. Cissie Two (Juliet

Stevenson) is witty like her mother but does not have the same finesse. Cissie Three (Joely Richardson) is unrestrained, a 'free spirit', whose sexual relationship with her husband borders on exhibitionism. Each woman frees herself from her marriage, when ready to live without men, and the bond they share makes this possible.

My own favourite was Madgett, the coroner. His wit and non-illusory outlook make him an excellent storyteller. Madgett eats and Madgett

plays games. The only other thing that he could make time for is one, all or any of the Colpitts, but rejections remain commonplace in his life.

Madgett's son, Smut (Jason Edwards) is devoted to him and is also a wonderful character, whose care for the "skipping girl" has climactic results.....

The film opens with the young girl playing a skipping game in which she counts and names a hundred stars. This is a preliminary to the number count, which is the audience's opportunity to participate in the games. The numbers 1 to 100 can be found in the film, until the final number which also indicates the end. This game of Peter Greenway's is absorbing and great fun!

Visually, "Drowning By Numbers" is incredibly captivating. The English landscape, props and photography combine to produce stirring impressions. The acting is of high quality and the plot is sufficiently bare to enable an incredible amount of images to complete the experience.

This is an amusing and provocative film which I recommend to any who dare to play.....

Joanna De Silva



adelaide film event
a time to live...

Season
closed

This is a Taiwanese film about the life of a family of three generations in the nineteen fifties. Presented in part through the memories of the narrator who, in childhood was the semi-delinquent middle son, it is a simple record of life and death pervaded throughout with a sense of detached calmness. This calmness is necessary for the survival of the characters.

Poignant and heart rending scenes of deep trauma are interspersed with inconsequential views of the minutiae of life, of children spinning tops or playing marbles, of the family sitting and listening to the radio, or often simply views of falling rain. Action generally unfolds with a slow movement, often depicted through one continuous wide-angled shot or a slow pan.

The father, then the mother, die from slow and horrible diseases after a life of great struggle. Their children face a

world of limited possibility; perhaps the saddest moment is that depicting the eldest daughter's tears over not being able to go to University - maybe a salutary reminder to us all.

In the background is the national struggle against the tyranny on the mainland, with the greatest private despair over relatives trapped there, and the unfulfillable desire of the grandmother to return to her native province and pray at the shrine of her ancestors.

This is an interesting film, mostly because of the simple insight which it allows into Taiwanese life. This is a country from which we hear little, and which has been treated as a pariah. Perhaps recent events on the mainland will change such attitudes.

Paul Horrocks



dead ringers

Academy
Cinemas

Despite increasing commercial success and critical recognition, David Cronenberg's films aren't getting any less weird. "Dead Ringers" is one of his most personal films, further developing his pet theme of the treacherous nature of the human body through the story of renowned identical twin gynaecologists and their involvement with a mutant patient.

One gets the impression that Cronenberg has deliberately chosen such an unusual plot to discomfort an audience familiar with his previous work, although it is of a red herring, subordinate to the main plot of the relationship between the twins, Drs Elliot and Beverly Mantle (Jeremy Irons).

The two have risen to prominence in their field, in a sense by deceit. Beverly

is the more retiring twin with a genius for research whereas Elliot is the more outgoing and deceitful of them.

Aside from sharing the honour for their research, they also share their patients, and this sets the scene for the downfall of the twins. The love which develops between Beverly and Claude Niveau (Genevieve Bujold) disturbs the balance which exists between the twins; such is the delicate balance holding the twins together that Beverly's descent into drug addiction and mental illness is of necessity followed by Elliot.

The main reflection of Cronenberg's themes relating to the unnatural aspects of the body is in the presentation of identical twins as the film's protagonists. As the film develops, we are further drawn to consider the doctors as Siamese twins, as they

eventually consider themselves. This is the most extensive development yet of Cronenberg's theme, in the sense of the one soul manifesting itself in two separate bodies which could also be the most grotesque concept he has yet explored.

Jeremy Irons is outstanding in the dual role of the two doctors, subtly shading each role, and at times creating confusion as to which of the twins we are watching, which I imagine is Cronenberg's point. The special effects used to put him on-screen twice in the same shot, while initially a little obtrusive, are soon ignored owing to the convincing nature of the performances.

The film's pacing is initially slow but becomes almost hypnotic as we are drawn into the bizarre story, which

despite its very strange subject matter (based on a true story) never loses its credibility.

David Cronenberg has been classified as a director of horror films, and while this film has its repulsive elements involving Beverly's treatment of mutant women, the film does not fall into the horror genre. Cronenberg has successfully combined an unusual story with convincing performances to create an unnerving but thoughtful and original film well worth seeing.

Paul Champion

**SOMEWHERE OFF
THE COAST OF MAINE**
Anne Hood, Bantam New Fiction

Towards the end of this book we find one of the principal characters, slightly mad Claudia, confusing what she sees happening on "Days of Our Lives" with reality. The author, Ann Hood, must be a Day's addict too and unfortunately she has suffered a similar dislocation of reality.

"Somewhere Off the Coast of Maine" is riddled with Days'-type values and philosophy. True love conquers everything, even cancer. Only people who are 'true to their feelings' (whatever that means) find happiness. People who live in nice, nuclear families will, after the obligatory doubts and disasters, eventually live happily ever after. No radical feminism here. Women need men and babies to achieve wholistic well-being.

This is a before and after tale of three American women who become friends as college students in the heady days of the late 1960's. There are token references to Vietnam moratoriums, Haight-Ashbury (which, for all you young things, was a hippy mecca, not the Queen's hat

designer), lots of dope smoking, a bit of acid, lots of booze and a fair bit of fucking on moon-washed beaches with long-haired men who have diamond studs in their ears, recite post-coital poetry and have "eyes of turquoise, the colour of the sea". Ho hum.

Claudia gets pregnant (three times) to a man she doesn't really love but who is a real whizz in bed. Instead of loving her man, Claudia, somewhat unnaturally, adores her first born son. Consequently she goes mad when the child dies accidentally.

Suzanne chucks in the amorous, poetic Abel, who she really, really loves in order to pursue a career and independence (tut tut). Twenty years on she still secretly loves Abel but tries desperately to prevent their daughter from finding out anything about her aging, hippy father. Suzanne ends up a neurotic, robotic financial adviser, more concerned about the colour of the lounge room decor than her errant daughter.

Elizabeth does all the right things. A real earth-mother, she loves her man from the moment she first sees him and sticks by him through conscientious objection and other traumas. Of course she has the odd baby along the way. One of them, Rebekah is a trifle head-strong, just

like her mother. Rebekah even eats meat. But Rebekah eventually finds the right man and settles down. Despite the wholemeal bread and salt-free diet, Elizabeth gets cancer and nearly dies. In a fit of uncharacteristic selfishness she withdraws from her family. Once again, true love prevails and we are treated to mawkish scenes of reconciliation between mother and daughter, and mother and father. More importantly, the cancer goes into remission. Unbelievable.

Ann Hood is a flight attendant and "Somewhere off the Coast of Maine" is an ideal book for taking on plane flights where your attention is divided between the book, the potential of the kid next to you to throw up and whether or not you will have another double scotch. Nothing much is required of the reader - none of those exotic structures, tortuous narratives, and layers upon layers of meaning which other modern American authors like to baffle the unsophisticated reader with.

"Somewhere Off the Coast of Maine" will never make the English Department's "Twentieth Century American Literature" course. I hope.

Anne McEwen



feature

bio ethics

From page 9

successful. John mentioned that the feminist movement has quite rightly entered the debate, critical of the way in which women are treated as "factories for ovulation; their bodies are bombarded with massive dosages of hormones and they will collect up to fifteen eggs, they then have to have their bodies monitored, and so forth...."

John sees a major concern of IVF to be that of the separation of procreation from intercourse; "That is not a peculiarly Catholic argument although it's true the Catholic Church would identify, but there was one case in the United States, for example, where a woman was given an embryo which was not her own and the

doctors compounded the problem by giving the other couple the other embryo..... Since the whole activity takes place outside the human body, how can you be sure whose sperm is involved, whose eggs are involved, whose embryos are involved?"

Hence, it is not difficult to appreciate the arguments against this kind of manipulation of the human reproductive systems.

As with other bioethicists, John finds this "factory mentality" disturbing, not only for the above reasons but for other reasons such as that to do with "quality control production".

This can lead so easily to destroying anything that is not perfect; "For example, if we can trace down that there is the chance of an inherited genetic disease determined by sex of the embryo, then we can get into sexing of embryos and that leads to knocking some off...."

Another disturbing factor of the IVF programme (which, again, has received little coverage for public benefit) is the greatly increased numbers of babies born with spina bifida and congenital heart defects, as well as an increase in prenatal mortality rates. Under closer examination, the community could appreciate to a greater extent the ethical problems of IVF. John has written widely on the subject. It is a case in which what he calls "the laws of humanity" should determine the rightness and wrongness of procedures such as IVF and those related to it.

ROOM FOR MORALITY

John does not agree with the view that morality can be divorced from science and medicine:

"Almost all of our conscious, willed acts are moral. Once you try to say you can't talk objectively about morality and claim it's purely opinion, then certain attitudes set in.....the horrific future in many ways is already present. For example, in the case of foetal brain cell transplants - it involves taking the brain cells from fetuses for treatments such as that of Parkinson's Disease. Apart from the fact that it's disputed whether or not this is an effective treatment, you have aborted fetuses used for these purposes. ♣

"When I was in Sweden about a year and a half ago, I asked a professor involved in this procedure what stage gestation of the foetus - he said 'Ten to twelve weeks'. I said 'A ten to twelve week foetus aborted by the vacuum method means the foetus is all scrunched up, how could you identify where the brain cells were?' He answered that it was impossible, you couldn't. What they did was remove an intact foetus either by a caesarian-type procedure or by forced dilation and evacuation so that the intact, live human foetus is taken out. He said it was best that way because 'the brain cells are fresh - then we slice off the head, dissect the brain cells, and administer them to the Parkinson's Disease sufferer'.

"Now once this sort of information is made available to people, you are talking about major ethical questions. I find it difficult to see how anybody can be neutral about that. We're not only talking about the interests of

the foetus - in which mother's interest could it possibly be to have a caesarian-type procedure or dilation and evacuation? The woman, too, is compromised - that raises ethical questions. The third set of ethical questions are those to do with the collaboration between the doctor who performs the abortion and the doctor who's doing the transplantation. Now the doctor has as his first responsibility his patient, not somebody else's patient. The doctor performing the abortion shouldn't vary the procedure to fit in with somebody else's patient. The woman is his patient, and I might also add so is the foetus he's about to knock off."

This indifference to human life and with it, the experimentation on human beings and the de-humanisation of the individual, is a pressing issue for all of us, not simply bioethicists.

John mentions the recent experience in New Zealand where women who needed treatment for cancer of the cervix went to a doctor who had his own theories. Thus his patients were really the subjects of experiment, remaining untreated. Some of those women died.

Human advancements in medicine and science possess an enormous capacity for abuse.

John Fleming summarises this; "There is always the necessity for medical ethics or bioethics to be constantly reviewing what the procedures are. Because we can do something, it doesn't follow that we ought to do it."

UNION ACTIVITIES

Monday, July 31st

9 am - 5 pm

Vytas Sereles, Artist-in-Residence, installation and Exhibition in Union Gallery Coffee Shop.

On display will be paintings, models of flying machines and topographical models, photographs, light sculptures and other models. Your chance to get involved with setting up, layout or suggest concepts. Continues until Friday, September 8th.

Tuesday, August 1st

7:30 pm

12 week Cinemateque Film Programme starts in Union Cinema with the "Powerhouse of Emotions" programme. "Occasional Work of a Female Slave" (1973, b/w, 91 mins.) speaker Jan Bruck, Sydney University. Season ticket is \$12 for twelve films.

Thursday, August 3rd

12:30 pm

Jazz in Gallery with "Zoe Pain Quintet".

Friday, August 4th

1-2 pm

Free lunchtime in Union Bar with "The Radics".

6 pm-9 pm

Singer/Guitarist in Bistro. Free.

9 pm-Midnight

Free entertainment in Union Bar with "Seven Reasons Why".

A.U. students Free

Guests \$4.00

Saturday, August 5th

9 pm-2 am

Student Radio 5UV Bar Night with "Lubricated Goat" (from Sydney for one show only in Adelaide), "Where's The Pope" and the fabulously fallible feckless five from the 'Paddock of Love' who are guaranteed to make your grandma turn in her grave - "The Merging Groins".

A.U. Students \$6

Guests \$7

• *Special priced Scotch ALL night* •**Second Semester****Activities Programme**

It's now in your pigeonhole. All the details for shows, films, exhibitions, courses, concerts, theatre and notices.

Coming Entertainment

"The Tierras", "Just Kidding", "Swell Guys", "G.S.D.", "Hoot McKlout", "Festered Vestoons", "Bearded Clams", "Primitive Painters" and C.A.S.A. Battle of the Bands.

Try the New Menu in the Bistro

New menu with your choice of twelve main courses with regular daily specials. 10% student discount on cost of main meals.

Cinemateque Film Programme

Twelve film nights and guest speakers for \$12 in total. Every Tuesday night in the union Cinema at 7.30 pm from August 1st. The new programme for films is now available from distribution points all over campus. Great value, and extra benefits include half price admission to Greater Union Cinemas.

Blood Donation Day

The Red Cross Mobile Blood Donation Uni will be on campus on Thursday, August 31st, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm. Pick up your enrolment forms from the Union Office and other locations to promise your donation today. A Union Community Outreach Initiative!

Inaugural Union Lecture

The Adelaide University Union is proud to announce that its inaugural Union Lecture will feature an address by Dr John Hewson, Shadow Treasurer and M.H.R. on the 1989 Federal Budget and the Economy. Thursday August 24th at 1.10 pm in Union Hall.

AFRICAN DANCE

African dance classes conducted by Sam Oshodi commence on Tuesday, 15th of August, in the North/South Dining Rooms, level 4 of Union House. Time is 6 pm to 7.30 pm. For 6 weeks, the cost is only \$30. Enquire at the Craft Studio.

THE BLUE STOCKING SHOW FOR WOMEN

On Student Radio 5UV, Wednesday fortnights at 10 pm.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The Catholic Community holds mass in the Chapel (upstairs in the Lady Symon Building) every Wednesday at 1.10 pm.

Discussions/talks are also held every Friday at 1.10 pm in the Catholic Community room; everybody is invited to bring along their lunch.

CLUBS ASSOCIATION REMINDER

All clubs and societies who have not put in a 'Club Contact List' by the 3rd week of Semester 2 will be put up for disaffiliation at the Clubs Association Annual General Meeting.

MASSAGES

Massages will be available again from the Craft Studio, on Tuesdays or Thursday by appointment. The sessions are for 3/4 hour and cost \$15.00 for students, \$25.00 for others. Each session will focus on the neck, back, and some foot reflexology. The treatment is ideal for people overloaded with study or who are feeling tense and stressful. It will help the body, mind and spirit to harmonize.

Bookings can be made through the Craft Studio, or phoning 288 5857 for an appointment.

IDEAL ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS

Accommodation that is ideal for students is available at Victor Harbour. Bed and fully cooked breakfast; 5 guest rooms. Within walking distance to beach and town centre. Optional evening meal, loan of bicycles available.

\$30 Double, \$20 single

Phone bookings (085) 524 258

Address - 59 Victoria Street

Special Offer available until August 30 - 3 couples as a group for the price of 2 for the B & B only.

PENPAL!

I am a junior from a small college in southern Minnesota, USA, who is seeking correspondence with several Australian college students. If you have any information on how I may

find a correspondent at your school or if you of someone (s) who may interested, please let me know! Any information would be most helpful and greatly appreciated!

Kari Buscho

11020 245th Street, W, Box 204,

Morristown, MN, 55052, USA

STUDENTS FOR CHRIST

We are a group of spirit-filled Christians who are dedicated to seeing revival on campus. Meetings are held every Thursday, 1 pm, North Dining Room.

G.A.L.A.

Gay and Lesbian Association's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 2nd at 1.00 pm in Meeting Room 3, Level 5, Union Building. All Lesbians and Gay men, staff and students are welcome.

REVIEW OF ENROLMENTS

During July the Academic Services Division will be reviewing all aspects of enrolment and the administration of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). Any suggestions for improving our current procedures are welcome. I would also like to know of any difficulties which were experienced during the 1989 enrolment period.

One proposal which is being explored is moving the bulk of re-enrolment to before Christmas. This would allow greater attention to be focussed on enrolment and orientation of commencing students in the February/March period. Reactions to this proposal would be helpful.

Comments should be passed to Mr Ian Carman, Assistant Registrar (Student Administration), or any of the Faculty Assistant Registrars.

J.A. Philip

Acting Academic Registrar.

FREE INTRODUCTORY SELF**DEFENCE CLASSES FOR WOMEN**

Monday August 14 and Thursday August 17, 1 - 2 pm. Games Room Level 5, Union Building. Book early at the SAUA Office (Phone 228 5406) as places are limited. The classes are run by the Rape Crisis Centre with qualified instructors.

STUDENT CONCESSIONS**TO CONCERTS**

I have been able to negotiate students discounts to the following concerts;

"The The" at Thebarton Theatre on Tuesday, August 8th at 8 pm. Student price \$28.90, Public price \$34.90. Tickets are now on sale at all BASS outlets.

"Paul Kelly & the Messengers" at Thebarton Theatre on Wednesday, August 23rd at 8 pm. Student tickets \$14.30 only on sale at Students' Association, Adelaide University and Union Office at Flinders University. Public price is \$18.30.

Our policy on advertising on campus at Adelaide University is that the promoters must offer at least a 20% discount to students before we will allow any advertising on campus. I will be reminding all promoters of this policy.

Barry Salter,

Promotions/Activities Manager

On Dit Classifieds are free for students and student groups. Neatly presented copy can be sent to the On Dit or SAUA Office.





VALLEY OF THE KILLER DINOSAURS

EPISODE FIVE

TWICE AS MUCH HORRIBLE AS A NORMAL EPISODE...

Panel 1: A dinosaur says "OKAY."

Panel 2: Dinosaurs play instruments. A sign says "THE HUMAN BEINGS".

Panel 3: A dinosaur says "ARRRGH! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! I KNEW THIS LITTLE GIRL IGHANADON! AARGG! BUT NOW SHE'S EXTINCT! GROWL! YEAH! YEAH!"

Panel 4: A dinosaur says "PREHISTORIC TRAJECTORY! PREHISTORIC TRAJECTORY! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! SINKING INTO THE PRIMEVAL MUD! AAAARGH!"

Panel 5: A dinosaur says "WHY DID YOU DO IT! WHY DID YOU DISAPPEAR INTO THE SWAMP AARG!"

Panel 6: A dinosaur says "UH... THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING..."

Panel 7: A dinosaur says "MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE THE HORROR GRUNGE ONSLAUGHT TO THOSE MORE QUALIFIED THAN US..."

Panel 8: A dinosaur says "Hmmm..."

Panel 9: A dinosaur says "I'VE DECIDED TO WRITE 'STAIRWAY-TO-HEAVEN.'" A sign says "HUMAN BEINGS". Another dinosaur says "OH. PORTLY!"

Panel 10: A dinosaur says "OK. I'LL WRITE BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY INSTEAD."

Panel 11: A dinosaur says "GOOD". Another says "BRILLIANT". A third says "WE'LL HAVE A NUMBER ONE HIT, FOR SURE."

SCUM in UTOPIA

BY DAVE KRANTZ

Panel 1: Text: "THIS WEEK - ON DIT CONTINUES THE TRADITION OF STUDENT RADICALISM WITH A FEARLESS EXPOSÉ OF SECRET GENETIC BREEDING PROGRAMS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY. A DEVISIVE PLOT HAS BEEN LEAKED FROM THE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT - DEVELOPMENT OF A SUPER ADVANT SUPER." A rat is shown.

Panel 2: Text: "ALL LOOKS NORMAL ENOUGH ON THE SURFACE". A character in a trench coat is shown.

Panel 3: Text: "2ND SEMESTER ESSAY TOPICS: • WHAT PUBS DO RATS GO TO, AND WHAT DRINKS DO THEY ORDER THERE? • WHY DO RATS VOTE PREDOMINANTLY LABOR? • WHAT THE FULK USE IS PSYCH?". A rat is shown.

Panel 4: Text: "COME ON RATTIE, NEGOTIATE THE MAZE, PRESS THE LOVER AND GET THE 12-COURSE GOURMET DINNER". A character is shown in a maze.

Panel 5: Text: "EVE GOT THE MASKING TAPE, NOW WHERE'S MY PAT?". A character is shown.

Panel 6: Text: "COME HERE MY LITTLE SWEETHEAT TIPPING". A character is shown.

Panel 7: Text: "I AM THE RE-INCARNATION OF THE FUHRER, COME TO INVESTIGATE YOUR GLORIOUS PROJECT". A character is shown.

Panel 8: Text: "SEIK HEIL MEIN FUHRER!! OF COURSE WE WILL WAIVE ALL OUR SECURITY CHECKS FOR YOU. THIS WAY PLEASE". A character is shown.

Panel 9: Text: "A SWIFT TOUR FOLLOWS". A character is shown.

Panel 10: Text: "HATE KILL GORBAKHEV RAT KILLER". A rat is shown.

Panel 11: Text: "WORLD DOMINATION PLAN". A character is shown at a table with a sign: "INDOCTRINATION TABLE MARK XXXII YOUNG LIBERAL POLICY MODEL".

Panel 12: Text: "GASP, THIS IS BASTARDY AND EVIL!! I'M GOING TO RETUEL ALL IN 'ON DIT'". "SO YOU'RE NOT REALLY THE FUHRER!! DINNER AND BLITZEN!! GET HIM RATS!!". A character is shown.

Panel 13: Text: "SHAME PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT, SHAME". A character is shown.

Panel 14: Text: "HINCH SHAME FILE". A character is shown.