

## OVERLAND

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23 May 1988

Dear Clem:

As maidens turn their minds to thoughts of love, about this time of 1988 you were going to turn your mind to writing for us an essay, a biting one, on the ABC, programs, corporate strategy and so on.

To horse!

Very best wishes,

*Stephen*

The film producer Bob Weis tells me he and others like him would like an 80 per cent Australian quota on our telly. I yelled What about The Story of English and Yes Minister and other marvellous programs ~~programs~~ we see (if we are very lucky) from overseas. Bob's reply was that The good ones will still be shown. Oh yeah! As a consumer I'd rather watch grade 2 overseas material than grade 4 Australian. I may be a nationalist, but my nationalist sentiments don't take me that far down the path of masochism. It sometimes seems to me that, since we are inevitably and irretrievably provincial, let's make a virtue of that by commanding the best the world has to offer us. If we do this, perhaps some of it will rub off and one day we'll be pleased to watch 80 per cent OZ stuff.

Other thing: the key question in Oz cultural life, or nearly, is who selects what we will see from overseas? I have never seen this asked or answered. We all know of wonderful BBC etc programs that some half-educated ignoramus (?) has not ordered for us; others arrive four and five years late, like I think the splendid "After Pilkington" the other night.

Like to discuss inter alia?

*Pending*

25A FINLAY ROAD  
WARRAWEE, N.S.W. 2074

The Croft  
St Clair St  
BOWRAL NSW 2576  
30 Nov 87

*Dear Stephen*

Thank for your warm and welcome note. And especially for Overland. Of course I'll be delighted to review the books: I take it collectively as a sort of review-article. Let's know words wanted, etc.

Not much else. Thank Christ that old bastard up north has had his chips - Huey Long was a piker by comparison. But then, the crookery is almost as bad in this state. Helpless, one despairs.

Yes, when I've cleared a few commitments, would very much like to do an essay on the ABC. Have been thinking about it for some time. Crocker had not a bad thing in Quadrant some months back. I'd like especially to get on to the programmes. All this bloody PR hype and "corporate strategy" bullshit, yet what comes out of the radio and the TV set (which after all is what counts) gets worse and worse. Even, God help us, 50 year old films in glorious b.& w. !

*Cheers, as ever Clem*