

I attend because I can and because I am ever mindful of the quotation "the price of democracy is eternal vigilance". Initially I went along to be informed but, as you so correctly pointed out, council have determined that they have little or no interest in this trivial "aspect" of democracy.

I now, unashamedly, go along almost entirely for the entertainment value and as a web site reporter (for Integrity Action Whangarei).

There is something faintly amusing about those councillors who seem happy to cast aside the traditions and nuances of democracy and yet, most, as Cr Syers, still appear to take themselves ever so seriously. Even Cr Goodhew, who has yet to say a word in 18 months of meetings, offers entertainment value far in excess of his public contribution to democracy.

There is always at least one notable cameo at each meeting and, hey, it only takes up about 10 minutes each month.

Unlike regional councillors, who excel in their genuine hospitality, district councillors seem to regard the public gallery as some sort of refuge for the seriously disturbed and most keep well clear.

As Warren Slater pointed out in his letter, no cups of tea and bikkies here.

Wayne Deeming

**Entertainment sans
the hospitality**

I read with interest your editorial of May 28.

I am a "council watcher" (the mayor prefers "council basher") but I can claim no credit for most of the achievements and activities that you listed. The credit for these correctly belong to War-