



## LETTERS

### *Too many myths*

Your columns these days are full of references to freedom and democracy, and there is a distinct danger that the general public will actually come to believe in these mythical concepts. The freedoms to be unemployed and on the breadline, and the freedoms to exploit

and manipulate are freedoms we ought to be resisting with all our strength.

The foundation of democracy is knowledge (of what is going on in society) and a population of voters that is so patently ruled by its media certainly takes the concept of democracy into the realms of mythology. It has been proved that deregulated business is a licence to rip off and exploit. Can some of your academic contributors now come down to earth and make it clear that the basic political issue is between conservative parties which will remove the power of government (and of the people) to control the exploiters, and those parties which still have a social conscience—however much members like Hawke and our king of the yuppies, Keating, may on pragmatic grounds feel it necessary to curry favour with big business (and the Americans) in order to retain office. Please let's get the basics right.

Don Cochrane,  
Penguin, Tas.

### *A political aperitif*

Just a note of welcome to your new column "Correct line cooking".

A little uncertain as to what I was about to read, I found on venturing in a neatly trussed parcel of (un)palatable points about food and politics and Australian society (or, at least, odours of the same).

I look forward to watching Ms Cottier guide us firmly but politely through her kitchen—and sharing her recipes with us—and suspect that the sweetness of her tones will be offset by some tart facts. I hope so!

Definitely not just another food column. I await the next issue: with ethical dilemmas about these matters so close to our stomachs jostling for space on the plate with the foodstuffs in question.

Peta Cotton,  
St Lucia, Qld.

### Judy Horacek

