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pean Christians had determined that the islands were purgatorial rather than paradisaical, and that the noble savage was really ignoble: Islanders needed both salvation and civilization, and mostly they needed to be clothed (Smith 1960).¹⁷ The missionaries swathed s/pacific bodies in cotton laplaps, mother hubbards, and short trousers. Clothing functioned as a device of colonial social control, not only by eliminating nudity, but in colonial Papua, for instance, by distinguishing appropriate dress for Islanders from appropriate dress for Europeans (Woolford 1974, 9-10).¹⁸

As tourism has become a primary industry for many of the postcolonial Pacific Island nations, Islanders are increasingly exposed to sun-seeking and seminude "First-Worlders." In general, Islanders are wryly amused by contemporary Euro-Americans' various states of undress:

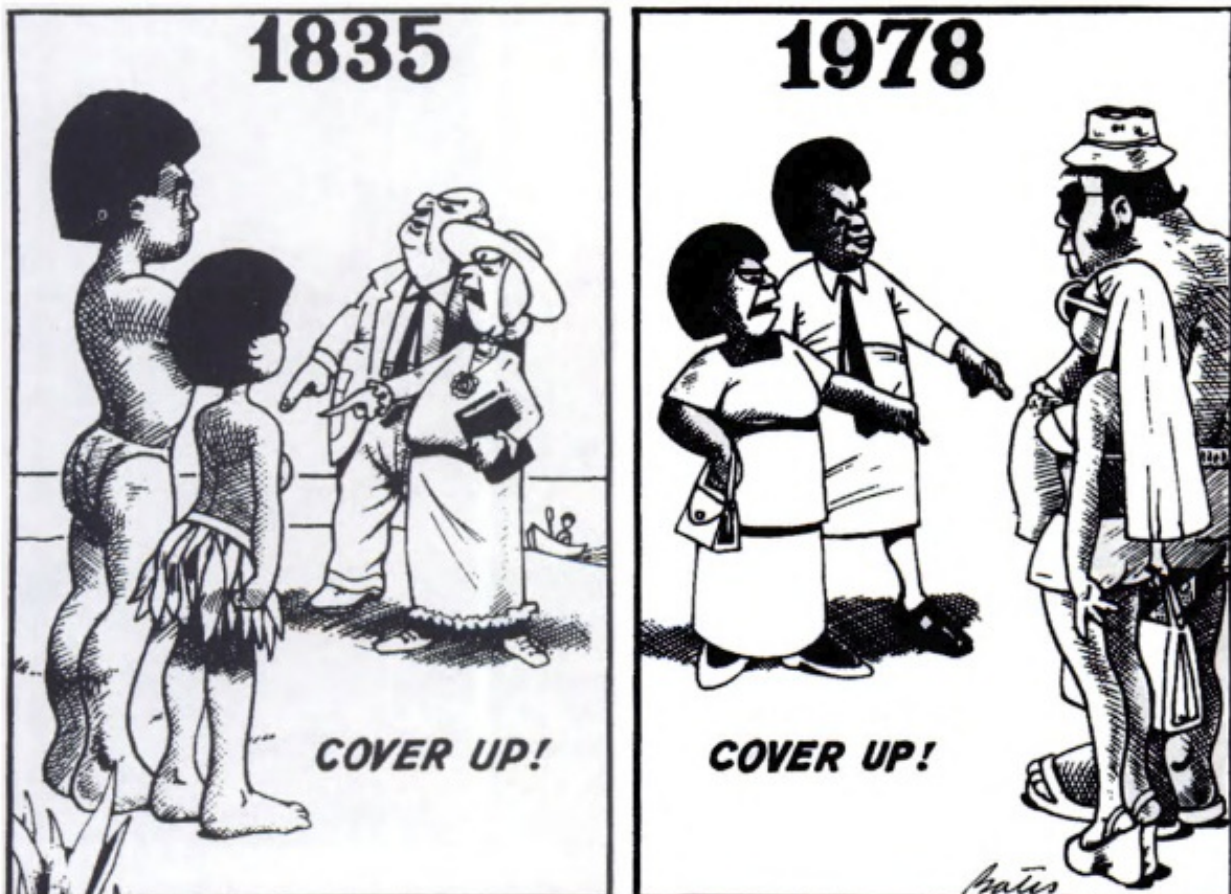


FIGURE 1. Modesty then and now as seen by editorial cartoonist Bill Bates. (Cour-

