

BOOK DEBT ROW AT TEACOLL

— From our Teachers College Correspondent

Whitcoulls Booksellers are at the centre of a row brewing at Wellington Teachers Training College. It seems that Whitcoulls are not just satisfied with their captive audience of T.Coll students. They have been helped by a willing College Administration acting as debt collectors. Students at Karori are indicating, in no uncertain terms, that they are unhappy about the situation.

At a meeting of the Association on Monday, March 28, the President of the Association, Audrey Young, outlined briefly the facts of the 'Whitcoulls Affair.'

*Whitcoulls drew up a list of 60 students who hadn't paid their bills. Whitcoulls then sent copies of the letter to Wilbur Manins, College Dean.

* Manins approached the students concerned, and pointed out that money was owed, despite the fact that it was none of his business.

* He then published a list of the ten worst offenders in the confidential staff bulletin, accompanied by the following introduction:

"Whitcoulls have informed us that they are unable to extend any further credit to the following students because of their previous credit record with Whitcoulls. When making purchases from Whitcoulls they are required to be made on a cash basis. This information might have some significance for the library, the resource centre and staff who are in the habit of lending out materials."

The irony was that some of the students had paid their bills before the list was published.

Manins, who attended the meeting briefly, stated that he was justified in taking this course of action. After all, how could he stand idly by, when the actions of a small number of students would jeopardise the wonderful credit service that Whitcoulls were offering to students out of the goodness of their hearts.

Members of the audience, however, pointed out that firstly, Whitcoulls were in the business of making money out of students who had to have books, and secondly, that the relationship between Whitcoulls and any student was a private matter.

Manins was then asked two questions: would he publish an apology in the Staff Bulletin to the students concerned, and would he write to Whitcoulls and advise them that in future they should do their own debt collecting.

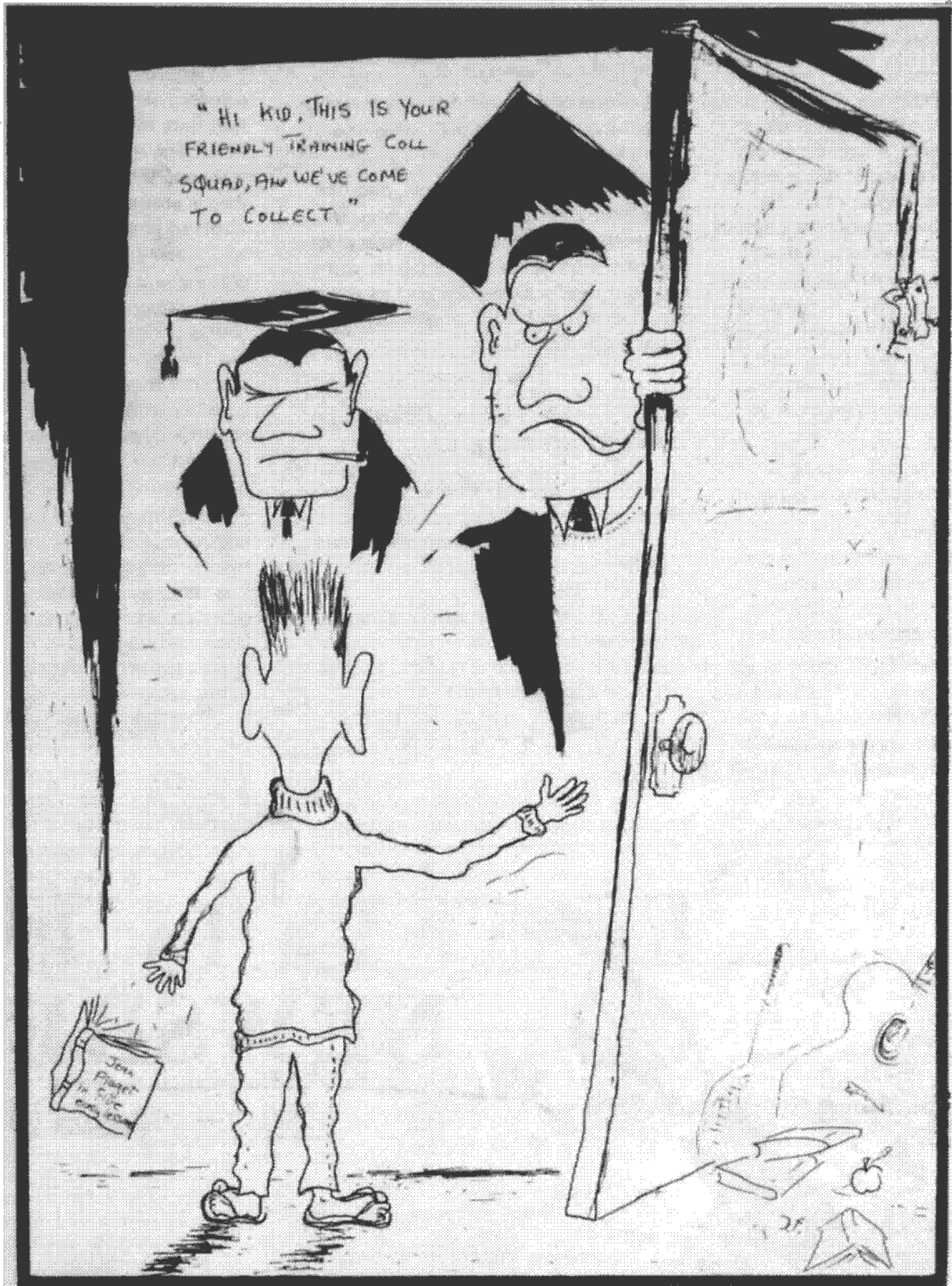
Manins would not agree to these requests, but stated instead that he would give more thought to the matter if the situation arose again. This statement drew an angry reaction from the audience, and the remainder of the meeting was spent in looking at ways to repair the immediate damage, and to prevent the sordid affair happening again.

The Main Point.

There is no doubt that Manin's actions were unjustifiable, and he should be severely rapped over the knuckles by both staff and students for his actions. After all, it's none of his business whether students owe money to Whitcoulls, the S.P.C.A. or the Association for Left Handed Typists.

However, there is a more important principle at stake. Whitcoulls, who started the ball rolling, has used the administration to pressure students into paying their debts. The reason for this is quite obvious. Whitcoulls is not only assured of a guaranteed profit every year, but has taken steps to eradicate any risk factor that their line of business may involve. The result is twofold.

Firstly, Whitcoulls, who have no real interest in the affairs of students, stash away a tidy sum each year. For 1976, that figure was \$54,835. In return, they pay



6% of sales as rent, reduced from 10% in 1975 because they claimed, they weren't making enough profit. Secondly, students who have no real alternative but to shop at Whitcoulls, either pay up or risk having their dirty linen displayed in the staff-room.

It is high time that the whole question of the Whitcoulls monopoly on books is looked at closely. There are indications that students are dissatisfied with the service that Whitcoulls offers. Students have no direct say in what books should or should not be stocked, and lecturers, acting as salesmen for Whitcoulls, are convincing students to buy books that are rarely used.

Victoria University vs. Whitcoulls.

For a number of years, both academic staff and students at Victoria had complained about the service offered by Whitcoulls. And, as they held at that time, a virtual monopoly on university texts, they were not compelled by the capitalist laws of competition to better the service. The University bookshop in Mount St, which was the only real competitor to Whitcoulls, indicated to the Students' Association that they were being forced to sell. Whitcoulls moved fast and offered to buy the shop in partnership with the Association. It soon became obvious that such a deal would work heavily in favour of Whitcoulls, so the Association bought the shop outright. There were obviously problems associated with this venture: purchasing buildings, accurately ordering books, and paying and keeping of staff during the summer holidays.

However, the venture has its merits. The most obvious one is that students will get the benefit of the profits, in the form of better students facilities etc.

The implications of this scheme for training college are clear. Firstly, a shop is already available, which removes the initial problem of purchasing premises. Secondly, a sum of around \$28,000 has been discovered in a bookshop account, the result of accumulated rent paid in by Whitcoulls over the year. This money is apparently to be used by a committee of staff, students

and council for their mutual benefit. It is possible that part of this money could be used to set up a bookshop similar to the one owned by Victoria University.

Solutions.

In the mean time, the events of the Whitcoulls Affair have caused serious concern to students at Training College. Action must be taken to ensure that a similar situation does not occur again. Two immediate courses of action could be taken:

- i) A letter from the Association should be sent to Wilbur Manins, strongly condemning his actions, and demanding an assurance that it will not happen again.
- ii) A similar letter should be sent to Whitcoulls, demanding an apology on behalf of the students concerned, and an assurance that this devious practice will cease.

The letter should also point out that alternatives are being discussed, and that a repeat of this incident could lead to a sharp reduction in the value of Whitcoulls' shares.

At the same time, students could discuss the possibility of boycotting the shop if this situation occurs again.

But more importantly, initial discussions could begin over the possibility of setting up a co-operative bookshop, similar to, or in partnership with, the bookshop at varsity. In this way, any profit could be re-invested into the association, instead of being used to line the pockets of businessmen downtown.

In any event, students must ensure that the 'Whitcoulls Affair' is knocked on the head once and for all. Who knows? You might be the next on the blacklist.

ACT NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

COME TO THE MEETING

IN THE COMMON ROOM

At 12.30p.m.

ON MONDAY, APRIL 4,

TO DISCUSS THE 'WHITCOULLS AFFAIR'

Assessment Forum

For too long students at V.U.W., have suffered from a deficiency of fair play: that is fair play on the part of some members of the Professorial Board.

With the recent outspoken remarks from many prominent and "senior" members of Departmental & Faculty Staffs, it is obvious that the present system of Assessment is corrupt.

While the more moderate, but very concerned actions of individuals such as members of the French department who wish to operate experimental departmental schemes, are being clobbered by the stamp of bureaucratic Registry Regulations, it must be hoped that they meet with success very soon. For yet again the stone-walling effect of officialdom is cramping up an expansive wealth of student unrest and frustration that will soon yet again, rise to engulf the perpetrators of archaic (old fashioned) methods that are hurting all students so dearly.

The nature of the problem is highly explosive and must be dealt with carefully.

For assessment determines the future course of all our lives. Assessment is not a "pie in the sky" problem as has been asserted by one very clever gentleman recently, but an issue that must be controlled by the people who are directly affected by it, and not solely by people already secure in their jobs.

For too often today we are becoming familiar with entities playing "God" with our destinies. The chain of our future lies with us and our elected representatives.

NOT with the paid bureaucrats who should do little other than follow the considered wish of the masses.

As we are all intelligent people, it is time we all, staff and students, from Professor to 1st year student, recognised the fact and found a common ground to solve the problem, before untimely precipitate action is forced upon us all.

The issue must be settled in a common forum, and not behind the closed doors of any Board or Council.

The problem is with us now, and like any cancer must be dealt with now, in real terms. Elect and support your class assessment rep, your future lies in you and your reps' actions. Be part of the common concern, don't be caught unaware, know the facts.

IS THE ITALIAN DEPARTMENT COMMITTING SUICIDE?

The major subject requirements for Italian are:

- a) 12 credits in a language other than Italian.
- b) ITAL III.
- c) ITAL 211 and any two of ITAL 202, 203,204.
- d) ITAL 311 and any two to ITAL 312, 313,314 and LING 301.

These majoring requirements are of a similar structure to those for most other languages.

Of the approximately 30 students who completed ITAL III last year, 11 have

enrolled in the second year language course, ITAL 211. Very few, if any, of these students will be majoring in Italian. The reasons are two-fold: First, many of these students were unable to study the required complimentary literature courses because of timetable clashes. Among the clashes were those with second year French literature, and with some English courses. Surely, not unusual combinations with Italian?

Secondly, the 3 students enrolled in the literature course ITAL 202 (at least 2 of whom wish to have Italian as a major subject,) were informed somewhat belatedly that they may not be able to major in Italian at all. The reason? The head of Department is leaving this year. The students were told that it probably will not be economically viable to employ another senior lecturer to teach 2 students the stage three literature courses next year.

You may well say, "Fair enough. Of course it would be a waste of money," but for one thing. At least 5 ITAL 211 students (who are NOT now studying the complimentary literature courses) either rang the Department of paid it a visit between last November and enrolment day, informing the Department that, although they would like to study the literature or even major in the subject, they were unable to because of timetable clashes. Was there any possibility of changes in the schedule hours? Each of these students was individually given non-committal replies. If they persisted, they were told that the hours would remain fixed, as the Department could be held legally responsible for what was published in the Calendar. Presumably this is only a remote possibility, since the majority of students wanted the hours changed. Surely times that suited everyone

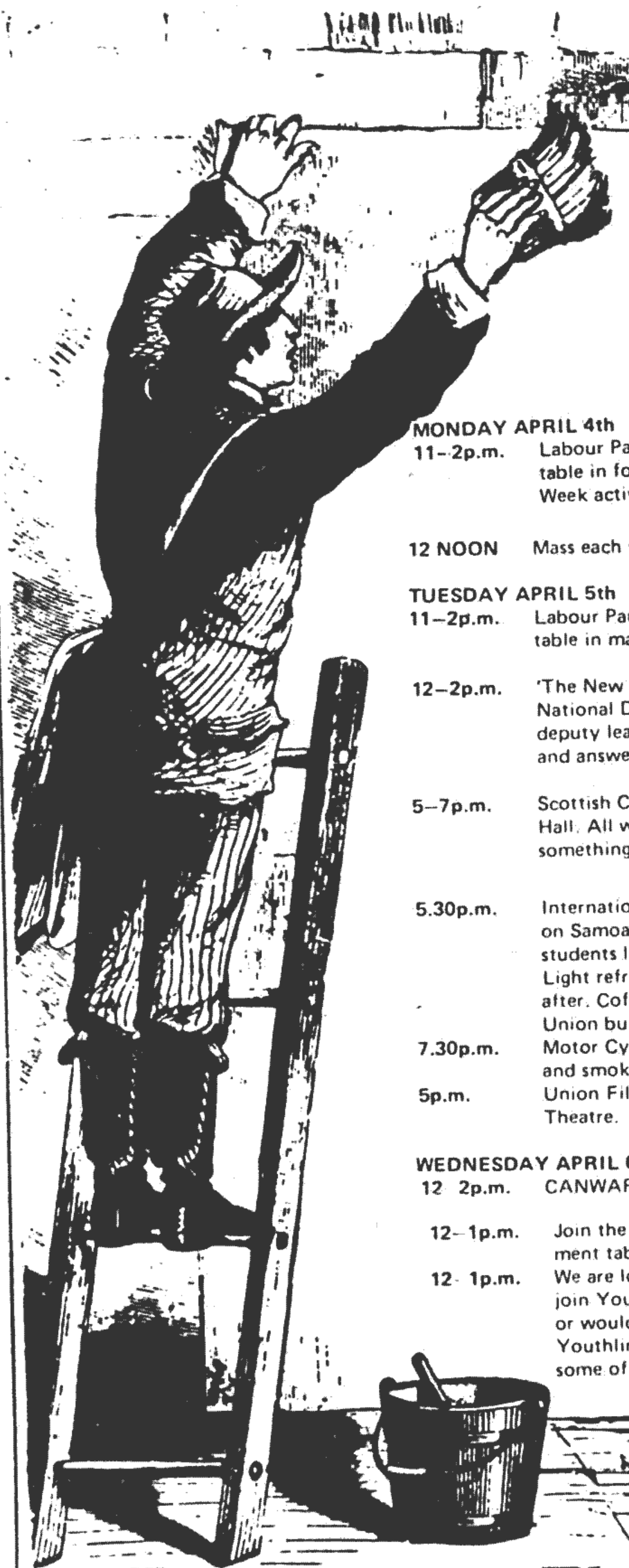
could have been found? However none of the students was given any indication that others were in the same predicament, and were making the same enquiries. Therefore, they each felt they were a lone voice, and that there was thus little point in pursuing the issue.

The result: 5 fewer second year literature students for the Italian Department; Probably 2 or 3 fewer for next year's stage three literature classes (since second year literature is a pre-requisite for third year literature.) And therefore too few students in these third year classes to warrant holding them at all.

I object to an assessment system which entails having to obtain a minimum mark in assignment and exams through the year, just to obtain the right to sit an exam, at the end of the year. It seems to me to be grossly unfair as in Legal System and Law in Society we have to obtain 45% of the marks in our assignments and exams. Then after a whole year slogging our guts out, we find we have only 40% and have wasted a whole year. I can also imagine the situation where someone could get, say 90% for assignments, get terms, then fail the exam. Again all that work for nothing.

Instead of the unfair system envisaged by the "powers above", I suggest that either the assignments count as a % of your mark OR that to obtain terms one only needs to hand in a % of the assignments and attend a % of the Tuts. Thus the mark you get in your assignments would not count for terms at all.

—Paul Cochrane.



NEWSHEET

MONDAY APRIL 4th

11-2p.m. Labour Party Club enrolment table in foyer as part of Labour Week activities.

12 NOON Mass each week at this time.H327.

TUESDAY APRIL 5th

11-2p.m. Labour Party Club enrolment table in main foyer.

12-2p.m. 'The New Zealand Economy— A National Disaster.' Hear Labour's deputy leader, Bob Tizard speak and answer questions. Union Hall.

5-7p.m. Scottish Country Dancing. Union Hall. All welcome. Come and try something new.

5.30p.m. International Club. A discussion on Samoa will be held with Samoan students leading the discussion. Light refreshments will be served after. Coffee bard (top floor, Union building.) All most welcome.

7.30p.m. Motor Cycle Club A.G.M. Lounge and smoking room.

5p.m. Union Films: 'Godfather'. Memorial Theatre.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6th.

12-2p.m. CANWAR forum. Union Hall.

12-1p.m. Join the Labour Party Club. Enrolment table in main foyer.

12-1p.m. We are looking for volunteers to join Youthline. If you are interested or would like to know more about Youthline, come along and talk to some of us. New Kirk 706.

12-2p.m. A Special General Meeting of the Maths and Physics Society will be held in E514. All interested parties are asked to attend and join in the fun of deciding what the society should do. Bring your lunch and join in. Coffee and tea provided.

12-4p.m. Learn a new skill or share an old one. Anything from Rock-climbing Maori Handicrafts. Contact RELAX, Gym Store, this time every Wednesday.

1p.m. Mass each week at this time.RB819.

1-2p.m. Labour Party Club meeting. Lounge. Discussion on 'Labour and its Alliances,' led by Prof. Roberts. All members and supporters welcome.

2p.m. Dressed-up reading of Ted Hughes 'Crow' sequence of poetry, will be staged by a cast from the English Department. Of particular interest to students of ENG103, but all others welcome. Kirk 301.

2.15p.m. Union Films. 'The Go-Between'. Memorial Memorial Theatre.

5.30p.m. Debating Society Stein. Smoking room. Beer and cheese and a debate... "That our grandchildren are to be pitied."

THURSDAY APRIL 7th.

9p.m. Easter Hop, Cafeteria. Band: "Billy Star."

FRIDAY APRIL 8th.

5.15p.m.-7.30p.m.Christian Union Tea. Lounge.

NEXT WEEK

THURSDAY APRIL 14th.

1-2p.m. Those who want to establish a living love relationship with God through Jesus Christ, are invited to three lectures (at this and the following two Thursdays at this time) by Pastor Pearson, who has experience from London slums to Universities. Organised by Christian Union.

8p.m. -10.30p.m. Table Tennis Club starting. Gymnasium. Every Thursday night at this time. Everyone welcome.

FRIDAY- SUNDAY

MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB:75th Jubilee Celebrations.

Plenty of "fun and games" for all past, present, and budding hockey players.

Social Events:

"Get-together" Friday evening.

"Dine and dance" Saturday evening.

Sporting Events:

"Past vs Present" Saturday afternoon. (Finale to Club Day.)

"Club Selection vs Wellington Selection." Sunday afternoon.

Further information available from: Monty Arnott 842-567. Nev Compton 842-159. Tom Broadmore 739-109.

CATHOLIC SOCIETY Annual Camp at Otaki. The theme is "reconciliation." Contact Fr. Owen for further details at 759-405 or 758-639.

Any club can put notices in Newsheet. Deadline is 12 noon Thursday at the Students' Association Office.

We apologise to all those clubs who have had notices left out this year. Please would you not bring them into the office, but put them in Newsheet through the Studass office.

Women protest Prices

From April 26 to May 3, the Working Women's Alliance is holding a National Week of Activities against Rising Prices. The aim of the week is to focus the public's attention on the effects that rising prices are having on the living standards of NZ working people and to look at both short term and long term solutions to the problem. By rising prices, we not only mean those of food price increases, but those of clothing, housing, rents, electricity, cars and spare parts, and almost anything you like to name.

It is these facts which we intend to publicise and discuss over the week. The sort of activities that we envisage taking place during the week public meetings; house meetings; displays and leafletting in shopping malls, community centres and factories; talks to as many different groups as possible.

We have made approaches to organisations such as CARP, Pensioners Association Beneficiaries Associations, Trade Unions, Women's Groups and others asking them to participate during the week.

We strongly believe that rising prices are also having severe effects on students and we hope that they will also participate during the week both on and off campus.

This participation could involve one or all of the following:

- Students Association could:
 - issue a press statement during the week on the difficulties students are facing with the increasing cost of living.
 - provide us with material for our special issue of Working Women to come out prior to the week.
 - hold lunchtime forums to discuss the implications of rising prices.
 - distribute posters and newspapers on campus and assist us with this distribution in other areas.
 - encourage people to attend public meetings and other activities to be held during the week.
 - do as much as possible to promote the week.
- The success of the week does not depend on people organising huge activities, but on a whole lot of small things taking place throughout the week, in as many different areas as possible.

The Working Women's Alliance has been in existence for almost three years, and during that time we have been involved in many struggles and educational activities around the overall theme of the decline in living standards of NZ Working People.

We have organised many actions around specific aspects of this theme e.g. price rises, employment of women, unemployment, child-care, housing and others, and we have also provided assistance to workers during various industrial disputes.

Our most regular activity is the bi-monthly publication of our newspaper, "Working Women", which we distribute widely throughout the country.

We believe that before men and women are able to live a fulfilled, satisfying, existence without having to spend the whole of their lives working to make ends meet, there will have to be a change in the structures of society. The profit-oriented society in which we live must change for a society which benefits working people.

At the same time we must work specifically to improve the conditions of women, as a change in the economic system will not immediately mean that women's emancipation will be achieved. Through constant struggle we will ultimately have a society free from exploitation of any person. In working towards this aim, we must never forget that the only way in which this can be achieved is through unity.

For further information, write to Working Women's Alliance, Box 9012, Wellington, or phone, Sandra McCallum, 4702, Wainuiomata.

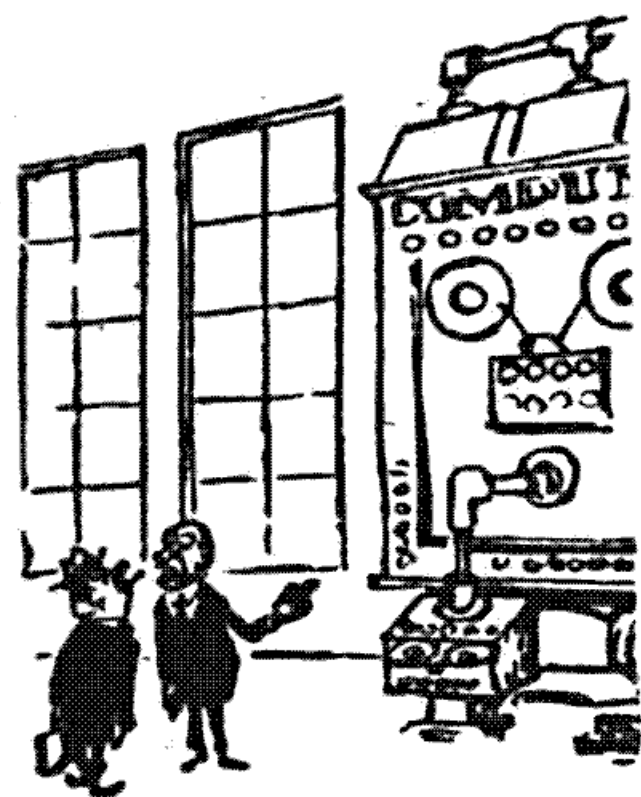
The VUWSA Publications Board has attacked the Executive for attempting to interfere in Salient.

On more than one occasion in the last few years members of the Executive have attempted to stop criticism from Salient by trying to gain the right to prevent anything printed. Fortunately, Salient's independence has been successfully defended.

The latest interference attempt came in the closed committee section of last week's Executive meeting when Sports Officer Peter Thrush, still smarting from front page criticism in Salient No 4, presented a motion allowing the Executive to read Salient's final proofs before they are sent to the printer. Ostensibly it was to check for libel (a job already done by Salient's legal reader), but the real reason seemed to be to halt criticism of the Executive through attempting to delay Salient's publication. The motion was passed with dissent from President Lindy Cassidy, Secretary Kevin Swann, and Publications' Officer Gerard Couper.

The Publications' Board, following the line adopted at the Association's Annual General Meeting, censured the Executive for its action and reaffirmed its belief in the necessity for the independence of Salient. The only person who voted against the censure motion was Association Treasurer Steve Underwood (also a member of Pubs Board), who said that he would "treat the motion with the contempt that it deserves". It is obvious which way he voted at the Executive!

By SRC rep John Ryall



"The little one figures out wages the big one is for deductions!"

We believe that it is high time the public are informed as to the real reasons for price increases. The Government and the employers constantly argue that wage rises force employers to raise their prices. According to them, if we stopped what they claim to be "excessive" wage demands, then prices would be stable. This is nonsense, as there are many causes of price increases that have nothing to do with wages.



Snow White & the Seven Dwarves

March 29 SOUTH AUCKLAND, by Salient Correspondent, Evan Leslie.

Mulrennan's supporters" in the Renown Orange Hall, Papatoetoe.

According to Peter - male-chauvinist-pig-of-Victoria-University-1973-Rotherham, there wasn't a spare *posie* on the barricades to be had for love nor money.

"The pace of the Socialist Action election campaign in Mangere is stepping up daily," he wrote in the March 11 'Socialist Action.'

"Teams of campaign supporters are active in the electorate, selling single copies and subscriptions to the campaign paper Socialist Action, and distributing the 16,000 campaign leaflets."

And "in the Mangere town centre a table has been set up where shoppers are able to meet and talk to Brigid Mulrennan the socialist candidate."

A gallant and charitable fellow, Rotherham added, "The National and Labour candidates are there too."

As the Labour and National candidates stood by quietly under the verandahs amid all this flurry of vote-catching, Brigid was, on her own modest admission, carrying the fight "into every household in Mangere."

'Socialist Action' readers were promised that this "intense campaign" would be brought to a climax on March 26 - election night - when "an end-of-campaign" wind-up rally was offered "all of Brigid



what is clear is that the discontent with Labour is making people more receptive to the kind of programme advocated by the Socialist Action League. - Socialist Action 2/3

It would have been a cheap round.

For when the more than 13,000 ballot papers were counted and all the polling booth results had been tallied, Brigid's haul was found to be a mere seven votes.

Not allowing for the special votes, the investment Socialist Action made in the fallow fields of Mangere (remember those 16,000 campaign leaflets) make the oil companies exploring off New Zealand's coast look like cheapskates.

Perhaps a more reflective "socialist" might have seen it coming. After all, as a dinkum dyed-in-the-wool Trotskyite, Brigid doesn't allow for the possibility of Socialism in One Country... How then could she have sought to find socialism in one electorate.

There are serious lessons to be drawn from the Socialist Action campaign in Mangere.

First, Socialist Action can no longer rely on the nutters' vote which carried Kay Goodger into triple figures in the 1974 Sydenham by-election. (Kay's vote was accurately predicted by one seasoned commentator who said: "There must be at least 100 nutters in Sydenham.")

Second, for all their windy rhetoric, the Socialist Action League do not practise what they preach.

One issue of the "campaign newspaper" devoted half a page to scathing criticism of the Communist Party of New Zealand for running a "racist cartoon" in the 'People's Voice' a number of years ago.

The cartoon depicted a Japanese militarist sporting large buck teeth and spectacles.

Touting this issue, presumably into

"every household in Mangere" was an SAL member wearing a singular T-shirt. His garment depicted a huge ugly Asian face, big buck teeth and all, from which protruded a Marijuana cigarette, topped with the legend "Cambodian Red."

This correspondent wonders just how many votes this "socialist" managed to garner among the market gardeners and other national minority folk in South Auckland.

Lenin always maintained that the earmark of a serious political party was its attitude to its own mistakes. But throughout its inconsequential history Socialist Action has never heeded this behest of Lenin's.

No doubt the editors of the "campaign paper" will be able to pick some sort of victory out of the Mangere aftermath - and, who knows, for some bright spark of the "socialist" campaign there might even be a little kudos.

"If the whole of Europe became craven, stupid and selfish, how could our trusty heroes fail to grow in their own estimation, for were they not the priests who kept the sacred fires of hatred for all tyrants burning in their breasts and who maintained the traditions of virtue and love of freedom for a more vigorous generation yet to come! If they too deserted the flag the tyrants would be safe for ever. So like the democrats of 1848 they saw in every defeat a guarantee of future victory and they gradually transformed themselves more and more into itinerant Don Quixotes with dubious sources of income."

Salient

Official Newspaper of Victoria University of Wellington Students Assn.

EDITORIAL

The Salient-Exec saga took a new turn at the Exec meeting on Monday night and again at the AGM on Wednesday, both of which are covered in this week's issue.

At the Exec meeting, a motion was passed to bring to the editor's attention that the Executive has to carry the can in an event of a libel suit and therefore that the members of the executive have the right to peruse the copy and censor it where they think it could be libellous.

Not only is this interfering in the affairs of SALIENT and hence threatening the autonomy of the Association newspaper, but it is also overturning previous SRC policy 14/69.—

"That any Student Publication shall be over-ruled on matters of content only where the content would open the Association to legal action and that the only body with power to over-rule the student publication on matters of content shall be the Executive of the Students Association in formal meeting, excepting that the President or the Acting-President shall be able to delay publication 24 hrs in order that it may be referred to a meeting of the Executive"

The Executive have no right to do this, as they are bound by SRC policy and are not permitted to make Association policy themselves.

Further to this, two of the Exec members who voted for the motion on Monday night altered the meaning of the motion at the AGM which had the effect of confusing the issue completely. Those at the AGM had no way of knowing what the actual Exec motion was till Wednesday night because the whole affair was conducted in closed committee.

The whole affair has the appearance of being a hatchet job on SALIENT, perhaps by those who resented the criticism of them in issue 5. To back up this assertion, we can vouch that no attempt to meddle in the internal affairs of SALIENT has been made since 1970. It is no coincidence that this present affair followed heavy criticism made by us of the Executive.

Thankfully, those students at the AGM could see clearly the line of action being taken by Messers Thrush, Underwood and those Exec members who voted for the motion. We believe that many of the Exec members who voted for the motion did so with little idea of what they were doing. We ask them to consider their decisions and ask themselves whether they have been taken for a ride.

As far as SALIENT goes, we are disturbed by Exec members perusing the pages of the newspaper before it goes to the printers. However, now that we have the backing of an Annual General Meeting of the Students Association to back us as a paper autonomous from the Executive, we feel certain that any further attempt to interfere with SALIENT will be repulsed.

We don't need the Executive to proof SALIENT before it is dispatched to Wanganui Newspapers. We have our own legal readers and if there are articles which are particularly contentious, then we would have no hesitation in calling the Association lawyer. The implication of the Exec's actions are that SALIENT wants to get the Executive into trouble by getting a law suit. The staff of SALIENT are the last ones in the Association who wish to receive a libel suit.

This however, will not deter us from critically examining events inside and outside of varsity.

SALIENT STAFF NOTES

Last week the Salient A.G.M. was held (in closed committee to keep out Trots, certain Exec. members and other undesirable elements). It was chaired by David Murray, the Editor. First motion put forward was by Lynette, Arabella, Lolita and Lamorna and called for general order to be brought to the Salient Offices. This was hotly debated with Gyles Beckford, Bruce Robinson, Gerard Couper, Tom Duggan, Michael Stephens and John Ryall speaking against it because they felt 'it would not be in true Salient tradition'; Simon Wilson, Allan Smith and Richard Pearson for it because it would add to 'the intrinsic artistic value of the Offices'; Rose, Sue and Rire for it simply because they thought 'it'd be nice to be able to find what they wanted when they wanted it just once!' and pointing out that at present it was possible for certain Exec. members to hide in the mess without (horrors!) being noticed. The motion was eventually carried with abstentions by Chris, Craig Mabon, Peter Gibbs, Quentin Roper, Geoff Churchman and numerous others who didn't have their abstentions noted. 4 O' Clock came, along with SASRAC and was marked by a mass exodus leaving too few for a quorum so the meeting was declared closed with yet another victory for democracy etc, etc, etc.

Salient is published by Victoria University of Wellington Students Association and printed by Wanganui Newspapers, Drews Ave, Wanganui.

Students in unions

In his letter in the last 'Salient', Kevin Swann raises a couple of important points about student membership of trade unions during the long vacation.

Kevin's first point is that "most students do not bother, or object to, becoming a member of an appropriate Union."

While this is possibly true, it has been the hard-learned experience of a lot of students that they lose more money because of under-award wage payments and so on than they save from not paying their union fees. And Kevin makes that point in his letters.

Naturally enough, trade unions will be a bit reluctant to assist student holiday workers who have not bothered to join the union. The question union officials and members who do pay their subs ask is this: shouldn't every worker who gets the union's protection pay a fair share of the costs of running the union?

Nonetheless, the trade union movement has always been willing to assist students in the workforce. For example the Wellington District Trades Council of the Federation of Labour made the following statement about student employment a couple of years ago:

"That the Council inform the N.Z.U.S.A. that student labour receive maximum protection of the Trade Union Movement in relation to Awards and employment and the question of payment of an appropriate Union fee should be in accordance with the respective Union's policy. Students are assured of the protection given while covered by the said Union."

The basic principle which is relevant here is that problems of under-award payment of wages, bad conditions and so on can only be successfully tackled by people if they are organised and united

For example, students working in the public service during their holidays were paid low wages for years. The relevant trade union - the Public Service Association - was aware of the problem, but faced big difficulties in trying to organise this student labour.

I know that many students who worked in government departments during long

vacations had the attitude - 'Well, the wages are bad, so we'll go and work somewhere else next time.' Because they didn't get together in big enough numbers and complain, nothing was done about the problem.

Two years ago, however, NZUSA decided to tackle this matter in a concerted fashion. Students who'd worked in government jobs during their holidays were contacted, and their comments on wages and conditions gave valuable insights into the problems they'd experienced. Close co-operation was established with the PSA and the students' association and the union started to put pressure on the government employing body - the State Services Commission - to introduce much-needed improvements.

Within a relatively short time the State Services Commission announced improvements in vacation worker wage rates which averaged about 80% more than previous rates. Other changes were made which have enable the PSA to act on behalf of student workers. The lesson was that a combined effort by NZUSA and the PSA got results, just as VUWSA and the Storemen & Packers' Union did at Cable Price.

Kevin's second point was about payment of union fees by student holiday workers.

My feeling is that where students are being paid award wages or are getting the same rate for the job as other workers, they should pay the same union fee. The only case for a special student subscription to the union can be where there are special wage rates for student workers. Therefore the PSA determined a special subscription rate for student members in 1975.

One of the problems NZUSA has always faced in assisting students who have problems with their holiday jobs is establishing and maintaining contact with them.

In conclusion, I would like to ask any student who has had problems related to their holiday job to write to me at P.O. Box 9047, Courtenay Place, Wellington or phone 856-669. Remember that we can't deal with any injustices if we don't know about them.

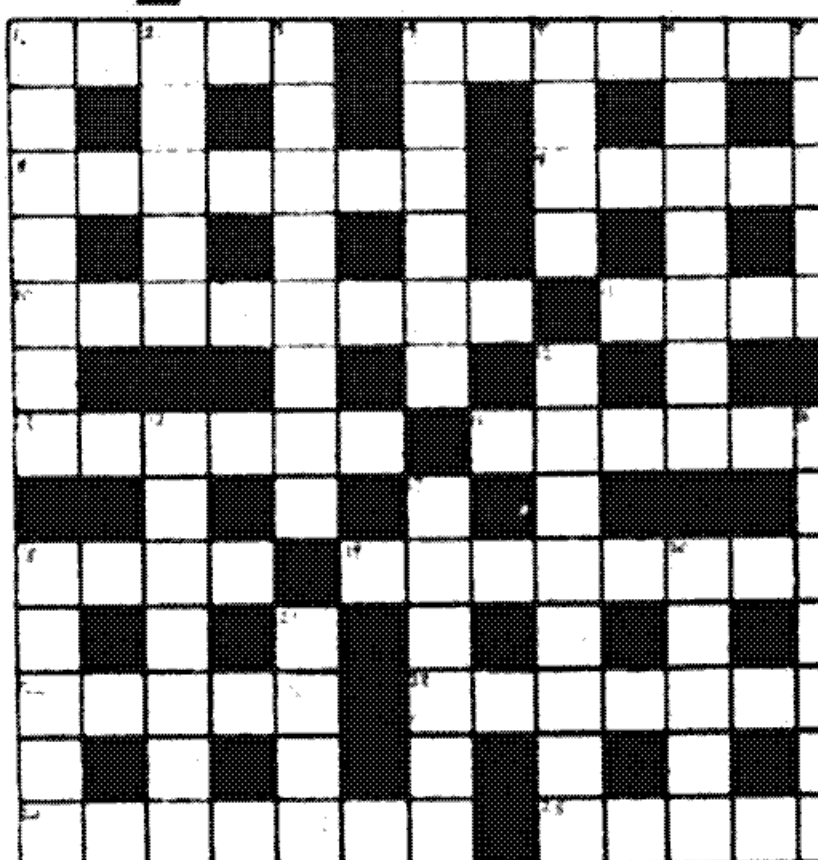
Peter Franks, NZUSA Research Officer



Radio Active 2XA 1260

Your student radio station is selling T-shirts. Pay your money and order at the Studass office. Delivery is this week. Support the Club that bring the good music to the cafe and over the air at Orientation and this August we hope. Remember Chelsea Records discount cards are also available at Studass.

Crossword puzzle



Across.

- Source of the loyal toast (5)
- Wander about after a mischievous little fellow to make it better (7)
- Five enclosed in a motor club with a staple food is greed. (7)
- Give lecture and we may choose you. (5)
- Confused adder having qualities of something frightening (8)
- Rite for part of a wedding cake. (4)
- Surround religious letters by nothing french; it's done to horses. (6)
- I have, the fool. Samuel 26:21. (6)
- Top it up or name a top this. (4)
- K.M. was one, so was R.L.S. (2,6)
- Computer language (5)
- Trip Oliver took to a capital city. (7)
- Second daughter of the last Tsar. (7)
- The wise ones are often removed. (5)

Down.

- A red orb which pays for its keep. (7)
- Eva decided to avoid the issue. (5)
- Becomes less from a mixed 500 nickel welds. (8)
- Usually after I've woken up. (1,3,2)
- Ripe to tie dinghy to. (4)
- 'Bye o.s., it is a reason for flitting. (7)
- If he suffers from 6 down, he's probably a good one! (5)
- Flat tuis make a musician. (8)
- Sure way not to lose money on horses. (4,3)
- A whirling Moslem. (7)
- Cheese colouring in an attache case. (6)
- Understood childish thanks and a shortened city. (5)
- Animal disease among who over there. (5)
- Able to be a place of exile. (4)

Equal pay, unfair dismissal, voluntary unionism, the problems of a trade union field officer — these were some of the subjects Therese O'Connell discussed with the Women's Study Group at its March 28 meeting.

Therese is the Organiser for the Wellington Clerical Workers' Union. Her job involves looking after the interests of union members, 80% of whom are women; and negotiating with employers on their behalf. She finds that many workers are unaware of their rights, or are uninterested in union affairs. This is scarcely surprising given the limited resources of trade unions. Many unions are not doing nearly as much as they would like for members simply because they have not got the money. For example the Wellington Clerical Workers' Union can only afford one field officer to serve 9,000 union members.

Another handicap that unions like the Clerical Workers' suffer from is getting workers from all offices together for meetings. The C.W.U. wants to see the introduction of paid stop-work meetings, to be held during working hours, for all clerical workers. Women workers in particular find it very difficult to attend Union meetings after work or in evenings given other commitments like their families. In any case, why should workers have to meet outside working hours or in their lunch-times? Management discuss their concerns within working hours.

Given the limited resources of unions it is inevitable that many employees will be ignorant of their rights. For example, part-time clerical workers are now entitled to the same benefits as full-timers. But many older women returning to work part-time will be unaware of this recent advance, and in some cases, if workers don't agitate for the benefits they are legally entitled to,



Women in Unions

employees don't give them.

In general of course, fear of being sacked acts as a strong deterrent against worker agitation — this applies particularly to part-time women workers — they know as does the employer that there are more women wanting work than there are jobs to go around. Ignorance of the rights of employees can also be attributed to the lack of formal education we receive about industrial relations and trade unionism. And we may doubt the value of any such instruction given the capitalist ideology which underpins the education system.

Some quite shocking cases of exploitation arise out of ignorance of one's rights. Therese cited the case of an employee who agreed to work three days 'on trial' without pay. (It must be said too, that often employers are ignorant of their legal respon-

sibilities to their employees.)

Women workers too are more easily manipulated by employers because they have been socialised to be passive and deprecatory, particularly towards men, who constitute the majority of employers — hence the cruciality of union support. However, union hierarchies are usually male-dominated and unfortunately it is not hard to find examples which show that union leaders are unaware that women workers play their part in the workers' struggle.

Women are now working in a number of N.Z. freezing works, thanks to the determined efforts of women like Viv Portszold, who is at present working at the Gear Meat Works, Petone.

Viv first worked at Longburn, where

women were confined to the jobs of inspecting and packing in the boning room. There was considerable resistance from the boners to women being allowed to do anything else, like knife-work. Boners and chain hands feared that women would move into all departments and thus threaten their jobs. Opposition to women workers was heavily sexist in tone — 'women can't handle knives,' 'they won't be able to stand the pace' etc. But by working through union channels, and by "respecting people's prejudices," as Viv put it, women workers eventually won the concessions they wanted. The Wellington branch of the Meat Workers' Union now has a policy of equal opportunity in the works, (though this has not been endorsed by all the sheds in the Wellington district.)

Viv told us a little about the operation of freezing works — which in some ways obviously rip off labourers. For example, some workers, like boners, are on incentive rates of pay, (i.e. the more carcasses they bone the more they get paid), while packers for example are on flat labourers' rates. So boners go like hell and get more money for more effort, but packers who have to keep up with the boners, go like hell for no extra remuneration. This goes to show that "worker participation," at least in the form of incentive rates, for some workers is going to benefit the employers rather than the mass of employees.

The next meeting of the Women's Study Group will discuss the Domestic Purposes Benefit, including discussion on the hardship experienced by solo parents, the inadequacy of the benefit, and the Government's spying on people who are receiving the Domestic Purposes Benefit. All welcome in the Lounge, 5p.m. April 13.

— Virginia Branney.

Executive



It's my job to drag something of interest out of bureaucracy (necessary though it be,) silly quibbling and the general crap that goes with exec-type meetings. Most of my predecessors have turned to humour as the sugar to sweeten the exec report. Not wishing to set an unhealthy precedent I shall at least partially emulate my forebears, whose bane it was to write these articles in days of yore.

As I entered the Board Room, Lindy Cassidy was applying the crank which would shortly set the meeting in motion. I cloistered with two Tenants' Union people at the remote end of the table and casting my eyes around the room caught nothing of interest and so entered a semi-stupor in which I remained until I was ejected from the meeting when it entered closed committee.

Reports;

Neil Gray reported that Rob Moore-Jones and himself were dealing with the library cutbacks. He added that, in consultation with the Assistant Librarian, a questionnaire was being drawn up which would be distributed to students in the near future. Lindy said the petition concerning the cut-back in library hours had a lot of signatures. A motion that the Man-Vice-President and the Woman-Vice-President be directed to circulate the library petition was carried.

I am one of the fortunate few who have ever laid eyes on the invisible woman — Catherine Paterson. She gave a brief report of her activities. She is making 'preliminary' enquiries concerning the opening of a licensed club on the middle floor of the Union Building.

Among other things, Steve Underwood reported that a motion was passed that the Council ratified the Professorial Board's decision regretting the current level of finance available.

One of the things Lindy reported on was the "Living with Sex" booklet which had been brought up at the National Exec meeting. Most constituents in particular Lincoln and Massey were not happy with it. They felt that such words as and would be shocking to the more genteel members of their Associations. Also discussed at National exec, says Lindy, was Bursaries. It was decided to hold a National Bursaries Action day on June 9.

Kevin Swann started the rush for the till by asking for reimbursement of a taxi fare which he had incurred whilst carrying out Association business. Steve Underwood followed by asking the Association to pay a traffic fine received whilst rescuing women and children from bomb-scarred Rankine Brown. The prospects looked good for a general looting of the till when Peter Thrush went overboard by producing 15,000 cable car tickets he said were bought whilst executing Association business. Once these three placed their wallets back in their pockets and climbed off the table, business commenced anew.

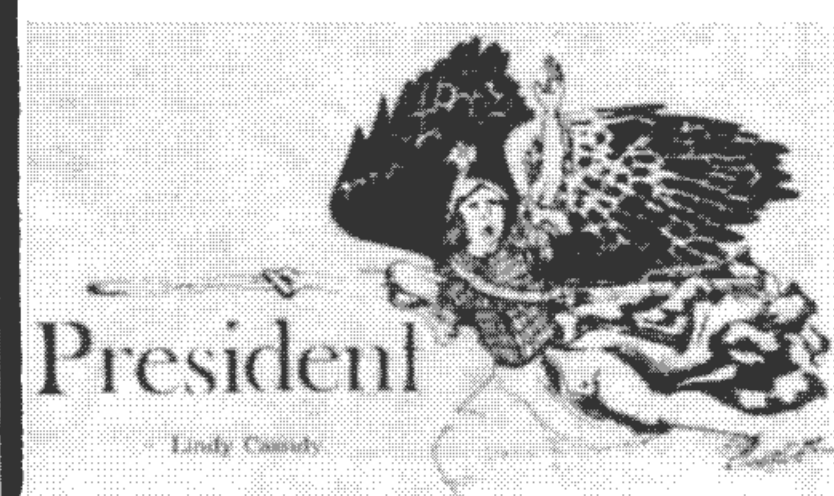
Tenants' Union was represented at the meeting and were hoping to get a bit of the bicky. They eventually did. Steve Underwood (ably assisted by Peter Thrush) suggested that instead of simply donating a sum to Tenants' Union, the Association should take on some of their debts. That way the Association's money would be safe from misuse and the students could see that their money was being put to a specific purpose. Nice one Steve. John Cranna, a member of VUWSA had spent his last penny (\$85 to be precise) in paying off some of the telephone bill. The reason why Cranna had to pay the bill out of his own pocket was that the Association's money had not come through

as quickly as was hoped for. The meeting decided that by giving him \$85, it would clearly be seen as in fact paying the phone bill. A motion that the telephone bill for the Tenants' Union of \$146, plus \$5 for the reconnecting charge be paid, and this money be taken out of the Housing Account, upon production of a receipt of bill paid of \$85, was moved. It was carried

When the matter was raised of giving \$90 to the Wellington Anti-Apartheid Plenary to pay for three different leaflets, Peter Thrush questioned the support the group had amongst students. He said he had attended one function and was 'witness to' another put on by WAAP. Both he said were poorly attended. At this point Kevin Swann, Neil Gray and Co. entered the fray arguing that WAAP did have a large student support. 250 students marched from the Hunter Lawn and a great many more joined down-town — obvious signs of support. Much surprise and regret was expressed when Peter Thrush and Steve Underwood stated they had not been in the march. WAAP got their \$90 with all supporting the motion except (guess who) Peter Thrush and Steve Underwood who abstained on the grounds of ignorance.

After things went into closed committee and I was heading home to rest my head, the bookshop as well as Salient's autonomy from the executive were being discussed. A motion was passed (which they were later bruised for) which meant that whilst and for the purpose of protecting the association from legal and financial trouble, the Executive would have the right to peruse Salient articles before publication and could censor 'Salient.' Those who voted for this iniquitous motion were: Underwood, Thrush, Gray, Paterson, Gilkison, Sharrock. Those who opposed it were: Cassidy, Couper and Swann. The people who voted for it were bringing Salient closer to Executive control. Salient should be free from interference by paranoid Executive members. Salient has a responsibility to bring the actions of the Association's officers under students scrutiny. Those who voted for this (Vorster-like) motion, must be aware and nervous about having their activities or lack of activity printed in Salient. The responsibility for ensuring that the Association is not open to legal action should be left to the editor of Salient and his legal advisors. This is the code which all the free press work under and which Salient should be left to work under.

— Eugene Doyle.



This year's AGM was characterised by the usual constitutional wanking and long-winded gibberish with a bit of ultra-leftism thrown in for good measure. However, it did re-iterate the question raised by Salient two issues previously as to the role and direction of the Executive and the Students Association. It was decided that an SGM should consider substantial increases in honoraria for the President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sports, Publications and Cultural Affairs officers. But before we begin to consider handing out increases we should be taking a long, hard look at where our association is heading and where it should be heading.

Often you hear old-timers muttering that University isn't as much fun as it used to be. Why?

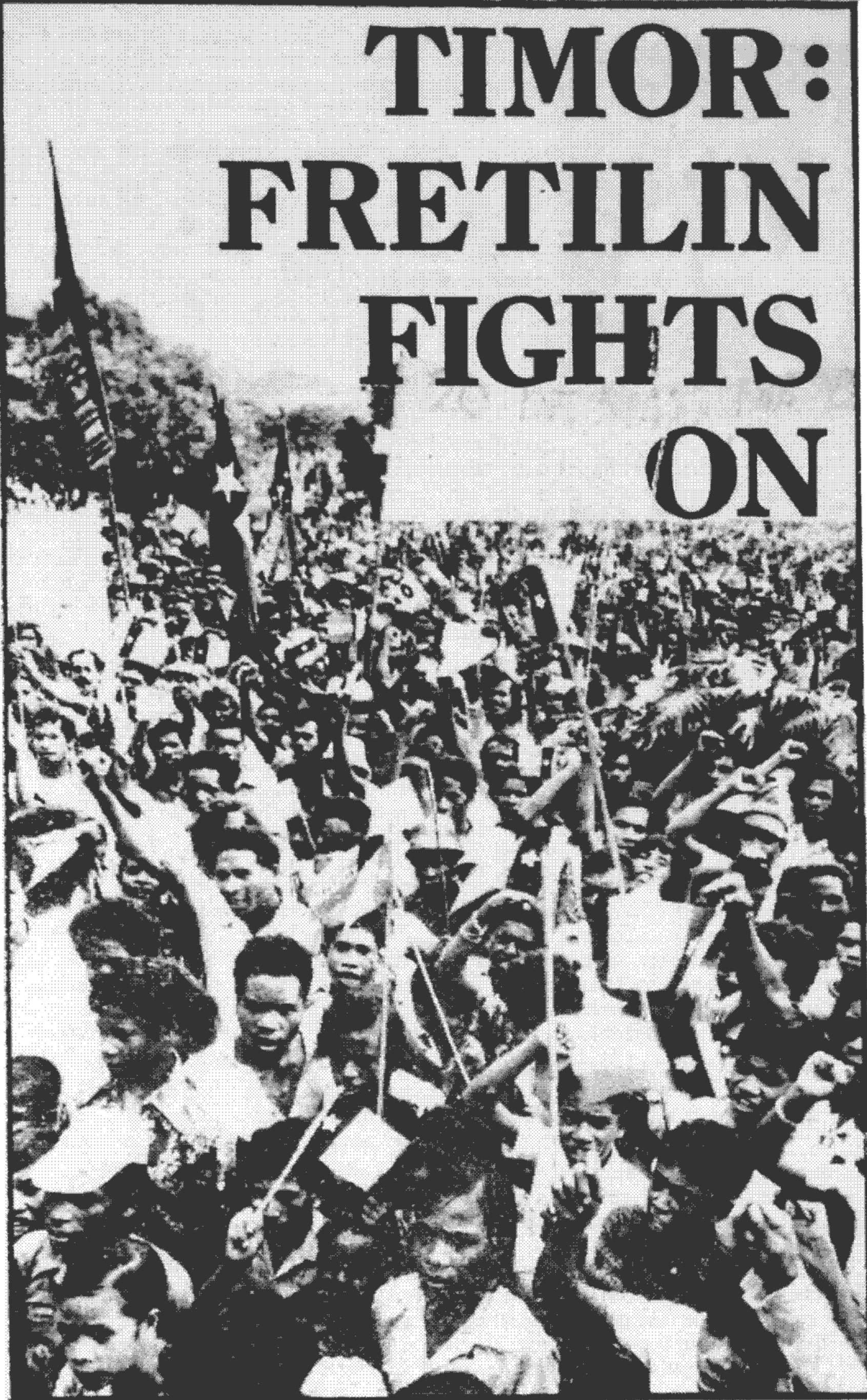
Firstly, I don't think students are inherently apathetic. Most students want to go to Rock Concerts, hops, dances, forums, SRCs, SASRAC, but they also want to pass courses. The different types of activity used to be compatible, but with the introduction of internal assessment, social and political sacrifices have to be made. Thus the Students Association places a great deal of importance on the assessment and workloads campaign. By trying to work out the fairest and most flexible methods of assessment with your classmates you are not only learning more about your fellow students, but also gaining valuable time in which to participate in vital extra-curricular activities.

Assessment problems are not simple, but alternatives to traditional methods do exist and can be implemented in your course. If you want to find out about these come and see me or the Education Officer at the Students Association office, (where you get your SASRAC tickets.)

We're also there to help you organise social functions e.g. wine and cheeses, or meetings where you can discuss assessment with your classmates. But the Association also needs your help to clarify the issues involved and that's why when you see a notice about class representation we would urge you to send a representative from your class. The next meeting is on Tuesday April 19, from 12-2 in the lounge.

Whether you're studying or participating in social, political or sporting activities, it's important to enjoy yourself. If you are not, it is important to question why.

TIMOR: FRETILIN FIGHTS ON



Mr Muldoon told the large gathering that his knowledge of East Timor — where it has been claimed Indonesian troops are involved in genocide — was based on newspaper reports. He said he had not received any reports from his officials on the situation there and could not therefore comment. "I haven't followed the latest developments," Mr Muldoon said.

by Mart Reyners

This quote appeared in the Evening Post on the 19th of March this year.

New Zealand's foreign policy is indeed in an alarming state when our Prime Minister shamelessly admits to being too ill-informed to comment on an act of invasion so close to home. One should question the morality of a government which has a stance on Uganda, on the other side of the globe, yet none on East Timor, only 400 miles from Darwin. What is happening political parties emerged, each with a conveniently knows very little about?

THE BACKGROUND

To fully understand the significance of the guerilla war now being waged in East Timor, one must understand some of the development there in the last three years. For some 400 years East Timor (then known as Portugese Timor) was a sleepy outpost of the Portugese empire. It was rudely awakened in April 1974, when the Armed Forces Movement took control in Portugal. The coup in Lisbon brought some democratic reforms to the Timorese people for the first time, and with them came the hope that the colony might seek independence and govern itself like all other countries in the region. However, independence was not the only option open to the 650,000 people of East Timor, and in the months following the Lisbon coup, various political parties emerged each with a different political orientation.

The UDT party (Uniao Democratica Timorese) was essentially a union to

protect the status quo, and its founders included Timorese who had benefitted from Portugese rule. The UDT initially envisaged Timor as part of a federation of Portugese-speaking states with strong cultural and trading links with Portugal.

The FRETILIN party (Revolutionary Front for Independent East Timor) aimed to be a broad front representing all pro-independence forces in East Timor, and did not identify itself with any particular philosophy such as social democracy.

APODETI (Associaao Popular Democratica Timorese), a party formed about a month after the Lisbon Coup, sought for East Timor "independence within Indonesia rather than on its own."

Of these three main political parties which emerged, FRETILIN soon commanded the most popular support, as it operated widely throughout East Timor at grass-roots level. After one year of operation FRETILIN had 200,000 registered members and many more supporters, largely as a result of its literacy and agricultural projects.

1975 proved an eventful year for politics in East Timor. On January 21, UDT and FRETILIN formed a coalition. Following events in Portugal and the Whitlam-Suharto talks of September 1974 (when Whitlam stated: "an independent Timor would be an uneviable state and a potential threat to the area,") UDT found itself moving towards a more clear-cut position on independence, while FRETILIN recognised the importance of keeping the Portugese in East Timor for some time to

help carry out the process of decolonisation.

In June, a summit was held in Macau, ostensibly to work out a procedure for decolonisation, and elections were planned for October 1976. But it seems that almost none of the participants at the summit believed that elections would ever take place as various other things were being planned behind the scenes. In the early hours of August 11, UDT staged a "bloodless" coup in Dili, the capital of East Timor. (Atown about the size of Taihape.) However, because of popular support for FRETILIN, the coup backfired, and by September 8, UDT had been forced into retreat and their main stronghold was Liquica, 25 km west of Dili.

FRETILIN DECLARES INDEPENDENCE AND INDONESIA INVADES'

During September 1975 the Portugese Governor and his administration left for the island of Atauro in Dili harbour, and FRETILIN filled the administrative vacuum left behind. Later in the month UDT and APODETI joined forces, together with minority parties, to form MRAC, the Anti-Communist Revolutionary Movement. In the following months, fierce fighting between FRETILIN and MRAC forces, supported by Indonesia, broke out along the East-Timor-Indonesian Timor border.

A NZ TV1 team managed to shoot film of FRETILIN operations around the border town of Batugade. However, five Australian TV newsmen were shot dead in the neighbouring town of Balibo on October 16 when it came under attack from combined UDT-APODETI forces led by Indonesian troops.

On November 28, 1975, FRETILIN gave up waiting for the Portugese to negotiate a programme of decolonisation and unilaterally declared independence. They knew an Indonesian invasion was imminent

Indonesian response to East Timor's independence was not long in coming. On December 5, Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Adam Malik, summoned the ambassadors of ASEAN countries, Australia, New Zealand, Portugal, the USA and the Soviet Union and warned them "not to be surprised" by any developments which might take place in East Timor. Then in the early hours of Sunday December 7, Indonesia began a full-scale invasion, when at least six Indonesian warships, several dozen planes and hundreds of paratroops and marines launched a massive attack on Dili.

Indonesian soldiers were capturing the town at Atabae, after five days of shelling by warships off the coast and an amphibious landing of five tanks.

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The Indonesians were obviously hoping to get the 'Timor problem' out of the way by the end of the year, but FRETILIN resistance was strong and had so much support from the Timorese people that a second much larger invasion was carried out on Christmas Day involving from 15,000 to 20,000 top Javanese troops. Yet today Indonesia still only controls very few towns and villages. Radio Maubere reported on February 25 this year that 2094 Indonesian soldiers were killed and more wounded in fighting south-west and west of Dili between November 23 and February 23. (Radio Maubere is the national radio of the Democratic Republic of East Timor. Reception in Darwin is possible, despite the low powered transmitter used in East Timor).

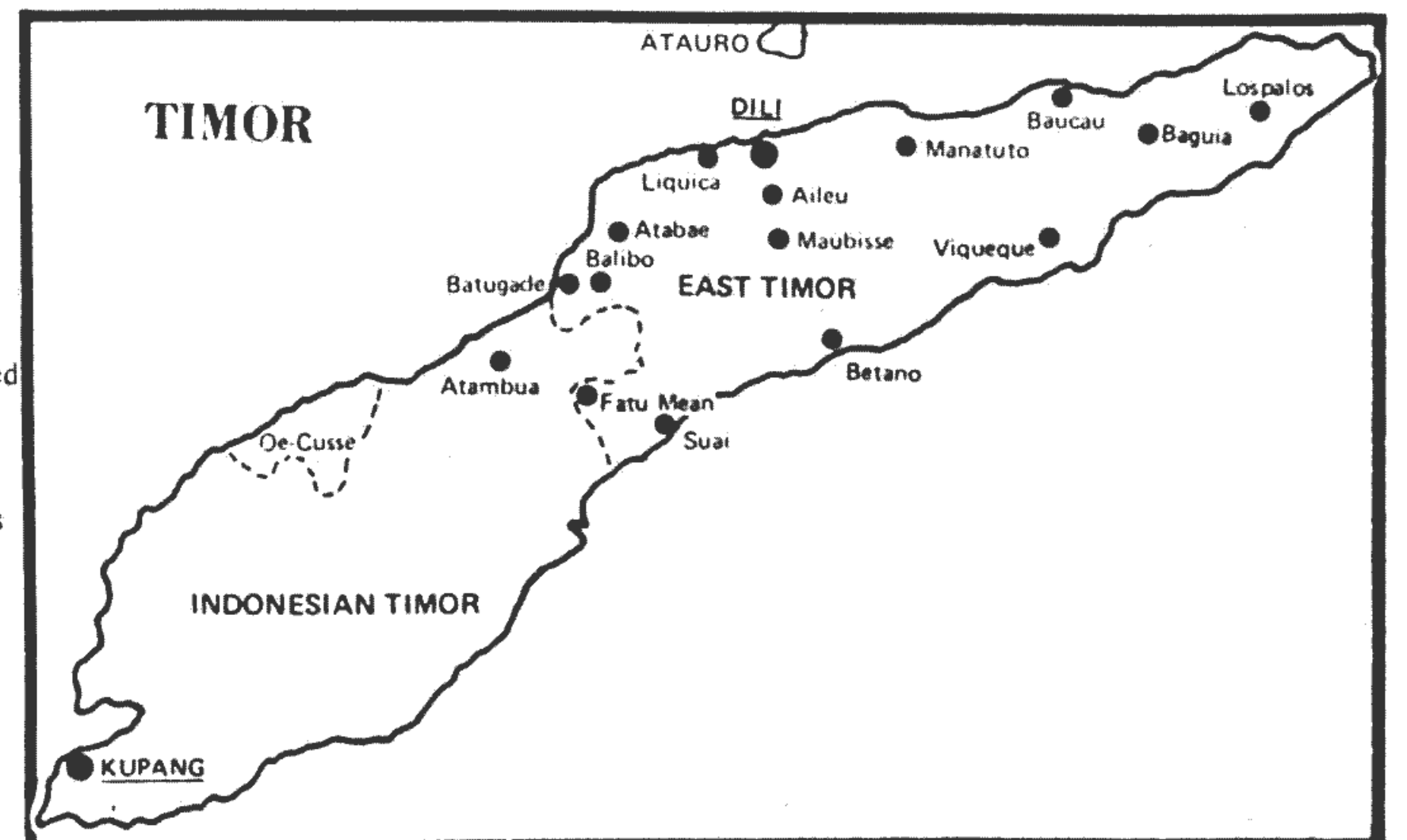
Indonesian military success in East Timor has been so abysmal because FRETILIN is well organised in guerilla warfare. The mountainous interior of the country is well suited for guerilla warfare, as demonstrated in the Second World War, when fewer than 400 Australian troops succeeded in holding down 20,000 Japanese troops, killing 1500 of them and losing only 40 of their own men. About 40,000 Timorese were killed by the Japanese because they had helped the Australians.

Rogério Lobato, Minister of National Defence in the government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor described FRETILIN'S military strategy in a recent issue of the Australian Left Review:

"Our strategy is that we want to destroy as many of the enemy forces as possible and conserve our own forces. We therefore disperse our forces, but concentrate them to destroy the enemy and disperse them immediately after having carried out the attack. . . Our tactics are not only to kill as many enemy troops as possible, but also to destroy them economically. So we must cut all the roads, destroy all the bridges and force the enemy to move by expensive means— helicopters, planes, warships."

Since the invasion of East Timor, Indonesia has kept a tight blockade on the territory, yet reports of Indonesian atrocities continually filter out. A pro-Indonesian Timorese, Lopes da Cruz, during a press conference in Jakarta in February 1975, admitted that 60,000 Timorese had been killed because of "Indonesian excesses."

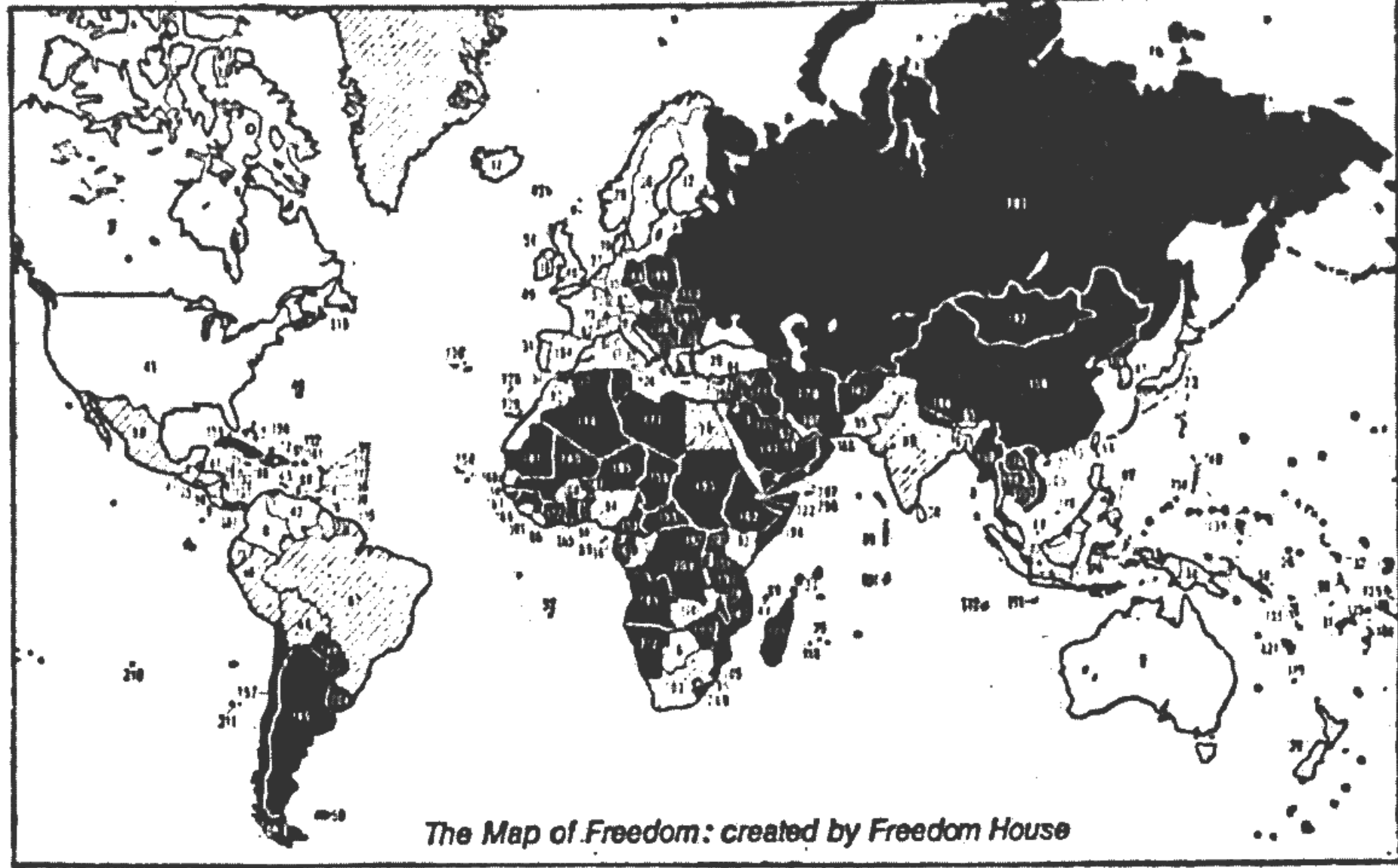
World attention has recently been focused on Indonesian atrocities in East Timor with the release of the Dunn Report in Australia. Mr Dunn, former Australian Consul to Dili and director of the Foreign Affairs Group of the Legislative Research Service of the Australian Parliament, interviewed East Timorese refugees in Lisbon last January, and his report details many Indonesian atrocities. Mr Dunn has recently given evidence before the US Congress Committee on International Relations on these atrocities. Italian Senator Lelio Basso, who played a leading role in the Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal on Vietnam, has also indicated that he and other formed members of the Russell Tribunal are keen to set up a similar war crimes tribunal in Europe to investigate Indonesian aggression



Continued next page

Press in chains

DOMINION
27 March 1977



The Map of Freedom: created by Freedom House

"Freedom of the Press" is a phrase often bandied around by politicians, newspaper editors and political scientists — apparently one of the tell-tale signs of a "democratic" society.

And because New Zealanders have been brought up from the cradle with constant batterings over how lucky they are to be living in a "free" country, everytime we see a headline such as "The Press in Chains" we think of those horrible Communist countries or those ugly South American dictatorships.

Newspapers such as The Dominion play upon these concepts of freedom to constantly pump us with their analysis of the world, which is essentially that the world is a struggle between forces of democracy (private enterprise, peace, justice and the American way) and dictatorship (those countries attempting to throw off the yolk of colonialism,) with democracy presently being on the retreat.

Two weeks ago the Dom published a short article on its editorial page (entitled "Press in Chains") bemoaning the fact that (according to a US organisation called Freedom House) only 19% of the world's population now live in countries with a "free press."

And according to the same source just below 40% of the world population live in countries "that are not regarded as free" (i.e. not free to choose their own leaders and to read uncensored news.) while 36% are living in countries that could be classed as "partly free."

But what precisely is "being free" and what is "freedom of the press?" In Wellington we have a 'free press' because we have more than one newspaper and these are not government controlled (the criteria of Freedom House.) But, if we examine the newspapers in Wellington, we find that they all (with the exception of Salient and Karori News) are owned by Independent Newspapers or its subsidiaries.

So one would expect all these newspapers to follow the same sort of line or not to get involved in controversies that Independent Newspapers don't want them involved

RECENT moves to restrict press freedom in South Africa highlight the fact that in the whole of the African continent only the people of Botswana can read uncensored news.

This emerged from the most recent survey

NZ link

REUTERS, the news agency with the proud record of freely gathering and distributing news, has just completed 30 years of New Zealand part-ownership.

To mark the occasion, Reuters' board members, who had been meeting in Australia for the first time, were in Christchurch for the opening of the New Zealand Press Association annual conference.

From TO THE POINT (International), a weekly newsmagazine published in Belgium.

by Freedom House, a US non-governmental organisation which has been making studies of press freedom round the world since 1972.

Botswana has only one daily, the Daily News, published out of Gaborone in English and Tswana editions with some 12,500 readers. In reference books the Daily News is listed as government-sponsored, but it is the existence of a monthly journal published by an opposition group that probably earns Botswana Freedom House's seal of approval.

The press in all other African countries is categorised as "partly free" or "not free".

It is not, however, only such one-party, socialist-orientated nations as Tanzania and Somalia that are shown as practising censorship. Among the "not-free" countries are a number which count themselves democratic — Ivory Coast, newly-independent Transkei, Rhodesia and South-west Africa (Namibia), which is administered by South Africa.

During 1976, says Freedom House, 36 million people in 42 nations and 19 territories lost substantial personal freedom. The biggest country to come under the pebbles was Thailand with a population of 43 million.

The number of people living in countries that are not regarded as "free" totals 170 million — or just below 40 per cent of the world's population. Those regarded as "partly free" total 146 million, or 26 per cent of the world's population.

How accurate a picture does Freedom House's Map of Freedom give? Says Mark Grantham, editor of the International Press Institute's Report: "It is very risky drawing up a map like this. One can never be sure that all information is correct or complete."

I must, for example, that the map indicates that Cambodia has a free press, yet as far as I know it has only a state-controlled radio service and a government information sheet. Similarly, Israel is shown as having a free press, but there is military censorship there.

The question has been raised in London how free is the free press? David Astor, former editor of the Observer, wrote recently that Fleet Street newspapers censored themselves when writing about their industry's troubles. A few days later The Times failed to appear when printers refused to work on an edition containing a report of Astor's criticism.

Another form of news management highlighted by Freedom House is the trend toward use of the media to stimulate economic development. Freedom House adds that some of the results are presented in 1976 at various conferences — notably the Unesco conference in Nairobi were among the most potentially serious threats to world freedom.

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- FREE NATIONS (Unshaded):** 1 Australia, 2 Austria, 3 Bahamas, 4 Barbados, 5 Belgium, 6 Botswana, 7 Canada, 8 Colombia, 9 Costa Rica, 10 Denmark, 11 Fiji, 12 Finland, 13 France, 14 Germany, 15 Guatemala, 16 Greece, 17 Iceland, 18 Ireland, 19 Israel, 20 Italy, 21 Jamaica, 22 Japan, 23 Luxembourg, 24 Malta, 25 Mauritius, 26 Nassau, 27 Netherlands, 28 New Zealand, 29 Norway, 30 Papua-New Guinea, 31 Portugal, 32 San Marino, 33 Seychelles, 34 Sri Lanka, 35 Suriname, 36 Sweden, 37 Switzerland, 38 Trinidad & Tobago, 39 Turkey, 40 United Kingdom, 41 United States, 42 Venezuela.

- PARTLY FREE NATIONS (Shaded):** 62 Andorra, 63 Bahrain, 64 Bangladesh, 65 Bhutan, 66 Bolivia, 67 Brazil, 68 China (Nat.), 69 Comoros Islands, 70 Congo (Rep.), 71 Cyprus, 72 Dominican Republic, 73 Ecuador, 74 Egypt, 75 El Salvador, 76 Grenada, 77 Guatemala, 78 Guyana, 79 Honduras, 80 India, 81 Indonesia, 82 Kenya, 83 Korea, 84 Lebanon, 85 Liberia, 86 Libya, 87 Liechtenstein, 88 Malaysia, 89 Maldives, 90 Mexico, 91 Monaco, 92 Morocco, 93 Nicaragua, 94 Nigeria, 95 Pakistan, 96 Peru, 97 Philippines, 98 Qatar, 99 Sao Tome & Principe, 100 Senegal, 101 Sierra Leone, 102 Singapore, 103 South Africa, 104 Spain, 105 Switzerland, 106 Togo, 107 United Arab Emirates, 108 Upper Volta, 109 Western Samoa, 110 Zambia.

- NOT FREE NATIONS (Black):** 142 Afghanistan, 143 Albania, 144 Algeria, 145 Angola, 146 Argentina, 147 Benin, 148 Brazil, 149 Bulgaria, 150 Burma, 151 Cambodia, 152 Cambodia, 153 Cameroon, 154 Cuba, 155 Cuba (Comm.), 156 Chad, 157 Chile, 158 China (Comm.), 159 Cuba, 160 Czechoslovakia, 161 Equatorial Guinea, 162 Ethiopia, 163 Gabon, 164 Germany (E.), 165 Ghana, 166 Guinea, 167 Guinea-Bissau, 168 Haiti, 169 Hungary, 170 Iran, 171 Iraq, 172 Ivory Coast, 173 Jordan, 174 Korea (N.), 175 Kuwait, 176 Laos, 177 Libya, 178 Malawi, 179 Maldives, 180 Mali, 181 Mauritania, 182 Mongolia, 183 Mozambique, 184 Nepal, 185 Niger, 186 Oman, 187 Panama, 188 Paraguay, 189 Poland, 190 Rhodesia, 191 Romania, 192 Rwanda, 193 Saudi Arabia, 194 Somalia, 195 Sudan, 196 Syria, 197 Tanzania, 198 Thailand, 199 Togo, 200 Transkei, 201 Tunisia, 202 Uganda, 203 USSR, 204 Uruguay, 205 Vietnam, 206 Yemen (N.), 207 Yemen (S.), 208 Yugoslavia, 209 Zaire.

in.

However things are a little more subtle than this because the gathering of news (although it is a great crowd attractor for fitting in between the advertisements) must be seen to be apolitical. Journalists will tell you that all they are doing is reporting "the facts" without comment and without bias.

But while journalists may not be consciously imparting any world view upon their unsuspecting readers, objectively, they are.

In every society the media (in the same way as the education system) plays a role of perpetuating the world view (or ideology) of the ruling class (whether it be feudal, capitalist or socialist.)

Examples are numerous, but most avid newspaper readers will probably be aware of the following: Evening Post court reporters go along to the Wellington Magistrate's Court and try and gather "newsy" stories. The most common of "newsy"

court stories, is one in which the defendant is ridiculed, either for the bumbling comments he makes before sentencing or because of the wit heaped upon him by the magistrate. There is never any attempt to explain why 90% of the people appearing in our courts are labourers, factory workers, storemen or people from similar occupations. It is unconsciously accepted that these people are "criminals," have offended against society (or against the values of the ruling class,) and must be punished.

So too, news is always about important people in society and never about what the ordinary working person is doing or thinking. History and politics is about the conflict and exchange of personalities in public life, never about the mass of people who are actually the motive force behind many of the struggles. In this way the newspapers can single out a "leader" who can be either created or destroyed (and the movement with it) in terms of his/her individual personality and

characteristics.

Newspapers also create and perpetuate prejudices against all sorts of progressive groups (HART stirrers, violent, maniacal Communist Parties, and stupid workers) so as to reduce anything they say in public to the nonsense level.

In the Third World countries, the contradiction between the sorts of things being pushed in the newspapers, and the condition of the mass of the people is even more explicit. But to use the newspapers to improve the condition of the common people is seen by the Dominion as destroying the "freedom of the press," for newspapers must not be responsible to the mass of the people, but to those people who have invested the capital (hoping for a nice tidy return) in the newspaper.

So, next time the "freedom of the press" is mentioned, ask the question, "whose interests is this so-called freedom serving? Those who are benefitting from the status quo, of those who are not."

— Robert Collins.

Continued from previous page



'I RESPECT YOUR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, AS LONG AS YOU DECIDE TO JOIN US.'

ion against East Timor. Yet the New Zealand Prime Minister remains too ill-informed to comment.

THE NEW ZEALAND CONNECTION

Why is the NZ Government silent on events in East Timor? Various reasons come to mind. In view of Mr Muldoon's recent statement, it is not unreasonable to suppose that he accepts the Whitlam logic that an independent Timor would be an unviable state and a potential threat to the area. He possibly approves of the Indonesian invasion as nipping a possible 'communist threat' in the bud. However the 'unviability' argument holds no water when one looks at other small states in the Pacific, such as Fiji and Niue.

Then there is also the possibility that even though NZ does not support the Indonesian 'integration' of East Timor, it does not want to say so publicly for fear of incurring the wrath of Indonesia. NZ has a major aid investment in Indonesia. In the 1974-75 financial year, NZ's bilateral aid to Indonesia amounted to over \$2.8 million, the largest amount given to any Asian country.

CONCLUSION

While NZ remains silent, world-wide reaction against the Indonesian regime continues to increase. The regime's incredible corruption, the continuing detention of up to 100,000 political prisoners without trial and the atrocities in East Timor are receiving wide publicity; President Suharto is particularly sensitive to 'bad press' at the moment as the campaign has begun for 'elections' due in early May. Foreign journalists have been banned from visiting villages to cover the campaign. Also moves are afoot in America and Holland to cut aid to Indonesia because of gross violation of human rights there.

Support for the struggle of the East Timorese for independence is growing among the people of NZ, but more action and awareness is needed. Already members of the recent International Conference for Peace Action have sent a petition to Mr Muldoon urging him to ask Indonesia to "accept the need for an alternative solution for East Timor in keeping with UN resolutions." Let us not stop there. It's time to pressure the government into a more principled stand on East Timor.

All this and the AGM too

- Peter Gibbs.

The question of Salient's accountability to the Association Executive was one of the few matters of any moment to arise at last Wednesday's AGM. It came up in a motion moved by Bruce Robinson, that "VUWSA upholds the principle of editorial independence for Salient, and reaffirms SRC policy motion 14/69." The SRC motion referred to was passed unanimously in 1969 and was to the effect that any student publication could only be over-ruled on matters



of content, where that content would open the Association to legal action. And that the only body with power to over-rule the publication was the Association Executive in formal meeting, excepting that the President could delay publication by 24 hours in order that an Executive meeting could be called.

The meeting was told that at the last Executive meeting, Peter Thrush (Sports Officer) had successfully moved a motion purporting to reaffirm 14/69, which in part mentioned that Executive members have the right to peruse Salient openly before it goes to

print. Persons at the AGM (among them Salient editor David Murray) asserted that 14/69 did not give the Executive members any such right, and Lisa Saksen made a strong speech saying that Executive now appeared to be giving itself this right. She amended Bruce Robinson's motion so that it also "condemned" those Executive members who did not vote against Peter Thrush's motion.

Peter Aagaard moved a further amendment - "that only the President or acting-President have legal right to peruse Salient before it goes to print." Mr Thrush objected strongly to any limitations being placed on entry to the Salient office - he claimed that any student as a member of the Association had the right to enter any part of the Union building. David Murray pointed out the obvious problems which would arise if even half a dozen students wanted to look at Salient as it was being prepared. He said it had been unofficial policy for years, that if you came in, then you helped with some work. Someone from the floor also pointed out that there were parts of the Union already off-limits to students (e.g. the Executive workroom.) Finally, the motion, amendments and all, was passed.

For the Association President a rise from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per annum. For the Treasurer a rise from \$600 to \$1,000 p.a. And for the Secretary, Sports Officer, Cultural Affairs Officer and Publications Board Officer, a rise from \$300 to \$450 p.a. These were the suggestions for changes in honorariums put to the meeting by Steve Underwood and Peter Thrush.

In making a case for the first two rises, Mr Underwood said that both were particularly demanding jobs in the time they took if they were to be carried out well-



the job of President was virtually a full-time one, and as such was definitely deserving of more than \$2,000.

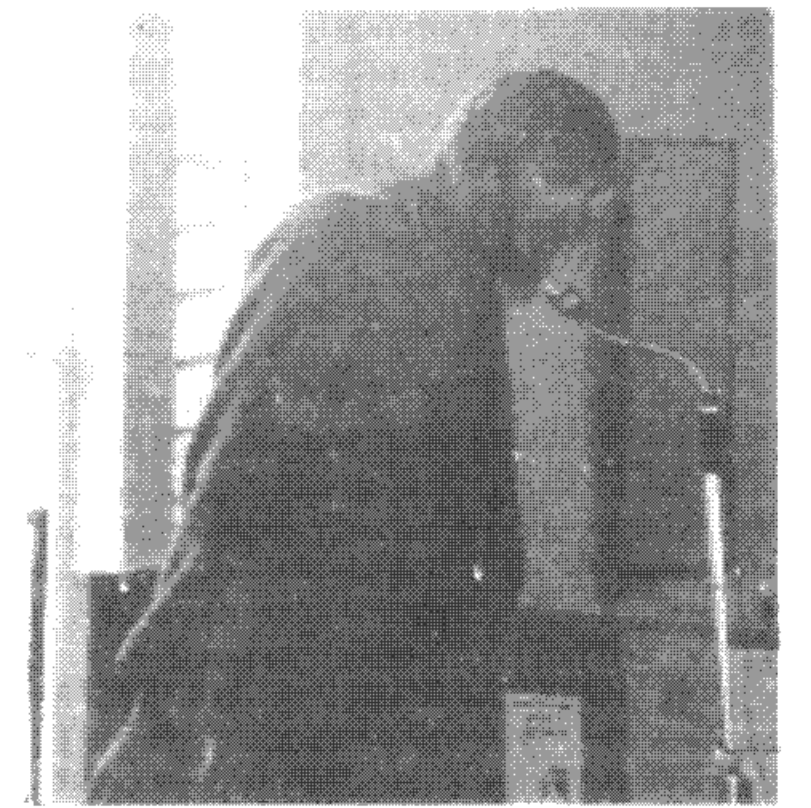
A motion put to the meeting on the changes for President, Treasurer and Secretary was passed, however when the other changes were considered Alfonso Fanelli pointed out that such proposed changes should be widely advertised among students in order that anyone who felt strongly about the matter could express their opinion. Consequently the previous motion was rescinded and the whole question of money rises is to be put to a Special General Meeting in the near future - watch for it!

The other point of interest in the meeting was considered by many at the meeting to be of minor interest - however the matter of principle at stake is worth considering. It transpired in considering the monetary accounts of the Cultural Affairs Committee that David Murray pointed out that in 1976 the Socialist Action League had been given a club grant of \$40 which they were not entitled to as they were not affiliated to VUWSA. Mr Murray wanted this year's Committee to investigate the matter with a view to retrieving the \$40. Mike Curtis (last year's VUWSA Treasurer) took the matter further by moving that the Young Socialist Club be denied affiliation to VUWSA until the whole business had been sorted out. There were immediate protests that it was not just to penalise one club (young Socialists) because another club (Socialist Action) which people assumed was linked to the first had received money it was not entitled to.

(There is no doubt that the Young Socialists are the campus front for the Socialist Action League. We know this from documents written by the VUWSA Young Socialist Co-ordinator, Patrick Mulrennan - Ed.)

Regardless of one's feelings towards Young Socialists, it was held to be wrong to penalise them for money which was not given to them. The meeting agreed, and rejected Mr Curtis' motion, but still passed that of Mr Murray.

That was all. Most AGMs are boring, dull, lack-lustre affairs with endless points of order and clarification, procedural motions and amendments - this one was no different. There was much on the agenda unfinished when the meeting closed at



2.45p.m. for lack of a quorum of 50. So there will be plenty on the agenda of the SGM when it is held in the next few weeks - notably motions regarding bursaries and Arts Council. If you've never been to an SRC or SGM and wonder what it's all about then come along and see - and don't be hesitant to speak, it's your Association too. As Mike Curtis said in his report: "In my experience at Victoria, the social and political and climates are closely inter-related. A strong social climate leads to an active political one and vice versa."



Recommendations which came from the Dept. of Education Conference on interim measures to be taken until the whole STB is looked into by Government were referred back to the Professorial Board. It seems that the University is stalling for time to avoid embarrassment until a decision on bursaries is reached in the budget to be presented to Parliament some time in June.

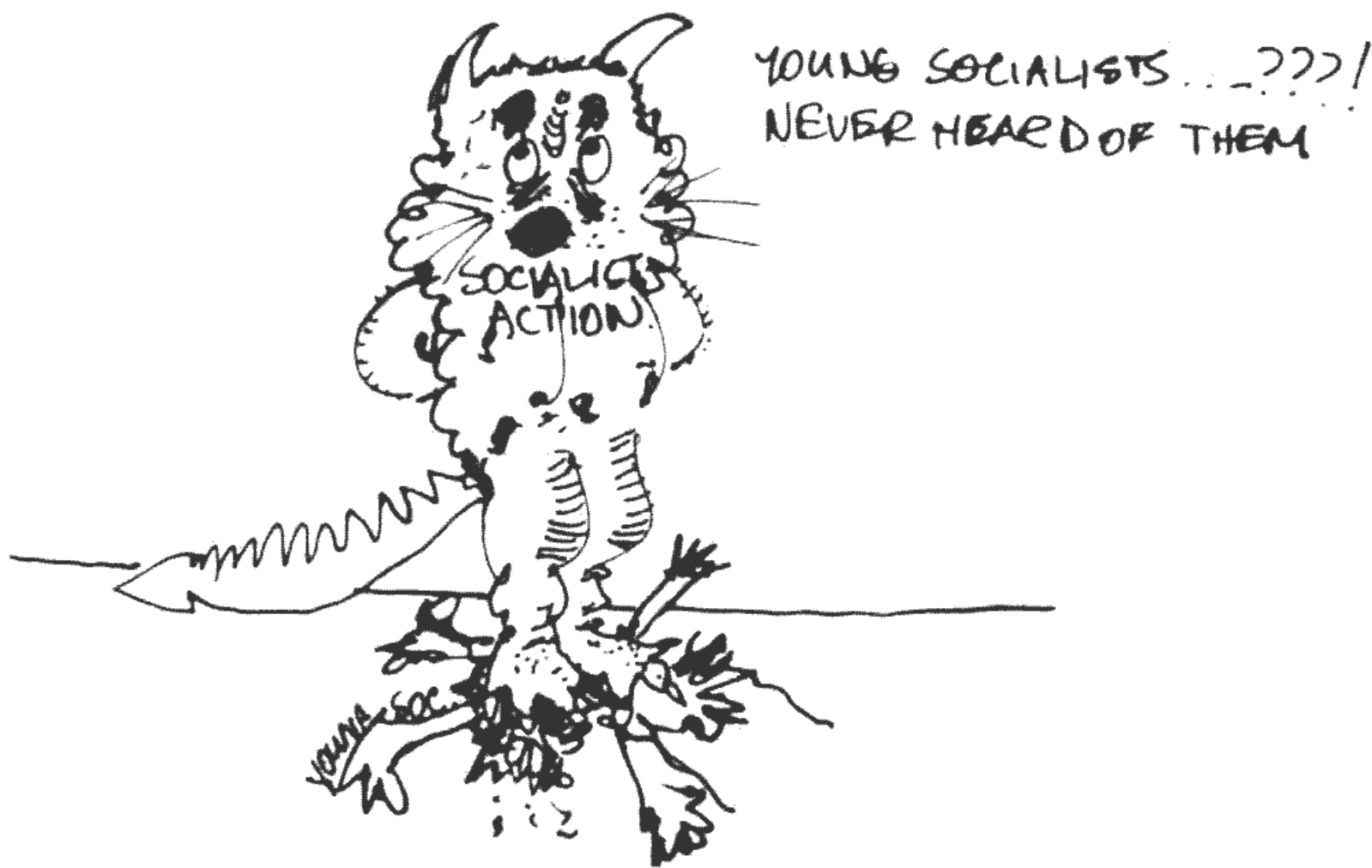
The question of library finances were, not surprisingly, passed over with great speed. The following motion was passed with little fuss: "That the Professorial Board regrets that the current level of the finance available to the University is far below the level for which the University argued, on the basis of the McEldowney report, in its quinquennial submissions to the University Grants Committee, and that the Board believes that, in preparation of the submissions for the next quinquennium, a very high priority must be given to seeking a remedy for this situation."

There was no dissenting voice to this motion. One can then assume that we will see action from the Council when preparing their submission for the quinquennial grant. The important thing to remember is that the Council has the political teeth to get these additional funds. Let us hope that the student attitude to cuts which have to be made is sufficiently clear as to make the University as cognisant as it should be of the importance of the library to students and learning.

A few motions flew past at breathless pace and we were ushered out as the meeting went into closed committee. Council meetings to the uninitiated are devastating affairs with few members willing to speak unnecessarily upon threat of physical disembowelment

Anyone thinking of running for the student rep position which comes vacant in June should be aware of this

-David Murray.



Council Runs as Hunter Totters

Every month, twenty-five university bureaucrats gather to weigh up the pros and cons of suitably watered down motions which attempt to control the direction of the University. This is not the forum to expose who really does control the University. Suffice to say that practically all decisions that the Council have to make are forgone conclusions. Those that give the Council difficulty, for example a motion which would commit the University to student demands on the Standard Tertiary Bursary, are normally referred around for a few months until they metamorphise into items which are more palatable to our administrators, so as to avoid embarrassment from powers above.

On this particular day, the March meeting, many items were rubber stamped that should be of some interest to students.

The Hunter building is to have another report done on it to assess the effects of the recent earthquake. To facilitate a faster evacuation of Hunter, if it was found to be unsafe for habitation, the University Grants Committee (second on the political hierarchy after Government) have been asked to consider the construction of the last stages of the Cotton Building as a priority.

It was clear from the discussion at the meeting that few Council members were aware that large numbers of students and staff have to risk life and limb by sitting in Hunter's lecture halls. The Vice Chancellor is to complete a report for April Council as to the usage of Hunter.

As previously mentioned, the Council passed the buck yet again on the bursaries question.

NEWS FROM MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE



Raman

—'Raman's close associates in Singapore included former communists and pro-communist detainees' (A number of names were listed and it is likely that they have been or will be arrested as well.)
 —'Raman was the legal advisor to the University of Singapore Students' Union in the years 1971-1976. It was during those years that the student agitation was at its peak.'
 —'Raman instigated students to follow the example of the Thai students who overthrew the government through violent riots.'
 —'Raman called upon the former (dismissed) workers from the American Marine Company to support the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM), stating that the CPM would eventually overthrow the PAP government after the fall of Thailand and Malaysia.'
 —'Raman is said to have been with prominent members of the Euro-communists.' (The following persons were named: Malcolm Caldwell in London, Ernst Utrecht in Amsterdam and Mrs Lap Choo Lin in Utrecht. Also the Mondial Information and Action Centre in Utrecht, under which the Workgroup Malaysia/Singapore operates was named.)

The statement added: 'The Government cannot allow pro-communist elements like G' Raman to run around aiding and abetting the communists in their design to create chaos and instability to advance their cause.'

A few days after the arrest of Raman, it was reported that 9 more people who were alleged to belong to a 'study-group' headed by Raman were arrested. It is said that among them is the former correspondent of the Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER), Arun forced to resign as correspondent of the FEER, about one and a half years ago.

The allegations made in the statement are meant to conceal the real reasons why the Government has decided to detain Raman. To play up the communist bogey is still a fairly effective way in Singapore to legitimise the elimination of people who are critical of government policies and actions. There are probably a mixture of 'real reasons' for detaining Raman: On the one hand the PAP is still seething from the embarrassment of its effective expulsion from the SI, and determined to maintain its claim to the world

and the people of Singapore that the communists are still a danger for the stability of Singapore. On the other hand, the government simply did not like Raman's professional activities.

Raman was the legal advisor to the now banned University of Singapore Students' Union and the Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union — both of which had in the last five years been increasingly vocal and active in denouncing the repressiveness of the PAP government and supporting the workers and discriminated groups. Raman had been the defense counsel for one of the workers who were charged together with Tan Wah Piow (at that time president of the Students Union) of rioting in the premises of the National Trades Union Congress in 1974. He was also one of the very few lawyers in Singapore who dared to act for political prisoners and their families.

The PAP is evidently extremely piqued about its expulsion from the SI. Besides loss of face, it has also suffered considerable loss of prestige on the international political scene. In addition it seems apparent that the economic crisis is hitting Singapore harder than ever before. Reliable sources claim that there has been a decline in foreign investments recently, which is another reason for the government to pick on dissidents and to accuse them of communism and thus have a scapegoat for the declining economic progress. The PAP is determined to maintain its trumped-up allegations that the whole expulsion move (which was initiated by the Dutch Labour Party in March 1976, followed by the resignation of the PAP in May and ended with the resignation's acceptance by the SI in Sept. 1976) is part of an international communist conspiracy to discredit the PAP to the advantage of the communists in Singapore and Malaysia. The use this time of the term 'Euro-communists' is clearly aimed at

scaring the 'average' Singaporean (who is understandably not aware of the actual context of the term as it is employed in W.Europe.) and creating the impression of an organised European communist group, whose aim it is to promote communism in South East Asia by means of subversive activity.

The timing of the arrests is also significant. General elections were held in Singapore on Dec; 23, 1976 and the PAPA secured for the third time in succession all 69 seats in parliament. Although Lee Kuan Yew claimed the election results to be a massive vote of confidence in PAPA government the way the elections were run made clear that a considerable amount of people must have been voting PAP candidates out of fear for repercussions. The elections were not secret since a numbering system enables the government to trace the vote of every voter. Anyway now that the PAP is guaranteed of another term of five years in power it immediately showed its repressive face again, after a relatively lenient pre-election period. Two members of the opposition were arrested immediately after the returns were in; One candidate was detained under charges of stirring up racial feelings, a party official was sentenced to 18 months after being convicted of 'criminal libel' of the Prime Minister and another party official is sought for harping on the language policy of the PAP. Students from the Polytechnic protested against these repressive acts and this may have been the immediate aggravation which precipitated Raman's detention.

There is very little, if any, possibility for the people of Singapore to express any criticism of the government's methods and intentions. Thus the protest at this latest violation of human rights rights must come from outside. All the more so since the PAP has placed the arrest of Raman in the context of the Socialist International affair.

On Thursday Feb.10 1977, a lawyer G. Raman, 39, was arrested and detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA), which means that he is indefinitely detained without any form of process.

The pro-Government paper 'The Straits Times' of Feb. 11 described Raman as the link-man between local pro-communists and Euro-communists. A Ministry of Home Affairs statement said that Raman had taken over as link man and 'communication centre' from Dr. Poh Soo Kai, since the latter's re-detention last June 4. (Dr. Poh was accused of being the major link through whom information was passed to the left-wing of the Dutch and British Labour Parties in order to get the (PAP) People's Action Party expelled from the Socialist International (SI). He was first detention was from 1963 to 1974)

The Home Affairs Ministry statement contained the following allegations:

—'Raman worked with a group of Euro-communists to exert pressure through the Socialist International on the Singapore Government to obtain the release of hard-core communist detainees.'

—'At the same time he tried to instigate local groups, including students and workers, to resort to agitation as part of the plan to rebuild the Communist United Front (CUF) in Singapore.'



Health Service

Hil Before we go anyfurther we'd like to correct one of the telephone numbers which was in last week's edition of Salient. The number for the Free Ambulance Service is 722-999 —remember to call this number if you need to see a doctor at the weekend. (Emergencies only.)

We thought this week we'd tell you about the Nurses' Clinics, available to all students at the Health Centre.

MONDAYS: 10a.m.- 12noon=Dressings. 2.30p.m. — 4.30p.m.

Weight Control Clinic. If you want to lose or gain weight come down and see either Stephanie or Vivienne and in conjunction with Diana Jones in the Gym we may be able to help you.

TUESDAYS: 10a.m. — 12noon=Dressings. 2.30p.m. —4.30p.m.

Contraceptive Advice. This is available to

all enrolled students, see us either by yourself or with your partner and discuss any problems or queries you may have.

WEDNESDAYS: 10a.m. — 12noon=Dressings 2.30p.m. —4.30p.m.

Cervical Smears and Breast Examinations. This again is available to all female students and is an important part of preventive medicine.(It doesn't hurt either!!)

THURSDAYS: 10a.m.—12noon=Dressings. 2.30p.m. —4.30p.m.

Wart Day! Have your warts removed magically and painlessly by the nurses! Also this is VACCINATION day in the winter, so if you're travelling overseas come down and see us to make sure your vaccination certificate is in order. Are you up to date with your tetanus shots?

FRIDAY: 10a.m. —12noon = Dressings.

The 10a.m. —12noon daily clinic is for students who have to have dressings and for minor injuries and sprains. Remember, you don't need an appointment to see Stephanie and Vivienne. If you can't manage to come down at the appropriate clinic time, come down anyway and have a chat.

Watch this space again next week, we'll try and have something exciting here!!

WRAC report

— Sue Hanna,
 — Lindy Cassidy.

Saturday's meeting of the Women's Rights Action Group, was marred by the lack of debate. Apart from a mild attack from the Auckland Women's Rights Officer on National office in relation to the timing of the meeting, most proposals for action met little opposition.

This was probably due to the lack of any real organisation on most of the campuses and the timing of the meeting. However the women's rights representatives present from Otago, Victoria, Auckland and Waikato all seemed enthusiastic and future activity looks promising.

Proposals for action centred round the report of the Royal Commission on Contraception, Voluntary Sterilisation and Abortion, which is to be released publicly on the 18th and 19th April. Discussion centred round the need to bring students' attention to the "abortion question" and to emphasise that the delaying of the Gill Bill for one year is only a breathing space, not a victory.

Another important proposal for action was centred round the Domestic Purposes Benefit. To women, the Domestic Purposes Benefit makes the difference between being able to keep their children or having to give them up for adoption; being able to leave a relationship or being forced to stay because of financial hardship. The D.P.B. is barely adequate and usually must be supplemented by part-time work. Access to the benefit is jealously guarded and the Social Welfare Department at present seems to expect that once a woman is having a sexual relationship with a man, then he should support her. An example of this was in the Dominion on Friday March 25, in which two people in Hamilton claimed that they had been approached by members of the Social Welfare Department and had been asked to sign a declaration stating they would only have sexual relations once a fortnight.

In October of last year, many different organisations made submissions to the Government's special committee on the benefit. As the results of the report are very important to the lives of many solo parents, especially women, we felt at the meeting that it should be made public.

It was also felt that the whole issue of Domestic Purposes Benefit should receive wider attention from University students. To this end we discussed the possibility of having a speaker from the Single Mother and her Child, a letter-writing campaign, and approaching the N.Z. Association of Social Workers.

During the afternoon, WRAC was addressed by three invited speakers. First was Therese O'Connell, organiser for the Wellington Clerical Workers Union. This served a useful purpose in focussing attention on the wages of Social Workers.

The final speaker was Sue Green, Research Officer for the Pacific Women's Resource Centre in Suva

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The Road to the R

SALIENT interview of the Wellington and recently elected Trades Council.

Interview was done and photos were taken

Salient: The first question that I would like to ask you is your own background and how you got into the trade union movement?

Kelly: Well my own background is from Liverpool which seems to breed trade unionists. That's understandable if you appreciate just what Liverpool was like when I was a child. It's not all that much better now. But I was brought up in a family that had just two things: trade unionism and their religion, and so it was no great problem at all as far as me becoming really active in the trade union movement. It really took place in New Zealand, more by accident than any plan, because I was forced into a situation in which a group of workers in Dunedin were having problems which they were not prepared to tackle for fear of getting sacked. I was quite astounded, because the picture of New Zealand that had been painted to me, was of a great liberal country, and here I was faced with this situation where workers were not often prepared to open their mouths. The result of that was of course that I got the sack from that particular job. I eventually finished up in Kawerau and it was not many weeks before, again, I was thrust into a situation where there were problems, and they needed someone to do something about them and the job fell to me. I suppose really that's how it started and I've just continued on from there.

I've not been on any job where I've not been a job delegate. I went to Meremere power station and got a job and became the job delegate for the Drivers' Union and at one stage was Chairman of the Combined Unions Committee which was 13 or 14 unions. And from there I went to Manurewa to work on the disposal of sewage and in between those two jobs I suffered the heavy effects of blacklisting of transport operators. Everywhere I went for jobs and gave my name, which I refused to change, they told me there were no jobs. But people behind me were being employed and thus in time I was pushed out of the Trade Union movement because I couldn't get onto a job where there were other workers and I got onto a one-man coffee delivery job. That did not last long.

"..... The employers were completely ignoring the document they were signatories to."

I got on the Drivers Union Executive about 1956. I played an active role in the Union which was just starting to come right again after the 1951 industrial disputes.

In 1960 I went on the road full time in Hamilton as an organiser. I spent 13 months at that, but because of my wife's health, we had to leave Hamilton and then we came back here. I went to work for Certified Concrete in Wellington, and I was there from February of 1961 till April of 63. Then the tragic death of Chip Bailey took place, the then secretary of the Wellington Drivers Union. As I had gone on to their executive in 1962, and because of my previous background I was asked to take on the organisers job for them, which I did and stayed in that job until September of 1976 when I became Secretary of this union, (Cleaners, Caretakers etc Union.)

This year I was nominated for Trades Council President having always played a major role in all Trades Council decisions, regardless of what they were about. I'm just one of those people who, when they get into an organisation, I like to know about the activities and have some say as to how they are decided.

Salient: How hard do you think it is to survive as an organiser, given that those who were picked on were the ones in an organising role in the trade unions. Do you think it has changed from when you first started?

Kelly: Well I don't know, but I was sacked 13 times between 1954 and 1959, and 11 times in one year. All I can say is that looking back I made a lot of mistakes trying to go much faster than the workers that I was working with. I was the guy who was getting on the job and kicking up hell. But what I was kicking up about were things that were real, like breaches of the award. The employers were completely ignoring

the document that they were signatories to. But I did try to work too fast. . . I used to operate like the charge of the Light Brigade and unfortunately when I used to look around for the troops they were gone.

Salient: Perhaps we could pass on and look at the situation today. How do you think the trade union movement has developed since the since the nil wage order of 1968?

Kelly: It's not right to pick on 1968. Certainly 1968 was a year when there was a qualitative change in the trade union movement. But there was a lot of work going on to bring about that qualitative change, it didn't just happen in isolation. But I think that people tend to see 1968 in isolation.

People had done a lot of work to bring about the situation that happened in '68, certainly since '68 and as a result of '68, the unity of the trade union movement has developed and strengthened. The understanding of the Trade Union movement has developed and in fact, many workers today talk of the great show that we put up in '68 or of the great show that we put up in '70 and because of that, there is a much greater awareness. But as I said, much work was put in to bring about that change.

" I was brought up in a family that had just two things: trade unionism and religion. "

Salient: How do you see the role of the Trade Unions and the Government, especially with the National Government in power and the way they have acted towards the work force? How do you think the trade unions are faring against this assault?

Kelly: Well, assault is the right word, because that's what we have been subjected to since this Government has come into office. I would not want to suggest that everything was love and roses with the Labour Party, but at least we were much closer to the Labour Party and we were able to get them to consider our point of view, although not always to accept it, which is more than can be said about this Government which clearly set out in its manifesto a plank that said it was to destroy the Trade Union Movement.

Now they'll deny this: they'll deny that the ballots in the trade unions are designed to destroy the trade unions. They'll say that they are designed to bring democracy into the Trade Unions. That's a load of crap, because for the National Government to succeed in its economic policies it must destroy the Trade Unions, because the trade unions are, as Karl Marx said, the bulwarks of the working class against capitalism.

Now the National Party policy is manifestly clear if you look at the present de-registration of the Boilermakers Union and continued attacks on some unions, on the SUP, and individuals in the Trade Union Movement, the support they have been giving to the splinter groups in the trade union movement who have been doing the bosses work in some unions, particularly in the Wellington Drivers Union. People who were trying to take over the leadership of the Wellington Drivers Union were being supported by the National Party, and in fact, there were meetings taking place.

Their whole intent has not been to introduce democracy, but to smash the working class of this country. Now I would like to say that we are making no progress, I think it's a bit of a stalemate.

The attacks by the Prime Minister have polarised the country, the attacks on the Poms in the Trade Union movement have met with some success; and it's not been the Poms, it's been the Coms.

And of course if you are a Pommie Com, then you cop the lot.

This whole attack by them is probably one of the most dangerous situations that has developed in New Zealand in the 23 years that I've been in this country, and it's for this reason that I have joined the Labour Party, and in my

present position I'm going to urge everyone to join. Not that I believe that Labour will solve all our problems, but I am a political animal, or try to be, and the reality is that the only alternative to National as things stand is Labour.

I believe that the National Party is heading towards fascism in New Zealand. I believe that in this country we have to do everything possible to defeat the present government.

Certainly as far as the Labour Party is concerned, they are going to have to identify with the common people. They tend to want to be nice to all the people and they just can't be that. The present government is not nice to all the people. The present government is looking after the multi-national corporations and big business here in New Zealand and that's who they represent and they make no apologies for it. They tailor all their policies accordingly. What Labour has got to do is to tailor all of their policies to meet the great demands of all the common people of New Zealand, the ordinary people, the people who live here, and not the people outside of New Zealand. That's basically where the National Party is, and in fact heading more and more in that direction.

Salient: How far did you see the last Labour Government going in this direction?

Kelly: You mean in terms of coming closer historically to where it started.

Yes.
Well I think that there were some minor moves, but that you needed a magnifying glass to find them. Certainly the noises they were beginning to make and the noises they have been making since they were defeated are encouraging. At the moment is going through a tremendous upheaval, and I think they are starting to develop a philosophy which they have been devoid of for a long time. I think they are trying to develop a philosophy and I think that we can help them develop it. A principle rule of the trade union movement is to get into the Labour Party and to help them develop a philosophy and a policy that the people require. . . . all is not lost but we can't sit around attacking the National Government and not do something positive about it. The workers in New Zealand are not in a state of revolution. They are not waiting to charge up into the hills with guns, although there are one or two sections of the left who think they are.

The reality of it is that there are parliamentary elections and this government will be defeated in the parliamentary tradition and we've got to try and help that happen.

Salient: I take it that what you are saying is that you would not take this action in a normal state of politics, and it's a special case that has arisen, that has caused you to take this definite position.

Kelly: Quite right. If we had had, and it may sound strange saying it, but if we had had the government of Holyoake, despite Vietnam, and I don't want anyone to think that Holyoake was a good fellow, there would not be the harshness or the determination to set about what this government has set about doing.

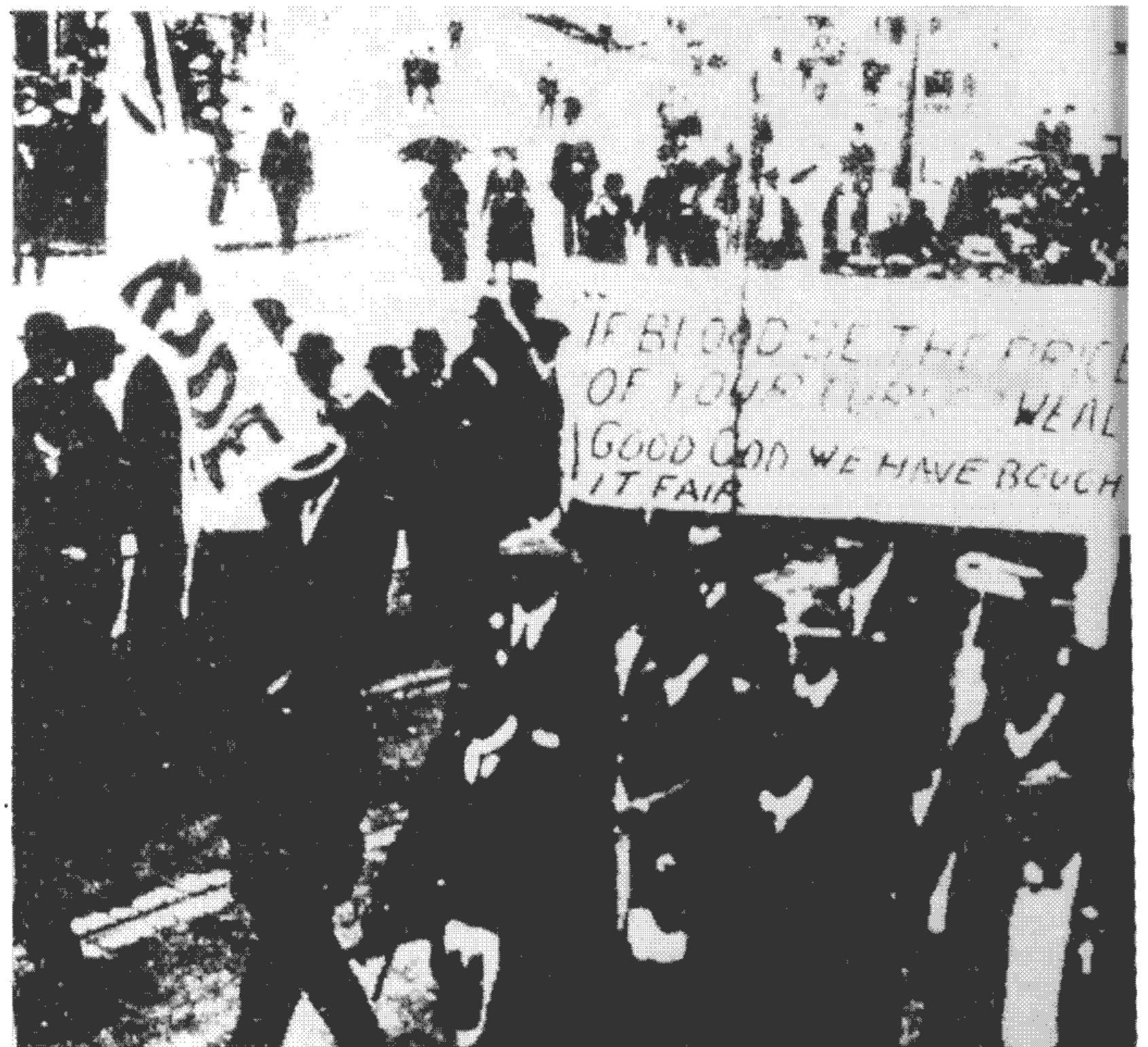
There was a bit more liberalism although it was because of the economic times. The Holyoake Government served capitalism according to the economic situation as it existed in that period, and I think that Muldoon is serving capitalism. The Holyoake administration could afford to be a bit more liberal because capitalism was not in the crisis it is now with Muldoon in government.

" for the National Government to succeed in its economic policies, it must destroy the Trade Unions. "

The velvet glove is now coming off the capitalist class because of the crisis, and the international capitalist class is showing their aggression. It's suffering from Muldoonism. The British people could have it tomorrow. There is a tremendous development taking place internationally and the forces of reaction are trying to hold back change and are banding together. The type of legislation that we are witnessing in New Zealand is the type of statement that is being made in many other countries.

However, we are in New Zealand with our great liberal traditions. People still bow when they pass Richard Seddon.

I say this, and I mean it; I've never, ever been frightened for the working class in this country, but I feel frightened for them now. I don't think they appreciate just what this government's intentions are.



The 1913 Waihi strike - one of the occasions in New Zealand

ght ~ and beyond

at Kelly, Secretary
and Caretakers Union,
ent of the Wellington

avid Murray and
tte Shum.

Salient: How do you think the working class have been affected by the economic restrictions which go back 10 years, but have snowballing effect on living standards? And how do you think they have been affected?

Kelly: We're carrying the whole burden. In this question of the economic restrictions, the Labour Party doesn't look to the National Party on it. We've been suffering from wage cuts since 1971 under both administrations. The Industrial Relations Bill which the Unions are most bitter about at the moment was given birth by the Labour Party. I can say that it was predictable but all the Labour Party has done since it's been in power is to refine it. The foundations for the strike on the Trade Union movement were introduced by the Labour Party, and unfortunately refined by the FOL.

Salient: Is that as it may I think that the Labour Party is now recognising that it has to alter its situation.

Salient: What question of de-registration of the Boilermakers Union — the Labour Party de-registered it first at Kawerau. On this question of de-registration the Labour Party is not in a very strong position to attack the National Party. The conciliation procedure which was introduced with where the employers become applicant parties in the proceedings, which is quite ridiculous, was Labour Party legislation. Going back to the question of economic hardship... we've got a new poor developing in New Zealand, particularly in the union that I work in today, despite the longer hours, the basic of pay is only \$84.20 plus the cost of living. It's got worse and will get worse. The differences in standards of living are more sharply portrayed today than they were ten or twenty years ago.

Salient: We've got to change that. The Labour Party says that they are going to change that — so if they intend to change it then we have got to force them.

Salient: If they succeed in getting back into office; they don't tackle some of the causes and just continue to deal with the effects — then they won't be in office very long.

Salient: How important is it to raise political consciousness in the Unions and how will this be affected by the new Industrial Legislation?

Kelly: I think that the Trade Unions will ignore the legislation. Look — they can write all the legislation they like — it will not stop trade unions making political statements, carrying out political resolutions and encouraging them to take political action. If the Government chooses to use its legislation, we will meet that situation at that time. But this is the thing that we're up against — the Government are either complete idiots or complete fascists, because it won't succeed. I have started to look at Amin and recognising there are different economic circumstances. But the legislation will just not work. It's not worked in the case of the Boilermakers Union. Mr Gordon thought that with the stroke of a pen, that by de-registering the Boilermakers Union, that he had removed the problem. It didn't of course. Their attempt to use the political legislation fell down badly.

Salient: However, the Boilermakers are a very strong Union. What will happen when the Government starts attacking the weaker unions?

Kelly: I think what people outside the movement do not realise is that when we get into a confrontation with the Government over the political legislation, if they touch one union — they touch all of them.

Salient: If they attempt to use the political legislation, then the upheavals of 1951, 1968 and 1976 will seem like a picnic. One's got to realise that they are not only dealing with NZ workers, but that they will find that they will be getting embroiled in an international conflict both with the ACTU and the TUC. I don't know if this Government will find the state of our trading relations, for which they are responsible, can engage in that kind of thing. Of course — they are mad enough to do so.

Salient: We've got people leading this country, that with some of the things that they do — could mentally certify them. They're crazy enough to do them.

Salient: Do you think that the FOL is a strong enough body to unite trade unions to resist the assaults by the Government?

Kelly: Let's use a practical example — the visit to Wellington of the Truxtun. The Government threatened hell-fire and brimstone. What they were not going to do! But the Combined Waterfront Unions and Transport Unions did not back off on the Truxtun.

Salient: The whole matter of the Truxtun was why the Boilermakers got de-registered. The Government, because of the way that it carried on, had to give the public something. It had made so many wild statements — and they de-registered the Boilermakers.

Salient: Con Devitt expressed it very well when he said, "the Lion roared and they kicked the cat." There wasn't an industrial dispute in existence when it happened. There was a lockout at Cables — there was no dispute on the BNZ site. People got confused and thought that there was. The BNZ site was working — the trouble came some weeks after the de-registration.

Salient: Getting back to your point. Whether it is the Shop Assistants or any Union — if the Government tries to use its political legislation then there will be a stand by the whole Trade Union movement. And I think that we will be surprised, despite the fact that Government may be operating on the basis of thinking that there is an apathetic mass out there, if this Government attempts to restrict the freedoms that we have had to engage in politics, although some have not done this; if that Unions see those rights being taken away from them, there will be a stand-up fight and as I said earlier, the Unions will fight as a mass.

Salient: For the benefit of students, do you think that you could outline why you see the democratic right to organise in Trade Unions as such a crucial one?

Kelly: If we haven't got the time in the workplace to discuss collectively the problems of workers then we have got nothing. We just haven't got anything at all.

Salient: Students for instance have the right to attend meetings when things are bugging them, whether it is bursaries or political meetings. I know that the University is a different world from the factory floor, but our only defence is the right of our workers to organise themselves in the workplace and to collectively bargain for wages and conditions.

Salient: What I would suggest to students, in all due respect, because I have had a working relationship with students. That when they go to work in the holidays, that they make sure that they know who the Union is, what the Union's policy is, help if they can — and if they can't — don't get in the way.

Salient: Too often I have had situations where students have come into the Unions and played quite a reactionary role. Voted against correct decisions of workers because it had affected them. If workers voted to stop work, then some students would vote against the stoppage.

Salient: Apart from this, what is the best action for students to take, given the present state of the country?

Kelly: Where possible students should identify with the struggles of the Trade Union movement in as much as carrying resolutions. Stopping study I don't see as a workable proposition. Certainly if they see such things happening as the de-registration of the boilermakers, they should recognise the attacks that are being made on democracy.

“... I've never, ever, been frightened for the working class in this country, but I feel frightened for them now.”

Salient: If the Government succeeds in smashing us, then the students will be next. If the Government attacks the student movement, the trade unions will be right in there with the students, because we would see very clearly that they would be doing so, because students have played a very active role in the protest movements. If the Government did attack students organisations or movements, then the Trade Union movement would step in and start taking action. We see clearly that if they smash the student movement, then where next? Students should see the reverse — that if they succeed in smashing the Union movement, the students will come under attack because of their strong role in protesting against these restrictions, and other issues.

Salient: It would warm my heart to see a massive demonstration of students against the industrial legislation. To get down to Parliament and demand that the Government observe workers' rights as under the ILO conventions — to organise



ourselves, to have bargaining rights, to be free of wage regulations, to be free of state interference.

Salient: Other ways that the students can assist, are that when they see a strike, by getting in touch with that Union and asking, "How can we help?"

Salient: Worker-student participation is very important and I have been saying this for many years. I think it goes astray because of the conservatism of the Trade Union movement in the first instance, and on the other hand, the students going way out. With both parties accommodating and respecting each other the relationship would be much better.

Salient: The Universities have changed. There are not as many workers' kids going to University as I would like, but there are a damn site more than there were in the last century and even in the last 30 or 40 years. Students have acted as strike breakers in the history of this country and they could do it again. They probably will do it again. If the trade union movement ignores the students, then in turn the students will ignore the trade union movement. So it's a matter of fostering and developing fraternal relationships with NZUSA for instance at the national level, and on the local level with the local student union executives. This has a very important place because if there is a major stoppage we might be able to stop the students knifing us in the back.

Salient: How well do you think the unions protect the women workers in particular?

Kelly: ... Well I wouldn't tackle a question like that and I wouldn't answer for all unions, and I don't think it would be right for me to answer it.

Salient: All I can say, is that I protect workers — male or female.

“... if you are a Pommie com, then you cop the lot...”

Salient: I honestly think that this whole matter of females in the labour force and some of the things that are being said on the periphery isn't really useful in getting development in the Trade Unions. I honestly believe that unless the women's groups stop and have a hard look at where they are going with the present situation in New Zealand in which it will not be a matter of wanting to go to work, but having to go to work; that instead of being able to exist on one wage to keep the family, it will be mandatory for man and wife to keep the family.

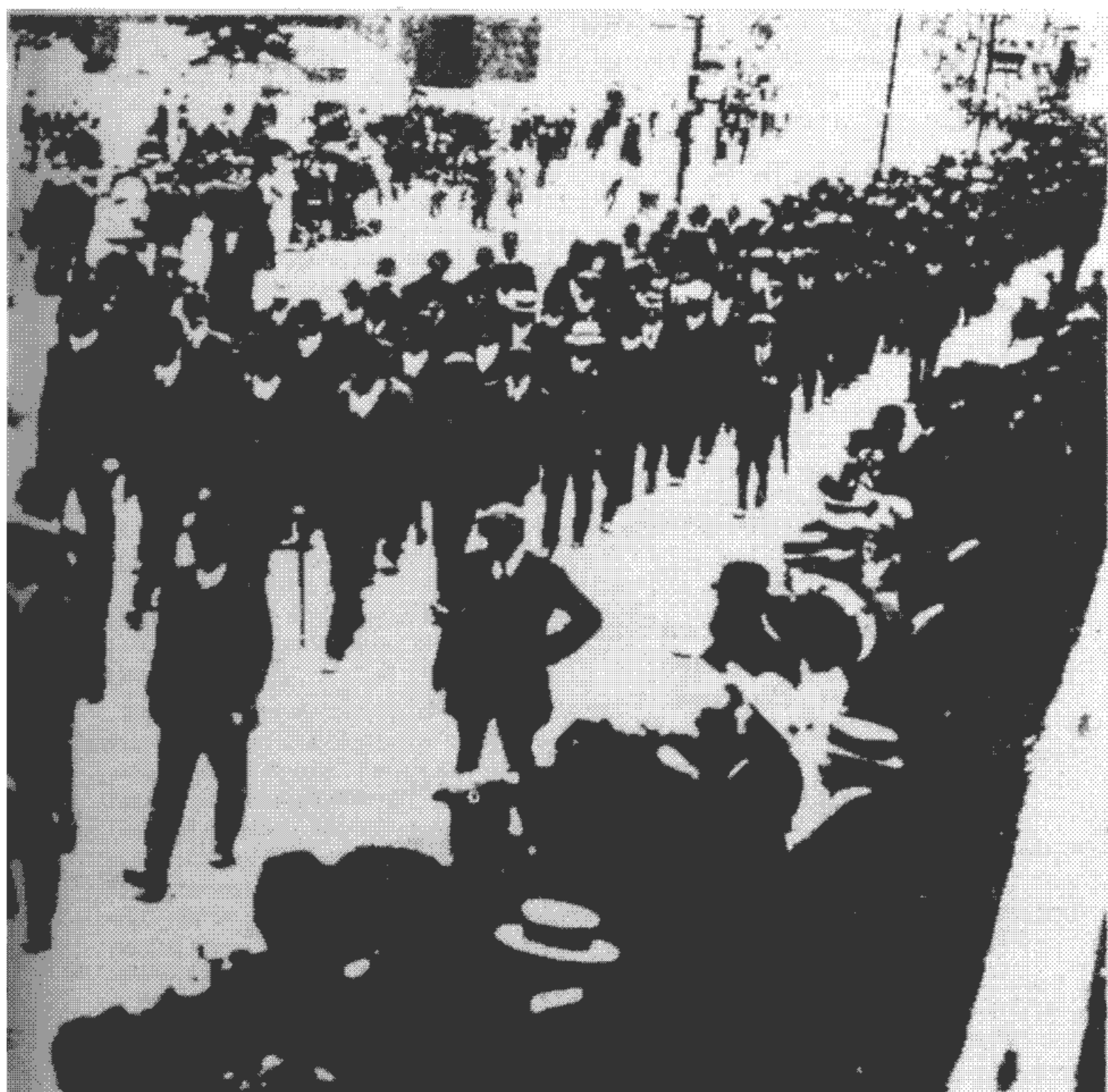
Salient: I honestly believe that the best ways of protecting females in the work force and protecting the family is to make sure that the bloody movement is galvanised into getting a living wage based on a 40 hour week, with one breadwinner. Lots of women are working because they have to. They'd much sooner be at home; they'd much sooner be bringing up the kids. They are not demanding creches at work, because they'd much sooner be at home, but they are out at work because the old man is not earning enough to keep the family. And it's not helping their situation in my opinion to be pushing in this direction for creches at factories.

Salient: Every woman should be able to work — but it should be on the basis of choice, not because they need to supplement the family income.

Salient: Some of the workers in our Union start work at 7.30 at night and get home at 5.00 in the morning. If anyone tells me that they want to work, then they're off their heads. Those women would sooner be at home with their kids. I see dangers in this whole thing.

Salient: The boss class — their desire is to have Mum working, have Dad working, and if you can get the kids into the creche at the factory they might be able to get a couple of hours out of the kids as well.

Salient: My general position is that I protect workers, and that I do not favour any, except I make the exception in the Drivers Union where women were driving with too heavy a load then we would ask the bosses to give her some help. If there was something that she couldn't do then we would get a man to help her. But she still gets equal pay.



History where class struggle has erupted into open violence.

Great expectations

IN WHICH A REFERENCE IS MADE TO GERARD COUPER'S 'THERE YOU GO—BRINGING CLASS INTO IT AGAIN.'

In our Middle Class Institution believing that, good or bad, only we have the advantage of Education . . . seems to be a bit of a half-truth.

Education, I also worked during Christmas and before, and I was learning something; and from outside of that institution, I had the idea that education equals becoming familiar with something, and seeing its consistency. . . if it's familiarity with literature, or history, it has a bit of a disadvantage in being experience-third-hand.

If it's working in a bank, the limitation is that it's man-made consistency, not much inspiration from anything else.

Working as a carpenter, the ways of the world are mirrored by wood wanting to split a bit of healthy doubt about the next move, you could call it empiricism. But nobody wants to listen to a carpenter, which is where perhaps university education has the advantage, it gives you power to influ-

ence — be a teacher.

But the Quiet American of Graham Greene's novel was also a university product — used his influence to blow up Vietnamese, thought he was a saviour.

So: Healthy carpenter's doubt; misguided idealism; and Negativity. So much NEGATIVITY! Electric cool aid acid test, WHY THE FUCK SHOULD I WORK IF I DON'T WANT TO? Throw the baby out with the bathwater; throw out the body-touching of the gay-gordans with the rigidity of the Formal Occasion. Do nothing. Make a consistent circle in your head.

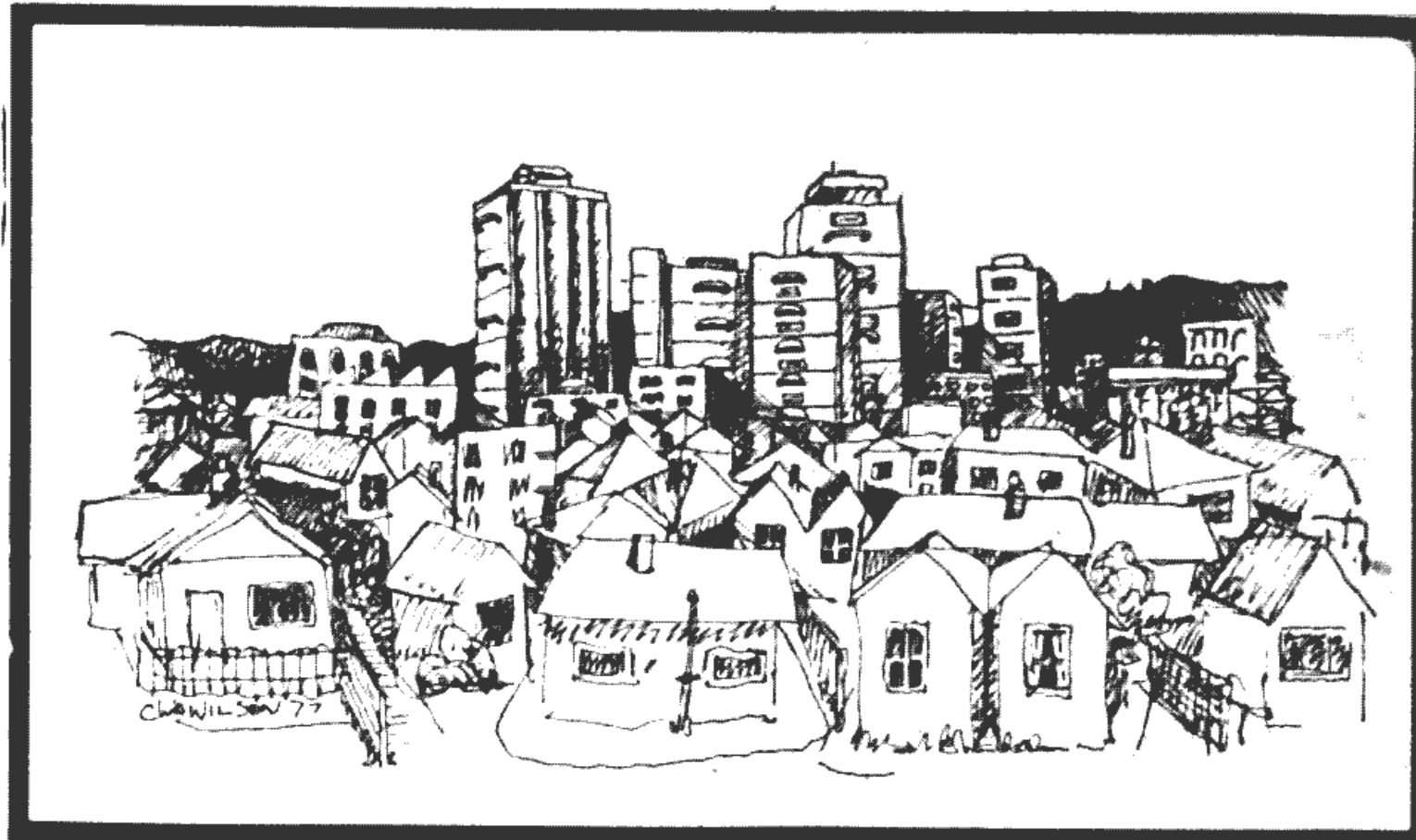
Or maybe; go to university, get your experience from a certified dealer, in a nice cardboard box.

It's been handled a bit when you get it though.

Here's a bit of Marc Chagall (a Russian artist) remembering, back in 1919, a bit of the same thing:

"All those house-painters, the old bearded ones and their apprentices alike, began to copy my cows and my horses.

And on October 25th, my multicoloured animals swung all over the town, swollen



with revolution.

The workers marched up singing the International

When I saw them smile, I was sure they understood me.

The leaders, the Communists, seemed less gratified.

Why is the cow green and why is the horse flying through the sky, why?

What's the connection with Marx and Lenin?

and a poem by Norman MacCaig, a Scotsman. . . Old Maps and New.

There are spaces where infringements are possible. There are notices that say:

Trespassers will be welcome.

Pity leaks through the roof of the Labour Exchange.

In the Leader's pocket, wrapped in the plans for the great offensive, are sweets for the children and a crumpled letter.

There are spaces still to be filled before the map is completed — though these days it's only in the explored territories that men write, sadly, Here live monsters.

— Chris Wilson.

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HEWLETT  PACKARD

(Answer X =

AM1139

and while the voices spoke of hope and freedom, the Little Mother of the Earth saw the junkies and the losers retreating painfully into a purgatory policed by H. Sapiens, Esq. into ostracism and condemnation, afraid to attempt a return; the wall of hostility

and while the voices spoke of love and brotherhood, the Little Mother of the Earth saw balloon-bellied children with eyes made old by a premature overdose of death and unshed tears, while blackmarketeers pedalled milk-biscuit consciences and the Pope advertised his private art-collection before illiterate millions.

and while the death-squads marched with hammers and axes into the woods and chopped little old ladies into matchsticks, while right-thinking cops killed a few niggers for a bit of a laugh the Little Mother of the Earth thought that here was a kid she'd have aborted if she'd known of its monstrous deformities. . . and she thought then of a memo received that morning: "Serious shortage of poppies, milk-biscuits, old ladies and live niggers. Have run out of room at Dimbaza."

— Rire Scotney

Barefoot Poem.

Why am i regarded with such Suspicion? Do i look like a baby-basher? a blackmailer? or (Most Dreadful) a student?!!! i suppose it wouldn't simply be that in order to avoid aggravating an extremely throbby sort of blister, i am forced to walk through town (to be said in a whisper)

barefoot?

— Rire Scotney

Film

Psychopaths in the living room

Network, directed by Sydney Lumet.
Screenplay by Paddy Chayefsky,
Awarded four Academy Awards

Despite the proliferation of Academy Awards, this is a remarkable film. Not only does it deliver a message of political, economic and social importance, but it effectively ensures that its audience is implicated by the message. That the film succeeds so well on a thematic level is due to Chayefsky's Award winning screenplay. We are all familiar with the horror movie and its uncontrollable monsters. Chayefsky's concern is also with an uncontrollable monster, but there the similarity ends. The gothic monster threatens a small number of people for a short time. Chayefsky is dealing with the long term effects on the lives of several million people.

The concepts behind this film are immense, and without being superlative, almost Shakespearean. It is a brilliant satire; the characters are our representatives on screen and come to symbolise a state of mind rather than a state of being, which after all, is a major theme of the film: 'You're beginning to believe the illusions we're spinning here! You're beginning to think the tube is reality and that your lives are unreal.'

Howard Beale (Peter Finch), an aging newsreader, is fired because his programme has poor ratings, and threatens suicide live on the network news. The technical crew in the control room hardly react. They're so preoccupied putting the news on, no one really takes much notice of what has been said. To quote from 'The Man Who Fell To Earth': 'Television shows you everything, but tells you hardly anything.'

Already the product is divorced from the means of production. The news has a mesmerizing effect. People absorb what is being shown, but they don't think about it. 'If it's on television it must be true!'

Indirectly, Beale's suicide 'note' is a hit with the all important ratings. **Network** fantasises what could happen if ratings, and their corollary profit, become an obsession. Max Schumaker, (William Holden) is fired as News Director because he still has a few scruples about how the department should be run, and is replaced by a woman who has no scruples and a lot of ideas on how to make the network pay its way. As a result of her appointment, the news programme is dressed up to resemble a religious revival meeting complete with soothsayers, stained glass windows, a studio audience and starring Howard Beale as a self-proclaimed media-ordained 'mad prophet of the airway.' Having undergone a genuine mystical experience, Beale is given free licence to rail at the audience about society's shortcomings. 'But me? Why me?' he asks himself. 'Because?' some inner voice replies, 'you're on television, dummy!' A prophet can no longer afford to cry in the wilderness if he wants people to take any notice. 'And why do so many of you watch television? Because only 33% of you read books! That's why!

Such is Beale's impact that he can get his audience of millions to shout slogans out of their windows or to inundate the White House with telegrams. 'This tube can make or break presidents popes, prime ministers. This tube is the most awesome goddamned force in the whole godless world. And woe is us if he ever falls into the hands of the wrong people' But who are 'the wrong people? Beale is unwittingly manipulated by his programme department, which is manipulated by the company head, who is manipulated by a big business corporation, who will even allow a group of ultra-leftist urban guerillas, and a representative of the American Communist Party to take over a TV series called 'The Mao Tse-Tung Hour.' The guerillas send in home movies of their exploits and a programme is built around the event. The network is actually promoting crime in order to obtain better ratings. The show becomes a monster and devours its co-habitants. Despite the best of intentions the communists are sucked into the vortex. A cacophonous scene with the guerillas, their lawyers, the communists and the TV company representatives wrangling over rights from the show remains a brutal warning to those prepared to compromise their long term beliefs for a short-term conversion of the populace. And why does the capitalist network allow this programme to be shown . . . because it's new, exciting, popular, good for ratings and good for business.

Beale himself offends against the corporate heads by attacking the monopolistic tendencies of the company he works for. Howard Jensen, the company head, makes sure he undergoes another 'mystic' experience, personally administered. Beale begins preaching Jensen's doctrine of 'Cosmic Capitalism,' but ironically, the ratings begin to fall — Chayefsky's screenplay can be extremely subtle.

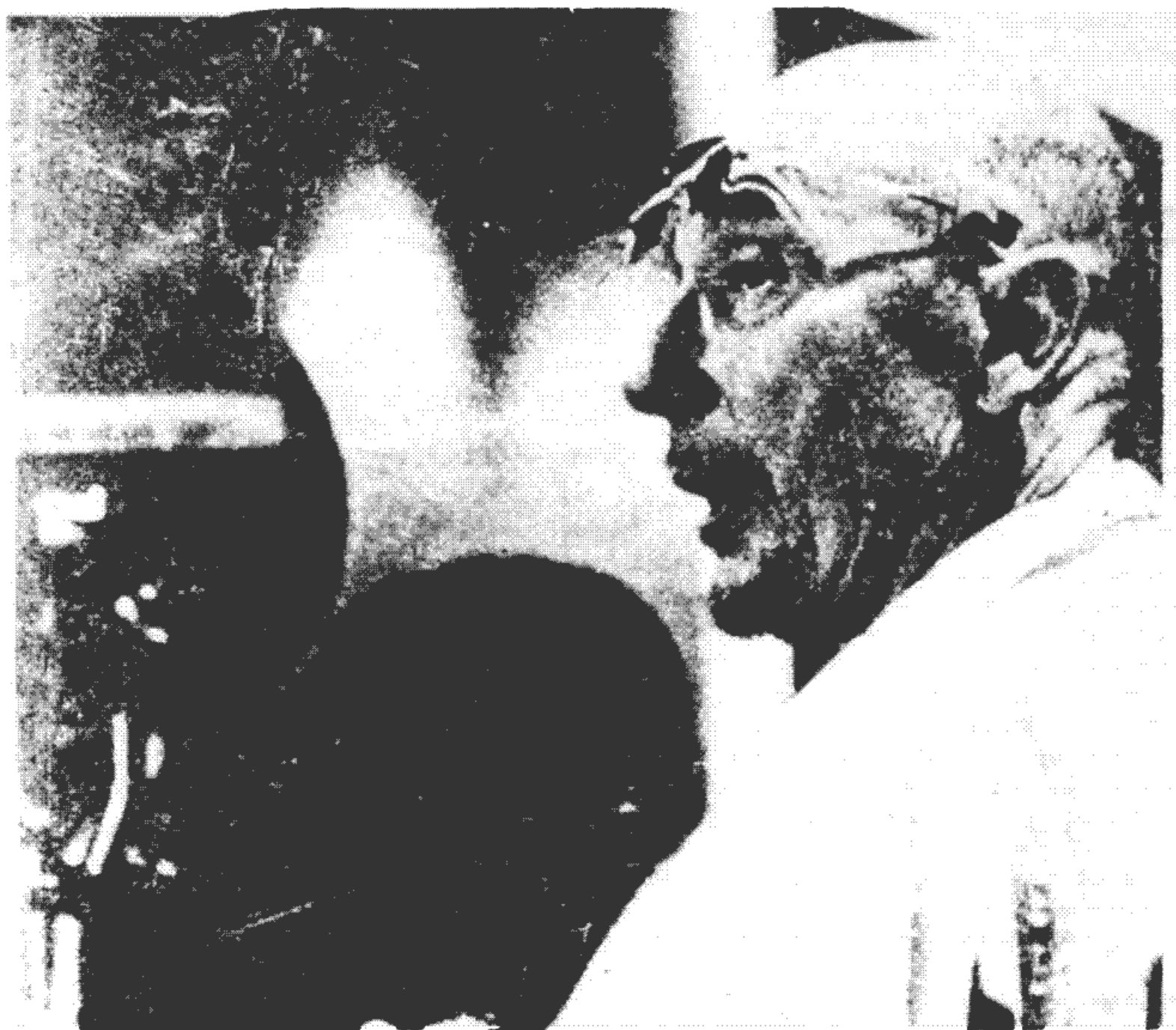
The impact of **Network** is not restricted to the screenplay. Director Sydney Lumet has mapped out the visual scenario just as painstakingly. The opening scenes are presented in a documentary style, reminiscent of **All the Presidents Men**, and is carefully developed into an absurdist and surreal nightmare while keeping a semblance of 'sane.' normality. Peter Finch generates an almost messianic quality after his physical and spiritual transformation. Beale is sincere, but he's naive and he's unbalanced. He starts off a protagonist, but quickly becomes a victim of a force he doesn't understand. A difficult role, Finch does it complete justice.

William Holden as Schumaker, the craggy news editor, gives good support, but is completely upstaged by Dorothy Straight as his wife. In one of the outstanding scenes of the film, Schumaker tells his wife he is leaving her. Seldom are scenes like this handled so maturely and sensitively, so completely lacking in melodrama — a la TV soap opera. The disappointing performance came from Faye Dunaway (who incidentally won an Academy Award for best actress in this role.) As the hard-headed programme director she is unimpressive. Diana is a person devoured and spiritually possessed by television. This role had a lot of potential, but Dunaway appears superficial and plastic with a slight touch of the barbie-doll.

Despite its lapses into occasional moralising schmaltz, and some heavy-handed philosophy on the nature of man and TV, the themes are well sustained throughout. A very wordy, and for the most part, static film, it cannot afford to get bogged down by too many incidental reflections on the nature of things. A remarkable film all the same; one well worth seeing.

— Richard Mays.

Avant-Garde at the Gallery



Len Lye: "To me, the medium ain't the magic. The gene pattern does the twanging . . . The medium is no more magical than is a flashlight to an lbo, or a laser to a truck-driver."

LEN LYE Film Festival
Preview by Simon Wilson.

"The new brain of science is nearing a stage where it could apply its search for factual truth to the nature of creativity and 'value'. In the meanwhile we can reason why art is perhaps the only way these two qualities can be isolated for what in fact they are. Myth can tell the story of individuality, art can represent it, and science could verify its truth." Len Lye.

A New Zealander who left as soon as he could in search of a movie camera and has been largely ignored here ever since, Len Lye is the inventor of the 'direct film technique', a leading exponent of 'tangible motion sculpture' and formulator of the theory of 'art in the genes'. To mark his first Australasian exhibition, currently being staged at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery in New Plymouth, the National Art Gallery is holding a 'festival' of films on and by Lye, with accompanying wall display.

The direct film technique is, says Lye, "the means by which you directly etch, that is scratch with a needle, right into the celluloid, or paint right on to the celluloid so that the colour sticks to it. . . if you also synchronise the visual accenting with sound accenting of music with say, a rhythmic beat, then you've got something you can look at. The visual image, that is, the picture, is a combination of abstract shapes wiggling around synchronised with the abstract sound or music you hear. One enhances the other, one sharpens up the other."

All four of Lye's films being shown were made in this fashion. **Colour Box** (1935), advertising reduced parcel rates, was the first of its kind. Both it and **Trade Tattoo** (1937), a look at the workaday world, were made under John Grierson at the British GPO Film Unit. **Colour Box** won a special award at the Brussels International Film Festival, and both are considered by Lye to be among his best. **Musical Poster** (1940), made in London for the **March of Time** series, is a subtle war propaganda film. **Free Radicals** (1958), also an award winner at Brussels, is Lye's black and white swan song:

rising costs and public apathy to short fine art films were forcing him into other fields.

Lye is best known for his kinetic sculptures, often seen as a bridge between fine art and theatre. **The Loop** (1965), for example, is a twenty foot long long circular strip of polished steel resting on a magnetised and motorised bed. When the motor is activated the strip changes and undulates viciously. **Fountain** (1963) is a spray of stainless steel rods joined at the motorised base, which vibrate and reflect light in ever changing patterns. Lye has said that this **March of Time** film reflected his own art by "not a sausage of any sort." The two documentaries, **Walls Come Tumbling Down** and **Art for Tomorrow** can be expected to present numerous examples of the sculptures and should also prove invaluable in assessing the development from film which did occur.

"I think," says Lye, "that we have to not only create art but the way we respond to it involves the very essence of our being insofar as it sharpens our own sense of essential selfness. . . There are moments in life when we all get this feeling. For example, a sunset or whatnot, when at the time of experience we are at one with nature, if not the universe. Well I think why we feel this sort of thing is simply because we've got a gene pattern that is chock-a-block full of information about nature. This gene pattern stems right out of nature, and we've each got our own version of one; each one's got a distinct version. But when we hit that level of genetic information where we are imprinting our gene pattern essence into a work of art, which is the one thing I think art is all about, when we imprint that quality of our genetic make-up, the art lover feels that essence through the old brain, not the new brain which is in our intellect, but out of the old sensory, intuitive brain, which senses the imprint of this guy's marvellous feeling. . . it enhances your own inner sense of being."

Broadly speaking, this is not a new approach: Lye's contribution is a visionary attack on the fuzzy acceptance of intuitive response. The work of this artist/scientist/philosopher should not be missed.

Len Lye films:
April 4-17.
Mon-Fri 1p.m.
Sat-Sun 3p.m.
Education Gallery of the National Art Gallery.
(Limited seating available.)

Varsity Preview

by Simon Wilson.

The Godfather Tues 2.15.
Director: Francis Ford Coppola.

Fair dealings and foul in the Mafia as a medium for Coppola to spread his wings, Marlon Brando to cap his career, and Robert Duvall, Al Pacino and John Casale to prove their worth. Scored by Fellini's composer Nino Rota. If you were a bit worried by **Part Two** go back and see this: it's much better.

The Go-Between Wed 2.15.
Director: Joseph Losey.

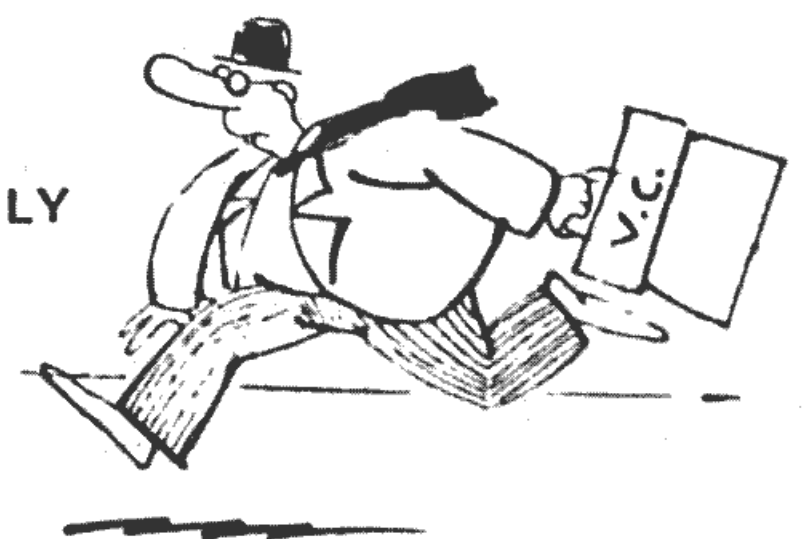
Grand Prize Winner at Cannes. Julie Christie and Alan Bates both give excellent performances in this film about a society lass and her secret liaison with a farm hand. Losey makes much of Harold Pinter's screenplay to evoke the social atmosphere before WW1, and maintains fine cinematic control throughout. Margaret Leighton is right up to the mark as Christie's mother. A period film not often equalled.

Small Ads

To those who live among us, whose life evolves in "Emerald Coloured Rainbows" perhaps if Mohamed cannot come to the mountain, perhaps, once again, one day soon, the Mountain will again come to Mohamed. Or we could meet in the middle? (Hawaii would be nice), and then it might be possible for romance and reality to become one.
Ann Braid, Apt 312, 2010 Ulster Road, NW Calgary, Alta, Canada.

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Drama

'The Constant Wife'

Circa's 'Constant Wife' is a faithful presentation, as faithful to period detail as it is to the themes it espouses. The design is a masterpiece of congruity. The set a discreetly diluted Art Deco abomination — the costumes flattering the individuals and complementing the group. Only the strains of Strauss's 'Trish Trash' Polka, and similarly ill-chosen pieces disturbed the atmosphere of affected elegance.

Before assessing Circa's interpretation of it, we can ask ourselves why the play was chosen. Certainly within the genre of 20's comedies it had audience appeal (which invariably prove their popularity by extending seasons of such worthy classics as Coward's 'Private Lives.') But why the 'Constant Wife'? 'Is it the heart-twanging struggle of a woman liberating herself within marriage — or is it aesthetic brilliance coupled with Maugham's undeniable wit? I think the latter.

Heroine Constance, is no less than Wonder Woman — Maugham's mouthpiece in which half the seeds of a utopic marriage are sown. Little wonder she's hardly believable. When Maugham gives us the end-product of her thinking, with none of the introspection and tortuous self-seeking that must have preceded it. Consequently she she operates in an emotional vacuum fed by such paralogisms that would enable her to buy her way out of sexual fidelity in her marriage.

She cites the modern wife as a prostitute who, 'doesn't deliver the goods,' but she can just as easily be labelled a prostitute even if it is an inverted kind. Her friend Marie-Louise can be accused of tactful understatement when saying, 'Oh, but you are cold Constance...' because she's downright frigid!



Constance - no less than wonder women - or downright frigid? And then there's John.

However this is no reflection on the actress (Frances Edmond.) Her's was the unenviable task of humanising a paragon, but her obvious talent and intelligence combined with an over-awing presence, salvaged the few poignant moments in the play. Her husband Peter McCauley, provides sharp contrast, to her with his sympathetic naturalism.

Throughout the play there is an extraordinary range of acting styles with McCauley at one pole and Prue Langbein's caricatured Marie-Louise at the other. One hopes Miss Langbein is not to be stereo-typed as a 'twitty-twenties' lady, as her Marie-Louise shows she has indeed perfected it.

considered fuel for feminism, which a reading of the script implies. In performance Constance's ideology is unsubtle and her person inaccessible to the audience. We remember her bitchy sister and how the ridiculous Mortimer made us laugh, and possibly we might have some vague recollection of speeches about economic freedom for women — but that is all they were, speeches.

Possibly Maugham was wrong in choosing a comedy of manners as a vehicle for his thoughts when we laugh at their expense. So Circa can be forgiven for not inspiring us and congratulated for amusing us a great deal.

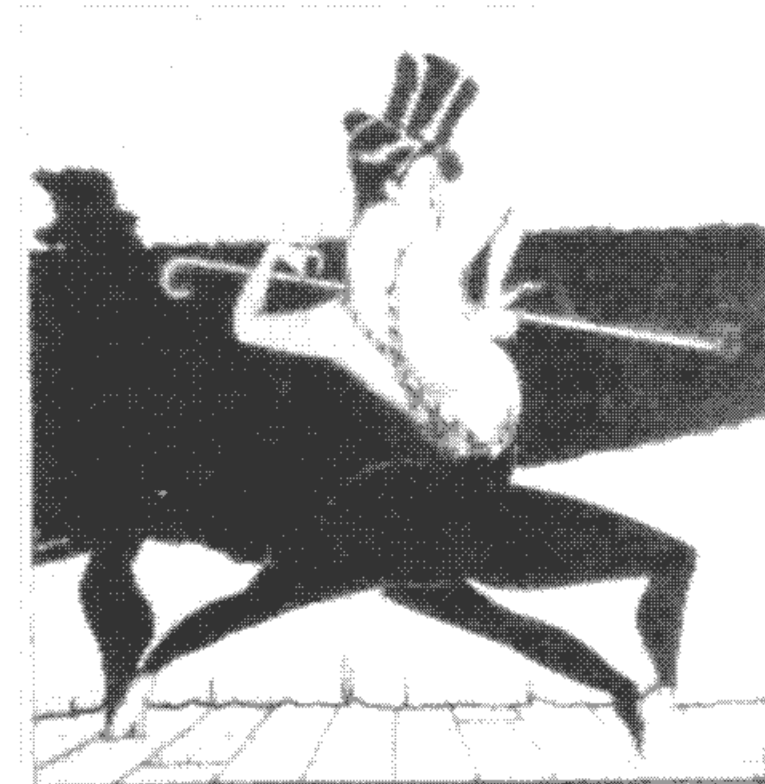
— Elizabeth Ross.

Das Kapital On the Strut...

The Capital Strut — Sunday night cabaret with Red Mole at The Balcony, reviewed by Allan Smith.

Not only me. Idi Amin and Piggy Muldoon were there too. A sort of international weight-watcher for hysterical heavies. And the Queen. And the queens, for that matter. In fact every heavy in town and his consort were there, dragging away, till the air was thick. Smoke, spunk, and spots. Red Mole country. Cabaret country.

Cabaret as a theatrical genre used to enjoy a tremendous popularity in the twenties. Probably one reason was that years before its time it was breaking down barriers between actors and acted at. Cabaret was practising 'Total Theatre' long before anyone thought about formulating it. For cabaret simply cannot function without a continuous and tangible dialogue between the



Gil Fraser



— James and Evan

Preview

The Odds Against Evan — written and directed by Anthony Taylor, commencing April 6 at Downstage, 'Latenite.'

Anthony Taylor has long been one of the notable contributors to the country's repertoire of indigenous radio plays. This is in fact the circumstances of the conception and birth of Odds against Evan. In the next series of Downstage latenight shows at Halfway Up (following Finnegan's Wake and Pas de Dada dada — see SALIENT March 28,) Anthony Taylor is to transform his script into flesh and blood (and from a perusal of the script, probably much paint as well!)

Mr Taylor provides the following synopsis of his play.

"Day dawns like any other for our 'artist hero' Evan; out of work — out of food — out of sorts. Life would be easier hidden underneath the blankets — obliterated by sleep.

"But people intrude — James, James the Righteous, suddenly also out of work and seeking assistance, descends from his upstairs flat to pick and niggle at Evan's life and art — a random preacher confirms the morning with the information that "Jesus saves."

"Forced, finally, to establish himself anew in this new day, Evan moves toward the creation of a great art work. Spurred on by the miracles of our modern consumer society and an unassailable belief in himself he shapes and distorts friends and events to bring about an extraordinary climax."

It is difficult to say more about the play without revealing exactly what is the 'extraordinary climax.' While such a revelation would not seriously damage the dramatic effectiveness of the play, there is a certain element of surprise in the bizarreness of the ending. So suffice to say that in my opinion the play should prove extremely interesting theatre. Much better, in fact, than the *depouillee* form it was originally aired in. Its easy and flowing style lends itself to an interesting stage presentation. Yet the very bizarreness of the ending poses no mean directorial challenge. It will indeed be interesting to see how Taylor the director rises to the challenge of Taylor the playwright. In fact to mark the occasion, Richard Mays has agreed to doff his cockcomb and take his critics hat out of mothballs. Watch for his review in next week's Salient.

Allan Smith.




performers and the immediate surrounding human milieu. Perhaps it was because of this close dialogue that cabaret came to articulate a very immediate social and political consciousness. Whatever, this direct socio-political articulation became one of the hallmarks of cabaret, and is, I think, the essence of the genre. Perhaps the most accessible example we have had of this in recent years is the Lenny Bruce story, and on the local scene, certain student revues.

In Cabaret Strut Red Mole have rediscovered this sort of vitality. They are in their element riding the tension between entertainment and socio-political comment, for they have developed a high degree of excellence in performance skills with which they match their equally high powered attack on all that represents and supports the status quo. Mediums and messages. Obviously in cabaret they are mutually dependent. And where the Strut is strongest is when they fuse, such as Alan Brunton's "Liberty Bus."

But the problem with the Strut is that Red Mole are too good for the rest of the show, and too few to carry the entire show themselves. There were times when the performance took on a somewhat desperate 'for God's sake do something to entertain them for a while' tone. In fact had the patrons not been so determined to be entertained by this so welcome departure from the traditional theatrical ennui, there could have been nasty lulls in the cabaret spirit. But this is not the problem of the conception of the Strut, nor of the artistic excellence of the Mole itself. Merely organisational. They need good supporting acts. So if you have a good cabaret number take it on a Strut. The show runs weekly and never the same. The Mole is a vintage Red. It can only improve week by week.



— Lloyd Scott and John Barnes

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HEY, WOW! I'M HUNGRY! LET'S STOP AND GET SOMETHING TO EAT!

WE HAVE TO BE REALLY CAREFUL! SOME OF THOSE LITTLE RESTAURANTS DON'T CLEAN THEIR FOOD VERY WELL!

THE LITTLE RESTAURANTS ARE CLEANER BECAUSE FEWER PEOPLE TOUCH THE FOOD!

YOU'LL BE SORRY WHEN YOU'RE DOING THE...

CHEE-O-WAWA CHA CHA!

THAT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD ONE! LET'S STOP THERE!

RESTAURANTE LA TAPAZA DE TURISTAS

YOU GUYS CAN EAT HERE IF YOU WANT TO! I'M GOING TO THE MARKET AND GET SOMETHING GOOD!

WOW! I'LL TAKE ONE OF THOSE AND A COUPLE OF THOSE AND SIX OF THOSE AND...

LATER:

UH-OH, RHINEAS! I'M AFRAID YOU WERE RIGHT! I'M GETTING SICK TO MY STOMACH!

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I'M GETTING A LITTLE QUEASY TOO! I MUST HAVE EATEN TOO MUCH OF THAT DAMN FRESH FRUIT!

I'M GETTING SICK TOO, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY!

I WAS TOLD THAT I WOULDN'T GET SICK IF I TOOK A BUNCH OF THESE MEXIFORMS!

OH NO WONDER! I EMITTED OUT THE MEXIFORM AND STASHED THE MEXIFORM IN THERE!

AND SO, INTO THE MARKET:

FRAP! PLOOP! GLOAN! WHIRRR! WHIRRR!

POOP! SLURP! WHIL! WHIRRR! OHHH!

TOOT! SQUITT! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

THE ADVENTURES OF FAT FREDDY'S **CAT!**

WHEN THE BAD BOSS OVER THERE IS GIVING ME THE ONE-OVER...

PLEASE, HE MUST ATTACKS IF I SHOW NO FLARE...

NO STRONG MOUNTAINITY!

GET I CAN GET WITH BUSINESS BOSS OF MOUNTAIN RECORDS WITH THE FRAGS HARBORING WITH MOUNTAIN MOUNTAIN!

I KNOW THIS GREAT LITTLE VILLAGE DOWN ON THE PACIFIC WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE UNSPOILED AND FRIENDLY AND YOU CAN RENT HUGE PLACES TO LIVE, REAL CHEAP!

THROUGHOUT THE LONG NIGHTS DOME, FREELWHEELIN' FRANKLIN TALKS OF THE...

Pacific TROPICAL PARADISE

IT'S JUST AROUND THE NEXT CURVE!

THE FREAK BROTHERS AWAKEN AT NOON THE NEXT DAY:

MANANA, MANANA, MANANA IS SOON ENOUGH FOR MEEEE!

IT'S TOO WARM ENOUGH TO SLEEP ON THE BEACH!

IT'S TOO LATE TO SEE ANYTHING NOW! LET'S JUST PARK THE VAN ON THE BEACH OUT SOUTH OF THE TOWN AND JUST WAIT TIL MANANA!

THAT'S A NICE SUN TAN YOU HAVE! BEEN DOWN HERE LONG?

I LIVE IN THAT HOUSE UP THERE!

HI, FELLAS!

I JUST CAME DOWN HERE TO TELL YOU THAT MY FATHER HAS BEEN WATCHING YOU ALL MORNING WITH HIS FIELD GLASSES! HE'S A RETIRED U.S. ARMY GENERAL AND A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN LEGION!

...AND HERE HE COMES RIGHT NOW WITH A WHOLE COMPANY OF THE LOCAL GUARDIA NACIONAL!

ER...UN FREEWHEELIN' FRANKLIN, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE IN MAZATLAN? 1956!

THE ADVENTURES OF FAT FREDDY'S **CAT!**

HI THERE, LITTLE CAT TURTLE!

IT'S THIS PICTURE THAT WAS PRINTED ON MY SHELL WHEN I WAS A BABY! IT WON'T LET THE SHELL EXPOSE!

I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE SO...

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOMEONE SCARE THE PANT OFF?

WHAT? AND RUN AN ORIGINAL VAN GOING??

letters

Mulrennan gains new-found friends

Dear David,

We have become increasingly concerned by the continued weakening of the effectiveness of SRC and individual members of the student body, because of petty arguments between political factions. It is especially with regards to Patrick Mulrennan and his fellow Trotskyites that our concern lies.

The pettiness of the anti-Trot factions was demonstrated clearly to us in two different incidents. The first was an occasion when Maoists resisted the appointment of Patrick as a marshall on the recent anti-apartheid march. That people can be so narrow-minded as to consider that a person, because of his or her beliefs, will not be effective in any capacity even of the smallest influence, astounds me.

The other incident is more important as the anti-Trot feeling worked to the detriment of SRC and, therefore, student welfare. In the latest meeting of SRC (Wed 23 March) Patrick Mulrennan attempted to move a procedural motion. The idea behind this was to table a motion in favour of another that was far more urgent. The first motion itself had been moved by Patrick, but nevertheless the procedural motion was voted out. A motion to extend the meeting to 2.10, moved by Patrick, was also rejected. To add insult to injury, Patrick's original motion, concerning the re-registration of the Wellington Boilermakers' Association was also voted out. This would not have been so bad, if it was not evident that Patrick was not given a fair chance — neither by a specific body of the meeting, nor indeed, it appeared to us, by the chair. We cannot see how people who claim to be so concerned with Student Welfare and with fighting for oppressed peoples can themselves be narrow-minded enough to prevent an incredibly useful and hard-working member of the student body from working effectively.

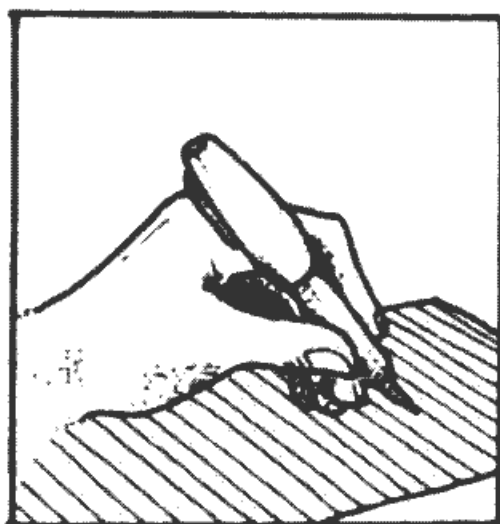
Signed: M.N. Berghan,
F.J. Bowden,
J.A. Kay.

This is a strange letter — mainly because the authors have failed to get their facts right. Only two people were responsible for the organisation of marshalls for the recent WAAP march, of which one was a long-time member of the Socialist Action League. All decisions on marshalls were made by those two, not your anonymous 'Maoists'. For the Varsity march, which was so small as to need very few marshalls, it was decided that members of the SAAM committee and the VUW SA executive were to be approached first. In addition, some marshalls for the main march, were present and lent a hand. Thus Patrick's offer on the day of the march was declined. So much for that conspiracy.

The other points about the SRC are equally misinformed. The more 'urgent' motion was only more urgent in the eyes of Mr Mulrennan and a few others, which is why his first procedural motion was opposed. The first two SRC's had had their time extended past 2 p.m. only to find that they lost their quorum. This time it was opposed.

The main reason that the motion on the Boilermakers was lost, was Patrick's 'political priorities', which resulted in him giving no factual details on the motion for SRC to make a decision, as he still wanted to consider his more 'urgent' motion before 2p.m. We understand this motion (which was supported by your villainous 'Maoists') is to be raised again at the next SRC.

Finally your opinions on Patrick Mulrennan's usefulness to this association are not shared by many with more experience of the antics of the SAL on campus. Perhaps you should investigate the history of 'poor' Patrick's political friends before you so naively jump to his defence. —Ed.



Letter from a thinking democrat.

Dear Salient,

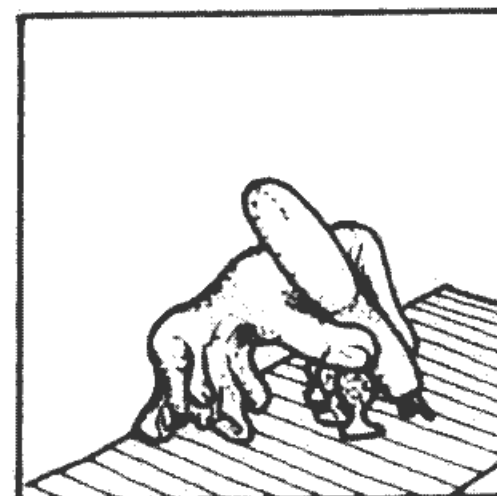
Having read your latest issue I decided to write you this letter. Being a simple-minded fuckwitted wanker from a very small hick town just north of the main sewer in that area and being of unsound mind and of dubious sexual status, I do solemnly swear to Almighty Dog that this here Oriental excuse for plastic toilet rolls (otherwise known as Salient) is the most biased, prejudiced, bigoted, socialist, communist fucking leftist fucking crappy shithouse newspaper that I have ever, ever had to drop fucking turds on in my whole life! And I'm nearly two.

It was probably compiled by a rabble of bearded, brainless, braless HART-supporting, Mao-slogan-shouting, plastic Marxist overstayers, who should be ejected from this fair democratic land. Along with Tom Skinner, Silly Billy Rowling, Lizard Tizard, Bill "no it's the Government's fault" Anderson, Fuckwit Finlay, Doon Douglas and the rest of the National Drivers Union, Boilermakers, Watersiders, Cooks and Stewards and any other poms that are left!

Why the fuck our beloved Rob has not already done so before is above me, but he must do so soon. If something is not done soon I and all my mates (Himille, Goering, Barman and Air Commodore Gill), will take matters into our own hands and personally take up the sabotage contract open on that vast propaganda machine, Wanganui Newspapers Ltd, and its main headquarters, the Salient office.

So beware Punks — me and my band of four are out for your shit upon skins. Get 'Right' or 'Get Out.'

Kindest regards,
Country Boy.



Another Pro-Apartheid Supporter.

Dear Sir,

The idea of democracy, majority rule, one-man, one-vote sounds very appealing and even feasible. Indeed there are many pressure groups in our society who either out of infantile stupidity or communist-inspired self-interest would have us believe that majority rule is the panacea for all our society's problems. However

such triteness is more revealing of the gullibility of the perpetrators of such socialist drivel than of any meaningful solution to the problem.

One needs to appreciate that the white man's character is not a simple one. The white population is not a homogenous one. There is division and sub-division according to ancestral background. Thus one cannot speak of a white man, per se — for the population is a mixture of Irish, Swiss, German, English, Scots, Norwegian, Welsh, each with their own sub-tribal groupings. Thus it becomes meaningless to speak of equality for the white man. One cannot expect such diverse peoples to suddenly co-exist peacefully when given self-rule after their long history of violence and dispute. Separate development is the only answer — any other proposal should be seen for what it is — communist propaganda.

Yours etc.,
Idi Vorster.

Rejoinder to Apartheid.

Sir,

Congratulations and bouquets of rhubarb to Mr Lowe for daring to stand up and make himself heard above the bleating of the anti-apartheid sheep. However, he is mistaken.

It is true that the citizens of Uganda, for example, are as oppressed under black majority rule as the South Africans are under a white minority rule. All that proves is that there are as many black tyrants, fools, and perverts as there are white; a man's character bears no direct relation to his race.

At the same time being martyred or oppressed does not necessarily make a man virtuous. There are as many racists in the Bantu lands as there are in Vorster's Government, but just because those people are downtrodden, they have no more 'right' to be racist than anyone else.

I believe apartheid as it is practised in South Africa is wrong — not because it means black men are being oppressed by white, but because it means human beings are being denied their democratic right. I oppose Idi Amin's rule for the same reason. It is interesting that hardly anyone has seen fit to agitate about that too.

The Brigadier.

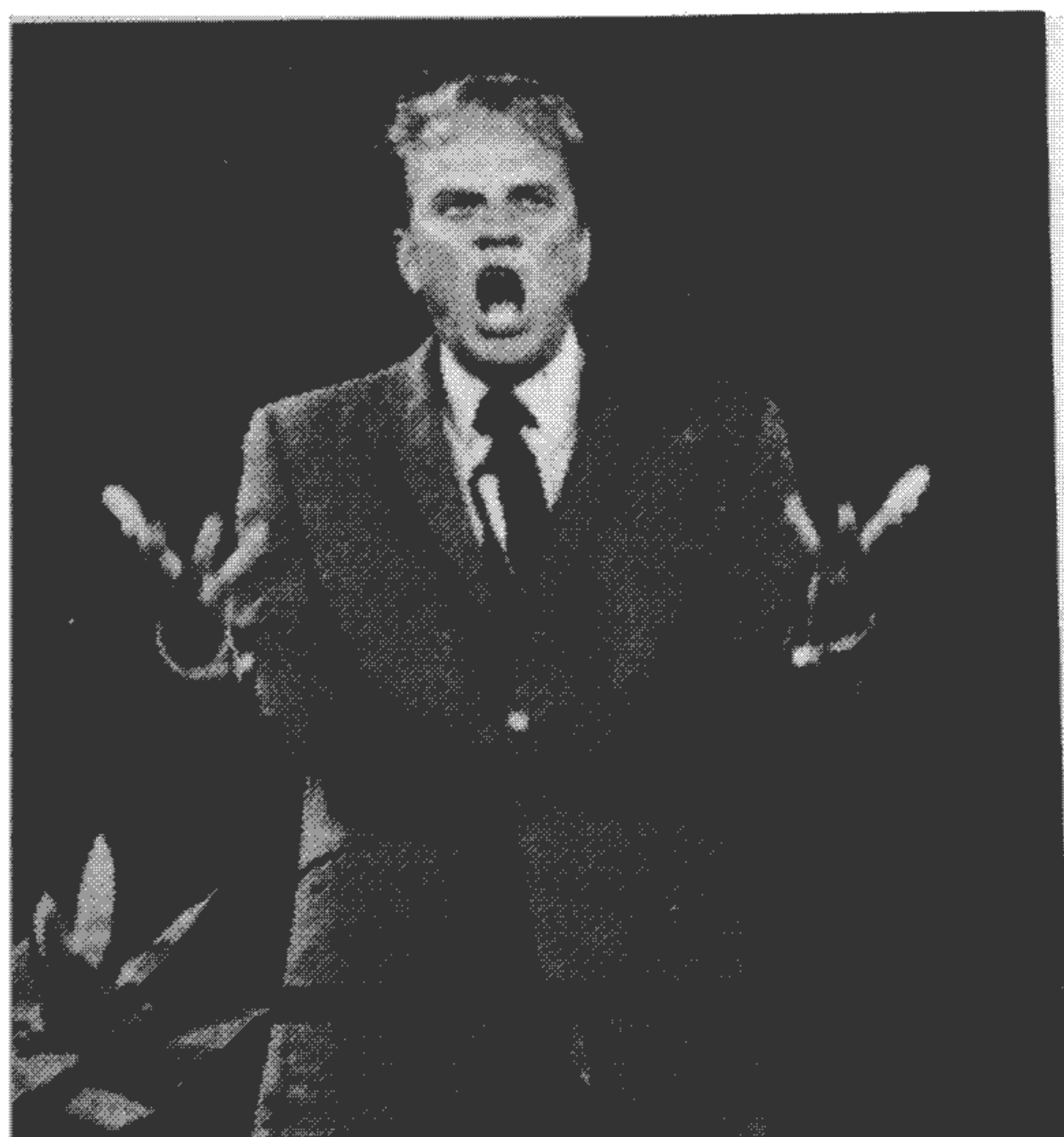
Dear Sir,

Lowe should realise a spoon stirs better with a pot beneath it and something constructive in the pot.

Too Low for Comfort.

colin morris records caption competition

Last weeks winner



"Second to God..... I like Thighs."
— Bunter

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 Studas office. The prize is an LP of your choice courtesy of COLIN MORRIS RECORDS LTD. Winners must contact us as soon as possible.

Letter from a fucking wanker.

Dear Sir,

Perhaps one of the most interesting words in the English language today is the word 'FUCK.' It is the magical word, which just by its sound can describe pain, pleasure, hate and love. 'FUCK' takes its name from the German word 'FRIKEN' which means 'O STRIKE.'

In language, 'FUCK' falls into many grammatical categories — it can be used as a verb, both transitive (John fucked Mary) and intransitive (Mary was fucked by John.)

As an adverb (Mary is fucking well interested in John.)

And as a noun (Mary is a fine fuck.)

Also an adjective (Mary is fucking beautiful.)

As you can see, there are not many words with the same versatility as the word 'FUCK.'

Besides the sexual meaning, there are also the following:

FRAUD — I got fucked at the used car lot.

IGNORANCE — Fucked if I know.

TROUBLE — I guess I'm fucked now.

AGGRESSION — Fuck you.

DIFFICULTY — I can't understand this fucking mess.

DISPLEASURE — What the fuck is going on here?

SUSPICION — What the fuck are you doing?

ENJOYMENT — This is fucking great.

REQUEST — Get the fuck out of here!

HOSTILITY — I'm going to knock your fucking head off.

SURPRISE — Well I'll be fucked!

EXASPERATION — For fuck's sake!

INCOMPETENCE — What a fuck up!

I know you can think of many more uses, but with all these how can anyone be offended when you say 'FUCK?' We can use this unique word more often in our daily speech.

It adds to your prestige. Say it loud and clear 'FUCK YOU!'

—(Written by the best fucking freezing worker at Varsity.)

Leeches disunite!

Dear Editor,

This country is in need of an undertaker to bury all the dead minds and consciences left behind when the cries of Africa were ignored. Don't wait for us Africa — we're in comfy chairs. Only black people died in Soweto (and it didn't cost us a cent) — "But who gives a damn if it don't pay the rent." Ignoring the cries of Africa — not marching makes you a supporter of the oppression of the Black people of Southern Africa, i.e. inertia equates supporting oppression. People have an obligation to demonstrate against what's happening in South Africa and Rhodesia. The ridiculous attitude, almost one of condescending to demonstrate on ignoring the call to demonstrate, must go. We live in a 'wealthy' 'safe' country, but that must not be used as a permit to ignore what happens to our brothers in other countries.

It has too long been used as an argument by New Zealanders to avoid responsibility. 'I'm not my brother's keeper.'

Wake up! Get up out of the 'comfortable' mindless bed you've been sleeping in. For this system to exist requires unquestioning, unthinking, egocentric people — Victoria is infested by the like. These people are the enemies of Africa and the third world. They are the leeches who feed off and weaken the struggling third world.

"The most dangerous foe to truth and freedom in our midst is the compact majority. Yes the damned compact, liberal majority."

— Henrik Ibsen.

Yours etc,
Eugene Doyle.

Exec actions condemned

Dear David,

At the last Exec meeting a motion was passed, the gist of which was that any Exec member be allowed into the Salient office for the express purpose of perusing the final copy, presumably with the power to veto, should they be offended by any of the content.

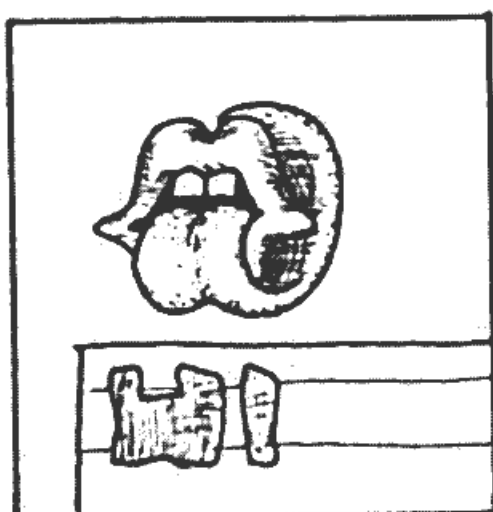
The exact wording of this motion is unavailable to us (according to certain members of the Exec) even though we had earlier been told by an Extremely Reliable Source that we could in fact have a copy of the motion.

The motives which prompted both the motion and the sudden back-tracking pose a serious threat to students' freedom of access to the workings of their own association and to the very democracy of the association itself.

It is vital for the maintenance of the strength and unity of the Students' Association, that those in a position to do so, exercise their power responsibly and with the welfare of all students foremost in their decisions.

The consequences arising from the abuse of power are far-reaching and do not cease with the passing of a single generation. It is therefore with concern for all students at Victoria now, and those coming after, that the conduct of certain Exec members be viewed with the condemnation it deserves.

Yours,
Sue Cairney,
Lamorna Rogers,
Rire Scotney.



Questions, questions.

Dear Sir,

1. What is happening at the Bookcentre?
2. How much is Salient losing each issue?

A Student's Right to Know.

(I suggest you ask the Company Secretary, Mr Steve Underwood for an answer to your first question.

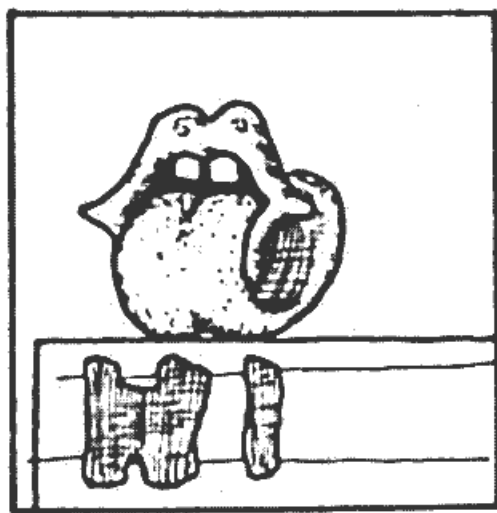
The answer to your second question is about \$77 per issue.—Ed)

The Case of the Pub.

Dear David,

In last year's Executive election I did not vote for Catherine Patterson for the very reason that she intended setting up a pub on campus. Thus it is heartening to see that she has not fulfilled her election promise. I feel that people should drink when it will not interfere with their work, and a pub on campus, apart from after 5 p.m. say, will be counterproductive to say the least.

Yours etc,
S.J. Barrett.
P.S. Alfonso for good food!



Robinson does return

Dear David,

I feel that it is now time to look back on the debate within the Anti-apartheid movement on the orientation of the recent march on Sharpeville Day. I will leave aside the question of the development from opposition to sporting contacts to solidarity with the oppressed people in South Africa as this has already been covered adequately. One comment on the March has already been offered.

A recent 'Socialist Action' has reported that the March was headed by a 'sizeable contingent' of Polynesians and Blacks. This is simply not true.

Hardly any Polynesians turned up to the March. The Black contingent depended largely on Vic overseas students and at the front it hardly extended to the first two rows in a four-to-a-row March. The concept of the March being led by a significant section of 'Polynesians Against Racism' was not realised.

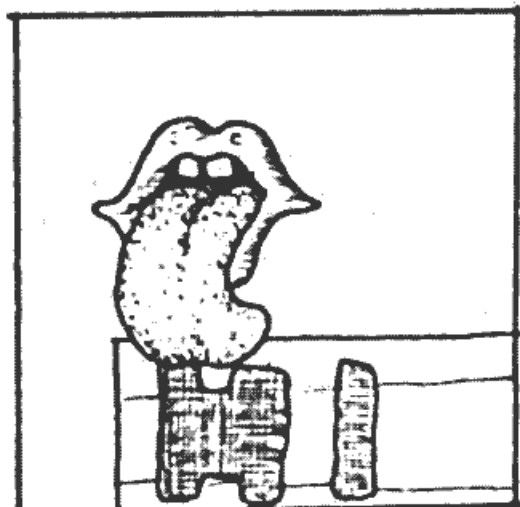
(Both the meeting to reintroduce 'black' into the main slogan and the social after the March had larger contingents of Polynesians and overseas students.)

The inclusion of the words 'Black' and 'blacks' in the main slogan had not made 'blacks' in NZ identify with the aims of the March.

This is not to say that Polynesians etc should not have been leafleted etc, but merely to expose, as the falsities they were, the arguments by the Socialist Action League and its supporters that the revised slogan would attract 'blacks' to the March. The big promises had come to nothing.

Of course, the debate over the inclusion of 'black' in the main WAAP slogan had alienated a number of supporters of the Wellington Anti-Apartheid Plenary. Why then were they alienated? Even the compromise slogan 'Black Majority Rule/South Africa, let the oppressed people decide' would have avoided much of this problem.

But at the first big meeting Andre (SAL) Raihman would accept no compromises. This is quite surprising as Mike (SAL) Treen who worked on the Auckland March wrote an article in CRACCUM No. 3 which told us that in Auckland they would be marching under the slogan 'Majority Rule Now — let the oppressed decide.' Andre had found this slogan abhorrent in Wellington but Treen in Auckland did not even see fit to comment upon it. The word 'black' did



not appear anywhere in the slogans described in Treen's article. But Auckland has a far larger Polynesian population than Wellington.

Since that first meeting it has become clear why the SAL in Wellington felt fit to pursue such a vehement and alienating offensive within WAAP: Their childish tactics were solely aimed at gaining a 'victory' at the expense of the 'Maoists' and presumably to be seen as supporting Nga Tamatoa when doing this. (Andre is also a member of Nga Tamatoa and spoke as their representative at the crucial meeting.) Since then they have backtracked almost every day and are beginning to pretend that they really 'do' support 'let the oppressed people decide' but that there had been a better slogan.

This debate, which took up a whole meeting which would have been better devoted to organising to get more people on the March, is now being down-played. Not surprisingly — the SAL position is indefensible. In fact, their contribution to that meeting was solely one of splitting. But they only split themselves off from the rest of the WAAP members.

This conclusion is reinforced by the actual history of the build-up to the March and the March itself.

Finally, I offer this as my last comment on this question which I feel is as important to the development of the left in Wellington as it is to the development of WAAP.

Yours,
Bruce Robinson.
P.S. I hope some of the sillier debates that have begun to revolve around the SAL and YS on campus will disappear and be replaced by constructive debate on real issues. This is the best way to expose them as the right-wingers they are.

**FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY
HELP AVOID A NUCLEAR CALAMITY**

CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WARSHIPS 9 AND 10 APRIL

SATURDAY 9 APRIL

7.30 p.m. THE WAR GAME
SEMINAR DISCUSS AND DISCUSS —
"INTRODUCTORY SESSION"
Simon O'Neil, M.P., Life Member, President N.Z.S.A.,
a speaker from the Parliament of London (invited by
Nuclear Information Centre)

8.30 p.m. THE MURKING. Comments and opinion.
The A word will not be provided for a wonderful food
and other things will be recommended. Coffee and tea
will be provided.

9.30 p.m. THEATER — SLIDE SHOW
SEMINAR AND DISCUSSION
SUPERPOWER CONTESTION AND ARMS LIMIT
ACTION. Ross Hutchins talks (SALT and the ANZUS
Treaty). Simon, Peter, Frank.

10.00 p.m. Dinner break.

11.15 p.m. CANTINA 4th.
Social get together.

SUNDAY 10 APRIL

1.30 p.m. SEMINAR DISCUSS AND DISCUSS —
The Strategic For Disarmament — Personal Experiences
Mark Jones (SALT), David Tyler (Environment)
and 'Theology' a speaker from the Wellington Workers'
Centre.

2.00 p.m. Afternoon tea.

3.00 p.m. SEMINAR DISCUSS AND DISCUSS —
Peace and the Pacific. Speakers from SPAN, the Pacific
Island Community (New Zealand), CERES, ICA
and David's role in the Pacific. Ross Hutchins
as an Independent First Timer (Peter Phillips).

4.00 p.m. Dinner break.

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SHOLE	STUDENTS \$1.00
WEEKEND	NON-STUDENTS \$2.00
INDIVIDUAL	STUDENTS \$1.00
WEEKEND	NON-STUDENTS \$2.00

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9-10 APRIL, SWAN HALL,
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More Malaysian Letters.

Dear Editor,

I wish to thank the W.M.S.S.A. for organising the 'Get Together' on the 20th March.

I really enjoyed the evening in meeting many of our fellow Malaysians and Singaporeans. The warm atmosphere together with the friendly 'chit-chatting' and 'group singing' made me feel like at home.

Lastly I wish to congratulate the W.M.S.S.A. for their success in organising the 'Get Together' and I hope more activities will be organised in the near future.

Yours etc.,
New Student.

Dear Editor,

After reading through the letters about the Malaysian sketch put up during the international night, I felt that most of the comments made were right to the point and justified. I say so, because I had the same feeling too on that night.

However I kept the feeling to myself which I now realise was an incorrect attitude to hold. For, if every Malaysian takes the 'keep quiet' attitude, knowing quite well that other members of the audience (especially the Kiwis) of the International night would be misled by the scene, what would happen then? The answer might be: "the misunderstanding between the Kiwis and Malaysians will become greater." Is that what we Malaysians wish to promote? No, of course not! That is the reason why I decided to pick up my pen and end my wrong attitude.

A Malaysian.

Dear Editor,

I have read the letters published in your last Salient on the 'hot topic' about the sketch and found these letters very touching and educational.

I felt very guilty for I was also one of the fools who laughed during the sketch which was being falsely and purposely portrayed as laughing stock.

As a first year student, I do not know why MSA purposely gives such a stupid and misleading picture during that important function. This might not only mislead the Malaysian students, but also the Kiwis as well.

Yours etc.,
A Malaysian.

Dear Sir,

I joined the others in condemning MSA for putting up the recent sketch. I am indeed hurt and at the same time sad to think that there is such a group of unthinking, senseless students around playing down on our own people. To this group of people I and also a group of other Malaysian students here consider you a pain in our neck. We think that our country doesn't need people like you around because you will be perpetuating the system that we are ashamed of and which we want to get rid of.

As regards to the system that you will be

perpetuating:

1. You will always be putting yourself as a high class of 'learned' intellectuals and those hawkers will look like dirt beside you.

2. You will look like a bunch of clean hand idiots (doing no crimes) while the hawkers will be seizing the opportunity to exploit your so-called high class of the society sponging on the few cents that you throw to them. Remember that your crimes are far greater because you have forgotten how you came to gain a higher education and have forgotten that your role as a privileged group is to understand them and to do something concrete to help them.

So I hope that all those in MSA (even if it hurts your 'pride' and 'dignity') will be socially aware of the problems back home and break away from your ivory tower of big houses, car and what-nots when you go home!

I also want to put forward another point and that regards calling yourself MSA. If you want to use this grand name do you really represent our students' interests and dare take up important political issues as they come up. If you find that you can't do that you might well call yourself the Malaysian Students Social Club which I think is more appropriate and more suited to your role.

A MALAYSIAN STUDENT.

Dear Editor,

I am a first year student and have just come from a very political country a month ago. I was than invited to join the 'non-political' party (as it is called by the MSA). I attended a 'non-political' orientation and saw a 'non-political' sketch that was put up by the 'non-political' party. Later I read about the 'non-political' criticisms of the sketch (because I can't find such a word 'politic' in their criticisms) and yet the replies to those criticisms seem to be 'political'. May I ask those 'non-politicians', what is their definition of 'non-politic'?

A first year student (major in 'non-political science').

Dear Editor,

As I read last week's Salient (Vol. 40 No. 4) about the comments put by fellow Malaysian students I can picture what MSA will be saying: "It's only an entertaining piece of sketch not aimed at anybody and so what the hell are they kicking up the fuss for?"

Excuses, excuses; these will be the common words of the MSA. To this group of egotistic people, they will never admit they are wrong and have done a very great injustice to our Malaysian people (in this case the hawkers.) So next time those in MSA when you are back home, go and live with those poor people and then you will see with your naked eyes how these hawkers struggled to lead an honest living. Then you will realise that the distorted view painted of our hawkers is an UNFORGIVABLE thing.

If you can't do anything for them (even though you believe in your great capacity to earn great money later on) then at least don't belittle their efforts to strive for a living. They are earning this type of living not because they want to but because circumstances force them to.

So I join hands with A Malaysian Hawker's Son in demanding a public apology from the promoters of the sketch.

Malaysian.

Thoughts on MSA.

Dear Editor,

At the last WMSA AGM I was one of those less knowledgeable members who voted for the incumbent committee with the mistaken conception that this bunch of wingers would promote some sensible and constructive activities for the Malaysian community in Wellington. There have been only disillusion and disgust from them, and to top it off came last week's WMSA committee's most revolting and outrageous claim:

"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."

Such an infantile claim can not even stand the test of convincing my neighbour's five year old son, let alone be swallowed through Salient. I urge the MSA committee to stop its obsession of indulging in complacency and egoism. The least thing they could do is to try to listen to what grassroot members have to say. I will bet the MSA committee my old gumboots that their claim of support from members was a far cry from truth. In fact, I challenge them to call a referendum to gauge members' opinion. Till then, the committee's claim holds as good as any irrational and paranoid statement issued by President Amin.

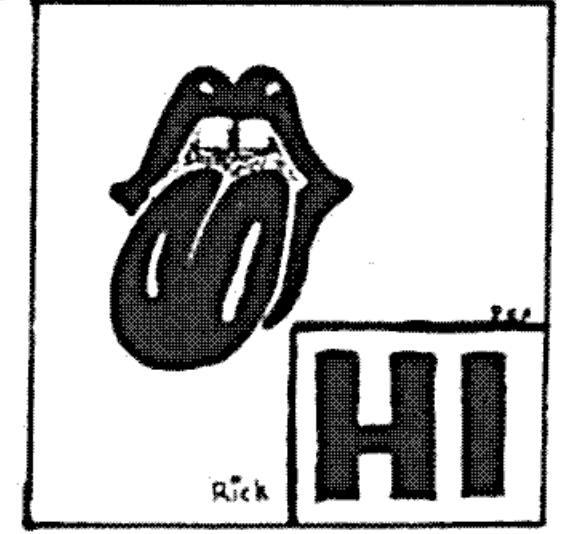
2nd Year Malaysian Student.

Dear Editor,

To take "a hawkers scene" as presented by its various aspects of communication break down as a basis of a light dramatised sketch with or without intention is not justified in the first place. In doing so, it misrepresents the true essence of the hawkers through phenomena i.e. 'cut-throat' business which seldom occur in the real life of hawkers. After watching one sketch, it left much doubt in me.

Is it one true essence of the hawkers to make extra money through 'cut-throat' from the tourists even though they are justified to do so? I personally recognise them as honest and truthful people. To be a tactician in getting extra money through cut-throat is just not on.

Unsigned.



Concerning a false letter - Editor apologises

Dear Editor,

The publication of a letter attributed to Patrick Mulrennan, WHICH I DID NOT WRITE, in the issue of Salient Vol 40 no. 5 is a serious matter.

I have spoken to the editor of Salient about the letter, and he said that he had full knowledge that I had not written it. Furthermore, he said that he published the letter deliberately as a way of informing students that Bruce Robinson would continue to present his side of the debate in Salient about the slogans used by the anti-apartheid movement.

He claimed that my objection to the letter's publication was trivial. It occurs to me that if I think that the matter is trivial, why didn't he bother to get my consent before publishing it?

However, I regard the case as far from trivial. The letter is a case of deliberate fraud, and as such is a direct infringement of the rights of students. It is not just the rights of one student that are under fire here, but the rights of all students. The old principle applies here as in so many other instances - an attack on one is an attack on all. If this instance goes unchallenged, then the way is opened for more widespread and even more damaging cases of fraud.

The publication of the letter is an act of intimidation towards a student club. Why is it an act of intimidation? Because it seeks to take the control of public statements by, in this case, members of the Young Socialists, out of their own hands. The letter is a "test case" to see whether students will allow the editor of Salient to publish what he knows to be manufactured letters, and to restrict students' access to the pages of Salient in other ways.

The false letter results from and contributes to an atmosphere on campus where the Young

Socialists face obstacles to their operating as any student club should be able to. Other instances of this atmosphere of intimidation are: the ripping down of still-current leaflets that we post on noticeboards; the abrogation of our speaking rights at SRCs; the personal abuse that is regularly directed at members of the Young Socialists.

Again, this harassment affects all students. It sets a precedent for harassment of any individual or group holding views that are counter to the "norm," and it substitutes personal abuse for political debate. Students have been quick to attack this among Parliamentary politicians - for example, the campaign of vilification against Colin Moyle - and we should make sure that it does not gain a hold on campus.

I consider that this forged letter is a very serious matter. It raises the whole question of whether Salient should be a democratic forum, open to all students, as I believe it must be, or the preserve of any particular ideology.

The guaranteeing of the rights of all students to a fair hearing in the pages of Salient in no way inhibits the editor from expressing her or his own views.

I believe that this infringement of democratic rights requires that an apology be published in Salient. Such an incident should never occur again.

Signed
Patrick Mulrennan.

SALIENT hereby apologises for any embarrassment or inconvenience caused by the letter which we published but which was not written by Patrick Mulrennan. -Ed.

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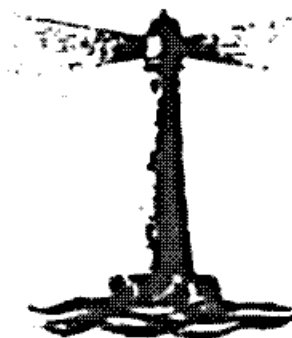
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