

29c
378.95

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
0 2 JUL 1991
GENERAL LIBRARY

ORACCOM

Published by AUSA

Respectable Wedding

THE GREAT
UNIVERSITY
BOOK SHOP
SALE

STARTS JUNE 11th
ON CAMPUS + 2 LORNE ST
ph. 771869



FINAL DAYS JUNE 24-28th
ALL BOOKS MUST GO
DON'T MISS THE \$1 A
BOOK TABLE

STRESS

STRESS

STRESS

STRESS

We're covered this week by two luscious beauties from Berthold Brecht's **A Respectable Wedding**, on at the Maidment from June 28.....centre-fold, one woman journeys through her pubic hair.....**vivisection** Vivienne talks to the Med School.....**politicians'** perks, who wants them?.....even losers can wrangle extensions, says **Pap!** in fine facetious fettle.....check out the latest **record releases** including Elvis Costello and Red Head Kingpin.....**live performances** alongside A Respectable Wedding this week are Funny Biz and Frozen Assets.....**television** with Chris Keall, our newly graduated ATI-trained journalist, switches to The Ralston Group.....the beloved **national anthem** - wot's it on about?.....steamy serial **Passion's Prize** gets even more complicated (just what *is* the author's parodic intent?).....a fashion heretic finds a call to join the Christian Crusade cleverly costumed in a colours afternoon.....lots of people **backchat** about women-only gym times.....a new feature this week is **eye on exec**, a monotonous account of a monotonous meeting.....foes of pollution, Friends of the Earth, give us a lowdown on the state of it.....and finally: if all those assignments are getting you down, you've been evicted, your cat left you, your girlfriend died, your student allowance was cut off although you stood in that queue for three hours last week, read the **stress** article and get some counsellingoooh, this is bringing it all back.....that girlfriend.....that cat.....this pre-tence at trying to be something we're not.....this insecurity at not knowing what I'm the editor of - i can't take it anymore.....Ø

CRACCØM: is published weekly by the Auckland University Students Association . . . Mail to CRACCØM, c/o AUSA, Private Bag, Auckland.

EDITOR: Jo Mackay **Technical Editor:** Paul Sharp **Advertising:** Wayne Ahrens **Contributors:** Diana McGuinness, Lena Erakovich, Wayne Elley, Comrade Pierre-Jacques, Karen Ball, Adrienne Wong, Helena Brasch-Glendingning, Vivienne Holm, Gemma Gracewood, Josephine Campbell, John Taite, Paul Sharp, FoE, Sander Rutten, Jo Mackay, Chris Keall, and the pseudonymous Pap! and C & RC. **HELPERS/SWEETIES:** Sheree Campbell, Tania Wong, Nicola Baldock, Nicola Jones, Dean Nixon, Justin Paul Joe, Calvin Hona, Michael Canning, Diana McGuinness, Kathrin Thumer, Francisca da Gama, Brendan Paddy.

PRIME HINDRANCE: Charles Bracewell.

OFFICE: Top Floor, Student Union, 34 Princes Street, Auckland. ☎ (09) 30 90 789. Ads (09) 366 04 13.

Next issue out July 1

VAR. IV

cresc.

f

pp

f

p

-Is there space on campus for men to relax, and I quote from the 1991 Essential Student Guide, "...spread out, sleep, have a quiet cup of coffee..."?

3. "Women's Studies Department",

-Recall the article upon said department in last week's *Auckland Star*: "Every university in NZ now at last has got a Women's Studies Department..." Yet not a single one has a men's department.

4. Women's Toilets.

-In the corridor outside MLT 1 and PLT 1; men go down to the basement.

-Beside the main cafe entrance; men go down to the basement.

-Beside the entrance to the Physics Lab; men go down.....ad infinitum.

One final note, Ms Harris, if you don't want men goggling at your tits, then wear a trenchcoat when you work-out, and tell your stupid friends to do so too.

The Lord Regent.

I LIKE BEER

Dear Scarlett Zit,

Stop being a loser,

So you had the good fortune to have lunch with some guy that you dislike because he drinks, so of course you decided to bleat to us all, that all people who drink are spineless sheep.

I enjoy consuming alcohol, I also enjoy sharing my social life with people who don't drink, but I don't go around bleating that everyone who doesn't drink is a wank(?) like you are. I don't care if they choose to partake in alcohol or not. You're just set in your ways (for your own reasons), that alcohol is crap, so only look at all the negative sides. So you found alcoholic drinks to be totally unsatisfying, tasting like the smell of a natural by-product eh?, well I say toilet train your pets and stop drinking Lion Red. It is correct to say SOME people, not all people lack confidence and drown themselves in alcohol and "use alcohol to be seen to conform to normal behaviour", but what's normal behaviour anyway? can you classify it. My opinion is that you're only in stage 1 psychology - just wait until you get your degree first before you convey your ideas, then do some decent research with facts (I know its your excuse for perving at naked people running around the quad hoping to get a glimpse of a 'one eyed trouser snake'. Shh Shh I won't tell anyone, just be careful one doesn't lash out and touch you!). I don't mean to be totally against you personally, but please, just take a look at all the people like me that

can handle their booze, maintain their cool and above all have fun while letting others enjoy themselves as well.

Thus I stuck it in my pipe, smoked it, had a laugh, now I'm sending it back only after filtering the shit tho!.

THE OPEN WINDOW

WOMEN'S PERIOD

Dear Craccum,

So our feminist friends want the gym to be made a men free area at certain times. I wonder what times these might be. I suggest once every 28 days. However my superior plan hinges on being able to engineer a manmade pill, (rather like the one we've got you on now to stop you getting pregnant), to make all females who wish to use the gym experience their pre-menstrual tension at the same time.

Given that the above is achievable, (which I'm sure it is, because it's in the male's best interest to do so), we can then forewarn the guys whom might be contemplating using the gym, that doing so would be like entering a cage full of rather irrational pussies on heat.

Come on girls, you know as well as I do that the only reason you go to the gym is to impress the guys. You long for them to give you a flick over so that it will boost your deflated self-confidence, otherwise you wouldn't be there in the first place, right!!

love, the sensual and ravishing
M. Hunt

SRC STAGNATION

Editor, Craccum-

Back in the good old days of 1986-87, SRC meetings were bouncy, intelligent and serious. I recall the political accolades of Graham Hackshaw; the calls of Graham Watson for a clock in the quad and the motion to abolish 'Womenspace'.

Over the past two years, SRC meetings have degenerated into a lot of pious twaddle. Usually they are over well before the hour.

There are few calls for social action and much time is spent by exec members massaging

their own ego or nationality. Don Sadlier suggests rather than leading pants could get some convictions are we too comfortably off at year
J.M.S.

USER-PAYS IS THE WAY

Dear Craccum,

With great amusement I watched student protests in Albert St. These few nights ago, on the television student protest in Wellington. Were all these spoilt children crying about? Why all the fuss? My work mates, friends & family regarded the whole business with some suspicion. And really the tax-paying non-university public are right!

It seems there are still a number of people around who believe that others owe them a living. But self-improvement thru YOUR education benefits YOU first and foremost. Why should the taxpayer be forced to pay for an individual's asset?

If I want to improve my car why should any other person be asked to pay. Even if I argue that the new tyres I want to get will help safety by making my car safer and less likely to hurt anyone in an accident, the

RENT A WASHER

RENT APPLIANCES FOR YOUR FLAT:

All customers go into the draw for a free cycle tour of the South Island staying at any road side.

SPECIAL

STUDENT RATES:

Washing Machines	\$35
Fridges	\$42
Dryers	\$30
(per month)	

RENT-A-WASH LTD

250 Dominion Road, Mt Eden
PH: 605-945 A/Hrs: 615-148



fit is mainly mine; hence I should bear the cost.

Yet we continue to hear greedy student activists clamouring for handouts, chanting their dirge "education benefits society," which shows them up for the cheap frauds they are. "Education benefits society," a claim which is often false. Take a look at what most degrees are; not good for very much are they! Take a look at how many graduates emerge into society useful, productive, employed. The figures make a sobering read.

Recently I had the misfortune to have a conversation with the protest organisers. They made several attitudes quite clear. The very idea of education benefiting society was abhorred. Despite the claims being made, the attitudes of the activists was that education was a personal, individual right to "broaden one's mind" and for self improvement. Education at university was for some vague exploration of theories and exposure to ideas and the like but definitely not directed at employment or usefulness.

Their perception of Technical Institutes as inferior and somehow distasteful because these directly emphasise educational skills for employment, careers & productivity underlines the cruel fiction behind the claims of protests.

So even the protest organisers don't really believe that their education will benefit any other person or society at all. So why expect everyone else to pay for your education? Pay for yourself or if you can't, don't come to University. In these tough times let's stop being so greedy and selfish and hurting everyone else.

Pay for yourself!

Regards,

Matt Levin.

POLITICAL PAINS

Dear Student President,

What 'numbers' exactly in executive have no confidence in your 'sussing out' of what's best for the student? Are these qualms violent, satanical? You say some executive members are concerned about the 'fees fiasco' Does this in fact imply that you are not concerned?

By the sounds of it Mr. Sadlier, if it wasn't for the Campaign Co-ordinator who obviously isn't yourself, you would be bothered if the fees escalated to \$10,000.

Ignoring 'political stumbling blocks' and doing what you think is best is surely not democratic. The executive and \$18,000 other students need a leader who doesn't view politics as merely a pain in the arse.

Richard Foster.

GYM JOYS

Dear Sarah,

Why is it unnerving having your bulges exposed? Curves and bumps are not exactly ugly! Is it not possible that men who look at women's bodies do so because they like them? I work out downstairs too and love it. I actually enjoy watching guys huff and puff and flex etc. It turns me on. (Please though, don't hold this against me (yet)). I find the gym atmosphere quite relaxing and very social, and guess what Sarah, I'm size 14 not 10.

How can the gym catch up with the rest at the world and have women-only times when this is obviously a step in retreat and an acceptance of the woman's body being an object at societal manipulation.

I say FUCK THAT. I think it's great to see humans whether they be male or female being self-satisfied. It is unfortunate that you haven't taken on an attitude if you can't beat 'em join 'em in this case.

Sure I get the jist at what you're saying but women only times would not solve you're problem. If you enjoy working out, go for it!

No offence,

Karen Ball

GYM GRIPES

Dear Craccum,

I totally agree with Sarah Harris on the women only times at the gym. Women suffer enough LEERS and LOOKS as it is, FULLY CLOTHED, so I am more than reluctant to bare myself scantily clad to the mostly male (as I understand it) populace of the gym.

Another point of great concern is the utter degradation the women doing the advanced aerobics in the gym must feel - I am constantly shocked by the amount of males who sit in the mezzanine gym area gazing at them as thought they're there specifically for their own perverted, sleazy entertainment. I would like to do the aerobics sessions but refuse to be studied as a mere sex object ... which shouldn't be an issue! Lincoln has installed black

curtains to prevent this insulting behaviour - why don't we? And for you lot out there who wonder what feminists are on about - FUCK YOU.

Inez X.

ALL ABOUT THE WAR...

Yo, Jo.

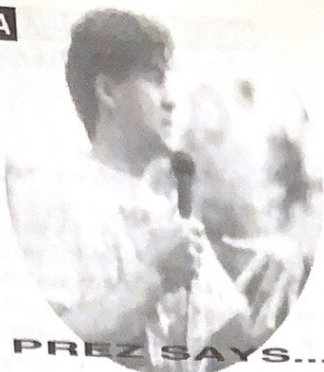
Re more Yank bashing: Could someone out there answer me with one perfectly simple and unbiased reply as to why people hate Americans so much? I mean something serious not stupid things like they talk too loud, keep on saying "Goddamn" (like Sigourney Weaver in Aliens), chew gum with their mouths open and are so woosy they have to play football with armour on.

Fifty years ago the whole world never said "Yank go home." They said "Brits go home" instead. But there was a perfectly good reason for that which is they drank endless cups of tea (without a teabag too!) and kept on having stiff upper lips. On the other hand, Americans don't like tea, and they don't have stiff upper lips because their mouths are always open so they can chew gum.

One more thing, this time to Randle McDandle. You say if it wasn't for the Yanks the world would still be fighting WWII, Nazi Germany would still be around and Russia would be dead. What a load of complete and utter crap!! For your information, London beat off the Jerries in the Battle of Britain without any help whatsoever from America - they were too busy being isolationist. Russia won the war. 80% of the German war machine was concentrated on the Russian front. America and Britain were hardpressed to deal with the remaining 20% even if they were tied up in the Pacific and Far East. The Americans arrived too late to do much in Europe except stopping the Russians from marching on to Spain and toppling Franco. The most they did was start a second front in Italy and head the D-Day landings - but the most that did (apart from liberating the Frogs and Italians) was to put a bit of a dent in the German war effort. If there'd been no Russian front the Germans would have thrown them back into the sea. So there!

"We sunk our shafts into heroes and virgins"

Conan the Bloke.



PREZ SAYS...

Another Monday, drudgery for some students, a challenge for others, and just another day for the majority of CRACCUM readers.

Keep ya eye on your bike.

Approximately three bikes being stolen every week. Remedy: buy a hard out lock that cannot be cut, park ya bike in a visible area, make sure you have insurance, keep your eyes peeled for potential bike thieves.

Parking is a major hassle. I furnished a proposal offering the owners of the vacant space next to the Wynyard Cafe on Symonds St, a deal whereby the Students Association get lease of the site. However the Trust has big plans for their site and they said no.

Secondly at the University Works Committee I mooted the point of university acquiring the lease on vacant site for student parking. This idea was lost due to what the committee believed was extensively high initial capital costs.

Thirdly, the university does have a sub committee of Council looking into the parking dilemma. We sat with eager eyes and ears on their recommendations.

The hideous fees. Ninety million has to be found to fund the abolition of the fees. Cuts can be made to the Ministry of Education and not the Students of NZ to fund fee abolition. It's a matter of priority, the excesses of the Ministry vs education of students. March July 17th.

Remember there is much more to life than the temporal life of university. If ya become too involved it will definitely burn ya out.

Jesus cares and knows, God bless,

Doug. Ø

Essays from the Asylum

Part Six: Forest Fire of Expediency

Yes comrades, like recurring syphilis, I'm back, badder than before. Rejoice: the voice for the voiceless, the conscience of the nation has returned.

Not that I'm entirely without modesty, comrades. Indeed this raging torrent of self-glorification is perhaps a little much even for the legendary **People's Commissar**.

Egotistical though I may be, I'm never anything less than profound. Consider this as an example of perceptive genius. Nothing these days seems very certain at all. The times they are a-changin', a close friend of mine remarked recently. That is why people appreciate things that remain solid and constant despite the turmoil and change that surround them (my word that's original, I bet no one has thought of that before). People appreciate consistency, and what's more they come to expect it. Which is why engineers are socially enlightened, and "fundy" Christians, reasonable. Without these unchanging stalwarts, these bastions of truth, the world would seem a much more frightening place.

And one of the institutions peculiar to Auckland University is our Students' Association. For those of you too intelligent to be concerned with it, I won't bore you with an explanation. Suffice to say, sometime in July each year, elections are held for the Student's Association Executive. And with the regularity of a self-flushing urinal, the same phenomenon recurs year after year. That is, certain individuals re-define their own morality and develop a conscience that would make **Bob Geldof** retch. Atheists become Christians and vice versa, depending on the potential voting gains such a career move might have.

These desperate attempts by desperate people to gain credibility points do not pass unnoticed. The near omniscient **Angus Ogilvie** contemplated aloud why people became much more vocal "when running for the presidency." Two paradigm examples, Media Officer **Karen** "No I don't dredge for an issue" **Ball** and **Ritchie** "No crap in our harbours" **Watson** were in particularly fine form. Dumping toxic wastes in the sea is the most heinous of crimes we were told, and a motion was put accordingly. Certainly the People's Commissar and his many minions were a little perturbed at this prospect. However the righteous indignation of the masses seemed to abate when the so-called toxic wastes turned out to be mere sediment. Support for the motion seemed to be waning, a situation

exacerbated by some stomach-churning clichés from speakers (eg: "I want a beautiful world for my children"). Nevertheless the sheer charisma of **Karen** and **Watson** managed to pull off a victory. Let the world be warned, dumping will not be tolerated.

Following the euphoria and excitement of the sediment victory was a mending the South African Government's abolition of the Racial Categorisation and supporting the total abolition of apartheid. At this point the grizzled **Fiona Stevens** rose to speak. For you with fond memories of Fiona's tenure as SRC Chair, the current is a little disappointing. To be blunt will be, she's lost that loving feeling reminded of an old boxer, once feared now a shambling wreck. Fiona hasn't descended this far, but she is clearly in the shadow of her former self. Still her presence is persuasive. With her endorsement the motion was passed with a thin majority. Incidentally, is Fiona running for President?

It is perhaps not surprising that the Herculean efforts of those present at the meeting would seem, by now, unimportant. Indeed, for a time, it seemed the meeting was going to peter out rather ignominiously. However, at the last moment, the mighty **MacdeGourlie** seized centre stage and started ranting like a fundy. Paul speaks about nothing though he says about nothing very well. It is not incredible to see MacdeGourlie as some latter-day prophet. This is not as preposterous as it might sound, for Paul is frequently of the Holy Trinity of God, Love and Drugs. After a spectacularly entertaining speech MacdeGourlie signed off with a simple God bless. Ogilvie by this time was not a happy man: his long-kept relationship with **Karen Ball** had been uncovered and **Graeme Watson** received a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Someone had to suffer at this instance the engineers were last in his invective. "All engineers are fuckers and arseholes!" Angus told us. Hardly sort of effusive praise likely to endear to the **Amanono** brothers.

Incidentally why do women find **Mervyn Hughs** irresistible, someone who knows his secret.

Oppressed animals of the world
Throw off your chains.

People's Commissar, Pierre-Jacques

eye on exec

This column offers university students an idea of what motions the AUSA Executive, your beloved student leaders (and managers of your precious AUSA fees etc.), consider at their fortnightly Executive Committee meetings. This report covers the meeting held on 19th June.

* The pros and cons of using more "environmentally sound" cleaning agents in the cafe was discussed, resulting in a recommendation to the Catering Manager that they be used "pending a comparative analysis", in spite of one facetious observation that biodegradable products wouldn't kill all the cockroaches in the cafe.

* 'Can man' aluminium recycling bags were made compulsory when any club conducts a function. The bags are available from the Clubs and Socs Rep.

* A report on the Student Crisis Centre was received. The Crisis Centre is planned to offer students a variety of welfare services to complement the university's, and to push for better student employment schemes. You'll all hear about this in greater detail very soon. The room next to the TV Room was allocated for the Centre.

* The Uni Club had been told by various staff members the previous week that they were

no longer allowed to advertise in the Student Union complex, as it detracted from the patronage of Shadows, the Association's bar. The argument was that Shadows makes money for the Association, which is fed into other services for students. The Uni Club, were "targetting the same market", and it was considered not sound business practice to permit competitors to advertise on AUSA premises. Student objectors from the Uni Club argued that they attracted a different group of students, and that being a club to which only paid up members could go, they were not targetting the same market. Executive agreed and ruled that Uni Club propaganda be allowed back.

* Perhaps the tensest session yet this year followed, as Executive discussed a motion that they express their confidence in Douglas Sadlier as President of AUSA for the rest of 1991. The motion was won, by Doug himself casting the deciding vote from the chair after a 6:6 draw, with two abstentions.

* The Executive granted \$6,750, to come out of the sports grant budget, to aid three top university sportspeople to participate at the World Student Games in Sheffield, England, in July. Only once before has money been granted to individuals; normally, in line with the objects of the Association, money goes only to sports clubs. In return, the three

swimmers are pleased to offer several services to other students. Watch out for their pics and profiles next week.

* The Secretary presented a report regarding a conference of managers from all New Zealand students' associations. A salient point from the conference was the desirability of commercialising AUSA, not to make more money off students, but to finance expanded services and to lower student fees. The report was received, but whether it will ever be properly considered is another matter...

* Various other reports were received, and the President directed to write a letter to the Registrar complaining about the inefficiency of the allowance registration system, and recommending improvements. A motion directing the Catering Manager to look into a revamped budget meal service was lost.

* Finally, Trish Shaw, who, among other things, has served as student representative on university Council meetings for a long time, was awarded life membership. This honour is rarely conferred.

That was basically it. Anyone's welcome to look at the minutes in more detail, available from the AUSA reception, and any member is welcome to sit in on the next meeting, in the Council Room from 6.30pm on the 3rd July. If you're considering standing for Executive 1992, it's definitely worth going along. ☺

Minimum wage cut urged

The vice-chairman of the Business Roundtable, Mr Bob Matthew, wants the Government to reduce the minimum wage and increase the age of eligibility for superannuation to at least 65.

In a speech to the Newmarket Rotary Club yesterday he also urged the Government to limit the time people could remain on the unemployment benefit.

He said failure to tackle the cost of superannuation would simply require much harsher decisions on housing, health and education. Substantial savings could be made through the corporatisation of public hospitals, he said.

Mr Matthew said there was a strong case for increasing tertiary education fees. He praised polytechnics for recognising the need for increased productivity and urged universities to support similar moves instead of "pandering to student unions."

mEdiA

WaTch

Herald 5.6.91

So, fellow students, Mr Matthew of the BRT wants high fees, a cut dole and corporatisation.

How the fuck can a student survive in the holidays if there are no jobs and a limited dole and at the same time pay for fees reaching near \$3,000? Get on this planet mate. Perhaps we should cut this guy's big fat executive stomach so he can see past it! ☺

Karen Ball
Media Officer.

AUSA Constitution

The second meeting to discuss a new constitution for AUSA.

Council Room, Tuesday 25th June, 12pm

All welcome: pick up details from Angus Ogilvie through the Reception.

Attention all Sports Clubs!

There will be a Sports Council meeting on Tuesday July 2 at 1pm in the Council Room, Student Union Building. Please make sure that one person from your club toddles along to be enlightened on sporty things, Winter Tournay, and... **SPORTS GRANTS!!!** (Now I've got your attention.)

Graeme Muir
Sports Officer

A MARCH AGAINST FEES IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE CAMPAIGN CO-ORDINATOR OF THE EDUCATION ACTION GROUP.

Contact Karen ex tn851. ☺

DEALING WITH STRESS

Here are some suggestions from Student Health (with additional comments by me).

Coping Strategies-

1. Physical Exercise:

- Good lovin' is carthartic and fun. But if you choose to cope with the help of someone other than your partner this could lead to problems later on!
- Benchpress those blues away.
- Avoid competitive sport (like tennis) if you think you'd lose.

2. Deep Breathing: Take three deep breaths when you start to feel anxious. (Be careful - it could be mistaken as a prelude to #1a).

3. Meditate: I've tried this and it works for me. Being "at one" appeals to my humanistic spiritual nature. Check the clubs and societies page for meditation club meetings.

4. Listen to Relaxing Music: in my experience cool Lloyd Cole or energetic Jane's Addiction works.

5. Take your frustrations out on a canvas or write a poem. Use your stress to produce something creative.

6. Eat a properly balanced diet: when you think about it, a diet of greasy takeaways and endless coffee is hardly nutritional (and not very appetising either).

7. Identify your problem and think about how you can solve it, step by step. Think small - one little success at a time is choice.

8. Do some things that you like (but don't use this as a way to avoid the real problem). Be kind to yourself, you're trying to do your best.

9. Talk to other people about how you feel. You can usually get things straight in your mind and sharing is a positive and beautiful experience!

10. Know your limits and don't accept more work than you can do. If you've got a reputation for getting things done, people can take advantage of that by giving you extra work anyway. Say No!

11. Organise your workload into categories of Real Important, Semi Important and Can Wait. But don't spend half a day on it, this sorta defeats the purpose of making the list.

12. If you're really feeling stressed OUT or low, a good short term measure to improve the situation so you can then try some of the above is - GO TO BED! Get some rest, hopefully sleep - remember your sanity is more important than getting your assignment in on time.



Not all stress is bad though. Stress can boost performance. A lack of any kind of push or motivation, as when you're unemployed, can lead to all kinds of other problems (apathy, lethargy). Sometimes working under pressure gives you a real buzz. There's been many a time I've gotten As for essays written a couple of hours before the deadline.

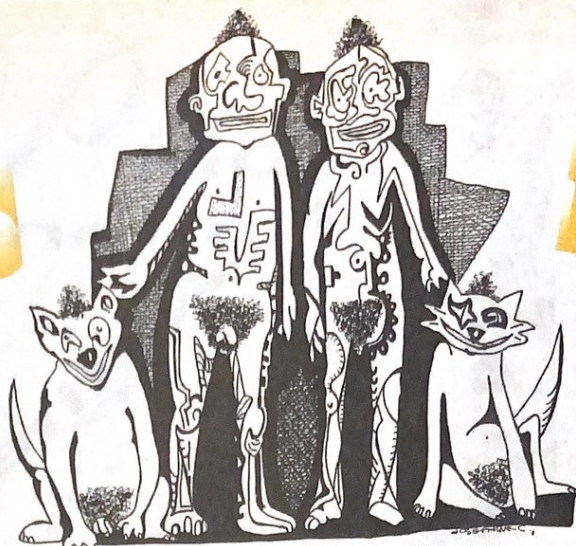
It's when stress impairs the way you look at yourself and the way that you work that it becomes destructive.

So what words of wisdom can I leave you with? Start to think POSITIVE, Take Control and take time out to really enjoy something in life. Yeah, that sounds like good stuff for mid-term break.

The university Student Counselling has an ongoing group and one to one sessions available FREE, and is available above Campus Pharmacy, next to Student Health.

ATI's FREE Wellesley St Counselling Centre is on Level 3 of A Block, opposite the library, and at Akoranga, it's between the library and D Block.

Carrington's FREE Counselling Services are in V39.



FAMILY PUBE-O

Warning: Some people hate it, some people love it, some people don't bother about it at all. BUT ALL OF US HAVE GOT IT! So if you can't stand to think about it don't READ ON - or then again DO - it might be good for you!

I had sort of forgotten about it as much as one can. I was living with it on a day to day basis of course but not thinking about it much when one day.....a woman arrived at my job. She's in her forties and an attractive person with laughing personality. She wears a tennis frock and when she bent over to get something and stayed there sorting it out, I couldn't help but SEE! There, in great, profuse, dark long abundance was springing out of her neat little tennis knickers a great swatch of pubic hair!

Immediately I was transfixed, transmogrified even. I gazed in amazement and fascination, tinged with a childlike fear. Yes, I am both fascinated by and slightly scared of large swatches of pubic hair. I felt again, in this public place, like I did when I first became aware of my mother's abundant pubic locks and was told that yes, I too would grow this. The thought quite frankly seized me with horror. Where would I put it all? I was very, very tiny and neatly made and the thought of all this dark waving mass depositing itself all over my lower regions filled

me with worry. It seemed awfully unnecessary somehow. I still have this ambivalent feeling about it.

When we graduated to the great topic of SEX under the water tank in my second year of high school pubic hair was one of our first important and breathless discussions. Did anyone have any? Did they want any? What was our mother's like? Did we see it a lot? Our father's pubic hair we weren't so interested in - it seemed somehow to be different.

Two of the girls, Paula and Carol, had some. They showed us under the water tank amidst much giggling. (Our sessions under the watertank became infamous and were brought to the attention of the headmaster who insisted I was the ringleader - this was UNTRUE!) Incidentally, Paula was the first of us to DO IT and Carol was the first of us to DO IT AND HAVE A BABY!

One dark and intense little friend Felicity swore us to secrecy and told us that IN THE BATH HER MOTHER'S SWAM ALL ROUND LIKE HUGE PIECES OF THICK BLACK SEAWEED! We were appalled and excited. I put down my sandwich - it seemed there was no escape from this dreadful fate. Breathlessly we listened as she told us that her mother used to let it grow and then shaved lots and lots of it off! And in between her legs too! And she watched! We were nearly incoherent. Felicity said she asked her mother why and she explained that it made it easier for sex, she had so much pubic hair it could be difficult to

effect an entry. No completely sure what entered we sighed in amazed unison became a nurse and then a sister and she had lots of pubic hair.

Fortunately I didn't; mine was very slow in arriving and when you couldn't see it. In fact you still see through it. To please men over the years, I have shaved black - a terrible mistake, it the skin in between and looked awful; shaved what little there was off - hopeless for appearing in public places naked; bleached it to a white - better but it made me feel red; had it hot-waxed off by a professional - so painful! Once I trimmed it off on request but you couldn't find now that it has grown a new and my preferred mode of waxing is shaved underneath and I have better orgasms with it. So there we are.

Throughout history it has played an amazing place. Women in particular have trimmed it in all sorts of shapes, coloured it, shaved it off, worn pubic hair wigs (mini wigs), dyed it various colours, plucked it and waxed it and cut it with scissors. In the fifties kinky people did these things (kinky people). In the sixties and seventies it was 'in' to play with it now it's necessary for women to shave it off in order to wear one-piece cut swimsuits.

There was a much more open attitude to pubic hair in various parts of history. In the seventeenth century a notorious Lady used to make a

of falling out of her carriage and rolling over in her large skirts under which neither she (nor any other woman) wore knickers and exposing herself to the delighted gazed of most watchers! In fact exhibiting it was quite a sport at various times.

Aboriginal people have traditionally regarded female pubic hair, dirri-dirri, as sacred. The women weave a little bag out of their pubic hair which has magic properties in which they carry sacred objects.

There still seems to be something different about the attitude to male and female pubic hair - one is just pubic hair and the other is IT/THE PLACE/THE MYSTERIOUS CAVERN OF ENTRY AND EXIT/THE FORBIDDEN ZONE ETC. ETC. I asked a few people for their thoughts on the topic and they seemed to be pretty sensible about it. Here are some of their answers:

Two mature students (50s) Anthropology. They both used to be nurses and told me they were used to it as they used to shave fannies professionally. In the olden days they said, absolutely everyone had to be shaved from head to toe, even for a thyroid operation! Neither of their mothers explained they would be going to grow it. One ended up having golden and barely hairy pudenda - it was a terrible shock for her. The other, dark haired one grew lots and found it quite natural. Neither of them found it sexy.

Jeanette, first year Arts student, 30s. She hadn't spent a lot of time thinking about it. It wasn't sexually exciting but she was not sure why. Perhaps it was superfluous stuff. She saw lots of it at home as they had a very open household. Her mother did discuss it with her and when it came she was thrilled and excited. She

likes to keep hers very trim with a

bikini wax and uses scissors to trim it into a neat shape all the time...She

thinks people should make the effort to trim it as it looks awful to see a great mess of the stuff through tight trousers or shorts. She has lots and it's very thick.

Mike, 30. It's natural, if you've got it you have it. He doesn't like big hairy armpits but likes big hairy pubic hair in women, and admits this is a bit of a dichotomy. His mother has big hairy armpits but they didn't embarrass him. He hasn't seen that many pubic areas (female) up close. He didn't see his mother's or his father's; it wasn't that sort of household. His Dad gave him a talk on pubic hair what went with it and what went where. He thinks if people showed their pubic and facial and other body hair more it would take the scare off it. He says he's learned a lot about women's life in this society lately and appreciates this!

Renee, 18. It's just there. No, it's not sexy, she doesn't know why. She saw her mother's. No, she didn't want to have any, but didn't think about it much. It wasn't specifically explained but she had lots of books on growing up etc. and talked about all that crap - about getting pregnant etc.

She wasn't excited when she got it because she knew she would. It's a pain for bikinis and high cut swimsuits. Men's isn't sexy either - dunno - it's all the same innit?

Phillip, 25. He's quite happy with it, it's fine, no worries.

When he got it he wasn't excited, he was scared. It meant he was getting older and that was scary and made him worried. He saw his mother's often and his father's, and thought it was natural.

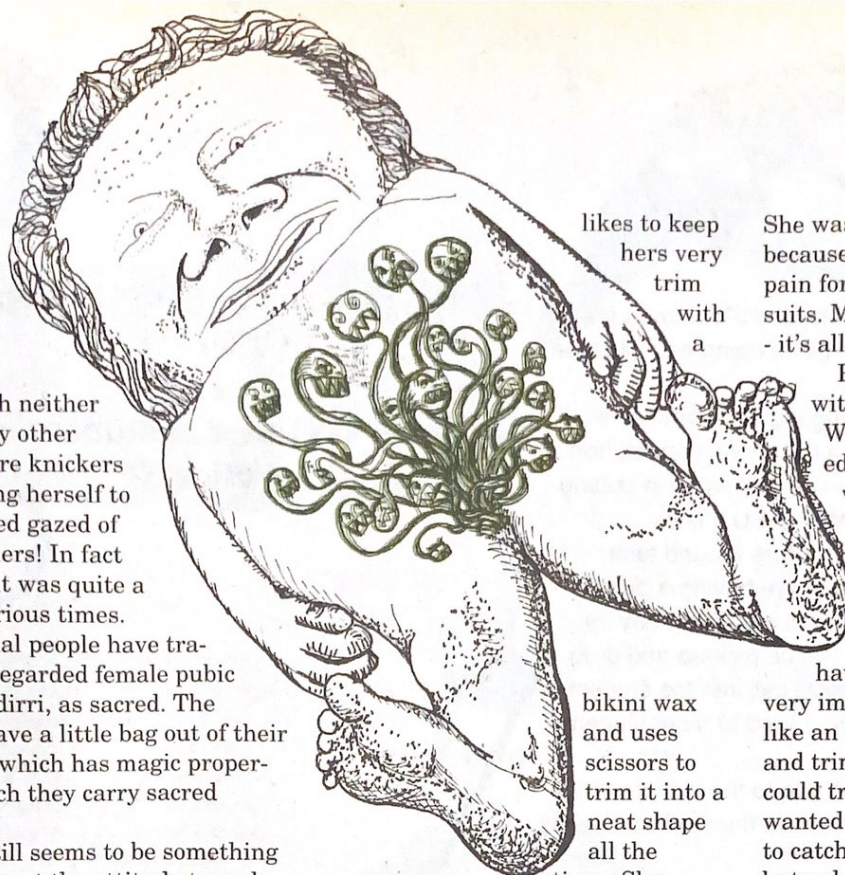
It can be sexy, but doesn't have to be. The shape of it is very important to him. He doesn't like an overabundance. Well groomed and trimmed into a nice shape. Men could trim theirs too if their partner wanted it. He thought it was exciting to catch sight of women's pubic hair - but only if sexually involved with them. But at the same time it was because it's forbidden and therefore erotic in a sort of non sexual way. He thinks here should be more open discussions of all these things as people seem to have reverted to a pre-sixties shyness and conservatism probably because AIDS has made sex a difficult and uncomfortable topic again.

I'll leave you with a few of the names for pubic hair and a suggestion that New Zealand have the first WORLD PUBIC HAIR DAY - where

everyone would walk around with their hairy portions exposed or something!

Fuzz; minge; muff; pussy-hair;

pubes; fluff; bush fur gonad; whiskers; short and curls.



Pap.!

Dear Papettes, hello and

geekings,

Has anyone told you that you're boring and unattractive recently? In case they have forgotten to,.... you are boring and unattractive.

There, what a satisfying introduction. Some complete tosser had the audacity to write in informing us that we have got nice recently. Well, we think they're wrong. Don't you?

What's the point in being nice. We'd only be lying.

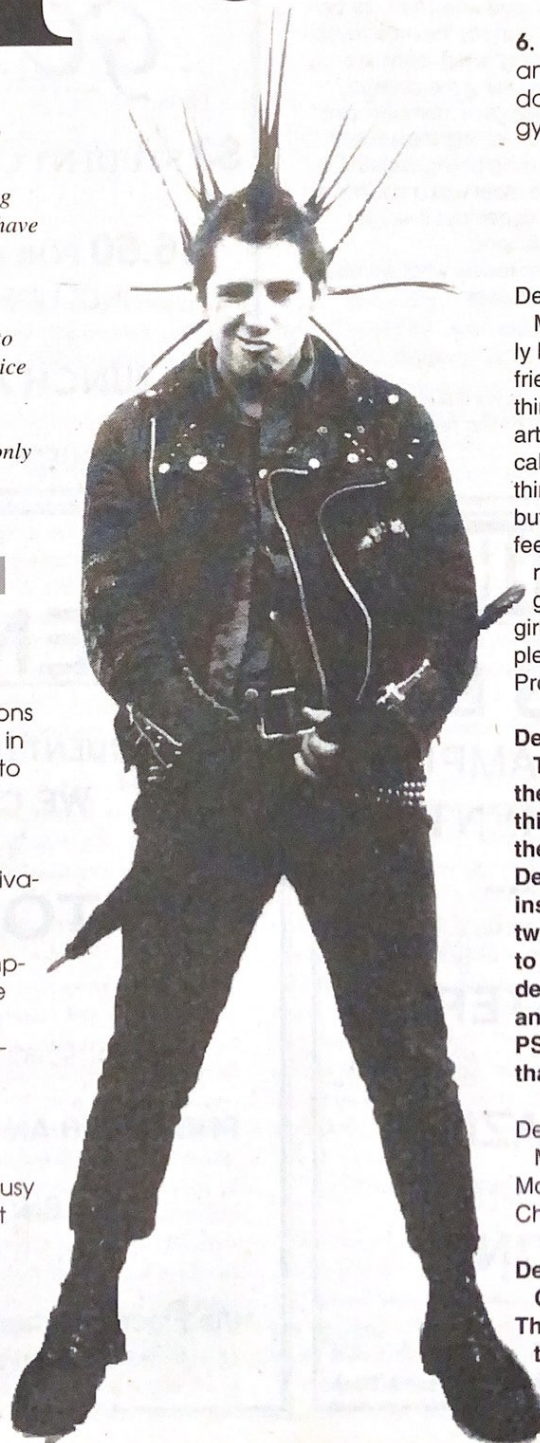
ADVICE

This week's advice is on how to make up excuses to gain extensions from tutors whose one power trip in their miserable job is getting you to fawn and beg. Read on...

1. Firstly the tried and true "My grandmother/friend/spousal equivalent/hairdresser died horribly in a thoroughly distasteful and very messy car/bike/plane/bungy jumping crash." Now because this one gets such regular work-outs, they may challenge you. If so, look distraught, snap at them and say "What-a-ya-want?! A BODY???" Tears are an advisable addition.

2. "I couldn't do it because I'm busy discovering my sexuality." Look at them long and hard and say "It's really very traumatic." Tears also work well for this one.

3. Buy a custard square from the caf', take the custard out and



smatter it all over your face. Go and see your tutor, coughing and spluttering, and mention a highly contagious disease. They won't want you in their office for more than two minutes and this will weaken their bargaining position.

4. Sleep with he/she/it, then ask. (The quick way.)

5. Tell them that you know which student they are sleeping with (then ask).

6. Take large quantities of explosives and stand looking demonic in the door way. (Works well with psychology tutors).

PROBLEMS

Dear Pap!

My problem is a bit silly but really really bothersome to me. I feel that my friends are always getting me to do things that I do not want to do. I read an article which said that such a thing is called peer pressure and this is what I think I've got. I shop at Country Road but I don't like their clothes, I drink coffee but I like Fanta, I drive a porsche but really really want a VW, and the gorgeous blonde who calls herself my girlfriend is singularly boring. Help me please, I am not being myself. Pretend Cool.

Dear Pretend,

The thing about cool people is that they are all like you. Why do you think they are cool? It's because they're all trying just as hard as you. Deep down they're probably just as insecure, pathetic, and of course, two-faced as yourself. Our advice is to keep going with your bogus, demeaning, superficial self-image, and develop it further.

PS. It's probably lucky for all of us that you are not being yourself.

Dear Pap!

My boyfriend ran off with my dog Moriarty, what shall I do? Champless

Dear Chump,

Call the vet and get him put down. Then give your dog some sound training with a stick, superglue, and assorted rubber bands.

EATING

CAFE REVIEW

BARON OF BEEF

G'day gang

The subject of this week's meal spiel is BARON OF BEEF, a meat lover's mecca but no-go for a veggo. The food served here is similar to a traditional farmer's fare - heaps of roast meat, hunks of bread, and salad till it comes out your ears. You can choose from beef, lamb, pork, chicken and bacon (This did nothing for one member of the crew who had to pretend an obviously boring vegetarian filled roll looked delicious while others piled on the protein.)

We played a little game of 'sitting in the window and trying to distinguish between tech and varsity students' and when that got boring we played an amusing game of 'who can say the most revolting things about what other people are eating' which provides hours of entertainment for the whole family. During the course of these noble pursuits an amazingly perceptive crew member pointed out an almost criminal lack of logic in not naming the establishment 'Baron of beef and pork and chicken and boring vegetarian filled rolls.' One can only assume that the founder was a traditional farmer (ie, a man or woman of few words) or perhaps it was for some obscure arty reason such as 'It sounds good.'

Being ever alert and having a tendency to review what we chew, we were able to record the following observations:

- Roast dinners are around \$8
- Sammies and rolls around \$4
- Seating is at bars or tables
- The food is yummy and juicy (you can also have it slushily slobbered in gravy, which you will be too if your eating habits are anything like ours!)

- Its bloody filling
- The decor is fairly plain with red tables that do strange things to your eyes
- Its too full at lunchtimes
- The range of salads becomes more limited as the day wears on
- Its a squashy little place (Architecture/interior design students will be interested in their methods of utilising limited spaces effectively)

BARON OF BEEF

Hours: approximately 9am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday
Location: corner of Wellesley & Queen st.

- Ciao for now,
The Chew & Review Crew.

GOPALS

\$3 STUDENT COMBINATION MEAL
OR

\$6.50 FOR ALL YOU CAN EAT
(INCLUDES SALAD BAR)

LUNCH AND DINNER

291 QUEEN ST. PH:303-4885

DBEXPORT

SHADOWS BAR

YOUR BAR ON CAMPUS!

ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK...

WEDNESDAY 7pm.

"JAZZ ROOSTER"

THURSDAY 1 - 2 pm.

"GRAHAM BRAZIER"

FRIDAY 8pm.

"HOT LEMON"

**SHADOWS HOURS...mon to wed 4 - 10
thurs 12 - 10...fri 12 - 11.(happy hour 6-7 mon/tue).**

DENTIST

**STUDENT DENTAL HEALTH
WE CAN HELP**

DR TOM KOOL

Ask for special student discount

PHONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT NOW

PH: 391-963

10th Floor, Southern Cross Bld, Victoria
Opposite easy parking



HELP F.O.E. HELP GAIA

GREEN THINGS

Friends of the Earth is hard at it fighting the many and varied assaults made, and threatening to be made, upon Mother Earth and couldn't half do with a tad of assistance.

Apart from t' daily grind of answering people's queries for info, gathering and filing info, and even more mundane tasks, we are running various campaigns and hoping to run more.

Bob Tait's hard at it fighting Broken Hill Picot whose dastardly plot is to mine (ostensibly) ilmenite but also, surreptitiously, radioactive monazite (with an unusually high uranium content), uran-

othorite, titanite and zenotine, at Barrytown, near Greymouth (and near wetlands and the world's only Black Petrel colony) thus causing the area to glow in the dark as a tourist attraction and fuel Ocker and French nukes. Believe it!

He's also promoting recycling and fighting Auckland Port Company's plans to dump dredgings in Schnappers' homes.

Mark Leadbeater's after saving us from frying in a Hot-House by promoting cycling by getting cycleways organised and making submissions to increase goals for carbon dioxide emission reduction.

One campaign we would like to start up is to replace wood for making paper with Indian Hemp. The former requires processing whereby sulphuric

dioxide is released into the atmosphere to come down again as acid rain and uses more energy and water. Using Indian Hemp is also an excuse to start a flourishing grass (woops, I'm showing my age) cabbage export industry.

Past successes include stopping them nuking our food at Mangere, helping stop the Aramoana smelter and, presently, we're working to save the few remaining rain-

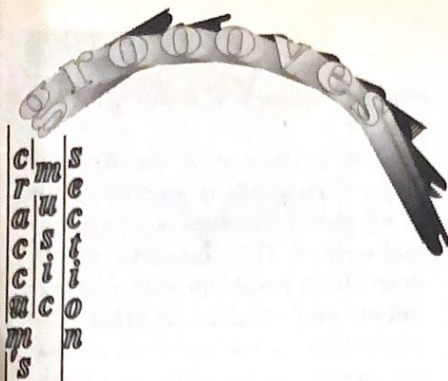
forests, exposing the World Bank, reducing packaging, trying to protect and clean up the Manukau, appraising the Resource Management Law Reform, and looking to deal with toxic waste.

Admittedly we're trying to work within the rigid system we allow to be inflicted upon us, but the revolution's a fucking long time coming.

So do us a favour and come help; we're only up the hill a bit at Rationalist House, on Symonds Street, phone 303-4319.

Paula Kirkwood

Ø



ALBUM RELEASES

this week...

- Great White "Hooked"
- Mantronix "Incredible Sound Machine"
- Elisa Fiorillo "I Am"
- Lee Greenwood "A Perfect 10"
- Donovan "The Trip"
- Yo Yo "Make Way for the Motherlode"
- The Blasters "Collection"
- Schnell Fenster "Ok Alright A Huh Oh Yeah"
- Jose Carreras "Hollywood Golden Classics"
- Dramarama "Live at the China Club"
- Chantoozies "Gild the Lily"
- Sea Stories "Wide Eyed and Dreaming"
- Hanne Boel "Dark Passion"
- Paula Abdul "Spellbound"
- Donna Gardier "Reach Out"
- Tony Banks "Still"
- Various "Music from the movie: The Five Heartbeats"
- Mike & the Mechanics "Word of mouth"
- Jackie Quinn "Don't Force The River"
- John Rowles "From a distance"
- Sheena Easton "What comes Naturally"
- Marshall Crenshaw "Life Too Short"
- Various "YO! MTV Raps Vol. 2"
- Timmy T "Time after Time"
- Special EFX "Peace of the World"
- Larry Carlton "Collection"
- The Glenn Miller Orchestra "In the Digital Mood" (limited edition CD)

Redhead Kingpin & the FBI

The Album With No Name

Ten/Virgin

I just bought his first album in a brash sale, and now I gotta check out the newy! Well 'Pump it Hottie' is a great song, and so is 'Do the right thing'. But Redhead's debut 'A shade of red' suffered the debut disease of having a little too much filler. It was certainly better than most though, exploring a selection of tempos and rhythms.

This album is no worse and though I doubt there's a single here to outdo 'Pump it Hottie' there's a bevy of funky grooves to pump it to. 'It's a love thang (word)' is a very fine track and '3-2-1 Pump' could be a chart topper too. Redhead has tried for variety (hence the noncommittal name) and the album moves from funk to swingbeat, with a wide range of rhythms and back beats. On 'Get it together' the chorus is smooth Teddy Riley (credited as Redhead's 'musical mentor'). There's lots of clever sampling to flesh out the man's raps but it's a shame more of the loops couldn't be over two bars.

I think this album proves Redhead's talent in the field of pop/funk hip hop, if there were any doubters, and album number two deserves to do as well as his debut.

7

P.S.



CARTER THE UNSTOPPABLE SEX MACHINE

30 Something.

Festival

Not just another band with a stupid name, Carter have come up with an incredulous dance/punk hybrid no less than spectacular.

The press release proudly proclaims they're a "gut-wrenching, chord savaging, aural crucifixion of melodies." I'd be more inclined to describe them as maniacal images of social and urban decay grafted into a lurching sub-Hendrix cyberbeat (!) All this from two drunken, ugly bastards from London that go by the names Jim "Bob" Morisson and Leslie "Fruitbat" Carter. Very questionable in the role of sex-machines, but then if they put out quality sounds like this they could be Neo-Nazi dwarves from Pekham for all I care.

Lyricaly they're great, getting their points across with "a bit of a la" black humour. Even from the starting blocks of "Surfing USM" with "...when you reach that edge when your muscles give up and wave the little white flag. Then without any warning at all you're the fat bastard", you realise what you're in for. And with the Cockney vocals sounding like a Clash collaboration, you can't help but laugh along with them.

With the orchestral thrash of "Anytime anyplace anywhere" to the moving anthem of an anonymous holic in "Prince in a pauper's grave", Carter bound through genre after genre leaving their cynical wake. This is a surprisingly good album, if you want to expand your musical experience this

8

John Taite

TEMPLE OF THE DOG

Polygram

Having been reasonably impressed by the "Mother Love Bone" LP (there was only one) I was quite pleased at having scored this album. MMM, until I heard it, that is.

The album is an attempt at depth by the ex-members of Mother Love Bone who didn't die of a drug-overdose and a couple of members of Soundgarden. Apparently they were moved to make an album, in memory of the late Andrew Wood, (dead lead vocalist of Mother Love Bone) out of love and respect for him. Um, yeah. But enough of my cynicism.

This album is pretty formula stuff. The kind of material you listen to twice and then put amongst your other records to make your collection look bigger.

The group are sort of Guns'n'Roses soundalikes (not that I listen to G'n'R), and carry on that band's tradition of utterly atrocious ballads. This is especially true of "hello 2 Heaven" and "Reach down" - naturally full of the inevitable play upon MLB's work like "Say Hello to Heaven". There is one redeeming feature to the album though, Pearl Jam's Mike McCready, who plays some arse guitar.

However, the album is pretty repetitive and becomes predictable after the first 3 or 4 songs. A hint of Metallica, blended with G'n'R and MLB - all in ballad mode.

Reasonable album if you like the above bands.

5

S.R.

FAITH NO MORE

Live at the Brixton Academy

Festival

There are two types of live albums, the 'magical memories' and the 'tragic money spinners'. Unfortunately Brixton Academy falls into the latter category.

Considering the calibre of Jane's Addiction's and The Cure's live offerings a couple of weeks back I was dead keen to hear what FNM could muster. Even after my first listen though it was evident the songs had been destroyed by the experience that should have enhanced them.

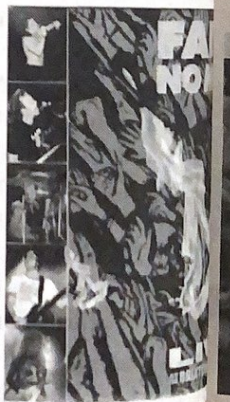
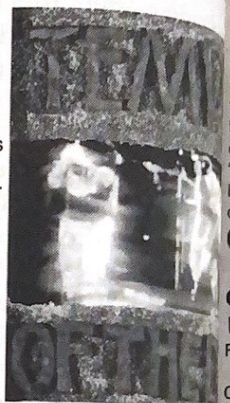
When you're in a concert you're part of the atmosphere, you're one with it and more often than not the music itself doesn't have to be that perfect. A recording of the same concert's another story. The playing on this album is diluted, the out of time drumming is highlighted and you only end up wondering they even bothered at all. Patton's vocals in particular are mixed incredibly badly. FNM's finest moment, the lovably vicious "We care a lot" comes across as supposed 'musical event' it just sounds bloody awful.

This is really nothing more than the soundtrack to the video, I mean what point! Sure you've got the odd extra profanity but if that's you thing you produce yourself as the 'Muhammad Azibiggun' author (the unfunny bloke on the next page). If you really want to feel the energy and get closer to being the need more than this, for without the picture's justification these are just songs.

If you're a fan get the video. If you're not steer clear

4

CARTER
THE UNSTOPPABLE SEX MACHINE
30
SOMETHING



The Strange Loves

See your colours

Flying Nun

This debut album of West Coast band The Strange Loves is good solid kiwi alternative/pop. The band took a few years to form, finally getting all four members around 1988. With their regular haunts being the West Coast and now Dunedin, that's probably as far away from Auckland you can get musically without moving off-shore to an oil-rig or giant seagull turd. This is probably why many in Auckland have still to meet The Strange Loves sound. They're a four-piece line-up with (oh, no, I can hear it coming) a 'Dunedin' sound, influenced by The Clean. The often dominant guitar drives a varied rhythmic strum throughout the tracks, and the occasional additional instrument adds a nice variety, such as the viola solo that introduces the album. Lead singer Rex Bourke acknowledges that both The Clean and the Beatles lurk in his musical background: one of the titles is dedicated to John Lennon. Apart from that one and a great song about the 'smile from the girl down the road', the lyrics are all to do with personal relationships. It's all pretty safe and pleasant stuff, they've made the most of a garage-type production budget, recorded in Wellington at Writhe Studios. It's worth buying, worth listening to, and if you catch them on tour, they're apparently even better live.

7

J.M.

Jack Frost

Arista Records

Grant McLennan (of the Go-Betweens etc...) phoned The Church's Steve Kilbey earlier this year and said "I've got something I'd like to do with you. Understandably surprised, Kilbey inquired further and found that his fellow Australian was, in fact, referring to song writing. The result of the meeting was "JACK FROST", an album reputedly written and recorded in a mere three weeks. And as one would expect from these two, it is very good indeed. There are tell tale elements of both The Church's and McLennan's respective sounds contained within the album, which blend to achieve a unique quality neither was capable of alone. The lyrics have very much popped out of their creators mind frames of the time, which lends "JACK FROST" an interesting mood and retrospective angle. The most memorable tracks are the pop/rock "Didn't know where I was" and "Every hour God sends"-a haunting warning penned on the eve of the U.S invasion of Kuwait.

"JACK FROST" was an opportunity to break free from expected stereotype sounds, and as such it is a progression for both Kilbey and McLennan. Everything comes together surprisingly well and all of the twelve tracks are of a high standard. Let's hope they repeat the exercise.

6

Tony M.

G.W. McLennan

Watershed

Festival

Grant McLennan's debut solo album has been hailed by many as the best thing to come out of Australia for a long time (admittedly, not an entirely difficult achievement). I can't seem to get that excited about it. After his work in Jack Frost and in the Go-Betweens, "Watershed" is a little uninspiring. By no means is it bad, it has some great guitar work and melodies in it, but by the end of the album it all tends to become rather mundane. Individually, the tracks range from reasonable to very good. "When word gets around" - the opening track, is the best, and the guitar/harmonica driven bluesy ballad "Black Mule" comes a close second. His lyrics say something, the songs are tuneful (they were produced by Dave Dobbyn) and the vocals are fine for a while, but it seems to get slightly monotonous and "samey" as the album progresses. Most of it is passive and forgettable. If you really like the Go-Betweens, then you'll probably like this, but have a good listen before parting with the cash.

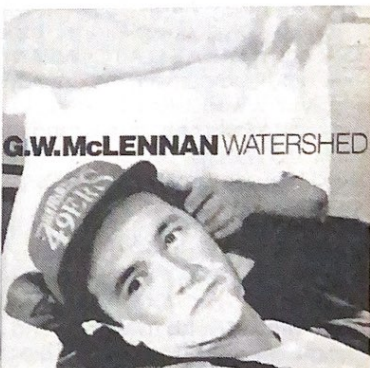
6

Tony M.

THE STRANGE LOVES



SEE YOUR COLOURS



Elvis Costello

Mighty Like A Rose

Warner

I have to admit firstly, that to me Elvis Costello is the most intelligent musician alive. Call it bias, hell, call it idolatry. The fact is, every album has been filled with such musical and lyrical genius that more than virtually any other artist, I return to Elvis's music again and again.

Now two years after Spike, his twelfth album, comes 'Mighty Like A Rose', arriving, damned by faint praise in the local press so far. No one questions the quality of the music. The lyrics retain the enigmatic intelligence, the songs' melodies of immediate endearment and soul, and Costello's voice is as ever passionate and articulate. Probably the only justifiable dissent is based on the feeling that Elvis hasn't changed greatly since Spike, and is expressing himself along similar musical lines. This is partly true, but at the same time it's impossible to ignore the quality of those musical lines. Every Costello album is resplendent with variety and 'Mighty Like A Rose' is no exception. The single 'The other side of summer' is an ironic ditty full of images of disaster amongst the prettiness of summer.

Musically though it runs like a poppy scene for a T.V. series, and certainly doesn't



appeal to me as much as previous singles like 'I wanna be loved' or even 'Everyday I write the book'. The point to note though is the suitability of the sound to the sentiment and as usual, Elvis captures this perfectly.

Detractors might also note the more "tortured" tone of Elvis's latest songs and I would agree that there is an absence of happier, more mellow (jazz influenced) tracks. If that's the direction he is heading perhaps his audience will contract, but for me this album has so many beautiful elements, it is an essential purchase.

9

P.S.

Don't Miss This
Night of Hilarious
Homegrown
Comedy!

TEQUILA
JOSE CUERVO

FUNNY BUSINESS

LIVE

JIM BEAM
BLENDED AT LYTAL LUT EDITION

"CASH IN ON THE
TV SHOW TOUR!"

HOWICK BY THE SEA - FRI 28 JUNE
GLUEPOT - SAT 29 JUNE
ESPLANADE - SUN 30 JUNE (4.00PM)

TELEVISION

A

One-scared, loud-mouthed and openly left wing, the young **Bill Ralston** was told by TVNZ that he would never become one of its news stars. That was circa 1985, and since then Ralston has only got uglier, if anything. Also his style has become more abrasive and his jokes more insulting to the politicians he interviews. And TVNZ was wrong: the raucous little reporter's become a television personality after all - albeit on the opposition channel - firstly with his spots on **Nightline**, and now with his own show **The Ralston Group** (TV3, Thurs. 7.30).

Loosely based on CNN's **Crossfire** (screening here on SKY), The Ralston Group features four guest commentators each week, shouting at each other about controversial issues. And I mean SHOUTING. And waving their arms a lot. And rudely interrupting each other all the time. This is in-your-face television. Ralston himself chairs the discussion like he's on a triple overdose of amphetamines. Unable to keep his limbs by his side for more than one nanosecond, he crams four major issues into one hyperactive half hour of debate.

The best part of all is that the show goes live to air, which must give TV3 nightmares as TRG guests reveal offensive opinions in the heat of the moment. Some sample quotes from the first episode -

Trevor De Cleene: (on Thai prostitutes): "Sex is here to stay. I don't know why in this country we haven't legalised prostitution years ago."

Leighton Smith, IZB (on immigration): "If you mix certain races you're going to get undesirable results"

Richard Griffin, RNZ: "Look at all the poms who came here in the fifties. If this country's got problems, they're the genesis of a lot of them."

Ralston (interrupting) "We should have called this programme **The Forth Reich!**"

Bracing stuff indeed. The debate did get more constructive than the extreme examples I've drawn. But if TRG is to fulfil its obvious potential to become a top current affairs show, Ralston is going to have to contain its talkback radio-type tendency to allow boorish opinions to dominate. On the

first show the Dominion's **Jane Clifton** gave the most sense. But her lucid opinions were often lost in the tumultuous babble spewing forth from Messrs Smith Griffin and de Cleene.

The pace will also have to be slowed down a bit. Six minutes just isn't enough time to get to grips with an issue - a constraint that can lead things to get just a bit too out of control to be informative as well as entertaining.

Two other gripes: 1) the camera work is really appalling (though at least this leads credence to TV3's claim, "the show is unrehearsed"), and 2) just what is that THING in the middle of the set? It looks like Ralston and Co. are sitting around a triangular coffin built to double as a mini staircase. Weird and distracting.

On the plus side, the first show did perform healthily in the ratings, gaining an 8% audience share for its time-slot. (This compares favourably to TRG's predecessor - Aussie soap **E street** which used to average a negligible 2-3%; TV1 and TV2 are still far ahead with 20-25%)

This trend towards quality television must be catching, as I've just that **Blind Date** is due to be cancelled in August, with pre-recorded episodes running out in September.

Will we miss the embarrassed, halting innuendo of those pre-recorded questions? The **sheepish bank clerks** being badly matched to the **dribbling stupid secretaries** (400 shows, 800 couples, ZERO marriages, the odd second date). Certainly not host **Dave Jamieson**, the first **male bimbo** of New Zealand television. Does Dave really think his puns are funny? I saw him in **256 Records** the other day and was going to ask him, but he darted for the door. Wise man.

Co-host **Suzy Aitken** obviously saw the show's demise a long way off, and has launched her new career with a **Jane Fonda-style** exercise video. Hasn't she sussed up to the fact that **Blind Date** was cancelled because the **Great New Zealand Viewing Public** has become sick of her and Dave? No? She will.

Chris Keall



The wonderful people who bring us **Pepsi RTR Countdown** take to the streets in the **Pepsi-mobile** to celebrate the show's 15th birthday. Among them is that young wag **Robert Rakete** (holding guitar) and an **ex-BFM** person who shall remain nameless (wearing glasses and trying hard not to smile!).

NZ's #1 INDOOR CIRCUIT
TRY A DRIVE!



INDOOR MOTORSPORT

ADRENALIN BLASTING KART RACING THRILLS
25% Discount with Student ID!

STUDENT SPECIAL

*casual practise sessions (normally \$20)

*full racing programmes (from \$50)

365 Church St. Penrose. Ph: 525-2619

YOU READ THE ARTICLE LAST WEEK, NOW TRY THE REAL THING
OPEN 7DAYS AND NIGHTS

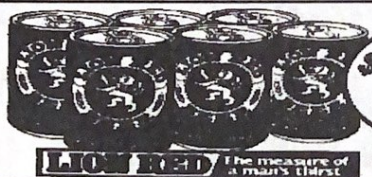
Civic Tavern

LONDON BAR: 100 Beers Bar

130 beers from 25 countries at
Auckland's best prices. Thursday
6.30pm - 89FM & 'Fly On the Wall'

PRINCE ALBERT BAR & CARVER

- 11 DRAUGHT BEERS. Happy Hours
12.30-1.30pm and 4.30-6.30pm daily.
LUNCHEON - hot roast beef and salad
sandwich, \$4 with free 1/2 pint!



LION RED
CANS
\$13.45
DOZ

IVANOV VODKA 1125ml \$19.95

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS BOURBON \$26.95
1125ml

BLACK BEARD RUM 1125ml \$26.95

STOLICHNAYA VODKA \$22.95



WESTMINSTER
GIN
\$19.95
1125ml

MORE SPECIALS IN STORE



DB
EXPORT
CANS
\$13.95
DOZ

CARLTON
CROWN LAGER
\$14.95
DOZ



COOKS SAV BLANC (CANCELLED EXPORT ORDER) \$7.95

WYNNS COONAWARA \$9.95
Hermitage & Rhine Reisling

MATEUS ROSE 750ml \$9.95

Civic Liquor

CIVIC TAVERN
WELLESLEY ST. PH 733-684
OPEN LATE