

From the Editor

Chris Berg

In around 1950, *Look Magazine* published the ‘Road to Serfdom in Cartoons’—a version of the Hayek classic drawn for a popular audience. (The cartoon is available on the web at <http://www.mises.org/TRTS.htm>). In the most accessible way possible, the anonymous artist sketches out how national planning instituted during wartime can be embraced after the conflict concludes, and how this necessarily leads to a loss of freedom.

Few would still advocate this approach—grand, national-scale economic planning has been disgraced since the Cold War. But, as Alan Moran argues in the cover story, ‘Planning restraints: A plague on wealth and the democratic process’, governments have nonetheless embraced planning in different areas, to the disadvantage of their citizens.

Instead of allowing individuals to use their land as they see fit, urban planners subvert basic property rights for a host of aims—including environmental, transportation, ideals of equal access and, as Louise Staley argues, often dubious notions of heritage value.

The April *IPA Review*, like the others before it, covers a huge range of issues. Alec van Gelder looks at the ‘digital divide’, and concludes that aid programmes would be better focused on broader development and economic liberalization than popular fashions like telecommunications.

Ken Phillips reassesses the food manufacturing industry five years after the IPA published the landmark report ‘Take Away Take-Away’, and finds that little has changed. The sector needs to undergo dramatic change if it is to stay globally competitive.

Ari Sharp visits North Korea looking for signs of capitalism, Mike Nahan visits Victoria looking for signs of fiscal responsibility, and Sinclair Davidson and Alex Robson visit the opinion pages of *Sydney Morning Herald* looking for signs of economics.

Andrew Kemp looks at the elusive genre of heavy metal, Hugh Tobin tries to confiscate mobile phones, and Scott Hargreaves urges Mark Latham to read Max Weber.

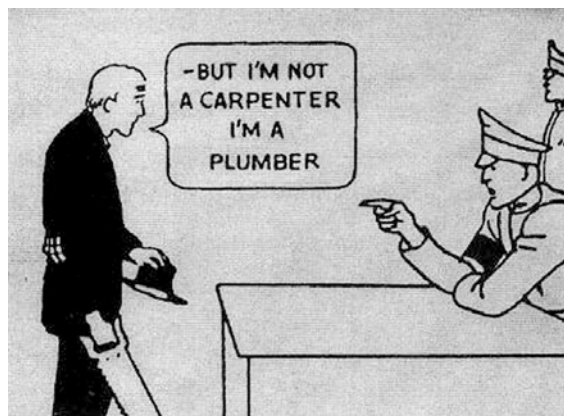
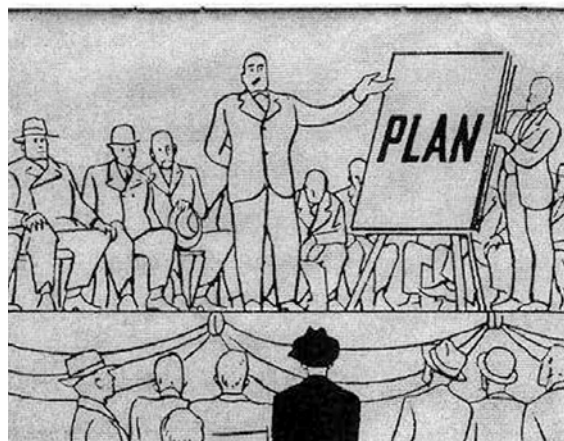
Amber Agustin scrutinizes the High Court and finds that the appointment process threatens federalist principles.

There’s a great deal more, including *Strange Times* (with a special focus on Loch News Monster news), analysis of salinity fears, media policy and, of course, a wide range of book reviews.

T H E R O A D T O S E R F D O M

The “Planners” promise Utopias

A rosy plan for farmers goes well in rural areas, a plan for industrial workers is popular in cities—and so on. Many new “planners” are elected to office



Inside this issue

Volume 58 • Number 1 • April 2006

- 1 Editorial
Chris Berg
- 2 Inside this issue
- 3 From the Executive Director
'Right-wing' does not describe the IPA. **John Roskam**
- 4 Heritage through property
After being heritage listed, private property rights exist in name only. **Louise Staley**
- 6 **COVER STORY**
Planning Restraints: A plague on wealth and the democratic process
Economic planning has been discarded with the death of communism. Why then do new planners flourish?
Alan Moran
- 9 **Victoria:** A state on the move with the Ying and Yang
We know how well Victoria is doing and a well-funded ad campaign keeps reminding us. **Mike Nahan**
- 11 Life in the Farce Lane:
The stead creep of regulatory burdens
Politicians fear large scandals, not minute inconveniences. Yet regulation is built up from minutae. **Nicholas Gruen**
- 13 Charity can begin again:
Resolving the uncertainty of 'charity'
Charity needs a concrete framework to flourish. **Ross Fox**
- 15 Kim and Capitalism
Looking for signs of hope in North Korea. **Ari Sharp**
- 18 'The macabre fascination that goes with gothic horror novels'
What can we learn from six years of salinity hype?
Jennifer Marohasy
- 20 Latham, Weber and compassion
Latham is a case study of what happens when a politician has lots of passion, but little sense of responsibility.
Scott Hargreaves
- 22 Federalism and the High Court:
Fixing the appointment process
The High Court's appointment process is not protected from the increasingly centralist tendencies of the Federal Government. **Amber Agustin**
- 26 Food manufacturing facing the wall
The sector faces the same challenges and the same gloom as 5 years ago. **Ken Phillips**
- 28 **TECHNOLOGY**
Media needs major reform, not minor tweaking
Proposals for media reform are same old same old. What is needed is massive radical deregulation. **Chris Berg**
- 31 Fashion and foreign aid
A realistic look at the "digital divide". **Alec van Gelder**
- 35 The economics of Ross Gittins
The popular press often has a difficult relationship with the economic profession. **Alex Robson & Sinclair Davidson**
- 37 The basics of reform
Lowering taxes has a broad base of support.
Henry Thornton
- 39 Liberalism, individualism and heavy metal
Heavy metal, often reviled, is surprisingly a hotbed of classical liberals. **Andrew Kemp**
- 41 Fear of txt
Technological advances do not in themselves create social problems. **Hugh Tobin**
- 42 Around the Tanks
- 43 The foundingest father of them all
Andrew Kemp reviews *His Excellency George Washington*
- 44 How to win friends and influence people
(also be a premier)
Margaret Fitzherbert reviews *Yes Premier: Labor leadership in Australia's States and Territories*.
- 45 Australia SOLVED
Rafe Champion reviews *Australia Fair*
- 47 Shaping Europe
Tom Quirk reviews *Postwar: A history of Europe since 1945*
- 48 Strange Times

REVIEW

Editor: Chris Berg. **Executive Director:** John Roskam. **Production and Design:** Chris Berg.
Printed by: Pinnacle Printing, 288 Dundas Street, Thornbury VIC 3071.
Published by: The Institute of Public Affairs Ltd (Incorporated in the ACT) ACN 008 627 727.
Level 2, 410 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000.
Phone: (03) 9600 4744. **Fax:** (03) 9602 4989. **E-mail:** ipa@ipa.org.au **Website:** www.ipa.org.au
Illustrations and Front Cover by Chris Berg.

Unsolicited manuscripts welcomed. However, potential contributors are advised to discuss proposals for articles with the Editor. Views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the IPA. **Reproduction:** The IPA welcomes reproduction of written material from the *Review*, but for copyright reasons the Editor's permission must first be sought.

