

Keywords: Bunji Petrol Bombs Kulaluk Gwalwa Daraniki Cheryl Buchanan Bill Day Black Power Darwin NT

Dear Cheryl

When the April edition of BUNJI was printed, we realised it was controversial but we did not predict the emotional reaction it would create amongst the hysterical white backlash and political opportunists.

Hundreds of people telephoned the newspaper, the A.B.C., the police and various politicians protesting at the publication of a diagram showing how to make a crude petrol bomb.

“Many people now think the Editor should be stopped because his views are not in the best interests of Aborigines or Australians. You can put a stop to this lawlessness by voting Liberal-Country Party on March 18th,” wrote the Country Party candidate in a paid half-page advertisement.

“Supporters will be alienated by the latest BUNJI. Instead of contributing to efforts to gain justice for Aborigines, it can only breed suspicion and hostility. This in turn may further delay the acceptance and achievement of improvements in conditions for the Aborigines,” wailed an editorial in the local paper.

It produced the pathetic sight of the Labor Party candidate pleading with the Aborigines at the May Day March not to give out BUNJI because “It will frighten white people.”

The Reverend Jim Downing was quoted in the Centralian Advocate as saying “there are sick people in any society – people who want to blow up things – people who are so embittered they are sick.”

Perhaps a psychologist could explain the horror of N.T. Whites who leapt from watching the murder and mayhem on TV to denounce our little newsletter, Why did they seem to presume that every second Aborigine was going to throw petrol bombs indiscriminately after reading BUNJI (600 copies printed)?

Those who tried to rally the white backlash behind the issue and tried to get votes failed miserably. The Centralian Advocate, discussing the odds for a Labor victory said, “but we reckon that a few more petrol bomb newsletters could see the odds lengthen dramatically.” Up them. The swing against the racists in the N.T. Elections isolates the vocal Abo bashers even more.

At the time of writing the issue is still under investigation and the editor has been questioned at length by the CIB officers who specialise in “subversion” (despite the theoretical disbanding of the N.T. Special Branch). The pressure is on the Police Commissioner to act against BUNJI and free speech.

Even if the paper was a tactical mistake as so many people have said, it succeeded in bringing

the rats form their holes, squealing. They are an ugly brood headed for extinction.

Yours,
Bill Day
Darwin
7.6.'74