



A BLOKE rang 2UE's Alan Jones last week to say that Bob Hawke's 1987 promise that no Australian child would be living in poverty by 1990 has been realised — in a way. He went on to say: "There's a small township called Poverty in Queensland and no children are living in Poverty in 1990".

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AS PM Bob and Hazel Hawke notched up 34 years of marital bliss with a knees-up anniversary celebration at an election stop-over in Alice Springs a couple of weeks ago, there were whispers circulating about how much longer they would be together? Well, the Hawkes are not giving anything away, in fact they seem quite happy. One reporter asked: "As Australia's most public couple, do you ever get a chance to be private?" Said Mr Hawke: "It is only when you are at the Lodge or at Kirribilli because most of the rest of the time — I'm not complaining — if you are going anywhere you are in a sense public property." Mrs Hawke: "There are the kids' homes, we are our private selves there."

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AS more and more Aborigines cram into Redfern, Sydney, there are increasingly alarming reports of incidence of house break-ins, assaults, theft, malicious damage and car stealing. The NSW police two weeks ago, arrested over 10 people during a dawn raid on several Redfern homes during a search for drugs and stolen goods. The police action was roundly criticised by some members of the Aboriginal community as being unnecessarily heavy-handed although Police Minister Ted Pickering, told NSW Parliament the raids had been conducted in response to a cry of help from the Aboriginal community. A 24-hour hotline will be set up to allow Aborigines to report suspicious and criminal activities in Redfern.

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EVERY Aussie knows what a show bag is. A record number will go on sale at the Easter Show, Sydney, this year. In the junk bags you will find plastic vomit, slime balls, martial arts weapons and son on. Of the 146 bags on offer — priced from \$2.50 to \$20 — the lolly bats — Minties, Smiths Chips, Cadburys and Smarties are still the favourites. Of the novelty bags, Justin Threlauder from Glebe Primary School (one of a testing team for the show officials) thought the Gruesome chews bag, containing such delights as moths, blowflies and cockroaches, was brill. Finally the unbelievable bags: Freddie's Nightmare on Elm Street bag, also a Freddy Krueger Mark II bag, the Mun-

sters bag, the Ghostbusters bag, and many others — even a Rambo bag.

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GEOFF Lawson didn't actually say the gossip was red hot in his recently launched book. What he did say though, was it is a day-by-day account of Australia's most successful Ashes Test tour in 55 years and reveals incidents you won't hear about in any other form of media. Seeing I have a very vivid imagination, it sounds good to me. Geoff, an obvious true blue salesman said last week: "Buy one and bring it along to a game before the season ends and I'll autograph it for you. But don't hesitate, it's selling quicker than a Merv Hughes bouncer!"

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SYDNEY's hectic lifestyle can be intimidating — especially when you are a bush boy and hail from a quiet country town like Moree, in Northern NSW. Canterbury's new recruits, bothers Matthew and Mark Ryan, admit they are finding it difficult to adjust to the pace of the big city. Both are the Bulldogs' (Canterbury) most promising boys. Matthew, 19, said: "Living in the big smoke is a lot different to home. Funny, everyone seems to have to leave home an hour early to get somewhere." How very true!

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A PARRAMATTA motorist turned into a side street and found his path blocked by two cars parked in the middle of the road. Both drivers were out of their cars and arguing heatedly. Wanting to get through, the blocked motorist beeped his horn. The action further enraged one of the arguing drivers, who ran over and threw a bunch of keys at him through the car window. This also enraged the target of the missile, who promptly backed his car, turned around and took off with the keys, leaving the thrower yelling useless threats after him.

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JUST recently in New York a painting by Aboriginal artist Clifford Possum sold for over \$35,000. Some local critics however, do not view this as a high price for such art in the commercially up-market art world of New York. Britain is also becoming more aware of Aboriginal art — enhanced by many travelling exhibitions over here since 1988. The main outlet for the whole of Europe must be the Gallery of Rebecca Hossack at 35 Windmill Street, London. The current excellent exhibition is called Songlines and is open until April 7. This is the third exhibition of Aboriginal paintings held at the gallery (more are planned for this year) since it opened just two years ago. The success of the exhibition which mainly features work depicting traditional Aboriginal culture is all down to Rebecca. If anyone in Europe can advance the reputation of Aborigine artist it will be the Rebecca Hossack Gallery. Make a point of visiting the gallery before the exhibition closes.

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AT the Sir Rober Menzies Centre for Australian Studies this week we have on Wednesday March 21, at 12.30pm: The Influence in Aus-