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## Tell us!

## REVIEWS

of papers invited after the conference, redeems this book in any way. Here at last we find helpful data, information and analysis. Articles by John Blatt and Brian Martin are to be recommended whilst Barry Jones provides a useful critique of the Myers Report.

Unfortunately the book ends weakly with an article which encourages the individual to adapt to unemployment by adopting alternative lifestyles.

This misses the vital point that the unemployed live poorly and simply not because of conservation consciousness but because of the social, economic and political inequality that created the unemployment and poverty in the first place. Rather than burdening the individual with personal responsibility what is needed is concerted and imaginative community effort.

Bill Robbins

**Paper Heroes - A Review of Appropriate Technology** by Witold Rybczynski. Prism Press, Dorchester, 1980, \$8.95.

Do you believe that every saying of E F Schumacher is a pearl of wisdom, that intermediate scale technologies *always* perform efficiently and economically, and that the introduction of 'appropriate technology' is the best way to promote social reform in the Third World? If so, then *Paper Heroes* will give you cause for reconsideration. Rybczynski critically analyses the concepts, applications, performance and ideology of 'appropriate technology', deflating quite a few pretensions along the way. His strictures are a useful warning to those who occasionally or routinely fall prey to the mystical view of technology as either good or bad solely because of its scale or labour-intensiveness.

But for those who understand that technology is shaped by political and economic imperatives and that technological change is only one part of wider social struggles, *Paper Heroes* is largely a waste of time. Worse than that, Rybczynski subscribes to a one-directional view of 'modernisation', which he sees as an inevitable and progressive process toward modern industrial-style economics, which is being opposed by those who promote a romantic view of simple, labour-intensive technology.

There is little or no mention of nuclear power, automobilisation, planned obsolescence, workers' control, militarisation, or the systematic exploitation and distortion of Third World

peoples through neocolonialism. This is a pity. A critique of 'appropriate technology' would be most valuable, but something much deeper than *Paper Heroes* is required.

Brian Martin

**Field of Thunder - The Maralinga Story** by Judy Wilks. Friends of the Earth (Collingwood), Victoria, 1981, 52 pages, \$2.00 (soft cover).

This small book tells us, mostly through personal testimonies, something of what happened to Aborigines and service personnel during nuclear weapons tests at Maralinga in South Australia which were carried out during 1956 to 1957.

The authorities' callous disregard, and culpable neglect of people, is revealed in the stories of those present at Maralinga as had been revealed earlier for the nuclear tests carried out in the Nevada Desert in the USA.

We are sadly reminded of the personal tragedies which lie behind the statistical records of the growing cancer mortality from radiation exposure resulting from nuclear power or nuclear weapons. As the author points out, behind the refusal of the authorities to admit most radiation victims' claims for compensation is the realisation of what it would ultimately cost the entire nuclear industry.

Les Dalton

**The Man They Called a Monster, Sexual experiences between men and boys** by Paul Wilson. Cassell, North Ryde, 1981, 150 pages, \$7.95 (soft cover).

This is more than a book about one extraordinary man or the hysteria of the police and mass media. It should be read by parents, young people, and anyone who cares about social and sexual relationships. Paul Wilson examines Clarence Osborne's life and encounters with some 2500 boys and adolescents in Brisbane, which Osborne recorded in amazing detail. That mass of information, together with further study, allows Wilson to make observations of a more general nature.

The book shows the ignorance and curiosity of boys about their sexuality, it reveals their delight in the fun of sex, and the sensitive and respectful relationships they sought and gained.

Despite mass media and police expectations (hopes?) no evidence has come forward of 'damage' to the many boys. Quite the contrary is the claim of some of those boys who came to talk with Wilson after Osborne took his life - within hours of the police interviewing him.

The boys explored their sensuality and developed confidence, useful skills for later life whatever sexual preferences they were to choose and celebrate.

The topic of sexual relationships

PAUL WILSON  
**THE MAN THEY CALLED A MONSTER**

*Sexual experiences between men and boys*



among boys and with adults is still taboo in our community. Wilson makes an interesting contribution to opening up the subject for calm consideration.

Leigh Holloway

**Confronting the Nuclear Age: Australian Responses** compiled by John Hinchcliff. *Pacific Peacemaker*, Bondi Junction, 1982, 119 pages, \$4 (soft cover).

Compiled on the eve of the *Pacific Peacemaker's* departure, this book is a testament of Australians drawn from many fields. Amongst contributors are Cliff Dolan, Helen Caldicott, Manning Clark, Ruth Coleman and John Hinchcliff. Their essays reflect their own feelings but all are filled with concern - sometimes tender, sometimes fierce - for the world's peaceful future.

As an activist it is sometimes easy to find oneself thinking books such as these are unnecessary given the plethora of such material recently. But the fact is that we must continue to hear the voices of as many people as we can praising peace and rejecting war. This book is part of a world-wide chain of solidarity and co-operation, a chain of opposition on which we all depend.

Owen Pearson

**Other books worth mention:**

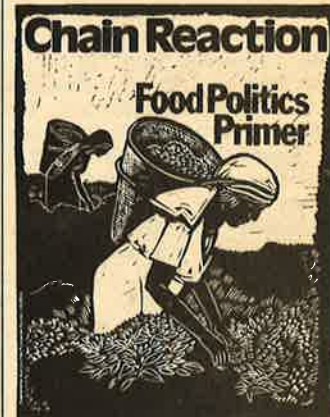
**Your Very Good Health, Recipes for healthy eating** by Rose Elliot. Fontana, Britain, 1981, 207 pages, \$5.95 (soft cover).

**Rainforest**, collection of articles from Habitat. Australian Conservation Foundation, Victoria, 1981, \$4.50 (includes postage, soft cover).

**The Macquarie Dictionary**. Macquarie Library, New South Wales, 1981, \$29.95 (hard cover).

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**Summer 1981-82, No 26** - Rainforest: Cape York close-up and worldwide overview, East Gippsland supplement: forests or woodchips, endangered animals. \$2.00  
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