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CRACCUM

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**Yahoo!
Who needs
buses?**

AUSA

ATISA
AUCKLAND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE STUDENTS ASS. INC.

Editorial #1

Last week I was pleased to see Alistair's letter to the Editors about how concerned he was about my lack of editing in the letters section (you are obviously taking a strong interest in the newspaper). I presume when Alistair was speaking about 'fascist misogynists' he meant Piglet and his mates. Anyone who takes these letters seriously and is offended by them really needs to work out what direction they're coming from — so why edit them? If women got up in arms over every

detrimental and sexist comment that was uttered, we wouldn't have time to do anything else with our lives. As for being an 'oppressed woman' by Steve (of all people), I can't really agree with you. Firstly because not editing letters does not constitute oppression and Steve, being such a non-domineering, kind-hearted bloke wouldn't want to oppress anyone.

Sarah

P.S. Alistair, weren't you that curled-up ball on the Riverina Hotel floor on Friday?

Editorial #2

Well, having nothing else to talk about this week I am going to indulge in a response to the personal abuse I've been getting from AUSA's newly-elected IAO.

Robert M Bennett: You greasy-haired, dandruffy, posturing, liberal wimp. Your ambition to become *Craccum* editor has seen your stomach-turning penchant for patronising minorities take a disturbing new tack. Your efforts to make me (a member of a racial minority) appear racist are really starting to piss me off. The days when your sort of ingenuine prattle would enable you to live off us poor coloured folks, *dey is long gone*.

It just so happens that while many are very upset about perceived wrongs, not everybody is happy to walk around with a thirteen kilogram ETA Ripple on their shoulder; which doesn't auger well for

your sort of I-wish-I-was-black/a woman/palestinian/jewish-cause-then-I-could-feel-your-pain jerk.

As for the political naivety which you detect in *Craccum's* letter pages (c.f. this week's letter 'Bennetton...') you're absolutely right. How else could a filthy rav- ing red like you get elected as the totally trivial International Affairs Officer.

Open your bloody eyes Bennett: Your kind are being kicked out by the people all over the world even in the Eastern Bloc. And, in the first free elections in Nicaragua, your bum-chums got the steel-capped mandate of the people right up the arse.

I sincerely hope that in your next life you come back as a Tibetan so you can experience real oppression at the hands of your beloved Communist Chinese friends.

Yours in disgust
Steve

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DISCLAIMER

Craccum is published by the Auckland University Students Association, but ATISA have been very nice and sort of indicated that they'll go to prison for us if it's the tech stuff at fault which I think is jolly good of them really, don't you? By the way, the views expressed in *Craccum* do not necessarily represent the views of the Auckland University Students Association, the editors, or anybody, so there!

CRACCUM DEADLINES

Articles	Tuesdays	noon
Letters	Wednesdays	noon
Notices	Wednesdays	noon

PREZ SEZ — AUSA

Teena koutou katoa. Well it's been a hectic week for us. Last week's Autumn General Meeting introduced a note of drama to our usual dull routine around the office.

No doubt many of you have heard about the constitutional amendments decided on. The most important to all of you will be the AUSA fee structure for 1991.



There has been a substantial increase, AUSA fees go from the present \$60.00 to \$90.00 per year and the building levy from \$18.00 to \$40.00 per year. This may seem a massive rise but your AUSA fees have not changed since 1984 while the cost of everything has gone through the roof.

The trade-off is that fees will only be payable for a maximum of three years. This will have the most benefit to part-time, "professional" or post-graduate students but is, we feel, the fairest way of maintaining AUSA services and sharing the load evenly across the whole student body.

As from next year, if you have already been enrolled for three years you will no longer pay AUSA fees. And the increased Building levy will bring us even closer to funding development of the Student Union Complex. All great news in the long run though we are aware that any increased costs place additional financial burdens on students.

Even more reason to fight the Government's tough stand on User Pays Education.

On another note completely, I had the dubious pleasure of attending the second annual Waikato University Regatta. Our Auckland Uni mens' and womens' rowing teams put up a valiant effort but were pipped at the post. Better luck next year, team!!

That's all for now folks, ka kite ano e hoa maa.

Ella Henry

PREZ SEZ — ATISA

Kia Ora,

For those of you with long memories and parched throats we have a date for the Club bar opening. Unbelievable!! Wed 18th April is the big night and Phil Deans (ex-President of Waikato Poly-

technic) is the Club Manager.

He has organised a logo/name competition with a \$100.00 prize so any ideas can be dropped into him at his ATISA office until 11 April.

This will be the first non-smoking bar in Auckland (as far as we know). If you smokers feel this is unfair please remember you can go to any other bar and smoke; so support this. See you all at opening night.

We have just had our first student executive meeting of the year. We now have 30 exec members. All bar 3 of these have positions on the various committees, boards and councils. It is very satisfying to see this level of support and I would like to urge all students to enquire who their class reps and/or exec members are. We do need more from the Faculty of Arts so get on it!

There will now be regular paper recycling pickups at ATI so step out and make a difference and drop your waste paper into ATISA during the week or at the B Block rubbish pickup on Thursday morning. More about this later.

I am concerned about the rising violence being reported around Varsity and Tech. Be careful and report anything to us and to the police. Let's get this sorted out as soon as possible.

Have a good week, be successful and communicate!

David Rhodes



Children of the Rich

ATI gets more elitist, says student union

by Max Chapple

Auckland Technical Institute is becoming more elitist with larger proportions of wealthy Pakeha students, says the institute's students association after a major poll.

The survey of nearly 3500 students at enrolment found more than 21% of those who answered had combined parents incomes of \$50,000 a year and more.

Just 3.2% of respondents were Maori, just over a quarter of their 12% national population share.

ATISA manager Gary Williams said the survey also showed student's had been able to save very little money and proved the parents' income cut-off point for student allowances was too low.

He said the results of the poll would be used as ammunition in ATISA's fight against high fees. They would be presented in a three-way debate between students, Education Minister Phil Goff and National's education spokesperson Lockwood Smith on April 23 at ATI's Akoranga Campus Hall.

Williams said the survey, in which 3459 enrolled students took part from January 31 and 23, was aimed at assessing the effect the higher tuition fees was having on their ability to start or continue a tertiary education.

Williams said the results of the poll's question on cultural origins showed Europeans were over-represented and Maori were under-represented.

"You've got to see how they compare to the rest of the population and whether this institution is representative of the population. Clearly it is not," he said.

"Maori students who clearly identified themselves were only 3.2% whereas they make up 12% of the population."

Williams said there had been a significant increase in Pacific Island students, who according to the survey now make up 4.2%. He said the latest figures he had showed Pacific Island students made up 3% of the population, but he said the proportion had probably increased in the last year or two.

"Pacific Islanders are coming through in terms of their proportion to the (student) population base, which is good."

The poll showed more than 36% of respondents had a combined parent's income of \$35,000 or

more, taking them over the support limit. Just over 38% fell below the threshold and a further 24.8% of participants did not answer the question.

Williams: "What these figures indicate is that many students who are under the age of 20 would qualify for having to pay the full fee as well as having their youth support allowance payment that they're due reduced to the minimum \$68.

"People on lesser incomes, both because of the income cut-off and because of the higher fee, are going to get less assistance and it means they're having to pay the full fee if their parents are earning over a reasonable salary."

"Also, they do tell you a story of who's coming here. They indicate that we've got some pretty wealthy students."

Williams said a follow-up survey next year would be most useful in assessing changes to student's situations.

Williams said he was not surprised by the figures because a New Zealand Planning Council's report on the country's post-compulsory education and training showed students from higher socio-economic backgrounds were over-represented.

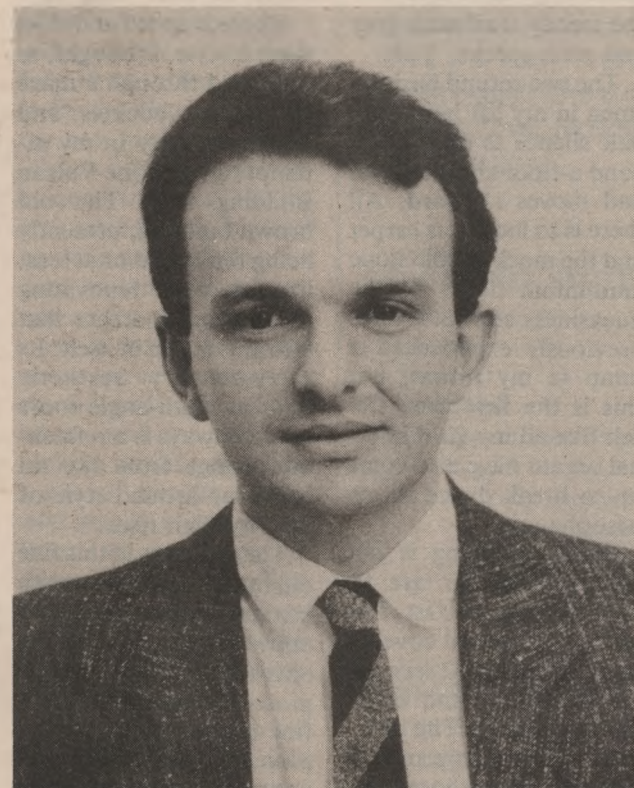
However, the report said the level of over-representation was not nearly as prominent in polytechs as it was in universities.

The report also said Maori students were heavily under-represented in all areas except Access and Maori Access. It said that at universities and polytechs the Maori student share was very much less than the Maori share in the total population.

Williams said "while universities are generally white and middle class polytechs are less so but are still largely white, male dominated and middle class. They still are.

"The imposition of fees will lead to an even greater number of those. It will gradually change the social composition of this place."

"The disturbing trend is that it's becoming more and more elitist and that's what these figures show. Look at the figure — 11%, that's by far the big-



ATISA Manager Gary Williams

gest category, are earning over \$65,000."

Williams said the poll results backed up ATISA's view of the \$35,000 income threshold.

"We've always argued that the income threshold was set too low because the figure of \$35,000 means that you can have two parents, say one who's a store person and packer and one who's a cleaner ... and you're over the barrier.

"It seems inequitable that as soon as you reach \$35,000 with a couple of working class parents the level of support goes down so dramatically and you have to pay the full fee."

Williams said a more appropriate level would have been \$40,000 or \$45,000.

He said the reason Goff set that level was that he wanted students under 20 to stay at home.

The poll also showed 38% of students were not able to save anything toward this year's study.

"That's very significant, they haven't been able to save a cent," said Williams. "The reason for that is that they're paying off their overdraft.

"The vast majority of students haven't been able to save more than \$1000 so how could they afford to pay \$1250?"

Williams said that ATI was becoming a place where access to tertiary education depended on ability to pay and that was

a disturbing trend.

"It means that it's becoming harder for students from lower income families to be able to afford to undertake tertiary education.

"Unless you've got access to money or parents with incomes which allow them to support you then your chances as a younger person of completing a tertiary education are less.

He said his response to adults who said students should pay their own way would be to point out they did not have to pay themselves.

"They've gone through a tertiary education system where the most they've usually had to pay is between \$500 and \$600. In most situations now full time students have to pay double those fees.

"This country depends on having a skilled and trained workforce. If we're going to be internationally competitive, if we're going to be able to earn an export income which is going to pay for the social services we have to have a trained, skilled workforce.

"By denying people access to a tertiary education who would otherwise contribute to that skilled workforce and provide income for this country ... you're effectively denying this country a chance to improve its social services and you're also denying those people the chance to fulfil their own abilities."

POLL RESULTS

QUESTION A

What is your ethnic/cultural background?

European	78.0%
Asian	4.0%
Maori	3.2%
New Zealand	7.7%
Indian	2.7%
African	0.1%
Pacific Island	4.2%

QUESTION B

If enrolled in the same course as last year, what is the difference in dollars between last year's fees and this year's?

\$50	1.6%
\$100	6.0%
\$200	4.2%
\$300	3.9%
\$400	3.7%
\$500	2.8%
\$600	3.7%
\$700	1.0%
\$800	1.0%
\$900	1.0%

QUESTION C

What is your parent's or parents' combined gross income?

\$15,000	10.6%
\$20,000	8.7%
\$25,000	9.4%
\$30,000	9.6%
\$35,000	6.1%
\$40,000	5.4%
\$45,000	3.8%
\$50,000	5.0%
\$55,000	2.1%
\$60,000	3.2%
\$65,000	10.8%
No Answer	24.8%

QUESTION D

How much have you saved for this year's studies?

\$200	38.7%
\$300	10.8%
\$400	2.7%
\$500	5.8%
\$600	3.0%
\$700	2.8%
\$800	2.3%
\$900	2.0%
\$1000	25%

QUESTION E

How much of your savings are a result of your holiday work?

\$100	4.8%
\$200	3.8%
\$300	3.7%
\$400	2.5%
\$500	5.6%
\$600	2.0%
\$700	2.3%
\$800	2.9%
\$900	1.2%
\$1000	12.0%
No answer	58%

QUESTION F

Will you be working part time while studying at ATI?

Yes	40.0%
Full Time	30.4%
No	29.4%

QUESTION G

Do you think you will need to take out a bank overdraft or loan to get through your course?

No	68.0%
Yes	31.4%

QUESTION H

Do you think you will be able to afford to stay on your course through this year?

No	6.0%
Yes	94%

QUESTION I

Is the course you have enrolled in;

(a) Part time?	51.4%
(b) Full time for less than a year?	9.1%
(c) Full time for a year or more?	29.1%

ELEVATOR ACTION

CITY LIFTS HAVE UPS

Craccum has been bombarded with a complaint about the tardiness of campus lifts. With the magazine's deep and sincere concern for students' welfare at heart, we decided to compare a few of Auckland's more notable elevators and line them up against tertiary hoists. I, raving reporter **Max Chapple**, pressed a few buttons....

When you walk in to the ATI A Block lift, the sign says in big red letters "Smoking is prohibited in lifts." Below, less boldly but in clear lettering, it also exclaims "Lisa Grant 4 eva." As the lift's heavy doors clatter loosely shut I can't help thinking Lisa Grant will outlive the tin can in which I'm travelling.

Shuffling my feet on the grubby imitation marble lino, I press a sticky button marked '4' and wait for the stomach lurch. Here one expects to be thrust upwards at a rate which could bring a carrot cake back from the dead. But lo, after a shake and a shudder, this vertical perambulator heaves only slightly as it takes off at a gentle pace.

A full 10 seconds later the doors squeak open on the lift's anaemic cream interior. That may sound

like a quick trip but the lift has climbed about five metres at a rate of only about two seconds per metre. When you consider you can thaw a piece of bread in a microwave in ten seconds, it starts looking sluggish.

While I time the lift's rate of ascent and descent I notice it takes 11 seconds to go down, which seems to defy the gravity laws. This is true of the long haul too. The lift travels its full five floors up in 21 seconds but takes 23 to return. Beam me up Otis.

My next stop is at not just the fastest but also the most internally damaging of the elevators on my test circuit — the Auckland City Council's cable climbing kamikaze. Not only does the ride inspire regurgitation, but the decore does too. The carpet you gaze at on the way up is

the trendy stuff with grey and pink specks. Yuk.

The two rotund businessmen in my lift lapse into pale silence as this 1.3 second a-floor shuttle closes and moves skyward. All there is to look at is carpet and the mock cobble stone aluminium doors as the queasiness sets in. I have previously experienced a lump in my throat, but this is the first time I've felt like all my vital internal organs have also come up to break dance in my oesophagus.

ACC's building is not new and neither are its lifts, but they are fast. The one I experienced covered the 17 floors in 22 seconds on the way up and 24 on the way down. The average one floor trip took 6 seconds. After those sorts of speeds I couldn't face a banana thickshake for hours.

There is speed and then there is style, I thought, as I stepped through a maze of plaster buckets and lumps of putty in my attempt to reach the Vulcan Building lifts. The old brown building, presently being renovated or at least littered with renovating equipment to create that effect, is a gem in itself. Its early-century aesthetic style of mutli-angle roofs and archways is a refreshing change from the tin foil wrap-around style of the city high rises.

The elevators in this fine old building filled me with intrigue and the arches above the ground floor lift entrances were worth more than one look. Their fine gold-painted carved panels, glasswork and natural wood left me in wonder while I waited four minutes for the lift. It never came and the

contractor who invited me in couldn't seem to appreciate their importance.

As I said, there is speed and then there is style. The elevators in the Stock Exchange Centre have neither, I mused as I waited two minutes in the building's carpark before one arrived. The wait gave me time to eye the ostentatious luxury cars and wish I had one too.

A sharp 'ding' alerted me of the arrival of my transport and I entered the lift with a band of women execs who between them had enough shoulder pads to protect the Pittsburgh Steelers. Through the haze of perfume I could see the floor of this lift was real marble and the little panel above the lift door had a digital read-out to tell me what floor I was passing.

Soon the shoulder pad sisters were replaced by a group of yuppies in floral ties — there were enough of them to fill a carpool BMW. They lacked their copies of the National Business Review, subscriptions for which must have

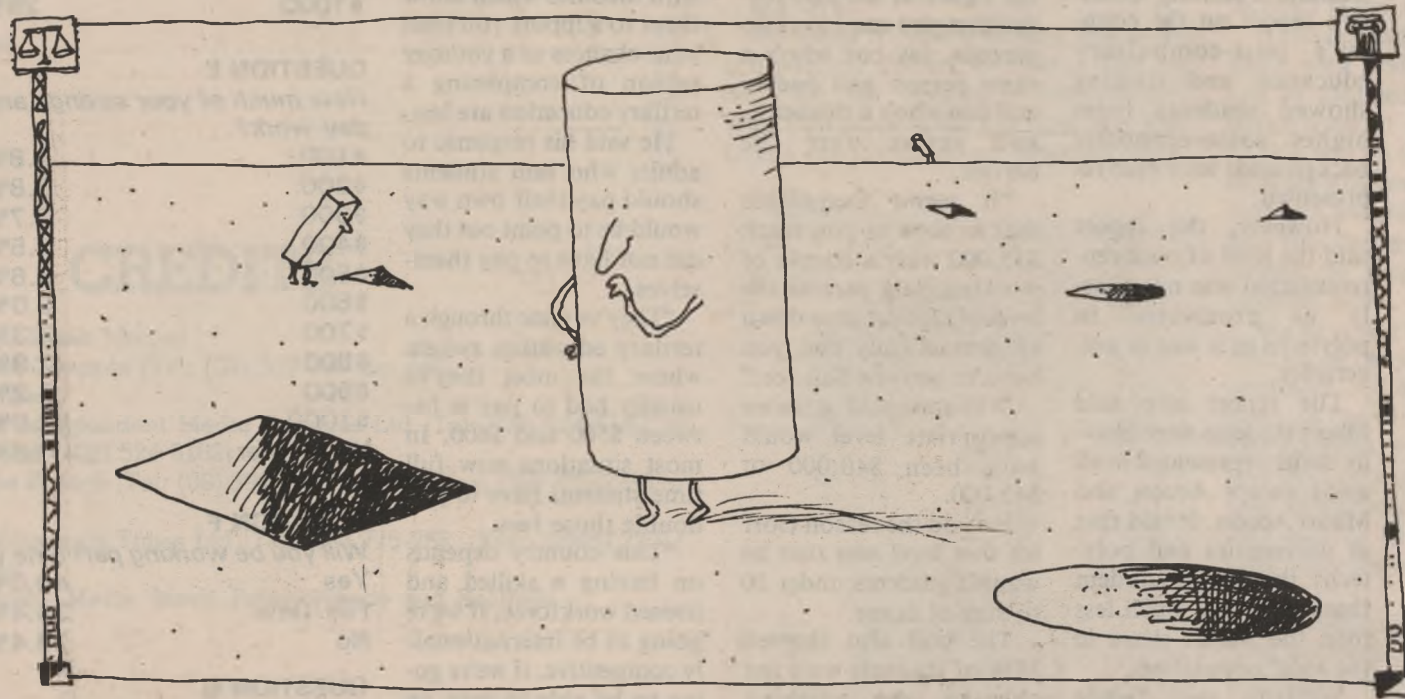
lapsed since the share-market crash.

After timing the lift speed at about seven seconds for a one floor trip, I found myself stuck in the middle of a slate and chrome reception area with no way out. The two pencil-skirted secretaries behind the counter stopped their conversation about emotional blackmail and glared at me until I found the stairwell. A lucky escape.

The company in the BNZ Tower's talking lifts was much less challenging and a good deal smaller than that which I had just left. The little micro chip told me "twenty-sixth floor, going down," in an American accent and I stared eagerly at her display screen. The green letters welcomed me to the building and told me the day, date and time. When I asked "So do you come here often?" she made a soft bell-like sound but I figured she said that to all the guys.

Besides being smooth

The Buddle Findlay Interviews. Fin



Opportunities for graduates and summer law clerks.

Interviews for positions in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch will be held at the university on 7th and 8th May 1990. Applications should have been made through your university programme or submitted in writing to: **Mr Les Deere, Personnel Manager, Buddle Findlay, PO Box 2694, Wellington.** For more information a copy of our brochure "Career Opportunities in a Commercial Law Firm" is available from your Law Faculty Clerk or Careers Advisory Officer.

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Swimming in a bucket of very strong milo is the closest experience I can imagine to taking a ride in Auckland University's Art Building lift. The chocolate covered wall to wall milo makes for a dark elevator but that wasn't half as hard to cope with as

Was it the body odour of the hairy hockey player who shuffled in to the lift and rattled his tech drawing gear? Maybe but I wasn't going to wait around to find out.

Great, I think. I'm stuck with a Charlie in a great glass elevator.

If an infinite number of monkeys are sat down at an infinite number of typewriters for an infinite period of time, how long before their random efforts produce the complete works of Shakespeare? (Assume the following passage took exactly eighteen seconds: "To be, or not to be. That is the hgfrkdjohefjhei";¼¼¾977sdy").

Craccum, 2 April 1990 — 5

MUSIC

PUB-LICK EYE

FISH Vigil in a Wilderness of Mirrors (EMI)

Look what the cat dragged in. It's a fish. Not the swimming variety, but the human sort, he of funny face paint who fronted English band Marrillion a few years back.

First impressions aren't good, the cover (sometimes a good excuse to buy an otherwise bad record) is a bit like those air brush jobbies that grace the side of panel vans. The single from the album "Big Wedge" had some success in England, and is pleasant enough if you like this sort of thing. Slick production definitely helps it along. Fish would like to be Howard Devoto, but he's on a much smaller scale. I'm not familiar with Marrillion but with a couple of tracks over seven minutes long and nothing under four we're getting into saga stuff here. See album title for confirmation.

Most of this album reminds me of that Mike and the Mechanics nonsense of a few years ago.

Looks like Fish is heading down boring old fluff road, no exit. Bye bye Fish.

Richard Gourley

M C HAMMER Please Hammer don't Hurt 'em (EMI)

He's big news in the States, the winner of two prestigious American Music awards ('Best Rap Artist' and 'Best Rap Album' for his highly successful debut album 'Let's get it Started'), and his new album has now been released by EMI Records in New Zealand.

MC Hammer shows his versatile rapping style in an album which combines ballads, dance tracks (including covers), and protest songs. "Please Hammer don't Hurt 'em," is an album with a positive message. It speaks of the liberation of the Black people and of the need for constant effort in the fight against racism.

In "Help the Children" Hammer describes the things he's seen happen in his own neighbourhood, Oakland, in San Francisco. He backs up the conscious-raising message by promising to donate all proceeds from the single towards a foundation established by Hammer to provide educational and motivational assistance to needy children.



Fish (above) and M C Hammer

The dance tracks on the album include covers of the 1974 Jacksons hit "Dancin' Machine" (try keeping your feet still to this!) and "On Your Face," a much improved version of the "Earth, Wind and Fire" song.

There's a gospel song ("Pray") an oh-so sincere love song, ("Have You Seen Her") and a warning about the world of crime ("Crime Story").

Unfortunately MC Hammer does not have the same attitude towards sexism as he does towards racism, and this is evidenced by "She's Soft and Sweet" — need I say more...??

My personal favourites on this album are "Let's Go Deeper" and "Help the Children."

MC Hammer is a natural Rapper, if you're into Rap it's a must.

Cath Townsend

Midnight Oil Blue Sky Mining

Following up on their huge success with *Diesel and Dust*, Midnight Oil have come up with the goods again. Not only will this material please their hard core fans, it will also be more appealing to a wider audience than previous material.

But fear not, staunch fans, the 'Oils' still have plenty of punch and venom. Yet the venom has been tempered both vocally and with the guitar sound. The lyrics refuse to be bridled and remain firmly focussed upon the big subjects — conserva-



tion, pollution, oppression, freedom, civil rights and life.

The current chart-climbing single 'Blue Sky Mine' is a good example. Not recognisable as an Oils song until Garret's familiar sound links up with the big driving beat, the lyrics tell the tale of workers suffering under the oppressive conditions of an asbestos mine in Western Australia. The Midnight Oil social conscience is as prevalent as ever — lyrical poetry, pregnant with political perambulation.

The vocal harmonies have been the most impressive progression from the last album. The whole album seems to have taken off vocally from where Bullroarer (Diesel and Dust) left off. Peter Garret's voice is at its most tuneful ever; his vocal gymnastics have improved dramatically. In fact, the whole band have attempted to achieve more subtlety in this production — and they have been fa-

An extended E-team arrived at the Queens Head Tavern just in time for happy hour, 5.30 to 7.30 pm, which was just as well because happy hour is expensive enough.

The Queens Head is in Queen St, just across from the Town Hall (and the Classic Cinema) and is another of those traditional student grovel pubs transformed. There is only one bar existing now, which is divided into a restaurant area and a drinking area.

On tap is a wide variety of brews, including Wai-kato, Speights, Guinness and the standard Lion Red, DB, Rheineck and

Lion Brown. During happy hour a pint (a real pint at 570 mls) of the above is \$3.00, afterwards \$3.85. A large range of imported and local beverages is also available in the chiller.

This pub is *not* a student pub — it is aimed at the older executive market. If you're not wearing a suit, carrying a briefcase or mobile phone, don't bother going. Wayne Mac-Dougall would feel really at home here amongst the dinosaurs (including Graham Hackshaw) in his shiny suit.

Over all, the E-team recommend the Queens Head for a Capping drink, when your parents are paying, otherwise avoid unless you are extremely affluent or want to impress someone of the opposite sex. However, it is

a pub serving its market well and can't be slagged off too much.

That's all folks
The E-Team

PS. The E-Team has been informed that a certain BFM talkback host was slandering the boys and girls of the E-team on his show. To set the record straight: between five E-team members we have 32 years of uni experience, we are all post-grads, not all Engineering students and are not telling anyone where to drink, only giving our opinions. The E-team says "Fuck off Marcus Lush, you dickhead". PPS. This column is brief this week due to the E-team members being involved in political action (which we won!).

The E-Team Rating

	Pleasant
	OK
	Expensive

The Story So Far...

PUB	SERVICE	FACILITIES	BREWS
Kiwi Tavern	4	2	3
Alexandra Tavern	4	3.5	4.5
Strand Tavern	3	4	4
Occidental Hotel	1.5	3	3.5
Rising Sun Hotel	0.5	1.5	1.5



Billboard at Wynberg Train Station in Cape Town.
Photo: Bernard Kennelly

TEXTBOOK TUSSLE

Hit and miss ordering leaves students bookless.

The Auckland University Bookshop has come under heavy criticism from students who say the shop's prices are high and its textbooks are often out of stock. **Max Chapple** asks why.

Selling books on campus is like a literary version of Blind Date. It's the bookseller's job to plan introductions between tens of thousands of books and 16,000 potential student customers without knowing which courses the buyers will take or which texts they will need. And as with any game of chance, there are winners and losers.

Some students will have to wait until the end of next month (April) before they get essential text books required for courses which began in early March. Some classes have as few as half the books they need because of the hit-and-miss nature of the ordering system.

University Bookshop administrator Liz Elliott says textbooks, 90 percent of which come from overseas, take at least three months to reach New Zealand and have to be ordered in August of the year before they're needed.

"It's a very difficult to get the numbers right," she says. "I mean it is virtually impossible when you take into account the length of time it takes to get books here and the fluctuations in the rolls."

"In the middle of the year we liaise with the departments, with the lec-

turers, on the book that they're going to use the following year. The lecturer sets a book and the only indication that we've got to go on as to how many to order is the number we ordered the previous year, the numbers that were sold last year and the numbers we were left with last year."

Despite the fact books are ordered in August, there is no guarantee they'll arrive in time for the study year. Elliott says some books have been known to land here a year late.

And the ordering system is not made easier by the sometimes inaccurate expectations of lecturers.

Elliott: "We also have the situation where a lecturer will set a book and then he doesn't use it terribly much. He'll get up in front of the lecture room and say 'oh you don't really have to use this book as much as I thought you did' so the students aren't going to buy it."

Libby Passau, text buyer, says the number of books ordered does not necessarily follow sales from the previous year.

"It depends. I mean obviously if it's a stage two book we look at what happened in stage one the previous year and if there's

been a vast increase we know there's going to be a fair amount following on."

"It's as scientific as you can get it because there's a totally unknown quantity of how many books that are going to sell second hand and if they're going to carry on those increases into the second year."

"We get people swearing black and blue that they will use a textbook in the following year. We order up and they drop that book and then we have books that have to be returned to our overseas publisher. I don't know how many, but there would be hundreds of books I guess."

Elliott says that understocking is not her only headache. Overstocking, too, means hassles.

"We do run out of books. We also have massive over-stocks of books. I can give you one English paper where the lecturer said he was going to get between 60 and 90 in the class... he had about 12 titles. We didn't order 60 books but we ordered a large number. He's now got 27 in the class. We're talking about 12 titles of which we are massively overstocked and we've got no guarantee that they're going to be using those books."



General book buyer Peter Haines says one environmental science class predicted a 150 roll of students but ended up with 225 students. The shop ordered 105 books.

In another case a department estimated a class size of 30 but took 200.

No matter how few we had ordered for that paper there was no way we were going to end up not being drastically short.

"The other situation is simply when the publisher messes us up. We order a book, we don't hear back from them, we query it and they eventually tell us that the book's out of print or it's reprinted or something ... it's too late to order something else. What lecturers have to do is juggle the lectures or postpone them until they can get hold of the book."

Haines says a few lecturers have taken to ordering their own books to make things easier, but have given the job back to the bookshop after deciding it was not worth the hassle.

The shop does airfreight urgent copies, but that can take three or four weeks and the cost of transport has to be built into the book price. And as Haines says the bookshop has to be told about shortages.

"It's no use coming into the shop, finding the book's not there and going away again. They need to tell us and then we know what the demand is. If there's a number of people then we'll see if we can airfreight it in."

Some students would argue that the shop should overstock to make sure all students could get books. but books that are not sold cannot always be returned and if they are sent back the shop must foot the transport bill.

Haines: "There's always several textbooks where you might have 100 or so

left and if they're \$100 books that's an awful lot of money."

"We just can't buy heaps of books. We'd go broke."

Haines has heard students claim the bookshop deliberately understocks to make sure it will clear all of its books.

"That hurts because we actually put so much effort into it. We don't get more than we think we need but we certainly don't deliberately under-order."

Students also criticise bookshop prices and Elliott says at least one student intends to illegally photocopy a book to save money. But Elliott says the shop's prices are comparable to other university bookshops.

"Why is it that all the Massey University students want to come up here because they buy their books cheaper here?" she asks.

Haines says the shop's prices compare favourably to other university bookshops and says many students don't realise the costs involved in importing books. He says surface freight costs, account for between 15 and 20 percent of the cost of the books.

"We're a private company not part of the university so we have to run at a profit. Obviously because we're half owned by the students it's our prime responsibility to buy the books that students want."



Photos: Wendy Newton

BREWS

3

4.5

4

3.5

1.5

THE SPIRIT, NOT THE LETTER

The great Christian writer G.K. Chesterton once wrote that "one cannot argue with the choice of the soul". That should perhaps be a good, last, sane word with which to bring to an end the pro and anti Christian arguments which have bored *Craccum* readers for years.

But my flesh crawled too much for me to be able to contain myself when the well-meaning author of the "Reason and Christianity" article in a recent *Craccum* wrought a terrible toll on Ancient History by insisting that "proven facts have never been at variance with Biblical record." With respect, I would say that he has probably not read widely enough.

We should first be aware that if any ancient source can't be proved wrong, that obviously doesn't make it "gospel"; it merely means that no other relevant source has yet been found. On top of that, one of history's major motivating forces is that where memory has a choice between truth and convenience, truth will generally be the first to give way. So every ancient source, Jewish or not, has to be taken with a grain of salt. For instance, as your writer mentions, the Bible is correct when it records that Jericho's walls "came tumbling down" — about 1400 years before the Christian Era, according to archaeology, when the Jews invaded Canaan. But considering that the first account of its fall was written about 700 BCE, it is scarcely surprising that it has grown just slightly in the telling, to the point that it was all done by trumpets. One must remember that the Jews had no alphabet for most of those seven hundred years and were nomadic tribesmen, living an extremely primitive life. Their myths and legends were told around the campfire for all those centuries before they came to the hand that wrote them down. That is the nature of myth, and it makes them more universal, not less so. Troy also fell, as archaeology discovered last century, but does that make Zeus any more or less real than Jehovah? Are Homer's words also holy?

As the author of "Reason and Christianity" correctly points out, the lapse of time between events and transcription is less incredible with those texts later chosen to be called the "New Testament" but still over a century in some cases. And again, historical veracity has suffered in the telling as must be the case — how not indeed?

Here we have an alternative and more contemporary source in Josephus and know that Herod died in 4 BCE and that the only Census in Judaea in that period occurred under Quirinus in 6-7 CE (or "Anno Domini" as the author of your article would know it). These events have been confused in time by the much later writers of the "fabula Christi" but it should be noted that their dates might be right concerning Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judaea from 26-36 CE. It should be here mentioned that the paragraph alleged to belong to Josephus, which mentions "a doer of marvellous deeds" called Jesus, has been proved to be a later Christian insertion. No non-Christian historian mentions this Jewish preacher at all; which is what we would expect. All pre-Biblical sacred documents in Hebrew have been either lost or purposely suppressed. They include "The Book of the Wars of Yahweh" and "Book of Yashar," epic accounts of the Israelites' desert wanderings and their invasion of Canaan. I recommend Robert Graves' "Hebrew Myths" (in the library) to the credulous.

Of course there is historical truth in the Bible, but we must separate the subtle from the dross in ancient history and that is impossible to do for who starts already "knowing the truth." For instance, although Egyptian records are damningly silent on the alleged destruction of any Egyptian Army while pursuing the Jews, Chaim Potok in his "History of the Jews" suggests a more likely event. It is entirely possible that pursuing heavy Egyptian chariotry became bogged down in marsh the Israelites had crossed, a salvation that would've seemed a miracle and grown in the telling, yet too insignificant for the Egyptians to record. (Incidentally, the Jewish God Jehovah is himself unknown until an Egyptian inscription dating around the fourteenth century BCE). And as with the case of Jericho, there is also some truth in the story of the Flood, but it is not true to say that archaeological evidence supports the Biblical account:

The Israelites have taken their legend from an older Akkadian version, in which the hero Utnapishtim, warned by the god Ea of a universal deluge, builds an Ark on his advice. The Greeks have an identical myth concerning Deucalion and Pyrrha and all these versions are likely traceable to historical memory of a bad flood consequent on a cloud-burst in the Armenian mountains circa 3200 BCE. Robert Graves considers the historical absurdity of the pairs of animals was due to the crescent-shaped moon-ship containing sacrificial animals that was used in the New Year vintage feast of Babylonia. These examples must suffice us for the present — there are literally hundreds more.

To say that the Bible is the Word of God is not the view of a Biblical scholar but an intellectually shallow fundamentalist or literalist. All the books of the Old Testament are in different eras, and by different mortal authors. The New Testament was subject to great debate as its corpus formed over the Second and Third Centuries — the early Church leader Eusebius, for example, was vehemently opposed to the inclusion of "Revelations," an anti-Roman polemic that was one of a vast stream of works called apocalyptic literature. The decision as to which works were apocryphal and which were "divine" were made by men. That point alone should put their alleged divinity to rest.

There is one further contemporary ancient source, one of the earliest known referring to the Christian phenomenon and that is the letters of Pliny the Younger. He says that on investigating the Christians early in the second century, all he found was "a superstitious cult carried to extravagant lengths."

If that was what they were like then, and we have no reason to disbelieve him, concerning people who still believed in gods fathering children on mortal mothers, it goes a long way to explaining the way they are now.

It is important, I think, to hold Christ blameless for the religion that has been foisted upon him

posthumously. One of Mohammed's main criticisms of the early Christians was that in deifying Jesus as the son of Jehovah, they had broken the law of Abraham that Jehovah alone should be worshipped — although Mohammed didn't fix the original error, deifying the forces of nature in the first place. I would hold that Joshua (as his parents knew him — Jesus is the ordinary Greek form of Joshua) was born a mortal from intercourse like we all were. The New Testament somewhere mentions that James was his brother. But many peoples already worshipped or expected a redeemer — there is the Gnostic Redeemer; the crucified "Righteous Man" of Plato's "Republic"; Attis and Adonis from Asia Minor; Osiris from Egypt; the Jewish Messiah; and that expected by the Persian Zoroastrian priests or "Magi" as they were called. The visit of the three Magi was fabricated in an attempt to convince the Persians that Jesus was their expected Redeemer too. Since Persia was the home of astrology, they were said to have "followed a star," an appeal for astrological sanction of the divinity of Joseph and Mary's son.

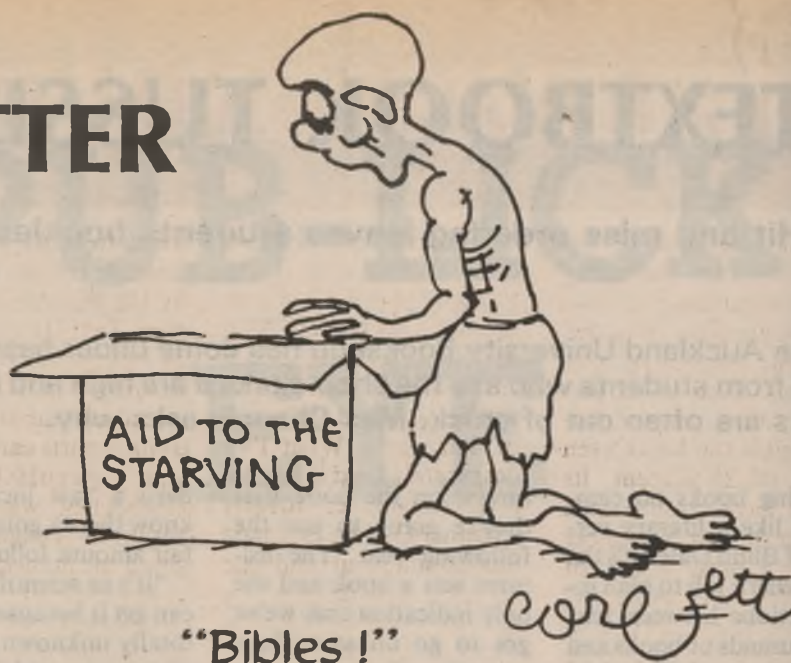
Divine birth was frequently claimed in the ancient world (eg. the Roman Emperors, Alexander and the Ptolemies). Paternity is usually attributed to some celestial symbol — Semele and the thunderbolt, Alexander's mother and a snake, Leda and the swan, Mary and the dove etc. The New Testament itself records that at Lystra, Paul and Barnabas were greeted as Zeus and Hermes when they began to preach (Acts xiv, 12), showing how commonplace that attitude was amongst Mediterranean peoples of the time. (Plato himself had a shrine to Socrates).

Besides, once we admit that Jesus son of Joseph and Mary was a mortal like ourselves, surely his message becomes twice as relevant. He experienced

similar sensations, doubts, joys. Seneca said that anyone who hears only one man's voice is a member of a faction, and not of the senate. Now above all, in this age of access to the philosophies and religions of all cultures and ages, along with worldwide communication, we must try to acquaint ourselves with and listen to the voices of all those whose wisdom humanity has worshipped — to become a member of the senate of the wise and not just a culturally myopic faction. If Christianity is notorious for anything, it is the religious intolerance which does not mar philosophies such as Buddhism — it alone has The Avatar with The Answer and for All Humanity. Not so. Personally I believe that we all have different strengths and needs, and consequently "Quot homines tot sententiae" — there are as many different paths as there are people.

Evolution — the best example of contradiction between evidence and the primitive beliefs of the inhabitants of Palestine — seems to be pushing us in this direction, that of the personal religion and its tolerance. Even modern Christian theologians like Matthew Fox have seen the writing on the wall and to the rage of the literalists, talk of the "Cosmic Christ" as a well which can be dipped into from Buddhism or Taoism. Only by enquiring into and discovering the histories of all forms of humanity's aspiration can we fully understand ourselves; and from that point we are free to appreciate Jesus' particular contribution in his central message of compassion and forgiveness, rather than ranting and railing like an atheist. Knowing that message so well and holding it so dear, I hope my Christian readers will be able to forgive me as I forgive them.

Kieren Barry



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TELEVISION WITH TRAVIS BRICKLE

Since the time of my first column detailing TV3's programming woes things have gone from bad to worse for the fledgling channel. Even in its best weeks ratings have remained below the break even target of 25 percent, its shares have crashed to a quarter of their November value, a mass layoff of staff has taken place and the morale of its remaining overworked employees has reportedly fallen through the floor. Current Affairs chief Marcia Russell has announced her intention to resign and their top sports presenter, Greg Clarke, has already walked out. In short the situation has now deteriorated to the extent that some industry analysts are questioning TV3's survival.

However most commentators are saying that the issue is not whether the channel survives or not but rather in what form it survives. If things continue as they are, then more and more expensive quality and local programs will be dropped in favour of ageing or cancelled foreign shows until a low profile, financially viable niche in the market place is found. It has already become painfully obvious that 3 is going to fail to fulfil its committ-

ment to a 28 percent level of local content in its first year (the April 1-7 schedule has a 13 percent level and this is set to drop even further as Perfect Match will be cancelled at the end of that week). What TV3 desperately need is legislative assistance: ideally Channel One being made non-commercial and the 15 percent restriction on foreign ownership lifted to facilitate the injection of fresh capital that our depressed share and advertising markets cannot provide.

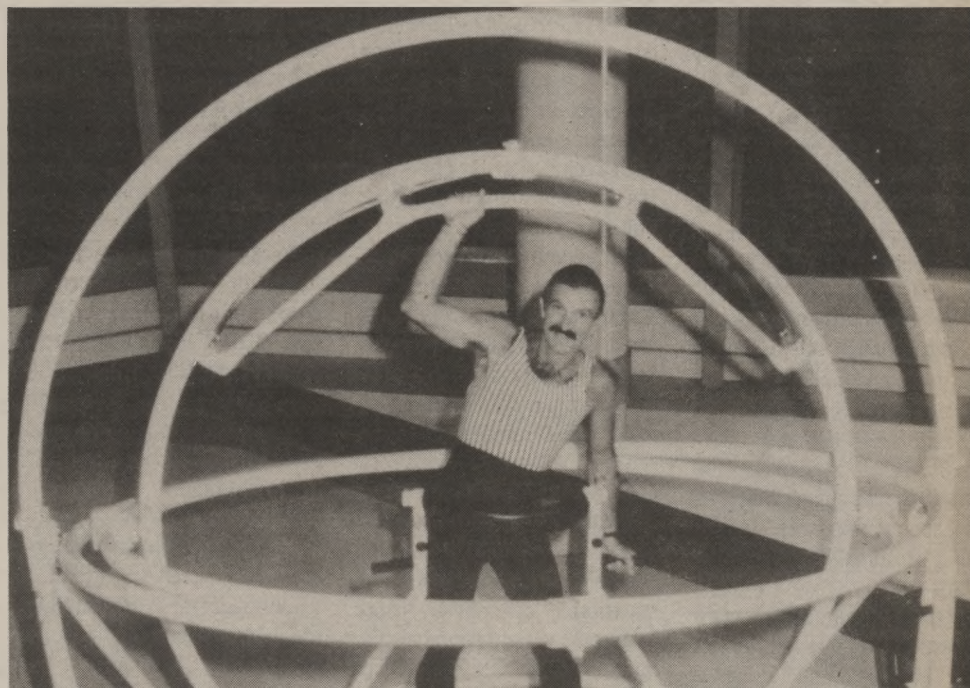
So far TV3's head, Kel Geddes, has shown such a fierce resolve in his restructuring of the channel that Stalin's five year plans seem fluffy and sentimental in comparison. And any of his staff hoping for a respite over the winter months can forget it, as TV3 will have to become leaner and meaner still if it is going to compete with the SKY TV and UHF channels that should be up and running by spring.

SKY TV is a private company 25 percent owned by TVNZ that for the price of a \$500 decoder plus \$10 a week will offer an all or nothing service of three channels. The American based CNN international news network will be one of these and

looks to be the most substantive option. Founded by US broadcasting magnate Ted Turner, CNN's 24 hour news service has become a major force in global current affairs (one of its reports earlier in the year speculating that Gorbachev was on the verge of resigning triggered an immediate drop in the value of the American dollar) and is said to be the channel of choice for world leaders from the Whitehouse to the Kremlin. However news junkies who can't scrape together \$500 shouldn't fret too much as the best of CNN can be seen for free each night on One Network News' international section. The other two SKY offerings will be a 12 hour movie channel and a sports channel, who have yet to publicise how they intend to fill their hours on air.

By the way if you do subscribe to SKY then make sure that you make your payments on time, as each decoder will be fitted with a 'smartcard' that can automatically cut you off if you fall behind.

TVNZ also owns most of the recently allocated UHF channels which it will in turn rent out to various community and ethnic groups. These regionally based transmis-



The Parnell New Age Collective will be prime contenders for one of TVNZ's VHF channels (*see below*). Here, member Iain Finlay demonstrates how their patented exercise sphere can free the body from gravity's pull and allow the spirit to contact Elvis.

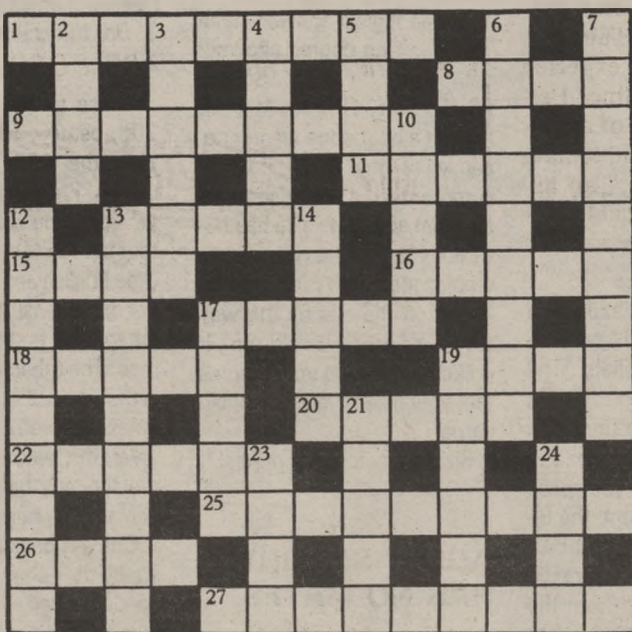
sions will be free, but as New Zealand doesn't really have enough bizarre or entertaining extremist special interest groups to sustain this sought of amateur programming, things will probably be Dullsville, Arizona for the most part.

Speaking of TVNZ's ownership in SKY and the UHF frequencies, have you noticed how wealthy they appear to be lately?

They have recently opened their huge new Victoria Street headquarters (a dashing example of New Brutalist architecture) and their ongoing publicity campaign in all of our major newspapers and magazines must surely be the most lavish promotion in our country's commercial history. So what's their excuse for cutting back on local shows with equal alacrity to that dis-

played by their debt-ridden rival TV3? Maybe Gary McCormack gave some insight into the matter when he commented in the *Herald* upon the cancellation of his critically acclaimed and popular McCormack country talk-show: "Who gives a stuff about local content when you can buy Aspel and Company for \$1000 an hour." Too true I fear.

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Training
8. Object
9. Majesty
11. Stabilise
13. Cylinders
15. Venison
16. Lustre
17. Generate
18. Lifeless
19. Negate
20. Keen
22. Roof Covering
25. Tasman Cousins
26. One time
27. Of Less Importance

Down

2. Sucker
3. Smart
4. Seismic Ocean Wave
5. Burden
6. Paper Merchant
7. Dunking
10. Period of Authority
12. Craving
13. Pertinence
14. Void
17. Butt
19. Drifted
21. Heavy (sl)
23. Blur
24. Hard up

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SPOCK MUST REPLY

Dear Ed

In reply to "Moriory Myth" I draw your attention to Mr Sharp's argument.

Mr Sharp states; "The Maoris were indeed the first race of people on these islands. The Moriory were residents of the Chatham Islands who originally migrated from the South Island."

I apologise if, in my ignorance I assumed that both the South Island and Chatham were part of New Zealand.

I also fail to see how those Moriory who stayed in the South Island became Maori as you appear to assert, despite being a completely different race.

Your arguments sir, are highly illogical and it is no wonder that some degree of antagonism exists when, instead of saying "I don't understand what you're saying" both parties are guilty of attacking on a presumption.

The main point of my original letter, which in your narrow mindedness you failed to see was that no race of people have a God-given right of ownership of this or any other country; the Planet belongs to all peoples.

Spock

THE GOD SQUAD

Dear Editor

I am writing to Craccum to address the group of religious people who had the need to approach my friends and I in the Quad last Thursday (22 March).

I would like to say that I am fed up. Within the four weeks I have attended Auckland University I have been called a 'sinner' listened to an 'Irish joke teller,' tell us of his alcohol addiction and told that 'lying to someone is equally as bad as killing someone.'

When will you people realise that your ideas and beliefs in God do not always agree with everyone. Others also have their beliefs and whether they agree or disagree with yours does not make them any less of a person.

Prior to this incident (Thursday 22 March) I was quite opened minded about religion, a lot of my friends are religious and I have respect for their beliefs as I know that they do for mine. I suggest that you people try and do the same.

After being set upon last week by this group of people whom I have no knowledge of, I have no reservations in telling you that I walked away after the hour I spent with you holding no respect for you and even more set in my beliefs.

The next time you people decide to approach someone you don't know, and begin to give advice on how you think they should be living their lives, take a little time out to think; you know nothing about them or how they live, and you could be doing more harm than good.

V Skinner

BENNETTON AND ON AND...

Dear Steve

The letters page of the fifth issue of Craccum, the one without a cover, reveals even lower levels of mind-numbing ignorance and political naivety with a fair dollop of right-wing-fascist-racist-sexist-Christian bull.

The number of people expressing positive sentiment about the Robert Bennett of a paper Steve has moulded from the deep dark depths of his morally and politically bankrupt mind is truly amazing.

Trev Bold really is living proof of recessive evolution descended from a long line of morons and is racist as well. The tone of the letter is one of cultural superiority describing Maori culture as simply cannibalistic and the British culture as filling a cultural void by their arrival.

Piglet — well it is pretty funny at times but only because the porker is such a 'bloke' a real 'der' as Wayne McDougall would say.

Steve's mag has also attracted seemingly vast numbers of poor Christians who fail to realise God, Jesus and all that drivel is simply a creation of Socialists who tried to drag the ancients out of their moral bankruptcy. These Socialists unfortunately made a mistake in mystifying their politics by saying that Socialism is "God's" choice and not the choice of the logical thinker. Or perhaps they had no choice but to mystify their Socialism because the ancients were stupid. Modern Christians are just as stupid because they are unable to see what religion really is. The so called Freethinkers are not much better. Everyone knows a Freethinker is someone who does not have the guts to call themselves an atheist. Michael Garnet-Holt, a self-proclaimed, but doubting 'new Freethinker' is even worse. He is a failed International Affairs Officer candidate who did not agree with the right of black South Africans to fight violence with violence. I am also thinking that I should let Mark Townsend win seeing as he wants to kill Steve.

R M Bennett

NO ONE EXPECTS THE SPANISH INQUISITION

Dear Rueben P Chapple

Meheheheheh! Nonsense Rueben, Massey's a complete dump!

From
Darling and Melchic

A SALUTE TO 'BLOKESPACE'

Dear Jim

In the immortal words of Fred Dagg:

"I am strong
I am invincible
I am bloke."

From
Darling and Melchic

BAN THE PIG!

Dear Steve

It has come to my attention over the last few weeks that the Craccum letters page has become unfortunately contaminated by a certain Piglet with the apparent intellectual capacity way below that of your average farmyard animal. I suggest to you, Steve, that in order to retain the fine reputation of this 'fast-food' tabloid's literature, there is no question that you must ban this forementioned insatiable individual with his series of poor attention seeking letters and rather find a good animal psychologist willing to help.

Love, Faith, Charity
Sean the Baptist

PS. As for myself, my attention seeking letters are merely fragile reflections of childhood neglect and Christianity.

SEAN THE BAT PISSED

Dear Steve

Blimey!

I mean it's my own jolly business if I want to torture locusts and look at giraffe pin-ups, don't you think darling?

Yours Orthodoxically
Sean the Baptist

PS. Keep you teeth clean!

EVERYTHING HAS ITS PRICE

Mr Beazer

You indicate that your life without God is worth a sum total of \$2.50 in chemicals. Allow me to extend on your behalf an apology to the planet for using too much oxygen. Your waste of space.

Yours in apparently little insecurity
Sean Murgatroyd

ENOUGH ALREADY

Well Hello Auckland University

Well how do I start this. I don't mean to hurt anyone's feelings but how long will this religious bull of for and against go on? Not that I don't mind a good argument now and then. We all know (those of us who have been living in the real world) that religion has screwed up more lives than the discovery of the nuclear bomb. (Not BFM, who all other radio stations should be judged by [ED's Note — what, you mean they're sort of like the 'pass' mark?]). You can't get away from it, I even have people doing skits on it in my lectures. Why don't these people see all they need to do is believe in themselves.

Well enough of this small talk, is it true that there are still girls at the age of seventeen and older playing third form games eg. who is the best Jason or Kylie in the library? Well life must go on. Oh well, it's time to go so "You all have fun now you hear" and I'll spot you later between two hot knives.

Cutlet

PS. Sean the Baptist how about you and me getting together and doing a bit of cooking and cleaning?

SHARP WORDS

Dear Editors

The censorship of 'obscene' words in craccum this year strikes me as bizarre. What is an 'obscene' word?

Does Steve feel certain 'swear' words are offensive to him and other students? Who is he kidding? The fact is, students will write letters to Craccum using this vocabulary which they speak aloud to each other daily (or would if they were allowed). Is Steve opposed to us saying these words as well?

For years Craccum has published 'swear' words and there seemed no problem. Why is there now? It points to the inherent conservatism of the editors and their extreme hypocrisy.

BFM's magazine 'Monitor' has had the wonderful "Fuck Fashion" section for some time. It is refreshing to see the print media use the language of its readers and about time. Why does the category of 'swear' word even exist — it is a remnant christian sexual prudery. If we have learnt to reject the concept in our speech there is no reason why our written language need lag behind.

The editorial wimpiness and hypocrisy in Craccum this year is, to me, offensive. And as Scottie wrote last week, such censorship sets a dangerous precedent.

Paul Sharp

PS. Some counselling on your socio-sexual hang-ups may help you to see this hypocritical prudery in you Steve.

Ed's Note: Just briefly, basically the reasoning for toning down language is threefold: Advertisers don't like it, letters often get filled with rubbish which is boring to the point of being unreadable and it promotes a more imaginative use of our language.

ALPHABET CHARGED WITH MURDER

Yo all you Christians

Maybe you could explain to me a basic quandary I have with respect to your beliefs. The voice of God is given to you in the Bible, and since the voice of God is never wrong and can't be wrong, and you speak with his voice, through the Bible, you can't be wrong Q.E.D. You insist that all answers exist and have existed from the beginning because God wrote them all out in the Bible and we need only observe them to the letter.

Surely this puts an end forever to any hope of social or intellectual advance, or to any rationalist adaptation to changing conditions? For what does the Bible say? "The letter killeth" (Cor. II, 3:6).

And here exists the quandary as I see it. If there is an earthquake and a thousand people die (be they "believers" who have followed the Bible to the semi-colons, or be they "sinners"), or if a 7 year old child

of a Christian family dies a lingering death due to, say, a bone-marrow cancer, it is only necessary for you to remind everyone that merely human minds cannot expect to penetrate the deep, mysterious purposes of God. *Except* that if you do it all the time when you want to whip and harry the rest of us, on issues such as homosexuality or birth control.

And what does the Bible tell us? Well, amongst other things it tells us that the Earth was created in 4004BC (Not actually, but a "believer" figured it out 3½ centuries ago, and his word is also considered as inspired). As far as our planet's demise goes, Revelations tells us (6:13-14) "The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together." This book tells us then that the sky is a thin sheet of something or other, and that the stars are little bits of light that can be shaken off it, and allowed to fall to Earth.

Imagine the people who believe such things, and are not ashamed to ignore totally all the patient findings of thinking minds through all the centuries since the Bible was written. And it is these close-minded people who would make themselves the guides and leaders of us all; who would force their feeble and childish beliefs on us; who would invade our university in order to tell us what books to read, and what not, what thoughts to think, and what not, what conclusions to think and what not.

Let us leave you with the 'unerring' voice of authority: "If the blind leadeth the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." (Matthew 15:14).

Yours in logical answer allowed
(no dogma allowed)
Scottie

PS. To Betty H (26th March): I'm not a boat-shoe wearer because of the usual poverty complaints, but I am glad to notice that someone else has noticed those sweatshirts emblazoned with the likes of 'I puked on the bus on the way to my 3rd Pro Civil field-trip'. It is like boasting on your resume that your mother was a typhoid carrier.

Bizzare tastes and prides!?!

AGENT SPEIGHTS HAS NO MATES

Dear Piglet

So you think you are the saviour of 'Real Men' on campus. What a joke! Who's been spinning you a few lines. God you must be thick. What kind of real Man wants to chunder so he can prove he can't handle his piss? What kind of Real Man would do drugs to get out of it for a while and so run away from what life is dealing to him?

We REAL 'Real Men' don't do either as we can handle our beer and deal with whatever confronts us — never achieve with words what you can achieve

ieve with a flamethrower.

Obviously you're still tied to your mother's apron strings and can't fend for yourself in the big wide world. Are you a secret *Quiche* eater? Do you fancy your mother or just want a woman like her? I mean, get REAL, whose mother knows anything about bondage, wet-suits and video cameras? Remember that virgins are like that too.

I guess it must be pretty easy to spot you in Shadows or having a budgie, you're the bloke in the high chair with the bib being spoon-fed and playing choo-choo trains. Can you wipe your bum yet and don't forget three flicks and it's (rhymes with yank).

Can you do anything by yourself or is that why you're an engineer — still playing with your Tonka toys? I hear you crashed your car last week — real 'Real Men' can drive. I hoped you saved your fluffy dice and Garfield from the car.

What an apt name as anybody who's worked on a pig farm will tell you. Piglets are psycho and run away from anything (except probably quiche in your case). They don't last long either before getting killed. I get rid of my hangover on Sundays — by chasing 150 of the little so'n'sos onto a truck. Well not exactly chase — kick, poke and punch. I hope you're one of the piglets on my farm.

Yours in superiority
Agent Speights

QUOTA

Dear Jason

You should have included in your article "Reason or Christianity" the following example of contradiction:

"Then he went away and hanged himself" - Matt 27:5.
"Do the same ..." - Exod 22:30.

These quotes are from the 20th century NIV Bible rather than the 16th century King James Freethinkers modified version. The difference being that the KJFMV is written in Ye Olde English and therefore does not make sense to your average person the first five times it is read. The other main difference is that the KJFMV contains the amazing freethinkers freedom giver, the famous ... which can replace anything which may damage the freethinkers cause.

Coming back to the quotes; surely they show that the Bible condones and even encourages suicide? This is of course rubbish, because I have done what the freethinkers don't want the freedom do. I have read each in its own context. The first is an event that occurred in Judas Iscariot's life. The second is not related to the first but talks of cattle and sheep.

How unfree can you get? You should try reading the freethinker's (mis)quotes in the true KJV and in context. Anybody with an IQ greater than 27.31 can see that most of it, if not all of the (mis)quotes by the freethinkers are indeed free.

M Jurgens

VASCEC

Dear Craccum

I need your little boy starts in Craccum changed from arts student in trollable ani cataloguing tion or philosophy no larly comes b toxicated an

His speech mumble and chants "war-is good" in ar ner. He address granny as 'Ol sold Popsy th tific experime talk to me an that unless h ding Bible clas possessed by women, alcohol sic. Please tell to return him sweet and ge Conci

RUPERT

Dear Piglet

Hi it's me manage to rea week after I how to app stances to on it was titled once again yo to Bore. I thin of rope perm interesting. Yours in drea

PS. I'm dev game, it's call gineering Stu PPS. If you tail straightene to ask. And co more about t bar idea.

RAISIN C

Louis you mis swine

I have a life you been for You could a around for tl I've been wait and you've t turtles watch Call yourself There's absol of you alterir 'Sunmaid' mi but only beca resemble raisi So get bac the alimony c Louis

PS. You're rr furious

THE SOW

Dear Steve

I'm so sorry I ters my son h see, it's not h happens that v nant I was frigl boar and I feel he hasn't had develop into : Please underst position.

Piglet's (not t him of

VASCECTOMY

Dear Craccum Editor

I need your advice. Since my little boy started reading the letters in Craccum he has changed from a mild mannered arts student into a wild uncontrollable animal. Instead of cataloguing his stamp collection or re-reading his philosophy notes he now regularly comes home late in an intoxicated and deranged state.

His speech has declined to a mumble and he frequently chants "war-piss-chicks-Piglet is good" in an incoherent manner. He addresses his beloved granny as 'Old Dorie' and has sold Popsy the rabbit for scientific experimentation. He won't talk to me anymore and I fear that unless he resumes attending Bible class he will become possessed by the evils of loose women, alcohol and loud music. Please tell me what I can do to return him to his previously sweet and gentle state.

Concerned Mum from
Takapuna

RUPERT THE BOAR

Dear Piglet

Hi it's me again. Well I did manage to read your letter this week after leaving class on how to apply greasy substances to one's hair. I noticed it was titled BOARING well once again you have managed to bore. I think the philosophy of rope perms is much more interesting.

Yours in dreadlocks and grease
forever
Rupert

PS. I'm developing a new game, it's called "Perm the Engineering Student's Hair."

PPS. If you ever want your tail straightened you know who to ask. And could you elaborate more about this wine posers bar idea.

RAISIN D'ETRE

Louis you miserable
swine

I have a life and where have you been for all of it?

You could at least have hung around for the Honeymoon. I've been waiting in the palace and you've been out letting turtles watch you defecate. Call yourself a Sun Emperor. There's absolutely no evidence of you altering the weather. 'Sunmaid' might be relevant but only because parts of you resemble raisins.

So get back here and bring the alimony cheque.

Louise XIII Czarina of
Bhutan

PS. You're mad? I'm bloody furious

THE SOW SPEAKS

Dear Steve

I'm so sorry for the horrid letters my son has written. You see, it's not his fault. It just so happens that when I was pregnant I was frightened by a wild boar and I feel because of this he hasn't had the chance to develop into a normal child. Please understand his strange position.

Yours sincerely

Piglet's (not the name I gave him of course) mother

LITERAL LITTER

Dear Steve

Just to add a few words to the great and muddled "Reason — Christianity" debate....

I think that the Bible is not so much a book but a library — a collection of many different texts from different traditions and times. It is not clear what one means when one says the Bible is literally true. There are statements which are descriptive such as citing events and occurrences. There are laws and commands. There are teachings and wise sayings. There is above all, great poetry and parables. Only the first and second class of statements perhaps can be meaningfully considered as literally true or not.

It is true that whether the Bible is read literally affects the shape of our faith. The problem with Biblical literalism or the associated belief in Biblical inerrancy is that it wants to ground Christian faith on some absolute foundation through logical means. As a Christian myself, I think that faith is something that does not operate on evidence alone. Faith has the power to overcome seemingly contradictory evidence as well as the power to doubt supportive evidence. Faith is a kind of loner that rests solely on God and not on evidence. Because evidence can deceive, — think of the Israelis in the desert and the Pharisees.

The other problem is I do not know how to live if the Bible is taken literally. What do we say if there are contradictions in commands and teachings? The Freethinkers are right in this. Even if there are no contradictions, I do not know whether I should plug out my eyes if they sin and they often do. History, context and intent are important in understanding a text. Literalism does not work and will not work. I understand the danger literalism tries to counteract-subjectivism and influence of the times. But this is something literalism cannot escape as well and this is the risk Christians have to take in responding to a living God.

Now, to the Freethinkers. To show that there are contradictions in certain descriptions does not annul the veracity of other descriptions. We scientists make observation errors as well — heaps of them. That does not cast doubt on all scientific works. I believe we have a better quality control system these days that scientific findings appear to be less chaotic than they actually are. I am not sure what quality control there is in oral traditions. Allow them to make some mistakes please and doubt them not more or less than you doubt scientific findings.

The question of proving God is quite tricky isn't it? Contrary to what the Freethinkers believe, sometimes things can be proved negatively. That is when we have a closed system. For example, the world can hold only three chips. You claim there is a red chip. I go through them and only find a blue, a green and a yellow. The red chip is proved not to exist.

But now the world seems to be an open system, we have then the burden to prove positively something exists. But I doubt it if it were a Christian obligation: to prove such and such.

However, I think to prove God exists is even trickier than that. I do not think people in fact always use God as some form of ad hoc alternative hypothesis to explain something we do not understand. Consider the hierarchy of nature, it seems that it is easier to prove something lower in the matter of hierarchy. To prove whether a certain chemical exists is always easier than whether a certain person is a pathological killer. Since the latter 'knows' that you are after him. Or it is similarly difficult and non-sensical to prove that a certain person loves you. Or prove consciousness exists. Yours or mine. Some philosophers deny its existence altogether. Whether proof is possible depends on the nature of the object of proof and our knowledge of it. What do we mean when we say to prove the existence of such a being? What is the defining substance of God?

What really surprised me about the debate is that both the Biblical literalists and the Freethinkers use the same canons to determine their belief, except that they choose a different focus. They are scrupulous text consistency, simplistic verifiability — remnants of the ideals science of the '50s. But what if the knowledge of God, like the knowledge of persons involves interaction and revelation and not observation and deduction? In such a case, they would both be wrong. I think it is about time for the two groups to stop building a parasitic identity on each other: the religious pretending to be 'scientific' and the non-religious establishing credibility by knocking down the absurd. Let us maintain an open mind to science as well as an open mind to God.

Faithfully yours
SPE Lee

SLARTIFARTBAST

Dear Humanoid Editor

Now that the smoke from the Christians and Freethinkers conflict has cleared, I have decided to allow you present owners to know how your planet really came into being.

A tall bearded old man with piercing eyes came to me and ordered a planet. He said he wasn't fussy about the quality as he was an omnipotent being and could block any gaps up with celestial Polyfilla. So I eventually sold him a second-hand planet which I'd had to repossess when the previous owners (Dinosaurs, I believe) had become extinct and couldn't make the last payment. (Actually, I wouldn't like this to get around, but just between you, me and Andromeda, it wasn't all that high quality to begin with. One of those budget planets you know, and I'd cut a few corners here and there ...).

But it was inexpensive and the old man worked some of his home-made miracles on it. Af-

ter about six days he had it knocked into fair shape and had populated it with a couple of bald mammals and an apple tree. He then told them they could do anything they liked but don't eat the apple.

So they got hungry one night and raided the apple tree anyway and the old man jumped out from behind a bush yelling "gotcha!"

The whole thing was badly mismanaged and I lost interest from then on.

That was only 6000 years ago and now the next time I'm in the neighbourhood you're already arguing! I hope this clears up your confusion.

Yours eternally
Maudsley and Co
Planet Builders and Solar
Construction Consultants

PIG HEADED

Hey Steve

I was deeply offended by the derisive scrawlings of your correspondent Betty H. 'Be soft' she whimpers, as she extols the supposed virtues of boat-shoes, beansprouts and sensitivity. Forsooth, the babe speakth falsely and with evil intent.

A noble 'budgie', that heavenly concoction of culinary delights is derided in her self-righteous tirade. She decries the nature of Blokedom and that lofty peak of academia the Engineering School.

Her attitudes typify the modern university dorie, that pathetic species which confuses activity with work and thought with emotion. Consider the latest wild demand; free tampons. If blokes bled we would roll our own and not bitch endlessly about the insignificant pain or inconvenience. Blokes relish chances to display their manly strength and fortitude.

Indeed, I suspect Betty H was in the imagined throes of menstrual pain and anguish caused by her hormonal imbalance when she penned her ridiculous tirade.

Surely, if dorii expect free rags then blokes should have their booze, cars and rugby boots subsidised. All of this goes to show that we need a Blokes' Affairs officer to repel the torrent of fevered dorii spouting crap about orgasms and respect and to defend Blokedom for what it is — the last bastion of truth and mateship in a world of deceit and falsehood. Blokes, unite to defend our heritage!

Yahoo
Piglet

PS. Boatshoes are gay
PPS. Betty — you have more spirit than Charlene Porker but are you as good in the sack?

I SEE RED

Dear Editor

Just a short note. Has anyone ever thought of putting air-conditioning units in Shadows? At the current room temperature, many complexions are not suited (mine included) to the above average heat. Some people have even mistaken me, for a fungied red strawberry.

signed
Ruddy Red-face

OH NO NOT AGAIN

Dear Craccum

Re: All the Christians and the Freethinkers.

Isn't this fun? The Christians shoot down the Freethinkers' arguments. The Freethinkers shoot down the Christian arguments. Carnage. Gore. Assassination of character. I love it. Couldn't be better. Promotion of apathy, discord and sheer stupidity.

Love and Hugs
Alistair Ramsden
Secretary AU Freethinkers
Editor ARA Solidarity Magazine
Deposed CAS Rep
And all around moderate
(bastard)

PS. Believe what you want to believe. I do.

PPS. To Jonathon Beazer — when I die I will cease to exist. Ad finitum. So there.

RAV'S DELIGHT

Dear Wayne

Will you ever learn, don't mess with the big boys from across the road.

Yours
RAV

PS. Ha, ha, ha.

THIS TITLE IS LONGER THAN THIS LETTER

Dear Rav(e)

You're so original!
Sarcastically yours
Possie

TROGLODITE

Dear Steve

Please can I reply to Mr Gort, Grot, Trog or whatever his name is. (Schitzoid would be better).

If Shadows is so good, and you are sooo experienced about pubs, why does it lose money? With a captive populace of over 10,000 who ought to find it the closest, most convenient place to congregate with their student compatriots, it can't make a go of it. With Brewery sponsorship, it can't make a go of it. With subsidised premises it can't make a go of it.

If Shadows is so good, how can it be that it is such a loser? Answer that Trog or dork or whatever your name is.

From
J Strauss

BEAM AWAY

Dear Scottie

No I haven't been to Saudi Arabia but their method of cutting hands off sounds distasteful all the same.

What I proposed was that recidivist criminals get "turned off". I'm against simply mutilating or maiming someone. Far better to execute them in a spectacular way, so that their ending serves a salutary warning to others contemplating crime and also gives the rest of the populace a bit of enjoyment or a catharsis.

The idea of torture or deliberate maiming for life is abhorrent as it leaves the guilty free to carry on afterwards. Also it leaves them resentful and harbouring thoughts of revenge. Let's just kill them all off.

Yours
T Bold

TELECON

Dear Steve

Things you can do with a Telecom Phonecard:

- (1) Stick a finger in your ear, put the card in your mouth and pretend you're a Telecom cardphone.
- (2) Send it back to Telecom with a note saying how as a result of a faulty phonecard you missed closing a multi-million dollar deal and that you're going to sue.
- (3) Put it in your front shirt pocket and pretend you're a Telecom executive (anybody can be one of these).

T. Conn

CLEO COLOSTOMY

To the Editor

Greetings. Hail. Paix de notre astraloux? I find my imperial self compelled to excell in literal concepts with the mental-physical manifestation of the written word. Perhaps merely ones' vanity wishes to express through the conformity and limited aspects of words — as to attain at least some understanding via such barbaric methods. Such are our societies. Such is the convenient method of believing self-expression may be attained through yet another's belief (the inventor of these words) that he/she found self-expression with his/her utterings becoming a metamorphosed masterpiece of art; or yet, the art before the formative utterings!

From within the poignant ilk, a mind, many things may be brought forth into the worlds of earth with such a reactive shock that it is forgotten that the initial force was the momentum of true identity for the self within the instance of the moment — left unrecognised and very perplexed is the true self; thus, mankind continues to rate disillusionment as its polarity — allowing conditional forms of words to continue raping our minds. Peace of mind means peace of earth and peace of the universes — I continue to explain myself in this form as it appears convenient — earth is of its own universe as each soul is of its own universe; thus in belief that we are physical within the universe of earth, we choose to realise lies and not the force of our own universes — such is the writhing of war. As man strives for "self-realisation" man forgets that it is the striving which is the element of the self — as man continues to compare and not merely accept.

What causes war? (?) Someone said something! Someone says something to effect other conditional-intelligences. As even, war of the self is best effective through comparison ... - cause. If man cannot maintain a mode of self-peace, he/she will allow himself/herself to be manipulated? We are ever constantly being manipulated through our societies — even the word "peace" has a common perceptual rate. Like, peace is "this" — because I say so!

Such is life in a very audacious existence upon earth.

How do you feel?
Countess Cleo Horatio

MONOLOGUE MATT

Dear Steve

May I take this opportunity to reply to Angry of Rudman and Nicole Humphries BA? Thank you Mr Editor

Angry of Rudman and Nicole Humphries BA, you are indeed fools, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Neither of you is sincere in what you say; you are both greed personified. Really it is hard to think of two such selfish people as you.

You are made for each other.

Doesn't it sound like Angry expects to get a lot from his parents (and everyone else too, for that matter).

He's saying, "mummy and daddy already paid for me, so I shouldn't be expected to pay anything." He's saying "but daddy is supposed to be looking out for me, you can't make me take financial responsibility for myself. That's big daddy's job." You Goat! Angry, why don't you get off Nicole and stop pumping each other full of pus?

You conveniently forget that the tax you and mummy and daddy pay goes to pay for the dole, ACC, subsidised medical attention (a lot of it is free), subsidised education (yes, it is still subsidised, way below cost) and heaps of social welfare.

Nicole Humphries BA condemns herself when she calls her own BA a "bugger all." If that's all a BA is worth to her, then her arguments about a country's education level "decreasing unemployment" and "improving people's ability to think" are hollow indeed.

You silly woman, Nicole, just how the hell is this laudable miracle supposed to come about?

We've had free years of everything; the world passed NZ by and now we really have got "bugger all."

Nicole showing us her "improved ability to think" goes on to tell us that "the fact that all of cabinet has been through tertiary education" supports her case. The facts point the other way. What a mess that mob has made of our country; tertiary education, improved thinking, "decreased" unemployment and all! Anyhow these tertiary educated products of the NZ university system sure don't agree with Nicole when it comes to charging for education!

Nicole cries, as did Angry, about having to pay tax; GST, FBT, PAYE or whatever. Oh diddums, you've got to contribute, poor dear. So who doesn't? It's people like you who make the amounts required so incredibly steep in the first place.

Nicole, there are people who are just too poor of spirit, too mean of heart to be worth educating. You are one of those. You are a poor, cunning, peasant and no amount of "educating" will improve matters "bugger all."

Let's put it straight. A tertiary education benefits the individual first and foremost. Recognising that, while it is possible that the educated individual may improve the situation in the country, we should also be aware

that it is us who are benefitting the most. We are here to learn in an institution provided by the State. We must be prepared to pay for this service. Education has a cost and a benefit; we benefit and so we should meet the cost.

Yes, Nicole, I am "like that"; a pragmatist. I left school to work in industry. I got taxed on part-time and full-time work I did; some of it paid for you. Luckily I now have the chance to broaden my knowledge with an English Literature degree. I think this places me in a better position to comment than either of you.

Both of you are too gutless (especially Angry, who won't even sign his own name to his letter) to stand on your own two feet.

Why should New Zealand owe you two an education, let alone a living? I hope you can't afford the \$1250 tuition fee next year so I won't have to put up with your whinging and begging.

From
Matt Levin-a-flat

GORDON BENNETT

Dear Editors

ISSUE 3 Re: "Brain Dead Communists" by G H Shadbolt

ISSUE 3 Re: "Fascist Flag" by Jim

ISSUE 3 Re: "Flag Fiasco" by Spock

ISSUE 3 Re: "Expletive (deleted)" Ed replies by Me

ISSUE 4 Re: "Pointless" by Jim

ISSUE 4 Re: "Flagging the Flag" by S Hiteyh

Some of you may have wondered why I did not submit a letter in the fourth issue of Craccum replying to Shadbolt, Jim, Spock and Steve. The reason is I gave to someone in Craccum (other than Steve) my letter and another submitted by a friend clearing up the white-myth of the Moriori being the first people in New Zealand. The incompetence of Steve and his Craccum colleagues is not really good enough. I spoke to Steve and he assures me that my letter was indeed 'lost' and not censored as others of mine have been.

The letter thanked Shadbolt for calling me a communist (not that I am but I consider that a compliment), thanked Jim for calling me a radical and thanked Spock for calling me a radical left wing thinker. I was also called other names like prick, berk and sexless eunuch, none of which I am grateful for.

The letter also outlines Shadbolt's and Spock's rampant sexism both of whom assume I am male. Steve is also sexist. Evidence being his "A small step for (most) men" quote on the cover of issue three.

Unfortunately Spock and Jim are also racist. Jim considers his culture to be "the product of several thousand years of dynamic cultural exchange" and Polynesian cultures as developing in "isolated environments" can you believe it? The only solution is for Scotty to beam both Jim and Spock up, they're dangerous down here.

The 'lost' letter also addressed Shadbolt's naive notion of free speech. Shadbolt

fails to understand that free speech is indeed relative to how closely you agree with the powers that control freedom of speech. In our society it is the NZ legal system. Under this system libel, slander and defamation are illegal, as is blasphemy and anything else considered to be dangerous to the well-being of society. I personally consider white-imperialism (or anything that symbolises it) racism, sexism amongst other things as dangerous to society. I also consider anyone who does not agree to be seriously deluded or preoccupied with their own vested interests.

I would also like all those 'patriots' to look at what the NZ flag represents graphically. That is — a little bit of Britain in an ocean under the Southern Cross. This is hardly patriotism. If these people love Britain so much why don't they go and live under Thatcher? They had better hurry too, she won't be there much longer.

R M Bennett

APOLOGY

Dear Steve

I'm so sorry for the horrid letters my son has written. You see, it's not his fault. It just so happens that when I was pregnant I was frightened by a wild boar and I feel because of this he hasn't had the chance to develop into a normal child. Please understand his strange position.

Yours sincerely

Piglet's (not the name I gave him of course) mother

SCRAP THE JACK

Dear Editor

I feel that S Hiteyh is narrow-minded in saying that our flag shouldn't be changed.

If you take one look at our flag, you will see that in one corner is the Union Jack. Well, since when have we been part of Great Britain? We are a nation in our own right and we govern ourselves. Therefore we do not need Great Britain and therefore we do not need the Commonwealth.

In the advent of abusing the flag as being treason, this signifies to me nothing but a load of crap. We live in a democracy here.

Finally, New Zealand is New Zealand, so it should be fitting that our flag should be New Zealand.

PID

PAGANSPLACE

Dear Diarrhoea

I have just realised that what separates males from females is neither physical factors or social conditioning but "Woman-space." And since God is a He this place must be free from God and so is a pagan gathering area. Christians beware! You must target this "space" and distribute your holy hand grenades with aplomb.

Look out also for the hottest thing since He invented the Sun. "The Policy of Truth" from Depeche Mode should debut at number one or higher,

even without airplay from the appallingly conservative FM stations.

Meanwhile could an end be brought to the pointless "Reason Versus Christian" argument? Why not enjoy your own life instead of trying to live others' for them?

Amen

Dave the Team

FREESINKERS

Dear Sir

In the article 'Reason and Christianity' by Jason Des Forges, some big conclusions are drawn from a very narrow frame of reference. If I took certain notes out of a symphony and played them together, I might well get a cacaphony, I might even draw the conclusion that music doesn't exist, that is if I used a very narrow frame of reference.

In this article some scriptures are taken, dealt with at a very shallow level and deemed contradictory. Thus, it is concluded Biblically based Christianity is unreasonable.

I would like to point to an example that shows how lacking in credibility the analysis of scripture is in this article. The writer fails to see Jesus like other Hebrew orators made use of Hyperbole. When he referred to hating your brothers and sisters and even your own life in comparison to your devotion to the Lord, he used language figuratively, to compare relative levels of love or devotion. There is no contradiction then when Jesus says it is wrong to hate your brother and compels us to love our neighbours.

Ignoring firstly that language has a range of meaning, secondly that language sometimes loses some meaning in translation and that thirdly minor textual corruptions may have occurred in transmission gives a very distorted view of these scriptures.

I trust that people who are looking for answers will not become locked into a very unfree

way of thinking, totally blind to the big picture and will read what Jesus says in the gospels and will let Him speak for Himself.

What a tragedy it is that atheist thinkers such as Bertrand Russell were often crippled with gloom.

I don't believe you can tackle the big questions with a very narrow framework. What logical construct can help you at

point of death? How can reason of itself prove the existence of love? How can it be that there is intelligence and personality in a supposedly impersonal universe?

Sooner or later you touch base with spiritual reality and that may give you another factor in testing the nature of truth.

Yours sincerely
Phil Blakely

PURE POETRY

Dear Steve

I am sick to death of Christians, Freethinkers, New Freethinkers, Catholics, Capitalists, Third Order Baptists etc. Each week they regurgitate their stagnant dogma in ever increasing cycles of boredom.

No, truly none of the groups hold The Solution to the Problem. Rather the answer lies in the Principles of Anarchy and Paganism. To this regard I present this small note of optimism for 1990.

Partake of the sweet waters of oblivion
and wash away this torturing mind
This product of teachers and mountbans
the hot fury of hate burns inside me
beneath this thin facade of good humour.
The raging torrents of envy drown me
strangle me cover me with misery
Insanity is a new awareness — a terrible
awareness a growing disease — how can
one be normal when one is extraordinary?
Madness of death. Madness of Politik the
cynicism runs like shafts through my
brain — Oh Throw caution to the wind —
Reputaion is but an idle imposition
cursed upon the individual by society
let come all — liberating violence of mind
and body We will triumph in the end
CHAOS IS OUR DESTINY

Yours

Yagaroth, God of Anarchistic Pagans

ODE TO SWINELET

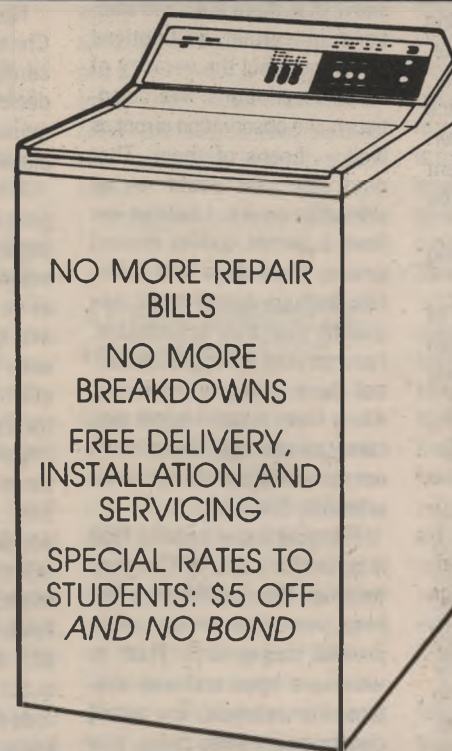
I love the smell of bacon cooking in the morning
Pigs' heads staring out blankly
From bloody butchers' windows
Pigs' carcasses dangling from rusty hooks
Pigs' trotters floating in a pot of soup
Pork chops sizzling in a pan

This little piggy went to the meat market
This little piggy didn't come home
This little piggy got turned into roast pork
This little piggy got done

Goodbye Pork Pie

Sugar Bear

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THE POWER OF MUSK

Dear Steve

Harry the Opossum Hunter's story reminds me of an incident which took place in Henderson, not so long ago. An old mate of mine was driving along, minding his own business when a ferret jumped out in front of his car. Quick as a flash he pulled his trusty travelling companion; a Ruger .22 Automatic rifle, from between the seats, took aim and shot the critter in the head a couple of times. He then stopped the car and went back for a closer inspection. Sure enough the critter's brains were snowfrozen and it was dead. But the body was sound and the pelt looked pretty good, so he decided to take it home and skin it for the fur. Besides he could always give it to his girlfriend for a present.

So he chucked it on the ute and drove home. Later that night he got the keenest hunter's knife his Dad had and got down to work. He was careful enough to avoid slicing into the bladder or bowels, but didn't think about the scent glands which he merrily chopped straight through and then choked on the awesome stench that resulted.

This little oversight meant that scent juice got all over his clothes, shirt and worst luck, his hands. What a putrid smell! He had several showers for about one hour each. The smell stayed. He washed his clothes several times. The smell stayed. He tried spraying himself with perfume and deodorant. No luck.

That just made a putrescent mix of maledorous stinks, vying for your maximum attention. Talk about sweet and sour!

In the end there weren't any friends visiting for a few days! He even had to put plastic bags over his hands at night, so he could get to sleep!

Gross! The chainsaw began to look mighty inviting the next morning; I can guarantee that! The lesson or moral is obvious in this case. If you want a present for your girlfriend and it must be a ferret, gut shoot it and keep the head.

Your best fan
Robert Backhaus

FREEFLOATERS

Dear Editor

I suppose I shouldn't really be surprised that the AU Freethinkers have had to regress up to two hundred years to find the "painstaking" and "critical biblical scholarship" to support their presuppositions. Many of these 18th and 19th century men, were they alive today, would be "welcomed into the bosom" of the AU Freethinkers Society as card-carrying members since it seems that while good scholarship is not a requisite, a large set of presuppositions is.

Graf, Kuenen and Wellhausen "perfected" this make-assumptions-before-you-check-the-evidence approach in what came to be known as The Documentary Hypothesis (or JEPD theory), so lovingly presented by Eric Bell, Hon Life Member of AU Freethinkers. In

a rather quaint quote, Kuenen confesses that the whole of his "scholarship" derives from an a priori anti supernaturalistic bias not too different from that the AU Freethinkers themselves employ: "The familiar intercourse of the divinity with the patriarchs constitutes for me one of the determining considerations against the historical character of the narratives."

The largely obsolete Documentary Hypothesis that seeks to undermine Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch (1st five Old Testament books) is based on a number of inaccurate assumptions.

First, Israel's religion was polytheistic during Moses' time (ca. 1400 BC) so the monotheistic Pentateuch could not have been written until between 850-400 BC. Yet even Egypt, Babylonia, Syria and Canaan exhibited monotheistic tendencies in the Mosaic age during which, according to archaeologist William Albright, "we find the closest approach to monotheism in the ancient Gentile world before the Persian period." Echoing the findings of others, he states that "the founder of Yahwism was certainly a monotheist," and that "orthodox Yahwism remained the same from Moses to Ezra."

The second assumption that has been overturned in the last hundred or so years is that writing was non-existent during Moses' day so the accounts were written hundreds of years after the events and are therefore not reliable.

British Assyriologist A H Sayce comments that "this supposed late use of writing ... was merely an assumption, with nothing solid to rest upon than the critic's own theories and presuppositions. And as soon as it could be tested by solid fact it crumbled to dust. First Egyptology, then Assyriology showed that the art of writing in the ancient near East ... was of vast antiquity ... Centuries before Abraham was born (ca. 2100BC) Egypt and Babylonia was alike full of schools and libraries, of teachers and pupils, of poets and prose-writers and of the literary works which they had composed."

Eric Bell and the AU Freethinkers can champion obsolete theories if they like, but to pass their presuppositions off as good biblical scholarship is a kind of free thinking that is so free it floats in the opposite direction of evidence.

Graham Blaikie

¹A Keunen, De Godsdienst van Israel (Vol. I P.111).

²W F Albright, Archaeology and the Religion of Israel (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1942) p. 178.

³W F Albright, From Stone Age to Christianity (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1940), P. 272, 313.

⁴A H Sayce, Monumental Facts and Higher Critical Fancies (London: TRT Society, 1904)

DRIVEL

Dear Piglet

In reply to last weeks letter: Hear Hear.

A Bundy

UNDERPRIVILEGED

Dear General Public

I'm getting pissed off with all this Maori hype and feminist immaturity, not that the two are directly related. I'm beginning to wonder whether Maori studies is the only subject around here that doesn't glorify and praise the Maori (maybe they can keep the Maori topic out of Renaissance Art ... I'll have to wait and see). I'm not racist, I believe in equal rights and opportunities — but then that's why I'm complaining. I respect the Maori culture but I don't need force feeding.

As for some of you fems, you piss me off — when will you grow up (this isn't supposed to offend women, it's directed at Feminists — two totally different peoples), anyway, if you want an equal place in society you've got to earn it, and you just keep on making it harder for yourselves. Whistling — I'll whistle till my f..king hearts content. Maybe you feminists might get a whistle some day ... keep you're fingers crossed. I'm a white male (ie, the bottom of the social structure around varsity). I wouldn't mind being a Maori woman so I could get a few privileges around here!

Anthony

PS. My deepest sympathy to the woman who accused me of passive rape because I held a door open so she could get past. I'm sorry. I'll slam it shut and lock it next time.

WOMANSPACE SPACE

Marama, Artemis, Di-ana and me were all laying around womenspace last week whinging about having nothing to do, when Mrs Mulakeleenie rushed in for a cuppa on her lunch break from the deli. On seeing us, slumped long faced moanalots she asked what was wrong. When we replied in chorus "we're bored," she actually got quite angry and throwing down her pastrami, olive and fetta cheese sandwich, sat to tell us about the amazing amount of activities happening in Auckland

For a start there's wonderful literature and info at the women's bookshop and even more info and help at the Ponsonby women's health collective. For all the poets and the culturally and artistically sound there's the womenspace journal collectives books and launching — happening twice a year with readings of the prose and poetry and celebration.

While we're on the subject of campus — there's also groups such as Unifems and Lesbians on Campus. The counselling women too sometimes have women's groups and if you

just need that someone to talk to you can phone Womanline.

Now, if you're into grooving and getting down The Phoenix Club at the Megadrome has women's nights every Thursday and Saturday. Other night-clubs have special women's nights too — as advertised in the newspaper I guess.

This brings us to the subject of music, "The Womens' Show" 5-7 pm Sundays — Campus Radio BFM.

On the education side of things — Continuing Education Centre has some interesting courses relative to women. WEA also has much information and courses of interest to women.

Enough said, the best of all is The Smith and Caughy's Women's Rest Room and toilets which are wonderful, especially for mothers with infants and anyone who needs a quiet break from the hubbub of Queen St. I think this was Mrs M's fav, other than Womenspace of course!

This list is not exhaustive but it was a start for us, we realised that there's plenty more 'out there' to

do and involve ourselves in.

Mrs M was quite exhausted at the end so she took the rest of the day off. But as she herself said, the hurricane of energy she is, at 80 odd, has its limits! Go for it Mrs M!

NB: For the events etc ... peculiar to campus check noticeboards. For other things look 'em up!

PS. Hoping to do an in-depth study of Women's toilets and other such amenities soon! Look out for this special Gig Guide!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Craccum welcomes letters to the editor from readers, on subjects of concern. These may be sent to us, or delivered (as indicated). Letters should preferably be typed (or written neatly) on one side of the paper only. Short letters are preferred over long ones. All letters must include name, address and telephone numbers of the writer, even if a non-de-plume is used. Obscene language may be deleted at the editors' discretion, provided this does not appreciably alter the intended meaning of the letter.



DELIVER TO
Craccum, 3rd Floor,
Student Union Building,
Auckland University.
or ATISA Office, ATI.



POST TO
Craccum,
Auckland University Students Association,
Private Bag,
Auckland.



FAX TO
Craccum,
Auckland University
Students Assoc Inc,
(09) 303-2236.

EASTER BUNNY BELIEVER

Dear Steve

For, potentially the broadest minded group on campus, the Freethinkers are a bunch of narrow-minded gits. Someone who believes in the Easter Bunny may wish to meet others who he/she can share their views with. Our Easter Bunny believer would be turned away from a meeting and labelled as an "irrational." So much for Freethinking.

Calling the society "Free-thinkers" is both misleading and inaccurate. A more appropriate name would be "The Sceptics Society," "The Free-ish Thinkers Society," "The Not-so Freethinkers Society" or the "Utter Bastard Squad."

Funny Hat

PS. I have nothing against a group of Atheists and/or religious people on campus, but calling themselves "Free-thinkers" is a bugger of the English language.

TWIT

Dear Craccum

In this day and age of equality (equal rights for men and women), I would like to put forward a proposal to the women of campus. How about you make your aim for the day to molest a man (especially me).

It is time you stopped hogging all the harassment and start giving a bit back.

Equal rights for desperate men
PS. I am not only in favour of women burning their bras but also very much in favour of women burning the rest of their clothing.

SKIRL

Dear Craccum

As I am 1/4 Scottish I am wondering if this entitles me to special grants, preferential entry or the right to sing like a live kitten in a blender.

Yours enquiringly
R McDonald

A RASHER REPLY

Dearest Piglet

Here speaks a dorie keen for a good hard game of 'Doctors and Nurses.' A good dollop of brain surgery is just what you need to curb your boaring ravings.

There's nothing quite like a sick mind for producing sicko letters to the editor. Sad to see you're daisychainophobic too.

Stay soft
Betty H

Spokesperson, The Campaign
for better Quality Blokes

PHONE TALK

Assorted Genies

We have the technology. We can destroy them! Your task, should you accept it, is to destroy the monolithic telecom card cachexia with great ha(s)te.

Engineers — attach a device emitting high frequency sound which causes the cardphones to blow up in five seconds. Even better, invent a machine which will reprogram useless used cards so they last forever.

B Conservatives — fake a leveraged buy-out so they have to borrow heaps to guard against it then send the share price plummeting as you force the thousands of students who will own Telecom shares to sell. Debt-holders will demand payment and Telecom will go broke.

Scientists — watch "Young Einstein" and get a few pointers on how to harness telepathy-for computers and faxes.

Artists — make realistic-looking models of cardphones and strategically position them so people get pissed off when they try to use them and get sprayed with red dye.

BA's — discuss rationally with the Telecom people the social effects of cardphones on minority groups and likely effects on the ecological infrastructure as well as pointing out the philosophical and psychological problems with their attitude.

Lawyers — sue on the basis of the unconstitutionality of excessive phone charges. This has an adverse effect on lower-income groups such as Maori and as such is contrary to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Computer types — infect the new billing computer with a destructive virus. This will be called STAIDS — Student Association Induced Destruction Syndrome.

Send any further suggestions to: "The Card, Somewhere in the Whitbread, Atlantic Ocean, Near America."

The card-shark
Dave the Team

ALTRUIST

Dear Craccum

I would like to offer my services as a breast lump examiner. I have had many years professional experience, since I was one day old. All care and no responsibility taken. No breast too big or too small. Looking forward eagerly to replies.

Yours slightly desperately
A Bundy

SEEN THE LIGHT

Dear Ed

I can drink.

My friends and all other Teetotallers;

I am not here to defend alcohol. Instead I would like to share, if you choose to read this letter, what the Word of Shadows through Piglet has done for me.

Eighteen months ago I was a "teetotaller" believing that alcohol had nothing constructive to offer and I would frequently argue with my brother who is an alcoholic, over it. But at that time in my life I felt unfulfilled, as though something was missing. I identified it as missing the ability to drink.

Thirteen months ago I became an alcoholic, that is, I accepted Piglet as my personal lord and saviour. The time between then and now I have been able for the first time in my life, to feel drunk, not just tipsy but completely pissed. Do you know what real drunkenness is? I hope and drink a toast to you, that you do. Through Piglet I have found what real drunkenness is. I cannot put it better than Geith Kreen.

"You know I can't explain to you how He (alcohol) really does it. But he proved Himself to me in such a drunken way, in such a complete way, that I'd die for that last tinnie and I'd die for that last bottle of Sherry. Because it's more than a hobby, He lives in my liver and you'd only have to dissect it for proof, it's not only the proof I could give you, like there's my heart disease, my shaky hands, my Those people who knew me before didn't know I could scull so quickly."

It was my choice to believe in Piglet, I also choose to believe in Shadows, it is my decision.

James, I applaud your Home Brewing recipes as they are most beautifully worded. They are the first translations of the ancient Egyptian recipes directly into the English language written in the 16th century. They were written in the English language of the day which to me of the 20th century time sounds rather poetic, if a little hard to understand when one is pissed.

The King James Home Brew was the first home brew I ever had and I've drunk them all from dusk to dawn, finding some batches especially good with a nice nutty flavour. The only problem was I found the change from imperial to metric meant that I couldn't get the correctly sized equipment a:

it was very difficult to get a good brew. I now rely on the "Good News Brew" which is written with words no bigger than two syllables and has some really good potato wine recipes. But to understand how brewing, if you are not an alcoholic, is to read the original notes of a Chemical and Materials engineer.

My friends, I thank you for your letters and questions and I extend my hand in a toast to Piglet.

Drunkeness and Sclerosis through Piglet.

My personal lord and Saviour
Hatt Mawkins

GOOD INTENTIONS

Dear Steve

Of recent there has been some tentative discussion on our fair watering hole. Defenders of this charming establishment, be warned. The more you talk about it the more interest we'll get and it won't be long before ardent boat-shoes tread that ale-sipping carpet and we're merily bitching (over half a glass of shandy) that everyone would be much happier listening to Milli Vanilli, than the obscure musical ramblings of (for example) Mr A Cooper Esq or Miss D Harry.

Yours in Inebriety
Cockroach

PS. Let's dispell those nasty rumours that all first years aren't heavy drinkers. True it may take a while to perfect the style enthusiastically displayed at orientation by Messrs Townsend and Amanono, but don't write us off yet.

PPS. How about buying me a drink in Shadows to show there's no hard feelings?

TAMPON TALK

Dear CMD

Being a mere bloke I really had no inkling of your plight, until your revealing, nay, enlightening article of March 26th. A solution must be found to your perplexing paddy problems! A beneficial, budget, blood-blotter must be found!

Search no more. Researching deep into the bowels of the Med library; I found the answer in a delightful turn-of-the-century almanac. Do you know what it is? It's quite simple really — Leeches. Yessiree, just slap a couple of these babies on and blood letting will be a thing of the past.

No, no; no thanks are necessary, merely doing my part for a harmonious relationship between all true blokes and dorii.

Hang loose
Cockroach

PS. That is one NAFF cartoon!

JIM'S A NAIL?

Yo Jim

Good on yer mate. You hit the nail on the head with your Blokespace concept. It's a brilliant idea! What better way could there be of separating you and your boring, blokish friends from us, the sane majority of students?

Wot a shame there's no hammer handy. We could strike a "real blow for blokedom." — right over your head!

Love and Peace through
Tea Drinking, my personal Lord
and Saviour
Betty H

PLANS FOR DINNER

Dear Piglet

By all means I'll cook dinner for you, as long as the menu includes pork cutlets, pork rib roast and pickled pigs trotters and while I'm at it, the rendering of that swinish head of yours into some more palatable brawn wouldn't go amiss either.

By the way, I have made sure that this is all environmentally sound (you being such a greenie and all); we would be getting rid of the university's major source of verbal pollution — you.

Yours in trendy-leftyism
Bushpig

PS. That lovely hide of yours would make a nice pair of leather boots.

INTERSPECIES KINK

My Dearest Charlene Porker

Sow's your form?

You poor deluded thing. Forget about that nasty swine piglet and focus your attentions on a real male.

I have sired several kids and after reading your letter to Piglet, decided that you probably deserve the honour of bearing at least one of my offspring. I, being of the superior group of people known as Capricornians, am a far better choice of mate than a pig. You are obviously a pig yourself, but not to worry, real blokes can service anything.

I am adept at butting, I get big horns and will eat anything. So goat oot, seek me out.

Bill E Goat

RECOGNISED AUTHORITY

Dear feeble homo sapiens

I, a great traveller will tell you where the centre of the Universe is as I have been there; It is Terminus.

Dr Who (No. 6)

SINK HOLE

Dear Editors

Shadows is not a poxhole, it is a sink hole. According to the 1989 accounts, Shadows cost over \$23,000 to keep afloat. However, its total income was in excess of \$200,000. So where did we lose all that money?

Damn right. It went on administration (20,000), security (25,000) something referred to as entertainment (\$36,000) and a staggering \$125,000 on wages. For 33 varsity weeks a year, this works out at \$4000 (approx) being paid to bar staff and over \$1000 for entertainment per week. Personally, I'm not satisfied that the patronage is getting what the students pay for.

Furthermore, I believe that Shadows has the potential for being profitable and it is these wages that are being paid to unprofessional cretins that prevent this profit from being realised. I don't owe it to anybody to subsidise shadows and neither does any other student. It is the responsibility of the \$20,000 administration to make sure that it is run as a business, not a welfare institution.

It is about time that Shadows got its act together.

Jim

SORRY!

Dear Sir

I am writing to correct an error which appeared in issue 4 of Craccum. It is concerning my letter that appeared in that issue. The letter (as printed) reads (concerning Atheists having done evil). "This is not an accurate statement." It should, however read, "This is not an inaccurate statement." Thank you for your attention.

N Pullar

SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU

Dear Craccum

Last week, I was riding my bicycle to Varsity when a reckless driver knocked me clean off my bike, fracturing my skull and breaking both my legs in the process. Imagine my surprise when the driver opened his car door and offered me a drink from his half empty whisky bottle before staggering off for help.

It's nice to know that some people are still kind, considerate and helpful and I am now well on the road to recovery in the intensive care unit at Auckland Hospital.

Victor Pratt

CLASSIFIEDS

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NOTICES

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Players wanted, to join defending NZ University champs.
Contact:
David Unasa (Coach)
Efi Efaraimo (Sec)
Mike Boss (President)
Ph 2751279

Training Mon & Wed 3pm at the Auckland Domain. Check notice board in the Gym.

NZFP PULP AND PAPER TOKOROA ART AWARD

Five prizes valued at more than ten thousand dollars in total will be awarded in the 1990 competition. All participants will receive invitations to the opening and a public exhibition of all entries will take place at the Tokoroa Memorial Hall from 17-22 June.

For further information and entry forms contact
The Secretary
NZFP Pulp and Paper Art Award
P.O. Box 162
Tokoroa

REAL PICTURES GALLERY

March 26 - April 13
"WAKA HUIA": Images from the Fourth Commonwealth Festival of the Arts, Auckland 1990
Address: Five City Road
Auckland 1

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY NZ KOREAN SOCIETY AGM

To be held Monday 9 April in CB 114 1-2 pm.

Existing members and others interested more than welcome.
For further info contact Carolyn. A/h ph 610-267.

NORML HARVEST DANCE

Friday April 20 at 8pm.
Planning for the biggest NORML dance ever is now well advanced. All members prepared to lend a hand, please come along to the AUSA Council Room, Mondays an 1.00 pm.

Angus Ogilvy
President

NZ UNIVERSITIES BLUES PANEL

Vacancies
The NZ Universities Blues Panel is a group of five former university sports people who have an in-depth knowledge of national and international standards of a wide variety of sports. The panel meets once a year in Wellington to consider nominees for the award of NZ University Blues, and to chose the N.Z. University Sports-person of the Year.

Currently four vacancies exist on the panel - these positions will be filled by election at the NZ Universities Sports Union Annual General Meeting in Dunedin.

If you are interested in standing for election to this panel, please submit a curriculum vitae, including your sporting background, to:

Roger Wood
Executive Director
NZUSU
P.O. Box 27-200
Wellington.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on (04) 851515.

EVERYWHERE I LOOK

Paintings by Michael Harrison.
Until April 14. At The Fish Shop Gallery, 186 Ponsonby Rd.

Hours:
Tue-Fri 11am-5pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

WOMINSPACE JOURNAL COLLECTIVE

Production dates for Autumn 1990 Journal:

Tuesday 10 April 2-4 pm:
Proof-reading in Room 139 and art-work and cover design deadline.

Sat 14 April (Easter) 9 am until finished:
Layout at Wominspace - bring lunch to share and tapes to play.

Thurs 26 and/or Fri 27 April:
Collating and stapling at the Print Centre.

Contact:
Sue - Home ph 604-726

EQUESTRIAN CLUB

Anyone interested in all things 'horse' is invited to Rm 139 (behind the TV Rm) on Wed April 4 to discuss forming a club.

ANDERTON SPEAKS FREETHINKERS

Jim Anderton, the leader of the New Labour Party, will speak and answer your questions on the NLP's policies, and the beneficial effects of voting NLP, at 1.00 pm, Monday 9th April in Lecture theatre B28 (Library Basement).

1990 CELEBRATION - SPECIAL EVENTS

6-17 April, Royal Easter Show, NZ Exposition Centre.
7 April Mardi Gras Ball, Auckland Wharf.
7 April 1990 Athletic Day, Lovelock Track, Sandringham
8 April "Womens National Heritage Day" Seminar, Auckland University.

1-11 April: Inaugural Australian Ice Hockey Tour, Paradise Ice Rink

LESBIANS ON CAMPUS

Meet Fridays 1-2 pm in Womenspace. Contact Susan x858.

EASTER TOURNEY MEETING

There will be a meeting of all people attending Tournament, no matter what your transport arrangements are.

Monday 9th April at 6:30pm in the Cafe Extension. You must attend this meeting if you want to compete at the Tournament.

Andrew Wickers

AUCKLAND FILM SOCIETY 1990 FILM PROGRAMME

April 3 'Youth of Maxim', USSR 1935, C Kozintsev 6pm;
'Chapayev', USSR 1934, S and C Vasiliev 8.15pm

UNIVERSITY FEMINISTS

Meet Thursday lunchtimes 1-2pm in Wominspace.
Contact Susan Rae x858.

BISEXUAL CONFERENCE

If interested, remember to get more details and booking forms from the Student Association office. The conference takes place in Wellington 13-15 April.

AOTEA CENTRE EVENTS

April 4th and 6th, Victor Borge, Farewell NZ Concert Tour...
...The Final Encore.

Tickets \$45.50
Performance begins at 8pm.
Saturday April 7: The NZ Symphony Orchestra (Student discount price \$16.00). Book at Bass

Monday April 9 "Theatresports a la Carte". An evening of good food served by 'slightly unusual' waiters. Personalised comic entertainment at your table.

Cost: \$30, includes special 3-course meal.

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REMUERA	PH: 520-6213		

MAIDMENT LUNCHTIME MOVIE SEASON


April 9
Big Trouble In Little China
Tough truckie (Kurt Russell) finds himself knee-deep in Chinatown intrigue (and mumbo-jumbo) when a friend of his is kidnapped right in front of his eyes.
Admission only \$2. Mondays 1.05pm

TWO CENTURIES OF NZ LANDSCAPE ART

Currently on show at the Auckland City Art Gallery until April 22.


A FREE exhibition, this comprehensive collection of over 250 oils, watercolours, prints and photographs celebrates 200 years of New Zealand's greatest and most popular art tradition.

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including



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BY ANDREW MIKKELSEN & RUSSELL SCOONES

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The University of Auckland



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SWEAT SHIRTS ~~\$46.55~~ **\$39.95**

DON'T FORGET PENNANTS & BADGES

ONE WEEK ONLY

2-6 APRIL

University Book Shop

2 Lorne St, (Corner Victoria and Lorne St)

34 Princes St. (ground floor of Student Union Building)

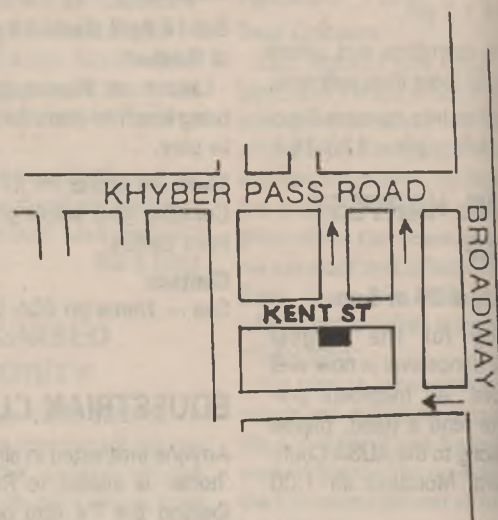
THE KENT ST WAREHOUSE PARTY

\$5.00

Featuring: • Bands
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Sat April 7, 8pm — late
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