1994: Wan Kantri

4. Uni Tuar, 25 February 1994. Teachers throughout the country went on a massive strike against declining working conditions and other benefits. They were given an ultimatum by the Government to resume classes or be sacked. This cartoon looks at the hassles, responsibilities and pressures put on teachers while their working conditions have deteriorated.
14. *Uni Tavur*, 25 February 1994. Teachers throughout the country went on a massive strike against declining working conditions and other benefits. They were given an ultimatum by the Government to resume classes or be sacked. This cartoon looks at the hassles, responsibilities and pressures put on teachers while their working conditions have deteriorated.
15. Uni Tavur, 11 March 1994. The destruction of our natural resources—especially our forests by rampant logging—has become one of the biggest threats to our future. Non-government organisations seem to be almost the only ones highly vocal on the issue. My view is that the success of these destructive logging practices is the result of the ignorance and a selfish attitude by many in authority who have been backed by these foreign logging companies.
16. *Uni Tavur*, 25 March 1994: A 'Faces of PNG' seminar was held in Rabaul that week. The Government announced that Bougainville had reopened for foreign investment. But would potential foreign investors be interested?
17. Uni Tavur, 22 April 1994: The New Guinea Islands premiers demanded more autonomy from the National Government. The Government was warned that failure to grant such power would result in the four Islands provinces—five including Bougainville, or North Solomons province—seceeding from the rest of PNG to form a new republic. This was at the height of the premiers ‘rebellion’ but the issue became quiet as the country moved to changing the provincial government system.
8. Uni Tavur, 6 May 1994: Security at the Waigani campus has been a problem for years. The female population live in fear — even in their rooms. 'Where is my security?' is the same question they've been asking every year.
19. *Uni Tavur, 20 May 1994*: Papua New Guinean forests are disappearing at an alarming rate and many Asians, especially Malaysian logging tycoons, are chiefly responsible for this. The lies, bribes, money and abuses of power involved have made this industry one of the most controversial in the country.
20. **Uni Tavur, 22 July**: The PNG Forests Authority moved to establish a communication link between resource owners and the authority so that it could monitor the movement and operations of the industry. It was a good move by then Forests Minister Tim Neville in the last Wingti Government to control a huge and ‘out of control’ industry.
21. Uni Tavur, 22 July 1994: This was the cartoon cover I designed for a special liftout marking the 20th anniversary of the publishing of Uni Tavur.
22. Uni Tavur, 5 August 1994: This cartoon highlighted the general attitude of Asian logging companies operating in the region — especially in Melanesia. Numerous calls from landowners, non-government organisations and other authorities, even the South Pacific Forum, for these companies to be ‘fair and honest’ in their dealings kept falling on deaf ears.
While on a tour of Asia, PNG Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan declared that Papua New Guinea was a 'natural Asia-Pacific bridge' — the link to prosperity and development. There's an equal chance that this could be the natural link to hell.
4. Uni Tavur, 16 September 1994: An independence souvenir issue reflecting how the country has been split over the secession issue and foreign debt.
Another attempt at an elusive peace was made by the PNG Government and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army in Honiara. The Bougainville peace pact was signed by Sir Julius Chan and BRA commander Sam Kauona — but the Bougainville war is still fuming. I wondered whether the two parties really worked together to solve the crisis or whether they only added more charcoal to the fire.
6. **Uni Tavur, 30 September 1994:** The New Guinea islands premiers threat to secede from the rest of Papua New Guinea was still hot news. Coincidently, Rabaul became devastated by volcano eruptions. Maybe the eruption of Mt. Tavurvur and the destruction of Rabaul — the potential capital of a new Islands 'republic' — was the biggest test to how what we were really capable of.
27. *Uni Tavur, 19 October 1994:* Here I was beginning to look at regional issues rather than just basing my comments on Papua New Guinean politics. After a soccer game in Fiji, Fijian students at the University of the South Pacific went on a rampage against their Solomon Islands counterparts. A Solomon Islands lecturer and students were assaulted. A massive exodus by the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu students from the country followed. The University of PNG, which in any case offers up to 15 per cent of its places to regional students, was prepared to welcome an increase in students from the Solomon Islands.