



by Terry Auld

Indira's India - jailed and silent

at Allahabad or in any alleged conspiracy against state security or in threats to her leadership from within the Congress Party, any more than the cause of the First World War was the assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand. A grave economic and political crisis has been maturing in India for many years.

Since she became Prime Minister a decade ago, Mrs Gandhi has pursued a reactionary domestic and foreign policy, stubbornly defending the interests of the big landlord class, the big bourgeoisie of India and Soviet imperialism.

The bourgeois press has called India the 'world's largest democracy' and lamented its passing. But for the Indian masses, the Gandhi government has been dictatorial rule, suppression of revolutionary movements with armed force and ruthless putting down of the toiling masses demanding democratic rights and better living conditions.

Despite Mrs Gandhi's claims that she has acted in the interests of the Indian masses, trade union actions for higher wages have been brutally crushed. The rail strike in May 1974 resulted in 50,000 workers being arrested and 10,000 dismissed from their jobs. Workers were evicted from railway colonies by troops, special police and territorial forces; and their wives and children were beaten by police, some of them being raped. Food shops were closed and drinking water from taps was turned off.

The Defence of India regulations were invoked and the army alerted to break a four day dock strike on January 19 this year. In October 1974 a general strike in Bihar province resulted in several demonstrators being killed by police and more than 1,000 persons arrested.

Prior to the present arrests, political prisoners in India numbered more than 30,000. Many of them are members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist). The latter are detained without trial and subjected to cruel tortures.

The Indian economy is in a shambles. Production has stagnated, prices are soaring, the grain shortage is acute and the people are threatened with permanent famine. Food prices doubled in 1974, but the incomes of the majority of the people remained constant. Huge quantities of grain have to be imported every year to keep the people at starvation level. A year ago 40 percent of the people were on or below the poverty line; today the figure is 50 percent - or 300 million people.

In a demagogic move to win popular support for the declaration of a state of emergency, Mrs Gandhi suddenly announced a programme of economic reforms. She pledged to act with 'redoubled zeal' to distribute surplus land among the landless and prevent lawsuits against poor peasants for recovery of debts. Income tax exemptions are to be extended to lower middle class Indians and a renewed campaign against hoarders and smugglers will be mounted.

Supplies of hard-to-get goods appeared in shops and prices for some commodities (wheat, sugar and vegetable oil) dropped significantly. But few people expect this to last, since Mrs Gandhi's latest programme is almost identical to one she proclaimed last year - and failed to implement.

The Gandhi regime has thrown itself into the arms of Soviet imperialism. It has been estimated that the Soviet Union controls about 80% of India's electrical appliance industry, 30% of its petroleum cracking industry, 30% of steel production, 20% of power generation and 25% of the aluminium industry.

The Soviet Union uses its Indian factories as places where cheap labour works up raw materials - just like any private transnational corporation. It has bought Sudanese cotton, sent it to India where it is turned into fabric textiles and exported to the Soviet Union. In 1972 India had to purchase 20,000 tons of cotton from the USSR at \$325 per bale - the price of cotton in Indian markets was \$237 per bale. The cotton products produced from it had to be resold to the Soviet Union below the market price in India. The Soviet Union resold these same goods overseas at high prices, sometimes marking them 'Made in the USSR' over Indian protests. In 1974 the Soviet Union sold nickel to India at twice the price per ton that it charged Europe. A Soviet Mig-21 was being sold for \$775,000 in the world market at a time when the same items produced in India were costing \$1.3 million, since the components imported from the USSR cost \$1 million alone.

Generally, the poor quality machinery and equipment exported by the Soviet Union to India is 20% - 30% above world market prices, while imports from India are 20% - 30% above world market prices.

Servicing Soviet loans costs India more than the new loans received from the Soviet Union. In 1968-69 India borrowed \$52.2 million from the USSR and paid back \$78.7 million in debt service. In 1971-72 India borrowed \$242.5 million and paid back \$437.5 million to the Soviet Union. This is typical of neo-colonialism.

With unusual delicacy, following his trip to India with Brezhnev, Nikolai Baibakov, Deputy Premier and Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee claimed that 'our economic cooperation is mutually advantageous. The Soviet Union in its turn, receives many goods it needs from India.' (New Times, No 50, 1973).

Extern ally, the Indian government has pursued an expansionist policy with the full backing of the Soviet Union. In

October 1962 India launched a war against China and suffered a disastrous defeat. This followed years in which the Nehru government had adopted a policy of 'forward defence' in which India steadily encroached on Chinese territory. In 1965 and in 1971 India invaded Pakistan. The latter war, fought with full Soviet backing, resulted in Pakistan's dismemberment and the formation of the puppet state of Bangladesh. In 1974 India formally annexed Sikkim after exercising colonial rule over it for 27 years. Today India threatens the national independence and state sovereignty of Nepal and Bhutan.

Only the Soviet Union and the 'Communist' Party of India (ironically called by Indians the 'Communist Party of Indira') have hailed Gandhi's assumption of absolute power. The Soviet Union alleged that the corrupt election practices were 'fabrications of the opposition' and that 'the declaration of emergency indicates the struggle between democratic forces and reactionaries is becoming sharper.' Mrs Gandhi, of course, is the leader of the 'democratic forces.'

The 'Communist' Party waited until Moscow gave Mrs Gandhi the nod before it committed itself. One week after the declaration of the state of emergency, the 'CP' announced its full support for the swift and stern measures taken by the Prime Minister. Later 'CP' leader Rajeshwara Rao pledged that 500,000 members of his party were 'ready to make any sacrifice to put down the dark forces of reaction and imperialism.' (However the 'CP' will continue to slavishly serve Soviet reaction and imperialism).

The Gandhi clique has sold itself to the Soviet Union to get backing for its expansionist course in South Asia. Without Soviet weapons it would not have been able to dismember Pakistan hold onto Kashmir and threaten China.

The Soviet purpose is clear also. The Soviet Union wants to continue its domination of India through the Gandhi clique in the Congress Party so as to contend more effectively with the United States for influence in South Asia. The fierce contention between the two super powers, with the Indian government as the Soviet Union's junior partner, will mean that peace will not return to the Indian sub-continent until the Indian people have been liberated.



Banner carrying university students and professors march in New Delhi demanding Mrs Gandhi's resignation.

Early in the morning on June 26, the Indian Government sent large numbers of troops and police to make many arrests of opposition party leaders throughout India and imposed an overall press censorship. Wave after wave of arrests resulted in more than 10,000 being jailed within a week, none of whom had the right of appeal to the courts for release. The secret police were everywhere, creating an atmosphere reminiscent of Pakistan during the military dictatorship.

A national state of emergency was declared on the pretext that the security of the state was threatened. All civil liberties were suspended. Newspapers were prevented from publishing news of protest demonstrations, 'false' allegations against leaders and any criticism of the office of Prime Minister. In New Delhi orders were issued banning all public meetings, all parades, all carrying of weapons and all shouting of slogans. The Prime Minister Indira Gandhi later claimed that the Indian right wing and the United States C.I.A. were plotting her overthrow.

On July 4 all 'extremist' parties, both of the right and left, were suppressed leaving the ruling Congress Party and its lackey the pro-Moscow 'Communist' Party of India the only parties with genuine legal influence. An official announcement said that anyone helping the banned groups, participating in their meetings or publishing anything about such meetings were liable to prosecution. The press censorship is such that papers cannot publish the white spaces where material has been deleted. When editors from leading papers noted that they had been allowed to leave white spaces to protest censorship under British rule, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, P.V.C. Shukla replied acidly: 'I find the comparison odious.' Even the writings of Gandhi, Nehru and Tagore are to be vetted.

The catalyst for the crisis was Mrs Gandhi's conviction for corrupt practices during the 1971 elections by the Indian High Court in her home city of Allahabad. She was disqualified as a member of parliament. Strong demands for her resignation were immediately raised by Indian opposition parties and large numbers of people demonstrated for her removal from office. With a nationwide struggle to topple her imminent, Mrs Gandhi convened a meeting of her top Cabinet officials and senior army officers at which the decision to declare the state of emergency was taken.

The roots of Mrs Gandhi's assumption of absolute power are not in the events

antisalientnotes

Would you believe Salient has picked up? In more ways than one. There is a new atmosphere in the Salient office. It is not (I repeat NOT) due to the Pals Sci piss up that one or two less diligent members of the Salient staff have been wandering off to. Nor is the change in atmosphere due to the introduction of various sweet-smelling weeds imported to the office (in fact, Salient has been sharing in the general Wellington dearth this week. If you have any of you-know-what, please disguise it as a letter to the Editor and post it in).

No folks, I must assure you, the changed atmosphere is not due to drugs of any sort, legal or otherwise. It is in fact, as all real changes in atmosphere must be, due to a strong upsurge of student feeling, in the need for revolution and the vital role that Salient has in indoctrinating (sorry, persuading) the masses. New recruits to the Salient staff under the benevolent leadership of Bruce Robinson include Peter Thomson, and older ones include David Newton, John Henderson, Anthony Ward, Bryony Hales, Lionel Klee, Terry Auld, Martin Reyners,



Rod Prosser, Jim Delahunty, Pat O'Dea, Quentin Roper (who is almost entirely to blame for the graphics, apart from the decision to include them), and Mike Curtis. Christine Haggart lent a generally helpful hand (and you're not to read anything rude into that) and concocted some advertising.

With the leaving of our typist (see the letters page) various people did the typing. These included; from NZUSA, Diane, Carolyn Johnson, and Peter Franks; Sylvia Godard and even Bruce Robinson and Anthony Ward.

As was mentioned earlier, the issue was edited by Bruce Robinson, was published by Victoria University Students Association (who will probably kill me when they read these notes) and was printed by Wanganui Newspapers Ltd, Drews Avenue, Wanganui.

*With apologies for all that have been left out. On second thoughts, apologies to those who have been included.

Lay-out meeting

There will be a meeting of the layout staff on Thursday 17 July at 2 pm in the Salient office to discuss my new totally ridiculous madcap bureaucratic organisational scheme and to get some ideas on the possible directions the layout could take over the next 8 or so issues. Anybody is invited - you don't have to know anything about the art of layout, as I would go down on my knees and grovel at even the slightest chance of an increase in the paltry turnout which we have experienced so far this year. So make sure you get your arses up here on Thursday. Please??

John Henderson
Technical Editor

QUAKERS

We shall not ask you to speak or sing,
We shall not ask you what you believe
We shall not ask you to give money,
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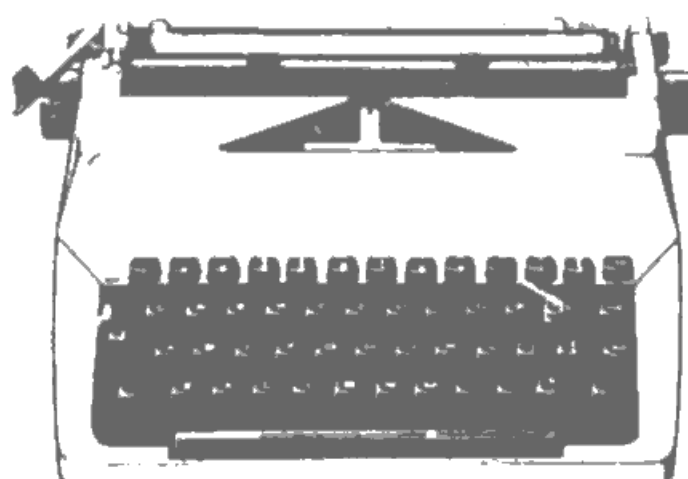
Dr. Duane T. Gish Ph.D. of USA scientist and author, who rejects evolution as untenable and and fantastic, and insists the scientific facts directly support special creation, a Young Earth, and a World-wide Flood.

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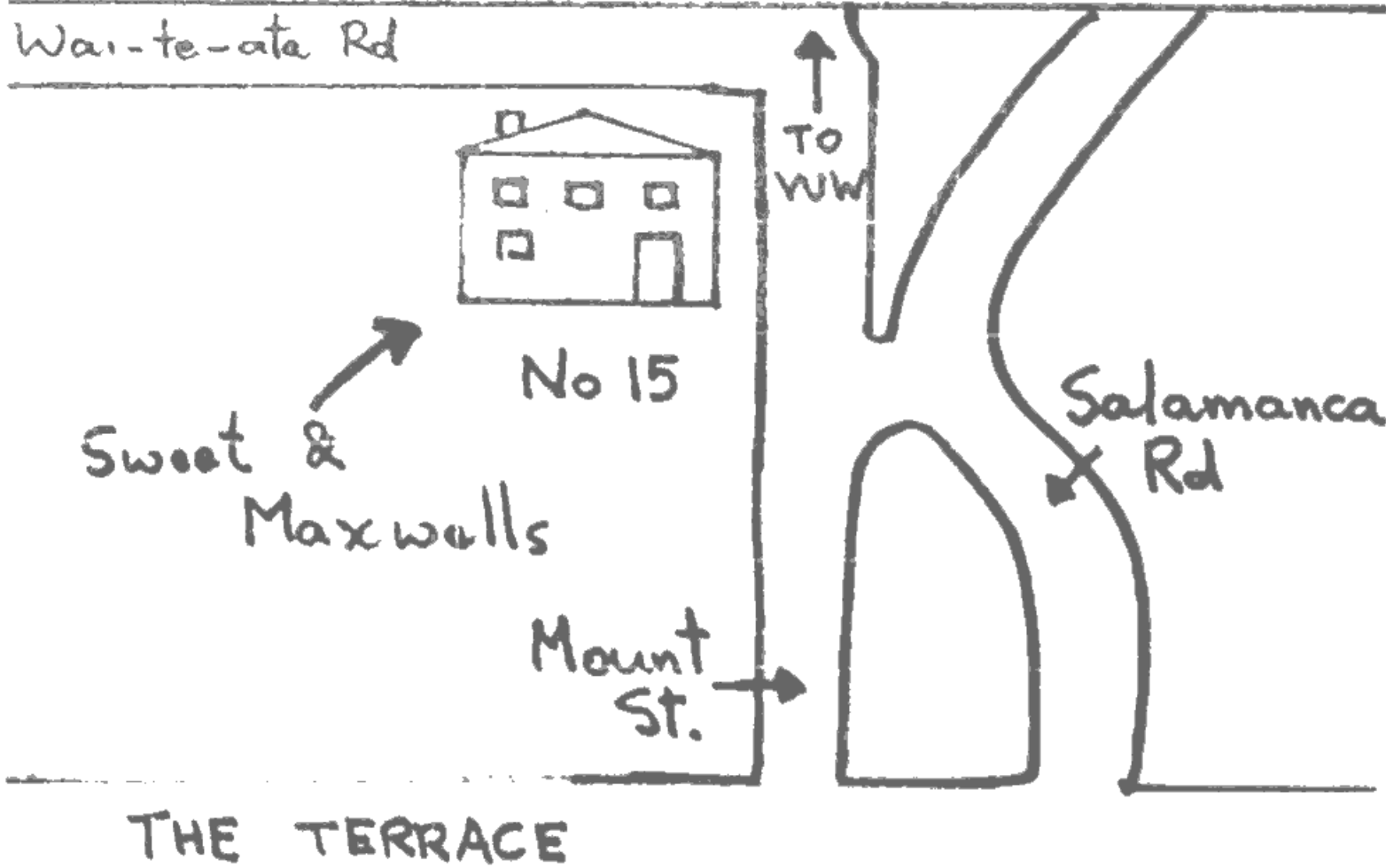
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United action against landlord Council

In between its grandiose schemes to build a new Town Hall and to extend Victoria Street the Citizens (i.e. real estate agents and landlords) Council decided to raise the rents for the tenants in City Council flats. The following report from "The Paper" shows the mounting opposition to this move and the real hardship it will create for many tenants:

Last month we reported that tenants in one block of Wellington City Council flats were taking around a petition opposing any rent increases. Since then the movement against higher rents has spread. Tenants of Central Park, Newtown Park, Rintoul Street, Granville and Hanson Street flats have joined together. On July 19 they will meet to discuss the question of rent rises with the Mayor, Mr Fowler. They have invited other City Council members to be present to hear at first hand from those involved just why the Council tenants do not agree with the Council's claim that rents are due for an increase because of "increasing maintenance and overhead costs."

This meeting with the Mayor and Councillors arose from the action at Granville Flats, which was where the idea of a petition began. On July 5 contact was made by people going around to tenants in the other flats, knocking on their doors and discussing the situation with them. A leaflet was left with tenants explaining the views of the Granville and Rintoul Street tenants and inviting anyone opposing the rent increases to meet the following day to discuss action. Twenty tenants, representing four blocks of flats, met together on July 6. They agreed that united action was necessary and decided to get more tenants together on July 7 at Granville to plan the campaign. The result of this is the meeting with the Mayor and Councillors.

Why are the tenants angry?

Last year the Council put up the rents. This year they are trying to put them up again. Tenants can see this happening every year if they don't make a stand. What annoys tenants is the poor maintenance of the flats. They cannot see how the Council can say it is spending more money on maintenance. They want to know what the Council

is really using the money for. Rintoul Street tenants have written to the Council asking for full details on how the rents are spent. Perhaps Mr Fowler can explain on July 19.

People who have been active in this rent campaign freely admit that there are many people paying higher rents in Wellington and there may be some people in these flats who are well off financially. But this is not the case with most tenants. These proposed increases will cause real hardship in many cases. They have to be seen in the light of the drop in wages many tenants have suffered through the Government's wages policy, which has not restricted prices to any degree. And the fact that some people are being treated even worse by private landlords does not help the Council tenant to solve the problem.

Cases in point

These cases reported to people organising the rent campaign show what the increases mean to people in fact.

Mrs W. a solo parent with 2 children, one at school, the other 2 years old. She says she finds it hard enough to budget now on the social welfare benefit. She doesn't know how she will manage when the rent goes up from \$19 to \$24 a week. She is getting the maximum hardship allowance of \$10 a week now and Social Welfare have told her she can't get any more. She would like to get a job but says "By the time I pay for my child in the day care centre, get someone to look after my child after school, have tax taken off and my benefit reduced, I wouldn't gain anything from it." In June this year her extra benefit went up from \$6 a week to \$10 a week - an increase of \$4. If the rent goes up she will lose \$5 a week and will be a dollar a week worse off altogether.

Commenting on a similar situation in her own case another tenant said "Living in the flats is getting beyond the limits

of the people the Council is supposed to have built them for."

Another solo parent who is working finds she earns \$3 less per week than if she was on the full benefit. Because she works she can't get an extra benefit to meet higher rents - all of which proves what Mrs W thought about the situation is right.

Nearly half their income in rent?

Mr and Mrs A have been married for 26 years. For the last 13 years they had lived in a small cottage in Hopper Street - rent \$13 per week. Power and gas bills were included in the cost of rent. They liked it there: a small garden enabled them to potter around outside on fine days.

In March this year the Council informed them that they had to get out as their flat was being demolished to make room for the new Arlington block. They applied for a Council flat and were placed in a small one bedroom unit in Newtown Park Council flats. Rent for this unit is \$16. The flat was unfurnished, had no phone and no washing machine.

Mr A has been receiving the Social Welfare sickness benefit for the last 12 months. Because of a serious heart complaint he is unable to work. Mrs A is 56 years of age and cannot work. Their total income is \$47.90 a week. They

were recently informed of the latest Council flat rent increase. As from the 1st of August their rent will be \$21 a week week.

Food costs them approximately \$12 a week, leaving them \$14.90 per week for any extra costs like transport, medical bills, power bills and clothing. They cannot afford a phone. A two monthly winter power bill is approximately \$16. They are unable to save.

Problems with Social Welfare aside, this couple have had no help from Council concerning the possibility of their getting special financial benefits or the removal of the latest increase for them. They feel trapped and downtrodden and the worry of the rent increase is affecting their health further.

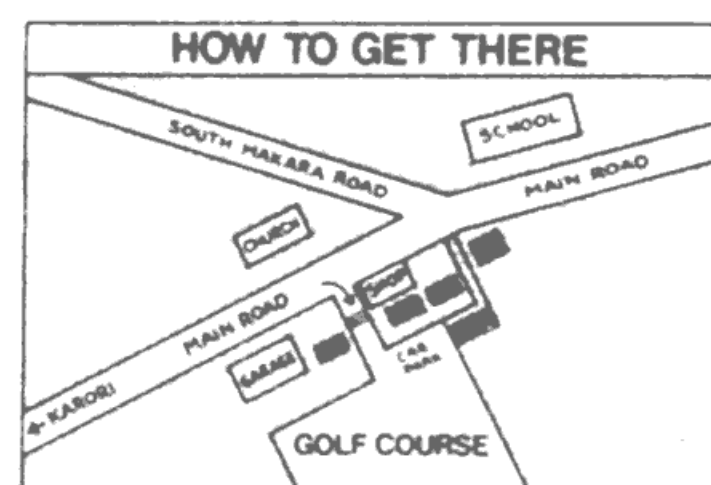
"We have to fight together"

A solo parent, separated from her husband, has been living in her one bedroom flat for the past year. She has been on the waiting list for a state house for two and a half years. She has complained of overcrowding to the Council but with no result. She had to spend \$20 in getting rid of fleas infesting the flats and had to buy new mattresses. The Council refused to help her with the cost in both cases. When asked about a Tenants' Committee she said "We've tried calling the Council ourselves. I even spoke to the Mayor. We have no choice but to fight together".

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CONRAD BOLLINGER:

A scholar and a socialist

With the death of Conrad Bollinger the New Zealand progressive movement lost one of its best people. To some he was a consistently active worker in progressive causes, to others a writer or broadcaster, to this university he was recently acknowledged as an English scholar of original and first rate calibre. But if you knew Con at all well, you will feel that these kinds of description are quite inadequate to communicate the depth and variety of the man's character. I can only describe a few aspects. His contribution to New Zealanders deserves a full account, from the many different kinds of people to whom he was known and the hundreds of those whom he helped and worked with in his time.

To my knowledge he was active in all the major social issues in New Zealand since the end of World War 2, from the demonstrations in 1947 against Dutch rule in Indonesia to the movement opposing the Official Secrets Act in 1975. In his political life he was a member of the Communist Party for some years, later he tried the Labour Party, finding that neither was equal to the task of moving New Zealand any closer to socialism. He ended up as one of those unaligned socialists who could be counted on to support a protest movement. He was always willing to give his time and talents to causes which could help the struggle against the oppressive forces which limit and distort so much in the lives of New Zealand people.

He worked in and for trade unions, was a journalist, spoke on radio and appeared on television, was the author of 'Grog's Own



Country a history of the liquor trade, and wrote a history of the seamen's union titled 'Against the Wind'. Con wrote the latter book in the middle of writing his doctoral thesis. Involved as he was with the thesis he thought that the seamen's book was something important that had

to be done. It was typical of Con that he could always be interrupted for a good cause or by someone who needed to talk to him.

At the memorial meeting of Victoria University James Bertram spoke of the outstanding and original quality of Con's doctoral thesis, which related the way in which the upsurge of drama in Elizabethan and Jacobean times was a reflection of the great social movements of its day. This obviously is of major importance not only for English scholars, but for those who think that ideas do not fall from the sky, or are innate in the mind, but come from social practice.

Con's talent as a humourist will be known to those who appeared with him in University Extravaganzas, and to those who went to see the satirical reviews put on by The Rubbishers in various strange locations around Wellington in the early 60's. In this as in all of his work Con brought a zest and enjoyment of living which it is some consolation to his friends to remember at this time.

Above all his compassion and friendliness towards people was unparalleled. He was not one of those Leftists who 'care about strangers' who talk of freedom and social injustice' and treat those they meet with reserve and suspicion. He had more than anyone I know overcome the tendency of our society to divide human beings against one another. He was ever hopeful that there were good possibilities in the most unlikely characters. He never accepted the capitalist ethic of 'self first.' That was a personal triumph of Con's that has a lesson for a lot of us.

The Auckland Task Force has been the subject of controversy since its introduction (see Salient 10, May 22nd). In an effort to find out whether the supporters of the Force had any real basis for their stand the 18 May letter was sent. John Kirk replied with a telegram querying the authenticity of the letter. The rest of the correspondence is self explanatory.

Social Research: when to be courteous and servile (Part II)

28 May 1975

Mr John Kirk M.P.,
Parliament Buildings,
WELLINGTON.

Mr John Kirk MP
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

16 May 1975

Dear Mr Kirk

I enclose an article from the May issue of 'The Paper' on the Auckland Task Force. As you are, from recent speeches, a strong supporter of this body, could you please answer the following questions:

1. To what degree has the Task Force reduced serious crime in Auckland streets (offences carrying more than 6 months jail, particularly robbery and assault)?
2. The incident reported here is one of many seemingly unprovoked attacks on Polynesians by Task Force members. Can you tell me why the Police Department has failed to investigate any of these?
3. The Auckland Committee on Racism and Discrimination has drafted a detailed report on Task Force activities, concluding that the Force is deliberately discriminating against Maoris and other Polynesians. Have you read this report? Does the Police Department intend to do anything about it?
4. Why are 60% of Task Force's arrests of Polynesians, where this group comprises less than 15% of the Auckland population?

VUWSA trusts you, as a strong supporter of the Task Force, will be prepared to answer these questions publicly.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Ward
Anthony Ward
For National Affairs Committee

Encl.
TN:AC

Dear Mr Kirk,

In reply to your telegram referring to Anthony Ward's letter I will outline the position. Our Association, as you will be aware, takes an active interest in many aspects of New Zealand society. The National Affairs Committee is at present investigating several fields of interest to us. One of these is the Task Force in Auckland.

Having seen the report presented by Acord, we were interested in gaining the other side of the story, one we felt you as a supporter of Task Force might be able to give. Anthony Ward's letter was on behalf of the Association - we trust you will be prepared to answer it.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Saksen

Lisa Saksen
PRESIDENT



Mr Anthony Ward,
National Affairs Committee,
Victoria University of Wellington
Students' Association,
Private Bag,
WELLINGTON

Parliament Buildings,
WELLINGTON

9 July 1975

Dear Mr Ward,

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of 1st July 1975 which draws attention to an unanswered letter of 28th May.

To begin with, it is not my policy to answer telegrams on important matters which have political connotations without first checking the source and bona fides of the signatory. It would appear that you cannot have read the newspapers which reported my intended absence in Australia on Parliamentary business from 18th May. I returned to New Zealand some two weeks ago and have given rightful precedence to the many inquiries I received from my electorate during my absence. No doubt you would have received an answer in due course.

I would remind you that the second paragraph in your second letter contains three alternatives which you seem to consider must be my thinking on matters pertaining to the Task Force. I prefer to do my own thinking and prefer not to have words put in my mouth. I have made my stand on the Task Force well known and with ample publicity of the reasons why. It has been my experience since entering Parliament to feel a responsibility towards the community at large who indeed have to be protected and this can only be done by upholding law and order.

It has been interesting to note the amount of minor pressure groups who are expressing a political motivation this year, and it is equally amazing that there are so many people in the community (still a small proportion fortunately) whose aim seems to be to achieve a lessening or slackening of law and order. Many of the critics of law and order are the first to complain to the Police when lawlessness affects them and one wonders how much compassion they would show when they became the victims themselves. I choose to stand with the majority of the community which favours law and order and respect for the police.

Yours sincerely

John Kirk
John Kirk
M.P. for Sydenham

Mr John Kirk M.P.
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

1 July 1975

Dear Mr Kirk

I am writing to express disappointment that you have not yet even fit to reply to my letter of 16 May on the Auckland Task Force. You queried my authority to write this, which I found insulting, but after a reply to that query on 28 May from the President of this Association you have had over a month to reply and have not done so.

While appreciating that M.P.'s have very busy lives, we had hoped from your strong public support for the Task Force you knew something about the subject and would be prepared to share this with us. From your failure to answer we can conclude either that you know very little about Task Force and are merely using it as a convenient political football, or that the Acord report on the Task Force which we referred you to is in fact an accurate analysis of the situation and your failure to reply indicates a realisation of your mistake in this matter.

Would you care to suggest which of these conclusions is more correct?

Yours sincerely

Anthony Ward
Anthony Ward
NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Intercontinental Press
Vol 13 No 25 June 30, 1975.

Tony Lane of the Young Socialists in Wellington, New Zealand (P.O. Box 3494), wrote us the following letter:

"The local student newspaper at Victoria University, Wellington, *Salient*, has just reprinted your Israel Shahak interview. Please find a copy enclosed.

"In 1974, there were several sharp debates, in which we participated, covering the Middle East question held on Victoria University. Being able to get the Shahak interview reprinted will help in the campaign to counter Zionist propaganda. You might also find it interesting that even though a Marxist, the editor of *Salient* overlooked his Stalinism to reprint an excellent interview."

Intercontinental arrogance

So they pulled the wool over my eyes!
Not only do the Trotskyites through *Socialist Action* treat their readers and supporters as having the level of intelligence of children but they also treat their political opponents as having the same level of intelligence. No wonder they were surprised when such a feeble "Stalinist" mind as mine actually recognised the "excellence" of the Israel Shahak interview that appeared in *Intercontinental Press* and decided to reprint it.
Tony's letter would be unworthy of reply: except that it demonstrates such arrogant conceit. Tony would have it that my "Stalinism" prevents me from adopting a progressive stance on the Palestine question. I

can't quite follow Tony's logic but in case he is unaware of my stance on this question I would ask him to cast his mind back to those "several sharp debates" last year. He might also remember that I played a major part in their organisation. He might also remember that I played a major part in placing material in *Salient* to "counter Zionist propaganda" - but I suppose if you can get away with labelling me a "Stalinist"...

Actually I would like to ask Tony Lane about his stance towards Palestine. He says he is out to "counter Zionist propaganda" as am I. And in another article he says the specific means of carrying out this aim is to allow the PLO to be heard. As would I. I just wondered if Tony continued this logic and actually came out in support of the PLO in its national liberation struggle? If so there should be no reason why he and I should differ on this question.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Sir,
For a number of years I have been subjected to the arrogant preoccupations and queer idiosyncracies of a number of lecturers (as most students have been at one time or another). In enabling myself to cope I have often ignored these happenings in the hope that some gem of knowledge be uttered which I could utilize in furthering my education.

However last term an incident occurred which at the time didn't seem notable, but together with another related incident finally provoked me into writing this letter of protest.

Incident 1 happened during the last lecture in Accy 301 in which the students and myself were subjected to a tirade of eloquence on the relevance of special numbers to Accountancy. This you may say shouldn't seem strange but what I strongly objected to was the use of religion to reinforce the lecture and to me it smacked of religious mania. Only one person walked out in direct opposition because (I imagine) the remainder may have thought the lecturer would comment on the content of the final exam (as has been common in most courses I have taken). This was not to be however.

Incident 2. During the course students were to complete three reports, the last of which had to be posted out to students at their addresses.

When I received my report, included with it was a religious book on God, etc.

To me this is an insult. Although I am not religious I have respect for other peoples religious feelings but I feel that no teacher has the right of forcing his religious beliefs on students via the medium of his job without the express permission of the students obtained beforehand.

If I had wanted to learn of God, etc, I would have enrolled in a religious studies course or joined the priesthood.

To this practice I strongly object and because I am still under the control of the lecturer concerned I don't wish to carry the matter any further than this letter.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Accounting Student
Some Shocking Revelations

Dear Editor,
Noting the recent spate of attacks on the NZMSEC and MSAs and personalities involved, I would like to contribute further to the expanding information on the last. I am a member of MSA with close contact with the Wellington MSA executive committee and have learnt some shocking things about some of the leaders which members are not aware of:

1. I learnt very recently to my utter disgust that articles expressing any progressive ideas submitted to the MSA publication Suara

Siswa, are ripped up by the President.
2. This person and the vice-President decide things without consulting the committee members who are often kept in the dark about the affairs of the MSA.

3. Someone has complained that one of the present committee members who is not a student at Victoria was recently co-opted. This person has very close ties with the Malaysian High Commission and manages Malaysia house and is an electronics expert.

4. The President submits a list of names of Malaysian students to the High Commission whenever Malaysian dignitaries come to Wellington so that they can be invited to any function held in their honour. If they don't turn up, their absence is noted, according to a reliable source.

5. In a circular sent to members this month, they were instructed to approach non-member Malaysians to join the MSA.

May I ask the spokesman of MSA hoping there is one, to clarify the following queries:

1. What right has the President to tear up contributions of members to Suara Siswa just because he does not like their views and since he is not the Editor.

2. Is it true democracy to do things behind the backs of members and on their behalf when they are supposed to represent them and their views.

3. What is an electronics expert and a close friend of the High Commission doing on the committee.

4. Should names of Malaysians be given voluntarily to the High Commission.

5. Does MSA pretend to represent the views of all Malaysians?

Since it is unlikely that we will get any response from them, I shall be supplying an answer for them to save them the trouble, and as they similarly do on their members' behalf on many things.

Sincerely, Member X
Green misunderstood over Zionism

Sir,
I refer to the letter of "B.M.H." in response to my own on the question of Zionism.

I regret that B.M.H. misunderstood my comments.

The heading "Reply to Shahak" was appended by the Editor. My letter was prompted *not* by that article (interestingly, in Israel, a State whose people are under constant threat of imminent annihilation, as they are so thoughtfully reminded by the savage attacks of the P.L.O. etc, a gentleman like Shahak may openly advocate his own particular brand of destruction - what more open society can the Left seek?) but by the fact that today the well-dressed member of the Left so unthinkingly wears Pro-Palestinian sympathies.

That Zionism is inherently racist and

nationalistic and therefore (apparently) to be decried, is a strange view in the circumstances. As I noted in my letter, the assertion of Maori culture and language, the Nationalism of Black-Africa, etc., is vigorously supported by the Left. All I seek is consistency. If B.M.H. seeks Internationalism, I suggest he makes this clear, especially to the Palestinians.

That I consider the rights of the Zionists to be sacrosanct and those of the Arabs expendable, is directly contrary to my actual words--viz:

"Why should the rights of all other peoples be sacrosanct, save those of the Jews?"

I would add, why should it be that in that vast land mass of Muslim nations, that small area of land of the Jewish state must be secular (or Muslim) before there is to be peace in the Middle-East.

It is unfortunate that the Editor chose to head B.M.H.'s letter "Green's Whitewash". The only whitewash necessary is that for the blood-shed caused by the Arab terrorists, enthusiastically supported by their brothers.

Pauline H. Green

An admirer of Brian King

Dear Sir,

For a number of years now I have read the record reviews in the pages of "Salient". It has been a sort of masochism on my part. I like rock music but I don't kid myself that it has anything to do with genuine music. So I find the pseudo-intellectual nonsense which parades itself in the rock reviews quite amusing. I just can't believe that anyone could write seriously week after week the pretentious drivel that drips from the pens of your reviewers.

David McLennan I can understand. He obviously sees his job as one way to help records sell.

But Brian King - there's a man to admire. Anyone who can churn out sustained nonsense week after week deserves some kind of literary prize. Do you think that you could lend him a bit of space to explain what this pearl from last week's "Salient" means? "That album . . . which fully explored the facilities of the recording studio without obscuring the identity of the songs." Is this some kind of toilet humour which Miss Bartlett would find offensive?

Your kin in sorrow,
Pitt R. Rim



Dear Friend,

I am truly saddened by the unnecessary bigoted persecutions of Christians in your paper. I refer to the many anti-MSA letters which have been much less tolerant than the communists in Vietnam.

As Christians, we lead our lives as closely as we can according to the footsteps of the Son of Man who died on the cross so that we can all be saved from the wickedness of the world. We try to be humble and meek, and we are attacked for doing this. We believe that we should love our enemies even the Malaysian Government, and we are decried for this like the leper in the Holy Scriptures. There is justification for us to love our government as it is anti-communist. As you would agree, communists are anti-Christ and therefore anti-Christians. And I remind you that Satan is anti-God. If the communists and Satan are the one and the same, then why curse us for our determination not to say anything against a government which is fighting it?

You have not been informed about the true situation in Malaysia and have so far been printing communist propaganda. The communists have been behind all the recent unrest there. They have spread lies about our country. There is no deaths from hunger as they said, only people dying because they ate poison roots. Is this not twisting the facts? Students have demonstrated at home because they think it is fashionable to do this, rather than be more useful members of society by working for the development of the country. If you visited Malaysia, you will be shocked to discover that the public there does not support these layabouts, who have helped the communists by stirring up the peasants to demand things which the government cannot hope to do immediately. This is juvenile. What more demonstrators have destroyed public property and disrupted city life and traffic. This is highly inconvenient for law abiding citizens who have better things to do.

It is completely untrue that our government is repressive. If it detains people without trial, it has reasons to do so. If we looked deeper into the situation, we will find that most of the detainees are communists. Remember God cast Satan out of Heaven for challenging his authority and love. So have the communists abused their freedom by attacking the government and using violence to terrorise people. Is it so wrong that they are locked up? In any case after they are reformed, they are released to be useful members of society. God is still prepared to forgive Satan if he will repent.

Also is it so bad that foreigners are helping to develop our country? They are entitled to their just gains. Workers complain that they are not paid enough but we do not realise that they are lazy by nature and do not work hard enough to deserve higher wages. If foreigners had not come to Malaysia, the people would still be what they were before, underdeveloped.

"I rather be a Christian and be Saved"

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Letter from liberated Saigon

Claudia Kritch

The following is excerpted from an account written on May 14, 1975 by one of six American Friends Service Committee staff members who remained in Vietnam through the end of the war.

WAITING FOR SAIGON

At 11.00 p.m. the evening of the 29th, two distraught neighbours of ours came to our gate. They are two doctors from Da Nang, married to each other. They fled from Da Nang, and are petrified of the stories they've heard about the communists. They asked us if we knew how they could flag down a helicopter; they were thinking of painting SOS on their roof.

We begged them not to do anything of the sort, pointing out that if a helicopter came down on our alley we'd probably all be killed by ARVNs shooting at him. We invited them in, and the man came in for a talk. We reassured him, calmed him, and in the end he, like many visitors we'd had before him, left with new ideas in his head.

I'll jump ahead to tell the interesting end of this tale. Late in the day of liberation I asked the man doctor if he'd like to volunteer at the Van Hanh University first aid center. He was very eager to go, perhaps to show his good intentions to the new government. We

took him in our car, and he ended up spending the night. When he walked in the dispensary to meet his first "communists", the first aid cadres, two young men and one woman, grinned and clapped, grateful to have a doctor's help. The doctor grinned back, and immediately took on the tone of authority of a doctor, and comfortably got to work.

The next morning his family saw me and said he hadn't come home yet, and they were afraid he'd been kidnapped. I assured them he hadn't been, and he came home himself shortly to tell them it actually was safe to leave the house! He continued working there until he found a different center where he was needed even more. Now, two weeks later, his wife has returned to Da Nang to see where doctors are most needed there, and he is eager to get into a regular position, hopefully home in Da Nang. Some doctors in Quang Ngai are receiving re-education because they were military officers, and considered very corrupt. Our neighbor doctor feels he needs orienting to the new society and is looking forward to it.

LIBERATION OF SAIGON:

For several days ARVN soldiers and police had been wearing civilian clothes under their uniforms, and by surrender time the streets were littered with thousands of piles of helmets, jackets, trousers, backpacks, and ammunition. Local student groups were prepared in advance to begin collecting the arms, and they did so with excellent organization.

Chi Dung tells a story of herself and her 16 year old sister going out right after the surrender and taking down the GVN flag and hinging up the PRG flag at the local administrative office. Fleeing, confused ARVN soldiers saw them there, and began piling their guns at their feet, to get rid of them. Dung saw this was a good thing, and she and her sister each picked up a rifle so as to look official (neither one knows how to shoot). Then dozens more soldiers piled their guns there, and Dung waited for some other people to help her take the guns to a building and lock them up.

Though the surrender had occurred, we didn't see any PRG soldiers until 4 in the afternoon. The immediate organizing of the city was completely carried out by local people, both students and older people. They had planned in advance for the collection of arms, ending the looting, feeding the homeless ARVN soldiers, cleaning the streets of garbage, protecting the gas stations that were left, and calming the populace. Students climbed on trucks and jeeps to go out and bring back guns and ammunition abandoned in the streets. Sound trucks told citizens not to burn the piles of trash, because there were explosives in the piles. (There were quite a few injuries for the first two days from children picking up abandoned ARVN grenades, and people burning trash containing explosives). Students sorted the military supplies, emptied the rifles of bullets, and took all explosives to a locked, guarded room. This was happening all over the city.

At about 4 I saw the first PRG tank come slowly up Trung Kinh Giang into the city. The streets were jammed solid with vehicles and pedestrians, moving around, greeting the PRG soldiers, and just stuck. I went out on the sidewalk to watch. Tanks came in piled with soldiers sitting, friendly and maybe shy, looking around Saigon and talking among themselves. Someone near me threw them a pack of cigarettes. People on the sidewalks waved and giggled and they waved back. Then came busloads of soldiers, grinning out the windows at us.

Along the sidewalk came a single file line of foot-soldiers carrying all manner of weapons, grenade launchers, rocket launchers, rifles, rice, transmitters. The ones on foot had to move through crowds of onlookers and they must have felt a bit too exposed, so they kept their eyes straight ahead and walked quickly. The PRG soldiers were friendly and polite, but aloof. They had to remain alert, because there were still "enemies" in Saigon, and some soldiers and political cadres have been killed in the last two weeks after liberation.

People on the sidewalks on that street didn't cheer the soldiers uproariously, as did happen in Cho Lon and parts of Gia Dinh. But there were friendly. The next day I met my first woman cadre. She was 24, had been a cadre for ten years. Strong, solid and beautiful, with a thick black braid down past her waist. She's from Can Tho, carries an AK 47, has a beautiful big smile and talked freely but shyly. She had a beautiful liberation scarf and a newly ironed blue blouse. A young man cadre came up to her and teased her about her blue things, instead of

wearing her rubber sandals, he winked at me and said she was in the city now, and had to look pretty.

Downtown, the Presidential Palace was quite a sight, with tanks lined up straight to the door, and big guns and anti-aircraft guns and all sorts of military trappings, all over the big park in front of the Palace. The tanks had just rolled past the barricades and up to the steps. President Minh really did a generous thing, to accept being President for a day. I think it avoided a lot of bloodshed. Hundreds of soldiers sat on their tanks and trucks, talking with the Saigonese walking around looking at everything.

I went hesitantly to a truck and had a short conversation with some equally embarrassed and shy soldiers. Then I went over to a small group sitting under a tree. I can't remember quite what I said, but a very kind voiced young man said, "Please call me older brother, because we are all one family now, and Vietnam is one country".

That night Keith and I slept on the meditation roof of the Buddhist Van Hanh University. We felt like we were on vacation in some peaceful Asian country. Never before had we slept out on a high roof. Never before did we feel so safe, as opposed to threatened by the Government of the country. It was very clear that the newly arrived soldiers were not angry, were not hostile. They were curious, friendly, people from nearby, from farther away, but all Vietnamese.

In some encounters on the streets in the next two weeks worried citizens would meet one or another of us and say, "But the Americans aren't coming back, are they? Please don't let foreigners come in again." Other people understand that some Americans are "friends", but those who are just beginning to understand history, to see how they've been lied to all these years, are frightened of the idea of foreigners returning again.

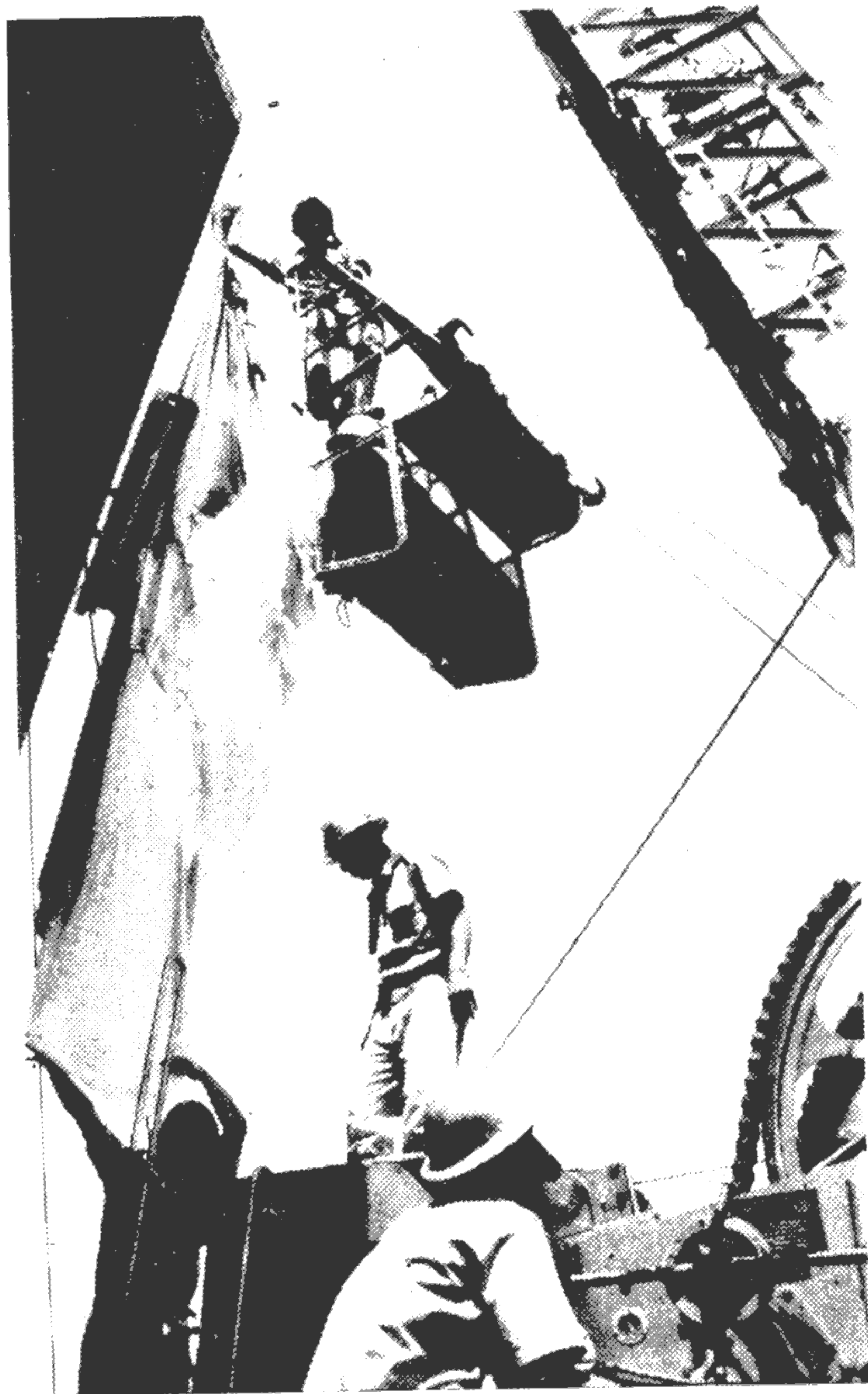
On the second day of Liberation, May 1, we were taken around in a jeep to look at the city and take pictures. This was organized for us by friends who are students at Van Hanh. It went on for several days, until the students ran out of gas! The crush in the streets was incredible, but gay.

Organisation was under way in seemingly all levels of life. Students organized to clean up the city. Cadres like Yen began holding meetings with scared people all over the city. Movies and cultural troupes and TV documentaries were brought into Saigon to educate the people. Never have we seen Saigonese so glued to their TV sets. The soldiers in the park politely covered the noses of the cannons and anti-aircraft guns with rice bags, so they wouldn't look so threatening. Soldiers started walking around the streets, and as each day passed we'd see soldiers farther and farther in the suburbs, either looking around or visiting friends and family.

Most remarkable to me was that the vast majority of soldiers are totally unarmed. Officers and cadres are being urged now to carry pistols, because there have been some murders recently, apparently by former secret police who didn't make it out on the American evacuation. Security forces have rifles, but they're usually stationed somewhere, like at the front of a diplomatic or military building.

THE REVOLUTION:

People are beginning to understand that the revolution is a long growing process, as opposed to Liberation. Our friend, the former political prisoner, Chi Hien, in the first few days after Liberation bragged about her position and her activities. More



Dockers hoisting PRG flag at Saigon harbour



March of Saigon students on June 1, Children's Day

recently she says calmly that she and her friends are studying the meaning and goals of the revolution, and gaining skills themselves that will make them useful individuals in the future.

Various underground and opposition groups are organizing together, comprising making decisions for the long term future ahead. Individual Saigonese are beginning to enjoy the idea of no more foreigners. Those who depend on foreigners for the businesses are worried about the future. Government workers are all back on the job, working for the new government. I asked a woman at Logistics what her salary would be, and she said she had no idea. We were told that Quang Ngai hospital workers were getting two cans of rice and 50 piastres a day - very, very little. Most people are functioning in their normal ways.

In thousands of families, relatives are appearing on the doorstep after not having been heard from for twenty years. It's like Rip van Winkle's tale, people who were 18 when last seen, are now 40 years old. Families are being reunited, full of emotion and joy. Northerners here in Saigon are very excited about going back north, and those who are poorer or have large families are waiting for the railroad to be built taking them all the way.

We attended an outdoor meeting of religious leaders and political leaders, held on a crowded little street in a suburb. I attended a women's meeting led by Chi Yen talking to the women about some basic changes the revolution had to offer, such as medical and child care. The audience applauded loudest when Yen said now women could walk safely on the streets because there are no more "self-defense forces" terrorizing everyone.

The meeting was held outdoors, in the evening, in a poor and crowded refugee camp. The people were excited about the possibility of free education, honest examinations, day care centres, going home to the countryside, and good free medical care. Their fears had been based on the abundant rumours,

and Yen assured them that children would not be taken away from their mothers, women with nail polish would not have their nails pulled out, soldiers and police would not have their throats cut, half American babies would not be boiled alive, women with American husbands would not be discriminated against, people are free to wear whatever clothes they desire, and they need not hide in the dark to eat a chicken or pork, but just eat it quite freely. No one will starve.

Someone asked if soldiers will still get their financial compensations (which in most cases hadn't been paid by the Thieu government anyway). Yen bristled slightly at this, and only I in the audience knew how recently her husband was killed fighting for the revolution (actually not fighting, but writing). She answered that brothers and sisters in the Liberation struggle have sacrificed themselves for decades with no thought of compensation so now Thieu government soldiers' families will have to do some sacrificing too. There isn't enough to pay people for a family member who is dead, only enough for those who are alive. The audience murmured in agreement.

There was a huge festival on May 7 downtown, led mostly by student groups. There were banners and streamers and pictures of Uncle Ho, and ten or hundreds of thousands of people attending. It wouldn't be true to say they were all waiting joyously for this day to come, for the revolution, but now that this change has taken place, people have something to look forward to, something to think about, other than continued war and suffering and destruction.

It's hard to fathom peace for people who have been at war for so long. Buses on Highway 1 run all day and all night now! Vietnam has never had GVN (Government of Vietnam) traffic moving at night before. People at the demonstration were of all sorts - young giggly students cheering and then giggling with each other. Old women looking solemn and carrying obviously

precious pictures of Ho Chi Minh. Students looking busy and happy, PRG soldiers looking calm and pleasant.

In the huge mass of people I saw no guns or arms at all. The soldiers in the streets were unarmed. Way up on top of the palace we could see two guards, presumably armed, but the whole military government - the officials - were standing on a balcony of the palace, for all the world to see, as Thieu had never done. I mentioned this later to a high level cadre, and he said that the revolution belongs to the people, it's not something being done against them.

I heard a man a few days ago tell a beggar that he shouldn't beg anymore, now there was a revolution and everyone would have work to do, and enough to eat. This morning a woman eating breakfast with us at a noodle stand told another beggar that what the government says is true this time, and that she won't have to beg. At the same meal a woman from the north, mother of 8 children, asked both me and this other woman if we knew a way for her to not have any more children. She responded that as soon as the new government gets better organized they'll surely offer such services, and free.

People on the streets are interested in the changes, and talking freely. Some are absolutely thrilled, like the majority of cyclo drivers I've talked to. A few are still living in a dream world, like a young woman who handed Paul a letter in English saying she wanted to live in freedom and would he marry her and take her away, and that though she didn't speak English, she would try to please him as a wife. But those are few, thank heavens, it's just that as some of the few foreigners left, we meet some. Paul told her to wake up and look around, and see what's going on in the world outside her own head.

The present Saigon government is a temporary military government, run by a committee, whose job it is to restore full security in the city and make way for the political government to take over. Already the security is phenomenally better than it's ever been for Vietnamese, with little or no robbery in the suburbs.

We've heard of some cases here and in Nha Trang of shooting armed robbers, and these examples apparently influence other would-be thieves. Paul heard of a young man with a red arm band and a rifle, posing as a cadre, firing into a bus in Gia Dinh that wouldn't stop for him. He shot and killed an old woman. Some genuine soldiers were nearby and caught him, and asked the people on the bus what they thought they should do with him. This was a day or two after liberation. They said shoot him, and so they did.

TWO WEEKS AFTER:

It's still much too early to make any sweeping judgments on the revolution. Well, maybe there are a few we can

make. Political prisoners under Thieu are free. Among the former prisoners, AFSC staff have personally met student leader Huynh Tan Mam and artist Buu Chi. The only person we've heard of being jailed under the new regime is the Quang Ngai Police Chief, who we hear is in his own prison. It is very peaceful, relaxed, pleasant in the city. Foreigners have freedom of movement within the Saigon area, and Vietnamese have complete freedom of movement.

There has been absolutely no "bloodbath", whatever that abused term really means. The new government is being cautious, keeping its defensive posture against possible outside attack again. Vietnamese who we meet day to day seem for the most part happy, looking forward to the future, and some are wondering how they'll make their living if their former one depended on American trade. The beautiful north, which southerners and northerners alike say is the nicest part of Vietnam, is now available to those in the south.

Husbands and wives are meeting for the first time in 21 years, families are coming together. Tomorrow, May 15, is the first day of a three day victory celebration, and many soldiers will have the days off to go visit their relatives and friends. May 19 is Ho Chi Minh's birthday, and another celebration. Downtown the soldiers are building a bandstand for tomorrow's gathering, and there's an air of festivity.

In PRG areas before liberation and in the north there is no haggling over prices and people don't overcharge. So when the liberation soldiers reached Saigon, the goal of how many years, they had their pictures taken in front of the Assembly building, and bought souvenirs. But the Saigon sharks, jumped right in and began selling fake watches, broken watches, at outrageous prices.

It was already difficult because of the difference in value of South Vietnamese and North Vietnamese money. (The North Vietnamese money is pegged to the value it had 20 years ago.) The sharks would tell sad, and fake tales of being very poor and needing to sell the watch so they could go home, or feed their children. Some soldiers were so embarrassed that they bought the objects at the outrageous prices. This was bothering us tremendously, and Keith and I were relieved to hear a sound truck going around one day telling the soldiers not to believe what they were told about the watches, to only buy in real stores where they get honest receipts, and to not believe the stories of the sellers.



During the war, the Saigon regime forced peasants to leave their villages to 'resettle' in what were in fact concentration camps, or to the cities where there was massive unemployment, inflation and corruption. The theory behind this was to deprive the patriotic forces of a base among the people by removing the people. After liberation, these people returned to their homes, described by the press here in scare stories as a forced exodus from the cities.

FOURTH WELLINGTON FILM FESTIVAL

By Rod Prosser

There were twenty three films in all with many more shorts, all of which are probably worthy of mention. But as I did not see all of these films I have decided to concentrate on nine of the more significant ones.

Next week I will look at *Test Pictures* the New Zealand feature film which appeared at the festival

Love -- Karoly Makk
HUNGARY

Although this is a tragic film, with a very simple plot and theme, the style of presentation is very refreshing and very original. The film was very realistic in its character portrayal and there was no soul searching or over-dramatised scenes of tragedy. Instead the sorrow was revealed as it often is in real life, by carefully concealing it under the cloak of a sentimental mood along with a kind of forced cheerfulness brilliantly portrayed by the leading actress.

The film was set in Hungary just after the

.....
An old woman is dying in her bed and her daughter-in-law visits her everyday. She feeds the old lady stories about how her son is a famous film director in the United States although he is actually a political prisoner in Hungary. The lies become harder and harder to keep up however and eventually the old lady dies just before her son is released from prison. He comes home and finds that they must share their house with another family. The reunification is a tremendous relief although somehow tragic.

Summer wishes, Winter dreams -- Gilbert Cates
USA

The title is an accurate summary of the film. There is a subtle conflict between wishing for a rosy life and dreaming of an unhappy one. The film achieves this by showing the main characters' links with the past.

Rita (Joanne Woodward) wishes her life would be like it was as a child. But her wishes are haunted by dreams of a broken relationship she had with a boy when she

Scene from "The Wanderers".



Boesman and Lena

was twelve and other unhappy events from her past. The dreams become very depressing and she is unable to accept the fact that she is now middle-aged. She also refuses to accept the fact that her son has left her for good and that he is a homosexual.

It is only after seeing her husband's reaction to his own past, when the visit is a battleground on which he once lived, fought and killed three men that she is able to see the senselessness of her own anxiety.

Like *Love* this film was a pleasant reversal of the normal film of this type where the characters dream of happiness but get a rough deal. Rita gets a good deal although she still sees that her summer wishes were not fulfilled but only replaced by winter dreams.

I thoroughly enjoyed this especially well directed and acted film.

Images Robert Altman
IRELAND

The director, Robert Altman, said that he hoped the audience would not see this film as a clinical documentary about insanity but rather as a fairytale like all his films including *M*A*S*H**, *McCabe and Mrs Miller*, and *Brewster McCloud*.

Altman described the ethos behind the film thus:- "The idea is that we are dealing within the framework of someone's imagination' And when you have a dream, and you walk into a room, the only thing that's happening in that room is what's important to your dream. There are no rubber bands on the floor, no cigarette butts; there's just a gun in the corner or a milk bottle on the table".

Images, in my opinion, was the number one film of the festival. Roughly, it was about a psychotic woman (played by Susannah York) whose imagination was haunted by two old lovers. She had real difficulty in knowing who was real and who wasn't. She would see her husband as someone else. She would see herself in place of husband and so on.

Altman's presentation was far from typical of this type of film. I am usually disgusted with the over-dramatisation of such a film but this one like *Love* maintained a tremendous control. Also, as in *Love*, the main character is portrayed as deeply troubled yet the actresses performance is extremely realistic and unpretentious.

Catherine (the main character) tries to rid herself of the horrible images by killing the people of her dreams. She does this in three

classical murder scenes in the neck while he is shot with a shotgun from distance and another road by a car and falls. Catherine, however, a considerable confusion actually killed. She thought the person that she was by waterfall was a ghost but out that it was really

This scene led into the other ghostly images of blood in the lounge area

Belle -- Andre Delvaux
BELGIUM/FRANCE

Another intriguing director of *Rendezvous* Gregoire is a writer in a house surrounded by marshes. His tensions at home become frustrating he finds refuge in visits to a beautiful yet isolated house on the coast. She turns out to be haunted by another man. An intriguing

Mathieu gets a large inheritance for himself and Belle.

Belle kills the other man and pushes him into a water hole. Mathieu finds the police but they find Belle shot earlier in the film that Mathieu was connected with the money, and he is searching for the right hand under the ice on the coast. This confirms his belief that Belle killed the young man.

This is a film in which reality and fantasy merge. The view is that you know one from the other. It is a personification of an idea. "Mathieu Gregoire". So the film is fantasy is not an excellent addition. *Bray* and I would rate *Images* at this festival.

The Wanderers -- Kon Ichikawa
JAPAN

The film had been called 'Easy Rider'. It centres in 19th Century Japan.

"The three youths are samurai but a special kind of toseinin, sons of farmers who could not find work from village to village. They live by crime and working for a living. The patron who put them up for their stay they are expected to master's interests with



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 within touching
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Ichikawa managed very well to show the
 meaninglessness of the 'honour' and heroism
 in what was a very interesting comedy,
 drama and documentary all in one.

It showed life amongst these people as a
 kind of a game. For example, when two
 groups engaged in a sword fight they would
 pick an isolated spot, carefully confront each
 other and begin. But they would avoid
 one to one combat because that inevitably
 led to death so they would turn and run
 from each other and then turn around and
 run back into the bunch with swords
 flying.

Well worth seeing for its educational,
 artistic and entertainment value.

Love in the Afternoon — Eric Rohmer FRANCE

Sixth in a series of moral tales by Eric
 Rohmer in which the heroes are always
 portrayed as chaste and obstinate, moving
 in a circle through their own smug world
 from order and stability through passion
 and chaos, finally returning to their original
 commitments. In this case the hero is a
 contented married man ultimately attached
 to his wife whom he loves. He is distracted
 by the fascinating Chloe. He is given the
 illusion of choice between her and his wife
 but he knows in advance, as does the viewer
 that his first commitment will be his final
 one.

Rohmer's women in contrast are predat-
 ory, demanding characters, upsetting the
 ordered and balanced lives of his heroes.
 It is significant that the women in this film
 are all two dimensional characters — due
 partly to the position they hold in the story
 and partly to the direction and acting of
 the female actors. Rohmer's attitude to
 women has seriously harmed the film.
 The scripting for the female parts and
 the directing of the female characters has
 badly affected all of the female actors'
 performances.

I came out of this film feeling that it had
 said nothing and didn't even look good.

Boesman and Lena — Ross Devenish SOUTH AFRICA

This was one of the most moving films at
 the festival. It was adapted from a stage play
 written by the leading actor and most
 of the story takes place over one night-time,
 to a certain extent betraying its theatre
 origins.

It is set in South Africa and while it
 contains a strong indictment of Apartheid,
 the main characters, a coloured couple, are
 more concerned with the day-to-day
 struggle for existence than with the basic
 causes of their plight.

The film is virtually a monologue for
 Lena who is attempting to find some kind of
 of stability and meaning in her life while at



Scene from "Love"

the same time bearing Boesman's
 anger and pain when he lashes out at her
 as the only living thing which reacts to him.

Lena spends much of her time trying to
 reconstruct their past in a recitation of the
 various places she and Boesman have lived
 in, always getting the sequence wrong.
 These placenames assume the importance
 of a genealogy to her and her attempt to
 remember them is a search for her identity.
 When she is confronted with a black man
 whose position is even worse than theirs
 he forms the focus of the search in the
 course of the night. When he dies she and
 Boesman are forced to move again. However,
 this time the experience they have been
 through has subtly changed them. The
 whole futility of their lives is summed up
 at the end when Boesman tells Lena
 the names of the places they have been in
 chronological order and she says "it doesn't
 explain anything, does it?"

Celine and Julie go Boating — Jacques Rivette FRANCE

This was the marathon event of the
 festival — three hours and thirteen
 minutes long and this was one of my major
 criticisms: it took too long to say very little.

It has been described as a kind of Alice
 in Wonderland fantasy and it has undertones
 of magic and the occult — Julie reads Tarot
 cards and Celine is a magician. The story
 concerns two girls who visit an old house
 on alternate days, emerging several hours
 after they entered, dazed, with no memory
 of what has happened to them until they
 suck a sweet which they have received in
 the house. The jumbled story flashes
 before them of an old fashioned
 melodrama — each day a different part of
 the same story. Finally the girls decided to

change the ending of the story, escaping from
 from the house with the victim. The whole
 film is a kind of wispy nonsensical fairy
 tale yet it somehow managed to hold its
 audience right until the end even though
 someone saw fit to have no intermission.

The Cars that ate Paris — Peter Weir AUSTRALIA

By far the best Australian film I have
 seen. The film started off to boos and hisses
 from the audience at what looked distinctly
 like a commercial — sports car, attractive
 young couple, the flash of a cigarette packet
 and can of coke on the screen — but then
 something strange happened — the car
 crashed over a cliff and lay mangled at the
 bottom. The hisses quickly turned to
 admiration as the film got under way.
 Paris is a dusty little town somewhere in
 Australia where the inhabitants make their
 living by causing stray visitors to have stray
 fatal car accidents and then stripping them
 and their vehicle of anything of value. Any
 survivors are turned into "veggies" by the
 local doctor. The town is run by the Mayor,
 whose adopted children were saved from a
 "Tragic car accident" in which their
 parents were killed. Paris is controlled by
 "the cars" — the young men of the town in
 their hotted up cars which seem almost to
 have personalities of their own. "The cars"
 get a bit out of hand so the Mayor orders
 one of the cars to be burnt as a lesson. The
 whole town then erupts into violence as the
 cars have their revenge. The young men,
 although driving the cars seem to lose
 control and the cars take over destroying
 everything.

As well as being a strong attack on our
 automobile society the film displayed a
 strong sense of ironic comedy. A film well
 worth seeing.



BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA

By Martin Reyners

The April 1974 coup in Portugal heralded great changes not only in Portugal and Africa, but also much closer to home. East Timor changed overnight from a colonial backwater to a new political force in South-East Asia, creating consternation in Indonesia and jitters in Australia.

The island of Timor is located at the southeastern extremity of the Nusatenggara Archipelago. East Timor (Portuguese Timor) consists of the eastern half of the island, together with the small enclave of Oe-Cussi on the north coast of the Indonesian half of the island. Most visitors to East Timor come from Australia, travelling the 400 miles from Darwin on a TAA Friendship aircraft. Of the 6,000 tourists arriving each year, many are young Australians and New Zealanders entering Indonesia cheaply thru the back door. To these visitors, the 450 years of Portuguese Colonial mismanagement are all too evident. 90% of the indigenous population is still illiterate; health services are nigh on non-existent (there are only twenty doctors for the entire 650,000 inhabitants, 12 of whom are stationed in the capital of Dili, where one finds most of the Portuguese); and, besides many diseases like malaria being widespread, Timor has one of the highest TB rates in the world. The only existing three miles of sealed road are in the capital, and there is no secondary industry to speak of. Failure of infrastructure is, in fact, the gravest problem, and goods often have to be moved between points on the island by ship because roads are impassable.

Coffee earns over 90% of the island's foreign exchange. Yet an extremely small number of Timorese benefit from this since 40% of coffee production is in the hands of a single Portuguese firm, and the bulk of the rest is in the hands of the Chinese. Commerce in East Timor is almost totally dominated by the 10,000 strong Chinese population. Of the 25 largest firms in the country, all are Chinese with the exception of two Portuguese enterprises. For the vast majority of Timorese life is hard - 90% of the population still eke out of a subsistence living using 'slash and burn' and other primitive agricultural techniques. A hill tribesman cultivating tapioca, bananas, peanuts and coffee might earn \$30 a year - the lowest per capital income in South-East Asia. Adding insult to injury, each Timorese male over the age of 18 has to pay a fixed yearly tax and if it is not paid then he is forced to work it off, generally working on the roads.

Coup brings changes

News of the April 74 coup was the biggest surprise in 450 years for the people of East Timor. There was now more to

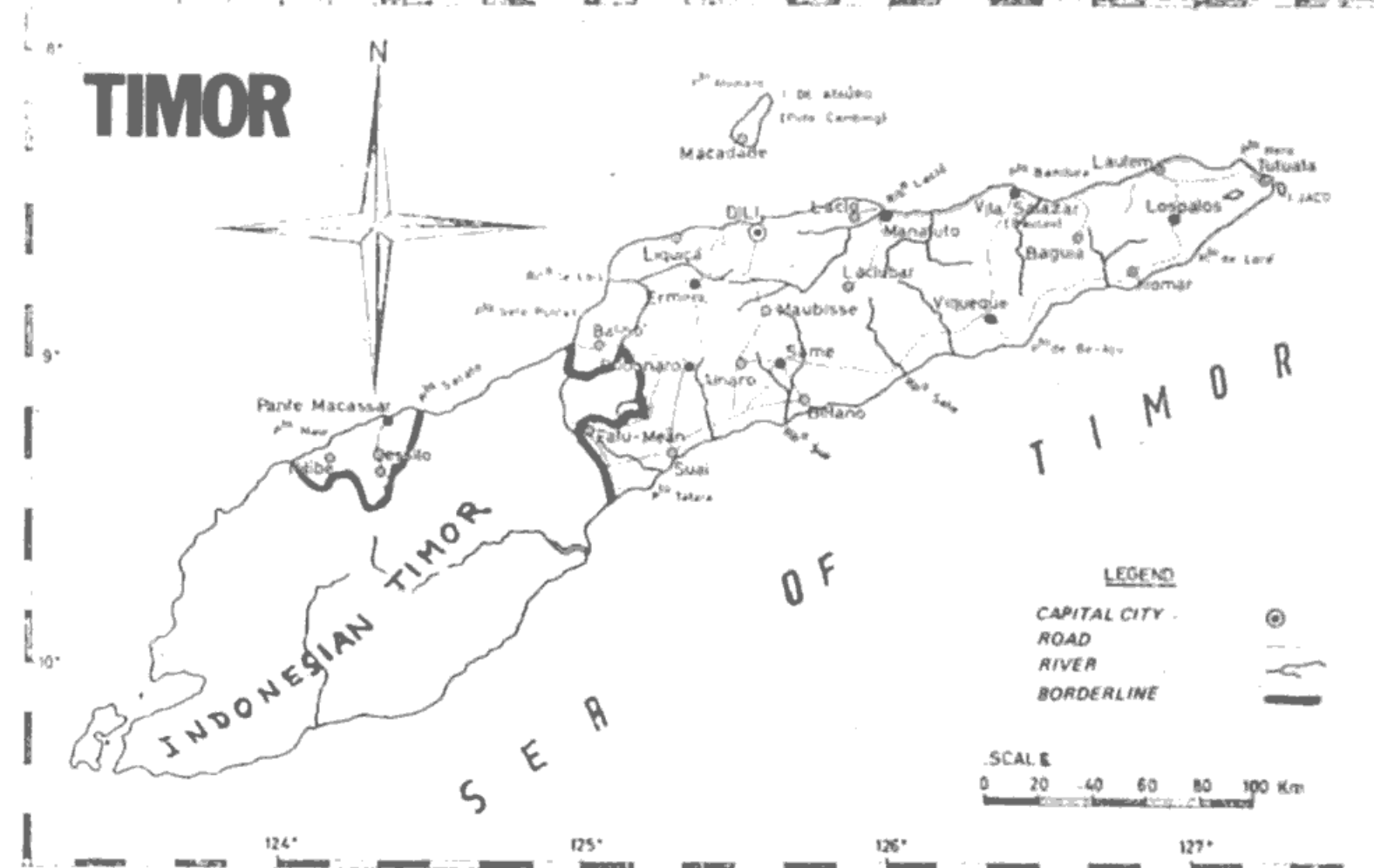


talk about in the capital Dili (a town about the size of Taihape which siestas every afternoon and is asleep by 9 pm) than cock-fighting and the Sunday afternoon ritual lowering of the Portuguese flag. Then in mid-1974 the Timorese received another surprise - their masters actually invited them to participate in politics, rather than jailing them for even mentioning the word.

Three clear alternatives emerged for Timor's future:

- * Continuation of Portuguese involvement, with a written-in proviso for independence in the long term
- * Immediate independence, assisted by advisers
- * Amalgamation with Indonesia

The extreme degree of economic and social underdevelopment on the island meant that there was no sizeable indigenous educated elite able to immediately capitalize on the situation (at present there are one or two university graduates among Timorese on the island.) Nevertheless, within a month three political groups had formed - the Timorese Democratic Union (UDT), the Associa-



tion of Timorese Social Democrats (ASDT) (now the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor - FRETILIN, and the Timorese Popular Democratic Association (APODETI).

The UDT is the conservative party and is made up of former fascist sympathisers, conservatives in the Timorese elite and is backed by the large coffee plantation owners. The cornerstone of their platform is:

- a) Accelerated promotion - proceeded with the shadow of the Portuguese flag - of the social, economic, cultural and political development of the Timorese people.
- b) Self determination for the Timorese people oriented toward a federation with Portugal, with an intermediary stage for the attainment of independence.

This party is one of the strongest in Timor, mainly as a result of its control over the old colonial administrative apparatus. It also has the support of the Chinese merchant class, who view preserving the status quo as their main hope. At worst, the Chinese fear expulsion and loss of property; at best post-independence discrimination. A holiday in Timor is even cheaper these days with Chinese merchants looking ahead and blackmarketing the worthless escudo at twice the bank rate.

APODETI wants East Timor to integrate with Indonesia, and is the smallest of the three parties. Its programme states: 'In the present historic-political context, abstaining from sentimental wishful thinking and unfounded pride, any precipitate choice would be the ruin of Timor and of the future of its sons, given the absence of political and economic maturity

in Timor.' APODETI's campaign is somewhat haphazard, with visible publicity being confined to free distribution of a T-shirt bearing its name and the publication of a news-sheet which includes an Indonesian grammar, for the language is not known in East Timor.

FRETILIN

FRETILIN is the 'independence now' party. It was inspired by the African freedom fighters, hence its radical title. Jose Ramos-Horta, its secretary actually spent some time observing Mozambique's Frelimo. The party calls for 'active prevention of neo-colonialism' and of the three parties it has the most popular support. Its strength lies amongst the Timorese workers in the lower levels of the administration in all the major townships. A large measure of political awareness has been spread thru the country by party organisers and as a result FRETILIN support in the villages in the interior is very widespread. FRETILIN realises the immediate problem facing East Timor is the improvement of agriculture, in which the overwhelming majority of Timorese are engaged, and its general

programme for agricultural improvement is the creation of co-operatives. The party hopes that once production co-operatives are off the ground consumption co-operatives for the marketing of goods could be established, thus breaking the present commercial stranglehold of the Chinese. It is hoped this will develop to a point where one large co-operative organisation will be able to handle commerce within and outside Timor.

FRETILIN is unique among the parties in working in this grassroots way with the immediate concerns of the people. It is planning the introduction of 'barefoot doctors' in an effort to start to overcome the island's enormous health problems, and has started anti-illiteracy classes where adults and children are being taught to read and write Daks tetum, the main dialect of East Timor. Pupils use a textbook prepared by Timorese students in Lisbon who support FRETILIN, its main themes are national unity independence and the ill-effects of Portuguese colonialism.

Indonesian Invasion?

All observers now agree that FRETILIN has the most popular support in East Timor. The *Australian* (February 26/75) suggests it would receive 60% of any vote, and in March this year, Jose Ramos-Horta is reported as saying FRETILIN had about 200,000 card-carrying adult members. FRETILIN has proposed the formation of a transitional government composed of equal representation of itself, the UDT and the Portuguese government. Full independence would come within two to five years.

However, it seems Indonesia is not prepared to stand idly by as a small country on its backdoorstep gains independence. There are groups in Indonesia who main-



Whitlam and Suharto discuss Timor's future.

tain that East Timor must integrate with Indonesia for Indonesian national security, especially since East Timor is an economic liability and could cause regional instability. Given the Indonesian generals' paranoia about communism, recent victories of liberation movements in Indochina, and the present Leftist stance of the Portuguese, the Indonesian position is fairly predictable. Since September 1974 APODETI (which observers suggest might get 5-10% of any vote) has been getting active support from Indonesia, as well as receiving finance from 'sympathetic businessmen in Kupang (the capital of Indonesian Timor). Since that time Radio Kupang has also beamed broadcasts into the Eastern half of the island supporting APODETI and slandering the other parties. Articles in Berita Yuda, an Indonesian Army newspaper, give an indication of the type of attack East Timor is receiving from its Indonesian neighbours. There have been reports of a Chinese officer training Chinese civilians, reports of ships being spotted unloading arms, and even a report of four Chinese generals landing in East Timor, after travelling thru Canberra!

In February this year tension rose to such a level that an Indonesian invasion of East Timor seemed imminent. On February 24th the Australian and Indonesian press reported an invasion dress-rehearsal in Sumatra and on March 3rd the ABC reported a second such dress-rehearsal. Dozens of Indonesian secret service agents have also reportedly infiltrated East Timor as 'tourists,' and the Australian press in March carried reports of a small Timorese guerilla force being trained by Indonesia at the town of Atambua, close to the border with East Timor.

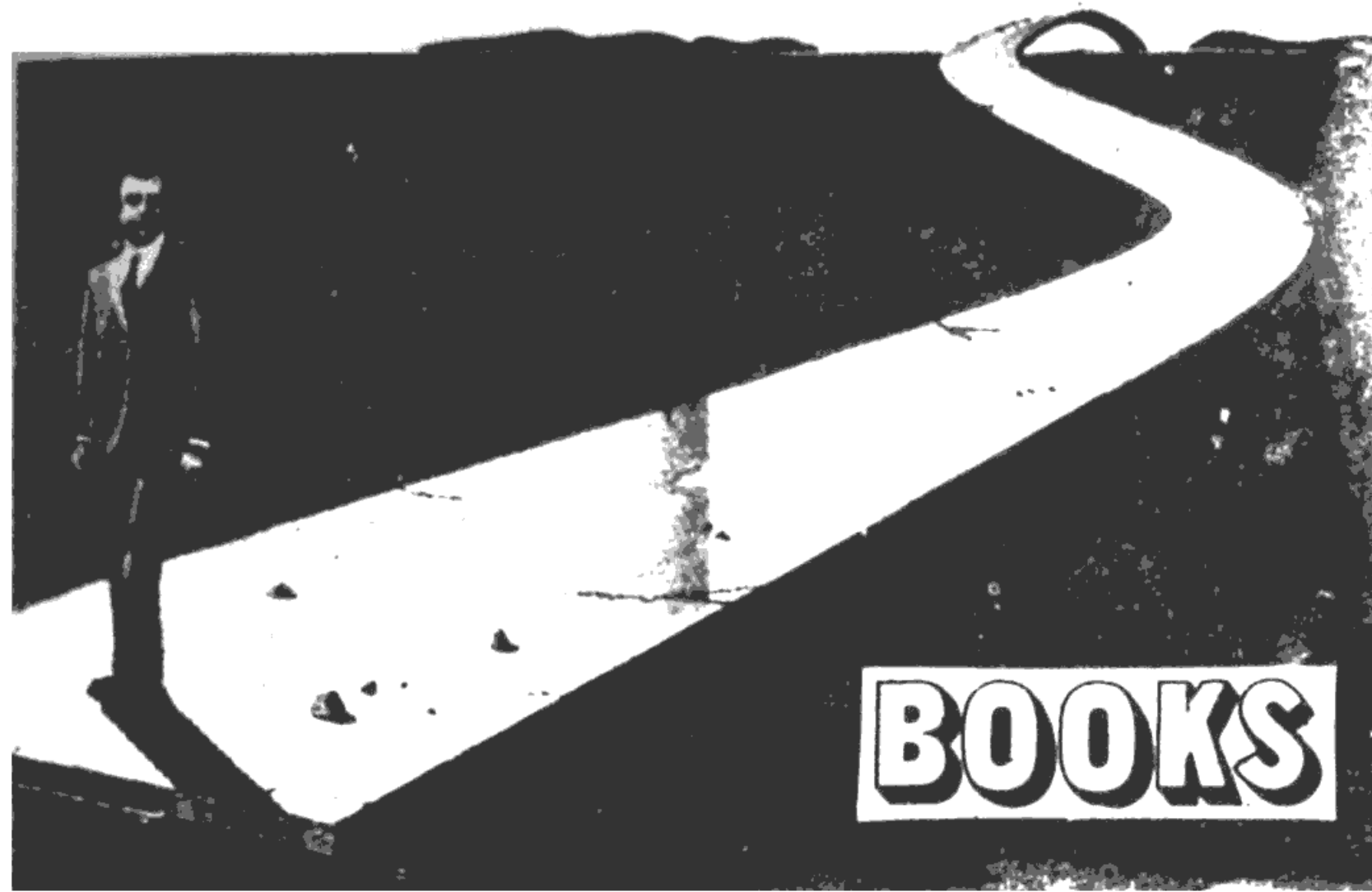
Credibility has been added to the reports of an imminent invasion by the Indonesian Government itself. In November last year, Foreign minister Adam Malik claimed the only options for East Timor were continued association with Portugal or integration with Indonesia. Independence is obviously not acceptable to the Indonesians.

The Future

East Timor needs as much support as it can get. The Australian government's reply to Malik's statements was suspiciously vague though it did disagree with them. It must be remembered that Indonesia is the largest Asian neighbour of Australia, and the Australian government is anxious to avoid a confrontation with the generals in Jakarta. New Zealand is in a similar situation as regards ties with Indonesia.

Our government must give a clear statement of New Zealand support for self-determination in East Timor. If East Timor cannot go it alone, then, to be consistent, neither can other small nations like Nauru, Tonga or Fiji. Even though East Timor is an economic liability at present, things could change. With any sort of efficient farming of fruit, rice and other foods, the country could soon feed itself. There is also the prospect of mineral wealth; BHP geologists have been prospecting in East Timor for the last couple of years - mainly in search of iron, manganese and chromium - and gold is known to exist. There are also definite indications of oil and gas, and surveys for these are being carried out at present.

Now is a crucial time for East Timor. We can help by spreading awareness of the situation there and maintaining pressure on the Government to support and aid an independent East Timor.



From Tweedledum to Tweedledee: The New Labour Government in Australia by Robert Catley and Bruce McFarlane
ANZ Book Co 1974
Reviewed by Anthony Ward

From New Zealand's quiet political scene, the recent happenings over in Canberra seem both exciting and confused. The sacking of a Deputy Prime Minister is never a very ordinary affair - it is a mark of the times that Dr Cairns's sacking is treated much as the next in a long series of sensations. The recent heavy swing against Labour in a by-election indicates that the electorate is getting very annoyed with the antics of Whitlam and his mates. This picture is very much confused by the common description of Cairns (and other ALP ministers) as a 'socialist.' This 'socialist' has been known to speak at price tribunal hearings in favour of increased profits for private companies and is also known to strongly favour the development of Australian transnational companies. Closer to home, there is another good example recently in the papers - the free trade agreement between NZ and Australia. Trade has been running at about 4 to 1 in Australia's favour since this was signed, and Mr Freer recently visited Canberra to sort a few things out. Despite Whitlam's previous noises about equity and international morality, Freer got nowhere.

If its any help, many Australians seem rather



Gough Whitlam up shit creek without a shovel

er bemused by their Government's antics as well. To help sort out the confusion is one of the explicit aims of Catley and McFarlane's book *From Tweedledum to Tweedledee*. The authors try to cut through the confusion, arguing 'there is a discernible coherence to what the Labour government has done since it was elected to office in December 1972' (p1) Their basic thesis is that the Australian Labour Party (ALP) is now dominated by the ideas of 'technocratic Laborism' - a concern for efficiency and management rather than a commitment to ideals one normally associates with a 'socialist' party - greater equality, nationalisation, etc. Even within the Parliamentary framework it confines itself to the ALP is bad - Catley and McFarlane put it on a par with some of the more Liberal Tories in Britain.

To help illustrate their argument, the authors point to the distinction between the traditional Labour policy and the policy followed by Whitlam. (p70-1). There are four basic points of the traditional creed:

1. nationalisation of major sectors of economic power.
2. social justice - some allowance for people's needs rather than their ability to pay.
3. taxes on wealth such as death duties etc. to redistribute wealth.
4. progressive taxation to pay for social services.

Against these ideas, Catley and McFarlane argue, the new ALP 'line' (following the line of many Labour parties in Europe, especially Sweden's) is:

1. no nationalisation, but state 'control' through Government share-buying
2. A 'Meritocratic' concept of social justice - not the equalisation of rewards but equal opportunities to compete for the elite positions
3. no wealth taxes but more subsidies on education etc for middle groups.
4. the replacement of central revenue funding of social security by a series of funds (like the Government Superannuation Scheme here) to be paid for by the workers themselves.

Beyond these policy planks (if one can call them that) the ALP has two other broad guidelines - the use of orthodox financial techniques (eg fiscal policy) to manage the economy more successfully and secondly the adherence to a European model of economic development, stressing growth and stability above all.

Catley and McFarlane trace these ideas through various policies of the Labour Government from its election, spending some time on the 1973 Budget and some time on the idea of wage and price controls (which are seen as a

cure for inflation but have shown themselves remarkably ineffective nearly everywhere they have been tried). Other chapters, to which the model outlined above is less vital, concentrate on foreign policy, 'destroying class politics' and reactions to Labour. As the authors note in their introduction, they could well have covered more - and particularly absent is an analysis of the education reforms, since these are seen as so important a part of the Whitlam policy. Other areas that could be expanded (or even mentioned) are social services generally and aboriginal rights. The concentration of the book is too much on economic policy - while not denying its paramount importance other areas have seen developments too.

On those areas they do look at, Catley and McFarlane argue a strong case well. On Australia's overseas policy for example, they cite to great effect Whitlam's mid-1973 trip to North America (p63). In Mexico, the Prime Minister suggested Australia could work in with other raw-material exporting countries to ensure fair returns. The next week, in New York, Whitlam talked about closer cooperation with international corporations. This is a contradiction Australia (and New Zealand as well) is well and truly caught in - as a capitalist country it is enmeshed in the net of international capitalism (e.g. the ALP has introduced many incentives for Australian firms investing abroad, especially in Indonesia) yet as a resource owner it attempts to impose national restrictions on the international economy. Come the crunch, the author's validly argue, the former will win out.

On the domestic scene the book is less impressive. Particularly questionable is the part on 'destroying class politics' where protest movements such as consumer rights, womens liberation, environment are seen as totally misguided if not reactionary. The analysis is weak here on two grounds:

1. the protest movements are treated not as areas of legitimate concern but as part of a conspiracy by the Government to split any opponents and
2. there is no prospect of 'greater understanding' stemming from these groups if people on the left are going to adopt arrogant attitudes toward them. A far more productive line than Catley and McFarlane's cynicism would be to argue that these groups are all concerned with negative aspects of capitalist society, and that until the basis of the society is changed, those aspects will remain. Dismissing people's qualms over their rights and their environment seems to me both arrogant and counterproductive.

For its 88 pages (plus four appendices in-



Dr Cairns - The message finally got through

cluding some very revealing speeches) the book thus covers a great deal of ground. There is plenty of meat included in the text, very well drawn together in the sections specifically on economic policy, planning and foreign investment and trade issues. As noted above however, there are failings in not covering, even for a general outline, important fields and in taking a probably mistaken attitude in another. While conspicuous, these failings should not blind us to the real virtues of the book, and its powerful insight into the seeming confusion of Australian politics. The New Zealand Labour Party, like its trans-Tasman counterpart, has strong leanings in some of the paths suggested by Catley and McFarlane. We have a somewhat different situation here, and the technocratic hold over the Labour Party is possibly not as strong, but *From Tweedledum to Tweedledee* can illuminate many of New Zealand's contemporary experiences as well. It has failings, but powerful insights as well.

POETRY

ABECEDARY Poems by Mark Williams (with illustrations by Christodoulos Moisa)
Reviewed by Iain Sharp

Abecedary is Mark Williams's first publication and is, I am certain all who have seen the work will agree, to be highly commended for the excellence of its presentation. Particularly remarkable are the fine illustrations by Chris Moisa, a wealth of intricate detail and ingenious visual puns. Mr Moisa's admirable pictures of



orgies, bird-bones, one-eyed omnivores, raging figures with lupine heads, mosquitos on nipples are so integral a part of the text that I am perhaps remiss in here dealing only with the eloquent pugnacity of Mr Williams's verse.

Mr Williams lives in Ponsonby and plays monopoly. He also writes poems. Indeed he writes with a vengeance - a vengeance against all the inane, inapt, inutile, inadequate romanticized delusions on, in, and by him fostered, now festered. 'The battered sensitive' batters back. *Abecedary* is a fine collection of his blows.

Notable among the pumelled are the father-and-son team (much vaunted in Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Semi-Presbyterian circles) 'Fierce and bearded' Jehova and 'the sullen Jew'. J. Christ. Amatorial affections, afflictions, affectations also emerge more than

slightly bruised. Nor is sciamachy excluded from Mr Williams's pugilistic skills. Shadows of himself are butted.

Hence, 'First Poem' not only inaugurates the volume, but also satirizes the poet's own first adolescent efforts, inspired by '...self abuse', pimples and those ridiculous short pants' and exposes the absurdity of the familiar stance of Byronic high-school rebel:

'all that bitter arrogance aimed only to impress disdainful sluts' Such is life, such is love. Redeem the dream. But, as Mr Williams reminds us, 'There is an end to dreams'. The dissolution of an affair will most probably occur on 'a very ordinary night' and hearts might not break on cure. Thus while 'awaiting grief or frenzy' one is likely still to notice

'flowers, cigarette butts and a broken jar ...' Similarly, in 'Act', while engaged in a form of love-making reputedly ecstatic, the poet looking up perceives ... his loved one looking down. Indeed, romantic love is perhaps most successfully communicated by telegram from some distance, 'another land'.

An abecedary is, I am informed, a type of rudimentary learning. Yet Mr Williams detects discrepancy between the rudiments of experience and the time-honoured rudiments of our prolonged miseducation. Between the real and the received ideal drops the bovine excrement. A quotation from B.F. Skinner appears as the epigraph to the title poem

'... the next step is not to free men from control but to analyze and change the kinds of control to which they are exposed.'

In the lay which follows an 'assured, superior, smug' schoolmaster contemptuously relates, in unheroic couplets, his extracurricular activities with a grubby, barely pubescent female pupil, as conducted in a Triumph Spitfire sports. And afterwards

'her rape, transformed to True Romance, joins the input of t.v. school, fish-and-chips, state houses, mummy, scones and tea.'

A despondent view, a putrescent vision perhaps, but one admires the poet for the honest statement of his conviction. The undiscerning reader will possibly depart from this small volume hating Mr Williams's guts, but all must concede he has some.

FORUM - TIMOR

Thursday, 17 July, 12 noon.
JOSE RAMOS-HORTA, Secretary General of FRETILIN (see article opposite) speaks on the independence movement in East Timor.

JOSE RAMOS-HORTA
Thursday, 17 July, 12 noon
SMOKING ROOM

OCTOBER CLUB

8.00 pm, Weds 16th. MEMORIAL THEATRE FOYER' Trade Unionists view of the value and direction of New Zealand Trade Unionism.

BRIGHT SUNNY SKY

Film of the peasants' new life in the Peoples Republic of China, on a commune near Peking. WEDS 16th, 8.00 pm, MEMORIAL THEATRE.

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Aid & Development

As a forum for discussion on the theme of world development and aid schemes, a week's programme of films, displays and forums is being organised to learn more both about the countries and peoples receiving aid, and about the nature of the aid schemes and how they support the development of donor and recipient. This will run in the Union Building from July 21-25.

- MON 21** Display of CORSO education material, magazines, books etc. MAIN UNION FOYER
- TUES 22** Display of material books etc continues.
10.00am FARM VILLAGE OF INDIA. Film showing the change to modern farming techniques in an Indian village, with all the economic, cultural and administrative problems that follow, through the eyes of a Hindu woman.
BLACK MAN'S BURDEN Documentary looking at Tanzania as a case study of development, emphasising the effects of tourism, aid, foreign development, trade markets. MEMORIAL THEATRE.
- WED 23** 10.00am TAUW. Made by an African filmmaker, depicting the life of a young unemployed African.
OF PEOPLE AND VISION. The story of Tanzania's struggles towards social, economic and religious independence. MEMORIAL THEATRE.
- THURS 24** 10.00am THE COOK ISLANDS. Discussion of the future of of the Cook Islands, tourism, trade, migration, economic independence?
COST OF A CUP OF TEA. 1973 World in Action documentary investigation of workers conditions on the tea estates in Sri Lanka. Forerunner to film recently on NZ television.
- FRI 25** FORUM — How Tonga Aids New Zealand. Rob Campbell, economics lecturer at Massey University, and speaker from Wellington Tongan Association. UNION HALL, 12 noon.



FROM THE COURTS

It is very interesting and informative to compare the views of other people writing in this column especially as there tends to be a recurrence of the same ideas, an agreement on the things that impress us, either favourably or disavourably in the courts.

For instance, the way alcoholics are treated by the justice system or similar petty offenders who seem to get hit harder the lower down the socio-economic scale they are seems to arouse the same reactions in those who are writing, while we approve of a magistrate who makes a sound, reasoned judgement overcoming factors which might otherwise bias the decision.

It could be that this is a reflection of our own particular bleeding heart liberal ethic, or bias if you like, but I prefer to think that it is a genuine comment on the courts.

By way of example, last week I say what I would call a "good" case with a fair result. It turned out that a young man on a fairly serious charge of driving with an excess alcohol level in his blood has a wife and two young children and wasn't earning very much a week so that a fine would cause hardship to the family. The Magistrate, after some deliberation, placed him on probation for 12 months instead, so that he would still get the punishment the law demanded, without his family having to bear the financial burden that the customary fine would bring.

It must be extremely difficult for a magistrate to maintain a sense of fairness living the life style they would tend to lead and seeing offenders from the same point of view all the time so I admire a man who does make a decision which involves some genuine consideration for the individuals involved. It would be very easy to become cynical seeing the same type of offender day after day and to treat cases solely by the book. A case such as this came up last week when a man was charged with stealing a packet of biscuits from a damaged carton he was unloading from a container. Despite the petty nature of the theft and the fact that it was the defendant's first offence and that he had a good work record, the Magistrate ignored counsel's plea for a discharge without conviction preferring to make an example of him as a warning to other pilferers who were destroying the economic system.

Les Knight

NEWS FROM MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

Sunday Mail (London) 2-2-75

Mahathir: Why we cannot tax the rich too much.

The government cannot tax the rich too much in order to continue helping the poor, Education Minister Dr Mahathir said.

"If we do so, the rich will not try to make more money. On the other hand, the poor cannot depend too much on the government for help. The government must be moderate and fair to all."

In reference to the recent controversy over Baling, Dr Mahathir said it was wrong to say that anyone had died of starvation in Malaysia because God had blessed the country with fertile land and abundant rain.

"To say that we will die from starvation is to be ungrateful to God," he said.

(Note: 1. The Minister's comments on Baling reflects the government attempts in providing misinformation about rural poverty and starvation in Malaysia — something that undeniably exists and is quite well documented e.g., article on Emerging Rural Revolution in Far Eastern Economic Review (10/1/75), report by a delegation from P.K.P.I.M. on 23/11/74.

2. Yes, the country has abundant 'fertile land and rain', but foreign corporate owners possess 1,262.8 million acres or 73.5% of total! One of such foreign companies, Harrison and Crossfield in 1970 owned 230,000 acres i.e. three and half times size of Penang Island.

3. Providing a climate for the rich (especially foreign investors) 'to try to make more money' and neglecting the poor is 'moderate and fair to all'.)

24-6-75

Penang Malays Receive Little Benefit from Present Developments

Penang state UMNO today criticised the chairman of the National Umno general assembly, Tan Sri Nik Ahmad Kamil, for not allowing the Penang delegation to speak during the debate on the vote of thanks for the President's Speech.

The head of the Penang delegation, Encik Yusof Latif disclosed that the Penang delegates wanted to discuss the position of Malays here who, they felt, had received very little benefit from the present intensive economic and industrial developments.

"If there are such benefits, they are enjoyed by a handful of bumiputras," he added.

6-6-75

A Close Watch on Output of Grads

The fears that there will be "overflowing" of professionals in Singapore because of the government's emphasis on paper-qualifications have been described as unfounded. According to Mr Bernard Chen, Deputy

Secretary (Development Division), Ministry of Finance, the government was keeping close watch on the percentage of professionals, engineers, technicians, craftsmen and artisans being turned out of the universities, colleges, technical and vocational institutes to the working population. He said: "By 1979, when the present restructuring of the educational system is phased into secondary schools, 50% of the students will be pursuing what is known as a general educational system while the rest will be given technical and apprenticeship type of training.

Mr Chua Soo Tian, chief of manpower and training at the Economic Development Board, said as long as a competitive situation was maintained, only the best would become professionals.

2-6-75

3,200 Who Died at Work Sites

The need to check a distressing feature of the workshop scene — mounting industrial accidents — was stressed in TV Singapore's Economic Report programme last night. The survey pointed to an increase last year of 200 such accidents of 1973, to bring the total to 3,200 and said that, it was proposed to impose heavier fines for contravening the safety clauses of the Factories Act.

The secretary, Occupational Health and Safety Committee of the NTUC, and a Member of Parliament, Mr Ivan Baptist, said: "Many people have been killed in Singapore last year and even early this year in both the building-construction and the shipbuilding industry. A lot of these accidents result from falls or asphyxia in the shipbuilding industry."

He recalled that a woman was killed when the hair on her head was scalped in a factory in the manufacturing sector. From time to time many construction workers fell from buildings. "It is all due to personal failure which results in unsafe acts and conditions," he said.

12-6-75

Inflation is Out-running Wages . . .

The average industrial worker in Singapore is earning less, in terms of real wages, than he was six years ago.

And although the total value-added in the manufacturing sector has nearly quadrupled in this period, the share of the workers' wages in this rapid growth has dropped sharply in the last two years from a steady 36 percent to barely 29 percent.

In fact, in the past two years, inflation and the ensuing economic slowdown have eroded whatever gains the industrial worker had made in the four years previous to 1973.

It appears that the industrial worker has borne, more than any other group, the brunt of the economic problems that the island-

republic has been experiencing of late.

As the accompanying chart shows the average worker's standing vis-a-vis the manufacturing sector as a whole has weakened significantly on two fronts.

Firstly, because the consumer price index rose more sharply than the rise in real wages, a worker's real earnings last year were reduced to 16.6 percent below their 1972 level. Even against the 1967 level they are 3.7 percent lower.

In 1973 and 1974, consumer prices jumped by 22.9 percent and 22.3 percent respectively, but average annual money wages rose only by 14.5 percent and 9.5 percent.

Real wages per worker, therefore, fell by 6.9 percent in 1973 and still more sharply by 10.5 percent the following year.

Last year, although nominal wages reached a peak of \$4,763 a year per worker, in real terms they amounted to only \$3,136, lower than when Singapore's industrialisation process first got off the ground.

Second, the rise in the nominal wages lagged far behind the corresponding rise in value-added (or productivity) per worker.

Up to 1972, the rise in average annual wage per worker had been keeping pace with the rise in value-added per worker, so that wage increases did match productivity increases.

In 1973, however, productivity per worker climbed by 23.8 percent, while wages per worker rose by only 14.5 percent. This gap widened even more the next year, so that for 1973 cumulatively value-added was 58.3 percent higher compared to the mere 25.3 percent wage increase.

Seen another way, this has produced a rapid shrinking of the wages share of total value-added in the manufacturing sector, from 36.6 percent in 1972 to only 29 percent last year.

(N.B. The above article was written by Ho Minfong of the Business Times, using data from the Department of Statistics.

It exposed once and for all, the white lies propagated and clamoured by the Singapore Government of the economic improvements enjoyed by the working masses with industrialisation. With rampant inflation and meagre wage increases the economic plight of the working class has in fact been aggravated ever since Singapore jumped into the Multi-nationals' bandwagon for industrialisation. On the other hand, productivity has increased substantially and the exploiters are reaping record profits. And all this while, the Singapore Government is whining that wage increases this year must be modest and that productivity must increase — to overcome the recession.

The Singapore Government is trying further to prostitute her cheap and 'disciplined'

labour force to the multi-nationals by proposing to extend the Tax Holiday for Pioneer Industries from the present five years to ten.)

((A week after the above article was published, the Ministry of Finance tried vainly to discredit and cover up the facts. It manipulated and distorted the figures and as expected produced a chart showing the workers' wages on a rising curve!!))

((In the meantime, the Government's puppet trade union, NTUC with Devan Nair as its chief scab, is frantically echoing the Government's Labour Policy of self-restraint to seduce investments.))

4-6-75

Devan: Singapore and the World Economic Crisis

We decided that, in our own real interests, wage costs in Singapore must not be allowed to outrun wage costs in other developing countries. Wage increases this year must therefore be modest . . . "

"But our economy is competitive with regard to countries like Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines and South Korea.

"In Hong Kong, wages in certain sectors have actually declined. This means that their production costs go down and the prices of Hong Kong made goods also go down in export markets.

"So if Singapore is not careful, comparable goods which we manufacture here will be priced out of export markets.

"This would lead to the closing down of factories and to unemployment."

"If Singapore's wage costs went up too high, industrial investment capital would tend to gravitate away from Singapore towards countries like South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Philippines.

"This would mean no new job creation for the thousands of young people who join the labour market every year."

(N.B. In other words, Devan Nair was saying that the wage rate in Singapore must be kept to the lowest, to undercut those in other developing countries of Asia, in order to be more attractive to foreign capital. He hinted that in Hong Kong wages in certain sectors have actually declined, hence the revelation that real wages of workers in Singapore have actually fallen since industrialisation, in the previous article is of no surprise. He also threatened that if workers demand otherwise, there will be massive unemployment.)

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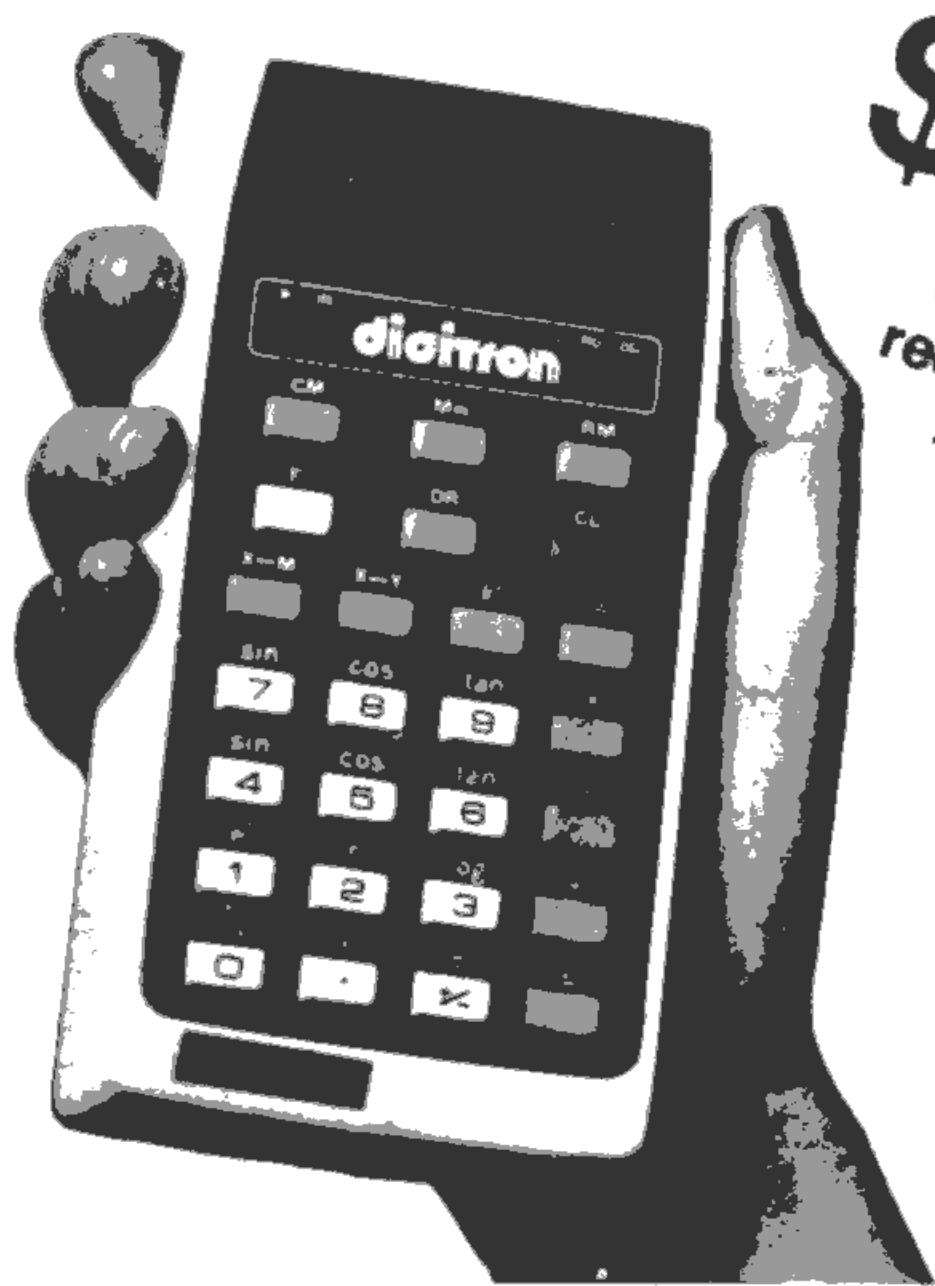
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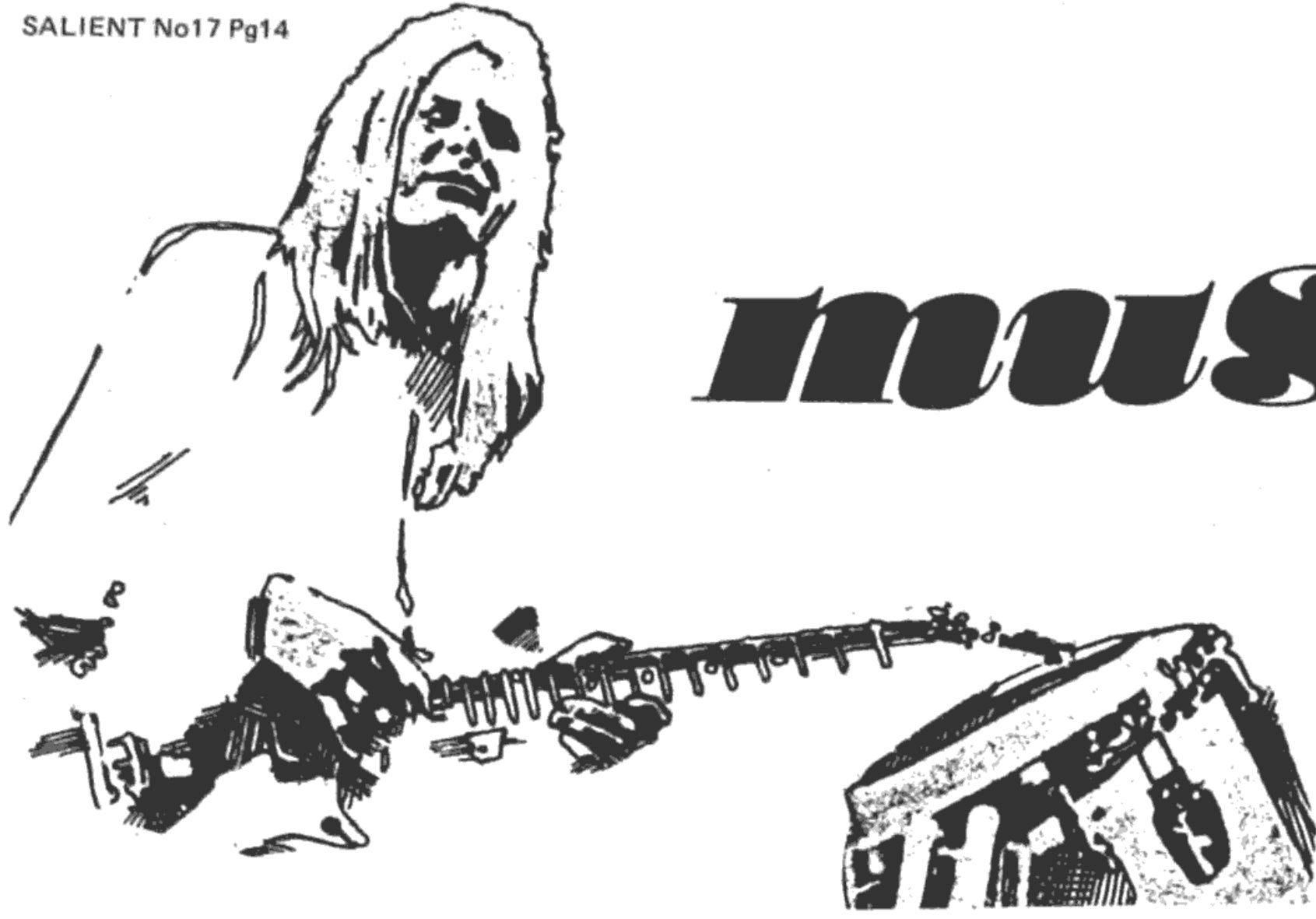
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music

PROSPECTIVE REVIEWERS....

Feel like trying your hand - it has taken a long time to organise but if you feel like writing about music, please leave name - phone and or address at saliet office and you will be contacted. Things coming up include records, concerts and interviews with Leo Sayer etc., so let's hope she's not sheiskoff. Also a message for Phillip Hay at Salient to be picked up.

Pat

Blow by Blow: Jeff Beck
Epic SBPC 474 304
Reviewed by Patrick O'Dea

Jeff Beck's back with an all-instrumental album, *Blow By Blow*, after a two-and-a-half year absence, and that's great, I think, because if you've been playing for more than 10 years you either manage to pick up more than a modicum of expertise along the way or get stomped in the shuffle. So I gave *Blow by Blow* an initial dozen listenings and remember being disappointed by the apparent blandness of most of the proceedings. Sure, *Cause We've Ended As Lovers* sounds like where Caravanserai should have been before Carlos Santana freaked out on Sri Chimoy and excluding the corn like 'It Doesn't Really Matter' (as its listed on the label) or 'You Know What I Mean' (on the jacket), there really wasn't that much there that grabbed ahold of the listener as Beck's playing can do forcing him to sit up and watch carefully.

So when the aforementioned *It Really Doesn't Matter - You Know What I Mean*, the opening cut on side one, stopped pushing me out of the room whenever I put it on the record player, I could sit down and concentrate. I emerged thinking it doesn't really have a single track as potent as *Over Under Sideways Down* or *Shapes Of Things*. The material is not up to the best that Beck has performed nor is it eight versions of *Love is Blue* as some record world cynics would have it. *Blow By Blow's* impact expands with repeated hearings, while its few shortcomings recede proportionately. *It Really Doesn't Matter* takes the band through several changes, into the fascinating *She's A Woman*. Energetic rhythms bounce up and down against Beck's ethereal guitar lines and explode towards a startling, double-timed climax. He manages to pack more ideas into two lines than most guitarists could find space for in a solo. *Constipated Duck* features Stevie Wonder's synthesizer counterpointing Beck's manic wah-wah - it's a strange juxtaposition of titles on this first side, and in this case I can only assume that Beck means it as a tribute to his recently deceased dog. In its wake *Air Blower* - a jam named for the London studios where the album was produced - and *Scatterbrain* feel slightly leaden. An adroitly executed coda rounds the side out neatly.

Cause We've Ended As Lovers brings to life a haunting stellar vision with Beck's licks t

silhouetted against a backdrop of tight group work. It was written by Wonder and is dedicated to Roy Buchanan, who, along with Link Wray, remains one of the classier undiscovered guitarists. Wonder also write the next track *Thelonius*, a tone poem in honour of the legendary jazzman, and turns in more bubbling synthesiser. *Freeway Jam* becomes a little bit pointless, but if there's crisper drumming anywhere else, recently, then it hasn't found its way to my turntable. 'Diamond Dust,' the closing track is a further venture in 'the spectral palaces of the mind' type genre, except this time more evocative of caverns beneath the sea than arid lunar landscapes - a genuine (surprise) expansion of the electric guitar's vocabulary. George Martin's orchestration provides just the right touch and segues into a languid, almost relaxed guitar-electric piano duet and back out again into the string arrangements. It's the cap for an album that despite its flaws and its purely instrumental nature manages to produce the goods more consistently than most of the albums released this year.



Snowflakes are Dancing - Tomita
(RCA) Review copy courtesy Pye Ltd.
Reviewed by David MacLennan

Pseudo-avante-garde synthesizer muzak for the Crusader Walk shorts set. That about sum up this record.

Tomita is a Japanese guy who likes twiddling knobs on synthesizers, and here he has given us his interpretations of some of Debussy's finest works. It makes for nice, relaxed listening, but there's nothing of real substance. He doesn't alter or jazz-up the pieces, preferring to play them 'straight.' Parts of it, in fact, are quite beautiful, though this is more due to Debussy than to Tomita.

Which brings me to my major point: Records like this are totally unnecessary. Anyone who knows his way around a Moog could have done this, and yet it gets hyped-up as the last word in progressive music. It makes nice listening, sure, but so do the originals - better by far than the renditions here.

An inoffensive, easy listening album. That's its problem. Tomita's next effort will be Mussorgsky's 'Pictures At An Exhibition.' As a long-standing ELP freak, I will approach this with caution.



Commoners Crown: Steeleye Span
(Chrysalis)
Reviewed by Lynn Peck

Steeleye Span has created a unique position in music today as the pioneers of medieval rock music. (for want of a better term), and hold supremacy in the face of rising competition. For those that already are familiar with the music of Steeleye Span, this new album, *Commoners' Crown*, is a strengthening of their ability to realise the potentials of folk music in the scope of today's popular sounds. For those that are less familiar with the talents of this group there is enough to satisfy any appetite for blood, any probe into insanity and devils, or any defying of the law; even infers supporting womens lib. In the light of such morally corrupting lyrics it might be readily suggested that this album be kept from the hands of the innocent youth of our nation. Such bloody violence as:

'She laid him on a dressing board and stabbed him like a sheep'
or advocacy of adultery in lyrics like;
'What have you to keep me with
If I with you should go
If I broke my husband dear
And my young son also'

It is with highly commendable dexterity that Steeleye Span has moulded the lives of the Common People into the golden Crown, depicted on the cover of this album and a golden crown modelled intricately from hundreds of people.

On the more technical side of the record (pun?) there is little to be criticised. The instruments seem to create and blend in with the life of the music complementing the song's verses. The continual use and emphasis of the mandolin is satisfying and is extremely clear in the recording. But as always it is extremely hard to discern what Maddy Prior is singing about - not to despair though for the back of the record cover has lyrics which anyone with the ability to read will soon understand.

A Bach purist would soon become distraught listening to 'Bach goes to Limerick' (straight into Irish strife). 'Weary Cutters' is a song that would be a technical impossibility on stage, concerned with the blacklegs in the days of conscription, it is sung and harmonised completely by Maddy Prior without instrumental help thus producing an eerie wailing sound; uniquely picturing the evils of conscription.

Immediately following this is an Uncle Sam type number, featuring Peter Sellers on acoustic ukelele. The good ol' goon but not gone Bluebottle joins Steeleye Span for their last number in a song of mocking humour showing the groups delight in clowning around which was evident at last year's Wellington concert. Adding Bluebottle to their humour, they scorn the very serious subject of a poor innocent king robbed of everything so that he had to wear 'a flour barrel for a suit of clothes'. The group suggests in this song that perhaps he is not as innocent as the song tells; one must consider the motive of the action as well.

Steeleye Span whose lyrics appear to be suggestively corrupt to our modern youth are mostly singing songs that were originally composed for children; even Jack and Jill had their origins in a tale of scandal and adultery. Are we really corrupting the babes or are they corrupting us? If you feel in a corruptible mood anyway, this is the record for you.



Tommy

Tommy Cinerama Theatre.
Reviewed by Anthony Ward.

Tommy was Pete Townshend's first attempt at a rock opera. It was singularly successful. The Who, a handful of mates (including Eric Clapton, Elton John and Tina Turner) and Ken Russell have got together to produce the movie from it. This too is singularly successful.

The story centres on a young lad who is psychologically deaf dumb and blind after seeing the murder of his father. It proceeds through Tommy's rejection of idols supposedly able to save him (a manger and a large plaster cast of Marilyn Monroe) to his own building up as an idol, firstly as a pinball wizard and later as a Messiah. The destruction of idols and a cyclical return to them is a feature of the work of both The Who (*Won't get fooled again*) and Ken Russell (*The Devils*) - and by now the theme is a little hackneyed. Certainly the scenes when Roger Daltrey as Tommy (with restored sight) is hang-gliding over the earth spreading love and brotherhood strain the patience.

But the film is more than just this theme - Tommy is also a symbol for all neglected youth, just more obviously dependent on his parents. His pleas for real affection are highlighted in two staggering scenes - one an Xmas party when the young Tommy is ignored apart from some cryptic remarks on his handicaps; and another when his mother (now rich and decadent on Tommy's star income) is trying to tune into another TV channel to get away from a broadcast of Tommy's concert. In both cases the plaintive "see me, feel me" is used to maximum impact. There is a strong theme against materialism as well - from Tommy's destruction of the Marilyn Monroe statue to his preaching the virtues of non-wordly values. This latter is clearly contrasted with the racketeering of Tommy's stepfather, of which he is blissfully unaware. The impracticality of Tommy's preaching is clearly shown, but a real alternative to it or the established religions (Church, materialism) is never shown.



The best help in this line is when the inmates of Tommy's holiday camp riot, destroying the idolic pinball machines. Despite the claims of "setting them free", they all run off to the tune of police sirens - the freedom is heavily circumscribed.

Acting is generally good. Daltrey as Tommy is competent, Tina Turner as the acid queen really powerful and Oliver Reed as the stepfather impressive. I wasn't so turned on by either Elton John or Eric Clapton: if its their names you're after try the records. The Who's music is always good and at times (eg *See Me, Feel Me* and *What about the boy*) superb both technically and in context. Ken Russell's directing is first rate, apart from some sickly sweet scenes when he seems to lose control. Its quite possibly his second best film, after *Savage Messiah*.

There's much more to the nearly two-hour film than even a very long review could do justice to, and many more tremendous scenes than can be described. In the words of the best adverts before Tommy's mother smashes the colour TV with a champagne bottle "Try it for yourself".

Tommy starts at the CINEAMA on Friday



Composer Tomita at the Synthesizer

BAD COMPANY: STRAIGHTSHOOTER (Island) *Reviewed by Colin McKay*

Bad Company is a group made up of members from other groups which are household names to any followers of modern music. Paul Rodgers on lead vocals (and piano, etc) comes from Free, as does the drummer, Simon Kirke. Mick Ralphs on lead guitar comes from Mott the Hoople. The bass guitarist Boz Burrell played with King Crimson - on Islands. Bad Company is a group I have followed with interest stemming from my idolic admiration of Free in which Paul Rodgers was a prominent mover. Rodgers, accompanied by Andy Fraser, penned most of Free's songs and now, with Ralphs, is responsible for most of Bad Company's work.

At this stage I would like to compare Free and Bad Company, as some people may regard the latter as an extension of the former. I would have agreed with that view after hearing Bad Company's first album (e.g. The way I choose, Rock Steady), but Straightshooter dispels all hopes of Free's music continuing in this band. Bad Company have unfortunately matured into a commercially based hard rock group who come closer to the sound of perhaps Sweet or the new Deep Purple rather than the blues soul that Free were associated with.

Paul Rodgers has an extremely flexible (as Heard on Wild Fire Woman) and easy to listen to voice. But he can also put much teeing into his songs as Soon I Will Be Gone off Free's Highway demonstrated. There is unfortunately not one number on Straightshooter where he is given the scope to do this (nor on their first album except

on perhaps The Way I Choose) all of their numbers being too fast or of such mediocre quality (Call On Me).

Mick Ralphs on Straightshooter reaffirms the view that I evolved from hearing him on Bad Company that he is a very competent lead guitarist - if not exactly in the Clapton class - and his guitar work is always very prominent, as opposed to the balance of heavy bass by Fraser and Tetsu in Free and Paul Kosoff's lead. The bass guitarist in Bad Company in approaching his material from the heavy metal viewpoint has lost a great deal of subtlety. Better recording of this rhythm section, and a hell of a lot more punch rather than the flat sound the bass-drums achieve, would improve Bad Company as a recording act.

It is an accepted rule that when you first hear an album it makes little impression on you and until you have heard it a number of times - unless it's the rankest schlock it is well nigh impossible to give a balance and objective opinion. Well, I have listened to Straightshooter a number of times and it still leaves little impression on me. It comes nowhere near the high quality of their first album. All the tracks on it, except for Shooting Star, are of fairly ordinary quality. The exception, Shooting Star is pleasant to listen to (having the hackneyed theme of the star today and nobody tomorrow) but comes nowhere near such tracks as Bad Company, the group's theme for an imaginary western, or The Way That I Choose, on Bad Company - the album.



Letters

continued from page three

Ex-typist complains

Dear Salient readers,

Having resigned as typesetter, and having heard that the editor is maligning me to all and sundry, I wish to describe the conditions I have had to put up with in working for Salient. Job hunters interested in the vacancy may read this as a warning.

1. The Pay. This was Colin Feslier's responsibility. The first time he deigned to pay me was 2 months after I started though I must explain the delay was partly due to the fact that Colin lost all my time-sheets and we had to "forge" new ones. That was a month ago now and I'm still waiting for my second pay. . .

2. The Editor. Bruce never once told me how big the issue was going to be or how many hours work there was. As in the staff notes of two weeks ago I was expected to "just keep on hitting the keys". Bruce's main method of communication is terse little notes telling you when to be up at Salient or vague messages through John Henderson. Expect to find the notes continually changed - like if it says "Come at 5" and you're reading it at 1 o'clock when you return at 5 it'll be changed to 5.45, so you sit around waiting for ¼ hour. Don't take Bruce's word seriously either - ½ hours work could mean 2 hours 3,4,5, etc. And vice versa. It was quite usual for me to traipse up to Salient 3-4 times in a day. As most of the typesetting is done in the weekend, any arrangements I made invariably had to be cancelled at the last minute - makes for a great social life.

3. Conditions. There's no door on the typesetting room and as its the first place people see when they walk into the office, you'll be interrupted continually by demands for 5c for the Xerox, 10c for the vending machines, where's Bruce? who never, but never, tells anyone where he's going, etc. You equipment's pretty dicy too. Expect to have to beg for lettex every time you run out. In the last two weeks I made 3 specific complaints about the typewriter only to be told that it wasn't Bruce's department. Field the ball, boy. There was stage when I never knew where the next ribbon was coming from.

4. The hours. When I first took on the job I was told that there'd be about 25-35 hours work per week. In the last two months (apart from 8 hours outside work) I never did more than Salient and Newsheet - a total of approx. 27 hours per week. Consequently I decided to get another job - part-time from 9 to 2. Bruce made no objection when I told him that I had the job, but then turned around and accused me of dictating my hours to him. You might think that Bruce operated under pretty flexible, casual conditions, and you'd be dead right. But I was always expected to be on time. Ask Bruce how many times he turned up just when he said he would.

Then there was the Publications Board meeting last week when Bruce didn't think it necessary for me to attend - although they discussed such things as how much outside work I could do. As usual Bruce decided what I could do and then told me. Personal consideration? He doesn't know the meaning of the phrase.

On Friday last I arrive half an hour late, after arranging with Bruce to do at least 4 hours work, only to find he's told "The

Paper" they can have the typewriter for the night. Bruce is nowhere in sight. That was when I decided he could screw some other mug around and I quit.

If you're planning on taking the job I suggest you wait till next year when Bruce isn't editor.

My quarrel is/was with Colin Feslier and Bruce Robinson. My apologies to other Salient members such as Christine Haggart, Anthony Ward and John Henderson etc., who may have been inconvenienced by my sudden resignation.

Yours in disgust,
Janet Murphy.

(If Salient has looked a bit empty for the last two weeks here is the major reason - Due to a disagreement between myself and the typist the typist quit without any notice on the Friday night before a Salient was due to be produced. If it had not been for several people giving up weekends and spare week nights to typeset the last few issues you would have seen no Salients at all.

The above letter gives one side of the disagreement. Most people who have had anything to do with Salient or Publications Board would know the validity or otherwise of Janet's claims. They would also know that much of what she says is either untrue or in considerable dispute. Unfortunately Janet Murphy had decided that the letters column of Salient is the best place for her comments and so readers who have no first-hand knowledge of the situation are being subjected to a highly prejudiced view of the whole thing.

Points 1 and 3 have nothing to do with me. They were the responsibility of the Publications Officer (Colin Feslier) who has now resigned to the relief of most people. However, Janet seems to blame me for some of Colin's crimes. In fact, during this year I have regularly had to do Colin's job for him because that was the only way I could be sure of things getting done. Several issues would never have appeared this year if Colin had been relied on to ensure regular supplies of ribbons, paper, lettex etc..

Point 2. I started on Salient half way through the year and for quite a while the organisation was quite bad. Recently as Janet knows the organisation has been much better. As for those offensive comments in the staff notes. I advise you to read the staff notes (issue 15) and see for yourselves whether or not they say what Janet would have them say. Needless to say Janet found no fault with them when she typed them.

Point 4. While Janet was working for us a set of 'normal hours of work' were drawn up which were to correspond roughly to the actual hours of work. They were supposed to form the basis of regularising typing hours. Janet's job made a mockery of these 'normal hours'. Why I did not complain at first was because I was unsure as to whether or not I had any right to expect Janet to be available for at least the majority of these hours. I was informed by the Publications Officer that I had a reasonable right. Even so I was unwilling to complain about Janet's hours and only did so as part of a rather heated exchange on the Friday night that she left.

Although I pointed out to Janet that she had inaccurately reported the Publications Board meeting she only removed one portion of her 'report' on this meeting. At this meeting

Publications Board was asked if its typist (i.e. Janet) was available to do up to ten hours a week of outside work, I said that it was unlikely and went off to see Janet. She said that she could do about 10 hours a week more than she was doing which I then passed on to the Board. If that's not personal consideration I don't know what is.

Lastly the question of me telling the 'Paper' that they could have the machine is not true. I had specifically told the 'Paper' when they could use the machine. They arrived more than two hours before they should have so that when Janet turned up to work she was confronted with another typist already there. She asked a Salient staff member what was happening and he said that he thought I had told the 'Paper' that they could use the machine.

Most of the criticisms in Janet's letter were first heard by me on the Friday that she left. I feel that if these criticisms were of such importance to her that she should have made them earlier. - ed.)

Infuriating conditions

Dear Sir,

I was approached last week to take over the typesetting, as Janet Murphy had resigned in disgust. You may recall that I returned a message via your envoy JH to the effect that I had no intention of working under the same conditions. I know that Janet is writing to you as well, but I'm writing in support so that people can see that the work conditions you impose are really infuriating.

I know only too well that Bruce Robinson has no idea how long something takes to type. A promised three hours work takes even my pondering fingers half an hour. The vice-versa is even more annoying. It's about time Salient was better planned, so the typesetter (and others) knew a bit earlier whether the weekend is going to be wholly lost or not. In other words, the typesetter gets thoroughly messed around by an incompetent, uncommunicative and insensitive editor.

This is bad enough, but putting up with Colin Feslier's procrastination is just as exasperating. All he has to do is authorise our pay. Instead, he keeps losing the time-sheets and simply doesn't bother to do a thing.

Robinson is editor solely by default - may the job be given to the first alternative, Maoist, Trot or Young Nat - but the parasite Feslier, at least should be booted out forthwith, rather than maintaining the pretence that there is an operative Publications Officer.

Yours faithfully,
marty

(Any approach made to you about typesetting was not the result of a directive by me. I agree with your sentiments about Colin Feslier - ed.)



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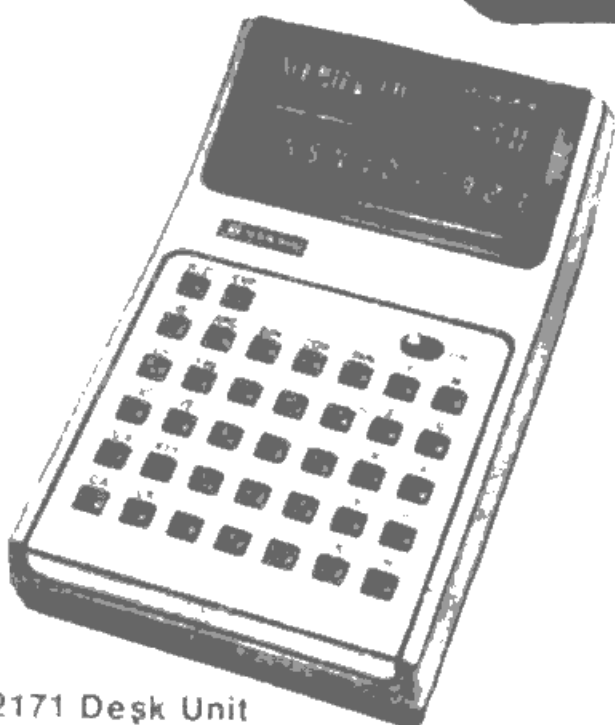
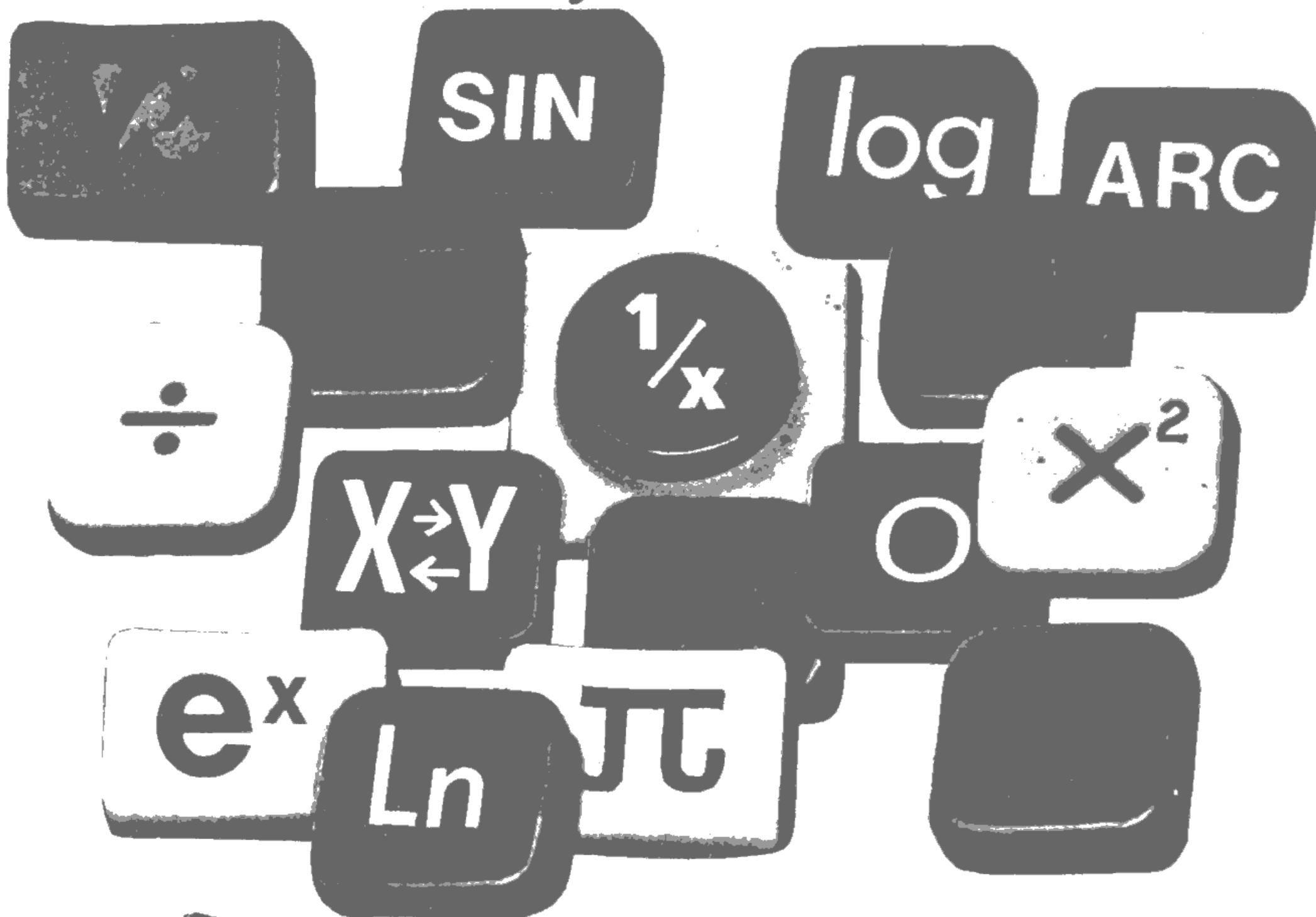
THURSDAY,
24th July, 1975

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by AL TOCRAT

FRIDAY,
25th July, 1975

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