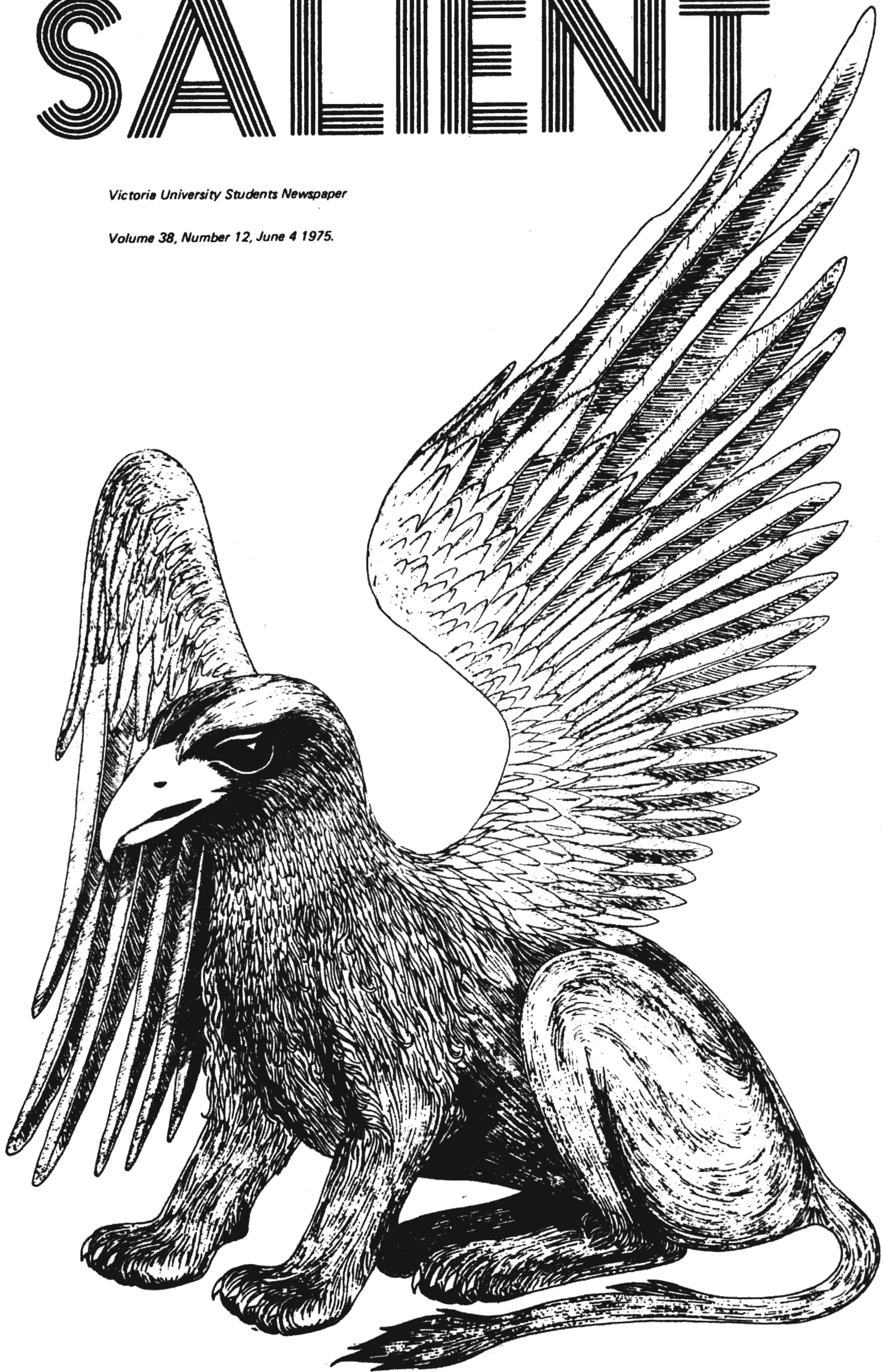


# SALIENT

*Victoria University Students Newspaper*

*Volume 38, Number 12, June 4 1975.*



GERTRUDE!



# EXECUTIVE

by John Henderson

Come into my parlour, said the spider to the fly. Or, alternatively, come into my boardroom, said the Exec to the Salient reporter. The meeting, which started a 6.00, ended, or rather ground to a halt amidst a morass of paper and several exhausted bureaucrats, just before 12. It was a long haul, and, in the interests of accurate reporting, and in the interests of the students for whom this article, and indeed newspaper, is written, I am forced, against my better wishes, to write the longest Exec article I have written for a long time. Here it is:

The meeting started with a motion that the apologies be NOT accepted. In line with the usual Exec policy of carrying frivolity to its illogical extremes this motion was lost only by the casting vote of the president.

Correspondence was then discussed, the only item of any interest being a letter to secondary schools from Lisa Saksen asking them if they wished to advertise rock concerts, this advertising being for the benefit of their students, and from which there has been one (positive) reply so far.

There was then discussion on the recent Blerta rock concert, which was organised by our old friends the NZSAC. Arts Council lodged various complaints about how the concert was handled,

but it was noticed that the only SAC people there were ones who happened to have complementary tickets. Most odd.

The Executive then accepted the resignation of John Rosaveare. John, over the past term, has put in a great amount of work for the Association, often doing the shitwork which no-one else wanted to do. Discussion was then entertained on the question of an NZUSA national student newspaper, the blueprints for which we offered to do at May Council. This particular buck was passed to the Publications Board, who, hopefully, will produce a viable and stimulating outline.

Cultural clubs were then reaffiliated with the exception of Angsoc, Israeli Club, Law Faculty Club, Photographic Society, MSSA and SCM, who will be reaffiliated as soon as they pay their debts. Those who have not even put in a reaffiliation form are: Association of South Pacific Students; Amnesty International; Astrology Society, Christian Science Organization; Dionysian Society; Economics Society; Italian Club; Russian Club; Nurses Club; Rock Society; TPA; Thoreau Society; Accountancy Students' Society. So there.

The Exec then decided to clarify the position of students who join the Association without taking any credit workload, in regard to ISTC travel cards. It was decided that a Studass

member trying to get a ISTC card without taking any units would not in fact get one.

I told the Exec that Stuart Williamson is going well. Lisa told the Exec that Knock na Gree was a roaring success with a lot being accomplished and a lot of ideas being interchanged. Barbara Leishman told the Exec that the arts side of things were proceeding smoothly, with a bazaar being expected for the third term, and a questionnaire on arts in the near future. There seem to be problems with people trying to rip off the students association by climbing in the toilet windows on the middle floor instead of paying at the door like all right-thinking citizens should do. It was decided to put a discouraging length of barbed wire on the offending wall. The Exec was also informed by somebody, this somebody probably being Di Hooper, that the Population forum was a success.

Discussion on Bursaries and on ways of killing Amos were left to be decided by the last SRC.

It seems that Barbara Leishman will be arranging another of her mini-festivals in early July. Plans aren't finalised yet, but it is likely that it will include contributions from as many clubs as possible, with displays by cultural clubs from here and from the Polytech, Massey University and various other places. Also the possibility of a couple of those wierd Paranoic

American anti-drug films, which are always worth a laugh. And I mean a laugh. Jesus Christ, those bastards give me a pain. Bloody pontificating on the dangers of the evil weed while the bloody yanks come back home and fill themselves up with tranquillizers and beer and nicotine and pep pills and aspirin and codeine and god knows what else. Although a Western society which produces such glowing examples to mankind as Gerry Wall and Richard Nixon can't be expected to see the point of longhair hippy commie radical troublemaking anti-government filthy dirty should-be-bloody-well-shot youths who smoke a deadly killer subversive weed calculated to destroy the very moral fibre of our society.....(Bruce says he doesn't agree with that last paragraph. It's not political. Jeess....)

And now, said the dreaded bard, to the catering (he, he, says he, smiling in his ancient grizzled beard (the bard, I mean, not me) (are you sure?))

Graeme Jordan will be resigning from his position as catering manager at the end of this year. It was decided, though, that he would be asked to continue organising the outside catering, with somebody else being employed to handle the administrative side. The times, Dylan said, are a-changin'.

After some plans for a lift in the Union were tabled the meeting ended, and not before time.

## STAFF NOTES

God that amendment is driving me up the wall. How the hell that guy can call himself a Labour M.P. Aha! I know. 'Don't you dare say anything nasty about me you rotten SWINE' quoth Bryony Hales, her jowls quivering (DON'T QUOTE ME!) in rage and agony, her pig-like eyes leering at me. Oh well. Henderson is raving horribly and insists that I have to carry on writing the note myself so here goes. Mr Robertson is carrying out a delicate editing operation on his index finger with the help of one of the dirtier specimens of Salient scalpels. John Ryall is reading a copy of 'How to make friends and influence Chinese' while Marty Pilott who is trying to interpret Henderson's ravings or something to that effect is not doing the typesetting. Naughty boy. He should be jailed for two years. Languishing in jail as a result of having slipped the word to young JH are the advertising managers Christine Haggart and Stephen

Prendergast. Ross Abernathy is temporarily absent and David Newton was last seen wandering through the Studass office. Unfortunately that was three days ago so hopes for his survival are not high. Lenin is sitting on the wall looking meaningful while Anthony Ward is recovering from an attack of delirium tremen contacted from doing something naughty with a duck, contrary to Section 143 para 11. Colin Phezler is at present in hospital after being run over by a steamroller - he's in wards 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27. Quentin draws are as ropy as ever. Lionel and Lynn Peck, as in chook, and Pete Conway are up to something or other which Bruce won't let me print. Salient is published by VUWSA and printed by Wanganui Printers Ltd, Drews Avenue, Wanganui. AND LET ME TELL YOU MASTURBATION IS PERFECTLY NORMAL AND HEALTHY SO THERE . . .

# SRC

by Anthony Ward

Last weeks SRC was one of the worst so far this year. An agenda containing several quite important motions was not touched upon as 'reports' occupied the entire meeting. The second hour was fruitful as it debated the complex and complicated question of the Standard Tertiary Bursary (STB), the first hour markedly less so, covering a couple of reports on University committees and then a series on what happened at NZUSA May Council at Hamilton.

The University committee reports weren't too bad, but the following reports on Council were allowed to waffle on for far too long - grounds for criticising the chairing of the meeting, especially when most of the ground had been covered in a Salient article. Hardly surprisingly, a large section of the audience had gone off on their merry ways by the time this was over at one o'clock.

Which started the debate on the STB. Most of this centred on the position of teachers training college students, who were facing severe pay cuts from circa \$2 500 to circa \$750. After a motion of support for the teacoll students was put forward debate ranged over an amendment that we shouldn't be supporting a return to salary levels but a push on from the STB with supplementary (and voluntary) bonded allowances. It is interesting that, despite Mr Tizard's statement in the Budget that 'there is no longer any justification for paying teachers college students higher allowances than other tertiary students' (p20-1) Mr Amos decided later on Thursday night to introduce the supplementary allowance.

The proposed amendment was generally opposed by people arguing:

1. student teachers are different from other students, having greater responsibilities and suffering greater control. Hence they should be paid more.

2. we shouldn't have a bonding system (this is now being discussed by STANZ and the Education Department).

3. any supplementary allowance, if voluntary, would favour the rich over the poorer backgrounds.

4. the union principle that VUWSA shouldn't interfere with STANZ's business.

Personally, I think 1 and 2 are irrelevant, and 3 and 4 misreading the situation concerning the two proposals being debated, but anyway the amendment was soundly defeated.

After a suggestion that we go on STANZ's proposed march on June 4 pushing VUWSA ideas was emasculated by deleting everything after June 4, Lisa in the chair steamrolled through a motion recommending a loan of \$2 000 to STANZ for a strike fund. It is to be hoped that, if the strike goes ahead, Exec will consider this matter more carefully than SRC managed to do.

Which just about brings us to two o'clock, the remaining time being taken up by a motion to extend the meeting to 2.15 which was eventually defeated at 2.03 (and hence after the meeting finished, officially).

About the only other thing of note was the start of the John Roseveare memorial chocolate fish awards to 1. the best speaker and 2. the best new speaker at each SRC, the prizes this time going to Colin Feslier and Ellen Forch respectively. Roll up all you chocolate fish lovers!

## ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

It is drawn to the attention of students that the University endeavours to provide special examination facilities for those with physical disabilities and for others in exceptional circumstances during the mid-year degree examinations. Students who wish to make use of such facilities should contact either the Examinations Officer in the Robert Stout Building, or one of the Student Welfare Servie staff members.

Students are advised to read the aegrotat regulations in the University Calendar. If in doubt whether to submit an aegrotat application, enquiries should be directed to the Liaison Officers or staff members mentioned above.

N.M. Scoones (Mrs)  
Examinations Officer.

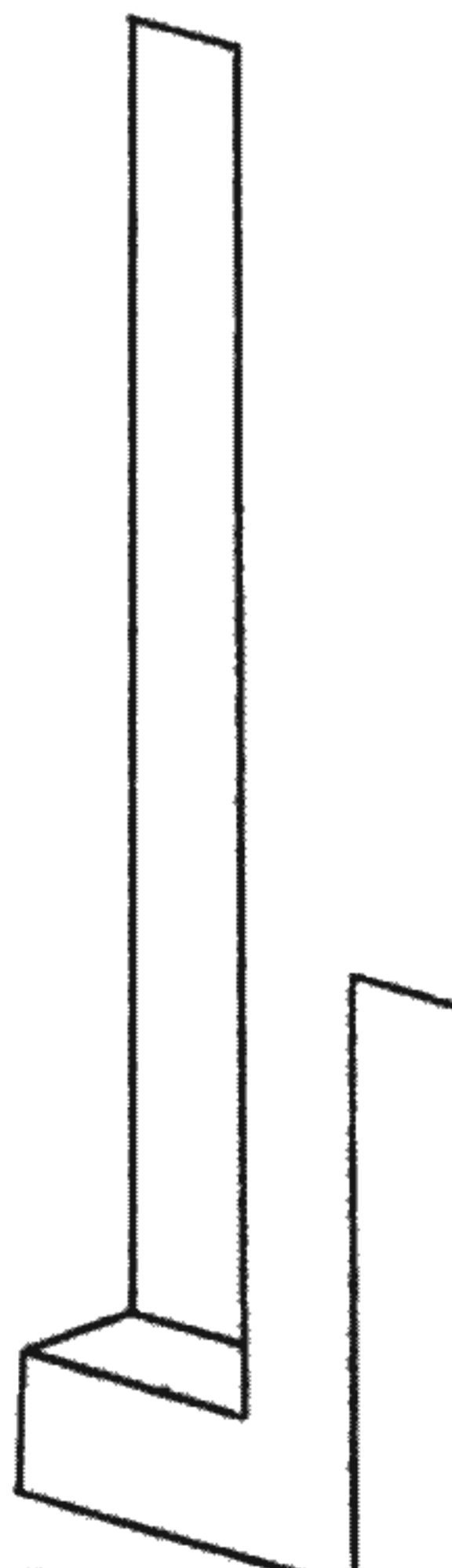
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# STUDENTS UNITE FOR CHANGE

by Paul Swain

The way in which changes in Sociology 301 have been brought about could be useful to students in other courses. A common complaint is that students have little or no say in how they are taught and how they are assessed. If education is to be something more than sitting in lecture halls, taking down screeds of notes, and handing back these notes in exams, then the question of student participation in courses is an important one — just as important as the subject matter itself. An initial step in achieving this has been taken by the students in Sosc 301.

## what we did

After the course had been under way for about three weeks, some people began to feel dissatisfied, not only with the way the course was being presented (boring, irrelevant, disjointed etc.), but also with the whole area of assessment. We weren't consulted on how we wanted to be assessed — the course was prescribed, and it was very much a "take it or leave it" policy. Consequently, a small group got together and decided to initiate a class discussion under three general headings — student representation, assessment and workloads.

The two main lecturers were approached, and they consented to give as much lecture time as was necessary to iron out these problems.

1. The initial outcome of the meeting was that everyone seemed dissatisfied — which suggests that if you feel slacked off about your course, odds on most people feel the same way. People thought that it was important to have student reps at the departmental level, where decisions affecting department and courses are made. Two student reps were elected, their job being to take the feelings of the class to these meetings and report back on any decisions made.

2. People also felt that the workload was excessive for a six credit course (3 pracs, 4 reports, 2 essays). Hence, together with staff, an alternative assessment system was worked out, aimed at

- i) Reducing the workload
- ii) Making the set work more relevant.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU'RE FEELING PISSED OFF WITH YOUR COURSE:

- Talk about your gripes with other people in the cafe, in tutorials or in lectures. You'll be surprised at the number of people who feel the same way.
- Suggest a class meeting and approach the staff about lecture time to discuss problems.
- Class reps can be a good investment — it's easier for two people to bargain than 200.
- Get in touch with Rod Prosser (the education officer) or bring your gripe up at SRC.
- Suggest that staff and students have a look at Chris Wainwright's paper 'Pols 213, A course evaluation'. This can be obtained at the Pols Sci Dept or on enquiry at the Studass office.

3. The next stumbling block was a letter from the administration advising Sosc 301 that, as an exam had been entered in the "Little Pink Timetable", we were all required to sit an exam at the end of the year. Everyone was violently opposed to this, and the class reps set about constructing a case to get the admin. decision rescinded. After pointing out that the Pink Timetable was not binding, that other course assessments had been adhered to during the year, and that staff and students were opposed to this archaic form of assessment, the admin. dropped the case.

4. A motion is to be put at SRC asking Prof. Board Reps to go into the question of the exam timetable.

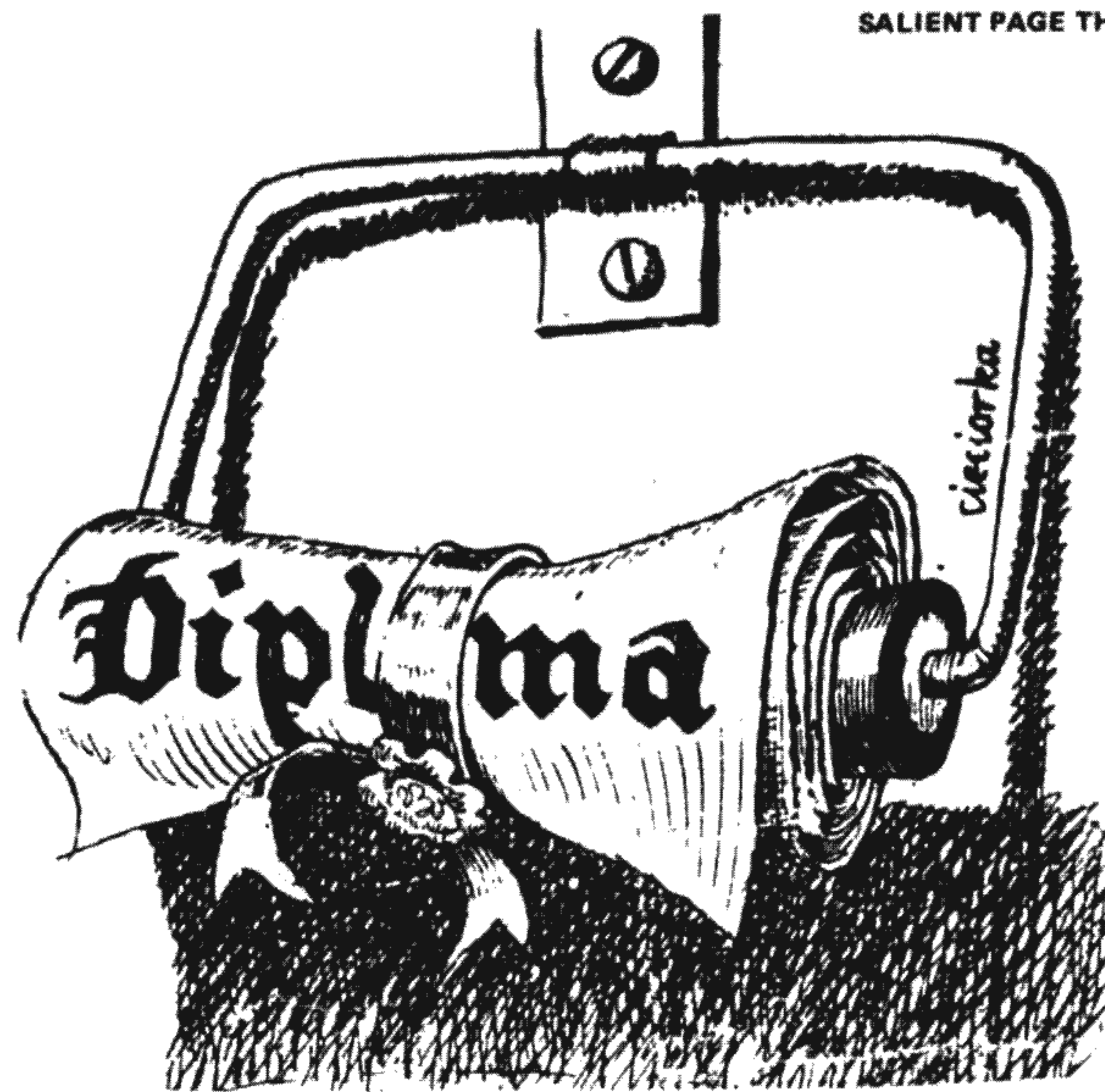
## why we did it

Firstly, evaluating what's being taught, how it's being taught and how people assess are all crucial questions. As is shown in Sosc 301, if people are braced off with the course, this will hinder the learning process. Often, by asking these sorts of questions, a lot more can be learnt about the nature of the subject than by sitting passively and absorbing boring monologues.

Secondly, as we found in Sosc 301, staff and students need not be in opposition to each other. The fact that often they are seen to be in opposition is a product of "The teacher knows everything, the student knows nothing" idea. Some staff in 301 were keen to discuss the course with us — in the long term, it is in the interests of both groups that this discussion takes place.

Thirdly, and most importantly, things don't get changed by individuals. In our case, we found that if people have a common complaint, and are prepared to stick together, then this in itself is a powerful bargaining force. But some organization is required if the force is to be effective.

Finally, before things can be changed, someone has to make the first move. Had a few people not taken the initial step in Sosc 301, we would all be doing meaningless assignments, and sitting a boring, worthless exam at the end of the year.



# THE MAD MAY MESS-UP

## ARTS FACULTY MEETING.

by John Ryall.

The Arts Faculty radically altered the academic lives of hundreds of students at its last meeting when it attempted to churn through 32 course regulation amendments for the 1976 Calendar.

Meetings of the Faculties of Arts, Languages and Literature are generally dull affairs with the order paper seldom containing more than three articles of interest and discussion only occasionally reaching any level of excitement.

However, during May departments suddenly realise that they have only a few weeks before course changes must be submitted if they are to apply for the following academic year. Consequently the faculties are bombarded with material.

The disturbing factor about this sudden rush of amendments is that courses are dropped or added, and departments are radically changed without consultation with students. The normal excuse: 'but there was no time!'

This year course regulation amendments were made in the departments of Anthropology, Asian Studies, German, Russian, Classics, Information Science, Religious Studies, Education, History and Political Science. Most of these were small adjustments which had been discussed well in advance (such as the division of German 1 into a six-credit course of German language and one of German literature), but others (such as the reconstruction of the History department, and changes in Anthropology) had either not been discussed in depth or certain staff members were pushing changes that they knew to be completely contrary to student opinion.

The Anthropology debacle concerned the rearrangement of ANTH 202 (Social Movements) into two courses, a general 200-level course on Social Change and a specific, more advanced 300-level course on Social Movements. These two courses would be held in alternate years. Unfortunately, the department did not realise the serious inconvenience for a student moving through the department during

the alternate year. A student doing stage 2 Anthropology in 1977 would be able to do ANTH 212 and still be able to do ANTH 307 in 1978, while a student at stage 1 in 1977 would have to do the more specific course first.

This problem was pointed out at the faculty meeting and the Anthropology department was led away with its tail between its legs after being told to come up with a better proposal enabling the stage 2 course on Social Change to be taught every year.

The amendments to the History department courses concerned the changing of 200 and 300 level courses from 4 credits to 6, the modification of the major subject requirement from 36 to 42 credits, and the abolition of the stage 1 Modern History course. There was general agreement on the change from 4 to 6 credits and a resigned acceptance for the abolition of Modern History, but the raising of the major subject requirement from 36 to 42 credits seemed to signal something a little deeper.

Many departments have in the past used the breakdown of units to credits as a chance to increase the amount of work expected of students. The History department seems to be going about it in a more subtle way. Without assessing whether the 4 credit courses already ask too much of students, the departments feels obliged to substantially increase the workload because of the additional two credits. The Department warns: 'we will ask more from students in three ways: more general reading, more written work (a third essay in most courses) and more clearly defined preparation for tutorials and seminars', while at the same time it says 'to do justice to the field students must feel less pressed than they have with 4 credit courses'.

Student representatives challenged whether there was any need for a workload increase and generally disagreed that there was a need for an increase in credits for the major, but the amendments were all eventually carried and the 1976 Calendar received a few more entries.



# From the Courts

Alan Parish remarked in an earlier column that maybe it is okay to leave things to the actors rather than the props in maintaining the status of that venerable institution, the Magistrate's Court. This has certain risks, from the fragments of speeches of counsel one picks up. Many are characterized by poorly developed logic and inadequate briefing.

"It should be noted that this was not a deliberate breach of the law," said one counsel cheerfully. Then, remembering a little of his legal education: "Of course this is no excuse for the offence, but . . . nonetheless it should . . . be considered."

The arguments of counsel are often surprisingly similar to those one would expect to be put forward by a ten-year-old. "If the complainant had not intervened in the matter, he would not have found himself in that predicament." Echoes of "He started it!"

Defence lawyers seem thoroughly rapt in the booze society mentality that someone who is drunk is not answerable for his action — a refinement, it seems, of the law on the mentally unfit. Counsel will stress that "the next thing he remembers" after committing the offence was "falling over the wall . . ." The implication always is that he did something rather silly whilst doing as thousands of others do and getting drunk on Saturday night. His actions, as such, are not stupid, irresponsible and dangerous; they are: "sheer bravado", or some other innocuous phrase.

Those first-year law students currently struggling with this business of "issue-finding" will doubtless be pleased

to know that it appears to be possible to be admitted to the bar and start practising in the Magistrate's Court without having mastered this basic art. So frequently does the Magistrate ask the questions on vital facts that one wonders if it would make much difference to M.C. justice if we adopted an inquisitorial system (where the Magistrate would be responsible for establishing the facts and making a decision accordingly) rather than the present adversary one. It should not have to be the Magistrate who points out to the police that, if it is vital to their case that the paint on bumper A matches that on car B, they should have sent samples to the D.S.I.R. and had it confirmed. Surely this is good ground for the rawest defence lawyer.

Especially on mornings where cases are being run through fairly fast, it is not uncommon for the defendant to be stood down because his lawyer is not present. When they do turn up it eventuates that they previously went to the wrong courtroom, or mislaid the papers, or some such silly thing. Doubtless they would all scream "overwork" at these comments, but there are limits to the tolerance one can grant this excuse. Some of their poor preparation and organization is more likely due to inefficiency, muddle-headedness, and a high golf-playing propensity. This is all very human of them but has not so-frivolous implications for the execution of summary justice.

As one conciliatory gesture I will admit that I have not yet seen enough Court cases to know whether the above criticisms apply to most Magistrate's Court lawyers or just some — but some is sufficient to be of concern.

One of the more time-consuming types of case that come before the Magistrate's Court are shoplifting offences (time-consuming, compared with the one case per ten minutes on traffic mornings). Two that I have seen were defended with the assertion that the shopper had forgotten to present the goods at the checkout

counter, and, on being confronted, was amazed, repentant etc., offering to pay for the goods, apologizing and so forth. Both women charged were acquitted, on grounds that deserve some examination.

Motive: the Magistrate could see no possible reason why a woman with eighty dollars in her purse would shoplift. This is fair enough, except United States research has shown that financial motivation frequently does not exist among shoplifters. They may just steal because it is a rather adventurous thing to do, because they like something but don't think it's a worthwhile price, or for assorted obscure reasons (this is U.S. research I'm citing) like a grudge against a shop employee. However, while Magistrates aren't experts on every social phenomenon, neither are American researchers, so the point is of limited validity.

Character evidence: Great stuff this. "It is just inconceivable to me that she would be guilty of such an offence." It must be a puzzle for magistrates to decide how much weight to give to the opinion of the friendly neighbourhood cleric or trusting employer. They are not in contact with the facts of the case — they don't alter the "did she or didn't she?" aspect. They give their view on the likelihood based on their experience of her which may not be a very accurate representation of her true personality. Despite these limitations, the social appearance of someone who will be deemed a criminal if found guilty must be of concern to the Magistrate.

There seems to be very little point in taking defended shoplifting actions against suburban-housewife type women. The defendant, if acquitted, will lose a lot of sleep and probably as much in lawyer's fees as she would ever have paid in fines. If convicted, she may for her misadventure lose what stable social status she has and imperil future job-hunting endeavours. Magistrates are

understandably unwilling to convict a woman with no previous form of a trivial but shameful offence. On top of this the supermarket loses in giving its employees time off work to go and give evidence. The Court schedule, already loaded with a six to eight month delay, has another hour or more slotted into it per case. It seems to me that while the general principle that people should be tried if suspected of an offence is sound, in the sort of shoplifting case above it turns into a futile and unnecessary waste of resources.

Deborah Mabbett.



## HART 'WELCOME' FOR GUESTS

by John Henderson

The South African consul-general Phillip threw a party recently. He has one of these things every year to celebrate South Africa Independence Day, known to HART supporters as the birthday of Apartheid. Traditionally, HART sends down a delegation to 'welcome' the invited guests, and this year was no exception. By the time the first Mercedes Benz had slunk into the Overseas Terminal, there were about 40 HART supporters assembled outside, as well as three police cars and six policemen trying vainly to look efficient and warning off venture-some demonstrators with the words 'you can't go in - it's a private function'. We are not disputing the fact that it was a private function (any function to which local are invited is by its very definition private - they seem to have a paranoia about average everyday citizens coming in to see what they are up to. And wouldn't you if you were actively supporting the breaking of the Declaration of Human Rights?). What we are upset about

is the fact that the Harbour Board allowed such an obviously and inhumane group to assemble on its property in the first place.

Among the first to sidle in was the well known from the Rugby Union, Vince Paino, followed closely by that remarkable Jack Sullivan. Several senior citizens (sorry, Public Servants) greased in to the tune of much jeering and swearing from the ranks of the demonstrators, now numbering about 60. Several other 'people' came in a little later, including the leader of our obnoxious Opposition, who squatted in the back of his mobile sty, a piggy smile upon his piggy face, followed by Landslide Comber in his discreet red Hillman Humber, grease and other unknown fatty substances dripping from his badly-laundered hair, and finally someone similar to if not the same as the ex-South Vietnamese ambassador who was greeted by cries of 'fascist...racist...prick'. When the last of the had gone in, the demonstration disbanded, leaving the pigs to wallow in their crepes suzettes, and knowing full well that their days as oppressors are numbered.

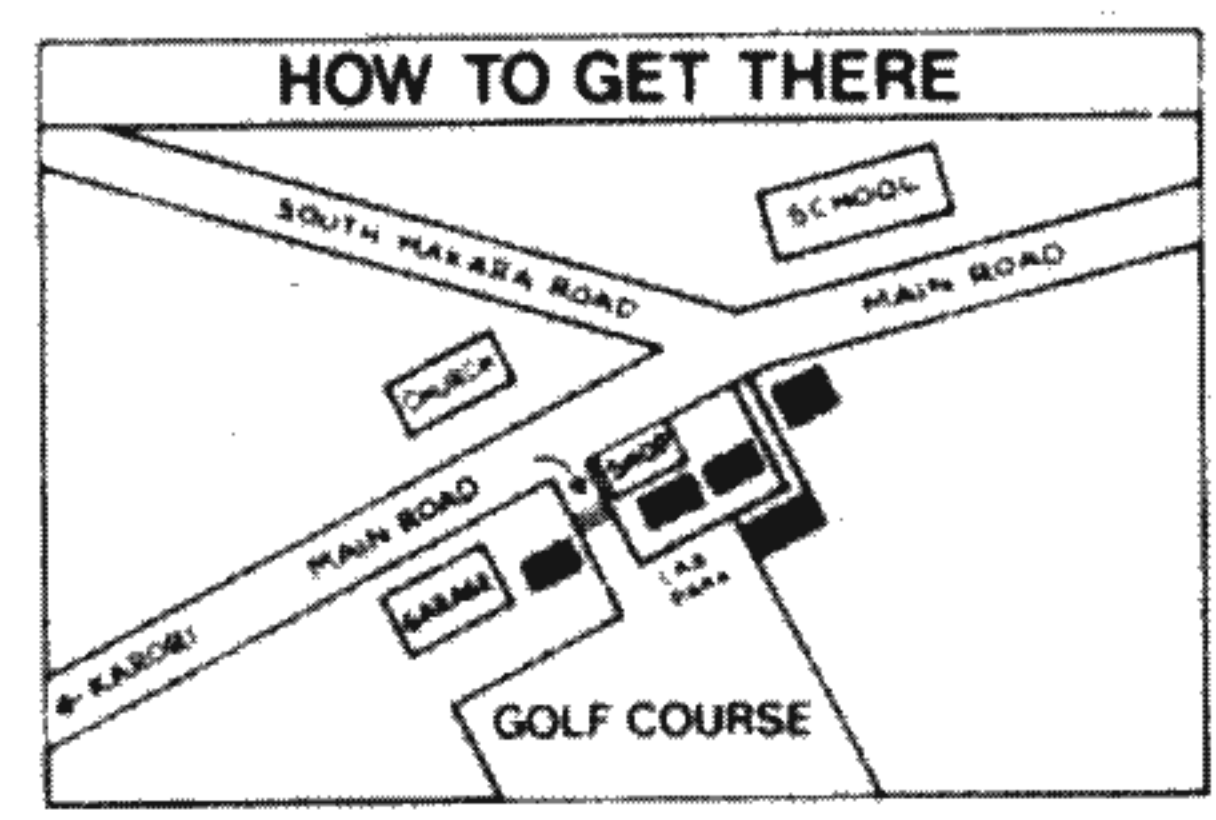


Ken Comber

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# OVERSEAS STUDENTS CONGRESS

by Bryony Hales

Overseas Students' Congresses are held every two years, traditionally at Curious Cove, but this year the 70 overseas and 15 Kiwi-students spent the 5 days at Knocknagree Camp, west of Auckland, flanked by vineyards and orchards. As well as a change from the traditional site, there was a change from the traditional emphasis on Overseas students' welfare, to international affairs.

By the time I arrived from May Council, Congress, discussions, Radio 'K', cooking and eating were in full swing. During the day before I arrived, there had already been sessions on South America, Indochina, Malaysia/Singapore and showing of films, which was an indication of the pace and enthusiasm continued through the Congress. I have not felt such liveliness and warm community among students for a long time - even during the 'rest' day Radio K blared out news reports, Western and Chinese music, and continued weather reports, and discussion continued without the meeting structure. Apart from the regular sessions planned, and Radio K, there were planned and unplanned mealtimes and at times 3 bookstalls operating to occupy time.

I cannot comment on all the wide-ranging discussion held on the South Pacific, religious traditions, South Africa etc. etc. The encouraging aspect of almost every discussion was the emphasis on change and how to work effectively for change. This was obvious in the session on aid, and government sponsorship of students, where the Columbo plan was discussed and also the NZ government's attitude to granting political asylum to students. In the session on religion, an argument

developed between those who saw religion as an essential part of their culture, and those who saw religious traditions as reactionary, hindering the progress of their country.

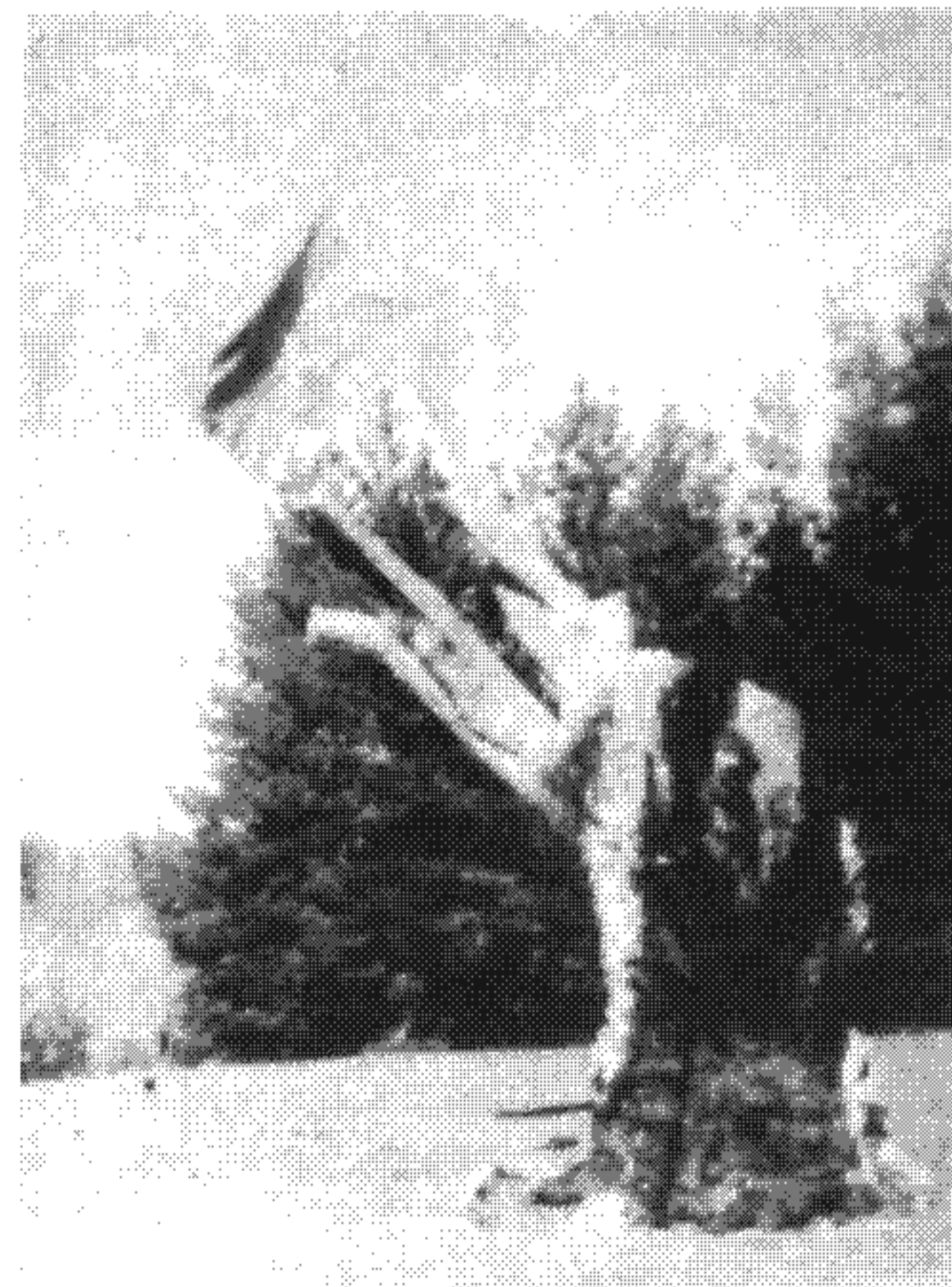
The discussion on Maori politics showed sensitivity and solidarity towards the Maori people unusual among students, and similarly with the discussion of NZ 'aid' to the South Pacific and immigrant workers.

One of the most useful discussions for me, especially since I had come directly from an NZUSA council, was the session on student politics. A brief outline of NZUSA was given, and then discussion developed around the ideas of campus

democracy and participation, in particular as it affects overseas students. There is always a conflict when working in student associations between seeking out contacts who will work in positions, and thereby fall into working in an elitist and undemocratic way, or relying on democratic procedures to get participation which often fails. Importance was seen in getting overseas students active socially on campus, which can lead into political activity. Victoria's International Evenings were seen as a good example of this, and similar ones may be set up on other campuses.

Every evening after the formal sessions, film showings continued until one or two a.m. to amazingly alert audiences.

One of the criticisms of Congress was that it was dominated by Malaysians and Singapore students, naturally enough since since probably 75% of those there were Malaysian or Singaporeans. This was felt particularly by the Fijian students, who stayed for the session on Fiji, prepared a hangi and then disappeared. This was a disappointing reaction (especially since one was sponsored by the VUWSA)



and did not contribute constructively. The criticism should not be of those students who did attend Congress and by sheer weight of numbers, hard work and enthusiasm dominated it, but of those overseas and Kiwi students who felt no motivation to participate.

The change of emphasis from an Overseas Students Congress to an International Affairs Congress has also been criticised. Although I have no experience of former congresses to compare this one with, this Congress was a huge success in terms of enthusiastic participation in all ways - and also organisation, cooking, cleaning etc. - and also learning about other cultures and politics. The success of a Congress can be seen in terms of resolutions passed and follow-up action, but for me this is minimal. The real value of this Congress was in the contacts and friendships made, a deeper understanding of overseas students' backgrounds, difficulties and hopes, especially for the few Kiwi students who attended, and in the new enthusiasm for working among students encouraged by feedback at Congress.



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9 - 12 and 2 - 5

Weekdays



# If at first you do succeed ...

*Last week we published a copy of Gerald Wall's proposed Amendment to Venn Young's Crimes Amendment Bill. The reaction was instant outrage, and a meeting was held on Tuesday 27th, with speakers from a number of groups, to decide on action against it. Gerald Wall attended this meeting and replied to criticisms; the reception was vociferously antagonistic.*

But just how do you counter something like this? To state pages of the obvious - inhuman, repressive, Mediaeval? It seemed so. A rousing call to arms, echo of Tuesday night's meeting; a demand that supporters and opponents of Venn Young's Bill join forces before Wall has padlocked our lips forever. "I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Who could fail to respond to such a call?

Well, Gerry Wall for one. Which made me think again... after all, he can't be the only one; doubtless there is a large number of people who believe that he is sincerely responding to a social need, and these people are not going to be swayed by a catalogue of the obvious, since they must have recognized it already and, for some reason, rejected it.

No. The call-to-arms polarizes; convinces two sides that they are right - a trap into which many of Tuesday night's speakers, and all of the interjectors, fell, to Wall's delight. Making emotional pleas and puns on his name only has effect when there is no opposition present. So, instead, I shall attempt - as far as is possible without physically gouging out both my eyes - to study the problem from Wall's point of view.

First: strip off non-essentials. In response to questions, Wall said that the 20 year age limit was chosen because that was the age limit in the Select Committee's recommendations (i.e. you're not allowed to know about it until you can do it); and he also said that "parents" could be added to those permitted to pass on the facts of life, although he claims it to be unnecessary since parents are permitted by the Courts to get away with anything anyway (i.e. the law is so imprecise anyway that one more vague Amendment won't make much difference).

Anyway, we need therefore concern ourselves solely with Wall's central

intention: that "minors" must be protected from learning, by any means, that some people believe homosexuality to be "normal" (or something like it), thereby inducing a similar belief in the said minors. Why does he believe this? Why does he think it necessary to protect young people from such opinions, while not protecting them from the inescapable facts that murder, violence, hatred, rape, extortion, corruption and other undesirable traits are rife in human society and may therefore be thought of as "normal"? Telling someone that homosexuality has been observed to occur in every known society (fact) is "likely" to lead some under 20's to reach the conclusion that homosexuality is therefore "normal". Presumably Dr Wall is also saying that the fostering of such a belief is liable to make them think that there is nothing wrong with committing homosexual acts, and so they may act accordingly. Now, of course, many of us see this as a sign of normal, healthy experimentation which has no permanent effect and can do nothing but good. But it is not relevant to this case. Suppose you do think that homosexuality is to be avoided like murder, rape, and the rest; is telling someone that it is "normal", by publishing a book for instance, likely to lead a heterosexual youth into homosexual behaviour? Well, when you heard that 50% of U.S. farm labourers have at some time committed bestiality, did you rush off and screw a pig?

So why has Wall done it? (I mean produced the Amendment). At Tuesday night's meeting he gave his major reasons.

ONE: The Speijer Report, which was good enough to convince the Dutch Parliament that homosexuality is harmless, is not good enough to convince Dr Wall. He doesn't believe it when it says that you cannot change someone's sexuality after a very early age.

TWO: There have been lots of letters from irate parents saying -

*I'm not going to vote for you in November because you support that nasty Bill which is going to let all those pansies and poofters do what they like and go round telling my little Johnny that there's nothing wrong with it. What are you going to do about stopping him from turning into a queer too?*

And there, dear friends, we have the reason. The comment made at the

meeting rings true: Dr Wall's mind is like an adding machine. Or perhaps a pinball machine which offers a three-year replay when you reach the total of 15,000 votes or so.

However, Dr Wall, among others, probably rests with an easy conscience, for those who do not like his measures are wont to attack him on two apparently contradictory grounds. Firstly, he is accused of neglecting the wishes of his electorate when he passes something they don't want; but on the other hand he is accused of vote-grabbing when he gives them something they do want, but is thought harmful by more educated groups. But there is no contradiction, for an MP has two broad duties: The first, the easy one, is to follow the will of the people who elected him whenever his decisions will be in the limelight. The second is usually reserved for the Minister of Finance, who is generally accepted to know more than the average bod about money: it is to use the research facilities available to him to find out whether public opinion is based on justified belief. And I think that even Dr Wall will admit that the belief that there is something wrong with a person, or something dangerous, if that person is homosexual, is a completely false belief - more, a harmful belief which is wrecking the lives of thousands of people.

Here is a reply to the above letter. It is the sort of reply Dr Wall would write if he were a man of courage rather than one fond of his job.

*Dear Mrs Smith,  
I'm sorry, but Johnny will*

*just have to learn the facts of life: all sorts of people have different opinions, and we can't stop people expressing an opinion which we know to be harmless. Please rest assured that current medical opinion is convinced that you can't talk someone into being a homosexual; you can only talk him into performing homosexual acts, which is firstly covered by various Acts protecting minors and secondly cannot change what he is anyway. Why is it that you have no fear that you daughters will be talked into committing lesbian acts? Your suggestion that we should prohibit people from telling him that it is normal is not only pointless but will cause far more misery than it will prevent.*

Oh well... we can always dream. But now we know Dr Wall's motives, and the fallacies behind his argument, it is time we all acted. Even those who are not in favour of accepting homosexuality are still supporting our demand for the freedom to talk about it. Before we see New Zealand's version of the Tennessee Monkey Trial, and before two thirds of all organizations concerned in any way with civil liberties find themselves in gaol, we must act. Write to your MP and tell him not to support it - if you don't think letters work, read back and ask yourself why we've got the Amendment in the first place. And, finally, come and support the picket.

PICKET PARLIAMENT  
6:30 p.m. WED 11th JUNE  
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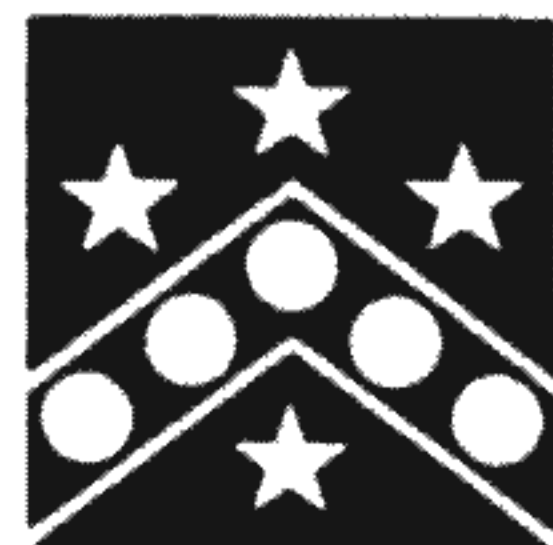
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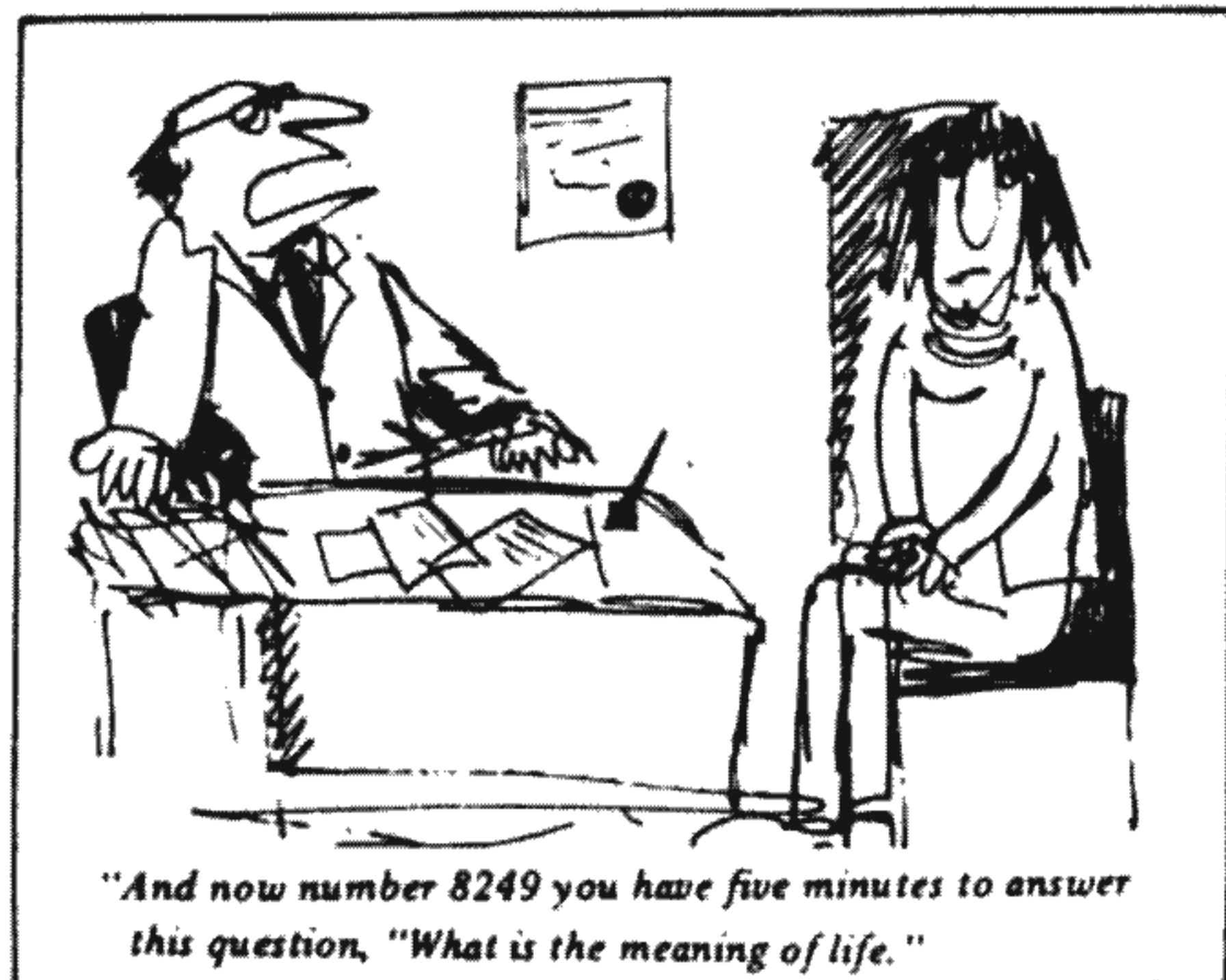


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# ASSESSMENT



## HOW DO YOU REALLY GRADE ?

by  
David Tabakow.

The other day a colleague and I were sitting around the English office feeling rather depressed, so we started talking about how we grade papers. That is, we started talking about how we really graded papers as opposed to our theories about the matter. This is a subject that teachers normally shy away from thinking about — with good reason. That way lies madness, or at least the kind of moroseness that inspired this article.

When I first started thinking about my grading, one of the more disturbing things I noticed was the way in which my perceptions change as I mark papers. I start with a certain level of insight about a particular work, and of course, judge the papers on the basis of what I know. But as I read paper after paper about the same work, naturally I pick up the insights offered in each essay. Now no one paper may add very much to my story, but it is a safe assumption that when I have read fifteen student essays on the same subject my understanding of the work is invariably considerably greater than it was when I started grading. When I mark the sixteenth paper I am quick to notice *any* point from *all* the previous papers which is not included and to accordingly penalize the writer for his superficial understanding. By the twenty-fifth paper I know even more and things are even tougher for the writer of number twenty-six. You see the point. The sooner I grade a paper the higher the mark is likely to be, because I don't know as much and consequently don't have as high standard at the beginning as I do later. Now you can simply tell me to be careful and to catch myself each time I fall into this pattern, but that just doesn't work. To catch yourself requires that you monitor yourself, and as every elementary psychology text will tell you, human beings are rather poor monitors. They are even poorer than usual when they are tired, which brings me to another point.

When I decided to write about grading I kept a record of my reactions to the papers I was marking at the time. I suspected that the more papers I graded on a given day, the more harsh and irritated would become my reaction to each succeeding essay. Surprisingly enough, this doesn't seem to be what actually happened. I found that as the day progressed I had less and less reaction of *any* kind to the papers. After I've graded twenty essays I have no interest in anything except getting rid of the pile of papers in front of me, and the more essays I grade the fewer comments of any sort I put on them.

Actually, all my comments, especially those at the end of the essay, tend to be pretty formalistic anyway. If the paper gets a high grade, I first say something about it being good, mention one point that should have been talked about more, and again say that the paper was good. An actual example: "In general, a good paper. I think you could have explained more of the nature of Mersault's revelation that he must control his own life and how this revelation relates to Camus' views, but your paper demonstrates a good understanding of the novel." If it is a bad essay, I'm a little more explicit about what's wrong, but I don't give any suggestions as to how to improve things. For example: "This paper is underdeveloped. It seems that you are primarily interested in why the tradition of the lottery was allowed to continue, but you didn't really get into the subject very deeply."

Perhaps even as I have presented each problem you have been able to immediately suggest solutions to it. I could eliminate the problem of grading consecutive papers on the same subject with increasing harshness by simply reading through all the papers once before I graded any of them. Similarly, the solution to the problems caused by grading too many papers on the same day is not to grade too many papers on the same days. And the comments on papers can be made more meaningful by considering each paper in more detail and expanding the scope of my remarks. All of these suggestions have merit, but if you teach you already know what's wrong with them. There just isn't time. I simply could not get my work done if I were to grade papers in anything other than a cursory fashion. The idea that I can seriously consider and evaluate 150 papers four, five or six times in half a year is ridiculous. An hour is certainly not an unreasonable amount of time to devote to an essay which has taken the student five, ten or twenty hours to write. Assuming a norm of 150 students, spending one hour per paper would require grading 35 to 40 hours per week *in addition* to all the other responsibilities of teaching. Even if this herculean task were physically possible, it would be psychologically unwise. At a certain point one would once more be back in the too-many-papers-per-day syndrome. What's left? Shall we give fewer papers but grade them more thoroughly? At the level I teach (1st year university), students should probably write a short essay every week or two, say twenty during the year. Four or five essays are just not sufficient to teach them how to write effectively.

If all this seems pretty grim, there's worse to follow. All of the problems I have raised thus far stem from the fact that I have too many papers to grade to be able to grade them well. But as I will try to make clear, there are many disagreeable aspects to grading that would remain even if I had only one paper to grade.

I have observed that although I'm always displeased to find a long paper (more work) I very rarely give it a really low grade, and although I'm always pleased to find a short paper I very rarely give it a really high grade. I have another "rule" which I'm generally not consciously aware of. I give a "B" to anything I don't understand unless it's exceptionally poorly written, in which case I fail it, or exceptionally well written, in which case I give it an "A" and desperately look for one point I can criticize as a justification for not giving the paper and "A". Thinking it over, I realize that by far the most important criterion of my grading is writing style. By that I mean that the smoother your transitions, the more flowing your syntax, the more urbane your diction, the higher will be your grade, almost regardless of content. I (unconsciously, of course) make the assumption that everyone who writes well understands literature well (which may even be true), and vice versa (which most certainly is not true).

Is there any connective factor in all these grading problems? It seems to me that there is. My first reaction to all papers is self-defense. I try to protect myself so that no authority can criticize me for my grading. Of course, it is always easier to justify a low mark on a short paper rather than a long one. And it's always good to give a fairly high mark to what I don't understand, just to be on the safe side. I think the sub-consciousness mental processes at work here are revealed most clearly when I consider my reactions to writing style. No student who expresses himself poorly ever gets a good grade from me. There is a very single reason for this. As soon as I see sentences which are syntactically obscure or grammatically incorrect, I decide the writer is stupid and therefore I don't really pay much attention to what he's saying since it obviously isn't going to be any good. I am afraid of the personal consequences for myself of my work, so the idea that I might give a poor mark to a good paper and have my incompetence revealed is a recurring nightmare. In fact, when a good student complains because he feels his grade on an essay was too low, I find the whole situation extremely threatening. Now whatever else it signified, writing ability is clearly related to general verbal ability, and, in general, people who write well are likely to also speak well. Ergo, people who write well are to be feared in any verbal encounter so it is safest not to give them low grades. On the other hand, if I give a low mark to a student who writes poorly, it is unlikely that he will be able to make a very effective case against me to the authorities. It is as simple as that.

Well, perhaps you feel that the answer to the set of problems I have posed is my personal psychotherapy. As a result of various insecurities, inadequacies, etc., I am simply not capable of the objectivity required in teaching. When I first began teaching I did, in fact, feel very strongly that this was the case. However, as time has passed my feelings have modified, because over and over again, I have been pleasantly surprised to find that my grading is much in line with everyone else's. That is, my colleagues and I are usually in general agreement as to what grade a particular essay deserves. Now there seems to be a remarkable coincidence here if other teachers grade essentially in content and I grade on style. Either I'm a better grader than I think I am or they're worse. I suspect that it's the latter. I suspect that every English teacher grades essentially on style. I have absolutely no way of proving this. I am only certain it is true. I am certain it is true because it seems to me that it follows from the nature of the task. The task of grading, *judging* someone else, is very anxiety producing. The idea that I can judge what you have learned, what took place inside your head during the last six months is an absurdity. But there it is — A, B, C, D, or F the university demands. I suspect that secretly none of us really feel up to it, and that's reasonable enough because no one except the student himself can possibly judge the quality of what is finally an intensely personal experience. Playing God tends to make us, as I said, anxious, and to bring out feelings of insecurity and inadequacy. So we react in some of the ways I have discussed earlier. Again I point out that all of this is usually sub-conscious, and the teacher knows only that the subject of grading papers is one he doesn't care to think or talk about too much.

Let us suppose that all I have been saying is true. It should be clear that without fundamental changes in the whole conception of education and the teacher's function, very little can be done to alleviate these conditions. Then what are we to do? The only suggestion that I can make is that perhaps we should tell our students the basis on which we *really* grade their papers. But I don't think I have the nerve to.

David Tabakow teaches English Literature at Vanier College, an English CEGEP in the Montreal area.







The following interview with Israel Shahak was given to *Intercontinental Press* in Jerusalem this February. Shahak, the chairman of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, came to Israel in 1945 as a refugee from Bergen Belsen concentration camp. He was a supporter of Zionism until his views were changed by his experiences in the army during and after the June 1967 war. Since then, Shahak has played an increasingly prominent role in defending democratic rights inside Israel. The interview was conducted in English.

*Question. In the mass media in the United States and in most West European countries Israel is portrayed as a democratic society. What is your opinion?*

*Answer.* My opinion is that this is the greatest deception of the twentieth century; and I am not speaking about hidden matters. I am speaking about completely official matters. Israel is about as apartheid as South Africa in reality. It is simply more hypocritical and more able to shape United States public opinion.

For example, take the official statistical abstract of Israel for 1974, which is issued by the Israeli Board of Statistics. If you open it at any table, let's say the table of births, deaths, infant deaths, and so on, you'll see that officially in Israel there are no Israelis. That is the first deception. When the *New York Times* or other United States newspaper uses the word Israeli, they are lying, because inside Israel there are no Israelis. There are Jews, and non-Jews.

When Israeli statistics report how many infants have died in Israel, you will not find any statistics about Israeli infants. You will find Jewish infants and you will find non-Jewish infants. Sometimes you will find a total or a grand total. You will never find Israelis.

And it is not only for infants. If you look, for example, at the statistics on Israeli potatoes, you will see the potatoes from Jewish farms, and you will see potatoes from non-Jewish farms. There are no Israeli potatoes in Israel. This is the definition of the Jewish state.

That isn't the only thing. If you go to any place where there are so-called twin cities, like Nazareth and New Nazareth, you will see that the old Nazareth is an open city. Anyone can come, and buying or selling or by agreement can dwell there. But in New Nazareth, the so-called Upper Nazareth, to obtain a flat you have to bring proof that you are a Jew.

A society in which such a thing is required for more than 90 per cent of its inhabited areas has no other name than an apartheid society. Exactly the same proof is required in Johannesburg. The only difference is that people know about Johannesburg, but not about Nazareth.

This goes for many other areas too. For example, you now have an official plan in Israel for what is called the "Judaization" of Galilee. This means that the government thinks that there are too many Arabs in Galilee, so it has decided officially and openly to confiscate some of their land, convert it into pure Jewish land, and settle only Jews there.

*Q. A few of the key areas where the oppression of Black people in the United States is most readily apparent are jobs, housing and education. What is the*

*situation within Israel in those areas, in comparison with that of the Jewish citizens?*

It is much worse than the situation of the Blacks in the United States, because the oppression and discrimination here is legal. To say it's legal means that the system of quotas against the Arabs operates in complete legality, without any legal recourse.

About ten days ago, for example, I read published protests from Arab students from the Bar-Ilan University. It's a religious Jewish university near Tel Aviv. The Arab students complained that the secret police prevented them from forming a committee to represent them. They said that the university has openly declared that any Arab student who does not sign a declaration that he is against the Arab students having a committee of their own will not receive a subsidy for his housing or any other social needs. I think such an open declaration would be impossible in New York.

Another thing is that every Jewish student who can bring proof that his is from a family having more than four children immediately gets an almost total deduction of his fees. But an Arab student, even if he can bring proof that he is from a family of twelve

or fourteen, will never get any sort of deduction. Family deductions are applied only to Jews. And this is done openly, not secretly.

And a third thing: the university openly uses a negative quota against Arabs in many faculties. In some faculties, for example, geography and geology, Arabs are completely forbidden to enter. Again openly. And the number of Arabs who can live in the student housing project is zero.

The same thing goes for municipal grants. Every Jewish municipality receives a government grant of about 140 to 150 Israeli pounds per year per inhabitant. The same grant for Arab municipalities is 7 to 20 pounds per year per inhabitant, and the rest of the Arabs receive 7 to 10. Again it is open and legal.

We are on a much lower level than the Blacks in the United States because there is no recourse. No one can even do the same sort of job that the NAACP does in the United States. There is no possibility of bringing any case about discrimination, even the most blatant, to any court, because in Israel there is no law forbidding discrimination against non-Jews. On the contrary, all discrimination against non-Jews is completely legal.

*Q. What about in the cities? What evidence can you give about housing discrimination?*

A. Cities in Israel are of two kinds. There are the bigger cities, like Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and so on, which are built on private land. There each landlord can discriminate or not as he wants.

But there is another category of cities, those built on land owned by the Jewish National Fund, in which everyone has to discriminate. In

Upper Nazareth, even if there are landlords who would like to rent a flat to an Arab, they are forbidden to do so by law. And if they do it in a hidden way, once it is discovered they are taken to court and heavily fined for breaking their contract.

*Q. What about discrimination in the area of schooling at the pre-University level?*

A. First of all there are two completely separate school systems in Israel, and Hebrew one and an Arabic one. They are separated in statistics, as I said before, but they are also separated in other things.

First of all the Arab school system is heavily discriminated against in every material area: no buildings, or bad buildings; almost no laboratories; bad teachers; bad teachers-aides.

The most important discrimination is in the area of schooling itself. The Arab students have to learn an enormous amount of Hebrew literature — including Hebrew religious material, The Bible, the Talmud, and so on — as well as Zionist literature, both in Hebrew and Arabic translations. The Koran is taught less than 10 per cent of the time allotted to the Old Testament. All Arabic literature written

# Land of milk

after the year 1800 is prohibited..

Even from the older literature there is a very heavy concentration on poems praising the beauties of nature and so on. All poems that can be interpreted as nationalistic, even in a remote way, are prohibited. Most European literature and all Asian literature — the literature of classical China, for example — is also prohibited. They have to learn Hebrew literature instead. And of course they have to pass examinations in it. If they do not pass them they are prohibited from going any further.

*Q. What is the situation in schools in the big cities where there are both Arab and Jewish communities?*

A. Completely separated. There is a school for Arabs, and there is a school for Jews. Jews are completely prohibited from sending their children to Arab schools, but Arabs can sometimes obtain permits to send their children to a Jewish school. Not in their own area, however, but in a different area, especially to a school in a different village, where there will be one Arab in a class of about a hundred Jews. Even this needs very special permission.

*Q. What about discrimination in jobs?*

A. Here the discrimination is like that in the United States. There is no legal discrimination, but you will find hardly any Arabs in what are called the nicer jobs. The Israeli Arabs predominate in three kinds of jobs. First, unskilled agricultural work. Second, unskilled or semiskilled construction work. Third, the lower-paying jobs in the services, such as washing dishes.

*Q. When the Arab people protest against these*



conditions, what oppression do they face?

Inside Israel the oppression of Arabs takes several aspects. First of all, one has to remember that in the so-called democracy in the Middle East we still have the military regulations of 1945 by which the military authorities can arrest, imprison, exile, or limit the movement of any Israeli. However, these regulations are employed solely against Arabs. No Israeli Jew, including those who advocate terror, will ever be, let's say, exiled or imprisoned without trial. But many Arabs who advocate co-operation with Jews or who are leftist, are imprisoned or exiled without trial.

For example, when an Arab friend of mine began to just sympathise with-Trotskyist group he was arrested without trial and given thirty-five days in a punishment cell in complete isolation without books or reading material. I should point out that punishment cells in Israeli prisons are especially horrible. The size can be something like one yard by two and a half yards, which means that the bed or lying space on the floor takes up nearly all the cell. The place where the man has to make use of the toilet is also inside this cell.

Practically every Israeli Arab who becomes sympathetic to any leftist group faces something similar. For example, take what is happening right now with another of my friends — Naif Salim — a poet in the village of Pekiin. He is a truck driver, and the truck he operates is from the town of Acre. A few months ago he received an order forbidding him to leave his village, so of course he cannot operate his truck. He cannot even go to Acre to bring it back home. He has six children and now has to live on the charity of his neighbours. All this is not only without a trial, but without a charge. There are literally thousands of such examples.

*Q. What recent developments do you think are important to note?*

A. The most important development is the growing realization of the Israeli-Arab youth, especially the students, but also other young people influenced by the students. I mean now people who were born in Israel, who know Hebrew, who are socially integrated into their corresponding Jewish groups.

This is the first time that there has been a significant number of Arab students in the universities. Now they are organizing, as I mentioned in the case of the Bar-Ilan university. When they are persecuted they take their case to the village, or to the little town they came from, and ask their people from the village to defend them

In addition, the activists among the students are called in for talks with the secret police and threatened. When the "talks" are not successful, their parents or their uncles or their cousins are called in, and they are threatened. So every student activist knows that because he is active in the student movement, an uncle who might, for example, work for a Jew in the neighbouring village be dismissed. Again, there is no legal recourse.



Israel Shahak

*Q. What about the situation in the occupied territories?*

A. It is much worse, because there the people have no rights at all. In particular, they have no right to organize. At least the Arab students in Tel Aviv still have a committee that is active. All committees, parties, organizations, trade unions, and so on are completely prohibited in the occupied territories. Any political activity, even closing the shops in protest, is prohibited.

The number of people being arrested is really enormous. During demonstrations in the conquered territories, Israeli occupation authorities are quite

in the conquered territories, everyone knows that the delegates of Israeli democracy can come to a family in the early hours, at 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the morning, their favourite time. They can take the father, give him literally half an hour to pack, and then take him to the Jordanian or Lebanese border, exile him from his family, and forbid him ever to return. You see, unification of families applies only to USSR Jews. It doesn't apply to Palestinians. And as a matter of fact, Palestinians have no rights to be united with their families here.

A third thing is that the brutality of the police, the military police and the army units is far greater in the occupied territories than in Israel. In Israel, even if there are beatings, they would be usually short. The people in the occupied territories, to the best of my knowledge, are horribly tortured.

*Q. What has been the impact among the Arab people, both those who are citizens of Israel and those who live in the occupied territories, of the recognition of the PLO at the UN?*

A. It had a very great impact in both cases, but a different one. Arabs know quite well the realities of Israeli society. They know that Israel is still a very strong state that has a very powerful army and very powerful support from the United States government. Therefore, in my opinion, their hopes weren't aroused very much. In the conquered territories, however, there was a big wave of hope among the very great majority of the population. They thought that this United Nations business would immediately cause the Israelis to retreat from the territories, which of course didn't happen, and in my opinion won't happen for some time.

A second difference is that in the occupied territories most of the people living in the villages are not yet very conscious politically. In many areas, such as in the south of the West Bank, in the Hebron area, the hold of the feudal leaders is very strong.

Nevertheless, in spite of everything, 99 percent of the population in the conquered territories now regard the PLO as its complete representative. Or rather, not the PLO itself, but the majority of the population would say they'd vote for Yasir Arafat. It amounts to the same thing but — and I say it in criticism — with the recognition of the PLO goes a very great amount of personal worship.

*Q. Has this led to an increase in the repression in recent months?*

A. Yes, very much so. There was a horrible wave of repression at the end of November, and it still continues. For example, several hundred people were arrested in the Jerusalem neighbourhood during the last week, and many people who were not arrested were taken out of their homes in the night and as you say in America, "roughed up" a little, sometimes half-naked, and returned home. Given what they call a "lesson".

*Q. Have Israeli Arabs been subjected to the same repression?*

A. Oh no, they are treated much better. First of all, they are citizens and cannot be exiled. They can therefore shout back. When the three members of the Arab students committee were beaten in Tel Aviv, they immediately did a great deal to publicize it. They have Jewish allies, too, and not only us. We helped publicize the case, because we still have some freedom.

(continued overleaf)

# and honey?

## interview with Israel Shahak

As you know, in the 1950's the older generation of Israeli Arabs was persecuted even more. For every man that is arrested or limited or imprisoned now, there were then I suppose twenty or fifty. That generation was to a great extent broken.

*Q. Can you give any current examples of persecution suffered by Arabs?*

A. Yes. In Tel Aviv University there is an especially active radical committee of Arab students, and the following means of repression were employed against them.

Three members of the committee while walking on one of the main streets of Tel Aviv were suddenly stopped by the police. They were ordered to strip down to their underpants in the middle of the street, taken to a building that is not a police station, and beaten. I would call it torture, really, because they were beaten around their genitals. They were then turned loose and warned that if they continued to be active in the committee, they could expect similar treatment in the future.

Another case involves Arab students who rented a big house in the so-called Arab ghetto of Tel Aviv University, because they are prohibited from living in the student housing, or are allocated only a small area in it. The police visit this house every ten days or so at 2:00 o'clock in the morning. They order all the students to go down into the courtyard in their underpants or night attire and force them to stand for about an hour in the cold to be identified (it is now in the middle of winter in Israel and it is quite cold). The investigation is of course accompanied by slaps on the face and insults.

capable of arresting 10 to 20 per cent of the adult male population. This was done at the end of November in the town of Jenin, where 15 per cent of the adult population (meaning from fourteen years up) were arrested and kept in prison for some days.

A second thing is that people in Israel cannot be exiled from Israel; they are exiled from town to village, or from one village to another village. But



An Arab and a Jew protest outside the Israeli Embassy in London.



# LAND OF MILK AND HONEY ?

**cont.**

In the conquered territories the repression is so strong that you really have great difficulty even obtaining the names of those arrested. The very first thing that the family of the arrested person is told is that if they dare to tell the non-Israeli lawyers or human-rights activists like me, their boy will be tortured. And many of the families, especially the mothers, suffer in silence.

*Q. You have come under bitter attack from the Zionist officials and press for your defence of the democratic rights of the Arab people. What are they saying about you, and what are they threatening?*

*A. Well, I will begin with the official things. There was a debate about me in the Knesset, in the Israeli Parliament, in which I was officially described by the minister of education as a notorious madman. The minister of justice also made a statement about me in parliament, saying that I am a traitor, and that a special committee is assembling evidence against me. You see, I am a traitor first, legal evidence comes afterwards!*

There were also calls for assassinating me. The *Jerusalem Post*, the English language Israeli paper, called for putting a bomb in my laboratory. Or alternatively, to imitate Soviet methods and put me in a madhouse.

Apart from this, there were attacks on me by the so-called Zionistic doves. This only confirmed my belief that the doves are the worst type of Zionists. They proposed that my passport be confiscated, that I be dismissed from my university post, that perhaps my citizenship should be taken away from me. All of those things are possible under Israeli law. But all those laws, like the defence regulations, are usually employed only against Arabs. It would set a precedent if they were employed against a Jew.

So in the first place, it is this Jewish racism that has defended me. For example, a cheat and a hypocrite like Uri Avneri, who began by abusing me and saying that I "poisoned the wells of peace" in the Middle East, and that I make Palestinians more extremist than they should be, finished by saying that nonetheless my passport should not be confiscated because if they began with Shahak, who will be next?

The second reason is that I am well protected from abroad. And not only by friends in leftist organizations, but by the good relations I have with

parts of the establishment in various Western countries. After all, I testified before the American House of Representatives, and I must say to the credit of the chairman of the committee I testified before, Donald Fraser (from Minnesota, if I recall) that he wrote a letter in my support. There were also interventions from England and France.

As things stand now, a committee of officials from the Ministry of Justice is still looking for legal evidence of my treason, but they decided not to confiscate my passport or take away citizenship, "so as", and I am quoting the minister of the interior, "not to make a martyr" of me. Well, I am willing not to be a martyr.

I want to add one thing — that the university administration was extremely fair. The rector, the dean in American terms, defended publicly my right to free speech, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is completely firm in defending my right to speak anywhere on any subject. But the danger from the government still exists, and whether it will decide to sacrifice me to the right wing remains to be seen.

So far I have been speaking about official pronouncements. Mr Begin's party actually called on the Israeli radio for my execution. I can give you the very date — on December 2, 1974. So the real danger is that the Israeli government might sacrifice me to some movement of national unity. Well, I can only say I will give them a tough fight.

*Q. What is your opinion about the general political situation in the Middle East today, particularly the intentions of the Israeli government?*

*A. I am almost certain that the Israeli establishment — I say establishment, not the government — is preparing with open eyes for war. When I say "establishment" I mean that in Israel decisions like this are not taken by the government; they are taken by some more or less informal body like Golda Meir's famous kitchen meetings — gatherings with influential generals, ministers and personal friends. The decisions are then announced by statements and articles in the press. Therefore when [Premier Yitzhak] Rabin declared in the summer and more or less hinted during the last month that war is unavoidable, that is exactly what he meant. As far as Israel is concerned, war is unavoidable.*

Based on what I have heard the spokesmen for the Israeli establishment say to their cadres, at meetings, in homes and in many other places in which more or

less important Israelis meet, there are two reasons, political and financial, why they say war is inevitable. Even with all the support from the United States, it is becoming even worse. And Israeli official policy makes no effort to alleviate the situation.

According to official Israeli data, the Israeli external debt will reach \$8 billion in 1975, requiring payment of \$1.25 billion a year in interest. Now the support of the United States to Israel, the official support, is only \$2.5 billion a year, perhaps a little more. This means that half of it will go merely for servicing the debt.

Israel is approaching bankruptcy fairly rapidly, and the only way for it to be saved from this is by waging a successful war. That would restore the flow of capital, not to mention the possible spoils from occupying the oil countries.

The reason for the onrushing bankruptcy is that until October 1973, there was an enormous flow of capital into Israel. Most of it was "black" capital — Mafia money, money from all kinds of shady businesses in Europe, Iranian illegal money, and so on. This flow has completely ceased since the October war, but could be restored after a victory.

Three other reasons are political, or let's say military and political. First of all, in the present situation, Israel keeps an enormous number of people under arms. The number of people in the standing regular military service was increased. Their pay was increased to such an extent that a private soldier, or a private soldier in the border guards — the unit used to patrol the conquered territories — receives almost the same pay as I do, a professor with twelve years tenure.

In addition, a part of the standing army — that is, the regular soldiers, Israeli young people, from the ages of about twenty-one to thirty-five — are called up for reserve service. Something like an average of 60 days a year would be a low estimate. If they are from the "crack" units, they can very easily be called up for 80 days, for 100 days, and even more. There are students of mine who were called up this year after the mobilization in April and who had already served 80 to 100 days. Now I ask, how long can a society stand this?

And there is a third reason. As they put it, the Arabs are becoming "uppish", they are becoming "impudent". They mean Arabs inside Israel or the conquered territories. And if the Arabs are becoming impudent, more soldiers are needed to keep them in order. The burden is becoming more or less impossible, so Israeli officials hope that a smashing victory will again restore the situation.

So far, that's what they explain. I will add to this that the major part of Israeli society is now in a psychological bind. They are like children who are reliving a dream — a dream, let's say, of a nice summer, or something like that. They just want to restore the "good times" of before October 1973, and they think that a war can restore it. Therefore, to a great extent, at least for the first week or two, they will find willing cannon fodder.

In my opinion, this adds up to the fact that Israel will make a war as soon as possible. It will try to move as heavily as possible against the north, against Syria, for the very obvious geographic and other reasons.

To show you how openly this is discussed in Israel, I will just quote an article published in *Davar*, which is the official paper of the Israeli trade unions, the Histadrut, and also of the Labour Party, the ruling party of Israel. The article was written by Dan Bavli, a well-known advisor to the military authorities ruling the conquered territories and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Now Mr Bavli has no doubt that a war against Syria, at least, has to come, and he also suspects that this will not be the last war. Therefore he coined two phrases: "The next war, and the wars after the next".

He urged that Israel exact the greatest profit from the next war. Now what is this "profit"? Mr Bavli is very sure that during the next war, as he puts it, Israel has to smash the Syrian army completely. But what would happen if the obstinate Syrians, after their army is smashed, continue to fight a guerilla war? To prepare for this, Mr Bavli proposes that Israel begin now to make some political overtures toward the Syrian minorities — Druzes and others — so that they will continue to fight for Israel after this.

In a country in which a government paper can publish such an article — without a challenge, by the way — you can well understand in what direction the wind is blowing.





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Each year a number of employers make themselves available in order to give students an idea of what their organizations do, and what opportunities they have to offer. Interviews are very informal, although jobs are there and are offered to suitable graduates. Vacancies are available for graduates or near graduates in a wide range of subjects. A few organizations offer study leave, some for special postgraduate qualifications.

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9th June 1975

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TUESDAY  
10th June 1975

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# NEWS FROM MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

3-5-75

**Tun: Watch For Gun Runner**

Tun Abdul Razak is concerned that the fall of Indochina would result in millions of dollars' worth of the latest American weapons falling into the hands of the insurgents in South East Asia and other parts of the world. He indicated that he did not fear the new communist government in Saigon would channel arms captured from, or abandoned by the Americans to the terrorists in Malaysia. He was concerned that they would reach Malaysia from smugglers acting for profit. Tun Razak said that notwithstanding the debacle in Vietnam, he was still not a subscriber to the Domino Theory of successive Washington administrators — that if one country fell to a communist war of liberation, its neighbours would automatically be threatened.

(The Vietnamese people will definitely put their arms into good use. Razak is trying desperately to put up a brave face in front of the press.)

5-5-75

**'Red Victories Pose No Threat'**

Malaysia "faces no immediate danger" arising out of the Communist victories in South Vietnam and Cambodia, Tun Abdul Razak said. This is because the situation in Indochina and that in Malaysia is different. The people of Indochina fought for national liberation from foreign influence and domination while the terrorists in Malaysia were "pure bandits", said Razak. He added that if the terrorists believed in the democratic process and were so keen to serve the people, they should lay down their arms under conditions of peace and not resort to armed struggle.

(Is Malaysia truly an independent country, free from foreign domination and influence when 60% of its economy is under foreign control? Is there a democratic process whereby the people are allowed to express their views with the repressive laws of the Malaysian government of ISA, University and Colleges Act etc.?)

2-5-75

**Excerpts of Lee's Speech in Kingston**

Singapore has the world's third largest oil refineries, after Rotterdam and Houston. Pre-October 1973, the demand growth rate was 8-10% over the last quarter of 1972.

In many cases, the poorer the country, the richer the leader or leaders. But it's not just the poor Third World countries that face the danger of more and more revolution.

Now Indochina has gone to the communists. Providing the rest of South East Asia understands that the priority is first to eradicate inequalities of wealth and opportunities, to reduce social injustice, and inculcate work-discipline, we can make the adjustments to this new social order.

(Despite the impressive growth rate and being the third largest oil refinery in the world, the fact that is not so well-known is that 99.9% of the oil refinery is foreign owned.)

Lee is a great speaker, a man with many promises, but what he says and implements are entirely different things. He has ruled

Singapore since 1959, and ever since the rich have become richer and the poor poorer).

7-5-75

**Lee on Peril of Too Swift US Pullout**

Mr Lee Kuan Yew yesterday came out strongly against too swift an American military retreat from Asia because this would let Russia in. He described China as "The more benign of the Communist powers" with no territorial ambitions on Thailand. But if Thailand used Russia "as a counterweight to China it would bring about the very evil they seek to avoid, meaning more guerilla pressure". Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia all had to contend with rebel groups, Mr Lee said, but he noted help from Vietnam would have to come across 500 to 700 miles of water. The main problem worrying these countries, he stressed, was economic because unemployment and recession would only feed popular discontent.

12-5-75

**Oppositions Reach Agreement in By-Election.**

K.L. — Agreement was reached between opposition parties to fight the National Front at the parliamentary by-election of the Salyang seat following the death of the National Front MP Mr Walter Loh. The candidate for the by-election is likely to be fielded from either Party Pekemas or DAP, as both Partai Sosialis Rakyat and KITA have agreed not to contest in favour of the two.

13-5-75

**10-point Row, so 250 go on strike**

About 250 workers of Far East Oxygen Pty. Ltd. in Jurong went on strike after talks between their union and company over the settlement of 10 disputes broke down. It is understood that the dispute involved several warning letters issued to workers in connection with annual leave, sick leave and compassionate leave. Allegations of victimization of workers and union officials and the dismissal of legitimate complaints by the union were also believed to be among the disputes.

15-5-75

**Start of British Military Pullout**

The British troops withdrawal from Singapore has begun. The target is to pull out 2,250 British servicemen stationed here under the Five-Power Defence Arrangement, in four gradual phases ending on March 31, 1976. After complete withdrawal, it is expected that ships of the Royal Navy will continue to call at Singapore "in the course of deployments to the Far East". It is believed that unions representing local civilian employees of the British forces are currently consulting their employers and the Singapore government about pending unemployment and redundancy. The main aim of the British pullout is to cut back defence expenditure to save the ailing British economy.

9-5-75 to 19-5-75

**A Close Contest Likely for Top UMNO Posts.**

The election to the policy-making Supreme Council of United Malay National Organiza-

tion (UMNO) on June 21 are expected to be closely contested.

For example, it is understood that at least 15 nominations have been received for the three vice-president posts.

UMNO Youth national leader Dato Haji Harun Idris might also join in the fight if it is in the national interest, he said.

UMNO secretary-general Datuk Senu Abdul Rahman has issued a directive to all UMNO divisions advising members to refrain from making speeches or remarks which might affect party unity and image in the current election campaign.

Information and Special Functions Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen advised UMNO members not to be alarmed by any war of nerves among its leaders. He said there were always differences among leaders, but such rational conflicts always resulted with improvement of the party.

22-5-75

**Singapore: Crisis in Electronics**

The Electronics industry in Singapore has reached rock-bottom level and the current outlook spells a bleak prospect for next year.

At least three electronics firms have closed down because of extremely poor market demands while eight other firms shifted their operations out of Singapore.

Describing the electronics business here as "stagnant", Mr Brian Lee, secretary of the Singapore Association of Electronics Industry, said there has not been any sign of recovery.

About 17,000 people were retrenched last year — two thirds of them from the electronics industry. Some 24,570 unemployed people registered for jobs with the Labour Ministry's Employment Service Section. About 7,000 job vacancies were found for them.

25-5-75

**Minister: Don't expect too Much from MCA**

Housing and New Villages Minister Mr Michael Chen urged all Chinese guilds, clubs and other organizations to stand together with the Malayan Chinese Association (MCA) for the benefit of the Chinese community.

"This is the only way the Chinese can be united and work towards their progress and development as well as towards nation-building," he said.

Mr Chen asked the Chinese community not to expect too much from the MCA. "The MCA is not the dominant party within the National Front," he said. "In fact it is only playing a helping role."

(Mr Chen speaks at the time when there is serious disagreement between the MCA and the National Chinese Teacher Association Board of Directors over the future of Chinese Primary schools.)

The National Chinese Teacher Association and the Board of Directors insist, with the backing of over 3,400 Chinese organizations, that Chinese language should be, as it is fact is, the tuition language in the Chinese Primary Schools with Malay and English as secondary languages, while the MCA advocates a policy alongside of the government that Malay is the dominant language at all levels of education.)

## LIFT UP THE BANNER

Once upon a time, in the animal world, a fox by its cunning and support given by the pack of wolves, managed to succeed to the throne once occupied by the lion.

Aware of his own impotence and weakness, the fox wants everybody to stop thinking so that he can continue to rule with his cunning and deception.

But he needs all the other animals to grow food to feed him, and growing food means allowing them to come together. The sly old fox recognises that allowing them all to come together means also exchanging of ideas and thinking is possible. So it devises all kinds of distractions such as movies which focus on animal mating and family control in order for peace and plenty in the animal world to prevail.

As time goes on, some of the animals become bored with all these distractions, and started to think on their own. 'Why is the fox our ruler?' 'Why must I work so hard to feed him?' One day the rabbit asked the squirrel: 'Why do you think we are not allowed to speak out our thoughts?' 'Shhh, not so loud', said the squirrel, 'or the wolves will hear you'.

Undisturbed, the rabbit continued: 'I think the fox is afraid of us. Otherwise why should he forbid us to think or to share our ideas?' 'Huh! the fox afraid of you? You must be joking', snorted the squirrel. 'The fox is not afraid of me alone, but of us all', replied the rabbit. 'How I wish I can share this with my friends', sighed the rabbit.

'Maybe you can', softly spoke the squirrel. 'If you can write your message onto a banner and lift it high, the others will also know the fox is frightened of you. Then perhaps we will not need to work so hard to feed him and his pack of wolves'.

'But beware; if you are caught, you could be killed by them', warned the squirrel. The rabbit sat there with a twinkle in his eyes.

One cloudy night, the rabbit stealthily ran up a hill-top and stuck its banner up. But just as the crowd started to gather, the wolves came and tore it down, and took the rabbit to jail.

One jackal was heard commenting: 'Well, that's a proper end for those who think so big of themselves as to overthrow the fox'. He was rebutted by the turtle which said: 'You coward. Don't you know you are cowardly and not comparable to one fraction of our hero rabbit? Sure the rabbit is put in jail, but there will be many more rabbits, squirrels and elephants to come.'

ALL WILL TRY TO LIFT UP THE BANNER and ONE DAY WE WILL SUCCEED

essential link between the Club and its more distant members.

The 59th Annual Conference of the Labour Party took the stage in Wellington for a week during the May break, and despite what the Press would have us believe, it was a vigorous but united affair. Three Club delegates attended but assumed a generally low-key approach to most of the debate, not having remits to defend since the Club was not formed when remits were originally called for. The Labour Club will place emphasis upon remit formulation this year in the belief that Conference endorsements do influence Party policy. The Club is now represented on the Youth Advisory Council of the Labour Party by Judy Tizard, who was elected as one of the two North Island reps during the Labour Youth Conference, held over the weekend preceding the main Conference.

The Labour Club welcomes into its ranks any student who is sympathetic to the basic tenets of Labour policy, or who is at least wanting something political to chew on. Fortnightly meetings are advertised around the campus: feel free to come along.

Danny Keenan. Ph. 58701

## LABOUR IN LABOUR

**The Making of Labour.**

There are signs (one need only sit in on SRC) about campus that students are finally warming to the inevitability of the november General Elections. Getting into the act, the Labour Club has expanded its outer-varsity programme by establishing formal links with local Youth Branches, and it has increased its Enrolment membership by over 20, to almost 180 members.

As the year unfurls further, the Club should move to widen its options covering administrative matters to a more definitive stance on policy and current issues, both within the University and beyond. Amidst its membership, the Labour Club has attracted a number of students who have shown an interest more in

general political debate, based upon specifics of Labour policy. Recognizing the need for encouraging a high level of student interest in politics, the Club will look to forums and group discussions, with Cabinet Ministers in possible attendance.

A primary aim of the Club will be the election to Parliament of Dave Shand, Lecturer and Wellington Central Labour candidate. National's precarious hold on Central should not last beyond November, and, accepting the importance of the student vote, the Club will be investigating ways to convince students that Dave Shand is a better investment than Ken Comber.

In an effort to offset the views being gerrymandered by the Young Nats, seven Labour Club members visited Kapiti College one

afternoon during the May vacation, and with Kapiti MP Frank O'Flynn participated in a series of cell-group talks with 150 sixth & seventh formers. Visits to Colleges by Party Youth members have until recently been a departure from the normal functions of any party. In terms of student response, the visit was a success. Further visits to other secondary school within the Greater Wellington area are in the pipeline. It should be appreciated that the Club's aim in visiting Colleges is not to propagate Party policy, but to present Labour viewpoints as a basis for rational discussion, an opportunity College students are never slow in taking. The Labour Club has moved to produce a newsletter which will be posted each month to all members, and which should serve as an





Thoroughbred by Rockinghorse. EMI.  
- Reviewed by Brian King.

They'd be a good band to have at a wedding, Rockinghorse. They'd perform all of the tracks on this album and everyone would be going about on the talcum-powder. "Thoroughbred" is a light-weight, middle-of-the-road pop album. More particularly it's country pop; the pedal-steel guitar is the main instrument - only it isn't always used as a country music to stretch and layback the melody: rather, like Hawaiian pedal-steel, it colours the sound and lifts it slightly off-centre. So there's no beat, and no rock.

The production is fine. Wayne Mason, keyboards and ex-Fourmyula, told me shortly after the band was formed last year that the aim was simply to have a good time. Producer Alan Galbraith has captured this - the true spirit of the band. There is a good-time, happy feel to a lot of the material. "Good Old Rock and Roll", "Through the Southern Moonlight" and "Take a Stronger Look" have been released successfully as singles and are the strongest songs. One other, "Smoke on Down the Line", stands out because of the way the ingenious lyrics develop at a leisurely pace. Otherwise the lyrics are banal. "Sweet Morning of Your Love":

"It's a new day / gonna bring you  
Sweet morning of your love,  
It's a new day / gonna feel it  
The morning of your love . . ."

and similarly with "Sunshine Music Days" (crass) and "It's Enough" (gluey). The ladies in the songs are invariably 'sweet'; there's a total absence of pain, sorrow, blues. On Side two there's a nice touch, an instrumental called "Wind Chimes" which takes the main from Carl Evison's country putz.

And I tell you what: there are 13 songs, all original compositions. And this is probably the best middle-of-the-road album the country has produced.

The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table - Rick Wakeman (A&M)

- Reviewed by David McLennan.

And if that ain't the longest album I've ever had I'll eat my broadsword! Yeah well, it's better than "Journey", but still not so good as "Henry VIII". As a work, it is more coherent than "Journey", which was a weak composition, saved only by David Hemmings' narration, and the high standard of musicianship.

That same high standard manifests itself on this new outing for Rick and the lads. Side one opens with "King Arthur", which is prefaced by a bit of narration (y'know, "whoso willeth this sword from this stone" and all that sort of thing.) It is fittingly a majestic piece, making full use of the orchestra and choir. "Lady of the Lake" is a short piece by the choir, and then into "Guinevere", which despite some beautiful playing and rather nice melodic flourishes as a song. I mean, Jesus, it's just pure schmaltz, e.g.:

"Love me my Guinevere  
In my court please be near"

id

"Guinevere  
Golden tresses shing in the air  
Spread against the Jasper sea."

C'mon Rick, just who the hell are you trying to kid with this sugary bullshit?

Actually, this brings me to a very valid criticism of both this album and "Journey"; and that is that Wakeman is not, and probably never will be, a lyricist and songwriter. The good portions of these last two albums simply do not come up to scratch. The lyrics read as if they have been written by a schoolboy, and the tunes are quite unremarkable. Rick's talents are as a composer and arranger; in this regard he is one of the best. That is why "Henry VIII" remains his most successful album to date.

Next up on side one is "Sir Lancelot and the Black Knight", which is quite good, but nothing remarkable. Those vocalists of his, especially the loud-mouthed one, are bloody horrible and should never have been let near a microphone. If Rick insists on vocalists at least he should get ones who can sing!

Side two, and "Merlin the Magician", easily the best track on the album. This track shows Rick at his best, with its many changes in mood, from honky tonk to hard rock. Some really terrific synthesiser, and a warning: don't have your bass turned up on this one! I well remember this piece being one of the highlights of Rick's concert in Auckland. Nice one.

"Sir Galahad" is instantly forgettable, which leaves us with "The Last Battle", which is quite good, and rounds the album off nicely. Despite my complaints above, I like this record; as a whole it hangs together quite well, and like Rick's other albums, makes pleasant listening. Rick has a knack of appealing to all classes of music lover from the "head-music" freak with his Floyd and Genesis, right across the board to the easy listening pop fan who normally wouldn't have anything heavier than Neil Diamond or Elton John. A talented lad indeed, is our Rick. Let's hope he keeps it up.

Pieces of the Sky: Emmylou Harris  
Reprise MS 2213.

Reviewed by Pat O'Dea.

Emmylou Harris, a native of Birmingham Alabama, and the contributor of those otherworldly harmonies to ex-Byrd Gram Parsons' two solo efforts, makes music that doesn't so much exemplify country styles as approach them from a totally different direction. That she does it with such natural grace and fluency is a tribute to her, her material and her supporting musicians. In addition to singing, she plays acoustic guitar and also co-wrote one of the two commercial possibilities on *Pieces of the Sky*, *Boulder to Birmingham*. Her vocal quality is reminiscent of Linda Ronstadt, although more lightly textured and less affected. She takes the rock bottom bass lines that comprise the skeletal foundations of her songs from an extensive country heritage.

No one of her ten songs is like any other. Many are apparently intended to convey an autobiographical message, dealing directly with her ups and downs in love, almost always with a perceptive intelligence and good humour. And it is her special gift and good fortune that she can turn everything she touches into a legitimate area of personal creation.

The structure of the songs adhere to contemporary form. Most are contained within four minutes and have the flow and "rightness" that is the hallmark of an original and enduring talent. Add to this her compelling selection of lyrics, whose underlying theme is a vividly imagined spiritual restlessness, and you have the female vocal debut of the year.

Due credit for the success of this album must go to producer, Brian Ahern. For Emmylou he has provided a satisfying, understated setting, one that allows her and her material to shine. Most of the cuts begin simply with Emmylou backed by her own acoustic guitar and piano. Various elements - electric and steel guitars, backed up vocals and string arrangements - gradually come together. Sidemen for the album include James Burton (electric guitar), Glen Hardin and Bill Payne (pianos), Bernie Leadon (banjo) and Richard Greene (fiddle). Among the back up vocalists are Linda Ronstadt and Herb Pederson.

Two cuts, "Sleepless Nights" and "Coat of Many Colours", sum up everything that Emmylou is about. The former is a tender lullaby-remembrance of an old love. A soft string arrangement punctuated by hard piano chords builds towards a powerful, cathartic climax. "Coat of Many Colours" proclaims that with the passage of time, love changes in unforeseeable ways and that the question of whether two people really "know" each other is ever recurrent in an intimate relationship. The song is Emmylou's ultimate expression of self-acceptance and positive belief. By the time it ends her music has got me, and I'm not about to let it go.

(Review copy of *Pieces of the Sky* supplied by Colin Morris Records on the Terrace . . . and don't forget those discounts for students)

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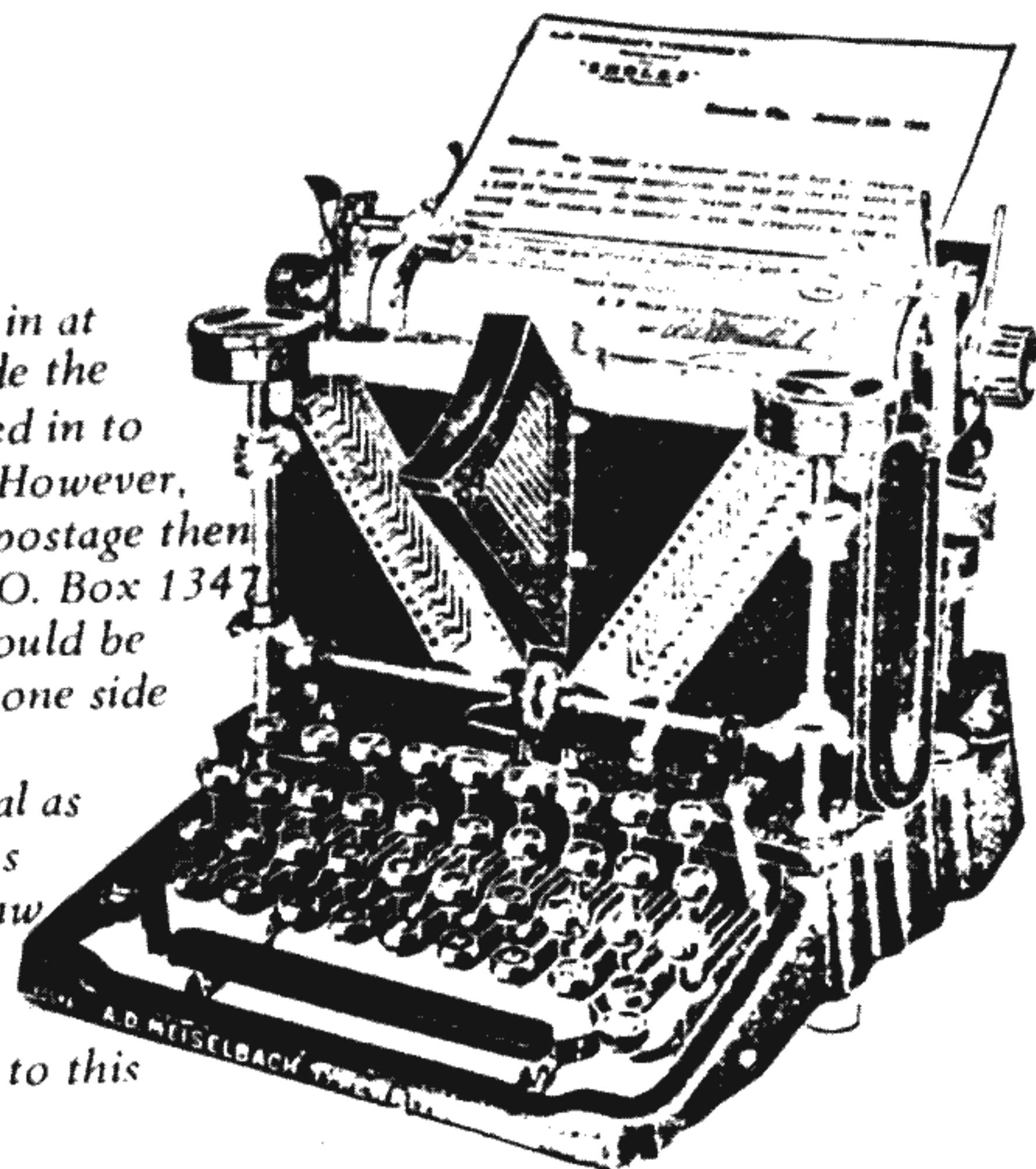
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Contact Mr A.G. Thurston,  
Administration Officer,  
Audit Office,  
P.O. Box 5080,  
WELLINGTON Ph 559 929.

Letters can be handed in at the letterbox just inside the Salient office or handed in to the editor personally. However, if you wish to pay 4c postage then send your letters to P.O. Box 1347 Wellington. Letters should be double-spaced and on one side of the paper only. We'll print any material as long as it ain't libellous or breaks any other law such as the one the MP for Porirua would like to see introduced to this land of ours.



# Letters

### Stop oppression in Malaysia

Dear Sir,  
Hear! Hear! Robert Pui P: other patriotic Malaysians' "Open letter to Razak". Be it known to you that there are many people who are behind you and your actions. God be with you all and give you strength.

The unfolding of events, past & present, of the Umno dominated alliance government's repressive actions are beginning to slow to a showdown with the people. How can a government, while looking to the interest of some, stamp down, almost impudently, on minority or even majority interests? It is clear these are not true-blue politicians, but power hungry grasping "mad-mullahs"; devoid of any sense of morality and totally unscrupulously corrupt. Peasants are easy to hoodwink m'lud, but not students. No sir, they need the University & Colleges Act & Internal Security Act to handle them.

The Malaysian Chinese? The May 13 incident should keep them in line. We can always bring in the Royal Malay Regiment to systematically massacre them, like we did before. No Sir, a government with blood on its hands will never do! Neither is one who feeds us with malicious lies & distorted facts for their own personal gain; who takes upon defenceless women like Juliet Chin; and who keeps the rural Malays ignorant and the monarchies inclined and then to say the Malaysian Chinese are exploiting them!!

The way events are shaping up, would it surprise you to place the Razak's clique in a position comparable to Vietnam's Thieu and Cambodia's Lon Nol? Maybe the only way to oppose effectively is to join the Communists. To oppose legally and in a perfectly constitutional manner is to be silenced more effectively like Juliet Chin, Hamzah Kassim and other political detainees. If the very credibility of the Domino Theory becomes a reality, it is not because of communist movements but because of inept incumbents and corrupt politicians like the people whose names of which there is no worth of mention. At the very least, comparing standards, maybe Lee Kuan Yew isn't so bad after all. At least, there is no racial discrimination, no empty promises.

No country is perfect, but thank God for New Zealand and its freedom of speech & action. I say Malaysians, it is time to realize the opportunity to speak out. I say free Juliet Chin, Hamzah Kassim, and other persons detained under the Internal Security Act. I say "...The government must rethink its whole approach or else abdicate in favour of citizens who are sincerely and genuinely concerned with bringing real progress to the country. Until you (Razak & Clique) are prepared to listen to the just demands of the people, you have no right to rule... History speaks for us".

Yours sincerely,  
XYZ.

### A Weedy Letter

Dear Sir,  
As a student of this university I was shocked to see, while flicking through my April 15th copy of Salient, a letter from "A Housewife" implying that Bursary money is spent on Marijuana. I wish to refute that claim and say that my friends and I have part-time jobs so that we can indeed pursue that deviant and pleasurable pastime of smoking Marijuana.

A Concerned Student.  
P.S. Take more now, grow more later.

### NZMEC Keeps Knocking

Dear Sir,  
New Zealand Malaysia Students Executive Council (NZMSEC) has shown its unpopularity in many centres.

Late 1974, Malaysian students in Wellington rejected the press statement put out by the 'NZMSEC' and wanted their association to disassociate with 'NZMSEC'.

12th April 1975, Canterbury MSA failed to get support for its participation in 'NZMSEC' despite all the hard work on the campaign.

People always say it is bad enough when it knocks two times. Unexpectedly, 'NZMSEC' knocks three times - the third time was in Massey University. The President of Massey University Malaysia Association (MUMA) sent a letter to woo the Malaysian students to discuss the so-called constitution of 'NZMSEC' during the SGM on the 3rd May 1975.

Despite all the hard work, only about 23 members turned up to the meeting (in which there were 9 committee members). Some committee members tried very hard indeed to pull some Malaysian students from the library to the meeting. Half an hour later, the meeting has to be called off because not having a quorum.

'NZMSEC' and other Malaysian bodies should try to open their ears to hear the calls of their members. Acting *secretly and undemocratically* won't help them to be sensible human beings.

What can 'NZMSEC' do to gain its popularity? Easy. Repression has struck the people of Malaysia since late last year - squatters in Taskk Utara, semi-starvation in Baling, arrests of students and lecturers etc. Why has 'NZMSEC' been so quiet? Why does it share no responsibility for their people who are living in the miserable lives? Why don't they support the oppressed people even on humanitarian grounds? Furthermore, the repressive University and University College Act has affected them too. It is time that they should come out and protect the fundamental rights of their members (if not the Malaysian students in NZ). When are they going to 'come alive'? Perhaps they never will 'come alive'.

Hairy Lee in Massey.



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# Dear Salient...

## Giving up politics for Kiwi Piss

Dear Bruce (good year for them too),  
Over the last few years, the incidence of "left-wing-ism" in SRC has grown to a point where one now talks of the incidence of "right-wing-ism". The Liberal Leftists so dominate the SRC that anything remotely conservative and/or right wing is immediately revolted against in a true manner, by the audacious libertines, the NCL, the Henderson-Robertson (sic! -ED) - Ward clique, and anyone else who feels like an easy kill.

However things, I'm glad to say, are taking a more normal, natural and altogether Right turn. Right-wingers (on the principle that if you're not for something, you're against it, so anti-commies are right-wingers) are on the defence once more, since by definition we don't attack.

Such people as "glibb Gibb and Bright Wright" are daring to do the impossible, defy a force of 300 million Chinese peasants and Victoria students. On the principle (once more) that if you don't condemn Amerikan Capitalist Reactionary Imperialism, you support it, I would like to state my support. But what can I support? I don't like Kissinger, he has a big nose, so America's out.

Oh but that means I support those liberal wankers, who think because they have a tee-shirt with Mao-Maos written on it they're qualified as self-confessed experts on anything. What about Britain in the death-throes of colonialism, No NZUSA has policy on that. And so it goes on; till the only politics I can support is New Zealand because we don't have any yet. So after profound reflection on the politics of the world, I decided to abandon politics and drink beer. I've been at the pub ever since.

Yours from the Royal Tiger,  
John Grainer.

P.S., Giddy (Newcastle accent) Anyone who thinks Commies are all panzies can have a drink on me and Gerry Wall any time.

## Out of the Salient Mailbox . . .

It has been written that out of the mouths of babes and sucklings come wonderous things, and in the case of Tony Ward I couldn't agree more. While some of the less cultured in the university so flagrantly waste their time over trivial things like getting bursaries and living normally, Tony, the one in a million man, with all his flare and talent, reigns over us in SRC. His motto, protect the constitution at all costs. For one day of the week the top cafe is filled with Ward's passionate prose, playing prime politician. But politics are hard to grasp, and while we miserable mortals make misdemeanours, Tony achieves the ultimate, carefully concealed contradiction.

So away you curs who dangerously denote democracy. Dianne Hooper, Kevin Wright your days are numbered. Tremble Tremble, Terrible Tyrannical Tony will vanquish you.

The cry is heard, raise him up, let him speak for no-one else will dare. Caesar's deceased! Well will we mark Anthony who would lend the ears of SRC;

which at the rate he's bloody well going will be a self-appointed committee!

Ross Delaney  
NB Tony is just trying too hard to make democracy work and because of this SRC is a dead horse still being flogged.

## Tony to Diane on Tony on page 4 in Salient May 22 . . .

Dear Bruce,

Diane Hooper, in her letter replying to my article, argues that she has not done "next to nothing". While I would consider some of her points in that category, I must admit that that statement was incorrect, and I apologize for it. However, I still stand by my assertion that her performance has been poor relative to other Exec members.

A more serious matter is touched upon in Diane's opening and closing paragraphs. She

describes my article as a waste of a "good half page", "petty claptrap", "generalised backstabbing" and so on. I certainly did *not* write the article as a personal attack on any Exec members but out of a desire to see more constructive criticism of how effective Exec is.

In my report as NZUSA Liason Officer to this year's AGM, I argued that criticism of the Exec is fulfilling its function serving students' needs and interests and is not getting tied up in bureaucracy. This point was glossed over at that meeting, and has I think been glossed over since then. I am much happier with the way Exec is going this year than last year, but this does not mean that Exec (or the people on it) does not make mistakes from time to time. These criticisms can go some way towards rectifying.

I am quite prepared to admit that my article had faults - however, both I and the Exec meeting last Monday thought it worthwhile. It is disturbing that Diane Hooper thinks she is above criticism. It would be even more disturbing if the Students' Association is allowed to operate on such principles.  
Anthony Ward.

## Salient needs relevant articles

Dear Bruce,

What is the hold-up in publishing a report from the Overseas Student Conference held at Auckland between May 13-17. After much effort \$50 was allocated during SRC and I understand that an article for Salient is supposed to come out from that \$50. I expected to read about it in the May 22nd issue but there was no sign of it even in the May 29th issue.

It is rather disheartening to see such an important event being so badly neglected. In the first place more funds should have been allotted by the VUWSA Exec. without having to raise the matter at the SRC. From the "begged" \$50 only three out of six thousand students at Victoria were sponsored. It is about time VUWSA Exec reviewed its spending policy and priority right. (\$100 for the Capping Piss-up and fat May Conference expenses).

And now the inability of Salient to cover any of that event. It is also about

time Salient had relevant and current articles rather than scouring around for shit to fill itself up. I suggest that Salient and the International Affairs Officer, Bryony Hales, look into this and make sure that some sort of coverage of this important event appears in this coming issue.

Daniel Tan.

## Student Teachers in for the Easy Life?

Dear Sir,

Last Friday, the day after the Budget was read, the President of STANZ, Mr Alick Shaw, made certain noises regarding a lowering of the Student Teachers' Bursary.

I remember, on the day of the Bursary march, the condescending attitude of STANZ saying that Yes! University students and technical Institute students should have a good Bursary. Of course, he was hoping that it did not affect him.

In his showing last Friday, he more or less admitted what most student teachers were there for. An easy ride on \$26 - \$36 approx. per week. "The Government has removed all the incentive to would be training teachers' students especially in the lower primary school bracket." They were there because of the money, not the love of kids. Would this lot make good teachers? - to the age group that requires the best - ages 5 - 12.

Perhaps the new Student teacher bursary scale will sort out the dedicated would-be teacher from the crowd that are there for the holidays, high pay etc.

Personally I am satisfied with the new Bursary scale and feel that if overall, the Govt. is saving money, then that is what the Opposition has been bleating about for ages.

Yours sincerely,  
Donald Sangler.

*Alick Shaw is the President of NZUSA, Don Stedman is the President of STANZ. I have a feeling that you have mortally offended both in your first sentence. However, these student heavies are thick-skinned - s*

*In a recent development STANZ dispensed with the services of Don Stedman as President. I am not acquainted with the name of his successor. -Ed.*

