

## In this issue;

# White with two sugars ~ forget the rest

Who is benefitting when coffee prices soar to over \$1 for a four ounce jar?

As recently as the 1972-73 season, raw coffee was selling at a very low price and coffee had once again become the symbol of economic tragedy. Today coffee is selling at the unheard of price of \$4,000 per ton. But how long will this last and will it bring prosperity to producing countries? Or better living to the twenty million men and women who work on the plantations?

Coffee like so many commodities, is characterised by large fluctuations in price. Even this recent boom has only just passed, in, real terms, the price paid for raw coffee back in 1953. Since that time coffee prices have continued to fluctuate up and down to the detriment of development efforts within the poor nations. In addition, the industrialised nations or at least the multinational firms in these countries have continued to maintain a firm control over the marketing, distribution and processing of coffee.

## Price claim

Recently the British Financial Times claimed that the price of raw coffee accounts for between 66% and 75% of the cost of instant coffee in shops. Early in 1976 the price of a 4oz jar of instant coffee was 40p. It requires about 10oz of raw coffee to make a 4oz jar of instant coffee. A rough estimation shows that the price of raw coffee accounted for only 35% of the cost of the 4oz jar sold in a British supermarket.

At today's sky-high prices raw coffee probably accounts for 30%-35% of the final processed coffee price.

This is a clear example of the inflationary ratchet effect outlined by Kaldor and Green in their recent article. Consumer prices shoot up in response to a shift in supply. But when normal market conditions reassert themselves, and commodity prices fall back to something like their previous level, the cost determined price of manufactured coffee fails to demonstrate a similar downward movement.

This has a double effect. Firstly, it continues the inflationary pressure on consumer prices (and therefore maintains wage demands) in industrialised countries. Secondly, it ensures that the disparity in price between manufactured goods and commodities is maintained. Coffee exporters, therefore, find the real value of their exports are declining in the face of the continued inflationary cost of manufactured goods.

## Peasants and Estates

Although conditions of ownership and production differ widely in the more than fifty countries that produce coffee, a great deal is grown on small peasant holdings. The exceptions to this are Brazil, and until recently Angola. In many cases absentee landlords own huge plantations known as Fazendas which are cultivated by very poorly paid migrant labour. Here 94% of coffee land is owned by 6% of the landowners.

In Angola until recently coffee production was dominated by the Portuguese Government who owned the largest plantation of 22,000 hectares and employed 10,000 workers using security guards, guard dogs, searchlights and barbed wire to force the maximum productivity out of the African workers.

Countries such as Colombia and Ivory Coast purchase coffee through a state agency from small peasant farmers at a guaranteed price. These farmers cultivate tiny farms of three or four acres from which they obtain a precarious living. In Colombia, malnutrition is widespread, water supply is poor, infant mortality is high, and the adobe huts in which large families are huddled are squalid. It is extremely unlikely that these poor coffee farmers will receive much benefit from the present high price of coffee.

The control of the multinational corporation is never more evident than in the case of Chile. In that country, driving down a country road you will probably pass a number of small stands selling wicker ware. Among the goods would be what appears to be a wicker work shaped to hold an enormously large mug. It is only later, if dining out, that you discover that the purpose of this wicker work is to hold large tins of Nescafe.

To order cafe in Chile is to order a large container of hot water and a tin of Nescafe. To ask for real cafe it is necessary to refer to cafe cafe. Something which is extremely difficult to get in Chile.

In a continent which produces the largest share of world coffee, processed coffee has to be imported from the USA. The only country which does produce its own soluble coffee is Brazil and efforts by this country to

export its processed coffee were drastically curbed by US threats of reducing aid. This is another example whereby under present market arrangements the growers deliver green coffee to the ports. The consuming countries take over from there and control the shipping, insurance, processing, distribution and sales. All the employment and profits generated by these stages benefit the consuming countries. All this is to say that the present huge price for a ton of coffee is unlikely to benefit the poor farmers who produce the coffee. Producing countries will gain from the increased price, but when this is compared to the reduced sales due to frost and floods, total gains would not be substantial. Certainly coffee consumers in developed nations will also suffer due to the higher retail price. It will be interesting to see if the large coffee multinationals will not benefit a glance at their profits at year's end could provide interesting reading.

Image of Nescafe

It is a fact that the existing structure of world coffee trade benefits neither the producing countries, the peasant farmer who grows the coffee nor the consumer in the developed nations having to pay higher prices in the shops. The setting up of a Common Fund to stabilise the coffee prices would be an important step towards a more rational and efficient system of coffee trade. In addition there needs to be other measures which would allow the producing nations to have more control over the marketing, processing and distribution end of the coffee trade.

## Assessment Forum

For some time now debate has run hot over the withholding of course pass rates. Officially Prof. Board policy is to release the number of passes, failures, and related statistics at the first possible opportunity, but due to bureaucratic holdups somewhere in the registry, neither staff nor students have access to this information when they most need it, and that is before the enrolment each year.

At a recently held Varsity wide student/staff meeting a senior staff member stated that the figures for last year were only just released a few weeks ago. "And yet", he continued, "they were ready for distribution five months ago".

These figures are extremely important for:

- Students who want to see how satisfied and how well past students have done in the courses they wish to take.
- Course advisors at enrolment who need the information for subjects in which they have no personal knowledge but for which they must still give advice.
- And perhaps the most relevant of all, the student produced Handbook issued to and used by thousands at enrolment.

Without such a comparative set of statistics, combined with a detailed analysis of the numbers and reasons of people who drop or change subjects, no one can claim to give authoritative advice or information to any student at enrolment or any other time. And yet course enrollers and advisors are expected to do so (by '72'73 prof. board policy).

The set of circumstances arising from delay in the releasing of the figures have been described by yet another well placed staff member as being, 'gross professional negligence'.

The sorts of things that arise from this restriction lead to a high level of disillusionment with the University in general. For example a University department last year gave not a single "A" pass to any of its students enrolled in its first year courses.

According to Robert Moore Jones, VUWSA Education Officer, "every student has a right to know these facts and be made aware of them before enrolment can take place".

Many sceptics ask whether this information could be of any real assistance to students taking subjects with specific courses in mind. With the ever increasing (voluntary) relaxing of prerequisites by departments, students do have a greater choice of subjects and courses — and therefore a greater number of decisions to make. Further, up to May this year, in excess of 2,000 individual course changes have been made. The number of people changing courses and particularly 'dropping' them, has increased with an almost exponential growth rate in the last twenty years.

It has been argued in the past that many people drop subjects finding the workload or subject beyond their endurance.

It seems that there are three options open to a student experiencing either social or Varsity related problems.

- Leave Varsity completely.
- Reduce the workload.
- Do nothing.

Options one and two appear to be the more likely, and, in fact, are the increasingly popular solutions.

A person leaving Varsity in-term tends to do so (assuming without a degree or other Qualification), for either personal or financial reasons. With the present Government Policies, economic reasons are at the fore. However an individual changing course options or dropping only one or two subjects seems inclined to do so not for the socio-monetary reason, but more due to the nature of the course.

Apart from possible personality dashes between Tutor-Student-Lecturer the main conditions that would persuade or drive a student into leaving a course are:

- Subject matter and interpretation.
- Course work-assessment.

The first condition is not enhanced by the fact that students like to, can, and do find out what the course is about and how the subject is handled through the numerous texts and resource guides freely available to them from secondary school onwards. Not to mention the numerous interviews held by departmental official officials with prospective students.

Thus course work assessment is the nature of the problem, and this is the one detail of a course that is kept hidden the longest. Varsity students work very hard to get to and stay at university so it is naive to suggest that they 'pike out' for this reason.

But the problem immediately arises in the way people are examined, or otherwise inspected, with the aim of deciding whether or not they are fit for society; and whether they do, indeed succeed.

So it is seen by many students that the problem to grapple with and solve is "Assessment".

As a recently elected student rep said, the need is obvious for there are disgusting things happening that must be stopped and improved upon.

And there is a demand which 2000 people (so far) have silently demonstrated through their frustration. How much more of this sort of thing will students and staff tolerate.

— Paul Norman

## Newsheet

Newsheet Monday June 16th 12 Noon Mass at No 1. 24 Kelburn Parade. All welcome. Tuesday June 7th 12-2 pm Bursaries Forum. Labour spokesman on Education, Russel Marshall will give you the bursary bottom line. Union Hall. 2.15 pm The Exorcist. Memorial Theatre 5 - 7 pm Scottish country Dancing — all welcome to come along, especially beginners. Union Hall. 7 pm Jewish Students Society meeting. All welcome. Smoking Room. 7 pm Nurses Society Meeting Lounge. Wednesday June 8th 12 - 2 pm SRC 'Finance to Abortion Protagonists?' — your money, come and have a say in what happens to it! Union Hall. 1 pm Mass. RB819. 1 pm Labour Party Club meeting — Where should the Labour Club stand on the Abortion Issue? Have your say! All members and supporters welcome. Theatre Exhibition Foyer. 1.10 pm VUW Choir. Three songs by Monteverdi, a Mass (Aeterna Christi Munera) and a Molet by Palestna. Bring your lunch. H322. 2.15 pm Harold and Maude Memorial Theatre. SHTUNG CONCERT TONIGHT DON'T MISS IT — MEMORIAL THEATRE Thursday June 9th 12 - 1 pm Transcendental Meditation has always led to improved health, creativity and intelligence. Now you can fly, become invisible, be a superman! Smoking Room. 2.15 pm 'Don't Look Now' starring Julie Christie. Memorial Theatre. 4 pm Abortion Action Committee meeting, to organize opposition to the Royal Commission Report. All welcome. Boardroom. 5.05 pm Catholic Society Mass and Tea followed by discussion. Lounge, Ramsey House. 7.30 pm Gay Liberation meeting. This is your chance to become active in the New Zealand Gay Movement. Help us and help yourself — come along. All gay women and men welcome Union Hall 8 pm Young Socialists Discussion: Chinese Foreign Policy — is it revolutionary? Boardroom. Friday June 10th 12 Noon Young Socialists Literature Table. Main Foyer. 12 - 2 pm Forum. Dr. Bruce Nichols speaks on 'God and the Gurus'. Union Hall. 5.15 - 7.30 pm Christian Union Tea. Lounge and Smoking Room. Thursday 16th June 8 pm Public Meeting on the first Anniversary of the Soweto uprisings. Concert Chamber (Town Hall).

## Unionists speak at Victoria stop work

With Henry Stubbs, National Secretary of the Tramways Union, guest starring in last Monday's forum on Unions and civil liberties, one might have expected quite a bun fight. But the threat of hoards of students who had been 'inconvenienced' by the strikes tearing him to bits never eventuated. There was only limited resistance when Henry Stubbs and the other speaker, George Goddard from the Wellington Watersiders Union, informed the meeting that the present economic system had no answers for workers and that a socialist society was the

only long term solution for the present crisis in New Zealand.

The forum, one of a series, attempted to investigate the pressures which are coming on Trade Unions from Government and what they intend to do about.

Henry Stubbs spoke first giving details of the recent strikes (something the public would not normally gain by reading the dailies) and the net effect of them. He explained that, because the tramways were classified as an essential industry, his union was required to give 14 days notice of intention to strike. The reason for this? Clearly a period of 14 days is ideal for defusing a hot situation and clearly this is what the function of the provision is.

The case of Auckland Law student Harder was touched on briefly. Stubbs alluded to the injustice of a situation where an individual can sabotage the efforts of workers for better wages and conditions when he has little connection with the industry himself.

Seeing the bus drivers sell their labour as a commodity to the employer, if they receive too low a price for it then they, of course, refuse to take part in the contract, ie they strike. In this way, Stubbs pointed out, the matter of wages and conditions was a matter between the worker and the boss. He objected to state interference in these matters with penal provisions and injunctions clauses which are enforceable by the courts.

Finishing off, Henry Stubbs added that if employers were incapable of dealing with workers by themselves, then they did not deserve to be in business. A docile forum gave Henry Stubbs warm applause for his trouble.

The other speaker, George Goddard, traced some historical aspects of trade unions in New Zealand. He made reference to the first deregistration of a union in New Zealand, that of the Auckland Tramway workers who were deregistered by Fraser's Labour Government in 1942.

Speaking on union democracy, he alluded to the function of the Stop-work Meeting as an integral part of labour organisation. He was at pains to point out that any worker was entitled to raise questions at a Stop-work Meeting.

On the future objectives of the Trade Union movement in New Zealand the original topic of the forum, George Goddard gave, as short term aims, the protection of workers from the present reactionary government who represented finance capital rather than the alleged 'ordinary bloke'. Unions had to protect and improve the living standards of their members, he stressed — to make the rich pay for the economic crisis, for they are the ones who caused it.

In the long term, unions had to work towards the establishment of a socialist society (not the Frank O'Flynn type Mr Goddard quickly pointed out) in New Zealand. He added that fighting for a non-aligned and independent New Zealand was a positive step in this direction.

After the two speeches came a quiet dribble of questions from the floor mainly directed towards Henry Stubbs on the question of the Bus strike. An eloquent Stubbs put all questions to rest. The only leading question of the forum came from Steve Underwood who enquired about the right of the Union to break the law — "a law's a law!"

Stubbs answered by saying that in many cases, the law was not in the direct interests of the majority of working people and was merely set up to ensure that the system which discriminates against the majority is perpetuated.

The people will decide what is a just law, Stubbs retorted. Underwood accused him of being an anarchist. Laughter erupted and Underwood left it at that.

Being the first in a series of forums on civil liberties, this particular forum was well received. The speakers gave clear and unambiguous deliveries and, although the number of students was not high, it was encouraging to hear the other side of the coin from the people who encounter the tough job of representing workers every day.

Food for thought for many students who face the prospect of working in a year or two.

— David Murray

## ***Henry Stubbs speaking at the Unions forum***

### **Culinary**

Culinary header

*Consumer resistance is, and always has been, very strong against these foods; liver, kidney, sweet breads, brains, tongue and heart are all highly nutritious however, and the willingness of other people to eat these foods has precipitated definite advantages for those who can overcome such prejudices.*

*Offal is one of the most inexpensive meats; without [unclear: bones] or extra fat. You eat all you pay for without waste. It should be cooked quickly and lightly, meaning fast meals, 'goodness' retained, and energy saved.*

*Liver is a concentrated source of iron, (it is estimated that one quarter of all women are iron deficient) and as well as protein, offal contains Vitamins A, the B Complex vitamins and Vitamin E, plus valuable minerals.*

## **Breakdown of Offal Prices:—**

(23.5.77)

### **Savoury Kidneys**

- *Fry thinly sliced options in butter*
- *Remove fat and skin around kidneys, cut in half Remove outer skins and cut out white cores.*
- *Rinse. Dry. Cut into chunks.*
- *Trim and halve mushrooms. Add with kidneys to onion in pan. Cook gently for three minutes.*
- *Blend cornflour and tomato puree with 4 tablespoons of cold water.*
- *Pour mixture into saucepan and stir gently until sauce thickens. Season.*
- *Reduce heat and simmer kidneys seven to ten minutes until tender. Sprinkle with minced parsley. Serve with plain boiled rice, or pasta.*

### **Liver Tossed with Onion and Wheat germ**

- *1½ lb Lamb or Calf Liver*
- *1 large Onion*
- *3—4 tablespoons Oil*
- *1 tablespoon flour*
- *¼ teaspoon Yeast extract (Marmite)*
- *1 tablespoon Wheatgerm*
- *1 teaspoon Kelp-powder (optional)*
- *½ cup water or stock*
- *Trim the liver, cut into thin strips.*
- *Fry onion in oil until brown.*
- *Mix together flour, Wheatgerm and kelp and*
- *Toss liver strips covering well.*
- *Fry liver briskly in the pan with the onion 4-5 minutes, stirring occasionally until just cooked. Transfer to a warm dish Add the stock or water and yeast extract to the pan, boil 2—3 minutes, and pour over the liver or.....*
- *Soak 1lb liver in milk for one hour.*
- *Drain and dry. Cut into strips Coat each with flour, seasoned with salt and pepper. While frying liver prepare an onion gravy by thinly slicing three large onions and frying them until brown in melted butter. Blend a knob of butter with one tablespoon flour and add in knobs to onions. Gradually add ¼ pint of stock or water. Bring gravy to boil, simmer 1 minute, then stir in one teaspoon vinegar. Season*

*Helen Corrigan*

let me help you make a little money 30 a whole lot further If you need a little help and advice on how to make your money go further while you re at varsity see Richard Starke at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ Richard knows the sort of money problems you're going to be involved with as a student, and he'll be pleased to give you all the assistance and advice that's possible Apart from the BNZ services like cheque and savings accounts free automatic savings facility the Nationwide Account travellers cheques and so on there are two particular BNZ services that a lot of students have found very useful. BNZ Educational Loans The great thing about these is their flexibility. You can take one out for a few days to tide you over a rough spot till the end of term, or you can borrow on the long-term and plan things out over the years you're at varsity BNZ Consulting Service Free helpful advice on practically any financial matter from people who understand money and how it works And just by the way there's another good reason for banking with the Bank of New Zealand, it's the only trading bank wholly owned by the people of New Zealand Call at the BNZ on campus office and fix up a time for a chat with Richard Starke or phone him direct at the BNZ Wellington Branch Cnr. Lambton and Customhouse Quays Phone 725-099 ext. 702. BANK OF NEW ZEALAND Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand

# Salient

## The Horrifying Prospect of an Abortion Referendum

The subject of abortion is as common at SRC as points of order which, for those who don't attend these esteemed bun-fights, is common indeed. Many Wednesday lunchtimes have been spent up in the Union Hall slugging it out in the cause of a decent abortion policy for the Association. By 1975 (the old-timers will correct me if I'm wrong here) VUWSA had formulated a reasonably progressive policy which both condemned the social conditions which cause women to be oppressed and which lead to unwanted pregnancies, plus allowed for comprehensive contraception services and the obtaining of free, safe abortions on grounds determined by the women concerned and their doctors.

This policy is one which seems to be in tune with public opinion. It does not allow for the interference of the state in the medical matters of the individual and does not deprive anyone of democratic rights. Those who believe that abortion is morally inadvisable are not forced to terminate their own pregnancies, and those too poor or disadvantaged to be able to get an abortion would be able to receive a humane and free service.

At the SGM a couple of weeks ago the debate on abortion was as always, prolonged and fierce. In the middle of it all the suggestion was raised that a referendum be held on the question of abortion at the next election (which will be soon because of the recent resignations of the SRC co-ordinator, Women Vice-President and the Cultural Affairs Officer).

Everybody was quite taken with the idea of an abortion referendum at that meeting, but this was more an expression of frustration at the progress being made at the SGM than any desire to conduct a farce of 'democracy'.

What are the advantages of conducting an unwieldy referendum over-rule a policy made at a large student meeting where the issues are aired and fully debated? The answer is simply that there are not any.

The existing policy-making structures at Victoria are quite adequate to produce an intelligent policy on abortion and this is just what has happened. Although SRC's and SGM's are susceptible to stacking and other bad side effects, on this issue they have proved [unclear: ound]. There is little need for a referendum which is complicated, confusing and more importantly, not entitled to bind the association.

It is all very well to get carried away with the idea of a referendum. Really [unclear: ti] only prolongs and confuses the issue. If students are concerned enough to make policy for the association, then they should turn up to student meetings and make it. This is time-proven at Victoria as most of the policy on our books is good policy which should be actioned by our Executive and SRC representatives at every occasion.

Looming up on the horizon, the care free school of Salient whales were spouting forth after sounding in the deep. Such a tranquil scene it seemed, but what is this? All seems not well with the Salient Whale school (of thought)'. There on the distance sits a fleet of mixed (up) Social Imperialists, and assorted Nippon Whale Factory ships (or is there really any difference). In full flight was the advance guard of the school led by David chief bull whale Murray, flanked by other battle scarred bull whales named Gyles Beckford (Chief Technical Bull), with attendant bull whales of the 'Robinson Species' named Bruce swimming along beside. Leading the cow whales was Lamorna Rogers desperately swimming wondering whether or not she will end as a pair of whale boot slippers. Rose Collins was sunning herself on the surface while Eugene 'ace Exec reporter' Doble was avoiding incorrect line harpoons, as Patrick O'Dea sang his life away by not keeping a weather eye out for a fast Russian whaler. Jane Wilcox just missed out on becoming a vat of whale oil and Lynette Shum almost drowned in her own tea. Rire Scotney was thrashing about madly in the Red Sea, Simon Wilson was viciously attacked on the Salient Office deck, the first time in many a long day. There were many more varieties such as the long finned Sue Cairney, the near extinct Rod James and Chris Norman. As the grim (owls of the rapacious SS Brezhnev came into sight Geoffrey Churchman and Mike Stephens closely followed by Kevin Swann dived to the dark depths where they met the typesetter Wendy Bachler recovering from an earlier attack. Only Pat Martin as the Albatross seemed to be safe from it all.

Salient is edited by David Murray for the Victoria University of Wellington Students Association. Private Bag, Wellington. It is printed at Wanganui News papers. Drews Ave, Wanganui. Please note our change of address. Salient no longer has a PO Box.

# President

# The Bursary Saga — Part Two

—Lindy Cassidy.

## Image of an angel in armour

Last Wednesday the Minister of Education (Mr Gandar) announced the lifting of the employment restrictions from Bursary regulations.

This will be a relief to students who have either been working illegally or who wish to supplement their income. What is more significant than the contents of the actual announcement by Gandar is what was not announced i.e. a bursary increase for this year or removal of the abatement. It appears almost certain that students will not receive a cost-of-living increase this year. The government will perform its traditional election acrobatics and grant a minimal cost-of-living increase for 1978. But that doesn't solve this year's problems, or next year's for that matter.

At last week's NZUSA National Executive meeting it was decided to take positive action around a National Day of action on bursaries — June 15th. Large forums have been organised round the Country. At Victoria Mr J Ellis (MP for Whangarei and chairman of the Caucus committee on education), will try and justify the National Party's 'New Reformed Standard Tertiary Policy'. We want hundreds of students there asking why the National Government has not yet carried out their election promises.

But a forum is not enough. The National Executive decided to take back to its members a proposal to take effective action around the budget announcement. At the next SRC you will be asked to vote on a motion to decide whether will storm parliament or . . . come and tell us how you feel at the SRC this Wednesday.

## Library Cuts

At the Library Committee meeting on May 28th, the main business centered on the presentation of the results of the Library Cut backs Survey, with the main aim of the student reps, being to get three main proposals endorsed by the committee as recommendations to be put to Prof. Board.

The proposals were that for the remainder of 1977:

- That the Library be reopened on Friday nights, two weeks prior to and during, all examination periods.
- That the Library hours be extended in Sundays to 1pm — 11pm inclusive
- That the Library remain open until 11pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the August vacations.

Neil Gray presented the results and these proposals to the committee on behalf of the Students Association. Neil then proceeded to try, (although getting the main issue clouded by his rhetoric), to answer queries and questions from the academics who were obviously fencing around to try and find some way out of handling the issue.

Several points emerged from the ensuing discussion:

- That only \$3,500 would be saved (out of a total of \$33,000 saved in cuts) by closing the Library on Friday nights and after 6 pm during the vacation.
- The Library Committee members felt that they had no power to recommend or alter the 1977 finances for the Library.
- Committee members also felt that seeing as Prof Board had just made the decision to cut the services (favouring to keep its credibility intact) it would not reverse its policy for mere student wishes. The following motions were then passed with student Reps dissenting.

Moved Prof. O.F. McKenzie seconded Ms S.R. Bell.

That the Student's Association report on Library usage be received and that this Committee expresses its appreciation to those who prepared it.

That while it is sympathetic to student requests for extended access to the Library, especially proceeding final examinations, it nevertheless thinks that given the finance available to the Library this year the Library Committee cannot consider further extension of opening hours in 1977. That the question of the cost of providing extended opening hours in relation to the financing of book and periodical purchases in and after 1978 be referred to the Book Budgeting Sub-Committee.

## Carried.

To me this indicates that the Library Committee members were not willing to handle this contentious issue,

and were unwilling to lay their principles on the line.

The whole meeting was pivoted around the staff attempting to find a way out, so that their arguments were set in rather exaggerated form of how and in what way Prof. Board would react and the consequences of that upon Council. The motions providing a very convenient way out.

It is interesting to note that the last point on the agenda was a discussion concerning an extra \$10,000 needed to upgrade poor lighting and inadequate shelving on Floor 1 (periodicals). Come on. What are priorities! That money may come from a different fund — or does it?

The next step for the Students Association is to take the Library hours issue to University Council, with some direct action to show our determination, before then.

La H.

Give a Stuff! If you are feeling hard up or going heavily into the red, then come to the bursaries forum, Tuesday lunchtime in the Union Hall to hear Russell Marshall expose the fraud of the STB.

Lost: Parts of a Rice Cooker — lost during the International Student Congress, 7-10 May, around the Union Building. Please return to Studass.

WMSSA Lunchtime filmshow. "The cost of a cup of tea" will be shown as well as "Indonesian Boomerang". Wednesday, 8 June 12.30 — 1.30. E 006 Lecture Block.

SRC Wednesday — high noon — Union Hall Every student gets a vote so come along. SRC

## Executive

Executive

### Executive Report

At Monday's meeting Kevin Swann read a letter of resignation from the Cultural Affairs Officer Gerald Sharrock.

Having just received a vote of no-confidence from his committee this was not surprising. What created tremors in the board room was his timing i.e. his resignation was effective from May 30.

### By-election imminent

The VUWSA constitution states that if three resignations are received before the 1st June, a by-election must be held for all positions, whether vacant or not. Gerald's resignation directly followed that of WVP Catherine Paterson and that of the almost forgotten Mark Sainsbury, early in the year.

For three members of an executive totalling 10 people to resign is an obvious disappointment and raises the question of why such a lamentable situation has occurred. The first person to look at must be the leader of the Executive, Association President Lindy Cassidy. Lindy didn't feel that the resignations could be put down to any lack of success in her co-ordinating of the Exec. She thinks that as leader of the Exec. she has been reasonably successful. Lindy told me on May 30:

"I haven't the time to chase people up. I've tried very hard to get Exec. members involved in campaigns which I see as important to the Association. To get some of these people to join with you in a united campaign is very difficult. I think a lot of it lies in the fact that they often see themselves as merely administrators of the specific areas to which they have been entrusted to them. A lot of exec members take on their positions under the impression that it's a nice easy job that they can fit in with their varsity work. It is not. An Exec member if he/she is to do his/her duties properly is required to work very hard. Any person taking on a position on the executive must make a conscious decision to put the Association first. Many do not and the resignations are the result".

### A Bad Bunch?

Thus Lindy's view is that it is largely due to the poor quality of many student politicians and the misimpressions under which many people enter the executive lead to so many failing to - complete their year's term. The calibre it is true, rarely passes that of a slug gun so Lindy's analysis can on the whole be considered a correct one

Perhaps, as seems likely, Lindy could not have stopped the passing of these three but it would be fair to suggest that her function as leader of the executive could be improved. Given the state of student awareness the people and the conditions Lindy has to work with she has contributed a lot to the Association this year. My earlier comment deals with but one facet of her job.



The part which factionalism, personality clashes and the like has to play in this is hard to determine but Gerald's resignation and the by-election could be looked on favourably by some members of the executive. The election of Sue Hanna to the vacated VWP's position gave a little more force to the Cassidy-Swann axis. The election of a consistent right-winger to Cultural Affairs would negate this (providing Sue holds her seat in the election) and it would return to the ancient regime i.e. 'which way will the appendages sway' state. The election of a left-winger would be a 'devastating blow' to the Thrush-Underwood alliance and would hopefully bode well for a livelier, more active campus.

## Meet the Man

Gerald had received a no-confidence vote from his own committee. The motion had been moved by fellow Exec member Andy Moore-Jones. Although reluctant to do such a thing Andy felt that on Gerald's performance he had to go. He suggested that Gerald was academically over-committed and failed to make a positive move in any direction.

The following day (May 31) I interviewed Gerald Sharrock. The reason he gave for the dramatic timing of his resignation was: "To precipitate a referendum on the abortion issue. It would also be more desirable to have a full by-election. The only mitigating circumstances against it are the cost and the time it takes. In terms of the cost if you have a referendum it will be incurred anyway".

It seems now that the referendum will not be held. The protagonist, Gerard Winter has since decided that the idea was not a good one and will therefore turn to other methods. So it appears, at this stage, that the main justification for the timing of his resignation and the forcing of a by-election has been removed. I asked Gerald if there was any political or emotional reasons behind the timing. "No. I've explained that I disagree with the decision (of the Cultural Affairs Comm.) but you've got to take the rough with the smooth".

The elections will be for the positions of Woman Vice president, SRC Co-Ord. and Cultural Affairs Officer. The present SRC co-ordinator (Andy Moore-Jones) is expected to stand in the election.

## Revue

Dave Smith and Stuart Devenie came to put a proposition to the Exec. They're willing to put a revue on in the Memorial Theatre. Seeing as there's not much bloody comic material kicking around Dave and Stu thought the boys might get a giggle out of this. Both these guys are known to one and all as entertainers of the first order and have been involved in past reviews held at Vic. This would be Dave's eighth review if held, others include 'Silent Knife'. It was mainly the financial side of things that were discussed and after a while they got wise and left.

Once they had left, Neil Gray, in favour of the idea in principal, put forward a few points for mooting. And on the whole they were,

- some revues lose money
- students should benefit more from a review than a good night's entertainment e.g. actors, workshops, students as stage hands etc.

Steve Underwood could see no point in insisting on a set number of students in the revue. He also couldn't see any point in a bunch of half baked student actors fucking things up. If students could get in the revue — fine!

## Tenants Union

In his report, Peter Gilkinson said he had attended a get together of TU people to work out new tactics. It seems TU is moving away from legal action as a method to protect tenants. There was a bit of a hoo-ha at Exec about a poster using the words 'Land Barons' to describe troublesome landlords. "Aren't we land barons?" said the man with the monocle and the red hat who had [unclear: must] come to the meeting to advertise the fact that Vic had a ski hut and all students are welcome to use it.

The Justice Department wanted to do a survey on drugs and to get the registry to release the names and addresses of a thousand students who they could send questionnaires to. The folk at Exec, didn't think it would be a good idea to release that information especially as there was Vic policy on confidentiality.

Students Against Imperialism have been admitted as a VUW club. (Watch out for this new political force on campus — Ed.)

## Lacking Insomnia

It's lucky you're going to read this in print because my writing is very illegible, only partly due to the fact it's very late, I'm sick of this report and (his is the last sentence of this report —

Thank God — Good Night.

—Eugene Doyle.

## **Kahikatea disappearing**

Government Blackmail and Lollypop Sticks

Last Tuesday the Wellington branch of NFAC (Native Forest Action Council) heard from a research scientist living and working in South Westland. The story told was one of wanton destruction of our natural resources on a scale unimaginable to most of New Zealand's town dwellers.

Kevin Smith, a Ph.D student at the University of Canterbury, recounted the nature of his work, the work of the New Zealand Forest Service, the Wildlife Division and the sawmilling companies operating in New Zealand today.

The NZ Government has promised through the NZFS (Forest Service) some millions of North Westland native timber to private saw mills; including Carters Okuru (South Westland). It is now realised that the original estimates that the Government contracts were based on, cannot be filled by the Forest Service to the Private Companies.

So the Millers, Foresters and Government are looking further south to the Glacier region of the South Island for more trees. The trees the saw millers want to fell are the last stands of New Zealand's Kahikatea white pine. A tree that grows to over 100 feet and that does not regenerate with the presence of man. The wood is inferior to *Pinus radiata* (and related species) to a degree that as a finishing wood, local merchants describe it as "bloody awful".

However Whitepine makes a good rolling-pin, ice cream or lollypop stick owing to its lack of 'tasting' ability. Here there is a use for less than 5% of present milling done of it, let alone increasing the amount by a few thousand square hectares. If the material is so useless then why are people like Carters prepared, in fact determined to mill it?

As the NZFS is bound by the contracts mentioned to actually make available the wood or timber to the miller; no cost is incurred by the saw miller exploiting it in getting the wood cut. That is roading (across swamps and mountain chains), and other engineering problems. In fact the miller has only to pay the nominal Government royalty for the use of State lands and forests, to gain all this. Further the white pine is extremely useful as boxing on concreting sites e.g. the Waitaki hydro development scheme.

The manager of one mill processing Kahikatea said that he hopes to secure the contract to supply the Clutha development Project with all its boxing requirements. And why is kahikatea so useful for boxing?

## **And why is kahikatea so useful for Boxing?**

The cost of kahikatea with the aforementioned Government Subsidy 30% less than low grade *Pinus radiata* at the same stage of treatment.

## **And Yet Government Policy is to Preserve Native Timbers**

Kahikatea is naturally well suited to the eco—niche it fills. It is also the tree that the White Heron lives in.

It can be seen as an extremely important part of our eco sphere. And yet Carters are (among others) putting up a case for the removal of this species, pressuring Government claiming that without the timber for its mills it would have to put most of its South and North Westland workers out of jobs. The workers that live and work in the South Westland town of Okuru were 'placed' there from the North Island! To resolve the problems generated by the millers wishing to remove the last stands of this tree a conference is to be held on the West Coast on the 27th of June. Seats have been fixed at 200 with ten going to the NZ conservation groups, a few to Government department mints and the majority being filled by 'industry' spokesmen.

## **It would seem likely that this would result in the taking of forests.**

So it appears reasonable that groups like NFAC are worried at the wanton destruction of Beech and other forests; to express their concern they have circulated a petition titled the Maruia Declaration.

To date they have collected over 200,000 signatures, making it so far the third largest petition in N.Z.

## Petition Copies Have been Placed in The Studass Office

The petition is to close on the 22nd of June, signifying the deminishment of our native forests.  
P. Norman

## Film Previews

### The Exorcist: Tues 2.15pm

Director: William Friedkin.

For some reason this film was extremely popular to say the least. It was probably the incredible publicity it received. After all when you are told that the girl star vomits bile at priests, masturbates with a crucifix, and turns her head 180 degrees among other things it is not surprising. And it is always worth seeing a film this popular in order to see why so many people went to see it.

The make up job of the century which caused many a theatre worker a nauseating time cleaning up vomit from theatre seats.

### Harold and Maude. Wed. 2.15 pm.

A film about two wildly incongruous lovers on a stolen police motorcycle.

Once this film had become known by a few people the word got around and people flocked to see it. It played for more than two years in some of the world's best movie cities.

A film full of morbid things like fake suicides and death and a love affair between a young man and an 80 year old woman But statistics have shown that a good proportion of people see the film more than once.

### Don't Look Now: Thurs. 2.15 pm.

A film by Nicolas Roeg of Performance and The Man Who fall to Earth.

This is a much better film than these other two. It is one of the best psychic horror movies made. It stars Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie, both in great form.

## Israel Moves Right

It seems that there is more to the state of Israel than the happy, healthy, picture postcard Kibbutzim. The election of Menahem Begin as Prime Minister has demonstrated a darker side of the Israeli state. Consider some of the statements that got him elected:

### Condoning Massacres

*"I was the commander. I was responsible for any operations being earned out".*

Begin said this recently when asked about the Deir Yassin massacre in 1948. While Palestine was under British rule, Begin was the head of the Irgun Zvai Leumi (National Military Organisation) which the pro-Israel magazine Time described as an "anti-British, anti-Arab terrorist group." Begin joined the Irgun in 1943. Time describes its activities from that time:

"Irgun, and the smaller group, the Stern Gang, began a campaign of terror designed primarily to drive the British out of Palestine. In 1946 Begin's men blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, which was then the British Government headquarters. Ninety people — Jewish and Arab employees, in addition to the British officials — were killed. The Irgun also tortured two British soldiers to death and then strung up their booby-trapped bodies in an orange grove.

"An incident that shocked the world was an assault on the Arab village of Deir Yassin in April 1948. Using Sten guns, rifles, hand grenades and long Arab knives, Begin's men massacred more than 200 villagers, mostly old men, women and children. Many were mutilated and women raped."

Begin

Now this man who "was the commander" during Deir Yassin is to hold the reigns of power in 'peace-loving' Israel.

## Legitimising Israel's seizure of Arab territory

"[unclear: Wi] occupied territories?" (in reference to the [unclear: w] Bank and the Gaza Strip).

"We stand on the land of liberated Israel" (said while standing in an illegal Jewish settlement in the West Bank).

Israel has occupied and held the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the 1967 war. The Arab population in these areas have been brutalised by the occupying troops. Houses of whole families are blown up if just one member is arrested for suspected guerilla activities. Curfews are being declared more often. Passes are needed to travel from these territories to the rest of Israel for Arabs. These territories were never part of the UN mandate territory of Israel set up in 1948. Previously Israeli governments have pretended that they occupied these areas for security reasons and would give them back as soon as their security was 'guaranteed'. Now Begin has made the conquering of these territories a religious mission — he calls it the liberation of old Judea and Samaria. Disregarding the Arab populations who have made their living there for years, Begin is now talking of the "*many Jews who will come to make the land bloom,*"

## Conclusions

Begin's words (all from *Time* 30/5/77) are chilling. They offer no hope for a peaceful or just solution to the problems of the Palestinian people. They are the first shots in a new Arab-Israeli war — a war that will momentarily take the place of the current 'no-war-no-peace' that the superpowers have forced on the Middle East peoples.

But it is important to recognise that Begin is not the odd man out in Israeli politics (just as it is important to recognise the same fact about Muldoon). He has been a cabinet Minister in a previous 'socialist' government. His sentiments are only more firm than those of previous Israeli rulers — there is nothing new in them. His replacement will not change a h thing.

— Bruce Robinson.

## Health Service

Drawing of heads in profile

## The Ins and Outs of Pap Smears

The Pap smear or cervical cancer test is named after Dr George Papanicolaou. A small amount of cellular material is scraped from the mouth of the cervix using a small wooden spatula. The material is thinly spread onto a glass slide, fixed in an alcohol solution and sent to the laboratory for staining. It is examined by a cytologist for any abnormal precancerous cells.

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the subject and there has been wide variation in the recommendations for screening programmes.

Is cervical cytology worthwhile? When should a woman begin regular cervical cancer screening? How often should smears be taken? At what age should they be [unclear: sopped]

A recent Comprehensive report, the Walton report was published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in 1976. The Health Department considers that this report makes realistic recommendations which are applicable in New Zealand.

## Who Gets Cancer of the Cervix?

High risk categories.

- While all sexually active women are at risk of developing squamous carcinoma of the cervix, those women who become sexually active at an early age, especially with multiple partners are particularly at risk.
- Women who have been infected with herpes virus are also at high risk.

Low risk Categories.

- Women who have never been sexually active.
- Women who have reached the age of 60 without abnormality appearing in routine smears.

## When to Start

The first is taken when a woman presents for any of the following:

- Contraceptive advice.
- Treatment of a vaginal discharge.
- Treatment of a pelvic infection.
- Investigation for venereal disease.
- Pregnancy.

## How Often?

For the high risk categories annual smears are recommended. For the majority of women two smears are recommended within the first year then, provided these are both normal, further smears should be repeated —

- at 3 yearly intervals until 35 years of age.
- then at 5 yearly intervals until 60 years of age.

## Nurses Clinics

The first smear should be taken by a doctor when a pelvic examination is carried out. Thereafter routine smears can be done (painlessly) at the Student Health Service by the Nurses. Every Wednesday afternoon there is a special clinic and no appointment if necessary. Remember, smears are not taken during menstruation.

Don't put off your Pap smear.

## Whales threatened by big powers

*Project Jonah — The Inside Story*

*Turning magnificent, intelligent, ecologically critical animals into shoe polish, car wax, margarine and lubricating oil may be the ultimate nonsense of the modern world.*

*The killing of whales is particularly barbaric. A gunner blasts a 150lb 5 foot long steel harpoon deep into the whale's flesh. Inside the tip of the 3½ inch shaft there is a grenade with a time fuse and as this explodes inside the whale's body, swivel barbs are released which open up like an umbrella. The result is a brutal, lingering death as the whale is 'played' from the harpoon line. The animals terrified struggle can drag a 400 ton ship along with it. There is no doubt that this device is one of the most cruel and ruthless one could use on living creatures. It is an horrific way to die — a whale's nervous system is less susceptible to wound shock than a human's so it suffers intense pain all the time.*

*There are cheap and available substitutes for all uses of whale products. Human consumption of whale meat is declining, but the killing of whale and dolphins for pet food, chicken feed, cosmetics and fertilizer increases. The whaling industry is relatively minor, realizing about \$150 million a year world-wide. Japan and the USSR are the big whaling nations, each killing about 40% of the world catch. The rest of the whaling is done by Australia, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Panama, South Africa (members of the International Whaling Commission) and Brazil, Chile, Peru, Portugal and*

*Spain (non-members).*

*In view of its profits and products it is a trivial industry. The destruction of an entire order of highly evolved, intelligent, gentle beings is not, however, trivial. Must it go on? At the present rate of slaughter, many species of whales will be extinct at the end of this century.*

*This is where Project Jonah comes in. It is an international organisation devoted to the protection and under-standing of whales, dolphins and porpoises. Its goals are to prevent the commercial and/or biological extinction of threatened species, to change international public and governmental attitudes regarding the commercial and military use of whales, dolphins and porpoises, and to encourage and conduct observational research with wild, free-living whales and dolphins.*

*Project Jonah is a member [unclear: organisat] that offers no member services. We do not have subscriptions or dues but rely on donations. We depend on members support for our programme, but have decided that we can either serve our members or save the whales and have decided to spend our energy and members money on the whales. However we do maintain a mailing list and do call on members from time to time to support us in letter writing campaigns etc.*

*People's support is essential now — because now is all the time we have.*

*If you are interested in further information write to: —*

*Project Jonah*

*222 Naenae Road*

*Lower Hutt*

freak-out funnias presents I'M A DING DONG DADDT by R. Crumb

## Employers Interview Programme

A selection of employers from industry, commerce and the state services will be visiting the University from July 6 to August 1 to meet students who would like to discuss careers opportunities.

Details of the employers visits will be published in Salient and, towards the end of June, individual programmes will be distributed around the Varsity.

The programmes will also be available from the Careers Service at 6 Kelburn Pde. where appointments to see employers can be made.

## Arts Festival Treasurer

NZ Student Arts Council requires a treasurer for the forthcoming Arts Festival (August 20-27). Duties will include:

- Day to day management of Festival finances.
- Monitoring of Festival budget.
- Preparation of final accounts for Festival.

Somebody with practical experienced is preferred and a generous honorarium will be paid.

Further information from NZSAC Inc) Box 9266, Phone 850-213.

## International Vice President

Applications are now called for the position of International Vice President of NZUSA. The position is a full-time one with a cash flow of approx. \$5700. Applications including a curriculum vitae should be sent to —

The President

NZUSAPO Box 9047, Wellington

no later than June 18. Priorities for this position are (1) organising a campaign on the cutbacks in the levels of overseas students (2) South Pacific and East Timer (3) Southern Africa.

Victoria Book Centre Ltd. 15 Mount Street, Kelburn. Phone 729-585/6 announces a SALE Starting Monday 7th June until Friday 10th June Large numbers of books from a wide range of subjects are offered at a substantial discount. Good selection in HISTORY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, POLITICAL SCIENCE, CLASSICS, GERMAN, RUSSIAN, GEOGRAPHY AND MANY OTHERS; This is your chance to buy recommended texts and reference books at reduced prices. ALSO OFFERED are a wide range of General Books including Photography, Rock Music, Films and Film Making, Meditation and numerous others. ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Walter Nash by Sinclair ..... 13.95 ..... 11.00 The Soul Book ..... 5.60 ..... 3.75 Story of Rock by Belz ..... 8.65 ..... 5.00 New Zealand Short Stories ..... 1.50 ..... 1.00 Stories of Frank Sargeson ..... 3.95 ..... 2.50 The Godwits Fly ..... 2.50 ..... 1.75 Collins 1977 One Day Diary ..... 2.95 ..... 1.95 On Friday 19th June a fine selection of Art books will be put into the Sale. SALESPECIAL 3 only Mintron FSR — 817 Electronic calculators: features include independent memory

storage register, exchange memory and display key, floating decimal point, fixed decimal for addition and subtraction, exchange X and Y key and sign" exchange key. The scientific functions include trigonometric, inverse trigonometric, exponential, natural log, common log, reciprocal Fn as well as n, xy and square root. Normal Price \$112.00 Now only \$60.00

## Detente... Never having to Say You're Sorry

In the week before Easter this year, US and Soviet leaders confronted each other across the negotiating table in Moscow for three days for negotiations on a number of issues. The most important were the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). SALT 1 expires later this year so a new agreement needs to be signed soon if the two superpowers are to keep up the appearance of limiting their arms expansion. No progress had been made in the SALT II negotiations since 1974, when President Ford and Brezhnev made a preliminary agreement on missile limitation.

It is now history that no progress has been made in the latest round of talks either. This is hardly surprising since the proposals tabled by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance involved an actual increase in US strategic weapons coupled with substantial cuts in Soviet Weapons.

The failure of the talks has provoked considerable anxiety in the US government and press. "Is detente dead or dying?" "US-Soviet relations are the coldest for years": These are typical comments. An agreement that Vance and Brezhnev will meet again in May, and Carter's meeting with the Soviet Ambassador in Washington has done something to ease the atmosphere, but the worried questions are still there.

In view of the current coolness in US-Soviet relations — caused by the failure of the SALT talks, Carter's 'human rights' crusade against the Soviet Union and contention over the question of Soviet fishing near the US coasts — it is a good time to make an assessment of Detente. What is detente? Does it in fact exist? Is the danger of war between the US and the USSR decreasing? Is the arms race being curbed? Would the signing of a new SALT agreement contribute towards the maintenance of peace?

'Detente' means, literally, a reduction in tensions; and both the US and Soviet leaders claim that it exists. If they were right, we would be seeing less political and military contention between the two superpowers around the world. In fact this is not what we see at all. Instead, there is a constant build-up in both nuclear and conventional weapons and the two superpowers confront each other in all parts of the world: in Southern Africa, in Asia, in Europe, in the Middle East and even in the South Pacific. The Soviet Union has been the most vociferous advocate of detente while at the same time building up its arms at the fastest rate.

## The History of Detente

[*unclear*: At the into supremacy, they then to] cause the collapse of the Soviet State by external pressure and a substantial fraction of the US leadership expected that a 'preventative war' would be fought against the Soviet Union which at that time was the leading socialist country.

According to US secretary of State, Byrnes, in 1945, the possession of the atomic bomb 'put us in a position to dictate our terms at the end of the war'.

The US tried to carry this into effect with the Cold War initiated by President Truman.

Two important developments took place in the 1950's which affected US-Soviet relations. Firstly, the Soviet state did not collapse under US pressure. Instead the Soviet Union developed a nuclear capability sufficient to neutralise the superior American forces. It was this development that compelled a truce in the Cold War and the appearance of detente.

Secondly, as a result of internal changes in the Soviet Union (connected with the change of leadership after Stalin's death) a restoration of capitalism took place. As a result of this, the Soviet Union embarked on a phase of imperialist expansion — exporting capital around the world, bullying other countries and building up its armed forces to an unprecedented extent.

These developments have led to the situation today in which the two imperialist superpowers are contending for spheres of influence, sources of raw materials, markets and fields for capital export. This contention goes on in the military field as well as the economic and political areas. However, it is masked by the talk of detente in which both superpowers engage.

The first milestone of detente was the Partial Test Ban Treaty signed in 1963. This Treaty purported to limit the growth of nuclear weapons by banning atmospheric tests. The treaty did something to quieten the strong public demands for limitation of nuclear arms which had developed by this time. However, subsequent events have shown that the treaty was basically a fraud. At the time it was signed, technological discoveries by both the US and the Soviet Union had made atmospheric tests obsolete for them. Underground tests were quite

adequate.

In the twelve years from 1963 to 1975, more nuclear tests were conducted by the superpowers than in the whole eighteen years prior to the signing of the Partial Test Ban.

Before the signing of this treaty certain other proposals for 'disarmament' had been bandied around. For instance, in 1958 the Soviet Union put forward a plan for cutting military expenditure. In 1962, a joint US-Soviet declaration was signed on putting the funds saved from 'disarmament' to peaceful purposes.

At the same time as these discussions were taking place, however, rapid increases in military expenditure were in fact occurring. According to official (Soviet) figures, in 1959, Soviet military spending was 9300 million rubles. By 1964, it had risen to 13.300 million rubles.

The US at this time maintained a bigger army than the Soviet Union, and was building up NATO strength in Central Europe.

In 1966, the Soviet Union called for a conference on European security and co-operation, saying that it stood for "measures to reduce tension, first of all military tension in Europe". The hypocrisy of these proposals were fully revealed in 1968, when Czechoslovakia was invaded by Soviet forces, and Brezhnev propounded his theory of 'limited sovereignty' which effectively allowed the Soviet Union to intervene militarily in the affairs of E European countries if it disliked their internal policies. In 1969 alone, Soviet ground forces in E. Europe were increased from 26 to 30 divisions, while every year since 1966, the Warsaw Pact has been carrying out about 10 joint military exercises.

In September 1972, when preparatory talks on the European security conference were about to begin, the Warsaw Pact Forces held exercises involving more than 100,000 men, while the more than an ironic commentary on the hard facts of continuing military competition.

In fact, while the Warsaw Pact forces were inferior to those of NATO at the beginning of the 1960s, over the last ten years the Soviet Union has initiated an arms build-up in central Europe to give it a growing military superiority in this critical area. Over the last decade, 130,000 men have been added to the central European front. Its tank force has increased by 40% and its artillery by nearly 100%.

## **Militarism of the USSR**

Since 1971, the Soviet Union has been out spending the US on military expansion. Since 1972 it has out produced the US in tanks (by a ratio of 5.9:1), tactical aircraft (1.9:1) and artillery pieces (8:1). About three quarters of the Soviet armed forces are deployed in and around Europe, clearly showing that Europe is the focus of the contention between the two superpowers.

Just as the US twenty years ago piled up superior military forces and claimed they were for 'defence' (when in fact they were used to put pressure on the Soviet Union), so today with the changing strategic relationships in the world, the Soviet Union is doing the same thing in reverse and to a greater extent.

In the Northern and Central sector of the European front (Norway to Chechoslovakia) the Warsaw Pact has 31 armoured divisions against NATO's 11, 36 infantry, mechanized rifle and airborne divisions as against NATO's 18, a total of 910,000 troops to resist NATO's 635,000, and a mere 19,000 tanks to 'defend' themselves against NATO's 7,000!

Similarly, the Warsaw Pact has superiority in numbers of planes. NATO's only advantage is in the number of tactical nuclear warheads (7,000 as against the Pact's 3500); however, it is being increasingly recognised by the West that tactical nuclear warheads could become inoperable at an early stage in wartime. With the rapid advance of Soviet forces into West Germany, nuclear weapons would cause too much damage to NATO forces and territory to be used.

Detente: "WHAT MINE IS MINE AND WHAT'S your's is NEGOTIABLE."

The facts of the Soviet armed build-up in Europe clearly refute their claim that these forces are intended only for 'defence'. The only explanation can be that the Soviet Union is preparing for a blitz-krieg style attack on Western Europe. Indeed, this is exactly what Warsaw Pact forces practice in their exercises in East Europe.

Image of soldiers

Contention between the superpowers takes place at sea just as upon the land. After the second world war, the US navy was the unchallenged mistress of the seas. It was used repeatedly to extend US military power onto other continents — during the Korean and Vietnam wars, in the Middle East and elsewhere. Today, however, the Soviet navy is challenging US hegemony. From being a coastal defence navy in the early fifties, the Soviet navy has been built up over the last twenty years to sail all the oceans of the world. The US, Western Europe and Japan all depend to a large extent on the security of their trading routes, particularly for imports of oil, whereas the Soviet union's main supply lines are within its own borders.

The extent of rivalry at sea was demonstrated by the Soviet's Okean II exercise held in 1975. This exercise involved 200 surface ships, 100 subs as well as reconnaissance aircraft. More than half these forces were



concentrated on the oil route and practised attacks on merchant shipping.

The global reach of Soviet power was demonstrated by the Soviet-Cuban intervention in Angola — a country thousands of miles from the Russian mainland.

At Helsinki in August 1975, the 'Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe' was convened. The final declaration covered such matters as the inviolability of frontiers, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, the right of national self-determination and so on. In view of all the facts cited above, this declaration has a very hollow ring indeed.

The same pattern of rapid arms expansion coupled with deceptive agreements is repeated in the case of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union is building up its stockpiles at a particularly rapid rate. In 1962 it had only 75 ICBMs, but by 1975 the total was up to 1618. Similarly, its SLBMs increased from 100 in 1963 to 784 in 1975. Whereas in 1970, the US had more missiles than the Soviet Union (1710 as against about 1600) the position was reversed by 1976 with the Soviets having by then over 500 more than the US.

Against this background, the superpowers came up with a treaty on the 'Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons' in 1968. This was paraded as a great contribution to the peace and safety of the world. In fact, as the figures above show, it was merely a device by which the superpowers tried to preserve their monopoly of nuclear weapons. While it restricted the access of smaller countries to nuclear weapons it did nothing to stop the superpowers proliferating nuclear weapons to all parts of the globe in subsequent years.

Another similarly two-faced treaty was the bilateral Threshold Test Ban Treaty, signed in July 1974. This treaty prohibited test explosions over 150 kilotons in strength, but it was not due to come into force until 31 March 1976. According to Dr Frank Barnaby of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, "The 21 month delay was to allow the completion of a number of weapons developments then underway. These include new warheads for the US Minute man III missile and the Trident submarine launched ballistic missile, and warheads for a number of new Soviet missiles. The yields of all these warheads exceed the 150 km limit. Today's main interest is the development of low-yield tactical and strategic warheads, and this would not be hindered by the proposed limit."

In other words the treaty in fact legitimised arms competition. Just as the Partial Test Ban treaty was signed when it suited the convenience of the superpowers to test underground, so the Threshold Test Ban treaty was timed to come into effect when it was convenient for them to continue testing only small bombs.

What noble sacrifices in the cause of peace)

## US and USSR Strive for Domination

Facts are very stubborn things, and all the talk about 'detente' and possible, and the gross and wasteful build-up of both conventional and nuclear armaments is a bald admission that underneath, each side realises this. If the United States is forced to take a step backwards (as in South east Asia) the Soviet Union moves in. Wherever one sticks its hand, the other butts in a shoulder. The conflict deepens. Recent events in Southern Africa show this clearly. Soviet intervention in Angola is parried by intensified western efforts to get a 'peaceful solution' (favouring Anglo-US interests) in Zimbabwe. The Soviet-backed invasion of Southern Zaire is matched by US and Western European support to Mobutu. And so it will continue.

## Detente is not new

The mere fact that the superpowers engage in discussions, reach agreements on economic and military matters and sign pacts (such as the vaunted Helsinki declaration) does not mean at all that their contention is getting less. Historical experience clearly shows that even on the very eve of war, great powers engage in such negotiations and even reach agreements.

Between the first and second world wars, for instance, various agreements were reached on armaments questions. In 1921, the US, Britain and Japan agreed to equality of battleships. The London Naval Conference of 1930 widened the mutual limitations. In 1935, the Anglo-German Naval Agreement was signed: this permitted Germany to increase its fleet to 35% of the British fleet, including the building of a submarine fleet equal in size to the British. Debates on disarmament took place in the League of Nations in the twenties and thirties that were very similar to United Nations debates in the early sixties. The UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1978 will probably see more of the same. The most remarkable product of the interwar attempts to keep the peace was the Pact of Paris, signed in 1928. More familiarly known as the Briand-Kellogg pact, this document declared that every signatory condemned 'recourse to war for the solution of international controversies and re-nounced it as an instrument of national policy in relations with one another', and that every signatory agreed 'that the settlement or solution of all disputes or conflicts, of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them, shall never be sought except by pacific means.' These terms

are strikingly similar to those of the Helsinki accords. Subsequent events showed the Pact of Paris (which was signed at the time by all the major powers) to be more rhetoric for public consumption. Already we can see that the Helsinki declaration is another offspring of the same stock.

## **What does SALT mean?**

So, having surveyed the history of 'detente' it is time to return to the point of departure and to have a further look at SALT'

SALT I was signed in May 1972 It put quantitative limits on the numbers of strategic missiles and bombers that the two superpowers could have -1710 for the US, and 2358 for the USSR. The Soviet Union was given a numerical advantage because of the technical superiority of US weapons, in particular the ability of the US to put multiple warheads on their launchers.

However, while SALT put quantitative limits on nuclear weapons it did not put any qualitative limitations on them.

Research could still go on, new weapons systems could still be developed So, it is hardly surprising that in the first month after the signing of the accords, the Soviet Union carried out 7 ICBM tests and 8 SLBM tests. At the same time, US Defence Secretary, Melvin Laird said in Congress that 'it is essential to maintain technological superiority', and that 'we must continue . . . existing deployment programmes.'

In fact the arms race continues as before with the development of such weapons as the US cruise missile, the B-1 bomber, the Trident Submarine, the suggested M-X mobile land based missile, the Soviet Backfire bomber, the Soviet Delta II submarine, new Soviet ICBM's and SLBM's (eg. the SSN-8).

Talks directed towards a SALT II agreement have stalled on the problems not covering these particular weapons. What use is there in an agreement that leaves unlimited two of the most recent weapons developments?

A further problem in SALT II is the question of numbers. The Soviet numerical advantage under SALT I was justified by the fact that the US could put MIRV's on their missiles whereas the Soviets could not. Since then, the Soviet Union has discovered how to MIRV missiles, so the US predictably argues that the SU should lose its numerical edge. When Vance tabled this proposal, the Soviet reply was a predictable and peremptory 'Niet'.

These, then, are the main problems facing SALT II. However, even if the superpowers somehow managed to iron them out to each other's satisfaction there would still be no end to the arms race. Each side would delve more deeply into its techno - logical Pandora's box and come up with yet another generation of weapons with which to torment mankind.

We can now answer the questions raised at the beginning of this article. No, detente does not exist. The arms race continues apace as does the political and military contention between the two superpowers around the world. The signing of a new SALT agreement would only serve to deceive some people into thinking that a genuine relaxation of tensions is taking place. It would do nothing to eliminate the conflict.

## **Prospects for New Zealand**

New Zealand's response to the worsening international situation is a separate question, which there is not space here to go into in detail. However, in the opinion of this writer. New Zealand should adopt an independent foreign policy. We should break off our alliance with the USA and seek unity with the third world on such contentious international issues as the New International Economic Order nuclear free peace zones, 200 mile economic zones and the like.

Such a policy would extract us as much as possible from the arena of superpower contention; it would help delay the outbreak of a new world war and it would make it much harder for the US to drag us into any of its own foreign adventures.

With respect to nuclear weapons, nothing short of the complete destruction of nuclear weapons and stockpiles is necessary. New Zealand should call for a conference of all heads of state to implement this ban. This does not mean that such a ban is politically possible in the present international situation. However, as this article has shown, anything less than a complete ban leaves gaping loopholes for the arms race to continue.

## **USA Out USSR Stay Out**

# Ode to Detente

Specially Written for the International Student Congress

Brezhnev and [unclear: Dubcel] in comradely bliss,  
Signed peaceful agreements and hugged and they kissed,  
The Czechs were all told that peace was at hand,  
But they woke up to find Russian tanks through their land (it was)

Chorus:

- Detente[unclear: —] it sounds so appealing
  - Detente[unclear: —] it's soothing and healing,
  - Detente[unclear: —] it's so non-existent,
- The two Superpowers are preparing for war,  
And we can't trust Detente any more.  
The delegates sat in the great Moscow hall,  
As Comrade Brezhnev told one and all:  
"To safeguard Detente is our solemn behest!  
And right now in Angola we're doing our best  
(to spread)  
Admiral Gorshkov lectured his new recruits:  
"Our blue water navy will soon rule the seas,  
From the Straits of Malacca to the  
Norwegian coast  
When we meet opposition we'll give them  
(a bit of that)  
The shores of New Zealand are teeming with fish,  
A very much sought after family dish,  
But it's hard for the locals to share in the haul,  
'Cos the Russians have bloody near swallowed it all  
(it's called)  
The New Tsars travel all over the globe,  
For expansion and profits they hunt, and they probe,  
It's world domination they quite clearly seek,  
But they still keep on talking so mild and so meek  
(about)  
The Third World people they struggle and fight,  
To get independence they all must unite,  
They don't need the Yanks, but the last thing they want  
Is that fraudulent, treacherous, two-faced  
(and fly-blown)  
(Sung to the tune of "So long it's been good to know you.")

## Why Oppose The Cutbacks?

In 1976, the NZ Government proposed a 45% cut-back on Malaysian students. The "reason" given then was to limit the intake of any single nationality to 40% so as to achieve a better balance between overseas students coming here. The reduction has since been imposed, and in the aftermath of that drastic cut this year, it is clear that what has actually happened is a drop of 45% or even higher in the intake of private Malaysian students to New Zealand without any increase in that of other nationalities. This is contrary to the original policy of redistribution.

A total of 544 private Malaysian students were admitted to first degree certificate, and diploma courses at New Zealand's tertiary institutes last year. The figure for this year is 296 according to the Secretary of the Overseas Students Admissions Committee (OSAC), Mr. P. G. Morris. This means a total reduction of some 250, or 45% cut on Malaysian students admitted for further studies at technical colleges and universities in New Zealand. At the same time, there has been no significant increase in the intake of other groups of overseas students, whether from the South Pacific or the Middle-East. A cut of 250 Malaysian students has effectively

brought about a cut of 250 overseas students. And this is despite the fact that when the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Talboys first disclosed the decision to reduce the number of Malaysian students, he stressed that "the number of countries from which NZ will accept private overseas students is being increased". Relating that statement to what has actually happened, it is clear that the reason which the NZ Government has so conveniently picked up to support their decision cannot stand.

## Irrational

Therefore we question the logic of cutting back Malaysian Students without first carefully considering the possibility of taking in more students from other countries, if the intention was to redistribute and to correct the unbalance. We seriously question the rationality of implementing a major Government policy aimed at achieving a certain objective (and affecting hundreds of people) without first making sure that policy will at least work in a big way towards achieving that objective. The Minister of Immigration, Mr. Gill said, in a letter to NZUSA that "The purpose of the restriction is to achieve a better balance, more clearly related to our general overseas aid objectives, in the intake of private overseas students....."

Strangely enough, in the same letter and coming just before the above statement, he admitted that "It is impossible to say at this stage what effect controlling the entry of students from Malaysia will have on the number of students from other countries."

If the cut-back of Malaysian students was introduced for the purpose of allowing more representation of students from other countries as has been claimed, then logic tells us that there must be a large number of students from other countries who want to and can come to NZ in the first place. But the Government has been saying that it does not even know if the cutback will have the effect it was intended for. Our question then is: Which comes first — are policies the means to an end, or are "ends" the means to policies?

Image of a person with a loudspeaker

## Unacceptable

When they realised the need to further back-up their decision, subsequent arguments were put forward in the attempt to justify the cut-back of Malaysian students. These include the current economic recession experienced in NZ and the myth that overseas students constitute a burden to the NZ tax-payer.

We would like to pin-point the fallacy of these arguments.

First of all, overseas students are not entitled to any bursary payments, a fact which many New Zealanders are unaware of. Hence, overseas students bring in a sizeable amount of foreign exchange into NZ each year (a rough estimate puts it at NZ\$3 mil. a year but actual figures could well be higher than this). In addition, private overseas students have to pay tuition fees for each academic year of study.

Secondly, overseas student numbers do not directly affect monetary grants to universities. A reduction in Malaysians studying at NZ universities will not necessarily lead to a reduction in education expenditure of the country.

Moreover, overseas students are often used to "gap-fill" classes. For instance, the School of Engineering at Auckland University saw fit to lift its quota on overseas students (of which almost all are Malaysians) due to a decline in the enrolment of local students in 1975 and 1976. This year, however, due to an increase in enrolment of local students in the First Professional Year of B.E., the number of overseas students admitted was reduced from 64 last year to about 50 this year. Similarly, the Commerce Faculty has introduced a 5% roll limit for overseas students this year. This means that there has been a reduction of the overseas students intake from 40 to 23 students in Commerce. The "justification" for the tighter roll limit? The Deans Committee Chairman, Associate-Professor B.R. Davis said: "Without the tighter roll limits it might be necessary to decline some local students — and there is a strong demand at present for Commerce graduates." Even more significant is the fact that overseas students are ineligible for admission into some professional courses like Medicine which are in great demand by local students. Overseas students therefore do not usurp the study opportunities of local students, but are more often than not allowed to fill up places only when they do arise. We therefore feel that the sincerity of the NZ Government in providing educational opportunities to Third World countries as a form of foreign "aid" is to be questioned and doubted, even more so in the recent cut-back of Malaysian students even if the economic factor put forward to explain it is acceptable.

Fourthly, overseas students, like their Kiwi counterparts provide a source of cheap and convenient labour during the peak period around Christmas each year. This contributes to the economic development of NZ. Unlike local students, however, they are not entitled to any unemployment benefits should they be out of work during this vacation period.

Fifthly, overseas students contribute in no small way to the NZ society in terms of research and other

services. There are between 20 to 30% (equivalent to more than 400) of the total Malaysian students here who are completing post-graduate degrees. Their invaluable contribution in the area of research and experimental projects is provided to NZ at no charge.

In addition, overseas students, of which Malaysians constitute a majority enrich the educational, social and cultural life of NZ universities, schools and the society in general. Contributions in forms such as this can never be priced. Even Mr. Gill, the person who, on behalf of the Government arbitrarily set the limit at 40% recognised the "undoubted contribution these students make in our educational institutions".

We wish to bring to attention the irony of the NZ Government's stance. On the one hand, she claims that overseas students constitute a burden to the NZ economy and therefore justifies the cut in a more humane form of "aid". On the other, she continues to maintain a military base in S.E. Asia at a cost in excess of NZ\$20 million each year.

It is apparent that the economic argument put forward to explain the cut-back of Malaysian students is, like the first, unsound and totally unacceptable.

## **Lack Consultation**

The decision to cut-back Malaysian students was obviously made without first consulting the departments and universities concerned. The most important and primal group it chose to ignore was OSAC which was established under the Universities Amendment Act of 1970 to coordinate and regulate the flow of overseas students into NZ according to the availability of places in the various universities, technical colleges and secondary schools, as it has been doing so since 1972. At the recent International Students Congress held in Wellington in May this year, the OSAC Secretary himself, Mr. P.G. Morris admitted that OSAC has become no more than just a puppet of the Government!

## **Our Demand**

We strongly urge that a review of the drastic cut-back of 45% or even more implemented on Malaysian students this year be made at the OSAC meeting soon to be held, in July. The review should gauge the success of the cut-back policy in achieving its main objective: have private students from other countries been admitted to replace the number reduced from Malaysia? As Mr. Gill maintained, in all sincerity that he did not wish to see the total number of overseas students fall, it is our contention that the cut-back is premature and has been hastily implemented without prior consultation; without seriously considering whether it will bring about the effect it was supposedly intended for. We demand that the intake of Malaysian students be put back at the level of 1976 unless and until there are sound and valid reasons for any reduction.

Image of a man  
Concerned Malaysians

## **News from Malaysia & Singapore**

### **Metal Box Sabotaged**

The strike of the 400 Metalbox (MB) workers in Singapore (see FNS Vol 3 No9) entered its 17th day on April 21st, probably the longest industrial action in recent years. In spite of various obstacles, the workers remained united and won the support and admiration of other workers and the general public.

According to the 21st April Straits Times report, the striking workers received "donations in cash and kind from the public. Among other . . . 100 sacks of rice." This rare public defiance of the exploitative system was met with sabotage and threat, not only from the management but also from the government-controlled trade union movement.

The strike, which was about the high-handed policy of the management towards the workers and the unjust dismissal of 19 female operators and 3 watchmen, was led by the Singapore Metal Box Workers' Union (SMBWU). This particular union is independent and is not affiliated to the government controlled trade union movement.

On the day when the workers took strike action, the management dismissed 46 workers for their "walkabout", and using the excuse of "retrenchment", dismissing many others. In all, 400 of the 650 workers participated in the action. Three days later, the company went ahead to sack another 360 workers. As a usual tactic the company put up a notice: "Those wishing to seek fresh employment could submit their application

forms." The general manager further added, "all dismissed employees could apply but it is up to the management to decide whether to employ them"

This tactic was by no means new, as in a collective agreement, the management employed the same gimmick but to no avail. The president of the SMBWU told the press that they were "not bothered" and would continue to strike.

Few days later, the Secretary General of the NTUC, Devan Nair, who has nothing to do with the strike, issued a statement condemning the workers. Devan threatened that "SMBWU must bear the consequences of Ignoring the advice of the NTUC not to go on strike". Devan then went on to accuse the democratically elected leaders of SMBWU of "misleading the employees of MB" and even unethically went to the extent of describing the SMBWU as "can no longer protect the employees of MB" This allegation of Devan which is both slanderous and deceitful. It was reported as early as April 5th in the Straits Times that "the strike was sanctioned by a secret ballot taken on March 19th", and thus wholly democratic and proper.

Devan's statement was aimed at creating public opinion to justify the subsequent action of the government supported PIEU (Pioneer Industries Employees' Union) in undercutting and breaking the SMBWU strike. Few days after the speech, a deal was made between the MB management and the PIEU. Through dubious PIEU made some of the 150 non-striking workers its members and was immediately granted recognition by the MB. The collaboration was meant not only to disrupt and confuse the workers, but also designed to remove the legitimacy of the SMBWU as the recognised body representing and articulating MB workers' interests.

Once the Registrar of Trade Union endorse the collaboration, the AMBWU will automatically be struck off from the register. This will come as a matter of time, the end of one of the few remaining non-aligned unions is thus in sight.

Ref: Straits Times 6 — 21.4.77

## Rock

## Dern belly full... ...but dey hongry

Sangster International Airport, gateway to Jamaica, it a mere hundred dollars return from the garish opulence of Miami Beach, USA The echoes of the empty terminal, which once processed hundreds of thousands of tourists annually, are a stark reminder that this small Caribbean island has been victimized by an international slander campaign since it elected a democratic socialist government in 1972.

Outside, visitors are almost immediately struck with Jamaica's typical Third World schizophrenia. Montego Bay grafts the incredibly wealthy, ultra-contemporary in architecture, leisure amenities and jet-set lifestyle with the poverty, almost elemental, trival and, until recently, rural reality of indigenous Jamaicans.

A stroll down Gloucester Avenue's tacky tourist strip, past the spanking new Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, through the Market centre, end on to the abject poverty of Railway Lane is a graphic testimonial to the economic and social facts of multinational penetration of Jamaica. Prosperity and power for the few, [unclear: dleness] and exploitation for the vast majority of the island's two million people.

It is in Railway Lane, Trenchtown, Concrete Jungle and the other urban ghettos and shanty towns of neo-colonialism, jammed with uprooted ceasants and farmworkers, that reggae music and the present sound of Jamaican rebellion got its start and found its bast. It was in this environment that the militant mystical-anarchist creed of the Rastafarians took hold in the mid-sixties. By 1970, when the repressive regime of the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP) was in full swing, the noted Marxist historian Dr. Walter Rodney would identify the "numerically powerful" (30,000 to 50,0001 Rastafari as the "most profound dilemma faced by the regime". The present Prime Minister Michael Manley of People's National Party (PNP) admits to thinking "that the only Jamaican who truly knows who he is has to be the Rastaman They're very beautiful and remarkable people."

Today, reggae music and the Rastatarian ambience which surrounds it are at the forefront of a "cultural revolution" which is transforming Jamaican society. Throughout the island, ill-produced but topical 45-rpm records are the primary form of political communication. From Montego Bay to Negril, Kingston, and the Blue Mountains, the people talk about the music the words and their political meaning. Record stores, like the one run by the Burning Spear group in Oche Rios, proclaim revolution and are the centres of much social activity. On an island where forty per cent of the population is illiterate, reggae music has become the popular propaganda of a profoundly anti-authoritarian resistance culture.

Bob Marley and the other well-known Rasta-reggae artists, are only the most visible manifestations of a cultural phenomenon which is playing a consciously progressive role in Jamaica and, incidently, producing the

most explicitly revolutionary music available on the mass scale in English. In response to rock'n'roll journalists who would dismiss the politics of reggae, Marley says, "Me hafta laugh sometime when dem scribes seh me like Mick Jagger or some superstar thing like dat. Dem hafta listen closeh to the music, 'cause de message not de same . . . Nooo, mon, de reggae not de Twist, mon!" (Quotes in Jamaica's English patois are transcribed phonetically.)

## The Rastafari

*"Just because I'm a  
Rastaman  
Everybody want to say I'm  
wrong."*

They put the rebel punch in reggae music. They are relentlessly optimistic, Forever "battering down sentence" in Babylon, refusing to serve a lifetime, in a society which disgusts them in every way.

The Rastafari believe they don't belong in Jamaican society and they attempt to divorce themselves from the civil institutions which have been established by the oppressors.

The cult began in the thirties after Ras Tafari, Haile Selassie, assumed the throne of Ethiopia, fulfilling the prophecy of Marcus Garvey (a native Jamaican) that a Black King crowned in Africa would be a sign that the day of liberation was near. Contrary to common belief, the Rastafari do not worship Selassie in any formal sense. They believe that each human being is equally divine and look to themselves for solutions to problems.

The traditional Rastas maintain that the late dictator is the symbol of God as a living man, but even this fundamental concept varies from Rasta to Rasta and the trend amongst people influenced by the Rastafari is moving beyond belief in Selassie entirely. For the non-believer it is easy to secularise almost any reggae song: Babylon represents oppression or the State (usually capitalism); Ethiopia, Africa, or Zion refer to liberation or the land of freedom, Jah is revolution, the force of change, and also the symbol of hope and freedom.

*"I remember on the slave ships  
how they brutalised our very souls  
Today they say that we are free  
only to be chained in poverty."*

—*Slave Driver, The Waiters.*

The importance of reggae music in the Jamaican political process was demonstrated during last December's bitterly contested election campaign. Over eighty five thousand people turned out for the "Smile Jamaica" reggae festival organised to support Prime Minister Michael Manley's progressive People's National Party (PNP).

The huge audience, nearly ten per cent of Jamaica's popular voters, was charged with electricity, anticipating the songs hammered out into the gummy Kingston air after weeks of right-wing violence. "Now you've seen the light/" came the words of Bob Marley and the Wailers. "Get up, stand up (People struggling on)! Don't give up the fight[*unclear*: !]

*"Some people think great God will come from the skies, take away everything and make everybody feel high — but if you know what life is worth you would look for yours on earth . . ." The singer, Bob Marley, is a figure as significant as Michael Manley in the Jamaican social equation. Even "Time" magazine has recognised Marley as "a political force to rival the government."*

Jamaica's right-wing also knows this. Only two days before the concert, which Marley, a Rasta, agreed to play "for the love of the people," he narrowly escaped assassination in an attack on his home by political thugs. He was wounded in the arm and his wife and a number of friends were seriously injured in heavy machine gun fire.

Since 1972, when he adopted the Rasta slogan, "Better Must Come", Manley has retained the confidence of the Jamaican people by identifying himself and his progressive policies with the cultural revolution. According to the conservative Jamaican daily "Gleaner", "this is the basis for the massive lead the PNP enjoys among younger voters below thirty which our data indicate as a major factor accounting for the PNP strength in many areas."

Manley is no revolutionary, but he has to contend with a Chile style campaign of "destabilisation" promoted by the multinationals, primarily American, Canadian and British interests. There is an international squeeze on the economy.

The CIA operates in force in Jamaica (nine operatives exposed in the Jamaican press in the past year), and there have been dozens of PNP organisers and sympathisers killed in right-wing programmes.

Since the second decisive electoral victory of the PNP on December 15, the campaign is sure to intensify. There is already an international squeeze on the economy The stakes are high because of the strategic bauxite

reserves (necessary in production of aluminium) that Jamaica possesses.

Photo of Bob Marley

Manley knows where his strength is: "I listen carefully to the new reggae songs. We have to keep a moral focus on the terrible suffering poverty we have here. I listen carefully to the new reggae songs because they remind me that the slums are still there and that they are among the worst in the world. The middle-class tells me we are moving towards Socialism too fast The reggae and Rastas tell me we are moving too slow."

## The Music

*"Often times I sit right down and I remember those chains How my people was enslaved time and time and time again."*

— Africa, Mighty Diamonds.

Reggae music has roots drilled deep into the heart of Jamaica. It embodies the historical experience of the Jamaican people — it reflects and in reflecting, reveals the contemporary situation of the nation.

Until 1962, the year of Jamaican independence from Britain, popular music on the island mainly followed American and English trends, with very little indigenous music reaching the media.

An important exception was the Burra dance, an African based rhythm that represented an open celebration of criminality and was used to welcome discharged prisoners back into the community. It was an occasion for the outpouring of grievances against the authorities

In the Forties the Rastafari began clashing regularly with the police, because of the Rastas' radical lifestyle, a liaison began to develop between the Rastas and common criminals. The drift towards a consciously anti-establishment and anarchist position was assisted by the police who labelled the Rastas as dangerous criminals who were merely using mysticism as a front for their subversive activities. Many Rastas openly embraced their outlaw status.

The Rastafari, who came to the urban jungles in the first flush of neo-colonialism following 1962, steadily gained influence and involved themselves creatively in the production of popular music as an outlet for their message. Embittered youth of the West Kingston slums, abandoned and oppressed by a society which claimed to serve them, were ready to look to the Rastas for explanations, to listen to their music, and emulate their posture of withdrawal.

*"So who's gonna stay home When the freedom fighters are fighting"*

— *Talkin' Blues, the Wailers.*

Today, a wave of anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, and anti-establishment reggae hits has bolstered Manley's left-wing policies and exposed the source of Jamaica's problems to ordinary people. Songs with titles like: "Foreign Press", "Revolution Conference", "Kissinger", "Arab Oil Weapon" and "Hear Talk of Inflation" are being produced by the hundreds and serve to communicate resistance consciousness where the high-sounding phrases of Manley's government create confusion.

The impact of reggae/Rasta philosophy has been aided by the economics of record production and distribution on the island. For all their faults, the rip-off recording studios permit almost anyone with talent to make a record using studio equipment. They also allow the production of dub (sound-track) sides which the performers can take with them on the important backyard party circuit.

In a society where the public cannot generally afford to pay for concerts (there is very little live music in Jamaica) and the musicians cannot afford instruments, and dub-sides enable performers to accompany their records live at parties. In this way the people have direct and intimate contact with uplifting subversive ideas.

Another important factor is the ability of ordinary people to distribute and promote their records through the decentralized independent record shops which have grown up in the absence of strong monopolies. Songs, political or otherwise, make it on their own merits rather than on manipulated radio play. Thus, tunes banned by the government or the establishment can become run-away hits, appropriately termed "heavy shots" regardless of official sanctions.

Examples of these are "Legalize It", calling for the legalisation of ganja, and "Discrimination", warning employers not to hassle Rastas, both of which were banned by the government.

Without a doubt reggae and the resistance culture it represents had performed liberating function in contemporary Jamaica, and a secularised version of the Rastafanan credo is definitely on the up-swing. Whether the Natty Dreads can continue their development is another story. It remains to be seen if reggae music and its rebel content can withstand the pressures of North America's spectacular commodity society. Or if it will be denatured and co-opted, absorbed without a whimper, like the protest movement and "San Francisco Sound" of the Hippy Sixties.

Bob Marley says emphatically, "It never be mon, because Rasta man him not like a hippie . . . him hold a long time an' hippie no hold a on, him fail."



At the present time the Dreads believe that their example, thier message, and the strength of their vision will prevail in the world. If not. Bob Marley says ominously, "Is better to die fightin' for yar freedom than to be a prisoner all da days of yar life."

## Drama

### Red Mole Capital Strut Cabaret

A doorway lit with purple light announces Carmens 'Le Balcon' in Victoria Street. Traditionally the haunt of the denizens of night, for now it's the home of 'Red Mole Theatre' whose 'Capiatal Strut' is running three nights over the weekend climaxing on Sunday night.

Inside, the people are packed in and it's hard to buy a drink let alone find a table. Tonight's 'theme' is Arabian Nights and some are wearing appropriate costume: flowing robes and even the odd veil. It seems to be an occasion to dress up.

Three dark figures appear on the stage moving like dervishes around each other. Long muslim veils hide their faces yet their bared breasts suggest quite a different modesty. Seated next to the Stage a group of musicians are playing what sounds like variations of "In a Persian Market": thudding drums anchor a curling oboe, to the rustling of bells.

Hesitant applause follows the act. The crowd is certainly used to 'Red Mole' but only in so far as they know they can expect anything. For Red Mole's approach is quite a different, one. Their performances while clearly held within thematic guidelines have a spontaniety rare in 'live' drama.

The troupe opened for 'Split Enz: at their New Zealand concerts last Summer. Using masks and costume they enacted a 'medieval' fable. Given that there is something exciting and immediate about live theatre many agree that Red Mole stole the show.

My girl-friend nudges me and suddenly Carmen materializes from the wings. Wearing a headdress worthy of Montezuma, Carmen's presence is immediately felt. Tonight she sings 'Stranger in Paradise' and the romantic sentiments of the song together with its sincere presentation stirs the hearts of all those present. Carmen finishes with a flourish and walks off to loud applause.

Neville Purvis (at your service) is tonight's Master of Ceremonies. Wearing an ice-cream suit topped off with a 'Panama' he is the archetypal lounge lizard. The safety-pin through his ear might alarm some but his measured repartee and South Island jokes find favour with the audience.

A series of skits follows. Achmed and his performing camel do a turn climaxing in a desert can-can. A dusky Egyptian slave emerges from a sack and is involved in an elaborate dance.

The second half begins with a shrill, piping piglet dancing a jig. A gas-mask snout and papier-mache ears confirm a satirical implication. Bill Rowling totters onstage as a decrepit old man with a stick. After some loony activity the piglet rushes off 'to have a bath! These are cruel caricatures yet theatre of this kind has the capacity to ridicule without being merely destructive.

Jean MacAlister changes the mood as she sings 'Midnight at the Oasis'. "I'll be your belly-dancer, you can be my sheik".

The show climaxes with a display of fire-dancing featuring the dancer drawing a burning torch along her arms and belly. The effect is spectacular but the performer trumps herself by actually eating fire. Recoiling from the heat the crowd roars applause.

Sunday night has traditionally been a grim one for entertainment in Wellington. The idea of holding a show like this is pretty shrewd. Everyone around me looks flushed with excitement and completely satisfied.

This troupe represents a pinnacle for New Zealand theatre specifically and Art generally. It is significant in that it maps a particular indigenous consciousness. The "rotten, ripe maturity" of Europe filters through but an unabashed celebration of things New Zealand is evident in Red Moles' approach. Perhaps we are coming to terms with our roots.

A review like this can be only one-dimensional - It may only describe what to be experienced. 'Capital Strut' should be; we have reason to be proud of these people.

— Redmer Yska

## Amamus

The Amamus Theatre group will present VALITA for a further season of five performances at Unity Theatre June 8th-12th at 8.00pm. First presented last year, the play a sequel to 'Gallipoli', presents an image of

the present, but as always the present can only be considered in relation to the past — in this case the events leading up to and including World War II. The story of the play, set in Poland, is simple. A New Zealander and a Pole conduct a dialogue but understanding is impossible because of the naivety of the Kiwi. The Pole challenges him to comprehend the awesome events which took place in Europe during the war, in particular the horror of the gas chambers. The New Zealander is joined by his companions and they watch as a Nazi and a Jew play out for them the relationship of persecutor and victim. Gradually the Kiwis become involved as they perceive similar relationships and memories within them until all are joined in a common knowledge.

The New Zealanders are then able to look at their present life from the point of view of this knowledge. With growing awareness, they join the common search for an image which can incorporate yet transcend this pattern.

Photo of two people dancing

When first presented the play was well received by the critics. Mike Nicolaidi wrote in Act Magazine:

"What I retain is a memory of an integrity of performance from the group as a whole which ensures their unique place in NZ theatre...., Amamus, for me, hold a taper to our times, . . . "The Radio NZ critic said: "The commitment, energy physical and vocal control of these performers is something I have seen nowhere else. Their performance was the most significant I have yet encountered ... It induced a feeling of relief, of quiet relaxation . . ."

Valita, after the Wellington season will be toured to Christchurch and Auckland. The play is presented with the assistance of the QE 2 Arts Council.

Audience numbers strictly limited. Latecomers cannot be admitted.

DOWNSTAGE DOWNSTAGE until July 2 LOVES LABOUR LOST Anthony Taylor directs a production of this rarely performed early Shakespeare comedy Dinner 6.30 Play 8.15 All bookings 849-639 STUDENT CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE Mon - Thurs \$2.50 and \$3.00 Fri - Saturday \$3.50 and \$4.00 Box office hours: Weekdays 10 am to 8 pm. Saturdays 2 pm to 8 pm. Telephone 849 639

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amamus theatre present Five performances of their work Wed June 8 — Sunday June 12, 8 pm. UNITY THEATRE Book at Theatre, 7 - 8pm. Phone 845-581 during the week of the performances. NZ's leading experimental Theatre Co.

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## Film

### A Child's Dream

#### The Magic Flute

Director Ingmar Bergman

Lido Cinema

All the stage arts ask an imaginative [unclear: volvement] of the audience surpassing [unclear: nything] required by film. Painted [unclear: cenary], for example, must be accepted as the thing it represents. Film shows the thing itself. A change in stage scenery [unclear: ndicates] a change in place, whereas [unclear: ilm], by a cut, can be immediately at the [unclear: ew] place. The things one art form [unclear: an]/must do are its inherent qualities; [unclear: onsciou] manipulation of them produces [unclear: ts] most exciting works.

Kozintsev's King Lear, for instance, [unclear: s] a totally cinematic experience. [unclear: The] camerawork, the setting, the acting [unclear: ill] bear no relation to the text as a [unclear: tage] play. They have been designed [unclear: pecifically] for film.

The capture of one art form by [unclear: mother], with no attempt to transform [unclear: he] subject

matter, cannot properly [unclear: erve] either. Thus Olivier's Othello, [unclear: hot] with a static camera from just [unclear: outside] the proscenium arch, makes [unclear: ery] boring cinema. It is not a film [unclear: put] a celluloid-strip recording of a [unclear: tage] production.

Ingmar Bergman's film of Mozart's he Magic Flute is a curious mixture the two extremes. We never forget [unclear: ve] are watching opera: even those [unclear: ew] scenes not shot onstage have an [unclear: operatic] artificial quality. Fidelity to [unclear: he] predominant aesthetic/entertainment purpose indicates the film-maker's subservience to the other art form most clearly of all.

However, certain fundamental attributes of opera have been minimized. Continual use of close-up forbids us that cardinal value in any live performance, the choice of what to look at. Cutting eliminates most of one of the more exciting operatic features, mechan-[unclear: zed] scenery in action. We never see [unclear: he] orchestra. By taking us into the [unclear: wings] Bergman provides amusing commentary on the illusion of the stage. A montage of faces in the audience [unclear: s] a filmic means of underscoring the theme.

For the opera is about the love, [unclear: aeuty] and high pleasures of art possible [unclear: inder] wise and benevolent authoritarian [unclear: ule]. Bergman's film of it is a tribute [unclear: to] beauty in art. The irony of this is [unclear: expressed] by the image of one partic-[unclear: lar] girl in the audience, whom Bergman often returns to as a touchstone for the story's development.

This face boasts an uncanny resem-[unclear: lance] to a Renaissance painting. During a long study near the film's beginning, she wears a frozen, quixotic expression. Except it is not quite frozen: she does her best but twitches get the better of her. Later she registers a smile after a happy moment, serious involvement at times of danger, and so on. Her [unclear: concrived] lack of spontaneity is as perfect [unclear: a] series of paintings as it is a denial of [unclear: per] own humanity.

A dynamic medium has been used to simulate a static one. The shots of the girl help make the film more than just a two-dimensional opera, yet their very beauty symbolises the barrenness to which aesthetics [unclear: can][unclear: tend].

It is always possible to take profound themes and destroy their importance. In my view, performed opera does this; the girl reinforces the process. The beauty in Cries and Whispers surpasses anything in The Magic Flute because it is purely filmic beauty. The qualities of perception and provocation, part of the greatness of A Passion and Scenes from a Marriage, are also lost here.

If you like opera, and don't mind the fact that on a flat screen people tend to merge into the painted backdrops instead of standing out from them as on stage, and if you don't have any quibbles over the forms of cinema, you'll love this film.

The performers, as actors and singers, are excellent; the lip synchronisation is so good as to be all but unnoticeable. The music is superbly played; and there are moments of quite marvellous imagery.

Bergman has wanted to do The Magic Flute since he was twelve. The fulfilment of that wish is carried by the sumpathy and respect of his genius, working as always in splendid harmony with cinematographer Sven Nykvist. It is beguiling cinema, beyond doubt a lovely piece of work.

— Simon Wilson.

## ***THE MAGIC FLUTE: The hero under a spell.***

### **The Cassandra Crossing**

Director: George Cosmatos

Big budgets, big casts, little subtlety, little intelligence. One wonders for how long the American movie companies will continue to exploit the familiar and popular category of film we now call the disaster movie. Not for much longer, I hope, if The Cassandra Crossing is any indication of its development, for this is a true disaster movie, in both senses of the word.

It begins well enough — the opening sequence is an expert display of filming and editing — but gradually resemblances in pattern and form between this and the other movies of its ilk fall into place. One difference here is that the cast is located in neither a ship, a building, a plane, nor for that matter in Los Angeles — but, instead, inside a train.

Two men, in a thwarted attempt to blow up the U.S. sector of the International Health Organisation in Geneva, are pursued by guards into a laboratory containing dangerous quantities of viral pneumonia. Both become infected, one is captured and dies but the other manages to escape out of the country. His means of transport out should not be difficult to guess.

From this point on, as much as the train carries the passengers, the formula carries the film. The formula of disaster movies is well known to us now. There is never one major character but several, each of whom lives,

physically or mentally, in a separate theatre of existence until some unexpected catastrophe or other confronts each unlike identity with the other. The characters, by being diverse representations of human nature, evoke dramatic interest from conflict which develops between differing personalities, all of whom are battling for space in the same imbroglio. So that the screen at once becomes populated with good types, bad types, eccentric types etc. So far however, all disaster movies have relied not so much upon the importance of the characters and their interrelationship but upon the actual spectacle or disaster itself and, more significantly, the anticipation of it. The characters become subjective to this and consequently incite the emotions of the audience to pity, fear (a dose of catharsis perhaps), horror, disgust or just plain boredom. This formula, although successful for a while, is now well established and as a result of this familiarity and foreknowledge one is entertained a lot less each time.

Unfortunately for *The Cassandra Crossing* the weight falls more heavily upon the characters since initially the disaster is present in non-visual terms.

Due to the nature of disaster movies, characters seldom rise above the level of stereotype and so lack any real depth. Witness Richard Harris as Dr. Jonathan Chamberlain make a valiant attempt to contradict this but realising that like the others he must endure the indignities of a poor screenplay. There is a conversation between him and his twice divorced wife, played by Sophia Loren, in which they discuss their relationship in terms of a game, he closes their rapport by saying: "We've played so many games that we don't know what is real anymore". This is standard fare throughout. Ava Gardner looks as though she is doing *Earthquake* again but actually turns out to be pleasantly mad. Ingrid Thulin, alas, is wasted in a role that offers her next to nothing. Like everyone, she represents a type. One trait of the disaster movie is that the actors are always subordinated into these easily recognisable stereotypes; this enables the audience easier access towards understanding the characters' motives and actions. If one character occupies the screen for only a short time in relation to the total length of the film then the justification for the stereotype method lies in the quick delineation of the character. Actions and movement, while being predictable, are nevertheless characteristic because they are true to the type being played. Burt Lancaster for example, as Colonel MacKenzie, is grim the moment he enters, is grim throughout the film, is grim when the film finishes. He plays a type whose actions cannot be questioned because his actions and dialogue are characteristic of a grim person. And so it goes, for all the actors, for all the film.

The tedium becomes the message. The film plods steps of inevitability. And as usual some die, some survive. Nasty men in white suits and gasmasks, an attire suggestive of non-humans, fight it out with the heroes. (An interesting visual trick; since we measure degrees of pain primarily through the observation of a person's facial expression, the concealing by gasmasks of the nasty men's faces acts as a kind of desensitiser for the audience when the white suits and gasmasks are shot and in pain.) The violence here is merely another means of, another excuse for filling in the time until the film's conclusion.

One element of the film did deserve further probing: what of the consequences of the leak of the pneumonic plague, developed secretly by the U.S. for biological warfare? The film asks the question and then ignores it.

In short, this film is nothing but product, an exercise in hack film-making designed solely to cash in on a tried and true routine. One quite capable however, if the proliferation of this type of film increases, of exhausting itself and driving the major studios into bankruptcy in much the same manner the spate of musicals after *The Sound of Music* did.

— David Beresford

## International Film Festival

Penthouse Cinema, Brooklyn.

The festival opening this week at the Penthouse contains an unusual variety of period, nationality and quality. The first three of the following films have been previously gathered together for their shared story of young lovers amidst tragic circumstances.

*Los Tarantos* (1963) was the first significant Spanish film to break away from the mass-produced Hollywood-style western. *Los Tarantos* is the name of a dance based on the spasms of the victim of a tarantula spider. Ancient methods of treating the poison feature in this work by director Rovira-Beleta.

The transformation into black terms of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice makes interesting cinema in *Black Orpheus* (1959) French director Marcel Camus displays an exciting visual sense with a Carnival at Rio setting, but the film lacks dramatic intensity. Starring Marpessa Dawn and Breno Mello. (TV2 screened this film to inaugurate colour transmission, unfortunately receiving a poorly processed print. The festival print will be in the original colour).

The visual splendours of Iceland are to the fore in a joint Swedish/Danish/Icelandic film. *The Red Mantle*. The story is pretty classic Romeo and Juliet stuff, based on a medieval Scandinavian legend, and involving

jousting, saunas, and most other things Norsemen are famous for. Directed by Gabriel Axel, with Bergman regular Gunner Bjornstrand, Oleg Vitov and Gitte Haenning. "Breathtakingly Beautiful" (Judith Crist).

John Huston returned to the States in 1972 after a decade in Europe to make one of his very best films: *Fat City*. It centres on a boxer in decline, waiting hopelessly for the second chance "Boxing is only the background to this sensitive, beautifully made and knowing film of naturalistic low-life, of people trying to make a living in spite of themselves and their failures in an impoverished society. It is reflective, philosophical, dramatically intense, timely and superb". (International Film Guide). A film to set the crass sentimentality of *Rocky* in its place Perceptive playing by Stacy Keach and Susan Tyrell in the leads, with Jeff Bridges and Candy Clark. Editing is by veteran Margaret Booth.

Jacques Tati, the maker of *Traffic* (1971), is considered by many the doyen of European cinematic humour, often being compared to Chaplin. His screen ego, M. Hulot, is a gangling, affectedly English and therefore very French, well-intentioned fellow, who just happens to have the extraordinary ability of turning the simplest mistake into a fully fledged disaster. Tati's canon is small (5 feature films in 23 years), and *Traffic* is among his best works. It records Hulot's attempts to take the latest in 'Camping-cars' from Paris to the Amsterdam motor show. Preposterous "scapedes combine with an acute sense of visual humour in a very delightful film.

Alfred Hitchcock made *Dial M for Murder* (1953) in 3-D, but the fad passed so quickly it was released on conventional film. He himself describes it as "a case of drained creative batteries" — certainly the film is hardly one to remember him by. The plot contains some nice twists, there is a good solid scissors-in-the-back murder, and a pedestrian Scotland Yard officer triumphs over the slick Americans. For Hitchcock fanatics and the fans of leading lady Grace Kelly.

Marcello Mastroianni stars in *Down the Ancient Stairs* (1975), a French/Italian film about a psychiatrist whose insane asylum forms both an insulator against the use of Mussolini and a fascist state in miniature. His 8 year seclusion in the hospital in search of "the microbe" which causes insanity, has shut him off from scientific ideas in the outside world and destroyed his perspective on human relationships. The arrival of a woman psychiatrist brings him face to face with political reality and his own sanity. Director Mauro Bologini has a firm command of his themes and an assured talent for style. Well worth the visit. Also starring Charlotte Rampling in one of her better performances.

*The King of Marvin Gardens* (1973) is the second notable film to combine the talents of director Bob Rafelson and Jack Nicholson. For my money it is every bit as good as *Easy Pieces* and probably the best offering in this collection. Like *Fat City* it is in the well-established tradition of American parables, relating the story of an FM disc jockey engaged in mythologizing his elder brother, for himself and his listeners. This brother is in fact only a small time operator in the local underworld; deflation of the myth precipitates the development of the film. A haunted, subterranean quality is evoked by the deserted beach - n - carnival setting of Atlantic city in winter. Bruce Dern and Ellen Burstyn are right on form in the other lead roles.

International festival at the Penthouse:

- Los Tarantos
- Black Orpheus
- The Red Mantle
- Fat City
- Traffic
- Dial M for Murder
- Down the Ancient Stairs
- The King of Marvin Gardens

[*unclear*: —] Simon Wilson.

## Sport

Sport

### Rugby League

Another heavy defeat for the New Zealand Rugby League team at the hands of the Australians. But was there anything that one could optimistically look forward to for the future? Certainly there was room for improvement, and I believe that if there was a sharpening up in some of the basics, this present team could become a competent international side.

Firstly, in tackling, New Zealand was given an object lesson in the art of tackling. Time and time again the Australians would be able to tackle the ball carrier before he could build up speed. More often than not the

Australians would require just one man to put a New Zealander on the ground. In the case of the New Zealand side - though they allowed the Australians far too much room to move and distribute the ball, and when the tackle was made, two or three men were required to make the single tackle. Not surprisingly large gaps were left in the defensive line to be exploited by the speedy Australian outside backs.

Another aspect of the play that was disappointing by the Kiwis was the backing up of the ball carrier. There were many times when Coll, Kurt and Dave Sorrenson made hall breaks, only to lack support in the movement onwards. I thought generally the forwards played well even if at times they lacked imagination in attack, and the need for tactician to direct play from dummy hall.

The same couldn't be said of the backs though. Apart from being yards slower than the Australians, the most disappointing aspect of their play was the pedestrian manner in which the ball was moved through the backline. On several occasions, quick passing through the line would have produced potentially good attacking situations, but poor passing ruined these opportunities. Unfortunately poor passing is an infliction of rugby itself as well, yet it is a simple art that can be improved upon through practise. In most cases the Australians made the breaks down the wing, and it was a simple case of our players being outflanked by superbly quick long passes.

Certainly there is much work to be done before the next match in the World Series, but the potential of the forward pack with the sharpening up of some of the basic skills by the backs could yet cause a surpriserresult against Great Britain.

## Rugby

Well the Lions go marching on. In the end they had too much height and scrummaging power in the forwards, and too much pace and skill in the backs. The play of the tight forwards was impressive but it was the loose forwards more than anything that impressed. The speed to the loose ball and the constructive manner in which they made use of this advantage bode well for the future, particularly given that Mourie and Fraser, two of New Zealand's loose forwards, were opposing the Lions. It was interesting to see Irvine overcome his problems with fielding the high ball, but I am not convinced that Irvine can reproduce this brilliance consistently. One remembers his superb displays against provincial teams when he was last out here with Scotland, but his performance in the test at Eden Park was a shocker. Still there was sufficient in the Lion's performance to give them real confidence for the test matches.

## Racing

The winter racing season is upon us again, and lets hope that we have as successful a winter season as last year. For surely there must have been been more good performers around last year than for many years. Shifnal Chief, Van der Hum, Cattle King, Optician, Oranmore were producing performances week after week that seemed to out do their nearest rivals performances the week before.

Already Shifnal Chief has found the winning way, even if with his apprentices allowance, he had the apparent luxurious weight of 57.5 Kg. However. I am sure that we will see Royal Cadenza back to form - if anything he may well be fitter and stronger than when he won the Auckland Cup. Given the wet springs that Melbourne has been having in recent years, he may be an ideal prospect for this year's Melbourne Cup. Noone has really shown out in the jumping scene yet, although I imagine that Koiro Scott, Owhata Chief and Evelyns Choice may win their share of the hurdle events this season.

A pity about Balmerino in the International event at Hollywood Part this week but he certainly sly was not disgraced. To give a horse just two weeks and no adequate lead up racing, to tackle some of the world's best gallopers at 2400 metres is really asking the impossible.

— by Inside Rail.

# Colin Morris Records Caption Competition

## Last weeks winner

## This weeks competition

*No winner this week. Get your arses into gear and write some decent captions.  
we need funny photos for the caption competition-bring them in anytime*

— Ed.

Captions must be submitted before 2.00 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 letter box inside our door or in the Studass office. The prize is an LP of your choice courtesy of Colin Morris Records LTD' Winners must contact us as soon as possible.

NEW ZEALAND CAMPAIGN FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR Public Meeting and film on East Timor. Lecture Hall, Wgtn. City Library Lecture Hall, 8 pm. Friday 10th June. Speakers — Harry Slings by (President NZ Peace Council) Peter Hopkins (President NZCIET) and Gerald O'brien. ADMISSION FREE ALL WELCOME

SYNTHESIZER WANTED We are working on an experimental dance, music production and urgently need to loan or hire a Synthesizer for this. We can guarantee its' safety; a professional, one of Wellington's leading Theatre Technicians will be responsible for it. If you can help, please ring Ian, 643-509

V.U.W.S.A. INSURANCE Be future minded! For helpful insurance advice, contact Jim Henderson, Phone 737-428, 726-606

r s c STUDENTS CONCESSIONS John Reid's SQUASH CENTRE SQUASH: 60c per half hour per person Normally \$1.25 RACKETS: 40c GEAR HIRE: 30c per item CONCESSION HOURS 9-12 and 2-5 WEEKDAYS

## Letters

Letters header

### [unclear: cations] Officer pours out [unclear: art]

[unclear: David].

[unclear: as] prompted to write this letter as a [unclear: of] thinking about that phrase often used [unclear: lent] in criticism of Exec members (par-[unclear: y] myself > "Why don't you do [unclear: some-] Now the obvious answer to this is do you want me to do ?" which under-[unclear: orollary] of the original question ; what really means is "why dont you [unclear: a] charismatic leadership with active [unclear: ots] orientated political campaigns ? "

answer this question It is helpful to the roles of the executive into [unclear: ad mini -] and policy making/campaign leading. [unclear: ou] realise that the Executive only has [unclear: y] in matters of finance and that all policy [unclear: ns] are theoretically made by SRC you will [unclear: a] in theory Exec is totally an administrative [unclear: hat] bears a relationship to SRC which [unclear: ar] to the relationship between the of Lords and the House of Commons land.

[unclear: As] (somewhat Inflated) image is, however, [unclear: pful] if one thinks of the historical [unclear: pment] of the present situation and that, originally, all policy decisions were [unclear: y] the House of Lords whereas now it is [unclear: a] rubber stamp body. I believe one can [unclear: start] of a trend in the role of indication of this trend is the greatly [unclear: ed] role of SRC officers. More and [unclear: is] they who do the groundwork for campaigns and they who try and involve roots' students while Exec simply does ministrative shit-work and keeps the [unclear: its] Association well oiled financially and administratively.

[unclear: d] as an Exec member I know the kind of [unclear: re] are expected to do in our capacity as Exec [unclear: rs] is always on the lines of organisational [unclear: nce] — selling SASRAC tickets, helping [unclear: the] meetings, seeing bills are paid and things [unclear: ed] when broken down.

[unclear: tly] this is intended as a statement of [unclear: roarh] to student politics. I view my [unclear: a] simply as a job and not as a tabernacle [unclear: hich] to spout on every available subject [unclear: w] how much work I am doing. (If I gave [unclear: minute] report at each Exec meeting you stop giving me bad write-ups [unclear: ent]) You expect us to be charismatic [unclear: s] when ail we are are very poorly paid [unclear: crats]. Now if you think that is simply [unclear: tification] I think you should closely [unclear: he] the present trend described in SRC-[unclear: elationship]. I don't believe democratic rep-[unclear: ition] can be forced from outside (by but must be allowed to grow from within on the foundation provided by the [unclear: ratic] structure.

[unclear: The] other reason for writing this was to [unclear: age] debate on the reason for the structure [unclear: lent] politics, particularly the relationship [unclear: en] administrative and decision making [unclear: ns]. I look forward to comments, and [unclear: rse], criticisms.

dialectically,

[unclear: I] Couper.

## [unclear: Democracy] or farce

Dear David,

Drawing of a man scratching his head

[unclear: Think] the narrow majority with which the [unclear: bortionists] won in SRC (25/5/77) shows [unclear: tense] division among students on the This is contrary to Salient's representat- [unclear: that] VUWSA as a whole supports "a woman's to choose."

seems that a general university ballot [unclear: only] way in which the true feelings of [unclear: nts] will be shown. After all, the cry for [unclear: cracy] is our loudest one - isn't it?

[unclear: ine] Robinson

## [unclear: rtion] rages on

David,

[unclear: With] an abortion forum last Friday, 20 May, [unclear: lengthy] debate debate at the SGM the main issue [unclear: eems] to me is whether it is a woman's right to choose. I think that it is quite clear that women dont have any rights. For centuries now man has been the dominant sex of the two and I see no reason why now in the Twentieth Century this domination should change. Women are not physically and emotionally capable of undertaking an equal role to men in society and the test of time has shown this. For instance the shocking representation of women in Parliament (keeping in mind that 63% of the population are female, and having one vote the same as men, do hold in their hands more political power) does prove that the women of New Zealand have elected a male dominated legislature. Women in NZ do not want to take on the responsibility that a man has and the last General Election proves that they would prefer to be dominated by the male sex. It also proves that the majority of women realise their capabilities and to having equal rights is Just not on. So my advice to the small minority of women who are screaming for equal rights and a right to choose whatever it may be to look at themselves, to their own capabilities (which does not go out of the home) and only then perhaps they might realise how lucky they are. The benfits to a woman in our present society are enormous they are expected to do stuff all, they can talk whenever they like and best of all only they can become pregnant.

If women are given equal rights what will happen next. We'll have infants standing up for equal rights, dogs, a monkey even, or anyone who feels they are hard done-by. The line has to be drawn and so long as the male is physically and emotionally stronger they must remain superior and women must accept their position in society no matter how tough it is.

So with regards to abortion as women dont have any rights, the decision should be left to males, the legitimate rulers of this country so that this issue must be solved by Parliament.

President of V.U.W. Mens Liberation Group.

Dear David,



Regarding the abortion debate letter in the last issue. 24/5/77. I heartily agree that abortion is a terrible thing, but as such is a necessary evil. You see, for all the contraceptive advice, its use and availability, there will be failures, misuse and plain ignorance of female fertility, being two of many reasons.

The impassioned, emotional debate against abortion, is not going to stop them happening, women have, and will continue to seek relief from from accidental pregnancies, which some people seem to forget are not ingested, but are the result of rape, casual intercourse among other reasons. And just as there are women who will seek abortions there are those who don't want them. I'm aware of SPUC's so called 'Pregnancy Help', but have never heard much about it or seen any in action. How about helping where it is needed - at Arohata Borstal, where girls already disadvantaged are continuing the cycle, by having babies that will in a few few years time be in exactly the same [unclear: position] as their mothers, and grandmothers, and great-grandmothers ...

Sincerely,

Annabeth Kew.

Dear Sir,

Once again the streets of Wellington have been intimidated by our iconoclastic sisters, the 'Feminist' movement, and for what great purpose None other than to manifest their totally irrational and trendy beliefs concerning abortion.

Frequently I have heard pleas for a totally objective and non-emotional discussion of the abortion issue from our 'cool' sisters. Well. I shall endeavour to fulfil their desire, in a logical manner. Most feminists demand abortion on demand, or at least, to generalise, a woman's right to choose. To choose what? Simple... abortion on demand (i.e. the right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.) Of course 'terminate' is a very subtle euphemism for kill or murder. After all, for a 'termination' to occur, there must be something to terminate. And what is it that is terminated? (or to be more precise; kill, murder, deprive life from). A piece of meat? Flesh? If it is ignorantly referred to as flesh, that implies that it is organic (i.e. cellular). The foetus, as most of us know (or should do) is a cellular organic 'thing' — or more correctly a multi-cellular organic 'thing'. As it is multi-cellular and organic, as opposed to inorganic, it therefore can only be termed Living - and to continue, an organism.

So now we have two important axioms clarified. Firstly, to terminate implies halt or discontinue — and as it is unwilling it is murder. Secondly, the 'thing' terminated (sorry, killed) is a multi-cellular (complex) organism, with the potential of the capacity to reason. Therefore the foetus belongs to the societies of organisms known to most as Homo Sapiens, or Human beings.

The foetus, if it is not sufficiently complex for our 'Feminist' sisters, at least has the potential to become overwhelmingly complex and acquire the capacity to reason within a relative short space of time. On the other hand, a dog or a cat is not as complex insofar as the capacity to reason, and potential to evolve into that state would require a time span beyond one's imagination.

Thus it has been proven beyond any doubt that, in a logical manner, to 'terminate an unwanted pregnancy' means nothing else than to kill a multi-cellular, complex organism (i.e. human being). If anyone can logically approve of killing fellow human beings whether they be two weeks, two months or two score years old, then indeed I do believe our society has taken a turn for the worse.

Yours etc,

G.L.C.

P.S. The slogan 'Right to do to our own body' would seem reasonable if not for one slight factor — the pregnant woman is not an individual, she is not alone. She carries within her another human being (as proven above). Thus her right to do unto her own body what she wishes does not hold ground for the simple reason that she is responsible for another human being's life. On the other hand if she is willing to accept responsibility for murder, and suffer the consequences....

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the feminist group for advocating the slaughter of innocent children, who, do not choose to be created.

Thank you ladies (if you call yourselves that) for showing yourselves in your true colours as selfish bigotted women who make me ashamed to belong to the same gender.

You are selfish because you think only of what you want, to be rid of so m eh ting that hinders your lives. What about the child's right to life. You do not seem to think that children, particularly those unborn, have any rights at all. I suppose that you nect be campaigning for the extermination of the old, since they are no longer productive.

Furthermore, I would like to ask why the feminists continually need to boost 5 heir egos by telling then selves that they are equal to males. I know I'm equal — dont you? Males only help in the production of children, we women women create them.

I consider the creation of children unequalled and and beautiful. You dont - so perhaps it would be better if you had yourselves sterilised

Yours sincerely,

A Real Female.

## More on I.S.C.

Dear David,

Drawing of two hands

It is indeed very disappointing that during the recent ISC (International Students Congress), the WMSA committee members were nowhere in sight. Is it because the ISC is so important that they don't merit your attention? Come on MSA. you can do better than that to begin your winter hibernation at this crucial time. As a student, I feel that this is one of your golden opportunities to show your worth to society as you always claim yourself — representing student's interests, my foot ! By absenting yourself (or is it boycotting ?) you really prove your worth to us.

Before I end I would like to ask whether WMSA can enlighten me as to why they were not attending the recent ISC when in their recent newsletter they purported to be in the planning committee and were pleased with the programme?

Yours sincerely,

A curious student.

Dear David,

As a student I viewed with grave concern and surprise the utter lack of participation by WMSA during the International Student Congress. During this time we saw the newly formed WMSSA doing most of the organising especially the Cultural Evening. To WMSSA I can say that you have done a good job of it and the credit should be given to you and the participants on that night. I hope that all Malaysian students will continue to give their full support to you.

To WMSA, I wish to say this word, 'Action soeaks louder than empty words on pieces of paper.' To everyone of us on this campus you really have been a great disappointment. During the ISC you must have been hiding under the 'sarong' of our Malaysian Ministers. I can only presume that you have deliberately absented yourselves, especially when you jolly well know that questions involving student's interests (i.e. Cutbacks and LATOS) would be brought up for discussion. The ironical thing is that during a recent newsletter circulated to us you (the WMSA committee) claimed that you were in the Planning Committee. Guess that you must have chickened out at the last moment?

[*unclear*: or] us older students we are not so gullible to your tricks and meaningless activities. However, to those new students, I would like to add this message: Dont be taken in by these people. University life is one

where you can learn a lot of new things, especially to develop an analytical mind; to be able to see things clearly and above all to be able to contribute more for the betterment of our society.

Sincerely,

Observer,

Dear David,

The International Students Congress has just passed yet the memories of four days being with friendly and warm people remained fresh with me. Especially great was the two get-togethers-The two get-togethers were a great change from what I have always been subjected to whenever I attend any such gathering, i.e. the you and me type (no third party). So I look forward to any gathering where everyone participates so actively.

Newcomer.

## **Auckland President writes to Salient.**

Dear David,

One thing that has frequently concerned me about newspaper reporters is their ability to take quotes out of context or misquote completely. Congratulations, you have managed to do both in your recent article on May Council -in the one sentence !

To quote — "saying that the axing of the IVP was in his own words 'a set up'."

What I actually said was "that the situation was set up so..." Perhaps the difference is subtle enough that I will be accused of nitpicking, however, in the context of my speech I think it is important. Your quote suggests that National Office forced Paul Watson to resign — this, I think, was not the case.

If I may continue to nit-pick, my motion to change the voting structure of National Executive did find a seconder (UCSA) and the discussion was indeed brief. Most Presidents spoke and as the necessary 2/3rds majority to change the Constitution was not there, it was declared lost. Once again, I feel you missed my line on this argument. It was not a question of mistrust, but simply an attempt to redistribute the balance of power. As you are aware, an SGM can achieve those ends but diving in and out of a general meeting is tiring.

The claim that National Executive is a management committee is quite correct, but as any student politician is aware, the difference between management and policy at times can be marginal. Does one call the proposed purchase of an IATA agency managerial, political or both? The case was initially decided at National Executive and confirmed at an SGM. I suppose May Council solved the problem.

Lastly, if I may finish off my cut short line talking about Lisa's report—" a direct link with what Bruce Gulley, the Auckland President, calls 'real students'".

Lets hope we never forget they exist.

Long live the superpower contention.

Regards,

Bruce Gulley

President. AUSA.

## **Letter from an ex-soldier**

Dear Sir,

With reference to your 30 May issue of Salient. The supplement on the Government's policy of cutting back on Overseas Students (specifically Malaysian) students was informative I found the slogan at the top of the middle page — 'Cut Overseas Troops Not Overseas Students' to indeed sum up the whole situation. For too long New Zealand Governments have been more interested in defending despotic Governments and not building people to people contact. Further. NZ's future defence interests would be better served if the Government spent its money on helping to make a country self-reliant rather than provide Joe Soldier with the

possibility of a cut-price stereo. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely,

A. John McDavitt (former territorial).

## Mount Street

Dear Sir,

With regard to the proposed block of flats to be erected on Mount St. Could someone please tell me why we are protesting.

For all I know, a block of flats on Mount Street could be one of the most marvellous things to happen to Wellington since they built the University.

Lots of people have told me to protest, lots of people have told me its bad, no-one has told me why its bad. Until they do, I remain.

Undecided.

## Thinking about Varsity

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of salient, a '1st year student' had raised the question of 'Can I do do something useful while in New Zealand, or am I here solely to get a degree?'

Here, I would like to share a poem, 'Come in Awareness' which was written by Norsiah A. Rahman with him/her and many other overseas students and hope that it will help to enlighten us in this question.

You who have come  
In quest of knowledge  
Come with open minds  
Ready to explore new ideas;  
To nurture your talents, if they  
Be for the betterment of mankind.  
Come with humility and gratitude  
For your coming has been possible  
At the expense of many others  
Know that you have a responsibility  
Not to betray the trust that  
Others have placed in you.  
The world out there needs you  
Let your coming be  
To make you a better person  
For the role destined for you.  
And should you find  
Your ideas shattered.  
The rosy picture you painted  
Smeared.....  
Do not be disillusioned  
But from this dilemma  
Gain greater strength and wisdom

To pursue your goals.

— Thought

## **Mulrennan replies to Malaysian Reporter.**

Dear Editor,

The campaign of slander in Salient against the Young Socialist club was reserved in the issue of May 30 for the letters column. In this the Maoist guardians of Salient show remarkable restraint; normally everything from "Salient Notes" to SRC reports is used as a vehicle for some new vicious example of Trot-baiting. But, of course, the use of the letters column gives the editors a certain cover; it makes it appear as though independent students are joining in the campaign. But the relevant letters have a marked family characteristics; they comprise the first four letters, all are signed by pseudonyms, and they all include "in-jokes" about James Robb's article on the 200 mile fishing zone.

The most vicious of these letters is the one signed "Malaysian Reporter". This letter concerns the editor of the Malaysian Socialist Review, Alan Pinjen, and his recent speaking tour of New Zealand. Pinjen spoke on three topics: the campaign for political asylum for Hishamuddin Rais, the current situation in China, and "The Revolution in South East Asia". But "Malaysian Reporter" does not take an interest in these subjects. The letter is aimed from start to finish at smearing Pinjen personally.

There are two particularly serious slanders against Pinjen: the first one is that his family, and by implication Pinjen himself, have dubious relations with the Malaysian government, this is repeated with the inference that if the Young Socialists hadn't financed Alan's tour, then "One would presume that the money came from the Malaysian Government..," No facts are presented. Instead there are only "rumours" as the letter admits. But the reality of the matter is that the newspaper Pinjen edits, "Malaysian Socialist Review", bases its politics on uncompromising opposition to the Malaysian Government. But "Malaysian Reporter" conveniently ignores the platform of "Malay-Man Socialist Review" and turns instead to "rumours" about Alan Pinjen.

The second slander that stands out is that Pinjen has "even attacked Hishamuddin Rais." But Pinjen's support for Hishamuddin Rais was demonstrated on his New Zealand tour, where he spoke on each campus where he appeared urging solidarity with the campaign for political asylum, the latest copy of "Malaysian Socialist Review" has a cover which is devoted to the slogan "Political Asylum for Rais Now", and contains an article which far from attacking Rais defends him at every step against the Malaysian and Australian Governments.

There are a number of other slanders in the letter which are of similar quality. Alan Pinjen will reply to these personally in Salient.

It may puzzle some students to find such energy as is displayed by "Malaysian Reporter" wasted on this sort of mudslinging. But this slander has a political use. "Malaysian Reporter" has political disagreements with Alan Pinjen, but to discuss those disagreements openly and sanely would legitimise free discussion. That is something that terrifies the followers of Maoism, since their politics run completely counter the principles of democracy and free speech. So they resort to tactics and abuse which make Muldoon's slanders against Moyle look like a bit of comradely leg pulling. Personal abuse and political bankruptcy are old drinking partners.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Mulrennan.

## **Further Comment on Fishing**

Dear Editor,

Silhouette image of a person with a guitar

I have just finished reading the Salient article about how the New Zealand government should not declare a 200 mile limit for territorial waters. The author of this article Mr [unclear: Jonas] Robb has lined himself right up with a big power against a small country. What can one say about this shocking article? Mr Robb's stance is like that of a by stander yelling [unclear: entha] iastic encouragement to a great ugly lout [unclear: enga] in raping an unwilling ten year old school girl.

Mr editor. Salient should support the New Zealand fishermen in their difficult position against robbery from big powers lib Russia. No more sell out James Robb article in Salient please.

Image of Che Guevara

Yours sincerely,

Tevita Tuakiaiu.

# Rape Crisis Centre

## Opening May 30

Our aims are to—

- provide support to rape victims
- to compile and make available data [unclear: on] rape.
- to educate the public to the [unclear: imp!] of rape with the intention of [unclear: red] the incidence of this crime.

Phone contact will be available [unclear: 7.00] Mon to Thurs. and 7.00—11.00 Friday.

Volunteers are able to provide on-going support to back up telephone contact.

Phone 898.288, PO Box 3871, [unclear: Wg]

*Letters must be short, double spaced on one side of the page, witty, concise, readable, and contain a ten-dollar postal note as well as a photo of the author and three referees. Letters can be put in the Salient letterbox, inside our door, put in the basket down at the Studass Office or left in the third cubicle, Ground Floor toilets. If you feel like splashing out with an eight cent stamp send to The Editor, Sallient, Victoria University of Wellington Student's Association, Private Bag, Wellington.*

*Salient attempts to print all letters except those which transgress the laws on defamation, sexism and race relations. Letters should be confined to 500 words or else they will be mutilated by our ruthless and incompetent sub editors.*

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