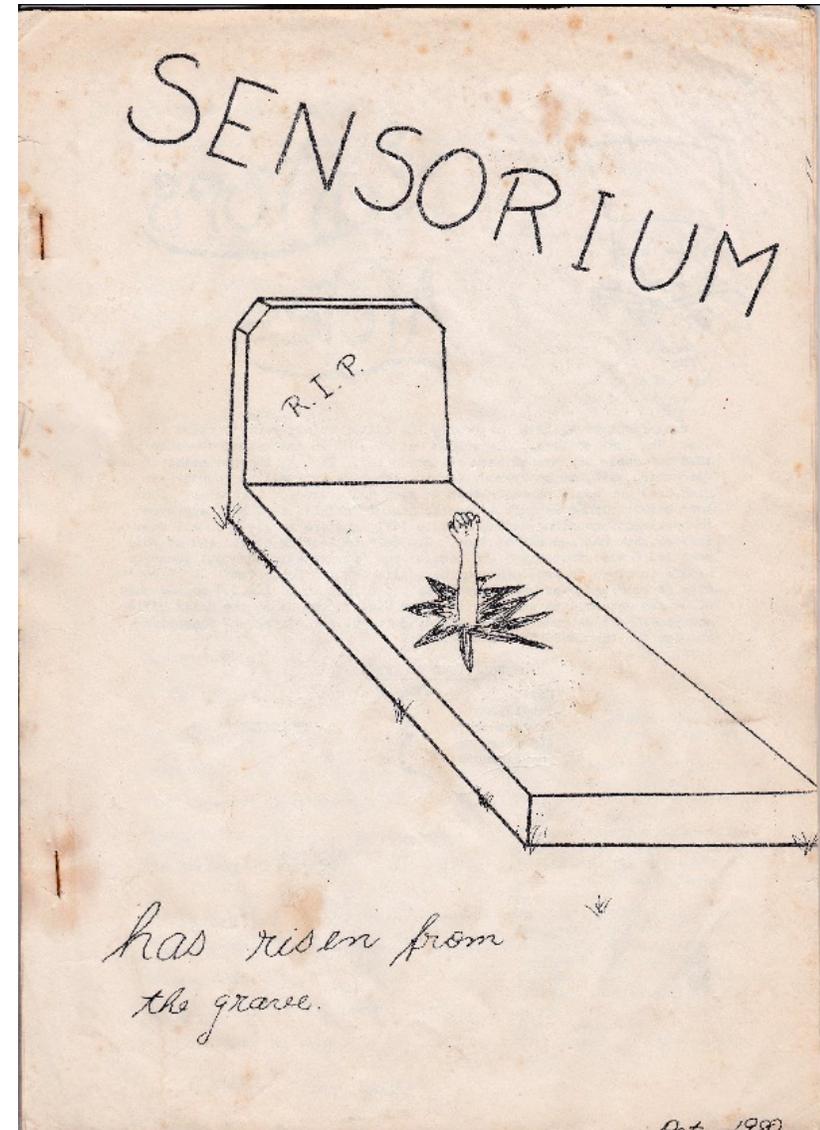


The Ghost of Felix Culpa



What is a student newspaper?

A student newspaper is usually something produced independently by students out of the student union office. At right is the final edition of *Sensorium*, the student newspaper at what was the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education, known to many of us as the Destitute. It's a typical '70s student newspaper, run off on a Gestetner by a tiny cabal of hairy students in the dead of night, stapled by hand, stealing shamelessly from *National Lampoon* and *Monty Python* and predicting the end of the fascist Bjelke-Peterson regime any day now. Not much to do with journalism, then.



And what is a journalism laboratory newspaper?

In September 1977 CIAE journalism lecturer, Shelton Gunaratne started a mimeographed publication written by journalism students called *Four Winds*. It was essentially a laboratory publication intended to allow students to see their work in print.

(Gunaratne's autobiography reminded me that I led a delegation to the administration to protest at the censorship of the publication.)

Ten years later, with my newspaper closed and needing a job, I was back at the CIAE as a lecturer and discovered that *Four Winds* was still alive under the care of fellow former student turned academic Liz Huf.

I decided that I wanted *Four Winds* to be much bigger and grander. I had ideas. I had spent a lot of the previous decade editing community papers, ranging from the now defunct Brisbane *Express* group to the *North Queensland Register* and decided to model the student paper on that model.

Felix Culpa UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Felix Culpa is published with the financial assistance of UCQ's Student Union and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Free August 1992 Vol 3 No 6

UCQ student wins Central Queensland modelling comp



By Kirsten Roos

Goodbye Dubai Arabian campus canned

UCQ's hopes of establishing a branch campus in Dubai have been dashed. UCQ Vice Chancellor Professor Geoff Wilson said last week the contract for the campus had gone to the University of Kent in the United Kingdom.

UCQ had been working with the international education firm of Varkey and Associates to establish the campus in Dubai.

"The firm had wanted us to begin teaching in early April of this year and that would not have met the requirements of this university, in terms of standards and provision of equipment and buildings," Prof Wilson said.

Unwritten agreement

He said UCQ and Varkey and Associates had come to an unwritten agreement to begin teaching early next year.

Prof Wilson said Varkey and Associates had spent several hundred thousands of dollars on equipping laboratories to UCQ specifications.

Prof Wilson said now that the plans for the Dubai campus had failed, plans to establish a campus in Bombay were a high priority.

The campus in Pune would be considered after Bombay.

Preliminary discussions with Varkey and Associates on these campuses are underway.

200 people missing in riots - Thai students concerned

THAI students studying at UCQ are concerned for families and friends at home after hearing reports that many people are still missing after Bangkok's pro-democracy riots in May this year.

While official sources claim 40 people were killed and 600 were injured, unofficial reports say that more than 200 people are still unaccounted for, most of which are believed to be students.

First year UCQ business student Englishama Thacharatsaid she feared for their safety.

"I know none of my friends are missing but I am worried about my

cont page 3

In this edition of Felix Culpa..

UCQ ousts Union Jack P3

See your balls mag P14

We cater to the student's needs - ask us about our Student Discounts.

6 Denham Street, ROCKHAMPTON

When It's Time To Travel, Book Through Us. You Can't Go Wrong When You..... TRAVEL RIGHT

6 Denham Street, ROCKHAMPTON

279 400

And what was it actually for?

So here's what happened. The paper became a tabloid. Eventually in colour. Eventually financially self supporting and making a profit. I wanted it to be a paper where the students would learn about every aspect of putting out a publication, from dealing with our printers in Gympie, to organising our colour seps with the repro house in Brisbane, selling ads, making editorial decisions, chasing down good stories and covering events on and off the campus, being as independent as possible (with guidance from me and the head of department and then the dean wielding a blue pen.) I wanted to produce people who could go off and start up their own newspaper, or walk into a newsroom and be able to turn their hand to pretty much anything. This was the age when desktop publishing had arrived and so, with a battery of Mac512Ks with tiny black and white screens and a copy of Pagemaker 1, we set out to make a newspaper.

Union Jack out, Aboriginal flag in at UCQ

By Olivia Markham

HISTORY was made this year when the University of Central Queensland became the first Australian tertiary institution to fly the Aboriginal flag every day. The Aboriginal flag replaced the Union Jack and now flies beside the Australian, Queensland and the UCQ flags.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Geoff Wilson said the raising of the Aboriginal flag marked a new era of recognisable Aboriginal identity within the UCQ and would set a trend for other universities.

"I believe CAITEC (Capricornia Aboriginal and Islander Tertiary Education Centre) is a very significant group within the university and it's important to recognise the contribution of Aboriginals as Australian citizens, as part of the Arts Degree," Professor Wilson said.

Professor Wilson said there was little reason to fly the Union Jack in Australia's present political and constitutional climate.

Professor Wilson said he was approached by CAITEC members to fly the Aboriginal flag permanently on the UCQ campus.

CAITEC head Cynthia Rowan said the Aboriginal flag should not be seen as a threat to Australian society, but a flag which represented unity between two cultures. She said the raising of the Aboriginal flag had given CAITEC a prominent presence within the university acknowledging their contribution in policy making.

"The flying of the Aboriginal flag has given us a sense of belonging within this university and it's this unity that has raised our morale," she said.

Mr Rowan said this year was particularly significant because the presence of the Aboriginal flag coincided with the 20th anniversary of Aboriginals being given the right to vote.

The 1967 amendment to the Australian Constitution officially recognised Aboriginals as Australian citizens, Ms Rowan said.

Ms Rowan said one of the great achievements for Aboriginals was access to education.

She said the number of CAITEC students graduating this year had doubled.

"Previously, things were done on behalf of Aboriginals, but now they are controlling their own destinies," she said.

Ms Rowan said there was no reason to fly the Union Jack.

"The British flag reminds us of the genocide and the horrific experiences suffered by the Aboriginal people," Ms Rowan said.



UCQ engineering students gain their revenge on Felix Culpa after an article featured in the June '92 edition.

TO PROVE how big their balls were, Engineering students burnt the last edition of Felix Culpa.

Engineering students burnt the paper at an end of semester barbecue in response to an article in the June edition which implied their ball was a dog.

Engineering Undergraduate Society member (EUS), Dan O'wbridge, said the burning was an act of revenge.

Mr O'wbridge said many students were insulted by the article because it was incorrect.

The article reported that the ball cost \$500, but Secretary/Treasurer of EUS, Brian Smith, said the ball was \$150.

"Then, engineers denied that the ball was a social disappointment.

"Everyone thought it was excellent," Mr O'wbridge said.

Next, questions were raised as to why there was no recovery the following morning.

One explanation given was that too many engineering students had sporting commitments.

Vice President of EUS, David Newton, said a recovery was not planned because it was too expensive.

"It's a no win situation: if we wreck the place we get abused, but if we just have a good time we get laughed at," Mr Smith said.

Just kidding and kidding very.

Policy of apathy

ONLY eight people attended a meeting to discuss the formation of a Queensland Government youth policy in the Student Union's meeting room on July 22.

The main area of discussion of the group attending was education and training, especially in relation to tertiary institutions.

Other areas of discussion included employment, education and training, families, accommodation, justice and the law, health, transport, recreation, sport and the arts, community and environment.

The few people at the meeting said there should be more contact between universities and local communities to increase graduate employment opportunities.

AVing Central Queensland Youth Development Officer, Melanie Doyle, said she thought despite the lack of people at the meeting, the discussion had been successful.

"What would have been good to have more people involved, you often find with a small group more ideas flow," she said.

Outlook for Australian economy grim - lecturer

THE world's view of Australia's economic future was grim, UCQ Senior Lecturer in Economics and Public Policy, Liam Ryan, said.

In a time of global recession and stiff competition, Australia's position as a trading nation was vulnerable, controlling as it did less than two percent of world trade, he said.

"The way the pundits look at the future of Australian trade is that we have lost our competitive edge in many areas and not even the international press takes notice of us," Mr Ryan said.

Mr Ryan said Australia's main economic problems lay in its history of protectionism.

He said the Federal Government's dismantling of protection barriers and reduction of tariffs meant industries needed to become more competitive with overseas markets.

On July 1 sugar tariffs were supposed to drop by 10 percent, a level against which many Australian producers could not compete.

"The challenge is to make the traditional industries, such as coal, wheat and sugar more competitive by reducing the tariffs and improving efficiency and work practices," Mr Ryan said.

Mr Ryan said the recent General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks at Uruguay had been unable to achieve the objective of gaining a worldwide reduction in protection because neither the European Community nor the US were prepared to make major concessions.

"Australia had great expectations of the liberalisation of world trade, but nothing has eventuated from the negotiations," he said.

Mr Ryan said in the past Australia had survived on exporting unprocessed primary products.

Youth training package "a slap in the face"

UCQ Union acting president, Scott Shepherd, has described the Prime Minister's youth training package as a "slap in the face" to tertiary students who, as a result of the present status of Australia may have to compete against 15-19 year olds for employment.

"If the Prime Minister does not address the financial position of tertiary students, this country could see the biggest student demonstrations since the sixties," Mr Shepherd said.

Mr Shepherd said the income tertiary students received from Australia was below the poverty line. He said students needed to supplement their Austudy with employment and the youth training package would force them to con-

frontal issues.

Mr Keating told Felix Culpa, that by creating employment opportunities and training facilities, Labor would get Australia back into recovery.

Mr Keating said Labor's youth training package would place its emphasis on early school leavers who had not received any vocational training.

Mr Keating said tertiary students had already "kicked a goal" with high government subsidies on education and training.

"We are now focusing our efforts on people who left school early without any proper vocational education," he said.

UCQ Vice-Chancellor Professor Geoff Wilson said the problem of unemployment was so great that a "multi-pronged" approach was needed.

"Some of these objectives would clash with others and unfortunately there would be some tertiary students who would miss out on jobs taken by young people on the youth training package," Professor Wilson said.

Professor Wilson said he would like to develop a scheme with governments next year under which a number of school leavers would get significant support for part-time employment.

"The opening of the UCQ Annex in Rockhampton's business area is all part of the interaction with the town's business sector to improve employment opportunities for students," Professor Wilson said.

The Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce and the Sunwall Power Station had also piloted schemes to help future prospects for post-secondary students in the Central Queensland region.

Stanzwell Power Station Construction Manager, Dave Clark, said 63 per cent of the 800 staff had been trained on site, since the Sunwall Skills Development Programme was introduced three years ago.

This address at the Rockhampton Cambridge Hotel, Mr Keating congratulated the Sunwall Skills Development Programme for its efforts to integrate students' study into the workplace.



Prime Minister Paul Keating pette aggressively to part-time work, adding further pressure to their studies.

The Prime Minister was in Rockhampton last month to speak about unemployment, conservation and

I decided we could make a real newspaper that would serve the needs of both the journalism course and serve the student community.

We covered international stories when we had students with contacts overseas or who had been abroad, ran an election special and generally gave students at least a year's experience on the paper through two layout and design courses.

I also determined that it should be as much fun as possible, so we opened the lab 24 hours a day, put in a fridge, a video, TV, stereo, fold-out couches, our own fax machine and phone and the students blue tacked a barnyard full of plastic farm animals upside down on the ceiling so they could shoot them off when they got bored at 2am.

Oh, and we had an annual pool party.

The name was suggested by a student. It means lucky fault or happy accident, which was a fairly good description of how we operated. We still got mail for Mr F.Culpa.

After I left for PNG and Fiji *Felix* was carried on by my successor, the late Jeff Young. But then in 2006 Jeff was gone, the journalism programme was killed and *Felix* was gone.

Except that it wasn't really, because thanks to the efforts of one of my former students, Dan Logovik, it survives as an online Facebook group. Hence the title of the paper.

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Merry Christmas!



UCQ Vice Chancellor Professor Geoff Wilson is already into the spirit of the festive season. He donned traditional Santa's garb to wish all staff and students Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As the year ends, so too does our status as a University College. From January 1, we will officially be the University of Central Queensland.

Computer abuse at UCQ

Access to UCQ's computer mainframes may be restricted if abuse by hackers continues.

A group of UCQ students calling themselves 'The Circus' has been accused of seriously misusing the UCQ computer system.

Director of University Computing Services, Ian Jenkins, said the abuses began in early 1990 when 'The Circus' accessed the University of Queensland's mainframe.

Mr Jenkins said UCQ's computer setup allocated a certain amount of time per student. If students exceeded this time, they had to pay a fine to the University.

"Two members of 'The Circus' were each fined over \$800 when we discovered what they were up to," Mr Jenkins said.

"The Circus' also installed pornographic images on machines so that they would appear when they were started up.

Mr Jenkins said 'The Circus' wasted computer resources and disadvantaged legitimate computer users.

Felix Culpa has been supplied with a list of 29 computer misuses allegedly committed by 'The Circus'.

Mr Jenkins said the students logged into Washington University via the Australian Academic and Research Network system.

"They thought: Oh Wow, we've logged into Washington', but it was only through normal operating procedure," Mr Jenkins said.

"Circus' members have also been playing Dungeons and Dragons via America, which used valuable computer time, Mr Jenkins said.

"Students should be warned that breaking into computers is a Federal offence if they can be charged by the Commonwealth Police."

Subject lecturers, Computer Services and the Vice Chancellor were empowered to charge students misusing the computer with a breach of discipline.

"No student has yet committed a breach of discipline so serious that it warranted exclusion," he said.

Dinah Lloyd

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6 Denham Street, ROCKHAMPTON



Queenslanders take the bull by the horns—and the other end

A BALIS-UP IN COW COUNTRY



★ ROCKHAMPTON council worker Mick Sleeman with a moulded bull testicle.

ROCKHAMPTON, in the heart of Queensland cattle country, has a problem with its prized bulls — they keep losing their balls.

The "City of Bulls" has three lifesize concrete statues of the beasts, but vandals keep stealing the testicles.

"I suppose most people think it's funny," said Rockhampton Council parks and recreation officer Lou Randall, "but it's a real problem."

"The people here are proud of their bulls. Rockhampton was created out of the cattle industry and removing their private parts is a bit of an insult to the town."

The council has been forced to buy a mould so new testicles can be made when required.

"I think Rockhampton must be the only town in the world with a testicle maker," said alderman Jim Rundle.

Castrated

Mr Randall said a "multi-talented maintenance staff member" repaired the bulls. The statues had been "castrated" almost 100 times since they were built in 1980, but nobody had been caught and not one set of testicles had been recovered.

"It costs the council more than \$40 to restore a bull to stud status. It's a very costly practice," said Mr Randall. "It has cost thousands of dollars over the years."

The new testicles are made of a filling compound, but other substi-

By MARK HAWTHORNE

tutes — including a pair of painted coconuts — have been tried.

"We are trying to make the bulls' balls easier to replace but harder to remove," Mr Randall said.

The latest proposal is to make the testicles out of crumble-in-the-hand material which would defeat the purpose of stealing them.

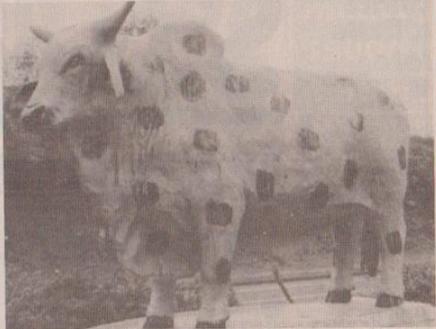
Local university students are prime suspects. "We can't prove anything, but the Brahman bull near the University of Central Queensland is the main target," Mr Randall said.

That bull recently was painted pink with green polka dots.

Felicity Shea, of the university newspaper Felix Culpa, said students had been known to remove the bull's testicles as souvenirs.

"They are not used as any form of strange sacrificial offering, or the like," she said.

Mr Randall said the council would persevere. "We won't give the vandals the satisfaction of beating us," he said, "but until they give up it looks as though the poor bulls of Rockhampton are going to suffer."



★ ALL pink and polka dots . . . the 'decorated' Brahman bull near the University of Central Queensland.

Counter's cold shots

BULL semen is the last thing you would expect to find behind an accountant's office door. But that's exactly what Mark Manteli keeps in his Gold Coast office.

Mr Manteli, a senior accountant for Ernst and Young, stores the frozen semen in a tank in his office and uses it at weekends to artificially inseminate cows on his farm.

Several hundred "straws" of frozen semen are kept in a tank containing liquid nitrogen, with each straw costing between \$5 and \$100, depending on the quality.

"It has to be kept at a constant temperature, and my air-conditioned office is perfect," Mr Manteli said.

Mr Manteli had to learn how to artificially inseminate cows so he took a Department of Primary Industries course.

It is a difficult and delicate process. "You have to load a straw of semen into a gun which is fired into the uterus of the cow," Mr Manteli said. "You only get one shot, so you have to feel around first to find exactly where the uterus is."

"The straw must be fired up the urinary tract, but without touching the sides. Any blood could kill the semen."

Despite his pastime, Mr Manteli says he has no problem with clients shaking hands. "Most of them don't even know the semen is in the office," he said.

The straws of semen are taken from donor bulls and are cheaper than buying stud bull semen, which can cost anywhere between \$5000 and \$25,000.

I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts!

THE latest spate of vandalism to strike the Brahman bull on Yaamba road has uncovered one of the Rockhampton City Council's best kept secrets.

The bull has real nuts - well, a nut and its a coconut.

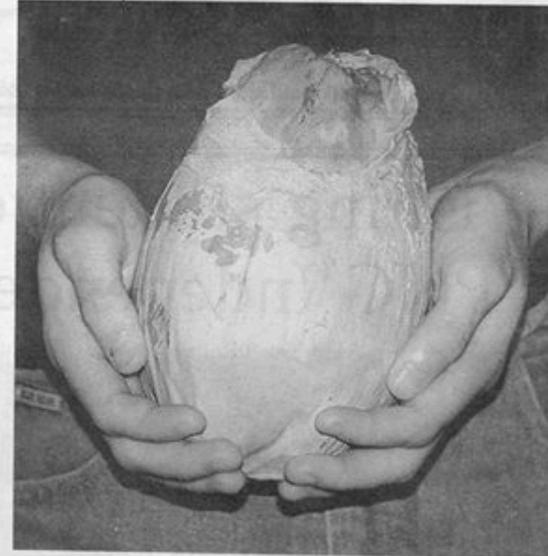
The people responsible for the latest attack said in a letter to Felix Culpa they were disappointed to find Rockhampton's most coveted trophy was merely a pink and grey painted coconut.

"How poor, they make such a big deal about it and it's a bloody coconut," they said.

The culprits said they stole the prize with embarrassing ease.

In the May Edition of Felix Culpa Rockhampton Alderman Jim Rundle said the council had a special mould for making the bulls testicles.

Linda Brady



One of Rockhampton City Council's best kept secrets - a pink coconut posing as the much sought after bull testicles. This photo was supplied to Felix Culpa

A small diversion. How we got into the Melbourne Truth.

Wansolwara

And then I moved to Fiji and decided to start a student newspaper at USP.
What follows is me quoting myself being quoted in *Mekim Nius*:

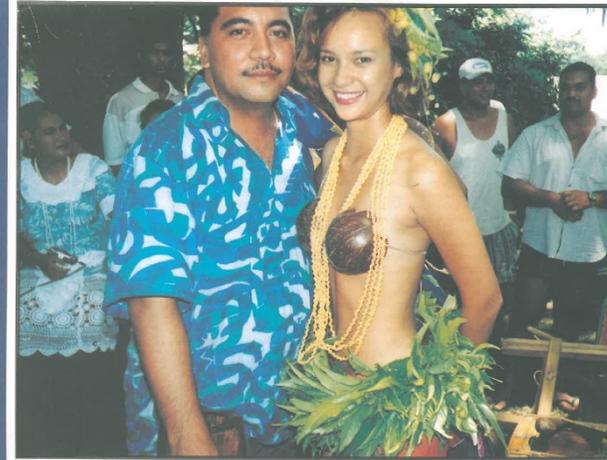
“Common sense would have dictated that I start the paper with a second or third year group of students who were familiar with desktop publishing, but I felt that what was needed was a group of students who would stay with the paper for a few years and grow with it.

I therefore decided that I would give the project to what was then the first year class. They were, thankfully, enthusiastic about the idea and programme leader Francois Turmel gave his blessing to the project and persuaded the French Embassy to fund us.

One Ocean
One
People

WANSOLWARA

Vol 2, No 1, April 1997



*LET'S celebrate! Students from the Cook Islands perform a traditional dance during the festivities that marked the commencement of the new academic year at USP's Lautala campus.

USP hikes fees for private students

By MITHLESHINI GURDAYAL

USP Student co-ordinator Alfred Schuster has called for a clear explanation of the increase in private tuition fees.

His comments follow an increase in the fees paid at USP by students studying privately (without government assistance or scholarships) at the university.

Students from outside the region will pay 50 percent more in fees and the students from university's 12 member countries will pay 10 percent more.

Mr Schuster said unless students had a clear idea of why the fees had been increased there would continue to be what he called "uninformed opinions and reactions" among students.

The increase was approved in a tri-annual meeting of ministers of finance from 11 of the 12 member nations of the university to discuss its financial needs.

Fees for extension students have also increased by another 40 percent.

According to the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Berenado Viniboko, the mismatch between USP resources and increased student numbers would need to be seriously examined so that the university's capability and capacity to deliver quality education is not compromised.

However, the Ministers approved 18 recommendations of the USOC which included a four percent increase in member government contributions for the 1997-1999 triennium. The governments were also advised on the recurrent and capital needs of the university on a three-year basis.

The fee increase was deemed necessary because of a lack of resources to match the 30 percent hike in enrolments from these pro-

dicted three years ago.

The 1996 total enrolment of full time students was 5139 compared with the 3941 predicted in the committee's last report in 1994.

The 1997-1999 report said it was necessary for the university to manage its enrolments and resources because the institution could not develop any faster than resources permitted.

The tuition fees has drawn fire from the Fiji Labour Party.

"The increase makes it more a question of who can afford to pay for education rather than those who are entitled to it," FLP president Jolapeki Koroi told the Fiji media.

Mrs Koroi claimed that the change was a direct consequence of right-wing economic policy unilaterally imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.



*USP Student co-ordinator Alfred Schuster says students must have a clear explanation of fee hikes.

She said a user-pays concept of education could not work in the South Pacific because of the vast income disparity and the relatively expensive cost of education.

Brawl at ISA social

INDIAN Students' Association and USP students Association officials fought at an ISA function on March 22.

Witnesses said USPSA president Madhukar Shyam, treasurer Dabarnand Dayal and former ISA executive officer Sunil Bari punched and bit each other.

Two security officers intervened to stop the fight.

The dispute followed criticisms of what was claimed to be poor organisation, a shortage of food and

Baba: BEd not in danger

HEAD of USP's Department of Psychology and Education, Professor Tupeni Baba, has denied rumours that USP had been asked to downgrade its BEd programme to a diploma.

Professor Baba said the rumour may have arisen following a request from the Fiji Education Department or USP to provide a diploma programme on a one-off project basis for students who could not be fitted in to the Fiji College of Advanced Education's DipEd.

Students enrolled in the FCAE DipEd are already granted eight to 10 degree unit credits when they enrol in the USP BEd.

USP was unable to meet the Education Department's request because of lack of funds.

Professor Baba said USP had been requested to run diploma programmes as special projects for Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Kiribati. These were one-off projects and were specially funded.

USP offered a DipEd through the extension mode in the 1980s, but withdrew it when the BEd was introduced. The diploma is still reserved

Dining hall management apologises

THE management of the USP dining hall is reported to have apologised to the Fijian Students' Association for the behaviour of some of his staff.

Acting catering manager Noni Nubalava said some staff have been found treating students on racial lines.

"They do favour some and go against others at times," Mr Nubalava said.

"We are trying to get rid of those

Moa Wansolwara

"We didn't actually have a name for the paper and the suggestion that we call it the *Stanley Weekly* was not met with complete enthusiasm by our first editor, Mr Simpson. However, it occurred to me that an expression I had heard in Papua New Guinea might be appropriate — *Wansolwara*.

Wansolwara expresses the idea that all of us who are born in or live in the Pacific are bound together by the ocean, whether our home is Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, the Marianas — or even Australia and New Zealand!

USP is home to students and staff from all over the great ocean, so *Wansolwara* seemed a perfect name.

Publishing the first edition was not easy. The students were being thrown in at the deep end with everything — writing the stories, taking photos, scanning images, selling ads and organising the printing.

However, the students were enthusiastic and determined to get the paper out with the first edition being published in November 1996.

Dying to look like a Bollywood star

Dark skinned women are risking their health and possibly death to look paler in the belief that this will make them more attractive. The 'pale is beautiful' image is fostered by Bollywood movies, advertising and fashion magazines. To achieve this look many women — both Indian and Fijian — spend their money on skin lightening creams in the hope that this will give them a fairer and lovelier appearance. As this report shows fair skin could prove to be a lethal fascination for many women.

By REETHU SABHARWAL

DO YOU want to have a fairer complexion like Karishma Kapoor and end up with gynaecological problems, dermatitis, gastro-intestinal problems, kidney damage or even death?

Sure you do. That is how you can end up with if you are using skin-whitening creams like *Fair & Lovely*, *Fair Plus* or any other brand of skin whitening creams available in supermarkets and chemists.

Behind the glittery image of the whitening creams portrayed by advertisements on television and radio lie some frightening problems — and they are not just medical.

A female student at the University of the South Pacific, who did not want to be identified, said she and her friends used whitening creams because men tended to prefer women with fairer skin.

Men who spoke to *Wansolwara* held different opinions about what they preferred.

Many said they did not care about skin colour, but were rather interested in the personality and character of the women they liked or would like to go out with.

A number of Indian men inter-



*Yes, your skin will be whiter, but it will be about as natural as using a tin of white paint.

viewed said that they preferred fairer skinned women.

USP psychologist, Dr Robin Taylor said people who used such products probably felt they needed to identify with a group of people they admired who represented wealth, power and other forms of material gain.

Some people who talked to *Wansolwara* felt that television and other forms of media were a very strong medium of influence in Fiji and elsewhere.

The programme or issues they feature carry a lot of western ideas. Whitening cream advertisements

play with words to influence people who are already influenced by cultural factors into using their whitening product.

A lecturer at the Fiji Institute of Technology who spoke to *Wansolwara* said culture was an important factor in the success of such discriminating ideas.

"In Indian society some people tend to associate beauty with fairer complexion," he said.

He referred to an advertisement for *Fair & Lovely* which appears on Hindi video tapes and on Fiji One shows a girl dressed up for her first introduction to her future

husband.

"The man who is the husband-to-be marvels at how fair and lovely she was and agrees to marry her."

"This idea is still dominating the life style of many Indians today and it is probably because of such ideas that people use such products," the FIT lecturer said.

In interviews conducted with other women, *Wansolwara* found that a large number of users believed that whitening creams had medicinal properties that could remove pimples and help make their skin smoother.

If a user of any whitening cream is

not get discouraged by allergic reaction due to skin reconstitution, it is likely that a skin condition known as dermatitis could develop from prolonged use of these creams.

Dr Robin Taylor said the words in the *Fair & Lovely* advertisement aired on Fiji One television were discriminatory.

"The use of strong words like 'it controls melanin' projects an idea that is wrong to have melanin," Dr Taylor said.

Melanin is the substance which controls the colour of a person's skin.

Creams can cause cancer

A GROUP of chemical ingredients found in some skin whitening creams has been found to be carcinogenic or cancer causing.

At present about eight brands of skin whitening creams are available in supermarkets and pharmacies.

An American toxicologist who advertises on the Internet, Internet, Pierre Anton claimed: "These products are extremely dangerous and can produce severe adverse effects".

Information received from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety has identified a number of chemicals in these whitening creams as cancer causing and health hazardous.

Fair & Lovely, *Fair Plus*, *Rich-n-Lovely* and *John* whitening creams have in common such chemicals as Triethanolamine, Cresol, Dimethylamine and Titanium Dioxide which are cancer causing agents. These chemicals are easily absorbed through the skin in the cream form and a small percentage is retained by the body.

This reacts with other chemicals naturally present in the human body to form cancer cells in the lungs and other body parts.

Information received from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety said that a test carried out in Russia on these chemicals had found the chemical Cresol, when present in whitening creams caused gynaecological problems in a test group of women.

The Russian team carried out another test in which they found 13 percent absorption by the skin of the

and central nervous system of the test subjects. Almost all the chemicals in skin whitening creams have properties of skin sensitizers.

Dr Roshni Shankar of Suva said skin sensitizers increased skin sensitivity to chemicals and created an allergic reaction of the skin to even small amounts of exposure to the cream.

"A skin condition known as dermatitis can result from prolonged use of such whitening creams, here the skin becomes itchy, dry with inflammation and swelling."

"The effects of skin allergies are not reversible however to stop further reaction the patient has to simply stop use of the cream to make present symptoms go away," Dr Shankar said.

According to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) chemical accumulation after a few years of regular use reaches a life threatening level and this is irreversible.

They further state that the accumulation of the chemical Hydroquinone found in 99 percent of the whitening creams available can cause gastro-intestinal effects such as vomiting and abdominal cramps.

Information from CCOHS states the absorption and accumulation rate of Hydroquinone in its cream through the skin is high. Kidney damage or death are a possibility.

Another Suva doctor, Marion Sharan, said that the effects of the creams were temporary and to have a permanent effect one would have to use the cream consistently. She said these creams could speed up the lightening process and react with ultra violet rays pro-



Moa Wansolwara yet

In the end, the first edition came out late, we didn't have many ads and some of the scanned photos produced people who were two inches wide and 12 feet high, but the important thing was that the students had proved they could do it. Our aim had been to strike a balance between campus news and a broader range of stories about issues affecting everybody in the Pacific.

In the first issue, for instance, we had a piece on the use of skin lightening creams.

By 1997, when I left for the UK, we were in a stronger financial footing and had a better handle on the technology. We had begun to tackle some big issues such as the civil war on Bougainville, the role of fa'fine in Samoa and suicides in Fiji.

We had also begun to be noticed by the students. Our coverage of some questionable goings on at student functions and financial irregularities in the USP Students Association led to one of our staff, Mithleshni Gurdoyal, being threatened — always a sign that our reporting was not only true, but causing embarrassment.”

After I left USP, *Wansolwara* passed into the hands of one D.Robie, who did rather well with it.

WANSOLWARA "One Ocean - One People"

The truth is out there!

BUENOS AIRES: Welcome to the first 1997 edition of *Wansolwara*. We take this opportunity to welcome continuing, exchange and new students from the region having their first taste of university life. Once again *Wansolwara* aims to provide news, stories, opinions and information no matter what obstacles or persecution we face. Being a journalist is not easy, especially in the Pacific where reporters face traditional and cultural barriers when gathering and disseminating information. However, to be professional means being brave, ethical and objective and this is the challenge *Wansolwara* journalists have taken up. Already, the leaders of some student factions have decided that *Wansolwara* is their enemy by withholding information and labelling the newspaper 'tabloid' and 'unprofessional'. They threatened a journalism student with 'professional attack' (whatever that is) if she wrote an article about them. It is ironic that these are the same sort of people who make so many promises when they are running for office, but flumble when information regarding student affairs and activities is required. Why don't they want to talk to us? Are they hiding something? The more they refuse to see us and withhold information the more determined we will be to uncover the truth. Like Mulder and Scully in *The X-Files*, we believe that the truth is out there. Our job is to find the truth and bring it back home alive.

The Editor

Letter to the Editor

THE USP social night on March 14 was an event looked forward to by many students. Flooded forward to a special evening, an opportunity to meet new friends, socialise and have lots of fun. Unfortunately, my evening ended abruptly and hurtfully when a friend was badly injured in an attempt to stop a fight by two senseless students. Throughout the evening, I witnessed many unnecessary arguments and fights, mostly attributed to the Fijian students and Indo-Fijians. As a part Fijian, I am proud of being part of the Fijian family in USP. After what I saw, I doubt they even treat each other like a family. Students were fighting anyone they wanted to and having no respect for others. As U.S.P. students they created a bad impression of the institution and of the country they were from. These students should be ashamed of themselves.

Emily Moli

The Credits

Wansolwara is a laboratory newspaper produced by students enrolled in the journalism major in the BA programme at the University of the South Pacific. It is designed to provide an outlet for journalism students' work and to give them a taste of the pressures they will face in the real world of media production. *Wansolwara* is a phrase common in Tok Pisin, Pidgin and Bislama which means that every body living in the Pacific is related by sharing the same ocean. Our students come from all over the Pacific with a common goal of studying and practicing journalism, so a name that reflects our common origins seemed appropriate. We hope you enjoy our second edition. Publication costs for this edition were met through advertising and a grant from the Journalism Students' Association. *Wansolwara* is distributed on the main campus at Lancela Bay in Suva and in the branch campuses in Port Vila and Apia.

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Journalism programme co-ordinator: Francois Turmel
Lecturers: Philip Cass
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Opinions expressed in *Wansolwara* are those of the authors and

Do private colleges offer competition to USP?

By LANIETA TAGMOUCIA

STUDENTS who wanted to study in Fiji should have an alternative to USP, that is, a private Australian college told *Wansolwara* this week. The other prominent one is the South Pacific Education College (SPEC) in Wainamou Road, Suva. SPEC, offers computer, communication and business courses in conjunction with Box Hill College in Melbourne. SPEC's student counsellor, Ms Shama Dayal, said there was no competition with Fiji institutions. "We offer Australian courses and programmes that differ from those offered by USP or PTT so I don't see any competition," Ms Dayal said. However, Peter Shadwell, course co-ordinator for JOBS Fiji Ltd, said private institutions offered competition for business courses. "Competition is good," he said. "It will improve the standards of all colleges and better the quality of education for all students."

JOBS Fiji is linked with Central Queensland University, which has concentrated on offering its business courses in Fiji. Mr Williams said there was a "disproportionate enrolment" by Fiji Indians at CHES. He said the situation would have been the same at USP "had the rules been fair, but they favour indigenous Fijians."

Wansolwara was unable to obtain comment for this story from USP Registrar, Sarojini Pillay.

Executive education

THE February 1996 issue of the Review ran a five page special on executive education. The institutions featured were SPEC, JOBS Fiji Ltd, USP and CHES along with the Fiji National Training Council (FNTC) which offers courses from Maseh University's Mt Eliza business school. Under headlines like "Getting Specialised Attention," "Making Managers More Effective" and "What's Available Where," the supplement presented detailed information about management courses (and the fees) that each of these institutions offered in 1996. FNTC offered courses that could be incorporated into local companies' training schemes or 'in-house' programmes. SPEC specialised in communication skills. JOBS Fiji and USP offered part-time courses for working managers. All institutions except for FNTC offered MBA programmes at varying fees, with USP charging the lowest price of \$650 per unit.

Media centre flooded



Media Centre staff bail out the language laboratory where *Wansolwara* is produced. THE USP Media Centre suffered thousands of dollars worth of damage to equipment in a 'flood' on January 23 when taps were left on in the extension services office after a water pump failure. When the water ceased on at night it overflowed from the extension centre downstairs into the Media Centre. Media Centre chief engineer Arno Schultz said some hardware in the Media Centre was out of function for two weeks. Some equipment was still breaking down, Mr Schultz said. Kestione Finas, the manager of computer uses in the USP, said the computer centre did not suffer any damage but was shut down for precautionary measures. USP Purser Hugh Dickson said the damage caused by the 'flood' was relatively minor.

Susan Kiran

New lockers for students

NEW lockers for students are expected soon, but according to the Purchasing Office, the Registrar has to approve the new lockers before they are issued. Hire costs for the new lockers are yet to be determined. Purchasing Officer Mita Leva-Sera could not be reached for confirmation about hire costs.

"Last year the hire went up from

Fighting eruptions at USPSA night

FIGHTING broke out at the USPSA social night on March 14. Student Association officers were kept busy removing students from the dining room. Witnesses said a number of outsiders had been allowed in, but USPSA treasurer Dharmendra Dayal insisted tickets had only been sold to

The Coranto. Some first steps in multi-platform student journalism

While I taught at Teesside University in the UK I decided to start another student newspaper. Our course was run in a very shaky partnership with Darlington College of Technology, where the students already had a newspaper, *The Badger*. This was not printed, but was simply run off in black and white and the sheets put on the notice board. Before the collaboration – and the course – collapsed, I managed to get out two editions of *The Coranto*.

Apart from the print edition, the students were required to make an audio version, which was broadcast on Alpha FM in Darlington. A cassette copy of the programme was produced for distribution to libraries.

The Coranto

June 10 1998 The Coranto is produced by BA (Hons) Journalism students at Teesside University and Darlington College



Chinese children stand on the banks of the Yangtze River, which could flood the homes of a million Chinese when a dam is built

Chinese lives at risk in quest for power

LESLEY Thomson reports on the construction of the Three Gorges Dam and the mighty Yangtze River swelling behind it, a human and environmental disaster in waiting.

It's considered to be China's grandest project since the Great Wall. At an estimated £20 billion, it will be completed in a decade's time, but it could also result in half a million Chinese people dying in floods.

The Chinese government is constructing a dam 600m high by a mile wide, which would be home to the world's biggest hydro-electric facility.

The dam will ease 28 massive turbine engines churning out 18 gigawatts of electrical power, which is 50 per cent more output than that of the current largest facility, the Itaipu in Brazil. When the dam is 10 years old, the Chinese government hopes it will generate enough power and profit to repay itself.

It will be built on the Yangtze River, a colossal waterway at al-

most 4000 miles long. If super-imposed on a map of Europe, it would wind from Edinburgh to Milan to Kiev.

About 140 miles down the river stands the Three Gorges, valleys whose towering natural beauty has been an inspiration for generations.

The *South China Morning Post* reported that floods would inevitably result from the siting in the 600m-long reservoir created. This would see flood levels rise in the regions upstream from the dam. A scientist professor from Qinghua University predicts that the dam could kill 500,000 people. The Chinese government has dismissed these claims.

The people will be the victims of the government's quest for modernisation. For more than 1000 years the banks of the Gorges, the Qutang, the Wu and the Xiling, have been home to scores of thousands. Around 840,000 people live along the sites in danger of being flooded by the new dam. These people need to be resettled, but planners expect another 400,000 to be born between now and the project's completion. The flood-

ing has already begun, as 1392 villages have been claimed by the water.

Critics have slammed the construction, claiming that in a decade's time the Three Gorges, with its medieval burial sites will be unrecognisable, submerged forever. The reservoir, which will contain 40 billion cubic metres of water, will affect the bio-geo-chemical, hydrological and life cycles in the area. It is estimated that one billion tonnes of sewage will flow into the reservoir each year.

Some scientists have predicted the weight of the water in the reservoir could trigger an earthquake. Others have predicted vulnerability during a nuclear attack.

At its conception after the First World War in 1919, the dam was seen as an innovative technological breakthrough for the Chinese. It ended the flooding for thousands living in the Three Gorges valley, whose homes were at risk every time it rained.

Now, almost 80 years later, the Chinese are telling a different story. Inwardly bitter, the locals whose lives and livelihoods will be obliterated forever, call it the

'drowning pool'.

In 1989 a book with opposing scientific views on the dam was published. The Chinese Government, fearful of the book's accusations of geologically-unsafe land and the pending destruction of millions of livelihoods, threw the author, Dai Qing, in prison.

Powerful global corporations, including the United Nations, have expressed discontent with the plans. The Chinese found that no one was willing to fund their project and, as Chinese pride would not allow the project to discontinue, they found funds from home-grown enterprises. But their ambition continues. There are five other large dams planned and work will begin on two of them in 2005.

What is happening to the Yangtze and the Three Gorges is an achingly, bitterly sad tragedy. And we can only watch and wait with China until the landscape is gone, drowned and forgotten forever.

Additional research by Bev Ward

What's inside

See what's happening with the thriving film industry in the North East
Page 6

The University is leaping into the 21st Century with its new Virtual Reality Centre
Page 10

Local tourist attraction Hadrian's Wall goes under the scrutiny of The Coranto
Pages 12-13

Learn more about Middlesbrough's Muslim community with our feature
Page 16

The one that didn't happen

After Teesside I moved to Zayed University in the UAE. Once the layout and design course and the journalism courses were up and running I decided to start a bilingual Arabic/English newspaper.

The Mirror/Al Mirror was a fabulous idea that just didn't work. For a start, newspapers and journalism were not part of the students' cultural background. Secondly, because of their English, so much subbing had to be done that work progressed very slowly.

Eventually it was finished and then went to the dean for approval. Then it went to the Provost for approval and there it sat for so long that it got old and died. My colleagues on the Dubai campus had similar experiences when they tried to start a news magazine. Eventually I became assistant dean in Abu Dhabi and got sucked into the vortex of administration and didn't teach journalism at ZU again.

Somebody else came along and produced *The Mirror*, an English language magazine with lots of stories about 'our field trip to Paris' and fashion tips. At least I wasn't the one having to answer awkward questions when a fairly large sum of money went missing from the magazine's account.

- There may be a file of *The Mirror/Al Mirror* somewhere on a jazz drive or a zip drive or something equally exotic at the bottom of a cardboard box. Maybe.



After Gutenberg

At the end of last year I took over *After Gutenberg*, which had been run in fits and starts as a student journal in the Department of Communication Studies at Unitec.

We only have one journalism-type course, News Writing, which has been highly praised by our external examiner. I took over that course a couple of years ago and have managed to squeeze pretty much everything I can into it, but the student work needed an outlet. We had an annual radio programme with Planet FM, but after a disastrous experience (that had nothing to do with Planet FM) we decided to take the whole thing in-house. When *AG* became available I grabbed the chance to take the student' work in print, audio and online journalism and give it a permanent home. Hence the *After Gutenberg Summer Special*, of which you will see more in a minute. We will use this format in the coming semester and, hopefully, years to come. [Link opening](#)

AFTER
AG UTENBERG

SUMMER SPECIAL



Gradfest winner for News Writing

The award for best News Writing student went to Te Ngaronoa Mahanga. The award was presented by former News Writing lecturer and head of Crannog Communication, Ed Mason. The competition for the award this year was very close, but Te Ngaronoa's award was well deserved. His work for News Writing has been insightful, fresh and inventive. He was the leader of his group's radio project and oversaw its completion to a high standard.

[Te Ngaronoa](#) has also acted as a mentor to younger members of his class.

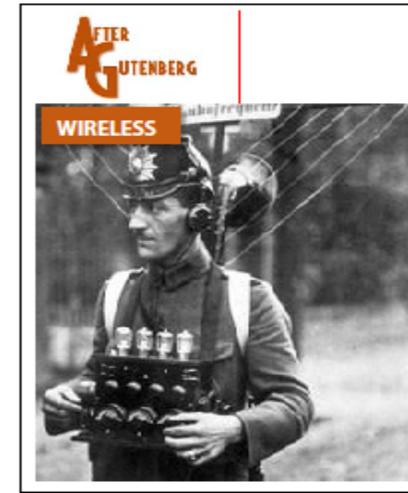
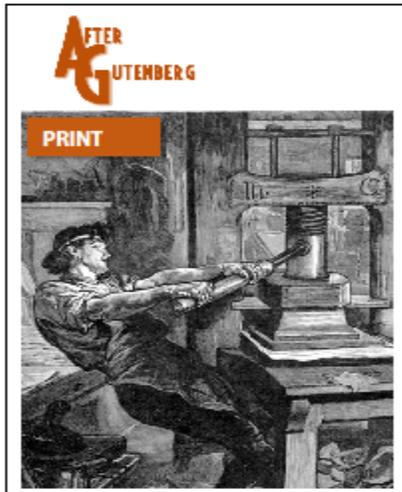
He has already demonstrated his eloquence and writing style in other venues – few who saw it will forget him rapping his way through his presentation in International Communications – and he promises to be one of the distinctive voices of his generation.

For more Gradfest stories and pictures, see pages 2 and 3.

ABOVE: Te Ngaronoa and former COMM6537 News Writing lecturer Ed Mason.



SUMMER SPECIAL



- The AG format was designed by me with input from students Anusha Bhana and Steve Ellmers. It would not have been possible without the help of our department's IT expert, Mun Naqvi.

So, what can we learn from all of this?

There is no point in having students producing stories for any medium unless they have an outlet.

Any product must be able to cover campus news and larger events. You must be able to appeal to a target audience. (Remember *The Mirror* magazine? I hated it. The students loved it.)

Journalism and student media production is very culturally specific, even when it's a country that speaks the same language.

Students must be given the opportunity to experience as many facets of media production as possible.

Given my background I've concentrated on newspapers, but other people will want their students to know about working in different (or several) media.

I have students who have gone on to work for some of the biggest media outlets in the world – and some of the smallest - along with free lancers and PR people and book editors and producers.

I like to think the experience of working on *Felix Culpa* or *Wansolwara* or *The Coranto* went some way to putting them there.

Make sure you have one fixed space for meetings and/or production. This will help create a centre point for the project and the esprit de corps that is essential to keeping a student publication going.

Make sure you have at least one staff member crazy enough to devote the hours necessary to make it work.

