

Condolences not politics

THE news of the tragedy of four deaths in the Cannonball Run was met in Alice Springs with great sadness.

It is easy to see there is an election coming up when we see someone like Bob Collins appear on our news service sounding indignant that he was assured by a government minister that this (fatal accident) would not happen.

Sorry Bob this is the real world no matter how well organised or how tough the rules, accidents do happen.

Did he realised that two Territory men had just been killed?

Perhaps he could have publicly offered their families his and his government's sincere condolences instead of politicking.

**Helen Brougham,
34 Spicer Crescent,
Alice Springs NT 0870.**

Was it worth four lives?

I AM sure Marshall Perron is as saddened as I am by the death of four people as a result of the Cannonball Run.

I do not doubt his humanity but I do doubt his ability to make sensible decisions.

Perhaps he thought it would be good for the Territory financially, but was it worth four lives?

Perhaps he thought it would provide a good gladiatorial contest to distract Territorians during an election campaign, but did he think of the influence it would have on young hoons trying to emulate the feats of Allan Moffat and company?

How many Territorians have to die before we have people in government who take the appalling NT road toll seriously?

**Martin Jacob,
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Leanyer, NT 0812.**

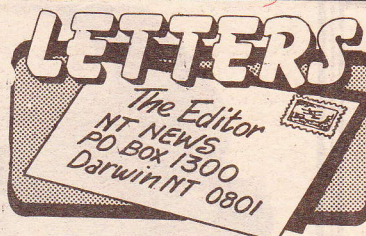


Image problem

THE latest blunder by the Northern Territory Government again proves it has a serious image problem.

Last year the world was treated to one of its ministers attempting to strangle a journalist on TV.

This year Chief Minister Marshall Perron's very public, support for the Cannonball Run has tragically backfired.

**Terry Clark,
4 Ocean Parade,
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Roads not raceways

THE Cannonballers paid their money, and were prepared to risk death or injury. So be it. Tuesday's "accident" was between consenting adults.

The public, both Territorians and tourists, have not paid their money and are entitled to expect that they will not incur an extra risk of death or injury as a result of being forced to share the roads with rich amateur drivers hurtling along a high speed.

The mix of officially sanctioned high-speed driving with normal public road traffic is suicidal.

Public roads are not official private raceways and any government that thinks so has forgotten its responsibility to the people of the Territory in its pursuit of an expensive election stunt.

**Daryl Guppy,
245 Leichhardt St,
Tennant Creek.**

Appalled at Run approval

AS a long-time resident of the Territory I was appalled to hear of the approval by the Government of the Cannonball Run, citing tourist promotion as its reason.

During my 16 years residency of the Territory (I still consider myself a Territorian) I was privileged to see most of what the NT has to offer the tourist.

It does not need gimmicks like a car race, in which the general public and ill-equipped drivers of high-powered cars are mixed, to promote its attractions.

On Perth television, after the tragic crash in which two innocent locals were killed, a race driver, who had just been passed by the vehicle which crashed, said it was patently driver error.

These drivers are not, as far as I know, tested for their ability to drive these lethal

weapons prior to being let loose on highways.

I can tell you this promotion has done the Territory a deal of harm.

First, it has promoted the lack of speed limits, as if they are without conditions, in such a way as to encourage speed merchants and it has promoted the danger of travelling on NT roads.

Second, it has entrenched the prevalent notion in the south, of the NT as a place inhabited by cowboys.

I see approval and condoning of this stunt by the Government, even without confirmation by taxpayers' funds, as totally irresponsible and unbefitting a Territory that would aspire to be considered by the rest of Australia as a state.

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