

TE WAHA NUI

FREE "The Big Mouth" — an AUT journalism publication No 4, September 6, 2004



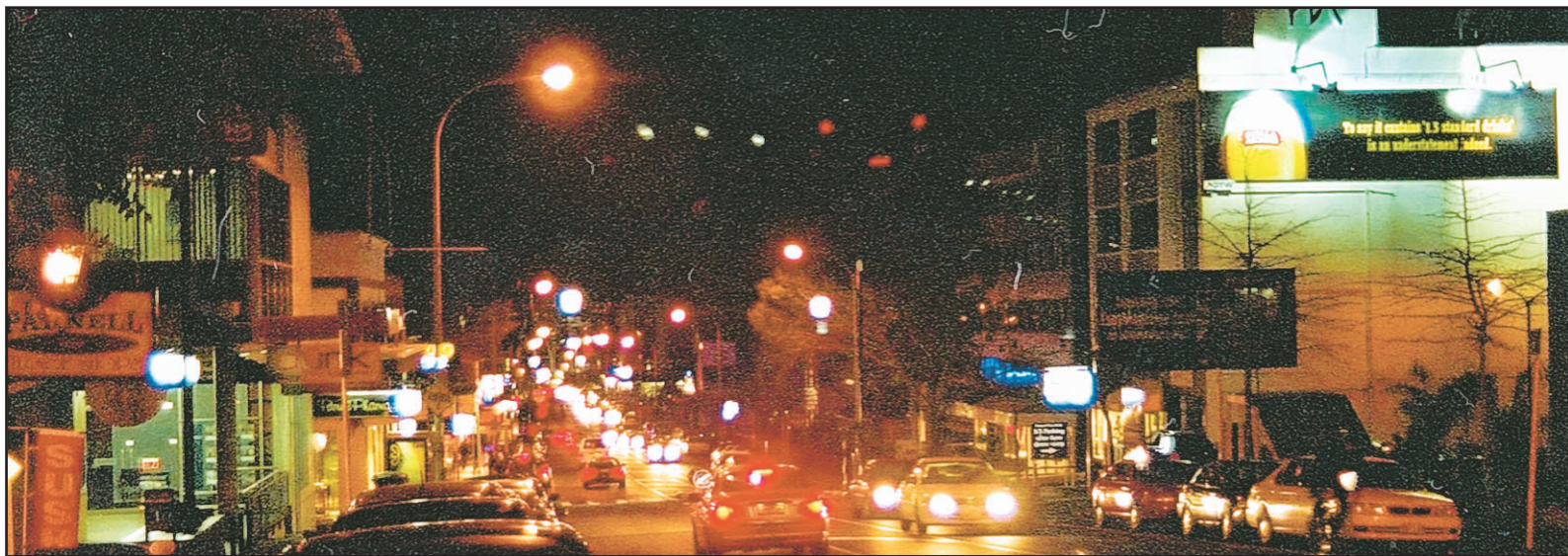
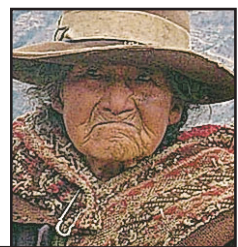
Drag queens
Queen of the whole pacific pageant
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Japanese cultural festival
Colourful display of bonsai, kimono, origami and more
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Project Peru
NZ aid project links Peruvians to world
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PARNELL: Bars offer two-for-one drinks until midnight on Wednesdays.

Court to rule on free press

by Sudesh Kissun

The return of an Auckland-based newspaper to news stands in Tonga hinges on the outcome of a case heard on the island last week.

Taimi O Tonga is challenging constitutional changes approved by the Tongan Government last year to license newspapers.

The newspaper failed to obtain a licence and is banned from the island Kingdom.

Taimi deputy editor Ulu'alo Po'uuhila says their lawyer, Dr Rodney Harrison, made written and oral submissions before Chief Justice Robin Webster.

Dr Harrison argued the amendments to Tonga's Constitution and the introduction of restrictive media laws were only designed to keep *Taimi O Tonga* out of the country.

He called Tonga Media Council chairperson Pesi Fonua and Secretary to Cabinet Eseta Fusitua to testify.

Tongan Government lawyer Paul Radich argued the Tongan Parliament had the jurisdiction to make the amendments.

The plaintiffs also include a Tongan-based newspaper *Kele'a* and Auckland-based democracy activist Alan Taione, who is also facing charges of taking copies of a banned newspaper into Tonga.

Po'uuhila says if the court rules in *Taimi's* favour, the paper will be sent to Tonga.

Justice Webster is expected to give his ruling in two weeks.

Taimi O Tonga publisher Kalafi Moala, who attended the hearing, says newspaper sales have picked up since the ban.

Taimi O Tonga, published twice a week, sells about 20,000 copies.

Liquor ban battle hots up

by Claire Cooper

Many Parnell businesses and residents are fed up with cleaning up the filthy mess left by late-night revellers.

They want a ban on street drinking similar to that already in place in the central city.

But Auckland City Council's move to extend the ban to Parnell and other areas has been put on hold while the council seeks legal advice.

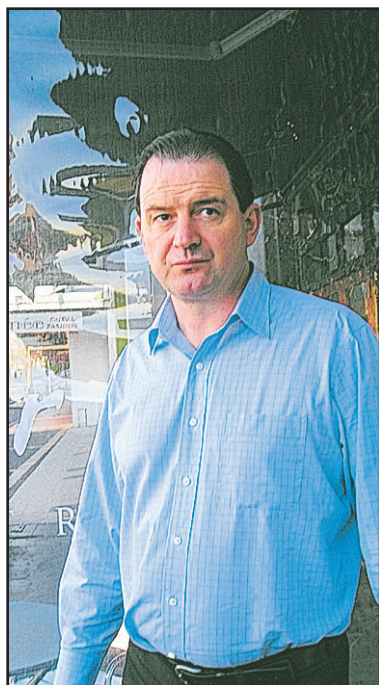
The issue will be raised at the council's next meeting on Thursday.

The initial proposal included new alcohol bans for the shopping and business areas of Avondale, Glen Innes, Mission Bay, Newmarket, Onehunga, Otahuhu and Panmure on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 10pm—6am.

In Parnell and Newmarket, Wednesday was also included in the extension.

But councillors wanted the ban to cover a wider geographical area for 24 hours a day.

At last month's council meeting, questions were raised about whether the change to 24-hours



BRIAN AITCHISON

was a major one.

Under the Local Government Act it would have to be referred back to the council's hearings panel — a point on which the council is seeking legal advice.

A report by Senior Sergeant

Rob Lindsay says the ban in the CBD has helped stamp out a lot of problem drinking and alcohol-related incidents.

Police are strongly behind a liquor ban extension.

Brian Aitchison, co-owner of Parnell Bistro and Bar, was not surprised at the mess he came across when he arrived at work one Thursday morning.

"Every single plant had been pulled out, thrown at my windows and then dragged up the street," he says.

Aitchison has to completely replace the potted plants at least once a month.

He says it is also not uncommon to find vomit in the doorway or even catch people urinating against his window as he locks up in the late evening.

He blames the uncivilised behaviour on alcohol.

Every Wednesday, crowds of people gather for a big night on Parnell's main street.

The bars offer cheap deals or two-for-one drinks until midnight — opportunities that attract poor students.

But the real problem lies in people swigging their drinks in

the backstreets, parks and cars before they hit the pubs, says Debbie Harkness, manager of Parnell Mainstreet, which represents Parnell businesses and property owners.

Harkness says that although the 24-hour ban might not seem like a "meaty piece of legislation", it would make a big difference.

Kiwi Experience, located on the main street, has had its sign smashed and the owner has been finding broken bottles outside the shop.

Bentleys Fine Drycleaning, next to Seattle Bar on Parnell Rd, complains to the council every Thursday about the "disgusting mess".

According to Bentleys employee Vangie Aalders: "Over the last five weeks since the council got a cleaner, it has been a lot better."

"But the liquor ban will certainly help in this area."

Harkness says: "We want people to realise that it's unacceptable to roam the streets of Parnell with alcohol in their hands."

Closed circuit cameras keep an eye on movie-goers

by Marcus Stickley

Surveillance cameras have been used to monitor the audience at an Auckland movie theatre.

Village Force Cinemas chief operations officer Joanne Watt says a closed circuit camera system was installed in cinema four of their Rialto Newmarket theatres during the screening of the controversial film *Irreversible* last month.

Watt says the cameras were

only being trialled and have been removed.

Signs at the entrance of the theatre notified movie-goers about the cameras.

Watt says they were installed to stop under-age patrons watching the movie. At peak times a security guard was posted at the theatre entrance.

"The cameras [were] also a precaution against people sneaking through back doors, and piracy," says Watt.

Watt says surveillance is a normal aspect of the public service sector.

"It's part of our culture to have cameras installed."

She says despite the theatre being dark, patrons could be viewed by cameras, which were monitored by a projectionist.

The Society for the Protection of Community Standards unsuccessfully sought an injunction to prevent a screening of *Irreversible* at the Beck's

Incredible Film Festival last year.

The film consists of 12 scenes, each one a single unedited shot, and graphically depicts a vicious rape and its brutal aftermath.

The film was previously classified for film festivals only, but in July the Office of Film and Literature relaxed its rating to allow the film to play to audiences over the age of 18 in cinemas or tertiary institutions for study purposes.

