

Letters to the editor

Photo ID needed to change pubs' attitudes

AFTER returning from a long stay in Australia, I was taken aback by the absurdity of the Wellington pub scene.

I am a 20-year-old Wellington City Council customer service worker, who understands full well that 20 is the legal drinking age.

Even with a New South Wales proof-of-age card, my patience was constantly tested.

One particular bar asked me to produce three forms of ID.

When I returned to another bar I was told "this isn't an in-and-out bar", and my 21-year-old friend was also refused access because their establishment did not "accept student ID cards".

One place refused entry because I was "an Australian".

Throughout Australia I experienced no such difficulties.

A proof-of-age photo ID card or a photo driver's licence is a perfectly acceptable form of ID. You can come and go as you please, and Kiwis are welcomed and respected.

If insulting potential customers is the backward attitude of the nightclub establishments in New Zealand's "Capital" city, the place in which I was born, raised and educated, then I am afraid you all have a lot to learn.

It is high time New Zealand issued Australian-style photo licences and proof-of-age cards.

KYLE LOCKWOOD
Melrose

While loyalty to a friend is an admirable attribute and one to be praised, he should appreciate that such long-standing and close friendships can affect one's objectivity.

In fact, so much so, that the tone of his letter smacks of shooting the messenger as a preferred alternative to accepting the message.

Graham says that it was implicit in my letter that "every administrative error should be treated as a crime".

Bunkum. Criminality is all about intent, and where someone has the intention to steal or defraud then such matters should be dealt with in the criminal court.

It is suggested that the some civilian employers, lay criminal charges against Graham knows that the police a "civilian employer" in the and those working within the isation understand and accept high standards that go with a police officer.

Graham posed the question, "Is this a matter of criminal behaviour?" Well, all I can say is that the prosecution and the judge thought so. He also claims that police managers should exercise more judgment where the values are small.

Well, there is no grading system for honesty. If a crime has been committed it would be utterly wrong to deal with the case internally behind closed doors.

I say that the managers did exercise good judgment and there was

nothing timid in taking that course as he suggests.

He suggests that I am aware of domestic circumstances which prevented the former superintendent mounting an effective defence. Well, I don't, and if that is the case I have no doubt that his counsel would have given the right advice.

In my letter I did not judge Alec Waugh. I was merely commenting on his brother's views of events. It has been a tragic affair for the nation, families and sides.

The "law of the land" in Magna Carta was judicially construed to mean that no power was delegated by the people to the legislature to invade the great natural rights of the individual.

This latest move by the Government is a serious threat to New Zealanders' civil liberties. It must be most strongly opposed.

The Evening Post
Established 1865
(Incorporating the Sports Post)

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Constitution

The Cabinet has decided to press ahead with plans to exempt the Crown from New Zealand's human rights legislation. This plan is a direct attack upon the constitution of New Zealand.

The Crown (Government) fails to accept a fundamental principle of the rule of law. That is natural justice, freedom and equality before the law. In part, it was these principles that caused the Magna Carta to be sealed 783 years ago and which still remain in force as part of the law of New Zealand.

of our proposed action by the Government could put the State above the rights and obligation of the individual citizen.

This threatens one of the key safeguards of our democratic system which allows abuses by the State in its care and management function to be legally challenged by the citizen. We are concerned that this will exempt providers of Government services from the anti-discrimination provisions of the Human Rights Act; for example, denying social welfare clients the right to seek legal redress for discriminatory behaviour.

The proposed changes to legislation are a serious threat to civil liberties and deserve wide public debate.

It is the role of the Federation of Workers Educational Associations, universities and other providers of adult and community education to debate this issue; and a challenge for the individual to play their part in such a challenge.

RODNEY MURPHY
President, Wellington Workers Educational Association

Ingham twins

THERE they go again. Perhaps the notorious Ingham twins should be dubbed the "Bring 'em-ins" by police.

MICHAEL BUCK
Newtown

Mehrtens is a star

IT'S what's behind the cut. We salute Andrew Mehrtens as an outstanding rugby player, with an upturned porridge bowl haircut and all (Letters, May 12).

His intelligence, team spirit, determination and passion for the game shine through for all to see.

That's what youngsters in this country need to emulate in a star player.

TERESA NOBLE-CAMPBELL
Paekakariki

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS

Jean and Mac McLeMore, Portland, Oregon; John Hampton, Wellington CND; T Bennett, Wadestown; Mike Jarvis, Newlands; Rose Hudson, Titahi Bay; Brian Hunt, Melrose; Ian Malcolm, Strathmore; R S Kennedy, Paraparaumu (2) - points noted.