

Y. C. W.



Whether we have a basis for a good future community will largely depend upon the willingness of young people to concern themselves with the problems that face them today. The recent conference exemplified the determination of youth to voice their opinions, regarding certain problems, by directly involving themselves. Two unrelated topics were chosen for conference discussion.... Road Safety and Internal Migration. Road safety is an obvious venue for discussion being aired widely and publicly by the mass media, to the point of becoming meaningless. Although young people are continually being blamed for their apathy towards this problem, previous attempts have disregarded the potential the younger generation has. This conference was an attempt by young people, for young people, and to hear the views and opinions of young people on the subject they have been accused of being indifferent towards. The girl in the photograph on the other half of the page is Anne Pearson. The shot was taken in the streets of Melbourne by Father Nippard. Anne comes to Melbourne from Frankston every day by car....to work. Originally she came from a country town....Benalla. Her parents had a property there but when the father died there was no-one to work it and there seemed no point in staying. Anne's family - her mother and sister - moved to the town on the bay where they have a well established suburban home and have settled down in their community. Anne now has the position of secretary in the Frankston branch of the movement and can see the group growing in the ensuing months. The degree of her involvement in the conference was enhanced by the relevance of the Internal Migration issue. Randy Cheung, in the report he presented to the conference, said "the issue (accomodation)...affects each of us in different ways". The discussion groups pointed out the irrelevance the "drift to the city" question had on Melbourne branch members. However as each group contained a member from the country the issue was thrashed out.... and the people were made more aware. City people were informed of the need for another University in the country and it became evident a better government policy on decentralization was needed. A recommendation was put forward that branches appoint accomodation officers, specifically in Melbourne, "to educate, publicise and follow-up on the needs of internal migrants". Miss Pearson said a lot of kids wanted to come to the city. Each year many young people leave their homes in search of something better because of the lack of opportunities in the areas of employment and entertainment. Upon arriving in a city they usually find it hard to make friends and find accomodation. These people need somewhere...and someone to help them through this period of adjustment which is a crucial time for anyone in a foreign environment. It was with these problems and more in mind that the recommendations on Internal Migration were made.

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EDITORIAL



'ROAD SAFETY & DRIFT TO THE CITY'

At last you're reading it. Not only are we glad to have finished the first edition but I have the feeling that our patient printer has pangs of jubilation. Even though his task is rewarded he has to deal with a relatively inexperienced staff. People had been thinking about putting something like this out for some years however no-one acted and it seemed the movement didn't really need one.

Now that we are becoming more active on social issues we need a medium to convey our actions and our ideas to our members, our friends, our parents, the people of this city, the hierarchy of the church and the government, and anyone else we think needs to know about us and what we are doing.

It has taken a long time for this edition to "hit the streets" but the staff had to be gathered before plans could go ahead. We now have a staff, a small one, and will be relying on you to draw our attention to any information we could use.

Many years ago there was a National Y.C.W. paper called "New Youth" which ceased publication in 1964. This is not going to be anything like it for in fact this will be the first diocesan newspaper in the history of the Melbourne Y.C.W.

Generally today's young people are becoming more active than previous generations and it can be through this paper that their work is heralded.

The recent State Conference held at the Dallas Brooks Hall was a success.

It was worthwhile in that it succeeded in realising its aims and it also provided a meeting place for members from all over the State.

Elio Rigon, the State President, opened the proceedings and introduced the official guests who included Archbishop Knox, Bishop Fox and Bishop Cullinane.

On Saturday, the basis of the whole Conference rested because it was then, in discussion groups, that a unified policy was arrived at.

Peter Cox put forward the report of the ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE, and Randy Cheung presented his accommodation findings thus giving everyone a basis to talk around. The reports were the summary of many months investigation and it was up to each branch member to first ratify them and then to answer specific questions regarding their findings. The answer to the questions were to be used to make final recommendations.

Apart from Y.C.W. members, there were representatives from other bodies present.

Sunday

The Dallas Brooks Hall is a very large place and our members went nowhere near to even a quarter filling it but it was a pleasant place to wander around and talk or to just sit on the carpeted floor and discuss.

On Sunday the programme began with the presentation of reports and recommendations. Present to hear the findings emanating from the previous days discussion were the deputy chairman of the Victorian Road Safety and Traffic Authority, Doctor Grayton Brown; Police Commissioner Braybrook and the Liberal M.L.A. for Gisborne, Mr. Julian Doyle.

Police Commissioner Braybrook spoke for about twenty minutes on the Road Safety Issue.

He congratulated the "organisers" on their ambition and seemed to say it was a good idea.

He said the "discussions were very good and very relevant" and added that "Conferences are well worth while".

The Commissioner, being a public servant must watch what he says, and was attached verbally during question time and his replies periodically received murmurs of disapproval from the hall.

He added the "government is not doing enough about decentralisation" and said "if the government had a more human outlook it would consider people with the decentralisation of industry".

Atmosphere

When Peter Cox got up and asked were we satisfied with the drivers test the atmosphere shook with a resounding "NO". The Commissioner said he would take this back.

The Liberal M.L.A. for Gisborne, Mr. Julian Doyle, a basic and realistic parliamentarian, was attractive to his listeners because what he said was what we had been waiting for.

He commended the Y.C.W. on "its approach to this particular issue (accommodation) and other issues in general".

He said the "quality of life in some country towns is not good" and he added the Y.C.W. was an "important group to make important recommendations".

Mr. Jerry Phillips, a member of the Australian Institute of Management, agreed the problem of the drift to the city was real and said "if something is not done and done rapidly there will be no outer metropolitan area".

Road Safety

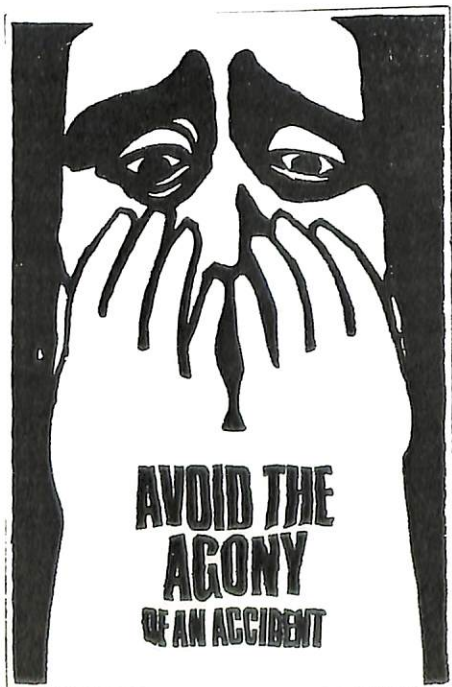
In the road safety issue it was obvious Police Commissioner Braybrook had different ideas. When it was stated the drivers licence was too easy to obtain he disagreed and then proceeded to discount the possibility of night testing, testing on dirt roads, and blood alcohol content signs in hotels.

Mr. Doyle attached the brewers and car manufacturers saying "there are bodies in this city.....engaged in cynical exploitation of people who have not the slightest sense of corporate responsibility".

He said licence tests should be run by a department established for that sole purpose and this department should set up testing areas which would include dirt and sandy roads.

The Conference put forward many recommendations (which have been listed) however it is only a start to more intensive Y.C.W. action.

The task ahead is enormous and it must be tackled immediately or our preliminary work will have been a waste of time. Obviously everyone in the Y.C.W. must take up the gauntlet and proceed to put into action the recommendations made to the conference by their representatives.



Recommendations

resulting from the Conference

ROAD SAFETY

The questionnaires concluded that the drivers Licence test, as it stands at the moment, does not teach the young driver to handle a car under all circumstances.

Recommendation 1

"Compulsory Driver Education Course be completed before a person obtains a licence to drive. This education course should include such items of experience as:-

- (1) Driving in adverse conditions, e.g. dirt road, fog, rain.
- (2) Night driving.
- (3) Familiarisation with mechanical aspects of different cars.
- (4) Road Laws and safety features.
- (5) Effects of alcohol and excessive speeds.

Recommendation 2

"A standard licence test be instuted to cover both city and country drivers."

Recommendation 3

"That driver safety instruction be included in all school programmes".

Recommendation 4

"The drivers licence should not be a receipt for money paid, but it should be a more meaningful certificate

particularly expressing responsibilities incurred".

Recommendation 5

"That the explanation of the .05 Blood Alcohol Content Law be displayed prominently in all hotel bars and bottle shops."

Recommendation 6

The Conference strongly states the relationship of road safety with our responsibility to, and care of, people. Therefore we call on the Bishops of Australia to evaluate the recent facts of careless driving on our roads and issue an up-to-date Pastoral Statement regarding the seriousness of our moral obligations in this matter.

The following recommendations were collated from the anseres given to questions asked in the questionnaire on Internal Migration discussed on the Saturday afternoon.

Recommendation 1

That training Days/Seminars on life in they city be held and that these involve students, vocational guidance officers and experts in the field.

Recommendation 2

That the fourth Victorian University not be in Melbourne. Possible suggestions were Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton and Sale.

Recommendation 3

That the Education Department improve the system of notification of student placements in Teachers Colleges and Universities. Or provide readily available accomodation such as hostels.

Recommendation 4

That Diocesan movements encourage the appointment of a branch Accomodation Officer, who would educate, publicize and follow up on the needs of internal migrants.

Recommendation 5

That the State Y.C.W. launch an enquiry into the whole lives of apprentices.

Recommendation 6

That in transferring employees, the employer or department concerned provide at least two weeks notice of an impending shift, and also provide some form of accomodation assistance.

Recommendation 7

That the State Y.C.W. Executive Delegation enquires into the present attitudes and policies of the Australian Bank Officers Association on this issue, and present its findings to the State Executive.

Recommendation 8

That the Government publicise a clear cut policy for decentralization.



EASY? THEN TELL ME!

Assistant Police Commissioner Mr. R.M. Braybrook yesterday challenged drivers to write to him if they thought the driving test was too easy.

"I've yet to receive a letter from any driver describing the test as too easy," he told the Young Christian Workers' weekend conference on road safety.

"You can write in if you think so - but I don't expect to get many letters," he said.

He said the drivers licence could not be described as "too easy".

The Liberal MLA for Gisborne, Mr. Doyle, said the tests should be run by a separate department of motor vehicles, not by the police.

He said a civil department could also establish testing areas which included dirt and sandy roads.

Mr. Braybrook said it was up to the Government to decide whether there was enough money to establish such a department.

He said: "At the present stage I would doubt that the Government had the spare money.

"It's a considerable saving for us to do the testing, and apparently the Government thinks we're doing it well."

Mr. Braybrook disagreed with testing on dirt roads, night testing, and blood alcohol content signs in hotels.

"There are no dirt roads for 15 miles from the G.P.O., which would make it very difficult for the tester," he said.

"And how would you like a tester to take you through St. Kilda on Friday night?"

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Editors note

The now former diocesan and state president Elio Rigon has completed his term of two years and is bowing out of Y.C.W. work in the office. His successor is Tony Snell who has worked as a regional rep. in the eastern suburbs and was president of the East Doncaster Branch of the Y.C.W. Elio came from the West Footscray branch where he started at the bottom, worked himself through the various offices and eventually became branch President. In 1967 he left the job of president to become a regional organiser and in 1969 he was appointed diocesan and state President.

He has worked for the past two years and has succeeded with other people in changing the outlook of the movement. Or perhaps we can rephrase that and say the movement has been brought into a more modern line of thinking....which means keeping up with the changes each generation of members produces.

Elio's reign will long be remembered for himself, for what he was to others, and for what he did for others.



RIGON

Dear Fellow Workers,

I would like to take the opportunity of briefly expressing my sincerest gratitude to you all, for the tremendous support I have received over the past two years in the many activities undertaken by our movement. During my term as President I have had the pleasure of working with many of you personally. To those of you whom I did not get around to meeting I can assure you I was always interested in hearing about you from members of my executive who kept me well informed of your actions.

Over the past two years I have come to understand much more the tremendous task the Y.C.W. has in the future. All along I have been confident that young people are always prepared to accept the responsibilities thrown on their shoulders in the many aspects of their lives..from saying hello to a stranger to making endless sacrifices in helping the people around them. As long as young people can show this concern then surely we must in our own way be changing the world.

I urge you to give the same support and encouragement to your new President. I am sure that with everyone united and working together the Y.C.W. will play a very important part in bringing about a Christian community.

Many thanks to you all,

Elio.

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RESULTS

CENTRAL REGION

CARRINGTON 63 defeated
SOUTH MELBOURNE (1) 58
Best and Fairest - P.Gorman, East
Brunswick.

NORTH REGION

ESSENDON (1) 35 defeated
ALPHINGTON 20
Best and Fairest - W.Pascoe, West
Footscray.

SOUTH REGION

EAST MALVERN (2) 43 defeated
GARDENVALE 37
Best and Fairest - Paul Meehan,
Gardenvale (1)

SOUTH-EAST REGION

CLAYTON (1) 35 defeated
BENNETTSWOOD 27
Best and Fairest - M.Nolan, South
Camberwell

MT.WAVERLEY REGION

EAST MALVERN (1) 58 defeated
MT.WAVERLEY (2) 45
Best and Fairest - T.Robbins, Mt.
Waverley (2)

MITCHAM REGION

BORONIA (1) 49 defeated
NORTH BLACKBURN (1) 30
Best and Fairest - T.Dorizzi, Vermont.