

EDITORIAL

Last year I was asked by Dr. Dyck to assume editorship of the *South Pacific Journal of Psychology*, a position which I accepted with some pleasure but reluctantly, knowing that it would be difficult to match the high standard set by Dr. Dyck. With this in mind, I would like to thank this year's contributors as well as Nao Badu of the Politics Department who put the journal together and made it possible. This year's volume, I am happy to say, attempts in different ways to address the issue touched upon by Dr. Dyck in his farewell editorial, that is, the successful application of psychology in the South Pacific context. We have canvassed a number of authors from diverse disciplines, who offer a variety of assessments as to the different possibilities and future developments within the profession.

The first article by Stuart Carr (dept of Psychology, University of Newcastle, Australia), M. Maclachlan (Dept of Psychology, University of Malawi), R.F. Schultz (Psychology, University of the South Pacific) suggests modifications which will enhance analysis and research conducted in the South Pacific context. The second article by Dr. G. Hayes (Director of Population Studies, U.P.N.G.) recalls us to the fundamental issue of the role of the "human sciences" as articulated through "Critical Theory" by the "Frankfurt School". The third paper by myself summarizes the recent "Communitarian" developments in moral theory and their implications with respect to the viability of Western psychology. Finally I have included three short discussion papers. The first, by William Ferea (philosophy, Dept of Politics, U.P.N.G.), takes a critical look at the reality and importance of "child abuse" in P.N.G. as perceived by certain academic psychologists in P.N.G.

The second paper by Alan Robson (Dept of Politics, U.P.N.G.) considers the direction psychology may be following post Dawkins' reforms. Finally the third paper by Kerry Pataki-Schweizer (Dept of Community Medicine, U.P.N.G.) examines the "presumed" cultural bias of Malinowski's psychological and anthropological observations.

It should be noted that views expressed in these papers and discussions don't necessarily represent those of the editor or the editorial board. On the other hand, constructive criticism should be accepted in the spirit of free enquiry. As Geoffrey Hayes, following Karl Popper, reminds us, acceptance of criticism is essential both for an open and democratic society, and, no less, for viable scientific enquiry. It is hoped, therefore, that the next volume of the *South Pacific Journal of Psychology* will include well constructed and thoughtful responses from academics who may find themselves in disagreement (or agreement) with certain of the positions expressed.

Finally, I am happy to announce that a new editor will assume control of the *South Pacific Journal of Psychology* in 1996, Stuart Carr of the Psychology Department of the University of Newcastle, New South Wales. I am certain that Dr. Carr will be able to command the necessary resources, human and otherwise, to ensure the growth and development of the *South Pacific Journal of Psychology*. Best wishes for the future Dr. Carr.

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