

INVESTIGATE

new zealand's best current affairs magazine

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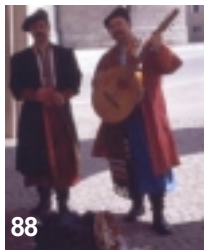
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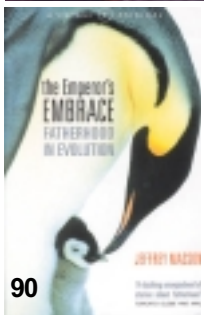
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2001: a race odyssey

I was speaking to a Maori guy the other day who was bemoaning the divide and rule race relations tactics of successive governments in New Zealand.

"Looking at your draft constitution," he said, "that might be the way for us all to move forward as one."

The problem, as he sees it, is that "fat cats" on both sides of the race tree have hijacked the system, causing growing tension in the Pakeha community without those people realising that ordinary Maori are none too pleased with what's been done either.

"What we need," he continued, "is a way to put the Treaty of Waitangi behind us, once and for all, and to forge a new future, and I think a new constitution would do it."

Acknowledging the point that it was the British Crown that should be being sued over Waitangi grievances, not New Zealand taxpayers, he felt it was time to sort out New Zealand's constitutional mess once and for all.

The biggest problem he faces, however, is breaking through public apathy and/or apprehension, and making people realise that there is an alternative to the system currently in place.

European New Zealanders have been taught "loyalty to the Crown" from a very early age. Likewise, many Maori adhere to a similar tribal hierarchy.

So the picture presented to most New Zealanders by the news media and politicians is an "either/or" scenario, where we're told that either "the Crown" rules New Zealand

or "the Maoris" do. What all the commentators have missed is one of the fundamental tenets of true democracy: nobody should be "ruling" New Zealand except the New Zealand people - all of us.

Imagine a country where all of us have the same rights, the same responsibilities and the same opportunities.

I for one don't personally care whether I pay rent to "the Crown" or to a Maori Trust Board - as long as I have a lease or rental contract protecting my rights to use the land it matters not to whom my rent gets paid.

And that's all we're talking about at the end of the day.

If some Crown land is returned to Maori ownership, who cares? If Maori tribes choose to sue the British Government for treaty breaches, who cares? Why should this be so divisive.

It is time to move forward. And on that note, *Investigate* has some big plans for 2001, but we would really like to have another 500 subscribers. If you're not a subscriber but you like the magazine, please call us on 0800 747 007, take out a discount subscription and help us make this an even better magazine for you.

Happy New Year.



IAN & HEIDI WISHART

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our people



Advertising Manager Paul Lightfoot comes to Investigate from Prime Television. Despite an extensive background in media advertising and customer service for Air New Zealand, he jokes his real claim to fame was as a guitarist in Andrew Fagan's 80s pop group "The Mockers - I played bass on *Forever Tuesday Morning*".

Lightfoot's business philosophy is heavily customer-oriented. "Without customer service, there's no relationship and no happy customer. It's not just placing ads, it's listening to the client, understanding their needs, and ensuring their message is right for our demographic.



Foreign correspondent Shayne Kavanagh is a Kiwi photojournalist based in London. This month, he files his first report for Investigate after going to the front line of the Palestinian uprising and getting shot at by the Israelis and mugged by the Palestinians. Kavanagh was lucky - an American Associated Press reporter is still in hospital recovering from being shot in the stomach by an Israeli soldier. Although Israel claims it has only used rubber bullets, the hospital has confirmed soft-nosed "dum dum" bullets, designed to explode inside the body and banned under the Geneva Convention, were removed from her abdomen.



confessions from the frontline

First well done on your magazine. Finally an editor who dares to print something original rather than a rehash of a Police press release.

If you are serious about a Royal Commission into the NZ Police, a number of Security Officers around NZ may be willing to assist you in where to look.

The public forget that we are there too and its quite surprising what we see and hear.

Often we know Police are lying to the press because we were there or we know that this "regrettable one off mistake" is a regular occurrence because it occurs to us on a daily basis.

Although personally I think that, possibly with a few exceptions, the Force isn't so much corrupt just basically incompetent. They then panic and try and cover up their incompetence.

In a lot of cases this isn't the fault of individual members but Police management.

A claim that the Force in general was corrupt would simply result in their closing ranks and prevent the gathering of sufficient evidence to instigate an inquiry.

A systematic examination of Police management and operations practices down to the local level would not only hopefully obtain sufficient such evidence but would also not "piss off" the average frontline Constable who in general feel their management are incompetent.

Quite possibly these Constables would turn out to be the best source of evidence available.

I should make it clear that as a Patrol Officer I am biased as hell. I long since reached the opinion that we don't need a huge national police force and to be honest find their existence a little unsettling.

The presense of a 9000 odd armed force created to fight the Maori, in a country under the command of one person solely existing for use internally, is something I have always found hard to justify.

I think local Police Departments need to be considered as an option. For all their supposed faults they seem to work well overseas and at very least are much more accountable to the citizens who employ them.

It seems to have been forgotten by the public and press that NZ did have local law enforcement until the mid 80's being the Local Authority Traffic Departments who did a lot more than just traffic duties.

Most of the non-traffic duties are now undertaken by Security Officers.

Of course the traffic duties are now the responsibility of Police and are effectively not being performed (from what we see out there on the street at night they are not).

For all their faults and complaints about "F-ing Demons", when it came to enforcing the law they did it hard but fair. I know, I was a teenager in the 80's and I hated but was deterred by ACC Traffic.

The current problems have only arisen since Police took over part of their job and the rest got dumped on the security industry.

Don't blame us either. We've 15 years of getting more and more law enforcement work dumped on us and we don't have the legal powers to do it.

Our Act was passed in 1972. It wasn't anticipated that we would need to become de-facto policemen.

But definitely blame Police. Although at least the Constables assigned to Traffic generally want to do the job they usually aren't allowed to.

Anyway, I wandered off.

Basically, myself and most other officers I know are all of the same opinion: NZ is long overdue for a review of the whole law enforcement community as is going on in Australia. This includes Police, the Security Industry, Local Authorities and other Govt Departments, all of which have law enforcement officers by Act of Parliament.

Most of our enforcement legislation is antiquated and often prohibits effective enforcement of the law by anyone other than a Constable, and yet Police do not attend offenses in progress as these are someone else's responsibility by virtue of their warrant.

The law is rendered ineffective, the bad guys know this and then everyone wonders why crimes occur in epidemic proportions.

Please withhold my personal information from everyone as I don't really want to get arrested. It's happened in the past where security officers have said something Police don't like.

**name withheld, licensed security officer,
Auckland**

ask questions, then shoot

This Hawkins guy (so-called Minister of Police) is an uninformed idiot!

To purchase a handgun, lawfully, or a restricted or military-style semi automatic weapon one must be fully licensed; get a licence to procure from the police; purchase the gun (the shop must keep records of the purchase); take the gun back to the police for them to register; keep it safe and secure under lockup (must be a safe

approved by the police as they do inspect on a regular basis).

Rifles and shotguns are not registered.

Less than 1% of all crime committed in New Zealand involves firearms.

Responsible people are licensed and their guns have to be registered as one cannot go into a shop and just purchase a handgun or restricted or military-style gun.

Criminals don't licence guns, and either steal them [using information obtained from the supposedly secure police database of gun owners - Ed] or get them illegally through other sources.

I am so tired of these idiots in Government and their smokescreens. This happens to be one of them. I am so tired of these idiots sitting on their fat backsides instead of going after the gangs and other criminals.

I am sick and tired of people getting killed with axes, hammers, baseball bats, knives etc. I am sick and tired of little children getting bashed to death by their relations.

Instead of wasting our tax money on the Thorpe report, which did absolutely nothing except cost millions, put some work into the real issues and problems that are slowly but surely destroying New Zealand.

This country was known for its clean, green and safe image. No need to talk about the "clean" - that's disappeared as one look at the North Shore beaches would show. And we are definitely no longer a safe place.

My personal thoughts are that if I want to live in an unsafe place I may as well live in the USA, earn a heck of a lot more money, can sue the doctors for any mistakes they make (here in New Zealand the doctors just bury their mistakes), and I will also have access to great scenery and greenery.

But most of all, I will have the opportunity to protect myself and my family under the second amendment.

I most certainly won't have to listen to the idiots and their bright ideas as in the case of the unfortunate Kylie girl, when the idiot from the police said that if neighbours had called them when they first heard her scream she could well be still alive today. In truth, they would have only found her dead a bit sooner.

But if Kylie Jones had been a licensed gun owner, under the second amendment, she could have defended herself.

Only the criminals have rights in this country that I love so dearly.

Just another thought. To get control over a body of people you must first disarm them. Hitler did it in the thirties. And more recently, look at Indonesia and other controlled

societies. By the way - I am not a gun owner. I am not a he-woman, nor do I go pighunting with a knife. I am 56, married 37 years with three beautiful children and six grandkids. I run a good business and usually mind my own business.

But enough is enough, and changes need to be made. These communists in Wellington are doing exactly what the swine did in East Germany for 50 years: enrich themselves, destroy the spirit of the people and eliminate the family structure.

Sounds too radical? Just look more deeply. Pre-second world war Germans had blinkers on as well. They never thought anything could happen. The lateral thinkers among the German and Jewish people left, and stayed alive.

They don't teach history in school anymore, do they? A generation with no history taught will be great to manipulate. They've got nothing to compare to and will accept what has been dished out as the norm.

Keep up the good and gutsy work with your magazine.

Marion Herbert, via email

and the bullets keep flying...

I've only just read your July issue, in which you published an article on armed self-defence for which you should be commended. Especially when it has been said so many times by police, politicians and the media that "if you use a gun to defend yourself, you are more likely to get hurt."

This is not borne out by the facts, as many now realise. For a violent offender to risk sustaining the same harm he is prepared to inflict is a truly significant deterrent, as has been proven in the USA. The logic of this argument is inescapable!

Whether you believe the trendy ideology that guns should never be used for self defence and that disarming ordinary citizens can somehow reduce crime, or the opposite, both sides of this social experiment (if you choose to view it that way) have been applied somewhere in the world.

One works to reduce violent crime, the other doesn't. It's as simple as that.

P K Langley, Auckland

and flying...

Fascinated by the ongoing debate in your letters column over gun control, I thought you'd find this email I received interesting for its content:

In a speech to students at Oxford University, Charlton Heston described Britons' abandonment of their right to



bear arms as nothing but "cultural cowardice and a subtle form of surrender to the criminals."

The Oscar winning actor and president of the National Rifle Association (NRA) in the US, said British anti-gun laws had led to an increase in gun-related crime.

In an address to the Oxford Union, he said the right to carry arms, enshrined in the US Constitution, maintained freedom and actually saved lives. He described the UK's anti-gun laws as "cultural cowardice", and said those laws were the result of an unwritten constitution which gave politicians too much power.

The email continues with a selection of historical facts:

It is a little published fact that as gun-control measures are passed and guns are seized, crime goes up. Since Australia's gun ban, armed robberies have increased 45%, homicides are up 3.2% and assaults are up 8.6%.

In one small US town where gun ownership is mandatory, crime is all but non-existent. Consider these statistics:

In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Germany established gun control in 1938 and from 1939 to 1945, 13 million Jews and others who were unable to

defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.

China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Guatemala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million 'educated' people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Defenceless people rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 50 million.

If I recall correctly, the July *Investigate* included statistics showing that New Zealand's murder rate has increased around 7000 percent since the right to carry a handgun was abolished in New Zealand in 1974 (and how many of the current generation are aware, or learnt in our schools, that it was perfectly legal to own a pistol or revolver for self-defence in New Zealand up until as recently as 1974?)

Now, at the age of 38 I don't consider myself over the hill, but I know I've been on this planet long enough to realise that I've been brainwashed by a bunch of government-orchestrated propaganda, fed to me by the news media, about the evils of guns, per se.

So brainwashed I am, that even as I write this letter I still feel guilty in advocating a return to handgun ownership, as if it is somehow a daft idea. But how can it be daft when the statistics emerging from overseas all tell the same story: that countries or states where handguns are permitted have lower crime rates than countries like New Zealand or Britain where guns are controlled or banned?

Am I suffering delusions, or should I start taking the figures seriously? Is everything that our Governments and journalists tell us on the subject of gun control merely mushroom food, as Chris Carter puts it?

Please help

Craig Brown, via email

By popular demand, judging from the mailbag, we're carrying an article on the topic in this month's issue. It would appear that the truth of the matter is this: the average Kiwi journo doesn't understand guns, and almost certainly has never been trained to use one. If handguns were again made available to householders, subject to having to pass a competency test in gun use and safety, and subject to conditions on safe storage, it might actually be that New Zealand enjoys a similar drop in the crime rate that other parts of the world have who have allowed more liberal gun laws.

Successive NZ Governments have, because of the totalitarian powers at their disposal unrestricted by any niceties like constitutions, tended to use Regulations and Legislation as a means of achieving social change, rather than education or public debate.

That attitude can be seen in the comments of Colonial Prime Minister Helen Clark who, when questioned about a public opinion poll showing two-thirds of New Zealanders don't want the Treaty of Waitangi enshrined in law, stated that the public will be forced to change their attitude through the exercise of "strong leadership".

It is in the interests of the Colonial Government to have a totally unarmed population - in the unlikely event that New Zealanders get really steamed up about something, there is nothing they can ultimately do other than verbalise their frustration.

But it does nothing for the householder who wakes to discover a thug with a baseball bat or a knife creeping into his teenage childrens' bedrooms. Armed with a pistol, the properly trained householder has instant control of the situation and, unless the offender has a death wish, no one will be hurt. But in the current circumstances, the householder must confront the intruder physically in order to save his children, a much more dangerous task than pointing a gun at one. The householder must also rely on being able to call police in the first instance, and then have faith that they'll turn up in time to be of any use. Spare a thought for the Asian woman in Auckland who was murdered literally before the very eyes of police officers who were powerless to save her.

Yes, guns are inherently dangerous. But so are bats, knives, axes, hammers, matches, cars, poisons and doctors (in the US - and probably NZ - doctors' errors kill 100 times as many people as guns do).

Maybe it's time to bring back handguns.

- Ed

the secret of my success

I have just read the article about what is required to "fix" New Zealand, and am disappointed as I always am when I read such articles. In my opinion yours, like the others, misses the point.

The key to success on any scale and in any activity is to do something that is special. Hard work may follow, but it is not the starting point. If one was to analyse any of our recent success stories, the underlying reason for their success is that what they have done was to introduce new ideas and ways of doing things.

I have always thought that the motor industry is the industry in which marketing is used most successfully. It is this industry which gives us the examples that show that the cheapest does not always sell the most, that people are prepared to pay extra for that extra perceived benefit, and that to continue to compete, the manufacturers must invest huge sums in product development.

If we follow that lead, then as individuals we would invest in our own education and skill development, as businesses we would invest in new ideas and not be afraid to take risks, and as a nation we would foster those people who have the ideas.

By doing something special, one doesn't have to worry about the exchange rate, what the Government is doing

or the Employment Relations Act. The interesting thing is that each of the people interviewed in your article are, with their businesses, doing just that, although they do not articulate it.

Our problem is not the "Government" or "the economy", it is our expectations of them. If we look at the State as being the parents of a huge family we can simplify things by looking at the way families operate. When we bring up children, we provide for their needs when they are at their most vulnerable, and we educate them and prepare them to enter the world.

As they grow, we expect them to provide for more and more of their own needs, eventually expecting them to make a greater contribution to the family as they grow more mature.

We do not expect to be housed and fed, and employed by our family for the rest of our lives (although there are some who have this privilege). Yet we expect this of the State.

It is time to change our expectations. We must take risks, accept and applaud failure along with success, and be frightened of neither.

Martyn Pearce, Auckland

beating big buzzards

Following on from your editorial in your December issue, I contacted the IRD Helpline (0800 227 774) and I had a very long wait while the receptionist tried to find someone to deal with my query.

In the background, I heard her asking several people but none wanted to talk to me. Eventually, she suggested that I call a Brian Haycock on 0800 227 774 Ext. 32070 (after I objected to having to pay for a normal toll call from Tauranga) at some later time. She didn't know when Brian would be available - he wasn't in the office at the time, she said.

On insisting that there must be someone else in the whole of the NZIRD who could take my call, Brian came on the line. His first question was: "Is this call being taped?"

I said "No", and he proceeded to tell me that it wasn't legal for anyone to get out of the tax system in New Zealand.

Today I am writing to the IRD to ask to be removed from the system, and I will let you know of progress. I would like to ask the IRD (Brian wouldn't tell me) why they insist that calls not be taped - is the advice they're giving incorrect, illegal, fraudulent or otherwise unwise in some way?

Philip Bradbury, www.bradword.co.nz

Well, well, didn't we open a can of worms with this one then? As you can see from the adjacent letters we've reprinted for the benefit of readers who wish to pursue this further, there is no law that requires you to have a tax

number, and the tax number can be closed off. Don't let any oik from the IRD tell you otherwise, the proof is in black and white and the Department is not allowed to tell Porkies when it is responding under the Official Information Act.

Helpdesk staff, however, are not covered by the Official Information Act when they take your calls, and they may not be aware of your rights.

Naturally, the IRD doesn't want to close your tax number, which is a very efficient way of keeping tabs on you, but they have no legal right to stop you from requesting its cancellation.

But what happens if they do close it off? Several things. Firstly, you will no longer be able to file a tax return, because the department needs a tax number in order to process your return.

Secondly, although you cannot be penalised for not having a tax number, the IRD has the power to penalise companies that deal with you because, unlike natural born humans, companies owe their existence to an Act of Parliament and therefore are subservient to the State. An example of penalties is that companies are taxed 45 percent on any wages they pay to staff who refuse to provide IRD numbers.

If the Government had the power, in law, to force individuals to pay tax, then why doesn't that penalty fall on



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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11-12 Chancery Street
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Wellington
New Zealand
Telephone 04-492 1012
Facsimile 04-492 1005

16 March 2000

Mr [REDACTED]

Mairangi Bay

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

I refer to my letter of 28 February 2000. You have asked, under the Official Information Act 1982, if there is a law that requires you to have an IRD number to trade your labour.

There is no law that states you must have an IRD number to trade your labour.

However, I must reiterate, any New Zealand tax resident who earns taxable income is required under the laws of New Zealand to pay income tax on that income. If you earn income that is taxable, you'll need an IRD number to enable you to complete an income tax return, on a prescribed form, as is required by the Tax Administration Act 1994. Completion of the return enables Inland Revenue to assess you with the correct amount of tax payable on the income that you have earned.

There are other taxes to be considered by self-employed taxpayers. Goods and Services Taxes and Accident Compensation Premiums for example. I have enclosed two of the department's brochures that I thought might be helpful in this respect, together with an application for an IRD number.

I trust that my comments have once again been helpful. Should you not be satisfied with my response you are entitled to request the Ombudsman to investigate the matter.

Yours sincerely

David Belchamber
IRD Commissioner



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

08/74

National Office
12-22 Huxtable Street
PO Box 2198
Wellington
New Zealand
Telephone 04-472 1032
Facsimile 04-499 0806

10 November 1999

Mr Mark [redacted]

Mairangi Bay

Dear Mr [redacted]

I refer to my letter of 28 October 1999. You have asked if you can give up an IRD number and close your account if you wish.

I can advise that IRD numbers are normally issued for life. However, the number can be closed off if it is no longer required.

the individual? The clue lies in New Zealand's first Income Tax Act, which dates back a hundred years to 1891. That tax, of only threepence in the pound, was "freely and voluntarily" given to the Crown by citizens. Equating to a tax rate in today's terms of less than 1%, it was hardly a financial burden on anybody.

There has never been a law in New Zealand that forces anybody to have a tax number - only a whole lot of laws and rules that make it appear as if you have to. And that is why, at the end of the day, if a citizen refuses to have a tax number it is his or her employer who faces legal penalties, not the citizen.

According to another IRD Official Information Act response, you don't become a "taxpayer" until the moment you file your first tax return.



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

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New Zealand
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Facsimile 04-499 0806

8 December 1999

Mr Mark [redacted]

Mairangi Bay

Dear Mr [redacted]

I refer to my letter of 25 November 1999.

You have asked how you go about closing off your IRD number if you are still living in New Zealand. If this situation ever arises you should advise Inland Revenue in writing.

I note that you have asked several questions regarding IRD numbers in recent letters. I believe I have covered all the important aspects of IRD numbers in my replies to you. However, I note also that you wanted timely replies because your employer had asked you to provide an IRD number. If you have any further questions, you may find it easiest to telephone the Commissioner's office. If you wish to do this I suggest you call Mrs Anne Morrow of that office on (04) 498 5846. Mrs Morrow will be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you for writing. I trust my comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely

David Belchamber
for Commissioner

a yelp from alp

Although not in the habit of rebuttal, we need to set a few things straight. In answer to Tama Savage (*Vox Populi*, Dec), at no time did I state that Sergeant-Major Tony Namana was my C.O. He was in fact my C.S.M. My officer commanding, O.C., of Alpha Company was Major Hewson. The Commanding Officer, C.O., of 2nd Land Force Group was Colonel Martyn Dunne.

Anything to the contrary was a slight misprint. In answer to Miles Lacey in the same issue, whether or not you accept the fact of our existence or not is of no consequence - full details will emerge in good time.

Kelvyn Alp, Unit Commander NZAIF, Auckland

herbicides, not pesticides

As a subscriber and avid reader of *Investigate*, I was surprised to find that Simon Jones' article "Poisoned" contained some needless inaccuracies which could confuse readers.

While I share your concern that people could be so adversely affected by the application of 2,4-D, it is important to understand the correct identification and use of the product.

Firstly, 2,4-D is not a fertiliser, although it has been added to fertiliser in the form of a sodium salt for pasture application to control flat weeds like thistles. Nor is it a pesticide or insecticide, but is correctly identified as a herbicide.

It should not be confused with 2,4,5-T which Colonel Grenade should have been using to attack gorse, as that product is designed to control woody species.

The use of 2,4-D butylester for spraying from land-based machinery or helicopter has always been hazardous due to possible wind movement or helicopter downdraft, and care should have been taken to ensure adjacent crops which could be susceptible to 2,4-D spray drift are not affected.

It is strange that people such as Laurie Newman and Caroline Bon appear to have become unwitting victims of what was, until recently, widespread farming practice.

Oswald Bruce, Auckland

Letters to the editor can be emailed to us, faxed or posted. They should not exceed 200 words, and we reserve the right to edit for space or clarity. All correspondence will be presumed for publication unless it is clearly marked to the contrary.



question of the day:

labour and immigration fraud

...PARLIAMENT, February 28, 1990...

Hon W.F.Birch (Maramarua):

to the Minister for Immigration: What steps is or will she be taking to investigate allegations of immigration fraud which involved "easing immigration of Islanders by guaranteeing them jobs with a bogus company then signing them up for the [Labour] party?"

Hon. Fred Gerbic (Associate Minister of Immigration):

The service is not investigating the allegations of the kind referred to because they are very general and not supported by the detail required.

Hon. W.F. Birch: Can the Minister confirm that the immigration service has referred numerous cases of fraudulent job offers by a senior person associated with the Labour Party to the Solicitor-General for prosecution?

Hon. Fred Gerbic: No, I cannot confirm that.

Mr Mclean: Is it true?

Hon. Fred Gerbic: I said that I cannot confirm it.

Mr Mclean: Is it true?

Hon. Fred Berbic: Of course it is not true.

Bill Dillon: To the Minister's knowledge, is there any basis to the allegations of serious immigration fraud that have been run in the *Auckland Star* in the past week?

Hon. Fred Gerbic: There is no basis whatsoever. The allegations were shown to be without foundation, and the person whom they were directed has since been confirmed as the Labour Party candidate for Te Atatu. Dan McCaffrey will go on to win the seat for the Labour Party.

dorks, ding-bats and dip sticks:

...PARLIAMENT, February 17, 1988...

Dr Gregory (Northern Maori): to the Minister of Tourism: Has he seen the statement that "tourists would be scared away from Northland" by the comments of the member for Bay of Islands and the member for Hobson, and, if so, will that affect the implication of the government's new tourism package for Northland?

Hon. W.P. Jeffries: The tourism attractions of Northland supercede the members of Parliament who represent part of it. I am reminded of the statement by the member for Pakuranga during the holidays that three members of his caucus were dorks, dingbats and dip-sticks. When I look at the member for Bay of Islands and the member for Hobson, I recognise two out of those members.

motion: Her Majesty's visit to Waitangi

...PARLIAMENT, February 14, 1990

Hon. J.B Bolger (Leader of the Opposition): Her Majesty's presence at Waitangi as we celebrated the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, which brought the Crown and the tangata whenua together, has brought most strongly to mind the vital principles upon which our free nation was founded.

Most vital of all is the principle of equality in citizenship - the protection of the citizens through the due process of law, and the ability to use our lands and treasured possessions as we see fit within the bounds of the common rights and duties enjoyed by all citizens of this nation.

These principles are held most dearly by Her Majesty's loyal subjects in New Zealand.

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perts can quite simply evaluate your investment needs and very quickly assess if this is, or is not, for you.

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“closing the gap” is fast turning into a gaping chasm

I’ve got a wee thought to kick off the year that I reckon might be in order...Like I wonder how many of you, just like me, have had it with our decade-long socially divisive policies which are far from “closing the gap”?

Perhaps with a concerted public cry of “Hey, we’ve all had more than enough of this lunatic ultra liberalism” we may perhaps bring this latest manifestation of social engineering to an immediate and crashing halt.

For instance, strange as it may seem, being as I am one who at the beginning of the summer tends to go from fish-belly white to an interesting, if somewhat painful, shade of crayfish pink in very short order, I nevertheless like, and count amongst some of my closest friends, a number of Maori. Indeed, despite a carefully calculated campaign to drive some sort of a social, or should I say perhaps, a socialist wedge between us, despite the best efforts of Sir Douglas Graham and Margaret Wilson, they have as yet been unable to drive us at each other’s throats.

Of course, I perhaps have an age related advantage in that I belong to a generation that was not exposed on a daily basis to the “revisionist” history as to the early years of Maori/European contact that sadly the younger New Zealander is now expected to learn.

That being, the expunging of the now required amount of “guilt” that our current and recent political masters and mistresses now absolutely insist that we all should personally carry with us as a personal burden.

That in essence, is all that really separates the modern darker skinned native of this country from his fairer, perhaps more recently arrived white cousin, is, as has always been the case, the literal pigmentation of their respective skins. This appears to be completely lost on all of those who have recently built a career in the manufacture of other more esoteric, and of course hugely damaging, differences that if you happen to be either mad or bad, spring very easily to your tortured minds.

And where, I wonder, does one really begin to work out the actual scale of the scam that has been pulled on us, or perhaps more importantly, on Maori, who of course by virtue of their actual percentage in the population

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Closing the Gaps is a scheme concocted by politicians whose political agenda is so wickedly Machiavellian it should be instantly done away with

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stakes, have well and truly been set up as a constant target for the ever increasing number of white disaffected New Zealanders. They are the ones who sadly believe that the ordinary old Maori family just down the street are somehow responsible for all the bloody nonsense that, on a

daily basis, seems to ooze from every orifice in the Beehive.

“Closing the Gaps” is indeed a scheme either concocted by politicians whose political agenda is so wickedly Machiavellian, and aimed at creating race hatred and division, that these folk, for the common good, should be instantly done away with.

Tell me, how many of you have ever listened to the conversations of the now racially (if voluntarily) segregated groups of school kids that maybe pass your gate after school? Does it remind you of the true stuff of nightmares? These are kids now pouring (frequently very poorly educated) out of school and onto the streets, using racist terminology that might even have shocked the very first Afrikaner ever to have drawn breath.

Matter of fact, all but the truly deaf amongst these younger Kiwis, who have now been exposed to our nation’s revised history, have observed apparently quite racist policies actually passing through our supposedly democratic Parliament. The current reaction of these people, whilst scary, is also very predictable.

Then, we have to turn to one of the deadly sins that seemingly afflicts in equal measure humankind itself... good old-fashioned greed that is most certainly alive and well in all parts of our society today, but is especially noticeable amongst reported beneficiaries of that other great divide and recently re-interpreted document, The Treaty of Waitangi. Like here we are, both Maori and Pakeha, gazing in absolute wonderment as hundreds of millions of dollars are fought over by

the decidedly dodgy industry that has grown up around the Waitangi Commission, where well-connected senior tribal members, resplendent in Amani suits, park their late model luxury cars to begin another day's work and to garner even more appalling high fees.

By the time every other man and his dog in the tax payer funded food chain has taken a decent size cut from the passing moolah, the final amount that might actually trickle down to my Maori mates, for instance, would hardly be enough to repair the old mullet net!

We are being scammed, ladies and gentleman. All of us in the first instance, because everyone currently alive in this country is a taxpayer! So what we are plainly seeing is an appalling inept attempt by a bunch of loony social engineers to re-distribute public money on the basis of race. If this was not bad enough in its implication, it is even worse by the time all the greedy buggers get their share of the action.

Closing the gaps indeed! Like apart from being a silly political slogan, what the hell does mean...a gap between rich and poor? We have a perfectly good and very expensive social welfare system that is meant to address that surely – along with a free, if somewhat petty, education system that should be sending kids of all backgrounds into the wicked world equally equipped to make a quid. So get these two areas running properly...the one to help those that may never make it, and the other to train properly those that really want

to give life a crack all on their own. Then, it seems to me, that the need to establish a second tier, if Maori bureaucracy, is just plain stupid.

But above all else, I for one am heartily sick of hearing ill-informed and probably monumentally stupid people getting stuck into Maori that I know, somehow blaming them for these re-



What we are plainly seeing is an appalling inept attempt by a bunch of loony social engineers to re-distribute public money on the basis of race. If this was not bad enough in its implication, it is even worse by the time all the greedy buggers get their share of the action



cent policies that two governments that you lot elected, and are now apparently getting right on your wick! That billions of dollars are being poured right down the toilet and that Treaty of Waitangi settlements have provided a whole new meaning to the word 'graft' in this country, that sure

as hell, none of this is the fault of the Maori family that your kids play footy with or you see in the supermarket.

A classic case of being wrongly identified as being the problem, when in every respect, because of arrant political stupidity, they are the most innocent victims. They are being blamed by an increasingly number of blinkered people, for the continual wanting of this and that, when in fact the greatest proportion of Maoridom asks for nothing and receives just that...nothing.

Do I occasionally get really pissed off about something? You bet I do, and in this wholly misguided and frankly even wicked political fiddling with race relations in this country, I see nothing other than completely unnecessary division, mistrust and misunderstanding being created.

My best hope is that a whole lot of you will become seriously pissed off as well and might begin to try and beat some sense into some of these prats whose idiot schemes and machinations are grinding Maori down to the point that any "gaps" that currently exist are quickly replaced with a chasm that, in our lifetime, will never be bridged.

Finally, if you want to do something real productive, and that you can absolutely guarantee will begin to repair the damage that has recently been done in this country, when you see the next Maori, or for that matter, Pacific Islander, Asian, whatever, try giving them a grin and say good day. You'll mostly be very agreeably surprised at the reaction.

Not so long the New Zealand government had restrictions on broadcasting which made Communist China look liberal. But they didn't count on the power of pirate radio, driven by a small band of enthusiasts who wanted to take their words to the world. Former radio inspector J E BROWN looks back at a time when *Radio Hauraki* was broadcast from a rocky, leaking boat.

So many radio stations on air, not enough push-buttons on the car radio to receive them all. With continuous tuning there's a station at every twist of the knob. Stations for all tastes. Very different from the old days when once there were only four in Auckland, none in provincial towns such as Whangarei and Rotoura.

Radio stations are big business, computer-controlled, slick, no human in sight. And still new stations appear, filling more slots on the dial, and listener niches.

So, Auckland has more radio broadcasting stations per capita than any other city in the world. All are legal, probably.

Airwaves have always been tightly controlled, not only in New Zealand. But in the rest of the world too. The Post and Telegraph Department radio regulations and its radio inspectors were the law.

The government broadcast what they thought you should hear, studio recitals recorded at 2YA Wellington, church services, Australian produced *Dad and Dave* serials.

The government thought broadcasting was too important to be in the hands of private enterprise. In the 1930s they bought out the last of the private broadcasters, except for one Dunedin station, not considered to be a threat.

For those who weren't ordained by the government piracy on the standard broadcast band of 500 to 1650 kilo-

hertz using amplitude modulation, AM, was the only the alternative.

Although if the government didn't like what was being broadcast even by its own stations, they'd jam the signals. 1ZB Auckland's Uncle Scrim, the Rev. Colin Scrimgeour, who sermonised, were jammed at the time of the 1935 general election.

Pirate radio was, and is, anarchy, often ghostly voices on wobbly signals, distorted speech and music, popping up on the dial, playing a few gramophone records. Announcements, face hidden behind a microphone, defying the government, or sometimes simply a labour of love.

In the early days, world-wide, radio broadcasting was a blank art, technology known only to a few cranks inducted into the mysterious transmitting of words and music which emerged from a loudspeaker behind watered wilk in a wooden cabinet branded Gulbransen, Stella, AWA, Pye, Bell.

Early pirate operators spun their 78 rpm thick black discs on gramophone turntables, winding up the spring motor before playing Bing Crosby, Gracie Fields, George Formby, Perry Como. Some spoke into microphones stolen from Post & Telegraph department telephone boxes, the carbon microphone quality as scratchy as the old discs. Later pirates played Elvis, the

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It could never have been comforting rolling around the ocean on the typically small craft pensioned off from the merchant navy, the crew dealing with worn-out machinery, storms, cranky transmitters, trying to keep a top-heavy aerial aloft, problems of food supplies, fuel and programme material.

”

Rolling Stones, the Commodores, on vinyl or tape, but they wondered if the kilocycle cops were going to kick the door down, confiscate the transmitter and bring a charge in court.

Pirate broadcasting has usually always been fleeting. Broadcasting 24 hours a day on the same frequency with high power was suicidal, unless, like *Radio Hauraki*, it originated from the ocean out beyond the three-mile limit.

Radio Hauraki was the most famous pirate in New Zealand, at a time in the 1960s broadcasting from the high seas, beyond the reach of the authorities, was popular in Europe and the US.

Radio Hauraki had a purpose, to force the government to licence private radio. *Radio Hauraki* had sponsors, advertisements for dog food and toothpaste, to break the monopoly of government-approved broadcasters, which they did.

It could never have been comforting rolling around the ocean on the typically small craft pensioned off from the merchant navy, the crew dealing with worn-out machinery, storms, cranky transmitters, trying to keep a top-heavy aerial aloft, problems of food supplies, fuel and programme material.

Radio Hauraki was a big expensive commercial operation. For other pirates, it wasn't reaching out for hearts and minds, it was fun, a prank.

In 1969 Auckland University students operated a pirate from the Hauraki Gulf, but the three-man crew got seasick. Back inside Auckland harbour they did go to air, but radio inspectors chartered a launch, and using direction-finding, found the pirate transmitters came from the keeler Mangawai moored in calm waters inside the wave deflector at Okahu Bay.

There have been many other pirates. New Zealand broadcasting pirates have operated ashore, some times in almost secrecy, known to only a few people. *Radio Pegasus* was on the air in Canterbury in the 1970s, and *Radio Sunsine* operated in Otago.

Such broadcasts in small country areas were a novelty, depending on the enthusiasm of one man, the lis-

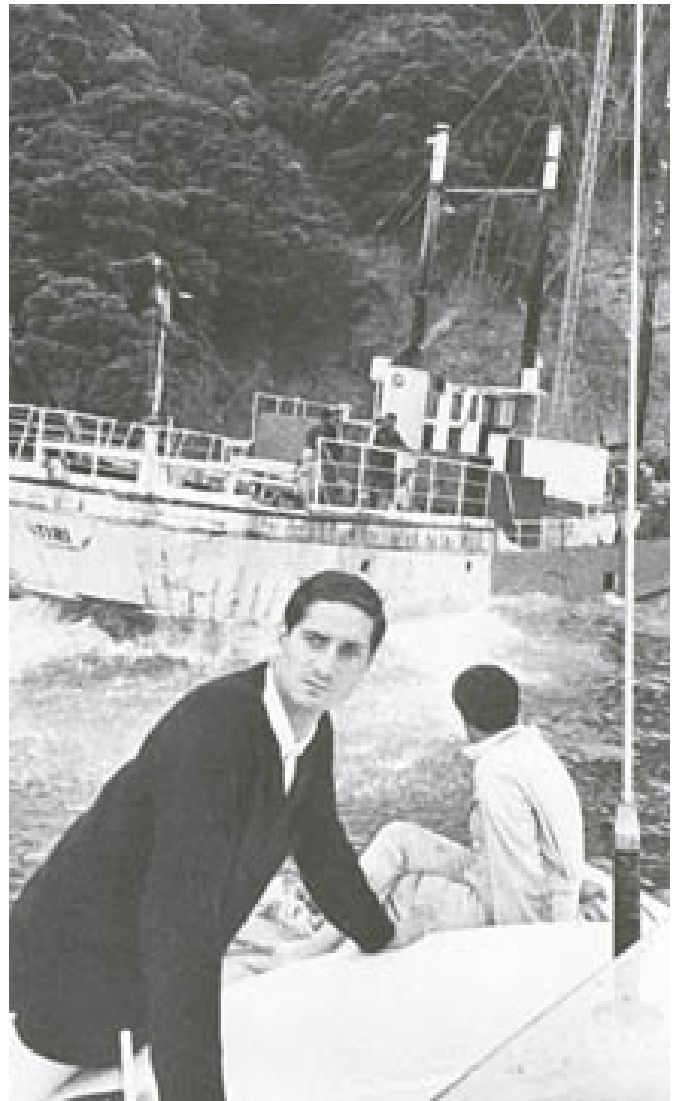


Photo: *The Shoestring Pirates* by Adrian Blackburn

teners always in short supply. Some pirate broadcasters used gramophone oscillator installations. That was a device once allowed by the radio regulators, a low powered transmitter to broadcast without wires between a record player and a wireless set, using the standard AM band.

These illegal flea-power transmitters, broadcast ing to a few houses around about in suburbia, were often operated by school children playing at being disc jockeys. They were picked up from time to time by the radio inspectors and their equipment simply confiscated.

Andy Gobb was a rock'n' roller and the brand name used by a company for a radio microphone sold by Woolworths to broadcast through radio. The complete pirate transmitter in a microphone caused a brief stir in official circles in the 1980s. The range was from one side of a room to the other, hardly a pirate transmitter, but they weren't on any of the available legal channels for radio microphones. They quietly disappeared.

Before the time of transistors and sold-state devices,

AM broadcast band transmitters required large glass valves, heavy transformers, a mains power supply, so they were almost impossible to make truly mobile. When operated from a fixed location they were relatively easy for the radio inspectors to find.

The kilocycle cops were the heavy guns, the hit men for the government. After World War II triangulating pirates by twirling the radio direction-finding loops removed from Catalina aircraft were mounted atop their Vauxhall 14J cars and Vanguard vans.

To the radio inspectors, a pirate transmitter was like a speeding car to the police. It gave an adrenaline rush. Search warrant! Let's get him! It made a change from chasing radio interference and 30 shilling radio receiving licences.

Various pirate transmitters took to their air at Auckland University. *Radio Bosom* was one callsign, *bFM* it's descendent. Other universities were also in the game, before student radio stations became legal, and RIs often visited and took equipment into custody – the euphemism for seizing it.

At a university there might be some jostling of the RIs, but hey, they were only doing their job. Just like bailiffs evicting tenants for unpaid rent. It was the law, thou shalt not broadcast without a licence or a warrant. In later times, when interminable hearings were held in court-like atmospheres to determine if the applicant was worthy enough to be granted the right to a legal frequency.

Serious pirates, when prosecuted, would appear in a real court among people charged with serious crimes, like bringing into New Zealand television sets and golf balls, without government import licences, radio listeners without licences, and sellers of sly grog. And in days long ago, in the time of price control, they would appear in front of Mr M B Scully, S.M. in Wellington, as one pirate did, immediately after a grocer charged with overcharging on eggs. Mr Scully lectured loudly that eggs were expensive enough without being overpriced and fined him five pounds. The pirate was discharged without conviction.

Pirates have it easier today. FM is much simpler to generate, equipment is readily available, or can be adapted. It's compact, portable and mobile. The gear is expendable, worth almost nothing, a handful of transistors or solid state modules, a cheap tape recorder, budget tapes and a pirate can be in business.

An FM pirate led RIs a merry chase in Auckland in the early 1980s, but there were others.

Pirate FM stations in Britain are a legion and there is published information on how to set up a transmitter, and more importantly, how to avoid detection for a maximum amount of time before being busted.

Short-wave private broadcasting is a little more difficult than the standard broadcast. The target audience is different, more the home of political broadcasters beyond the frontiers of a country.

Shortwave stations are mostly government propaganda machines, war of words shouted by the Americans, the Russians, Chinese, and it is just the same in New Zealand

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Pirates have it easier today. FM is much simpler to generate, equipment is readily available, or can be adapted. It's compact, portable and mobile. The gear is expendable, worth almost nothing, a handful of transistors or solid state modules, a cheap tape recorder, budget tapes and a **pirate can be in business.**

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with Radio New Zealand broadcasting the NZ way of life.

There have been shortwave pirates in New Zealand. *Radio Freedom*, also operating as *Radio Star*, has broadcast on medium wave, on FM and on shortwave. It started up in the 1970s and went into the 1980s – it might still be on the air. It operated out of Oamaru, closed down in December 1980 when RIs seized the transmitter. It operated again in Dunedin and was closed down in April 1982. The same guys went on air in Christchurch, Wellington and then Hastings. He's probably the longest running hobby pirate broadcaster in the country. And just doing it for fun.

It's not difficult to set up a shortwave station and so broadcast beyond New Zealand. Even today there are old World War II communications radio transmitters.

For decades the shortwave service of Radio New Zealand used a communications transmitter got from the Americans after the war.

Pirate TV requires more equipment than a voice transmitter. In 1992 a TV pirate broadcast New Zealand music videos for several hours on two nights. A Ricardo and Dr Freak said they were doing a 'Radio Hauraki to TV' because they were disheartened with the quality of existing programming.

With deregulation, radio frequencies can be bought. Some are cheap, but for some they've never been a licence to print money. Many have gone broke. It's difficult to find a target audience for a pirate broadcaster today, so many stations are the air legally. But, hey, it is still more fun to be a pirate.

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the politics of justice

CBS anchor DAN RATHER bemoans the 'politicisation' of US courts

He comes from a good home, a 19-year-old whom one neighbour described as a "choir boy." Others said that they assumed he would grow up to be an engineer. In high school, he was the editor of an award-winning yearbook. This past Tuesday, he was arrested by police, who suspect him of planning a Columbine-style massacre at De Anza College, the school he now attends in Northern California.

This young man's name is Al DeGuzman, but his story is becoming too familiar. It is the story of a boy-man lost in rage, and from our inner cities to our most prosperous suburbs, it can be the most dangerous story you can tell.

DeGuzman was arrested Jan. 30 after a suspicious photo-lab clerk saw pictures of him posing with what appeared to be various explosives. When police searched the San Jose, Calif., home where DeGuzman lives with his parents, they found an arsenal of guns, 30 pipe bombs and 20 Molotov cocktails, along with what is said to be a taped apology to friends and family for the massacre he had planned for reasons still unknown.

Here are two other headlines from that same day: In New York City, five boys between the ages of 11 and 13 were arrested and charged with the rape of a 13-year-old girl outside a

Coney Island housing project; and, mere miles from San Jose, a gun was found at San Francisco's McAteer High School for the second time in two weeks. This time the firearm was in the possession of a 16-year-old boy; last time it was a 15-year-old.

News like this should disturb us — and clearly does. What is less clear, however, is just what is behind it and what can be done to address the problem of the boy-man growing up in today's world.

What we do know is that too many boys face the sensitive years between puberty and coming of legal age without a father or other strong male figure in their lives. Developing into full manhood, in this society and others, is a complicated, stressful process, carrying with it so many mysterious currents that are best navigated with the help of someone who has been there himself.

We know that even the young men who have fathers are too often sired by a popular culture that teaches them that violence and revenge are the paths to true manhood. Video games, television, rap, rock and big-budget movies shout this message, drowning out the meek, the infrequent and tentative words heard to the contrary.

And we know that adulthood, to boys and girls alike, has become something more likely to be antici-

pated as the time when one can finally drive a car or drink legally than as a time when one can contribute by, say, voting or serving one's country in the armed forces or Peace Corps. Organised religion still addresses and celebrates the transition to adulthood and full membership in a congregation with, for example, the bar mitzvah and confirmation, ceremonies that stress responsibility and contemplation of what this important step means. But now you hear parents complain that these events have become more excuses for parties and gift-giving than occasions for sober reflection ... even as they capitulate to their own children's wishes so they won't feel "left out."

Ceremonies marking the ascent to manhood have existed in all societies since the dawn of civilization, and for good reasons. By ignoring them now, even if they are only to take the form of some hard, serious talks with our sons, we put America's boy-men — and ourselves — at risk.

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hollywood's golden girls broke the sexual taboo

We need a mental break from the name-calling and legal chaos of our presidential mess. Fortunately, help is at hand in our local bookstore – a good gossip read about the famous glamour girls of the past.

The female superstars of Hollywood's golden age in the 1930s – rich, immoral and gorgeous – really knew how to live it up. They broke all the rules of conventional behaviour, flaunted their sexuality and pursued both men and women with enthusiastic abandon.

A dishy, well-documented book by a celebrated Washington social scribe, Diana McLellan, titled *The Girls* now tells us all about it. And what a tale it is.

The romantic engagements, appetites and rivalries of Tallulah Bankhead, Marlene Dietrich and Greta Garbo are as astonishing as they are appalling.

In 1926, Garbo described Hollywood as “the one place in the world” where you can live as you like and nobody will say anything about it, no matter what you do!”

But with these stars' advancing vintage, too many sex scandals and a

new postwar morality abroad in the land, Garbo and the other “girls”, as well as Hollywood, changed. The lesbians didn't reform their private habits, but they were forced to go underground.

Only recently has the sexual revolution freed actors and actresses again to parade their gay relationships without fear. Lesbian chic has arrived with a flourish, although public approval is skittish, and there are still some limits.

McLellan, a skillful veteran of the gossip game, spent five years uncovering the sexual secrets of Garbo, Dietrich, Bankhead and others, poring over their passionate letters to one another, their autobiographies, FBI files, old movies and newspaper interviews.

In their heyday, none of these ladies was shy on the subject of sexual prowess. McLellan repeatedly confided to friends, during the research process, “You won't BELIEVE what I discovered today!”

She has an instinct for a good name-dropping story, and she tells this one well, recreating a rare self-centred, over-shifting universe of female sex and power.

She admits the obvious, which is



Marlene Dietrich

that this is an ooh-la-la book, but she is not making this stuff up.

Among the titbits: Although they were once lovers and shared many friends, Dietrich and Garbo loathed each other. A naked and drunken Bankhead chased Dietrich's daughter down backstage corridors demanding sex. When Dietrich failed to seduce Ernest

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Garbo died at the age of 85 in April 1990, a certifiable film legend who once despaired to a friend: “It’s been a wasted life”.

”

Hemingway, she consoled herself with John Wayne, who never knew about her bisexual nature and with whom she had a three-year affair.

World War II posed a vast inconvenience, forcing the “girls” to abandon their frolics in fashionable Europe. Since the FBI suspected Dietrich, a German, of being disloyal, she got her friend Bankhead to appeal on her behalf to FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.

It was a useful ploy since Tallulah’s late father, William, was a speaker of the US House and her uncle, John Hollis Bankhead II, a US senator. Dietrich became an official secret FBI informant during the war, dutifully touring the country to sell war bonds and going overseas with other stars to cheer up the troops. After the war, at the age of 48, Dietrich reverted to her old life, having an affair with the French singer Edith Piaf. Garbo, by contrast, declined to sell war bonds or tour for the troops or do anything patriotic. She sulked. Bankhead got a movie role she had wanted and made a success of it. She moved to New York and drank a lot.

Even so, for a time in the 1940s and 50s, Garbo was still offered a variety of roles, all of which she turned down. She refused one performance because, she said, the audience would have been too close.



Greta Garbo

She lost the habit of work. Into her 60s, she told friends she regarded herself as male. Legend has it she said, “I want to be alone” and she cleverly cultivated an air of mystery by limiting her public appearances. But her seclusion was more complicated than that, gradual and not entirely deliberate. She died at the age of 85 in April 1990, a certifiable film legend who once despaired to a friend: “It’s been a wasted life”.

Four years older, Dietrich, however, steamed along for two more years, dying in 1992 nearly 20 years after her last cabaret performance, but following a long string of interviews in which she denied past affairs with women and tried retrospectively to sanitise her personal history.

When she was buried, she wore an elegant pantsuit given to her by Bankhead, who had died in 1968. Two of a kind, they had adored each other.

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notice of revocation of independence for the US citizens

In light of your failure to elect a President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective today. Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, Commonwealth and other territories. Except Utah, which she does not fancy.

Your new Prime Minsiter (The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP for the 97.85% of you who have until now been unaware that there is a world outside your borders) will appoint a Minister for America without the need for further elections. Congress and Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire will be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. You should look up “revocation” in the Oxford English Dictionary. Then look up “aluminium”. Check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed at just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it. Generally, you should raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. Look up “vocabulary”. Using the same 27 words interspersed with the filler noises such as “like” and “you know” is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. Look up “interspersed”.

2. There is no such thing as “US English”. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf.

3. You should learn to distinguish the English and Australian accents. It really isn’t that hard.

4. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as the good guys.

5. You should re-learn your original national anthem, “God Save The Queen”, but only after fully carrying out task one. We would not want you to get confused and give up halfway through.

6. All American cars are hereby banned. They are crap and it is for your own good. When we show you German cars, you will understand what we mean.

7. You should stop playing American “football”. There is only one kind of football. What you refer to as American “football” is not a very good game. The 2.15% of you who are aware that there is a world outside your borders may have noticed that no-one else plays “American” football. You will no longer be allowed to play it, and should instead play proper football (soccer). Initially, it would be best if you played with the girls. It is a difficult game. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which is similar to American “football”, but does not involve stopping for a rest every 20 seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like nancies).

8. You should declare war on Quebec and France, using nuclear weapons if they give you any merde. The 98.85% of you who were not aware of a world outside your borders should count yourselves lucky. The Russians have never been the bad guys. “Merde” is French for “shit”.

9. July 4th is no longer a public holiday. November 8th will be a new national holiday, but only in England. It will be called “Indecisive Day”.

10. Please tell us who killed JFK. It’s been driving us crazy.

opinion

rocks:

1. [“Stinky” the gun dog](#)
2. [Silver Ferns](#)
3. [summer](#)
4. [the person who leaked Cabinet papers on Clark’s immigration treachery](#)

doesn’t:

1. [Cassimir Lodge in the Bay of Plenty - we don’t recommend it](#)
2. [the police thinking they’re above the law](#)
3. [Helen Clark’s Australian residency disaster](#)
4. [the fixation about cellphones and driving - complicated car stereos kill more](#)