

## OVERLAND

John Herouvim  
Editorial Assistant  
13 Schild St.  
Yarraville Vic 3013  
Ph: (03) 689 9543

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 249, MOUNT ELIZA,  
VICTORIA, 3930, AUSTRALIA.

EDITOR: BARRETT REID  
EDITORIAL PHONE: (03) 850 4347  
BUSINESS PHONE: (03) 380 2586

8/11/89

Dear John,

This is a copy of  
the press release I sent  
out today. I'd be  
grateful for advance  
notice of any radio  
coverage, and notification  
of any press coverage,  
so I can tape, clip, file  
etc.

Soon, I fear, I'll be  
asking to take over  
your phone again. Hope  
that's o.k. Tell me if  
it ain't. Warm regards,  
John

## □ JOHN McLAREN: you'll see why he wants to tell people about John Bray

John Bray is a South Australian who has served as Chief Justice, Governor's Deputy and Chancellor of the Adelaide University. A distinguished jurist, a republican and civil libertarian, and author of a massive biography of the Roman Emperor Gallienus, he not long ago outdrank half a dozen young writers and critics (his juniors by some thirty or forty years), organized taxis for them and then admitted himself to hospital for an operation he had forced his reluctant doctors to reschedule. As Christopher Pearson writes of John Bray in *Overland* 116, "He is the first judge to have refused to stop drinking in front bars, to disdain wearing a hat, to walk to work, to do his own shopping every Saturday morning in Hutt Street." With penchants for flagon wine and open-necked tropical shirts, John Bray is one of Australia's most colorful characters. His intellectual achievements reveal him also to be one of our finest and most active minds.

Then there's John Bray the poet.

John McLaren finds in Bray's poetry an essentially comic outlook and the hallmarks of "a true conservative" -- a man "tolerant towards human folly, but contemptuous of wickedness and oppression". It is a radical conservatism that Dr McLaren sees at the heart of Bray's life and poetry. Bray's earthiness, he writes, "has frequently shocked the Adelaide establishment into a semblance of life". John McLaren is well-qualified to introduce your audience to John Bray. He worked as a secondary teacher for ten years and has been an academic for twenty, currently holding the position of Head of the Department of Humanities at the Footscray Institute of Technology. As founding editor of *Australian Book Review* (new series) between 1978-1986 and Associate Editor of *Overland* since 1968, and as writer, historian and critic, his knowledge of Australian literature and society is extensive. His eight published books include *Australian Literature: an Historical Introduction*.

John McLaren is available for interview after 8 November on Mondays and Wednesdays, and on Tuesday and Friday mornings. To arrange an interview, please call

(03) 688 4169 (work)

(03) 380 1152 (home)

**FURTHER INQUIRIES?** If you have any questions about this press release and its contents, I would be happy to hear from you. Contact JOHN HEROUVIM on (03) 689 9543 or write to 13 Schild St, Yarraville Vic. 3013.

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**Overland** □ Editorial ... P.O. Box 249 Mount Eliza Vic. 3930.  
Ph:(03) 850 4347 Fax: (03) 852 0527

□ Business and subscriptions ... Ph: (03) 380 2586 or (03) 380 1152