introductory remarks and in his division of the book into the three chapters, he is writing for three audiences: Melanesianists, museum professionals, and Wahgi individuals. The first chapter is for serious Melanesianists. The second and third are clearly for the museum-minded. Perhaps all of it is, in some way, for select Wahgi individuals. But will museum professionals find the complexities of Wahgi marriage patterns discussed in the first chapter engaging enough to understand how this relates to museum objects? And will Melanesianists be captivated enough by the discussions of institutional politics about space constraints in the galleries? Of all the audiences, the Wahgi people will probably enjoy the book in its entirety the most.

But, this juggling of perspectives aside, the book accomplishes a major feat in its ability to substantively counter many assumptions held by commentators on museums. Furthermore, Paradise succeeds where no other book has, in its ability to explain local appropriation of external influences. Readers are offered complex understandings of why, for example, elastic ribbing from sock tops replaces plaited leg bands, or why reformulated beer ads and rugby league idioms appear on shield designs as creative commentary on clan politics.

Last but not least, the book has good maps and excellent color plates that portray powerful environments, ingeniously crafted artifacts, and believable, contemporary people.

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Nius Bilong Pasifik is the latest tro net effort by University of Papua New Guinea journalism lecturer David Robie, in which previously published material from conference papers, mass media, and trade union journals has been compiled into an omnibus volume designed to make the materials more widely available. The book is set out in three parts: an overview of issues in the region, a series of six case studies, and three appendixes offering Pacific codes of ethics, country profiles, and contact information for professional media associations in the Pacific. Its focus is primarily Papua New Guinea, as ten of the eighteen contributors are either based or have research interests there, but also includes chapters on the French Pacific, Fiji, and Tonga. It aims, Robie notes in the introduction, to expose young journalists to the professional issues of direct concern to them as Pacific Islanders.

Toward this end, cross-cultural communication scholar Sarah Finau’s contribution on bias and race-tagging in the New Zealand media is a standout effort. In the manner of the best essays of Epeli Hau’ofa, her discussion of the effects of such headlines as “Father Shot Dead in the ‘Old Bar-
baric Way’” on New Zealand–based Pacific Islanders comes “from the belly” as much as from the intellect. Finau also goes a step further than usual in this type of analysis, by providing examples from the islands press of how issues of culture can be covered sensitively, without self-censorship. Though short, I expect it will become a widely cited piece.

Throughout the region, legal systems are increasingly being used to “chill” Pacific media. Two chapters specifically address this trend. In the first, University of Papua New Guinea law lecturer Powes Parkop discusses the dangers posed by recent Papua New Guinea legislation contributing to the “normalisation of emergency powers” in his country (135). The 1993 Internal Security Act restricts such constitutional rights as freedom of thought, expression, and assembly that are fundamental to a free press, by criminalizing the support of proscribed groups. In addition, it extends the definition of terrorism to include the potential, likely, or even suspected use of violence against public safety (ie, pasin bilong ol raskol) as determined by the National Executive Council, thus giving cabinet wide powers to act against “political opponents and legitimate critics” (134). Under the Act, journalists can be arrested for attending meetings or interviewing members of council-designated “terrorist” groups.

In the second chapter on law, Tonga Member of Parliament Akilisi Pohiva documents the series of court battles he faced between 1988 and 1993, in his roles as a talk show host and a publisher. Issues of free speech, the confidentiality of sources, and the accountability of government are carefully woven into a passionate analysis of the function journalism plays in Pacific societies. Though possibly the subject of more column inches in the region’s newspapers than anyone save Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, it is a rare event indeed to read Pohiva in English under his own byline. The opportunity should not be missed.

Rabuka makes a figurative appearance in a separate chapter, credited to the “editorial staff of The Review” (175), concerning the Fiji-based news magazine’s coverage of the leadership challenge he faced in early 1994. A compelling look at the region’s most competitive media market in action, the piece is somewhat disingenuous, however, in its discussion of the possible motivations behind Daily Post coverage. But the issue, which involved Rabuka’s admission of adultery, is evidently still controversial (pains are taken in the Contributors’ Notes to separate Review publisher Yashwant Gaunder from legal responsibility for the chapter), and I’ll leave the authors’ explanation of events to stand without further comment.

Word Publishing publisher Anna Solomon, though noting the attempted use in Papua New Guinea of lawsuits to “finish” papers that feature critical coverage, turns her main attention to the day-to-day financial constraints on the independent Pacific press. In one of the few essays anywhere to address the political economy of Pacific media, Solomon discusses how a reliance on government advertising can pose a threat to small Pacific newspapers and provides examples of threats by gov-
ernments and major advertisers to “pull” ads as a result of critical coverage. She also highlights the constraints of geographic isolation, which result in well-bankrolled foreign journalists covering events that local journalists, hampered by their limited finance, cannot.

PNG Greenpeace representative Kena’e Ka’au provides a valuable overview of the problems of environmental reporting in Papua New Guinea, as does Alfred Sasako about the workings and media relationship of the Forum Secretariat.

The volume, however, is not without flaws. One is the Bougainville “case study” by Australian Center for Investigative Journalism staffer Peter Cronau. While accurately noting that Australian mainstream media have, for a variety of reasons, underreported human rights abuses and related issues on the island, Cronau extends this essentialism to the absurd by arguing that “balance” is to be found in the indiscriminate publication of Bougainville Interim Government statements.

Seasoned Papua New Guinean contributors disagree. Anna Solomon writes that her papers continued coverage of Bougainville only “until the complete blockade where it was impossible to verify reports with sources on the island” (120). In his chapter on the Kimbe Summit, award-winning Post-Courier journalist Wally Hiambohn cautions, “the serious news media is not in the business of public relations, nor is it a propaganda machine” (196).

Another flaw, substantial given Robie’s long-standing interest in the topic, is the lack of discussion of the Australian media magnate Kerry Packer’s Port Moresby–based television station EMTV in his chapter on media ownership and control. In the two pages devoted to television, he notes simply that television has been available in “PNG since 1987” (23). EMTV was the sole Pacific media organization out of 62 surveyed in 1992 to claim they had never been pressured by government members upset at coverage. Most outlets surveyed, on the other hand, were quick to detail at least one celebrated run-in with a minister or senior bureaucrat as evidence of their commitment to government scrutiny.

A separate chapter on Pacific television by University of Papua New Guinea media arts lecturer Joseph Chika Anyanwu is similarly silent on EMTV’s unique editorial policy, which had news reports on imports of Russian-made farm machinery followed by commercial spots for these same products, and deemed the launch of the new top-of-the-line Mercedes Benz (price K250,000) newsworthy in a country where the average wage runs about K100 a fortnight.

Furthermore Anyanwu’s chapter, and those of Father Diosnel Centurion (on ecumenical publishing) and Dr John Evans (libraries and communication), could have more productively focused on the topic at hand; that is, journalism (the Nius in the title of the book).

Finally, like other writers before me, I read portions of Robie’s work with a sense of deja vu, of which I will offer one example: “The number of languages alone or in combination has increased by two-thirds from 19
to 3x" (Layton, The Contemporary Pacific Islands Press, 1992, 13); "Languages used in newspaper publishing in the region have grown by two-thirds from 19 to 31" (Robie 1994, 7). Compare also pages 2-3 of Jim Bentley's paper "How Independent is Television Broadcasting in the Pacific Islands?" presented at the Pacific Islands News Association conference in Suva, 10-13 July 1993, with pages 23 and 59 of the work under review.

The feeling returned when I perused the media listings in the country profiles. Those of Papua New Guinea and Fiji are useful updates on my 1992 directory. But most of the rest were culled from a book that is so out-of-date that it has Howard Graves listed as Associated Press Pacific Bureau chief. Now, Nius Bilong Pasifik does as well.

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