

*By Paul Unger*

### **RESUME OF PAUL UNGER**

**AT THE AGE OF 8:** I would gather empty soft drink bottles whilst at the footy with my dad, then collect the refund. This showed me the value of money.

**AT THE AGE OF 9:** Our family home was engulfed in flames and the local fire brigade (1.5 klm away) wouldn't help dad put out the fire because of a line on a map. I learnt then of the cruelty of Bureaucracy.

**AT THE AGE OF 10:** I cried when J.F.K. was assassinated as I knew of him as being a good man.

**AT THE AGE OF 18:** I received the Bishop's Prize for Christian Leadership. I learnt then that we each see 'any one thing' in a different light as my teachers had seen in me something that I hadn't recognised.

**AT THE AGE OF 24:** As an interstate truck driver I was run over by a wheat train. I learnt then of the harsh realities of life as I struggled to regain my business.

**AT THE AGE OF 25:** I was sentenced to years of poverty by a junior mechanical engineer who refused to testify in court on my behalf. I learnt then that not all people live by ethics.

**AT THE AGE OF 26:** My brother was killed by a drunk driver with a blood alcohol level of .33 and that was his third offence. I learnt then that not all people live by the law.

**AT THE AGE OF 27:** I saw that drunk driver freed by the courts, and my father's belief in the 'Justice System' was challenged. I learnt then that the prevention of a crime is the only form of Justice that works.

**AT THE AGE OF 28:** I with a co-driver drove around Australia and raised approximately \$30,000 for Austcare's appeal for Afghan Refugees in Pakistan. I learnt then that to help doesn't mean to solve a problem but to simply make a difference.

**AT THE AGE OF 29:** I found my father with a purple face as he made the last movements of his head and sighed the last breaths of his life, after using a rifle to shoot himself through his heart. I learnt then the fullness of the devastation of Road Trauma.

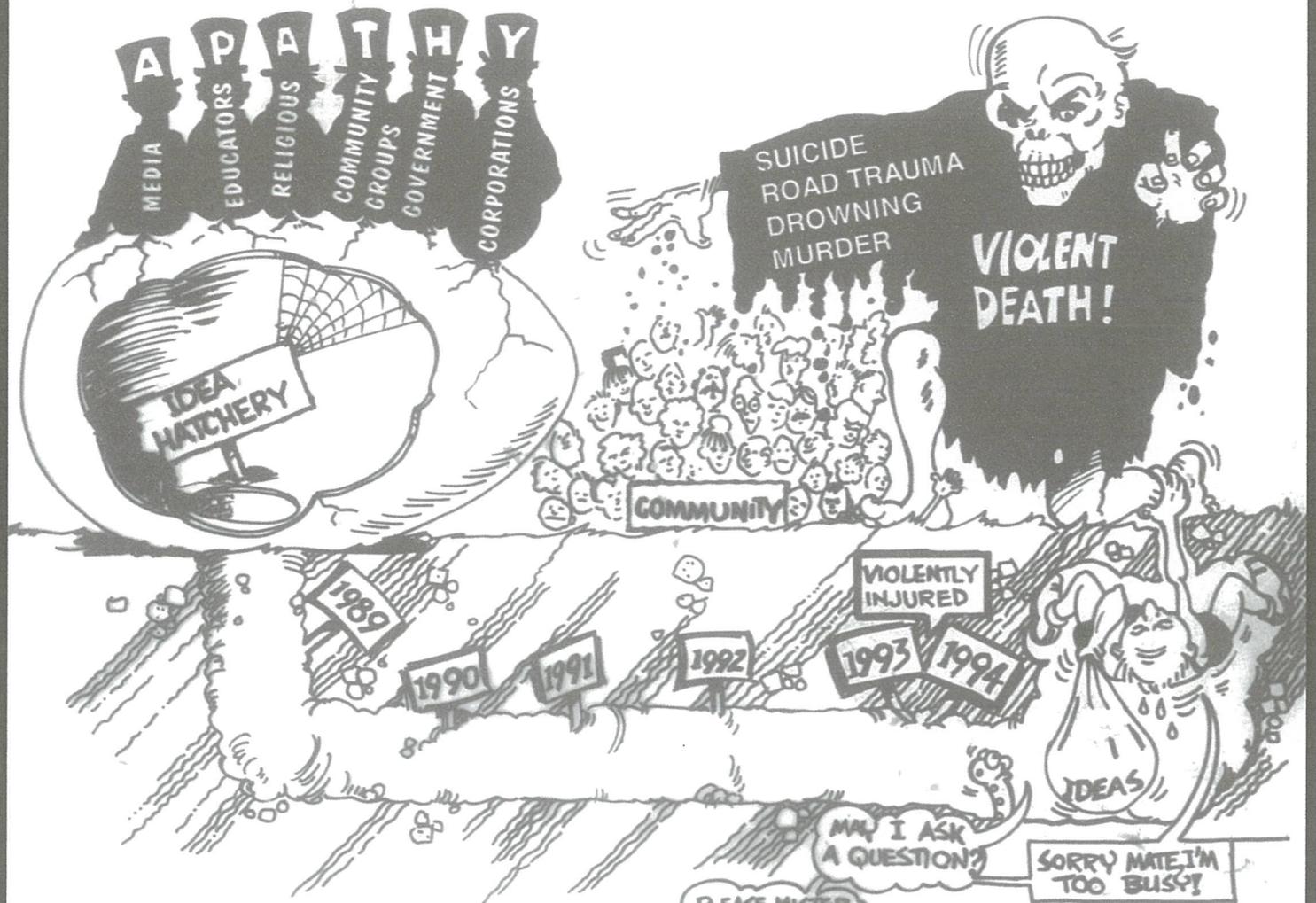
**THEN IN 1989.** At the news of the Cowper Truck and Bus Crash with 21 people killed, I thought 'what a terrible thing but it will never happen again', so on with my life.

**THEN A FEW SHORT MONTHS LATER.** 35 people were killed at Kempsey in a head-on double bus crash two days before Christmas and my heart ached for those people. Also for the family that had been left behind as they had no idea of the sadness the next few years would have.

**THEN IN 1990.** I decided to help Governments reduce Road Trauma. Since then all efforts have been rejected. I have learnt that to build a brick wall without a door, is to create a barrier behind which you will surely wither and become twisted.

**MY LIFE**

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MAY I ASK A QUESTION?  
 SORRY MATE I'M TOO BUSY!  
 PLEASE MISTER. I'M JUST A LITTLE GRUB.  
 OH ALRIGHT. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?  
 HOW COME YOUR DOWN HERE?  
 A FAIR WHILE. I'M A FARMER!  
 HOW LONG CAN YOU HANG ON?  
 ARN'T YOU SCARED OF HIM?  
 NOPE! I'VE BEEN DICING WITH HIM FOR YEARS. I'M AN INTERSTATE TRUCK DRIVER!  
 HOW COME YOU'VE GOT IT IN FOR HIM?  
 IT'S A LONG STORY!  
 YOU SHOULD HAVE IT WRITTEN!  
 I'M TOO BUSY FOR THAT. BUT I AM AN AUTHOR!  
 YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY ON THE BALL!  
 I CAN DO THAT. I'M AN INVENTOR!  
 STRUTH! YOUR NO DUMB ARSE THEN.  
 NO. NOT LIKE SOME.  
 IF YOU WIN WE'LL HAVE A PARTY?  
 YEP I...  
 GEE THIS MUST HAVE COST A QUID?  
 I KNOW! YOUR A CHEF!  
 NO NOT ME. I'M A PASTRY COOK & BAKER!  
 HOW COME YOU ANSWERED MY QUESTIONS?  
 THEY TELL ME THAT WHEN YOU DIE YOU DON'T GET MUCH TIME TO PACK. IF YOU DID THERE'S NOT A LOT YOU CAN TAKE. SO I DON'T MIND SPENDING A FEW BOB SO OTHERS CAN LIVE LONGER.  
 CAN I LEND A HAND?  
 TO GIVE YOU SOME EXPERIENCE, AS ONE DAY YOU MAY GROW UP TO BE A JOURNALIST!  
 SURE THING!