

to the editor

options eas show a reform

was tying the hands of the law and for what gain.

Everyone in the community who has ever organised a 21st birthday or a wedding reception in a local hall knows how strict the law is in issuing licences for unlicensed premises and collecting the required fees.

The area at VFL grounds, used by the paying public to see the football, are surely unlicensed areas under the act. The law has been ignored in the past and a hooligan minority has been allowed to spoil what has been a traditional Victorian pastime — going to the football.

Congratulations to Mr Cain and his Ministers, and may their law making be as courageous as their law keeping.

TERESE SPENCE,
East Burwood.

Keep our trams and buses green

from R. A. Francis, head of
the department of graphic
design, Swinburne Institute
of Technology

People are only now beginning to realise that our familiar green trams are being phased out.

When it was decreed that Victoria would be known as the "Garden State", I suppose there

was some logic in our car number plates turning green, but why did our familiar green trams turn orange, and later, with a new model, Burmese Gold? Could it be an ominous prediction that public transport is in the autumn of its years?

It is probably too late now to reconsider the function of the new trams, but surely the design of public transport has a responsibility beyond function and efficiency. It is not by chance that the public transport in Zurich and Sydney is blue and London buses are red — they are simply in harmony with their environment.

Any Melburnian living overseas sighs with nostalgia at the sight, on TV or film, of a green tram in leafy St Kilda Road. It is the rightness of it all.

The craze for orange comes at the latter end of industrial color consultants' predictions of public taste in the 1970s, reflected in our kitchen cooking utensils, kitchen bench tops and cars.

Apart from the choice of color on the grounds of visibility and safety, which is dubious — as the body is only 50 per cent orange — I would be interested to hear the designers' rationalisation of the color choice. Surely it is not symbolic of the Sun and therefore in harmony (this is not the Northern Territory).

I suspect that Dame Edna was right — it is probably a subconscious affinity with Jaffas, Violet Crumbles and old orange peel that litters our streets.

Everything in the garden may not be green, but the trams and buses should be. If there is money to spend on converting trams to "moving works of art", then it should be possible to reconvert from orange to green economically, as the 50 per cent existing secondary colors, beige and brown, would be compatible; as would the staff uniforms.

Of course all this has nothing to do with the efficiency of pub-

lic transport, but at least when the trams do arrive, they would look familiar and friendly rather than alien fugitives from Telecom.

R. A. FRANCIS,
Hawthorn.

Council opposes MMBW tyranny

from P. Pettit

The comments of the MMBW spokesman (4/5) in regard to the article *The Western Maze* (28/4) about the site formerly occupied by Humes, are in part misleading through omissions.

In 1978, the MMBW adopted the Lower Maribyrnong River Draft Action Statement and requested that councils use it as a policy base for action and decision making. "Area of concern" in this statement is described as "the lower section of the Maribyrnong Valley from Calder Highway Bridge at Keilor to the mouth of the river at Footscray".

Is not "Hume's site" which is an important available section of the Maribyrnong River Valley, within that "area of concern", and within the metropolitan area? So why should not the Metropolitan Improvement Fund be used to purchase this site which, ultimately, will be benefit to Sunshine, Footscray, Essendon, Keilor and the rest of the metropolis?

One gets the impression that money is the major concern of the MMBW in its obligations to its ratepayers. So perhaps it could explain why it did not utilise the two-storey amenities block (which was left in good condition on the site by the previous owners) as a caretaker residence, instead of bringing from outside costly security services?

And why were the security services suddenly withdrawn without advising Sunshine council, who first knew of it when local