

## why is melissa top of the class?

**B**rickbats and Bouquets for members of the Establishment this month - Bouquets first. Congratulations to Parliament's Education Select Committee for having the balls to finally recommend an end to the misguided whole language reading programme that's turned this country into an international laughing stock.

Back in the sixties and seventies, armed with what they believed would be a better way of teaching kids to read, New Zealand's schools turned away from the traditional method of phonics - sounding out words based on the sounds of each letter - in favour of the whole language approach, which relied on recognising entire words as pictures in their own right, whose meaning could be guessed from illustrations on accompanying pages.

Sadly, and perhaps because many teachers have never been in the "real" world (because they've spent their entire careers in a classroom), the schools forgot that most books in the real world don't have friendly pictures on every page to illustrate the hidden meaning of words.

Nor could a child succeed under the whole language system unless they developed either a photographic memory for words as images, or a very good system of guesswork.

The stupidity of abandoning phonics seemed lost on the goons in the Ministry of Education, despite the rising toll - up to 25 or 30% in some areas - of children requiring remedial reading help. By 1990 students were in our university system who still couldn't read properly, and with

no phonetic skills that could allow them to decipher strange words.

New Zealand educators cheerily exported their cancerous new reading system to other suckers around the world - California being the most notable - but in the last five years many of those countries have begun to realise they were taken for a drive by blind people and they've abandoned "whole language" reading in favour of phonics.

Now, the Education Select Committee is itself recommending a return to phonics and the abolition of whole language. About time. Yet there are still those who refuse to see the obvious. Dr Libby Limbrick, president of the NZ Reading Association, told the *Herald* the report shouldn't have just emphasised phonics.

"There's no magic solution," she said, to the reading problem. So why is it that at Don Buck Primary in West Auckland, 40 percent of new entrants still had reading difficulties after their first year under the whole language system, but following the introduction of phonics to the school four years ago none of its new entrants have reading problems anymore. Isn't that the magic solution Limbrick refuses to acknowledge?

Let me tell you about Melissa. Her parents saw a television advertisement in the United States for a reading programme called *Hooked on Phonics*. They bought it and, at the age of two and a half, after just 10 minutes a night for two weeks, Melissa could recite her ABCs.

Not being pushy parents, they left it at that level, but at

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<b>Chief Executive Officers</b> Ian Wishart, Heidi Wishart <b>Editor</b> Ian Wishart <b>Assistant Editor</b> Simon Jones <b>Customer Services</b> Debbie Marcroft <b>Advertising Manager</b> Heidi Wishart		<b>Email</b> editorial@investigatemagazine.com <b>Email</b> sales@investigatemagazine.com www.investigatemagazine.com			
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the age of three began the next step in the reading programme. Again, 10 minutes a day was all it took. Within another couple of weeks of recommencing the programme, Melissa knew the individual sounds of each letter of the alphabet, and by three and a half she was reading books designed for five year olds.

To labour the point, this wasn't sweat-hog reading teaching. It was an audio tape and flashcards used for just ten minutes each day. Ten minutes.

When she started school at age five, Melissa had been reading for her own enjoyment for more than a year. By age six, her Auckland primary school had assessed her reading age as equivalent to an 11 year old.

She's regarded as the best reader in the entire school for her age, and consistently scores at the top in tests.

And it's all because she learned to read via phonics, for 10 minutes a day for a few short months. A New Zealand company has since brought out its own phonics-based reading programme, *Reading Master*, and its huge success in direct sales indicates the level of parental demand for some kind of head start for their kids. Once children unlock the code to break down and sound out words, they can tackle any word regardless of how unfamiliar it looks. The context will come to them sooner or later from their own knowledge of the word in everyday spoken English.

Melissa's story is not unique. There are many in schools around New Zealand and overseas where children dismissed as total failures by the "whole language" proponents have suddenly leapt ahead of their peers after being taught phonics. Will the Government, composed of many former teachers, rise to meet the Select Committee's challenge? Let's hope so.

Brickbats, however, for TV3 News. Having been sent copies of previous **INVESTIGATE** magazines on the vaccination issue, the network still managed to churn out a completely biased and unresearched puff piece on behalf of the Government vaccination mouthpiece, Immunisation Advisory Centre.

In the story, 3 News journalist Kim Hurring listed under the heading "MMR Myths" the claims of concerned parents that the MMR vaccine causes illness, is linked to autism, and is made from aborted human foetal tissue.

IMAC spokeswoman Dr Nikki Turner was then allowed to describe, unchallenged, the allegations as "totally false".

So on behalf of aggrieved parents everywhere, we faxed 3 News to alert them to the fact they'd been sucked in.

We pointed out that the MMR manufacturer, Merck's, own website acknowledges that the MMR vaccine is made from a combination of chicken embryos [yes, purposely killed for the task in a fairly grisly procedure] and what is innocuously called "WI-38 Human Diploid Lung Fibroblasts".

We then pointed out to TV3 that the ViroMed Laboratories website, <http://vml.viomed.com/services/product/wi38.htm>, reports that: "The WI-38 human diploid cell line was derived by L. Hayflick from normal embryonic (3 month gestation) lung tissue of a female (Exp. Cell Res. 25: 585, 1961)."

Further down the page, for the benefit of prescribing doctors, ViroMed assures that the "species [was] confirmed as human", which is nice to know, especially after some of the other children's vaccines became contaminated with monkey and bird viruses.

To cut a long story short, those lungs came from a 14 week old aborted baby girl (see pictures of similar size foetus on page 22 of this issue), so either Dr Nikki Turner of IMAC genuinely doesn't know what she's talking about in this regard, or IMAC managed to pull a swifty over TV3.

Every MMR vaccine in the world is derived from this aborted human foetal tissue, so if your kids have been vaccinated with MMR, they're carrying a little piece of this dead child inside them as well.

When we challenged TV3's Kim Hurring to get the facts right next time, her reply was that "We have to trust the scientists". Kind of like, "Welcome to Auschwitz, would you like to take a shower?". The TV propaganda campaign reinforcing the almost-compulsory MMR vaccinations in schools urges parents to ask their nearest government-funded medical official if they have any concerns about the vaccines, and talks fuzzily of being informed.

Yet it's funny amid all this concern about GM food and experiments, that nobody bothered telling New Zealand parents that their children were being injected with vaccines grown on the tissue cells of dead children.

I would have thought that such an act might require informed consent.

**IAN & HEIDI WISHART**



## acc skulduggery

I was on an ACC independence allowance of \$73.22 every quarter, but I was recently struck off due to another assessment from a doctor appointed by ACC to assess my percentage of disability.

I could have had the chance to go to the review board but I knew this was a waste of time as it was one ACC department against another, so I knew it was a lost cause.

But enough of my personal case. The reason I contacted you is that I think there is a hidden plan to this. I've spoken to other people, and the same doctor working for ACC wiped them off the books as well.

They went to their solicitor, and he too has had people wiped off the ACC list - even people in wheelchairs have had a tough job getting an allowance.

I think personally the Government is doing this right around the country in order to save money, to pay themselves some benefit or perk.

I've tried asking questions at my local MP's office but got no response.

**P M Meyer**  
**Hokitika**

*Yes, well, you'll be intrigued to know we've done some digging, and the results appear in a major investigation in this issue.*

*We find it repugnant, in addition to the above, that taxpayers who paid ACC premiums all their lives in a compulsory scheme that stripped them of their right to sue for compensation, are now also being stripped of their ACC benefits if they are also receiving an unemployment benefit from WINZ.*

*Perhaps Queens Helen and Jenny, and their respective bands of robbers collectively known as the NZ Parliament (Contempt, Mr Speaker? Yeah, we hold Parliament in utter contempt - make my day, come and get us!) have forgotten that ACC payments, meagre as they are, are insurance payouts, not income, and are supposed to compensate for trivial things like loss of enjoyment after losing your right arm, or going blind in an accident.*

*But hey, New Zealanders get the Government they deserve. Don't they?*

*-Ed.*

## gunshy

A friend recently gave me a look at a copy of your magazine to read. I'd heard about it and heard you were one to get to the root of an issue.

I wish to say thank you for your work and for unsettling the apathy we New Zealanders suffer from.

My particular interest is with this Government slowly trying to disarm its people and, in particular, sportsmen and serious collectors who enjoy hunting.

The issue over armoured cars and Clark's blatant arrogance in not bringing her Government to account for such a vast overspend, is incredible. I'm sickened by it.

Clark's arrogance on this and other issues smacks of a dangerous decline in a Government that is meant to be representing its people and listening to its people. I can't help but feel we are heading into a dangerous political environment where we may end up with a fascist state led by cronies that have a dodgy agenda.

I've already seen how the police system works outside the law, distorting facts for its own ends.

Keep up the good work.

**Name withheld**  
**Auckland**

*For the edification of readers who still think they live in a "free" country, another licensed NZ gun owner recently found himself fighting to retain his licence after writing a letter to an Australian newspaper critical of political developments in NZ.*

*The police, presumably acting at the behest of the Government, commenced action to strip the collector of his licence on mental health grounds - it being an offence apparently to criticise the NZ Government and a sure sign of mental instability.*

*For the edification of Police Minister George Hawkins: too late, we shredded the letter.*

*-Ed.*

**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.**



## whoops

I really enjoyed Daylight Robbery, and can now see why we will never have a BNZ inquiry under a Labour, National or ACT Government. Please keep up your good work.

I also enjoy the magazine, however, while catching up on a missed issue I was amazed that in Simon Jones's article The Poisoning of New Zealand II, he states Laurie was banned from the Waiotira Golf Club. This is wrong, he was not banned at all, and if Simon had simply written to the committee for confirmation he would have produced a more factual article.

**Marc Pawley**  
Northland

*The oversight is acknowledged, and regretted. I'm sure it'll bring a smile to your face to know that Simon is now based in London with photojournalist Shayne Kavanagh to provide Investigate readers with exclusive coverage and insights into major world news events like Palestine, or the Irish troubles. Of course, Simon is now acutely aware that Hamas and the Real IRA are a lot less gentlemanly in dealing with the occasional error than the Waiotira Golf Club.*

*This picture of Jones was taken just before we told him his next assignment was Belfast.*

-Ed.

# The Morning GRILL

Pam Corkery + Paul Henry, 6-10am

Northland	95.2FM Rotorua	91.9FM Westport	90.1FM
	94.8FM Taupo	99.1FM Greymouth	93.9FM
	95.6FM Hawkes Bay	97.5FM Hokitika	89.1FM
	94.0FM Taranaki	89.2FM Christchurch	738AM
Auckland	702AM Wanganui	96.0FM Ashburton	1071AM
Waikato	954AM Manawatu	93.8FM Timaru	89.9FM
	100.0FM Wairarapa	98.1FM Alexandra	95.9FM
Bay of Plenty	96.1FM Wellington	711AM Dunedin	96.6FM
	92.1FM Nelson	96.2FM Invercargill	94.0FM
Gisborne	94.8FM	97.6FM	

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## objects in the rearview mirror

There is absolutely no truth in the rumour, following your Prime Minister Helen Clark's decision to scrap the New Zealand Airforce, that her ministerial limousine was pursued up Wellington's northern freeway by an angry Skyhawk pilot.

We loved this over here.

**David Smith**  
United States

## a misinformed doctor

A lot of misinformation concerning immunisations has been circulating in the letters to editors columns around Northland and New Zealand. Some of this has been quite mischievous.

The unfortunate truth is that in the past 12 months four children have been admitted to Whangarei Hospital with life-threatening illnesses and there has been one death from vaccine-preventable diseases in unimmunised children: Hepatitis B, tetanus, haemophilus epiglottitis and haemophilus meningitis. One top of these have been the frequent admissions for whooping cough. Parents may find it difficult to differentiate accurate from inaccurate information in a media debate, and I would suggest that conscientious parents who wish to check out the pros and cons of immunisation for their children either contact the Auckland University Immunisation Advisory Centre at 0800IMMUNE (466-863), or log on to their web site at [www.imac.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.imac.auckland.ac.nz).

There is also a good feature in "Immunet", Otago University, at [www.osms.otago.ac.nz/immunet](http://www.osms.otago.ac.nz/immunet) where you can download "To vaccinate or not to vaccinate - that is the question". A well-reasoned article addressing many of the recurring issues around immunisation. For those wanting fact sheets for individual vaccines detailing their effects and side effects, they are available at Centres for Disease Control USA at national immunisation programme - [www.cdc.gov/nip/](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/). The Immunisation Action Coalition from America also has a site with useful information at [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org).

These university or government sites have no financial affiliation with vaccination and so will give independent advice.

To speak to somebody personally, the parent can make

an appointment with their family doctor. This is usually free for children under six. Alternatively, phone the local public health nurse or the immunisation co-ordinator at Whangarei Hospital, Coralie Zimmer.

Family and whanau do not need to remain confused or frightened about immunisations. There is good quality, reliable information to help parents make an informed choice to safely protect their children.

**Dr Bobby Tsang**  
Paediatrician, Northland Health

*Dr Tsang's letter, originally printed in a community newspaper, has been sent to us by the correspondents below. You should note his assurances about the independence and competence of the United States authorities like the CDC or FDA, and New Zealand's own ACC, which are relying on a report from the Institute of Medicines assuring parents that the MMR vaccine does not cause autism. That assurance disintegrated in recent cross-examination at a US Congressional investigation into vaccine safety:*

*'At a recent Congressional hearing by the Committee on Government Reform, chaired by Congressman Dan Burton, R-Indiana, a recent study by the Institute of Medicine, essentially clearing the MMR vaccine of any link to autism, was called "a disservice to the American people".*

*"You put out a report to the people of this country, saying the MMR vaccine doesn't cause autism...and you can't tell me, the Committee Chairman, under oath, that there is no causal link because you just don't know, do you?" Congressman Burton asked of Marie McCormick, MD, ScD of the Harvard School of Public Health and the Institute of Medicines panel chairwoman.*

*"No, I don't know," responded McCormick.'*

*It is vitally important for New Zealand parents to start questioning the veracity of the assurances they get about vaccine safety, because in many cases those assurances are worth nothing. The above passage is an example of a "major report" dismissing links between MMR and autism, yet under oath the report's originator is forced to admit she honestly doesn't know whether MMR causes autism or not.*

*In addition, the CDC's Vaccine Advisory Board includes scientists being paid by pharmaceutical companies to develop new vaccines:*

*'A House Government Reform Committee staff report published this week criticised the FDA and the CDC for routinely allowing scientists with conflicts of interest to serve on two influential advisory committees that make recommendations on vaccine policy.*

*'The report concludes that, "conflict of interest rules employed by the FDA and the CDC have been weak, enforcement has been lax, and committee members with substantial ties to pharmaceutical companies have been given waivers to participate in committee proceedings".*

*All of which makes Dr Tsang's and IMAC's assurances about "independent advice" laughable in the extreme. - Ed.*

## be warned

I noticed that letters from Dr Tsang and IMAC's Natalie Desmond have appeared in a number of community newspapers recently, promoting the measles vaccination campaign.

In a South African medical journal and other studies shown that just one single dose of vitamin A given to children under the age of 2 years old reduced the morbidity and mortality in measles by 30 percent and 50 percent respectively.

At around \$85 each for a vaccine, with a population of 3.8 million, it's no rocket science to work out which is the cheaper health option.

However, vaccination remains big business, the success of which depends on sales. Those who research and develop vaccines, doctors, and providers, are monetarily rewarded for pumping them into our children from birth to prevent normal childhood illnesses developing. Those multinational pharmaceutical companies which promote immunisation at the beginning of our lives and cures at the end, profit the most.

The Ministry of Health has prioritised immunisation for Maori children. There is significant funding for those who deliver these 'services'. Iwi health providers hold 'tamariki ora' contracts that require them to fulfill the service to a set number of tamariki. Comments in government documents such as "parents need to have all information to

make an informed decision to immunise their children and to have children immunised as recommended by the well child/tamariki ora schedule", show that there is an embedded assumption that immunisation is not under debate. The question is that while our own health providers may have the best interests of our babies at heart, they are informed from a single source (ie government) so that the question is not "should we immunise?", but of course immunisation is right so HOW do we get all our tamariki immunised.

There is also no discretion between one immunisation and another as the government has created a package deal, as part of its well-child strategy and that again assumes children have the whole range of immunisations rather than a selection. The well-child book (or Plunket book) that is handed out to new mothers clearly facilitates the immunisation of babies and children through the whole range.

How many of you are aware that in order to fulfill his contract, John Tamihere chose an 'opt off' method of immunising children who attended Waipareira Health in Auckland. This meant that unless a caregiver expressly said their child should NOT be immunised, the tamaiti got the jab anyway. The opt off method was a shrewd way to get the job done because many of our people don't answer letters or fill out forms if no-one is actively pushing it.

This decision may not have been just about funding but a Waikato Kohanga reo expelled a child, (whose mother,

## STUCK FOR A GIFT IDEA?



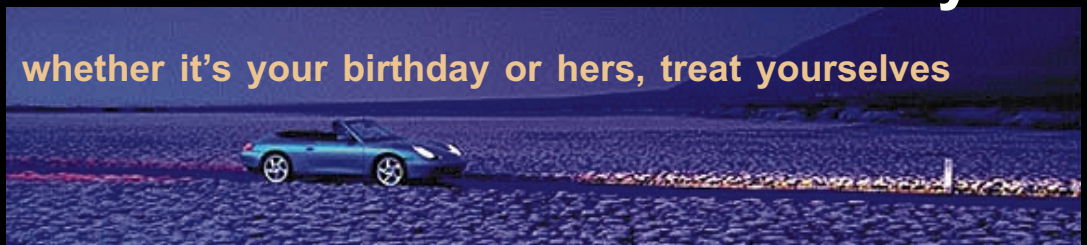
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in the face of aggressive coercive blackmail steadfastly refused vaccination on cultural and religious grounds) as the government funding for that Kohanga was tagged in favour of vaccination. (How many of you are aware that vaccines are manufactured on the cell tissue culture of choice, diploid tissue, otherwise known as aborted foetal cell culture?)

In the late 1950's early 1960's all pupils in schools throughout the country (2,500,000 children) were vaccinated against polio. Later through the media, we learned that some were injected with a batch of highly dangerous contaminated monkey based polio vaccine. This substance left some children crippled for life, and the rest of us facing threats of possibly developing brain, kidney, breast and other tumours, multiple sclerosis (to mention a few).

In 1973 Professor. Classen, (Director of the Institute of Preventative Medicine at the University of Odense in Denmark) warned the medical establishment: "Millions of people have been inoculated with anti-polio vaccine contaminated with tumoural SV40 virus (present in green monkey cells ground to produce the vaccine). It is possible that it will take 20 or more years before the eventual harmful effects of the vaccine manifest itself".

A decade later our Minister of Health, Aussie Malcolm stated: "It cannot be ruled out that two million New Zealanders could not be suffering in 30 years time from cancerous brain tumours as a result of vaccinations".

*The Evening Post* (24/7/87), the *Dominion* (dated July 29/87), and the *NZ Listener* (Aug 29 1987) reported that some New Zealand children given a polio vaccine from Connaught Lab in USA suffered alarming neurological effects and viral meningitis. the mass immunisation campaign was called off.

Many of us believed the propaganda that to be good, responsible adults we had to vaccinate children.

With a family of nine, Maori friends immunised a couple of their tamariki then discovered that the children still contracted measles, despite being told that the jabs were to protect them. Concerns as to why the tamariki contracted measles were fobbed off with; "oh some children still get a mild dose."

The woman being a lawyer, these friends began studying vaccine labels, questioning doctors, reading books finding out about alternatives such as nutrition, homeopathy, and looking at our recent history to see how our forebears and mothers dealt with illnesses such as dysentery, measles, flu, smallpox and so on.

They looked at diet and qualities of certain foods such as garlic, honey, oranges, kumara, puha and shark oil. Captain Cook stopped scurvy by feeding citrus (vitamin C) to his crew.

Some years ago, indigenous babies in Australia - every second aboriginal child - began dying following the introduction of an immunisation programme. Dr Cilento found by feeding them vitamin C before vaccination, they survived.

We have been born with an immune system which has to recognise invaders and protect the body against diseases, many of which are linked to poverty. Maori people

had access to good food - which is needed to keep the immune system strong - food that is now packaged and sold (for exorbitant prices) off the shelf such as fish oils, seaweed, kutai, puha, kumera, riwai, kanga.

Once our friends had educated themselves, they decided not to vaccinate their children. Naturally the public nurses, plunket nurses and doctors continued to pressure them to conform, mainly using fear tactics such as "if your child gets measles, they could be brain damaged". The friends waited for their tamariki to catch all of the usual childhood illnesses - which we were exposed to as children - and nursed their children that caught mumps, chickenpox, measles through in the same way their parents did - including resting in a darkened room, food rich in vitamins C and A, sufficient hydration, some sponging down, keeping warm and resting.

The mother was later told by a Chinese practitioner that if the children didn't catch the diseases at a young age, it was unlikely that they would get them later as they might have already developed an immunity by having been in contact with someone who had had the disease.

I believe the push for inoculation of common childhood illnesses over the last 30 or so years has diverted our attention from healthy eating and living. It has also undermined our confidence to use basic nursing skills to deal with illnesses which happen with or without vaccination.

The Immunisation Awareness Society, Vaccine Information Network, newspapers and some books comment on the devastating effects of vaccinations which are not highly publicised. (eg *The Dangers of Compulsory Vaccinations - How To Avoid Them Legally*, by US Attorney Tom Finn.)

In the book, *Animal Research Takes Lives* by Bette Overell is discussed (in chapter 5) the Vaccination conspiracy and the research and findings into all major childhood immunisations.

If the authorities want to improve Maori health then governments need to begin with the basics and ensure that their policies will provide access to jobs and resources which will allow us to feed our tamariki a balanced diet, and adequately house them.

Housing New Zealand has recognised the proven fact that insulating houses can improve the health of people living in substandard dwellings and are taking steps to meet insulation needs of some of their tenants (who, from recent media accounts may be better housed than some of our people).

My friend says that the currently highlighted third world conditions that some Northland people are living under contribute significantly to ill health and set up pre-existing conditions which ensure that in the absence of good food and housing, immunisation against diseases is the only other option.

If you want to banish measles you may wish to consider reading a South African medical journal about vitamin A therapy. It was found that one dose of vitamin A given to children under two years old reduced morbidity and mortality by 30 and 50 percent respectfully - just one single dose, of a simple cheap nutrient.

Compared to the cost per vaccine of around \$85, vitamin A dosing may save enough money to provide better housing to ensure healthier New Zealanders.

**Henihi Karaka**  
via email

## immunisation damage

I wrote to 2 of the newspapers in which Natalie Desmond was peddling her pharmaceutical products (without having to pay the usual advertising fees). The *Western Leader* didn't publish it - gosh, that's a surprise - & the *Northern Age*, which publishes letters on its website, hasn't bothered either. The necessarily slanted advertising material of N. Desmond goes unchallenged.

Here is my hitherto, & likely to remain so, unpublished offering. "N. Desmond is right. With a Kiwi-can-do attitude we can be rid of measles deaths but not by parking a vaccine van outside McDonalds in Manukau. She, or the drug companies that she represents, should have paid for her vaccine-touting advertisement rather than cunningly having it placed on the opinion pages in various newspapers around the country.

I asked a Medical Officer why we don't treat children, with measles complications, with vitamin A, as "ghetto" children are in both the USA & South Africa. The derisory answer was that there is no evidence that it would work in NZ. Some children suffer from such a deficiency, no matter the accident of their place of birth, so evidence does exist.

We have traded measles for autism despite our medical officials' lambasting of Dr. Andrew Wakefield's research. The Finnish study which they cite as a refutation of his research, was hardly independent, funded as it was by the MMR manufacturer, Merck. I take strong exception to being held responsible for others in the community. I've already taken full responsibility for the vaccine-induced brain damage my son suffered. The vaccine company & the misinformed medicos took none. My baby was sacrificed for the common good, for that elusive herd immunity.

How is it then that 60% of cases occur in the vaccinated? I would ask all parents to think seriously as to why they might be required to sacrifice their children. Are there any out there who would require other parents' babies to be sacrificed for the dubious & unproven benefits of vaccination? 4000 New Zealanders are sacrificed on

the altar of Medical Misadventure every year, yet the politicians, who allow vaccine damage to be paid for by its very victims through ACC rather than by those responsible, target the *10 times smaller road toll* as worthy of huge advertising campaigns.

No death is insignificant for the grieving families but perhaps we need a campaign exhorting us to stay away from doctors & hospitals. Your child has more chance of surviving without a seat belt than paying a visit to the doctor."

However, in the *Western Leader* there is an anonymous letter from a fellow vaccine-injury-sufferer:

"BAD JAB REACTION" I was interested in your item regarding immunisation (*Western Leader*, July 2).

Last year I had a flu vaccination for the first time (& the last time) & 3 days later I lost my balance, lost all control in my fingers, the whole of my face twisted to the left, I had strange pains in all parts of my body, & when I was in bed @ night it constantly felt like my bed was tilted on its side.

It was 3 months of living hell. Do you think I could get one doctor or specialist to admit that it might have had something to do with the vaccination? No.

Also a friend of mine who had the flu injection in in 1999 suddenly ceased to have her periods & menopause came on suddenly. She was 38 years old.

NAME SUPPLIED Te Atatu South

Guillain Barré Syndrome just happens to be a common enough side-effect of flu vaccination for doctors to be able to recognise it. The other name for GBS is post-infective polyneuropathy. It sometimes develops 10 – 20 days following a respiratory infection that provokes an allergic response in the peripheral nerves.

In the absence of such an infection one could reasonably say that "post-infective", in this case, means "post-vaccination", the vaccination having provoked the allergic reaction. Recovery from various degrees of GB paralysis & pain can be prolonged. I know of a man who is still paralysed over 2 years later with polyneuroradiculitis which means it's not just peripheral nerve involvement.

As no doctor would admit the link to vaccination, once again, an adverse reaction goes unreported & IMAC will advance the CARM (Centre for Adverse Reaction Monitoring) figures (or lack thereof) in support of their thesis that vaccination is safe. For further information on the fudging of CARM figures there was an excellent article in



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the *Sunday Star-Times* where it was revealed that 44 families had "won" ACC for brain-damaged children in 5 years, yet during that same period CARM said there were no cases of brain damage which could be attributed to vaccination. What this really means is that not one doctor bothered to REPORT any brain damage cases, (always remembering that the word "case" refers to living babies.) Others applied for ACC but were turned down through lack of complete (doctors) notes or "lost" (by doctors) files.

**Adrienne Crampton**  
**Auckland**

## bee wars 3

I note the letter in your last *Investigate* magazine from Dr. Kelvin Duncan Zoologist, stated that I was attacking him because I was unsuccessful in obtaining the rights to his so-called 'Potentiated Bee Pollen'. Let me state categorically, that this is not true.

When I heard about the so-called 'Potentiation' of bee pollen, I was obviously interested in hearing about this new process that improved a product that I had success in marketing. I therefore visited, Dr Duncan and I asked him whether he had tested this product on human beings, he replied "No, it is obvious and it doesn't need to be" I immediately dismissed it (the process).

Dr. Duncan has been asked to produce his scientific work in relation to the so-called 'Potentiated' work over a period of two years and he has produced nothing. He originally quoted literature by people called Franchi and Franchi. This studied the digestibility of poppy and hazelnut pollen. Neither of which are present in any abundance in NZ or, more importantly, collected by bees.

He then refuted the above and said he was using Roulston and Cane, a study of how rodents digest pollen. The pollen digested by rodents is collected by the animals direct from flowers and not from beehives and is therefore not bee pollen.

At a hearing of the Advertising Standards Tribunal to establish whether the Potentiated product was 80 times more bio-available, or 97% available, our complaints were upheld. So far, none of Dr Duncan's work on the process has been published in a relevant scientific journal for critique by his peers. If you taste the difference between natural and the so-called 'Potentiated' product, the natural product tastes sweet and quite palatable, whereas I reckon the so-called 'Potentiated' product tastes bitter and rancid.

Duncan, Banks and the Cooks have portrayed me as an aggrieved competitor which I admit, I could have appeared to have been in the early stages of their entering the market, but after a full investigation of the facts the only way I can see of behaving is to tell the story and expose the truth until the authorities deal with it appropriately.

**John Triggs**  
**Abeeco (abridged)**

## down the lav

Mr. Burton does not see fit to make heads roll over the dysfunctional and reprehensible behaviour of some very senior Army officers and their fellow schemers. It parallels the "no names" treatment shown after the inquiry into the cervical smear scandal, where Annette King would not name names because it would have named Helen Clark (former Minister of Health).

The next batch of unnecessary deaths will be those of the young servicemen of this nation through the folly and disloyalty of the NZ Army's leadership.

The Auditor General's report points to the dysfunctionality within Defence which many of us have known about for a number of years. It arises principally from Major General Dodson's failure to keep within the bounds of the professional ethics of an officer of a disciplined service (in which policy decisions are made through thorough research and consultative processes). Dodson would not have been left out of the decision-making processes. Any sense of isolation would arise from mistrust that he has occasioned when he has gone outside his military station to persuade the PM to decide on options that are neither in the best interests of Defence, nor capable of meeting realistic policy objectives.

Air Marshal Carey Adamson is one of the finest, most intelligent, and unbiased leaders that New Zealand has had the good fortune to produce. To gainsay his advice to Government is "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" and should be dealt with accordingly.

**Hugh L. Webb**  
**Kumeu**

## dog plea

I'm the President of Phoenix Animal Trust and initiator of a global petition which to date has signatures and formal support from four million people in over 40 countries.

The petition is asking the FAO UN to classify western breed dogs which are being imported into China as livestock and bred and slaughtered for human consumption.

This petition is to be presented to the FAO United Nations at their conference in Rome, November this year. The dogs to date are St Bernards, Newfoundlands, German Shepherds, Dalmations, Mastiffs.

The dogs are slaughtered in an atrocious manner. Legs broken the night before slaughter then skinned alive (so the coats don't shed).

If you would like further details, please contact me.

**Elly Maynard**  
**ellymaynard@radionetwork.co.nz**



## questions of the day:

**Who?** Helen Clark  
**What?** current Prime Minister  
**Famous for?** being famous  
**Said?** when in Opposition:

PARLIAMENT, Sep 12, 1995

**Clark (Lab, Mt Albert):**

(Leader of the Opposition) to the Prime Minister: Is he aware of allegations that an 86-year-old woman in his electorate died suddenly after receiving a bill for \$38,122.81 for care in Te Kuiti Public Hospital, and that her doctor says it is highly likely the shock of the bill contributed to her death; if so, what responsibility does he take in all this for his Government's policy to charge frail elderly people for their care in public hospitals?

**Rt Hon. J B BOLGER (Prime Minister):** Yes, this was reported to me. I can understand the family's sadness on the passing of a loved one. I am very concerned about the circumstances, and I made urgent inquiries at the time.

**Who?** Michael Cullen  
**What?** current Finance Minister  
**Then?** Opposition MP  
**Famous for?** his Michael Jackson-like transformation into Michael J Savage  
**Said?** when in Opposition:

PARLIAMENT, Sept 12, 1995

**Hon. Dr MICHAEL CULLEN (St Kilda)** to the Minister of Finance: Has he received any reports which state the amount likely to be raised by a financial transactions tax levied at a rate of 10c in \$100?

**Rt Hon. W F BIRCH (Minister of Finance):** I am ad-

vised the financial transactions tax proposed by the leader of the Alliance would raise only a fraction of the revenue that is claimed because the transactions base would fall very substantially in response to its introduction. I am also advised that the tax would disadvantage the export sector, would have serious adverse effects on the efficiency and soundness of the financial system, and that international experience with such taxes is that they are very limited in their ability to raise revenue.

### speech:

**Who?** Helen Clark  
**What?** don't even go there  
**Then?** Opposition Leader  
**Famous for?** her regal manner  
**Said?** when in Government:

PARLIAMENT, Sept 13, 1995

**Hon Helen Clark (Oppn Leader):** In the end the National Party and its leader can run but they cannot hide. They cannot hide from the unpalatable fact that in the middle of an economic recovery---which they did three parts of nothing to contribute to, because the restructuring was done at an earlier time---a tremendous number of people are still missing out.

Week after week we get reports of social breakdown in our community. This week there has been a report from the National Advisory Group on Elder Abuse and Neglect. That abuse is reaching alarming levels in our country. Also this week there has been a report from the Citizens Advice Bureaux stating that poverty is as bad as ver it was. If there is an economic recovery, why are those folks not seeing it?



**A** former top defence official says he'll testify to an official inquiry about perceived irregularities in the Army's tendering process, if he's called as a witness. In a four page letter to *Investigate* clarifying some issues raised in last month's report, *Down the LAV*, former Deputy Secretary of Defence Robin Johansen comes out swinging, distancing himself from the issues and revealing he was one of those who blew the whistle.

"Prior to reading your article I had no knowledge of a meeting in Washington attended by the manufacturers of the Humvee, General Dodson and Dr [Kent] Stephens, and in any case fail to see what relevance this has to me, since Dr Stephens was not retained to provide risk management services to the New Zealand Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force on this project.

"Having said that, evidence of this meeting just weeks before the release of the tender for Light Operational Vehicles (Land Rover replacement) serves only to add to suspicions I had about the New Zealand Army and its intentions regarding the outcome of the tender as laid out below.

"You correctly observe that Graham Fortune, Secretary of Defence, decided that the tender for Light Operational Vehicles was compromised and ordered an internal investigation. You apparently were not so diligent as to inquire on whose advice those steps were taken.

"Had you taken the trouble to ask Graham Fortune, he would have told you that the advice to suspend the tender because of suspected irregularity was given by me. That advice centred on activities which had come to my attention, relating to the New Zealand Army, the US Foreign Military Sales organisation and AM General, the manufacturers of the Humvee, during the tender process.

"Given that I had seen considerable prior evidence suggesting that the Army was doing everything in its power to predetermine the outcome of the tender in favour of AM General, this was of considerable concern to me.

"Further inquiry, had you pursued it, would have revealed that this was the subject of an audit by the Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Defence, whose report suggested some changes in process but found no evidence of serious irregularity. In short, it did not support the suspicions of both myself and the staff of the Ministry of Defence, Acquisitions Division."

Johansen's comments are likely to stoke the fire already burning under Defence Minister Mark Burton, because he confirms that he was not aware of the secret Washington meeting between the Army, sometime NZ military advisor Kent Stephens, and the makers of the Humvee. Which suggests the issue cannot have been covered by the Evaluation Division audit.

"As an aside," Johansen continues, "very similar concerns about the Army trying to predetermine the outcome of the Light Armoured Vehicle tender in favour of the LAV-III, was among the reasons that an Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) process was instituted prior to this tender being released. Not, as your article might lead people to believe, to simply fulfil a perceived legal requirement.

"I would welcome the opportunity to testify before a Commission of Inquiry, because then, and probably only then, will the truth about Army procurement projects emerge from the clouds of misinformation and plain mischievous commentary."

In his letter, Johansen is also critical of an eyewitness report that US military consultant Kent Stephens was being touted as having a "special relationship" with the Ministry of Defence and Johansen.

Although Johansen now works for Stephens and another US military consultant, Gary Goodrum - the man who allegedly made the comment, he is adamant that no special relationship existed and he was unaware of the claim at the time.

"It is not my intent...to defend Dr Stephens or Gary Goodrum, because I simply do not know what they said or did. The very phrase 'special relationship' in your article implies some sort of special privileges or special treatment and no such thing existed."

*Investigate's* editor Ian Wishart fully accepted Johansen has acted honourably at all times, and welcomed Johansen's clarifications, saying they added important new information to an unfolding story of major public importance.

"Johansen's actions in blowing the whistle on some of these irregularities have been vindicated by the Auditor-General's damning report on the LAV and LOV tenders - whether he will now get the chance to testify publicly about some of these matters is a question for Parliament."

## time to lock up the mad scientists

I'm loath to write an article on genetic engineering because although I can't see the reader rolling their eyes, I can imagine it. So I'll write about civil disobedience and then cunningly weave my real plot in. The reason the term 'civil disobedience' arrests me, is it infers a more normal state ie; civil obedience, is some kind of norm. Where does obeying come in to our system of democracy? Whom should the people be obeying?

It is supposed to happen that our collective will rules our country. We have no one to obey but ourselves. We elect individuals to form a group that works at the engineering of our will. Thus the term; public servant. These people have chosen to serve a larger group than say, a doctor serving her patients or a parent serving his children. We all serve, and our politicians have the pleasure and privilege of serving the group who entrusted them with their concerns and wishes. That is how it is. This country, this life should be in no one's hands but our own.

In my memory, the occasion of civil disobedience that stands out in this country is the Springbok tour protest. I was a schoolkid, benumbed at the sight on television of so much passion. Where had it been until now? I considered adults to be a boring lot possessed by work and other drudgeries. Here they were putting their lives on the line for a cause that had little personally to do with them. I was stunned. Did some community of active, thinking, feeling people exist out there in New Zealand, to me unknown? Not at all, these were the very people I had always been surrounded by, moved to take action that meant intervention where they weren't allowed to intervene. This is termed civil disobedience, which again implies two groups; those who are normally obeyed and those who refuse to obey.

Being all modern and egalitarian, we're not supposed to obey other individuals in this country, we're supposed to obey laws that we all come to basic agreement upon. Problem is, laws get so set in stone that the only way to change them is to break them. Considering the huge psychological pressure put upon us all our lives to be law-abiding, becoming an outlaw to bring changes is clearly not a popular option. And yet in retrospect we all love and support the great lawbreakers over time, as if declaring that had we been alive at the time of the French revolution or the negro slave rebellion we would have been right

alongside the Robespierres and the Harriet Tubmans.

The Springbok tour protesters achieved a moral victory and many people who were at the time condemning of the protest, have probably since jumped the fence, aware that the group they formerly supported are seen world-wide as representing the 'Establishment', the crusty old boys who have things sorted out just right for their own comfort and don't want anything to change. Change occurred, and was applauded around the world not by establishments, but by peoples hearts, moved as mine was to see people willing to fight valiantly for a simple moral. For black South-Africans, that simple moral is a daily life (and often death) struggle. It must have been stunning to see a different, 'privileged' culture an ocean away, fighting so bitterly for them.

Civil disobedience often seems to have as its aim, the removal of power and privilege from one group, to a group less heard and acknowledged. That latter group for me at present, is what we lump under the term Nature.

We farm it, we eat it, we vivisect it, we extirpate bits of it, we cordon it off, we use it at our pleasure in every conceivable way, and now we want to reorder it from within out. Not happy with the forms it has evolved along its own principles, we insist upon manipulating it to meet our desires. The only thing untrue about this sentence is the crude use of the term 'we'. Wouldn't it be good to find out who, exactly, wants to do this, and who does not? People are uncomfortable with this question, and the government refers it to 'a select committee' because it is assumed to be far too technical a debate for mere civilians to comprehend. Well I am a mere civilian and I have had long and technical debates with the owners and principal scientists of a genetic engineering laboratory, who I might add could barely condescend to speak with me, fearing a screaming hysteric with an emotional attachment to nature who could see no reason. But I am firmly on the path of reason and this alone provides me with ample merit to discuss any area of science you care to name. Why? Because life as humans construct it is based on what we perceive to be reason, and reason is based largely on the fact that we are moral beings, with consistent, definable, collective morals. Morality is not about religion or science but about both of them and everything else that is conceivable.

These brilliant scientists tried to use the nauseating arguments that genetic modifications to nature will erase third-world hunger and poverty. Then that it would ease most known diseases out of existence. I said there is more than enough wealth and skill in the world right now to erase all hunger and poverty, and that new diseases are increasing much faster than old ones are being beaten. No one can say that altering the genetic make-up of species will not unleash a host of unimagined diseases on the planet.

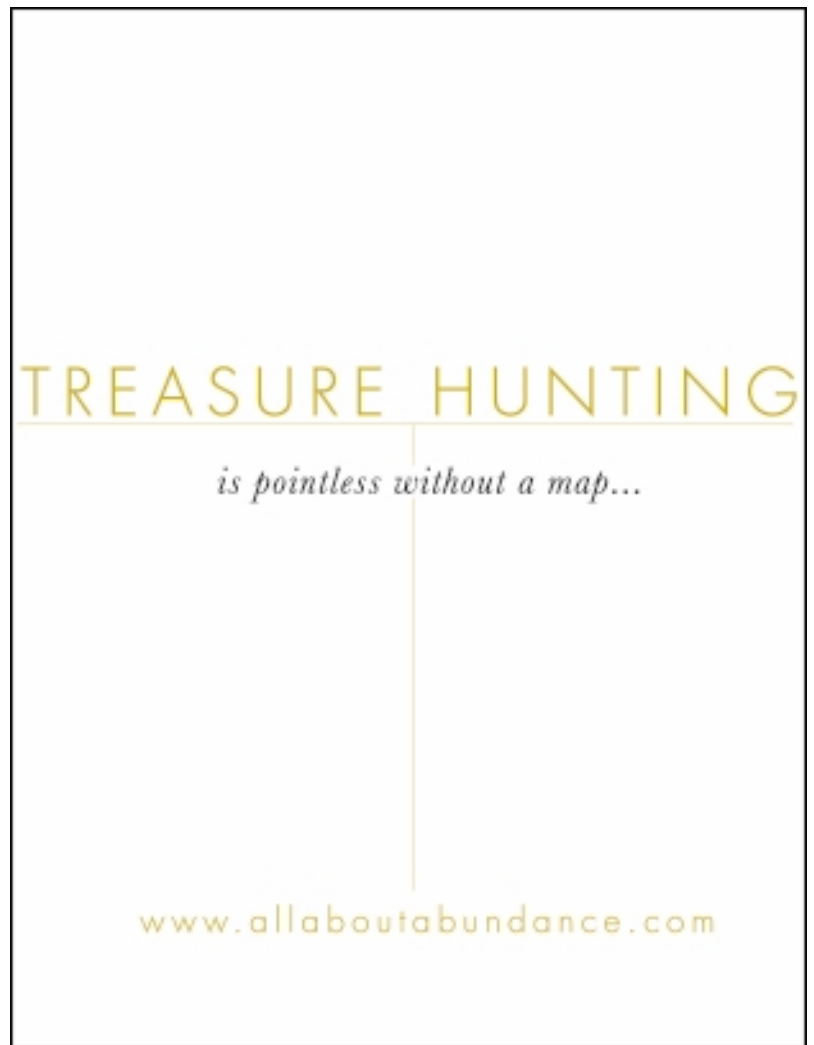
As the discussion rolled on and their salient points died like fish without water, we got down eventually to the truth of their stance, and it is alarmingly and frighteningly simple: They are trained as scientists, every scientist wants to break new ground, make discoveries and be brilliant. The field of brilliance currently in vogue is genetics. The blueprint of all life.

They want to forge ahead with complete license and freedom from limitation and restriction simply because they want to. Not because they are wise and know things we don't. Not because they have the future health of the planet as their goal, but because it's easier that way. They are playing and having fun and don't want their play interrupted. They use scary terms like 'scientific integrity' which actually means scientists being allowed to act in isolation because everyone else is ignorant and you can't let ignorance have power over talent. In short, they wish to act completely without any integrity save that to further their personal area of interest.

That would be fine if their area of interest was a device to get their shopping from the car to the house without having to climb steps. Instead, it is our fellow creatures, our plants and our people. It is our world and our future and they dare to tell us that the risks are minimal or imaginary, and that we don't have a say because we don't understand the science. We do not need to understand the science to exercise a judgment. Judgment is part based on trust and this is one very good reason to call them to order, simply because they have proven in a historical and present context to not be trustworthy. Science forever furthers its own interests whilst claiming to be doing it for humanity. If they said they were doing it because they were interested, I would have far more respect!

Back to civil disobedience, the point after all. Possibly the biggest collective decision to have faced us as a nation since deciding to enter last century's wars, is the one to decide whether all non-geneticists in this country are prepared to let geneticists take animals and plants from within our land and alter them at the most fundamental level discovered, to essentially create new forms of life, those forms being owned and patented by their creator, or the creator's funder.

If you think you have no right to have a say in this, then you have no right to say I can't have slaves on my property, or that I cannot feed my children solely on fertiliser because I'm interested in the results. We are involved



not because we are experts, but because we care and because we will have to live with the consequences. The grand decision has been made, when most New Zealanders are still scratching their heads and thinking about the angles. So who made the decision? People we chose to act out OUR decisions? People given their job by us and paid by us to act out our collective will? It seems that role has changed. They now go to a select group, ask them select questions and receive select answers, later informing us that they have made a decision, and then throw in the words "on your behalf" to mollify us.

If this is government, if this is democracy, then we need to know, and we need to either use a new word for it or change the dictionary meaning. You may think this article outlines my personal perspective on genetic engineering, but it doesn't. My personal opinion is quite complex and by no means uniformly against the process of gene therapy. I am fastidiously against the process of a few individuals making decisions on matters which are the business and the concern of every single individual. I am against this in Russia, in a factory in Otahuhu, within my own family and within our precious and fragile world. This world does not belong to scientists. It belongs to all who care, and have the well-being and inherent freedom of all forms of life as their 'area of interest'.



## sinking prime minister deserted by rats

**S**o who amongst us, having listened and gazed upon the intellectual glitterati who recently attended and held forth at the recent Knowledge Wave Conference, are now just about all set to surf that wave?

By George, if ever there were an occasion within living memory where our warts and various other national imperfections were exposed to the common gaze, it most surely happened at this exquisitely well-reported affair.

Experts from all fields of human endeavour gathered together for several days at the behest of our beloved Prime Minister, with an apparent view to providing our somewhat economically-beleaguered nation with a cogent blueprint that might begin to reverse our steeply accelerating decline into the leperous embrace of the dreaded Third World - an event that it now appears, without some rapid action on our part, could take place within the next five years.

Politically-speaking, of course, that's a lifetime away. It's when 'the other lot' will be in charge of the Treasury benches.

To me at least, it was a great pleasure to hear world-renowned experts representing all fiscal, social, educational and health disciplines simply laying out before us where we've been going wrong, and a series of steps we can take to go right. And they did all this without the usual political weasel words and cretinous pronouncements so beloved of our leaders.

If there was an overall message to leap out at us all from this remarkable gathering, it was that to encourage the sort of investment that this country is crying out for to finance the "Great Leap forward" that now quite plainly is urgently required to arrest our currently morbid and very apparent decline, we need a cut in corporate and individual taxation rates.

Speaker after speaker kept underlining this simple fact. We all heard them, along with a continuing critique as to the bureaucratic nightmare facing those who wish to do business in Godzone. Business people from North Cape to Bluff, small and large, found themselves nodding their heads in agreement. Hell yes, at last some people are here, alive and breathing in New Zealand, who actually

know how many beans make five. These people are not burdened down with a need to placate legions of New Zealanders bought and paid for as voting political dependents and can, therefore, be honest and forthright about the issues and how to rescue our country from the succession of nitwits whose overwhelming political self-interest has brought us down to our current sorry economic and social state.

Good God, I can clearly see now why it was, a couple of decades back, that our Parliament nearly fell over itself abolishing the death penalty for treason. Where's a good length of rope when you need to stretch some Ministerial necks these days?

Speaking of stretched necks, our illustrious Prime Minister proceeded to piss on the Knowledge Wave Conference from a great height in her closing address, paying little attention to any of what had been said. Her ethos, apparently, if we don't have as much tax money coming in, how can we buy the votes we need to be re-elected. They say turkeys never vote for an early Christmas. I ask the question: who put the turkeys in charge of the killing chain?

Sadly, our best and brightest continue to flee these shores, leaving the rest of us with the Government we apparently deserve.

We are within a couple of years of falling right off the OECD list of developed nations - the first country ever to do so. We are now and have been for some years governed by the kind of people you ordinarily wouldn't trust to run a corner dairy - the kind of people who in any healthy democracy might be found in institutions of one kind or another, dribbling all over their straightjackets.

It is time for some drastic change in this country. Time to find a way to lure our best and brightest back, otherwise before too much longer you'll start seeing even the rats scampering down to the beaches and swimming away from the shore as fast as their little scaly legs will carry them, possibly the first case in the world of rats deserting a sinking country.



# RUSSIAN

roulette is not a game to play with your kids...  
before you get them vaccinated, get informed

<http://www.news24seven.tv/talkback.htm>

back in the 1970s when landmark abortion test cases like *Roe v Wade* and women's rights to control their bodies were making headlines, it was very easy for science to say a 14 week old foetus wasn't a live human...now, argues **MIRANDA DEVINE**, new technology is asking tough questions of us

It's hard to comprehend the cynicism of a supposed political cleanskin, Natasha Stott Despoja, staging a photo opportunity outside a Melbourne abortion clinic where a security guard was shot dead last month. But that's precisely what the ambitious new Democrats leader did one Monday, posing with another guard at the gate of the so-called Fertility Control Clinic, for a photograph that appeared in *The Australian* newspaper. "I don't want to see Australia emulate the abortion politics of America," she said, thus politicising an issue that has not hitherto been politicised in Australia, while capitalising on the death of Chubb security guard Steve Rogers, 44, a father of seven.

The 31-year-old senator also called for "move-on laws" or a buffer zone around the clinic to keep away anti-abortion protesters who gather every morning to pray and brandish gruesome placards but who deny any connection to the mystery gunman.

It seems an astonishingly undemocratic proposal coming from someone who always champions protests for such causes as environmentalism and anti-globalisation. It must be OK to protest as long as Natasha agrees with you. Declaring herself a "pro-choice legislator and proud feminist", she said: "I think women in decision-making positions have a responsibility to speak out and to fight for and advocate on behalf of the rights of women."

But what she doesn't seem to understand is the abortion debate has already moved on from the old 1970s "pro-choice" arguments she and her ideological forebears cling to. Because of advances in medical science, there is now an equally serious, non-

ideological, unfanatical, argument for the rights of the unborn child.

The abortion rights struggle was set in a time when we knew less about the developing foetus, about whether it was capable of feeling pain, and when we could not keep alive premature babies born at 23 weeks gestation nor perform foetal surgery at 21 weeks. The landscape has changed.

Now that medical technology has opened a window to the womb, human foetuses can no longer be dismissed as "clumps of cells" and euphemisms can no longer hide the facts. As early as eight or nine weeks, ultrasound pictures show the developing foetus looking decidedly human. It may be only four to five centimetres long but it has a baby shape with a large head, eyes with eyelids, snub nose, fingers, toes and genitals.

Foetal surgery, to repair defects in the womb, is also humanising the foetus. In 1999, the *Irish Times* was one of the few newspapers in the world to publish a remarkable photograph taken during surgery in America on a 21-week foetus. In the photo you can see a tiny fist poking out of a slit in its mother's uterus and grasping the surgeon's gloved fingertip. Ultrasound at 14 weeks had revealed the foetus had spina bifida, and the operation was to repair the gap in its backbone and protect the spinal cord.

And with medical advances narrowing the gap between the age at which premature babies can live outside the womb (23 weeks on) and the age at which a foetus is aborted (usually up to 20 weeks), the abortion question is becoming increasingly complicated.

Slowly, inexorably, attitudes towards the unborn, in all but the most ideologically inflexible, are changing to reflect our growing knowledge.

That's not because of anti-abortion fanatics but because of undeniable science.

This week a US congressional committee passed a bill





“

Now that medical technology has opened a window to the womb, human **foetuses can no longer be dismissed as “clumps of cells” and euphemisms can no longer hide the facts.** As early as eight or nine weeks, ultrasound pictures show the developing foetus looking decidedly human

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ensuring that a foetus which is breathing when it leaves a mother’s womb, even during an abortion procedure, would be treated as a person under federal law.

Such a law might have prevented the horrific death of Baby J in 1998, at Darwin Private Hospital. A Northern Territory coroner’s court was told she was aborted and unexpectedly lived for 80 minutes until her heartbeat slowed and she stopped breathing. The baby, which was thought to be only 19 weeks in gestation, in fact appeared to be about 24 weeks.

In Australia, where there are 95,000 abortions each year, most funded by Medicare, no-one wants to play into the hands of anti-abortion zealots who think condemning women who have abortions as murderers and murdering abortion doctors or security guards like Steve Rogers are somehow morally justified.

But to behave, like Stott Despoja, as if the abortion debate, with its focus solely on a woman’s right to control her own body, just fossilised 30 years ago is equally wrong.

It does nothing, for instance, to acknowledge the grief some women feel after abortion. Light was shed on that “forbidden grief” in a book published last year, *Giving Sorrow Words*.

Grieving women had been “dismissed with a slogan”, says the author, Melinda Tankard Reist. “Their abortion experience has not been analysed because of the silencing power of the abortion-rights mantra.”

Despite its powerful subject, the book was virtually ignored by the media.

In the aftermath of the Melbourne abortion clinic tragedy, almost every commenta-



tor has adopted the Stott Despoja approach, blaming Right to Life groups and ridiculing the protesters because they call themselves Helpers of God’s Precious Infants.

And yet a Gallup poll in Britain commissioned by *The Daily Telegraph* last year shocked avid pro-choicers because it indicates a growing unease in the populace over the timing of abortions. More than half those surveyed, and 59 per cent of women, wanted the limit for legal abortions to drop from 24 weeks to 10 weeks, and a limit imposed at 24 weeks for foetuses with abnormalities.

But to acknowledge that a foetus is genetically and biologically human right from conception is increasingly compelling. It’s the basis for honest, if uncomfortable, debate about when to decide a foetus is a person. In Japan, where abortion is common, women keep shrines to their unborn children in their homes. But that perhaps would be too much reality for people who chant incessantly about human rights but prefer to pretend the smallest humans of all deserve none.

Miranda Devine also writes for *The Sydney Morning Herald* & *The Sun-Herald*.

devinemiranda@hotmail.com

A US website carrying photos of aborted babies left in rubbish bins outside clinics hit news headlines recently after a court challenge. Its photos are definitely not for the squeamish, but can be viewed at <http://www.freechurchmovement.com> we recommend *extreme* discretion



## the reason free healthcare doesn't work

**W**e've seen the anti-globalisation protests across Europe, disrupting summits and resurrecting the spirit of the 1960s, hooray for the Red Guards and the Baader-Meinhoff gang. They broadly characterise their cause as opposition to "globalisation", support for "poorer nations" - this probably means Africa - the environment and other matters. The core here seems to be hatred of capitalism and modernity itself.

That we should differences with Europe today should not come as a surprise. We have always had difficulties with Europe because of history and geography. After 1945 these differences tended to be suppressed. Forty Soviet divisions on the border of West Germany tended to concentrate the attention of nations to the west of them.

Europe could not possibly defend itself against this force, estimated to be capable of reaching the English Channel in a week. Without United States power, NATO was a paper bag. And, at bottom, NATO meant the US nuclear arsenal. Disagreements between the US and Europe were insignificant from that perspective.

But with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the situation has been transformed. Europe is no longer utterly dependent on the US, and indeed is searching for an identity.

Prior to World War 2, the "great" nations of Europe knew who they were. England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain had historic identities. England had global reach. Germany twice challenged England and France for European hegemony. But that world has vanished. Now these nations, their identities severely weakened, are attempting to construct a new entity, the European Union. But this entity has no historical roots, no felt identity or uniting cause.

So what does "Europe" mean, if anything?

I am still often surprised by the animosity many in England feel for all things French. A highly educated English poet once told me "The wogs begin at Calais." In *Goodbye To All That*, his memoir, Robert Graves tells us

that during the First World War the British soldiers considered the Germany army physically "clean", the French "dirty", ranking them in this respect even below the North Africans. To be British was and is not to be French.

But as these nations find their historic identities dissolving in a paper European Union, it is not surprising that they begin to define themselves as "not American".

It is also true that history has made some real differences between the US and the slowly dissolving nations of Europe.

The US has no strong socialist political tradition, but socialism has been powerful in all the European nations. During the 19th century, England rose to dominance under a liberal system, meaning free-market capitalism. But when Bismarck unified Germany, he established a comprehensive welfare state on the Prussian model. By and large, this is the model that has prevailed: social democracy, or "democratic socialism".

Europeans pay taxes at rates that would stagger Americans. Not surprisingly, their economies are sluggish. They have traded opportunity for security. They boast of their free medical services, but the British health service, for example, performs at a level that would be unacceptable to Americans. No one would choose to have serious medical treatment in England. Europeans who can afford it fly across the Atlantic to hospitals in the United States.

Europeans seem to assume that they have fought their last war. With the exception of the English, their military forces are not worth much. And of course, they chatter opposition to our plans for missile defence.

But suppose Iraq or Iran gets hold of a couple of nuclear weapons and threatens to bomb Rome out of existence, for example. What would be the European answer to that? England and France do have small nuclear arsenals, but I think essentially they would hope that the United States "did something".

Dan Rather & Jeffrey Hart copyright King Features Syndicate



## us defence cuts leave nz and australia vulnerable

In 1990, when Saddam Hussein made his move, the US Army had 18 divisions. Today it has 10. This reduced number is now in the process of being taken down further. There is no question that this will be done; the only question is by how much. A safe guess is that it will be taken down to either nine or eight.

Similar reductions have dramatically reduced American sea and air power. And again, more downsizing is in the works. It's a process that began under President Bush the elder, continued with President Clinton and is being done now by President Bush the younger.

Knowledgeable Americans differ as to whether or not this is wise. But by any reasonable analysis, two things are clear: First, taking down the strength of the US military's conventional forces represents a gamble with our national security. Perhaps, as those who favour the cuts argue, it is a gamble worth taking. But no one can argue convincingly that it does not represent a risk of some kind.

Second, most Americans are not fully in the know about the size, speed and extent of the cuts. Military downsizing has not been subjected to a true national debate and, as a result, no consensus has been achieved on the questions of what kind of military force we want and what its mission should be in the early years of the 21st century.

Whether fully informed about force cuts or not, Americans generally take pride in the fact that, at this moment in history, the United States is the world's only full-service - economic and military - superpower. We might or might not be destined to continue as such far into the future. But it is a fact at present, a fact in which we, as a people, take justifiable pride. Besides pride, it's a situation that gives Americans a considerable feeling of security and safety.

Is this sense of security false or, at least, faulty? Militarily, we are stretched thin, very thin, at present. And as for the economy, who knows where it is headed?

One thing we should know, whether or not we choose to face it: our economic and military strength, when weighed against our increased (and still rapidly increasing) number of international commitments, is at a critical point. Soon we will be faced with a stark choice: either stop cutting the American military or start cutting our commitments.

It isn't just a matter of quantity of troop divisions, fighters, bombers, missiles, ships and submarines, but of quality. And upgrading the quality of weapons and training costs money. Lots of it.

Right now, the billions President Bush wants to spend on developing a missile defense shield are combining with budget trimming made necessary by the President's tax cuts to put a heavy squeeze on America's conventional military forces. Is it one squeeze too many? This is a legitimate and perhaps vital question.

Behind that question are many more. Such as, are we getting value for the money we are already spending on the US military? Or is the business-industrial-military complex President Eisenhower warned of in his 1961 farewell address warping our priorities and wasting our dollars?

However individual citizens feel about all of this, it is not, at its core, a simple matter of "liberals vs conservatives" or "Democrats vs Republicans". This is an important national debate that we are not having, a necessary consensus that we are nowhere near reaching.

Considering what is at stake, it is far too important to be left solely in the hands of lobbyists and politicians.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defence with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.

realfunnyjokes.com

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
6. Kneel on floor with cat firmly wedged between knees, holding front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with its head just visible from below spouse's armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
13. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour pint of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Get spouse to drive you to emergency room. Sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on way home to order new table. Arrange for vet to make house call.

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## head-scratchers:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. how come the army can bungle two major tenders and no one gets fired?</li> <li>2. If Metro magazine is running an ad campaign "imagine Auckland without Metro..." is it fair to get the public's hopes up in this way?</li> <li>3. will the last person to leave NZ switch off the lights - it'll save power</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. thought about buying a \$12,000 fuel cell and disconnecting your house from the national grid?</li> <li>5. if rogeronomics was good for nz, how come we're all financially worse off in real terms according to official statistics?</li> <li>6. read Daylight Robbery yet?</li> </ol> |
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