



ochs and cobb

Aquarius will present American left folk artist Phil Ochs and cartoonist Ron Cobb in Canberra on Saturday 8th July. Ochs will sing and Cobb will speak on ecology and the environment.

Phil Ochs has made six LP's, the first three were generally protest, the fourth an excursion into poetry and away from polemics, the fifth an impressive blending of the two. Of the most recent, "Rehearsals for Retirement", he says that "the idea behind it is the death of the old concept of America. The songs generally relate to that. The final death agony of the liberal electoral myth of politics.

"The album runs a kind of cycle: like, things are getting worse and worse, we get engulfed in paranoia, we turn to drugs or mysticism or meditation, and in that state the cops come in like a huge shock wave." The depression was mainly a result of the Chicago Democratic convention.

Ochs arrived in Australia immediately after the Californian primaries. He has been working with numerous other American artists performing benefits to help raise \$1,000,000 for McGovern's election campaign. Like the rest of the left, Ochs has been through a lot of changes but he still thinks America can be redeemed.

"Leave the old and dying America and use your creative energies to help form a new America, which would be demilitarized, more humanistic, where the police are less hostile and closer to the community, where the wealthy are not given unleashed power for the exploitation of the people. And mostly, because it's now a matter of life and death, re-assert an ecological balance with the environment".

Thus, he thinks a whole series of NLF's throughout the Western countries would be a healthy development", and shows his move from the conservative part of the radical movement, the Yippie, "The Pig and everything else"! Totally broad-based, the National Liberation Front, "whose purpose is to liberate America ... could take into its ranks the Ken-

nedy people and the McCarthy people, and the dissatisfied street people."

His songs are partially a reflection of all this. He has a song called "All Quiet on the Western Front", and which is "a little song about how there's a strange stillness and an upheaval about to occur."

Ron Cobb is a cartoonist for whom ideas are more important. From being regarded as a professional artist, his overriding concern is with the environment, with ecology. He is "fascinated with man and his relationship to reality."

Reality, to him, is "what is... a word you can't define by other words; its on the edge of our language system." Thus he tries to visualise, and then present, "man as he is as opposed to man as he thinks he is. I'm more interested in thought that is modified by experience than thought that is modified by more thought."

His cartoons depict potent, dramatic situations, bringing people up to the edge of extreme occurrences. Though described by some as an extremist, he disclaims that "what I draw is going to happen. Everything I do is just ink on paper; its not reality."

Cobb sees ecology as "a dynamic realization, an awakening to processes older than reason. It's a sort of 'state of mind', a recognition of the interrelatedness of all things." To him, nature and man are co-extensive: 'we are nature, nature is in our bodies, it's in our bones. And sure enough, as we destroy nature, we are destroying our bodies.

But, unlike many ecologists, he is no pessimist: "man is a success. He can prevail. He can do practically anything he wants to. But this eating up the earth as though it's the yolk of an egg, you know - it definitely has its limits!"

Ochs and Cobb have commenced their tour of most Australian campuses and will also be giving a benefit in Melbourne.

They will be appearing in Canberra for one concert only, jointly organized by the ANUSA and CCAESA.

GRADUATES FOR WHAT?

During the last fortnight I have been listening to middle-aged men trying to interpret that slogan, Graduates for What? "Why produce graduates? What work can graduates do? What makes graduates so special? What are graduates good for?" And then the inevitable, "What do you mean by the term graduate?" It has been hard to believe that these first year philosophy tutorial perennials were actually being spoken by top executives from government and the private sector, leaders of professional organisations, and occasionally University administrators. Only the academics and students and recent graduates seemed comfortable with the terminology, and they found themselves asking questions like: Academics for What? Lecturing for What? Listening, reading, cramming, suffering examinations for What?

The 120 people who will assemble at ANU in August for a three day Conference on the problems of graduate employment in the 70s have been trying to sort out the major questions by meeting in small groups in all Australian Capital cities with other people who aren't coming to the Conference. And they've been asking each other some pretty basic questions. Discussion so far hasn't been exactly scintillating, as Colin Plowman, Steve Rawling, and Alan Davies from The Centre for Continuing Education jot down a litany of contentious headings, and they try to get someone else to take up from where the last speaker (who was just getting ready to dominate the pecking order) leaves off.

Small Group Discussion

I don't know whether it's possible to get captains of industry, knights, professors, students and public servants to talk the same language for long, even when they have a set topic. In this Conference the students have a certain advantage: except for the inevitable opening and closing plenary sessions, all the work will be done in tutorial-sized groups where no one viewpoint will be allowed to swamp the others.

Among students and recent graduates with ANU affiliations will be John Ried, Andrew Bain, Richard Refshauge, and Jane Blaxland, Jane Chapman, before marrying Chris Blaxland, charmed the customers at many an ANU Review. She went on to become Australia's first woman M.B.A., and will present a paper to the Conference.

Its title is "The Organisational Use of Graduates as an Example of Dynamic Conservatism". Clive West, of the John Curtin Medical School, has written the other paper giving a recent graduate's point of view. He's interested in what's happening in the PhD market, but is calling very loudly for more figures on graduates of all sorts so that undergraduates can form some idea of the trends.

Dr P.H.Cook, Secretary of the Department of Labour and National Service will provide whatever figures the government has, and the Conference is very likely to address itself to the question of who should be coordinating the information which can be gathered from all sources. Perhaps it should be the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, which is sponsoring the Conference.

Student Interest

In the preliminary meetings everyone has stressed the need for getting more information on employment and careers to students before final year. Steve Rawling, ANU Careers and Appointments Officer interviews every final year student who can spare the time to see him. He even manages to see a surprising number of prospective students as well as some in early years of their courses. His colleagues throughout Australia will try to get the Conference to bring pressure for larger staffs with a wider range of activities in Careers and Counselling Services.

I wonder whether students in their first and second years care very much about "job hunting". There will be people at the Conference who can't see past that way of approaching the problem. I hope that Bill Ginnane, who's been invited to the Conference,

will find some support among student reps for the wide context in which he approached the problem in the ANU News and at the Teach-In earlier this year. The alternative rallying point for students should be Rawling and the other Careers Officers who will provide figures on first job destinations and that other less tangible contribution, actual student expectations.

After the Talking, What?

What the Conference achieves is likely to depend on the liking which participants develop for talking to the sorts of people with whom they normally don't associate. Students have stereotypes of organisation men, trade unionists have stereotypes of academic institutions, politicians have ... well, never mind.

If student expectations, most of which seem not to be consciously formulated, are as different from the static "steady job" tradition as I think they are, then this Conference is not happening before its time. But will there be a coherent student voice? I suggest that you take your private crystal ball to Messrs Refshauge, Reid, West *et al.* That is, unless you'd rather talk to the ANU academics who'll be gracing the Conference. Their names are available if you care to ring me on 3732.

Ken Healey

U.S. WAR HEROES

General John Lovelle who over a period of four months flouted Presidential policy in Indo China by ordering his pilots to bomb unauthorized targets in North Vietnam has had the Pentagon strip him of one of his four stars and retire him on \$27,000 a year. His private war came to light when a sergeant wrote in complaining of the slaughter that the bombing was contributing to. It appears that General Abrahms the U.S.'s chief executioner in Vietnam was aware of Lovelle's actions - and it seems he is unlikely to receive any official reprimand though. In lieu of nobody else doing anything a young U.S. Airforce Lieutenant has pressed charges.

Another mad military executioner Lt. William Calley continues to bathe in gory glory in relative luxury in a luxury apartment euphemistically called a military stockade - America repays her hero's well.

Meanwhile Daniel Ellsberg and Tony Russo who brought the Pentagon Papers to the people and exposed the lies and hypocrisies of the U.S. intervention in Indo-China face 115 and 35 years in prison respectively. These criminals dared to tell the truth and hence "damaged the interests of the United States" - we have our own Vietnam resisters in gaol and the Vietnamese continue to struggle and die for national self-determination.

War criminals will continue to run our institutions while "law & order" are allowed to subvert justice. But then justice like equality is a radical word - and radicals are communists - everyone knows that.

