

Kings Cross Community Centre, 60 Macleay St. (Fitzroy Gardens)
Sunday 2nd August, 2:30pm. Booked for a month of Sundays!
Details Ramesh or Robert Hutcheon.....Please come if you possibly

KINGS CROSS PROGRAM.

again, I am advised by a friend of Doroja's that Doroja was talking over her life a bit one night. You don't understand, Doroja says "I'm taking over my life, it is my life. I want a job, it has been so hard a Doroja. Doroja already has nothing for me. In fact as the people who have attended public programmes, a few old friends have either received or re-established their recognition. One couple who came for dinner last night felt the need to write, and for the publisher it was explaining to him what he has been feeling within himself over the last decade - he was a very close friend who must have had a hand in everything at the same time as the rest of "the Americans" without knowing it.

Hello everyone,
 News from Jeannette is that everything is
 progressing extremely well. Thank you very much
 we those wonderful yogo * yoganis who have
 been giving us so much support - by way of
 kassaro, Pancratium, rhubarb, phone calls, letters,
 & especially through your love & attention. It has
 all been much needed & very much appreciated.
 We have had 6 programmes so far, a public
 programmes in outdoor venues and two dancing
 morning meditations but the first week is
 people attend the activities programme, 7 came
 to the follow-up and one man came to
 Sunday meditation. The second week now
 17 people to the activities programme
 (including 5 from the previous week), 7 to
 the follow-up and 3 to Sunday meditation.
 It seems that we have 7 or 8 regulars,
 some once, some twice & some 3 times a week.
 One lady actually never had meditation
 five years ago & has had 10 others
 the last one and yet very strong.
 Some days on Monday night, and again for
 meditation. Sunday morning. She is extremely
 happy to be a part of Jyoga Yogo once

Thursday July 21, 1972

THE TASMANIAN UPDATE...

Sahaja Newsletter

Contributions:
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JULY 31, 1992

news from Brisbane & Wamuran.

News From Sri Souda & Ashrams

Walkman Raffle - The raffle will be drawn on 24/7/92. Winner notified by phone & winners' name printed in following weeks newsletter.

Many thanks to those people who sold the tickets, gave donations and generally sent good wishes and vibrations our way.

On 23/7/92 Highgate Hill ashram closes down and all the yogies living there will move onto the property at Wamuran. Caboolture is the largest town near the property, and Wamuran is a little village about 5 minutes drive. Michael Fogarty spent a weekend with us recently and has drawn up plans for an ashram, and Stephen Taylor has taken the plans overseas with him to show Shri Mataji. Many thanks to Michael for the time, effort and thought he has put into creating the best design for the land, Qld. climate and Sahaja Yoga. Until the ashram is built a rather ugly shed has been transformed into a cosy home which will be main residence for now. There are tremendous vibrations at the property, all put cares fall away when we are there, and to see the children play happily for hours is a special joy. Their world expands so much with 13 acres to play on, - cubby houses, bike riding, mud puddles and encounters with wild birds and animals are the order of the day. We are all looking forward to the day when many yogies can gather at Wamuran to greet Our Mother at Her Australian property.

Meanwhile we'll keep you posted with all developments, any visitors always welcome and any fund-raising ideas would be welcomed too.

Any queries about the raffle, ring Wendy on 07 8622983.

Love from your brothers & sisters in Brisbane.

PS. Wamuran Address is:- Lot 13 McClintock Rd. Wamuran. Qld.

Phon. 074 966176.



There was no Newsletter last week—our photocopier died, unfortunately—this week's edition is still a little fuzzy but we do expect to be back to "normal" next issue. The Editors.

A REPORT

Guru Puja went quite smoothly with a lot of help from many people, thank you to all the helpers.

We came out ahead financially by \$365.75.

Thank you to all the people who stayed behind and cleaned up. The cleaning up part of the weekend is very important, it establishes a reputation, of us in the eyes of the public. We encourage everyone at our future events to participate with enthusiasm in finalising our commitments.

Collection			
	Numbers	Amount	Total
Adults	172		\$9,842
Children	47		\$470
	219		\$10,312
Banked			
7/7/92	\$7,272		
21/7/92	\$2,339		
Cash Spent	\$701		
	<u>\$10,312</u>	Total Collected	
Spendings			
Cheque	Paper, etc.	\$337.65	
Cheque	P.A. & Puja Setup	\$320.00	
Cheque	Postage	\$90.00	
Cheque	Tant	\$2,594.30	
Cheque	Dakshana	\$2,100.00	
Cheque	Groceries	\$485.30	
Cheque	Meat	\$218.00	
Cheque	Rent (Deposit)	\$500.00	
Cheque	Rent	\$2,900.00	\$9,245.25
Cash	Food	\$588.00	
Cash	Milk	\$39.00	
Cash	Gas	\$78.00	\$701.00
		Total Spent	\$9,245.25
		Total Profit	\$385.75

Ray Tollis
24/7/92

The pre registrations were a little disappointing, with only half the registrations received by the closing date and about fifty people paying their money on the actual weekend. This makes it very difficult to advice the venue of numbers, impossible to order the correct amount of food and gives the organisers of the camp unnecessary work load on the days of the seminar or Pujā. We understand that circumstances will happen, that you cannot register early. But for the other, who have no excuses please lodge registrations on time.

The long weekend in October (2/10/92 to 5/10/92) may be time for our National Seminar. The possible site is Glenrock.

Religion muscles in on reason

PHILLIP ADAMS

THE WEEKEND REVIEW, JULY 18-19, 1992

WHEN I read that Turkish Kurds had kidnapped an Australian, Dr Allen Roberts, I felt a stab of sympathy and concern. Those poor, unsuspecting Kurds. When it came to acts of terrorism they were clearly out of their depth. For they had snatched a fire-breathing fundamentalist, someone in the business of hijacking rationality. Someone intent on holding it to ransom.

On hearing our media describe Roberts as "an archaeologist" I heard the heaviest of sighs. For Roberts, who holds his doctorate from the Freedom University of Florida, just up the road from Disney World, is a creationist. In January 1979 for a thesis on "The Teaching of Absolute Christian Values in Australian Primary Schools", said the Freedom University does not appear on the list of accredited universities and colleges, recognised in the United States, let alone worldwide. Its graduates, including Doctor of Christian Education, are obtained "by correspondence".

A little like my own honours. For in the US I am a legal archbishop, not to mention a saint. I obtained these titles from a mail-order religious organisation whose legitimacy has been questioned by the Supreme Court. For \$US50 a pop you can have any title you like. As well as archbishop and saint you can be an ayatollah, a rabbi, a cardinal, a guru. And there's no problem with the ordination of women. All you need is a credit card.

Yet there were Australian journalists uncritically accepting a dubious doctorate while earnestly reporting not only Roberts's kidnapping but his archaeological doings. Namely, his discovery of Noah's Ark. The one that contained the entire menagerie of this world's creatures, from giraffes to gerbils, from iguana to kangaroos. Despite my sainthood, I'm not normally a pious person, but I found myself praying the Kurds would keep Roberts, so as to protect the minds and cheekbones of Australia's gullible. Archaeologist? Hardly. Archeologist, more likely.

The Kurds, obviously protective of their own sanity and educational standards, decided to release Roberts, who has turned his brief incarceration into an invaluable publicity stunt. Since then he's been marketing his pseudo-science to what seems to be a growing multitude of dimwits. Moreover, he's threatening to take legal action against those scientists who can be bothered to attend his public meetings, where they interrupt his fund-raising by questioning both his credentials and his findings.

To claim to have found Noah's ark in Turkey is tantamount to a self-styled geographer announcing that the world is, after all, flat. But the good doctor has not only found the ark, perfectly preserved in fossil form, he also tells his gormless gripees that he's also discovered the dung, and the fur, of the various animals that dwelt within. Also their boarding passes.

People are perfectly entitled to believe in Noah's ark if they wish, just as they're entitled to believe in the Tooth Fairy or Father Christmas. Let them have bays in their belfry or fairies at the bottom of their garden. It's when such beliefs invade our education system, when fundamentalists like Roberts manage to get the oxymoronic creation science into our school curriculums, as has happened in at least one State, that it's time to take their ideology seriously.

If you, as a parent, learnt that your kids were being taught that the sun orbited our planet, or that this world was a vast pancake, or that it was held aloft by giant tortoises, you'd probably be a little worried. Well, the idea that the earth is just 6000 years old (which is exactly what an endless succession of archeologists visiting Turkey have tried to prove) is a loonier proposition than any of those hypotheses. As Francis Crick, co-discoverer of DNA, said recently, "anyone who believes that the earth is less than 10,000 years old needs psychiatric help".

In attacking evolution, the creation scientists (sic) are setting out to destroy not just biology, but all of science. The executive of the Australian Institute of Biology recently agreed to a national poll of first-year biology students. Let me underline and emphasise that - biology students. This study was to measure the incidence of belief in creationism, as opposed to the notion of life-forms evolving over immense stretches of what scientists call "deep time".

Responses were received from 4225 students from 17 universities, at least one in each State. It was the first measure of the response to creation science in this country since its invention by the American Henry Morris in 1960. Creation science was cobbled together as an indirect way of getting a narrow Christian fundamentalism into US schools.

The central tenet of Morris and his followers is that "evolution is the work of Satan" and that you "can't believe in God and evolution". So Morrisites will be thrilled to know that 12.6 per cent of the students polled agreed with the following statement: "God created man pretty much in his present form at one time within the last 10,000 years". This is why I don't treat "Dr" Allen S. Roberts as a joke. He has links to creation science organisations in the US and Queensland, and with Fred Nile's Festival of Light in one of its many pseudonyms. Isaac Asimov called these people "the Army of the Night".

They are not only the enemies of reason, of science, and of education, but of generations of progressive theology. They are as much a threat to the churches as they are to the laboratories. The good doctor doesn't like being questioned on his credentials, let alone his discoveries and his theories. Confront him with geologists, physicists, chemists, prehistorians, archaeologists, palaeontologists, cosmologists, astronomers or any one of the scores of other disciplines that his gobbledygook insults and he's off to his foxhole.

When his meetings are attended by experts in primates and hominids, by those involved in palaeoanthropology, by specialists in thermodynamics or the speed of light, by experts working on radiometric dating or the evolution of vertebrates, let alone by those who study fossils or rock formations (in other words, by the very people who could tell Roberts what his "ark" really is) he gets very, very upset.

Scientists, attempting to question Roberts have been assaulted by security guards or removed from "public meetings" by police. Then there are the threats of writs and legal actions, at least one of which seems likely to eventuate. In other words, Australia is about to have a Scopes Monkey Trial in 1992.

Recently, in Tasmania, the ark crowd had Tasmanian police officers in the wings when Professor Ian Plimer tried to present the geological interpretation of the "boat-shaped" structure in Turkey. Think of it: A university professor was thrown off a university campus for asking a question in his own field of expertise, namely, geology!

Roberts then gave the same talk in Brisbane and Perth on his fund-raising tour. Now Plimer was joined by dozens of scientists. Science writer Peter Pockley describes what happened as "the most extraordinary occurrence in 28 years' experience of covering academic and public lectures".

As the audience took their seats, guards placed themselves next to Plimer and Dr Alex Ritchie of the Australian Museum, a palaeontologist of 30 years' standing. Now things were quiet while Roberts went through his vaudeville act, showing pictures of "remains" which he claimed had been identified by "experts" as not having geological origins. Metal, wood and anchor stones were said to have been identified by reputable scientists as materials, "from a boat". Animal hair and antlers found on the site were said to give evidence of the "boat's" living cargo.

"After 11 hours," reports Pockley, "Roberts touched on the standard creationist line that radiocarbon dating of archaeological and biological materials cannot be relied upon. From his seat Dr Colin Murray-Wallace, an expert in radiocarbon dating from Newcastle University, called out twice for documentary evidence. He was approached by a guard and told to leave. After some argument, he and his wife complied".

Roberts would only accept questions in writing, but Ritchie stood up and asked him to explain the difference between "geosyncline" and "syncline". Roberts would not answer his questions. When Ritchie refused the guard's instruction to leave, three guards, including one very burly, bearded example, descended on him. "There was much vigorous heaving on Ritchie's arms, legs and torso," says Pockley, "but surrounded by others who kept to their seats and protested at his treatment, he managed to hang on".

CONT.

Creationists are the enemies of science, education and progressive theology

As well as being rude to their critics, Roberts and his associates appeal for money at the lectures, to continue search for evidence with the "first invasive dig" of the site in July. An appeal notice distributed at the meeting states "we believe membership fees and donations will be tax-deductible".

It seems Roberts is also supported by the Reverend Gordon Moyes of the Wesley Church, the man who recently used an enormous amount of church money to buy the ailing radio station 2GB, thus providing himself with a very powerful pulpit. I recently heard Moyes telling his listeners how Russian scientists had accidentally discovered Hell while digging a hole through the permafrost. (It seems the drill-bit broke through a final layer of rock and, lo and behold, out came "the screams of millions of unhappy people".) In a recent rapturous encounter with Roberts on 2GB, Moyes dismissed all of Roberts's opponents, citing the Apostle Paul to describe sceptics as "dogs".

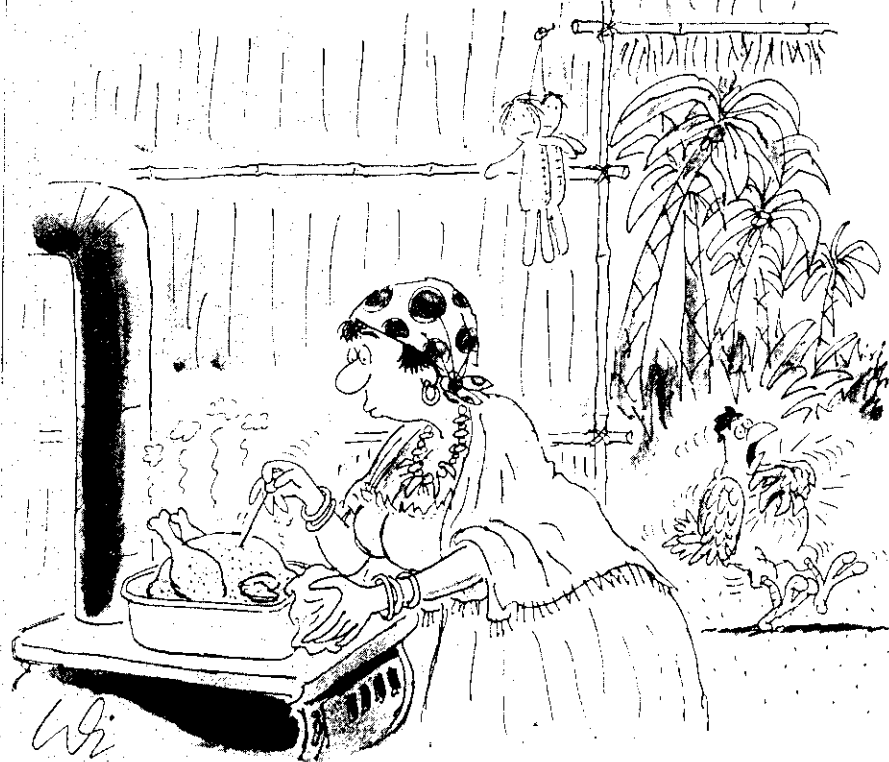
So we're dealing with an assault on intelligence, with physical assaults on questioning scientists. We're dealing with people who refuse a public debate. Yet one of the most interesting deb-

ates is the one that must, one day, take place between Dr Andrew Snelling and Dr Andrew Snelling, who are both the same man, but one is a director of the Creation of Science Foundation while the other is a consultant geologist. This is the most intriguing of double-acts. For Dr Andrew Snelling BSc (Hons) Geology (University of NSW), PhD (University of Sydney) is the only professional geologist in Australia who endorses the creationist line. Thus in one life he writes articles for fundamentalist journals in which nothing is more than 10,000 years old and everything geological is explained by reference to Noah's flood.

The other Dr Snelling, "the consultant geologist", has written or co-authored about 10 respectable papers on aspects of uranium mineralisation, published in mainstream refereed scientific journals. In these articles Snelling cites geological ages of hundreds or thousands of millions of years. This, without reservation. The two Snellings never refer to each other's articles, although the same person writes both. As Ritchie points out, "One Snelling must be lying and only Andrew himself can decide which".

Make no mistake, these issues matter. During John Bjelke-Petersen's reign, creation science got into the Queensland schools via John's minister for education. A few months ago, an education seminar was held at Parramatta in NSW, organised by the NSW Festival of Light. The topic? "Should Creation Be Taught in Our Schools?" And this was chaired by Bruce Coleman, personal assistant to Fred Nile in his role as MP. The Niles have been actively trying to introduce legislation to allow "equal time" in NSW schools for the teaching of this rubbish.

If the threatened legal action from the creation scientists goes through, they seem ready to spend, on their side, legal fees of up to \$200,000 on local versions of recent legal battles fought in Arkansas and Louisiana. Yet there are plenty of us who are spoiling for the opportunity to get these ratbags into court, where they'll be forced to swear an oath on the Bible they take so literally. Will they be so fast and loose with the truth then?



Vatican: the last Kremlin?

AFTER the collapse of communism, the Vatican is the last authoritarian, absolutist institution in Europe. There is no other regime which treats its own people so badly, especially the leading thinkers, the eminent theologians Hans Kung told the BBC. This month, after his distinguished colleague, Leonardo Boff, had resigned from the priesthood because of decades of censorship and harassment.

Without being a leading Catholic thinker, I have long had the same experience. A journalist covering Roman Catholic matters has to work in the way Kremlinologists used to work, reading between lines and consulting experts on hidden meanings. Papal sayings and councils are private, offering the press a censored abstract. The party line comes daily from the *Osservatore Romano* newspaper.

The Vatican press spokesman, Joaquin Navarro Valls, obviously sees the media in the same light that Communists do: they should serve the common weal and, if they don't, should be kept out on the pavement. Valls is a member of Opus Dei, the elitist, authoritarian and arch-conservative sect especially favoured by the Pope.

The Vatican handles history as the Kremlin did. Officially there is never a change of line and every new departure is elaborately justified from precedent and authority.

An Anglican bishop will tell you what he thinks, on the record - and be grateful to be asked. Roman Catholic bishops have a hunted, furtive look when talking about the Pope; and even parish priests talk only off the record on such delicate matters as birth control or priestly celibacy.

One totalitarian empire - the Catholic Church - continues to cling to its old ways, writes WALTER SCHWARZ

For Roman Catholic theologians in the firing line, all this is much more than an administrative inconvenience. "The most terrible thing was that they never stopped persecuting me even when they knew I was near death. That was shameful. The minimum reform I ask for is transparency: that the accused should appear before his accusers, that he can choose his own defence counsel". That despair isn't from a story by Kafka or from a Stalinist archive but from Bernard Haring, an eminent theologian who had taught for 30 years at a papal university in Rome before attracting the attention of the Holy Office. Haring had not attacked the faith, only the papal ban on birth control and the dictatorial workings of the Vatican under the present Pope. He had dared to suggest the Church could well go on living without the Holy Office, the successor to the Inquisition, which he described as "a poisoned lake where healthy fish cannot swim".

This month Leonardo Boff, the father of liberation theology, could take no more. He said that since 1971 he had suffered continuous tribulations, restrictions and punishments from the Holy Office and from the Franciscan Order. "I consider that to censor in advance everything I write, be it a book or an article, is abusive and contrary to the sense of canon law. One cannot breathe without air or create without freedom. Christ called us to freedom, not to slavery".

Throughout the Roman Catholic world there is an atmosphere of simmering revolt. Bishops who put liberal or innovative ideas into practice have their authority by-passed or undermined from Rome. Episcopal vacancies are systematically filled with pliant conservatives, even when, as in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, this violates local traditions.

The Sydney Morning Herald

14/7/92

And yet, neither Boff nor Kung nor any of the other modern martyrs have left the Church to become Protestants. The lure of tradition and universality remain as potent for them as they were for Graham Greene, T.S. Eliot and so many other cerebral converts.

Tradition and universality are indeed the defence offered in the Pope's name by Cardinal Ratzinger, Head of the Holy Office, and Chief Inquisitor. He explained recently that trendy reform "coming from below" is appropriate for a church that is "a grand but purely sociological reality".

The true Church must be immutable on church as well as faith matters and the liberalising reforms of Vatican II can only be accepted if they are seen, like everything else that comes out of the Vatican, as a continuation.

But that is not the only view of religion, and progressive Catholics, who believe that faith needs continuous and individual renewal, simply wait for the next Pope, quietly practising birth control while they wait.

This deep malaise comes at a dramatic time - when the defeat of communism and the glaring failures of capitalism have left a void which the Pope, among others, seeks to fill. John Paul II and Cardinal Ratzinger see themselves as fighting against materialism in the name of a single, immutable faith. But here, yet again, the Church of Rome is behind the times.

With materialism failing to deliver, probably more people are looking for moral and spiritual values than at any time in the last two centuries. The Roman Catholic Church, under John Paul II risks missing that boat and leaving the way open to fundamentalists on one side and New Agers and pagans on the other.

The Guardian

Gloomy prophets urge irrationality

The Sydney Morning Herald

23.6.92

By CATHERINE ARMITAGE
Science Writer

The Club of Rome, the international group of politicians, scientists, and intellectuals that panicked the world in 1972 by predicting the imminent exhaustion of the world's natural resources, has written another gloomy tome on the planet's fate.

The club is so gloomy, and its search for solutions apparently so desperate, that its latest report, *The First Global Revolution*, pleads for irrationality because rational solutions have failed.

It says people will need "new powers, which they can actually find in themselves", to face the uncertainties and complexities ahead. "They will have to resort to combinations that have been scorned for too long," the report says, arguing for "a resort to the apparently irrational, the intuitive and the emotional".

When the club's first report, *The Limits to Growth*, was published 20 years ago, the spectres were overpopulation, resource depletion and pollution. Now some "new plagues" have been added: drug-related crime, AIDS, global warming and something labelled "the human malaise".

The club argues that the human malaise springs from among other things the disintegration of moral

authority, the impact of the mass media with its "throbbing song of calamity", the spiritual void left by the breakdown of traditional family and religious values, rampant but ultimately dissatisfying materialism, and the inability of individuals to keep up with a complex and changing world.

Dr Keith Suter, one of four Australian members of the Club of Rome and president of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney, said the world now had a "unique window of opportunity".

"For the first time since 1945 we are able to focus on the issues we should have been focusing on, except we were on this detour called the Cold War," he said.

The report said the first global revolution must involve a transformation from military to civilian economies, and the political vacuum left by the fall of communism should be filled with new enemies: "They threaten the whole human race and their names are pollution, water shortage, famine, malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment".

Current instruments of government are inadequate to deal with the new world, the report argues. Global governance involving close collaboration and co-operation between countries is

required. Within countries, governing institutions admit a greater range of players in decision-making, including business and industry, research bodies, scientists and non-government organisations as well as the general populace - "an effective nervous system at the grassroots level".

Education, science and technology and the mass media are identified as the key agents to bring about the necessary change.

"Introduction to the Great World Problems... should henceforth be a compulsory subject in the education of children and adolescents," the report says, while arguing for education as a permanent, lifelong, multidisciplinary process that goes hand in hand with all work and leisure pursuits.

In *The First Global Revolution*, the club made no apology for the faulty predictions of *The Limits to Growth*. Dr Suter says the arguments, not the specific predictions, were most important in *The Limits to Growth*.

He says the recent Rio Earth conference vindicated the earlier report: "We now have politicians locked into the new paradigm. Even George Bush is slowly coming to that point of view, that we can't continue to go down the path of the '60s and '70s".



Blanch d'Alpuget
writing in *The Good Weekend*...

Expatriates living there say the Vietnamese see themselves as a special race, a chosen people. They beat China. They beat France. Then they beat America. Nobody else could do that. Indeed, when you descend into the network of tunnels in the Iron Triangle and see the conditions in which the guerillas lived for years, you wonder if any other people on earth are as stubborn and hard. Yet in the north in particular, I saw people in the street with expressions of such refined intellect and sweetness it was possible to think they were saints or holy men and women in disguise. I have never seen so many faces shining with benevolence as I saw in Vietnam. It's as if the population has been sprinkled with people of a higher evolution.

In 1975, when the war ended, Vietnam

ANY ONE FOR VIETNAM?



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Songbooks for sale:

Songbooks in A4 format, with plastic "comb" binding are available from John Noyce in Melbourne for \$19 (& postage). Further information and/or orders: John Noyce, 6 Kalista Crt, Burwood East, 3151 Victoria. Telephone 03 803 2749.