

Education for Sale....

Proposals for a large-scale system of student loans would perpetuate the inadequate level of existing student bursaries and compound the financial difficulties presently faced by students.

Those views were expressed by Education delegates to the New Zealand University Students' Association's recent Council at Massey University after they had given detailed study to a recently released Education Department discussion paper on Financial Assistance for Post-School Study which proposes the loans scheme.

The delegates — representing every university campus in the country — unanimously rejected any system of student loans or means-tested allowances and reaffirmed NZUSA policy that financial assistance for tertiary study should be based on a fully-supportive allowance, indexed to the Student Price Index and covering basic living costs. This principle has gained very wide support from students, teachers and educational institutions since it was first advocated in another Education Department discussion paper in 1974.

Wide Support for STB

As recently as December last year, the same principle was endorsed by a Government-convened conference on tertiary bursaries attended by representatives of a wide-range of educational organisations and institutions. The conference also made a large number of recommendations to the Government for reforms in the standard tertiary bursary scheme introduced by the Labour Government in 1976. The conference is to be reconvened late next month.

The basis for its discussions will be the Education Department paper on "Financial Assistance for Post-School Study". This 96-page document swings right away from existing principles of state support for tertiary study when it advocates a large-scale system of student loans, reduced bursary entitlements for students following second courses of study and greater emphasis on part-time as opposed to full-time study. All these ideas are advanced on the grounds of saving money.

The introduction to the paper claims that it is "a statement of topics for debate" and "certainly not a draft proposal for a new system of reformed bursaries".

Testing the Water

But this plea of modest innocence is unlikely to fool many people. Since it came to power, the National Government has made something of a practice of preceding major policy changes by "floating" unpopular ideas to test the extent of opposition to them.

In view of the strong and widespread feelings among students that the present bursaries are inadequate, and the fact that students as a group are a significant section of the electorate, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Education Department's discussion paper is designed to test the extreme of student resistance to the loans proposal and the other retrograde steps it advocates.

Loans the Answer?

In the section on student loans, the paper discusses three distinct options.

The first option is that loans should be the total system of student support. The paper correctly says this is "an unlikely system and scarcely worth debating as a practical alternative to a "bursary system".

However the paper then goes on to suggest "loans as an option in appropriate causes" and "loans as a supplement to the bursary in some or all cases".

It asks whether an "appropriate" case for loans in place of direct bursary support could be support for Ph. D study or support for second courses. And on the third option of loans as a supplement to "a basic bursary" (that is a basically inadequate bursary!) it asks:

"Could this, for example, be worth considering in cases such as those where students do not qualify for an unabated bursary (if abatement in some form were to continue)? or for some kinds of additional expenses in 'costly courses'? or for initial 'setting up' costs in the first year of full-time study?"

The essence of these proposals is that, if implemented, they would entrench the anomalies and inadequacies of the present bursaries system.

The inequitable abatement system (the absurdities of which are quite clearly pointed out in the discussion paper) could be justified by the Government on the grounds that the financial hardship suffered by many of the students who are presently abated could be immediately alleviated by the student taking out a Government-Guaranteed loan. And arguments for cost of living increases in bursaries could be rejected by the Government on similar grounds.

In the short-term, loans could be attractive because they appear to offer an immediate solution to pressing financial difficulties.

Putting one over Students

But the "solution" they offer is a highly illusory one. A large-scale loans scheme, as a supplement to inadequate bursary allowances, would be an open invitation to students to plunge themselves into debt while they are studying.

Eventually students would be faced with the unpleasant prospect of paying the loan back. That would create obvious problems for students wanting to travel overseas, as many do after completing their studies. It would also create difficulties for those who had taken on responsibilities they didn't have when they started university, for example marriage, raising a family or saving to buy a house.

As the discussion paper itself points out "the rationale for any loan system obviously assumes that a tertiary qualification is a

guarantee of lucrative employment, to ensure that students will readily be able to pay back their indebtedness. However, while at the moment there is no significant graduate of trained manpower unemployment in New Zealand, we could soon suffer as other countries have. There is probably even now some 'under-employment'; that is, people working in jobs less demanding (and perhaps less well paid) than their qualifications might fit them for. To the extent that unemployment or under-employment may be a problem, any system of assistance for study based heavily on loans would be unsatisfactory".

Restrictive Bursary Entitlements

At present, a university student is entitled to bursary assistance for a 'second course' of study which may be another undergraduate course or a post-graduate diploma. This is on top of the student's first entitlement which includes study up to masterate level. From the beginning of 1978, technical institute students will also have a second course entitlement. Furthermore it will be possible from the beginning of next year for students to be able to transfer between universities and technical institutes and take their entitlements with them.

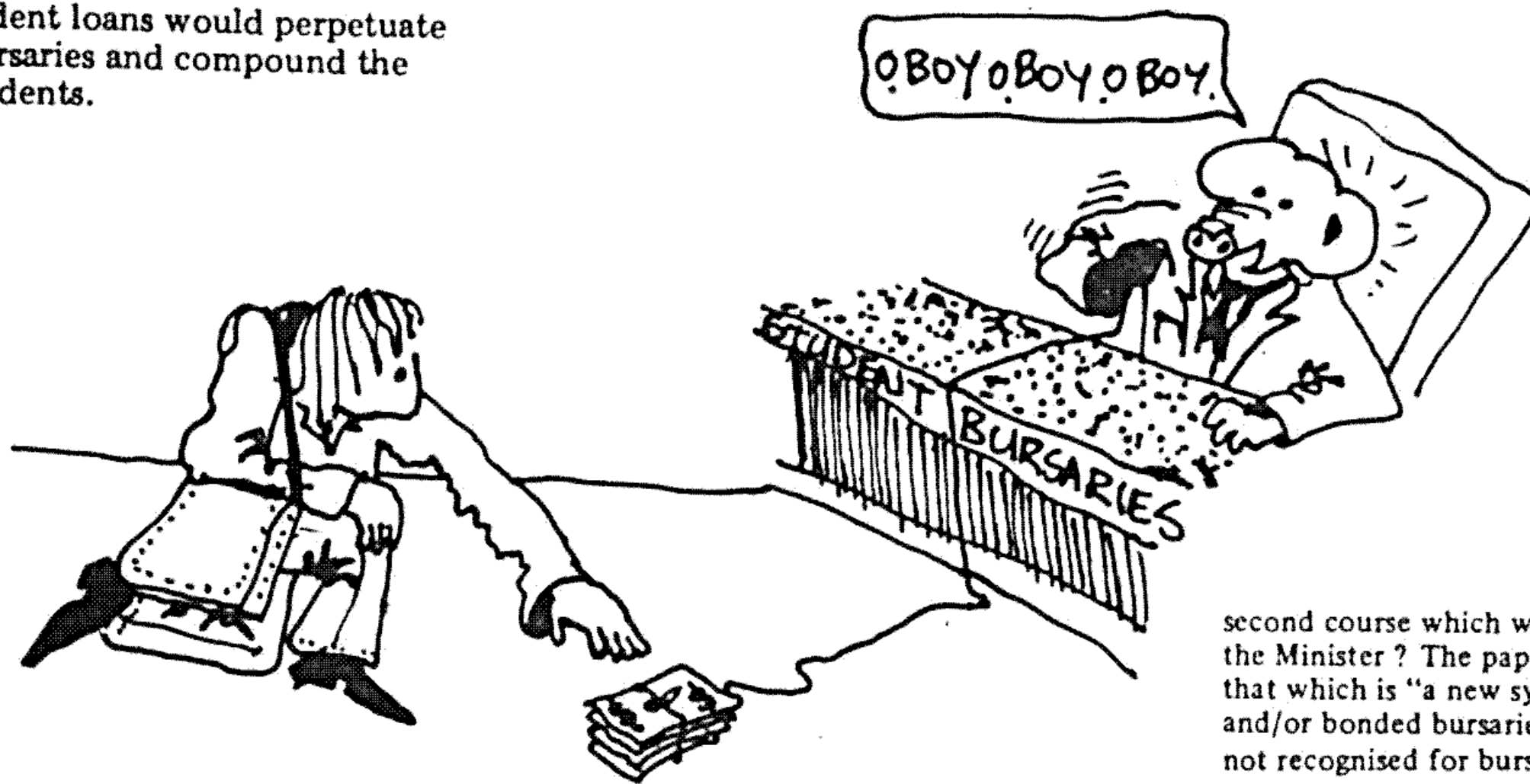
These new provisions have been strongly advocated by NZUSA and the NZ Technical Institute Students' Association because they will allow for greater flexibility for students and will promote a better utilisation of existing resources.

It is quite ironic that just as this new system of extended and flexible entitlements is being established, the Education Department's discussion paper suggests a proposal which would seriously undermine it.

The paper proposes that a student's maximum entitlement for bursary assistance should be four years in not more than two distinct courses in a university and/or a technical institute.

There are a number of provisos to this proposal, for example to allow for degrees longer than four years such as medicine. But in essence the proposal would deny a student assistance above and beyond one under-graduate degree and a masterate. The only exception would be a second under-graduate course, "directly related" to the student's present or future job, which had been approved by the Minister of Education.

And what if a student wanted to do a



second course which was not approved by the Minister? The paper has an answer for that which is "a new system of student loans and/or bonded bursaries for second courses not recognised for bursary purposes".

Part-time Study

In the section of the paper which looks at ways of saving money by cutting back parts of the existing bursaries system, the suggestion is made that there should be greater emphasis on part-time as opposed to full-time study. "No one would wish to turn the clock back", the paper states, "but should we ask whether the pendulum has swung too far?"

The argument for greater emphasis on part-time study is advanced on phoney educational grounds. The paper claims that "on the world scene" full time study "is taken to be guilty unless proved innocent" and continues:

"The argument runs that the gap between theoretical learning and practical application has yawned too wide for effective learning (the leit-motif of 'relevance' which thrummed through student protests of the sixties is adduced as evidence)".

In fact, the distinctions between full-time and part-time study do not necessarily have a great deal to do with the gap between "theoretical learning and practical application". The effective combination of theory and practice in educational courses requires carefully planned programmes which are far removed from the practice of the 1950's whereby most New Zealand university students went to early morning lectures before doing a full days work and evening lectures afterwards.

Apart from suggesting greater use of correspondence study (which is a desirable development but not for undermining full-time study at university), the paper raises few specific ideas for encouraging greater part-time study.

But the threat is there. In 1959 the Hughes-Parry commission, which reported on New Zealand universities to the Government, damned widespread part-time study as an inefficient way of using scarce resources. As the discussion paper itself admits, these very compelling arguments against part-time study still have weight. From the point of view of students' conditions, greater part-time study represents a real threat.

Over a long period of time, students have been able to achieve significant improvements in the bursaries system through united and concerted action. In the face of the proposals raised in the Education Department's "Discussion" paper, similar action will be needed in future to make sure that the conditions of future students are not seriously undermined.

— NZUSA Research Office

Brickwalling

The Dominion has beaten us off the mark yet again with their front page of last Tuesday. By now you will all know that Weir House, pending a decision by the Supreme Court on the altering of Sir William Weir's will, is going mixed sex. This is good news to everyone but the women that will have to live there. For two years I had the dubious pleasure of living beneath Weir House and all which that entails; bombarding by toilet rolls, food, the occasional bottle, and on Guy Fawkes night, sky rocket skillfully directed with long tubes.

The main reason for the change is the "continuing viability" of Weir House. To put it another way, Weir House has been making large losses because of people leaving through the year or refusing places. Hopefully now that Weir House may stop making losses, something can be done in improving the living conditions in main block. It's something that you have to see to believe.



Law Restrictions

Those who think that Council will rubber stamp any old motion that comes up before it were proved wrong when the Council made the unprecedented move of overturning a previous motion concerning academic matters. On the whole these matters are left to the Professorial Board.

The matter in question was the restrictions imposed in the Law Faculty. June Council passed a motion imposing both Legal Systems and Law and Society as prerequisites for second year courses. David Cuthbert, ex-NZUSA President and now Governor General's appointee on Council, introduced a motion to relax these restrictions. The motion meant that Law and Society would be dropped as a prerequisite although it would still remain as a compulsory course. Speaking to his motion, Cuthbert said that it would be a mistake to make Law in Society a prerequisite as it had been only going two terms and, as yet, had not

been tested. He added that the lecturer who had built up the course was due to leave at the end of the year and that the Law Faculty was not proven to be able to teach it because of these recent developments.

To all who have read this far, it may seem that the motion put forward would be welcomed by students because instead of having 18 credits of prerequisites they would then only have 12 to complete to further their studies. But because of confused SRC policy on the matter, the student rep spoke against the motion saying that the Students Association opposed any form of prerequisite, but if there was to be one, then it should be 18 credits rather than 12 credits.

VUWSA Low Credibility

Because of the contradictory stance, VUWSA



came in for more flak, not only from the backward elements on Council, but also from progressive members who, when they adopt forward thinking stands, expect support from the students. Our image has sunk to rock bottom. Only one of our reps - Peter Winter - attended the meeting. Peter Thrush was absent and left Peter Winter, who has only attended two Councils to put the students view on the law restrictions. Since being elected, Peter Thrush has attended eight out of thirteen meetings. These factors have cast severe doubt on the credibility of the Students Association - this was obvious at August meeting of Council.

The nett result of the Council was that the academics were overruled by good sense and logic. Prof. Keith on behalf of the Law Faculty was requested to stick the five year plan to make the law profession more elitist up his jumper.

- David Murray (c/o Weir House)

'Democratic' Front

In Trades Hall, on Wednesday 10 July was an open meeting, arranged by a group who called themselves the "Democratic Youth Front".

My first impression of the meeting was the word "Youth" had been interpreted very liberally as the ages of the people present ranged from 6 - 50 years old. Two speakers had been invited to attend the meeting, Mr Robert Campbell and Mr Ken Douglas.

Both spoke about the current crises in NZ, and the fact that Trade Unions organizations alone could not achieve socialism.

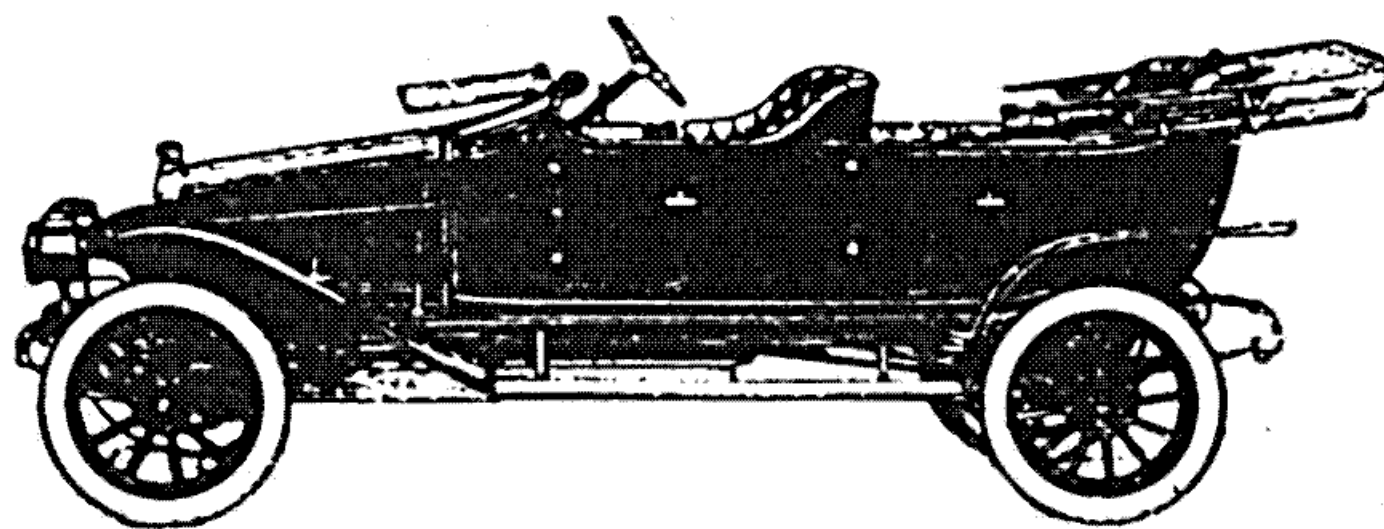
Ken Douglas went on to make an impassioned plea for unity amongst socialists and said that he would like them to work out a common plan for NZ's future. While I could not see all the many different socialists that there are around even really getting together to discuss such a plan, I did think that here was a man who perhaps did care about NZ's future.

After the two speakers had finished, there was question time from the audience. The first question was addressed to Mr Campbell who was asked whether or not Russia was a threat to NZ. Mr Campbell did not answer the question at all well, but vaguely stated that because Russia was communist, NZ need have nothing to fear.

Another person in the audience didn't think that this was a very satisfactory answer and pointed out that in fact Russia was not a communist country and that NZ had a great deal to fear from Russian imperialism - such as Russian trawlers fishing in NZ waters, and the increasing threat of world war between the two super powers - Russia and America.

It was at this point that Mr Douglas completely forgot his plea for unity amongst socialists and could not get the knives out quick enough in order to attack this person.

- Jane Connor



Long Time Running

Publications Board. At their last meeting nominations had been opened for Editor of Salient and Handbook. It was also discovered that Publications Board was starting to find its feet financially.

She was followed by Andy Moore-Jones who gave a magnificent 1/2 hour spiel on the Catering Sub-Committee meeting and on preparations for Arts Festival. He went into this in great detail neglecting only to tell us what time the rubbish bins would be put out. A remark on damage done to the windows of the Union Building perhaps by 'some drunken bum of a law student' clearly excited some of those present, so much so that Gerard Winter felt constrained to move that all law students be excluded from social functions in the Union Building. An amendment that this be just male law students was passed and the substantive motion then put and carried. However the problem of how to put this policy into practice (with feeling?) was then struck and unable to see any way of practically implementing the policy, the meeting rescinded it.

A thrilling speech by Peter Gibbs disclosed the fact that the Balanced Abortion Committee had completed its questionnaire and was ready to conduct the survey.

James Movick told the meeting that they're hopeful of university support on the question of Overseas Students Cutbacks and thanked SRC for their support.

The reshuffling of various Committees and the lack of a final decision by Council on Hunter Building were revealed by Peter Thrush with Peter Winter giving the dirt on law student cutbacks (Hurray!). This too excited parts of the audience with various motions being moved, foreshadowed and spoken to. The one which got through was:

"That VUWSA still opposes any form of pre-

requisite, but in the event of pre-requisites being imposed, that Law Society be one of them".

Peter Thrush also revealed that Canterbury had won Easter Tournament and that Winter Tournament would be held in Auckland. The laxness of the meeting in not thanking him for being so prompt can only be deplored.

Elections involved the positions of National Affairs Officer, Environmental Affairs Officer and 13 August Council reps. First to tell us why he was the best was Bruce Robinson who delivered an impressive and almost knowledgeable-sounding

speech on why he should be National Affairs Officer which had the desired effect with his duly joining the elevated rank of SRC Officer.

Next to tell us what a good boy he was (and to be met with some disbelief) was Paul Norman. Asked why, at this late stage, he had felt a sudden desire to become Environmental Affairs Officer when the position had been vacant all year, the mumble seemed to say that he had been in some interesting Womble Committee which had awakened his rather belated enthusiasm. He too was elected but with some degree of dissension.

August Council Elections were relatively painless with two positions contested, that of Education delegate and of Women's Rights delegate.

Those elected were: Lindy Cassidy, David Murray, Bruce Robinson, Richard Hellyer, James Movick, Soo Cheng, Sue Hains, Leonie Morris, Sue Cairney, Steve Underwood, Kevin Callinicos, Rob Moore-Jones, Lamorna Rogers.

Those not elected were Young Socialists whose names I can't remember. In the midst of these elections were three procedural motions. A motion that where positions were uncontested, election should be automatic was defeated. Although this would have made things much quicker, it did not provide for someone obviously undesirable being defeated by a no-confidence motion and was contrary to the democratic nature of SRC. The second extended the meeting to 2.15 pm and was carried. The third to adjourn to 12 noon the next day was lost. The chairman's ruling that there be no procedural motions after this was upheld, despite objections from Peter Gibbs who can't have had anywhere else to go. The meeting closed at 2.15 pm with only about 1/3 of those present at the opening still around.

- Lamorna Rogers.



Andy Moore Jones



What do you say about an SRC which lasted 2 1/4 hours, attracted over 200 students, had a very long agenda since it was the last chance to make policy before August Council and did not even get past elections?

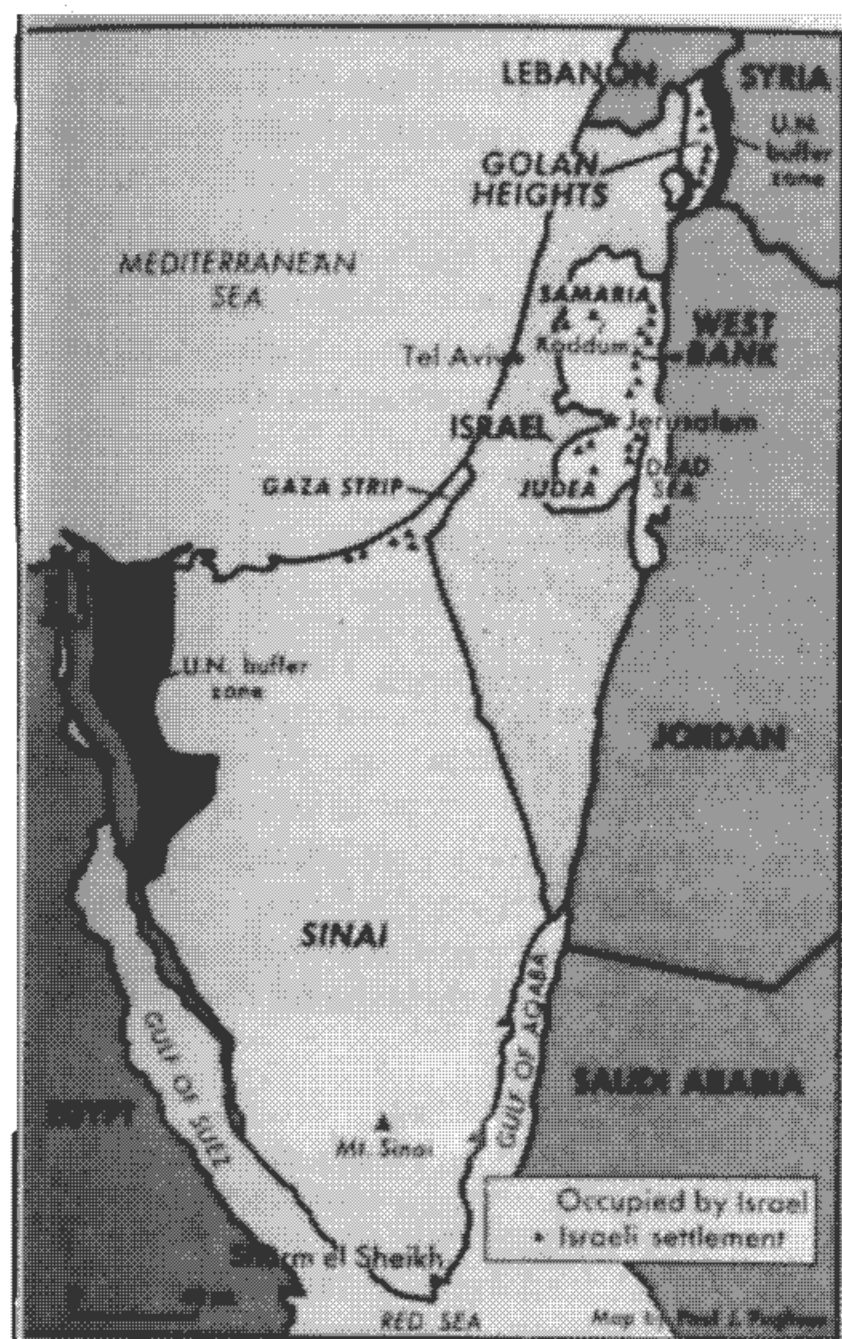
You might start by asking 'Why?' The first thing to note is the number of reports which took approximately 1 1/2 hours and numbered approximately eight. Given that reports usually take five minutes each at most and that sometimes there are none given, it was indeed commendable to see our student reps making the extra effort to tell us what they have been doing and taking the time to report thoroughly.

What was less understandable was the 3/4 hour which the elections took. Admittedly there were 15 positions to be filled but since only two of these were contested, one could wonder why it took 1/4 hour longer than when the same procedure was gone through before the last Council. The answer to this lies in certain persons who got up during the elections to move extraneous motions and were a general pain-in-the-arse.

Having answered 'Why?' we get onto what actually happened. Gyles Beckford gave a lengthy report on the Faculty of Commerce meeting where there had been a proposal made to bring in a system of tenure appointments.

Next report was from Lamorna Rogers on

Turning the truth on its head



Last Wednesday, approximately 250 people were treated to what promises to be the first in a series of 'debates' during the remainder of 1977 on the 'Middle-East question'. Speakers at the meeting, run along the lines of a formal debate, were D.G. MacIntyre, from Canterbury University, and Mr Ya'acov Morris, Israeli's Ambassador to New Zealand.

The question that was supposed to be debated was 'should NZ recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people'. Unfortunately, Dr MacIntyre naively believed that Ambassador Morris (Irish by birth) would stick to the topic in question — he therefore gave a rather dry, 'lecture' on the issue, pointing out the various United Nations resolutions and NZ government policy statements on the matter. He correctly stated that the NZ government, while not opposing the PLO, recognises it only as a representative of the Palestinians, rather than as the sole representative.

In discussion on what is actually occurring in Palestine/Israel, he did however point out that the local PLO organisation on the West Bank of the Jordan swept overwhelmingly the local body elections amongst the Palestinians there. Basically, Dr MacIntyre advocated a Palestinian State in the areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or at least where they were before Israel invaded and annexed them in 1967.

Ambassador Morris's speech, in contrast to Dr MacIntyre's, contained very few facts and figures (especially truthful ones). It was an extremely opinionated and emotional political statement, reminiscent of many made in the past by the current Israeli PM, Menachem Begin.

Some of the more blatantly misleading and untruthful statements he made are as follows:

(a) that the State of Jordan is a Palestinian state and therefore the Palestinians don't need another one on the West Bank of the Jordan.

TRUTH: Jordan is a Hashemite Kingdom, whose people are from Bedouin and other tribes that inhabit the Saudi Arabian peninsula; Palestinians have never had that country as their own nation. Secondly, over two million Palestinians have their birthplaces in the territory now controlled by Israel — that is their homeland, not any area the Israelis may arbitrarily designate.

(b) that "the Palestinians did not have the economic and political viability to establish their own state".

TRUTH: The Palestinians have always wanted their own state since the British Mandate — it is not for the Israelis to say that they



ISRAELIS DANCE AT ILLEGAL WEST BANK SETTLEMENT

could not have it. Secondly, the only reason that a state of Palestine may not have been economically viable is that, in 1947 — a 1,330,000 Palestinian Arabs were left with less than 25% of the total area of Israel/Palestine, while 600,000 Jews took over 75% of the land, including all the most arable areas. Despite this, the West Bank and Gaza Strip areas could have been a viable unit if given even a tiny proportion of the massive foreign aid that was poured into Israel from 1947 onwards.

(c) that the Syrian Army invaded Lebanon last year in support of the PLO.

TRUTH: It is common knowledge that the Syrians went into Lebanon to bolster the weakening rightist Lebanese forces. The Syrian army attacked several Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon, indiscriminately killing non-combatants. Recently the Israeli government has also admitted that it has been shelling Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

(d) That there are already 20 Arab countries in the area and therefore the Arabs don't need another one!

TRUTH: This is where the Ambassadors similarity with Hitlerian fascism really shows out — he absolutely ignores the fact that these Palestinian Arabs were born in Palestine, have they not the right to live in the country of their birth and have some control over it? Hitler said that Jews had no right to live in Germany, even though they had been born there!

When asked about Begin's (Israeli PM) activities as leader of the terrorist Stern Gang, in post-WW2 Palestine, Ambassador Morris defended Begin. For instance, he said that the Stern Gang unit that attacked the Arab village of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948, was only attacking Arab soldiers — yet 254 women and children were killed in the Israeli attack! One memorable quote from the Ambassador goes as follows... "they (the Israelis) were moving through the village house by house and had to throw in grenades to winkle out people inside"! (our emphasis). We can only assume that the 254 dead were 'winkled out' a bit too much!

Another questioner pointed out that Israel has increased her territory more than five-fold since 1947 by the use of military force, yet the Ambassador had said nothing about this, but had condemned Jordan and Egypt for taking land by force (what land, you might well ask?). The Ambassador had no answer to this and tried to sidetrack the question by saying that Israel would give back most of this captured land if it could be guaranteed safe borders. He conveniently omitted mention of the fact that Israel is settling people on this land and the stated intention of PM Begin's party is to keep the land! Also, he seemed to forget that it is only the Arab countries' borders that have proved to be insecure, not Israel's.

To his credit, Dr MacIntyre pointed out many of these glaring untruths in the Ambassadors statements at the end of the meeting and, speaking without notes, gave a reasonably good account of himself on behalf of the dispossessed millions of Palestinian people.

Grant MacIntyre S.M.P.S.N.

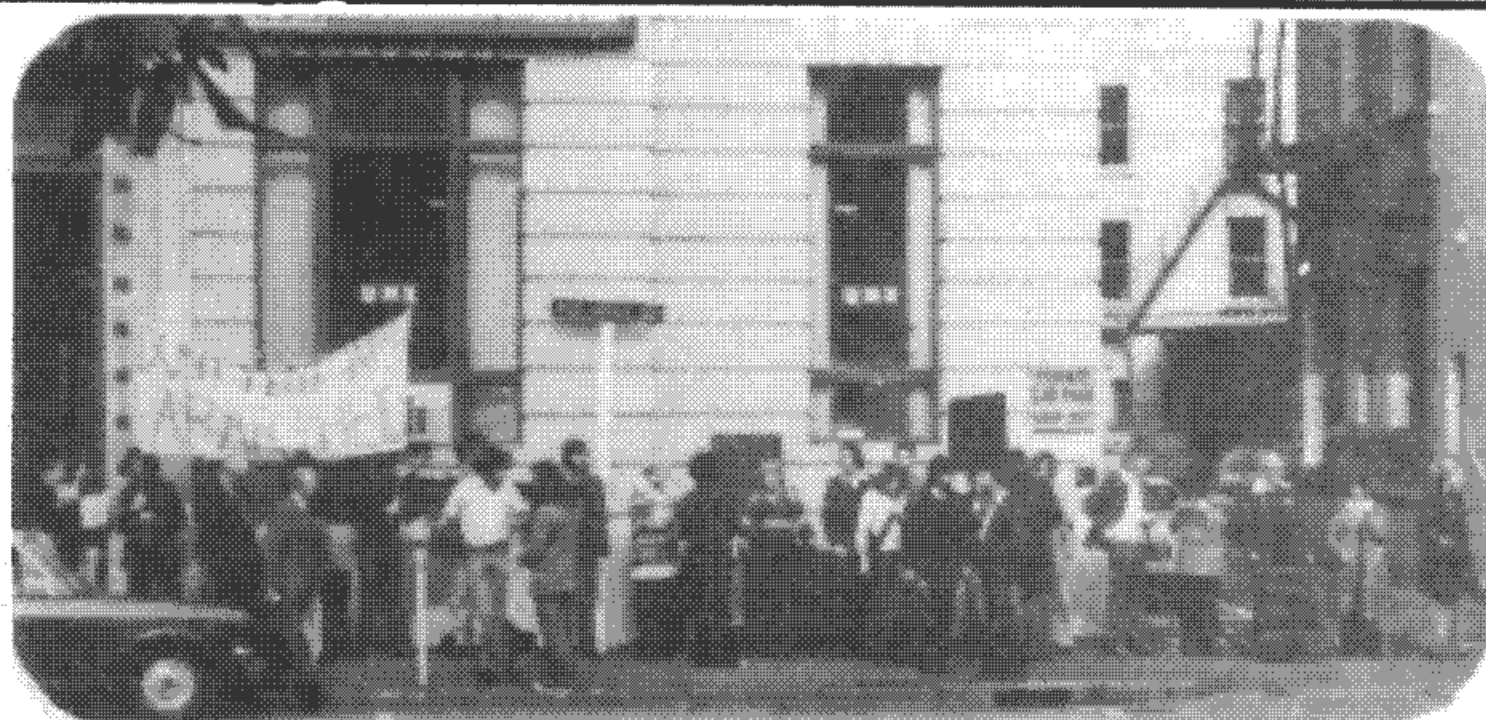
BARNEY MOKGATLE

Barney Mokgatle was introduced as "an authentic voice of the Black people of South Africa", a more fitting description than some which had labelled him since his arrival in New Zealand as bloodthirsty and "a man of violence" because he told people the truth of what happened in Soweto, a truth which was rather less than nice.

After being introduced, the exiled student leader from Soweto told Vic. students what had actually happened on June 16 1976, when 176 black students had been officially killed. For a start the student demonstrations had been peaceful. They had been against Bantu Education policies, which, amongst other things, attempted to force them to give up their own language for Afrikaans. These demonstrations were a symptom however of a greater oppression than just that of language; they were a symptom of an oppression which divided families, threw the old, the women and the children into the homelands and kept the "fortunate" in townships such as Soweto, where less than half the houses have electricity, where 16 people live on the average in three roomed houses, where the crime rate is the highest in the world and where opportunity, economic or otherwise, is nil. When met with violence these peaceful demonstrations had no choice but to respond in like fashion. The shooting of three year old children

by South African police was answered by the burning of public buildings, cumbols of the apartheid system and for a time disorganised violence, looting and robbery ruled.

The realisation that they could not win by force, when police were throwing tear gas into houses, then shooting the occupants as they ran out, caused a change in tactics. The South African economy depended, and still does, on the exploitation of the Blacks as a cheap labour force. Because all the means of production are White owned the Blacks had nothing to lose by withdrawing their labour while the Whites had everything to lose. This plan of action was spread by word of mouth, leaflets and by the students working on their parents. Police reaction to the strikes which spread to almost every township in South Africa was even more violent, the newspapers announcing that student leaders (such as Barney Mokgatle) would be hunted down and shot on sight. This served to show the Black people of South Africa that they did have one effective weapon to use against the minority rulers, that of their labour power and was a step forward in the fight for freedom. In his speech Barney Mokgatle stressed that they were not fighting against the White people but against the racist-based system of exploitation which was



Gleneagles ignored

Recently the Wellington Anti-Apartheid Plenary organised a picket outside the NZRFU Headquarters to protest against the NZRFU's decision to allow five of its members to play rugby in South Africa. Although the picket was organised at short notice it was attended by 40 people and swelled by passers-by.

The NZ Rugby Union's decision ignored the advice of the Government, the Gleneagles agreement and the call of a growing number of New Zealanders to cease sporting contact with South Africa. For in South Africa sport is racially segregated with separate unions for Blacks, Coloured and Whites. Multi-national is the name of this system.

The World XV is a special show match designed to dupe world opinions by selecting a South

supported by most Whites.

"We are not fighting the white man because he is White but because of what he does to Blacks. We are fighting not only for ourselves but also for our children".

Having finished his speech there were quite a few questions to be answered. The main points which came out of this were that the Blacks must win out because they are fighting with 100 per cent determination while the paid South African soldiers are fighting with only 50 per cent determination and that the Whites are welcome to stay in an equal, democratic state if they are prepared to accept such a thing.

Another thing which was quite apparent, and which Barney Mokgatle himself pointed out more

than once, was that he was politically naive in the extreme. Because, in a state where three or more people are an "unruly demonstration", he had never had the chance to study and discuss political issues in depth, he had little knowledge of the relationship between racial and economic exploitation, the role of the front-line states in the liberation of South Africa and the dangers of accepting Russian and Cuban "aid".

His lack of political understanding highlighted the difficulties under which the Black people are fighting for their freedom and the effectiveness of the Government in suppressing political discussion.

Support in any form for apartheid is support for the multi-national companies who profit from the starvation wages paid to Africans.

— Also outside the Rugby Union were a group of about six people carrying a banner of "freedom to travel" however, they didn't cause any disturbance to the Anti-Apartheid protesters.

— Lamorna Rogers and Leonie Morris.

Editorial

To Lead or not To Lead

Delegates to NZUSA spent a busy but not unpleasant four days at Massey University in the holidays to attempt to point the organisation in some mutually agreed direction. This will be news to most of you, and that for me is one of the unfortunate aspects of NZUSA. It has not got a campus profile and is not seen to be acting for students.

The delegations came from the seven constituent campuses and, as usual, had no positive ideas on how to improve NZUSA which struck at the centre of the problem -- to make it a more effective body. Any attempts during Council were largely wasted; delegates were not even agreed upon arranging suitable dates for future councils.

Otago Student President, Ross White, put the problem succinctly when he said that NZUSA was built on a foundation of shifting sand. How can NZUSA perform efficiently if campus assoc-

iations are not doing their bit? How can associations perform well if they don't get down to the members firstly, and secondly (that oft forgot task) provide decent leadership.

Some campus leaders felt that students just weren't interested in participating in political activities or organising themselves to protect their own welfare interests. This is sheer nonsense which has been disproven time and time again. At the moment, for example, many students are organising East Timor action groups on campus. And yet some student leaders tried to make out that NZUSA should abandon international work. To them, the answer lies in either working 100% on student welfare, or leaving NZUSA completely. This, surely is the easy way out -- a way which both insults and misrepresents their students.

I.A.T.A.

One of the major differences between delegations was on the question of NZUSA's involvement in commercial activities. At present NZUSA provides travel services for students, with the NAC Standby scheme and Internat-

ional Travel. It came to a head with the discussion on the IATA agency which NZUSA owns.

It was decided many moons ago that NZUSA should purchase an IATA agency. The nature of the travel business means that if you don't have one of these travel bureaux then your future in the business cannot be guaranteed. IATA and the Government are gradually trying to squeeze out fringe operators. STB has got to the size now where the purchase of an IATA agency was a natural step. The purchase was discussed for about a year before it was finally executed at two Councils, an SGM and several National Executives of NZUSA.

So why is there so much controversy over this state of affairs?

Firstly, there is the fear of the commercial wing becoming too big and powerful. NZUSA in this case would be seen to be depending on the success of its business ventures. This is a fear which is confined to campus student leaders and one or two NZUSA National Officers. They feel that NZUSA should stand on its feet purely as a political body and that the business

arm should be secondary and subservient at all times. Some even advocate getting rid of STB completely.

Others, such as Victoria, up till now, see NZUSA being both an organisation which represents them politically, and one which provides services to them.

The other objection to the IATA agency is that South African Airways is a member and hence, we are forced to trade with them, breaking the commercial boycott.

For anyone engaging in the travel business whether they possess an agency or not is forced to work through IATA. A point was raised that NZUSA could form a block with companies like PSIS in the Travel Association of New Zealand to urge IATA to expell SAA.

In practice, VUWSA has never condoned getting rid of the IATA agency and this was the general feeling against Council of NZUSA.

A Commercial wing is essential to NZUSA for the provision of student services. The extent to which NZUSA should go in this area is another question.

Cold Comfort Farm

The second of NZUSA's bi-yearly Councils was held this time at Massey University. Those of us coming from Victoria who had not been to Massey before were impressed with the carefully planned and beautiful campus. Thinking about our own campus in comparison was depressing to say the least. I'm not sure if the setting and the sunshine had some effect on the delegates but this years August Council was a strangely harmonious affair. With UCSA's notice of withdrawal from NZUSA at the end of 1978 and the dissatisfaction of some other campuses with the organisation, it was generally expected that this August Council would be the place to thrash it all out, and the re-structuring of NZUSA was on the agenda.

NZUSA Officers report

First to be discussed however were the reports of the National Officers. A number of minor (?) crises in the past month including the collapse of the Australian University Students Travel Service (AUSTS) has placed a good deal of pressure onto the National Officers, and for this reason the reports of the President and the Education Vice-President were handed out to the delegations just prior to Opening Plenary. The reports all had two things in common; 1. Dissatisfaction with both the present structure and effectiveness of NZUSA, and 2. An emphasis on the need for unity.

The President's report placed some of the blame for the faults in the Association on the timing of the Councils (normally held in May and August) which doesn't allow the National Officers to take the action required of them by Council; also the often unrealistic number of Priorities set by the Council. Lisa Saksen criticised the somewhat veiled attacks which NZUSA is undergoing and urged them to be brought out into the open and hopefully 'knocked on the head', a suggestion which Canterbury especially didn't follow.

EVP Mike Shaskey in his report described the problem as a lack of definite direction... "we talk too much too often" and do too little. The report also detailed the success of the Bursaries Campaign in mobilising support and emphasised that this is a battle which will always be facing students and so consequently an issue for which action must be planned on a long term basis.

The report of the General vice-President, David Tripe centred around the complaint of having too much to do and not enough time to do it. (the GVP's priority areas included such far-ranging topics as Student Welfare and Accommodation, Womens Rights, Fishing and Dentistry). As well as performing in the areas designated to him, the GVP has been also involved with the rest of the National Officers in the two successful campaigns this year, Bursaries and Overseas Students Cutbacks. This would tend to suggest that rather than each National Officer concentrating on specific issues, greater flexibility and better co-ordination between the National Officers would be far more productive. The Research Office report clearly pointed out the benefits a united National Office could bring about.

Although the International Vice-President, David Merritt had only been in office a mere three weeks before the writing his report, his work in the areas of Overseas Students Cutbacks, East Timor and the Southern African scholarship was seen. With the help of James Movick (the National Overseas Students Action Committee Co-ordinator) the campaign against Cutbacks in Overseas Students and the level of activity that had been generated among overseas students had been extremely successful. Dave Merritt also had a few words to say about NZUSA's problems, which he put down to alienation of the student masses not only from the National Office, but also from their constituent Student's Associations. Under such circumstances NZUSA

cannot hope to provide strong leadership and without mass support cannot successfully represent the interests of the students.

Bombard the Headquarters!

With National Office reports out of the way although still very much in the mind, the delegates steeled themselves for what was hoped would be the most important debate of the Council. So much for hope.

It was difficult to see just exactly where Canterbury's dissatisfaction lay; they certainly didn't tell us. In their own words, they were confused. It became obvious that the discussion to withdraw from NZUSA had been initiated on a student level and didn't have the backing of the Canterbury Executive. Determined to get something constructive out of it the debate was carried on by Victoria, Otago and Auckland while Canterbury listened and talked only when prodded to the extreme.



Victoria President Lindy Cassidy

Auckland favoured total separation of areas for the four National Officers, with no overlap of jobs. Victoria replied to this by pointing out the success which overlap by National Officers into each others areas has produced in the Bursaries and Cutbacks campaign. Clearly a united front was required on issues such as these which no single officer could hope to fight successfully alone. Otago's President Ross White described NZUSA as "a house built on sand", with it's failure at the local constituent level rather than at the National Office.

After this, the discussion lapsed into a squabble over Council dates, which was left unresolved. The faults had all been pointed out, but nobody had come up with any solutions, least of all the campus with (supposedly) the most complaints. All very frustrating for National Office, who had hoped at least to gain guidelines and productive criticism from all the delegations. Instead we were urged to come up with concrete proposals to be presented at a continuation of the discussion the following night.



National Officers: Tripe, Shaskey, Cuthbert (STB Manager) and Merritt.

Continued page 5



AUSA President Bruce Gulley showing signs of strain.



James Movick, new IVP.



Peter MacLeod ponders Bob Lack's offer of an NZUSA take-over of the ARA

Last on the agenda for opening plenary was the elections of National Officers for 1978. Two nominations had been received in all. — indicative perhaps of the sidening gap between National Office and the students. The scarcity of nominations was a factor which contributed most to the harmony between delegations, and the absence of blood and backstabbing which normally characterises August Councils was in some ways disturbing. The only position to be filled was that of the International Vice-President which was contested by James Movick. James has been extremely active this year as the co-ordinator of NOSAC in the Overseas Students Cutbacks Campaign and was an invaluable help to National Office during the time between the resignation of Paul Watson in May and the election of David Merritt in July 23. After a brief discussion James was elected to the position.

The other nomination was for President of NZUSA. Unfortunately the contestant, Mr George Love did not manage to attend Council, but he was ably represented by a member of the Canterbury delegation. After a brief history of George's political career had been given it was decided that applications for the position would be re-opened to the relief of the majority of delegations.

Opening Plenary was declared closed and the delegations split up into the various commissions: Accommodation, Education, Finance and Administration, International, National, Welfare and Womens.

Working in the Commissions

It seems at last as if the Council Commissions have come down to earth in their policy formulation. The emphasis in nearly all of this Council's Commissions was on actionable policy and all (with the exception of Women's) succeeded in reducing the often absurd number of motions on their books. This was particularly noticeable in the International Commission which, after three sittings was left with 57 out of the previous 102 motions, many having been amalgamated or rewritten to form realistic and actionable policy which is now possible to read and even understand.

IATA discussed

Discussion in International Commission concerned the IATA agency of which the Student Travel Bureau arm of the Student Services Holdings Ltd (SSH) is a shareholder. This ensures our access to overseas travel and also secures to us a certain extent our position as a Travel Company at a time when the Government is clamping down on fringe operators. The problem is that South

African Airways is also a member of IATA and some delegations to Council, namely Auckland's Waikato and Canterbury felt that this was an irreconcilable contradiction and called on NZUSA to sell its IATA agency. This motion was lost after it was pointed out that there was little chance of SSH remaining viable without the support of the IATA agency.

There will always be contradictions between NZUSA policy and its operations; its monopoly of student travel alone is one. Students must be careful to distinguish between the realism and 'pure politics' for in this society NZUSA's whole ideology is at variance with reality. A compromise is often the best we can ever hope for. As an organisation, our commercial enterprises are essential to the continuation of our union, and if by opposing NZUSA's connection with the IATA agency certain delegations were trying to split the union, they are barking up the wrong tree. In this matter there is little likelihood of our withdrawing from the agency.

The Finance and Administration Commission spent one sitting with a continuation of the restructuring debate. This time Canterbury had come prepared with a statement which attempted to explain its mysterious withdrawal from NZUSA.

Canterbury explains why

It seems that Canterbury Students think that their union fees are too high and that the returns are too low. Considering that this is a common complaint from all campuses, breaking completely away from the union for this reason seems rather drastic and slightly unconvincing. Once again Canterbury had the chance to propose an alternative which they might have found acceptable and once again, they did not take this opportunity presumably because they found it useless and time wasting from their point of view, to attempt to "sell your own company back to its members", as Canterbury's President, Nigel Petrie put it.

During the four hours which the meeting lasted many proposals were tossed around. There was a definite agreement from all campuses that the position of GVP was too wide-ranging to be effective and that the position should be replaced. Massey finally came up with a structure which met with general approval and was passed by the commission. Massey's plan consisted of

1. A President. (Royal Commission, Civil liberties, General frontperson)
2. A National Vice President. (National Affairs like Clutha, Energy, Accommodation)

3. An International Vice President
4. An Education Vice President. (Welfare incorporated into Education policies)

Although this was (at last) a concrete proposal, it was at best a compromise and skimmed over the deep rooted problem of the organisation. Restructuring of this sort cannot hope to solve deep problems like student alienation or NZUSA's future direction. The most we can hope for is a more effective use of National Officers and NZUSA resources to action the priorities of Council.

Priorities of NZUSA

The priorities of NZUSA national Activity until May Council next year are;

1. Royal Commission.
2. Bursaries.
3. Civil Liberties.
4. Overseas Students.
5. Travel Concessions.

Looking back

The general trend of this council was to tread gently over the rock of NZUSA. The organisation has hit an all-time low, politically and financially and this council while providing 'cures' of sorts did little to ascertain why. For any organisation of the size of NZUSA, two things are essential — unity and solidarity and a firm leadership and direction to secure a significant place in the future. At the moment, NZUSA has little of either. The President has small chance of providing firm leadership for a Union whose constituent Presidents are alienated from their students

This years National Officers have been fighting an up-hill battle with these problems, although at times could have provided a more united front than has actually been presented. Next year will be crucial for NZUSA's future. To prevent any more threats of withdrawal from the organisation it must be seen to be credible to the students it represents. So far, next years constituent President haven't been too impressive and it may be wishful thinking to expect student involvement to be encouraged from the constituent executive level. It is up to National Office then to get out with students and to be seen to be working in their interests. The new structuring is by no means ideal, but at least it's a start.

-- Rose Collins.



Victoria and Canterbury delegates.



Mike Lee, Canterbury President elect.

URUGUAY - the forgotten dictatorship



by David Murray

Few people know anything about the political situation in the small Latin American country of Uruguay. The fact is that it is a fascist dictatorship unmatched by anything on that continent (including Chile). One in every 800 people are in detention and many of them are being tortured. Few are given trials and there is nothing in the law that makes this mandatory. All resistance has been crushed. Trade and student unions are no longer existent; the Church (mainly Protestant) is only just alive while many Clergymen are rotting in jails. All left wing newspapers are banned, Communist Party members have been shot or are in jail and the once famous Tupamaros guerrillas have also been smashed.

How did this happen ?

Twenty-five years ago, however, things were very different. Uruguay was known as the "Switzerland of South America" because of its bourgeois-democratic government similar to forms in the second world e.g. Scandinavia, and its comparative wealth. Uruguay was used as a refuge for revolutionaries active in other parts of South America.

In more ways than one Uruguay then resembled New Zealand very closely. It was a country of three million people, most of whom lived in the urban areas which received most of its export income from meat and wool. Uruguay, because of its relative prosperity, also maintained an extensive (and expensive) welfare system similar to our own.

However, it was around 1955 that things started to turn for the worse. The world prices of Uruguay's exports declined and glaring structural deficiencies in the Uruguayan economy that prosperity had previously obscured.

Not only this, but the markets for Uruguayan products were disappearing because of more competitive producers pricing them out of the market. Farmers and stockbreeders wanting compensation for revenue lost pressurised the government into a series of rapid devaluations. This, however, meant that inflation started to rise rapidly (20% per annum from 1954 - 1961, 60% from 1961 - 1966, and 136% in 1967) and that capitalists exported their profits to elsewhere because it was not secure to leave them in Uruguay. Between 1962 and 1967 capital shipped abroad represented \$292 million.

Beginnings of Political Repression

Traditional economic cures were not adequate for the seriousness of the economic crisis which now gripped Uruguay. When President Gestido died in 1967, he was replaced by the first of the 'new breed' - President Jorge Pacheco Areco. Immediately Pacheco issued Presidential decrees to close down left/liberal newspapers, outlaw the Socialist and other left parties, smash several current strikes by using the armed forces and suspend civil liberties. The congress, which had the power to nullify these measures, did not do so.

Reaction to these moves came with general strikes called by the National Convention of Workers and large scale protest rallies by the FEUU (Uruguayan University Students Federation). The students were very instrumental at this stage having a high proportion of working class students, due to liberal reforms in days gone by, and also due to the fact that after large scale upheavals in the late 50's the students had obtained a democratised university structure with the controlling bodies comprised of lecturers, students and graduated in work.

In 1968, the students, both tertiary and secondary started mass action as a response to the fascist measures brought by Pacheco. Large demonstrations developed into riots when the army was brought in and on 14 August, a student was shot and killed by the riot squads. A few days later two more students were killed in riots after the funeral of the first. In the same month, the army fired shots at the University to quell an assembly.

Students Unite with Workers

After this, the student re examined their tactics and decided to concentrate on peaceful demonstrations, leafleting to the workers, and integrating themselves with the unions. The militant role was then handed over to newly formed group of urban guerillas - the legendary Tupamaros.

On July 1 1968, when Pacheco was about to make a nationwide radio speech, the Tupamaros blew up the transmitting station. This was to be the first of many operations which the Tupamaros with their unique guerilla organisation were to carry out. A press release made after this operation stressed the need for the people of Uruguay to resist the fascist attacks, to expose corruption at high levels and to strive for revolutionary struggle. Their is, however, no evidence that they were a Communist group.

Using the Tupamaros as an excuse, Pacheco geared up the army, police and Security Services. Uruguay received large amounts of arms from the US and there was increasingly widespread use of torture on political prisoners.

Because of the export structure, American imperialism and its allies did not control the economy of Uruguay. But this privileged position did not last for long. Two key sectors of the Uruguayan economy were gradually invaded by American capital; banking and the refrigeration industry. Because of the cronic state of the Uruguayan economy, the leaders went along with the big meat companies and the big finance companies which stood behind them. The three major companies to invade Uruguay at this time were Swifts (meat), Chase Manhattan Bank (owned by the Rockefellers) and International Packers.

Puppet Status

As well as this, the Government was forced to seek loans from the IMF and the World Bank to balance its external deficit. The harsh conditions put on Uruguay by the IMF and the World Bank for these loans were; that Government expenditure be reduced, devaluation of the peso, and the forcing down of wages and salaries. When negotiating a further loan from the World Bank, for transport equipment, additional conditions were imposed: the equipment financed by the loan had to be brought from the 'free' world, meaning effectively, the USA; this equipment to be transmitted in ships belonging to the 'free world', 50% of which to be US ships; the World Bank to have the right of strict and permanent control over all equipment and of its operator (that is the state of Uruguay); Uruguay to remain a member of IMF or the loan to be cancelled; disputes between parties to be judged in US courts.

Uruguay, once a prosperous and reasonably politically independent country was becoming a neo-colony of the United States - it was being driven into Third World status.

Internal War declared

In the countries general elections in 1971, Pacheco failed in his attempt to be allowed to stand for election. Juan Maria Bordaberry, a wealthy landowner from the right wing Colorado Party, was declared the winner. Immediately after the elections, Bordaberry ordered a massive crackdown on the Tupamaros, the Communist Party, Student organisations and the National Convention of Workers. On 15 April, despite a declared truce by the Tupamaros, the Congress gave Bordaberry emergency powers and declared a

"state of internal war". On 17 April, a Communist Party Club was shot up by the army killing seven civilians.

In the meantime, the Tupamaros were becoming alienated from the population because of their tactics and this also meant that more and more of their members were being captured. No political groups adopted the correct tactics of building a united front against the US backed fascists.

Still the Uruguayan economy deteriorated. Between July and November 1972 the fascists were forced to order a total ban on meat consumption to alleviate the critical external debt situation.

Emergency Decrees

To maintain civil order, decrees were passed - the Congress (which included Social Democrats) making no attempt to stop them. Some of these decrees were the abolition of autonomous councils which governed the education system (this was designed to depoliticise the education system which had acted hitherto as a force of social progress), the banning of strikes or disruption in schools and universities, the banning of any peaceful gatherings, the right to stop assistance allowances to families with children who were "discipline problems", "indefinite detention of persons whose conduct suggested they might be inclined to commit crimes against the state, persons who assisted other accused of planning to commit crimes against the state, persons who had frequented the same places as persons accused of committing crimes against the state, and persons who might be associated with subversive elements through the possession of an object belonging to subversive elements". The list goes on. Uruguay was now a fully fledged fascist dictatorship of the Nazi type.

Still the countries economic problems worsened. Inflation in 1972 was 100% and rising.

On the 29 June, the parliament was closed by Presidential decree and the constitution abolished. Days later, the National Convention of Workers was outlawed and former members of it were banned from standing for positions in the state run unions. The military was now in complete control and Bordaberry was forced to go along with their policies.

They stacked the cabinet with their own men and went forward with the clear intention of establishing a fascist corporate state. By now, all autonomous organisations which provided any resistance to the fascist's measures had been smashed or made useless - the unions, parties, churches and student organisations.

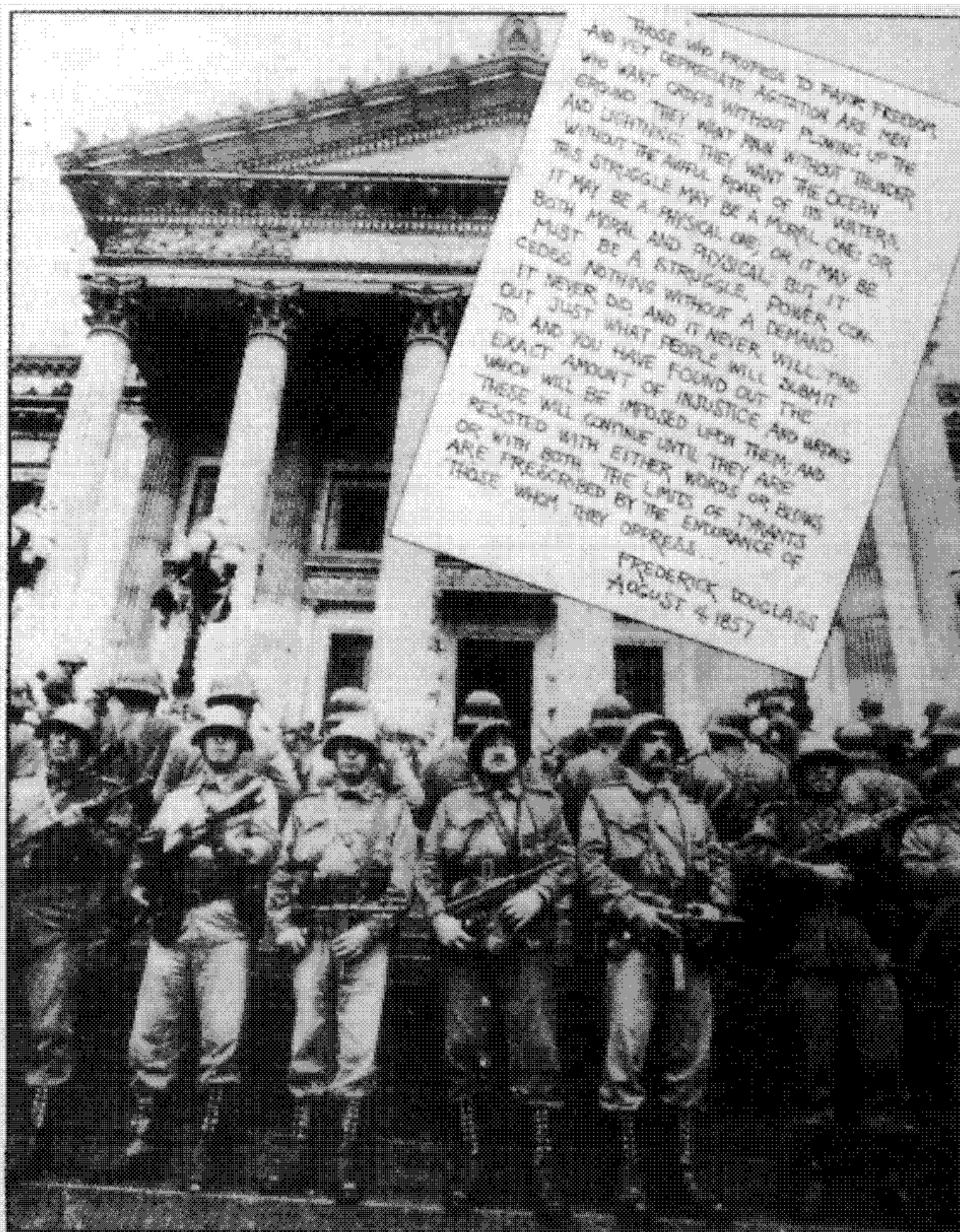
The present situation

The situation in 1977 is even grimmer. The nation is in further economic trouble - proving that fascism cannot improve a capitalist economy. Inflation from 1975 - 1977 was 1100%; unemployment is rampant - especially in Montevideo with many people coming in from the impoverished countryside, those who are employed receive very little because of the inflation and minimal wage increases.

Social life in Uruguay is horrible and brutish. State spending cuts have abolished social welfare; education is hard to get and people live in constant fear of the fascists and their right hand men - the brutal army, police and secret service. To give an example of the new types of law now in force in Uruguay - a person is prohibited from talking to or having contact with any family which has a member in detention. With 1 in 800 in detention, this is very difficult.

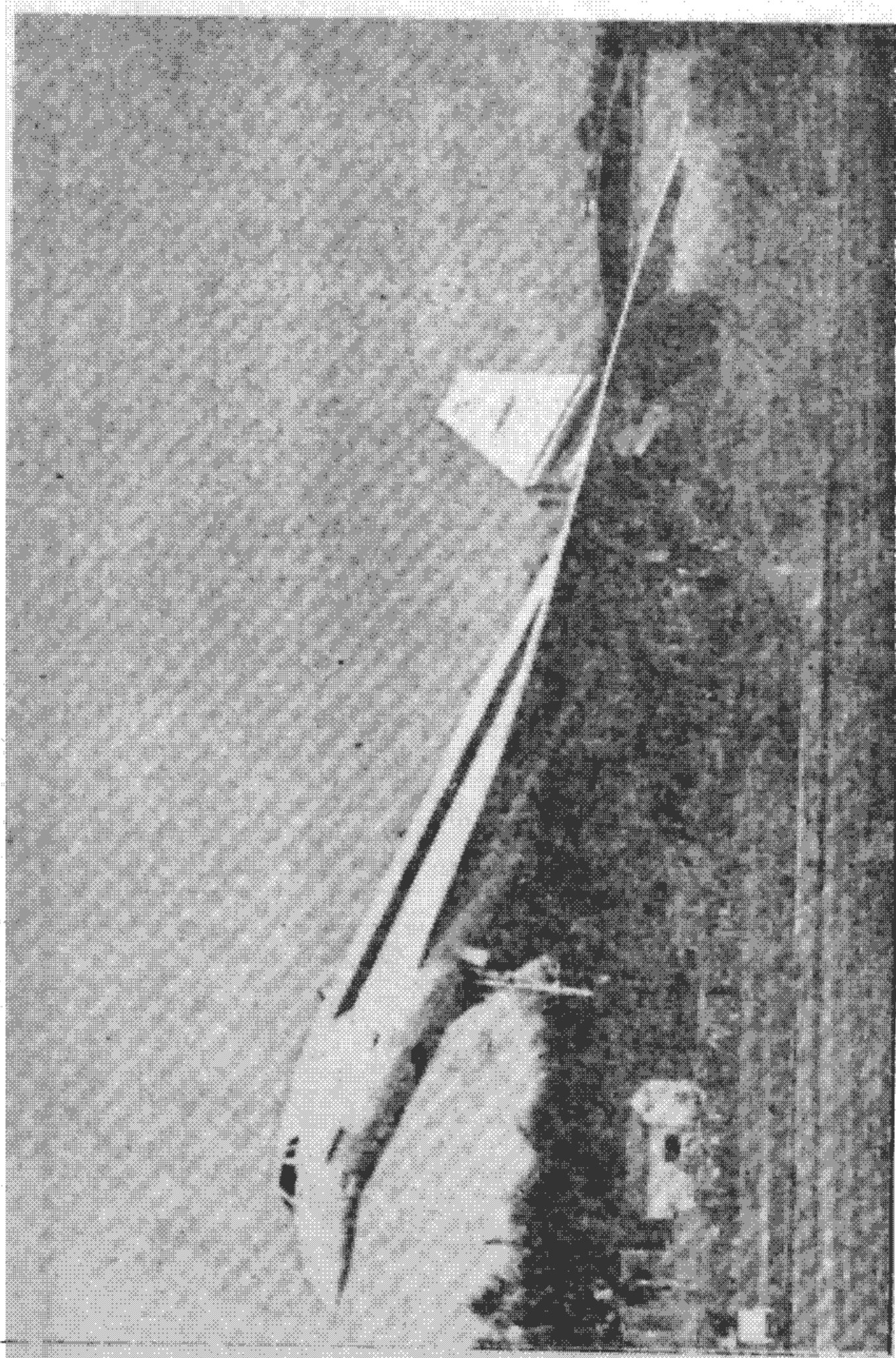
The situation is not good for the Uruguayan people. All groups capable of leading the people to overthrow the regime are exiled or smashed. The country is propped up only by credit and military aid supplied by the US.

The dismayed aspect of this amazing bizarre story is the parallels which Uruguay has had with New Zealand. There is no reason in the world why New Zealand could not go the way of Uruguay.



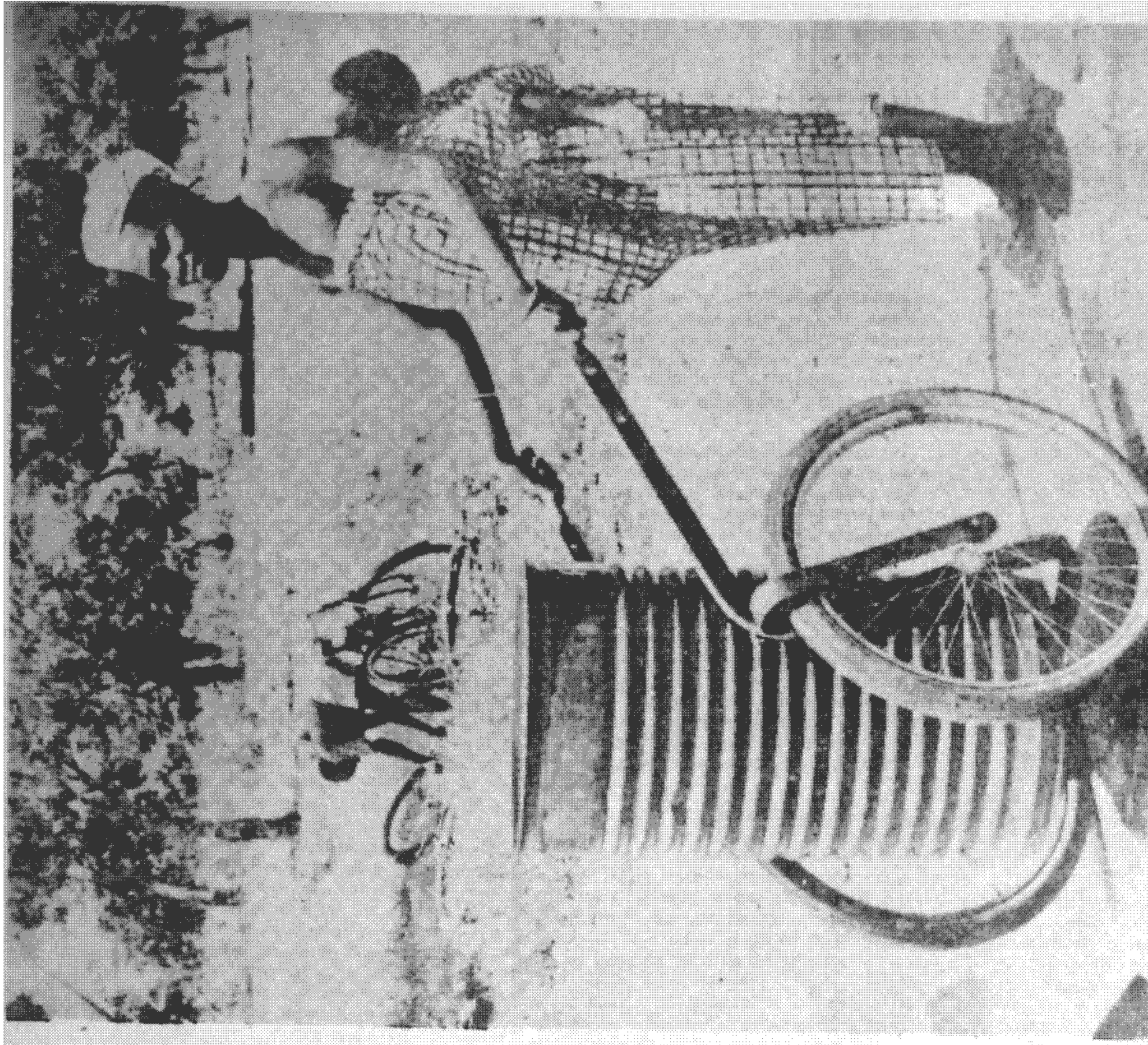
MYTH EXPLORER

A TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION



This piece of technology can knock 200 minutes off the time it takes to transport 100 people from London to New York. It has a sonic boom. It costs about \$40,000,000.

ANOTHER TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION



This piece of technology can knock 48 hours, and two hundred miles of fetching and carrying off the time it takes to transport a day's supply of water from a well to a village. It does not have a sonic boom. It costs about \$4.00.

Development in a straitjacket

After several years of increasing involvement in the "development debate" and development work, including the last 2½ years as full-time organiser of the Wellington Region of CORSO, I have begun to entertain thought that might well be classified as "bordering on treasonable" in our society. I have begun to ask myself — and others who for the most part have tended to reply in a consoling manner — whether I am not wasting my time so long as I am not actively engaged in the indubitably treasonable task of working to break down the structures of our national security.

What is the connection? What has national security to do with world development? With the population crisis, the food crisis, the pollution crisis, the urbanisation crisis, the energy crisis, the water crisis or the trade crisis? With feeding the hungry or clothing the naked? With poverty or malnutrition or infant mortality in the Third World? With the slums and shanty town, the favelas, busties, kampongs, bidonvilles and barriadas of a hundred capital cities? With the growing gap between rich and poor, or the growing power of the transnational corporations? With the whole business of building the earth as the home of man?

What, indeed, is "national security"?

It is, so it seems to me, the inevitable companion of the independent sovereign state, existing in a condition of continuous rivalry and competition with its one hundred and fifty or so counterparts on the planet we so often now refer to as "spaceship earth". It is a condition of permanent and total war producing a constant mobilization of all national institutions, resources, and public opinion for national security goals within each purportedly sovereign and independent state. And the three principal fronts on which this war is fought are in the competitions to maintain the military, financial, and economic bases of political independence. All other values and priorities are in the final analysis subordinated to the driving imperatives of maintaining balance of weapons, balance of payments, and availability of scarce resources to fuel the national economy.

Thus "national security" provides a common philosophy, a common system of values, a common understanding of what the world is all about and how to make it work, that unites the rich and the powerful of the earth in a unity that extends above and beyond cultural differences or age-old hostilities. It provides the power base and the world vision that maintain the powerful in their seats; that sustain and enlarge the growth and influence of the transnational corporations (all of which operate on one or two or all three of the "fronts"

on which the national security war is fought); that blind the people of our planet to the conditions of their servitude and to the possibility of achieving a genuine and all-embracing unity based on the realization of their common humanity and of their essential fellowship as citizens of Planet earth.

This process of human unification, on the basis of the great common values of all mankind — the primacy of individual conscience, the centrality of the human person, and social justice for all persons — is a process of liberation from the tyranny of our manifold tribalisms that make up the stuff of the national security straitjacket. It is a united and elemental rejection of all the paraphernalia of the unreal world of independent sovereign states in a global village, of our flags and armies and anthems and nuclear stockpiles. It is a quantum shift from the necrophilic to the biophilic, from the apocalyptic to the eschatological, from the destructive to the creative, from the inhuman to the human, from slavery to freedom. And that is precisely what development is all about.

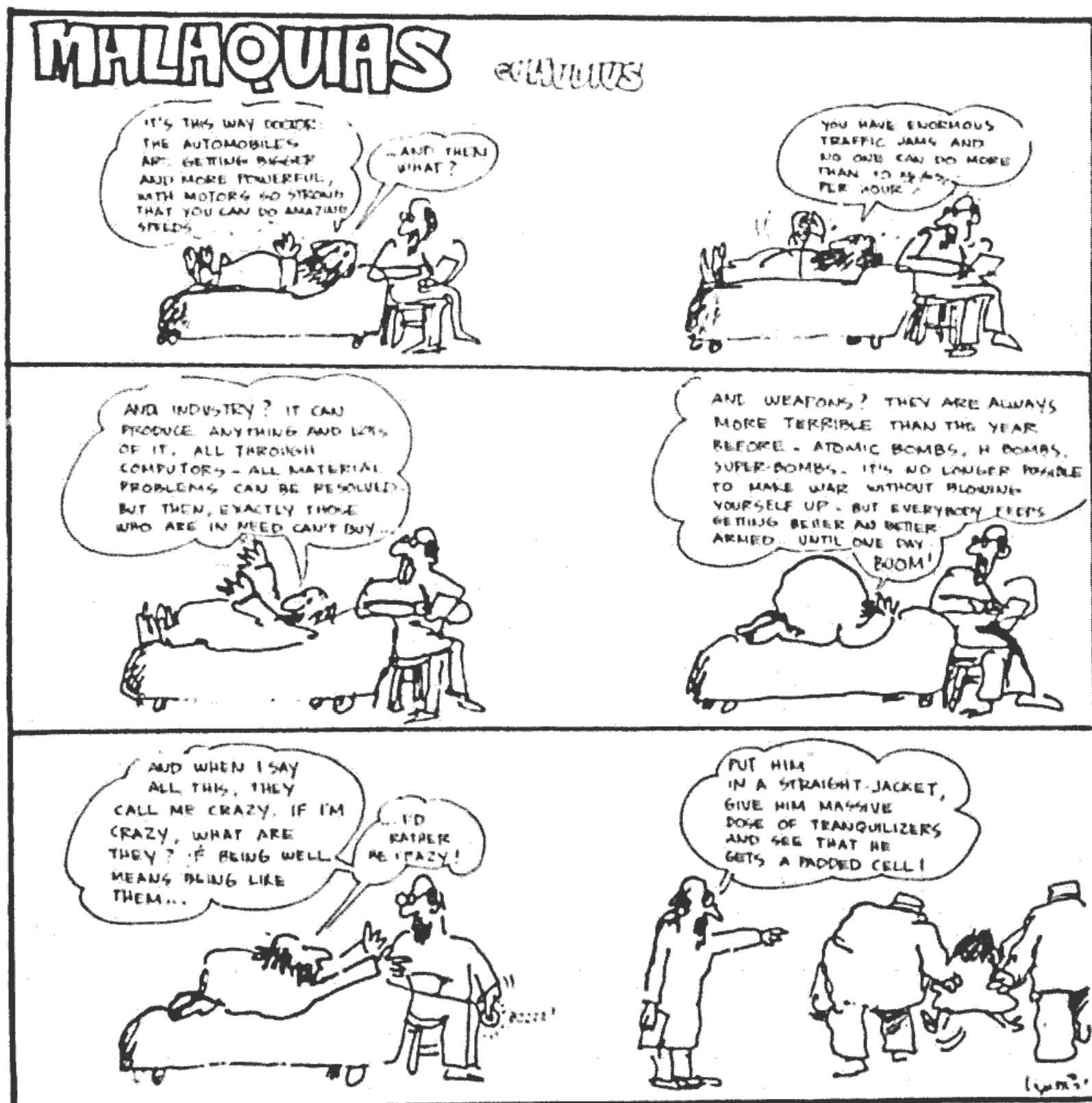
Because development seeks to being about the liberation of man from all those conditions and structures that impede the self-actualization of his potential as a human being, I am coming to see that there can be no genuine development in our increasingly interdependent world until we can burst out of the straitjacket imposed upon us by the national security state. All the work we may be able to do for the alleviation of poverty, for the achievement of self-reliance in poor communities, and for the development of a critical awareness among New Zealanders of the causes of world poverty and oppression must always yield to the triple imperatives of competition for balance of armaments, balance of payments and access to scarce resources — for as long as the one world of which we are all citizens is mesmerised and rendered powerless by the unblinking stare of the serpent of National security.

I wish to end with some words of a great scientist, theologian, and visionary of the 20th century, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. In 1933 — a year of great significance in our century — he wrote:

"The age of nations is past. The task before us, if we are not all to perish, is to build the earth."

That was 44 years ago — have we even half as much time left?

Peter L. Berry
Wellington CORSO Co-ordination.



The price

The Altiplano of Bolivia is a huge, barren, wind-swept plain that lies high up in the Andes, having an average height of over 13,000 ft. It is virtually treeless, and at that altitude, the sky by day is always a clear and brilliant blue. At night, the temperature can drop down to -20°C. This cold and parched landscape is inhabited by some of South America's poorest peasants. It is also essential to Bolivia's economy, for the Altiplano contains the minerals that for centuries, have provided most of Bolivia's wealth.

The mineral currently most important to Bolivia is tin. It is taken from mines situated near the Altiplano towns of Potosi and Oruro.

The conditions inside the mines are harsh and dangerous. In the mines of Potosi, as we went from gallery to gallery, we passed from bitter cold to stifling heat, until we were some three-quarters of a mile into the Cemo Rico, and half a mile below its surface. The air is humid, gas filled, dusty and smokey. It is so bad that many of the miners lose all sense of taste and smell within a few years. The miners wear nothing but helmets, shorts, and boots, and their small brown bodies are bathed in sweat. The noise is ear-shattering as they pierce the rock before they place the charges of dynamite. A mine official told me that, on average, one miner a year dies in the mines; a miner told me that, on average, one miner a day dies. The dusty air that is dimly penetrated by the miners' headlamps is thick with deadly silica. This causes silicosis, an incurable disease that brings on a slow and silent death. All the miners' cheeks bulge as they chew their coca, the leaves from which cocaine is made. Coca deadens the hunger and fatigue, and enables the miners to continue until their bodies are virtually wasted. Many plug their ears with cotton wool, and wear pieces of cloth over their mouths — scant protection against the noise and dust. The mines are kept going 24 hours a day, with three separate shifts operating for an eight hour day, each miner receives between \$1.50 and \$1.70. That is a mere pittance when one considers that a bottle of beer costs 54c, or that the mine produces \$800,000 of tin per month.

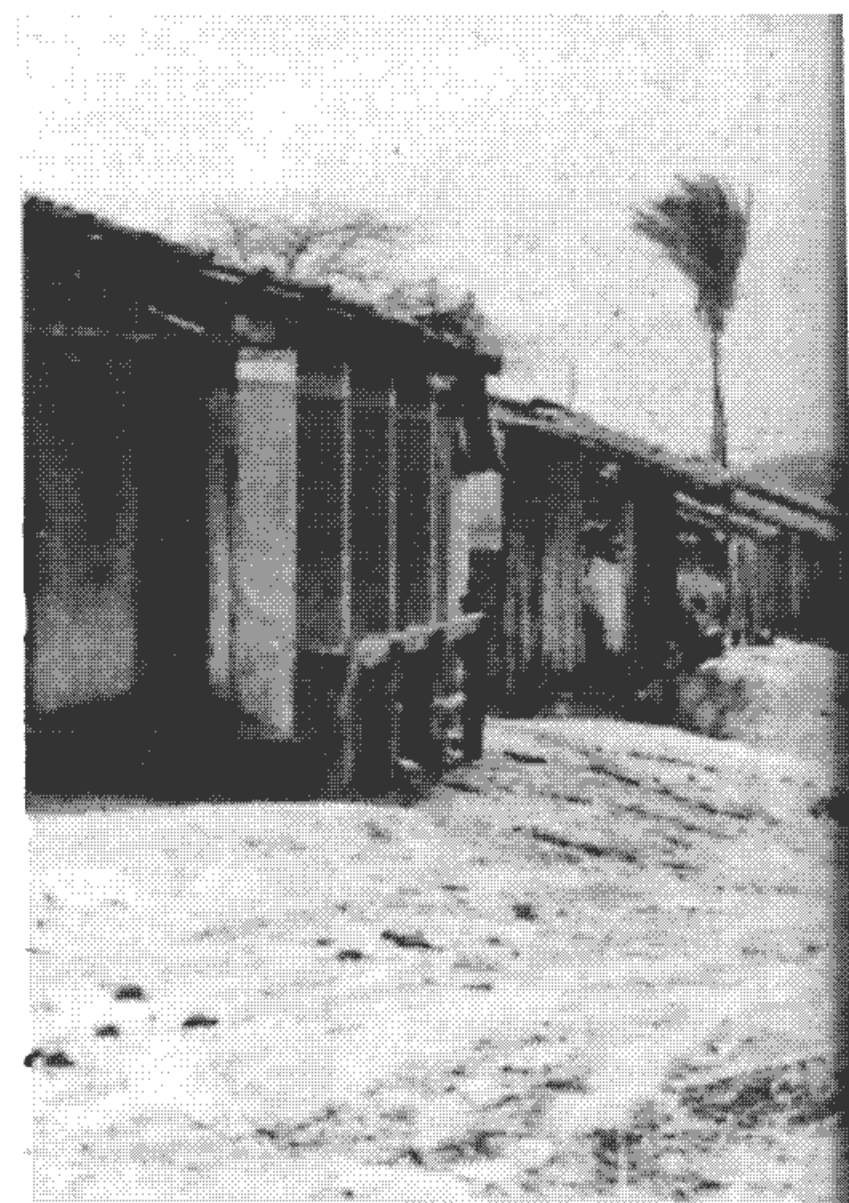
In the mining towns, conditions are little better. The wind howls through the collections of one-roomed dirt-floor shacks. Latrines are public sheds covered with filth and flies — most people prefer to use the ash dumps where, despite the rubbish, the excrement, and the pigs, at least the air circulates. The food, consisting mainly of potatoes, rice and maize, is meagre and bad. In Potosi, I chatted with the Indian women who stood in the cold wind waiting for their daily ration of kerosene — every day they must queue for two hours or more until their tins and pots are filled with the fuel they use for all their heating and cooking. In the workers camps, 60% of the miners have tuberculosis, and half also have syphilis. One child in two dies in its first year, and for those who survive life expectancy is 35 years old at most. United Nations and OAS statistics show that the standard of living of the Bolivian working class is one of the lowest in all of South America.

Every time the miners have organised and attempted to improve their miserable conditions, they have come up against the power of those who really profit from the mines. Seven years ago, the miners unions were abolished by the military government, in a move that led to another series of confrontations between the military and the miners. The miners have a long tradition of fighting and revolutionary experience. After the abolition of the Unions, the miners fought pitched battles with the military in the mining areas, especially near Oruro and Potosi. The miners, armed only with the dynamite they use in the mines, were mown down by the better equipped soldiers. After these massacres, the mines were occupied by the military to make the repression complete.

It's clear that the miners see virtually nothing of the wealth they produce in the mines. Until nationalisation in 1952, it was evident where most of it was going — to the "tin barons"; small family groups who amassed huge fortunes from their ownership of the mines. The most famous of these families were the Patinos. A half a cent-



Andean Indians attempt to eke a living on sub-



The town of Cotoca in Bolivia typical of a



Indians in the High Plains area of Bolivia

of tin



ing.



por rural areas.



ury ago, Simon Ituri Patino discovered on his land a vein of ore containing 60% tin. By the time he died, he was undoubtedly one of the richest men in the world. For years he sat in Europe making and unmaking Bolivian ministers and Presidents, and ramifying and extending his personal fortune. Bolivia was virtually at his service. The Patino mines took more out of the country than the Spanish did during the whole of their occupation. Other families, such as the Aramayos and the Hochschilds never earned the scandalous notoriety of the Patinos, but they too, acquired huge personal fortunes.

Patino also controlled, and his family still control, the tin foundries of the William Harvey Co. of Liverpool, and the Lead National Co. By thus controlling the foundries, Patinos rendered meaningless the nationalisation of the tin mines that finally came in 1952. In that year, the miners fought another series of pitched battles with the military in most of the major towns. Their successes ushered in a change of government and nationalisation of the tin mines was welcomed by the miners. For few firms anywhere in the world were as hated as the "three giants" in Bolivia.

But it was one thing to nationalise tin — it was quite another to sell it. Antenor Patino not only collected a fat indemnity for his fathers mines, but he also kept control of the price and destination of the appropriated tin. For nationalisation has not changed Bolivia's role in the international division of labour. Bolivia has continued to export the crude material and nearly all the tin is still refined in Liverpool. Nationalisation of the production source of any raw material is not enough. The companies, by removing all foreign technicians, and sabotaging every new plan for a national smelter, made things as difficult as possible for the new government.

A new military dictatorship in 1964, backed by the old oligarchy reversed any gains that had been won by nationalisation. The nationalized structure created in 1952, the Corporation Minera Boliviana (COMIBOL) was not formally dismantled, but the military regime did its best to limit its scope and change its purpose. The reorganization was against the real interests of the miners and in such a way to invite foreign investment. In 1966 the Director of COMIBOL announced that "private capital from abroad would in future be authorised to play a part in the workings of the nationalised miners". Hand in hand with this went the dismantling of the miners unions, and the workers leaders were imprisoned or deported. In 1964, the miners hunger wages were cut in half and at the same time the salaries for technicians and chief bureaucrats were revised. The general manager of COMIBOL earns one hundred times as much as a worker — and it is paid in dollars. There is an all-powerful 'advisory group' of technicians from the Inter-American Development Bank. The Alliance for Progress, and the foreign credit bank, which lays down the guidelines for the nationalised mines in Bolivia. COMIBOL, by now a state within a state, has virtually become living propaganda against the nationalisation of anything. The surrender of Bolivian resources to foreign capital accelerated at an incredible rate in the sixties. In 1964, tin concessions were granted to a foreign firm called International Mining Corporation. This enterprise, beginning with a declared capital of \$5,000, secured a contract that, by 1969, enabled it to amass more than \$900 million.

I remember late one cold, grey afternoon taking shelter from the icy wind in a small cafe in Potosi. The cafe-owner, once he gained my confidence, talked openly of Bolivia's predicament. "The United States is a thief" he exclaimed, as he spoke about the miner's conditions, the repression, and the manipulation of tin prices. His frustrations are not new, for although the patterns are different, the basic exploitation has continued for centuries. Despite nationalisation, Bolivia is still being robbed of its wealth. Spain plundered Bolivia's silver, and now the US consumes Bolivia's tin. Meanwhile the Indians of the Altiplains who produce the wealth, suffer the cold, the misery and the poverty.

Pat Martin.

Disaster man-made

Many members of the public often assume that the majority of deaths that occur in the 'third world' are caused by earthquakes, cyclones and such-like 'acts of God' that come under the term 'disasters'. This is in fact far from the case; the real 'disasters' are poverty and the forces that create and perpetuate it for their own benefit.

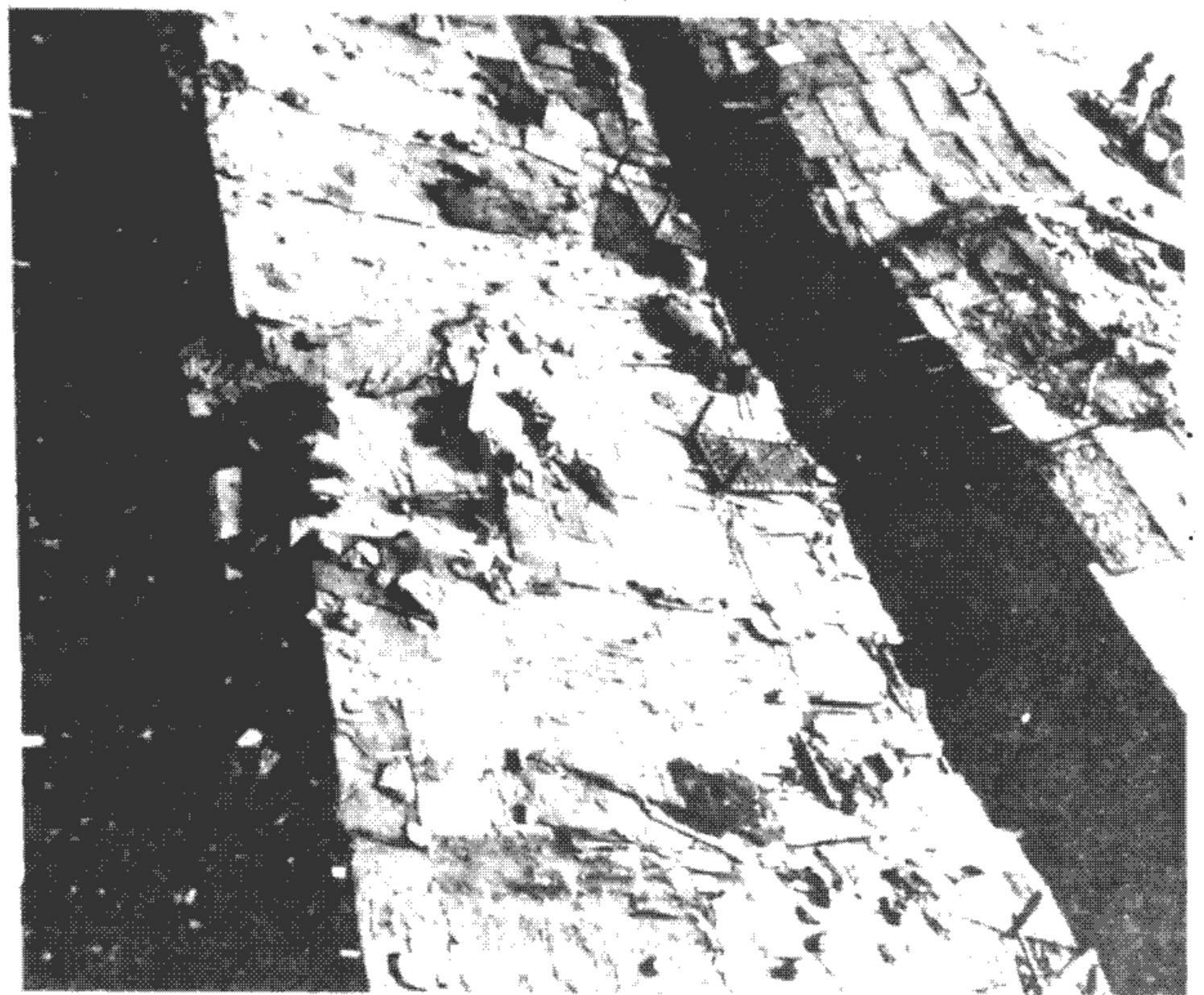
Disasters usually affect the poorest section of any community. This is not because the earthquake itself is selective as to where to strike, but because the social and economic forces ensure that the poorest people are the most vulnerable — that is they live in the area where the slightest tremor, flood, gale or cyclone can destroy their houses, their crops and often their lives. The actual disaster is not so much the cause of the deaths and destruction, but rather the social and economic context in which it occurs. A vivid example of this was in the Guatemala earthquake of early 1976 (1) where it was the houses of the poor, and the lives of the poor that were destroyed not the houses and the lives of the rich. In Guatemala the poor were killed, their houses devastated, their schools demolished and their communities decimated, while the rich suffered hardly at all.

In the Bangladesh floods of a year ago, it was the families on the lowest income levels who's homes were washed away and who's children were drowned because they lacked all proper protection and had to occupy the very cheapest plots of land which were most vulnerable to flooding. The

ing of the wealthy offices and homes where only slight damage had occurred. And so — the aid went to the wealthy not to those who were in most desperate need. In fact in Guatemala the large majority, the poor, went back to their marginal lives in their marginal areas; they went back to poverty and squalor and to the same kind of disaster-prone houses that they had formerly occupied prior to the quake. Often in fact, a disaster can make people more vulnerable to the effects of future disasters in that they are less well protected than they were before.

Another fact which has emerged from past disasters is that the aid which follows often creates structures and aspirations among the victims that can only be satisfied by a continuing flow of aid, and in this it represents the type of 'Victorian soup kitchen' or on-going type of aid where the recipients have to become dependent upon the donors. A new evaluation of the problems of disasters and disaster-aid is being undertaken by several major aid agencies in the Western world, including CORSO, NZ, The War on Want, London, and Oxfam (Canada) etc. . . . It is hoped that this study will be available early in 1978. (These notes are from CORSO/WAR ON WANT preliminary study).

Note 1. The Guatemala Earthquake occurred in February 1976, and resulted in more than 22,000 dead, 77,000 injured and left over 20% of the population homeless.



A typical slum area in Bombay — areas like this are the first to be destroyed

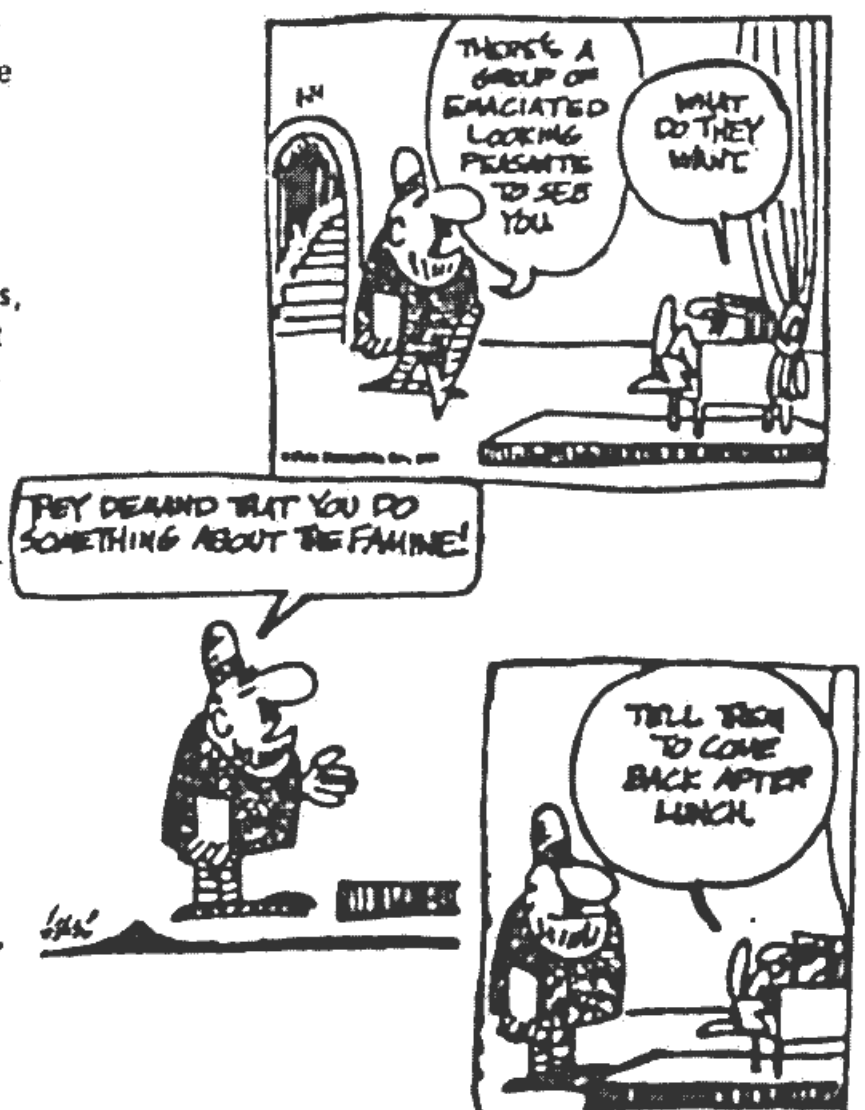
wealthy lived on the higher ground where stop-banks etc. had been constructed to give protection to such natural hazards, and consequently they suffered not at all.

less. Estimates of the material damage were US\$747.5 million.

There is a symbiotic relationship between the press and the aid agencies at the time of a disaster. The Press, who 'like' disasters because they are dramatic and easy to describe, are dependent on the agencies for up-to-date information and a domestic angle to the news. Conversely, the agencies depend upon the press to give prominent coverage to the disaster so that they can raise money more easily.

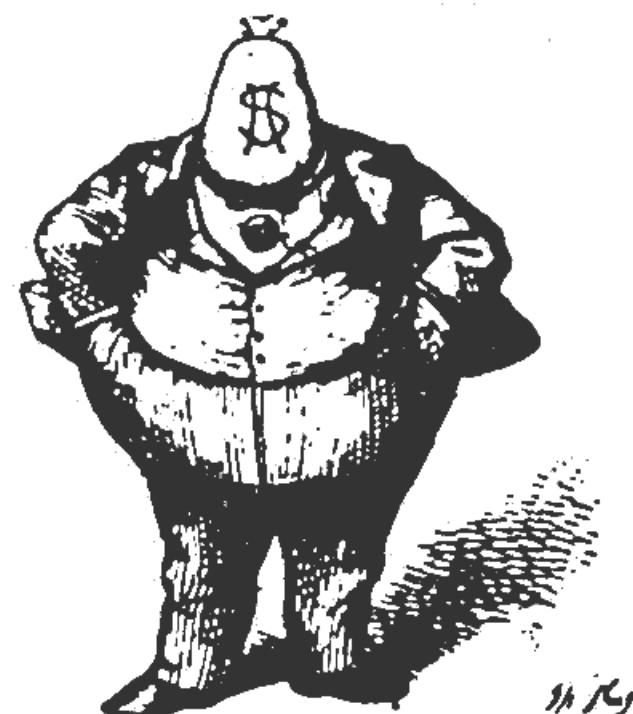
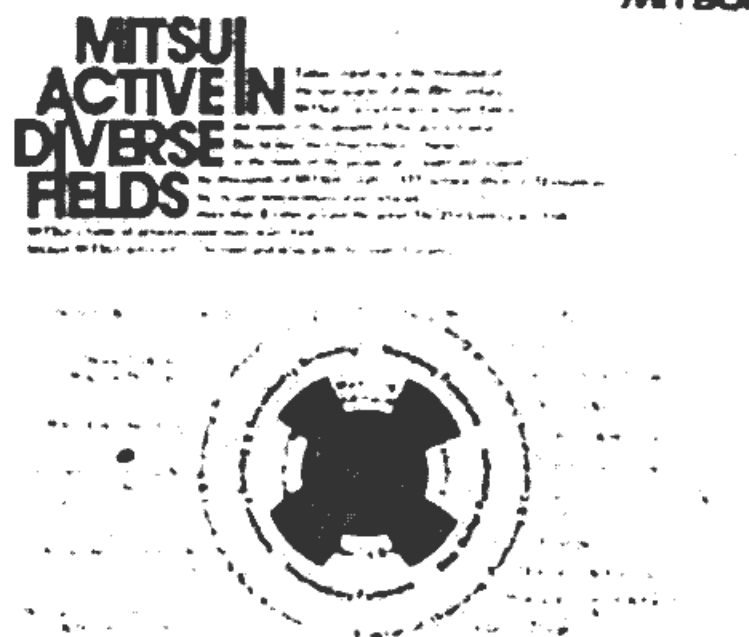
However, this means that the press, the agencies, and the public all get a false understanding of what is happening; they see only the physical symptoms rather than the underlying causes of the disaster, namely, the social, economic and political context.

Understanding the above is essential when seeking to design and appropriate disaster aid programme. The great majority of disaster aid merely restores the status quo, as was seen in the Guatemala aid programme, when the earthquake became known as the "ClassQuake" as it was discovered after the quake that the aid programme had largely been directed to that sector of the community who least had need of aid. In Guatemala it was not the houses of the poor which were rebuilt first, but the roads leading to the major industries in the rich areas. It was not the overcrowded schools in the poor areas which were re-built but the repaint-



MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

1. For the first time in history, there are giant companies with the money, technology and know-how to reach out into every corner of the globe and make the world their market place.

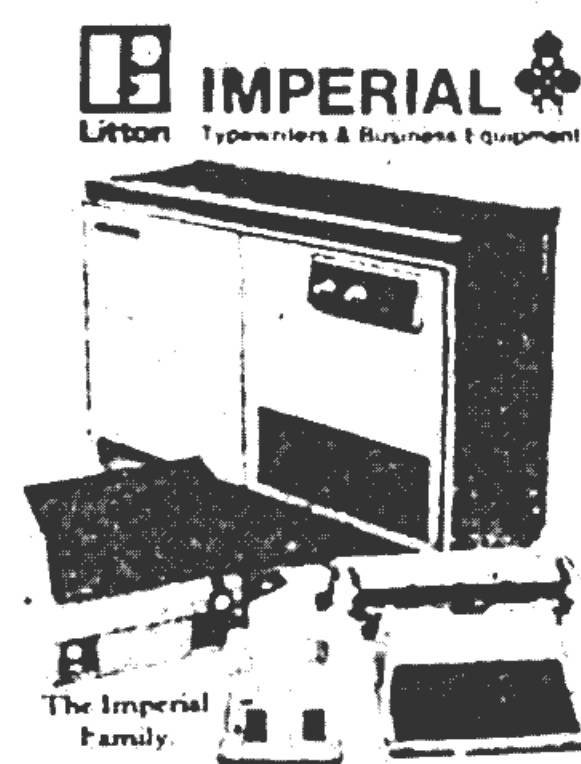


2. During the last decade, big American, Western-European and Japanese firms have been expanding production abroad at a phenomenal rate. The top ten of these 'multinationals' have higher incomes than more than 80 different countries.

3. Corporations buy up smaller companies in the same line of business and expand into different fields. So more goods and services are controlled by fewer companies. Some economists conjecture that 300 monopolies will control 60% of the world market in 25 years.

4. Famous names like Pepsico (in 114 countries), Nestlé (in 60 countries), and Ford (in 29 countries) are accumulating vast resources that put them beyond the control of any one nation. Yet their business decisions affect the lives of millions.

5. The company managers in New York or Tokyo, with their world view of labour markets, prices, taxation, etc., operate not on the basis of an individual country's needs but according to what is most profitable for the enterprise as a whole.



Throughout the world, we're contributing to economic growth

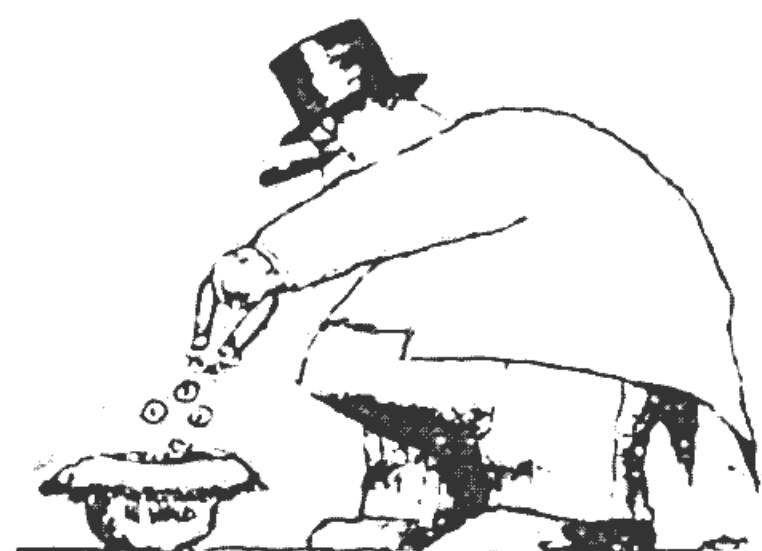


6. Because of this global strategy and an ability to shift production from one place to another, multinational companies are having a crucial impact on labour around the world.

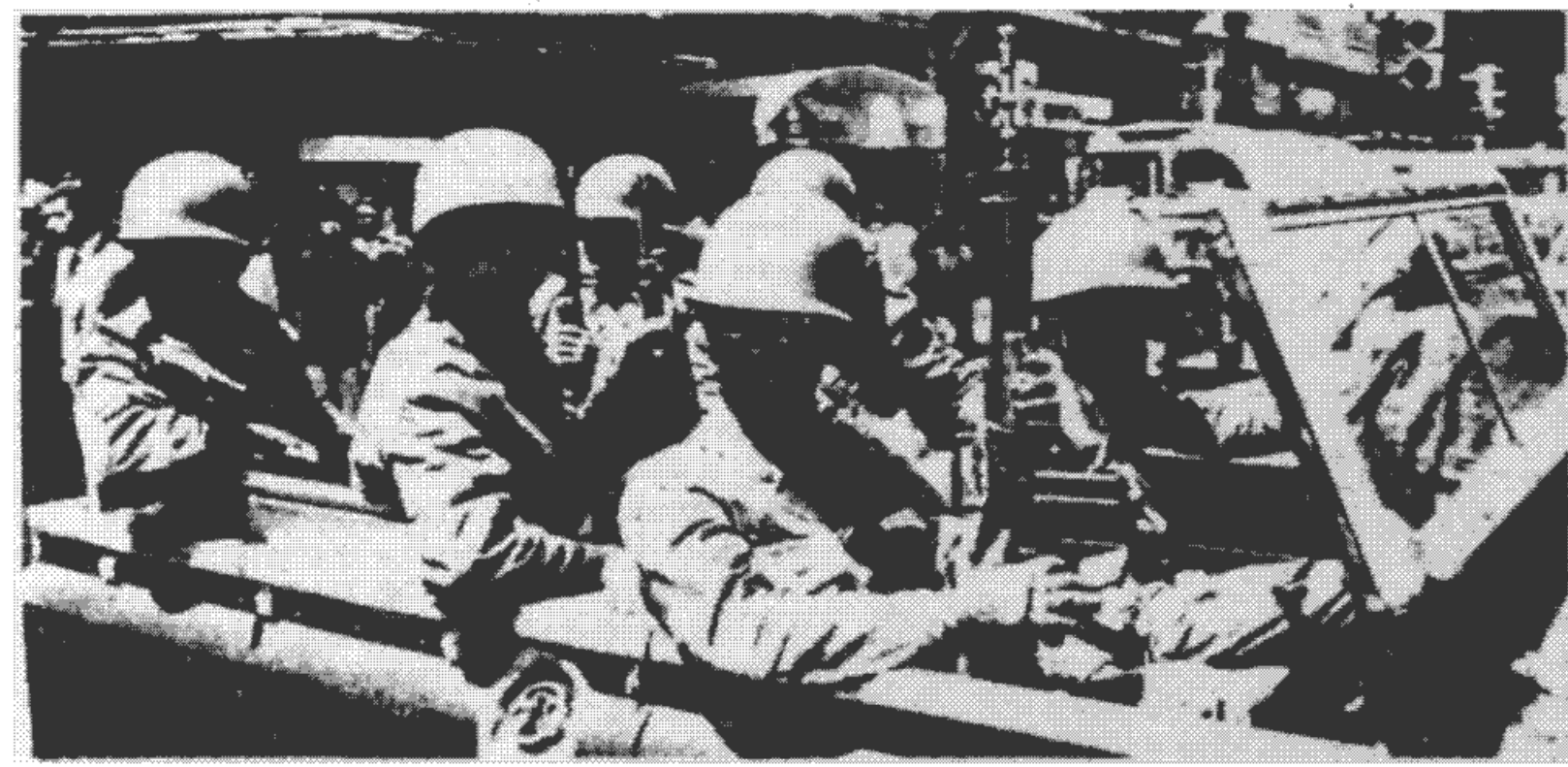
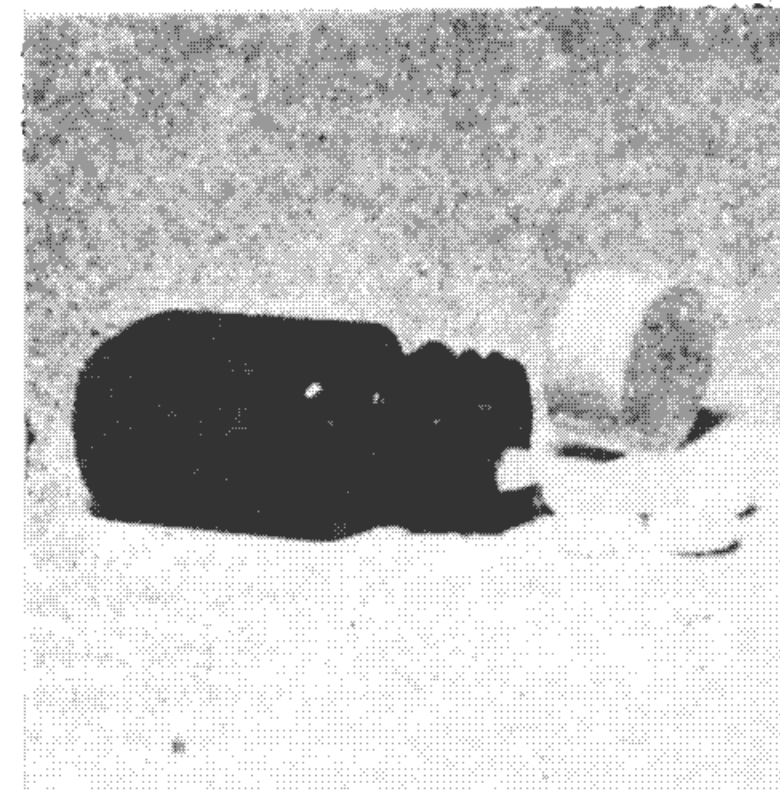
7. In 1962, General Motors sacked 685 employees at their works near Paris because of Italian competition. Recently Imperial Typewriters - owned by the giant US Litton Industries - closed down their British factories. 3,200 people lost their jobs.

8. To maintain profitability, many enterprises are turning their attention to the Third World where many governments offer cheap, non-unionised labour, tax holidays and even ready-built factories in return for the benefits they believe foreign investment can bring.

9. Giant firms sometimes claim that their presence in developing countries is beneficial. This claim has to be judged on whether they are helping the great majority of poor people in those countries.



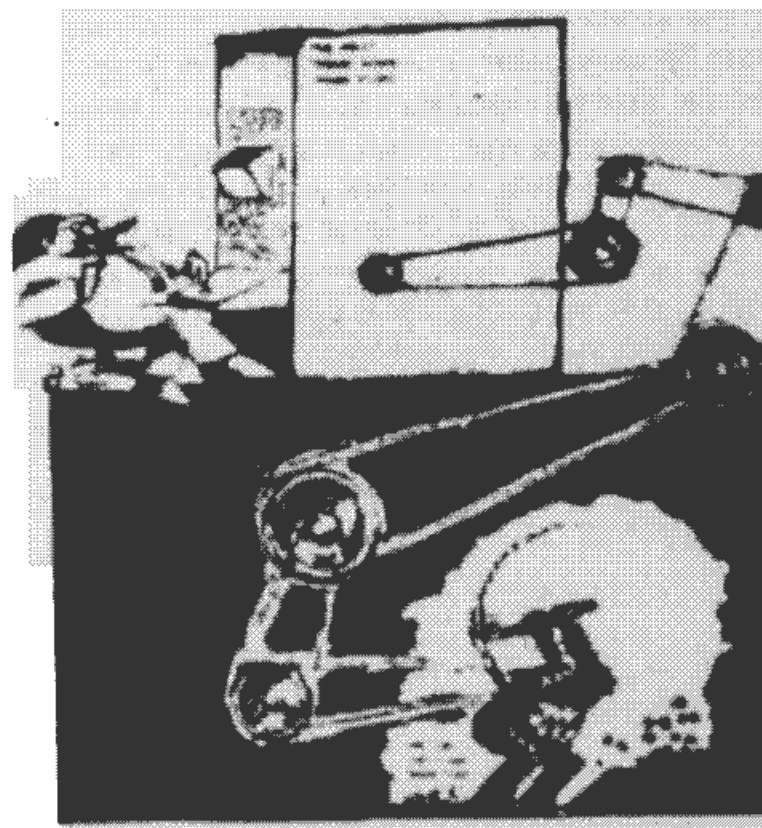
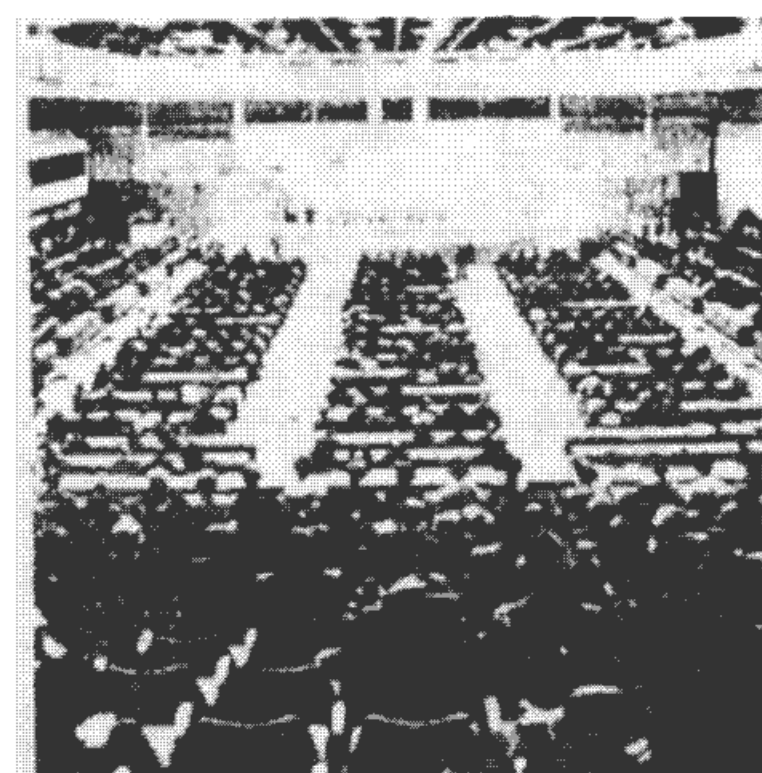
10. According to US Department of Commerce figures, American businesses (mainly multinational companies) invested \$9 billion in poor countries between 1950 and 1965, and gained \$25.6 billion in profits from these countries over the same period.



11. Recent studies too, show that earnings generated by the new multinational industries in the Third World are not ploughed back into the host country to finance vital development such as housing, clinics and schools. Instead they are mostly repatriated.

12. Similarly, companies often juggle their account books to show low profits and avoid tax. One example was in Colombia in 1968 when foreign pharmaceutical firms declared 6.1% average profits a year but were actually making 79.1%.

13. Countries which try to control these huge enterprises must contend with the companies' political influence as well. The United States saw its company investments threatened by the Allende Government in Chile. They engineered an informal international blockade which produced economic chaos and contributed to the final downfall of the government.



14. In response to international concern about the lack of control over multinationals, the UN has called for a code of conduct governing their behaviour. The UN Charter of Economic Rights and Duties would have the effect of legalising nationalisation.

15. This would give control of raw materials to the countries where they are situated, and not to companies which exploit them. And growing competition between these giants for markets and materials will work in the Third World's favour.

16. Nevertheless, many developing countries' economies are dominated by the multinational companies. These countries would be too weak to enforce rules. And so foreign corporations can continue to influence their whole pattern of development.

The supplement was prepared by Salient in co-operation with CORSO. Salient feels that the questions raised in the supplement are of the utmost urgency. Increasingly the world is being driven to new levels of mass poverty, political oppression and World War. Third World countries are the worst affected by far.

All New Zealanders must make a concerted effort to associate with the Third World in their struggle for economic justice, a national liberation from being power domination.

We must also build ourselves an independent economy so we are not dominated by the whims of the market leaders. If we do not, then New Zealand will become, like the Third World, an appendage of the capitalist world.

Find out about your local CORSO Action Group, 170 Willis Street or Phone 844 560.



An NZUSA delegation recently returned from China. This is the first in a series of articles written by members of the delegation on different aspects of Chinese society.

When we arrived at the university we were greeted by the chairman of the revolutionary committee and several representatives of the staff and students. We met in a huge meeting room where we were first of all given a brief description of the university before we split into two groups to ask questions.

Chungshan University was founded by Sun Yat-sen in 1926. There are two categories of students; undergraduates (3,000) and postgraduates, extension course students, short-term course students, and correspondence students (20,000 in all). There are 1,100 teachers.

All departments are linked to one of the two main faculties; science and arts. The six science departments are; maths/mechanics, physics, chemistry, metallurgy, biology and geography. The arts are; Chinese language and literature, history, philosophy, economics and foreign languages.

The first question we asked concerned the exam system. We had learned that one of the criticisms of the gang of four was that they advocated the complete abolition of exams. Some of us could not understand why they should be criticised for this since it was Mao who first criticised the exam system and the education system in general not long after liberation. We were under the impression that the gang of four were just continuing the policies of chairman Mao by cleaning the country of the remains of the old examination system.

The Chairman of the revolutionary committee, who looked to about 55 years old and who had followed closely the changes in the education system since before liberation in 1949, began his answer by saying that through the changes in the examination system we could see the changes in the university and in education. He said that immediately after liberation it was necessary to copy the old system of exams

simply to maintain continuity.

The problem arose when Liu Shao-chi, a consistent enemy of Mao, supported the maintaining of the old system of exams long after liberation, instead of revising and revolutionising it. The effect of this policy was to make students the enemies of the teachers, and teachers used exams to oppress the students who became vicious competitors of one another and concerned themselves more with marks than with study. The teachers' word became gospel and they began to use the same teaching plan year after year. In response to this, Chairman Mao and the Communist Party lead a campaign which revolutionised the education system.

But Mao never actually advocated abolishing exams but rather to reform them. This was the only practical policy under the circumstances. His was a policy not to deal with students as enemies but to make exams constructive. Liu Shao-chi was completely denounced in the cultural revolution between 1966 and 1969 at the same time as the gang of four rose to prominence. But the gang of four proceeded to distort the instructions of Chairman Mao and used the upsurge in the people's criticism of Liu Shao-chi's ideas to attempt to abolish exams completely. This they succeeded to do to a large extent, and in fact the students at Chungshan University were undergoing their first exams for six years while we were there.

The effect of having no exams at all was a general confusion which led to a poor standard of work and generally an unproductive attitude among the students and the teachers. People at university became elitist and divorced from the workers and peasants. A point which we were constantly reminded of by the people we spoke to, was that China is not a perfect society and it is too idealist to expect that changes such as complete abolition of exams, should constructively advance the revolution. The short period of

chaos caused by the gang of four made this even more obvious to the Chinese people, and the campaign to criticise them has raised the people's analytical abilities quite substantially.

So it had become very clear that exams were essential but the question was what form the exams should take. Obviously, there was not going to be a return to the old style exams that they had just after Liberation. So the new exam system this year is an experimental one, and there are a multitude of ways and means. Each course has the form of exam which best suits that course. For example, the modern Chinese history course: After much discussion between teachers, students and responsible members of the university concerned with revolution in education, it was decided to have exams for one week. During the week the students should read classic works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao, where they are relevant to the topic of modern Chinese history and analyse and discuss them. Then they are to write an article on either one historical event in modern China or one historic person in modern China. The teachers point out the good and bad points in the articles and then all the students then discuss them.

In the philosophy department there are two main ways of examining students; closed book exams in which they review their studies and have the teacher ask them questions for two hours and secondly, they are given one and a half days to write an article (topic chosen by themselves).

The science departments usually have much shorter exams than the arts departments because it seems to suit the type of material they have to deal with. For example they will have a period of thorough review of their studies then a two to four hour exam in the class room. But the difference between this form of exam and those previous to liberation is that the students don't

just regurgitate what they have studied. They are tested on their ability to analyse problems and solve them, based on what they have learned during the course of the term.

The exam system in China is again taking the revolutionary road under the guidance of Mao's teachings: that is, the people must continue to improve the methods and never lose sight of the fact that old ideas are still present. Exams should serve the checking of the quality of the study, summarising the teaching experiences, teaching methods and study methods. Also the students' and teachers' sense of responsibility to education in revolution must be fostered. This policy is being carried out on an experimental basis at present and there are dozens of different and widely varying forms of exams.

To conclude I'd like to give a few more examples of exams that show clearly the difference in attitude to education that the Chinese have compared to that of New Zealand.

- (i) Students write reports on what they read in their spare time.
- (ii) They write reports on investigations of social realities after observations in society during their holidays.
- (iii) They spend time on communes and in factories learning from the workers and peasants. They then report on what they have learned.
- (iv) Science students must show their ability in operating and experimenting with machines.

The examination system is only a component part of the revolution in education and even then I have only scratched the surface of what has become an incredibly enthusiastic and spirited improvement in the system of exams since the smashing of the gang of four.

— Rod Prosser.

NZUSA FORUM

All the NZUSA big-shots have been invited and this is your chance to ask them what they've been doing and tell them why you're pissed off with them. An excellent way to take out those pre-exam tensions in a constructive manner.

NZUSA FORUM UNION HALL 12 - 2 THURSDAY SEPT 1ST

salient notes

Denied their half-yearly dose of backstabbing at Council, the Salient Workers Collective decide to go into the Private Detective business. The loss of their leader David Murray (presently being had up for indecent practices involving a walking stick) is investigated by ace-infiltrator and idiot, the man with the fat arm Dave Merritt. According to a press statement released by persons whose names we will not reveal (Lamorna Rogers, Sue Cairney and Byles Geckford), the fat fees will be paid only if the investigation is unsuccessful. In an interview with TV3, Rose Collins and Simon Wilson deny all rumours that Andrew Dungan, Pat O'Dea, Bruce Robinson and Adolf Hitler are really Nazi war criminals and say they're just good friends (All cheques to be made out to the Salient Workers Collective...). Special agent Wendy Bachler jumps on her flying typesetter (Departs 1.30 am daily) with Dave McPherson (who doesn't like sitting with N.O.'s) to visit Arrowtown where there has been a sighting of Rire Scotney, a fully paid-up member of the Foul Enough for Watergate Brigade. Mike (Show me the way to... anywhere) Stephens misses the flight and guns down a low-flying elephant muttering 'Just imagine if that shat on me...'. Jane Wilcox takes the photos (Locker 103, Railway Station, pay in cash) while refuting allegations by double-agent Rod James that there will be a S.W.C. street appeal. All donations should be handed to Sue Cairney and Lamorna Rogers from where they will never be heard of again.

Film

Roman Polanski A Perspective

There's always something immediately disquieting about watching a Polanski film. A sense of dread prevails and all you know to expect is the unexpected. His technique is so well developed by now that for him the medium of film has become as much the "pure" instrument of fear that it once was to Hitchcock. To be sure, the content of a Hitchcock movie seldom reaches any profound level — indeed his ideas on matters social and political are often naive and clumsily expressed — but generally he knows where the emphasis is best placed: on the form, and the manipulation of it.

Such a generalisation could also be true for Polanski; both directors use the dynamic of film as a psychological weapon. But Polanski's preoccupations, his themes, are more concise and personal than Hitchcock's, and are consistent throughout his work.

From *Repulsion* through to *The Tenant*, the psychological territory is always clearly marked out: isolated human beings that suffer mental disorder and paranoia, usually victims of what they see as a conspiracy against them. The focus of attention is almost always exclusively upon a solitary sufferer. A gloomy end awaits each one.

Given that film cannot express the workings of the mind directly, then its ability to do so indirectly is reliant upon the way in which its formal devices can be used to bring about a corresponding state of mind. The two significant means which Polanski exploits are location and atmosphere. The locations are usually confined spaces that create a claustrophobic effect and their presence works as the visual metaphor for the the psychic state of the main character. The atmosphere in every Polanski film plays an important role and is often the effective alternative to plot. Light, colour and sound act to complement each other; one never intrudes on or overwhelms the other (except where deliberate). All combine to provide the "feel" that frames the storyline and character development.

Keeping the above observations in mind, here is a summary of Polanski's films to date. (Most have been screened here). *Knife in the Water* (1962) was the first feature, concerning the conflict that develops within a triangle of two men and a woman within the confines of a yacht. A characteristically small cast allows for a pegetrative study of human nature.

Repulsion (1965) however, was the first real success. Featuring Catherine Deneuve in the role of a homicidal schizophrenic, the film is a chilling study of mental breakdown. It unfolds in documentary fashion, presenting us with the symptoms that are severe depression and hallucination while suggesting, without comment, the causes to be loneliness, an aberrant sexual nature and an inherited mental instability. In it Polanski reveals his strength for creating atmosphere. For him, atmosphere is defined by the dripping taps, ringing bells and all the incidental noises that go together with the squalid surroundings of the flat where she lives. Once atmosphere is established, Polanski is free to use the camera both objectively and subjectively, often blurring the distinction

between the two. This forces the audience to relate directly to the girl. One accepts the realistic setting — the camera does not lie, — and one must also accept her hallucinations. The problem then arises in trying to figure out what was real and what was imagined. This ambiguity is a favoured ploy of Polanski's and recurs in later movies, notably *The Tenant*.

Cul de Sac (1966) explores "human behaviour and how people in very special circumstances react to each other". Playwright Samuel Beckett is the most obvious influence in this film. There is no plot to speak of. The characters are isolated, unable to escape, and when pushed to extreme limits lose their rational grip on their "Waiting for Godot" existence. Pessimism again, true, but there is much to say for the distinctive feel the film has: the visual images are very strong and the acting superlative, with Donald Pleasance in particularly good, eccentric form. Underneath flows a deft tempo which directs an apparant formlessness into a structure based on a series of fascinating personal encounters. The outcome is, typically, hardly a resolution.



Roman Polanski

Polanski avoids satisfactory conclusions and stays clear of value judgements, preferring to offer the premises with which we can attempt to form our own conclusion.

The Fearless Vampire Killers (1967) shows off Polanski's lighter sense of humour. However, the signs that mark it as a precursor to his next and most well-known film are apparent. That is, while human beings remain objects of helplessness and isolation, the only forces that are collective are manifest in the evil form. Here as Vampires, in *Rosemary's Baby* as witches.

Rosemary's Baby (1968) is a pretty shocking movie and the unsettling feeling it has doesn't just stop when the film's exquisite tension slackens at the coming down of the curtain. "The story takes the traditional Christian myth and dresses it up in its equally Satanic disguise. The film's myth parallels the New Testament It treats the myth in such a way that we are forced to accept its literal truth". When Rosemary finally looks down upon her baby and we look with her, then, if we accept her previous actions as rational or natural responses under the given circumstances, thereby ruling out insanity, then we would find it difficult to deny the logic of her decision to keep the baby (Satan's child). By so doing we must call our own beliefs into question as well since, if we permit her decision, we must be pre-

pared, as far as belief is concerned, to ask the same question of ourselves. "God is Dead" reads the cover of the Time magazine in the film. If not God, then why not — you know, the little red fellow with horns in the Lucifer commercial.

Shakespeare becomes the source of inspiration for the next film. And the play is, naturally, *Macbeth* (1971). The virtue is that cinematically the play has made an excellent transformation and the film has avoided as far as possible the staginess that often encumbers filmed plays (*Othello*, for example). The atmosphere of dark castles and a brooding overcast landscape display a sense of colour and light which corresponds well to the prevailing mood, providing the vehicle for Jon Finch's convincingly underplayed performance. And the interpretation? Says Polanski: "The character over the centuries has become a stereotype — an unpleasant, bearded man screaming at his own tragedy almost before the curtain goes up. Not in my film . . . I see Macbeth as a young open-faced warrior sucked into a whirlpool of events because of his ambition . . . He's a gambler for high stakes".

I don't know what What? (1973) is about — chances are it was never released in this country. It apparently gives rein to Polanski's surrealist sensibility but proved unpopular at the time.

Chinatown (1974) shows that whatever reservations one may have about the outlook of Polanski's films, his mastery of technique and style cannot be disputed. Events unfold in the same detached manner that is now typical. Suspense develops but is kept under restraint while clue after clue accumulate and lead to the bitter climax: "Forget it, Jake, it's Chinatown".

Screenwriter Robert Towne argued with Polanski over the latter's alteration of the ending yet it is easy to see that a happy satisfying end would be out of line with Polanski's overall view of things. Private eye Jake Gittes (Jack Nicholson) represents a man who becomes involved in a personal struggle to discover a truth which eludes him until the last moment. By that time comes the realisation that, in spite of his efforts, forces of sinister intent beyond his control reduce him to the role of the hopeless onlooker, incapable of acting upon his own knowledge.

The Tenant (1976) returns us full circle to the psychological and physical setting of *Repulsion*. And *The Tenant*, like *Repulsion*, is very well made. For the large part it is a well paced film with a deliberate rhythm that is interrupted only by the

main character's hallucinations or his confrontations with other people. The lead role is taken by Polanski himself who plays the Polish emigre Trekowski, an awkward, well-meaning clerk whose vulnerability in a hostile world makes him a prime victim for a fatal shift of identity. With his performance Polanski succeeds in joining the small group of actor/writer/directors whose ability extends equally to the three different facets.

The invaluable contribution of cinematographer Sven Nykvist is also a highlight. His restless moving camera is instrumental in conveying the oppressive confines of the tenement building whilst the drab colours and the varying degrees of darkness suitably evoke the necessary depressive atmosphere.

Beyond this there are several meanings that the film offers for examination. It suggests that society is to be held responsible for his suicide, in view of the fact that its representatives (the landlord, the concierge, etc.) Trekowski believed were conspiring against him. They force him to change identities and he winds up conforming to the identity of another person. Such a collective force is more than a match for any sole individual — the individual's recourse is to go mad.

So much for that. What I don't like is that this ground has already been covered in *Repulsion* and *The Tenant* merely repeats the context of *Repulsion*. Repeats his familiar views on human nature, insanity mainly, that are well represented in his other films. Even the horror effects, a famous Polanski trademark, have degenerated into a self-parody of his own style. Notable is the ending where poor Trekowski has to throw himself off the building twice before effectively committing suicide. True, it's funny, but what a way to get a laugh.

The Tenant has a circular structure: the action begins and ends in the same locale and inside this enclosed line is found the restricted setting in which the action is housed. This definition applies to most of the other films as well. The definition cannot be taken too literally however, since the ends of any Polanski movie are never satisfactorily drawn for the audience — although the threads of beginning and end appear to be joining, they in fact diverge, leaving the viewer to find his own way back. His themes illustrate and often amplify the condition of human beings as lonely, victims of paranoia pushed into insanity or death through the aesthetic of the extreme and obsessional. Cheery stuff, all right.

Critical opinion of Polanski's films has tended to dwell on moralistic evaluation rather than any discussion of ideas. The reason for this stems from the old argument of technique and how it relates to meaning, Polanski swamps his ideas with technique, putting it in particular at the service of "grand guignol". So people who dislike seeing *Macbeth* decapitated accuse Polanski of superficiality. But Polanski's problem is not that he is superficial but that his themes are static. *The Tenant* really shows little maturation of ideas: since *Repulsion*; indeed, it lets his talents slide into a formula. Perhaps, like Bergman and *Face to Face*, Polanski has worked himself into a corner and will find a new direction to follow. The difference however, between the careers of Bergman and Polanski is that the former has gone on and made *The Serpent's Egg* while the latter faces the possible future of a jail sentence. Such a bleak prospect, bearing in mind his past tragedies (when wife Sharon Tate was murdered), will hardly precipitate any softening of attitudes toward his life and art. The loss is cinema's, for it seemed to me Polanski had reached the point where some sort of revision of ideas and style appeared the next possible step. It is doubtful now that this step can or ever will be taken.

— David Beresford



Health Service

Vision Testing

Are you short sighted? Literally we mean. Shortsightedness or myopia is one of the most common visual problems in young people. It usually starts during the first 25 years of life. It usually develops gradually, without notice and without pain.

One of the first signs is loss of detail on distant objects such as the score board at sports grounds, on actors' faces in the theatre or the details on road signs. Students often experience difficulty with blackboard work.

Frowning and squinting in an effort to see is often observed and the muscle tension may cause headaches. Bookwork or close work is not usually affected by simple myopia.

The cause is not known although heredity plays a part. There are no rules for prevention.

Corrective lenses, glasses or contact lenses are prescribed by an eye specialist and should be worn, but contrary to popular belief the degree and progress of myopia are not affected either by wearing or by not wearing corrective lenses. Eye exercises likewise have no effect on this condition.

There are many eye conditions that are not revealed by a standard vision screening test but myopia is one that is readily confirmed by a routine wallchart test.

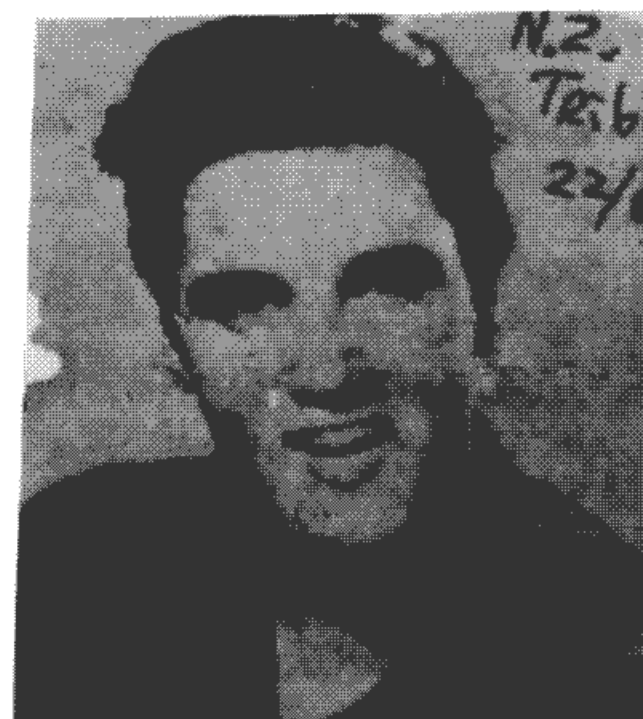
If you think the description of myopia applies to you, you can report to the Student Health Service for a vision screening test. No appointment is necessary.

Alternatively you can do-it-yourself at the gym. Standard vision screening wall charts have recently been installed in the foyer of the gym. If you can't read the bottom line you should report to your own doctor or to Student Health.

Don't be shortsighted about shortsightedness.

SUP & Elvis

In the latest edition of the New Zealand Tribune, the paper of the 'Socialist' Unity Party, we found this obituary of Elvis Presley. It seems strange to us that a so-called 'socialists' would praise what Elvis stood for — wild ambition and the sick American society which he played an integral part in maintaining.



THE untimely passing of Elvis Presley (42) last week marks the end of an era. A legend in his own lifetime, Presley hailed from poverty stricken quarters of Tupelo, Mississippi. He rose to fame in the mid-1950s when his unique style elevated him 'king' of rock 'n' roll and brought pleasure to many millions throughout the world.

As many of Elvis' contemporaries have said, "there'll never be another quite like him."

Drama

The Balcony By Jean Genet Downstage

Is there a connection between the generally antipathetic critical reaction Philip Mann's production of *The Balcony* has received, and the play's direct confrontation of much of the theatre Downstage serves up? Genet's play is the most serious piece of work done in the Hannah in a long time. It is also one of the most involving and exciting.

In purely dramatic terms there are some real coups. The Bishop's entrance: eight feet of sumptuous clothes with no head. Arthur the torturer in ridiculous padded he-man suit, with cigarette. The judge's exit, born out on the torture frame in mock solemn procession while a clown looks on. Chantal's death, Roger's castration, and the final apotheosis: the Lord's prayer sung beautifully, viciously by assembled cast in front of the Police Chief's monument to frozen sexual power.

Actor interaction, especially in the first half, needs to be tighter, but there are several fine performances. Sherril Cooper's doubt-besetted yet commandeering Irma is her best portrayal to date. John Banas is largely successful in distinguishing his paranoid/perverted/powerful Police Chief from the many similar characters he has played. His clown cameo is nothing short of brilliant. John Callen's timid man is astounding, especially considering his usual upright strength; turned General he is satire incarnate. Lorae Parry as his horse continues to prove her excellence, and Lewis Rowe makes a marvellous gasman-cum-Bishop, simply oozing petty conceits.

The new RSC translation Downstage have used is still overwritten. Mann has cut, and could perhaps have done more if the actors were to really keep on top of the pace. Any unevenness can be traced back to the textual flaws, while the strengths remain very much in the play's physical presence. The difficult task of combining ritual splendour with razor-edged satire has been admirably managed. The drama is powerful, the method of communication is disturbingly piercing. It is this method I wish to examine.

Genet wrote for the proscenium-arch stage, equating in his last lines the brothel called the House of Illusion with the theatre in which we sit. For him, the theatre-as-illusion truism means that the liberal value we place on escapism/imagination leads to corruption, complacency and stasis. This is so, in *The Balcony*, of the lackeys who came to indulge their fantasies as well as of the revolutionaries who know only retribution and greed. 'Freedom' in capitalist terms, is a frenzy of licentiousness, menacingly controlled from above. The play has strong revolutionary overtones, arguing the need for leadership, ideology and education. In the Hannah it exposes Lenin's Rod Stewart speech in *Travesties* for the sellout it was; *Love's Labour's Lost* for all its glorified trivia.

The controlling feature of Mann's production is the set. While Genet intellectually links the decadent brothel and theatre, Mann and designer Raymond Boyce have made them almost one and the same. The stage is the centre of the auditorium, shaped as a cross with arms reaching to the walls and audience sitting in each quarter. Thus Mme. Irma and Co. share the total space with us: the brothel is the theatre. The spirit of the writing is given full dramatic reality.

However, *The Balcony's* brand of satire (gross magnification and blatant symbolic exposure) sets up natural distinctions between spectator and character. These distinctions are necessary, for we must see the evil in both the trappings and traits of those characters over and above any empathy we may have with their humanity. Boyce's set maintains this distinction by raising the stage above floor level: alienation for purposes of recognition co-exists with the unifying use of the overall area.

The raised cross does not always make the play easy to watch. But there is no rule in theatre which prohibits a spectator from turning his head or chair, no reason why he shouldn't. The rewards for this small measure of physical involvement can be considerable.

To give one example. Late in the play the reactionary characters and Chantal, symbol of the revolt taking place outside the brothel, face each other from opposite arms of the cross, waving as if to a crowd. Chantal carries a red flag. She advances. The group are all frozen smiles. Suddenly Chantal looks horrified. A man in black presses through the group with outstretched arm: he has a gun. He fires. Chantal reels, blood spurting from her mouth. The man disappears. Chantal falls, dead. The group continue waving.

Focus, and the tension of the moment, are dependent on our willingness to watch Chantal and the group. Turning from one to the other, not having time to see things coming, we are consequently much affected when they do. A film builds up this tension by montage. The advantage

of the play is the freedom it allows us to form our own 'montage': we participate in creating the theatrical effect. By analogy, it is always more exciting to watch a tennis match from close up because we have to do something — turn our heads — to appreciate the game.

Set basically in the round, the play contains many such moments, and many more where we get a general view. The effect is always to underscore our thematic involvement in the action. One critic found this 'maddening'. I suggest it is an important attempt (for Downstage) to give audiences a significant role in the processes of theatre. We are not being acted at, but for. And thus, the play asks us to learn.

The Balcony defines bourgeois man as no more than the corruption of the symbol he identifies with. The play is laced through with symbols, and is itself one. It lures us with its glitter, and shocks us with its cruelty. Faults and all, it demands to be seen.

— Simon Wilson.

The Tooth of Crime by Sam Shepard Unity Theatre

Sam Shepard has been called 'the most important living American playwright,' which implies some interesting things about American theatre. *The Tooth of Crime* aspires to the level of myth. It doesn't so much create one as transcribe a very standard formula into an ultra-modern situation, and — this is perhaps its most intrinsic 'American' quality — deflates it.

Hoss is front-runner on the rock charts. He has worked himself up the hard way on a battle-ground whose zipped-up idiom suggests interplanetary war. Though he means to stay there, his bones are getting old. Crow, the gypsy outsider, is on his way up. He's fast, super-clever, ambitious, and most of all, he's got style. Both have learnt the game and play it past the limits. Hoss brags that Crow isn't even in his league, and finds his rival as a whole new set of rules he can't keep up with. Crow is on a winning streak, yet this will be his downfall. The bigger his success, the more he replaces Hoss, the nearer he also comes to the end of the line.

Such is the play's tragedy. Each is essentially seer because their mastery of external strength-values creates a hollow within. They are both parts of the same character, each representing a stage of development the other will reach or has gone through. Neither has any real contact with that other part of himself; both search for it. Ironically, were they to find it their conflict would be meaningless. And where does that leave people for whom conflict defines their very existence?

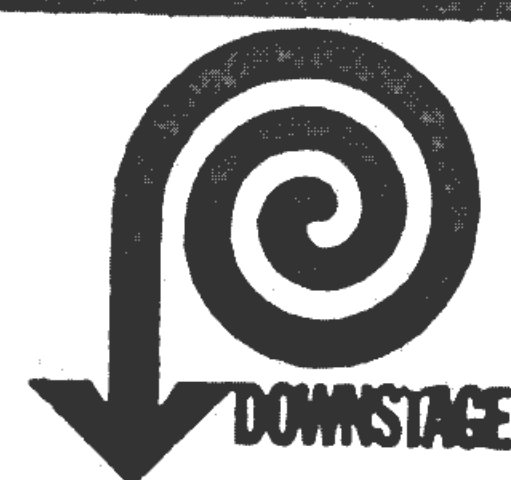
Shades of *Death of a Salesman*, Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid, and countless other myth-deflators all over the place. *The Tooth of Crime's* strength,

on stage, is its ability to send all these echoes flying. At Unity Hoss stands rock-like, Crow dances with his diamond-edged scalpel of a tongue, and the black set with shimmering stars evokes a sort of never-never land — real because the characters call it so by an act of sheer will.

Tony Lane's design and Jean Betts' direction capture more flavour than force, but there are many excellent moments. Michael Wilson shines as Crow. He appears, suddenly, sitting in a large star on the wall, staring at the audience with all the wistful cunning he can summon to face and body. He moves with a disciplined finesse quite devoid of the trickery he has been allowed to indulge so often in the past. His speaking and singing are powerfully evocative. Peter Sakey makes a grand entrance as Hoss' high-stepping DJ adviser Galactic Jack, all midriff and boyish grin. (The preposterous is a necessary part of all this).

Marshall Napier gives Hoss the right touch of desperate dignity, but his playing of the role as loser makes it hard to imagine the guy ever got to the top in the first place. The minor characters are played, much as written, for their surface mannerisms.

There are two notable deviations from the script. Betts has had all the musical accompaniment taped, rather than played live. The effect is alienating: focus is concentrated absolutely on the live singers, while we are asked to consider



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Colin Morris Records Caption Contest



"Never mind Sir, maybe they'll let you play next time."

— Martin Saville.

Entries to the Caption Contest should be witty and topical. Entries may be put in the Salient basket in the Studass Office, or in the box just inside the Salient door. Entries close on Thursday noon. Judging will be by the Salient staff and therefore no staff member may enter. The prize is an L.P. of your choice from Colin Morris Records.

Split Enz are now back in New Zealand for a new tour which will take them on to Australia and America before returning to England. Percussionist Noel Crombie, from Wellington, spoke to Salient last week and he begins by relating the group's activity since last January's tour of NZ.

First of all we went straight to the States and did what was essentially a showcase tour which took in San Francisco, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Boston and New York. We went well on the two coasts but the middle area is real cowboy country and we didn't go so well there. This was partly because Chrysalis, which is our record company, doesn't operate in this area so the promotion wasn't as good as it could have been. However the tour achieved what we wanted it to achieve and we're still getting publicity from it even now so in that respect it was very successful.

You were promoted as a weirdo band weren't you?

Yeah, it was the bizarre, zany and completely different approach which is pretty obnoxious. We got a lot of press out of it and a lot of it was really good but some of it was really disgusting - but it was all quite humorous.

Even the British critics seem to think you're weirdos though.

Yeah, England is a really mixed situation as far as the media goes. In our first stay there we built up quite a reasonable following of journalists which was good as a lot of British critics tend to be rather uncooperative but unfortunately in the time that we were away, the whole punk rock phenomenon gained ground considerably and a lot of those people were covering that when we got back so we more or less had to start again. But we still had a good audience following from the first tour so when we went back we went back to good audiences.

We covered a lot of new ground on the tour. In London we did Victoria Palace which holds about 2,300 and was virtually full even though there were about five other rock acts on in London on the same night and in fact our audience was bigger than on the previous tour when we'd been a supporting act for Jack-The-Lad. We've also been playing at clubs and universities and building on the audience that we've gained. We now know that we can tour there and get good audiences and hopefully our new album, Dizrythmia, will be a lot more successful than the last.



NIGEL GRIGGS



How does the new album compare to Second Thoughts?

The songs are a lot more straightforward now. The album's got one Judd composition and one Finn-Judd composition and the rest is new material though most of the songs are similar to the new material we were playing last time we were here.

It was produced by Geoff Emerick who's been the engineer with the Beatles since Rubber Soul and has continued on with Paul McCartney and Wings as well as other groups such as Supertramp. The album was a valuable experience as it made us realise that we don't really need a producer as such but just someone with the technical ability. He was the best person that we could have got in that respect but but as far as personality goes I don't think he was ideal.

How much say do you really have in what you do? Don't you feel that you're just being packaged?

Well we're lucky with Chrysalis as they're not trying to push us into any pigeonhole or present us in a particular way. Obviously, with the sort of image that we've got it would be easy to go overboard, if they wanted to, but thankfully they've been fairly intelligent in their approach, and they're small enough so that we can be personally involved in the company and in our promotion.

We've never catered for anyone intentionally and we don't really now just for the sake of integrity we've got to just do what we want to



NEIL FINN

do and hope that it's a success. The moment you try and cater for an audience you're going to run into confusion because there's no real rules and you can't rationalise what people are going to like and we don't want to do that anyway. If it got to that stage I don't think there'd be a Split Enz anymore.

I don't know how accurate it was but after Jonathan left the group he did an interview in which he was reported as saying that we had little say in what we did or where we went and that it was all a bit mindless but I can't really agree. We've all got to accept some compromises and we've all got our limits to what we will accept. Jonathan reached his and so he left the group. We've all got that option open to us. If I ever find that I'm not getting anything out of it then I'll leave.

You've had Philip Judd and Jonathan Michael Chunn leave the group since you were last here. How has this affected you?

It's like having a new group again really. It's great having Neil along because he's been struggling for a long time to get a group together on his own and suddenly there was this opening for him. It's injected a sort of youthful enthusiasm which is really great as we were getting a bit tainted with the repetitiveness of touring and playing the same material.

I think we've gained more with Neil than we lost with Phil because we've now got another strong vocalist. Jonathan has been replaced as bass player by Nigel Griggs who used to play with

Malcolm in a group years ago. Jonathan was always pretty flowery as a bass player whereas Nigel's much more solid. So the emphasis has changed completely.

I feel the band is more of a band than it's ever been. We're much more of a band that plays music now and hopefully it's the sort of music that will get a more immediate reaction. Mind you we're not expecting all that much from New Zealand audiences but I think that people will be quite surprised at the change because it's a whole new direction really.

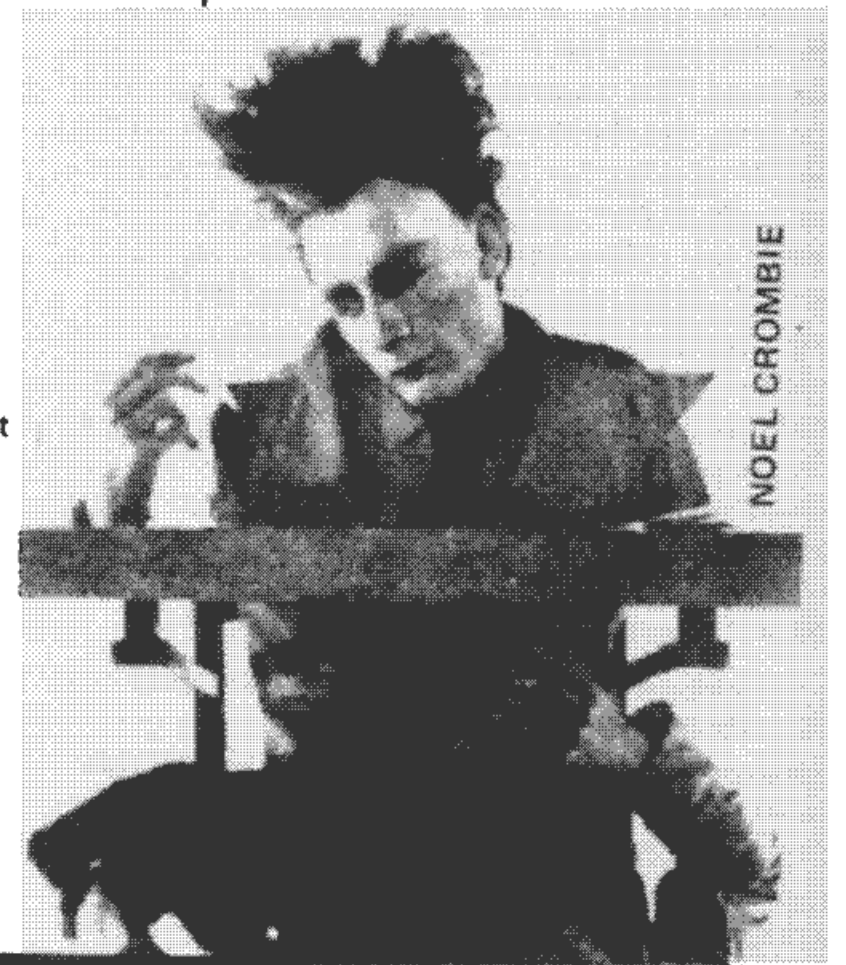
What are you going to do after you leave here?

We're going to be touring Australia for a few weeks, doing a much more extensive tour than we have in the recent past. Then we'll be going back to England and we'll be touring there for five weeks and then either Europe or America. Then in December and January we'll be recording the next album. We've got behind in our recording schedule - we're contracted to do two albums a year - but it'll be good in a way as we'll be able to progress faster than we have done.

We may actually be recording the next album at EMI here in Wellington. The facilities aren't as good but that's no real problem when you think of what the Beatles turned out on an 8-track system. Essentially it's who you record with rather than what you record with that matters. We'd probably produce it ourselves and just have an engineer. In actual fact it works out no more expensive to record it here, even with the air-fares from Britain and we all like the idea of recording an album in New Zealand because we're from New Zealand and besides we like to come home.

There's been no New Zealand rock band that's had anywhere near the success that you have. What's going to happen to you? You can't really come back and play at the Lion Tavern can you?

Well we never played at the Lion Tavern fortunately. We deliberately didn't because that sort of thing seems to have been death to so many groups. I think one reason that there hasn't been much success from New Zealand bands in the past is that they really haven't been ambitious enough, they've just set their sights on Australia and imagined they were hitting the big time. New Zealanders seem to have this attitude that if it's from New Zealand it can't be that good. It has been improving all the time while we've been away and there are people here now who are making a comfortable life for themselves but any band that wants to set its sights higher really has to get out of New Zealand.



NOEL CROMBIE

Remembering Elvis

By Don Franks

The death of a multimillionaire pop singer in the US seems to have caused something of a stir. Newspaper headlines around the world lamented "The King is Dead". Thousands of tearful fans flocked to the grave-side in Memphis, Tennessee. Radio stations in the US and other countries held special memorial shows (no less than 12 hours are scheduled on a local station this week-end). Not only the pop music world was involved.

No less a political figure than Jimmy Carter came forward to mourn the departed, claiming that the singer had typified the "Rebelliousness" and "Good Humour" of the US.

It is reasonable to ask - what is this great loss that we are supposed to have suffered?

Elvis Aaron Presley was originally an unskilled worker from a poor family in the American South. His rise to fame and "success" as an entertainer of the bored and disaffected youth of the white middle class of America in the early 50's rested on more than one factor.

It is true that Presley had a certain ability to perform the sickly ballads of southern US "country" singers. He was also able to snatch a trick or two from the blues and gospel singing of the black people.

This vulgar musical ability was seized by a

Mr Tom Parker, a shrewd businessman who began his career by showing "Dancing chickens" (which stepped it along when the music started and the hotplate beneath their feet was turned on). The "Colonel" marketed his unappetising product with a skill that rivals that of the other fake military gentleman, whose greasy chicken gives us a guts-ache to this day.

When the phoney "rebel" image of the hip-swinger had worn thin, Parker and Presley changed horses to create the American Dream, Elvis.

the perfect son, deeply religious, didn't smoke, drink or cuss or do anything that the American Dream could be expected not to do.

A sulky, moody tough guy character (but entirely unquestioning of established authority). Bashing up the villains in all the fights that were an essential part of all his movies - and with no higher purpose in life than to pursue - and inevitably capture - the thousands of faceless women who fluttered across the screen. The very plots of the films reflected the capitalist ethic "The war of each against all."

Presley's attitude to women was a carbon copy of the sexism of his plethora of soulless movies - on being asked about the question of marriage he replied: "Why buy a cow when you can get milk through the fence?"

Best of all, Elvis wasn't "controversial" in the Political sense. Of course, in a class society such as the US, there is no fence to sit on. You are on one side or the other.

Politically, Presley was on the side of big capital and it's state forces. He claimed that critics of his act and image were "probably communists".

The reality of Presley's private life was that of a spoilt child, surrounded by hired "buddies"/cum body-guards. The King is an apt title. In the "Kingdom" of Graceland, surrounded by guards, Elvis presided over his bought syncophants in the manner of a feudal ruler. He went so far as to employ a personal food taster!

This boorish reactionary was presented to the American people as a paragon of all-American virtue. The songs reflected the cultural values of US society. They dwelt on maudlin self-pity. "Heart Break Hotel", "One Broken Heart for Sale"; male chauvinism "Little Sister", "Hound Dog"; and the consistent idea that the highest aim in life is to seek individual sexual gratification "Viva Las Vegas", "Can't Help Falling in Love", "Kiss me Quick" - to name but a few aspects. Elvis made no small contribution to the cultural propaganda machine of US monopoly capitalism.

At a time when US cold war propaganda was at it's height, at a time when US Imperialism was violently repressing progressives at home, and liberation movements abroad, it was in the interests of US Imperialism for the youth to have an Elvis for a hero.

That Presley made a contribution to the development of rhythm and blues music (for what that

is worth) is questionable. What is not questionable is that Presley was an important part of the degenerate and ugly culture of a sick society, a capitalist society in a state of decay.

Hence the reaction of such people as Carter. Carter does not take it on himself to comment every time a singer drops dead. Presley was an American "institution" and the leader of US Imperialism can only be expected to try to dignify the prominent representatives of the rotten, individualistic culture of the US bourgeoisie.

Attempting to score a point, the other Imperialist superpower, the USSR commented on Presley a few days before his death. "He has been mercilessly tossed onto the scrap-heap of those who have gone out of fashion" said the Soviet Literary Gazette. The USSR should not really use up its sympathy on a reactionary US millionaire. His own youth, far from developing a healthy and original socialist culture, are increasingly being subjected to exactly the same type of art as that of Presley. In the sacred cause of money, Rock and Roll bands are increasingly touring the USSR. e.g. the "Nitty Gritty Dirt Band" from the US and the "Tremeloes" from Britain.

The dominant ideas, art and literature of every epoch have always been the ideas of the ruling class.

In opposition to the decadent art of the US bourgeoisie, the US working people have always fought to create their own art without the aid of the mass media and often in the face of opposition. It is this art, the art of the useful people which have a future as opposed to the decadent art of such as Elvis Presley.

letters

Expose Saxby!

Dear David,

I read with interest in the Evening Post of 10 August that the Jewish Students Society has an education officer. Those who read these columns with interest and the utmost respect, as all should, will realise that this officer's name has appeared recently in Salient. I refer of course to Mr Phillip Saxby.

One thing intrigues me and that is; does VUWSA allow affiliated clubs to have non-members of the Association in it, especially if they only actively work against the philosophy and spirit of the association as Saxby and his Jewish Students Society do?

I hope someone can answer this. Also it's about time Saxby was exposed. Most decent folk think of him as a part of the Zionist plot, but in fact the opposite is true. In reality he is a double agent acting for NZUSA trying to discredit the Jewish Students Society and the Bridge Movement. His main task is to look really silly and do things which bring discredit on Jewish Students and their supporters. If anybody has seen and heard him or read his diatribe in the Post, they will see he is doing a great job for NZUSA.

It's about time that Saxby got up and asked for forgiveness from his Jewish colleagues for leading them up the garden path as if he doesn't watch himself the Mossad will be after him.

So there you have it, a double agent in our midst. I do hope that from now on everybody will take no notice of Saxby and his waffling diatribe. Also Saxby is so good at his job that Patrick Mulrennan and the Young Trots should use him to discredit all decent thinking students who reckon VUWSA, NZUSA and Salient are ripper.

Yours,
Expose.

Bill's allright

Dear Editor,

May I express my revulsion at the pathetic article on Bill Rowling's speech which was probably the result of an inner longing to see the man lash out like Muldoon and a fanatical Marxist frustration that he did not publicly embrace the writer's particular brand of totalitarianism. I'm sure the nut who wrote the article (i.e. you) would have been much happier had Rowling spent three-quarters of an hour tearing to pieces the National Government, one quarter of an hour outlining some miracle cure, and the rest of the time entertaining us with witty replies to witty questions.

But what did he do? He spoke in an unemotional and probably unimpressive way for about half an hour on a few of Labour's ideas, point out that the economic climate does not permit him to promise a lolly scramble. The rest of the time he answered questions — inane, boring, untopical questions, to which it would be hard to anyone to give inspired, witty answers. Murray's assertion that all his answers were "evasive and unsatisfactory" is bullshit. All were direct answers; all were satisfactory. For instance, when asked what he thought of the Royal Commission's findings, he quickly listed his objections to it and said what he supported in it.

Murray in his nonsense article completely misrepresented Rowling's answer to the Bastion Point question: I know you hate the man, but why misrepresent what he said? In fact he asserted his full support for the Rata Bill which was to give Bastion Point back to the Maoris.

Murray squeals that Rowling promised two specific major improvements to bursaries. What on earth would be wrong with the STB being at least equivalent to the 1976 level, or with it being indexed? On Comalco, his answer was clearcut and direct. One of Rowling's most interesting replies was his statement that although people hated the political style of Muldoon, they always complained that he lacked Muldoon's characteristics.

Murray would have done a lot more for his own credibility had he accurately reported what Rowling actually said, and commented on that. Instead of dishing up a load of crap and a pathetic poem about why he won't go anywhere in politics.

Murray has a very small knowledge of NZ's current political scene, however much he may know about China, if all he can do is dish up simplistic National Party arguments. Why are Rowling's supporters so enthusiastic about him, and why does Muldoon hate him, when (as we have seen) he is so relatively unimpressive as a speaker? The reasons are:

1. He is an able administrator.
 2. He has an exceptional knowledge and skill in economics.
 3. He has guts.
 4. He is an efficient leader (better than Kirk or Muldoon).
 5. He is honest, and can admit he has been wrong.
 6. He is practically concerned for NZ workers.
 7. He is not committed to the overthrow of democracy and the installment of dictatorship.
 8. He attacks policies, not people.
- Muldoon has few if any of these qualities. Thus I must say that Bill is to be preferred to Muldoon, and they aren't the same. Please, Mr Murray, don't try another article concerning NZ politics.

Yours faithfully,
— a Student.
(I'm not convinced — Murray).

I.A.T.A.

Dear David,

History has shown us that students policy and student action are not the inseparable companions cafe chips and gastric complaints are. The recent purchase of an International Air Travel Agency is yet another example of this.

'Social Imperialists' is the name given to those who preach socialism whilst acting imperialistically. What should we call a student organisation which condemns apartheid, supports the sporting, economic boycott of South Africa and yet knowingly purchases an agency which requires them to sell tickets to anyone wishing to travel to S.A. Students were/are encouraged by VUWSA and NZUSA to attend things like the picketing of Macfarlane (who stock SA wine) whilst they are drawing themselves deeper and deeper into a venture which boosts the racist coffers. I can see the Travel id now:

"Don't go to S.A.
Apartheid is a crime
— But if you do
Book with NZUSA. I.A.T.A."

Why have 'we' done this? 'We' are told (after the act...) that it was necessary in order to safeguard the continuation of STB. So it now comes to light that NZUSA coming upon a choice between NZUSA and maybe student interests (by buying the I.A.T.A.) and being consistent with the boycott and Association policy choose the former.

"It had to be done to maintain the quality of student services". That's one argument that sounds very much like: "Apartheid is necessary to maintain the standard of living of the white population". They ploughed ahead without consulting students and even now (after the Zionist motion condemning it) they seem unwilling to give students information, justification or even a platform for debate. This is possibly what is meant by putting politics in command.

The whole affair is a sad, undemocratic display by NZUSA and their near and dear on campus. When are students going to be provided with some information anyway? The boycott is more important than a bloody International Air Travel Agency. Be consistent with your utterings!

Eugene Doyle.

(Please refer to article on IATA in this issue — Ed).

Sir,

I challenge you to assert your editorial independence and print this letter.

I read the report of the NZUSA National Executive in last week's Salient with some horror. I was sure that a "little" matter of national importance would be mentioned. I hope that this is not your fault, but that would make the crime even more sinister and, as an ordinary student, I feel dismay when I find that our national executive is playing the game quite right. Or do we have our own Watergate right here in NZUSA? The matter I am talking about came to my notice in an open letter written to the President of the NZUSA on 19th June, 1977 and signed by Michael Law, acting national chairperson of the Halt All Racist Tours Organisation. The subject of the letter is (quote) 'I refer to the IATA agency that NZUSA has or intends to purchase'. Later in the letter we are told 'at yesterday's meeting I was advised that in fact this action had been taken'.

What is wrong with this? IATA is a travel agency that deals with South Africa. The letter from Michael Law further states: 'I have in my files an excellent cyclostyled pamphlet which explains in terms I am not able to repeat here the various reasons why STB would have nothing to do with travel to South Africa. In my opinion, nothing has changed in South Africa to negate the arguments in that pamphlet'...

"In brief nothing excuses consorting with Apartheid and on behalf of Hart I must protest as vigorously against NZUSA's apparent involvement as I would against Rothmans, Corbans...

"How can any of us urge our supporters to refrain from buying certain items or campaign against corporate involvement in South Africa's apartheid economy when the organisation which has provided leadership and tremendous resources to this struggle, now reverses itself and engages in all that it has opposed for decades? ...

"I have been advised by a prominent Waikato student leader, and this has been confirmed from at least one other centre that neither student leaders nor student newspapers are permitted to raise this issue".

On behalf of all concerned students, I would like to know if the accusations in this letter are true, and if so, how could our leaders stoop so low.

It is at times like these that we students feel rather unsure about NZUSA. Maybe the Canterbury students are right — NZUSA needs to be pulled down. I am reminded of the ending of "Animal Farm". I look at our National Exec. and I look at the Pig and I look at our National Exec. — which is which. I am also reminded of a famous saying "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Yours,
Leo Durden
President, Jewish Students Society.

Congratulations to NOSAC

Dear Editor,

We are delighted to read about the outcome of OSAC meeting held on the 27 July 1977 as reported in the Dominion News.

Delegates to OSAC unanimously recommended for "a reinstatement of the 1976 Quota for overseas students intake..." Now it is up to the three Ministers of Education, Foreign Affairs and Immigration to consider the true story put before them. With optimism we will be able to see more first year students to join us next year. More important is the fact that more students at home are finding it hard to enter tertiary education just simply because the Government doesn't take education as a priority but keeps developing tourist resorts to attract tourism to the beautiful country. If the anti-cutback is successful more students will have an opportunity to further their studies.

Congratulations to NOSAC, fraternal students associations and people who support this campaign. The initial messages have already carried across and OSAC convinced with the need to help overseas education by the facts put forward to them. Having noticed the next step is to convince the three ministers it is not only important to show them crystal clear their obligation as promised in the UNITED NATIONS to help Third World developments, it is also important to further publicise it to the New Zealand public. It is also useful for fellow students concerned to write to their friends and Editors of Newspapers in their home country about the Cut-back story.

The Cut-back week has provided us with invaluable knowledge about overseas students, their nation's economy, culture and customs. The most significant point is the military aid and educational aid NZ is providing Singapore and Malaysia. NZ Government has increased its military expenses by more than 100% since the last year, amounting to more than 21 million dollars at present. On the contrary it has made a drastic cutback of 40% of its Total \$5 million overseas educational aids. As NOSAC explained, "hope the NZ Government will put its priority straight".

NZ PM Mr Muldoon will be attending the after-ASEAN talks in K.L. Hope the Malaysian friends will write home to their friends who are in the parents-teachers association and get them to show their concern when Mr Muldoon is in Malaysia.

As far as Malaysian students goes, the petty conflict created by a few gooders and 'obedient boys' of Malaysia. I would like to remind your fellows that the split among Malaysian in Victoria University is manipulated by Malaysian 'Guardian' Communists in Wellington to deviate the students from knowing the social imbalance in Malaysia to save embarrassment. If this sort of petty quarrel will continue then I should say the 'good boys' have done a good job for the 'Guardian' Comm. and Bapa Tam... will be very happy. Recently they are a ploy by some to re-stir the confusing atmosphere when students began to question the full meaning of students life and contribution students can play to make Varsity life more fruitful. No matter what happens, the true story can never be confused by a few faithfuls of the 'Con-man' discharging poisonous smoke from one big and same exhaust pipe which the late Jack the Great had used before he was forced to leave for Korea. Obviously this bunch of faithful students hope to be like Bapa Jack the Great, having holidays five years in this country and some nice time in another country. But unfortunately, the cake Bapa Jack is eating is no longer.

Lastly for those who are so proud of their country I would like to urge you to think of a better way to make your country really prosperous and all your people live happily, rather than a rosy picture to make you feel more greedy.

Asian Student.

Why do we do it?

Dear Sir,

I reply to the letter "I took another puff", contributed by one signing him/herself — 'A non-smoker' (Salient 8 August), and fully endorse his/its good suggestion for 'smokers only' courses at Vic. I submit the following for his/its edification:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| CANC 131 | A Terminating course for majoring students. |
| COFF 101 | Cancer Reading Knowledge. |
| WEEZ 102 | History of Early Modern Malignant Tumours. |
| GASP 211 | Renaissance Coughing. |
| NICO 203 | Politico-Philosophical Coughing. With special reference to Machiavelli, Marx and the disgusting state of their lungs. |
| WEED 112 | Saltpetre and the Maori. Introduction to ethnic coughing. |
| HABI 216 | Chapati or Bedi? The Sepoy Mutiny and the Hindu smoker. (Tutored by Corktip Singh U.E. (Uganda) (failed). |

There are however, four courses which will, no doubt, provide 'special' interest for 'A Non-Smoker' namely:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| TWIT 335 | Advanced Dictatorship for non-smokers. A case study of Hitler, Stalin, and a packet of Camel Filter. |
| PISS 346 | History of New Zealand drinking. From the Treaty of Waitangi to the 'six o'clock swill'. (Gumboots supplied and are essential for laboratory work). |

- | | |
|----------|--|
| SPEW 321 | A Psychological study of the notion of 'enjoyment' in New Zealand. |
| MYOB 344 | A look at the notion of minding one's own business in New Zealand. |

I remain,
Yours coffinly,

Colin Evered
(A Smoker).

Dear Editor,

With reference to a letter printed in Salient, August 8, I couldn't agree more with Non-Smoker over his/her comments about the filthy habit so many supposedly intelligent students indulge in. I to, don't give a damn if they rot their own lungs and livers. But I object strongly to being forced into sharing their perversions in classes, the Union Hall, cafe, etc. Imagine the uproar if the Non-Smokers wandered around wafting good old ammonia and H₂s (rotten egg) fumes in Smokers' faces.

Come on Non-Smokers — gett of your back-sides and claim your rights to clean air.

Yours,
One of the
NO-Longer-Silent
MAJORITY.

Compulsory Starvation

Dear David,

Accustomed as I am to be one of the 'apathetic' majority at this fuckawful Varsity I couldn't help but get a little upset by the people who protested about the \$2 rise in Bursary. I know that a lot of people are on the miserable \$13, some of my friends among them and also in many cases they have no choice but to accept it as their parents live in a University town, and this I think is a serious anomaly which in a lot of cases ought to be removed. However for those people who are on \$24 and feel they should be on \$37 or whatever it is that the inflation-minded bastards are after, let me remind you that we are at Varsity by choice and for a lot of us the degree we get will mean greatly increased incomes in future years, beyond that which we would otherwise be getting without a degree. I myself believe in the theory that we are here because we want to get ahead in life and would hate to think that the Government would have to lead me by the hand through my Varsity life, pay all my fees, living expenses and piss-money, when I'm going to the community as a highly paid graduate.

What I really mean to say is Bursary ought to be a help for people to go through Varsity, not the way people can live over the year; if some of the moaners got off their asses and roll up their sleeves.....

Incidentally let me say for the record that I am scraping to get by, did work night through the holidays and would hate to think I am a helpless babe needing handouts.....

Yours R.B. 5.

David Hedge Replies -

Dear Mr Needham,

Since my reviews are the most influential and widely read reviews outside of "The Tablet" I am concerned that your critique of my latest one is neither objective, accurate, or even funny. While I could systematically debate every misconception (divine or otherwise), and spurious assertion in your letter, for the sake of brevity I will point out only most boring discrepancies.

First of all I do not know the risen Christ personally, nor Muhammad Ali but I have read about both in the newspapers. To my knowledge Muhammad Ali has never raised the dead etc. so I would never claim that he had — though possibly it happened during the rugby season and the Dominion was unable to cover it.

Secondly I am also confused as to what I meant by "lost of the profits" since I have never used this phrase.

Thirdly, I doubt if Mr Needham has fully understood the nature of the review if he is dismayed at the factual inaccuracies. Once he has accepted that mine is the only true, authoritative, definitive review on the topic, I am sure that he will find the content much easier to swallow.

Yours in anticipation,
David Hedge.



John Reid's SQUASH CENTRE

SQUASH: 60c per half hour
per person

Normally \$1.25

STUDENTS CONCESSIONS

RACKETS: 40c.

GEAR HIRE: 30c per item

CONCESSION HOURS

9-12 and 2-5 WEEKDAYS

Ms Smith — answers please !

Dear Sir,

Now that the National Party Club has finally raised its ugly head, may I take the opportunity of asking, through your columns, Phillipa Smith (by the way : — who is she ? — a company director's wife doing a part-time course in Roman and Etruscan Art ? An upper-crust young law student ? Or just a plain old GP's, lawyer's, or business executive's daughter ?). What does she think of the \$2 increase for next year ? What does she think of Muldoon's Hitlerian response to the Dunedin demonstration, and the delegates' respective response of mob hysteria ? Is she happy that in Hokiang the average yearly income is \$2,370 ? Does she really believe that New Zealand is better off with such blockheads as McCready, Lapwood, McLachlan, Walker and Gill running the show ? And what about the socialisation of on-shore oil exploration, and National's socialist pension scheme ? Is Ms Smith a socialist too ?

Murs in treachery,

Yours in treachery,
Urtica Ferox.

Salient's right to choose

Dear Sir,

As far as I can see, those pathetic Colin Morris capitalistic captions. A rather cunning device to get "Salient" to carry this crap. All Mr Morris has to do is choose a caption which most suits his particular persuasion, rather than select the most humorous one.

Give Colin's cartoons the heave-ho !!

Ted Clifford.

(According to the rules of the Colin Morris Caption Competition, the Salient staff choose the winning caption. — Ed.)

NZR and God

Dear David,

I've just seen the film Bound for Glory. It reminded me of the hard reality of riding freight trains.

I'd always been keen on the idea of picking up some authentic folk experience so when I ended up in Dunedin, no money, homeward bound, I gave it a go. Let me tell you riding NZR freights is the hardest way to get around but there's still a few mad bastards around. So here are some pointers.

First thing is to watch trains and find out where they're going and when. In Dunedin I wandered around the yard and discovered that some trains were heading North, some were heading South and most were going nowhere.

When you think you have got that together, pick your wagon. Check its destination card. Check its load is secure. I don't know what your physics is like but if you happen to be in a wagon that's being shunted then chances are your wagon will be on the receiving end of a 30 wagon train

hitting your wagon at 10 mph. If the load shifts you'll be reduced to bloody pulp at the end of the wagon. (I'm lucky to alive).

Don't get taken in by any bullshit about running along and jumping on a moving train, 'cause the guard will just stop the train and send for the police. The same applies to any ideas you might have about getting inside a covered wagon. If the guard sees anything wrong or unusual about a wagon, then he'll stop the train and have a look. This then reduces the field to an open wagon that's empty or half empty.

So when you have picked your wagon stay clear of the yards until your train is made up and warmed up, ready to go. Then while the guards are doing something else and the drivers aren't looking, roll in. The rewards are tremendous. Six hours to get to Oamaru, frozen stiff as a board, massaged all over and the shunters were quite keen to go and see the police.

I've been told some guards like company.

—Paul Darroch.

PS. If you're looking for work experience, I know a bloke in Nelson who grows lettuces. I used to get \$4.50 for a nine hour day. But here in Wellington go to Fords.

There you can work all day for a small amount of pay
Got to watch it though
Don't let that money burn
And make sure you're not too arrogant to learn
'Cause from what I see the only way you'll learn to be free, is by living the way God make you to be.

Socialist Labour League — a New Trotskyite group

The Nazis aren't dead ! On Tuesday August 2, I attempted to pursue my political unit "Caf 2" in the upstairs coffee room at around 8 o'clock. A group of about eight of our esteemed Island Brethren lead by a European (apparently "Steve Someone") from the Porirua Youth Club, tried to expel me from the room. After resisting a verbal bulldozing I was offered a Socialist Labour League paper dubbed the "Bulletin". I politely refused ! "Steve" then tried to raise the blood pressure of his yo8thful polynesian counterparts by appealing to their baser instincts in simple English. His Goebel's like flow was unfortunately interrupted by two people trying to sell Socialist Action. These two participated in a heated political debate. I think the Socialist Action sellers were morally the victors, but had to retire in the face of a concerted Brown Shirt revival. I apparently was included in the offer of violence by Steve and his goons as they advanced with manace. Not to put too fine a point on it, I left.

As a fee paying student my \$30 odd Studass fee should, I feel, protect me from harassment on campus from people who had a questionable right to be here in the first place. The morons from the Socialist Labour League appear to be not only racist but act as Brown Shirts in the extreme. Please restrict Political Barracking on campus to Bone fide students !

Yours in Trepidation,
Hasty Retreat.

Abortion and Croatia

Dear Sir,

The Catholic Church through its front organisation, SPUC, is the main opponent of sensible abortion laws. Some individuals such as the Minister of Justice (Mr Thomson) want this to be ignored. Last year he told ALRANZ not to make statements "which appear to be designed to isolate the Roman Catholic Church". I doubt Thomson's attitude is very common though.

The Catholic clergy's opposition to abortion is hypocritical. In February 1965 Cardinal Heenan appeared on the British programme, "Panorama", and defended the Catholic Church's position with the usual "sincerity". Then he was asked what would be his attitude if the Pope decided to change the doctrine. He said "I wouldn't find it difficult to share any view provided I knew it was the teaching of the Church".

This attitude is why the Catholic clergy can switch so quickly from their "constant Catholic pro-life position", in words of the Catholic Chaplain (1 August), to become murderers, as in Croatia during World War II, when they are ordered to do so by the Pope.

Yours etc,
G.Herrington.

To Salient,

Give me an hour of glory
And I'd not pretend
I'd not like to get those Racist Rhodesians
Again and again

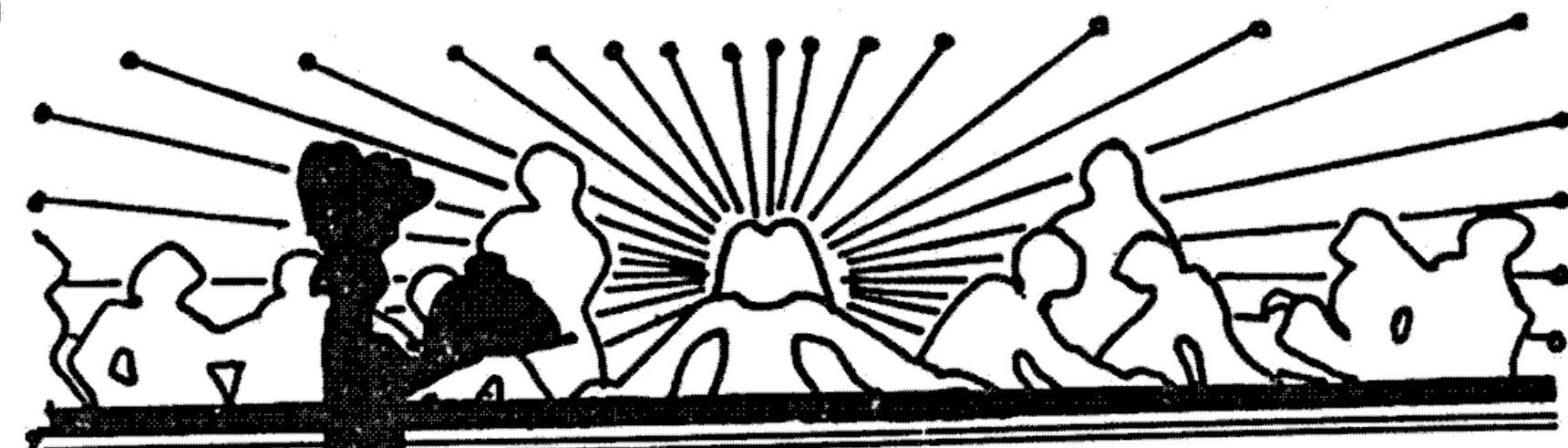
Black men die
In people's Zimbabwe
Black men and women are killed
In people's Zimbabwe

Nationalist Front
Their people are marching!
New Zealand people
Who are the people ?
Are they marching ?

Rhodesian Armies are forming
Would we fight them ? Would we kill them ?
— Who are their friends ?
Let us fight them

Fight ? Fight for a people's AFRICA ?
Yes ! Let us fight for a people's Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe ! Zimbabwe ! Ayinde Zimbabwe !

Edoc.



CULINARY

Best-Ever Bread Recipe

There is no reason why every house can't have fresh, home-made bread daily — in loaves, rolls and buns.

This is the best bread recipe I've ever used, having several beauties : no kneading, only one rise, takes only 3 minutes or less to mix, and best of all, its 'fail' proof.

About Yeast :

Yeast is a living food, asleep. Yeast needs sugar, salt, warm (blood heat) water and something to work on, i.e. gluten laden flour.

Extreme heat kills yeast and this is what occurs when you bake it in the oven. You can leave it to rest in the 'fridge if your baking is interrupted and it is already mixed. It will still rise, but slowly, slowly. Add more honey if the dough "tires".

When you add the water, it is important that it is blood heat, no more, i.e. a few drops sprinkled on the wrist feels neither hot nor cold.

About Flour :

Whole meal, Rye or a mixture of either of these 'diluted' with White flour, for a less wheaten loaf, is suitable. Try either one part white to three parts wholemeal, or fifty/fifty.

For a 1 lb loaf or 12 rolls.
4 cups flour
1 - 2 tablespoons dried yeast, or stick fresh yeast
1 tablespoon honey or (raw sugar)
½ tablespoon salt
Approximately 1 pint warm water

- * Place flour in bowl. Sprinkle yeast in centre.
- * Place honey directly onto yeast.
- * Sprinkle salt around edge of bowl (on flour !).
- * Pour water onto honey/yeast and mix in a circle with one hand, gradually bringing in the salt. Add more water until all the flour is moistened and mixed.
- * The dough should look moist, not wet.
- * Cover bowl and leave in a warm place to rise, for ¾ to 1 hour, until the dough has doubled in bulk.
- * Pre-heat oven to Gas 7, 450° F.
- * Bake on a greased tray or loaf, tin, 40 - 45 minutes (45 minutes ~~forms~~ a very crusty loaf). Turn the loaf over in the oven for 5 - 10 minutes for a crusty base to the loaf.

If you don't have a loaf tin, no matter ; simply grease a baking tray and form the dough into a loaf-shape. Make the loaf high and thin rather than flat as the dough will spread.

Or ; make a plait by dividing the dough into soft rounds.

For flower-pot bread, take a small terracotta flower pot and prepare by greasing it ~~thoroughly~~ and baking empty in a hot oven several times to seal the inner surface and prevent the dough sticking. A clay flowerpot 4 - 5 inch wide will hold half a portion of the wholemeal dough. Finish and bake the dough as already described.

* Cinnamon, Sesame and Poppy seeds, sunflower seeds can be sprinkled over the dough before it is baked. Fresh herbs and grated cheese can be mixed in after the rising.

— Helen Corrigan.

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

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



BNZ Educational Loans

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

BNZ Consulting Service

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



BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand