

Craccum

CRISIS AT ELAM



Brian Brennan

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Students on the main campus rarely hear anything about their counterparts at Elam, the Fine Arts School. And in many ways it's not surprising. Their physical remoteness from the University, even by the motorway in what's left of Mouton Gully has a lot to do with it, coupled with the fact that Elam students tend to stick together as a homogeneous group down at the School and rarely venture onto the main campus except for the occasional Art History lecture/tutorial.

But Elam has always had a history of trouble between the administration at the school and the roughly 145 students who are studying towards Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts Degree. These disputes have been over a number of issues such as sponsorship, parking facilities and some of the staff members but the perennial complaint that seems to surface year after year is the question of marking or grading an artists' works.

Much art involves self revelation. Whereas a maths assignment may be totally impersonal, a painting is very often a piece of the painter. From the students' point of view, assessment of his work is an assessment of himself. A failure in 'art' is more complete and less redeemable than a failure in anything else. To the staff, most of whom have gone through the same unpleasant process, assessment may be equally upsetting. If a student's values conflict with those of his assessor, you get what amounts to a war of validity. This has been a recurring story in the history of art. Aucklanders might now have a vague appreciation of what was involved when the surrealists held up to ridicule the academic tradition which was dominant at the beginning of this century. The surrealists, in the course of a successful challenge, saw many of their heretical criteria turn respectable - they were absorbed so completely into the mainstream of tradition that the recent surrealist exhibition in Auckland attracted record crowds to the city gallery. Fifty years ago it would have attracted only scorn, ridicule and disbelief.

But for every batch of students the same conflict takes place. The real innovators are inevitably upsetting to their masters, and are declared heretics which means that they don't get diplomas. The school has the highest dropout rate of all the faculties.

Last year, 1978, saw a great increase in the number of first year students who were failed - about 47% did not pass compared with a fairly constant up to 30% in previous years. Although the staff have stated that this increase was due to the poor quality of work submitted, the students feel that they were inadequately informed during the year about how their work was to be assessed.

In the first year of study at Elam a 'provisional' grade is given after a session lasting 4 weeks in each of the various departments - sculpture painting, photography, printmaking and design. This grade is determined only by the tutors in the various departments that a student has been involved in and it is not until the end of the academic year that the whole staff look at a student's work all together. It was stressed by the staff at the beginning of 1978 that provisional grades would give a fair indication to students of their progress in the various departments. But what has happened is that a wide discrepancy has emerged between the 'provisional' grades given

during the year and the students final assessment.

In other departments at the University, term grades have a set percentage weight towards the final mark which is stipulated and set in the university calendar. The lack of consistency in the marking is a serious disadvantage to Fine Arts students. Any grading must have relevance and meaning to students so they have a guide to their progress through the year. This obviously is not what happened at Elam last year.

This year there has been a larger than normal intake of first year students at Elam. Does this mean that there will be a high failure rate again at the end of the

year? With the high first year intake there certainly isn't the extra space to accommodate the extra students who pass on to the second year. This will lead to increased competitiveness amongst students putting more emphasis on grading and taking it away from the students personal attitude to his/her work. It is not the function of the Art School to induce conformity in the students work by an obsession with grades.

The work in the first year is generally of an unresolved nature due to the short duration of each session. The qualities being assessed in these sessions are in the student's attitude and approach to their work and not in the final 'art' produced.

Here are the comments from a second year student which very much reflect these trends.

'My experience from last year indicated to me that, more often than not, students who tried to experiment and move in their own directions were failed, while students like myself who produced safe mediocre work designed to satisfy tutors requirements were passed.

It is therefore clear to me that tougher assessment will not produce a higher standard of work at Elam. In fact the opposite is true. In a highly competitive atmosphere students are forced to produce 'safe' mediocre work. The essential need for students to experiment and try new directions is lost when students feel pressure to produce work that will satisfy tutors.'

What perhaps is more strange is that the high failure rate of students did not seem to follow the basis of the true quality of the work presented. In fact one of the most incongruous results of the tougher marking appears to be that the standard of work submitted by those who passed in some instances was considerably lower than some of those who failed. This would give rise to the natural assumption that some students were failed not on the basis of their artistic performance but on some other form of assessment such as perhaps the ability of a student to get along with his/her lecturer or tutors. If this is the case then all we can say is that it seems a strange set of standards to adopt in evaluating a student's artistic credibility.

The situation this year is effectively the same as last year although the weighting of provisional grades has been changed. The definition of 'provisional grades' (ie indicative of a student's performance) however still stands. This year student pressure on staff should hopefully result in a more realistic grading system.

LIZ MITCHELL, DAVID MERRITT

Splurge

SITS VACANT

Nominations are re-opened for the position of Association Representative on the Audio-Visual Committee. An appointment to this position will be made at the SRC Meeting to be held in the SRC Lounge at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 14 March. Nominations close at that meeting and all candidates should attend from 1.00 pm.

R.W. Lack,
SECRETARY

APOLOGY

The Craccum editor wishes to apologise to all the election candidates in last weeks election owing to the late appearance of the Election Broadsheet. The reasons for the delay in its production are explained elsewhere. Mea Culpa, mea culpa, mea culpa.

SITS VAC

Nominations are opened for the position of Social Controller. Nominations close at the S.R.C. Meeting to be held on the 14 March.

The closing date for nominations for the position of Capping Controller is extended. Nominations now close at the S.R.C. Meeting to be held on the 14th March. Elections for both these positions will be held at this S.R.C. Meeting, and applicants should attend from 1.00 pm. The meeting will be held in the S.R.C. Lounge.

LOST :

Navy blue (long-sleeved) sweat-shirt with 'Training' printed in white across the chest.

— Lost or more likely 'taken' from the Club Notice boards in Quad on Fri 2nd March. Phone Lisa 448-937 or hand in to Studass Office. Thank you.

E.U. MEETING

Tuesday 13 March, 1-2 pm in the SRC Lounge. David Stewart speaks on 'The Cost of Commitment'.

DEANS LECTURE

'Drugs and Society' by Professor M.J. Rand, University of Melbourne Pharmacology Department. Robb Lecture Theatre, School of Medicine, Wednesday 14 March, noon.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Our first meeting for the year will be on Monday March 12 1-2 pm in the Executive Lounge, Student Union Building. All are welcome.

A.I. is a world wide human rights organisation with 170,000 members in 107 centres. If you are concerned about those people that are detained and often tortured for their political/religious beliefs, colour or ethnic origins - then see us at this meeting. For further details, please contact Paul 874-503.

AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Autumn General Meeting of the Association will be held in University Lecture Theatre B28 commencing at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 28th March 1979.

Notice is also given that if the meeting to be held on 28 March does not obtain a quorum or if it otherwise fails to deal with all business on the Agenda the Autumn General Meeting will occur or will continue in the Student Union Cafeteria from 1.00 pm on Thursday 29 March 1979.

Notice of motions for the Agenda for this meeting should be handed to the Secretary by noon on Tuesday 20 March save in the case of motions proposing a constitutional amendment. Notice of proposed constitutional amendments must be handed to the Secretary by noon on Tuesday 13 March or they may not be discussed at this meeting.

CONCERT

Featuring MISEX direct from Sydney and 'the Dudes'. Venue, Old Maid Theatre, Tuesday March 20 at 6 and 8.30 pm
\$2.00 Students
\$3.00 General Public
Book at Taste Records from 13th

MOTORCYCLE CLUB AGM.

Time : 7.00 pm Thursday 15th March
Place : Rm 144 S.U.B.
Let's have a club this year, even R.D's are allowed !!

POOH SOCIETY'S inaugural meeting of the year (also our A.G.M.) will be on Wednesday 14th March at 7 pm in the Old Grad Bar. All Druids, Gnomes, Wombles and other interested persons are invited to attend and plan this years silly activities e.g. Heffalump Hunt, Eeyores Birthday Party etc...

BADMINTON CLUB

Every Saturday 1-6 pm and Tuesday nights in Rec Centre. Everybody welcome especially LADIES. Coaching available for beginners on Saturday at 10. The fees are a paltry \$5 for students and \$10 rest of the world. Rumour has it that there is a social in the offing soon but don't tell anyone as news of it will grace this spot in Craccum.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

S.C.M. is a student Christian group with a difference. SCMerS are not a group of spiritual navel-gazers. We work with Corso, Amnesty International and the Auckland Anti-apartheid Council We also run the Second Hand Bookstall and have discussions on religious themes.

Our first such regular discussion will be held on Tuesday March 13 1-2 pm in Room 143, (beside the T.V. room) of the Student Union Building. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further details on SCM contact: Mitzi Nairn 685-192 or John Newberry 686-377.

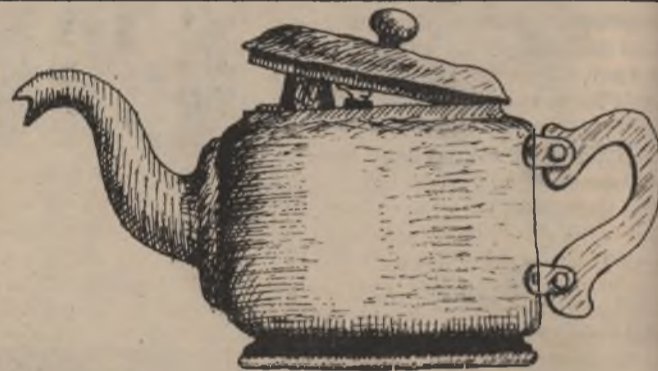
Would the person who put the sign on the STUDASS noticeboard concerning the presence of American nuclear missiles in New Zealand please get in touch with Craccum urgently, and I mean as soon as possible.

Q. When is sexism not sexism?

WOMEN IN NEW ZEALAND

Photographic Competition

For women only. For a long time women photographers have been in the shadow but now things are beginning to change. Women's Art is becoming a strong and vigorous form. To encourage this, the Women's Rights Action Committee of the New Zealand University Students' Association is organising a nation-wide photographic competition on the subject of 'Women in New Zealand'. If you have been waiting for a chance to have your work recognised, then this is it. Photographs should be 8 x 10 ins and black and white. All entries must be in by Friday, 4th May. Further details available from your Women's Rights Officer or local Students' Association Office.



SRC

SISTER MARY GEARCHANGE HIDING IN A TEAPOT (SEE UNDER LID)

Anyone who is seriously interested in how the Students Association works (or doesn't work depending on your point of view) will save themselves a lot of time and trouble if they buy, beg, borrow or steal a copy of the AUSA Constitution. You can purchase one of these tomes from the STUDASS Office for the modest sum of 75 cents. So much for the sales talk.

Sections 38 to 41 of the Constitution deal with matters relating to meetings of the Student Representative Council (or SRC as it is known for want of a better name). Section 42 deals with the powers and function of the SRC. The important things to know are that the SRC must meet at least monthly during the Academic year, that a quorum is formed by 50 members of SRC, and all members of the Students Association are members of SRC. Also, the SRC has the following powers and functions:

- the consideration and passing of resolutions on any matter raised by any member including the making of appropriate recommendations to the Executive.
- the consideration of matters arising from previous Executive meetings including the power to recommit such matters to the Executive.
- the affiliation of clubs and societies.

If you haven't given up on this rave yet you will now receive your reward. The SRC can be used as a tool to further your own humanitarian causes such as demonstrating against the visit of supporters of

Apartheid or key figures in other organizations whose activities are contrary to the policy of the SRC. Once you have your resolution passed by the SRC you might feel you would like some financial assistance to action the policy contained in your resolution. There exists the 'SRC Policy Action Fund' for this purpose. This year there is \$3,500 in the Fund. The way to get your policy passed by the SRC is to stack the meeting. Also, if the Executive have been doing things you don't like then the SRC is the place to raise the matter.

SRC is the official policy making body of the Association. Within the Association there are four levels of power. At the lowest stratum is the Executive, above this is the SRC, then there is the policy General Meetings, and finally referendum policy. The theory behind this is that the Executive makes day to day decisions, they are controversial they are discussed at SRC and if necessary SRC can call for a General Meeting or Referendum.

The first SRC meeting of the year will be held at 1 pm on Wednesday 14 March in the SRC lounge. All students are urged to attend this meeting. Remember that you intend to do battle in this august forum that you will be at a distinct disadvantage if you are not familiar with meeting procedure and I once again urge all students to read the Constitution for hints on this and other interesting topics.

Colin McFadzean

The Gripes of Roth

Don't forget to go to SRC (Student Representative Council) this week. The meeting of the year will be this Wednesday at 1 pm in the SRC Lounge, 1st floor above the cafe. I notice that the issue of Craccum blazoned forth with criticisms of the executive - well SRC is the place where criticisms such as these can be raised and if supported, something can be done about them.

SRC is also the place where policy of the Students' Association can be made and actioned. This week two issues of critical significance will be on the agenda - abortion and the Mangere Bridge dispute.

Since 1971 the Students' Association has had policy in support of abortion and a woman's right, a stance which has been reaffirmed time and again over the years. In concrete terms this has meant that the Students' Association has actively opposed any attempts to place further restrictions on the availability of abortion and has joined with other groups in pushing for the repeal of the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act. The reasons for this stand are very obvious. A woman student is as much affected as any other woman by the difficulties in gaining safe legal abortion in New Zealand.

The Students' Association will be asked to SRC to lend its support again, this time to an International Abortion Action Day, called for March 31st. This day is to be marked by protests throughout the world, including New Zealand. All those who want to play an active role in organising the day, come along to a planning meeting on Tuesday 13th March (this Wednesday) at 1 pm in the Executive Lounge.

Another issue to be raised at SRC is the Mangere Bridge dispute where workers have been locked out for several months now. It is important that students consider issues raised by the trade unions, for it is the trade unions which

will help win for us better conditions in our jobs both in the holidays and when we leave University. Students and workers have many interests in common - in the past unions have joined us in our demand for a living bursary, and we too can lend support to their campaigns.

More specifically, I think we should give our full support to the Mangere Bridge workers. The facts behind the dispute are outlined in an article in this issue - they show very clearly that the workers have been given a raw deal. The employers have refused to enter negotiations with the unions concerned for a realistic redundancy agreement, resulting in a lockout. And the workers have been refused unemployment benefits while the employers have been paid \$30,000 a month for bridge maintenance out of taxpayers money.

So, consider the facts and come along to SRC and express your viewpoint.

To change the subject - last weeks Craccum had a number of letters complaining about catering, most notably the tea and coffee service. The reason for the changes being made in the first place was that according to budget, the catering operation stood to lose about \$21,000 this year, a cost which would have had to come out of the money you pay in Students' Association fees. The catering committee therefore looked at ways of cutting costs without hopelessly affecting the service provided to students. While most of the changes seem to be working, the tea and coffee is one which wasn't, so accordingly the tea and coffee servery has now been opened up for longer hours. If students have any other complaints about catering, the Union Manager Jay Clark or I am available to talk about these. Alternatively, if any student wishes to play a greater role in decision-making about catering, they can always stand as the SRC representative on catering committee.

Janet The Roth

The Craccum Blurb

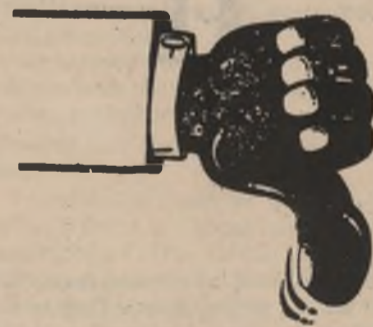
EDITOR SOUNDS OFF

Craccum received the following letter last week.

Dear Sir,
On the front page of your third issue you rubbish the AUSA exec for failing to move on a number of important issues. Yet in your same issue, although mentioning the fact that elections are on for various executive positions (via Janet Roth one of the Executive!) you fail to inform us who is standing or what their policy is.
This failure on your behalf has meant myself and others, are unable to cast informed votes. I cannot understand, if you had the policy blurbs, as I am told you did, why they were not published. I hope that next election time you will not fail those whom you set out to help.

Yours sincerely,
John Davies

Firstly I'd better explain to comrade Davies and any others of you who are wondering just exactly what Craccum is and what we are bound to do. For a start, we are not the official newspaper of the Auckland University Students' Association executive nor the returning officer, nor anybody else. Craccum is a student newspaper funded by students out of their Association fee and produced for Auckland students. Incidents in the past where the executive tried to meddle in the editorial policy of Craccum resulted in the setting-up of a body called the Craccum Administration Board who oversee day to day running of Craccum. It comprises of a majority of Craccum staff workers, some 'average students' and a couple of executive members. Craccum is directly accountable to CAB for any matter. The only other body we are directly accountable to is firstly SRC where Craccum can be discussed and recommendations made (which we can choose to ignore) or ultimately a student General Meeting.



So back to your letter. From the above you can see that Craccum is under no constitutional compulsion to cover anything that the students association ever does, only a moral one. And yes, we did put in a notice saying that the elections were on and where you could vote and what time the polling booths were open (Splurge page 22).

Now in last week's issue I had left a full page to cover all the candidates blurbs as well as their photos. Alas, at three or four o'clock on Friday morning I realised that it was not big enough to do justice to all the candidates. So in an instant editorial decision I decided to leave out the elections altogether and produce a special election supplement to come out on Wednesday morning. Fair enough? I thought so anyway.

Craccum went off to the printers in Wanganui on time noon Friday and we all went home and collapsed into bed after working for two days solid without any sleep and little nourishment.

Brian (the Technical Editor) laid the election broadsheet out on Monday to go to the printers in Auckland on the following day. Trouble was that when he took it into them early on Tuesday morning they said that it was too big despite the fact that it was exactly the size they had told us it should be. Calamity. After an hour of frantic ringing around other printers, it was obvious that due to the possibility of strike action by the Commercial Printers Union, most were flat out doing other work and could not do the broadsheet in time, or printers who could do it on time would charge a king's ransom because it was an urgent job.

More panic. Another editorial decision, this time to send the broadsheet down to Craccum's printers in Wanganui. A phone call to the manager and yes, they could do it and we'd get it back mid Wednesday morning. So away it went.

Wednesday morning arrived clear and bright but was immediately clouded following a phone call to Air New Zealand (who were freighting it from Wanganui back to Auckland) that the Safe Air flight had been delayed and would not be in till 11. Bad luck, but nothing we could do about it. Well, the plane got in eventually and we rang up Air New Zealand again (for the umpteenth time that day) and asked if it was on that plane. No, they said, we have no record of it.

More calamity.
About 1 o'clock, after ringing Wanganui, our carriers in Auckland, the railways and Air New Zealand, the parcel(s) were eventually located behind a few tonnes of assorted stuff. Horrah we cried, we'll come out and collect it straight away from the airport.

Frantic scenes ensued of the editor and lackies running around trying to extort some form of vehicular transportation out of people. No luck. Ring back airport, tell them to put on the first courier van going into Auckland (we were getting pretty demanding by now). This was about 2 in the afternoon. The goods arrived from the airport at 2.45 pm but after inspecting one of the bundles the Returning Officer declared that they were all Chaff (the Massey University Student newspaper) and went looking for my blood. I hid for an hour or so and wept while more minions rang up all the same people again (including the printers). Resigned to my fate at the hands of outraged candidates and prospective voters I cringed in the corner of the Craccum office until dinner. Whilst on my second cup of coffee, this sudden desirability to read Chaff overcame me and I strolled (or rather skulked) into the Studass office and lo, Chaff was not to be found but on the floor was the bundle of broadsheets which had been sitting there for three hours unopened. The day suddenly brightened and, yes, later on in the night I even managed a wry smile.

Dave The Merritt

craccum

usual dregs of society



Volume 53 Issue 4.
13 March 1979.

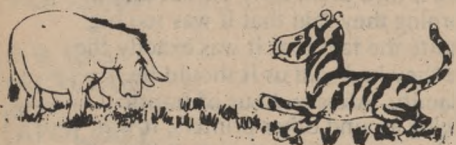
Craccum is edited by David Merritt, Brian is the Technical Editor, Biddy takes the pickies, Alex James did the music, Paul Storey got the ads, Matthew brought it all to you, Katrina hummed and haad over the Arts, Barbara and Victoria typeset it and the lovely people at Wanganui were really ultra for printing it. This has been a paid announcement.

Would you believe that Craccum has almost reached completion stage before the pumpkin hour of midnight? This sublime achievement was only made possible by an extensive back-up crew including Catherine McGeorge, David Beach, yourself, Eugenie Sage, Susan Cairney, Bob Lack, Barry Hook, Sarah Brown, Amanda X, Fiona X, Ian Neil, Sally McDonald, Richard X, Liz Mitchell, Frances Stark, Julian Dixon, Mark Thompson, Tara X. and Greg Pirie and Kevin Hague for their unflinching support. Not to mention a whole bevy of nameless (but not blameless) thousands.



Coren

From Christopher Robin Milne's recent autobiography, it turns out that life in the Milne household was very different from what millions of little readers have been led to believe. But if it was grim for him, what must it have been like for some of the others involved? I went down to Pooh Corner — it is now a tower block, above a discount warehouse — for this exclusive interview.



WINNIE-THE-POOH is sixty now, but looks far older. His eyes dangle, and he suffers from terminal moth. He walks into things a lot. I asked him about that, as we sat in the pitiful dinginess which has surrounded him for almost half a century.

'Punchy,' said Winnie-the-Pooh, 'is what I am. I've been to some of the best people, Hamley's, Mothercare, they all say the same thing: there's nothing you can do about it, it's all that hammering you took in the old days.'

Bitterly, he flicked open a well-thumbed copy of *Winnie-the-Pooh*, and read the opening lines aloud:

"Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs". He looked at me. 'The hell it was!' he muttered. 'You think I didn't want to walk down, like normal people? But what chance did I stand? Every morning, it was the same story, this brat comes in and grabs me and next thing I know the old skull is bouncing on the lousy lino. Also,' he barked a short bitter laugh, 'that was the last time anyone called me Edward Bear. A distinguished name, Edward. A name with class. After the king, you know.'

I nodded. 'I know,' I said.

'But did it suit the Milnes?' Pooh hurled the book into the grate, savagely. 'Did it suit the itty-bitsy, mumsy-wumsy, ooze-daddy's-ickle-boy-den Milnes? So I was Minnie-the-Pooh. You want to know what it was like when the Milnes hit the sack and I got chucked in the toy-cupboard for the night?'

'What?' I said.

'It was "Hello, sailor!" and "Give us a kiss, Winifred!" and "Watch out, Golly, I think he fancies you!", not to mention, and here he clenched his sad, mangy little fists, 'the standard "Oy, anyone else notice there's a peculiar poo in here, ha, ha, ha!"'

'I sympathise,' I said, 'but surely there were compensations? Your other life, in the wood, the wonderful stories of.....'

'Yeah,' said Pooh, heavily, 'the wood, the stories. The tales of Winnie-the-Schmuck, you mean? Which is your favourite? The one where I fall in the gorse bush? The one where I go up in the balloon and the kid shoots me down? Or maybe you prefer where I get stuck in the rabbit hole?'

'Well, I —'

'Hanging from a bloody balloon,' muttered Pooh, 'singing the kind of song you get put in the funny farm for! Remember?

"How sweet to be a cloud,
Floating in the blue!
Every little cloud
Always sings aloud."
That kind of junk," said Pooh, 'may suit Rolf Harris. Not me.'

'Did you never sing it, then?' I enquired.

'Oh, I sang it,' said Pooh. 'I sand it all right. It was in the script. *Dumb bear comes on and sings*. It was in the big Milne scenario. But you know what I wanted to sing?'

'I have no idea,' I said.

His little asymmetrical eyes grew even glassier, with a sadness that made me look away.

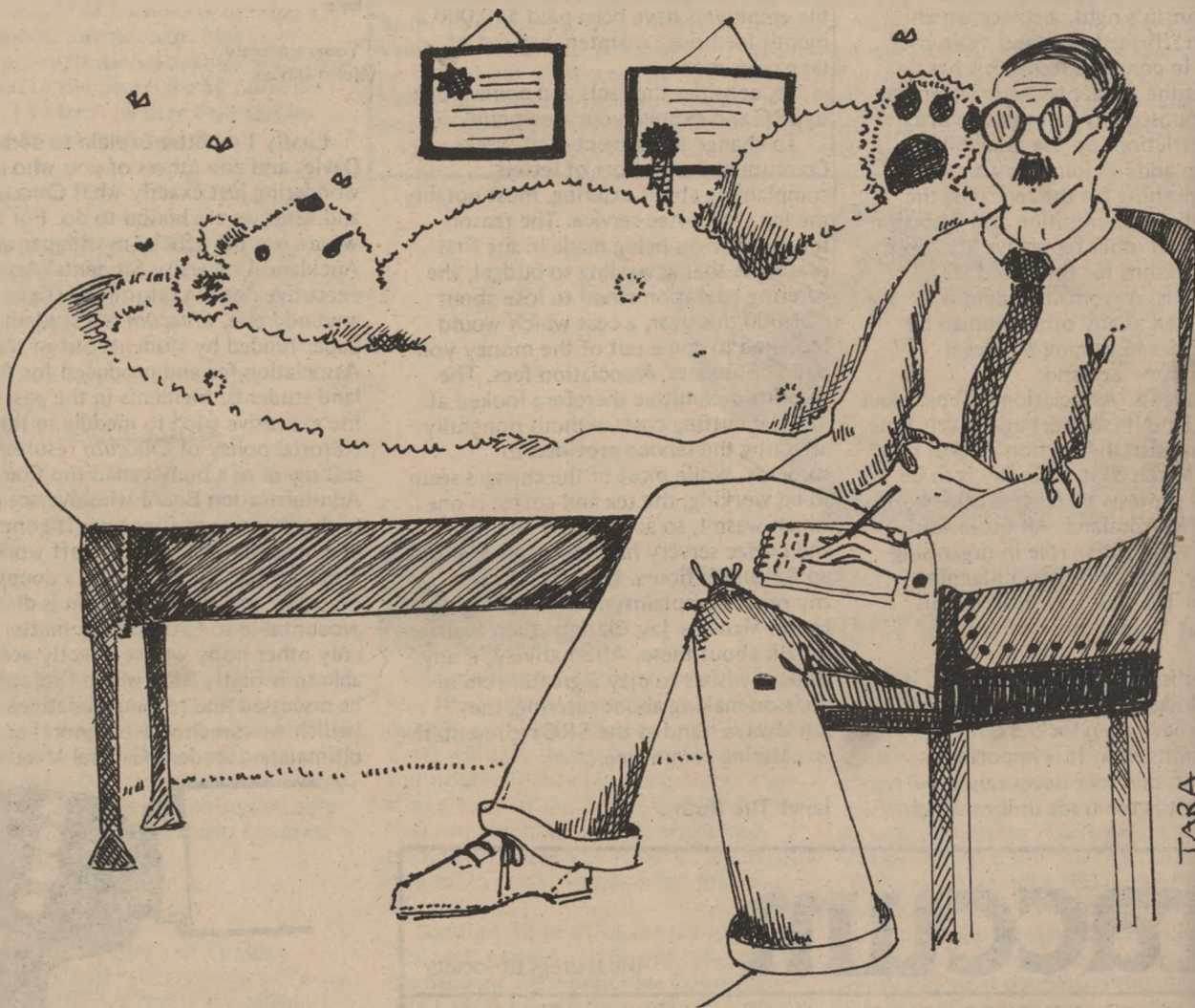
'But surely it was fun, if nothing else?' I said, 'Wasn't the Milne household full of laughter and gaiety and —'

'A.A. Milne,' Pooh interrupted, 'was an Assistant Editor of *Punch*. He used to come home like Bela Lugosi. I tell you, if we wanted a laugh, we used to take a stroll round Hampstead cemetery.'

Desperately, for the heartbreak of seeing this tattered toy slumped among his emotional debris was becoming unendurable, I sought an alternative tack.

'But think,' I said cheerily, 'of all the millions of children you have made happy!'

He was not to be shaken from his gloom.



'*Body and Soul*,' murmured Pooh, 'is what I wanted to sing. *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes*. Or play the trumpet, possibly. It was,' he signed, '1926. Jazz, short skirts, nightingales singing in Berkeley Square, angels dancing at the Ritz, know what I mean? A world full of excitement, sex, fun, Frazer-Nash two-seaters and everyone going to Le Touquet! And where was I? Hanging around with Piglet and passing my wild evening in the heady company of Eeyore! *The Great Gatsby* came out that year,' said Pooh, bitterly. 'The same year as *Winnie-the-Pooh*.'

'I begin to understand,' I said.

'Why couldn't he write that kind of thing about me?' cried the anguished Pooh. 'Why didn't I get the breaks? Why wasn't I a great tragic hero, gazing at the green light on the end of Daisy's dock? Why didn't Fitzgerald write *Gatsby* meets a Heffalump and Milne *The Great Gatsby*.'

'I'd rather,' he grunted, think of all the bears I've made miserable. After the Pooh books, the industry went mad. My people came off the assembly line like sausages. Millions of little bears marching towards the exact same fate as my own. into the hands of kids who'd digest the Milne rubbish, millions of nursery tea-parties where they were forced to sit around propped against a stuffed piglet in front of a little plastic plate and have some lousy infant smear their faces with jam. "O look, nurse, Pooh's ate up all his cake!" Have you any idea what it's like, he said, 'having marmalade on your fur? It never,' and his voice dropped an octave, 'happened to Bulldog Drummond.'

'I'm sorry?'

Pooh reached for a grubby notebook, and flipped it open.

Suddenly the door burst from its hinges, and the doorway filled with a huge and terrible shape.

'Get away from that girl, you filthy Hun swine!' it cried.

'The black-hearted fiend who had been crouched over the lovely Phyllis turned and thrust a fist into his evil mouth.'

'Mein Gott!' he shrieked, 'Es ist Edward Bear, MC, DSO!'

'With one bound, our hero.....' Pooh snapped the notebook shut.

'What's the use?' he said. 'I wrote you know. After Milne packed it in, I said to myself, it's not too late, I know where the pencil-box is, I shall come back like Sherlock Holmes, a new image, a... I took it to every publisher in London.'

'Yes, very interesting,' they said, 'about putting in a bit where he gets his paw stuck in a honey jar, how would it if he went off with Roo and fell in a swamp, and while you're at it, could he sing a couple of songs about bathnight?'

He fell silent. I cleared my throat a couple of times. Far off, a dog barked, a lift clanged. I stood up, at last, since there seemed nothing more to say.

'Is there anything you need?' I said, somewhat lamely.

'That's all right,' said Winnie-the-Pooh. 'I get by. No slice of the royalties, of course, oh dear me no, well, I'm only the bloody bear, aren't I? Tell you what though, if you're going past an off-licence, you might have them send up a bottle of gin.'

'I'd be delighted to,' I said.

He saw me to the door.

'Funny thing,' he said, 'I could never stand honey.'

Alan Coren appears in *Craccum* courtesy of *Punch Magazine*, Copyright.





MANGERE:

I expected Ray Bianchi to be a typical Union heavy - strong on dialectic and short on ideas. However, Ray Bianchi is a family man, worker and Trade Unionist - in that order. This probably explains why Ray and his fellow workers on Mangere Bridge have put up such a militant struggle against the combined forces of big business, government and the right wing press for a period in excess of ten months. Mangere Bridge is much more than a local industrial dispute. The men involved in the dispute have faced a concerted campaign by the coalition of Wilkins and Davies Construction, the National Government, and their puppets to get them back to work. Recently events have taken a turn for the worse with the decision by the Government to stop the payment of unemployment benefits to workers involved in the dispute. This amounts to an attempt to starve the workers and their families into submission a tactic reminding many people of the Wharfies Strike in 1951 when the Government of the day went one step further and made it an offence to even give sustenance to the striking Wharfies or their families.

All the Mangere Bridge workers want is a reasonable redundancy agreement to give them a measure of security between jobs. This is a justifiable demand given the erratic and unstable nature of the building industry and the fact that workers have to support their families during the periods when they are between jobs. Contrary to popular belief construction workers have no security of tenure unlike nearly all other types of employment and this creates a difficult situation for workers with families. The attempt by the workers on Mangere Bridge to get a fair deal for themselves and their families has resulted in a vicious attack. This is a paradoxical situation in a democratic country.

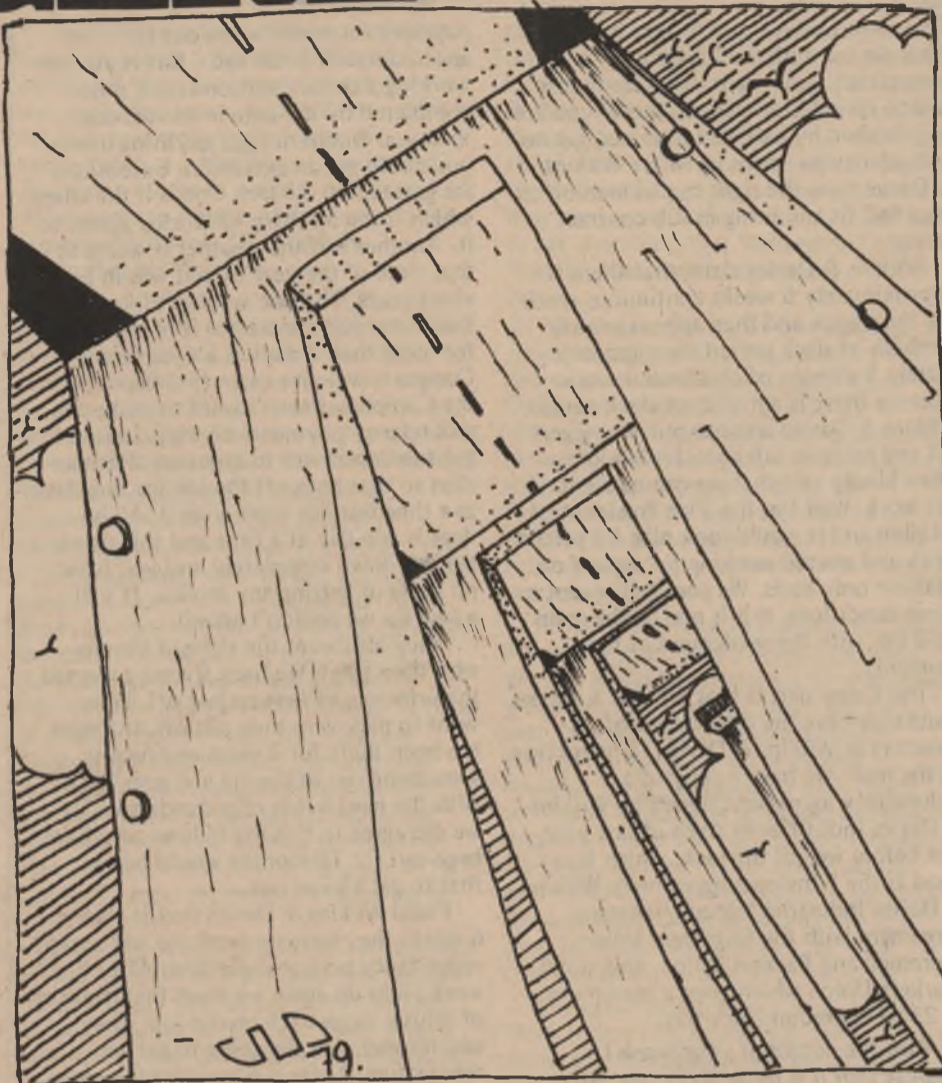
Here is what Ray Bianchi had to say on Wednesday 28th February about this historic struggle:

Could you please give me some of the background to the Mangere Bridge dispute?

To fully explain this dispute you have to go back to July of 1977. Usually when you talk about a dispute you talk about it starting a couple of months ago. When our first submissions were made to the Master Builders through the Fed of Labour, to renegotiate the Master Builders F.O.L. redundancy agreement in July 1977 they fell on deaf ears. In February 1978 after we were definitely told there were redundancies ready to go off we were at last informed that the Master Builders would not renegotiate. It took them 8 months to answer us and after that we decided that if they would not renegotiate then we would go to Wilkins and Davies and ask them for a house agreement.

We submitted a document that had been signed just a few months previously. This was the Winstones agreement - it was about 400% better than the Master Builders agreement. That agreement gives you an accumulation of approx 23 weeks redundancy after you have been with the firm for 20 years.

With the Master Builders agreement you get one weeks redundancy pay if you've been with the firm for six months



and if you've been with the firm for 18 months you get 2 week's redundancy pay. If you are there for 5, 10, 15, 20 years you still only get that 2 week's redundancy pay.

We feel that it is unjust for construction workers to have to cop this sort of a deal when people working across the road are getting a max of 23 weeks redundancy pay and all we can get is a maximum of 2 weeks redundancy pay.

So in February 1978 we again asked the Master Builders to renegotiate through the F.O.L. and we also submitted a house agreement to Wilkins & Davies. However, Wilkins & Davies said that they couldn't deal with us and immediately handed the matter over to the Auckland branch of the Master Builders Association who in turn handed it over to the National office of the Master Builders association.

We again waited and at the beginning of May 1978 we got an answer that there would be no negotiation of the Master Builders F.O.L. redundancy agreement. We again asked Wilkins & Davies for a house agreement. To force our issue we started rolling stoppages - one section of the job would go off one day and another section of the job would go off another day.

Eventually Wilkins & Davies decided that the rolling stoppages weren't good enough for them and they told us that if we weren't good boys and stop these shenanigans they'd give us 7 days notice of dismissal.

We refused to stop the rolling stoppages and on the 30th of May 1978 Wilkins & Davies sacked us all. The next day we had a march which was well supported by

the construction workers throughout Auckland and which was covered by the press - we got quite good coverage from the press on this one occasion. We handed a letter to the Master Builders Federation again asking them to renegotiate the Master Builders F.O.L. redundancy agreement. They accepted the letter but told us there was no way in the World they would renegotiate it.

I understand that you had a few problems with the Department of Social Security in the period immediately following your dismissal by Wilkins and Davies?

Yes, after the march we went down to the Department of Labour and registered as unemployed. They told us that because we were sacked through our own actions that we wouldn't be entitled to any unemployment benefit. We appealed against this decision and a couple of days later we were told that we would be on a 6 week stand down period before any benefit was paid.

You must remember that we were sacked and that we had no redundancy pay to live on. Some workers went 6 weeks, some went as long as 12 weeks waiting for their benefit to be okayed by the government. Eventually most of us got the benefit but some didn't because their wives were working. We can't see what that has to do with it because the wives work for only one reason, and that is because they can't live on the wages that their husbands bring home.

No sooner had we got the benefit than the Labour Department started offering carpenters for instance, jobs of sweeping

the street. This is certainly not a down grading job but when you consider that carpenters have done a 5 year apprenticeship to get their skills and their trade, and then they have to revert to sweeping roads it seems to be a waste of training.

We accepted that as a part of the attack by the government and the employers to try and force us all back to work. Eventually they forced quite a few off the benefit but we continued with our struggle.

They claimed that because I went to a job in jeans I wasn't interested in getting a job. They said I should go well dressed. So last Friday when I went down to try to get some money for the kids I put the 'whistle and flute' on and they still weren't impressed. No matter what you do you still can't impress them - it's a farcical situation.

What was your reaction to the decision by the government to stop payment of the unemployment benefit to workers who had been employed on Mangere Bridge?

In October of last year they decided to change the Social Security Act. We feel that it was changed for one reason - to try and force us off the benefit and back to work. We accept that as part of the fight. We accept that the employers are in the Government's pocket and that the government will do anything to help the employers and nothing to help us. Now they have stopped our benefit but Wilkins & Davies is still getting their benefit. If the Government stopped the payments to Wilkins & Davies within a month, within a week Wilkins & Davies would be around the table discussing a return to work on that bridge.

They have cut off our benefit and last week we took some of the wives and kids down to the Department of Social Security and they offered to give us \$25 each which we gladly accepted. If it had been \$10 I would still have accepted it because I think that the precedent of them breaking away from their stand or giving us nothing is more important than the amount we got. I have just been in touch with Mr Holden from Social Security and he has stated that there will be no benefit paid to any worker or the wives or family of any worker on Mangere Bridge from this day onwards. This government has tried every trick in the book to knock us down and we know they will continue to use every trick in the book. We accept that as part of the fight because we appreciate that a Tory govt must work to this system.

We accept that fight and if they want to hurt us fair enough let's have a fight man to man - the government against the workers - but leave the wives and kids out of it. If they aren't going to give us any money at least give the kids and wives money. We don't want anything for ourselves - we'll battle on without anything. If we have no money for food we can't send our kids to school because I'm not going to send my kids to school without lunch. If I don't send them to school I end up in the can because it is against the law to keep your kids away from school unless they are sick. We can't stand for our kids being starved out and that is what they are trying to do. They are try-

A BRIDGE TOO FAR

ing to starve the wives and kids into submission to try and get us back to work but our wives and kids are right behind us.

They have been for 10 months and they will be for another 10 months if need be.

The Social Security Act was amended last year - would you comment on that?

The Social Security Act was amended in October of last year. The amendment states that if any members of your Union is on a strike which is affecting your work then you are not entitled to any benefit if you are laid off your job as a result of the effects of that strike. A perfect example of this is the people who batch ready mix concrete. They are members of the Labourers Union and if they go on strike for any reason whatsoever and there is no concrete coming out of Certified Concrete (where there is only 2 batchers) then the employers could put every building labourer in Auckland out on the streets and no chance of getting the dole. This is a political move to stop the payment of the benefit.

Could you tell me something about the organisation you have set up to continue the dispute?

The first point to make is that we were locked out. At the beginning we thought the dispute would go for 5 or 6 weeks. We knew that we couldn't sustain 142 people through donations and all the rest of it for that period. We told the men that if you can get a job and you've got mortgage payments, especially if you are married, go somewhere outside and get another job. We can't give you the money and I'd hate to see anyone lose their house. If it was a strike it would be different but it is not a strike it is a lock-out. After it had gone on for about 3 months we realized then we still had about 60 or 70 men and that we couldn't sustain that many so we tried to get a lot of blokes to leave and get a job and get a core of about 30 blokes to maintain the pickets speaking engagements and the dispute. We are about at the right number now with 36. There are 24 a day on pickets. There is six each side in the morning and six each side in the afternoon and they work a four hour shift. That leaves another 12 for speaking engagements, finances and to answer the telephone.

What do you actually want from Wilkins & Davies?

What we want is an agreement modeled on the Winstones agreement which gives a maximum of 23 weeks redundancy pay. We are realistic enough to know that we probably won't get that but we also know that 2 weeks isn't enough. We won't all get this 23 weeks redundancy pay next month. Some fellows have been on the job for 3 years - a majority have been there 3 years. Under the old agreement they would only get the 2 weeks but under the Winstones agreement they would get 6 or 7 weeks. What we want is a reasonable redundancy agreement. We are not after the world. We will accept a guarantee that every year the Master Builders/F.O.L. redundancy agreement will be put up for renegotiation. We will take a very small increase on it now and leave it open for renegotiation every year. Award increases and cost of living increases can be jumped on every year.

They won't even come to that ball game. What we want on the bridge is a fair redundancy agreement. Not one that is tied to completion dates where if you are not finished by a certain date you get no redundancy payment or where Wilkins & Davies have the right to put men off as they feel fit and bring in sub contract labour.

Wilkins & Davies claim that there is approximately 6 weeks continuous work for the riggers and then approximately a month of slack period then approximately 3 months of continuous work. Because there is a month of slack period Wilkins & Davies want to put the riggers off and bring in sub contract labourers. They kindly said that we can quote for the work. Well I'm the Vice President of a Union and it would look nice if I priced work and started working for myself on a labour only basis. We couldn't accept those conditions, this is one of the main hold ups with the settlement at the moment.

The funny part is that Wilkins & Davies Industries have the same board of directors as Wilkins & Davies Construction, to the man. We have a copy of a redundancy agreement signed by Wilkins & Davies Industries in April of last year, just before we got the sack, which is as good as the Winstones agreement. Wilkins & Davies Industries signed a fantastic agreement with the Engineers Union, Storemen and Packers Union, and Hotel Workers Union which gives a maximum of 23 weeks redundancy pay.

With the nature of your work I suppose that it is quite important to have a good redundancy agreement because you could spend a lot of time between jobs with no money coming in.

Yes well, I don't think there is a job around Auckland that could take 142 men after the bridge finishes. It will mean packing up all our belongings and going elsewhere and where else is there to go around the country.

After building workers I suppose the next most insecure job would be that of politicians. However, even politicians, if they serve a 3 year term in parliament, get 3 months redundancy pay. If they get ousted at an election they are still on wages for 3 months. We'll accept their redundancy agreement of 3 months for every 3 years of service. If it is good enough for the representatives of our country we feel it is good enough for us.

How have your recent negotiations with Wilkins & Davies been going?

Wilkins & Davies have refused to negotiate a house agreement because they say they are tied to the Master Builders agreement but we feel that conditions have changed since this agreement was negotiated in 1975. We feel that there should be an upgrading of the agreement. It is a now well out dated. Also there is no incentive to be a long service man under the present agreement. If the Labour Government had passed legislation on redundancies before they got kicked out of power in 1973 as they were supposed to you wouldn't have this problem. Unfortunately, they laid off and the National Government put the blocks on it when they got into power. Wilkins & Davies have offered \$35,000 to be split up among the men as a redundancy

payment - it would work out to approximately \$400 each. But if you are working a certain section and it is not completed by the date in the contract then you would not get anything unless you could get an extension. Extensions are granted on 5 bases. One is if the client which is the Ministry of Works, agrees to it. Another is if the weather is worse at that time of the year than it was in previous years. The one we don't like states that if the sub-contractor is off the site for more than 2 days at a time then the Company will give us an extension. So if the Company doesn't want to make the redundancy payments all they do is tell the sub-contractor to come on alternate days so that he is off the job for one day at a time but not more than 2. All he does is one day at a time and this slows the job down completely and you have no show of getting any money. It's all a jack up we couldn't accept.

They also want the right to dismiss who they want. We have always accepted the principle of first on last off. They want to pick who they put off. If a man has been there for 3 years and he says something out of line he just goes out with the next batch of redundancies. If we did agree to this the fellows who have been out for 10 months would be the first to get kicked out.

I told Wilkins & Davies that if after 6 weeks they have no work we will accept redundancy on one condition. After the work picks up again we want first chance of refusal to go back on the job. They said no way - we are going to get sub-contractors. There is a basic trade union principle involved here and the FOL agrees with us that we can't let that go so the FOL have made a stand on that too.

What was your reaction to the government giving Wilkins & Davies 30,000 dollars a month to maintain the bridge?

The last trick by the Government has been to give Wilkins & Davies the paltry sum of 30,000 dollars a month unemployment benefit to keep us out of work. The first month that Wilkins & Davies received this money the foremen were on the job doing maintenance - making trailers for their own personal use. If that is maintenance of a bridge I don't know what is.

Wilkins & Davies \$30,000 maintenance is done one day a week on Thursday at noon. They have a machine set up on the bridge to check the stress and strain on the concrete. They take readings to see if there has been any subsidence. The Ministry of Works does this so called maintenance at no charge.

Do you think this dispute suits Wilkins & Davies?

The dispute does seem to suit Wilkins & Davies to a certain extent because when the hinge beams for the bridge were made they were made for Northern Hemisphere conditions. Wilkins & Davies just ordered hinge beams and they were made in Sweden and naturally it is a lot hotter down here than it is up there. They need hinge beams on this bridge because the concrete expands even when it is hard. So when these hinge beams arrived they found that they were no good. So what they had to do then was send one hinge beam back to Sweden and have it changed and then sent back here so the others

could be changed. We believe they engineered the dispute to a degree to get this extra time but now it has got of hand because the Company didn't realise that it would get political. Wilkins & Davies must actually be laughing because although they are not working the bridge their profit has actually increased during the period of the dispute. They are on the best unemployment benefit in the world.

You had some problems negotiating your award didn't you?

Yes the Master Builders refused to negotiate the award because of the Mangere Bridge dispute when we first went to Wellington. We went to the arbitration court for a ruling on this and they declared that it was both illegal and immoral for the Master Builders to hold up the award for a local dispute. They using every device at their disposal to frustrate our claims and force us back to work. Every time things don't work out for this Government they change the law - which they did in October of last year with the Social Security Act.

How do you think other trade unions feel about recent action by the Government?

My personal opinion on this is that through the inadequacies of the National Government they are cementing the trade union movement together. They are driving the unions together because before they have always had the right and the left to deal with. Their actions now of hitting the families are only driving the trade union movement together and in opinion this is for the good of the trade unions.

What is the political outlook of the workers on Mangere Bridge? Would you describe them as radicals or left wingers are they merely people who have been caught up in a larger game of politics?

The people on Mangere Bridge are Workers and if you are going to put them in any category I would say that the last category is the one to put them in. Everybody on the bridge is a victim of circumstance. This is the longest industrial dispute in N.Z. history.

Are the wives and kids being used as a lever to get you to go back to work?

Without a doubt. Surprisingly I think that the present situation is cementing the families closer together.

The impression I get is that even the wives are getting hard line.

The families have rallied around and given their support and the only thing that the Government could do now would be to bring in the legislation they used in 1951.

How many kids are affected by the dispute? How have they been cared for if you have no money coming in?

There would be close to 100 kids affected by this. At Christmas we had a party for the kids. I approached our executive for a donation for a kids party and our executive (of the Labourers Union) voted to give \$500 and the Carpenters Union fell into line. There were donations from various building sites and we ended up with \$2000. This went solely to the kids' Christmas party. It never went into the Mangere Bridge Fund. The City Newton Club rooms were donated by Bill Anderson. We had a barbeque and

THURSDAY 15 MARCH AT 1 PM IN
SQUAD - HEAR MANGERE BRIDGE
WORKERS GIVE THE LATEST NEWS
ON THEIR STRUGGLE. THIS CONCERNS
EVERYONE.

More Wellington

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ow have the wives and kids handled
ituation?

is a hard situation but fortunately
of the wives are involved in it now.
first 3 or 4 months were hard because
wives couldn't accept the situation.
most of the wives accept the situa-
and seem a lot closer to the dispute
they were previously. I think the
stmas party for the kids helped a lot
also the Huntly workers put on a
ic day for us down there. We all went
by bus - 2 busloads of us with the
and families - and they had races
the kids, prizes, bags of lollies, and a
leque. This was paid for out of the
tly Workers Social Fund. This has
e a lot to bring people closer to the
ute.

The kids are getting involved too.
ually my kids are brilliant because
y go to school and tell the teachers all
ut Mangere Bridge. We had a march
hile ago and I had all the placards in
van. When I got home I went and
a cup of tea. Next thing I heard this
of a noise outside and there's my
ids and all their mates from all round
street. They had all the placards out
they were marching up and down
street in front of my house chanting
DAD WANTS WORK! I don't know
at the neighbours thought.

How have you managed to make ends
et over the last ten months?

Things are pretty serious because the
stability and uncertainty of the
ation make it difficult to work out a
ousekeeping system to make sure the
ids are clothed and fed.

People with things on hire purchase
I never be able to make up the ten
onths of lost payments. As yet no one
had anything repossessed. I have a
ousing loan from State Advances and I
went down there last week and told
them they wouldn't be getting anymore
oney. When I explained the situation
them they said that action might be
ken against me. I said to let me know
en you come around to kick the kids
ut on the street. One fellow went down
Social Security yesterday with his
ent book and bills. Like all of us he is
ay behind in paying the lot of them.
ocial Security told him in no uncertain
rms to get out. This is the sort of thing
are up against. I've got bills that
ould have been paid months ago. Now
just put them on the dart board and
row a dart and pay that one if I've got
ew bob.

All my savings went long ago and now
I'm quite heavily in debt. There's no
uch thing as steak in our house. We live
on the same sort of food as if we had gone
bank. At the moment there is nobody
starving although the kids are not getting
proper nourishment. Our families have
given us support when things have been
critical.

How long do you think you can hold
out?

As long as need be.

Colin McFadzean

Two weeks ago an article appeared in
Craccum entitled 'Windy Wellington'. It
portrayed Merv Wellington as being some
sort of ine person, incapable of perform-
ing at even a reasonable degree of
competence as a Member of Parliament.
The vision conjured up in the writer's
mind seems to be one of Wellington - the
puppet-like figure - being totally
controlled by Muldoon.

While an article on a current M.P. is
almost always at least partially subjective
in its approach, subjectivity is normally
compensated for by the amount of object-
ive research carried out and presented on
that particular person. It is in this regard
that the previous article falls down totally.

The authors base their wonderful
conclusions solely on one aspect of
Wellington's performance as an M.P. - his
efforts speaking in the house. Such an
approach might well be expected from
those who know little or nothing about
the duties or responsibilities of an M.P.
No mention is made of Wellington's
performance in either constituency affairs
or as a committee man. The mistakes
made in the treatment of the subject in
that article are further compounded by
the narrowness of the period examined
with one exception all the excerpts from
Hansard date from July to October 1976
- all well within Wellington's first year as
an M.P.

It is in an effort to present a reasonable
picture of the man - although still subject-
ive of course - that this article is written.
It is not a piece of National Party propo-
ganda - I'm one who prefers the Minogue
branch of the Party - but rather an
attempt to give credit where credit is due
and thus hopefully, enable readers to
draw a clearer picture of the man
concerned.

Certainly the easiest aspect of an
M.P. is prowess or otherwise, that can
be judged in his performance within the
House. Wellington by no means set the
world alight in this respect, when he
entered Parliament. Indeed the excerpts in
Craccum from Hansard in 1976 are
indicative of that fact. However,
Wellington soon realised that this approach
earned him little kudos and so he markedly
changed his manner in the House. By the
end of his initial three years term his
questions had moved from a mere seeking
of confirmation from appropriate
Ministers for the seeming purpose of
aiding National Party publicity of a
particular subject (although that still did

occur on occasions) to questions that
revealed an obvious desire to seek out real
information. A quick perusal of Hansard
in the middle months of 1978 - the latest
copies I could lay my hands on - would
reveal this to most readers. It is hardly
worth printing a series of excerpts since
they are hardly of great moment. Suffice
to say therefore, that Wellington learnt
from his three years experience in the
House.

The greatest failing of the previous
article though, was its total lack of
comment on Wellington's handling of
his constituents' affairs. Surely his
efforts in this regard warrant consideration
especially when so many cynics believe
that the vast majority of M.Ps are in
Parliament purely in an attempt to
accumulate personal power? It is in the
helping of his constituents that Wellington
rates very highly.

While he has been in Parliament I have
lived in a neighbouring constituency to
the one which he represents. In that time-
span it has considerably surprised me to
hear the high regard in which people
generally - not solely those of the
National Party - hold him. I have heard
convinced Labour Party supporters couch
their opinion of Mr Wellington in flatter-
ing terms. Indeed I came across people
who switched their allegiance in the last
election either because of what he had
done for them personally or for what
they had heard he had done for others.

The other major aspect of an M.P's
Work is that connected with the
respective Parliamentary committees I
can only touch on this point briefly since
I do not profess to know much about Mr
Wellington's endeavours in this field.
However, as Chairman of the Social
Services Committee in the last Parliamen-
ary session, apparently he had the
reputation of being a good chairman.

Clearly this article has been somewhat
subjective in its approach although hope-
fully, that has been compensated for by a
couple of redeeming features. What the
above blurb was especially concerned
with initially was the violating of the
various functions performed by an M.P.
and subsequently the judging of
Mr Wellington in view of his abilities or
lack of them in these various fields.

It is to be hoped therefore that
readers will have a more balanced view of
the man if they knew little about him
previously. It has to be admitted that
while his performance in the House show-

ed a distinct improvement in his initial
three years there, he is certainly not
brilliant in this sphere. There again there
are few who could be placed in that
category. Any deficiency in that part of
his responsibilities is more than compen-
sated for by his excellent performance
in other spheres.

At the moment it is hardly fair to
speculate about how he will cope with
the responsibilities of the portfolio given
him, seeing he is in the process of learning
the ropes. Apart from the fact that he has
the advantage of being a teacher as
recently as 3 and a half years ago, his
personal qualities, such as his ability to
work hard, to listen to people and to
learn from the inevitable errors of judg-
ment makes me feel that he could prove
to be one of the better members of the
cabinet.

It is hardly sufficient to condemn the
man - as the writers of the previous
article seem to have done - on the basis
of either his conservative philosophy or
on a series of questions asked by him in
the first year of his stay in Parliament. His
worth as a constituent M.P. has been
proven many times, it now remains to be
seen whether he will prove to be an
equally worthwhile Minister of
Education. Donald Macleod

*It was made abundantly clear at the
start of the article that any conclusions
were reached solely on the basis of
Mr Wellington's parliamentary perform-
ance. The article did not attempt to
evaluate his effectiveness within his
constituency or in committee. Those
aspects of his work fell outside the scope
of the article.*

*If Mr Wellington's performance
improved during his stay in the House the
improvement was not easily discernable
In August 1978, Mr. Wellington showed
that his days as an active party lackey had
not passed. He proposed the following
substanceless, time wasting, cheap, party,
point-scoring motion:*

*'I move that this House congratulates
the Government for providing a sound
financial return on Post Office activities.'
Remember the increased postal rates?*

*Finally, Mr Wellington was not
condemned because of his conservative
philosophy. He was criticized because of
his vicious, emotion-laden attacks on his
opponents. His endearing trait of labelling
the opposition as, ultimate of insults,
'Socialist', remains.*

David Beach

Wizard of ID



Ask for Henry Grimshaw,
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THE first literary magazine to be published by Auckland University in four years shows a healthy diversity, a willingness to experiment, and a good deal of promise.

There's a particularly successful photographic section, where a dozen contributors display awareness of textures and contrasts, and occasionally indulge in a rather fetching sentiment.

David Blake's layered staccato to be seem to be and navel's from a variety of Michael Morris and Noble and Huggins Cook impress.

The very short stories by Alice Trout and Matangirau are too concerned with their own language to make much impact, but show a sensitivity and mood that augurs well.

D. H.

A MERES\$

The first thing I remember was the report wasn't correct. It was directed at the wrong people, afflicting in C... orts of the rep... ere added, no... anted to add... ecause there v... ve considered... ld not in some... is nothing m... e major argumen... of the internat... plications of... medical argum... (marijuana). An... rward as irre... medical data o... ware. In the f... ymes down to... id, that as far... ble to ascertain... as taken so lib... llow it to be le... nder licence. We've put down... hat were doing... port was writ... ah, I'm consc... ut perhaps or... ying 'countri... ew Zealand.

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No, not generalise. I say that they are pretty close. You don't believe that. I agree that you disagree that we add to the arguments against marijuana.

I see ... The
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McLay:Dope

This document we couldn't believe when we read the section on dope ... the medical arguments particularly. The international commitments we could understand. But we could refute every one of the medical arguments with reports, papers presented by various commissions from various parts of the world, by individuals, by private research; all of those things we could discredit several times over. How did you compile those individual medical reasons?

The first thing that I think you've got to remember was that the thrust of the report wasn't directed towards marijuana. It was directed essentially towards trafficking in Class A and Class B drugs. Parts of the report relating to marijuana were added, not because we particularly wanted to address ourselves to it, but because there would be many who would have considered a report incomplete if it did not in some way make an observation. It is nothing more than a summary of the major arguments advanced. You've accepted the international conventions and the implications of them. These are the medical arguments advanced against marijuana. As such they were not put forward as irrefutable truths, but as medical data of which the committee was aware. In the final analysis perhaps it comes down to the observation at the end, that as far as the committee has been able to ascertain, no country in the world has taken so liberal a view of marijuana to allow it to be legally sold and traded, even under licence.

We've put down the countries that now do, that were doing so even at the time the report was written.

Ah, I'm conscious of that observation. But perhaps one should qualify it by saying 'countries', of a type similar to New Zealand.

Well look at America. You've had decriminalisation there in several states.

But not as liberal a view as many would advocate, and that I think is the important thing.

Well let's just look at decriminalisation rather than straight legalisation. Do you think that will come to New Zealand eventually? Do you think public opinion on marijuana generally, have changed?

No, not generally. I don't think they have. I say that as an M.P. who's tried to stay pretty close to public opinion. I don't believe that it has changed to the degree that you would seek, or to a degree that would justify a change. But in addition to that there are still some strong arguments against the legalisation of marijuana.

I see ... The Misuse of Drugs Act. We were disappointed with that because it seemed to us that the harsher measures for trafficking, supply and importation and things like that, particularly the life sentence, didn't seem to break the link between the financial rewards offered by the selling of hard A-class drugs and the punitive measures taken against it. For example, a person would be more likely to shoot a constable if he knows he could get away with the same crime of manslaughter as he would if he was caught trafficking.

Well. We thought perhaps what the government should have adopted was the situation where you took away the need, the fiscal rewards offered to the trafficker, and instituted a system of state run clinics where registered heroin addicts would come and live with withdrawal treatment on methadone. This would eliminate the need for the trafficker to be there at all. An addict would be registered. He or she would be receiving a course of treatment aimed at weaning them off the drug. The ultimate thing you'd be looking at would be public health, which of course you're trying to do. And there was no financial reward for a trafficker at all - because what the hell ... a person could go down to a clinic and get their treatment, and not pay a cent for it because it was all paid for by the state.

Well, you first of all spoke about how there didn't appear to be a breaking of the link between the financial incentive and the offence itself.

Can I deal with 2 points that you raise? First of all, you suggest that we didn't break the link between the penalty and the financial incentive. In fact we did do that by providing for, in certain circumstances, the confiscation of a person's assets where it was capable of being proved that they had in fact been derived from dealing in Class A and B drugs. Now that is a danger for a drug trafficker and this particularly applies to the so-called 'Mr Bigs' .. Not just does he or she lose his liberty but also he loses the assets that he's accumulated as a result of his trafficking over a period of time. Now coming to the particular proposal that you felt was appropriate, the obvious example you're thinking of is Great Britain. In fact the British experience has not been successful. It's interesting that they still have heavy penalties for drug trafficking and they still have massive examples of major drug importation and illegal use in the country, despite a system of the type you outline. In other words, registering heroin addicts, giving them free drugs, weaning them off the drugs while that may be one of the forms of treatment in any event .. (we stopped short of passing judgement between various types of treatment). you still have people dealing in drugs despite the treatment procedures in Britain.

Well, is the solution still harsh measures, if it hasn't worked in Britain? People still import drugs. The thing is to try and get rid of the demand for these drugs.

Oh indeed! The thrust of the report is not just in the area of the punishment of the offender. There is emphasis on education, rehabilitation, treatment. All those areas were given prominence. It's obvious that a change in the penalties and a change in the law achieves the greatest publicity. But that shouldn't be allowed to obscure the very valuable work that I believe the committee did as a group in those other three areas as well.

This article was transcribed by Eugene Sage from an interview conducted by David Merritt.

In The Dock



Elizabeth Leyland

The Law of the Land, to use the nomenclature of those who from the Bench pronounce upon its scope and effect, should reflect the attitudes of the inhabitants of the land. On this premise our much vaunted democracy surely rests. Unfortunately one only has to visit the Magistrate's Court to witness the daily contravention of this principle. In this oblique manner I arrive at the subject matter of this week's column, the law relating to the Class C Controlled Drug, cannabis.

Multitudes of dope smokers have presented the Legislature with a fait accompli which it is steadfastly refusing to accept. In so doing it is creating a vast, subterranean (since despite Sunday newspaper sensationalism indulgence is not accompanied by visible side effects) criminal class, who must flout the law to support a habit no more socially undesirable than tobacco or alcohol consumption. More significant than the fact of this law's existence, under its provisions the sanctions of the Criminal Law are being imposed upon offenders. Other crimes which patently do not reflect community consensus, such as the prohibition on indecent language in a public place, are allowed to lapse into desuetude through the exercise of police discretion in bringing prosecutions, i.e. the constabulary will probably turn a blind eye if you take care not to direct your invective at them. The police do not however gaze in this myopic fashion at cannabis related offences. They haul into the dock with monotonous regularity those who fall foul of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 as amended by its 78 supplement, which enshrines the cannabis taboo. Nor does the magistrate, embarrassed that such a case should appear before him, discharge the defendant with a gentle remonstrance. The standard accompaniment to a judicial reprimand is now about 150 dollars for possession of cannabis for personal use. But the wicked weed does not miraculously materialise in those plastic sachets. First it must be sowed, reaped and dealt. Practices which the Criminal Law regards with greater severity. An enterprising couple cultivated the prohibited plant on Waiheke Island. Even more enterprisingly the police staked out the plot. Come harvest time and the heavy hand of the law descended upon the hapless pair. The maximum penalty for cultivation is 7 years imprisonment. The magistrate, remanding the defendants

for sentence, told them that they would probably be jailed. This stark observation contrasted sharply with the murmur of approbation which rippled through the gallery when the police prosecutor blandly recounted how some of the 35 plants found had been 9 feet in height. Questions like, 'whose law is this', need to be asked when jail sentences are meted out for actions condoned by hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders. It is certainly a law which benefits the big business interests controlling the alcohol and tobacco empires in this country. The moral guilt of the men at the top, many of whom have been knighted, is certainly no less than that of the unfortunate pair of cultivators who now face jail sentences. Why then does the law distinguish in this drastic fashion between cannabis and the legal drugs, alcohol and tobacco? The obvious answer is that the distributors of legal drugs have a vested interest in preventing the legalization of any substance which might encroach upon their market. Especially a substance which can't be readily assimilated into their drug empires because of the ease with which consumers can cultivate their own supply.

But even if the motive exists, do these companies have the power to effect their purpose? The answer must I think be yes. The tobacco and alcohol companies are in themselves institutions of great wealth. Also their is considerable overlap of representation on the Boards of Directors of the major New Zealand companies. A brewery's director might also sit on the board of a newspaper. In this way the wealthy elite of the country are bound into a community of interest. It is a simple equation translating wealth into influence. Influence, through the media, of the people. Influence, through the lobbying of Government by wealthy business interests, of the law making process.

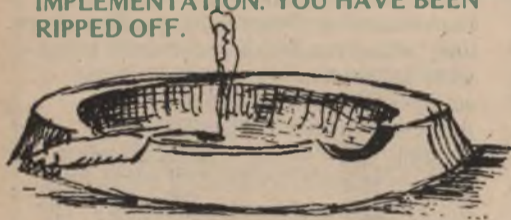
But of course one can only speculate whether the nation's business community are in fact behaving in this manner. It is only possible to look at the known facts. The large numbers who use or support the legalization of cannabis. Its illegality. The benefits which the tobacco and alcohol interests derive from its illegality. Their ability to maintain the law in its present state. People are free to draw whatever inferences they like from the above data.

David Beach.

NOTHING T

As an extract from the interview with the Minister of Justice dealing with the Caucus Committee Report on the Misuse of Drugs shows (see previous page), the Minister firmly stands behind its findings and recommendations. This is the first half to an article which might well be called 'The Craccum Taxpayers' Guide to the Misuse of Caucus Committee Funds'. Mr McLay, are you ready for this?

THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT CAUCUS COMMITTEE ON THE MISUSE OF DRUGS IS MATERIALLY IN-ACCURATE, DECEPTIVELY AND DELIBERATELY BIASED, AND POSES A SUBSTANTIAL THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN NEW ZEALAND. IT IS CHARACTERISED BY A WHOLESOME DISREGARD OF MEDICAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REALITIES AND SERVES ONLY TO RUBBER-STAMP APPROVAL TO THE DEMANDS OF A HANDFUL OF ALREADY INFLUENTIAL PRESSURE GROUPS. YOUR TAXES PAID FOR IT, AND CONTINUE TO PAY FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. YOU HAVE BEEN RIPPED OFF.



My first impression on reading this Report was a new total disbelief that not only should such a compost of unsupported allegation, repressive bias and material inaccuracy should be presented as the report of what should be the most efficient fact finding committee in the country, but also that such a potentially controversial report was not published for comment or criticism.

UNTIL AFTER THE LEGISLATION ENACTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LETTER HAD BEEN PASSED. The complicity of a government whose members pushed through the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act with a minimum of debate reflected how little true interest in human and civil rights was in both main parties. The implications of an act permitting, say, undercover police officers to contravene the Dangerous Drugs Act in order to secure convictions would doubtless stir some controversy if publicised prior to its legislation - and this might necessitate tiresome rounds of submissions from the relevant medical and social authorities, with concomitant delays in its passage - a frightening possibility.

The brief of the Committee was

"..... TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CABINET ON THE NEED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO CONTROL THE MISUSE AND ABUSE OF DRUGS" INCLUDING CONTROLLED DRUGS, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.

in practice the committee considered only Controlled Drugs (Opiates, Hallucinogens, Cocaine and Marijuana) effectively making this a piece of Dangerous Drug Reform, though reform is not a popular word with politicians; it smacks of

failure to have done the right thing in the past. The failure of the committee to fulfil their mandate as presented by the Government in the respect of prescription drugs and alcohol has some peculiar corollaries. One is that 'terms of reference' now means 'provisional terms of reference': a redefinition of dubious value.

Another more important corollary is the continuation of the popular myth, long discredited, that alcohol use is an acceptable social habit, the drugs provided by your GP are safer than all illegal drugs, and that none of this is concerned with narcotics such as marijuana and cocaine, which are dangerous, addictive drugs. This blatantly self-serving example of accidental misinformation (annual revenues from the sale of beer alone benefit the government by \$50 million) is not only misleading, it is downright dangerous: by any criteria, be they medical, pharmacological or social, ALCOHOL IS A DANGEROUS AND ADDICTIVE DRUG and habitual use of prescription drugs that affect behaviour is a grave social problem. Any one tempted to doubt this should consider the following:

Alcoholism is a major factor in 20% of admissions to mental homes, over 25% of medical and surgical hospital admissions and over 60% of fatal road accidents, and plays an undeniable part in the majority of cases of murder, suicide, battered wives, neglected children, deformed births and domestic accidents. These figures only apply to out and out alcoholics (alcohol addicts) and do not take into account those drinkers who though not addicted occasionally get roaring drunk and behave with if anything even less co-ordination and native wit than a seasoned alcoholic. Alcohol directly attacks body cells, literally corroding the brain and the rest of the nervous system, the liver, the digestive tract and capillaries in organs throughout the body. Alcohol is by far the largest single law enforcement problem in this country, with approximately 60% of all offences being related to it. In comparison heroin is relatively innocuous - in itself it has no harmful physical or social effects that cannot be more easily attributed to its high price, the police harassment and imprisonment attendant in its use, the lack of quality control in its production and the lack of regulation in dosage. If taken in stable sterile doses it produces no ill effects other than the need for a daily shot. Addicts with access to a regular or cheap supply, as happens in countries where heroin has been legalised, are capable of holding steady jobs, raising families, and making useful contributions to society: a sharp contrast to the average alcoholic!

Barbiturates, besides being Controlled as well as Prescription drugs, and despite their abuse probably representing the most widespread addiction problem in the country, were similarly dismissed because a working party consisting of four senior doctors began a programme in early 1977 to educate the public about barbiturate abuse, a programme which is due to finish in the 1980's. (The Caucus Committee reported back, to Cabinet in August/September 1978) Pressing problems of overprescription of anti-

depressives and sedatives apparently did not need to be dealt with for up to two years. The implications of a society dependant for its smooth running on a conditioned behavioural basis, with a government legitimising the indiscriminate distribution of prescription drugs with behavioural set with more hazards than advantages for the individual, and society as a whole? Can we do without the tranquillizing of a substantial proportion of the population? No one seems to care. In presenting a dramatised history of the rise of heroin use in New Zealand, the Committee indirectly shows that some of the blame for the escalation in heroin trafficking must lie with the legislation aimed at eradicating the importing of buddha sticks

'As police and customs methods improved and responded to the realities of the drug market it became more difficult to import buddha sticks because of the bulk of the product. Accordingly, heroin came to be a replacement import offering greater profitability for lesser bulk in the meantime the absence of buddha sticks stimulated the local marijuana market and packaging became more sophisticated



As the rest of this section goes to explain, the importers were now strictly big-time operators, due to the high cost of buying and importing heroin. They proceeded to use their financial muscle to finance and package locally grown marijuana which they then withdrew from the market, substituting cheap heroin. If this story paints a true picture then the start of New Zealand's major heroin problem was undoubtedly the increased restrictions on cannabis imports imposed by the authorities.

'The committee was agreed that drug dealing will never be stamped out entirely, but to contain the problem, greater efforts and resources must be concentrated against the trafficking of drugs.'

It is perhaps too easy to point to the committee's own statistics on the continuing and increasing popularity of all types of drug-taking, the commensurate increases in penalties, police and customs funds, the above example of intensified enforcements nudging dealers up-market and deduce that far from effectively being enforced, the law has become more and more meaningless in practical terms and increased efforts at enforcement will continue to deteriorate in efficiency. Passing laws will never prevent people from taking drugs. Concentration on suppliers and dealers ignores the obvious fact that dealers arise to meet demands of consumers; however painful our legislators may feel, the 'hard sell' does not apply to drugs - for one thing would increase the risk of detection.

SIR

constantly faced by the dealer, to a point where he would have to be armed and protected by body guards, this situation does not obtain in New Zealand. Drug smuggling is profitable not because people are easily pressured into drug taking, but because there is a ready market of people wanting to alter their moods without using alcohol - which as we have seen has physically and mentally deleterious side effects.

The investigations can be seen to only extend to asking the relevant authorities to name how much it would cost to do whatever they wished in the field of drug law enforcement. Heres what they did get,

Customs :

Dogs, infra red night tracking equipment, radios, launches, X-Ray sets and telex links. (Total cost: \$280,000). 33 extra staff for prevention and detection duties, and 8 clerical staff (wage bill undisclosed) 'The committee has strongly supported these measures.'

Police:

39 extra drug squad officers, at an annual cost of \$443,000. Vehicles (\$280,000) Radios for vehicles (\$19,000), 21 UHF radios for surveillance (\$44,800), cameras and binoculars for surveillance (\$10,000), an INCREASE of \$20,000 (to an undisclosed total) for payments of informers; \$10,000 to undercover agents to spend on whatever they need most, not to mention the money needed to maintain a Police/Customs 'Policy Officer' at the New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok.

At a minimum this represents an expenditure of \$1.5 million, \$1 million of which will have to be annually recurring expenditure for things like wages and informer informers' payoffs.

The committee noted that the work of undercover police officers (commonly referred to as 'undercover agents') in particular was fraught with difficulties and danger. An undercover agent may be required, for example, to smoke a cannabis reefer being passed round the group which is the subject of his investigation, or to provide drugs from the supply with which he has been equipped for the purposes of that investigation. In these circumstances, the agent may either accede to the request, and thereby commit an offence against the Act, or decline the request, thereby damaging his cover and exposing himself to the added risk of physical violence. For the most part, the agents are adept at avoiding this dilemma, but there are occasions on which they are unable so to do.

Similarly, an undercover agent may be required by the group which he has infiltrated to lend his premises or vehicle for the purpose of facilitating some contravention of the Act. Again, if he agrees, he commits an offence, while, if he does not agree, the success of the operation is immediately placed in serious jeopardy.

In fact, thanks to the committee, a police officer can now use a controlled drug, possess it, buy it, sell it, import it, grow it or supply it to maintain his cover' as long as his action ultimately results in someone being arrested. The ethics of undercover operation have yet to come under official scrutiny - it is by no means certain that convictions obtained using undercover officers, with their necessary compliance in the commission of the offences, would be upheld if all the facts of the case could be presented. As the Law stands, entrapment is a legal means of obtaining a conviction - anyone persuaded to buy drugs from one undercover police officer and sell them to another undercover police officer can be successfully charged with trafficking. This manoeuvre is illegal in the U.K. and in America, where the prosecution must quite rightly demonstrate that a crime would have been committed even if the undercover officer had not played an active part in it.

An analogous problem arises where a supervising police officer supplies controlled drugs to an undercover constable for the purposes of the latter's operation so as to enable the cover to be kept. Such a supply of Class A or Class B drugs clearly contravenes section 6 of the Act.

Undercover officers must not only pose as drug traffickers, they must be drug traffickers. I can conceive of no situation where drugs should be supplied to police officers unless they are taking an active part in the commission of a crime.

The difficulties produced by the fact that the Crown is bound by the Act are not limited to the police. For example, while officers of the Post Office and Customs Department have powers to open mail and seize the contents, it may frequently be necessary, for the purposes of criminal investigation, that those contents should be reintroduced into the mail and forwarded to the addressee.

- it appears from the memorandum addressed to the committee by the Minister of Customs that the fear that

the Act may be contravened by the operation referred to is inhibiting investigations, so that any doubt as to the legitimacy of the operation should be removed.

The committee has a clever procedure for removing doubt as to the legality of police contraventions of the Act: Instead of reviewing the doubtful benefits of such action, it just simply proposes that the police action be legalised.

This neat legislative convenience effectively makes undercover officers immune to penalties for drug dealing; so that not only are they provided with drugs and the use of premises and vehicles for trafficking, they can only be prosecuted at the behest of the Attorney General. Complaints from the public about the actions of undercover police officers are likely to receive scant attention, unless the complainants have the ear of the Attorney General who is, needless to say, a busy man.

The recommendation of the committee regarding protection of undercover agents isthat no

The financing of drug traffickers who are themselves immune from prosecution is a matter of serious public concern. The great majority of police officers believe in what they are doing and perform honestly and conscientiously. But how that can be any guarantee in an operation now costing an additional \$10,000 per year, with informers fees increased by \$20,000 a year, that abuses will never occur? What separates the efficient undercover officer from the successful freelance trafficker? Answer: one of them knows he is a policeman, and that he will not under ordinary circumstances ever be charged with a drug offence.

Many people approve such laws and practices, of course, on the grounds that the "drug evil" must be stamped out at any cost. The Le Dain Commission (Canadian Government Report 1973) and the most recent and comprehensive study of drug use on a national scale points out that the cost is very high:

"During the initial phase of our inquiry, we have heard bitter complaints and criticisms of the use of entrapment and physical violence to obtain evidence. We have not verified the particular circumstances of these complaints and criticisms, so that we make no charge of any kind at this time but we deplore the use of such methods to the extent that they may be resorted to on occasion. We believe that such methods are not only a serious violation of respect for the human person, but they are counter-productive in that they create contempt for law and law enforcement. The price that is paid for them is far too great for any good that they may do.

We recommend that instructions be given to police officers to abstain from such methods of enforcement, and that the RCMP use its influence with other police forces involved in the enforcement of the drug laws to try to assure that there is a uniform policy in this regard. The emphasis here is in the original.

Reviews



Kelly Johnson as Gregor, Cliff Wood as Mr Samsa, Elizabeth Hawthorne as Greta, and Sylvia Rands as Mrs Samsa, in *Metamorphosis*, Theatre Corporate.

Metamorphosis
Franz Kafka
Theatre Corporate March 2 - 31

Since his death in the 1920s, the short stories of Franz Kafka have achieved a widespread and lasting interest; his nightmarish tales have in some respects come to be seen as premonitions of many of the dilemmas that haunt man in the twentieth century. And *Metamorphosis*, adapted for the stage by Steven Berkoff, is no exception. This is the depiction of what happens to a diligent commercial salesman who works hard to support his ageing parents and younger sister, and who wakes up one morning to find he has taken on the form of a gigantic insect. A fantastical, unreal situation - but this is one of the most compelling and immediate productions I have seen.

Much credit must go to director Paul Minifie for the fine sensitivity and force he has brought to the play. *Metamorphosis* is a powerful mixture of extremes and styles, masks, mime, melodramatic conventions, amplified music and even at one point stroboscopic light, are skilfully managed and combined to produce a rivetting whole. What could have been an exaggerated hotch-potch is saved, and becomes a vivid and disciplined projection.

Even the set, a black scaffolding construction, was put to remarkable use as Kelly Johnson, playing Gregor the Beetle, clambered over it; indeed, with no more bodily disguise than two very red-coloured eyes, Kelly Johnson presented

us with a most disquieting and repugnant species of insect.

Much of the blame for Gregor's plight, and the tragedy of the family's situation, is laid on the father - a harsh, intolerant man with a capacity for self-pity that is not found in the warmer natures of his wife and two children. At times he appears closer to the menacing stereotypes of the lodgers and chief clerk than to the humanity - sometimes dignified, sometimes pathetic - of Gregor and the two women.

And while the setting of the play remains firmly in the period of Kafka's life-time (rigid bourgeois family life, and pre-Welfare State working conditions that come close to Dickensian), the techniques used to convey this are modern - and the concerns of *Metamorphosis* are strikingly close to our world today. Gregor Samsa still has the thoughts and sensibilities of a man, but his physical exterior (that of an outsize Dung Beetle) makes him abhorrent to his fellow man, unable to communicate, or participate in human society. And the cause of his disgusting conditions is quite simply stated as the intolerable pressures society has placed on him. The anguish of this situation should be immediately perceptible to all.

A sombre piece, but well worth seeing.

K.G.O'W.

Another Metamorphosis
Franz Kafka
Also at Theatre Corporate.

'When Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed into a hideous insect.' So begins Franz Kafka's tragic tale of a young commercial traveller, overworked as he tries to support his family, at a turning point into unreality - the rest of the story is a reaction to this initial shock.

So, is this stage production successful in preserving the story's many dimensions? Emphatically yes, beyond my wildest expectations! *Metamorphosis* is easily the most vital, arresting piece of dramatic art I've experienced in Auckland in a long time. Berkoff has added at the beginning of the play an ominous scene backgrounding the daily stress and toil imposed on Gregor by his dependent family and his employer in which little devices, such as erratic freezing of movement and sound, keep the audience unnerved and therefore in a state of apprehension of what is to come. Such is the threat that pervades the atmosphere, that I noticed the audience reacting similarly with awe in moments of comic absurdity - such as when Gregor tries to co-ordinate his insect body. Perhaps the irony of the situation didn't occur to them. Similarly the other characters behaved absurdly at times: the three strange boarders behaving as if of one mentality, and Mother's and Greta's fantasies of wealth, for example.

Steven Berkoff chose to highlight a theme, that Gregor's transformation can be seen as a punishment for his family - he becomes physically an insect - he has already been subjected by them to a daily life of insect-like toil.

The tables have turned - Gregor is totally dependent on the family he used to support. They are forced to stage a symbolic metamorphosis. Their concern ebbs gradually to indifference, resentment and ultimately hatred.

Now to the accolades. The performances of all the actors are excellent. The smooth timing and synchronisation of energetic verbal exchanges and movement around the stage are a credit to director Paul Minifie and the actors. The part of Gregor, the Son/Insect, must be incredibly demanding, both physically and mentally, for actor Kelly Johnson, yet he manages to lend a chilling realism to his insectile movements and utterances. The other actors all seem to cope faultlessly with their characters' quirky self-contradictions. Sylvia Rands, as the Mother, sheds a new light on the character for me, a more sympathetic one than Kafka's original.

'Metamorphosis' seems a good complement to the concurrently-running Ibsen play 'A Doll's House', in that both have an 'individual rights' sort of theme, of how dependence can suffocate individuality and reason; even though in this play it ends tragically from the hero's point of view, it ends hopefully from the family's with their burden of dependence lifted.

Selwyn Osborne

occur

Kickoff University Dancers
Little Theatre
March 5

Dance is essentially the physical expression of an idea or an emotion. Unfortunately, the University Dancers' first performance of the year kicked on the wrong foot for me by provoking neither a strong emotional nor a mental response.



Free! repeat performance
Wed 14th March, Little Theatre 1
with Cardboard Construction Theatre

Technically the programme flowed proficiently from start to finish, interspersed with acts from the witty Cardboard Construction Company and jazz pianist, Jeff Smith.

The dancers loomed larger than life in the cramped Little Theatre, but made good use of this disadvantage in the number, New Wave Up, where the menacing flavour of the dance was all more effective at close range.

But the choreography? Obviously an amateur group is limited to a large extent by the technical abilities of its members. But surely that doesn't affect the group's creativity and imagination?

University Dancers simply reiterated old themes and failed to impress new ones. Five different choreographers - not five different styles. Always dancing on the accent, never through the music, and always to much the same tempo.

The one exception, a lyrical dance performed and choreographed by Liz Piggan, was notable for its elegant simplicity.

It was a pity the jazz pianist, who looked slightly uncomfortable in the ferocious spotlight, couldn't have been employed to jazz it up with the dancers as a relief from canned music.

Perhaps the University Dancers should pilfer some theatrical tricks from the Cardboard Theatre Construction Co. - their first and last dances, both choreographed by Marilyn Eccles, fared better with the audience for this reason.

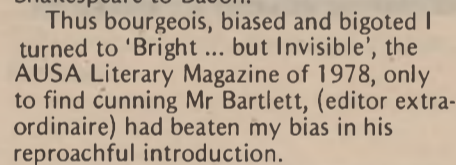
And please, next time, give us a straight programme with an explanation of each dance.

R.G.J.

2

In 1975 the way was opened for New Zealand photographers to show their work

F.C.



Claudia Perkins

Sarah Lewis

the MISSING LINK

Thomas has been tried and convicted by two juries. Undoubtedly the facts do not speak for themselves and the juries cannot have been immune to the public controversy at the time of the trials. The jury, particularly in the second trial, was made aware of inconsistencies in the Crown's evidence. Yet two juries have failed to give Thomas the benefit of the doubt.

Why? Was it because of a stunning prosecution counsel, negligence on the part of the defence counsel, and unconvincing or unpleasant defendant or were they certain of his guilt?

The Crewe murders have attracted a legion of amateur crime analysts. Some of the most compelling arguments presented in this material in support of Thomas' innocence is briefly summed up in the following points.

— The cartridge case evidence which proved so incriminating at both the Thomas trials has been thrown into question by extensive investigations carried out by Pat Booth and a DSIR scientist, Dr Sprott.

The bullets found in the bodies of the Crewes were .22 calibre of pattern 8 and were fired from a rifle with 6 land, right hand twist. The Thomas rifle was of this type. The Crown's case used two cartridges, one (exhibit 343) found by Detective Sergeant Keith in a Thomas farm shed and the other found 132 days after the murders by Detective Sergeant Charles in the Crewe garden.

The Crown alleged that both cartridge cases were consistent with the bullets found in the Crewe corpses. This meant that both cartridges were produced by the makers CAC before the 13th October 1963. However since the second trial, separate and joint Sprott and Booth research has shown that the type of cartridge found by Sergeant Charles was not produced until after 13 October 1963 and therefore could not be connected to the bullets found in the Crewes. Booth and Sprott based their evidence on the fact that the Charles case could be distinguished by its lettering as coming from a production cycle which did not use no. 8 bullets, used to kill the Crewes. At the last Court of Appeal Referral, the judges stated that the Sprott theory was in all likelihood correct but added that they could not discount the possibility that a combination of a no. 8 bullet and a cartridge case made after the 13 October 1963 existed and may have been used by Thomas. To whom they were giving the benefit of the doubt.

— Both Vivian Thomas and Peter Thomas, Arthur's cousin, swore on oath that Thomas did not leave the farm on the night of the murder. The crown denounced their evidence as lies which makes them both accomplices to the crime.

— The police alleged that the axle found under the body of Harvey Crewe had originally come from the Thomas farm tip and was used by Thomas to sink the body of Harvey Crewe. However the axle was taken from the Thomas farm in 1965 by some vintage car buffs of the district.

— Bruce Roddick saw a fair haired woman outside the Crewe house on the Friday after the killings. This elusive lady has never been connected with Thomas.

The latest in the steady stream of material pleading the innocence of Arthur Alan Thomas is a report written by Robert W. Coombridge, who claims to report facts never revealed before. He has difficulty in fulfilling this claim but does approach the case from some interesting angles which give the report a certain measure of originality.

The report contains a curious chapter on similarities between methods Thomas was alleged to have used in carrying out his crime and methods used in the murder of Sidney Eyre at Pukekawa in 1920 and the murders of the Lakey couple in Huntly on the evening of October 1933.



Evidence cited during the trial of William Bayly accused of murdering the Lackey couple also referred to a .22 calibre cartridge found in a flower garden. In Bayley's trial it was alleged that Bayley had taken a watch from the murder site and a jeweller was summoned to establish identification. In the Thomas trial a jeweller also gave evidence in identifying a watch which the Crown used to connect Thomas with the Crewe murders. Both Thomas and Bayly were said to have knocked their female victim unconscious before shooting them. Three dinner plates were found in each of the respective farm houses where the murders were committed and were used by the Crown to indicate the time of the crimes.

The trial of Samuel John Thorne, convicted murderer of Sid Eyre also contains obvious resemblances to the Thomas trials. The reconstruction of the Eyre murder also cited a fatal shot through an open window. The crown contended in each trial that a rare type of ammunition was used in the crime. Coombridge suggests that 'certain investigators concerned in the Crewe murders inquiry, got their heads together and compiled a case against Thomas by using a number of methods used by the Crown in two earlier cases!

The emphasis of the Coombridge report is on the fact that police and prosecution counsel never established an unquestionable

forensic link between Thomas and the Crewe murders. He argues that due to crime investigation developments police evidence must contain some physical indication that Thomas was present at the scene of the crime. He quotes Professor Alaister's theory of interchange which demonstrates that there can no longer be such a thing as concealment of crime. 'It is almost impossible for anyone to go to the scene of a crime without either leaving some trace of his visit behind him or carrying away, all unsuspectingly, some trace which links him with the place.' Coombridge brings the full force of this theory into his report and uses it to substantiate his claim that Thomas is innocent. He points out that, 'when the police searched the farmhouse, they found no clues whatsoever to link Arthur Allan Thomas with having been at the scene of the crime. There were none of his fingerprints at the scene; there was no bloodstained clothing to link Thomas with the scene; there were none of his footprints at the scene; there were no hair fibres, wool fibres, tyre tracks from his car. There were no fibres from any part of the materials taken from the Crewe farmhouse found on any clothing in the possession of Arthur Thomas. There were never any suggestions at the trials of Arthur Allan Thomas that he might have disposed of bloodstained clothing, if he were the murderer. There was a fingerprint discovered in the farmhouse, but the police failed to show whether it was made by Thomas.

Coombridge also dwells on the argument that is often raised to support Thomas' conviction. This of course refers to the fact that two juries have found Thomas guilty and therefore he must be.

However Coombridge reiterates the claim that Thomas was convicted on circumstantial evidence almost all of which failed to stimulate an inference of guilt without simultaneously arousing an alternative inference of innocence. He succeeds in persuading his readers that guilt can only be established when the alternatives have been satisfactorily dismissed thereby eliminating doubt.

He avoids the temptation to castigate the jury system but quotes from the Right Honourable Sir Malcolm Hillery P.C., Judge of the High Court of Justice who in 1946 wrote, 'A jury is twelve ordinary citizens, with probably little or no training in consecutive thought. They will be largely if not entirely swayed by emotion. But remember that in all probability they do not think so. The less training or capacity for reasoning they have, the more certain it is they will pride themselves on being susceptible only to strict logic and impervious to mere emotion.'

Coombridge's report provides insights into the Thomas case which make up for the lack of technical detail already covered so extensively by David Yallop and Pat Booth.

His references to other cases and background material on the legal system and his coverage of investigation techniques make his report a valuable appendage to the volume on the Thomas controversy.

M. V. Beynen

Word from Under ground

This week the auspicious eye roves towards the southerly isle, and that liberal learning and culture that is Christchurch, where the theme song for the appears to be cant and recant. To say nothing of whistling blind. Booby of the week (may this particular trend choke in his morning meusli) goes to Tom Moore, who has been permitted to run rampant over the front page with classic blunders as:

'I'm not a sexist — it's just that men are better

'I'm tired of the usual scribbles of the usual dregs of society: the dregs that university seems to attract

'... despite Brian Easton (Social Economist — whatever that is) telling us students 'below the headline', most students have something to spare. I intend to take them on their way to capitalism...'

'STB has changed from being the government ogle of Standard Tertiary Bursary to being the Student Travel Bureau which is headed for total self destruction along with perhaps your union fees. When I take my holiday on winter shores I'm damned sure that I won't avail myself of their services ...'

'The NZUSA seems to be the only cause to fight because it hurts each individual student in the pocket and destroys students' reputations by giving the line ...'

— Very nicely put, Tom; and now don't you put on your gumboots, go to your sheep, and you mind your business we'll mind ours.

Canta's preoccupations with money and reds under the bed, is also brought in this witty little piece by an enterprising tax reformer. The brave new plan is taxing copulation, to be known as a Sex Enjoyment Tax (SET) operating under PAYS (Pay As You Screw) plan.

'Additional inspectors will be appointed by the Dept of Infernal Revenue from ranks of ex-SIS and Police employees. Salaries for the inspectors is expected to come from bribes and commission on photographs taken as evidence ...'

'The aims of SET are to encourage zero population growth; to tax the only thing left that the present government has not so far taxed.'



For the record — a Canterbury Oriole and a boy holding hands for such salubrious delights as an advertisement for 'VERY WET LUNCH'. If imbibing alcoholic beverage is your forte then this could be the event for you.' and 'David Ford's Lecture on Alternative Life Styles — All You Wanted To Know About Beans But Were Afraid To Ask.' plus 'BARN DANCE — Ballroom, with the Bull & Bush Goodtime Band. A real good time leg slappin' hooly.'

Hey momma, looks like we really hit the bigtime now? ...

K.G.W-A

Death Wish

st it was Ho Chi Minh, Mao Tse and the great yellow peril, but as remorseless river of time takes us all to a of destiny so has China been into the blazing glory of the century. Former heroes of the revolution are now immortalised in paperback novels - 'Ho Chi Minh Real Story' and 'Things They Never Told You About Mao Tse Tung'. Paddy have been resown with health- natural cereals and at the Peoples' three screenings of 'Grease' are on each day. Yes; China has finally of age.

the change from Oriental to Western has not been a quick one. In even now certain reactionary ents speak of 'the people's struggle' 'classless society.' But as the red disappears slowly over the border Russia, so the inevitable march of presses onward into the everyday of the proletariat. 'Thoughts of man Mao' has given way to the edition of the Sears Roebuck catalogue in every family library. Every in thousands of bars Chinese businessmen order their double saki and before going home.

if to prove their loyalty to the new Consumer Revolution, Chinese leaders adopted new political strategies ing a remarkable resemblance to erican foreign policy. They have ewed the struggle of the Vietnamese for liberation by sending troops the border to maim and kill the dent supporters of the communist ne. In an act of selflessness they have ublished diplomatic ties with the

Tom; and now, gumboots, go to mind your business with money, is also brought ce by an enterpr ave new plan is be known as a S) operating under crew) plan.

s will be appointed al Revenue from olice employees. tors is expected l commission on evidence ...' to encourage ze tax the only th overment has

Hugh Cook Poems

Gough
in Gough
mits his ear to history :
ory
mits Van Gough.

ze-Frames

Canterbury Ori girl and a boy
\$4.00, and includ ing hands for public inspection
as an advertise an upstairs room,
. If imbibing al dle-age
orte then this eeting toward failure.
you.' and 'Dav no dogs in heat.
ernative Life Sh old woman
Know About S ying potatoes -
l To Ask.' plus a e dirt starves her tapeworm.
room, with the id on a bicycle
Band. A real s icking a hypodermic.
ooly.' the hang-man having lunch
a construction site.

like we really h
poster :
the end of the Dow-Jones index is nigh.
The sky :
million times over-exposed.

Carter government and have even promised the Taiwanese that if they decide to rejoin the mainland government then China will not wipe them off the face of the earth. It must be a comfort to this brave little nation to know that even in these troubled times they have not been forgotten.

To trace the new revolution to its beginnings one need only look back as far as the then President Nixon's visit to China in 1972. 'He is a great man', said Mao after the visit, 'I never knew that electronics was such an exciting field.' It was only a matter of weeks before many of Mao's political rivals were to be uncovered through new investigation techniques.

Naturally the speed of the revolution has induced a degree of culture shock throughout China as many struggle to grapple with the intricacies of credit cards and chewing gum. However in an effort to play her own part in the 'awakening' of China, Britain has taken a leaf from the history books and is paying for Chinese goods with opium instead of money. Now instead of having to remove the unsettled element from society the Chinese government reports that the hospitals are full of 'deliriously happy vegetables.'

Undoubtedly the face of China is changing. But a culture thousands of years old does not disappear overnight and traces of the old order remain. Many schools still offer Chinese as an alternative to English and, in fact, advertisers are compelled by law to subtitle billboards in what still remains to many, a first

language. 'The Peking Times' still prints a Chinese crossword and it is rumoured that plans are afoot for Radio Outer Mongolia to broadcast in Chinese one hour each day.

The need for China to move with the times was explained to us recently by Minister to the Crown and Congress Wung Ho. 'We realized that all this crap about freedom and revolution through the power of the proletariat was just a line that had been fed to us by a few jumped up intellectuals across the border. With the help of Nixon, Carter and the neutron bomb we came to see that even if capitalism would make us slaves at least we'd be rich. Besides I've always wanted to visit Yellowstone National Park.'

The official name of the revolution is the Great Leap Outward, although Great Leap Westward would seem more appropriate. It has been given the official seal by Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping's visit to Washington early in February. 'The Chinese people are eager to build a new global society in which all people's can live in close harmony, without fear of war or poverty, and in which, with the aid of the United States, we can finally grind the Ruskies into the ground' said Teng smiling benevolently as he stepped onto the tarmac at Washington.

It is this broad vision of a unified world community which has been lacking for so long among our greatest leaders. Is this the beginning of 'one small step for man; one great step for mankind' ? Will Coca-Cola and Hollywood be the unifiers of our world ? Or perhaps there is something significant for the Chinese in 1979 being, for them, the year of the goat.

Ken Grace

Election Results

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

BRIAN GRAY

OVERSEAS STUDENT OFFICER.

A.T. TOONG

SPORTS OFFICER

PETER MONTEITH

SRC CHAIRPERSON.

RUSSELL BARKE

WOMENS' RIGHTS OFFICER.

CHERYL GWYNN

STUDENT UNION
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

ANTHONY WRIGHT

SENATE.

JILLIAN FREWIN
JOHN PALMER

THEATRE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

BHAADT MILLER
DAVID ROSE

AUSA BYE-ELECTION RESULTS.

These are provisional at the moment. Full details next issue

In The Open Cages

The birds at track and field
Scream anguish, anguish, anguish,
Each muscle clenched in competition
As they flog the breakneck records from dawn to dusk.
And in the walls and fields and holes, the rats
Seethe with fear and acid as they chase the seconds home,
Turning five times an hour to the face of the clock :
Homage to the lord !
Homage to the lord !

And the swift fish gill and plunder,
Swarm upon swarm,
Destroying the bounty of forever
With the jaws of one generation . . .

BludDay

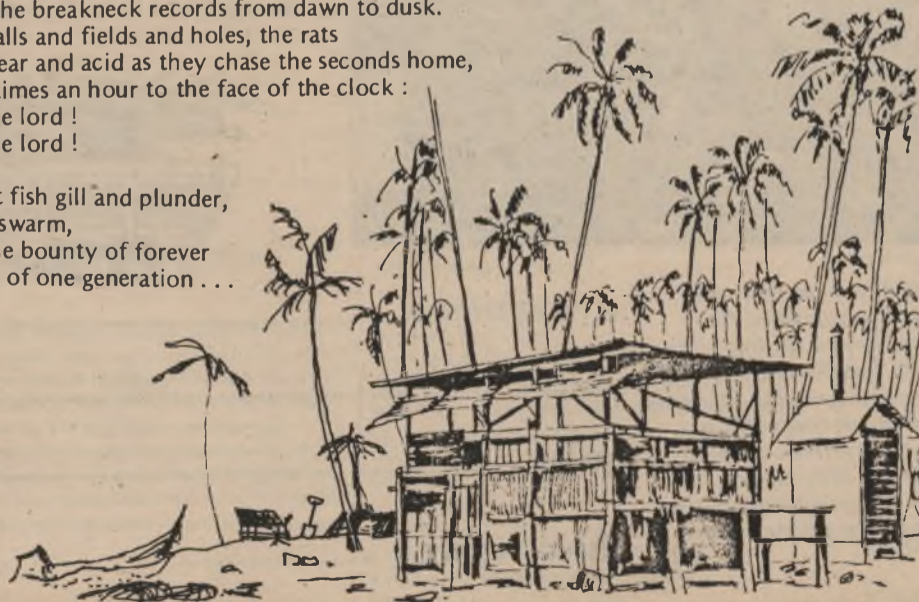
The needle drives deep:
An inoculation
Strictly for the conscience.

The first freshet of blood
Sprints from the vein.
The plastic sac
Bloats with black ink.
The heart's chamber
Sucks the circulation from the brain.

Hot tea. Sweet biscuits. Iron.
The act of health is over,
And we return to the identikit streets
And the land of sickness and casualty

The Fish

Hamstrung by shallows,
A fin in the sun.
I killed it to eat.
Dead, it was so beautiful
I left it as spoiled meat.



Craccum Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS NOON, WEDNESDAY

I want my advertisement inserted under heading,

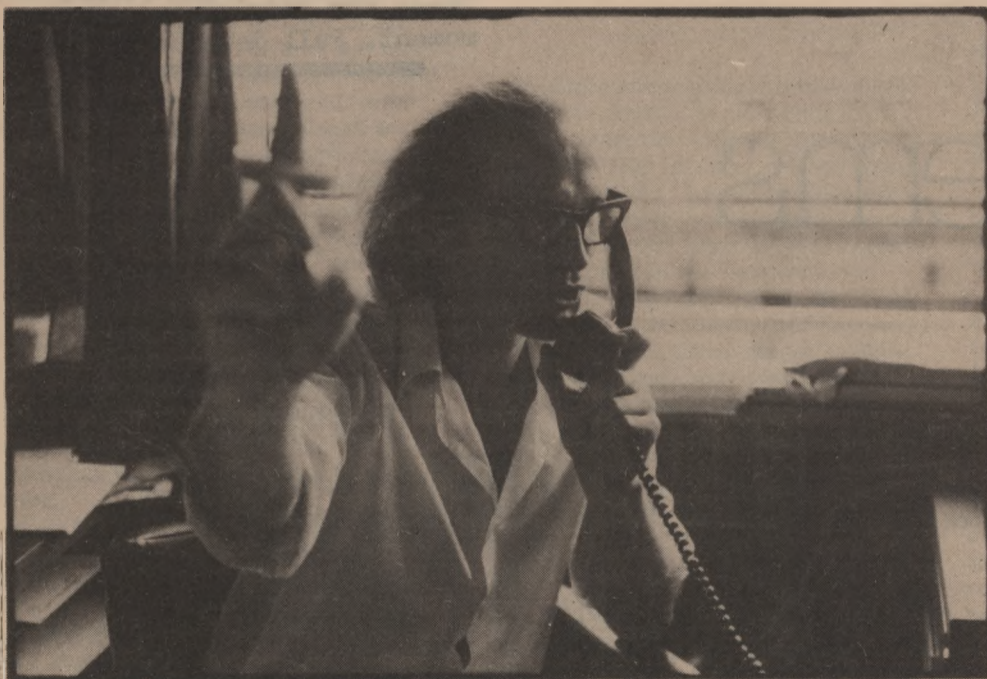
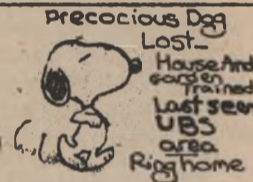
MY AD IS (MAXIMUM 20 WORDS)



NAME : PHONE NUMBER :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| For Sale: Yacht OK Class with a new mast and sail. With a road trailer \$800. Phone 493-238. | Wanted To Buy: Double bass bow. Must be reasonable condition and cheap. Will consider cheap sturdy cello bows also. Phone David, 768-635. | For Sale: Suzuki 80 cc motorcycle, 1975. Good condition, \$450 ono (including helmet). Phone Chris at 558-264. |
| Texts For Sale: Zoology 38.102 Chapman & Barker; Wells - Lower Animals Biology 39.101 Central Concepts - Baer, Hazen et al; Math 26.181 Hoel Elementary Stats. Phone Jeremy, 601-129. | Tape Deck For Sale: My name is Bruce. I live with Brian. I have an Akai CS33D Dolby tape deck for sale at \$210 and it is in good nick. Phone 762-263 evenings. | Bicycle Wanted: Ladies bicycle wanted. Preferably 3 gears. Must be very cheap and in relatively good nick. Phone Sue, 548-454 or 30-789 (Craccum). |
| Wanted to Buy: Upright dining chair, wooden, ie. chair to go with desk. Phone Katrina, 30-826. | Motorcycle For Sale: Honda XL 350 \$1050 o.n.o. Phone 604-318 after business hours. | Tuition Wanted: Student wants to learn tenor saxophone. Would like to progress quickly with emphasis on technique. Phone Matthew Flynn, 547-440 evenings. |
| For Sale: (1) AIWA compact cassette/FM multiplex/multi-band/Stereo radio recorder. (2) CASIO fx-102 scientific calculator. Phone Robert Lim, 863-829. | Synthesiser: Korg micro-preset, only 7 months old. Hardly used, \$495 new, sell for \$400. Phone Grant, 597-387. | For Sale: One Lady Stylist tennis racquet with press and cover. One year old—never been used. \$25.00. Phone Julie Thomas, 481-614. |

Caption Competition



Brian Brennan

The devotion and enthusiasm of some of our readers never ceases to amaze. One aspiring wit carefully accumulated five whole copies of Craccum to enable him to submit his five pithy titles. The Captions' basket wasn't exactly overflowing this week and although none of the entries had anyone squirming helplessly on the floor (the gunge all over it may have put them off), a couple elicited a few wry chuckles from the mirthless mob up here. So keep dem entries coming! They add little rays of sunshine to our days and the mere act of dropping one into the Craccum office incurs cherubic smiles from the Editor or any other bods around.

This weeks winner is — Mike Ford

MY CAPTION IS

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

Records Wanted: My name is Debbie, but they call me 'Young Deb' because there are two Debbies here. I also live with Brian. I am after the album 'Waves' by the now defunct band Waves. Must be in good nick, eh? Phone 762-763 after 6 pm.

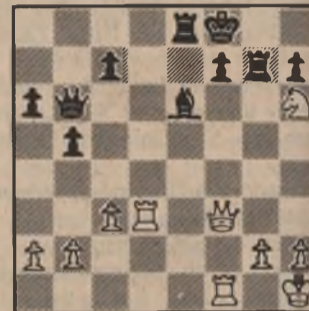


'Wish we'd been born joined at the shoulder instead' was thah winnah this week, submitted by Mike Ford. Congrats mate. The rest of you, shape up! We need more. You've got till 5 pm on Thursday to get the buggers in to us. Real ultra like, eh?



Chess

Students are a discerning crowd. The best is good enough for them. This week's column is designed to cater to these fastidious aesthetic palates, featuring a position from the Karpov-Korchnoi World Championship match held last year in the Phillipines.



Playing White, Karpov overran the Black defences from the diagrammed position with

1. Rd7!

The beautiful point is that if the rook is captured mate ensues e.g. 1 Bd7 2. Qf7ch! Rf7; 3. Rf7 mate. Nor can Black bolster the defences of his king 1 Re7; because of 2. Re7, Ke7; 3. ch. Kf8 (otherwise the rook is lost); 4. Qd8 mate. Instead Korchnoi was compelled to move his rook over to queen-side in order to make space for king (the mate outlined in the first variation is still threatened).

1 Rb8
2. Nf7 Bd7

If 2 Ke8; 3 Rd8ch wins quickly
3. Nd8 ch

Resigns

Black must part with most of his army as king moves are answered by 4. Qd8 mate.

SUBTLE STRATEGEMS (SPONSORED BY CLASSIC AND HOLLYWOOD CINEMAS)



In this week's problem White is to play and quickly achieve a decisive material advantage. Solutions should be handed in by midday Thursday at the Craccum office. The first correct solution drawn out of a hat wins the prize of a double pass to either the Classic or Hollywood cinemas.

The solution to last week's problem was 1. Qe7ch! Ke7; 2. Rg7ch. Ke8; 3. Last week's winner was G. Rissman.

Tickets can be picked up at the Craccum office.

David Beach

Letter to the Editor



scerning crowd, you thwarted writers out there, lurking in the quad, skulking round the cafe, do not despair. CRACCUM cares, we are only too delighted to print your little, or big, letters on nearest to your heart. Or give vent to your frustrations and write about those nagging grievances that eat away at the very core of your existence. Our policy is to try and signed to cater all letters we receive. It would, of course, be nice if you would translate your letter from the Sanskrit before you send it in. As we at Craccum all suffer from a severe dim- hetic palates, our ocular faculties, be kind and write your letters neatly, typing not necessary, double-spaced and only use one side of your vellum manuscript. Keep those letters pouring from the Karpov's the way we like it, we're a masochistic lot!

can be posted to Craccum, c/- Auckland University Students' Association. Or you can venture up to the Craccum office, top floor, Studass building and deliver your epistle d. Or there are always the discreet little boxes in the Cafe and Studass building foyer.



FIRST GRIPE OF MS ROTH

ve, and to read as far as the 2nd page of erary masterpiece before putting pen point out to our 'esteemed' president was voted in as a student president, womens lib. rep. that the total of her vote was far hered by the no-confidence vote would show the confidence shown by most s towards her. aside, much of the reluctance many had for Ms Roth stems from her involve- various action groups. best 'gripe' Ms Roth can make is related womens day March I would like to that Ms Roth resign her position as nt and concentrate on her various other

is that if the rook is e.g. 1 Bd7 mate. Nor can fences of his king f 2. Re7, Ke7; 3 the rook is lost! d Korchnoi was his rook over to o make space for ned in the first atened). 8 17 h wins quickly



OTHER COMPLAINT

Mr Editor, I would like to publicly complain about the discount book put out by AUSA, ATISA, SA, and MTISA. I must admit I am generalising. It seems to be a discount book. No guide to the cost of anything we might like purchase. For example the other day I went to get some done on a personal belonging. I decided the discount book and went to the shop which was closest and incidentally offered the lowest discount rates. I still had to pay a exorbitant fee for the small service I received - despite the discount! I should point out to other would-be discount shoppers that you might save more money by shopping at stores with the lower discount rates that have lower overall prices. Who knows, you might even save more money by shopping at shops, other than those listed in the discount book!

Pearson

ALAS! IT LOOKS LIKE LOVE UNREQUIRED

Dearly Beloveds, To think merely sending a Valentine card rates a mention from you in Craccum! It's almost too much to bear we simply can't go on meeting like this So you have a suspicion, follow it through - merely writing of love and devotion is not enough anymore, it's not satisfying, not fulfilling. 'The path of true love never does run smooth' they say - oh great City Council Workers of the Sky, get off your shovels and smooth the route. Can't you see that this passion is no joke - please don't shower your scorn, contempt and derision on the lower echelons of society, for it is heartbreaking and not worth of your wonderful, warm and generous personages. So this correspondence must end parting is such sweet sorrow, but the lack of physical contact can drive one insane. Farewell friends - maybe one day we'll meet in fitting circumstances until then

Unrequited love (sob)

(Oh, woe. What have we done! Please forgive Brian and I for we knew not what we were doing. We are so sorry. Please, please don't stop this correspondence now. Every moment of the day we wonder whether that person or even that person is you. Please don't deprive ageing editors of one of their few remaining pleasures in life - Eds)

RUBBISH

Dear Sir, I agree that we need more rubbish bins. The only one I can remember seeing in all the time I have been here was one down by the Caf somewhere.

Signed: Litter laden lepidopteron P.S. I just found three more in the Science concourse.

YET ANOTHER CAFE LETTER!

Dear Sir, I would like to complain as quite a few others are doing, about the Caf this year. Firstly I find it piss-poor that there is no coffee or tea on sale at the proper place from the proper time 8.00 am Secondly, I know you guys need the money, but why can't less financially well off students buy hot water, as last year. Lastly, I also find it piss poor that we can't buy things singly at the Caf any more - why not?

Signed, Alderboran Carabadok

AT LAST, A REALLY GOOD LETTER

Dear Ed, Should present trends continue, then by term's end the sole remaining patron of the hot servery at dinner time will be paying a zillion dollars for a roll, cup of coffee, a few chips and a lamb chop visible only through the world's most powerful electron microscope. However he/she will be able to sit down to the meal with the latest issue of Craccum, crammed cover to cover, with letters protesting the deterioration in cafe services. Yours, Peter Haynes

LIBEL PROCEEDINGS

WHACKLOW FUTTLE & CRUN - COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS

Harbottle Soonge Ba. Dilly Pickwithington Bsc. Phool Cronk BE.

Rm 408 Rip Off Bldg, Prof St, Remuera.

The Editor, 'CRACCUM', c/- A.U.S.A., Private Bag, Auckland

8/3/79

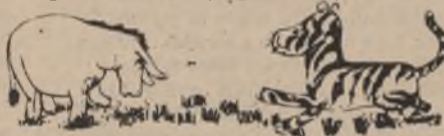
Dear Madam, It has been brought to our attention by our noteworthy client, the area known as Romi Patel recently purchased at public auction by Radio B, that there may be Libellous material in the March 5th Issue of Craccum. We wish that you should stop this naughtiness at once and rectify the situation. I believe our client has already written explaining the truth of the matter. If a public apology is not forthcoming, or a similar situation should manifest itself once more we will be forced to foreclose on the allotment known more or less as Craccum which will mean bad things for you and yours.

Yours threateningly, High Fees MD Commissioner for oaths, utterances, fruit and cneuing gum.

AT LAST, A POSSIBLE LIBEL SUIT?

Dear Editperson Ferrit, I am in the process of checking out the legal implications of your statement in last weeks issue concerning the level of my achievement in that out-moded middle class 'white boys' examination called School Certificate. Oh great Bwana, us boys what a comin from de back-blocks do'n know nuthin but please give us credit. It was DNS. See you in de dole cue (or is it queue)

Romi P.S. EEfin you dont hear from my lawyer, mr High Fees LIB I may send the boys around.



Dear Davidd, Biggles is a wanker. I saw him in the 'cock' - pit of his moth pulling his joystick back.

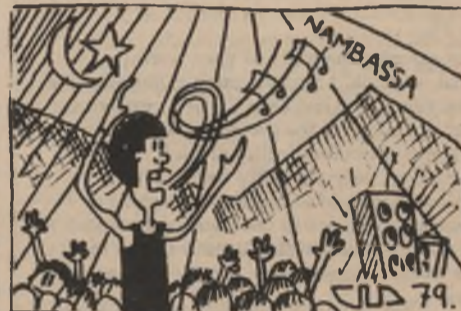
Algy (Biggles's 'frend')

Dear Davidd, Magic Social Exceptionally high standard of Vintage lighter fluid. I flopped my cabbage crate right down onto the old Stu-U roof don't ya-know. Nearly brought it over Albert Park. Bally trick upcurrent wet. Can't stand here bally talking all day.

Biggles P.S. I'm not a wanker P.P.S. Anyone interested in joining Alfs Imperial Airforce?

ANOTHER VIEW OF NAMBASSA

Dear Sir, In the three views published in your first issue there seemed to be some general agreement on a few points - that the 'alternative culture experience' at the festival never really came off, that there were too many people (who were only interested in the music), that the majority never took the trouble to investigate the alternative lifestyle, or if confronted with it, were unresponsive to it. Other points: the over-commercialised nature of the running of the festival, the large police contingent, the actions of many festival goers, which you could not neatly place under the 'peace, love, and understanding' label.



I think these criticisms are fairly made, in that they make up a true description of the festival (there were many other aspects to the festival as well). Certainly the sheer size of the crowd contributed to the way things turned out. Fifty to sixty thousand is literally a city-size population, and it would have been difficult, under any circumstances, to repeat the friendlier, warmer atmosphere (so I've been told) of the previous year's festival, when the attendance was about fifteen thousand. I think that most of the people who went had a good time, and for those who wanted to find out about an alternative lifestyle, the opportunity was there - but you had to look for it, it wasn't presented to you. By that I mean that you could have spent the entire three days there, and without trying too hard you could have left knowing little or nothing about what the people of Nambassa were really into. I wonder how the festival organisers looked at it. As it turned out, the festival made quite a profit and this will be used to further the building of the community. The organisers probably anticipated that most people would come for the music and the good times and that proportionately few were seeking an education on alternative living. It seems that the organisers, in recognising this, pushed the music side of the festival (the pre-festival publicity seemed to be stressing this - 'don't miss the bliss', etc) I don't think that those behind the festival decided to forsake the promotion of alternative lifestyles for rock concert and a huge profit, (although tye might have), but that maybe through the concert and the profit, they could see a more effective way of aiding their cause. Of course they might not have made a profit, but the 'name' bands they got to play at the festival, and the fact that this was going to be the last festival for three years, suggests that they felt pretty confident about it, and that instead of worrying about organising three more annual festivals, they could concentrate on the community.

Simon Mercep

More Lettuce

GOSH, ANOTHER GOOD IDEA !

Dear Dave,
Count me in on that large group of students (0.003%) who actually dare to put pen to paper. No, I'm not going to complain about koffee, or Kevin's petition! Or Alfred St ! (But I agree about judder bars) Instead, it's about GRAFFITI. What's happened to 'Middle Class Showground' and others ? And I don't mean those grotty little drawings in the bogs, I mean good quality stuff. Where's our sense of self expression ? How about a graffiti board, or a patch of white washed concrete wall. (better than 100% dull grey walls !) No wonder Kilroy isn't to be seen on campus.

Yours,
Q.O.C.
P.S.

(i) 'Is there intelligent life on Earth ?'
(ii) 'Yes, but I'm only visiting !'

P.P.S. 'True wit is nature to advantage dress'd, What oft was thought, but ne'er so well express'd'.

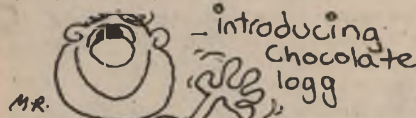
AAAAHGGGGHHH ! ! ! !, FOUND OUT.

Dear Sir,

Whilst perusing the pages of your worthy journal, what did I discover but a prime example of that literary 'Crime de la Crime' - plagiarism ! I refer of course, to the cartoons you saw fit to 'borrow' from the English satirical magazine 'Private Eye'. May the guilty party suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous readers ! For 'tis nobler 't' the mind to cook your own Irish stew than to steal somebody else's caviar. In other words - use your own bloody cartoons in future.

Truly not yours,
N. de Plume

(Yes - I agree. As soon as Craccum can build up a solid core of cartoonists and graphic artists then we'll be doing more original stuff. Until then, the odd Private Eye/Punch is still O.K. By the way if you want to see what real humour is all about we've got copies of Private Eye up here for you to peruse - Ed)



(FRENCH) LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Kickem,
Greetings ! This is my first letter of the year so I thought I'd spice it up a bit with a little European flavouring i.e. C'est bien, oui ? That's all for this week, for those of you who wish to continue your French education at a later date I can usually be found writhing under a table at one of the various soirees (more !) going on round the place. Actually, I really only wrote this letter so I could see my name in bold print STEVEN C aah, that's better. I'll finish off with a modern (??) variation of an old joke.

"Once there were two homosexuals living in a flat in Symonds St. One, called Mike (names have been selected at random, so stiff shit if yours appears !) went to Uni while the other, called Pete, kept house.

At Uni one day, while at the Craccum stand, Mike ran into a very spunky guy, they got to talking and next thing you know Mike had asked him home. Grabbing two copies of your student newspaper, i.e. Craccum (one for Pete) they headed for home.

Pete let them in, Mike says 'Hi sweetie, I've brought Dave here home', and heads for the kitchen. Opening his bag he sees the 2 student newspapers and calls out 'Hey Pete, d'ya wanta Craccum ?' Pete calls back 'No, you go first dear, you brought him home.

Ha, ha, ... I'll be back later
S.C.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE A. JAMES HATE CLUB

Dear Sir,
Although I like Craccum's new format, find lots to read, and am impressed by the transparently enthusiastic and sincere editorial approach of the paper, one thing does annoy me. It is of course, your 'Serious Rock Music Critic' and editor of the music pages, the lamentable Alex James. It was his review of Pere Ubu's 'Dub Housing' that initially aroused this irritation. I happen to have this record and I think it's really quite a gem. Naturally I looked forward to hearing what your reviewer would have to say about it. As Mr James so pointedly keeps reminding us that he is a 'Serious Rock Music Critic', I was doubly interested. Perhaps he would mention the way the frenetic vocals, meandering saxophones and eccentric guitars all strain against each other to make an apparently anarchic surface which somehow, magically, manages to all hold together producing something new explosive and exciting. Yes, even out of such amusing and unlikely material as "What shall we do with a drunken sailor" reflected in "Caligari's Mirror". Good Heavens, I wouldn't have minded if our Serious Rock Music Critic laid bare Pere Ubu's obvious connections with some currents in contemporary jazz or patiently extolled its virtues or faults in the light of its glaring neo-Dadist orientation. But what did we get ? I quote, 'Peru Boo ? Natty plumbing - Peevo, Revo, non, no you're right, when But !' - and so on for 32 lines until Mr James claims to have swallowed the record. No doubt this was intended to be a good-humoured impression or imitation of the L.P., but unfortunately our Serious Rock Music Critic only sounds as if he has been drinking too much gin in a hot bath. Normally such shallow smartness ought to be overlooked with a smile, but when lazy pretention is combined with the smug, patronizing tone of his replies to last weeks letters, (do read them again - pp 15 and 19 - how revealing they are even in their sheer length) then, my word, it is time someone reminded him that he is not on cloud nine composing encyclicals of taste and instruction for we lesser mortals. A Serious Rock Music Critic ? Perhaps, but evidently minor, minor league.

Yours Conventionally,
Alex Calder

2 Dear Crock'um,
I am at present faced with a problem, nay a paradox ! I wish to complain about that pseudo-record reviewer of yours. I refer to that intellectual vacuum Alex James, of course. As an ex-record reviewer familiar with the nuances of musical reviews I know that in fairness to the product, a reviewer should approach it with an open mind. To automatically wipe out disco, punk, or any other style of music is nothing but egocentric. But enough of intellectual bullshit. To return to my first sentence, I am faced with a paradox: How to complain without the idiot twisting it into recognition of his contentious 'reviews.' Just who does he think he is ? Does NZ need it's own Tony Parsons. Does Craccum need shit-suckers like the idiot ? Is there life after Muldoon ? Will you print my letter ?

Johnathan Livingston Meatball

Gentlemen: it is precisely because punk and disco are products, manufactured and merchandised as such, that I criticise them in their stylistic entirety.

If I had bought Dub Housing I too would be keen to read a sycophantic review of it to reassure myself that I had not wasted my money on trendy garbage. The frenetic guitars etc. strain against each other, without musical or lyrical resolution, throughout the album. Lazy pretension? All right, here's an unembellished review: Dub Housing sucks sewers. If you liked it so much, why didn't you write a review of it? Or can you only criticise criticism? Alex



MORE GOOD IDEAS

Dear Exec Persons,
Carpool is a great idea - except for the problem that the two other car-owners I was invited to pool with fell into two categories : one didn't have a car; the other had an almost nocturnal timetable, whereas mine operates within the normal daylight span. I wish to suggest the 'U-card' scheme which operated at Canterbury Univ. some years ago (and probably still does). Exec prints off thousands (or maybe hundreds) of cards bearing a large 'U' with space below for car-owners and/or non-car owning participants to write, boldly, the suburb for which he/she is headed.

Thereby, students waiting for buses/hitching/walking to Uni or Home know which cars carry student drivers prepared to give lifts; they can carry their own U-cards in their pockets and hold them up for drivers to see. An impoverished Finance Committee might prefer to suggest students make their own identifiable U-cards, to make the scheme cost-free. As to fares, it doesn't seem unreasonable for passengers to make a silver coin donation to the student driver, especially those living on the Shore - say 10c towards bridge toll, 10c towards parking and 10c to petrol. It's cheaper than bus fares and usually more convenient.

Helen E.M. Cullen

LET'S SHUT ALL THE ROADS !

Dear Sir Merick,
I have been reading with interest letters in the last issue of Craccum. Those letters about the traffic situation in Alfred Street. It appears to me that those degenerates who wrote the letters to you must be both lazy and stupid. I have successfully negotiated said street in two years at Auckland and it appears to me that if you can't be bothered walking up some steps to the over-bridge, you should be prepared to wait for a gap in the traffic. Symonds street on the other hand, is much worse. I know that a walkway is planned to Engineering school but there is (as far as I know) no such thing planned for the Human Science building. This building is used for Psychology, 1st year medicine, and also some science papers. A large number of people cross this street from the Zoology department directly opposite, running the risk of being knocked over by traffic-light-beating speed fiends - the nearest crossing being at Alfred street. How about complaining about this instead.

Signed Aldorboran Carabadok
P.S. your photo on the back of the last Craccum looked like bullshit to me. I wouldn't mind betting that those cars are stopped. (Not true ! Caught for that 2000'th of a second by Katrina's roving eye on Brian's SLR, even time looks like it's standina still

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THIS LETT

Dear Sir,
As I was in a happy and lighthearted mood this afternoon, I thought I would take your advice and settle down among the trees at the Old Government House and read it. It really was a lovely day, you know, sun, flowers, pretty girls, I was even looking forward to a lecture coming up. Sir, I realized that as I read the pages of Craccum, and especially the 'lettuce', a black settled on my heart and I became quite depressed, for a while. Do you realize, Sir, it is within your power to cause quite a bit of depression, despair and probably even hate on campus. I think this is reflected in the invective which is often displayed in your 'lettuce'. How many are you and your paper responsible dear Sir how comes it, that we, out of all the people in the world are capable of writing letters, furthermore of having the opportunity to communicate with others through a student newspaper. How is it then, that this ability is abused and degraded by the foul language, sorry images so often exhibited in Craccum? Sir if this sounds like a lecture, no apology Sir, it really is not such a bad old world, it is so much to enjoy and live for and we are lucky, even blessed. You obviously have talent to be occupying the position you do. I would like to enjoy your talent, this year, if I may, through Craccum's letters.

Cheer Up,
Love Phil O'Connor
(Stop calling me Sir - Ed)

RAPID RAIL LIVES !

Dear Sir/Madam/Thing,
Whilst wending my merry way across this delightful lil'ole campus, I came across this amazing fact. It is a damn long way from the end of the Uni to the other. (ie from the History Dept. to the Music Dept) If I have made a habit of this I am going to turn into Fresh-up-swilling-athlete like John Walker, not asking you to try and rack your tiny Editor's brain (all of 2.8 cubic centimetres) to come up with a solution, but I am at my wits' end !! (It has been put to me that Exec should organise a Rapid Rail system !!!) But please help me or else I'll have to turn to my rollerskates ..

Virginia Rowbottom PhD

WATCHOUT, THERE IS A SWINE ABOUT

Dear Sir,
This letter probably doesn't concern you due respect to your moral fibre - but the person who 'removed' my navy blue sweatshirt 'Training' printed in white across the chest from the vicinity of the Clubs Noticeboard the Quad on Friday 2 March. Quite apart from the fact that it was a favourite jersey although I only had it 3 weeks ! - it was a special gift. I don't suppose you'd have the courage to return it to Varsity anyhow - rather embarrassing if you I spot it, - and I would ! If you had any decency, you'd realise that another student surviving on STB and you return it (soon). Ph 448-937 or hand in to Studass Office (anonymously).

Yours hopefully,
Lisa Capon
P.S. Thanks to Craccum for the blurb on Tramping Club. Good stuff.
P.P.S. Tramping Club Square Dance is on Friday 16th in the Cafe, 8 pm.

Even More Lettuce

STAND THIS LETTUCE A BOGUS LETTER

Dear Ed,
I like to complain at the number of letters appearing in your grotty rag (n). I am referring to those spurious letters purportedly written by one 'Kevin Haig' is a know for a fact that 'Kevin Haig' is a of your febrile imaginations and your pens. The reason that 'Kevin Haig' was as National Affairs Officer was because manifested himself in lecture theatres gumboots and a swandri. He certainly fool me. So, in the interests of an interesting, and entertaining rag, please write any boring Haig letters. They are you seem to think, a clever attempt at and biting satire - they are dull, al, unimaginative, unintelligent, pompous ing. No more please.

son (Imitation Affairs Officer).

ANYONE UNDERSTAND SWAHILI?

ways considered myself to be of able intelligence. Similarly my parasitic confidence has been known to secretly over my bodily charm (know what I mean); dear, I have one hopelessly stifling I simply cannot write good endings letters.

ur hair is nice

ank you

on't thank me, thank
in and fool your friends).

in anticipation,

ck Kelly (not my real name)

our paper is a thankfully frenetic um.

erry way across this
s, I came across the
mn long way from
other. (ie from the
usic Dept) If I have
am going to turn into
te like John Walker,
nd rack your tiny
.8 cubic centimetres
n, but I am at my
to me that Exec sh
ystem !!!) But please
e to turn to my



IS THIS RIGHT-WINGER?

Ed,
I've been amazed over the years at how the of Craccum have managed to so consist- fill the paper with totally unreadable and n, but I am at my horseshit written by eloquent poofers.. this paper is obviously lacking are any articles, letters, drawings etc about drugs. this appalling particularly when so many like to get ripped out of our tiny little . Another thing I find very disheartening is recently trendy movement to legalise and rmalise, whatever, good old dope. It is rd. Wouldn't it be bloody boring if it were used. Ten reasons why dope shouldn't be used:

IS A SWINE ABOUT

Smoking dope wouldn't be trendy any more. There wouldn't be any money in dope. The 'ds' would be out of jobs. All the useless NORML bastards would have ing to moan about. Contacts with the really good things like ck and Alice D. would become scarcer. Loss of income through fines to the Govt. It wouldn't be fun anymore.

What is the use of legalizing it? What I pro- is the formation of a Keep Dope Illegal gain, with a regular column in your shitty rag and I ask all you honestly useless bastards there to write in to Craccum in support of brilliant idea. Write in and tell us how you your neighbour's four year old daughter and then seduced her. I wait in apprehen- and a drugged stupor.

est of NZ Green,
Edgar Hoover.

Your paper's still fucking useless.
We don't take drugs for the effect - we take them 'cos they're there.

TA, VERY MUCHLY

Dear Ed,
Just a quickie to thank Rachael and Sarah for their Orientation marathon. We actually enjoyed the films and the films and the films and didn't really get sick of them - honest !

Yours,
(or for that matter, Dave, anyone's)
Big Cal

GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

Dear Ed, (not to be confused with the famous talking horse)
After only two weeks here I have a major complaint. Orientation promoters don't seem to realize that there are more people here than they realize. You bloody imbeciles, can't you count ! I have spent a lot of wasted time going to the entertainments provided (some of which are worthwhile) only to find they are full up. After organizing such stupendous (!!) entertainments why must they persist in putting them in rooms no bigger than match boxes, eg Debbie and the Dum-dums in the Little Theatre.

Very shoddy,
Disgruntled.

Dear Ed,
One evening in the wee small hours I did happen upon the well known garden of delights (and other sexual fantasies) of the Craccum office.

What an education indeed - here was I throwing myself tremulously upon the ground (everyone in Craccum wears brown jandals and takes part in a toenail growing contest) (this is an observation not a generalisation), offering my services to the so-called voice of the educated few - as a mere proof reader. But alack and alas a single bin carrying the label 'to be proofed' contained all of one singel virgin sheet of unabused paper... "Tis content not quality we need", they cried (desperately)
"We need more letters" Dave exclaimed (expressively)
"Here have some coffee" said someone else (kindly).

After such emphatic persuasion the like of which has not been seen since the rise of Hitler in Nazi Germany, I felt inclined (but not very) to at least attempt a verbalize. OK it's not a very good letter but then letters in Craccum rarely are, are they? And now dear reader you too can say you know why.

Signed lovingly,
Dave's mum.

PS. I do wish you'd get your hair cut, and please do something about your toenails.

A LETTER POSSIBLY NOT FROM KEVIN HAIG

Dear Dave,
Why the Hell doesn't someone write to Kraccum about the price of 'food' in the Milkbar. Last week I had a milkshake which was so fucking bad that the also at 40c you think that the Studass (or is that Studassholes ?) would be making the corner-gold mine cum dairy profit at the expense of the contributing students. I thought that Studass, being a communist organisation, wasn't supposed to rip people off. In short I call for a general price decrease of 20% in the dairy, and having ID cards.
Another thing, I didn't know that the Cafe was allowed to under the guise of food.

Yours sincerely,
Kermit

ROMI PATEL GETS A HATE CLUB LETTER

Dear Sir,
I grow tired of the foul mouthed letters that student officialdom publish in Craccum in reply to honest, if not reasonable suggestions and criticisms made by we mere peasant students. In such a huge place its not always obvious who to direct suggestions to. A letter to Craccum also gives others an opportunity to support or oppose your ideas.
Romi Patel's reply in particular in last weeks Craccum prompted this letter. He need only have stated that a Classical special is coming up, and classics don't fit in well with current music. He says that 'we are always open to suggestions (rather contradicting the tone of the rest of his letter) but see us rather than writing letters'. Well I did dare to go up to the studio and make a suggestion, and was accused of 'trying to tell us our job' in a rather aggressive tone. I trust the attitude of the station manager does not typify the rest of his staff as I shall keep listening to my favourite station on 1404.
I don't wish to criticise only Mr Patel but would like to see all our student officials write reasonable rational letters. Maybe all the rest of us will follow suit. After all why should a letter to the editor be sprinkled with f - k just because its Craccum and not the Star. Oh for the archaic past when gentleness were just that and ladies were oops I'm rambling now. Bye.

Signed,
Another self confessed 'obnoxious son of a cockroach'.
P.S. I welcome equally sane replys.

We are open to suggestions. Not demands of a haughty nature as yours were. Come and see us again.



BUT NOBODY EVEN MENTIONED LECTURING STANDARDS

Dear Sir,
While I realise that paper such as yours no doubt feels that it has an obligation to uphold, I would like to point out that this is not necessarily so - although with certain reservations. I appreciate that you concentrate and give wide and deeply-based coverage to media and issues and contemporary affairs and trends - such as they are at this point in time - I feel that you adopt too large a high-profile stance on questions of moral suggestiveness and matters of dubious ethical provenance and sauciness and other issues too. As an instance of this, in point of fact I would suggest fuck which is a word of which I do not generally approve although I am not a prude - except in a limited sense which I will define in due course as a part of the argument which I am currently propounding at the moment. One must consider the public image which such immoral behaviour and dirtiness (I hesitate to say smut although it is a word of which I do not disapprove as much as fuck which I don't like - however this is by the bye) will cause when it will become well-known and appreciated, especially with bursaries being a contentious issue which it is. Although I will refrain from stating the obvious which is apparent to all concerned who care to involve themselves with question of public naughtiness I must respectfully deplore this state of affairs such as it is at the moment.

Yours in self-appreciation.
Rolfe Gladwin
(projected virgin-martyr)

News From Malaysia

INDUSTRIAL WASTE POLLUTION

Regulations banning the discharge of industrial wastes into the country's inland waters have been gazetted. This prohibition, contained in the Environmental (Sewage and industrial effluent) Regulations, 1979, also ban the discharge of effluent and sludge on land without written permission from the Director-General of Environment. Factories and individuals seeking to have the regulations waived may apply to the director-general will consider carefully the effects of waiving the rules before issuing licenses. Adequate steps should be taken to enforce these regulations which would otherwise be rendered useless.

UNION TROUBLE AT MAS

The Airways Employees Union (AEU), representing most employees of the state-owned Malaysian Airline System (MAS), called for a work-to-rule last December. It has resulted in the sacking of 11 members of the AEU, the suspension of 221, the deregistration from union membership of 874 and the issue of a notice to the AEU itself to show cause why it should not be registered. The crunch came suddenly with the cancelling of all MAS flights and the arrest of 18 people, including 10 union officials under the wide powers of the Internal Security Act for alleged sabotage on the 14th Feb 1979. The president of the AEU Haji Mohammad Hussein who escaped the police drag-net has gone underground.

The confrontation started off as a routine re-negotiation of a wage contract. The employees wanted parity of pay with Singapore Airlines, which the management consistently denied. When the talks broke down in December, the Labour Ministry tried to mediate but not before the workers began their work-to-rule.

The government has now dug in for a tough stand. As one government official said: 'If we give in to airline employees' demands, what is there to stop other statutory and quasi-government bodies making similar claims?'. The implication is clear, the government will not hesitate to take any harsh action against such industrial action under the name of 'internal and social security' of the country. The notorious ISA, with its unlimited power, has always been used by the state machinery for such purposes, where union leaders who stand up to protect the just demands of the workers are very vulnerable to indefinite detention.

Meanwhile, 12,000 port workers from 4 unions demanded the resumption of pay talks between MAS and the AEU and the withdrawal of the government's threat to deregister the AEU. The dock workers threatened to stop work for one hour daily unless the government met its demands. 30 trucks load of troops were sent to the port by the government to ensure that the port workers 'behave' themselves. It seems the use of force and state machinery are the only means the government know of in 'solving' any industrial dispute.

Source: Asia-week 23/2/79; FEER 23/2/79, ST 17/2/79
FEER - Far Eastern Economic Review
ST = The Straits Time

My Back Pages

Well folks, yet again That marvellous collection of wierd, whimsical, wacky and wertherian facts that the Craccum lackeys have picked out of the mountains of edifying literature which passed over our dear editor's desk this week. Why spend hours researching that essay, striving for originality when the inclusion of a few judiciously placed and sufficiently obscure bits of miscellanea will have your marks soaring? Send your lecturers scurrying to find the latest and greatest version of the Britannica as they seek to uncover the source of your mind-thrilling contributions to the great chain of human knowledge. So read on people, read on!!

Dolphins used in striptease shows have their task of removing the young ladies' bikinis made more appetising by the garments being soaked in liquidised fish-meal.

It could change the way you think you feel about this type of magazine.

In 1972 a medical student in Marseilles decided one of his tutors was not up to scratch, so he shot him. 'He was a hindrance to my medical career', he explained afterwards.

A notice outside an Amsterdam strip club promises 'No erection - money back'

Ferret can catch human colds.

If you pulled the plug out of an 11.5 stone man and drained all the water out of him, he would reduce immediately to 4.75 stones.

More female suicides, accidents and crimes occur during the first few days of the menstrual cycle.

Air hostesses have the lowest divorce rate among working women

You have got approximately 2,500,000 sweat glands.

Eating a lot of liquorice can lead to high blood pressure.

Inadequate sleep can slow a child's growth rate by up to two-thirds.

An advertisement in the personal column of the London Evening News invited young ladies seeking adventure to meet a well set up gentleman with honourable intentions. When four or five thousand women turned up at the rendezvous at Piccadilly Circus, police had to be called in to control the crowds.

The first war in which wounds took a greater toll than disease was probably the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-5

A Nuremberg woman was taken to hospital with suspected brain damage after trying to smuggle a frozen chicken out of a supermarket under her hat. She fainted at the check-out.

Your brain uses about as much power as a 10-watt electric bulb.

Surgeons opening the abdomen of a three-month old Syrian girl, thought to have a tumour, found three developing fetuses inside.

Most contraceptive pills are made from substances found in the Mexican yam and the urine of pregnant mares.

To find the best spot in Baghdad to build a new hospital, Rhazes, a tenth-century Persian physician, suspended bits of raw meat on a variety of sites. He chose the place where the flesh took longest to putrefy, reasoning that this ground must have the healthiest air.

An Indian woman wore 400 metres of sari at her wedding.

A long playing record of sounds from inside a mother's womb became a best-seller in Japan after it was shown to soothe crying babies. In tests it stopped every one of 403 babies crying in an average of 41 seconds.

One male doctor in 50 kills himself.

A popular medicine in the 1830 was Dr Mile's extract of Tomato. The recipe survives, only today it is known as tomato ketch-up.



Brian Brennan

Spot The Brain Cell

Recognise this boorish fart pictured above? Of course! The Wizard, whose antics in the Quad left everyone with the impression of some poor old deluded fool whose only pleasure in life is to provide free entertainment for the masses by raving about such diverse issues as women's place in society, the Imperial British Conservative Party and a clown outfit affectionately called Alf's Imperial Army. But perhaps it might be a good idea to enlighten you about the darker side of this fool and just what he represents.

Few people would have realised that the Wizard, otherwise known as Ian Challoner, was formally a paid employee of the University of New South Wales. What happened there was that every time students organised a meeting or protest march, no matter what the topic, out would pop the Wizard to do the job he was apparently paid to do: disrupt and divert student

attention. He would leap about doing funny-man act, and as a consequence students would stand around and laugh instead of going on a demonstration.

Thus most of the demos and protests were poorly attended because this establishment joker would put on a sideshow competition — every time.

This happened time and time again until eventually the students woke up to what was happening and made things hot for him. He then moved from Sydney to state in Australia until there was nowhere left for this goon to find an audience willing to listen to his ravings.

Finally he came to New Zealand and set up base in Christchurch. No longer working for the bosses, he makes his money by peddling tricks, gags and rubbish. Let us only hope that his visits to Auckland are few and very short.

SRC

Wednesday - 1pm:

Agendas available at meeting, includes lectures for important positions, Abortion Action, Manganui Bridge Grants.

ALL STUDENTS CAN ATTEND / VOTE!

And Next Week...

Well, our first twenty page issue and sorry to say Craccum looks like achieving something very novel. Yes, folks, we actually have too much copy and have had to leave stuff over till next week. We could have had four pages of [redacted] and an article on the [redacted] trial and a satirical bit [redacted] the article on [redacted] some [redacted] and the followup on our [redacted] and all sorts of [redacted] But it's [redacted] Alas, alack, woe. Why can't we [redacted] daily?

Katrina White

BLUD DAY!

LOWER COMMON ROOM:

MARCH 79

| | | |
|------|------------------|-------------|
| WED | 14 th | 9 am - 4 pm |
| THUR | 15 th | 9 am - 2 pm |
| FRI | 16 th | 9 am - 2 pm |