

A Student Voice at Riverina College of Advanced Education?



Student publications in an emerging educational institution: 1972-1985

Charles Sturt University Regional Archives

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Introduction

In 1971 the Wagga Wagga Teachers College closed and became one of the first schools at the Riverina College of Advanced Education (RCAE) which began operating in 1972. Prior to the opening of RCAE, the former Teachers College (and preceding this, RAAF Hospital) site was overhauled in preparation for new students, staff and courses for the 1972 academic year. At the beginning of 1973, the second year of its operation, three schools within RCAE existed: Applied Science, Business and Liberal Studies, and Teacher Education.ⁱ Foundation Principal Dr C.D. Blake worked towards the growth and diversity of educational opportunities at the college. In branching out to different academic areas the college created a community of differing groups of students and staff. So even from the beginning of this institution the student body of 700 represented a diverse range of future professions, interests, concerns, and attitudes.

Representing these students in college and educational matters were the Student Representative Council (SRC), Sports Council (SC) and Union Board of Management (UBM). In late 1979 a referendum was held with students voting in favour of amalgamation of the three original student organisations to create Rivcoll Union. Student organisations that have operated at RCAE and later the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education (RMIHE) and Charles Sturt University have always defined themselves as being 'the students' voice.' The SRC was responsible for communication between the students and College administration and also acted as 'the "political arm" of the student body.'ⁱⁱ The SRC publications were the medium of communication between students, college administration and other members of the Wagga Wagga community. These early student publications were RACE which was published from 1972 to 1981, and Barph operating between 1975 and 1988.

Rationale

The research conducted that led to this report consisted of a thorough reading of RACE Volumes 1 to 10 (1972-1981)ⁱⁱⁱ and BARPH Volumes 1 to 11 (1976-1985)^{iv} both of which are located at the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives. On beginning the research project two major questions arose: firstly, what was the role of the student publications in the emerging institution that was RCAE? and secondly, were the publications a true student voice? This report analyses the abovementioned publications and addresses each of the research questions. Further, through exploration of the publications the report depicts some of the major changes in RCAE student concerns, culture and identity and the changes in their mode of expressing these aspects of personal and student life.

The historical context of the college provides a suitable date range for the research in that RCAE began in 1972 and dissolved in March 1985 to become RMIHE, a title incorporating the Albury-Wodonga campus and hence a formal recognition that the college had ceased being an 'emerging' institution, and was now a 'growing' institution over 12 years into its operation.

Features of Publications: RACE and Barph

A comparative summary of the nature of the two publications may prove useful to readers of this report to gain an appreciation of each publication. The summary provides an indication of the look, focus and content of RACE and Barph.

The first edition of RACE was published on March 24 1972, and was tabloid size, of newspaper appearance and was printed by the Daily Advertiser. Content during its first year of publication included editorials, letters to the editor, including 'open' letters, Presidents' reports from the SRC, SC and UBM, feature articles (often

controversial), Australian Union of Students (AUS) reports, Educational Issues Committee (EIC) reports, club and sports reports, advertisements, general college notices and cartoons, poems, photographs and short stories. Content ranged from that of college and local concern to national and global interest. Satire played an important part in making the publication both entertaining and topical. It usually ranged between 12 to 24 pages in length and was first published on a bi-weekly basis and then reverted to the status of a monthly publication. With the exception of a very brief change from the Daily Advertiser printing and at the same time size of the publication to A4 (the implications of which will be discussed in this report), the general description of RACE above is true of the publication from its beginning in 1972 to the last year of its publication in 1981. Topics of interest reflect the changing social, cultural and political climate, and hence the changes in youth attitudes, interests and concerns.

Barph, beginning publication in 1976 was an A4 newsletter of around three pages long which was typed and distributed weekly. It contained general college notices, club and sports notices, occasional editorials, letters to the editor and college advertisements (as opposed to local business advertisements). From mid-1978 through to 1982 Barph slowly became larger and began to include content similar to that of RACE. More entertaining contributions were published as were more informative, longer and in general, better quality articles. Barph had worked its way up to a publication that was usually between 16 and 22 pages long. Barph however maintained its original 'newsletter' purpose of week-by-week communication between members and sections of the college community. This defining quality of Barph would mean that, despite the apparent efforts of the various editors, it would never reach the quality of contributions the monthly RACE deadline allowed. The

increased quality and length of Barph continued through to 1988 finally to be replaced by the still continuing Hungappa in 1989.

The archival collections of RACE and Barph have strong historical value as they illustrate a time in history of significance to the origins of Charles Sturt University through the eyes of the students of the period as well as revealing the culture and identity of students specific to their regional location and their existence in changing social and political climates.

The Beginning of RACE

The first edition of RACE opened with an editorial by Peter Roberts, noted later as RACE's first editor, commenting on the unfortunate existence of apathy, 'a quality' he stated 'that everyone possesses.'^v Remarkably, Roberts – who had been associated with the Wagga Teachers' College Magazine 'Talkabout' – in his very first editorial predicted a theme that would run strongly throughout student publications at RCAE for the following 14 years. This sense of apathy among the student body proved to be a recurring hindrance to the editors of the SRC publications RACE and Barph, editors who were always involved, motivated and sometimes quite radical students. Against this sense of apathy, a regular contributor and later editorial staff member, Vanessa King, then a first year education student, wrote a letter to the editor which was published in the next edition. The letter included very direct criticism of the second hand material that had been published in the previous RACE and the editor's choice not to publish student poetry. The suggestion of hypocrisy within this letter (the editors warning their readers of the destructive impact apathy can have on student interests and then not printing the work of students) was soon remedied by the RACE policy of publishing all student contributions providing they were signed. This very

first example of student correspondence through RACE, marked the start of a major feature of the publication often initiating controversy and criticism that inevitably encouraged the publication's following within the college.

From the beginning of the publication of RACE and for several years afterwards it had an Education-student dominance as did the college – an after effect of the dissolution of the Teachers' College. The editors attempted to produce a publication that was balanced between the different disciplines offered through the college, and for their efforts were congratulated through a published letter from the principal for acknowledging that the RCAE was a multi-disciplinary college.^{vi}

Despite this the paper had a heavy focus on the concerns of teaching students and pre-tertiary education in NSW. Issues regarding prac teaching, education subjects at the college, teacher retention rates, teacher pay and the conditions and issues of employed full-time and casual teachers were discussed through letters to the editor, feature/informative articles and the columns of the Education Issues Committee. Specific issues of 1972 through 1974 were: what was known as the bond (which tied students to employment with the Department of Education) and difficulties with government scholarships. Also, the change from a two-year course to a three year degree created difficulties for students and the college itself.



Wanted: for failing to sign the Bond – College students protested forced contractual agreements with the Department of Education

Alongside Roberts on the editorial team of the first edition was Chris Jones, an editor who would soon become a major influence in the direction of RACE, and

likewise a major influence (as much as can be said for a member of the student body) in the college itself. While Jones was editor, it is clear through both editorials and the quality of the publication that the production of RACE was regarded in an artistic way, as being essential to the student voice, both in college matters and as a reflection of student culture. Jones, who would go on to become the Student Union President and contribute to the establishment of the Riverina Trucking Company (later, Riverina Theatre Company), had a special gift in his ability to serve as the students' voice for their concerns at the college, while still maintaining a strong respectful relationship with the college administration. This added to the tone of the publication and certainly contributed to the 'we're all in this together' mentality of the early college community, especially from a student perspective. Examples of this co-operative ideal were found in a number of issues that were raised in the publications and are noted later in this report.



RACE: Comic depicting Jones during the period when he was the Student Union president

Problems in an Emerging Educational Institution

Early teething problems that affected students during the initial year of the college involved what they considered to be inadequate catering facilities and services, and accommodation on the South Campus site. Students argued that the facilities did not

accommodate the growing number of students that were attending the college. In 1974 RACE reported in an edition named 'coopeRACEon' that when the kitchen staff at the college went on strike, students worked together, using the dining room facilities on campus to feed the student body. While this may seem a minor event in the history of students at RCAE, it indicates that the students believed that college staff and students should work together for the benefit of all those associated with the college.^{vii} Students at RCAE during these early years of operation often reconsidered their radical or apathetic characteristics to cooperate for the greater good.

Over time, these problems were remedied with funding and compromise; however, a greater problem for the emerging educational institution RCAE was in developing a positive reputation within the Wagga Wagga community. The employment of drama teacher Colin Anderson at RCAE by Principal Dr Cliff Blake was a move that helped the college fill a role in Wagga society through the theatre.^{viii} This earned college administration and staff, especially Blake and Anderson, a reputation that benefited RCAE as an institution that increased the richness of culture in the city. But the students themselves had to work to promote an image that would meet the approval of the generally conservative Wagga population. This was a goal some students at RCAE were keen to achieve, evident throughout early student publications. In 1973 a student representative told the Daily Advertiser that the "attitudes of some [RCAE] students and staff suggest [use of cannabis] is quite a possibility."^{ix} A letter to the editor which referred to the statements made by the student representative appeared in RACE. It stated: "... as the drug scene is a very controversial one ... and as we are in Wagga – the hinterland of mediocrity – he should have not made the statement." Later, in 1974 a letter to the editor of the Daily Advertiser complaining and warning about students living in off-campus, in-town accommodation was reproduced in RACE: the students are "dirty, untidy and

inconsiderate with a complete disregard of other people's property rights." This was untimely as the letter was published during what was an accommodation crisis for students at RCAE, caused by limited on-campus accommodation and high rent prices, which eventually led to a student protest, and an SRC led 'boycott' of a particular residence for rent in central Wagga.^x It would take some considerable time for many Wagga residents to see the RCAE students as more than "long-haired radicals"- but as a contribution to the growth of the city.

Student Organisations and the Role of RACE and Barph

As an SRC publication the student organisations at RCAE, the SRC, UBM and SC utilised the student paper RACE and later Barph to communicate with students. Although the paper had an external, non-SRC editor they were obliged to publish any material the SRC wished as it funded its production. The paper could also publish material that was critical of the SRC, and in this way it served as a platform for debate as much as a medium for information and entertainment.

RACE came under considerable criticism from the SRC when in 1977 there was a change in editors, albeit for a limited number of editions. It is clear that the purpose for these two students offering their assistance and accepting positions as editors was to put an end to controversial "obscene" content that was being published in RACE (this will be discussed further in section: Changing Student Culture). While they achieved this aim, they



were criticised for being conservative, for making false allegations of SRC members and allegedly being hypocritical in their ideologies of journalistic integrity. Toby Prentice, editor of *Barph* (then running alongside *RACE*) and also the Student Activities Officer (SRC) was active in his criticism of these *RACE* editors. Without the SRC's support, which resulted in the introduction of a stricter publications policy and so restricted the editors' freedoms, the *RACE* editors resigned. It is important to note that although there was a major conflict between the editors of *RACE* and members of the SRC at no point did the SRC threaten to pull funding from the publication. This indicates how important the continuation of the publication was to the operation of the SRC as a medium for communication and eventual change.

Toby Prentice of the SRC is an example of the ways in which active students utilised the two publications to create discussion, reveal problems within the college (and sometimes wider national and global concerns) and make public their opinions of various issues. Prentice was an outspoken student both in the college through editing *Barph* and also in the wider community. In a 1978 *RACE* interview Prentice acknowledged steps towards the growth of the college: "I think the college's academic diversification process is quite commendable." He also touched on the need for the college to be more closely involved with the Wagga community. Starting on a small scale in 1976, with Prentice as its first editor, *Barph* catered for the need for more regular communication among a larger student body – now situated on two campuses (Ag/Boorooma and South). Prentice's concern about the college's reputation within the Wagga community was also addressed with the introduction of a *Barph* mailing list which included influential local figures including the local State Member Joe Schipp, The Hon. Wal Fife (former local State member and later Federal Minister of Education) and various other important local figures and organisations. The mailing list also included other University and CAE student organisations who in

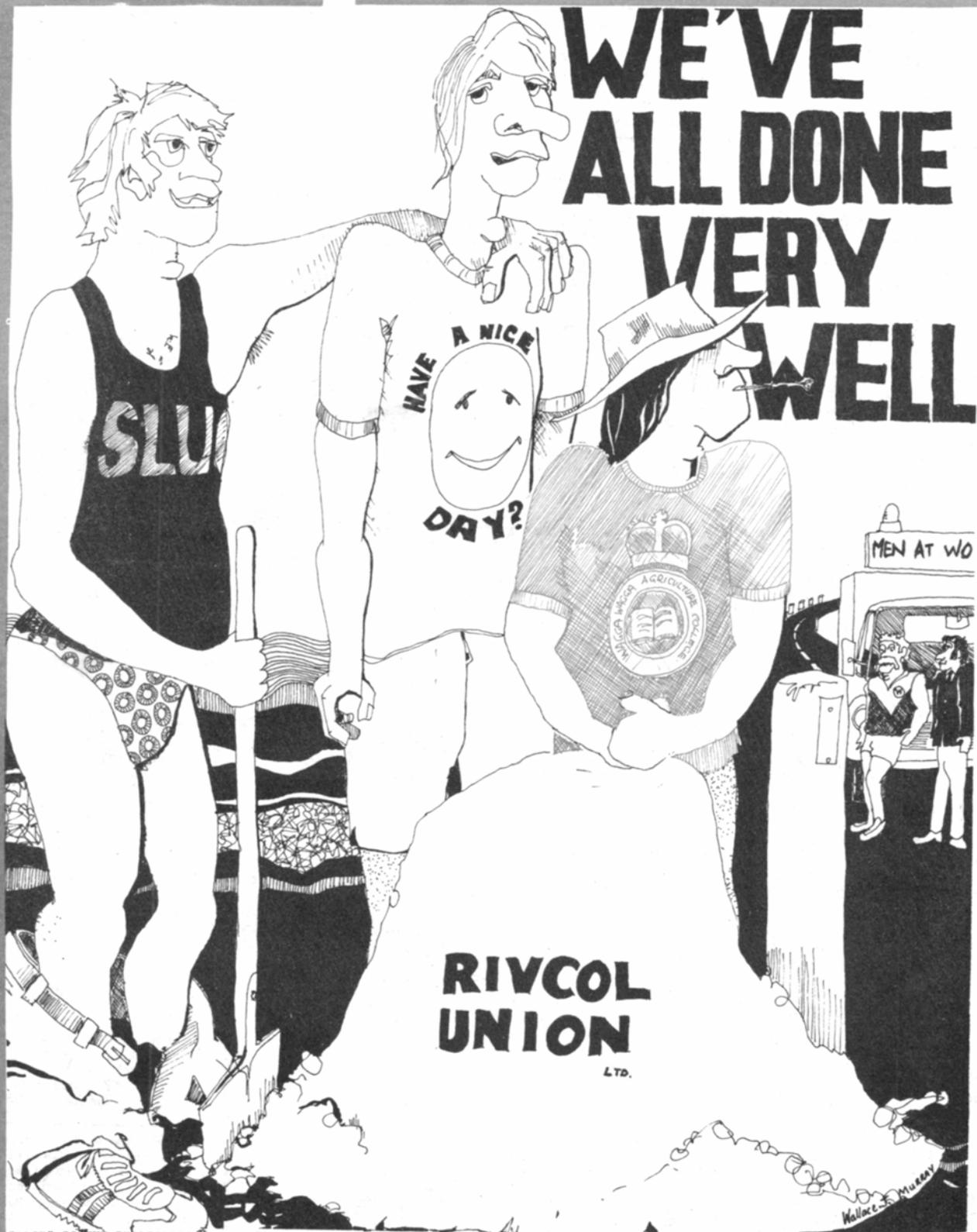
turn sent their student publications to the SRC and Rivcoll Union. A comparison of other institutions' student papers with those published at RCAE is a subject suitable for further research. Barph, although limited in its entertainment value, reflected its foundation editor's passion for making students informed about issues that concerned them. At this stage of the publication there was little response from students through letters to the editor, although this was available to students. The publication was primarily a service used for communication.

In late 1979 students voted with a 10 to 1 majority for the amalgamation of the three student organisations to create Rivcoll Union. RACE reported that this majority vote was an indication that students had "an overwhelming desire to be represented by a single, independent, limited liability company."^{xi} The student organisations influenced the students' vote towards amalgamation through RACE and Barph, informing the student body of the benefits. There was no real coverage of opposing views, however there were votes to oppose the amalgamation, as indicated by the 10 to 1 referendum outcome. This indicates that on the issue of amalgamation the publication did not represent the voice of students who opposed it, however, there is no indication that these students attempted to *voice* their opposition. After the student organisation amalgamation RACE and Barph were operated by the Rivcoll Union Student Welfare Committee.

RACE

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 7.

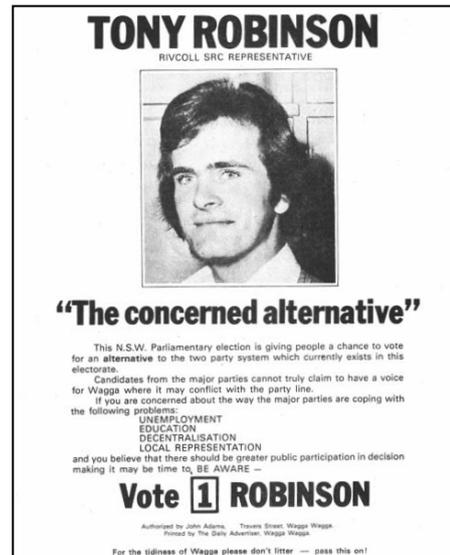
NOVEMBER 1979.



"RACE" IS THE PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENTS OF RIVERINA COLLEGE.

Registered for posting as a publication category B

As it became a larger publication, Barph would go on to publicise and receive supportive and critical correspondence regarding the SRC funded student candidate Tony Robinson in the NSW State elections. With little to offer the many local voters who did not consider tertiary education of much concern, Robinson was unsuccessful – criticism of the SRC for funding him was received only after his defeat.



Tony Robinson's campaign poster as printed by RACE

North Campus and Amalgamation with the Wagga Agricultural College

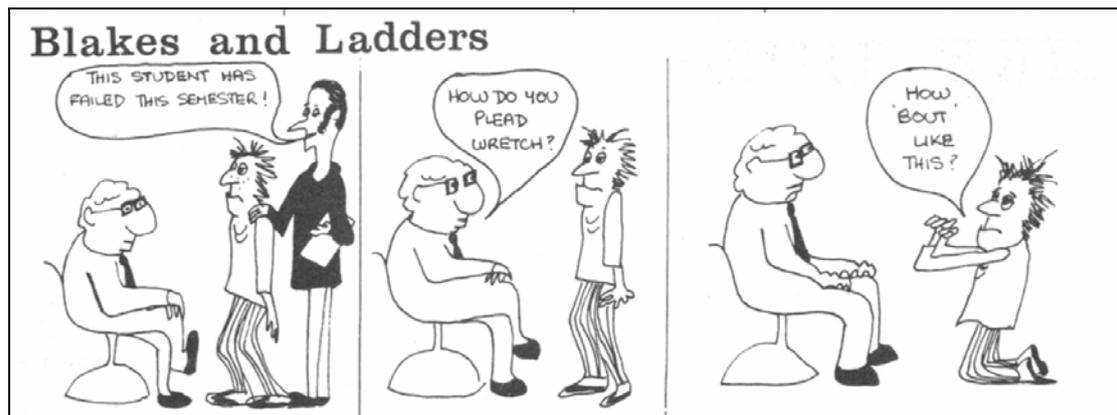
News of the move to North Campus/Boorooma Campus did not come as a shock as there was recognition that the move had been planned for some time. As the construction of buildings began, so did discussion of the implications the move would have for current and future students. As he had done before, Cliff Blake, in the first edition of RACE in 1974 informed his student body about the vision he held for the North Campus:

“By [1975] we expect to see in operation what I hope will be the finest campus of a college of advanced education in the Commonwealth, providing as I hope it will a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere in which students from all over the state can pursue a variety of disciplines that lead to full professional recognition.”^{xii}

Students however did not have such a positive outlook on the move. Students were worried about the effect on the college community, expressing their concern over the

probability of further fragmentation of students at the college through letters, editorials and student leaders' reports. Blake however gave students and staff a pledge that the close teacher-student relationships that had developed would not be lost in the transition. Teaching at North Campus began in 1975 and immediately issues arose regarding transport from residences at South Campus and in town, the lack of accommodation on North Campus and the inadequate Wagga Agricultural College (WAC) student union facilities which students from both pre-amalgamation institutions were to share.^{xiii} Students were aware, and certainly recognised the benefits a move to North Campus held for the future of the college, however when their needs were not adequately met they felt it necessary to criticise the college administration. A student representative was quoted in RACE stating: "We need assurance, in bricks and mortar, that the students of Riverina College will be provided with student residences and a Union facility within a very short time, without being fobbed off with meaningless promises."^{xiv} Some students during this time still believed that the college community should work together for success and growth – with similarities to the previously discussed co-operative stance – but with a growing student body and the realisation of the fragmentation previously discussed, another group of more self-interested students emerged. These students were active in their criticism, and Cliff Blake came under fire through the pages of RACE and Barph. For example, an article in RACE titled 'Some Bloke this Blake,' which had obvious sarcastic undertones, outlined inaction of college administration to provide students with the aforementioned 'essential' facilities. Another popular catchphrase was "Is this a Principal without principles?" which formed the subtitle to some of Blake's less flattering photographs. This term was used when students realised that the college was going to contribute to the funding for the construction of a theatre in the Wagga CBD (now the Riverina Playhouse). Students argued that the funding should be used to

provide them with the facilities they were requesting rather than contributing to a facility the college would never own. Also by this time students were proficient Cliff Blake caricaturists who took every opportunity to wittily and artistically express their disapproval. However, to his credit, Blake endured the at times adolescent name-calling, accepting that ‘students will be students.’



One of many cartoons printed in RACE and Barph depicting Cliff Blake. A lengthy comic running over many editions of Barph titled ‘One Man’s College’ shows the professionalism of student caricaturists and their tongue-in-cheek criticism of college administration. A full copy of this comic is located at the CSU Regional Archives

A group who strongly defended themselves against criticism were referred to as the ‘Aggies.’ Amalgamation of the Wagga Agricultural College (WAC) and RCAE occurred in 1976, with the WAC forming the School of Agriculture within the college academic structure. Instantly a division between the ‘Chalkies’ (Education students), ‘Arties’ (Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts students) and ‘Aggies’ was created. Chalkies and Arties as one group, though not officially, were the creators of RACE and Barph for several years. The pages of the two publications exhibit the near contempt the RCAE students had for Ag College students both pre-amalgamation and for years afterwards. Aggies were accused of “animal” behaviour and stories were reported that Arties and Chalkies were being abused. The Aggies had their own paper titled ‘Oink’ which was associated with the Ag Club. The three groups of students however were experiencing similar problems regarding facilities and during the early

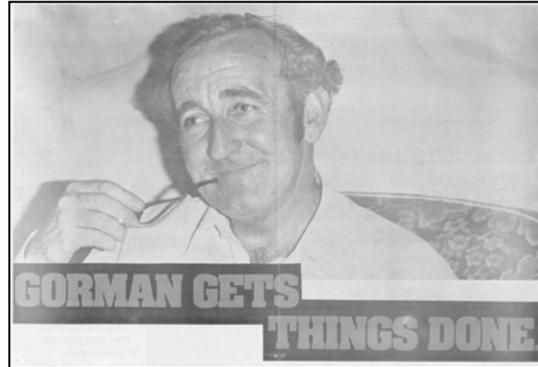
years of the amalgamation were united on some general student issues. At this time RACE and Barph rarely represented a united student voice but rather a Chalkie/Artie voice with the role of the publications for Aggies limited to sports notices and in defending themselves (in true Aggie pride) from the criticism they constantly received.

Student Political Concerns

The limited amount of concern given to political issues in the early years of RACE is surprising given the radical depiction of students during the 1970s. While feature articles in the publication discussed political parties there was little political comment. The only exception to this was when the decisions affected education (both tertiary and pre-tertiary) which were particularly topical for the education dominated student body. But what of the contentious press-stopping political issues of the 1970s? The Whitlam dismissal was certainly one issue that caused controversy and shock across Australia but RACE's coverage of this event was minimal. It consisted of one double page spread titled 'Fraser and Kerr: men of principle?' written by the previously discussed, outspoken student leader, Toby Prentice. Prentice discussed illegalities of the dismissal with reference to the Constitution and suggested some conspiracies regarding Kerr and his right-wing political background. There were no letters sent in on the topic, nor was there mention of the history-making event in the editorial.^{xv} This is a reflection on the lack of political concern of the students of RCAE.

In the edition featuring the Whitlam dismissal article, the first major discussion of local politics takes place making it one of the most politically driven editions of RACE in the ten years of its publication. The headline read 'Wagga Bi-Election ... Another Bass?,' referring to the by-election in the Tasmanian Federal seat of Bass which saw the ALP lose with a swing against it of 17%. With long standing

state member for Wagga Wagga Wal Fife, transferring to Federal politics that year the by-election was held with Local Mayor Dick Gorman as the ALP candidate and businessman and farmer Joe Schipp as the Liberal candidate. The cover-page article, giving a background to the candidates and the political trends relevant to the election,



stated that “Gorman ...is interested and active on behalf of the students of Wagga.”^{xvi} Later in the edition there was a double page interview with Gorman conducted by Prentice and another student. In addition there was a pull-out, double page poster of Gorman with the caption: “Gorman gets things done” – the final and very clear indicator of the publications preferred candidate. The seat was won by Schipp.

The small number of RCAE students on the Wagga electoral rolls was a factor brought up in this edition and that also may have determined the lack of concern given to local politics in editions of RACE and Barph.^{xvii} If students who had come from other areas to study in Wagga were enrolled in their home towns, their lack of interest in local Wagga politics is, firstly, justified, and secondly, an indicator that the publication was, by publishing only *relevant* material, a student voice.

From the late 1970s RACE was particularly critical of the Fraser government referring to youth unemployment and recent graduate unemployment. In addition, the Fraser Government’s move to restructure higher education by pushing for the amalgamation of CAEs (College of Advanced Education) in an attempt to reduce federal costs affected students at RCAE. The amalgamation of the Goulburn CAE (GCAE) and RCAE in 1982 and later the re-naming of RCAE to the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education (RMIHE) to incorporate an Albury-Wodonga campus was heavily discussed in Barph. In March 1981 the publication described the

prospective merger of GCAE with RCAE as a “shotgun wedding” accusing the college administration of failing to adequately inform the students and staff of both institutions of plans that concerned their education and employment respectively. While their concerns may have been justified the editors coverage of the issue in Barph was somewhat unfair in criticising Blake (an obvious figure head for College issues) who was endeavouring to meet Federal Government moves for forced CAE amalgamations. However, during the discussion of the amalgamation of GCAE and RCAE Barph was more than an RCAE students’ voice, going above and beyond this with its concern for college staff, Goulburn students, and GCAE staff who feared redundancy.

Re-introduction of student fees was reported through Barph as being a “near certainty” in 1982 raising fears that the student assistance scheme might be scrapped and a student loan system introduced. Action taken involved staff and student petitions and letters, with the Australian Union of Students (AUS) to oppose the changes on a national level. The existence of the AUS was a determining factor in students’ knowledge of political and national student concerns such as the re-introduction of student fees and high graduate unemployment levels, which were reported to students through the student publications in special AUS columns. Its existence also lessened the amount of action taken by Rivcoll Union, in that, firstly, the combined national student voice was a more powerful course of action, and secondly, for the most part, Rivcoll Union had confidence in the ability and methods of the AUS in protecting students’ interests. RACE and Barph for the course of their publication included AUS reports and columns, providing RCAE students with a national and combined student voice, which left student leaders at RCAE able to concentrate on their specific college issues. This may be a reason that less political

content was published in RCAE student publications and the reason for most emphasis being placed on local and Wagga campus issues.

Changing Student Culture

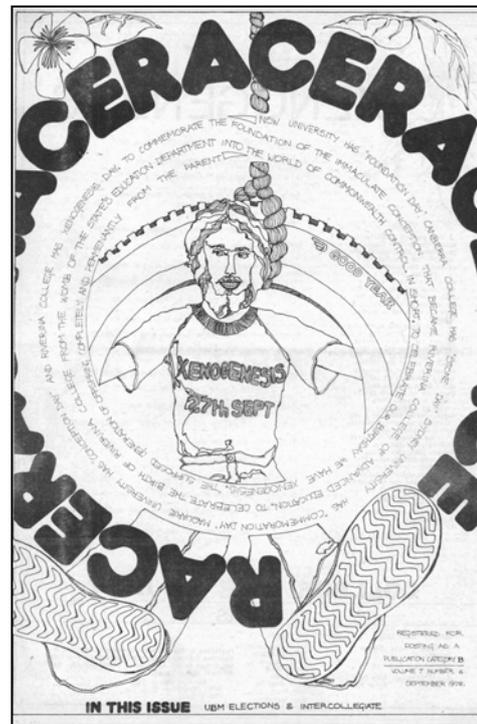
Early 1970s RACE featured the type of cultural content one would expect from students of that generation. Feminist commentaries, non-materialistic freewheeling 1970s ideologies, information about drug use, homosexual liberation, varied views regarding contraception and abortion, and environmental issues took centre stage. A feature article describing the alternative lifestyles being enjoyed in Nimbin is a classic example of the types of contributions RACE received during the period 1972-1975.

RACE during this period provided a means for

students to celebrate their culture, share interests and experiment with their personal identities by reading and contributing letters, articles, creative writing and artwork.

The student voice was strong through the expression of student culture.

Colin Anderson's college drama productions ensured theatre thrived at the college, with a large number of shows advertised and reviewed in RACE and later, and to a lesser extent, Barph. Once the RTC had been established this feature of student culture increased further, making theatre a major form of entertainment at the college and indeed in the Wagga community. Club and sports reports throughout RACE and Barph also exhibit the student cultural experience at RCAE during the



1978 cover of RACE advertising Xenogenesis day: a major student culture event celebrating the history of RCAE

period 1972-1985. On some occasions these reports make up for over half of the pages in an edition.

During 1976-7 RACE had what can best be described as an identity crisis. Amongst amalgamation with WAC and the move to the Ag/Boorooma campus – not to mention the growing student body boosted by over 700 Aggies – a host of different cultures existed. Personalities clashed with feminist, free speech, radical, sexist, and conservative Christian viewpoints all contributing to the pages of RACE. Editors during this time were free speech advocates. They demonstrated their journalistic beliefs by filling RACE with sexually explicit illustrations and photographs. The publication was not being printed by the Daily Advertiser at this time. The controversy caused by the images consisted of conservative and feminist groups writing in to complain, while advocates of free speech defended the content. Critics were sometimes polite about their objection: “Well over one half of the pictures in RACE were of some perverted sexual nature, and the articles well they’re a bit limited aren’t they.”^{xviii} While other criticism was more direct and less polite:

“I wouldn’t use RACE to light my barbeque. ... Who in their right mind would voluntarily help pay for the printing of a magazine that contains the adolescent ramblings normally found on toilet walls.”^{xix}

At this time student voices were coming from several groups within the college community. Finally, as previously discussed, RACE’s identity crisis ceased with new, but still controversial editors and shortly after this a stricter publications policy. RACE returned to the Daily Advertiser printer with it no longer featuring content likely to be censored for legal matters, among other reasons.

As 1970s culture phased out a new economically driven generation of students changed the cultural focus of RACE and Barph. Rock legends, gritty social

commentaries (where the graffiti on toilet walls was analysed) and student organised events replaced the previously celebrated, liberating student culture. At first this change in youth culture was met with nostalgia from some letter writers saddened by the passing of a time where student radicalism meant liberation of minority groups and the fight for noble causes. Eventually 1980s student culture set in to RCAE with no further nostalgic criticism and a period of heavy drinking, late nights in the college union and a predisposition to listening to and writing about bands, both local and chart-topping took over the pages of Barph. Changes in student culture at RCAE were representative of changing youth culture during 1972-1985 with student protests during the 1970s making way for more economically minded group of students who were critical of college, SRC and government spending. RACE and Barph throughout the years depict the transition in youth culture over the fourteen-year period.

Conclusion

The student publications RACE and Barph, during the operation of RCAE (1972-1985) reflect various aspects of the emerging institution. These aspects include the early problems that faced staff and students of the college, the nature of the student organisations and the way they used and shaped the publications, the change in the campus site and the amalgamation of RCAE and WAC as well as the political concerns and culture of the students attending the college. The student publications during these years had different roles within the college; firstly, as a communicator between staff and students, and to a lesser extent members of the Wagga community; secondly, to provide various forms of entertainment and information to students; and thirdly, to provide a medium for students to have their voice heard. The idea of a student voice has been the main focus of this report. The students who operated

RACE and Barph were the more motivated and sometimes more radical members of the student body and often complained of student apathy. The apathetic students who they refer to did not utilise RACE and Barph to voice their concerns or even make informative or entertaining contributions to the publication – because they simply did not want to. The point however remains that the publication provided a medium, for any student who was willing to do so, to have their voice heard. Assessment of the political and cultural elements of the publications shows how students were keen to discuss topics which interested them – and when they did they did so passionately. This passion was exhibited in moral issues such as explicit content being printed in RACE and when students fought for the reputation of the college within the Wagga community. In regards to college matters both staff and students used the pages of RACE and Barph to voice concern and to inform. This role of the publications varied from Colin Anderson advertising his productions to Cliff Blake informing students of major college decisions such as the move to North Campus and the amalgamation of RCAE with WAC. Student criticism of the college was often left to one or two active students who were members of student organisations – Chris Jones and Toby Prentice are good examples of this type of student.

This project provides a scope for the substantial value student publications have when researching educational institutions and their students. In particular student publications at RCAE, RMIHE and CSU, of which the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives have an extensive collection, are valuable in examining the historical background to the University. Future research on student publications from Wagga tertiary educational institutions could include publications such as the Wagga Teacher's College publication 'Talkabout,' Agricultural College and Ag club publications including 'Oink' and 'Kulpana,' and the RIMHE student publications 'Barph,' (up to 1989), 'Graphorrhoea,' 'Hungappa,' 'Channels' (aimed at distance

education students), and ‘Grapeshot’ (which was an anthology of student creative works). Such research would be timely given the recent changes to student unionism in Australia due to Voluntary Student Unionism being introduced. Future research could also compare these student publications with those operating at other higher education institutions, specifically a comparison of regional and city institutions and the impact of location on differences in student interests, culture and politics would be an interesting and valuable research project.

ⁱ Riverina College of Advanced Education 1973 Handbook (CSU Regional Archives)

ⁱⁱ Riverina College of Advanced Education 1976 Handbook (CSU Regional Archives)

ⁱⁱⁱ CSU2304/14-15 CSU Regional Archives. RACE Vol. 1 – Vol. 10.

^{iv} CSU2304/1-3 CSU Regional Archives. Barph Vol. 3 – Vol. 14.

^v CSU2304/14 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 1 No. 1.

^{vi} CSU2304/14 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 1 No. 5.

^{vii} CSU2304/14 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 2 No. 10.

^{viii} Fred Goldsworthy, ‘Beginnings: Riverina College of Advanced Education’ in Blacklow, N., D Boadle and F Goldsworthy, CDB: A tribute from the Faculty of Arts. Wagga Wagga: 2001.

^{ix} 11/11/72 Daily Advertiser (CSU Regional Archives)

^x CSU2304/13 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 3 No. 3.

^{xi} CSU2304/15 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 8 No. 7

^{xii} CSU2304/14 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 3 No. 1

^{xiii} CSU2304/14 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 4 No. 3

^{xiv} Ibid

^{xv} CSU2304/14 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 4 No. 11

^{xvi} Ibid

^{xvii} Ibid

^{xviii} CSU2304/15 CSU Regional Archives RACE Vol. 5 No. 7

^{xix} Ibid