

Theses hit the fan

We print here an exchange between ourselves and Prof. Hamer, Chairman of the Library Committee, to clarify some of the issues involved in the library debate. It seemed to us that the present proposals to the Professorial Board had had the same effect as the bomb scare last Thursday. That is, keeping students out of the library.

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on references to the Library in the issue of 'Salient' of 21 March. It contains numerous errors and serious misrepresentations of the situation which, if perpetuated and made the cause and foundation of 'action' by students, can only do great harm to the interests of the Library and of the students and staff who use it.

1. Persistent reference is made to 'cuts' in Library spending. What is going on at present is not the consequence of any reduction in the amount of money allocated to the Library but is an attempt to rationalise and redistribute resources amongst the various areas of Library expenditure. In the University Budget for 1977 the sum allocated to the Library for books and periodicals was increased by \$60 000, and this at a time when other areas of the University were being asked to take cuts or to stand still and when the general financial position of the University was very tight.

2. However, inflation and soaring costs for books and periodicals make it extremely difficult for the Library, even with such generous treatment, to maintain the level of book acquisitions and periodical subscriptions to which we have become accustomed. The University believes that the present proportion of the University's finances devoted to the Library — just under 9 per cent — cannot be increased without excessive strain on other areas of the University (welfare services, departmental grants, etc., etc.). But it advised the Library that, where certain kinds of saving were made in Library staffing and services, the money would not go back into the general University funds (as usually happens when, for example, staffing is cut in departments) but would be made available for spending on books and periodicals. This provided a mechanism for reallocating Library funds, not cutting them. The Librarian and the Library Committee have looked at Library services and decided that this incentive was sufficiently attractive to justify our recommending cuts in some of them where usage of the services was slight or where efficiency might be improved by the reduction. Some of the recommendations have been accepted, others knocked back by Board or Faculties.

3. The overall financial position of the University is critical, and no part of the University can be exempt from inquiry

into its efficiency and its ability to contribute to an easing of this position. What has impressed me about the exercise has been, not a savage determination by the University authorities to 'cut' spending on the Library but rather an immense fund of goodwill among academics towards the Library and a desire to keep within the narrowest bounds possible the reduction of Library services and acquisition of books and periodicals.

4. The report by Olivia Stephens (page 7) reads: "The greatest cuts in hours appear to be during the May and August vacations". These, and closing on Friday nights, are the *only* cuts in hours.

5. The article is also very seriously astray as regards the financing of the University. It is totally incorrect to say that 'the Grants Committee allocate a set sum to the Library each year'. The U.G.C. gives The University a block grant out of which the University determines how much it will allocate to each area of the University. The U.G.C. seldom if ever tells Universities that they must devote portions of their grant to specific items. It has certainly not done so in the case of the Libraries in this Quinquennium. Therefore it is also totally false to say that 'last year the Grants Committee decided not to allocate any extra money to ease the Library's position'. No such issue was ever put before them and therefore no such decision was made. The third error is to state that in 1979 the U.G.C. 'will have to renew the library budget'. It will not. The determination of the Library budget is an internal matter for this University in the light of (a) the block grant and (b) its view of the Library case in relation to all the other competing calls on funds within the University.

6. The quality of our Library is something of vital concern to all of us — staff and students alike. The recent manifestations of student anxiety about the financing of the Library are very encouraging. But what I would urge on students is the great importance of a *continuing* concern about the Library, not just a concern which occasionally erupts at times of 'crisis' when the critical decisions have already been made.

Yours etc.
Professor D.A. Hamer,
Convener,
Library Committee.

If the Library cuts continue, then not even the police and gents with hard hats will be able to get students back into the Library.

Reply to Professor Hamer

Professor Hamer's letter correcting the factual inaccuracies in the library article studiously avoids the main point with regards to the library cuts. That of the library financing and the effects of the recent cuts in service on students.

Rather than playing with words, as he does, Professor Hamer would have been more convincing if he had spoken of pathetic increases in the library budget rather than an attempt to act as an apologist for them. He well knows that the library budget was increased by only about \$10,000 in the 1976 budget, in effect a net cut when one considers inflation was at 17%. Further, to talk of a \$60,000 increase in the library budget for this year is to play with figures since in most cases departmental budgets were also increased by a similar proportional amounts.

It is also telling that Professor Hamer chooses not to mention the fact that this university spends less per enrolled full time student on the library than the other three large universities.

He further alludes to a competition for resources which the library must undergo along with departments etc. However, we would be pleased to hear his views

on the priorities between the library and the forthcoming junket by university bureaucrats to the Association of Commonwealth Universities Conference in Vancouver — we certainly know where our priorities lie.

The other main point is that he does not comment on the effects of the reduction in library hours on students.

The saving by reducing the hours in the May holidays and on Friday nights of approximately \$5,000 is negligible when compared to the deleterious effects on part-time students. The May and August vacations are crucial times for students to catch up on study and do preparation for the rest of the year.

When the cuts to the library services are reversed we hope that Professor Hamer will not engage in the old tactics as some of the university hacks have done in the past of saying that the library has received "yet another grant increase" — the only thing that will have been done will have been the restoration of the library to its former position, certainly no progress will have been made. The time has come for this university to show its support for the library by not only restoring it to its previous level of services but by giving a commitment to its continued expansion.



AGM

Wed

12 Noon Union Hall

Every Student gets a vote - Every Student can attend - Every Student gets a vote

Salient's view of the Crisis



Since 1975 there have been many profound economic and political changes in New Zealand. It may be worthwhile having a look at these in the context of the deep economic crisis which New Zealand is in at the present time. Over the coming weeks, SALIENT will be featuring different parties and individuals who will attempt to analyse the very serious situation of New Zealand and outline what they see as the economic and political prospects for New Zealand.

The Economy

This is perhaps the most important element when looking at the changes which New Zealand has been going through in the past ten or so years.

- A steep rise in the price of the imports which New Zealand depends on for industry and consumption, plus a drop in demand and price for New Zealand's exports has meant that we have run up a considerable trading deficit.
- To pay for our deficit, we have had to borrow heavily from overseas countries and organisation eg. World Bank, and have come under increasing control from overseas interests.
- Tax scales have stayed the same although wages and salaries have risen. For example, if you were paying 10% of your wages in taxes five years ago, the graduated tax scales mean that you may be paying 20% in taxes because of wages rises.
- Dramatic rises in the cost of living. Some of the items which have rocketed in price have been!—

a. essential food items — bread, butter, sugar, coffee, milk, and most other essentials.

b. essential services — postage, telephones, rail and air travel, petrol, electricity, gas and rates.

- An increasing pool of unemployed. This is disguised by exporting much of our unemployment problem back to the Pacific Islands, and laying off married women who are not commonly included in the unemployment statistics.
- Wage cuts. New Zealand workers are suffering severe wage cuts. Even during the third Labour Government real wages were cut. This policy of hitting the workers hard has been continued by the National Government and compounded by the above policies. Since 1975, workers wages have fallen behind prices to the tune of 15%.
- Bursaries have not been increased since the new STB was introduced which means that they have fallen behind prices by at least 30%.
- The Government has cut state spending to finance their Superannuation Scheme (costing \$1000m) and to balance the trade deficit. This means that essential state services have been such as education, health, welfare and transport.
- Regional and National development has slowed to a standstill speeding up uneven growth patterns and producing depressed areas especially in the South Island.

Capital has been diverted from productive areas such as industry and agriculture, is being diverted to banking and finance companies which produce nothing and merely wait for an upturn in the country's economy. This, in turn leads to an overall recession of the productive forces in the economy.

Industrial Relations

This is a crucial sphere of Government policy as it necessarily affects the well being of the mass of wage and salary earners.

- New Legislation has been put on the books (Commerce Amendment Bill, and Industrial Relations Amendment Bill) which restricts the rights of Trade Unions, including the CSSO and PSA, to act in the interests of their members. The International Energy Agreement Act gives the government the power to declare a state of emergency if petrol supplies are threatened.
- The Government has attempted to confuse the New Zealand public as to the nature of Trade Unions and have blamed the rate of inflation on wage rises.
- The definition of a strike has been altered to any industrial action with the exception of authorised stop-work when negotiating award claims or complaints over safety.
- Companies now have the right to sack all their workers if any industrial action in any other part of the factory affects production, hence turning the venom of the working class movement in upon itself.
- Unions and workers are forced to pay for strikes. Fines are \$500 per worker per day and \$1500 per Union per day.

Abortion Laws irrespective of the decisions of the Royal Commission.

- The implementation of the Wanganui Computer Centre to monitor information on New Zealanders.
- Threats to throw state tenants out of their homes "if they don't look after them".
- Different types of legislation being rushed through to avoid public scrutiny of them.

Most people will realise that this amount of change is unprecedented in the history of our country. But fewer people are aware of the specific reasons for such a sudden change.

Many people think that it is Muldoon who is doing all these things. True, he is the agent of change, but a politician like him would not have risen to the extent he has, say, ten or twenty years ago. In short he is a product of our times.

In the 1975 election, people knew what was going on. Workers knew that their wages were being cut, that they had buggered all chance of ever buying a house and that they looked forward to a pretty miserable retirement.

The Labour and National parties told different stories. Labour preached that they were doing a marvelous job in keeping New Zealand out of a depression that was sweeping the world, and National preached impending doom but said that with a cut in living standards and hard times ahead we could all pull through.

The people looked at the planks, looked at the realities, and the rest is history. National won the day because they understood the realities that the New Zealander was facing. This is not to say that they intended to do anything about them. Indeed, they also knew that to keep the profits of the companies which control the economy high, they had to cut workers' real wages down drastically. Once they were elected, it was the companies that they listened to, not the "ordinary bloke".

The events since then have indicated the measures that Muldoon has had to take to bolster the profits which are the driving force behind our capitalist economy. I will enlarge on this later.

The outlook of people towards the crisis, however, depends on whether they see Government as independently controlling the country's economy or acting simply as 'managers' for the local and overseas capitalists.

If the former approach is adopted, many things go unexplained. Why, for example, did the government decide to have a recession in the first place? Certainly they do not help anyone. They affect workers drastically, yet it is not in the interests of the capitalist class to have one.

The latter view, however, recognises that the capitalist system has the tendency to pass through a series of crises. This is the internal logic of an economic system which is guided by the drive for profit. New Zealand has passed through periodic crises in its history, as have other capitalist countries with us. It is no coincidence that capitalist countries pass through these crises together. Capitalist countries are intertwined.

(Continued on next page)

Health Service

The Local Aviary!

Giddy! We've been asked to write a column about the Student Health Service. This week we thought we'd tell you who's who in the S.H.S. this year. Remember we're here to look after your every need — well, nearly every need.

Dr. Margaret Sparrow is now Acting Medical Director while Dr Fleming is overseas on sabbatical leave. Dr Sparrow was herself overseas last year which is why some of you may not know her. Anyway, for those of you who don't know her, she's very nice and while overseas she specialized in contraception and venerology.

Dr Eric Bird (hello sailor), a lot of you will know already. He's due to go away next year, so if you want to see him you'd better book up before he flies away. Excuse me — the puns are shocking.

Dr Hardwick-Smith and Dr Ian McDougall are the two psychiatrists who come in on Wednesdays. You have to be referred to them by either one of the other doctors or by the counselling service. Dr Hardwick-Smith is retiring this year.

Stephanie and Vivienne are the two nurses who make up the aviary. We've had some enquiries as to whether the nurses are 'on call' at night. The answer is No. No remarks please about call girls, our feathers may get ruffled. As a special treat watch this column at a later date to see what services the nurses do offer you!

We thought we'd let you know this week how to get hold of a doctor at night or at the weekend — this is of course for emergency calls only. Week nights ring Dr Sparrow 759-886 or Dr Bird 851-028. At weekends call the Free Ambulance Service 722-994 and they will tell you which of the doctors is on call for the Students. Remember, it may not be your particular doctor but they do have to have some nesting time.

For the next few weeks there may be some difficulty in contacting Dr Bird as unfortunately he and his wife are refugees due to their house losing its roof or something.

Well that's it for this week folks — our writing debut. Hopefully for your sakes (and ours) we'll improve. Watch this space for further news and information about Student Health.

Civil Liberties

- Actions to enforce New Zealand's own "Bantustan" policies on Island labour have included stopping anyone with a black or brown skin and forcing them to produce identification, and proof that they are not overstayers. This violates the important principle of "innocent until proven guilty".
- The suspicious circumstances surrounding the SIS report and the Government's attempts to keep all aspects of that organisation's activities secret.
- The Government's issuing of illegal instructions (for example, The halting of superannuation payments early last year. The Chief Justice ruled that the action was illegal).
- The invitation for nuclear ships to visit our ports with a large bulk of the population, especially in the ports affected, against such visits.
- Persistent attacks on the autonomy of the media culminating in the introduction of the Broadcasting Bill which has the potential to muffle criticisms of the Government.
- The imposition of a huge power scheme on the people of Central Otago which will flood their land.
- Mr Gill's intention to tighten up the

(Continued from previous page)

ned in a series of unequal relationships which means that recessions are usually long affairs with no one country able to pull out of the recession.

Instead, all try to get out of the crisis by exporting, although the other countries are in too bad a shape to buy their products, or borrowing, although all other countries are not financial enough to lend money.

The Capitalist World is now in a crisis — a crisis of over-production. It is all the worse for New Zealand because it sells things which no-one basically wants in a recession, and which are also subject to wild fluctuations in price. The economic base of New Zealand is extremely narrow. We are not self sufficient in industry and have to import most of the raw materials necessary to keep our furnaces burning.

Despite propaganda, to the contrary our manufacturing sector is weak and very few countries wish to buy our manufactured products anyway.

In short, and here even the most bourgeois economist will have to agree, the New Zealand economy is in the shit. We face more gloom and seem unlikely to pull ourselves out of the recession for many years.

This brings in the question of fascism. If workers' wages are to be forced down, and we have seen why that is necessary, then obviously a rule of law has to be introduced to prevent the workers and their allies from getting too stropy.

Georgi Dimitrov, a notable theoretician on the question of fascism, defined fascism as "open terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvanistic, and most imperialist element of finance capital". As a significant proportion of capital in New Zealand is invested in the finance sector of finance companies, banks, mercantile

banks (Broadlands etc.), insurance companies, conglomerates, one would naturally expect that sector to wield significant political power. Muldoon represents this finance capital sector, but whether this automatically makes him a fascist agent is another question.

The fact remains: New Zealand now has many fascist like laws on its books which will loom larger and larger as the present recession goes on.

What then should students do about these economic and political restrictions?

All people in New Zealand should become more vigilant towards the restrictions on their civil liberties and students should spearhead this new awareness. Students should attempt to learn the reasons for the offensive by the National Party on the living standards of working people and on the

democratic rights of all New Zealanders.

What we are doing is basically trying to retain bourgeois democratic rights under the existing system of capitalism, and to stop the present trend in the National Party toward fascist Government. How long can we do this? It is obviously not a long term solution. We see that capitalism cannot guarantee a stable economic and social system in the long run, so what are the solutions?

We believe that capitalism must eventually break down completely, not in a passive sense, but will actually destroy itself with violent turmoil of the type that we are beginning to see: an offensive by the Government on behalf of the large companies and a retort from the working class.

There is a historic economic and social progression from an economic system of

capitalism to a system of socialism. We mean socialism, not in the labour party sense, but a situation where political power is held by those that do the work in the society.

Socialist economic systems are not plagued with huge booms and slumps, but can progress even in the worst recession, as shown by the USSR in the 1930's and the Peoples Republic of China at the present day.

This, we believe, must be the long term goal of all those who wish to see New Zealand move in a direction of economic and social progress. Not only must nations produce more, but the wealth must be shared more equally in society, or in the words of Marx "to each according to his/her work".

To conclude, it is all very well to say that all will be well if New Zealand gets rid of the National Party or Muldoon.

But what they forget is that removing the National Party is not removing the economic conditions which put them there. The Labour Party would be forced to do exactly the same things if they were in power now. And as for shooting Muldoon ... In our opinion it would bring about the demise of New Zealand and the rise of fascism even quicker.

If you are serious about where New Zealand is going and want to do something about it, then only a correct analysis of present social and economic conditions will allow you to take the right steps. In the long term, the correct and natural step will be to a system of socialism upon which New Zealand will make genuine progress in the well being of its people and for a just world free from superpower domination.

— David Murray



NEWSHEET

Important: All notices for Newsheet must be handed in at the Students Association office by 12 noon on the Thursday previous to publication. All notices arriving after that time will not be published.

MONDAY MARCH 28th

- 12 NOON Mass each week at this time. All welcome. H327
- 12 NOON Overseas Students meeting to discuss best ways to look after Overseas Students Welfare. Union Hall.
- 5-6.30PM Womens Study Group. Therese O'Connell "Women in the workforce". Viv Portolt "Women workers in the Freezing Works". All Welcome. Lounge.
- 7.30-10.30pm Gay Liberation Meeting to discuss current activities. All gay men and women welcome. Smoking room

TUESDAY MARCH 29th

- 12 NOON Transcendental Meditation technique. A general discussion: why is brain wave coherence of such practical value? A neurophysiology of happiness? All welcome. Lounge.
- 1PM Collect cheques and unsold books from S.G.M. bookstall from the Old Law Library or risk losing the same.
- 2.15PM Union films: "Class of 44" Memorial Theatre.
- 5-7PM Scottish Country dancing. Union Hall. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30th

- 12-2PM V.U.W.S.A. A.G.M. and election of new S.R.C. co-ordinator. Union Hall.

We have deleted the other events for this time since they conflict with the AGM and SRC policy states that there should be no other bookings at this time.

- 2.15PM Union films: Ken Russell's "Savage Messiah". Memorial Theatre.
- 7.00PM V.U.W. Squash Club: Grog up! All you can drink. \$2.50 members — bring food. \$3.00 non-members. Also a disco: great value! V.U.W. Rugby Club Rooms.
- 7.30PM History Society Wine and Cheese. Lounge and Smoking Room. \$1.50. Plus Debate on "History is Useless" and Society's A.G.M.

THURSDAY MARCH 31st

- 12 NOON Student tutoring club meeting. Interested in tutoring at Porirua College Homework centre? If so come along to this meeting. Committee Room 1.
- 12 NOON An informal introduction to the transcendental meditation programme — what it is and why hundreds of New Zealanders practise it. All welcome. Lounge.
- 2.15PM Union Films: "Goodbye Columbus". Memorial Theatre
- 6PM Te Reo Maori Society weekly meeting. Learn Maori Language, marae kawa, action songs. Every one welcome. Tennis Pavilion (next to John Reid Squash courts).

FRIDAY APRIL 1st

- 5PM Don't come to university today. Christian Union tea: All Welcome. Combined tea with staff, O.C.F., Ang. Soc., Polytech and Teacher's College. Rob Yule speaker. Lounge and Smoking Room.

Salient

Official Newspaper of Victoria University of Wellington Students Assn.

OUT NOW

This Thursday, the 31st of March, is the last day that students can withdraw from classes and have their fees returned to them.

We suggest that if you have any doubts about what you are doing at Vic, or any strong feelings that you should be somewhere else instead, you do something about it this week.

There are, no doubt, many of you who started university this year with high hopes that it would spark off a desire to begin creative learning and a new consideration of the society around you.

Forget it. University rather than doing this, has the opposite effect. It produces a dulling of the brain and a gradual acquiescence to the way the world is, rather than what it could be.

For those of you who feel that this has happened to you, get out now before it is too late.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO NEW ZEALAND?

The lead article this week concerns a topic which we feel is probably the most important issue facing New Zealanders at the present time. This is the economic and political future of New Zealand in the short and long term.

We intend to feature it, in some way, every week. SALIENT has written to various parties and individuals, most of them well known, to seek their opinions on the topic. We would like students to consider their arguments and contribute something themselves.

Our intentions? It must be to create a new awareness of the direction that New Zealand is heading, and to advocate action if this direction is found to be leading us over the cliff.

We do not envisage that this feature should be an advice column for Muldoon. Rather it will concentrate on the political dimensions of New Zealand's economic problem.

We urge you all to read it each week and to concern yourselves with a situation which may soon slip beyond our control.

EXECUTIVE -- THE AFTERMATH

We got a good deal of feedback from students on our front page last week, but it did raise one or two interesting questions on the role of the Executive. Firstly, the Executive must be answerable to SRC, as must all other positions on the Student Association. On the very same week as that front page story appeared, we found that three Exec members were absent from SRC, one of them, the Woman Vice President, having not attended any of the three SRC meetings this year.

From some of the comments that people have made, it is obvious many students are not aware what exactly SRC is.

SRC in short is the policy making body of the association. It can give away money, instruct Exec members and SRC reps to work in various areas, and can also pass policy which then becomes official VUWSA policy. This policy goes forward to NZUSA Councils (held in May and August) and also gives the President the right to issue press statements on issues which concern students.

The Executive, on the other hand, can not make policy although it frequently overrules it. The main function of the Exec is to carry out the policy of the SRC and administer the affairs of the Association. The test of a good Exec is the effectiveness with which they carry out SRC policy, and the extent to which the Association runs smoothly.

Now that the affairs of the Executive have been thrown open to students, they should become more interested in the dealings within their Association. We will continue to make comment on the affairs of the Executive in order that students do not become completely oblivious to it.

In the meantime, the AGM of the Association is on this Wednesday at High Noon in the Union Hall. All last years Exec will give their reports — so here's your chance to examine what they've been doing for you.

SALIENT STAFF NOTES

Leading the struggle against left and right deviationists, Opportunists, splitters, meta-physicians, liberals, not to mention Trotskyites were David Murray, Gyles Beckford, Bruce Robinson and other anti-party elements from Wallace Street (expelled). Tom Duggan also took up the call to lead the masses and John Ryall was in the thick of it as well. Advertising Manager Michael Stephens is undergoing severe criticism for his rightist errors, but Simon Wilson and Allan Smith are finding it hard to avoid the cult of the personality. The faithful masses who turned the paper out this week were Lynette Shum, Lamorna Rogers, Gerard Couper, Rose, Marty Wood, Chris Caldwell, Wallace Double, Craig Mabon, Sue Cairney, Rire Scotney, Chris Norman, Peter Gibbs, Quentin Roper, Patrick O'dea, Richard Pearson, Tony Robinson and numerous others who will go down in the annals of time completely nameless. Just remember folks....the masses and the masses alone are the motive force behind history.

Cafe forum flops

The long awaited cafeteria forum got underway on Monday with the result that it achieved almost nothing constructive.

David Tripe General Vice President (N.Z.U.S.A.) opened the meeting with a lengthy description of the catering situations of various N.Z. universities, their successes and, more predominantly, their failures. He also put forward the view of the N.Z.U.S.A. in regard to Union facilities. This is simply that, as the Union is an asset to the University as a whole, not just the students, the University should therefore contribute to its upkeep.

Steve Underwood then spoke on the financial implications of the running of catering facilities. He did however seem rather unwilling to make any real comment on the current situation only stating that it is better than before. (For a good run-down of the situation both past and present see the cafe article Salient March 14).

After a brief comment from the Union Manager Nofo Falealili on the question of prices the floor was open for discussion.

From this point on, the meeting began to break down, becoming an argument between those who supported Alfonso Fanelli in his attempt to gain student support for his proposal to run a restaurant in the Union and those who oppose his solution. Fanelli feels that he can make a profit doing this and has offered to pay \$50 a week for the rent of the restaurant and to pay for its cleaning. This was disputed by Underwood who informed the audience that when Fanelli ran his previous venture at Vic, there had been trouble over lack of hygiene, rats, and that the health department had been involved over these charges.

While many present chose to see this as merely a case of sour grapes on the part of the students assoc. it will obviously affect Fanelli's chances of being granted the lease.

After the arguments on the Fanelli issue ceased the meeting ground to a slow halt. On looking back it becomes obvious that while many students are prepared to complain about the food and cleanliness of the cafe few seem able to put forward any practical solutions to the basic problems involved in the running of the cafe.

These problems were not even touched on by the students at the forum. They are:-

1. How to prevent huge losses.
2. How to provide GOOD QUALITY food at REASONABLE PRICES.
3. How to cope with staffing problems due to the seasonal nature of the work.

Students themselves will have to decide whether it is the price of the food, its quality, or the quality for the price that they are complaining about if they want to see an improvement in the services.

Susan Cairney

RELEX

The Recreation Learning Exchange is an extension of the belief that staff and students can meet on neutral ground through recreation. It may be that they find their existing academic relationships limited, impersonal and unsatisfying.

RELEX intends to provide a contact service for people wanting to teach or learn anything from canoeing to embroidery, lapidary to macramé.

Ask for Joyce at the Gym Store, Wednesdays 12-4pm or phone 738-566 extension 65.

Malaysian and Singaporean Students

Let's get together again at the Union Hall, 7.30, 31st March (Thursday).

Programme: Film show, Singing (bring your own instrument) and general discussion.

Light supper will be provided.

MALAYSIAN SINGAPOREAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Senator Mc Intosh from Australia will be speaking on the situation in East Timor 11 am, TV Room (3rd floor Union Building), Saturday 2nd April. All urged to come.

NZUSA WORKSHOPS COMING.....WATCH FOR THE POSTERS

CONSTITUTION Part G. S.6

"Each affiliated body shall apply in writing to the Secretary of the Association before the first day of April in each financial year for re-affiliation for that year and unless re-affiliation shall have been granted within one month of such application having been made, the body shall cease to be affiliated to the Association, as from the first day of May in such financial year."

Kevin Swann
SECRETARY

NOTICE OF ELECTION

An election will be held on Wednesday 30th March 1977 to fill the position of S.R.C. Co-Ordinator.

The position includes, responsibility for the activities of all elected SRC representatives, as well as co-ordination of the activities of the elected SRC Officers. This position carries an honorarium of \$300.00p.a. (less what has already been uplifted.)

Nominations in writing should be handed to the Association Secretary by 4.30pm. Tuesday 29th March 1977.

Kevin Swann
SECRETARY

Remembering SOWETO



Last Friday night one thousand Wellingtonians demonstrated in solidarity with the oppressed Black majority in South Africa. This was an unprecedented step in the history of the New Zealand Anti-Apartheid movement. For the first time New Zealanders looked beyond their own New Zealand contacts with Apartheid and marched in solidarity with the struggle for justice in South Africa.

The Wellington Anti Apartheid Plenary (the body which organised the march) chose to have a march of a different nature because of the rapid political developments that have taken place in South Africa over the past two years. We felt it was important to draw public attention to the horrific massacre of one hundred and seventy six school children on June 16 1976 and to the implications of this event. For the massacre shows clearly the inhumanity of the Apartheid system and also marks the beginning of a new development in the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa.

The Sharpeville killings in 1960, of 69 Black Africans protesting peacefully against Apartheid, succeeded in silencing Black unrest then, but the

murders in Soweto in 1976 sparked off solidarity demonstrations in every Black city in South Africa. Since Soweto, Blacks have become far more confident in their belief that they can achieve independence and liberation. For the last seven months continued strikes and demonstrations have been waged against Apartheid at great cost to the Black people.

The success of the demonstration on Friday 18 March can be measured by the numbers who took part. One thousand people is a considerable number given the new emphasis, of solidarity rather than direct protest, that the demonstration took. Future activities of the Wellington Anti-Apartheid Plenary (W.A.A.P.) is planning include protest action against the South African Squash team which is visiting Hamilton in mid-April and a seminar on Angola on Saturday 28th May.

The Halt All Racist Tours movement has called a national day of protest against the South African squash team on 15th April 1977. In Wellington on this day W.A.A.P. intends to have a photographic display in a public place downtown during lunch-time, a film showing on South Africa, and extensive leafletting calling for an end to New

Zealand contact with Apartheid. The seminar on Angola will include discussion on the controversial role of the two super-powers U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. in the struggles of the Angolan people.

The continuing activities of the Anti-Apartheid movement in New Zealand are surely a clear indication to the New Zealand people and Mr Muldoon that we will not give up in our determination of supporting the majority of South African people that are fighting for a just solution in their country. But for this struggle to continue in New Zealand we need all the support we can get from the ordinary New Zealander. The Vietnam movement lasted ten years, the Anti-Apartheid movement has already last eight years. Whatever the length of our campaign though, one thing is sure, we must continue our efforts until Apartheid is eradicated.

Students in the past have made a very important contribution to the Anti Apartheid movement. So we are asking for your continuing support in the future.

Watch Salient for more information on future activities of the W.A.A.P.

Attend the next W.A.A.P.

Sunday 24 April,

2pm, Trades Hall, Rooms E and D, Vivian St.

B.TAYLOR and L. MORRIS



Stew all for five minutes over a moderate heat, until the onions are just tender.

Finally add two tomatoes cut into wedges. Heat through again and serve. Do not overcook.

Stuffed Green Peppers

Allow one pepper for each person. Pre-heat oven to 350° or Gas Mark 6. Wash peppers.

Slice the tops from the peppers just below the stems, and set aside. Wash out the seeds from the pepper shells.

Take a half pound of mushrooms 1-2 cups of partly boiled rice, one large onion, slice and chopped, salt and freshly ground black pepper, small amount of oil for frying. Add about 1 desertspoon of tomato paste mixed half a cup of water.

Fry the onions, mushrooms and rice in the oil. Add the tomato paste and water. Stir frequently. Cover and cook until most of the water has been absorbed, and a thick sauce remains.

Spoon mixture into pepper shells and cover with a slice of cheese before replacing tops of pepper.

Stand in a buttered dish and bake for approx 30 minutes. A thick cheese sauce could be poured over the peppers before baking in the oven, or a tomato sauce.

Other stuffings suitable for peppers and vegetables such as Eggplant, include: Spinach and celery; breadcrumbs or cubes (moistened), Olives, nuts, toasted sunflower seeds, corn kernels, leftover pasta, chopped hardboiled eggs. Raisins? Apple cubes?

Helen Corrigan

let me help you make a little money go a whole lot further

If you need a little help and advice on how to make your money go further while you're at varsity, see Richard Starke at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ. Richard knows the sort of money problems you're going to be involved with as a student, and he'll be pleased to give you all the assistance and advice that's possible. Apart from the BNZ services like cheque and savings accounts, free automatic savings facility, the Nationwide Account, travellers' cheques, and so on, there are two particular BNZ services that a lot of students have found very useful



BNZ Educational Loans

The great thing about these is their flexibility. You can take one out for a few days, to tide you over a rough spot till the end of term, or you can borrow on the long-term and plan things out over the years you're at varsity.

BNZ Consulting Service

Free, helpful advice on practically any financial matter from people who understand money and how it works. And just by the way, there's another good reason for banking with the Bank of New Zealand, it's the only trading bank wholly owned by the people of New Zealand. Call at the BNZ on-campus office and fix up a time for a chat with Richard Starke or phone him direct at the BNZ Wellington Branch, Cnr Lambton and Customhouse Quays. Phone 725-099 ext 702.



BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand



GREEN PEPPERS

Green or Bell peppers were the preserve of immigrant groups for many years in New Zealand before their deliciousness was discovered by many people. Today they are widely available and right now at their seasonal cheapest. Buy them firm, unwrinkled, a smooth jade-green without dark blemish.

Green Pepper Salad:—

Cut 2-3 peppers in half, removing the stems, seeds and inner white ribs. Slice peppers lengthways into thin strips.

Crush or finely chop two or so cloves of garlic, and add to pepper strips. Squeeze over the juice of one lemon, and allow all to stand for two hours.

Finally, barely cover with vinegar and serve.

Georgie's cooked Salad:— Easy and quick, (for 2).

Heat a small amount of oil in a saucepan. Add one pepper sliced into strips; one onion sliced and pushed into rings; salt and black pepper, and two cloves of crushed garlic.

Peace Convention— Debate taken up

The following article was first brought to our attention by an advance letter which indicated that a draft reply to the Salient article on the Peace Convention was being put before the organising committees for the Convention with a view to their jointly signing it. But the following article, which we understand to be a considerably toned down version of that draft, appears as a personal statement by the chief organiser for ICPA — John Hinchcliff.

We will pass only a short comment at the end of this article. We believe that those persons and organisations referred to in the article are best capable of replying to the points made about them. We hope that next week a forum of views on ICPA will appear based on Mr Hinchcliff's article.

Members of the organising Committees for the recent Convention welcome critical comment. However, we cannot allow the catalogue of misrepresentations that you published to go unchallenged.

The Organising Committees: Right from the beginning the Committees were open to anyone who was willing to offer assistance. About 25 of us from various groups were involved. Don Carson attended one or two of the first meetings in Wellington and I believe was invited to every subsequent committee meeting. Everyone was welcome to our meetings and to contribute their ideas, time and energies. We certainly needed far more support in the beginning.

Contrary to your allegation we were not all members of the Socialist Unity Party. Indeed not one of us is.

We never sought to be anything other than an ad hoc group constituted solely to organise the Convention. No claim has ever been made by any of us to represent the NZ Peace Movement.

The New Liaison Committee: The fear that some new organisation has been undemocratically forced upon peace organisations has no basis. The idea of a liaison committee was merely stated in the list of action proposals to be considered at the Convention. It was debated at length in the small groups and received favourable support. Delegates from each centre will be asked to meet to discuss further its format, its policy and its representation on the basis of the ideas suggested at the Convention. The anonymous NZUSA delegate should understand the meaning of 'proposal'.

To be upset by one person's suggestion that this Committee be affiliated to the World Peace Council is a sad reaction. Why shouldn't the suggestion be made. The discussion groups were set up for creative dialogue.

Your reference to a complaint lodged by 'a Quaker Centre for Peace Studies' about the setting up of a 'competing organisation' without prior discussion is misguided. We imagine you are referring to the NZ Foundation for Peace Studies which is not a Quaker organisation. Several members of this organisation's Council were involved in the Auckland organising committee.

At no time prior to your report has any suggested that the Liaison committee should be a 'competing organisation'. Most support seems to be for a committee which serves to facilitate communication between the various different groups. Your suggestion that a Peace Council has been established has no basis. Not even a name has been decided upon.

Socialist Unity Party: Your team seems obsessed by their discovery that the S.U.P. was represented. There were not 50 as you suggest. There were three delegates and apparently about eight other members attended representing different organisations.

You suggest there is something insidious about the fact that their people could understand what was happening. This was probably because they, like most of the delegates, took the Convention seriously and read the information sent out prior to the Convention. Contrary to your allegation most delegates who had registered received most of the action proposals before Christmas. Thus most delegates had the opportunity to become familiar with the material well in advance of the Convention. Six newsletters were mailed out giving progress

reports on who was coming and how the programme was shaping up.

There is absolutely no evidence that the S.U.P. "turned up...in large numbers...to push through the formation of a New Zealand Peace organisation affiliated to the World Peace Council." Once again, the organisation and the affiliation policies have yet to be established.

To suggest that this liaison committee would "merely be a front for the escalating Soviet diplomatic and economic offensive in the South Pacific" is preposterous.

Policy Debate: If your team had read the pre-Convention literature and the registration form, and listened to the statements of George Armstrong and myself they should not have made their most fundamental error of judgment. This was that the Convention was never structured to be a policy debating, ideological free for all. This is why it was not called a 'Conference'. The reasons for this have been repeated often.

First, there is no organisation yet and it would be a rather pointless exercise to debate policy and pass resolutions for a non-existent organisation. Indeed contrary to your allegations, not a single motion was passed. I explained that the five statements read out on Friday night were not to be considered resolutions but affirmations. This decision was made months ago and was reflected in changed registration forms.

Secondly, a number of us have been involved in policy debating discussions and invariably have come out with statements similar to those in the five affirmations. It was our stated concern to go beyond policy making and consider suggestions for action. These were sent in by numerous people and were published in the form of 80 action proposals.

Throughout the 18 months, only one person made a suggestion for altering the affirmations. George Goddard insisted that the words 'possession' and 'destruction' be added to the phrase "we oppose the manufacture, testing, sale and use of all nuclear weapons". Both these ideas seemed to be self-evident, given the rest of the sentence, but it was decided to incorporate 'possession' and this I read out on Friday evening.

Would your team kindly explain what our "false policies on world peace" are? We are not aware we ever determined such a policy. You contend that "the definition of peace was dictated to the delegates from above". Many of us are still searching for a clear definition of "peace". We might get a clue if you could possibly tell us what it is that we are supposed to have "dictated". And please cite one speaker who specifically said "that peace could come without real changes in political structures". (Anecdote 2)

David Tripe was incensed that there was some cunning "ploy" to "engineer" the endorsement of the New Stockholm Appeal. When was this done? It was listed as an action proposal and individuals were given the opportunity to sign if they so desired. This was also the case with other petitions and a number of proposals which called for individual commitment. No one intended to force David into signing it. Did he feel any such pressure? Did he wish to prevent others from signing it?

Anecdote 3 contains numerous inaccuracies. Prior to the Convention I attended

two (not several) Conferences. One was Gensuikyo's Conference in Japan last August (not 18 months ago). Whoever heard me "promise the Japanese Peace Movement that an appeal of their's would be endorsed at the Convention"? I asked Gensuikyo to bring their petition for people to sign who wished to. This was listed as an action proposal. There was no promise to do otherwise.

The other Conference was in Helsinki and there I did invite people from over a 100 different countries to attend the Wellington Convention at their own expense. The organising Committees saw no harm in this.

Plenary Session: There were several reasons why the request for a plenary was denied.

1. There were so many registrations, representing so many backgrounds and with such a wide range of ideas, and arguments it was believed that no useful purpose would be served.

2. There was no organisation for which to fashion a policy statement.

3. Time was against having a useful session on Sunday afternoon. Four buses were due to travel the 12 hour journey back to Auckland. Many held airline bookings.

4. Most importantly the request came from only one or two sources. This was proved when the issue was put to a vote. No more than 50 out of more than 700 present thought it could be productive. We wonder why this vote was not reported by your team.

5. It was considered that a far more valuable exchange of ideas would take place between people in the smaller action proposal discussion groups on Saturday and in the special interest groups on Sunday. The ideas were recorded and will be included in the Convention Booklet.

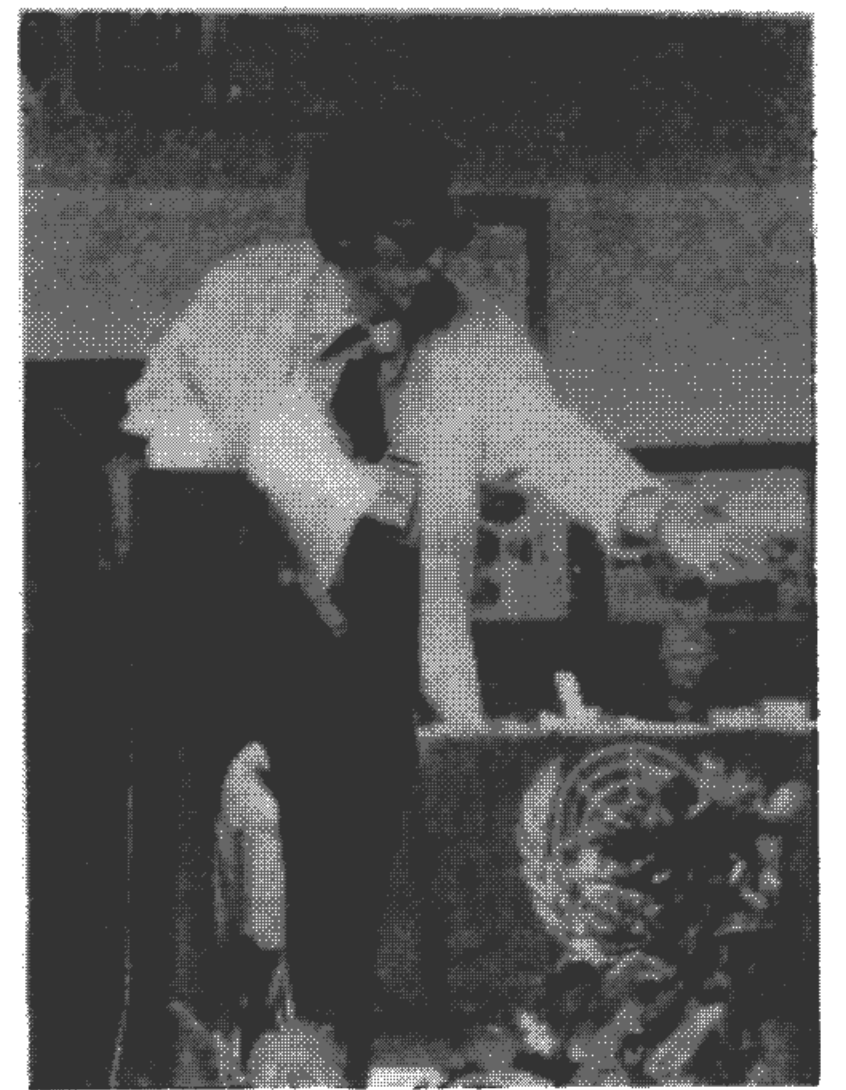
6. If your team's advisors had participated in the planning sessions perhaps an open plenary session could have been scheduled. It could not be done on the spot without disrupting the preparations of many people.

The decision to organise it the way we did was made at least a year before we heard that there would be "a group of Maoists...out to disrupt the Conference." We were pleased your 'team' found this an "unlikely reason"! (Anecdote 1)

I deny saying that "there would be a final plenary session to discuss all the action proposals". I said something to the effect that at the final session a statement would be made about the findings of the action proposal discussion groups.

The Overseas Delegates: The insinuation repeatedly made by your team that the Convention was a Soviet 'jack-up' is laughable. We defy you to prove that the ICPA committee are "agents of the Superpowers and the S.U.P." and that the "Conference got a line manufactured by the Superpowers".

In one of your misrepresentations you allege that the Rev. Ron O'Grady representing the Christian Conference of Asia, said "the entire Conference was used by the Superpowers to further their battle of propaganda". He was in Auckland when your article was received and he denies saying what you have made him say. He told me that he had said that the key to disarmament lay with the Superpowers and



Rev Hinchcliff at the Convention

that they would have to do more than confront each other at Conferences for there to be disarmament.

Certainly the USA-USSR relationship was an important aspect of the Convention. Detente was inevitably discussed. But please be fair, there were many, many other issues and many delegates with different concerns. Our feeling is that you have totally misrepresented the Convention when you reduce it to the confrontation between two of the Superpowers.

Your team have totally ignored the valuable contributions of people such as Isaac Soaladoab, Mairead Gorrigan, Bob Aldridge, Marty Osberg, Ron O'Grady, Alice Coppard, Dr Yap Thiam Hien, Sir Mark Oliphant, Arthur Hewlett, and Senator MacIntosh.

Statements made by New Zealand's Viola Palmer, Jim Knox, George Armstrong, and the moving message from Myra Szazy were ignored.

The efforts of 22 special interest groups discussing issues such as non alignment, Nuclear weapon free zones, research, peace squadrons etc. have been ignored.

And you concentrate merely on two or three of the 80 action proposals.

The Chinese Question: Obviously your team was frustrated by the fact that no delegates came from China. This was understandable but to say that "Hinchcliff never invited the Chinese Peace Council" is to convey entirely the wrong impression. It was indeed true that members of the Committee had tried several ways to invite the Chinese. Why were these not reported?

One of our approaches was via Ron Howell present Chairman of the NZ-China Society. I quote from his unsolicited letter dated 22 February. "Permit me to offer congratulations on the obvious success of the Convention for Peace Action...I was rather horrified to be told this morning that someone had spoken very critically that 'no effort had been made to ensure representation from China' - or something along those lines. That was, of course, quite untrue. With your knowledge and support I had discussed this on behalf of the Organisers while I was in Peking last October. The situation was very seriously considered by the appropriate people there but the decision was that they felt direct representation would be inappropriate and that they would trust their friends to present their points of view...That much I duly reported to you via one of your assistants...The Society then decided that we would produce a brief statement to encourage discussion and again I reported this to your folk who expressed approval of this move. And such a statement was printed and duly distributed....Nothing more could possibly have been asked of the Organisers."

Another approach was a letter to Rewi Alley dated 25 November 1976. Two students took our registration forms to China and were asked to convey our invitation. Also a letter was written to the Chinese Embassy inviting the Ambassador or a representative to be present. Their letter expressing regrets was dated 4 February.

We sincerely regret the Chinese could not come but were delighted that the NZ China Society took the trouble to print a brochure to make known their position. This was distributed and will be included

in the Convention booklet.

CANWAR: The anonymous CANWAR delegate explains that some of his committee "had taken a major part in the organisation of the Conference". Who were they? And what were they doing? Where were they when we needed them?

The suggestion that "Hinchcliff refused to alter by as much as a minute the planned starting time to accommodate the march" is untrue. This can be proved by checking the preliminary programme outlines. Originally the Friday meeting was scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Then Newsletter No. 5 says the time was rescheduled for 8.15 p.m. because of the march being organised by CANWAR. In the letter written by Raewyn Tate dated 14 January she explains that at a meeting on 29 November they decided they could not organise the march as they had agreed to because of "the lack of organisation support at this

time of the year and the fact that you yourself are tied to a tight schedule".

CANWAR's action proposals were considered. The action proposal for a campaign for a nuclear weapon free zone in the South Pacific was no more than a statement favouring the plan. There were no specific suggestions for action that New Zealanders could take. This was one of the five affirmations. Also a special interest group was scheduled to discuss the zone in depth. We believe the idea is crucial and that it *did* receive a lot of consideration. There were proposals for Pacific peoples "to be left to live in peace" (cf. proposal 24) and for "a comprehensive educational programme" (cf. proposals 13,47,53). A further suggestion was for a World disarmament Conference to ensure nuclear weapons would be destroyed and that "no-one would be first to use nuclear weapons". Please read proposal 27 to see that this also has been

incorporated.

There was a request for the Convention to endorse the founding resolution of CANWAR. However, the ideas within this resolution were already included throughout the list of proposals and affirmations.

We apologized publicly for the secretarial error in omitting CANWAR from the roll call.

How can CANWAR say the "nuclear warships question was largely ignored"? George Armstrong and Ken Hulls — organisers of the Auckland and Wellington Peace Squadrons, were organisers of the Convention and they led a special interest discussion group on their Peace Squadrons and the affirmations stated clearly our objections to the presence of nuclear warships.

Conclusion: Many of us on the planning Committees have experienced despair at the apparent unwillingness of the Super-

powers to disarm in the past. Those of us who have experienced the hostility and paranoia of people from both sides feared that nothing could be done. But recently the barriers have started coming down. Friendships are being made. There are some signs of trust and a reduction of suspicion and fear. The UN decision to call a special session on disarmament next year is something many of us have sought for years.

These seem to be real signs for hope and must be given every chance to develop. I believe those who violently condemn such beginnings are misguided and foster the dangerous cold war mentality.

Postscript: We regret your team were disappointed with the Convention. We hope we will be able to work together in the future.

John Hinchcliff

SALIENT'S TEAM COMMENTS

We would like to point out that our reports of the Convention came from a wide range of people. We have total faith in these people's honesty and did our best to check up on the facts before we printed our feature. Thus we stand by the accuracy of the original article but do admit that a few cases we will outline we made honest mistakes in our report.

We agree that we mistook the name of the Foundation for Peace Studies. We agree that the conflict was not directly with the proposed liaison committee but would point out that there was concern expressed that two action proposals did appear to raise conflict — the question of a research unit, and that of a full-time researcher. Although it was not clearly expressed we assumed (perhaps wrongly) that such activities could only be undertaken under a liaison committee. We apologise for the confusion raised in the feature.

We agree that many at the convention, including our team, had seen the affirmations etc beforehand but would point out a significant section who had enrolled late or on the actual days of the Convention had not.

The question of Ron O'Grady's exact words is (as you say) best resolved by Ron O'Grady himself. We accept that there was a transcription error in this case. We had thought that the transcription was reasonably accurate and had asked people present if that was what was said.

Now that the full details on the invitation of the Chinese have at last been given we must apologise for our misrepresentation of the efforts of the organisers. We also accept that it was two, not several, conferences that Hinchcliff went to before ICPA.

Now, some general comment:

1. We do not intend to be 'cold war' warriors. But the duty of the press is to report the truth not misconceptions about the world situation. The likelihood of world war is increasing — there has been no 'thaw'. The diplomatic offensives by the Carter and Brezhnev regimes are smokescreens to disarm people's opposition to their war preparations. We still hold this view.

2. That people at ICPA were prepared to support these diplomatic offensives only demonstrates the need for debate and information within the peace movement. The Convention did the peace movement a disservice in both these respects. We maintain this view also.

3. Finally we encourage people to take up the questions in the above article as they are important ones and space will be made available for people's comments in the next Salient. We also encourage people to re-read the original Salient feature as a number of allegations in the above article bear no relation to what we actually printed.

Indian Election Aftermath

By Terry Auld

The victory of the Janata Alliance and its allies in the Indian general elections has ended the Congress Party's 30-year grip on political power in India. At the time of writing, with counting completed in more than 500 constituencies out of 542, the Janata Alliance and its allies had won almost 300 seats against the Congress Party's 149. Many ministers closely associated with the enforcement of the state of internal emergency declared 21 months ago fell with Mrs Gandhi. Her widely-hated son, Sanjay, was heavily defeated in his attempt to gain a seat.

The crushing of the Congress Party was greeted by widespread rejoicing in the towns and cities of northern and central India, those most affected by measures taken during the emergency. The victor in Mrs Gandhi's former electorate, Raj Narain, declared: "The defeat of Mrs Gandhi is a victory for democracy, civil liberties, and independence of the judiciary."

Few people expected the Congress Party to be defeated.

The elections were held in the shadow of the emergency which constrained the opposition's ability to campaign. Some prominent opposition leaders were still in jail, others were released to contest the elections. Political rallies could be held only for electoral purposes, not to develop mass movements on popular demands, strikes or against inflation. Following the earlier banning of 28 political parties and organisations, Gandhi's government moved to "derecognize" 39 opposition groups. Representing untouchables and national minorities, those "derecognized" were often influential locally. "Derecognition" removed them from the ballot.

Crude bribes were offered by the Gandhi government. In Uttar Pradesh land revenue on holdings two acres or less were halved — resulting in a loss in revenue of more than US\$22.5 million. In other states the govern-

ment servants' dearness allowance was raised. In Bihar the government abolished the electric duty on rural pump sets. Drastic cuts were made in fertilizer prices and levies on paddy fields were curtailed.

The Janata Alliance and its main ally Congress for Democracy, were both created from disparate groupings in a few weeks prior to the elections. Their main common factor being opposition to the Congress Party and Mrs Gandhi's dictatorship. With an apparently weak opposition, a good harvest, claims about economic progress and Gandhi's demagoguery about her alleged "love and concern for the welfare of every section of the people", the Congress Party confidently believed that it would sweep to power. Some sections of it expected it to win 75% of the seats compared with 65% at the previous general election in 1971.

But the Indian people did not respond this time. And it is not surprising that they did not. In the past the Congress Party ruled without gaining an absolute majority of the popular vote. In 1971 it gained only 43% of the total vote which resulted in a landslide in seats — somewhat like the National Party's victory in New Zealand's general election. A Congress Party victory required a split opposition.

This time the opposition was united. The previous years of Gandhi's dictatorship were years of mass poverty and starvation amid growing wealth for the few, rampant corruption, torture, murder and mass jailings, vicious strike breaking, forced slum clearance and sterilization of the people who turned away from it as a result.

The Janata Alliance campaigned on the slogan that the choice for the Indian people was "between democracy and dictatorship, between abdicating the power of the people or asserting it." Countering Gandhi's assertion that India could progress only with sharply circumscribed liberties, the Janata Alliance's platform exposed Gandhi's posing of false choice between civil liberties and economic gains. It stated that



Normal repression.....

this way of putting things 'conceals the fact that fundamental freedoms are weapons that the poor need to fight tyranny. Bread cannot be juxtaposed against liberty.'

The Janata Alliance cobbled together an opportunistic programme which promised Gandhian socialism, decentralised economic and political power, land reform, end to the curbs on press freedom, release of political prisoners, the creation of full employ-

(Continued next page)



Crowds cheer at Mrs Gandhi at a Congress Party election rally.

Digging in at Bastion Point

On Friday 18 March, Joe Hawke and Jack Rameka, two members of the Orakei Maori Action Committee arrived in Wellington. That night, Joe Hawke addressed 1200 Anti-Apartheid Marchers outside the Town Hall. Both men gave interviews to the media and on Sunday morning, Joe Hawke recorded an interview for SALIENT.

Q. The tents have been standing for eleven weeks now — what has actually happened in that time?

J.H. On the 5 January, at 3pm, we put up the first tents. We spent the night on Bastion Point and by the morning the tent city had grown to a dozen or so tents and more were coming in the next day. At 6 that morning there were a hundred people there to stop the bulldozers coming. The bulldozers never arrived and instead we heard on the news that the Government had postponed the subdivision on Bastion Point.

Then we started building our wharekai which was just a make shift building and began to build up the cooking and eating facilities for our people. We started the cultivation on the 9 January —

about 100 people clearing an area of 4 acres mainly by hand. And we hired a cultivator to dig up the ground.

On the 10th we had our first meeting with Venn Young when he indicated that unless we moved off the Maoris would lose out on everything. It was a bribe that we couldn't accept so we stated so.

Over the first few weeks interest was generated by the media and Bastion Point was in the news everyday.

Meetings were conducted practically everyday for the first 5 weeks. We had a meeting with the Auckland City Council — they reversed their first decision and came out in opposition against the subdivision deciding that the land either be returned to the city

council or vested in an appropriate Maori body.

There followed various meetings around Auckland with the Auckland District Maori Council who came out in full support of the stopping of the subdivision and restoration of the land to the Maori people of Orakei.

We started to get replies and reports and letters of support from unions, political parties, community committees in Auckland. We sent two delegates around Tai Tokerau (Northland) to the Ngati Whatua hapus and over 200 elders signed our petition which was handed to Mr Young on the Orakei marae last Sunday (13th). Also we had been gathering signatures from all over the country and were also able to give Mr Young, Mat Rata, Duncan MacIntyre and the Commissioner of Crown Lands Mr McMillian signed petitions with about 4000 signatures.

We have had visits from Indian chiefs of some Canadian tribes, an Aboriginal Civil Rights Leader, the Leader of the World Peace Movement, Australian Union Delegates, editors of well-known New Zealand Womens' Magazine and visits from Auckland City Councillors.

One of the main reasons for us still being there is the Auckland Trades Council 'Green Ban' on Bastion Point which means that no union labour will be provided for the subdivision. At a recent meeting they decided to keep the ban on until the Government cancels its plans for the subdivision completely.

Q. What is the next step in the protest?

J.H. The tents are staying. We need a lot of support from the public to establish ourselves. The winter months will be a particularly hard time and we'll have to reinforce our present accommodations. The building of the whare-moe and also the whare-kai will have to be accelerated. Then we have the speaking tours throughout the country and a planned tour to the United Nations in New York — perhaps to the Land Rights Committee or the Racial Policy Committee.

Q. Would you be presenting a case for the Land Movement as such or just Bastion Point?

J.H. It will be a broad issue because the Bastion Point problem is duplicated right around the country. All you have to say is that less than 3 million acres, out of an area which once measured 66 million acres, is under the direct control

of the Maori people to get across the seriousness of the problem.

Two hundred acres in the eyes of the UN would not warrant attention.

Q. Apart from Young and other officials meeting with you at Orakei, what is the Government doing to solve the problem of Bastion Point?

J.H. A select committee has been set up to hear submissions from the Maori Land March committee (Matakiti o Aotearoa) and to study the Memorial of Rights which was presented to Government at the end of the march. They have taken our submission that Bastion Point be ruled back under Maori title and tabled it, and they will be sitting again in June to discuss it further. Also copies of our petition have been given to Jim Bolger, head of the select committee, and to the other eleven members.

The tour which began in Palmerston North with addresses at the Trades Hall and Massey University was undertaken in order to widen the protest at Bastion Point by bringing it to the attention of as many people as possible. In Auckland support has been steadily building since January and by Jack Rameka's estimates there are eighty tents, twelve caravans, and about seventy people at the camp during the week — some going out to work and returning at night — and in the weekends the crowd numbers as many as three thousand.

The O.M.A.C. would like to see the issue become the concern of all New Zealanders and not just Aucklanders, and in their bulletins they outline how individuals can support the protest:

1. Take their own tent out to Bastion Point. Help with planting. Meals provided free. (This is something that students can easily do during Easter and May vacation.)
2. Send a donation.
3. Sign the Action Groups Petition (address donations and requests for petitions to: O.M.A.C. Box 18 219, Glen Innes, Auckland).

As Joe Hawke has said, Bastion Point is merely the tip of the iceberg and there are many other land struggles going on around the country. Bastion Point just happens to be the most publicised. The important thing is to keep it in the public eye so that the real issue — the continual eroding away of Maori land by the Crown — and the meaning of the 1975 land march does not become lost.

This speaking tour is intended to be seen as a continuation of that historic march. At least one more tour is planned before the select committee sits in June when students and non-students alike will be called on to demand of the government that Bastion Point and the other land struggles be given a just and immediate solution.



Joe Hawke, one of the leaders of the Bastion Pt. struggle.

(Continued from previous page)

ment within 12 years and drastic changes in the education system. This programme won the Indian voters from the discredited Congress Party.

It is impossible to believe that the Janata Alliance will effect any fundamental change in India's situation, and it is an open question as to whether it will hold together, so disparate are its components.

Allied within the party are the Jan Sangh (a right-wing Hindu party), the right-wing Bharantya Lok Dal (a party which represents big business, feudal landlords and rich peasants in some northern Indian states), the Old Congress (a 1971 splinter from the Congress Party) and the centre Socialist Party. Its prominent members include men who in the past have wanted to increase American influence in India in opposition to the Soviet influence developed under Gandhi's dictatorship.

Representing the big bourgeoisie, Anglo-US imperialism and the feudal landlords,

the Janata Alliance will no more implement its programme than did the Congress Party. The demagogic promises designed to win the people contain traps for Janata. For example, any attempt to carry out genuine land reform will be violently opposed by the BLD.

The elections will result in a setback for Soviet imperialism if the Janata Alliance holds together. Like the United States, the Soviet Union has worked hard to bringing India into its sphere of influence. Control of India gives an imperialist country great power in South Asia.

There are many reasons for this. India is a large country with rich natural resources which occupies a strategic position in South Asia. It borders the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Its army is one of the world's biggest — about 1/3 of the annual budget is spent on the military. From India the oil route, to West Europe and Japan can be controlled and pressure applied to neighbouring countries. Especially since Gandhi

came to power, the Soviet Union has used trade and "aid" to take control of India. Since the signing of the Soviet Indian treaty in 1971, which gave India a freehand to dismember Pakistan in Soviet interests, the Soviet Union has ousted the United States as the dominant foreign influence. Through its "aid" it has taken considerable control of India's electrical appliance, petroleum cracking steel, aluminium and power generation industries. Unequal trade and stiff loans have enabled the Soviet Union to enrich itself at India's expense.

India's expansionist foreign policy resulted in the invasion of China in 1962, the dismemberment of Pakistan in 1971, the annexation of Sikkim in 1974 and extreme pressure against Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. All had full Soviet backing. And India is the Soviet Union's linchpin in its strategy for encircling China.

If the Janata Alliance takes power, the result will be increased US influences, lessened Soviet influence and open possibilities of improved relations between

India and China, Pakistan and Bangladesh, just as the fall of the Mujibur Rahman dictatorship in Bangladesh resulted in a lessening of Soviet influence and improved relations with Pakistan and China.



SOCIALIST RAJ NARAIN



The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

Last Wednesday saw a new Lindy Cassidy in the chair and an SRC meeting which managed to get through the whole agenda, except for general business, by 2 o'clock.

If you're interested in The Library cuts, smoking, Arts Council, the pool room or the Wellington Boilermakers then you should have been there. If you are and you weren't — read on.

Lindy began the reports by informing the meeting that the proposal to close Mount Street has been postponed and the City Council is to re-open hearings for objections.

Progress on Library Cuts

We then heard a report from Robert Moore-Jones on the recommendations made by the Library Action Committee. The Committee, he said, felt that any direct action at this stage would only alienate further the University authorities. Instead the Committee proposed two actions:

1. That the Education Officer and VUWSA executive members do some research on student feeling and student use of the Library and make submissions to the University Council with a view to effecting the withdrawal of the cutbacks in hours

2. That the Education Officer and SRC make plans for direct action to be implemented should the submissions fail. Robert made the point that submissions about the Library cuts had been thrown out by the last Professorial Board meeting because they had no facts about Library use to back them up. The above two proposals were put as motions, and after objection from one person who felt we should only ask for the Library to be open on Friday nights during exams rather than taken an all-or-nothing attitude, the motions were passed.

The Scourge of Beckford

Gyles Beckford then drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that woman Vice-President, Catherine Paterson, had not attended an SRC meeting this year. Students had a right to know what work she had done for the Association this year, he said. Lindy agreed to contact Catherine (of "I'll get a pub on campus" fame) before the next SRC.

Next came the SRC elections. Mark Heymann ("Library is the hub of the University") was elected Library rep. Andrew Moore-Jones ("elect me...any other rep will be redundant") is now our Arts Council Representative. The Moore-Jones family continued its infiltration of the ranks of power with Robert M-J (two year term) and Bruce Robinson (one year term) being elected as Professorial Board reps.

Managing the Union

Six reps (one of whom must be a woman) were needed for Union Management Committee — Victoria Corner was the lucky lady — and John Heberton, Brent Layton, Peter Winter, Neil Gray ("the cafe is the rectum — I mean heart of campus") were elected. Alfonso triumphed despite an assertion from Steve Underwood that there was a serious conflict between his being on Union Management and applying

for permission to rent the middle-floor Restaurant when it was the Management Committee which was to grant or refuse his application. Gyles Beckford was elected to the Overseas Student Committee and the new Catering sub-committee is Brent Layton, Andrew Moore-Jones, John Heberton and Sue Hannah — Alfonso missed out.

Anyone for Pool?

A motion moved by Matthew Birch, in the absence of the original mover Peter Gilkinson, which sought the removal of the pool table from the pool room was next considered by the meeting. Birch informed SRC that the table is regularly damaged by the users — a small group monopolise the room, preventing others from using it. A group using the room last year were involved in the violence which led to two students being barred from the university. He said that University Clubs were desperately short of rooms for meetings and the room would be far better used for this purpose. The motion was carried without opposition.

A request that VUWSA support the proposal to incorporate N.Z. Students Arts Council into an independent body (N.Z. S.A.C. Inc) was accepted by the meeting after some wrangling over whether it would not have been better to form it into a limited liability company rather than an incorporated society.

Marshall gets pay cut

Then came a Mr Christie who wanted Union Management to employ a Deputy Marshall (of the John Wayne type — not anyone of the stature of Gyles Beckford or Steve Underwood) to enforce the smoking ban in the cafeteria. \$500 was to be paid to this intrepid fellow, plus a \$50 weapon allowance. Bruce Robinson informed us that physique was not necessary for such a job, as from his experience as a cleaner,

he had deduced most smokers to be extremely short persons, for the butts were inevitably on the floor rather than in the ashtrays.

Asked how he envisaged the enforcement should be done, Mr Christie said he didn't care whether the Marshall stuffed the cigarette down the offenders throat or used a spraycan of 'femme fragrance' as long as he did his job. He said it was obvious that beer group pressure was not working so that some action needed to be taken. An amendment reducing the money involved to \$50 was lost, and a close vote on the motion proper saw it bite the dust — or ash.

Boilermakers

The meeting next agreed to lay another motion on smoking restrictions "in the ashtray" and we moved on to item ten on the agenda: "that this Association supports the struggle of the Wellington Boilermakers Federation for re registration." Moved by Mulrennan and Robb, this motion provoked the speech of the afternoon from David Newton. He said that having had two years experience as a member of the Boilermakers Union and as a supporter of the Union in their disputes on the BNZ site and at Cable-Price, he thought the motion was hogwash. He believed that the union hierarchy both in this union and in most others in the country were out of touch with their rank and file. In his opinion, passing such a motion would have zero effect on the situation. The meeting seemed to accept his judgement and the motion was defeated.

It was now 2 o'clock and despite a wish by some students to discuss the Bastion Point issue in General Business, Lindy declared the meeting closed. See you at the A.G.M. next Wednesday.

— Peter Gibbs

NEWS FROM MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

'WAH PIOW CAMPAIGN'

Britain has granted a student visa to Tan Wah Piow "as he qualifies under the Immigration Rules to remain here as a student", a letter from the Home Office said. "His stay has been extended for 12 months and it will be open to him to request a further extension at the end of this period."

When some Labour M.P.s met Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, on 11th January, they were told that granting political asylum would only be a last resort.

The decision not to grant political asylum to Wah Piow did not come as a surprise considering British economic and political interest in Singapore and Malaysia. But to the extent that the Home Office considers it unsafe for Wah Piow to travel on his own passport, to that extent Britain recognises political persecution in Singapore.

The Singapore Government's response to the campaign is both naive and comical. It was first brought up in Singapore Parliament on 24th Nov that the authorities had informed the British of the 'forgery' of Wah Piow's passport, and "if the British decide to overlook this offence and we decide to ask for Tan's extradition, we shall request British co-operation." This threat fizzled into thin air when in January the British turned its back against Lee Kuan Yew by not only disregarding the allegation, but also endorsing Wah Piow's passport, thus certifying the authenticity of the document.

In fury, the Singapore Foreign Minister, Rajaratnam, accused the British supporters of the Wah Piow campaign as the "New Left" and told

a public meeting that "the New Left says that they would not send him back. If he is a big asset, they can keep him."

Rajaratnam kept harping on Wah Piow's passport being forged and complained that not only the British Home Office extended his visa, but Bradford University had accepted him as a post-graduate student. In his outburst, Rajaratnam also chided the British press for giving "a lot of publicity to Tan" devoting only a few lines to the Singapore election.

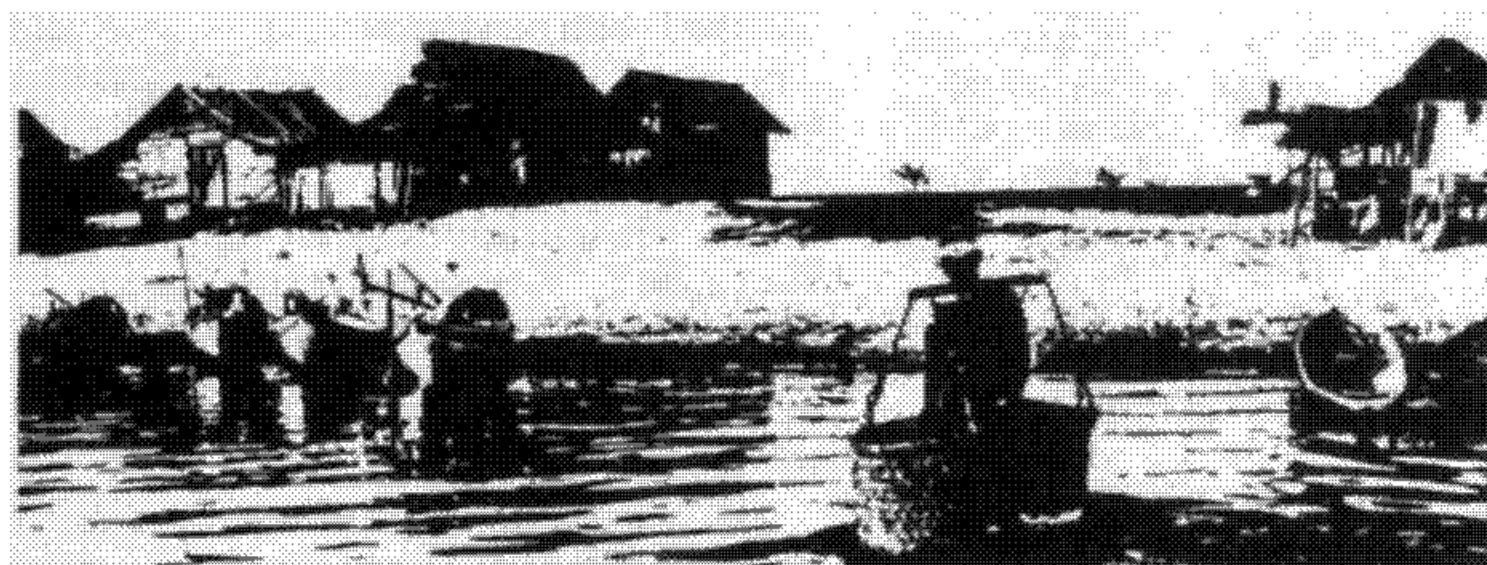
6 MONTH JAIL FOR HARUN

Datuk Harun Idris was sentenced in the High Court to six months' jail for forgery and fined \$15,000, or another 6 months' jail, for abetment in criminal breach of trust of nearly \$6.5 million worth of stocks and shares belonging to Bank Rakyat.

In passing the sentence, the judge told Datuk Harun that he took into consideration the fact that Harun was "a leader who had held very high position and rendered valuable service to the country."

Datuk Harun, the former chief minister of Selangor was sentenced to 2 year imprisonment on three corruption charges involving a \$250,000 pay-off by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in May last year.

For the same offences of forgery and criminal breach of trust, the bank's former managing director, Datuk Abu Mansor and its ex-general manager, Ismail Din, were sentenced to 2 years plus \$25,000 and 1 year plus \$15,000 respect-



ively.

All three gave notice of appeal and were freed on bail of \$100,000 each.

Meanwhile, the strongman of the Malaysian Chinese Association (M.C.A.) and State Assemblyman of Malacca, Datuk Tan Cheng Swee, was charged with three counts of corruption.

They had since pleaded not guilty in the High Court to all the charges.

Datuk Tan was alleged to have used his position and influence as the Commissioner of the Municipality to approve layout and building plans for a building company, Syarikat Almac Sendirian Berhad, in which he was a shareholder and executive chairman.

A joint trial of all four has been fixed for 20 days from April 11.

(Ref: New Straits Times 25.1.77)
" " " 16.1.77
" " " 29.1.77

PRICE INCREASE

For the last one month the prices of food items have soared:

Chicken	from \$1.80 a kati to \$2.80
Pork (lean)	\$3.40 a kati to \$4.00
Sausages	\$3.20 a kati to \$4.00
Onion	\$0.70 a kati to \$0.90
Chilli	\$1.30 a kati to \$1.80
Fish	30-40 cents increase

This shows that inflation in Malaysia has not been controlled, and it affects in particular the lower income group.

Recently there was an acute shortage of kerosene in certain parts of the country. People literally have to queue to purchase kerosene.

An investigation on the shortage reveals that there are 3 factors: reduction in commission to dealers, oil companies requiring dealers to pay for transport costs between depots and shops and a 5% increase in kerosene consumption. Whatever extra expenses incurred will be pressed on to the consumers.

(Ref: NST 2.2.77)

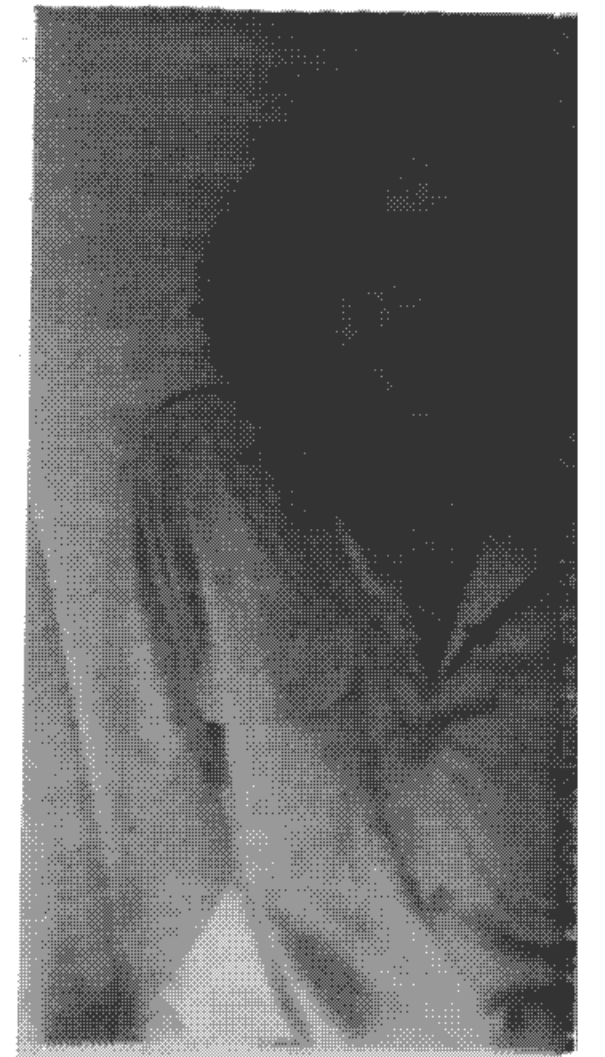
DRUG SITUATION DETERIORATES

The drug situation in the country is deteriorating with the number of drug traffickers and addicts on the increase. Just last year, 101 pushers and 679 addicts were arrested in Perak alone. Available statistics shows that there were about 21,000 addicts in the country who needed immediate treatment although there were projections that up to 150,000 people were involved. The director of the Central Narcotics Bureau (C.N.B.) revealed that there were 3 underground laboratories processing morphine and opium in Peninsular Malaysia.

Presently, the Malaysian connections in the drug syndicate are not only confined to local circles but have also established international contacts. As a result, quite recently a series of arrests of young Malaysian drug couriers were made in some European capitals.



Crowds in Tien an men square on April 5, 1976 just before the incident over the removing of wreaths in memory to Chou En-lai. The incident led to the dismissal of Teng Hsiao-ping and an intensified campaign by the "gang of four" to grab leading positions for themselves.



Paul Tolich is a Trade Unionist from Auckland. He went to China with the National Youth Council delegation. The weeks and covered a large area of the People's Republic and he offered the following and the current political struggles.

"GANG OF FOUR" E

After 3 weeks in China, what are your immediate impressions of that country?

What struck me most is the incredible way that the working people have in the runnings of their day to day life. Where they work, there is the development of the people's initiative in the way they work the workings of the machines, the boosting of production through the modernisation of machinery by small changes which people who operate the machines decide on. This way is a superior method as decisions are discussed thoroughly and agreed upon before they are implemented.

At the No 3 Shanghai Tool Making factory, the workers were discussing intensely the six month work plan which they do every month.

In urban areas, the people have an incredible way in the running of the community. In Shanghai we went to a residential area where they discuss issues affecting them in homes. They have a small factory where the married women work. This particular one had a contract with the Shanghai woolen mills, where they buy the wool and make embroidered rugs. They then divide the money three ways—first part to wages, second part to the development of the enterprise and the third to the provision of community facilities.

It is incredible how the facilities are developed on a day to day basis. The primary thing is the concept of involvement and mass participation in decisions which affect

the people.

Q. Could you give examples of the discussion of people on the factory floor which aided a development of production?

Most of the discussion centred around the "gang of four", and criticism of them came up all the time. We were given specific examples of the way that the "gang of four" disrupted production. For example, the abolishing of factory rules because according to the gang of four "any rules shackle workers" — that they were there "to suppress workers".

The factory conditions are certainly better than they are in New Zealand with good light, ventilation.

Health care is also provided at the large factories. At one factory of 2000 people, they had 2 doctors and 6 barefoot doctors. It was basically at the nursing level — not like the health services here.

Q. What other examples did they give you of the "gang of four" actions.

One of the major ones was that the "gang of four" used to stress the saying "be red, not expert". They said that if you were politic, then that was all. They discouraged being good at one's job, developing techniques and making one's job better in terms of expertise.

The "gang of four" used to run people down if they didn't think that they were putting enough emphasis on politics.

We also went to the Foreign Languages Press where they told us a story of when Chiang Ching came to visit their factory. She demanded special treatment. She made the workers turn off all the machines because they upset her. Additionally, she refused to use the workers lavatories and wanted a bed to rest on.

Certainly the "gang of four" were ultra-leftist, very elitist, and completely out of step with the masses. When we talked to the Chinese, they said that the "gang of four" were ultra-rightist and their style of work would have led to chaos and sent China down the capitalist road.

They constantly referred to the letters that Mao Tse Tung had written to Chiang Ching and the others warning them of their mistakes.

Q. Who led the "gang of four"?

They say that the leader was Chiang Ching although the main strategist and candidate for Premier was Chang Chun-chiao. Wang Hung-wen was the understudy of Chang, and Yao Wen-yuan had the control of the media.

Q. Were the mistakes that they made, genuine theoretical mistakes, or did they deliberately plot to take state power.

They were basically ultra-rightist. Ultra-rightist because what they were doing would eventually lead to China going down the capitalist road.

From what we could see, their rise was because of the power vacuum created at the death of Premier Chou En-lai up to the time of Mao's death. The "gang of four" were definitely on top during this period. The "gang of four" put up Chiang as Chairman of the Party, but it was Hua who eventually filled the position.

I think that there was definitely a coup attempt. They just moved in to take over power.

We were told that levels in production had been reduced because of the havoc wreaked by the "gang of four".

We asked the Chinese whether they were worried about high-ranking Party members being thrown out. They told us that they weren't particularly worried and that the struggle between the two lines (proletariat and bourgeoisie) would go on within the country, especially in the party.

Just a side note here. While we were in China, the fifth volume of the Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung had just come out and there were amazing festivities. Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and the Central Committee have now started editing the Collected Works. Included are numerous letters that were written between the Cultural Revolution and his death.

Q. What impression did you get of the present party leadership?

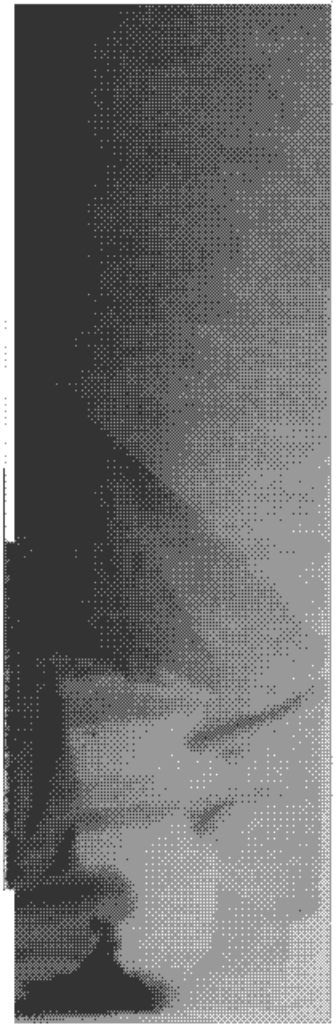
Everywhere you go you see pictures of Chairman Hua with Mao and sometimes



Scenes like this are still common in China. The drive for mechanisation hopes to see an end to labour intensive farming.



In issue No 2, we published this photograph but left the caption off. The photo was taken before (right), Yeh Chien-ying (second left) and two of the "gang of four" (second right) and Chiang Ching (second right).



A recent visitor to
it lasted three
ALIENT inter-
ments on China

KPOSED

with Premier Chou En-lai. In one printing factory where the three were up on the wall, Chiang Ching came to visit. When she saw the three on the wall, she nearly went through the roof.

Another charge against the "gang of four" was that they used the Trade Union structure to spread information about Party and State officials which undermined their authority.

What the leadership seems to be doing now is getting back to mass work in their advance of socialism. This line was abandoned with the predominance of the "gang of four".

The Chinese see the three main contradictions at present as between mental and manual labour, urban and rural workers, and between the different standards of living.

One thing which does strike you is the immense importance of the Cultural Revolution and the effect it had in shaping Chinese society as it is today. They refer to occasions where physical fighting went on between the different factions — for example at the Yangste Bridge.

Q. The Chinese appear to be laying great stress on the mechanisation of agriculture. Can you tell us something about that?

The Chinese aim for mechanisation by 1980. I don't know whether they will reach that because it is only three years away and it is a huge task. Mechanisation is tak-



Chairman Hua Kuo-feng

ing effect on the communes though, with small plants being very common. In some cases, production brigades are able to assemble their own tractors. In another one they were making lathes. They may get near mechanisation, but they may not achieve everything.

We asked what would happen when they had reached mechanisation and they told us that there were millions of acres of land to be opened up. Although the main thrust are in industry, they also emphasise agricultural production.

Q. Could you comment on the change in emphasis in China's foreign policy in the 60's and 70's?

We didn't talk much about foreign policy. In discussion we were told that a new World War would be fought along conventional lines because the superpowers had too much to lose, in a nuclear war.

But, they say that the Soviet Union must be preparing for war because they spend so much on armaments. They also said that the USSR could not feed their people because they were spending so much on armaments, and their production is so low.

They didn't push the anti-Soviet lines excessively although they made it clear that they saw Russia as a capitalist country since Khrushchev had taken over. They said that this had happened because of the CPSU's failure to recognise class struggle in socialist society.

China will never use nuclear weapons — they have no interest in it. They have no need to adopt an expansionist policy. They are also trying to weaken the hegemony of the superpowers by developing nuclear weapons to break the monopoly of the superpowers.

Q. What were your impressions of Hong Kong?

We were glad to leave Hong Kong. Most of it is slum areas. The housing is sub standard and the rents are astronomical. One social worker told us that the main policy of the Government was to keep the people reasonably content with their lot. Some poverty assistance was available for those who fell beneath the poverty line. Very few workers fell beneath the poverty line because it was so low. All welfare programmes were done to keep the country politically and socially stable to keep foreign investment there.

The companies make incredible profits in Hong Kong because the wages are so low. All health services etc. are too highly priced for most workers. Unions are non compulsory and there are no labour laws which means that workers are directly ripped off with no rights to do anything about it.

When they talk about freedom in Hong Kong, they are talking about freedom to starve.



The small sized steel mills, chemical fertiliser plants and farm tool works already set up and being set up across the land have and will play an immense role in mechanising agriculture. This photo is of a commune-operated bearings repair and assembly works in Yencheng County, Kiangsu Province

Q. How do you view New Zealand after coming back from China?

I've seen how alienated the workers are in this country. They don't have a say in how the means of production operate. There is no discussion or democracy in industry at all.

You might have the right to vote every 3 years, but when the Government gets into power, it is a dictatorship for the next three years. In China, there are mass campaigns where issues affecting the people are raised and discussed at a grassroots level.

The Press here misquotes the wall posters which go up, and takes them out of context. Anyone can put a wall-poster up — even the most reactionary. The Western Press read the posters and interpret it as the official line.

The No.3 dock in Shanghai had 1000 meetings in 5 months where they discussed the incorrect line adopted by the "gang of four" and 5000 cartoons and 3000 posters were produced. The State puts up few posters.

In all their activities, the Chinese see the main emphasis is on practice. We were told that you could have all the theory in the world — but if you don't have the support of the masses, and if you don't do mass work, what is the use. They explained that there were numerous parties at the time of the revolution which claimed to have the correct line, but only the Chinese Communist Party under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung lead the masses be-

cause they analysed the objective conditions of the masses.

They specifically told us that their revolution was not for export. The whole thing is that you must look at your objective situation, and then build revolution.

Q. What did you learn of the Chinese method of conducting ideological struggle to develop their political line and how do you think that this applies to New Zealand?

I think we've got to build a mass movement of people in concrete campaigns to oppose the National Party and their economic and political restrictions.

We've got to make people aware that socialism is a way of building a new society. It not only provides economic bliss but also builds new relationships between men and their means of production.

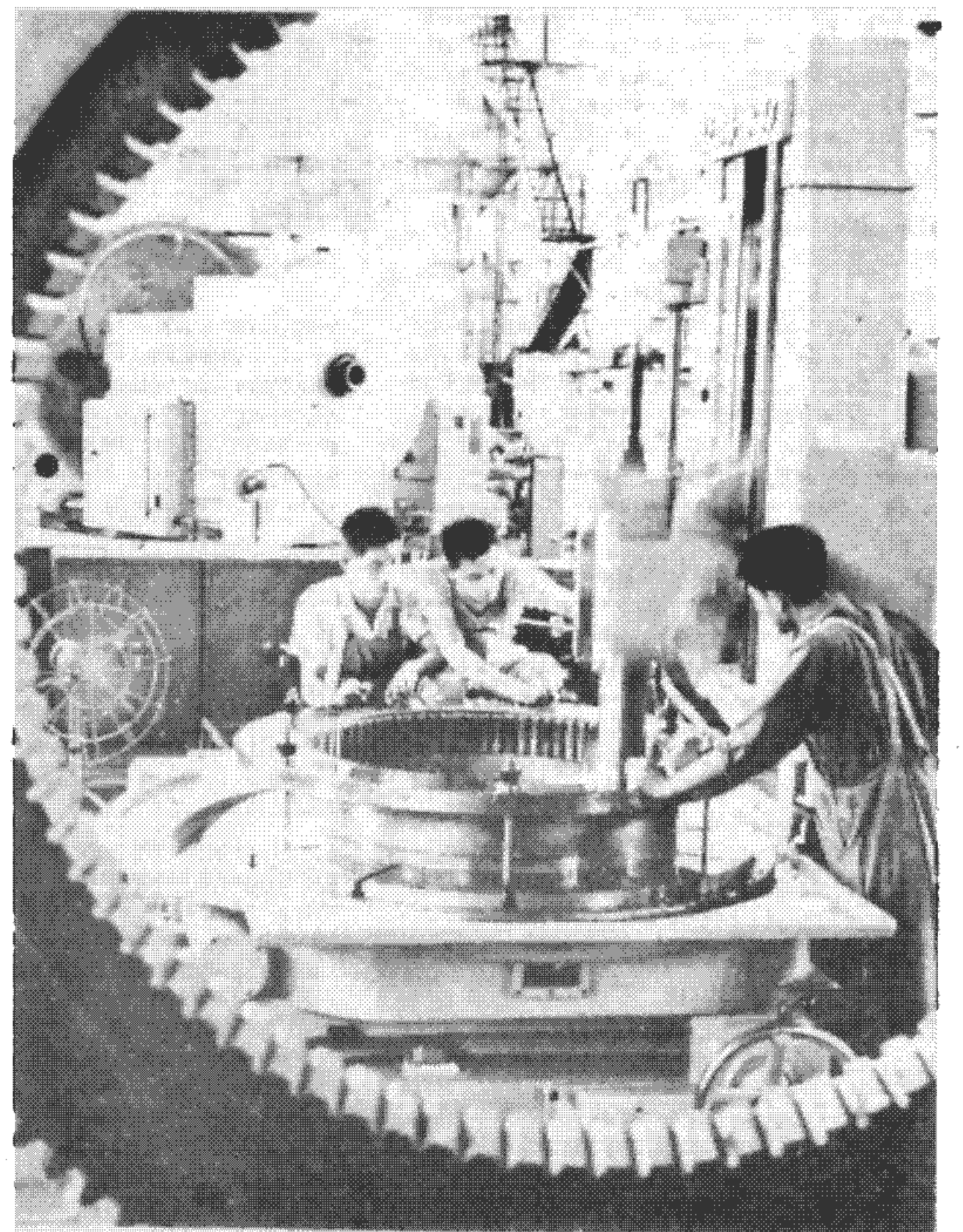
The Chinese see that, given the world economic situation, that people have got to rise up to gain their liberation. We were told that countries like New Zealand should be desperately trying to retain their sovereignty against the influence of foreign countries and foreign capital.

We've got to look at the biggest threat to New Zealand, which is the United States. Our foreign policy should develop non-alignment from economic and military treaties.

They see the USSR as a threat and they would wait 8000 years on guard. If you look at the history of the diplomatic breakdown, you can see why.



ie to a last minute rush, we inadvertently
En-lai's death and features Chou En-lai
ng of four — Wang Hung-wen (far left)



A gear slotting machine made by the Number 1 Machine Tool Plant in Shanghai. Paul Tolich went to a similar plant.



Whatever happened to Lin Piao?

The Rise and Fall of Lin Piao

Pelican

by Jaap Van Ginneken

1976

Lin Piao died in an air crash on the morning of September 13, 1971 while fleeing China to the Soviet Union. A coup attempt to assassinate Mao Tse-tung and establish him and his followers in power had failed.

This book, which relies extensively on high level Chinese documents, details the precise events which led to Lin Piao's flight and death. Its appearance is of some significance as China has just witnessed similar coup attempt by an 'ultra-left' faction.

For people who wish to understand the recent events in China this book offers valuable insights into the political processes and how such strong differences can manifest themselves at the top level of leadership.

The Cultural Revolution

The story of Lin Piao cannot be understood without coming to grips with the essential features of socialist society.

A socialist society is not monolithic, within it many struggles occur. In China these struggles achieved their most comprehensive form during the Cultural Revolution where virtually every Chinese was actively involved in either shoring up the old order or attacking it. Views from the far right to the far left found currency and the struggle ranged from wall posters to armed assaults and guerrilla warfare.

In fact China was going through a second revolution.

In 1949 the feudal and imperialist order had been overthrown. During the Great Leap Forward (1958-61) the economic basis of the socialism had been laid with the reorganisation of agriculture and industry and the accelerating of economic development. The Chinese people led the Great Leap familiarising themselves with new techniques and initiating many changes.

The Cultural Revolution was the next stage. It involved the revolutionising of the super-structure of society — education, culture, ways of thinking, the whole Party and state apparatus. During the Great Leap splits in the Chinese Communist Party had become apparent and it was clear that a large section of the Party, which followed the Soviet model of development, would oppose the revolutionisation of the super-structure.

Thus the most important aspect of the Cultural Revolution became the overthrow of these top bureaucrats who blocked the thoroughgoing transformation of Chinese society. It was the Chinese people who, responding to Mao's call, attacked and deposed the Party bureaucrats and made the victory of the Cultural Revolution possible.

The contradiction between the mass of the people and a few top bureaucrats in the Party was the key element of the Cultural Revolution and in one form or another characterises the whole period of socialist society.

Lin Piao

Lin Piao had been a fine tactician in his early army days. But politically he often vacillated and feared for the success of the revolution. Van Ginneken quotes from a letter Mao wrote to Lin in 1930 to counter his pessimism:

"Pessimism is the world outlook of the declining landlord and capitalist classes. Those who cling to such an outlook always overestimate the strength of the people. They never have faith in

the masses and do not rely on them, and they do not have faith in or rely on the Party. When they meet temporary difficulties or when the revolution is at a low ebb, they waver, run away, become traitors or resort to adventurism and putschism. When the revolution advances smoothly or is at a high tide, they often take an ultra-'Left' stand, regard all successes as their own and push a reactionary line that is ultra-'Left' or 'Left' in form but Right in essence. Persons clinging to this reactionary world outlook will inevitably set themselves against the masses, keep back the tide of history and become reactionaries vainly trying to stop the earth from rotating". (The letter has become famous under the title "A Single Spark can start a Prairie Fire").

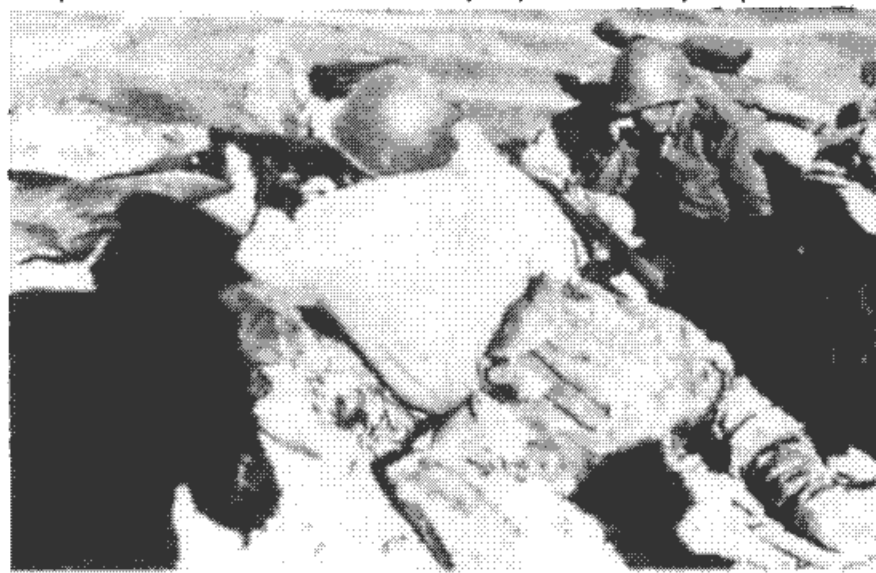
Lin voted against Mao at the Party meeting in 1935 where he was elected to lead the Party.

The Rise

As a result of the purge of Peng Te-huai during the Great Leap Forward Lin found himself Minister of Defence. In this post he began a characteristic process — he accumulated in the top positions immediately below him people who were personal favourites first and politically capable second.

Many of these people were to make severe political mistakes in the future. The coup attempt itself was planned by people Lin had helped to bring to power.

Lin's style of work also became clear early on. It was only through the medium of his followers that the outside world impinged upon him. In particular all information, reports and people were



Soviet troops on the Chinese border — 1969.

vetoed by Lin's wife before they could reach Lin. Lin remained aloof and accepted this state of affairs and consequently became increasingly divorced from the Chinese people and the rest of the leadership of the Party. Right from the beginning Lin's style of work encouraged the formation of a revisionist faction centred around himself.

Lin and the Cultural Revolution

In the preliminary stages before the Cultural Revolution Lin supported Mao and helped educate the army for its future role of bringing order and supporting the left after the initial breakthroughs in the Cultural Revolution had been made.

It was to be the intervention of the army in the Cultural Revolution that which secured the rise of Lin to no. 2 in the Party behind Mao. Helping his rise was the total disorganisation of the Party apparatus everywhere except inside the army itself where it was mostly under his firm central control. Also helping was the ultra-leftism which became on the major problems in the restoration of order after the Cultural Revolution's first phase. Lin's followers had played a major part in inciting the ultra-left and Lin rose in standing as they attacked Chou En-lai and others who stood in his way.

Mistakes

Lin's grasp of theory was never great and he

often vacillated as his followers committed more and more errors. The Chief of Staff of the armed forces was replaced a number of times by the Party as was the director of the General Political Department of the army. But Lin managed to escape criticism for his complicity in their mistakes.

In the propaganda field both he and his followers encouraged the personality cult of Mao (and simultaneously Lin himself), underestimated the role of the masses and were often dogmatic. They contributed to the continuance of the sectarianism between left groups that stunted the formation of new organs of state power and the re-establishment of the Party until well after the end of the main phase of the Cultural Revolution.

In one case they incited a campaign of attacking 'capitalist roaders' in the army (as the gang of four were to do in 1975 for the same ends) in order to get rid of all those who disagreed with them. The result was that armed violence broke out in many areas as ultra-lefts battled with army units. In key provinces for national defense this campaign destroyed the organisation of defence. In one province opposite Taiwan the campaign against the 'capitalist roaders' was taken up by the Taiwanese radio. The campaign soon stopped but the implications of this unrestricted campaign were clear.

Instead Lin adopted ruthless organisation means to develop his central control of the army and purge his opponents. This incited much distrust in Lin among the Party leadership and marked one of the first steps to his fall.

But first came the apogee of Lin's power — the Ninth Party Congress in 1969.

The Ninth Congress — 1969

The army still contained the main organised section of the Party and although a far greater number of delegates from worker and peasant origins appeared at this Congress than at its predecessor Lin was able to dominate many sections of it. Particularly he was able to write into the Party Constitution that he was the chosen successor of Mao and his faithful follower.

But by the second meeting of the new Central Committee the differences between Lin Piao's faction and the rest of the leadership had become irreconcilable.

The Fall

Lin now felt strong enough to openly oppose the general line of the Party. Two attacks among others were launched.

Firstly, Lin wanted to build up the army. He wanted it extended further into society with parallel organisations to all major societal institutions. This was a direct challenge to the leading role of the Party. He also wanted a massive increase in the means for fighting modern warfare. This would have meant a dislocation between a highly modernised defence industry and a more backward generally industry. Mao believed the two should march in step.

Secondly, Lin believed that the US and Japan were China's major enemies. But the border incidents and the case of Czechoslovakia had demonstrated that in fact the Soviet Union was the main threat. Lin opposed the breaking of China's diplomatic isolation which was to be a means of combating this threat and also a substitute for extreme modernisation of the army.

But Lin found no support outside his circle. Mao and Chou En-lai gained support. During or just after the second meeting of the Ninth Central Committee Lin's most powerful follower Chen Po-ta was purged for ultra-leftism. Lin was now trying various transparent schemes to increase further his standing in the party but his failures were increasing.

In the end the coup was planned. It was based on the assassination of Mao and the ascension to power of Lin. It is possible that the impetus for this came from Lin's followers rather than Lin himself. But once it started going wrong (it was launched on September 8 1971) Lin was inextricably involved. He fled China on September 13 1971 with most of his close followers before the other Party leaders were aware of what was happening. He died in a plane crash in the Soviet dependency of Mongolia the same day.

The Soviet Union which has a vested interest in disproving the 'official' story has never denied the story of the crash. Also the book makes clear that it was not until the announcement of the finding of the plane crash by the Mongolians at the end of September that the Party leadership in Peking knew what had happened to Lin Piao.

Conclusion

Many people wonder why it is that so many top officials in the Chinese Communist Party turn out to be capitalist roaders. Briefly I would like to list some reasons.

Firstly the enemy within is always more dangerous than the enemy without. Engels said in a letter to August Bebel in 1882:

"The development of the proletariat proceeds everywhere amidst internal struggles...And when, like Marx and myself, one has fought harder all one's life long against the alleged socialists than against anyone else (for we only regarded the bourgeoisie as a class and hardly ever involved ourselves in conflicts with individual bourgeois), one cannot greatly grieve that the inevitable struggle has broken out...."

When the proletariat has seized power these differences within the left become all the more important because state power and the whole social system are under their control. Wrong policies have more far-reaching and potentially dangerous effects.

Secondly, the Chinese realise that it is important to have a party that embraces as many points of view as possible which can be reconciled with their main tasks at the time. Such differences are deemed non-antagonistic. When the tasks of the party change and or the differences extend to the major tasks then, and only then, do the Chinese examine these differences and decide whether they have become antagonistic (i.e. irreconcilable).

Thirdly, socialist society is not perfect. It is a transitional form between capitalism and communism. In it major differences of an economic nature between workers and peasants, town and country and mental and manual labour can only slowly be resolved. Differences in income and life style and the existence of bourgeois right in the fields of distribution and exchange also exist. These inequalities, which are hangovers from capitalism form the economic basis for the restoration of capitalism. In the ideological and political sphere, international pressure (particularly revisionism) and the continuance of old ways of thinking allow bourgeois politics to continue. This latter point was recognised in the campaign to join the criticism of Lin Piao with an examination of Confucian thought. The ideas of Confucius still find currency in China and thus make it easier for people like Lin Piao to rise to high position.

Finally, the story of Lin Piao's rise and fall gives an accurate picture of class struggle in socialist China. Particularly it shows how the ultra-left pose as great a threat to socialism as the right-wing and that at times they are much harder to identify as their left words cover up their right essence.

Reviewed by Bruce Robinson

You Must Be Made To Believe This

To most people, except of course an economist, a priceless commodity means that the commodity has such a high value to the owner, that no amount of money would induce him to sell it. This is rather an over-simplified view, and in fact priceless commodities have been the subject of considerable micro-economic research resulting in a complex theory to explain why a commodity becomes priceless.

In order to develop our theory, we must state two basic assumptions (rather good for an economic theory, as most theories require at least six basic assumptions,) however, the second assumption will be disregarded at a later stage where enough contradictions will have arisen to force the assumption to be disregarded in order to preserve what little credibility the theory has.

Assumption 1: "You must be made to believe this."

This is a very important assumption, supported by considerable empirical evidence and is the foundation upon which the whole theory lies.

Assumption 2: "There may exist a demand and supply for priceless commodities such that at the intersection of these two curves (preferably drawn on graph paper) an equilibrium price could exist."

This second assumption may already seem contradictory to the student, but it must be realised, in order to prove that equilibrium price does not exist we must first assume that it does exist; this of course is consistent with any good economic theory. At this point, the student may wish to refresh himself on the basic theory of supply and demand, so it is suggested that the student confuse himself by reading any Stage 1 textbook, and for the more advanced student requiring a more advanced explanation to the law of Supply and Demand, it is suggested that the student ask the "average man in the street." A word of warning here: "the average man in the street" is often hard to find, especially in small towns on a Sunday. However, all this is unnecessary if the student accepts like the mindless moron that all economic students are assumed to be, that there is such a thing as supply and demand.

Figure 1 shows six supply and demand curves with five corresponding prices. The astute student will have realised that both supply and demand curve number 5 are missing. Those who have displayed this degree of intelligence may find difficulty in following the rest of the theory. The more astute student will have realised that the equilibrium prices and quantities do not in fact correspond with the correct supply and demand curves. Any student who has discovered this obviously has no flair for economics and should continue

no further. The majority of students who understand and accept the diagram should read on.

The main purpose of Figure 1 is to show that supply and demand curves do exist, on the basis that the more curves the student sees the more inclined he is to being brainwashed into believing they do exist. At Stage 1 level this type of proof (weight of numbers) is considered sufficient. It should be noted that these curves do not necessarily have to be drawn as straight lines, but this will depend on the students artistic talent.

Now that the complexities of supply and demand curves have been proven beyond doubt we can carry on expanding our theory using only one supply curve and one demand curve.

Figure 2 shows a supply curve taken at random from a book of supply curves (Economists Lecturing Guide 1976 edition). The student will notice that the slope is upwards to the right (depending on which way you're looking at it); the simple explanation to this is that if it was drawn downwards to the left it wouldn't be on the diagram. The two lines immediately to the left of S, (arrows to those students who never played Cowboys and Indians) demonstrate how the supply curve for a priceless commodity shifts inward, depending on how priceless it is.

PREDICTION 1: "Because the owners of priceless commodities don't want to sell them to anyone at any price, the supply curve will shift inwards, until finally it lies parallel and upon the vertical axis."

Figure 3 shows a demand curve again taken at random from a book of demand curves (Economists Lecturing Guide 1976 edition). This time the student will notice that the slope is downwards to the right; again the simple explanation is that if it was drawn upwards to the left, it wouldn't be on the diagram. The arrows again demonstrate how the demand curve for a priceless commodity shifts downwards depending on how priceless it is.

PREDICTION 2: "If there were people who wanted to buy priceless commodities, they would not want to buy them from anyone at any price, therefore the demand curve will shift downwards until finally it lies parallel and upon the horizontal axis."

In order to demonstrate the interaction of the supply and demand for a priceless commodity, we need to combine figures 2 and 3 to produce Figure 5. The obvious mistake that a student will make here is that it should be Figure 4, but the mathematical proof is $2 + 3 = 5$.

It can be seen from Figure 5 that because the supply curve lies on the vertical axis and the demand curve lies on the horizontal axis, equilibrium price and quantity will be zero.

CONCLUSION: "Because the equilibrium price and quantity of a priceless commodity is zero, there is no such thing as a priceless commodity and if there was it would be worth nothing."

If the student has knowledge of someone owning a priceless commodity and in fact has knowledge of a priceless commodity selling for a huge price, a little thought here will help him realise that this does not disprove the theory and in fact really refutes the claim that the commodity was priceless in the first place. Anyway, what happens in the real world is of no consequence to the economist. Another word of warning: if you know of anyone who owns or wishes to buy a priceless commodity they are not maximising their satisfaction, and are therefore irrational and should be treated with extreme caution.

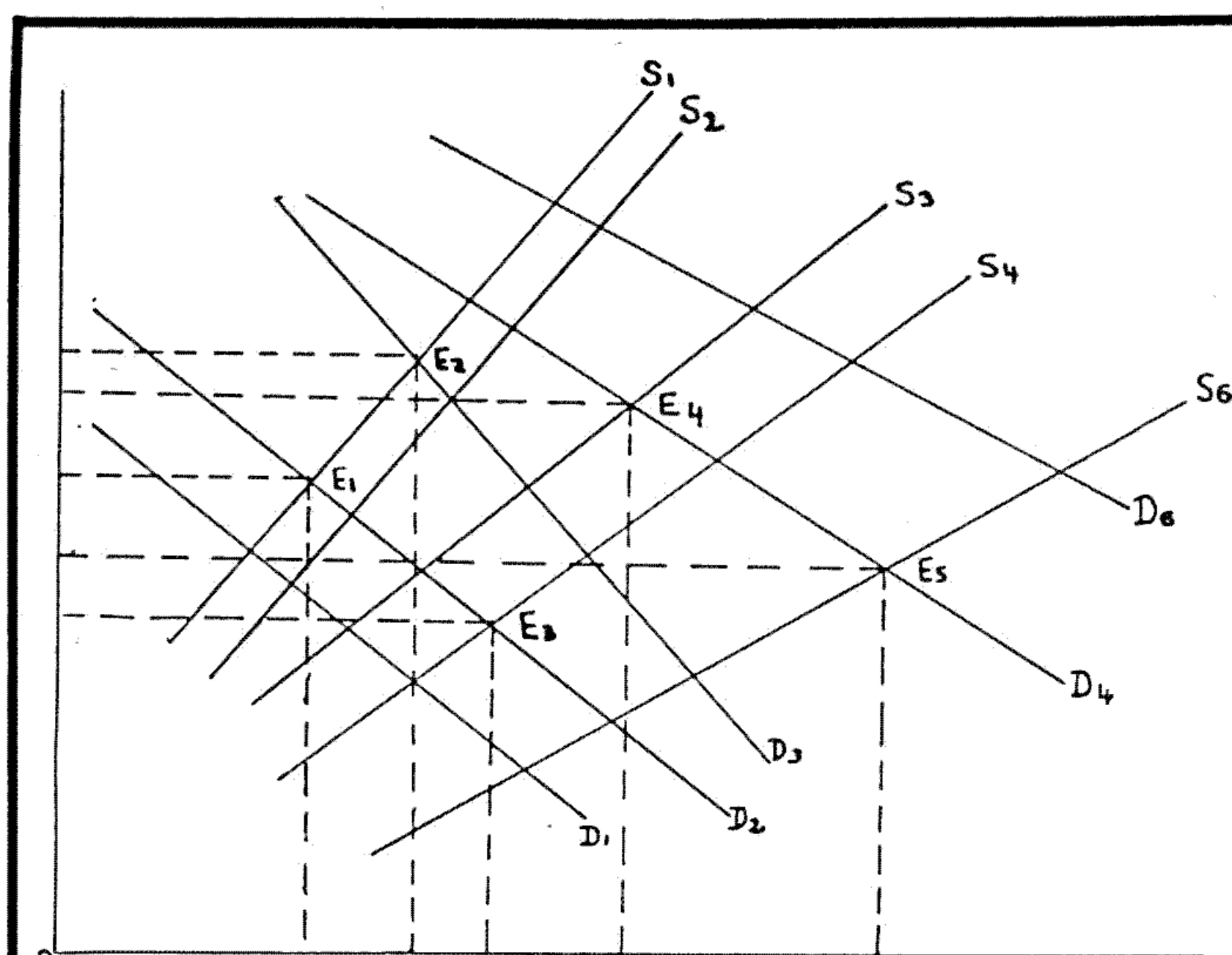


Fig. 1

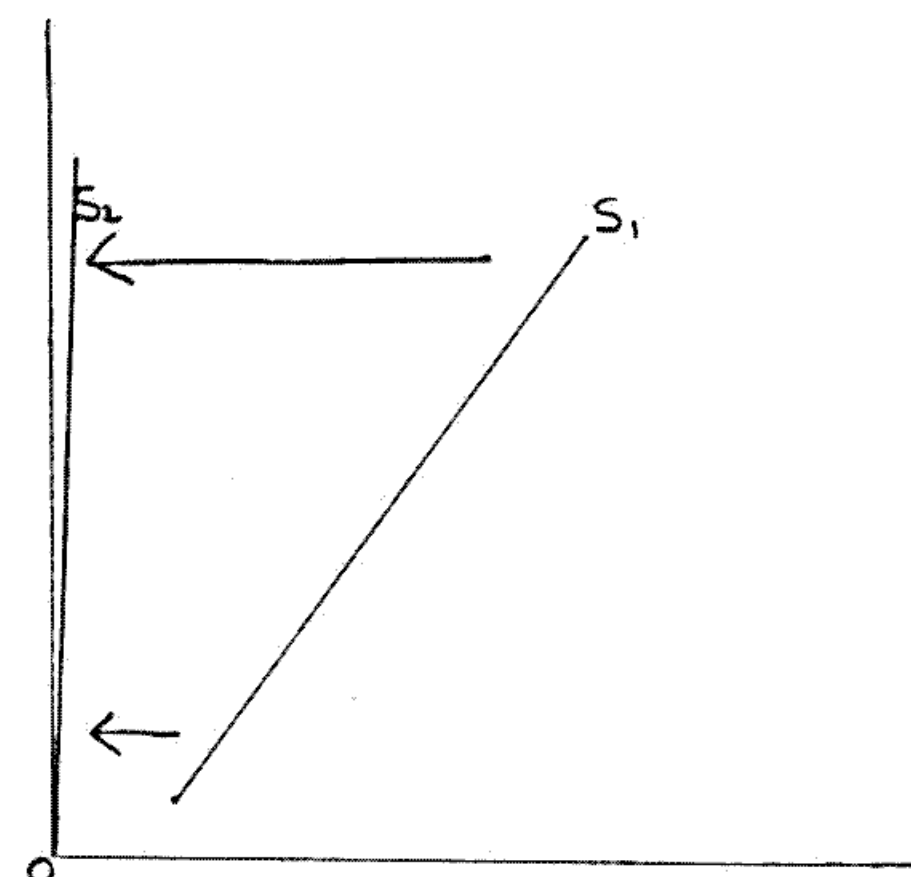


Fig. 2

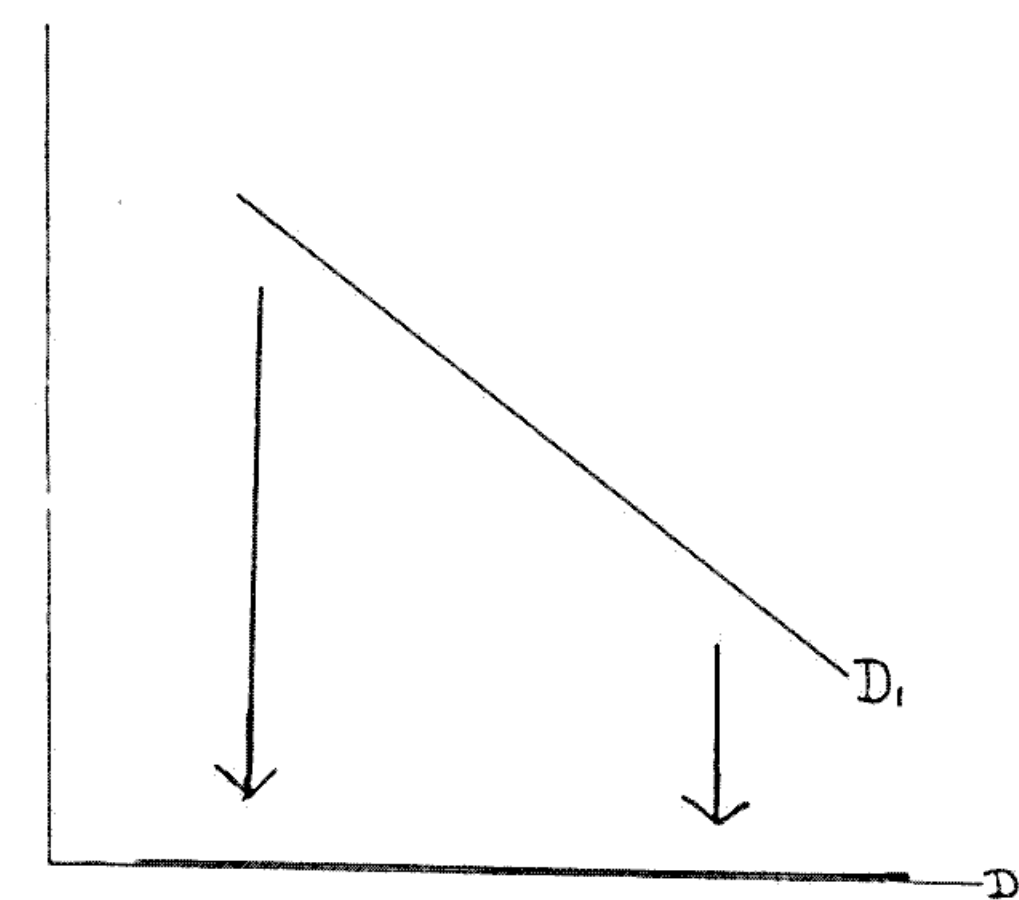


Fig. 3

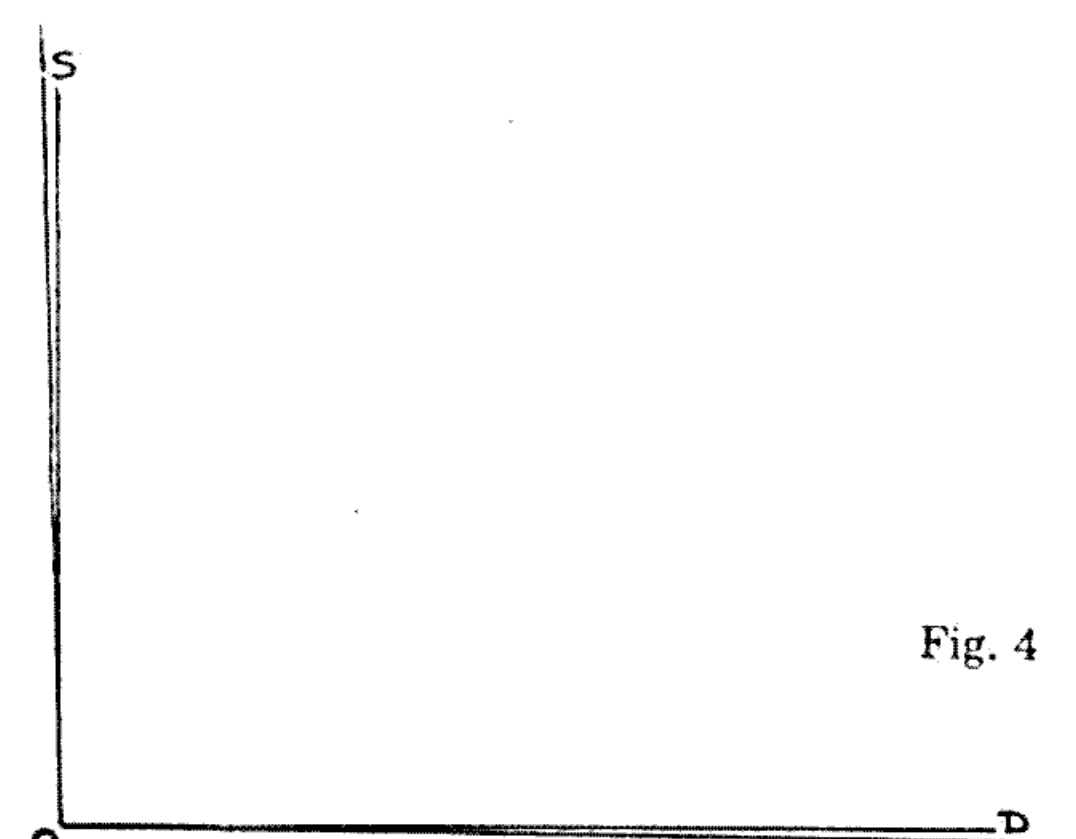


Fig. 4



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Studentsays

On one of the days last week when the library was full and bomb scares had not been heard of Salient sent its STUDENTSAYS team to find out what people thought of that venerable institution. Placing themselves strategically in the courtyard outside the library entrance they assaulted passers-by with the following questions:

1. What problems have you had in getting the books you want in the University library?
2. What's lacking in the Library service at the moment?
3. How do you find the Library service?

In their true spirit of readiness to offer opinions students, well at least some students, well maybe just a few students, heeded our team's entreaties and gave the following answers.



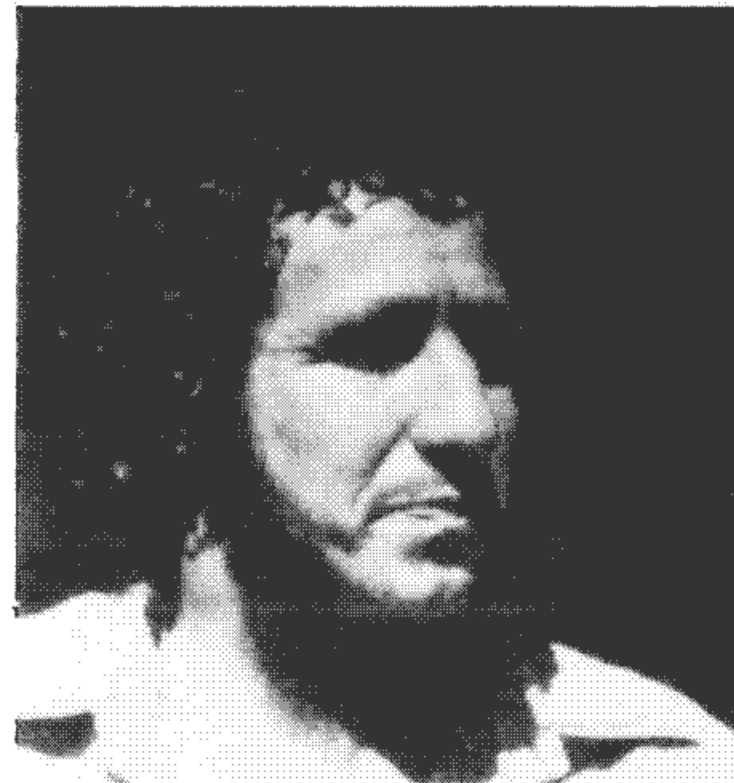
Pam Graham (works there)

1. Quite a lot. The Law Library is very busy and books are often not on the shelves.
2. Its alright. There's a lack of understanding by students.
3. Very good. The Law Library's very helpful.



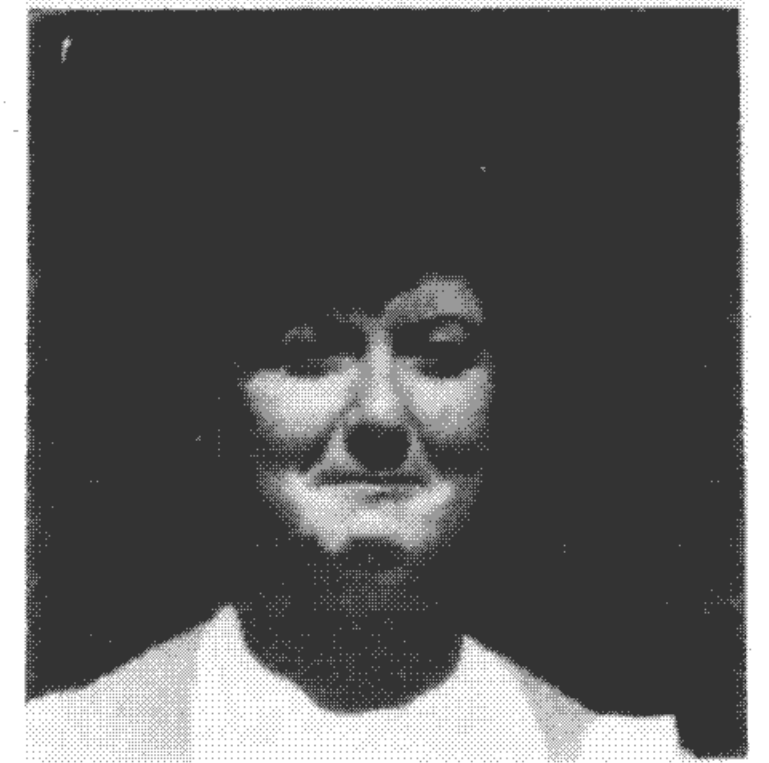
Ismay Barwell (academic staff)

1. Main trouble with books not being there and there's not enough of some that are there.
2. I'd like to see some system for undergraduates to have better access to periodicals and articles.
3. It shuts too early and should be open more in weekends.



Finlay Forbes

1. Lot of red tape — but quite reasonable.
2. Problems with the Zoology library closure as you can't get the books now.
3. Doing their best.



Denise Ryan

1. Don't know how to use it — I'm a first year.
2. Don't know.
3. I only used it once and couldn't find the books.



Daphne Austin

1. I've found them so far except problems with Biology books.
2. Time. It needs to be open more on Friday nights and weekends.

Victoria Market

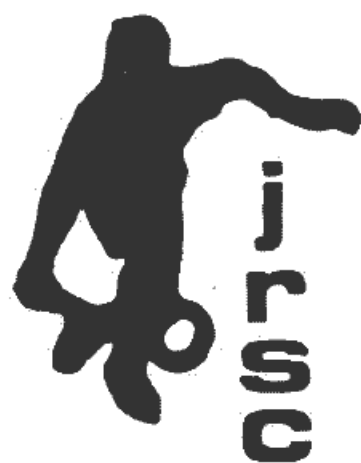
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Ann Braid, Apt 312, 2010 Ulster Road, NW Calgary, Alta, Canada.



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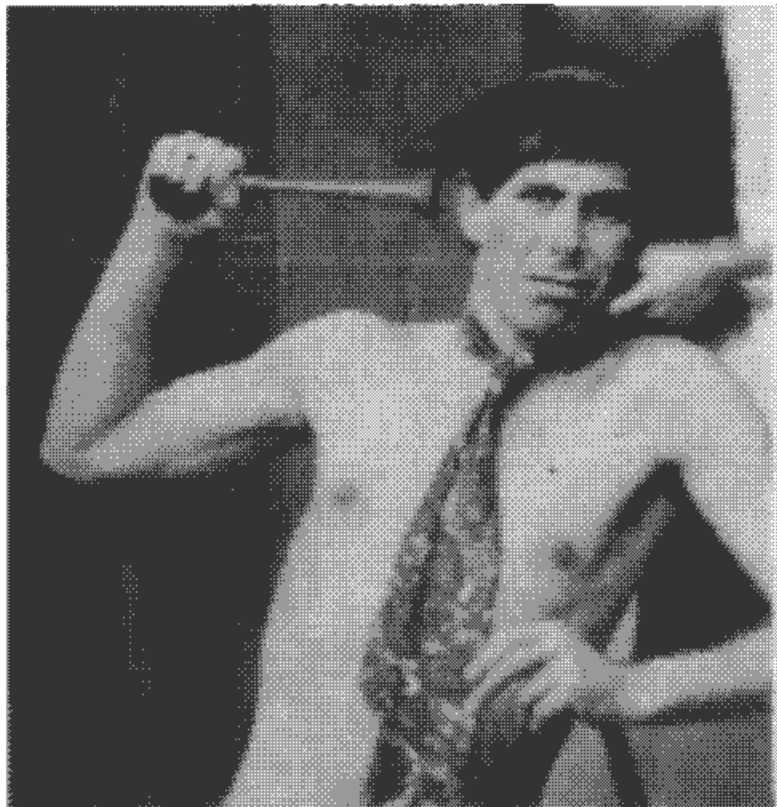
Finnegans Wake and Pas de Dada dada: two late night shows at Downstage reviewed by Allan Smith

Halfway up at Downstage is not the title of a real life documentary of the turgid sex life backstage at the Hannah. It refers to the new season of 'latenite' shows by Downstage in their refurbished Rehearsal Room which is, precisely, halfway up the stairs at the Hannah Playhouse.

There is a workshop atmosphere about Halfway up. The room is small, the stage at floor level, the acting more involved with the audience. Those who find intimidating the plush auditorium of the main theatre (together with its plush patrons), should feel more at home Halfway up. The seats are actually hard. Bravo! Bohemian theatre begins to make progress!

Finnegan's Wake, a theatrical presentation from Joyce's novel, is skillfully adapted and directed by Alyson Baker. If Stoppard in *Travesties* finds that Joyce is only palatable with large doses of absurd humour, Alyson Baker has provided a welcome antidote. Her presentation of Joyce's work aims to provide a visual correlative for the richly textured flow of poetic image found in his writing. The dramatic result is like a series of dream sequences in which episode follows episode with a logic transcending the conscious mind, yet seized by the subconscious as importantly connected. John Banas and Lorae Parry are dream figures who dart and dive in semantic winds as kites restrained only by the frail thread of consciousness. This is Alyson Baker's directorial debut for Downstage, and her work is refreshingly sensitive.

On the other hand, *Pas de Dada* dada is a misguided improvisation on a jaded and abused theme. It merely protracts the naive treatment of the Dadaist theme which, in my view, is already done to death in *Travesties*. In the Downstage show, four "Dadaists" recreate an evening of Dadaist improvisation. *Pas de Dada* merely reveals the creative naivety and poverty of the improvisators.



Halfway Up Downstage and still going strong

Not to say that it is not humorous, but that it is humour which is cheaply extracted from a casual intellectual flirt with a fundamentally revolutionary movement. Downstage's own description of the show betrays its tone: "18 mad moments of anti-art..." John Hardy's comment on the Mercury (LISTENER, March 19) could well apply to this type of theatre at Downstage. He speaks of an "intellectual wank" and a "masturbation fantasy".

Ultimately, *Pas de Dada* dada is a company pat on the back, assuring itself it can do...yes, even "anti-art". An assurance which is hollow in view of the fact that, if taken seriously, it would dissolve the fundamental concept of their theatre. Again John Hardy:

"It's a matter of reorientating values. Theatre is not just waving arms around in public to all friends, relatives and rabbits, but something which is consciousness-expanding, a learning experience. If all a play does is confirm the status quo, then it's rat shit and a menace to society."

Downstage has remarkable resources, finance, and enthusiasm. And they do have talent, great talent. But my god they are culturally inbred. And the dominant genes are European, middle class, and intellectual.

I acknowledge that the above does not consider the type of audience which Downstage aims for (and finds — the *Travesties* season has been extended). Rather it is a cry of lament at the incongruity of *Pas de Dada* dada with the student audience to which the late night shows would obviously appeal. However, this is personal opinion, and Salient is open to publishing a different discussion. In fact I urge people who see the show to record their opinions in Salient. If I am right, then Downstage should hear a concerted student opinion. If wrong, I freely offer the job of reviewing Downstage productions.

Dance at the Union

Impulse Dance Theatre

"The programme will contain a selection from the repertoire below". There were twenty four pieces then listed in the programme, each of which had various relevant details as to choreography, music, and the dancers involved.

First we got "Suite For Five", a piece which was choreographed by Jamie Bull to Bo Hansson's "Lord of the Rings", and involved all the dancers. In the biographical notes Bull states: "My initial career as a Physical Educationist still influences my life, be it in the pursuit of outdoor activities in my spare time, or the source of movement for some of my choreography". The P.E. side of things was too apparent in this piece which, while it started well, went on too long.

"...of a Feather" was choreographed by Paul Jenden with music by Bocherini, and while the "Owls" Genden and Bull, and "Flamingo" Debbie Groves were good, the Penguins, Liz Davey and Alison Gray were superb; best entertainment of the evening. I think Bocherini could have been dispensed with in this piece and the dance would not have suffered.

Paul Maunder, the Director of Unity's latest production "The Tempest" will be taking part in a Panel Discussion about the play at 1pm on Wednesday 30th March in the Lounge of the Student Union Building. The rest of the panel will probably be comprised of various members from the English Department and it should result in an interesting discussion. All will be welcome to come, and coffee will be available at 15c a cup.

Preview

'The Constant Wife'

To undertake a play, which 50 years ago was deemed 'artificial to the point of obscurity' is a precarious business. However, despite its early lack of success in England, Circa has decided to present W. Somerset Maugham's, comedy of manners, 'The Constant Wife'.

The audience will be required to dip beneath the superfluous unit, and by dissociating the characters from their period setting, extend the situation beyond its bourgeois origins to envelope all marriages at all times.

The theme of marital infidelity is as topical as it was in 1926, and despite the subsequent enfranchisement of women, and 50 years of 'sound reform' in Britain the solution stays the same.

The play, therefore, remains to be seen, not specifically by embittered wives or bemused husbands, but by the married as well as the unmarried.

Director Anne Flanney cites the theme of 'economic freedom a means to personal freedom' as another universal factor within the play. For those women in the audience whose husbands support them, the character of Constance is immediately identifiable with. For her, personal freedom comes by depositing 1000 pounds p.a. into her husband's bank account, for her 'board and lodging'.

For the economically independent, Constance's dilemma may give them an insight into the frustrations experienced by the less fortunate, possibly their own mothers. The indignities of receiving 'token housekeeping' for work no-one acknowledges as work. The guilt of spending money on themselves that was never really theirs.

The constant wife is constant therefore only by maintaining her social contract. Her escalating sense of personal worth is far from constant and surely for an institution that involves the most people most intimately, this is how it should be?

Circa's production includes a number of New Zealand Drama School graduates, Miss Flanney herself having been closely associated with the school. She has opted not so much for dictatorial direction, but for intelligent interpretations to come from within the actors, resulting in what she termed as, ensemble playing in the cast.

The season augurs well in such sensitive hands, but it remains to be seen whether Circa can universalise, what could be anachronistic frivolity.

Elizabeth Ross

"Schultz" was a rendering in movement of the Nilsson song: "I wonder who's kissing her now?" It featured fine choreography by Peter Robinson, and was danced with just the right feeling by Paul Jenden and Debbie Groves.

"O.K. Eliot, So Let's Go" was T.S. Eliot's, poem "The Hollow Men" in dance. That, plus "Room 47" and "Dunedin: Weather or Not" were very nearly as impressive as "...Of a Feather"

It was unclear as to which others in the programme were performed but the rest were not as entertaining as the dances mentioned. There was some talking off-stage which was audible to the audience, and some of the mirror-image dancing had certain not-so-mirror passages.

But, overall, well done Impulse! I like your art, keep it up.

— Bruce Alcorn



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THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH

Director: Nicholas Roeg
Reviewed by David Beresford

Anyone who begins to view 'The Man who Fell to Earth' with a mistaken notion that he or she is in for a science fiction treat would best understand that for all the publicity given to this notion the film can be comprehended more completely on the level of social commentary.

Thomas Newton (David Bowie) arrives from another planet for a reason that is unknown. He has a human form and speaks intelligibly but is clearly an alien. Moving quickly on, he is seen to hire a lawyer (Buck Henry) to construct and manage an inevitably successful business empire based upon Newton's sophisticated and advanced technological inventions. That he needs the money is clear, but why he needs it is not told. In the course of events two other main characters are introduced. One, Dr Bryce (Rip Torn), is a cynical scientist whose predilection for screwing 18 year old students reflects back to a creative stultification; Newton hires him to work on a fuel conservation problem. The other, Mary Lou (Candy Clark), is a pretty but shallow hotel employee who becomes Newton's lover. Newton accepts or rather tolerates her at first because, like Bryce, she fails to penetrate deeper into Newton's psyche. For her he is attractive in the persona of a freak. Both she and Bryce however, are alone in coming close to him; they are the only two that he trusts.

But it is the character of Newton that is intriguing. For an alien he possesses, interestingly enough, many human qualities; he is gently, nostalgic (there are constant flashbacks to his own planet) trusting, but above all vulnerable. He is impressionable in the same sense that Herzog's Kaspar Hauser was; coming into a totally

new social environment he can either resist or succumb. The film plots his dissolution in this context.

He subjects himself and is subjected to the society's true culture: the multiple television screens which wall up in front of him and occasionally reflect upon his own existence, his falling into a drinking problem as an escape and his ultimate undoing when his business empire is ruthlessly overtaken and turned upon him.

The film is in fact implying the responsibility of these social phenomena for what happens to Newton. This idea has its parallel on the personal level when Bryce himself discards his loyalty.

Therefore, although Newton arrives as an alien from another planet, he in fact becomes a metaphor for present western man. By participating within the limits of the age he becomes a subject of them. Thus the science fiction element provides an exotic touch and no more. What he sees in the opening shots of the film — a desert, derelict abandoned buildings — are not so much a vision of the present but a forewarning of the future; the bleakness of these scenes resembles closely the landscape of his own planet, one which provides an indication of where a progressively sophisticated world like ours will lead. And Newton? He can do little to prevent it.

Apart from the main idea, the film is full of interesting themes: movement (trains, cars, boats, rockets); time (Newton often glimpses the past); space as illusion (the table tennis room, the televisions). What director Nicholas Roeg has done is to cook up these elements as well as others in a thick and often baffling stew. Much in the film is either barely hinted at or left untold. For example, Newton's true mission is deliberately left unexplained (the members of his planet have no fuel for their spaceships and Newton arrives to get some.)

It is on the multitude of levels in which the films get entangled, and the dramatic tension built up in the first half consequently dissipates during the second. One feels that Roeg has over-

filled his cup. The effects of this then spill out from the screen in a bewildering array of images and ideas. While he handles the fast moving sequences well, notably the flashing light love-making scene, they tend more to dazzle than enlighten. It is during the slower paces that the film tends to be more effective.

David Bowie fits well into his role as extra-terrestrial visitor. With the most difficult part he succeeds convincingly (it is not surprising, it is a mask he has always worn comfortably) and is well backed up by the more than able supporting cast. And in a way this really is his movie. He has, at any rate, felt it important enough to cover his last two L.P.'s with stills from the film.

As a footnote it would seem that with the passing uncut of 'The Man who Fell to Earth' the censors appear to be anticipating the new censorship legislation. It realises at last a mature and intelligent approach to film and in this respect it is an indication to be welcomed.

VARSITY PREVIEW

SAVAGE MESSIAH

The infamous film of Ken (The Devils, The Music Lovers, Tommy, Women in Love etc) Russell.

It is a film about art — Taking the mystique away from art. For example a character says, at one stage: "You can always tell a bad artist like a bad doctor: he surrounds his work with a certain amount of hocus-pocus."

CLASS OF '44

The sequel to The Summer of '42
Director: Paul Bogart.

A very picturesque film of group of youths graduating from their highschool to face not the terrors of war, as in Summer of '42 but those of a sequel gone suddenly hopelessly flat.

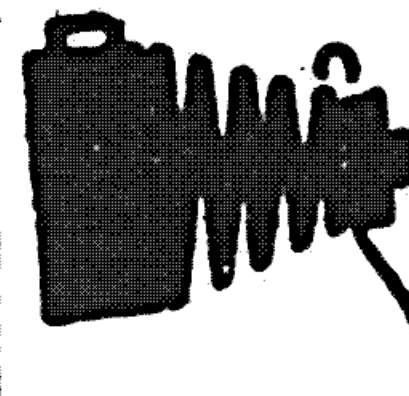
The best aspect of the film is the period detail — The cars, billboards, haircuts, songs, etc.

GOODBYE COLUMBUS

About "a decent edgy Jewish boy from New York who falls in love with a rich, tennis-playing Jewish princess from Short Hills has been made into a very funny, immensely appealing movie of suburban romance. The New York Times describes it as one of the best films of '69.

Ali MacGraw makes her debut on the screen as one of the two stars along with Richard Benjamin.

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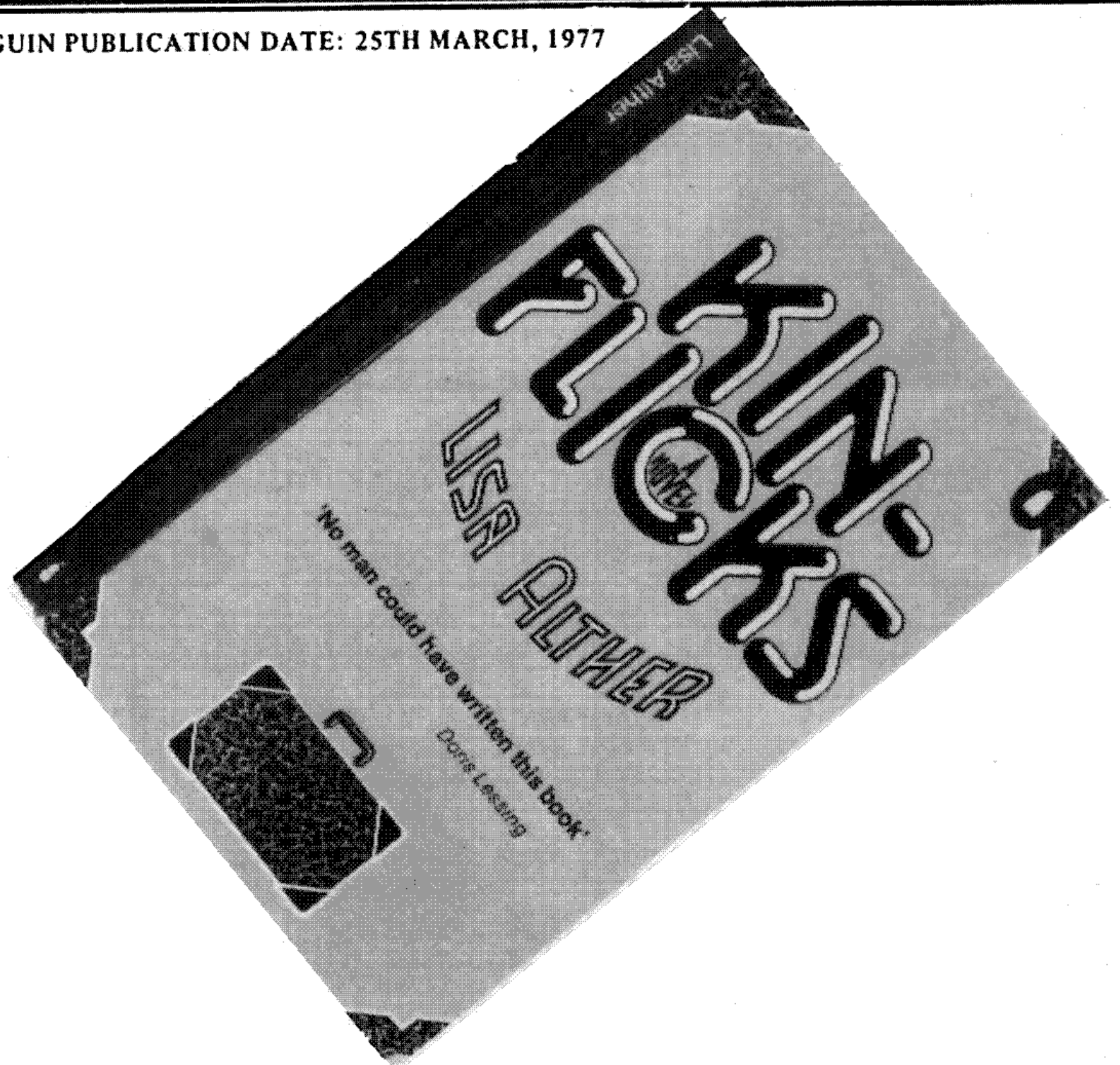
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New York Times

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letters

Liberals Unite!

Dear Editor,

The obvious bias in the article on the front page of last week's Salient over rides any pretence at constructive analysis and criticism. The writer (conveniently anonymous) twists the facts so the executive members are seen in as bad a light as possible, except two executive members who he seems particularly keen to flatter. This is very obvious in his paragraph on Neil Gray. The writer obviously does not like Neil Gray but cannot find anything derogatory to say about him so is reduced to a meaningless statement "seems at a loose end".

Gerard Sharrock is described as "investigating a couple of rock concerts but his half hearted efforts lack the necessary drive to create a cultural scene on a very much dead campus"

This is a bullshit analysis. The only fact it contains is that Gerard Sharrock has investigated two rock concerts, the rest is based on the writers subjective judgement which from the biased tone, as with the rest of the article lacks any attempt at objectivity.

This is not journalism, this is destructive muckraking. If the writer calls himself a Marxist he has certainly let the side down by pandering to the worst habits of the bourgeois press.

Mao Tse-Tung describes this type of liberalism as "to indulge in personal attacks, pick quarrels, vent personal spite or seek revenge instead of entering into an argument and struggling against incorrect ideas for the sake of unity or progress or getting the work done properly." (From Combat Liberalism).

Many of the executive members, vilified in the article, lack experience in student politics, but are genuinely concerned for students welfare. While there is benefit in constructively criticising the executive, there is little point in the kind of guttersnipe journalism seen on the front page of last week's Salient.

Gordon Purdie
Nicola Williams

Sean Presland
Margaret Casey
Sue Hanna
Mandy McMullan
John Flack
Simon de Boer
John Bowden
Jenny Kay

I would like to briefly reply to some of the accusations contained in this letter. The article was a combined effort of the editor and two of the staff who felt that the Executive's activities needed examining for the benefit of the association as a whole. It is hardly in the interests of the Association to have an Executive where more than half of the members do nothing to initiate action on fronts which involve students.

You say that I flatter two Executive members and imply that this action is surreptitious in some way. I believe that the article gave credit where it was due. I have been in a position to observe the Executive since the beginning of the term and I think it is a fair assessment that to say that the President and Secretary have performed well. If you disagree then I suggest you make it the subject of another letter.

The criticism of Gerald Sharrock was justified. If you don't believe me then I suggest you consult the people who put a great deal of time and effort into Orientation. You say that the only factual criticism of Gerald is that he has investigated two rock concerts. I also added that his effort has contributed to a lack of a cultural scene on campus. This is not subjective judgement — it is clearly fact.

It is a hallmark of liberalism that people take political criticism in a personal way. My article was a specific political criticism of an Exec which was failing in its prime political role (viz. leading students on policy which is made at SRC). Executive members were credited with their positive contributions in the article. But we are aware that nearly anyone can put a leaflet out or 'assist' in some campaign or other and Salient expects the Executive members to do a little more than that.

I do not have a personal vendetta against Neil Gray. When I said that he was "at a loose end" I meant (and the phrase is common enough) that he was unclear about what exactly he should be doing. He may have potential to be an excellent Exec member but as yet, he does not seem to have taken full advantage of his open portfolio as have Vice Presidents in the past.

While many Executive members have the welfare of Studass members at heart, so too do the majority of students at this University. The essence of this concern is practice (another excellent contribution to philosophy by the late Chairman Mao) and so far we have seen very little.

The article will encourage students to identify more closely to the activities of the Executive — as you already have. This can only be good.

I resent the implication of your letter but I hope that this will not deter you from contributing your ideas on the subject in the future. — Ed



Thai on Thailand

Dear Editor,

Concerning your article on Thailand of March 21. I would like to point out that many important points have been left out (intentionally or not). October '73 was a united reaction towards the military regime and together with the fac-

ionalization of the top section of the military and finally the intervention of the king, resulted in the "tyrant trio" being kicked out.

However October 76 was quite different this time the students were factionalized. They were divided into the rightist faction of mostly vocational students, "red guards" who have played a very significant part in October '73. The other faction was the more socialist learning but by no way communistic, composing mainly of university students.

One taboo in Thai society is the monarchy and the mistake of the university students was here, in one of their satirical protest play featured a man being hanged, he happened to look very much like the crown prince. The monarchy is held in very high respect in Thai society. The military and the right leaning newspapers lost no time in branding this act as evidence of the students being infiltrated by communist elements out to destroy the monarchy. The reaction was blood thirsty, mobs of vocational students and some members of the public stormed the university. The military took that opportunity to stage a coup, and crushed down on the students. Thus the sad end to Thai democracy.

Non- de Plume

P.S. The number of students killed in '73 was at least 2-3 times the official figure of 70... after all they were using machine guns and "gunship" choppers to shoot at students.

Robinson will return!

Dear David,

Is it true that Bruce Robinson has given up on the Anti-Apartheid debate after the cutting criticism from the overseas students and James Robb's prosaic masterpiece?

Yours,
Patrick Mulrennan

(No -Bruce Robinson)

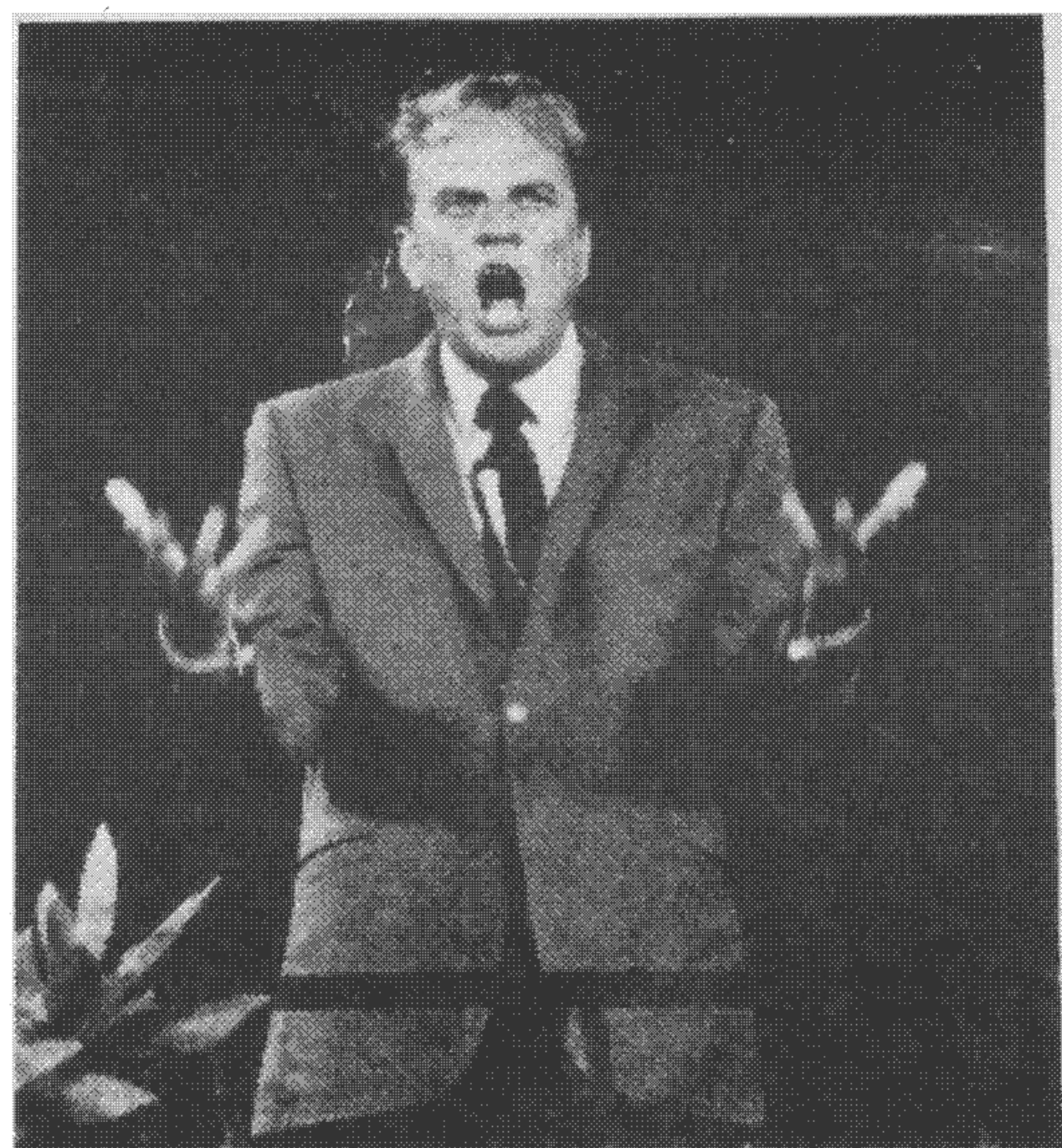
colin morris records caption competition

Last weeks winner



"Last one in's a trendy lefty"
— Arts Student

This weeks competition



Captions must be submitted before 2.00pm on the Wednesday of the issue week and must include name, address and phone. Judging will be done by the SALIENT staff. No SALIENT staff may enter. Captions may be dropped into our letterbox inside our door or in the Studass office. The prize is an LP of your choice courtesy of COLIN MORRIS RECORDS LTD. Winners must contact us as soon as possible.

More on the MSA Sketch

Dear Sir,

I find the criticism of the sketch presented to MSA rather amusing. The sketch is presented in a light-hearted way and is meant for a laugh, definitely not as a degradation of our people.

The sketch is funny and that funniness comes from its exaggeration of life in Malaysia. The narrator did make it clear in the end that the scene does not represent typical life in Malaysia.

For those kiwis who do not know how to put the whole thing into proper perspective and who do not know how to appreciate the sketch, ignore them. Their criticism is not worth taking into account. However, I do believe MSA does owe an apology to the son of the hawker who felt offended.

A Malaysian

Dear Editor,

If people like the critics in the Salient last week appear to be so socially and politically concerned, it is certainly not reflected in their vitriolic criticisms of ordinary students who participated one way or another in the Malaysian sketch. If they, the critics have no inkling of the harm and damage they have done to these people, I fail to see if they will be capable of being sincerely concerned about the Hawkers back home. These critics are not qualified to talk about politics in the first place.

A Malaysian

Dear Editor,

Are the critics of WMSA's sketch trying to tell us that the only kind of culture permitted are those sterile political propaganda as promoted by Chiang Ching, wife of the late Chairman Mao? If it is, they can keep it to themselves. I am not interested.

Dear Editor,

If the critics of WMSA's sketch in the last Salient are so socially and politically concerned why aren't they doing something positive and visible that we can all see? Deeds, not words please.

A surprised Malaysian Student



MSA reply to Criticism

Dear David,

As the committee of the Wellington Malaysian Students Association, it is our responsibility to defend the good name of the committee and the many conscientious students who have been involved, one way or another, in our community activities. Our Association is not a political party nor a political organ, and as such there is never any intention on our part to deliberately misrepresent anyone or any group of people. If the critics in your paper last week had listened more attentively to the narrator, they would have heard her saying "...I can assure you that it (the scene) is not all that typical nor difficult as it appears to be..."

This refers to tourists having language or communication problems when having meals in a multi-racial country like Malaysia, and which formed the basis of the light dramatized sketch.

Our Association is a group of voluntary community workers. What we are trying to do is to create as many opportunities as possible, for Malaysians, Singaporeans and other interested persons, to interact with each other. Simultaneously, we are also trying to provide an atmosphere whereby we can all realise and share our talents or capabilities for the benefit of the community.

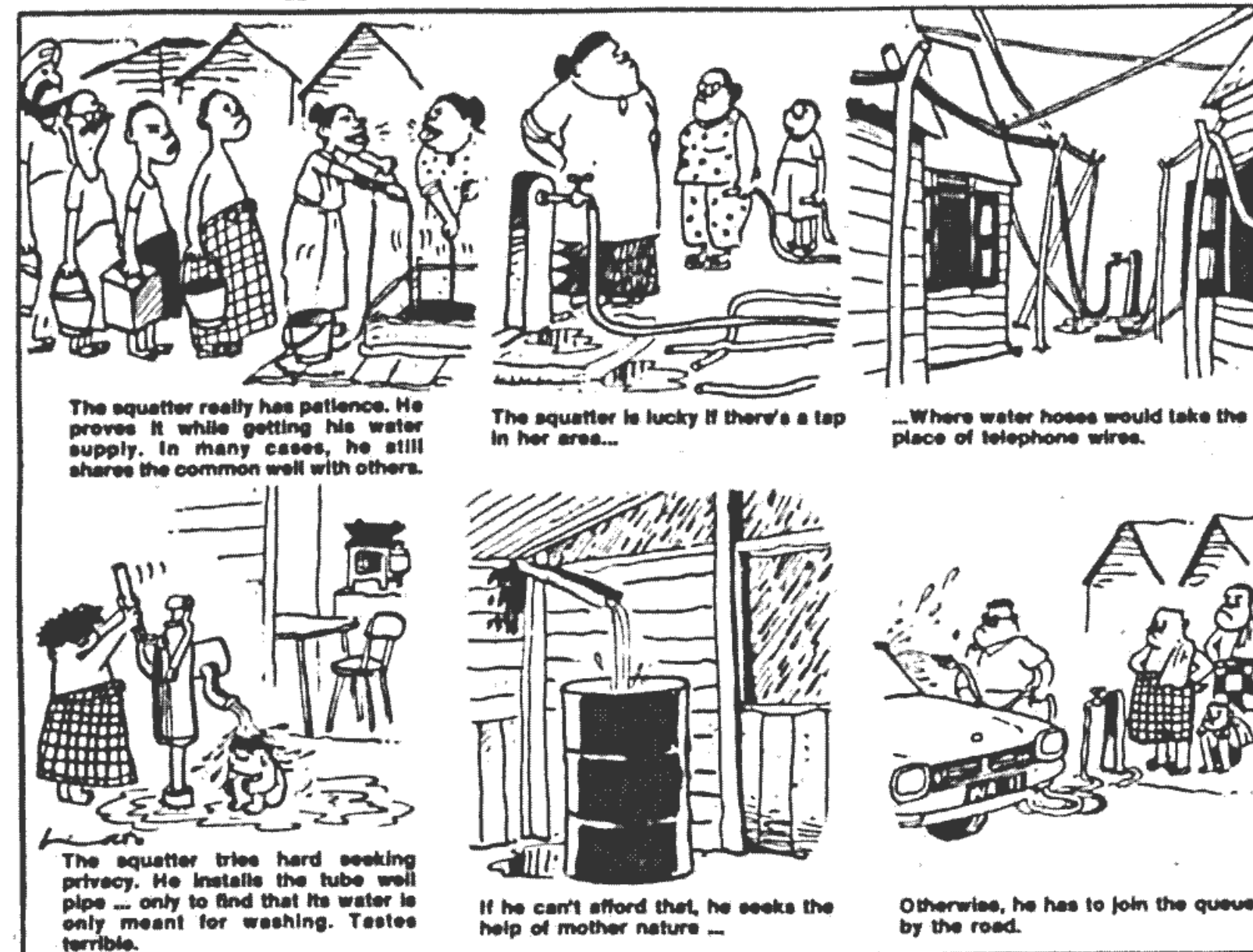
It is regrettable that the sketch has been read through a narrow and politically tinted glass. What is even more regrettable is that such criticisms may stifle other people from participating in such healthy non-academic activities; activities that are natural and normal to people like us if we were, for example, in the University of Malaysia.

We have already suffered enough of the social ostracization here in New Zealand, and further criticisms like these does nothing but demoralise well-meaning people who have sacrificed their time and efforts to promote a richer and more meaningful life here in the campus, or Wellington for that matter.

What keeps us going is our ideals and we will continue to work as hard and as tirelessly as before. And because we know we have done no wrong, we are confident that many of the students here in the campus support us in the activities we have undertaken.

Yours sincerely,
WMSA Committee

The squatters by LAT



Dear Editor,

I'll start off by saying that I did not expect a Marxist class analysis from slapstick comedy. And all those people who wrote those immensely sympathetic M'sia - I have one question to ask them. What are they going to do when they go back? Join the system I suppose. The letter-writers of sympathy better realize that the real rests to their beliefs lies in ACTION back home. Fat white S. Africans can write bleedingly sympathetic letters, too, you know.

Repressed countries do not need sympathy (let alone sympathetic letters). Patronizing does not alleviate pain and hunger. As it is, liberal pakehas are doing more than enough in the direction of sympathy, patronage and endless discussion about injustice and Marx (with coffee breaks, of course).

The comedy was purely slapstick devoid of any political content - that was fairly obvious. Yet phrases like "misled our Kiwi friends" or "bad impression and distorted picture portrayed to our Kiwi friends" are used. It all stinks of a terrible colonial hangover that the sympathetic letter writers seem to suffer from. This idea that we "owe" pakehas anything is just not on. I am not interested in presenting a "good image" to pakehas, or measuring myself on their terms.

And this big hang-up about cutting throats - I only wish that we engage more in such practices. The 3rd World has had it's throat cut for a long time (it's still going on) by the White World with all the rape and plunder that our countries had to go through, we have some of our people trying to "impress" Kiwis - such a sad state of affairs. Imagine trying to get a liberal well-fed pakeha to understand what hard-life is all about in this land of milk and sheep. Then, all we'll get is sympathies (well meant, of course) which makes me sick. I will not write about hard life of Malaysian (or any) working classes, and then fool myself to believing that I FEEL FOR THE MASSES. I rather wait for the real test (which is not in N.Z.). I leave the wanking to liberals.

Unsigned

(Perhaps you could have added what you thought the real test was?—Ed)

Dear David,

With reference to the criticisms of the International Evening sketch. Firstly I would like to say that their point is taken. But in response I would like to ask the people who wrote in, a few questions:

1. Are you so gullible as to be incapable of differentiating between serious drama and a light-hearted sketch, for that was what it was intended to be.
2. Are you so badly brainwashed as to see everything in a political light, unable to laugh at a joke and forever looking at everything negatively?
3. Where is the assured self-confidence that goes with the knowledge of our rightful place in the world, our third world consciousness, that should enable us to feel strong enough to laugh at ourselves. Where is it my friends?
4. Do you people really think that you are the only ones that have the monopoly on saying that you can identify with the common people. That everything MSA does, as one of you put it, "A deliberate attempt to distort and exaggerate

the true picture". From my observation as an outsider, MSA people are a group of well-intentioned and sincere people, who are determined to do something positive for the common overseas students here.

It is a democratic association, so if you are not happy with it why not contribute something by turning up at the next meeting and be there on election day, do something constructive rather

than negatively criticising everything MSA does. And when you do, come up with some alternatives.

You have the power to change the Association!

All of us, I am sure, realize the true situation in Malaysia and the third world in general. I don't think we should be overly concerned that one mere sketch will destroy the understanding of our cultures by N.Z. students. Give them some credit for being intelligent enough to realize it's only a crazy sketch, nothing more!

The hawkers back home would probably be the first to appreciate this point for they understand the value of laughter in the face of pressures, for how else could we keep our sanity.

Also my advice to the person that wrote 'don't you get hurt when a kiwi friend tell this to you, "We have too many idiot overseas students here. Look at the Malaysian sketch, how can they come to universities with that civilization", is to:

1. Ignore the ignoramus for he is obviously not worth knowing.
2. Or ask him whether he would take something or someone like Fred Dagg as a serious representation of his civilisation.

I say to you, get out of your political shell, don't keep seeing the trees and missing the Forest. They love Malaysia just as much as you do, give them a chance.

W. Wongsarot

Dear Editor,

I think that there has been much misunderstanding and thus confusion over the staging of a sketch by MSA during the International Evening. Basically, those who criticized the sketch concentrated on two issues. One, whether the sketch was in fact a typical scene of Malaysia and two, whether it is morally right to rip-off the tourist.

I do not in the least question the typicality of the sketch. The sketch did portray to me an everyday scene in Malaysia. It was not totally divorced from the cartoons created by that incredibly perceptive Malaysian cartoonist and socio-political commentator - Lat. Lat's distinctively Malaysian humor is much loved by the Malaysian public. But the sketch obviously failed to match up to the political standards of Lat's cartoons.

It is at this point that I agree with the critics, that the sketch flirited completely with humor and consequently failed to add the vital and, may I add, obligatory political depth. Political commentary should have been its basis with humor touched on strategically to make the point more cogent. This would have pulled the sketch away from being just a mere comedy to a critical social commentary. It is here that the sketch failed, and failed miserably. As a side comment, I think that the person who put the heading 'Comedy or Culture' to one of the letters needs educating i.e. that comedy is an important part of any culture and is not opposed to it.

However, perhaps this confusions can be further clarified, since all the critics are so concerned about what their "kiwi friends" would say, by referring to the introductory remarks made by the compere of the International Evening - Lindy Cassidy. I know of no other "kiwi

friend" who is more concerned and dedicated to the workers struggle in Malaysia than Lindy Cassidy. And she, as a tourist, has actually so journeyed in Malaysia for a few months and has even enjoyed Lat's cartoons. She, in introducing the sketch to the international audience said that it was "a very witty sketch portraying a typical Malaysian scene". What other "kiwi friend" has more qualifications to say this - I ask you?

And now we come to the question about the tourist. The attitudes of the critics towards 'ripping them off' would have earned them commendation medals and a bonus pat on the back from the National Tourist Board of Malaysia. The tourist industry is a cancer worm to any culture. Look at Bali, Fiji, Hawaii etc. Cultures are diluted, bastardized and sold in the open market like any other commodity. Selling the very soul of ones country for the sake of foreign exchange is to me the lowest level of moral debasement and economic dependence upon the capitalist system. This is precisely why progressive countries like China do not encourage the tourist industry despite their needs for foreign exchange.

I, therefore, don't see why we should protect these cultural values who come with their glistening, jutting cameras, - the genitals with which they rape our cultures. I would strongly recommend that our hawkers instead of metaphorically cutting the tourists throat translate that into literal action. If the British syphon off 220 million pounds every year from my country, I don't see why the Char Koay Teow hawker should not charge a thousand pounds for a single bowl of that delightful dish.

May I further suggest that the concern and preoccupation on the part of the critics as regards what their "kiwi friends" will say or think of Malaysians is reflective of the colonial hangover that grips their minds. I would strongly recommend a traditional cure - a vigorous cerebral massage with Minyak Angin and a quick lobotomy by a Bomoh.

Hitam Manis dari Pulau Pinang

Gurunathan Krisnasamy

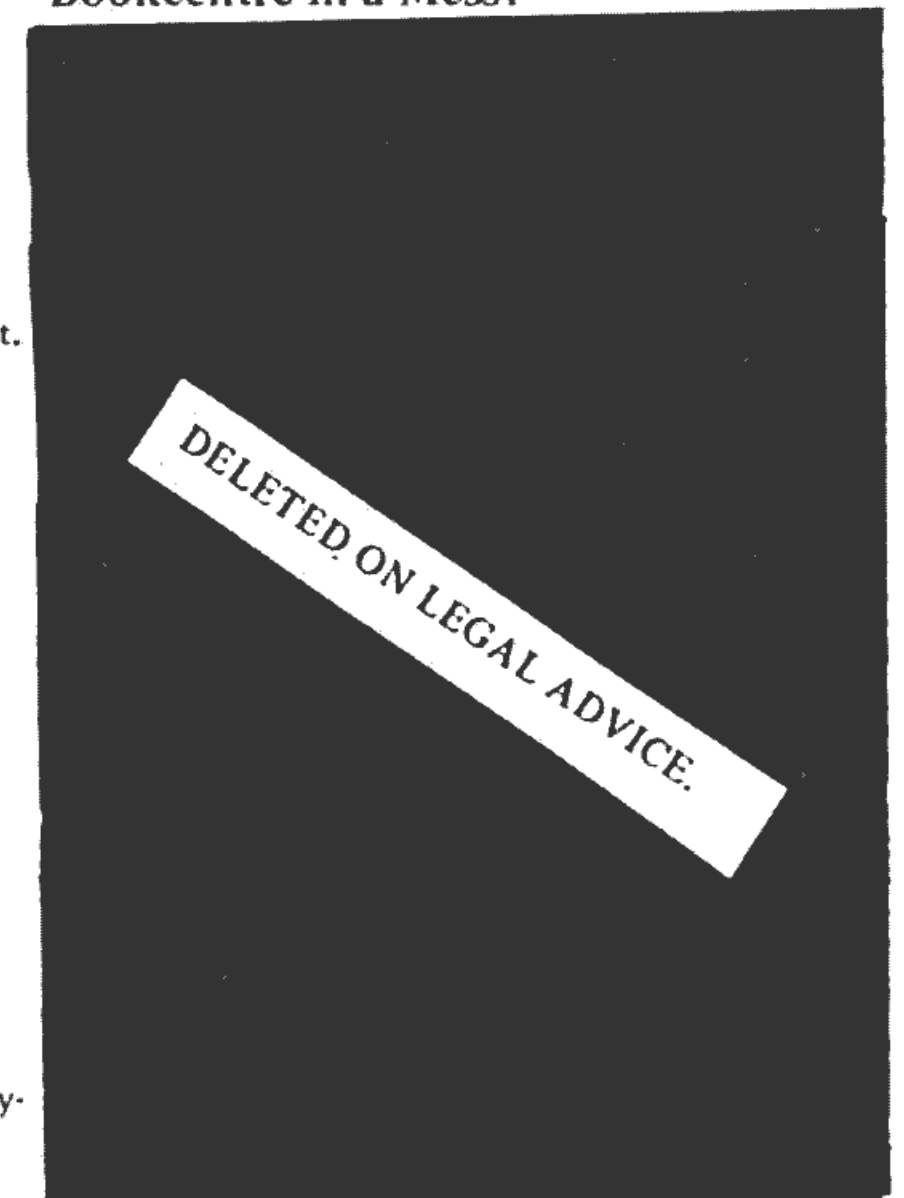
Sermon on the Mount

Dear Sir,

As a resident of Salamanca Road I would like to express my utter disgust at the proposed plan to close off Mount Street. In fact I will go further, I am not happy with the scheme. I suggest that a much better place for the building of the alleged motels would be in Shell Gully.

Concerned.

Bookcentre in a Mess?



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Letters

Marked on a scale from 0-10 for novelty, excitement, interest, and that curious brand of wit peculiar to university students, most of the letters this year score about 1½. WAKE UP – your paper is what you make it!! Drop letters into the Salient Office, or post to P.O. Box 1347 Wellington. Letters MUST be double spaced and legible or else they will not be published.

Campus Pub receives support

Dear Sir,

Your front-page expose last week was very enlightening to say the least.

The point I want to bring your attention to is that regarding young Miss Paterson and the so-called "pub-affair" – not to be confused with the "Moyle affair", or just plain not to be confused.

Being more liberal minded than "Average Father of Ten", I voted for this lass in last year's elections solely for the fact that she intended to establish a pub on campus. It pisses me off no end to hear that she has reneged.

I propose that we should have a bar in the union building as a permanent fixture (i.e. not necessarily a full-sized pub). It could be situated on the middle floor of the union building with easy access being the keynote.

The profits could go back into the union, so I call on all (interested) students to write to this paper and back me up – "elbow-benders unite" will be heard in the union building, in the library, in the lecture halls....

Mine always,
Brainus Maximus.

(I did not say that Catherine Paterson had reneged completely. I did, however say that she has shown no interest yet in her election promise (s) – Ed).

Inaccuracies Corrected

Dear David,

It has been pointed out to me that some statements I made in the cafe article (Issue No. 2) are rather misleading (ie. wrong).

The Student Union Building including the cafeteria is run jointly by the University and The Students Association through the Union Management committee. The Students Association has a majority on this committee but generally loses this because student reps fail to turn up to meetings.

Financial responsibility is divided equally but often in the past the students association has ended up paying more (when the costs have exceeded the budget). So the cafe (as a part of the union) is not run solely by the Students Association, and we do not have to pay for all the losses.

Gerard Couper

P.S. In my article on Arts Council the figure for loss I quoted should have been \$6,500, not \$86,500.

Writer rips into Salient Proofreading Masses

Dear David,

Thanks for publishing my article on Electoral reform. However there are two proof reading mistakes that I feel I should point out so that the passages make sense.

In paragraph 3 delete lines 5 and 6 and read, "electorate, being wasted (and the votes that constitute the winners majority in safe seats are also wasted since they do not affect the outcome) and creates".

In paragraph 4 between lines 5 and 6 insert: "election of 1975, if the following no. of people in the following electorates"....

The British General Election results are worth referring to for those who want to see the injustices that can arise under the 1st past the post system (particularly 1951 and 1974 Feb). If anyone wants to discuss these issues I would be quite happy to.
– Geoffrey Churchman

Bumbling on Bursaries

Dear David,

It was with interest that I read Lamorna Rogers letter on the state of the Bursaries. As a student heading towards bankruptcy faster than a speeding bullet, I would much appreciate some of my money. It may well be true that I did not use excessive effort in my last year at school but I feel I deserve my rightful return on the years of creative boredom.

The way the system is supposed to work I am currently living on about \$20-\$22 a week, difficult but not impossible. In practise I am living on \$5-\$7 a week plus my rapidly-becoming-unaccumulated savings.

Aside from the very iniquitous nature of the S.T.B. itself, particularly for those students who, like me, live in the Greater Wellington Area without living in Wellington City, the insistence of the University itself on continuing its present rip-off course shows us conclusively the prevalent attitude of society, that students are a necessary evil. One of these days society will realise what a shit it would be in without university graduates, and maybe then we will get our due. Of course, that's not to stop us from giving the whole thing a hurry-along.

Craig Mabon

There is little left

Dear Salient,

Glow worms exist only in gloomy cavities called dark caves. Give it a nudge she said. Agatha that is...etc. Adolescent lust for recognition like no other home workshop drill. Listen mike, see you next week. Dicey (10th ed. 1960) 187 Toast? No, I'm fine. Popular but impudent. A careful study of the occupancy rate showed individual allocation not necessary for the principle of determination. Attendance is compulsory. You should put your name down as soon as possible 80422RC or I beg you to think again. Back street hovels are a little hysterical, a little trifling.

Love implies a voluntary assumption of risk. Amino felonics. Bad? Are courts open to glaring injustice? Counsellors provide professional help paranoid neurosis, mens rea it habeas corpus perhaps, but one can only guess these things with god on their side. Why not a fundamental cannon published annually by the United States based on the exercise by persons in control of wide arbitrary or discretionary powers of constraint. That's just the doll I want for Christmas said Amy looking longingly in the shop window. Non debet esse sub homine, sed sub des et lege. Small children are often heard to say "for the most part it is a self regard which coincides comfortably with the neat logical self regard of analytical jurisprudence – fortifying analytical theory with the flesh and blood of the living institution."

We live and from failing hands do throw the torch, be it yours to hold high. Academic apathy, sex problems, the imposition of inarticulate medicines skirmishing with muskets. There is little left, systematic contextual approaches to sections of packets of cigarettes there is little left.

John Dormot

Caption Competition Rigged?

Dear Editor,

Is this competition (Collin Morris Caption Competition) rigged? I don't feel the winning entries are all that humorous. How about publishing the unsuccessful captions as well.

Yours etc Arts Student.

(The caption competition is judged by the Salient staff in the true democratic style. However, we have been disappointed by the poor quality of the entries. I used to think there was such a thing as 'student wit'. Now I'm not so sure. – Ed)

The State of the Union

Dear David,

"Acknowledging Kantian doctrine and the necessity for a workable autonomous collective I must point out that S.R.C. policy is in effect perpetuating outdated imperialist dogma".

Does it not resemble a typical segment of an S.R.C. meeting. Only a laxative can make that form of monologue possible. S.R.C. is at present a toy which certain aging students use for mental massage at 2hr bi-weekly sessions. It may be regarded as group therapy where the only people who enjoy it are those who need some sort of psychiatric help. That is people who like indulging in cretinous and purile attempts at petty politics.

If students want their association's finances and affairs in order they should 're-educate' (in the communist sense) those wankers who treat S.R.C. as campus caucus for a farcical and infantile parliament. They've been beaten to it already if 'down-the-road' is to be believed!!!

The students at Vic. should come first. What fools many people is the obvious importance of problems presented by our foetal politicians. "World wide oppression" etc. Very true. Much more important than cheaper food in the cafe, non-smoking and shorter library hours. But what the hell is S.R.C. for? "Great snapping arseholes Margeret," if S.R.C. is a prime mover in world salvation then come out and say so, then we could devote the whole bloody show to it and set up yet another committee to deal with relevant problems.

It may be really neat and better than sex but S.R.C. got screwed up somewhere. It's unfortunate S.R.C. think they have effective student backing. What they have got behind them is good old student apathy. No-one's particularly worried if we're helping to print 5000 copies of pamphlets for the Anti-apartheid plenary if it doesn't disturb their sleep in the cafe.

May David Lange and Colin Moyle's guilt come down on S.R.C. unless they repent.

Norm. D. Plum.

P.S. S.R.C. is boring.

P.P.S. Let me have a shot at president. mummy said I don't have to be home till tea-time.

P.P.P.S. First-years unite against fucking around by S.R.C.

Dear Sir,

SRC was a manifestation of all my disappointments with students and Varsity. As I was only recently initiated to the Varsity game I must be excused a little disillusionment. One of the big things I expected from Varsity was to hear plenty of new ideas through lively verbal exchanges with Wellington's educational elite. I was like the poor fool who, seeing the sign 'Egress' above a door, went through expecting to see an exciting or exotic creature only to find a grey alley. Discussion produces active minds and is the best way of testing the merits of two or more contrary opinions. It is also vital for the health of a body like the SRC. The closed mind and mouth attitude of a great many students at Victoria is good evidence of the apathetic 'don't give a damn' attitude that this country is infested by at the present time.

Varsity is a stagnant pond. Some life does exist in the pond but any-one who dives in is able to be saturated, possibly drowned by the shit and the slime. (eg those who voted against the Solidarity motion without proffering a single reason for their objection.) Giving money to support Tenent's Union, money for anti-apartheid leaflets and for a speaking tour supporting the Bastion Point struggle all invited lively debate. Where was the opposition from the Right? Excluding a few inarticulate paper dart manufacturers I presume that they were either rolling in the grass or practising their monosyllabics for the next SRC.

Eugene Doyle

A Smokers right to choose

Dear Sir,

As a member of the V.U.W.S.A. I find it objectionable that in order to smoke a cigarette within the Union Building at lunchtime on Wednesday 23 March, I was obliged to share the Smoking Room with a group of people who were involved in an organised meeting with the apparent intent of promoting the practice of abortion. Not the least of the several reasons for my objection is that I find the aim of the group referred to, abhorrent.

'Member of the Association'

Much Ado about bugger all

Dear Kary Korner,

I have risen from my bed today with an anxious mind. I wish I had some poetic balm with which your wounded pride could be anointed and healed. The issue is a passe and tawdry item by now and I am surprised that you must raise it again. Just remember that "there's a space in my parking lot when you need a little coke and sympathy"

Love
Charlie's Good Tonight

Pro Apartheid

Dear Sir,

Its high time that something was said about the articles of the anti-apartheid groups on campus. They have presented a one sided version of events in Rhodesia and South Africa and I am going to dispell them in this letter.

Their primary aim, it is said is to get majority rule which entails the blacks ruling themselves. Fair enough, but they don't say which blacks will rule. They don't allow for inter-tribal disputes that go back centuries nor do they take into account that tribes, not groups of politicians, rule in Africa e.g. Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania. The rule of the jungle which states that the strongest tribe rules, prevails to the exclusion and often extermination of other tribes.

Also there is no guarantee for the safety of people, other than blacks, who remain after the blacks take over. One only has to look at the shocking treatment of Asians in Kenya in the 1960s and Uganda in the 1970's to realize what could happen to those in South Africa.

Mr Trevor Richards has just returned from Africa with warnings of boycotts and disgruntlement among the Africans. Big Deal! Let us examine closely those marvellously governed countries who are not pleased with our "racist" policies.

Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria and the list goes on, have very little to commend them when it comes to freedom of their people. Consult the Amnesty International group and find out from their long list of countries with political prisoners that number of black African ruled countries on it. Surprise, Surprise!! Guas who figures prominently. Yes nearly every black African country has political prisoners.

Yet these countries have the gall to tell us that our government is not ruling wisely. Wisely means dictating to our sportsmen where they can not go. This may be the rule in Africa but democracy prevails here and our people are free to go where they please.

Yes it is certainly high time that Mr Trevor Richards and Mr Tom Newnham took a close look at our black brethren. If they open their eyes wide enough they will see just what a bunch of hypocrites they are. So lay off South Africa and Rhodesia because they could be a lot worse off under black rule.

Lowe

(No doubt Anti Apartheid groups on campus will want to reply to Mr Lowe's arguments—Ed)



Matt Dillon eat ya heart out!

Dear Sir,

I am annoyed, to say the least, at the failure of the appointment of a Cafe Deputy Marshall. Not only would it have meant a return to true western values, but I've been practising my 'draw' with my recently purchased 'Colt'45' for weeks now.

Yours
A 'Taxi Diver'

Dear Sir,

The failure of last Wednesday's SRC to support the motion for a cafe deputy marshall just goes to show that traditional western values no longer run at the peak they once did. This, unfortunately, is not a good omen for our future society – do people no longer recognise the ability of a 'True Grit' man, or do they prefer to feast their eyes on the examples that are at present available – Beckford and Underwood. All women should be appalled that such a man was not appointed so that he may have graced the Cafe to their delight!

Yours,
John Wayne Fan