

What's new behind Hunter

Photo of Hunter building with a giant statue of Queen Victoria behind it

Editorial

Playing on our Sympathies

At last week's SRC a motion was passed condemning the violation of human rights by the Soviet Union and the United States, and deploring the way in which the issue of human rights is being used as a pawn in the rivalry between the two superpowers.

Several people raised the question of whether the United States should be included in the motion, as in that country human rights are clearly not suppressed to the same degree as they are in the Soviet Union. There were calls that specific instances should be named and that other countries also deserved to be included.

It is true that the Soviet Union is a worse offender than its superpower rival; it is also true that human rights violations are by no means confined to the two superpowers. However to concentrate on these two points misses a significant point in the motion.

To place the issue of human rights in its context in the world it is necessary to look at the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union. Up until very recently, both countries have striven hard to convince the world that their intentions are honourable by propagating the theory of detente. Detente is supposed to mean that, rather than face each other uneasily in stony silence in a cold war, the superpowers will cooperate to minimise the threat each poses to the other.

The theory sounds attractive. Not many people in the world are unaware of the danger of a third world war resulting in part by the build-up of arms, both nuclear and conventional. Not many people believe that war is desirable to peace.

Thus, any talk of peace by the countries most likely to be in the forefront of a new war sounds like good news indeed. Even among those who do not believe everything the superpowers say about maintaining a peaceful equilibrium there are many who want to believe, who consider that talk of peace is at least better than talk of war.

One doesn't need to go back very far in history to find a striking example of this philosophy being applied with disastrous results. Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain, proclaimed it right up to the start of the second world war. His strategy was to keep Hitler talking about Germany's "peaceful" and "[unclear: legitamate]" demands, to accept Hitler's assurances and turn a blind eye to Germany's developing war economy and European expansionism.

The lesson of the Second World War should not be forgotten. A country proclaiming peaceful intentions which are believed, finds it all the more easy to arm itself and prepare for war.

But why should a country want to go to war? Let's look at the current situation. After the end of the last war the United States emerged as the major power in the world. Its direct access to raw materials, cheap labour, and its control of world markets gave it unrivalled influence on the political and economic growth of nearly every area of the globe.

Since Vietnam, however, it has lost prestige. Perhaps more importantly, since the development of independence movements throughout the third world, it has lost much of its influence on the very countries on which it relies.

For its own economic stability therefore, the United States must struggle all harder to maintain its control of those countries it has left, and work to improve its image in those countries, like New Zealand, which it does not directly control but over which it nevertheless exerts a significant influence.

With the former it is fighting a losing battle, and in many places is opting for a strategic withdrawal. This means that although the States will remove the overt appearances of military or political involvement, it tries to establish a political and social system with guaranteed allegiance to its own interests.

In other words, the United States is trying to develop an image for itself of decency and respect for the integrity of other nations while not losing ground on all important economic matters. In Southern Africa, for

example, it is the United States which appears as the interested party trying to avoid bloodshed, even though it has never been hesitant to go to war should its own interests be directly threatened. In New Zealand, top representatives of IBM have regular and direct access to government, and they are not alone.

This image of decency, of being the good guy in a world full of baddies, serves to unite sections of popular opinion behind the States so that if it does adopt harsher measures these will be easier to justify. The emphasis on human rights is a part of this.

President Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski is on record saying that Carter's foreign policy recognises that the States was "faced with a world that was losing faith in America, by the widespread global phenomenon of anti-Americanism. The new administration put high on its list of priorities the need to revive both-American confidence and the spiritual relevance of the West to emerging global dilemmas ... The emphasis we have put on human rights derives from this perspective."

The Soviet Union is busy expanding where the United States is retreating. Like the States, it promotes an image of itself calculated to win popular support. To the west, it preaches detente, proclaiming its willingness to come to the SALT table even as it engages in the most rapid buildup of arms along the European front ever seen. To the third world, it holds out the lure of "socialism", even though its economic exploitation of the third world countries it has "liberated" is an easy match for anything the States ever engaged in.

The Soviet economy is still not healthy. Inflation is rampant and there is a recurring shortage of food. The States economy is steadily worsening. Both are based on control of foreign markets. As their control comes more and more into conflict, so the likelihood of war increases.

Detente is no longer able to disguise this trend. The violation of human rights is easy to spot in the Soviet Union, and while this does not in any way make it justifiable, we should not be unaware of similar violations practised by the United States around the world. Nor should we fail to recognise the political capital the States aims to make by appearing to stand up for the rights of the people in the countries of its adversaries. This cynicism is no move to safeguard peace, and must not be accepted as such.

Simon Wilson

President

Photo of Lindy Cassidy

I was interested to read in the latest copy of Truth that university students have now "got what they wanted". To quote Truth "their National Union has had to clean up its act and the students have purged the left-wing NZUSA, and radical changes have resulted".

In a series of three articles entitled "Clean Up On Campus"; "New Look: Union Saved" and "Politics out for the Sports Car Students", Truth has attempted to analyse the current state of student politics. In their usual style of "principled" journalism and search for the truth, they have invented a secret meeting which the President of Otago and other South Island campuses nipped out badly needed reforms and pushed them through at May Council.

Whether the Otago President, Mr Guest (who has now resigned), has been badly misquoted, or whether he got carried away with his own rhetoric will not be known. However, to claim that "NZUSA is now reasonably conservative with an absolutely clear direction and policy" is extremely misleading. Though administrative reforms, some of which have made the organisation more efficient, have been made, the policy itself has not substantially been changed.

Andrew Guest also told Truth that "NZUSA had become a political body rather than a welfare organisation". This very argument had been debated at great length at Council. The conclusion was that NZUSA was by its very nature a political organisation and would remain so — to say otherwise is rubbish.

In the second article entitled "Politics Out for the Sports Car Students", Truth claims that in 1978 "Sports cars and fashion wear have replaced bare feet and dirty jeans". In its usual simplistic approach it says the whole student body has changed from being banner waving and bearded weirdos to staid, conservative fashion orientated zombies. Five years ago, Truth claims, students at university led a charmed life.

This simplistic assessment, the near glorification of the early 1970s is misleading. Not every student was involved in demonstrations though their awareness was indeed heightened by the events of the Vietnam War and they did have more time to participate in extra curricular activities.

It is interesting to note that now, the article claims, students have no time to become involved in political activities nor have the interest — but this is not completely true. Granted there is less time for students to become involved, but that does not mean that there is no time.

There is indeed a shift to a more conservative and elitist group coming to university but there also are other students who are managing to survive (only just) and cannot afford sports cars or even battered up

Volkswagens.

It is interesting to note that the article does not talk about the heavy student involvement and active participation by students in the SIS demonstrations last year. It is particularly interesting because students demonstrated in a spontaneous demonstration at the end of the third term — a time in which most students value their last minute for exam preparation.

Students have also been actively involved in the abortion issue. Though students campaign about bursaries, the bursaries issue is not only directly concerned with themselves. Marching for better bursaries means marching for better education — an education available not only to the rich and privileged, but also to the poor.

It is unlikely that issues such as Vietnam will bring students out into the streets in their thousands but what is highly likely is that the increasing encroachment by this Government on civil liberties will force students into a greater awareness of what is happening in our society.

Lindy Cassidy

Salient Notes

The Memorial Theatre is absolutely packed; the noise is deafening. There hasn't been a crowd like this here since David Lange promised to jump 15 English Dept academics on a Suzuki 50 last year (that was a pretty desperate move but it sure as hell won him the by-election).

"Popcorn!" yells Lamorna Rogers. "Popcorn!" comes the echo from the other side of the theatre, no, pardon, my mistake, that was Caroline Massof. The lights begin to dim and excitement among the crowd rises to fever pitch. What on earth is the cause of this dramatic and tense spectacle? Well, silly question really, only one thing could cause it, the Salient Orchestra is tuning up.

The curtains draw slowly apart and the crowd gasps. It is not that gasp of anticipation which performers of this calibre have every right to expect; it is a gasp of pure surprise and horror as Lorraine Robinson is surprised in the act of finishing off lead violinist Peter Beach, whose bleeding body is feebly kicking mid-stage vainly trying to fend off her blows with a battered copy of National Issue No. 2.

The entire audience is spell-bound by this Irish voice screaming "Beach, Beach, Beach!!!" in the most horrifying manner as Jonathan Scott sprints out of breath onto the stage and drags her off, smiling politely at the crowd as he does so. Applause and boos are interspersed as the curtains swiftly close again.

Ten minutes later many members of the audience have left in disgust but the impatience of the remaining thousands is bordering on violence. "The Salient Orchestra!" stammers the barely recognisable voice of Margot MacGillivray over the din of the crowd, and the infamous red satin curtains part again.

It's a sight for sore eyes. That is to say the sight's enough to provoke considerable pain in the eyes of the beholder. The conductor bows to the crowd and, following a searing tearing noise, stands up again abruptly to the immense amusement of the musicians assembled behind him. "Split from top to bottom" giggles Cathy Randall.

The political ramifications of this accident are immense; the poor man can't turn round. "That's what comes from trying to wear a tuxedo like a pair of Levis" observes Victoria Kennedy astutely. "My name is Simon Wilson" announces the conductor coolly. "Our first piece will be Handel's Concerto No. 2 for Light tabic, typesetter, and exposed underwear." So saying he boldly turns to face the orchestra and taps lightly for silence. "Brilliant!" comes a whisper from the percussion section. The crowd is elated. Someone who wolf-whistles is clubbed to death in the front row. Silence, absolute silence, descends.

A brief trombone solo from the brass section draws all eyes to red-faced Chris Norman, harshly admonishing David Kent as he struggles to extricate the latter's tuba from his ear. "Blowing his own trumpet as usual" mutters David Beach. "Is this a comedy show?" inquires cadet bassoonist Nigel Wilson. "Of course it is!" replies Andrew Cassey. "That's why so many people come to see it every week." "Ah!" says Wilson. "For a moment I thought it was Art."

How naive can you get?

This week's recording of the Salient Orchestra will be edited by Simon Wilson, mixed by Wanganui Earmuffs Ltd, Drews Lane, Wanganui, and mercilessly broadcast all week by the Victoria University of Wellington Student's Association.

Notices

Labour Club

If you're entitled to vote in the General Election you must be on the roll. The Labour Club will have an enrolment table in the Union Foyer, 12-2 pm. Your last chance to enrol before the main roll closes.

Wednesday July 26, 12-2 pm. Main Foyer.

Debating Society

Debate — "That patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel". Yet another Debating Society selection event to choose the team to go to the USA early next year. Please note the change of subject and venue from that appearing in the Society's newsletter.

Tuesday July 25, 12-2 pm. Lounge.

Karate Club

Anti-Rape Program. Practical, effective defence for women who don't have the time for Karate/Self-Defence training. Open to men and women. Information: ring Robyn 724-746 or Bob 858-849 ext 89.

Monday July 24, 7-9 pm. Lounge, SU Building.

SRC: Is Jimmy Carter a Nice Guy?

The minutes floated by like a dream, and one matter arose from Matters Arising: Rire Scotney wanted to know how far the proposal from the last meeting to invite Mr Gandar up to campus had got. Basically nowhere was the reply. Sue Cairney detailed the cunning minister's moves to thwart the plan, including such desperate tactics as the labelling of the entire month of August "fully booked", and we all had to gasp at such political skill.

Lindy Cassidy suggested that the best way to combat such behaviour was to ignore it; in other words take the petition invitation to parliament anyway, whatever the erstwhile Minister for Education thinks he's doing at the time. This proposal met general agreement and Sue will be calling an Education action meeting to get arrangements under way.

Lindy reported the setting of a new deadline for SRC motions; 4.30 on the last Monday afternoon before the meeting. Paul Norman announced that there will be an Environment Forum this Tuesday at 12 o'clock in the Union Hall. Speakers: Venn Young, Richard Prebble, and Dr Ian Prior.

Elections made their inevitable appearance and were inevitably largely disregarded by the apathetic masses, with the heroic exception of Jim "Albatross" Brown who nominated, supported and elected himself to both the Pacific Studies Committee and the Open Day Committee with an enthusiasm which should serve as an example to the rest of us. Despite the desperate position of the Arts Faculty (8 positions, 2 filled) only one person was prepared to stand. And a man by the name of Smith was elected to the Open Day Committee with Brown. Thus ended elections (till next time).

The first motion to come before the meeting was one of those boring financial motions that they have to put at the beginning to stop everyone from leaving. The Arts Festival is at Canterbury next year and that university has guaranteed the first \$7,500 of any deficit it might incur, asking that other campuses accept a prorata share up to \$1,300 of any further deficit. The motion asked the meeting to accept this arrangement. Paul Norman introduced himself as Steve Underwood's mouthpiece and sounded that familiar Underwood note of caution, should the Festival incur enough of a deficit to require the full amount payable we would probably need 25c more per person on next year's fees. Simon Wilson pointed out that such a deficit was unlikely anyway (last year had been a particular fiasco for a number of reasons), and after some detailed explanations of why, the motion was carried.

The next one didn't escape so easily. It read, "That this Association condemns the violation of human rights in the Soviet Union and United States, and deplores the way in which the issue of human rights is being used as a pawn in the rivalry between the two super powers and particularly condemns the inhuman treatment of Scharanskey, Ginzburg and Petkus."

Simon Wilson and Leonie Morris explained the thinking behind the motion in some detail. Obviously it was prompted by the recent trials in the USSR they said, but it also aimed to look at the role human rights played in the relationship between the two superpowers, the USSR and the USA.

Since the Vietnam War and the exposure of CIA activities abroad the USA's image has become considerably tarnished. The States; wishing to regain its reputation as the good guy in the world, has taken up the question of human rights violations in its enemy country, despite its continued involvement with the fascist

regimes in South Korea, Brazil and Chile, to mention only a few. Neither does it have a clean record at home, as Andrew Young and the American Indian cause have so recently demonstrated.

The point was, although human rights are consistently violated in the Soviet Union, the States is less concerned with this than with making capital in the world's eyes put of condemning it, and we should not be fooled. The growing rivalry between the two superpowers is the dominant aspect of the world political situation, and this should be recognised.

Objections followed on various grounds. It was generally accepted that there was an element of hypocrisy in America's policy, but the motion, said some, seemed to ignore the difference in the degree of human rights violation between the two countries. One speaker boldly asserted that he could call President Carter a "dick" without being shot, although this was never actually put to the test. Someone asked for specific examples of American oppression, and was given several: Kent State shootings, American Indian land rights, the predominance in the prisons of minority groups like blacks.

About this time the motion was amended to delete the reference to the Soviet trials. (A separate motion about these, including the decision to send a telegram of protest to the Soviet Embassy was formulated and later passed). A second amendment rephrased the motion so that it condemned the violation of human rights by the two superpowers, rather than just in them.

"What good will the motion do?" asked Andrew Tees. "Forgive me if I'm a bit dumb - I find it very difficult to understand." "We do, We do" came a unified roar from the other side of the room, confirming that good feeling and generosity still prevailed despite this candid confession from Tees.

It's sometimes important to take a stand on principle even if it's unlikely to have any immediate concrete effect, Wilson explained in his right of reply. Both motions were passed unanimously.

Motion No. 3 was a plea that the [unclear: cefetaeria] open at 8.45 am, from now on, instead of the "present average opening time of 9.15". Paul Norman spoke to the motion, saying that the catering staff were quite amenable to this suggestion, and detailed with great drama the time when, without a thought for his own safety he, at 9.10 one morning, pulled back the cafeteria curtain to reveal the staff sitting around drinking coffee! After expressing the proper degree of horror and indignation the meeting passed the courageous little motion. Shortly afterwards another motion was passed asking for \$20 from the International Affairs Officer's budget to help with expenses incurred during the forthcoming Hiroshima Day commemoration activities.

With the agenda completed, Lindy asked if there was anything else to be raised. Victor Chang brought up a motion condemning the Labour Dept. for their refusal to allow overseas students sufficient extension of their permits to enable them to attend the graduation ceremony upon completion of their degrees. The motion was unanimously — passed.

Jonathan Scott

Nastiness at Waikato

In a depressing revival of the old "Jensen Affair" Waikato University History Professor John Jensen is seeking \$417,500 damages from Paul Clark (a former Nexus Editor), \$285,000 from Wanganui Newspapers Ltd (printers of Nexus) and \$15,000 from Carl Gordon (a former contributor to Nexus). The case results from some trouble within the university involving Jensen between 1972 and 1976. A series of articles published in Nexus on the issue were, Jensen maintains, untrue, defamatory and injurious to his personal and professional reputation.

[unclear: Whatever] the outcome, however, one thing seems certain; the actions won't help Waikato University much, lecturers or students.

Perhaps more importantly, as the University Lecturers Association itself pointed out, "The university provides ample opportunity for free and spirited debate on all contentious matters but Professor Jensen has consistently declined to become party to such debate. We consider that by taking legal action with regard to academic disputes Professor Jensen has violated the spirit of the university as an institution."

It now looks like he's not the only one. On Tuesday, July 4, the Waikato Librarian censored seven items that were on display in the Nexus Centenary front Cover Exhibition in the Library. Three of the censored items related to the "Jensen Affair", two from 1974 and one from 1976. These were "inappropriate" under the circumstances, she said. Another cover was censored because of a reference it contained to disputes in the University in 1972 concerning two Professors. A fifth contained a "factual error" (Nexus denies this) and another featured a poem on the Vietnam War, written for Nexus by James K. Baxter, which had originally been censored by the printer eight years ago. Lastly a note referring to an issue in 1972 saying "This issue had five pages censored by the printer" was censored by the Librarian "by mistake".

Lamented WSU President Doug Drever, "Whatever has happened to freedom of expression on campus?"

Whatever has happened to the liberalism and free thinking which should prevail at a university?"
Jonathan Scott

Clubs and Notices

Now that the Public Protest Meeting and the March are behind us the Abortion Rights Committee has done what it was set up to do.

How successful have we been?

What should we do now?

Come to a meeting to discuss these issues.

Saturday July 29

1 PM.

YWCA RATA & RIMU Rooms

VUWSA Printing Service

We are now offering cheap printing rates for leaflets, posters and tickets. Enquire at the Studass Office.

Student Health

Film on Friday 4th August, 3.30 pm, Memorial Theatre.

The film concerns breast examination and is highly recommended by the Director of Student health. All students are welcome to come along. The film is of special interest to female students who are concerned about health problems relating to their breasts.

Marijuana Party Club Sunday Afternoon Rock Concert

Those of you with nothing to do on a lazy Sunday afternoon will be delighted to hear that an extra ordinary rock concert will be held on Sunday 30th July in the Union Hall at Vanity. Good vibes will be provided by Chaos and Sharps.

Afternoon tea will be served and munchies will be available.

Entry will require \$2.00

A splendid time is guaranteed for all.

Scottish Country Dancing

All welcome. Tuesday July 25, 5-7 pm. Union Hall.

Tramping Club

Coming events being arranged include: —

A Winter Southern Crossing from Otaki to Kaitoke on the weekend of 28th to 30th July. A Fit-Medium trip for which experience is essential and experience in snow is highly desirable. Chances of great views and good fun.

August in Nelson Lakes. One whole week in Nelson Lakes National Park from the 19th to the 27th of August (second week of the vacation). Some winter tramping experience is desirable for the Easy Trip and you must be experienced for the other trips. One trip will be run with climbing as an aim. Cost will be \$40 which includes transport and food (breakfasts and dinners). Space limited, sign up soon.

Moonlight on the Volcanoes. We hope to run a trip to Tongariro on the weekend of the 15th to 17th of September. There will be a full moon that weekend. Trip details will be advertised in the last week of this term. Van drivers wanted.

See Club Notice board for details.

Tenants Union Club

Are you thinking of going flatting? You will need to know your rights as a tenant.

If you're flatting already you might need tenancy protection sometime.

So come along.

Monday 24th July, 1.00 pm., Lounge.

Christian Union

Forum: 'Jesus, the man for our times'. Union Hall Hall, Monday 24th July, 12.00 pm.

Forum: 'Jesus, the man for your life'. Thursday 27th July, 12.00 pm, Lounge and Smoking Rooms.

Film: 'The Parable'. Wednesday, 26th July, 12.00 pm.

Volleyball Club Raffle

Winning Ticket — No. 494, S. Gestro.

Union Restaurant

The Restaurant is open for:

Lunch between 11.30 and 2.00 pm.

Dinner between 4.30 pm and 7.00 pm;

Debating Society

Plunket Medal Oratory Competition. This is the 72nd annual contest of one of New Zealand's premier oratory events. Come and hear some of the university's best speakers use both reason and emotion to sway the audience to a particular point of view. A modest charge of \$1.50 (\$1.00 for students) will provide you with a sumptuous supper to ease your hunger pangs.

Friday July 28, 8 pm. Memorial Theatre.

Study Methods Workshop

If you missed out earlier in the year, there will be a further series of Study Methods Workshops during the first two weeks in August. We will again be looking at factors which can impede or improve the effectiveness of study — with particular emphasis upon reading, note-making from texts and lectures, and essay and report writing.

- Workshop A Tuesday 1 August 3-5 pm.
Tuesday 8 August 3-5 pm.
- Workshop B Thursday 3 August 3-5 pm.
Thursday 10 Aug. 3-5 pm.

All the workshops will take place in the Smoking Room (1st floor, Union Building).

Application forms available from Library Counter, Studass Office or Sue Kollaros, Counselling Service, 2 Wai-te-ata Road.

Film Preview

Monkey Business/Animal Crackers

Slapstick comedy and fast wisecracking repartee times four. Who else? The Marx Bros, in two crammed comic capers.

Tuesday 25 July, 5.00 pm

Rocky Horror Picture Show

If you can't afford the live show, try the film version. The only musical to include rock 'n roll, corsets, bisexuality, glitter rock and science fiction. Written by New Zealander Richard O'Brien to boot!

Thursday 27 July, 2.15 pm.

Academic Deadlines

28 July Students giving notice of withdrawal from a second half-year course after this date will not receive

a refund of tuition fees.

Promiscuity and Frigidity?

We have had to hold this report until now due to space commitments in last week's National Student Issue.

The major aspect of an Abortion Forum held two weeks ago was the use made of it by all the speakers as an election platform. Candidates from the political parties in the Wellington electorates were invited to explain their views, and those of their parties on the abortion issue. That no-one from the National Party turned up was not due to a bias in invitations; it appeared no anti-abortion candidates except Ron England were prepared to stand up and defend their views at Victoria.

The parties were represented by Karen Young and Raewyn Good (Values, Wellington Central and Island Bay), Pat Starkey (Socialist Action League, Island Bay), Ron England (Social Credit, Wellington Central), and Neville Pickering (Labour, Wellington Central). Pickering arrived late due to another engagement, just as Roper and Starkey were leaving.

Pat Starky: "When I'm Prime Minister. . ."

Photo of Pat Starky

Pat Starkey was first up. SAL believes that abortion is a woman's right and a basic human right. Its aim is for a socialist society (though how it intends to get it through the ballot box I don't know) where the basic human rights are achieved. The SAL wants more than just economic equality, it wants human liberation. Pat Starkey is running for Parliament with abortion as her central platform issue.

This also makes it curious, as a Values speaker pointed out, that on the opposite wall there was a rather finely-painted Socialist Action banner saying "Elect a Labour Govt" One would surely have thought that, considering Labour's rather contradictory policy on abortion, there would be some conflict with "a woman's right to choose"

Values also believes that abortion is a woman's right, and further a people's fight. It supports repeal of the present abortion legislation, believing that abortion is a matter of conscience for the women of New Zealand and lot for 87 MPs. Values sees the right to work as the central issue. When women are unable to control their own fertility, they are also denied full control of their labour power.

Social Credit doesn't support a woman's right to abortion; in fact their leader Bruce Beetham believes that the aforesaid could lead to promiscuity and frigidity, but more of that later. Ron England was a sincere person, who saw all people as unique people, and noticed further that we are divided into categories of men and women. As he put it, "A society without sex would be rather dull."

However, he felt that women in the forefront of the abortion movement were trying to act like men, at great risk to their uniqueness. In being so keen to have the right to work, weren't they just succumbing to the pressures of society? Unfortunately, as another speaker pointed out, in this society you either work or starve. England also felt that the present bill is a reasonable one, allowing abortions when the mother's health is in danger. After all, he ended, pregnancy is an upset time in women's lives when they tend to be a bit irrational ...

Neville Pickering of Labour gave his own views, since his party does not have a united coherent policy on the abortion issue. He believes that abortion is a woman's democratic right, and that the laws should reflect this. As he pointed out, even Roman Catholic Italy now has liberal abortion laws and it's about time New Zealand caught up with the times. He does not support the idea of a Referendum.

Questions from the Floor

So what did the masses have to say? One person wanted to know how you could possibly justify 87 MPs being able to decide what women can do with their bodies in such a 'grey' area as abortion. Ron England replied that when you only elect two parties to Parliament, then you've got a black-and-white situation, and that's how you have to look at it.

Another question directed at England concerned Bruce Beetham's statement that women might become promiscuous and frigid if the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act were repealed. The questioner wanted to know if England could explain this stand taken by his leader

England felt that if a certain climate of opinion, behaviour or society is created, then other results will follow. He failed to explain how this related to Beetham's statement, although he did add that in Japan 43% of women became pregnant again after their first termination. This was greeted with an interjection from the audience — "probably for the same reason!" Apparently Japan also faces problems of an ageing population although here again England did not explain the relationship to promiscuity and frigidity.

He then warned us of the risk of a major environmental upset being caused by safe, legal abortion, and

finished leaving us still in the dark about you-know-what.

Then another question, this time directed at the more liberal speakers. "Do you think the abortion battle, which in a way comes down to men against women, is a subset of a greater sex war?"

Starkey answered this explaining that while abortion is a woman's right, it is a struggle which must bring in both men and women, and is certainly not a men against women struggle.

The questioner then followed up with, "Do you think women should have the right over something which is not entirely of their creating?" Starkey replied that although the sperm doesn't come from the woman the creation of the foetus, blood, food and oxygen is entirely of the woman's doing and it's she who has to bear the nine month pregnancy. In Britain recently a husband brought a case against his wife to prevent her having an abortion, which he lost.

In Pickering's speech, he had referred to abortion as a basic human right. This was picked up by someone who wanted to know if he saw life as a basic human right. Pickering answered that he did not believe the unborn child has life and that until birth, the decision remains with the woman.

England on the other hand, believes in life before birth. He doesn't believe that there can be a cut-off point where there's something here and nothing there. He felt this was proved by the advice doctors give mothers to take special steps during pregnancy to safeguard the future life of the foetus.

Another member of the audience cited a case where, supposedly, a foetus of about seven months was aborted which was viable outside its mother's body, was alive when it 'came out' and which the doctor then strangled. A court case was being brought against the doctor. Where was the cut-off point then, where a baby could be aborted and still live?

In actual fact, this wasn't even a true example. A law student in the audience informed the rest of us that it had been a four month mongoloid foetus; that the mother had multiple sclerosis; it had died of injuries received during the induction and the doctor had tried to save it by placing it in an incubator.

Ron England thinking about life before birth.

Photo of Ron England

Karen Young and Raewyn Good making valuable contributions

Photo of Karen Young and Raewyn Good

Another student was concerned by the apparent hypocrisy of those 'pro-lifers' who say abortion is alright in cases of rape, incest, deformity etc., but not others. The student suggested this attitude seemed to come down to the one of "Ok, if she's not to blame she can have an abortion but if she was doing something she shouldn't, no way!" Somehow, the foetus would conveniently lose its right to life if the woman had been blameless, but if she sinned, then the foetal life was sacrosanct and would be used to punish her. England then shifted ground a bit, saying that he would also admit economic hardship as a grounds for abortion.

The forum drew to a close with a few words of encouragement from Pickering to those pro-choice supporters present: "The women and men who take a fair-minded liberal approach will rise up as one and tell Parliament what to do." I just hope you were marching through the streets of Wellington on Friday 14th July!
Lamorna Rogers

The Presidential Roll-Around

and it's good night from him. The curtain closes on Andrew Guest's remarkable career in student politics. Will he be as effective in Marac?

Photo of Andrew Guest

Auckland students may be about to roll their President. At least, a group of them are well on the way to getting this done. Mervyn Prince has come in for a lot of flak this year from members of his own executive and others who consider he does not have the political and administrative acumen to do the job properly. Certainly it is true that Mervyn does not have the keenness of vision or tactical ability to develop Auckland into a skilled lobby in NZUSA. In fact he has played a prime role on more than one occasion in holding back progress in NZUSA meetings with proposals the folly of which only he could not see.

However, whether this means he is incompetent is another matter. The people who have been instrumental in setting up an SGM (on July 27) to consider his future may well have other reasons for wishing him gone. More news on this as it comes to hand.

Massey has a new President after the shock resignation of Mike Pratt. He is Hamish MacEwan, formerly involved in a lesser position on the exec. Massey, as many will know, has a vote of withdrawal from NZUSA hanging over its head. They had an SGM up there recently to vote on the issue, but lost the quorum after quarter of an hour. So no vote, they'll try again.

Lincoln College also has a new President (the former incumbent was only elected for a six month term),

their first ever woman in the job. Despite appalled pleas from the student paper *Caclin* (sample: "Lincoln the last stronghold of male dominated and centred tertiary education represented by a woman - YUK"), Jan Atkinson was elected at the beginning of the month.

At Canterbury the decision taken at an SGM to stay in NZUSA has been overthrown by a surprise motion at the ½ AGM. Only one person spoke before it was moved and carried that the motion be put. So now Canterbury has given notice of intention to withdraw at the end of 1979, which lands them right back where they were at this time last year; or, as the student paper *Canta* put it, right back in the middle of nowhere.

But with the latest development at Otago it is difficult to say which campus has become more adept at fiddling the democratic process. Otago President Andrew Guest resigned suddenly last Monday to take up a job with Marac Finance. So the exec appointed Phil Chronican, an economics honours student active in the student radio station and a student rep on the Senate, to the job. Chronican didn't even know it was coming up. He will stay in the job until the end of the year, because, it appears, the exec considers that to hold a by-election would confuse the main 1979 elections which would be held about the same time. Further, the exec is said to think that there wouldn't be much interest anyway. Victoria students can rest assured that our constitution bars such an event.

Simon Wilson

Left at the Crossroads

Of late, vanity has been plastered with leaflets bearing the slogan "Worried about the Right?" These leaflets herald the arrival of a new political group on campus, the Progressive Students' Alliance (PSA). This week *Salient* examines the aims of this group and the necessity for forming it.

A cursory glance through the pages of *Truth* or the letters to the Editor column of *Salient* would give the impression that, from time immemorial, student politics has been dominated by "left-wing radicals" Surprisingly perhaps, this is not the case. Since its heyday in the #30s and #40s the left has only emerged as a political force on campus within the last ten years.

Emerging from such diverse groups as Student Labour Federation, the Labour Party and the Student Christian Movement progressive left-wing students gained the support of the student majority, and in 1972 convincingly won the elections for the VUWSA executive.

Times have changed in the last six years, and now the left is struggling against massive student apathy and an abysmally low level of political awareness on campus. If this university is to avoid seeing the disappearance of all the positive and progressive forces in it, the left will be forced to undertake some very intense work. It is not enough merely to raise the political consciousness of students, it must also build an organisation in which the political understanding of progressive and potentially progressive students can continually develop. This on-going organisation must operate exclusively at the student level.

The necessity for such an organisation is easily seen if we look at the students presently active in the development of progressive policies. With a few exceptions, they arrived at varsity in the heady days of the early and mid-70s, and naturally grew into the activity flourishing at the time. Now such activity is on the decline and with little real effort being made to seek out progressive students, many are passing through the system without ever being involved in work at the campus level.

The National Context

This is particularly serious if we examine the issue from a level of national politics. The university represents an almost unique situation in our society. To some extent freed from the imposition of predominantly middle-class values from their parents (whose children are the greatest single grouping in the system), yet not assigned by society, through job allocation, to their own class, students represent an intermediate strata of society. Progressive students are failing in their responsibility if they fail to seek to mobilise this group, for the potential for political activity of kinds by students will always remain high.

The formation of the PSA is an attempt to right some of these ills. It may represent too little too late; nevertheless, unless we want to commit future generations of students to starting from scratch we must at least try. To some extent the success with which the PSA achieves these goals will depend on how successfully it manages to mould together the conflicting forces at work on campus. To be truly successful it must appeal to as wider a grouping as possible without compromising its fundamental principles.

But before we can even begin to discuss the political ideology of the group, it would be wise to examine the reasons which have been proposed for the decline of the left on campus, for if the PSA is going to fulfil its aims it must be able to surmount the problems that the left now face.

The Issues

One widely expounded reason for the current low level of political activity and awareness on campus, is the lack of issues. This lack denies the left any base from which to reach out and contact both students and the society in general. While it is certainly true that there are no issues current in the sense that Vietnam and South Africa were causes of such contention a decade ago, the absence is clearly not due to an improvement in the world situation.

At present there is intense political struggle in the third world as people fight for their freedom against the spectre of Imperialism. While none of these struggles have produced wars of the magnitude, publicity and effect on New Zealand of the Vietnam war, the principles are the same, the bitterness as great, and our obligation to support the same. Only our level of commitment seems to have changed. The other great focal point for activity, South Africa, still exists. New Zealand has not severed its links with it. Indeed it appears that as the regime becomes harsher and more oppressive, our contacts with it are strengthened.

There is also another great issue, not present in the earlier era, the menace represented by Muldoon. Ironically the man who was elected on a platform of "Red Baiting", playing on people's fears of a state controlled socialist system, is dramatically increasing the amount of Government control over us all. The only matter for speculation is just how far Muldoon will be able to go in building his oppressive State machinery.

We have already seen the three examples of the Abortion legislation, the SIS Amendment Act and the massive display of force at Bastion Point. These are issues as large and important to New Zealanders as any we will face, and as the economic crisis intensifies, the state will bring even harsher action against the people of the country.

Beyond all doubt the issues are there. The difference is that in the #60s the issues were created for us by the media, by similar activities overseas. This time around we have got to do it for ourselves. Hopefully the PSA will be the first step along this largely untravelled path.

In the light of this it seems facile to argue that the decline of the left is due to the disappearance of issues. The real fault in this area is in the inability of the left on campus to build issues out of them unaided.

The Internal Conflicts

There is one major trap which the PSA will have to avoid. In the early 70s the left proceeded at a very advanced ideological level which many progressive students were unable or disinclined to follow. The progressive movement rapidly developed into an elitist organisation which many students were unable to relate to or participate in.

However pleasing it would be to assign blame for this, if viewed in the historical context this development is understandable and in a sense worked to the benefit of the progressive movement.

In the early 70s the left had just emerged from its hibernation which had lasted since the 40s. As it grew in stature and strength it began to realise some fundamental internal contradictions, notably with the various Trotskyite groups. The resulting split however, while important, was along fairly intricate lines. Consequently the progressive left became more self-centred rather than trying to enlist mass support.

Its major opponents in this struggle were the Trotskyites. While others concentrated their efforts on the executive where they vigorously actioned progressive policy, the Trotskyites were forced to form their own organisation. The result was the Young Socialists. Because the progressive left tended to rely too heavily on the executive as a means of following their policies it never developed a proper organisational base. This policy is now regrettable for it is very possible that the right will make a substantial killing in this year's election.

Changes within the University

Another important factor in the decline of the left, and the one factor that seems to be a real stumbling block is the changing nature of the university itself. The worsening of the economic crisis has placed a greater financial strain on students. As students become forced to become more dependent on their parents two undesirable trends emerge.

First, the independence from parents and their values mentioned earlier as an important factor in the potential for political awareness amongst students, is diminished. Secondly, it is only upper middle class parents who are able to provide this support, so we see a further narrowing of the range of backgrounds of those attending university.

Another closely related factor is the introduction of rigorous internal assessment schemes. This has forced students to become more committed to their courses simply in order to pass them. Consequently those students who could have become involved are kept at their desks, their potential for political work even further

destroyed by the cynicism that our mind-crusher system so often produces.

The Struggle Against the Right

These factors in themselves do not preclude an increased political awareness on campus, however they do necessitate a new approach. In particular the need for an organisation is very strong, as this is the only way that a system can be set up where people can make a valuable contribution without having to make an arduous commitment in terms of time.

The progressive left-wing students on campus are, on the whole committed to a particular path. Possessing, in general, a depth of political understanding denied their opponents, they are always moving forward. Responding to particular situations they have generally formulated action around the important issues.

Their opponents (right-wing students) on the other hand lack any comprehensive policy. Lacking any ability of desire to initiate action on their own behalf their sole function has been to attack the activities that the left initiates. The conflict is between an attitude of activity and one of inactivity.

With the absence of the left from executive and other leading positions on campus a rapid decline would result on all fronts, for in its chaotically disorganised state the right, having lost the justification for its existence (attacking the left) would be in a vacuum. All activity, political or otherwise, would decrease, and it would take many years to build it up again. Furthermore, the possibility of right wing student support for anti-democratic government measures cannot be overlooked. It happened in 1951, it could happen again. This is in addition to the fact that there are major issues coming up, around which every possible effort must be made to involve students.

Photo of a large crowd

From a strong PSA we could reasonably hope that a political climate conducive to progressive moves could be recreated in the minimum possible time. We must recognise that the political apathy present in the university at present is the greatest weapon the right has at its disposal, and we can be fairly sure that any negative move will be greeted with silence (taken as approval) from the student body.

It is relatively easy to talk about these things in academic terms. The point is, students who are worried about the right must become more active, and more organised.

Peter Beach

Join the Progressive Students' Alliance Come to a meeting of the PSA (Progressive Students' Alliance) this Tuesday, 12 noon in the Smoking Room. All welcome

New Zealand Ltd.

In a very real way New Zealand is one large resource, a store of the elements needed to make a society feasible. Whether that resource is being used to the best advantage is examined in this article.

New Zealand is inhabited predominantly by people attempting to live as their forebears did in Europe, using techniques suited to a place which is a whole world away physically, and perhaps half a century ahead in development. We have always been coerced by our leaders to follow overseas development (such as motorways), lock, stock and barrel.

The cost has been great. New Zealand has been mortgaged to the money markets, as a Roman slave would have been bound to his master. New Zealand's overseas masters have required, as a surety, that New Zealand involve itself in certain projects that will give short term returns. These returns are designed solely to service the massive repayments incurred by borrowing.

Overseas controlled development of the country is not in any way a new occurrence. Ever since the capital's street plan was drawn up in London on the assumption that the terrain was flat, the country has been led up dark hilly dead end alleys. Many New Zealand citizens believe that they are being led as a nation, through troubled times, by a strong government. It is however becoming more apparent to a growing number of New Zealanders that the country is little more than a very small, very bankrupt, trading company, where the shareholders live overseas, and the workers exist on the corporation's land.

Photo of felled trees

Who is New Zealand's Parent Company?

Multinationals, banks, the oil producers, and a few "allies" sit on the New Zealand board of directors. The local population is allowed to elect a parliamentary government, whose job it is to regulate and keep the society in good order, so it will be in a position to pay the required royalties to the Board and other investors. These

payments are made up of between 70 and 86 per cent of produce which is grown on the land. This represents a massive commitment to maintaining large numbers of agrarian communities and hectares of farm-able land.

The Land

Upon arrival in New Zealand the (now dominant) European cleared the land of an inconvenient local population, thus allowing for the orderly distribution of land amongst the new exploiters.

So called Treaties were drawn up initially. However successive legal decisions from local courts, and from the top court of the trading group (London Privy Council) have repeatedly made it plain for all to see, that one treaty in particular (the Treaty of Waitangi) is not, and never has been, binding on any one of the parties involved.

So a solution was found in importing mercenaries (with the promise of cheap land), who attempted to rout the country of the "troublesome local natives". The implications of this line of action have earned over to the present times, in matters concerning Maori land; in Laws which empower the State to take possession of individually or collectively held land, for Public Works purposes.

Many other countries require a certain degree of agreement between the parties concerned. But under the traditions that New Zealand has been endowed with, such consideration for the rights of the people have been dispensed with. It is of little surprise then, to find that the major aspirants to control the Parliamentary Government have nearly always displayed a readiness to do anything internally which is required to fulfil the internationally placed tributes and other repayments.

The ease of making the "necessary" decisions has been made gentler by the current phenomenon in New Zealand of Executive Power and Decision. This has allowed certain individual citizens to act independently of the people's wishes by not being required to directly report their activities to anyone in any detail (perhaps best epitomised by the SIS Amendment Act 1977).

The Executive concept of government has also given the individuals concerned less fear of possible electoral retaliation during the triannual plebiscites held to choose the 'eligible candidates' who may sit on the Executive.

Comalco: A Case in Point

The first time that the Executive's right to govern by decree was challenged, was over the "Comalco Incident". In the early 1950s under a Labour Party administration, it was seen that in the near future more overseas funds would be needed. A report from the then Electricity Division established that there was an excellent possibility of utilizing a considerable electrical potential, at any of several South Island lakes. Parliament then unanimously enclosed a proposal to "hawk around" this potential in an effort to get "Overseas Investment".

A peculiar consortium of "investors" was found, and convinced to come to New Zealand and take New Zealand's power in its hands for next to nothing. It must be remembered that both major New Zealand political parties agreed unanimously to the whole proposal, and both came to power during the "negotiations" and could have influenced "developments" at any stage.

Comalco, New Zealand Aluminium Smelters, Rio Tinto, or by whatever name they were operating under at the time, had the New Zealand government build a massive hydro-development at Lake Manapouri, shooting the Waters of the lake through a hydro-tunnel to a sound in Southern Fiord-land.

An initial supply of electricity was agreed upon, a price for the power (the station was paid for by the New Zealand people) was fixed and then all the details were classified variously as cabinet papers, agreements which come under the Official Secrets Act and so on. The amount of power required by the Bluff Smelter (an annex of Bell Bay Australia) was to increase over regular periods as new parts of the plant were brought into production.

This meant that more water would have to be available at Lake Manapouri at certain "peak" times. As there existed no known means of conjuring up water from nowhere, the only alternative immediately available, was to raise the level of Manapouri, so that when required, the excess water could pass through the turbines and produce the "needed" electricity. The net effect of the Manapouri "deal" then meant that the lake was to fluctuate between having no shoreline (submerged) and during droughts (the water was still taken) having sheer cliffs for beaches.

The damage to the lake was seen by the New Zealand people to be excessive, so much so that a major confrontation occurred between the people and their elected controllers. After a massive petition and mobilisation of concerned individuals and organisations the government was forced to accede to nearly all of the demands of the people.

The people had expressed their feelings and in doing so had embarrassed the Executive; something

obviously had to be done to prevent such an undesirable political occurrence happening again. The backroom boys produced a compromise, a filtering process that would appear to satisfy the wishes of the people, and protect the Executive from interference or subjugation on resource-environment management.

The Commission for the Environment

The solution was for New Zealand to have a Commission for the Environment, designed to direct public concern at the government departments rather than at the Executive. The establishment of this Commission is perhaps a prime example of the Executive type of operating.

The Commission was set up with no statutory provisions or powers. Its role was simply to report upon the proposals of various authorities intending to use various resources, and perhaps on activities already undertaken. It was also to provide a further block between the Executive and the people, in that it would probably take the sting out of protests and petitions to ministers concerned, through greater time delays in processing, and the writing of reports on other people's reports of other department's reports.

The situation would have been ludicrous. In the informative years it was. The Commission's lack of statutory powers and wallop had been intended to prevent it from interfering in the processes of government that had been going on undaunted for years. However it was this lack of legislative fettering that was to enable the Commission to start taking an independent, and more importantly a researched, commentator role.

Drawing of a kiwi caught in a trap

The overall effect of the Commission's evolution meant that rather than playing down any genuine environmental concern being expressed by the people, it tended to pick up such interests and amplify them, giving them further research and backing, and then releasing its findings to the public in general. The Executive were finding that "their" desired "development" was coming under fire and investigation by an organisation it was paying for and nominally controlling.

The Clutha Proposals

The issue which brought the Commission to the greatest government attention was its unfavourable report on the Electricity Department's proposal to go ahead with large scale hydro-development of the Clutha river and valley. The commission maintained, in guarded words, that the proposal contained almost no consideration for the well being of the people who would be affected by the development.

These and other points brought up by the commission in its audit of the Electricity and MOWAD departments' report lent fire power to the now better organised (since Manapouri) Environment lobby. With the previous two elections, the matter had become a political one. After the Commission's inconvenient audit the government was again faced with an embarrassing situation, and so announced by decree that a certain 'scheme F' would be put into action. In doing so the government ignored the fact that no Impact Report or Audit had been completed on the scheme that it had just decided to implement, and a further report and audit were sent for.

In June 1978 the present Minister for the Environment spoke in terms of toning down the Commission for the Environment's role, by bringing it in to the decision making process earlier, and alluded to a future design and role for the commission that would take away it's independent power of reporting and auditing.

Even before the expected comments of environmentalists and conservationists were heard, the newspapers of the country picked the matter up. The Evening Post in Wellington ran a strong editorial decrying the Minister's proposed action on the matter.

The Minister's statements have been interpreted by many as being the reaction of the Executive to being told by one of its own subordinates that it should not precede with some scheme it has in mind. The idea was seen as an attempt to publicly shut the concerned commission up, and assimilate the staff and their duties into "the already existant higher decision making departmental structures". The removal, assimilation or "toning down" of this small but potent commission would probably result in a wholesale decline in the quality of resource management decision-making in New Zealand.

It is assumed for obvious practical reasons that some shell or remnant structure would be left as a block to the people's thoughts, considerations and solutions to resource-environmental problems, to continue to shelter the government from direct approaches.

Non-Renewable Resources

Turning from the direct decision making processes there is the question of concern over the continuing diminishment of natural and quasi-natural non-renewable resources. The non-renewables are fairly well recognised by most people, but the alternatives are not.

The first reaction to a shortage of any controlling body that governs on a day to day basis is to attempt to obtain supplies from another source. When that shortage is created by the "cost" factor of the commodity required then the controllers start to panic.

Rather than dramatically increasing research into alternative technologies, the rule appears to be that the first step is to "try to find it locally". The Minister of Energy did just this with oil in 1978. Instructions were issued for oil prospecting wells to be sunk at specific locations in an attempt to secure a supply of an onshore petroleum compound.

The baffling part of the whole venture was that the Minister's "experts" were told where to go, rather than asked for their professional advice. Further the instructions outlined that the government wells were to be sunk by or practically on previous drill sites that had proved beyond doubt to be devoid of any usable carbohydrates. One top geologist-geophysicist described it as "bloody ridiculous, especially when we could have been investigating relatively new concepts of oil traps in phase changes, of which New Zealand appears to abound, in favourable positions too". The government's present petroleum research appears to have drawn a blank.

In July 1978 the Labour spokesman on the environment outlined a scheme utilizing Bio-mass (farming, in this case pine trees) principles to produce burnable fuels for automobile consumption. Only last week nuclear war was declared. You haven't heard? Of course not, the government are still deciding whether or not to let us know.

Salient will hereby give \$5 to any student who has managed to wade through this article so far without falling asleep or getting drunk.

The DSIR has not even finished its researches into the various types of solar heaters presently marketed and soon to come to New Zealand, when the Executive announced in the Budget 1978 that considerable concessions were to be granted in costs of purchasing and installing the heaters.

The importance of the DSIR's work is shown in two ways, first that they bothered to undertake it, and in the large variation in efficiency of different types and brands of solar heaters. The net result of buying the wrong solar heater (with government money) would be like buying a rain coat that let only 60% of the rain through, obviously keeping you 40% dry!

Environmental Spending

Per head of population, and adjusted for inflation, the amount of money made available by the government (by direct spending or tax concessions) for research into environmental resource and energy problems and solutions, has been decreasing annually for over a decade now. This will appear ridiculous to the many people who believe not only that forward planning should be going on, but also that research into alternatives and the necessary technological development should be occurring.

New Zealand has some of the most enlightened town planning laws in the world, yet they have not been enforced simply because they would require some small but effective changes in social attitude and structure.

It is agreed that today we could resolve our balance of payment problems, cut loose from our overseas masters by rationing commodities we cannot afford such as petrol. This would require an up-grading of public transport (which recent governments have actually been dismantling!) and a change in attitude by the "average bloke" or "average kiwi".

As the Executive still have to go through the unfortunate process of actually canvassing the people to be re-elected to remain the Executive, they seldom indulge in anything that will get this rather dubious Mr Average disturbed. In addition, such activities may upset the all important overseas companies (here the oil companies who send their profits overseas).

Recycling

Perhaps our best plan is to recycle anything that can be economically processed.

Probably the best short-term plan is to recycle anything that can be economically processed. At the Porirua tip site a recycling park has been established to extract reusable materials from the rubbish before it is dumped.

VUWSA recently polled every council in the Wellington Province from Masterton south. Only Porirua was operating and formulating some form of recycling in any major way. Nearly all councils have by-laws to prevent people from removing reusable material from rubbish dumps and some impose hefty fines on individuals who are caught and prosecuted.

Millions of dollars, perhaps some forty per cent of the Gross National Product is yearly scrunched under the tracks of council bulldozers in the refuse and land tip sites of New Zealand. The most incredible fact associated with the whole question is that overseas centres and districts the size of even the smaller New Zealand areas, show profits from their recycling and composting efforts.

In Auckland a small scale operation known as the 'Devonport experiment' has proved most efficient and effective, while in Christchurch a group of local residents have organized what is known as the Avon loop, again a successful small scale operation. In the Wairarapa the local councils are fast running out of accessible usable tip sites and are now actually considering using picnic sites, river banks, farm lands and farm house water catchments as rubbish disposal sites. In Wellington the Council had on its books right up until May this year an intention to actually cut into a native plant reserve museum in order to gain access to a proposed tip site.

VUWSA has long stated that only proposals that meet with the long term requirements of the people, that do not destroy or render desolate the environment, and which do not lead to an eventual destruction of the world around us, should proceed.

The Time for Action

Perhaps now is the best chance that New Zealand is going to get to find the alternatives in control, management, utilisation, technology and processes to ensure a future for New Zealand that will meet the needs of the people.

For if we continue to employ short term developments built to the requirements of investors who have little concern for the future of the people as a whole, if we continue to destroy our lands, to squeeze out that last drop of power making water, to spend too little on research, and be too scared to try bold new ideas, then surely as a people, and as a country we will continue to be bankrupt, and perhaps slip into a new New Zealand Geosyncline.

The time for action has come. Help stop the great slide!

Paul Norman

Environmental Affairs Officer

Environment Week

Programme

Monday

Films running throughout most of the day,

Including: Shadow of Progress, air Pollution, one Hand Clapping, and many other environmental films.

Tuesday

Films as above, and at midday in the Union Hall a Forum:

"The New Zealand Environment - Careful use or Abuse?"

Speakers at the Forum will include:

Venn Young, Minister of Forests, for the Environment and of Lands;

Richard Prebble, Jnr Opposition Whip and Spokesman on the Environment;

Dr Ian Prior, Chairman of the Environment and Conservation Organisation of New Zealand, ECO
(represents some 1/3 of a million people)

Guy Salmon

Just before the forum Dr Prior will officially declare the new Victoria University of Wellington Environment Resource Centre open.

All students and staff of the university and anyone else interested are invited to come and take part or just watch.

Wednesday

Films as on the other days.

6 pm: the Victoria University of Wellington Environment Group Annual General Meeting in the Union Hall of the Students' Association, all welcome. 7.30 pm: in the Union Hall the 1978 Environment Party. Tickets \$2.00 each (single), food, disco, wine, beer, non alcoholics and fun provided free. Tickets are available from all environment lectures, in the cafe at all hours, and from VUWEG committee members.

Thursday

Films as on previous days, VUW Environment Group action meeting in the Clubs Room on the top floor of the Union Building, beside the TV Room.

Friday

Films in the morning. At approx. 12.35 at the corner of Willis and Manners Streets the Victoria bicycle delegation will meet up with the bicycle rally travelling to Parliament as Wellington's start to National Conservation Week (organised by the Wellington Bicycle Committee).

All through the week there will be displays in the foyer of the Student Union Building from many different groups ranging from Maori land organisations, NFAC, the Forest and Bird Society to ECO etc.

Environment Week is put on for you by VUWSA and the VUW Environment Group. Take part in its activities!

Unemployment: The Disprin Cure for a Heart Attack

This article is the first in a series looking at the political issues facing the country as we move closer to the General Election. Salient has written to a number of prominent political parties, trade unions, pressure groups, academics and economists asking their views on the current political situation. We thank Mr Haldane for his contribution. The article on the following page, written by the Prime Minister, is our second contribution to this series.

There are no easy answers to the causes of unemployment. Just as there are no easy answers as to the remedies. It's accepted by people of widely differing political viewpoints that NZ is facing an unemployment crisis similar to that of the #30s. The answers and remedies which people put forward, depend more on an ideological perspective than on an analysis of the concrete situation.

If people are to work towards the solving of the employment crisis, they must have some conception or analysis of the problem. Activity which is aimed at doing something about the employment situation, which is not informed by any analysis, is meaningless and counterproductive. It does not confront the basis of the problem, only its effects.

Similarly, activity which is not backed by any analysis; which specifies changing the government or the economic and political system, is based on wistful thinking and illusions about the mechanics of the present employment crisis.

There are two polar positions which are taken by people when forwarding solutions to the present employment crisis. Both are based on stated and unstated political viewpoints.

The first position states that people out of work are responsible for their own situation. If they are out of work, this view goes, they must be dole bludgers, lazy and don't want to work. They are often at a loss as to why there has been an upsurge in lazy people though.

The people who propound this position would say change the unemployed themselves, give them training. This will give them not only better chances for obtaining work, but the right attitudes and habits towards work as well. The focus here is on the unemployed themselves, as they are the obvious cause of their own plight.

The deficiencies of this approach are evident. First, it assumes that in training people to higher levels of skill and ability, there will be work available for them when they complete their training. If there are no jobs for them at the end of their training, the sense of frustration and anger will be compounded.

It assumes that other measures for the creation of work will be undertaken in the meantime. It assumes that government will take some responsibility for controlling such things as the investment and areas to which investment is made, which will in turn produce jobs.

There is no evidence to suggest that either of the majority parties are prepared to do this. What has been evident is the fact that both parties are prepared to drive public money into the hands of entrepreneurs. The last Labour government gave away public money for regional development with no guarantees for the workers

involved that jobs in those regions would be provided on a continuing basis. The present National government has flogged off public money in a number of ways too, the most recent being their employment subsidy schemes.

Spending public money in this way does nothing to attack the basis of the unemployment problem. There is no guarantee for the voter or the taxpayer that the necessary structural changes in the economy will be made to produce jobs on a continuing basis. The effect of the schemes mentioned are rather like the effect of a disprin on a man with a major heart problem.

Short term measures which aim to train people and change their attitudes to, work will not work unless there are other factors within the economic and political system which are controlled and ultimately changed. Short term measures which involve the spending of public money, for schemes which are designed as palliatives are irresponsible. They are designed more for political expediency, rather than the necessary economic and political change. The focus on the victims of the employment situation pays scant attention to the system which has produced the crisis in the first place.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have the people who propound the big bang theory. Crudely summarised, this position says, don't change the people, change the system. Unemployment will be solved by the advent of socialism in some form or another.

This approach is deficient in specifying what people should do in the short term while waiting for the collapse of capitalism and the ushering in of the millenium. It ignores the fact that any political and economic change will be constrained by the habits, attitudes and traditions from the past. It is based on the hope that things will be better in the future, without too much regard for the activities which must be undertaken in the short term for producing change. The focus of this position, is on the economic and political system which has produced the crisis with scant regard for the victims and their immediate personal problems.

Whatever the ideological position taken, whether it's conscious or unconscious, there are certain objective matters of which we should be aware.

The Problem

It's widely accepted that the employment crisis here reflects the situation of most Western industrial countries.

Young people have borne the brunt of the employment crisis which has been occurring throughout the Western world. Youth unemployment in many Western countries is on average, three times higher than the adult rate.

In New Zealand, 52% of the registered unemployed are under the age of 20. Of these, 72% of all female unemployed are under the age of 20. The corresponding male figure is 41%.

There are a number of identifiable reasons for a higher unemployment rate in NZ. These are the obvious reasons, which are politically controlled. They include deliberate government policy to deflate the economy, by reducing wage levels and living standards, reduction in government expenditure, staff ceilings for government departments and so on.

Attempts have been made to smother the unemployment problem in a number of ways, thus to reducing the visibility of the problem to the public. Unemployment statistics are fudged by ignoring accepted international standards for measuring un-employment; employment levels of special workers in government departments are built up by make work schemes and so on.

The second part of the government response has been to offer an array of tax incentives, government financial and advisory services, wage subsidies to private businesses in order that the economy can recover on the basis of an export led drive, and that a number of unemployed workers can be 'soaked' up.

The contradictions which this approach raises are obvious. An export drive requires a docile work force which is prepared to accept lower wage levels in order for our goods to be more competitive internationally. As wage levels have surely been reduced, so has internal demand. There have been cutbacks in production, idle plant capacity and more unemployed. It is generally accepted that an export drive must be based on a secure domestic market. Rising unemployment and static levels of productivity are hardly the thing on which to base this.

An export drive requires high levels of productivity. This can only be achieved by reducing input in terms of labour costs — or by increasing output — by getting more work from the existing work force by the application of more plant. But more productivity with fewer workers and more plant mean fewer work opportunities.

There are other factors which will mean also fewer work opportunities for younger people. First there is the fact that more people are coming onto the employment market than ever before. In 1956, there were 103,700 people under 20 in the work force. By 1976, this figure had risen to 162,000.

Secondly, there are changing social attitudes to married women working, and the economic necessity for many of them to work. This has meant that the female participation rate in the work force has increased.

The right of all people to paid employment must now be accepted. When we combine these sorts of things with a falling demand for our agricultural products, growing trade protectionism, rapidly escalating energy prices and higher costs on imported manufactured goods, we have the makings of a major employment crisis.

The Party Politics of Unemployment

The reaction of many people to the employment problem is simplistic. They associate the problem with the stewardship of a particular government. Inflation continues to be a constant and unemployment levels continue to rise. The answer many people put forward to this is the changing of the present government.

The question which most young people will have to ask themselves, is whether a change of government in November will give them any greater guarantee of a job. It's the view of this writer that it won't. A number of factors are operating which will mean whichever of the majority parties assumes power in November, the situation will remain relatively unchanged.

The employment situation will improve or decline, but not as a result of which government is in power. The reasons for this are:

- the health of the NZ economy is largely dependent on the health of Western economies which have been in a state of crisis for some time.
- both majority parties are firmly wedded in practice and deed to a system of economic and political relations which have produced the crisis in the first place.
- finally, the majority parties are almost entirely Parliamentarist in their outlook and bound by a 3 year perspective —their activities are bound by the requirements of political expediency and the need to stay in power.

The smother job which is being done on the present employment crisis bears witness to the last point. First employment statistics are recorded by direct registration, rather than by sample of the potential work force. This latter method is used in a number of Western countries for calculating the numbers of unemployed. Under 16 year olds can't register and many married women don't consider it worthwhile registering because they can't get the benefit in many cases.

The process of registration is made deliberately difficult, with the continued need to report in regularly despite the fact that there are few if any job opportunities for many people. These sorts of things drive the numbers of registered unemployed down.

The public service too, plays its part in helping to disguise the true extent of unemployment in NZ. Some departments have almost entire sections staffed by special workers. Departments such as Railways, have nationally 700 or so special workers on.

This serves two purposes. The 700 workers are a direct charge to the Labour Department, and so this reduces the publicly stated cost of running the railways. The Railways, like a number of other government departments, acts as a sponge for the Labour Department, where the latter can shuffle off a number of special workers to other departments and so reduce the registered un-employed. Putting special workers out to other departments in this way fulfills another purpose in this smothering of the problem.

A hallmark of the 1930s was the relief gangs. Today the special worker working alongside the permanent worker in a government department, is not identifiable or visible either to the public or his workmates. He or she is just one of them.

Unemployed people never physically come together as they used to in the #30s with dole queues either, which again reduces the visibility of the problem to the public. The cheque paid through the mail to the beneficiary's address has seen to that.

This also means that it is far more difficult for unemployed people to organize, a fact which has not been lost on many politicians and departmental officials.

The party political response overall has been to deal with the problem of the unemployed, rather than the problem of un-employment. It has done this in a number of ways to try to make the problem of the unemployed less visible, and so mask over the whole problem of unemployment. Despite all the attempts to deal with the problem of unemployment through Export #78, energy research and exploration, these have been at best superficial attempts to deal with a major economic problem.

It is not the writer's aim to create cynicism about party politics in NZ, or about politics in general, but young people voting for the first time should be well aware of the limits of party politics. They should not expect too much from the single act of exercising the vote to put this or that party into power.

Voting for a party is only one minor political act and decision which can be made in a whole range of political acts and decisions. For the unemployed and those concerned about employment, a far more important

activity is self help activity - organizing in local areas around local issues and local needs. This will be dealt with more fully in another section.

The Responsibility for Employment and Unemployment

The issue of employment and unemployment is the great bandwagon issue of 1978. There is a definite risk of unemployment overkill, with many people all wanting to get into the act 'to do something about the unemployment situation'. The unemployed must be aware of the variety of motives which exist for those wanting to do something about unemployment, and the unemployed.

Some people want to be involved, not because they want to do something about the unemployment situation, but because they want to control the unemployed. As one gentleman from the Social Welfare Department in Lower Hutt expressed it so succinctly, 'these young people without jobs, quite frankly could do a lot of damage to our lovely city, unless something is done about them'. Others will see it as an area in which they can wring a few dollars out of a government to maintain a social work hierarchy.

The big guns in the field are the government departments. The Labour Department has a statutory responsibility for the area of employment. The Department is supposed to run an employment advice service, for the placement of unemployed people. The experience of many unemployed people with this has been bad. Many employers are reluctant to place jobs with the Department, and many young unemployed people are reluctant to use the Department's employment service because they feel it is a waste of time. Departmental officers are snowed under trying to cope with the immediate situation of registration, interviewing and the like, that their ability to discharge other duties required of them is limited. To this writer's knowledge, there are very few contacts made with employers to determine what employment opportunities are available.

The Social Welfare Department is responsible for administering a very conservative, and at times anomalous piece of legislation in the form of the Social Security Act 1976 (reprinted). The amount of discretionary authority which rests with the Social Security Commission, with its power to make regulations governing the payment of unemployment benefit and the conditions under which the benefit may be received, are wide. Single people may be stood down anything up to six weeks without benefit. They are expected to live and lead a straight life in the meantime while they go without any financial support whatsoever.

Married people are hard hit by this piece of legislation. Where one or the other spo-spouse becomes unemployed, they are not automatically entitled to a benefit, despite the fact that they have been making a tax contribution. All unemployment benefits are means tested. Yet if one of the same couple had fallen ill, they would have been entitled to a sickness benefit, without regard to the other spouses income, provided that a few other conditions are met.

Other government departments involved are Recreation and Sport which funds various youth work schemes, and Maori and Island Affairs. The latter is responsible for dealing specifically with the employment problems of Maori and Island youths, through such schemes as trade training, pre-employment courses and the like.

There are other semi-government agencies involved such as the polytechs, and technical institutes, which are responsible for running some dubious employment courses of short duration. One classic course prospectus for a local polytech stated that the course had as its aim 'to help vocationally confused young people define their job goals'. The writer's view is that is not so much the young people who are confused but the people in these institutions who think that they can suck young people in with these kinds of foboffs.

The trade union movement too is concerned about unemployment, and sees itself having a large responsibility to protect the welfare and conditions of those in and out of work. To date, the actions of the movement haven't matched its words. The movement has been confined to fighting a number of ineffective rearguard actions against redundancies. There has been no defence against the insidious lowering of employment levels in many firms by 'natural attrition', non replacement of staff, and greater use of part time workers.

The movement at this time is not organizationally or politically equipped to deal with an employment crisis of this size. The top leadership makes irrelevant posturings about the need for greater productivity, without understanding the logical consequences that a productivity drive will have for employment levels.

It is the writer's view that the movement must be pushed, or otherwise persuaded into making greater effort for dealing with the overall employment situation. A clear responsibility for the welfare and living standards of workers which exists, is not being exercised.

After the government departments and the trade union movement (and not necessarily in that order) come the voluntary groups, church groups, youth groups and so on. In Wellington at least, there is the Wellington Inner City Ministry, Young Christian Workers which are amongst the concerned church groups. Then there are groups such as the YMCA, the Community Volunteers, ad hoc groups such as the Te Reo Tamariki, work trusts

and the like.

There is from the unemployed persons viewpoint, a bewildering array of departments, agencies, church and youth groups, labour movement groups, all dedicated 'to doing something about the employment problem'. All feel some responsibility, or they have this responsibility put upon them by law. The sincerity and integrity of most of the people involved in the organizations mentioned can't be doubted. What the unemployed person must ask is 'what are the motives behind the persons or organizations concern?'

Drawing of a large hand holding out money to an unemployed person on the ground

Unemployed people must realise that most of the organizations concerned are working with short term perspectives in mind. Many are under the impression that this employment crisis is just a temporary thing, and that the situation will somehow improve. Many organizations will want to make the position of unemployed people easier, by pressuring for improvements in the welfare system, providing recreational schemes, or by being involved in temporary make shift schemes. Cushioning the blow of being out of work won't solve the problem. The solutions to the problem and its causes must be grappled with in the now, and not put off until some vague date in the future.

What can be Done about the Problem?

A two pronged strategy must be adopted which attacks the problem of unemployment as well as the problems of the unemployed. This strategy must link short term tactics with long term goals. The relationship between the two must be made explicit. This strategy must deal with both the symptoms and the victims of the employment situation, as well as dealing with the causes of unemployment; the political and economic system.

The first requirement is to deal with the immediate situation in which unemployed people find themselves, and the immediate needs which arise out of that situation. It must be realised by those working with the unemployed that it is the unemployed themselves who are the ones who must define the activities, set the pace, and organize the action.

The best example of this to date has been the action of the young unemployed kids in Porirua who pressured for the setting up of a Labour Department office there. They organized a disco to draw other young unemployed along, advertised the action at this disco, picketed the Labour Department Offices in Wellington and won public support for their case.

The lesson from this is for those wishing to work in this area, let those involved decide on the action. Young people must be encouraged to set winnable and achievable goals. A success such as that had in Porirua can only help build the confidence and ability of people to organise around the issues and problems of their own situation.

If this means pressuring the Social Welfare Department for reforming the benefit system, then young people should look at the kind of activities which will produce this reform. Publicity and exposure of tardy bureaucrats is always an effective weapon.

What is required too is the promotion of activities which will bring people together. The whole benefit system and un-employment situation keeps people apart and physically isolated. Activity which will break down this is needed. Whether this can be done through such things as discos, local house gatherings, will be determined by the people in the locality.

People must come together for some purpose, and the most obvious is the need for work. Some assessment should be made of local resources to see what areas could be developed to produce work. Local community agencies, such as the councils and countries, must be pressured to develop trading activities and to sponsor work coops by offering administrative back-up or whatever is required.

The logic of this is that if public money is going to be spent in dealing with the employment situation, then the local community is entitled to some return on money spent. If private employers can't keep labour on in hard times, then they have no right to expect that the pool of labour will be just sitting around waiting to be tapped when times pick up.

In the long term, we must work towards creating significantly different employment relationships, which challenge the right of private individuals to hire and fire at will with the ups and downs of the economy.

Labour is a social commodity, the consequences of labour being employed or not employed have social effects which everyone pays for. We are entitled to see some measures of social control introduced in the labour process. Already we see this with some of the work co-ops which are now operating.

Similarly, investment decisions which have been made up until now by private individuals on the basis of the greatest profit and the greatest return must be looked at. Investment decisions have social consequences. An area of high return for investment, may not be socially desirable or produce secure jobs on a continuing basis. This right of a few people to control large amounts of public money, whether this be in the form of institutional finance from banks and insurance companies, or from tax, must be looked at.

In all of this there must be the thread of self sufficiency which holds everything together. Unemployed people in the #30s came to realise that it was only going to be through their own activities that something would be done about their situation. No-one else was going to organize for them, though a number of people were prepared to help them. So it must be today, that the importance of self-help and self-activity be promoted.

This principle can be extended to encompass the demand for the necessary political and economic changes which must be made to deal with the employment situation. Measures taken to build employment must produce greater self reliance of NZ economically. The whole area of energy is a priority area in this sense. Measures taken to build more democratic work place relationships, must also be underpinned by this concept of greater self reliance of those employed.

In this way, we can build on what always has been a tradition in NZ, that of the strong sense of independence which many people have. Many people feel with the growth of the state and the power of big businesses in NZ that this has become more threatened.

What is needed is not so much a return to some mythical past, but a willingness to promote change, based on the better traditions and values of the past.

Ian Haldane

Director

Wgtn Trades Council Unemployment Bureau

Muldoon

This is the second in a series of articles by people prominent in New Zealand's political life (the first appears on the previous two pages). We thank the Prime Minister for his contribution.

Photo of Robert Muldoon

New Zealand the Way I See It

The New Zealand I grew up in was a very different country from the New Zealand of the late 1970s. While material conditions are much easier than they were a generation ago, the issues have become much sharper. Since I believe in speaking my mind frankly on matters of common concern, I welcome the opportunity Salient has given me to summarise the kinds of realities University graduates will have to live with.

A Different World

The biggest change has come in the external environment. A generation ago New Zealand was virtually an offshore farm for Britain in a world dominated mainly by a group of western states and their overseas dependencies. Now most of the dependencies are independent states, a new nationalism is in the ascendant in many, while in others communist regimes or military governments have seized power.

At the same time world trade and economic activity is increasingly being dominated by trade blocs and special economic groupings, particularly those centred on the EEC, the US, Japan, the Soviet Union and the OPEC states.

New Zealand stands isolated outside these large groupings with an economy still based mainly on the export of a limited range of farm products which are essential to none. Our export problems are thus two-fold. First, to secure trade access for our traditional pastoral products in both traditional and new markets. Secondly, to develop new export industries based on our other resources and the skills and imagination of New Zealand's people.

"...administrative firmness has to be brought in to deal with difficult situations. "

Photo of people protesting

Some people consider that I place too much stress on economic issues. They are entitled to their opinion. However, there are certain realities which are very pressing.

First, we are still running a huge overseas exchange current account deficit of around 500 million dollars a year on an exchange transactions basis. This is only half of what it was when my government took office, but it is still too large. The rest of the world does not owe us a living.

Secondly, there is the domestic situation. According to the Government Statistician's projections, the New Zealand labour force will grow by over 100,000 in the next five years. Providing jobs for all these people - including the graduates of Victoria University - is going to be a major task of government.

We cannot do it simply by make-work activity in the public sector since even this generates an additional demand for foreign exchange, even if it is in smaller degree. The only realistic solution is to develop new industries which earn or save foreign exchange and provide the basis for genuine expansion in the rest of the economy.

Trade Access

My Government's determination to press forward with the trade access objectives has on several occasions led to public friction with our overseas trading partners. I make no apologies for this. New Zealand is the world's most efficient producer of pastoral products. Our freedom to export to natural markets benefits the ordinary people in these areas and at the same time is vital to our own living standards and ability to provide jobs. I will continue to press New Zealand's economic interests with vigour wherever this is needed.

New Industries

The second economic issue is the need to press forward with the development of new industries, particularly those geared to earn or efficiently conserve foreign exchange. Many of these industries will be resource based. This group includes, in particular, forestry, fishing, the further processing of primary produces, tourism, and the energy sector.

Another grouping consists of established manufacturing and service activities which have hit the limits of the domestic market. These industries will need to get out and sell in a competitive world market, as the leaders in the manufacturing field already have done. Clearly, the others will need to become more efficient and cost conscious. Equally clearly, both they and the primary industries will need certain things from the New Zealand environment if they are to meet the challenge.

These things include an easing of inflationary pressures, a minimising of unnecessary industrial disputes, and efficiency in the servicing and transport sectors of the economy. Anyone who pretends that New Zealanders can pull their way out of their troubles without all of us working more efficiently is peddling a pipe dream.

Innovations

There is a third category of industry where development offers potential for the New Zealand future. This consists of new activities based on innovative thinking and the development of new products and services — things we cannot necessarily even visualise today. I would hope that the the pool of university graduates will provide many of the innovations New Zealand is going to need — adding technical and intellectual sophistication to the traditional Kiwi ingenuity.

We are trying to create a climate in which more such innovation occurs. It involves many things — technical advisory services, access to development capital, more freedom in the market, and lower taxes. But most of all it needs the talents of able people harnessed in the right directions.

The Social Environment

Economically New Zealand is a more varied and challenging place than it was a generation ago. Socially though the situation is less happy. A whole range of areas, from the stability of family life to the safety of certain city streets at night, is much less certain than it once was.

I suppose one could say that New Zealand is simply following trends elsewhere in the western world, and is still comparatively better than most.

However, the special and unique New Zealand we once had seems to be eroding. This has created a situation where much more often than we would like, administrative firmness has to be brought in to deal with difficult situations. I would emphasise that a heavy, necessary emphasis on law and order is not exactly New Zealand the way I want to see it. However, when firm measures in any area are required my Government will face up to its obligations.

Public Spending

I would now like to focus on another issue in which I think I have some special expertise. This is the role of public spending in the economy. In New Zealand, as elsewhere, a large rise in the share of public spending in the economy has created what the Planning Council described as public sector "overload". While one can argue about the precise meaning of words or statistics, two things are clear.

First, the rising tax burden to finance public spending is hurting the public. It is squeezing the economic position of the average taxpayer and acting as a disincentive to effort and innovation.

Secondly, the real value of much of the rise in public spending is very dubious. During the period of the previous government the share of government spending in the economy shifted up over 10 per cent of GNP; but the man or woman in the street would be hard put to identify any significant benefits they obtained from this upsurge.

One of the messages any Minister of Finance will need to keep repeating to the New Zealand public is that there is no such thing as free government services. It all has to be paid for somehow. A more rigorous control of public spending — and a better public understanding of the need for this — is pretty fundamental to grappling with our problems.

Well, I have listed some of our problems and issues and some of the solutions we will need. I could list many more if you gave me the space. And I trust that the students of Victoria University who have been educated at vast expense to the taxpayer, are able to play their own part at helping to grapple with these issues.
R. D. Muldoon

The Feasibility Study goes Public

What's New Behind Hunter

Drawing of Hunter building and proposed new buildings

Introduction

Today (Monday 24 July) the University Council is meeting to receive a feasibility study on the potential future of the Hunter Building. This study was commissioned last year by the Friends of Hunter. The comprehensive proposals call for the construction of two tower blocks, the effective rotation by 180° of the existing Hunter Building and the planting of a statue of imposing dimensions depicting our namesake Queen Victoria in a casual pose (see cover).

Traffic is to be re-routed in past Kirk, round the front of the old Hunter building and out where it presently comes in at the bottom of the Hunter lawn. Paved, grassed and landscaped areas abound. The facade of the old Hunter building is retained with a new interior. The new buildings have been designed with an eye to complementing the present structure, but are in concrete with an extensive window area (earthquake regulations come down heavy on brick buildings).

The study is a remarkable example of what can happen when someone sits down and actually makes a real attempt to plan the development of the campus in line with its already existent advantages. Not that everyone should get carried away. If the proposal is adopted, it will mean that while most of us languish away in Easter-field, New Kirk, Cotton, Von Zedlitz, etc., only music and law students, and the Vice Chancellor and the Staff Club will be reaping the benefits of the new complex. And the cost? At May 1978 rates: \$9,470,000.

The Proposal

Elements Retained

The architects' proposal retains the east facade and entry stairway of the original block, the Library wing exterior and interior, and the east and part south facades of the Physics wing, together with the roof areas of each. This would be known as Old Hunter (see diagram A).

In attempting to complement the existing "Gothic Revival" forms of the building the new interior floors, columns, beams and walls have very little effect on the exterior walls, windows, roofs and stonework. Ventilator towers and dormer windows are also re-introduced on the roof to provide extra lighting and

ventilation.

In the library, the main internal space remains relatively uncluttered, and a light wooden and steel mezzanine is built to facilitate extra access to the gallery.

The internal spaces of the Arts and Physics areas except the central entry and stairs area are completely rearranged to suit new requirements. Floor to ceiling heights on the ground and first floors are retained.

While the exterior of Old Hunter is retained a new reinforced concrete shell is built inside it. This, together with concrete floors, provides the necessary earth-quake-resistant strength. The new roof is formed using timber trusses with the possibility of recycled slates. One of the most significant alterations to the Old Hunter area is the introduction of a new floor, to be lit largely from dormer windows in the ceiling.

Drawing of a site plan for Kelburn

Externally the proposals include re-landscaping of the northern and eastern spaces of the site in order to recognise the quality and value of the facades abutting them as well as to better fit them into their changed use in the new Hunter group. West of the restructured buildings, courts and partly enclosed volumes are constructed to match the new western orientation of entry and circulation. The Chemistry/Music wing is pulled down, although many of the building elements are reused in the replacement building.

Diagram of library, arts and physics departments

Planning and Forms

The architects have been struck by the vertical and horizontal clarity of Old Hunter's circulation patterns (compared to the rabbit warren in New Kirk this isn't surprising) and this has been retained with an altered focus. Externally that focus is turned through 180 degrees by means of a new foyer joining the central stairs and the introduction of two new courts alongside. The main Hunter corridor becomes a cloister with windows between substantial columns.

The northern lawn court is generally grassed and planted, and is linked to the landscaped area to the north by means of grassed steps in the gap between Robert Stout and the library. The southern paved court is partially covered, with dense planting in the open corners. This space is not fully enclosed, but is intended to be as nearly as possible an all weather pedestrian focus, in which (according to the study) "staff, students and the public pass, meet and converse". Nice idea, that.

The new vehicle access system sports the familiar "paved and landscaped" look, intended to make it pleasing to both pedestrians and vehicles. It eliminates the present drive past the north end of Hunter, which now directly fronts onto the lawn. The study stresses that each element of the external change at ground level is an essential part of the reversal of focus "on which the proposals hinge". Says the report, "From Kelburn Parade it is the very obliquity of the Hunter group, in contrast with the long run of the parallel facades either side of it, which skillfully enhanced, gives it its interest and advantage."

New Buildings

In addition to the restructured areas, two new buildings are proposed. The smaller one consists of a five storey block joining and opening into the Old Hunter central stairs area. This is the Lecture Tower. It also separates and opens onto the two new courts and rises to a height of a little above the Old Hunter ridges.

The larger new building stands in the area of the present Chemistry/Music wing, next to New Kirk, and is called New Hunter. It is in two parts; the taller western section being of seven stories and the lower eastern section of six stories. The existing bridge to Kirk is replaced with a two-level covered connection (see diagram B). Because vehicles must pass under this it cannot be extended to any other levels, although there is covered access at ground and basement levels.

Diagrams of Hunter building

Diagram of Kirk building bridges

Robert Stout gets a new roof in keeping with the other buildings. This is not necessary but will go some way towards making the building more a part of the complex.

The whole area outside the present front of Hunter is landscaped and paved, and extra parking (needed because the parks outside Robert Stout will go) is provided along the Salamanca Road embankment.

The Hunter lawn is landscaped right up to the library facade, and plonk in the middle of it is placed the Queen Victoria statue, "relocated from where it languishes in the median strip between Kent and Cambridge Terraces." The study goes on to say, "The link between the statue and Victoria University, both commemorating her 60 year reign, is both proper and real, and the city has not been able to provide a suitable location since Post Office Square opposite Queen's Wharf gates, and the original location of the statue, was done away with." The Kelburn Parade edge of the lawn is given a denser planting, "to create a greater sense of enclosure to the grassed space, statue and window."

The drive through system is not a drag circuit, as demonstrated both by the paving and its irregularity (see diagram C). Nevertheless, nowhere is it less than 14 feet in unobstructed width.

Summary of Cost

Says the study, "While other factors also have some influence on the relative costs of the buildings, the cost analysis, both in the above summary and in the detailed breakdown, reveals the economic value of the proposal to retain parts of the Old Hunter buildings." In fact, the study suggests, retaining the facade will itself save \$160,000, in addition to its historic and aesthetic value.

Analysis

It is difficult to say what the general reaction to the study will be. The architects have taken a bold step in producing such a grand scheme, and it will not pass unnoticed at Council that the reversal of focus of the Hunter building, which is central to the whole proposal, involves the necessary construction of the two new buildings. Quite apart from any consideration of the merits of the scheme, the university must look very carefully at whether it needs the extra space. Roll estimates for the next ten years do not show a marked increase, partly due to the fact that the population of tertiary aged people is entering the post-war baby boom decline (sorry about that).

The study itself is founded on one major faulty assumption. In shifting the law library back to the Old Hunter building it goes against the comprehensive attempt of the main library (supported by the university) to gather as much as possible of the library facilities in the university under one roof. Considering that law students would also have all their lectures in the complex the division between law and the rest of the campus would become even more acute, and that is something not to be encouraged.

While there is good reason for each department to contain itself within a specific area, it is unfortunate that the proposed new complex, which in many respects has distinct advantages over every other building on campus, should not be for more general use.

Although new parking areas have been created, they will only increase the total parking available by three. This is not a problem easily solved, but students will recognise that the proposal does not take into account the growing demand for student parking on or near the campus.

Diagram of Kelburn Parade entrance and parking

And the statue? Perhaps the university's history is linked with that of Queen Victoria and various of her monuments. Is that relevant today? Some people might think the statue charming, or fun, but many others will consider it ugly, and an unwelcome symbol of an empire now almost gone and certainly not to be admired. But then again, those who wander into a toilet cubicle with five minutes to fill and find the walls already covered will have something else to break their pen nibs on now. Or is that the plan?

Simon Wilson

Drawing of Hunter building from the South

We Gave so Much...

Raglan and the Maori Land Land Struggle

It would be true to say that in the last year or so Maori land grievances have surely come to the fore. The stand at Bastion Point and the struggle over the Raglan golf course have clearly shown this. This takes place against a background of mounting protest against many aspects of the present social system.

The stand that Maoris are taking says simply this: that during the past 150 years, the Maori people have seen their 66 million acres of land systematically stripped from them by deception, division, and to this very day, force. Added up, that leaves two million acres. Nothing has changed in the way of acquiring Maori land, as far as the powers that be are concerned.

So, understandably, Maori anger and frustration is being expressed in a protest that is uniting more and more Maori people and winning many Pakehas. This can only horrify the people responsible for the land robbery, since they sponsor the idea that this is a Maori versus pakeha problem, there by deepening this division, that enables them to carry on exploiting and stealing Maori land. This is the policy of "divide and rule", or, as Bastion Point has shown, "divide and grab".

Even with over one hundred years of representation in parliament, nothing has been done to stop the theft of Maori land.

Pakeha Hostility to Maori Socialism

Where were the four Maori representatives in Parliament when Henry Sewell stated "The object of the Native Lands Act was twofold - to bring the great bulk of the lands which belonged to the Maoris within reach of colonisation. The other great object was the de-tribalisation of the Maoris, - to destroy, if it were possible, the principle of communism which ran through the whole of their institution upon which their social system was based, and which stood as a barrier in the way of all attempts to amalgamate the Maori race into our social and political system. It was hoped by the individualisation of titles to land giving them the same individual ownership which we ourselves possessed they would lose their communistic character and that their social status would become assimilated to our own."

The communal, or communistic sharing of land is essential to the identity of the Maori people. To rob them of their land, they are orphaned into the concrete jungle without identity.

And this is only part of what is happening. Robbed of the land, we are forced into the cities, where parasitic landlords rack-rent us in squalid slums, and parasitic employers exploit our labour for as little return as possible. We are thrust into the self-seeking rat race. From our rich cultural environment we are flung into the shallow self-indulgent neon glitter of capitalist culture.

With insult added to injury, we are abused for being forced into these indignities. We then become targets for racism and police harrassment.

But 150 years of prolonged attack have not wiped out the fighting spirit of the Maori people, as Bastion Point and Raglan are proving. On the contrary, they have tempered and steeled it.

The "might is right" mentality shown by the Minister of Lands, Venn Young, when he rubber-stamped the final order to clear Bastion Point of its defenders; his hiding behind the veil of laws passed in his favour; his pretence that this was "justice"; all this was of course in order, according to the tradition of his forbears.

And all he can say on summing up the eviction was "necessary - regrettable - sorry". This from the same man who today farms under the shadow of the Taranaki mountain - confiscated Maori land that he now grows fat on - and all he can say is "sorry". That's the kind of attitude the Maori have been confronted with in their quest for what land they have left. We are not the lawbreakers - the real criminals are the ones who have taken the wealth of the land from the Maori people, and with it our language, culture and identity.

I, myself, can hold no title of land. What dirt I can identify with is under my fingernails, and that would probably be taken too if they could pass an Act to do it. So understandably I know fully the injustices, frustration and grief expressed, that has been voiced to the powers that be - the fruitless trips to Maori affairs, only to be bamboozled by the system, so that they can get their hands on Maori land. And we, the generations following, have had to sit back and watch.

So is it any wonder that things are happening today. The "Maori myth", as many want to describe it, proved in the Hamilton Court in the Raglan dispute, where charges were dismissed against the 17 land patriots arrested in relation to unlawful trespass charges brought forward by golf club big shots, is in fact here, alive, living.

The court victory, where the magistrate found the lease of the land to be invalid, was after all a property issue won on a bourgeois point of law, but under the circumstances, a point worth winning.

The irony here, under the Land Settlement Act of 1952 on which our case was won, was if farm land underwent an ownership change the appropriate tribunal had to be informed of changes in the land use, which they did not.

Here we have a classic example of Acts which have confused many a Maori land owner into not fully understanding. People like the Raglan golf club, who are an elite middle class group, and the local County Council, with supposed knowledge and understanding of such Acts all missed abiding by the land settlement Act. Now, I ask you, how does one with a limited understanding of such Acts expect to know? Even the magistrate and the prosecuting lawyer were confused, as was shown by their floundering efforts to try to convict us.

It would appear from the magistrate's summing up, that under the correct registration of the land, animals may be allowed onto the area, but it seems not Maori people - unless, of course, they are members of the golf club, making them honorary sheep, perhaps, or honorary whites. Confused? So were we!

However, on the basis of the court decision, government should negotiate in a meaningful manner on the basis of handing back the land to the Tainui Awhiro, without cost to the people. That's if the government's genuine, and we know they're not. The \$61,000 question the golf club claims for the improvements shows all the ignorance of their forbears, that they have inherited.

Photo of police and protesters

That was no waste land taken at the time, but the papakainga (home ground) of the Tainui Awhiro, and you never ever hear anything mentioned of the fact that the Raglan County Council have reaped the benefits for

years and years, through golf club fees. The airstrip alone brings in a tidy sum, and nothing is mentioned of the 20 acres gifted to the township of Raglan, where the Council put a motor camp, "Man", the Council is reaping the benefits and profits of that alone in terms of thousands of dollars a year, and more.

What of the proposals put forward by the minister of Lands to the Tainui Awhiro delegation, headed by Eva Rickard on their visit here last week? Seeing another Bastion Point on the horizon, he offers a few crumbs off the table in a desperate attempt to keep it under wraps.

It's no secret to Young and his cronies that the Te Matakite national hui passed a motion for activity to be stepped up, and are at this moment planning to continue the issues of Raglan and Bastion Point. A march at this stage is a possibility, either from Wellington to Raglan, or Auckland to Raglan, or both at the same time, headed by the Tainui Awhiro tribe, to highlight the issues, and to keep them at the front of people's thinking.

Like the 1975 Maori land march, it would call into various maraes en route. The take (*take* —cause) will be the right of the Raglan Maori people to the return of their land without extra payment. After the victory that the 17 land patriots had in the Hamilton court, feeling is very high, and on that we think we can get great numbers of people to support the return of land at Raglan and a reoccupation of Bastion Point.

The authorities would be hard-pressed to move these people both from the Raglan golf course and Bastion Point. If the government thinks it's all swept under the carpet, they had better wake up to the fact now that no more will we tolerate these injustices that the Maoris have faced in their continuous struggle for their land.

We welcome this chance with open arms to put the government on trial before public thinking. Never before have we had a better chance to expose to the people the injustices perpetrated on Maori land, in this case the Tainui Awhiro, whose land was taken under the war emergency act and never returned. It will give a lead to people whose land was taken under the same Act at that time.

Morally and legally the Raglan land struggle is clear cut both ways. The land was handed over on two conditions: that is, that it be returned after the war, and that the urupa (cemetery) was never to be disturbed. And of course, in keeping with the best of British tradition the land has not been returned and the sacred burial ground that was never to be disturbed is today the 15th and 18th hole. And without thought or feeling, people continue to play golf over those bodies. They continue to tee off from there, and with all the arrogance the pakeha can muster, the people at the top of the economic ladder in this country have continued in their arrogant way to desecrate our people in that area. It's not just a rape of a culture, it's much more than that.

To sum up a small part of that struggle, it could be said that the only question arguable is the amount of money in compensation that the government has demanded. That alone signifies the ownership of Tainui Awhiro land. However, as Eva Rickard has continually said, if any compensation is to be paid it should be the other way, towards them and not away, and that the government are under a greater moral obligation to compensate rather than vica versa. It's certainly unusual in any circumstances for a thief to demand compensation for the return of stolen goods!

Let me give you Tama Poata's parallel here. The rental car people, when they rent their cars out, don't pay people to rent them, them. And in this case the government is demanding that the Tainui Awhiro people pay some money for someone using their own land.

The facts are quite clear: the Maori people of Tainui Awhiro have played their part in making Raglan what it is today, for the enjoyment of all. But their suffering has gone far enough. Raglan is a seaside resort, a place of middle-aged, retired people. But it's also the home of the Tainui Awhiro. All they want is what's rightfully theirs; all they want to do is to live on that land; they don't want any extra. For more than 30 years now, the Awhiro people have been deprived of their property, deprived of joining their ancestors and deprived of having the benefits of housing and a marae on their sacred land.

And still, the government favours the golf club, even after the decision of their Court of law has found the lease to be invalid. After continually emphasizing all along the importance of the lease the golf club held, illegally, the Minister of Lands has continued to talk about the "innocent party", the "meat in the sandwich". But now with the court decision favouring us fractionally in relation to the lease, as far as the land rights organisation is concerned the party is over, the meat in the sandwich has all been eaten, it's time to leave.

Hirini (Barney) Pikari

Te Matakite O Aotearoa

I've had enough

of men who beat upon my heart
like it's some sort of toy
to throw around the room . . .

those men who break in
and shatter the walls
of glass around it
for some cheap thrill

I've had enough
of being some ego-tripper's
latest shot
to keep him high for a day or two . . .

and of men who see me
as a wild horse
enjoy the chase
then move along

I'm not your whore
to pull off your vanity
I'm not the mistress
to come home to
I'm not a creature
to be hunted
I'm a woman
and you're hurting.

D. Lilburne

Banana Custard

When you mince up
your words and
squash them into
biteable bits and
post them to me,
the baby, one
by
one
on a big spoon
— opens wide —
I am furious and will
one day

spit them
out
all over
your
tight
face
and tell you
I cannot
swallow them
all
at
once.

Jane Odlin

Enigma

Is no-one near you,
can no-one hear you
in this big concrete bag
blown up by the air of a
thousand mouths; lecturing,
and held tight by the chance to
get a good job and not have to be
like the girls working in McKenzies.
Walk along the dotted line
in your blue biro sneakers,
and sign yourself to the task
of stretching your brain.
Like Wiener Schnitzel, we'll pull
it and roll it with a milk bottle,
to remove the fat.
Say you'll never wander, and I'll
give you the world, wrapped
in a black ribbon,
when the heads are nid-nodding
in square black party hats.
Go on, let your hair grow,
and twist it to a frenzy
as you swot in midwinter hothouse
of library hush hush
books, a million and one,
and none to read.

Jane Odlin

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Non-Communal Parties in M'sia Part 2

The Democratic Action Party was founded on 19 March 1966. The party believed that in order to emerge as a viable and effective entity, the party first had to build up a mass base even if it meant only among the non-Malay communities. The attempt to attract Malays to the party was only to be effected later over a period of time, once the solid support of the non-Malays had been secured. Its evolution is therefore practical but paradoxical.

In the 1969 general elections the party championed the move toward a Malaysian Malaysia. Its three objectives were political democracy, social and economic democracy and cultural democracy. (By political democracy it meant that all citizens, regardless of race, language and religion, must enjoy equal political status, rights and opportunities. Under the concept of social and economic democracy, it sought to eradicate exploitation of man by man, class by class and race by race. But it placed the primary emphasis on cultural democracy for it related to issues of vital interest and concern to the non-Malay communities.) (14).

The DAP presents itself as the sole representatives of the non-Malay communities and it is moving more and more toward communal politics. In the 1969 General Election the DAP won 13 Parliamentary seats. But unfortunately, it lost its appeal to the Malays.

The Gerakan Rakyat is a genuinely non-communal party. To attract the Malay community the party elected a well-known Malay intellectual, Professor Syed Hussein Altas, as the first chairman. It attempted to build its appeal mainly on three bases; non-communalism, moderate socialism and democracy.

The party accepts the special position of the Malays and supports the promotion of Malay as the national language. Thus as a compromise between the demands of the non-Malays and the position of the Malays. It advocated the following interalia to solve the problems;

- to recognise School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations in Chinese and Tamil
- to increase higher secondary educational institutions in the national language.

Even though the party campaign was directed primarily at non-Malay, its 'non-Malay communal' image is less distinctive than DAP or the PPP. Thus pursuing a moderate policy the party was successful in the 1969 elections. The party won 8 parliamentary seats and captured the state government of Penang. But a close analysis of the elections shows that the votes won by the CRM were mainly due to leadership charisma and personality rather than by its non-communal appeal.

Next I would like to examine if non-communalism has contributed significantly to communal harmony. Was racial harmony real and deep-rooted? Did it have a solid basis?

Dr Mahathir observed that there never was true racial harmony. There was a lack of inter-racial strife. There was tolerance. There was accommodation. But there was no harmony. The Malays and the Chinese may live as neighbours. They may meet each other in their daily business and even socially. But when they retire, they retire into their respective ethnic and cultural sanctum, neither of which has been truly breached by the other. And in their own world their values are not merely different but are often conflicting.

This might be because the three major races have nothing in common. Their religion, culture and education are different. As Emerson comments 'divided from each other in almost every respect the people of Malaya have in common essentially only the fact that they live in the same country'

Next the feeling that the Malays alone are the Bumiputra, the sons of the soil, and as such have certain special rights over the country, are very sensitive issues. Tunku Abdul Rahman at one time declared: 'Malaya is for the Malays and it should not be governed by a mixture of races. The Malays must safeguard their rights over this land which is ours for the benefit of future generations.' Harmony is definitely strained when non-communal parties like PPP, DAP and CRM start to question the above issues. The DAP provide the strongest opposition, as the party is committed to obtain racial equality for all races. But the moderate GRM and PPP are now in the Barisan National practising inter-communal politics. But whether non-communal parties will be able to obtain their objectives and promote communal harmony at the same time can only be seen in the future.

Malaysia is therefore in a transitional phenomenon. The Alliance, a coalition of UMNO, MCA and MIC, is based on a quid pro quo arrangement (on the idea of Malay supremacy in the government and the administration of the country as a counter weight to Chinese economic and commercial power). Thus there is little emphasis on the creation of an integrated new society. But there is no serious endangering of communal harmony and straining constitutional democracy because of the great personal influence of the Tengku. The

basic contradiction has been between the demands of the Malays for a position of political supremacy and of the non-Malays for immediate equality of civil rights. As Milne observed it is impossible to separate most issues from communalism because nearly all issues have obvious communal complications.

The crucial consequence has been that non-communal parties have assumed over a period of time the character of essentially non-Malay parties. For example the Labour Party, PIT, UDP and the DAP. And once the process began, the parties got caught in a disastrous vicious circle; the lack of support from Malays started turning them into essentially non-Malay parties (in terms of leadership, rank and file) and thus made them even more unattractive to the Malays. Over the years due to the lack of support from the Malays, the leaders of these non-communal parties have succumbed to the demands and were unable to stop the parties from championing mainly the cause of the non-Malays. But if Malay support had been forthcoming, they could have put forward the view that promoting the cause of the non-Malays in an extreme manner could cost the party its entire Malay membership and support.

But let us examine why there is a lack of Malay support in non-communal political parties. In the post-independence days there was great emphasis on Malay unity, for only through unity could they protect themselves and their interests. As a result few Malays have dared to come out and join non-communal political parties. And when some of them did so they soon found themselves completely cut off from the rank and file of the Malay community so as to be without any popular Malay support, and they became politically ineffective. In fact they became outcasts of the Malay community. An example is the case of Dato Onn bin Jaafar.

The Gerakan Rakyat success in the elections is an encouragement to non-communal parties. The future of non-communal political parties depends on the emergence of a strong middle class instead of ethnic identity. The people must think in terms of a new Malaysian nation. Only then will it be possible for genuinely non-communal political parties to maintain their non-communal character appeal. This is a slow process but it is necessary.

Just an Ordinary Working Girl

In the autumn of 1952, an extraordinary event took place in Edinburgh. It was in the nature of a trial. During a period of forty-five days numerous witnesses, sworn to tell the truth, were closely questioned before judges by the Promotor Fidei, popularly known as the devil's advocate.

One can well imagine the excited comments in the city.

'Who would ever have thought she would come to this! Just an ordinary working girl!'

'Well, many people considered the Little Flower ordinary!'

'But this is different. Margaret Sinclair was born in a slum. It scarcely seems possible that she could have remained unsullied living in such a sordid environment, in contact with coarseness, drunkenness and so on!'

'Ah well, environment is not everything. It's wonderful what God's grace can do. To think that Margaret - Maggie as we used to call her - may one day be glorified as a saint.'

For the extraordinary event referred to was no less than an Apostolic Process authorized by the Pope to determine whether this Margaret Sinclair, a Scots working girl, had reached so high a degree of sanctity that she was entitled to be called Blessed, a step which might lead in due course to her canonization.

Reared in Poverty

Born in a two-roomed basement situated in Middle Arthur Place, Edinburgh, on March 29th 1900, she had been reared amid sordid surroundings and in abject poverty. Yet that poor home had held its treasures. Margaret herself, in after years, would sum it up by saying of a wealthy family;

'They may be richer than we but we have the richest of all riches and the best happiness, for we are Catholics and have such a good father and mother.'

Her mother, a Catholic, had won Andrew Sinclair to the faith before her marriage to him. As a scavenger or dustman earning twenty-one shillings a week, theirs was a hard struggle for they had six children, John, Bella, Margaret, Andrew, Lizzie and Lawrence. At times their good and hard-working mother was subject to fits of depression. Kneeling beside her the three-year-old Margaret would plead:

'Dinna give way, Mother. Beat me if you like, Mother, but Dinna give way.'

At other times she would murmur: 'I wish I was a big girl so that I could help you.'

'Always trying to do something for ye from her youngest day,' declared the mother afterwards.

Image of Margaret Sinclair holding books

Drama Preview

Shakespeare Performance

To coincide with the Shakespeare Festival Fancy's Child now running at Downstage Theatre, Victoria University Drama Studies department is presenting *The Taming of the Shrew* as its major production for this year.

The play, directed by David Carnegie, will be presented in its entirety including the often cut 'Christopher Sly' scenes. The story of *Kate and Petruchio* is presented as a play-within-a-play by an all female cast performing in the style of *commedia dell'arte*.

Commedia dell'arte was an extravagant and exuberant style of performance popular in Italy from the 16th to 18th centuries. It incorporates wild and colourful costumes, grotesque masks, and a broad, exaggerated, comic acting style.

With this basic approach and the energy and enthusiasm of those students taking part, the production promises to be an exciting, lively and very entertaining treatment of one of Shakespeare's best known comedies.

The Taming of the Shrew opens at Drama House, 93 Kelburn Parade, on Tuesday 1st August at 8 pm and runs each night until the 6th. There will be one matinee on Sunday 6th August at 2 pm. Because of limited seating capacity, students are advised to book by ringing 721-000 ext 693 between 9 am and 5 pm.

Careers

'Milkround' Progress Report

Bookings to "talk jobs" with visiting employers have been heavier than in previous years. In the first week alone there were some 230 interviews held with chartered accountancy firms. However, now we are into the more wide-ranging sector of industrial and public employers, interviews have not been so fully booked - perhaps an ironic situation, in view of the fact that the BCA/Accountancy people actually face less difficulty than any other academic sector in locating jobs. Maybe this is partly because arts/science people have greater difficulty in identifying which areas to explore. This is what the interviews are all about. Use them to investigate ideas, possibilities for the future ... you don't have to be committed to a particular employment sector to visit its representative employers.

VUW Programme 4, covering Monday 31 July to Friday 4 August is now also available at the Library, Careers office, Union office and other pickup points.

There are a few interview slots available for most of this week's programme, reproduced below. Come along to the Careers office, 6 Kelburn Parade, grab a few forms, and educate yourself about what lies beyond Roger Bartley— Careers Adviser.

Music

Old as Mozart and Still Performing

The Kirkman harpsichord had an airing in a lunchtime concert on July 6th. This valuable eighteenth-century instrument is owned by the Music Department and during the 1960s was heard frequently in concerts. A few years of enforced idleness have now ended as the harpsichord has been carefully restored by a visiting English harpsichord specialist with co-operation from Peter Mirams of Wellington. Restoration work involved repair of parts damaged by general wear and tear as well as correction of some misguided alterations made in England some years ago.

The concert began with a work by French Baroque composer, Andre Campre. Roy Tankersley played the harpsichord with Geoffrey Coker (counter tenor) and Robert Oliver (harpsichord) completing the ensemble. Admirably balanced to compliment and enhance the individual sonorities, the whole was rich in texture with an

overall freshness.

Other items in this programme of music by French composers were (somewhat predictably) by Debussy and Ravel, played however with the special sensitivity necessary for the French style. Rosemary Quinn and Christine Archer played Debussy's Six Epigraphes Antiques for piano duet, and Marion Olsen (mezzo soprano) and Margaret Nielsen (piano) played Cinq Melodies Populaires Grecques by Ravel.

Australian Contemporary Music

A solo recital given by Australian pianist David Lockett on July 11th provided a welcome opportunity to hear some contemporary music for piano. A staff member of Murrumbidgee Park College in Adelaide, Lockett played works by Haydn, Liszt and two contemporary Australians, Richard Meale and Larry Sitsky. Meale's Coruscations was first performed by Roger Woodward who so astounded NZ audiences two years ago by his avant garde material. Composed in 1971, the work now seems hardly avant garde, though still tremendously exciting with its brilliant splashes of percussive light and shade.

In contrast, Sitsky's Fantasia in memory of Egon Petri, is a powerfully introspective work, again however, full of contrasting material, sombre chords constantly interrupting the fantasia. Overall form was highly structured while performances generally were characterised by sound technique, warmth and intimacy of style:

Quartetto Beethoven di Roma — Delayed Action

When distinguished overseas artists mount the platform of the Wellington Town Hall, the hush which precedes the opening bars has a quality of expectancy almost visible. And the initial impact of such professionals is immediate. The audience responds with a metaphorical sigh of appreciation, puts its feet up and settles down to enjoy the music.

The first piano quartet on the programme (Piano Quartet no 3 in C) was particularly interesting, first because it was written in 1785 when Beethoven was only 15, and secondly in being among the earliest examples of music written for this medium. The true stamp of Beethoven is surely there in rich melody and harmonies, the variety and inventiveness. The performers were clearly masterly in their technique, but where was the sparkle? Occasional, all too brief flashes of brilliance so tantalising, but worrying.

Only one item followed the interval, Faure's Piano Quartet no I in C minor op 15 — a bit of an unknown quantity. The audience was restless. Suddenly, the Town Hall came alive. Glorious, seemingly endless melody unfolded and delighted with its contrapuntal complexity and subtle harmonies. I could hear the viola perfectly. The work showed precisely that elusive quality of grace and charm which is supposed to epitomize French music at its best, exciting from the pizzicato of the Scherzo to the poignant Adagio.

Applause was ecstatic and the performers, instead of looking as they had earlier as if they'd like to go home and watch TV, seemed pleased with themselves and sat down and played a Brahms Scherzo as an encore, with great gusto. Thank goodness for Faure.

Again in the Mozart Piano Quartet in F minor, op. 2 which followed came the same disquiet. Also written in 1785, one of his only two piano quartets, the Mozart work was clearly that of a master in his prime. The ease and grace of melody and form, the serenity, but with always the feeling of deep power and uncompromising integrity. Yet why was this quality not fully transmitted? Was it the acoustics, I wondered, barely able to hear the viola, usually given such rich parts by Mozart, the violist. I didn't blame a man nearby who went to sleep.
Julia Millen

Evolving Stones

Some Girls

The Rolling Stones

The Stones non-musical image has changed; 'The dirty unwashed enemies of public society' now arrive via the same pages of Australian Women's Weekly as news of Princess Caroline nuptials.

Black and Blue was rum and coke music, very much a West coast sound and on the trend it seemed quite possible that their next record would be even more mushy. The further west you go in the US the closer to the Bee Gees noise you become. But despite the transistors renditions of 'Miss You' which doesn't do justice to the

depth of sound this album is not really 'Maid back'. Jagger may look cute and charming on Radio with Pictures as he grins through 'Far Away Eyes' but the other tracks are less witty and sung with snarl reminiscent of the 'Let it Bleed' period.

If you enjoy the Stones, this record is very much their stuff (the future of rock and roll of #64). They can still produce that sound and here it is again all tastefully wrapped in a clever sleeve; hours of guessing as to the selection of felt pen coloured faces.

The Rolling Stones music no longer has a uniform identity. After the last three albums only the most cliché addicted would instantly classify them rhythm and blues. Their sound is complex and for the uninitiate some listening may be required before any affinity is felt, but if you don't know their music this is as good as any to buy.

For the initiate who may be wondering if 'Some Girls' is worth the cost, our opinion is that it is. 'Miss You' isn't at its best on the radio — the Stones produce a layer of sound on sound to a much greater depth than most; on the radio the surface may be catchy but when we first heard it on that medium the horrible thought was that Disco had attracted yet another big name, (Another big name had contracted disco). But although the tune isn't the best on the album, ('Some Girls' got the vote) it is better than expected.

As with all Stones albums, the range of tracks is considerable (the other reason, to unpredictability of general concept, that they are so difficult to classify simply). 'Some Girls' is Rhythm and Bluesy; 'When the Whip Comes Down' more rocky, and 'Far Away Eyes' countryish.

Broadly the tracks separate into two styles: the atavistic numbers — 'Respectable', 'Shattered', 'When The Whip Comes Down' and 'Lies'. Vocals, strong on vigorous backing, in particular these tracks are notable for a fast energy (the Sex Pistols of the 60s, remember?) But not even amidst these four is there consistency of quality — after the theme line has been repeated 30 times in 4 minutes, even the most avid waits for some relief in the next example.

Most albums contain some fill — those forgotten tracks which when played occasionally on the radio, force us to try and recall which collection they came with — such a track is 'When the Whip...'. 'Far Away Eyes' continues the country trend, but is a little more tongue-in-cheek than, for example, 'Country Honk' on 'Let it Bleed'.

The other flavour is the modern Stones 'Beast of Burden' and 'Imagination' would fit on Black and Blue, but 'Before They Make Me Run' and 'Some Girls', although in this vein, have continued a real strength of vocals and density of instrumental to suggest that the Stones are moving on and not losing anything by the change. Chuck Berry has shown that adaptation isn't necessary for survival in the music biz, and Led Zeppelin have proved that quality isn't either, but the Stones are slowly evolving — we can't yet tell where — without becoming decadent and excessive.

This year has seen excellent albums abound, whatever your taste. This record can be seen in excellent contrast to the hideous tracks on the radio, so dominated by Disco Fever; also this record can rumble pleasantly in the background or add a little energy to a loud party - two uses for the price of one.

The Stones don't really stand as innovative, their roots are indistinct now, and the other groups of their epoch are gone or very altered, it makes them difficult to compare and difficult to even place in a context. If you don't like the Stones this record won't affect you but its content is very much of the type - heavy voiced Jagger and thick strong back-up. Thank heaven there are no symbols of comfortable wealthy indulgence, such as 15 minute drum solos.

Tim Brown

David McLean

Shameless Nostalgia

Jesus of Cool

Nick Lowe

The cover of this album really sums up its contents. Six photos of Lowe dressed in a style parodying the

artists of the 60s. In one he looks like the peace-love period of the Move, in another he is grinning in all the boyish exuberance of a Peter Noone. In the corner of each photo is a jumble of letters that, deciphered, read "pure pop for now people" and that's exactly what this record is about. It is a blatant and shameless copy of the pop music of the 60s with an injection of Lowe's own teasing lyrics.

Every track on this album recalls the halcyon days of the 60s. Lowe's lyrics are incisive and wrapped in an enticing melodic structure that disguises what is very often rather morbid. Lowe's voice is not very strong, he relies on multi-tracking and harmonies to give it some depth, however that is not necessarily a weakness. His soft whispery style sounds rather like Peter Noone's (RIP "Sleepy Joe").

The single off the album shows how Lowe can treat a murky subject. "I Love the Sound of Breaking Glass" is mellifluous and extremely listenable - the only connection between the music and the lyrics comes through a solitary tambourine sound. One is led to believe that the singer is not really serious about the subject. In fact it's deliberately repetitive yet light melody stands as a parody of contemporary new wave songs that deal with similar topics in a way that brings a real (almost painful at times) connection between lyric and melody/beat.

"Little Hitler" deliberately recalls B. J. Kramer's "Little Children" in melody and vocal delivery, yet its lyrics deal with what is almost the precise opposite. "Shake and Pop" is a rock and roll type song similar to countless others produced in the 60s. In "Tonight", a typical teenage love ballad, Lowe sounds exactly like Peter Noone. "Marie Provost" is a deliberate parody of songs that Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich used to sing.

The song that I found most appealing was "Nuttled by Reality" — a song about Castro. The song begins by attacking the Soviet puppet's masculinity, "Well I heard they castrated Castro, Heard they cut off everything he had...". The song begins with a virile reggae type beat but after Castro's plight has been described the song breaks into a commercial poppy calypso typical of Paul Simon. The song is about how what began as something laudable (Castro's 'spirit') has become nuttled by reality. The melody mirrors this change. The song's tune is inoffensively pop, in fact it would have made the charts in the 'good ole days' before disco and Abba.

What is Lowe trying to do? Is he attacking the old pop music or praising it? I suspect that the album is tongue in cheek but despite that I can sense the twisted sort of admiration this guy has for the 60's pop. It's a great album if you're a sucker (like I am) for the British pop of the #60s However like most of that music it becomes a bit boring after you've heard it countless times. Don't let that put you off the album because it really is a great party album and Lowe will pick up a lot of fans once the word gets round. There is nothing profound in the album, just a shameless and light-hearted romp with the past.

Paul McHugh

The great Salient short story competition As part of its 40th anniversary celebrations Salient invites short story writers to submit entry or entries of their choice for the great Salient short story competition. There will be one prize: a book grant from the Victoria Book Centre of an amount as undisclosed. Judging will be done by suitably qualified people. Entries must be submitted by September 1st, typed, double spaced on one side of the paper only. Maximum length: 2,000 words. The competition is not open to Salient staff.

Film Festival

NZ Film Excellent

A State of Seige

directed by Vincent Ward

Five-fifteen on the last day of the Festival was an all New Zealand session, and for my money it took the cake. Vincent Ward's first major film A State Of Seige was billed as the feature (although only seven minutes longer than Richard Turner's Two River's Meet which preceded it) and in many ways it turned out to be the finest piece of New Zealand film making I have ever seen. What made it so successful?

The answer is quite simple: Ward and his crew knew how to use the medium of film. They managed to translate Janet Frame's story, which is securely grounded in the medium of literature (words) into their own story, created out of light and shade, movement and stillness, expression and depiction.

Frame's novel concerns Malfred Signal, a newly retired Art teacher who has spent her life in a closed South Island township, teaching (or rather, telling) girls to paint and draw shadow, painting landscape water-colours without any people in them, and latterly, nursing her dying mother. She is a spinster, alone, living on quietly nurtured, unexciting dreams, and now at 53, later than everyone else, wanting to be free.

So she sells the family house and buys a cottage on Karemoana Island, "up North". Five days after she arrives a storm blows up, at night, and someone comes knocking at her door. The knocking, the storm, and the sound of the prowler swishing through the long grass, continue all night.

Photo of Anne Flannery in Vincent Ward's 'State of Seige'

Her power is cut off at the outside main, and as the night develops Malfred's fear, and the methods she uses to control it, drive her deeper and deeper into her hidden memories. Morning comes, a stone is thrown through the window trapped in newspaper on which Malfred sees an unintelligible poem and the crayoned words "Help, Help". Three days later they find her, cold hand clutching the cold stone, dead.

The strength of the novel is in the way Frame develops each memory, moving surely but unobtrusively from the public to the private, allowing us to understand Malfred's hopes and fears, not through the terror of the night so much as in the way Malfred explains things, rationalises them and has come to live with them. Thus the presence of Wilfred, the one person with whom she has ever shared "a darker undercurrent" in a friendship, is scarcely mentioned in the first half of the book. Yet by the end this man, who has justified her being able to say "I have known love", with whom she went walking, riding and who kissed her once in the fern house before leaving for the war and not returning, has come right to the forefront of her imagination. It could even be him outside; rather, if it were him outside returned from the dead, she wouldn't let him in.

Malfred's thought processes correspond, on a slower time scale, with the popular idea of what happens when one dies and the seige she experiences that night in the cottage reflects the beseiging of her life by the outside world.

The film does not go into this in any great detail. Much of the simplification is circumstantial: we see little of Malfred's encounters with other people on Karemoana or her memories of events down South. This simplification is made inevitable by the low budget, but the remarkable thing is that instead of taking shortcuts the film makers have altered the nature of the story to render the extra details unnecessary.

Running at only 54 minutes *A State Of Seige* is of short story length and works splendidly as such. The film opens with an extended sequence of an old and battered bus doing the afternoon school run along the Wairarapa coast. Gone are all the conversations and experiences of the book's journey to Karemoana. In their place we see a middle aged woman dislocated from her environment, coping as only a person who has always known this dislocation can do.

This sets the method by which the film as a story develops. The particularities which make the story are reduced to generalities, but they are not stereotyped. Many things ensure this. Firstly, Malfred's possessions, (her photographs, teapot and cup, clothes, books) are very carefully and exquisitely established in our minds. This is done by a generally close, moving camera, which pans continuously from Malfred to mantle piece, lampshade to Malfred. . . thus although we only learn of her experiences in a generalised way (with one or two exceptions) the detail of her present existence is more than enough to establish her reality.

The second insurance against stereotyping is the acting. Anne Flannery as Malfred has an extremely difficult job, creating a character with very little resort to words, who is literally scared to death, yet who all the while maintains a mental rationalisation and "mature" exterior as a defense. In a sense Malfred's mind unravels but it doesn't become untidy. Flannery captures this brilliantly, her expression, timing and depth of feeling playing a central role in the film's success.

While there is little dialogue, sound does have a vital role. All the natural sounds are acutely heard, and together with John Cousin's music are to the fore in establishing the tension and mood. These sounds also contribute greatly to the particularisation of the events.

There is one other aspect to the film which overrides everything else: the tone. In the opening sequence, the bus does not merely trundle along but appears in all its bloated dilapidation somewhat like a hippopotamus. In a word it is fascinating, and this fascination draws us into the film, into the cottage, into the mind of Malfred Signal.

Much of the credit for this must go to photographer Alun Bollinger. Whether gliding round the rooms of the cottage, capturing in extraordinary close-ups Malfred's eye or hand, or challenging the brutal pounding sea, Bollinger's camerawork is a powerful evocation of light, colour and shape, and most of all shadow. It represents in fact, all the years Malfred has spent in teaching girls to paint and never succeeding: it is her sustaining belief, her world.

Right near the end of the film, Malfred picks up the stone thrown through the window. Where once she told girls to see the stone, see its shadow, she now touches it, holds it. The film captures this moment superbly, and if the end follows suddenly after, on reflection, there really seems no way it could have gone on. To return to the short story analogy, such an ending often achieved by a sudden revelation or twist in meaning. Here, the revelation exists, but it follows naturally from the film and is in the fullest sense a proper conclusion.

A State of Seige is a remarkable achievement, by all who created its parts and by Vincent Ward and producer Timothy White (the joint screenwriters) who put it all together. If it is shown again, see it.

Simon Wilson

Stark Realism

Mean Streets

Directed by Martin Scorsese

I did not find Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets* an easy film to watch. In fact, it grated in the worst possible way against my comfortably smug middle class feelings of ease and security. I remember walking out of *Taxi Driver* in a similar mood. I should have been prepared for what *Mean Streets* dished out.

The film kicks off on a high note. An oddly appropriate Phil Spector number overlays a brief title sequence, after which short snippets of film introduce the main characters. Harvey Keitel is Charley, apprentice mafioso and nephew to the local Godfather. Robert DeNiro plays Johnny Boy, a young thug with a death wish who blows up mail boxes for kicks. The two are a part of New York's Little Italy — the 'mean streets' of the title. Thugs, hookers and winos seem to make up the rest of the community which has long since gone rotten.

The disturbing feature of the film is the degree to which the spectator is made to feel personally involved. With a vivid documentary style Scorsese drags his audience, kicking and screaming, right into the heart of Little Italy. Starkly, economically, he shows us how a harsh, futile environment comes to breed callous, futile people. Semblances of honour and respect, which the Mafia once claimed, have become a grotesque joke — a charade which can scarcely be maintained. Gone are the days of luxury and privilege. The mafiosi of *Mean Streets* steal dope money from punks. They bicker and fight amongst themselves. In one scene Charley and his boys are beaten up by the overweight manager of a pool hall they attempt to collect protection money from.

Because for large portions of its length the film is content to meander, the sudden spurts of action which do occur are jarring. The violence of various scenes is reinforced and made more shocking by contrast with the seemingly indifferent pace of other sequences. Scorsese was to later employ this technique of contrasting action to create the horrific finale of *Taxi Driver*.

Another point that Scorsese likes to emphasise is that when people are shot, they do not often die immediately. Kung Fu's David Carradine makes a short and bloody appearance in *Mean Streets*. He is shot in the back (well, all over in fact) by a vengeful punk and seems to take forever to expire. It froze my innards to watch. Whatever happened to the quick, clean *All American Death*?

A weakness of *Mean Streets* is its sketchy development of character and motivation, the dialogue, often improvised, is idiomatic, incoherent; mumbled obscenities, albeit sociologically correct, throw little light on relationships. Hints at family loyalty do not fully explain Charley's obsessive reluctance to abandon Johnny Boy to his inevitable fate. Nevertheless their relationship, at least in narrative terms is supposed to be of pivotal importance. Fortunately Keitel and De Niro are superb actors. Their performance, complemented by uniformly good acting from the rest of a 'streetwise' cast, tends to compensate for the lightness of the script.

Furthermore Scorsese is blest with the abilities of cinematographer Kent Wakeford. Wakeford cheerfully and successfully breaks every known rule of movie photography in the course of the film. Insinuating his camera into the characters' lives he gets as close to the ideal of viewer participation (as opposed to passive observation) as is possible in an ostensibly fictional film. Wakeford excels in very difficult lighting situations, such as bar interiors. A wide angle view of Harvey Keitel, bathed in red light, lurching across a dance floor in an alcoholic haze, which is unforgettable.

Although Scorsese has succeeded in conveying a feeling for little Italy on the screen, he has done so only at the cost of cutting his film's dramatic interest. Story development is subjugated in a frenzied drive to create realism of atmosphere and setting. Magnificent as documentary, '*Mean Streets*' is sheer hell as entertainment.

Don't go to this film looking for a good night out.

Costa Botes

More Sexploitation

Street of Joy

directed by Tatsumi Kumashiro

One is lead to expect great things from *Street of Joy*, expecially when it earned Tatsumi Kumashiro the distinction of Japan's Best Director for 1975.

Unfortunately it is difficult to take his "uninhibited look at prostitution in Japan" even remotely seriously. The fault is not his subject matter (the lives of five prostitutes in a brothel) nor his film-making skills — the

camera work is excellent; rather his choice of what should be portrayed so emphatically on the screen.

Instead of building on a well-written script that most directors could have a field-day over, Kumashiro sought to de-emphasise the protagonists' point of view with his exceptionally long takes of the women at their work accompanied by a soundtrack of loud sensual noises. What could have been a sympathetic insight into the lives of hard-working whores is reduced to a marathon of fornication.

The sub-plots that relate love and marriage, youth and old-age to the profession, are depicted in a very witty manner, but are distressingly superficial. For the film's relatively short running time, such episodes only amounted to brief insignificant interludes.

The fact that there was a small migration of the Festival audience to the Exit would in all likelihood be Kumashiro's least worry. His sex ploited film assures commercial success (which it has enjoyed in Japan and Europe). It is simply distressing that the Japanese Film Industry honoured him for it. Like the comic strips inter spliced within the film, Street of Joy is a very sad joke.

Kevin John Young

Cooking

Varied Vegetables

Meat, potatoes, green peas, boiled carrots and mucilagenous silver beet can become boring even to your average New Zealander. Most of us seem to regard greens like pills, necessary but distasteful. This can often be traced back to a boarding school or home upbringing of boiled (and boiled and boiled) green vegetables. We in the western world are incredibly wasteful of edible (and potentially enjoyable) meats and vegetables. For example there are few who would consider eating red beet or bean leaves, let alone pumpkin, caulin flower or broccoli leaves. Yet Zambians make a delicious meal by chopping, salting and boiling such leaves with a handful of finely chopped nuts. For those of you without quite such adventurous tastes here is one of my favourite "green" meals.

Broccoli with Mock Hollandaise Sauce

Begore giving you the recipe it is worth noting that all cabbage-like veges contain sulphur which, with boiling, can form distasteful compounds. It is therefore essential to keep boiling to an absolute minimum. Unless you have a steamer, of pressure cooker try placing veges in rapidly boiling water and boil only until soft (no longer than ten minutes usually).

You will need for 4-6 people:

- 3/4 kg of broccoli cooked until stems are soft.

While this is cooking you can make sauce, for which you will need:

- 2 tablespoons margarine
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 egg

Melt margarine in a saucepan, blend in flour, sugar and salt. Stir in water and vinegar and cook until thickened. Let cool slightly and add beaten egg. Sauce may be reheated but do not boil.

Another quick and easy method of cooking green vegetables is stir-frying. This is particularly useful for those who cannot face the thought of boiled greens. Try the following quick recipe.

Stir Fried Broccoli

Fry 1 small onion until browned, add 1 lb broccoli (cut into small pieces) and stir-fry for 3 minutes. For sauce combine:

- 1/2 cup chicken broth (or other stock)
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch

Add to cooked broccoli and stir-fry for another minute.

These recipes are open to all sorts of variations. For example why not try other vegetables such as cauliflower, cabbage or brussel sprouts?

Alf Harris

Chess

This week I offer a solution to all those students who are having trouble spending their STB cheques. It is I admit only a partial solution, involving an outlay of just seven dollars — that being the entry fee for the Upper Hutt 40/40 Tournament which is being held on Saturday 29th July.

In a 40/40 Tournament each player is allotted 40 minutes to make all his/her moves, if your, 40 minutes elapses before the game is over you lose. The tournament is divided into three grades, the C-grade being designed to cater for those with little or no club experience. Those interested can pick up entry forms at the Salient office.

The position in this week's column occurred a few years ago in the B-grade of the Wellington Interclub Tournament and was won by Mark Evans, a student who has since "made good" and now exults in the ratified atmosphere of the A-grade. White's advantage is of course decisive but Mark found the most attractive winning line with 1. Ng4, h5; 2. Re5!-(threatening 3. Rh5 to which Black's next is no defence) hg4; 3. Rh5! gh5 (else 4. Rh8 mate); 4. Qg5 ch., Kh8; 5. Qh6 ch. and Black resigned.

Chess board

Curious Continuations

(sponsored by Paramount and Penthouse. Cinemas)

In this week's problem Black is to play and win. Solutions should be handed in at the Salient office by mid-day Wednesday. The first correct solution drawn out of a hat wins the prize of a double pass to either the Paramount or Penthouse Cinemas.

For last week's problem I unfortunately chose a position with two distinct winning lines. The first one, which most entrants chose, began with I...Rf2; which leads to a quick mate. The line I had envisaged was: 1..Qg2 ch.; 2. Kg2, Rg3, ch.; 3. Kh2, Rg2 ch.; 4. Khl. Rh2 ch.; 5. Kgl, Rhl mate.

Last week's winner was Phillip Savage.

Tickets can be picked up at the Salient office.

In last week's column I forgot to insert the name of the winner of the preceding week's problem. Apologies to all entrants and particularly to Peter Hawkes who won.

Chess board

David Beach.

DOWNSTAGE THEATRE VARNISHED FACES A theatre-in-education 'Approach to the Merchant' devised and performed by The Stage Company Late Night Friday 28 July and Saturday 29 July **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** (scenes of *Flesh and Gold*) First production of **FANCY'S CHILD: a festival of Shakespeare** July 19th—October 7th

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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. C'nr Lambton and Customhouse Quays Phone 725-099 ext. 702. Bank of New Zealand Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand

Recreation Centre

Skiing

A few Tips on Accident Prevention for Beginners and Recreational Skiers.

It is not the steep slope and your dare-devil uncontrolled speed that injures knees, ankles, and legs. Most accidents occur at slow speeds. In nine cases out of ten injury to your legs is caused by your bindings being too tight. It takes you ten seconds to check your bindings and ten days for a simple sprain to heal. Its worth the effort.

How to Check your Bindings

Your bindings have a fitting for the toe of your boot and one for the heel. Look at these two fittings - know them, and their simple adjustment. Most bindings have a toe release which swings side to side, and a heel release which goes up and down. You must adjust these two to suit your strength. Don't rely on the Ski-hire form, your friend, your grandmother, or anyone else.

Its simple, its necessary and as easy as doing up your rip. Grasp the toe release, and swing it to the side. You should be able to do this with one hand only. Your hand. If you can't release it with a bit of a shove, ease off the screw until you can. After your first few days, perhaps you can tighten the toe mechanism just a little. For the beginner, don't worry - the adjustment screw stares you in the face. Don't be frightened to use it, and don't rely on any adjustment other than the one you personally make, using your own wrist strength as the measure.

The heel mechanism usually has two adjustments, the first adjusts to the length of your boot. The toe of your boot should not be jammed in mercilessly. It should be snug and tight when you step into the ski. The second heel adjustment allows you to be released if you fall forwards. Adjust this so you can pull your heel up and out with a jerk — then tighten it just a little.

As a check get a friend to kick your toe when you are standing on your ski. With this jar, the toe release should operate. If you keep falling out of your skis on the slope - just bring a small coin out of your pocket and tighten-up, ever so little.

An Additional Safety Factor for the Beginner

If you're hiring skis, insist that the length of the ski goes from the floor to your shoulder tip. If they won't give them to you that short - yell at him. If that doesn't work, compromise and accept them up to your ear. Short skis are easy to manage - you can be on the slope on your first day doing simple turns in shorties. You only need length for speed and that comes next time up. Gradually increase your ski length as you improve - but stay in shorties the first season.

Recreational skiers, taking their skis out of the closet need to oil their bindings before stepping onto the slope.

Take it easy during the first few days and have those bindings looser than normal until you're fit and in command.

Next week a note on preventing collisions, fitness, how to fall and enjoy it, and clothing.

Sport

The Tramping Club Marches on

Do you know that the Victoria University of Wellington Tramping Club actually does exist? And not just as an excuse for socialising either. We do go tramping, and climbing.

The Club was founded in 1921 (just two years after the Tararua Tramping Club) and has been going ever

since, though not always strongly. Over the years the Club has suffered the normal ups and downs of all University clubs but has always managed to survive, often by the skin of its teeth.

At the moment, when compared to a few years ago, we are suffering a depression in the numbers of members and in the activities of the Club. This could be due to many reasons and probably all are important. First, there has been a heavy work load on students since the introduction of internal assessment, giving people the excuse of having assignments to do whenever a trip is suggested. Second, the financial position of students is not as good as it once was and there is the excuse of not being able to afford a trip even if the person would like to go on it. Third, many more people already belong to other Tramping Clubs and find that trips the VUWTC would like to run clash with trips run by other clubs. A possible fourth reason for the current low activity of the Club is that, in the last two or three years, many of the longer serving club members have become interested in climbing as much or more than they are interested in the standard tramping activities.

It must be admitted that many of the senior members of the club have left university and Wellington. Those that are left just cannot run trips every weekend. The solution to this problem is obvious. More people must come forward to lead trips. You don't have to be a highly experienced trapper to lead a simple trip. More necessary is a reasonable amount of common sense.

The club can give you a lot of information about routes and advice on how to organise a trip. Also, members must be willing to suggest a trip. And, if a trip is suggested, the club will do its best to see that it goes. Of course, if you suggest a trip you must be prepared to help organise it. Not that organising a trip is difficult (for the normal weekend at least, longer trips, naturally, are more involved but there is a basic way to go about things).

One of the main aims of the club is to make tramping available to students as cheaply as possible. To do this we run the club on a very tight budget and, somehow, by means unknown even to the treasurer, we manage to last each year and break even. Sure, we would like more money but to get it we would have to charge more. And you wouldn't like that. Our trips are planned to break even or make a miniscule profit. We don't always manage it but we try.

A weekend trip to the Tararauas, transport by rental van, costs you no more than \$10/\$15 for transport, any hired gear and food. A three day trip to Ruapehu or Egmont, again by rental van, will cost you about \$20. South Island trips are another matter and are only worthwhile for periods of 4/5 days or more. This year, Foster in Northwest Nelson cost \$28 each. A week in Nelson Lakes National Park in August will cost less than \$40 per person, even allowing for any cost increases between now and then. (You thought you might like to go to Arthur's Pass, well, think about \$70....)

This year the club has a hut. To be specific, the Forest Service has given us Penn Creek Hut in the Tararauas for use as a club hut. The hut is in good condition as the result of a number of working parties and we hope that the hut will give the club a base for more tramps in the Otaki area.

If you have not done much tramping before, don't worry. We can arrange basic instruction in anything. From how to light a fire from sodden wood to how (in theory) to climb an ice cliff. And we like to run all sorts of trips. We grade our trips as Easy, Medium and Fit, Start at easy trips and move up to a Gut buster.

And, if you go on a club trip, or any other trip for that matter, don't forget to write about it. The club produces an annual magazine called Heels (not always but often blistered). We'll print almost anything. And we try to print photographs as well.

People to ask about the club:

Father, I'm confused. One minute I'm up... the next minute I'm down... Then you must pray to the patron saint of ups and downs... ST. FRANCIS OF A SEE - SAW

Watch out for... A Cultural Exhibition from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea it to be held this Thursday and Friday, in the Student Union Foyer. What is going on in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea? Hear and question representatives from the DPRK from 12 to 2 on Friday 28th July.

ACCOUNTANTS ACCOUNTING STUDENTS LAW STUDENTS ACCOUNTS PROF. A.C.A.
B.COM., B.C.A., LL.B. If you have qualified in Accountancy, or if you are studying towards an accounting or commerce qualification, we would like you to consider seriously the very real opportunities available to you as an Income Tax Inspector Income Tax Auditor The Inland Revenue Department requires additional inspectors and auditors in the Napier, Gisborne and Wellington areas. The work involves investigating the accounts of individuals, partnerships, companies, estates and trusts—a complete challenge to your accounting knowledge. This is a valuable opportunity for you to join a highly skilled team in the complex world of taxation. The Department offers: An excellent commencing salary based on your qualifications, and with regular increases on merit. Excellent working conditions. Positive training in taxation. Paid study leave — up to eight hours weekly for partly qualified applicants. Staff superannuation. Flexible working hours. Employment with the Department qualifies as practical experience for admittance to A. C. A Law students: The Department would like to discuss a scheme of assistance for further study towards Dip. Acct. which would lead to dual qualification in

accountancy and law. To arrange an interview please contact the Careers Advisory Service, 6 Kelburn Parade, or write to: THE DISTRICT INSPECTOR, INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, PRIVATE BAG. WELLINGTON. Phone 859-809

Letters

Letters must be typed, double spaced on one side of the paper, and should not run on and on boring everybody to death. They can be dropped into the letters box just inside the Salient door (middle floor of the Union Building, graveyard end), left at the Studass office, or sent c/o VUWSA, Private Bag, Wellington

Drawing of a man impaled by a giant pen

The Corridors of Power

Dear Simon,

Dazed after a half hour journey, courtesy NZR, I wandered into parliament buildings recently, under what I now realise to be the mistaken impression that it was a public convenience. Before a kindly old janitor tersely condemned me to oblivion the Char Lady got to telling me what I ought to know.....

Matt Rata has given up on Disney comics after recent criticism and now reads old National Party budgets which he commends to one and all as twice the laughs and needing only half the concentration'. Rob, she went on to say, is impervious to such criticism, but is still wondering why he was left off the Honours List, nursing a secret suspicion that the Queen and God have got it in for him because of his Irish ancestry. She figures he's right too, because she's Irish and didn't get a mention either.

Apparently the Minister of Defence stumbled upon the army recently and said it should be bigger because of the threat posed to international peace by the growing size of 'world power' armies. Thus either we are an aspiring world power or we're going to have an important role in maintaining (?) peace. Whatever; this sought of logic was obviously inspired by Bert Walker, so it's nice to know Bert is doing something constructive in policy formation — hang on in there Bert.

Lance Corporal Gill (she knew him from way back) isn't worried about any potential rivals in his electorate because he's been taking lessons from Gerry Wall and Trev Young on how to be narrow minded and yet convince your electorate you represent them. Both Wall and Young incidently, now follow their signatures with the initials SPUC considering them to invoke a prestige similar to that engendered by OBE or PhD.

Meanwhile, as the great escalator of life trundles its way forever downward, poor old Peter Gordon is loosing the labour he's minister of as rapidly as he's loosing his voice. His successor, the old lady rightly points out, is likely to be the Minister of Emigration and Unemployment.

She worries also about the PM's press secretary, as she flicks her ash into Bruce (Smart fart) Betham's sugar bowl. The poor man has the potentially burdensome task of explaining away the possibility that MPs will be getting a 20% increase in salary when the PM has stated that a 7% General Wage Order is extravagant. She exhorts us all to pray for Bernie or failing this to forget the whole incident by election time.

Bruce, whose been finding annoying little bits of ash floating in his tea, is finding parliament a little bit bewildering, but keeps on smiling anyway.

She was just about to tell me of the injustices heaped on her husband's frail back when I remembered my initial purpose and excused myself, under fire from the janitor, and sprinted off down Lambton Quay hoping to find the Taj Mahal waiting.

Yours,

Buzzard Features.

The Broadsheet Article

Dear Salient,

It was with a certain degree of curiosity that I enquired from your office, the source of the article appearing

in the issue of "Salient" of 3rd July, entitled "Well, Baby, what can I do for you? — Women Models - This article first appeared in Broadsheet."

As a paper which I understand exists for and contributed to, by students of Victoria University, I was surprised to be told that this article had been gleaned from an Australian woman's magazine. I have since found out that "Broadsheet" has offices in Auckland.

As a part-time student of your 'Hallowed Halls' (and very pleased to be able to be so), to this letter I put my name, which by coincidence is the same as the author of your article.

Miriam Cameron.

(Broadsheet is an NZ paper based in Auckland. Salient has printed many articles from off-campus sources, and will continue to do so. We consider the criteria of interest and relevance to students to be more important than restricting ourselves solely to student contributions. -Ed.)

WONAAC Continues the Infighting

Dear Sir,

I was not impressed to read Lamorna Rogers petty and vitriolic attack on WONAAC in a recent Salient.

Much of her criticism is totally unjustified and one point in particular that I want to take up is just downright malicious. She says that the women on the WONAAC stall at the fundraising concert didn't even bother to go in. To be in two places at once is never easy and we would have been little use on the stall-had we been in the hall. I knew WONAAC was well represented by the number of members and supporters that were attending - not surprisingly, as ARC has had the benefit of our lists of supporters built up over five years of hard slog.

I never go to rock concerts anyway, but I did show my support for ARC by giving the organiser, Vicky Jones \$3 (or the entrance fee) before I left.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Wilson.

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Wellington branch of the Women's National Abortion Action Campaign (WONAAC), to express our surprise and dismay at Lamorna Rogers' letter in Salient (July 10, 1978). We feel that the accusations levelled at WONAAC by Lamorna are quite unjustified.

WONAAC is a member group of the Abortion Rights Committee, which is a coalition set up to organise a public meeting on July 10 and an abortion march on July 14. WONAAC members have participated in the build-up to these activities by helping in the distribution of publicity, making our membership lists available for mailouts, attending organising meetings, issuing press statements in support of July 14 etc. If Lamorna had checked the accuracy of her statements before going into print, we feel sure that she would not have attacked WONAAC in the way she did.

WONAAC's main aim is to build a united abortion campaign which will be strong enough to win women's right to abortion. We are prepared to work with the Abortion Rights Committee, or any other group, to achieve this aim. We hope that ARC will also help by joining with us to build the national day of mobilisation on September 15.

Lamorna's unjustified and inaccurate attack on WONAAC is an attempt to create divisions where none exist and does a disservice to the abortion rights campaign.

Elaine Marland,
Wellington WONAAC.

Uneasy about Israel

Dear Reader,

Why are pro-Israelis' so fanatical in their support for that far away country and why must they level any comment against that land as mere propaganda (a Nazi's description). Israel is a monument to the strength of Jewish belief (both in that country and internationally) but it should not place itself (or be placed) above criticism, really it should be more open to comment. To have doubts about Mr Begin is not to doubt the country generally - the man is a politician and even in Israel isn't the most sanctified of figures.

There are aspects to Mr Begin which leave many people-cold - as the 'Economist' puts it, 'some Israelis worry about their leader'.

In Israel inflation is outstripping wage growth and the production machinery isn't paying the necessary investment to allow GDP to grow - money spent on war equipment (even if it does come from New York) is money wasted. Before ultra Zionists howl any louder for the blood of the Arabs, perhaps they might consider the advantages of peace. Peace is inevitable, excepting the oil producers all countries in the region are presently suffering various economic and social woes (even the oil nations are not totally immune) and it will be only through greater concentration on domestics that these problems will be solved.

Israel supporters constantly quote history (none recent) and use past examples of Arab treachery and military to excuse Israel's present stance. But [*unclear*: then] is no precedent to Mr Sadat's journey to Jerusalem so why did Begin totally reject the Egyptian move; it was the single most peace directed event in the last 30 years (by an Arab). Defence Minister Weizman was so outraged by his Prime Minister he publically condemned him and admitted that another wax could be on the way because of Begin's attitude.

In Egypt (as reported in last week's Economist) Mr Sadat is on the wane because of his failure with the peace talks - but surely even the most staunch pro-Israeli would rather see this gentleman in the seat of power than the likely replacements. Egypt has a large (850,000) army currently running down, and there is some discontent amongst this force about their relative slide, it is from this source that the next President is likely to come. A strong military would lead to a deterioration in the general living standard and unrest, and that is a more likely war situation than exists at present under Sadat with his faith in economic rather than military growth.

In July 1977 Mr Begin promised President Carter that there would be no more settlements in occupied territory, on January 5 this year the Jewish Agency announced plans for 100 new settlements for 2,500 families in the Sinai. In order not to arouse the Americans these settlements are occurring often in disguise - one example is a site (not in Sinai) 20 miles north of Jerusalem at Shiloh - the government announced the settlement as an archeological dig but the renewal of Jewish settlement in the land of our fathers'; at a tree planting ceremony it was hoped 'Shiloh would become a city of 40,000 souls'. Some Israeli voices were raised against this, archeologists condemned the activity and the government promised action - Shiloh however is still there.

Inside Israel the police state atmosphere is reported to be growing - censorship of government controlled news is common and police brutality far from rare, but coverage in Israel newspapers of such there is not. And recent events on the West Bank by Israel military authorities has lead the local Arab population to further distrust their neighbours. The most publicised case occurred at the Iscandre Houri High School in Bert Jallah - near Bethlehem. The military rounded up the student, shut them in their classrooms and then lobbed tear-gas grenades in. The Israeli public line was quite different; until the Officer in Charge was dismissed.

In a letter of last week a student said those who are not Jewish cannot understand the feeling the Jew has for Israel; so what; that doesn't mean gentiles don't have standards. I criticise those who feel that natural laws are dismissable purely because it is a Zionist who is doing the dismissing. Belief is all very well but it does not justify any means to the believed end. God may exist and may only be merciful to Jews, but how terrible if he doesn't and isn't.

Shalom,
Tim Brown.

Is Carter Genuine?

Dear Simon,

We would like to express our disappointment at last Wednesday's SRC concerning the condemnation of the violation of human rights. To include the United States in a motion which was inspired by the "justice" dealt out to the Soviet dissidents seems to us an emasculation of the basic issues involved. While it is undoubtedly true that there was a fair amount of hypocrisy in President Carter's condemnation of the trials, there was also no doubt, some genuine feeling of disgust.

Further to this if the United States had ignored the suppression of human rights, the situation would be far worse than it is today; the motion seemed to simultaneously condemn the country that violated the human rights, and the country that, for whatever reason, was trying to end that violation. Compared to the legalized suppression of free speech in the Soviet Union, the US is in the beginners league,

Yours sincerely,

James McLean,
Michael Carr-Gregg.

Salient Chastised

Dear Simon,

Not again for God's sake! By printing those letters from filthy-mouthed compatriots of mine you are doing us more harm than good. Why don't you, at the very least, abridge them? In that way any point that they may have to make will be brought home in a more readable manner. Neither will we at the same time miss reading in between the lines, the social and psychological problems facing these students.

By printing them as they are, you are unnecessarily tarnishing our image. Free speech demands equally a similar standard of responsibility. If you are really concerned with our welfare, then I suggest you give more than serious consideration to what I have just said.

Wing Wong Wang.

ARC called a SPUC Front

Dear Editor,

The July 14 march against abortion was an important step in the campaign to rid this country of its oppressive abortion laws, so women may have a right to choose when or if they have children.

Therefore may I express my disgust and anger at the closet SPUCies who wrote the songs distributed on the march. I might have known, from the poster advertising the march (Abortion — A woman's democratic right), that some political group drunk with the prospect of power might be out to use the march for its own ends. But I could not believe my ears when the words "this is a people's fight" and "a new abortion law" rang out. Any sexless twit knows that abortion is a woman's concern, not a "people's" concern, nor an issue for civil liberties. It would seem this march was carefully engineered by a few who are out to sabotage the abortion rights movement to the satisfaction of SPUC.....for who else would ask for "new abortion laws" but anti-abortionists? The writers of these songs did Dr Wall and his cohorts proud.

I am not a member of WONAAC or any political group, but a woman concerned with absolute repeal of all abortion laws. This is a vital precondition for the emancipation of women from their own bodies, and if I knew who wrote the anti-women songs I might be tempted to bang their heads together.....

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Davey.

Whither the Environmental Group

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask: what are the actual motives of the president of the Environmental Group at this university? This person (Paul Norman) has a group who have been given a grant of four hundred dollars on condition that they set up a "resource centre for environmental studies".

As one of the people who put my name down to join the 'group' at it's stand during enrolment, I would like to know what is actually going on. I have a deep concern for the environment, and want to be able to do some positive work; yet all I ever got from the group was one crummy newsletter.

Not once this year (and it's almost half gone) have we had a meeting and not once have we been called on to participate in the group. I know the group still exists because they seem to be messing around with this bloody resource centre.

Also Norman is running around trying to set up 12 credit environmental courses with various departments. It is a bit strange that he himself is taking the present 6 credit environmental courses in an effort to patch up his BSc.

In short, as a member of this group I want some contact with other members (are you one?) and some say in what is being done with all it's (our) money. Maybe this will lead to a more positive group with more positive actions (the last one broke up due to apathy).

Yours,

Jane Wilson.

Another Right Wing Ramble

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you concerning the abolition of the position of International Vice President of NZUSA. Lindy Cassidy at the SRC tried to make out that the Vic delegation to May Council voted to abolish the IVP in order to make concessions to campuses at that time threatening withdraw!. Rut that excuse cannot stand because Canterbury dissented to the motion to do this at May Council, (p 23). It is clear that the Vic delegates of mostly Salient people were happy to use the Movick issue for their own political ends. They sold out Movick at May Council thus giving the government a victory all down the line. What's worse is that they had no Vic policy backing to vote the way they did. Still the 'in' clique are always right so they probably won't be censured for it - that's student democracy for you. Lindy Cassidy and her leftist lackeys have abandoned overseas students, it is clear.

Anyway, you can ignore this letter as it probably won't be published - you will probably continue your rather ineffectual attacks on the middle of the roaders who have emerged at SRCs. Why are you so shit scared of them? Because the Cassidys, Wilsons and Jonathan Scotts of this world are in the minority - thank God! I bet you don't publish this letter. I am not supplying my name because I (unlike other braver souls) have no wish to be defamed by Salient. Wilson, I suggest you resign. Ta Ta.

Animal (who's not blind).

PS. Good on you Gurunathan K.

Trot Back the IVP

Dear Editor,

MY BUDGIE... HE'S LOSING WEIGHT... NO WORRIES. JUST A SIMPLE INJECTION WONT HURT LITTLE MAN PLUNGE

Jonathon Scott's account of the debate in the SRC printed in the Salient of July 10, while it faithfully reports his own remarks, does not do justice to the views of those who spoke against the decision of NZUSA's May Council to scrap the full-time position of International Vice-President (IVP) of NZUSA, and against the Victoria delegates' support of that move. We would like to explain our position.

The controversy over the position of International Vice-President involved important issues. Above all, it concerned a point that has lately been of hot dispute: are "non-student" issues, of which international politics is just one example, to be regarded as a major concern of NZUSA? The scrapping of the IVP called into question the support that students associations have given to such causes as the struggle of Black South Africa for self-determination, the Maori land rights movement, the fight for a woman's right to abortion, the campaign against the 1977 SIS legislation and many others.

In our opinion, the present political climate both in New Zealand and internationally means that students as much as ever need an organisation that can represent them on these issues. (For that reason we strongly oppose any moves by campuses to split from NZUSA). This in fact expresses the spirit of Victoria's policy, which tolerates no restrictions on its field of political interest, and has led to an increase, not a decided decrease in the number of political officers, as on all campuses.

Quite clearly, then, the abolition of the position of IVP was a step backwards for NZUSA. Specifically, it weakens our national organisation by reducing NZUSA's political apparatus, and it throws more responsibilities on such other important positions as the President and the General Vice-President (who is supposed to action International and National policy in a 1:2 ratio).

The short-sightedness of the move was shown in the way it affected the position of James Movick - NZUSA is supposed to be trying to get Movick back into New Zealand, after he was deported earlier this year. Since this effort rested on getting Movick a special job permit, and his job was that of IVP, the campaign has been completely undermined. Movick was made redundant by his own colleagues! This was recognised by the Dominion, which headlined a report of May Council with the words "Students Association Scraps Movick Job".

A serious precedent has been established, that will further deter overseas students from standing for positions in NZUSA. Furthermore, NZUSA pointed out earlier this year that the victimisation of Movick was a case of government interference in student affairs. How disappointing, then, to see NZUSA crumble before this pressure.

Much has been made of the need to "compromise" in order to keep all campuses in the ranks of NZUSA. But we question just how real was this need on the part of the Victoria delegates, when we consider these points:

- the very campus that had led the way in the withdrawal moves, Canterbury, came to May Council with policy for retaining the IVP, as did Auckland.
- if Victoria had voted to keep the position, the weight of votes would have meant that we would still have an IVP today.

Victoria's position in fact reflected the panic of the NZUSA National Officers, who pushed such a compromise. They saw no other way of saving NZUSA than that of kow-towing to the wishes of such a conservative and atypical campus as Lincoln College.

This brings us to what we feel is the most important point. The frictions within NZUSA have raised some important questions. What is the role of students associations, both at the local and the national level? Should they concentrate on specific "student issues" or should they continue to have a broader political outlook? How should students associations be structured?

What is Desperately Needed is a Thorough Discussion of these Questions; a discussion that gives all students the chance to participate. Such a discussion would itself provide an example of how a students association should seek to involve students at every level. It is the only alternative to the method of ill-thought compromise.

With that in mind, we would also like to protest at the way that Victoria's delegates decided to support the abolition of the IVP. It was not decided through open debate at an SRC; it was not brought before the student population. It was decided by a handful of delegates, despite the fact that they were elected to represent policy, and not to decide it — especially on so important a matter! The excuse that there was no time to raise the question before the delegates' meeting does not hold water: it was well-known among the delegates that this

would be an important issue at May Council.

We hope that this letter will stimulate discussion on this question, and we certainly hope that the result will be that Victoria goes to August Council with policy for the reinstatement of the International Vice-President.

Yours,

Mike Treen and

Patrick Mulrennan.

In Defence of 'Immoral Tales'

Dear Simon,

I would like a chance to reply to David Beresford's review of 'Immoral Tales'. I found this film to be easily amongst the most absorbing and challenging works I have ever sat through. Presumably then, I am a prurient, immoral and brainless chauvinist. Beresford is as entitled to his opinions as I am. I do however, object to his insulting insinuations which seem designed to elevate himself into a defender of morality and women's rights.

When he does bother to actually offer a critical opinion, Beresford's ignorance - both artistically and historically - is all too woefully apparent. The Countess, Erzsebet Bathory, depicted in the film actually existed. I would also suggest that Beresford go into Lucrezia Borgia's history. He might then begin to understand what Walerian Borowczyk was saying in his film.

'Immoral Tales' was heavily metaphorical and relied a good deal more on its powerful images than on dialogue for the exposition of its ideas. No doubt this contributed to Beresford's inability to grasp the point of the film. In fact I doubt whether Borowczyk's intentions could have been much clearer. Right at the start he dedicates 'Immoral Tales' to a maxim of La Rochefoucauld's, to wit: "However enjoyable love may be, it is enjoyed even more for the ways it manifests itself than for itself alone". If Beresford had kept this line in mind, the film might well have made a lot more sense to him.

Toward the end of the review Beresford claims that 'Immoral Tales' "isn't even particularly well made to boot". This sort of criticism is lamentably common amongst critics who find themselves threatened by a work of art they cannot comprehend or understand. In the case of 'Immoral Tales' it is just not true: the film literally drips with style. Lush photography, exquisite costume and set design are coordinated by Borowczyk to produce a film of rare perception and depth. It is sensual, it is erotic, but to dismiss 'Immoral Tales' as pornographic would be to miss the point completely.

Picasso's first cubist work 'Les demoiselles d'Avignon', depicted five prostitutes in various stages of undress. It was crude, no! even "well made" but the painting survived to foster a whole new direction for art. Good art thus always transcends the opinions of narrow minded critics. In more enlightened circles 'Immoral Tales' is already regarded as a landmark of sorts, and I believe it will grow in stature.

Costa Botes

Radio Active Jocks Cock it up

Dear Oracle,

I'm writing to complain about the French Department's annual "Bal Musette" on Saturday 15th. Not only did it cost \$3.50 to be admitted but once in, we found to our horror, that we had to Pay for our drinks after getting a few glasses of wine or beer by having our tickets dismembered.

In years past this event has been one of the highlights of an otherwise pathetic social calendar, with a good time to be had by all. This year we were treated to a Radio Active disco, with un-doubtedly the worst Dee Jay I have ever been subjected to, stale chips, smelly cheese and more lunatics, than even Lake Alice could boast.

If I had wanted to fork out three and a half dollars to drink some wine, listen to the incoherent rantings and ravings of a Radio Active jock, with an IQ of ten, and to be physically assaulted by a little man with a silly hat who kept claiming to be Roman Polanski, I should not have been disappointed. As it is, I must rest content at having financed in part, the annual French Department's expedition to the Club Mediterannee

To all those wise and far-sighted individuals who managed to avoid this cultural experience, my hearty congratulations, and finally, to all those culture vultures who are contemplating an evening of refined, sophisticated and intelligent banter, forget it, save your bursary money for the Barretts.

Au Re voir,
Madame de Stale,
Hugo Victa.

Preconceptions

Dear Simon,

Gillian Collier wrote to Salient last week commending you on the report on the Executive in a previous issue. Although she is a first year student, her analytical reading is very poor..... Do we really have a man Vice-President who has no initiative and no leadership, etc? Hardly, after all he did have the guts to stand in the first place and at least he doesn't waste his time like some other Exec members boring us all to death with campaigns, many of which are irrelevant to students, Furthermore the reports were virtually rendered worthless because it was so obvious who 'Salient' staff liked and disliked, ie. who roughly corresponded to your political persuasions (perversions).

The trouble is you just don't realize how boring you really are. This means Salient is boring boring .. boring. Everything you print just about, is full of your preconcieved ideas, an example would be the article on Tenancy "you loused up, saying landlords were basically parasitical and should be legislated out of existence. I think you as editor should be legislated out of existence and I notice that many previous correspondents to 'Salient' agree with me. I suppose for people like you who want to avoid exec positions then the next best thing is a position on a student newspaper so you can try to influence students that way — Well Simon bad luck, students are not that naive. Sorry the letter is a bit long but I don't suppose you will publish it anyway. Resign!

Average Student No. 2

(Your example of our "preconceived" ideas says a lot more about your own than ours. The tenancy supplement and introductory article were not prepared by the Salient staff but submitted - Ed.)

Imaginative Apathy

Cher Simon,

In last week's devastating issue Jonathan Scott raised a very good question when he asked why the 6,000 students enrolled in this wonderful institution failed consistently to trot (if you'll pardon the expression) along to SRCs. A word or two of enlightenment Jonathan. I stay away because it is mind-shatteringly dull. I do not indulge in any sadistic practices, like subjecting myself to the fascist drivel of Tees and Watson — that dynamic duo of dullness.

I'm not interested in Zaire, Palestine, the oppression of Guatemalan pygmy sword-swallowers, or the democratic rights of the nomadic herdsmen of the Gobi desert. Our environmental officer Paul Norman may also be interested in the fact that I couldn't give a fuck about the whales - and I suspect it's mutual. I care even less about the ecological threat posed by the mass extermination of Venezualan Beavers, or the danger to the atmosphere posed by the New Zealand population persisting in wiping their bums with their right instead of their left hand.

Finally, I couldn't care less if our Treasurer Steve Underpants, took all the money and pissed off to Peru.

Love and kisses,

Adrian Rockstoat Gobbler.

Groups are in

Dear Simon,

As a Haberdashery agent for the lesser Wellington area I wish to inform you that due to the recent Tax concessions I have, at great expense, been able to import a new shipment of Exosss Groops. It is hoped that these will be made available to the public sometime early next week at the larger Department Stores.

Yours,

I. Makafortuna

Leave it be in the Wairarapa

Dear Simon,

My old uncle came down from Masterton yesterday. Apparently the place is in an uproar. Seems there's this university chap up there wanting to get into parliament or some such thing. The locals are really terrified. Seems if they don't make an immediate donation to the Labour Party and promise faithfully to vote Labour this university chap takes out a small notebook and writes something down.

Then, in the middle of the night, these dreadful people are dragged kicking and screaming from their beds. They are secretly taken to a little shack in the middle of nowhere and chained to a table. On top of the table is a stack of Sosc 301 theories. If they do not repent of their evil ways immediately these unfortunates are then made to mark one of the theories. It gets to be too much, and after they have read a page or two, they throw down their pens, begging for mercy. Out of the shadows steps this university chap, signs them up, including relieved promises to mortgage farms if necessary, anything to get out of there. With tears rolling down their cheeks, gasping and shaking, the poor couple are taken back to their farms.

Well the university ought to do something about it. It's not cricket, you know. Besides, the class want their theories back. A complaint is being forwarded at this time to the League of Nations. The Rugby Union has decided never to play rugby with universities again. Finally there will be a demonstration outside the office of the Sosc lecturer concerned, Friday anytime. Please be there.

Uncle Tom Cobleigh and All.

The President Replies

Dear Simon,

At the risk of continuing an already drawn out debate, I wish to reply to the letter written by Curunathan K. and 39 others. The letter asks 4 questions.

1. What has happened to the continued struggle to win equal rights for overseas students?

At NZUSA's May Council, it was decided to give the National Overseas Student Action Committee (NOSAC) more political responsibility and greater financial resources to help wage the campaign to win equal rights for overseas students. The legal battle which cost over \$3,000.00 of students' money has been discontinued because it has been established that legally the ultimate decision is left in the hands of the Minister of Immigration. However, the political struggle is still being continued by NOSAC and other officers of NZUSA who lobby Members of Parliament, distribute relevant material and prepare detailed submissions to Government policy-making bodies.

2. What has happened to the campaign to get James Movick back to his elected position of International Vice-President of NZUSA?

To clarify the position, I must point out that James officially resigned from his position as International Vice President before he left the country. Though Guru and some of his friends may wish to use James as a pawn for their own political ends, it is his decision whether he wishes to return to New Zealand and, when he

left, he was undecided. It is not a question of us telling James what to do, but rather it is up to us to fight for the right for overseas students to take up positions in NZUSA.

3. Could you please give us an outline as to how this battle is being continued, what headway has been made and whether the abrogation of the elected position of James Movick could have in any way an adverse affect on the appeals to get Movick back to New Zealand?

Basically this question has been answered. However, it is important to note that an association without the active participation of its membership can wage as many campaigns as they like but if they do not have the active support and ideas of their membership then the campaigns have little impact. At SRCs, VUWSA's most important policy-making body, there have been no motions by overseas students, regarding the continuation of the fight for equal rights. The original campaign itself achieved a limited amount of support from overseas students and received none from Gurunathan K. In fact, James expressed some disappointment in the lack of support from people such as Curunathan K., whom he had considered friends.

4. Could Lindy Cassidy inform us of the position she and other members of the VUWSA delegation to the May Council took as regards the NZUSA position of International Vice President?

It is a pity that the signatories to the letter did not attend the last two SRCs where this question was debated at great length. The decision regarding the retention or otherwise of the International Vice President (IVP) was decided within the caucus democratically, and with much debate.

The Victoria delegation decided to vote for the removal of the position of IVP for a number of political and financial reasons. Politically, NZUSA was in a state of crisis. There were 3 notices of withdrawal, from Massey, Canterbury and Lincoln, hanging over Council. It was essential that NZUSA presented a strong unified stand to combat these attacks. It was felt by the majority of the campuses that there had been a marked shift in recent years away from mass campaigns on International issues to campaigns on education and the national situation. It was also felt that the structure and in particular the position of International Vice President did not reflect this. Some campuses expressed the desire to scrap all international policy and international campaigns. However, all campuses felt that special emphasis should be given to the needs and problems of overseas students.

Faced with this situation the Victoria delegation compromised by agreeing to the removal of the IVP But at the same time stipulating that the President be directly responsible for Overseas Students, that the General Vice President has responsibility for International Campaigns, and that NOSAC be given greater financial and political responsibility.

Financially, NZUSA was also in trouble. Either one position had to be out or all the campaigns would have had money taken from them. This would have further weakened NZ USA as an effective political body. However, NOSAC did receive a substantial financial increase whereas every other area received a cut in expenditure.

In my last letter, I asked those overseas students, particularly Guru, to openly and directly challenge the actions of VUWSA or NZUSA either privately to me, or publicly at an SRC.

However, instead of an open debate, a vicious rumouring campaign initiated by Guru, has ensued. Personally I deplore these tactics. Only those who are afraid of the truth run from open debate.

Yours sincerely,

Lindy Cassidy President VUWSA.

Library Letters

Libraries are Information! not just books

Libraries will give you information about anything you want to know; in your studies; in your jobs; in any research you want to do and in anything you are interested in.

Information is in books, journals, encyclopedias, directories, dictionaries, indexes and abstracts, on tapes, on records, on films etc.

Can You find the information you want?

Can You use the card catalogues?

The card catalogue will (only) tell you the titles of books, periodicals, records etc. in the library. The main catalogues are on the main floor of the Library.

Look in the north end cabinets for the listing of the author or title of the book you want. The titles of the library's periodicals are also held there, along with composers and titles of musical works or records, and books about people or their works (biographies, criticisms, interpretations etc.)

The cabinets at the south end are the subject catalogue. If you want a book on a specific subject look up that subject or any subjects which are similar.

The catalogue in periodicals will only tell you the titles of the periodicals that the library has, not what is in them (to find that out you will have to use a periodical index or abstract). It also has under broad subject headings the titles of related periodicals.

For Help: Ask a Librarian.

Communication Needed

Dear Simon,

It's really good that you are starting up a library column. I'm impressed! I'm sure that it will be a really useful way of opening up communication with the most important part of our lives at university: the library is the heart of the university, it is necessary for all of us as our source of information. It has been left to fall well behind what it should be, especially during the last five years.

For it to develop we need to communicate with those who run it. So that your initiative in starting this column will, with the new library User's committee, go a long way to meeting a need lacking for so long, and so necessary.

I have two queries: why does the library not issue books Saturday afternoon and Sunday? After all facilitating availability of material is one of the library's main functions. The records are in very bad shape, and as well there is a great deal of interference, etc. because of the technical set-up. For someone to write an essay or criticism using them it is very hard.

Perhaps these questions could be answered by the librarian.

Good idea Simon!

Yours,
Smithy.

Scratches not up to Scratch

Dear People,

I sing of the experiment of the library to provide record listening facilities for student-type people. It has failed. Please let us do something to relieve the piss-off? Briefly, we get cross listening-hearing Shakespeare when we asked for Webern, scratched records, record is stuck record is stuck, headphones crap out, staff won't take collateral if you left your library card at home, no volume control. One answer is not to have the cables running under the floor (from Study Hall out to the art presentation area booths. I dare to speak for many dissatisfied students, many of whom use the service as an essay resource or just plain recuperation.

Should all music be experimental?

Yours faithfully,

Elton June or Ragman.

Crossword

Dominion-Type Crossword No. 4

Empty crossword puzzle

Across

Down

Solution to Last Week's Crossword

Across: 1. Barber 4. Queued 7. Gold-mines 9. Knew 10. Roam 11. Lance 13. Platan 14. Extend 15. Failed 17. Tether 19. Libel 20. Rime 22. Knot 23. Sprinting 24. Cliche 25. Saturn

Down: 1. Backup 2. Brow 3. Radian 4. Quince 5. Ever 6. Deemed 7. Geraniums 8. Something 11. Label 12. Expel 15. Feme 16. Divine 17. Tenths 18. Rotten 21. Epic 22. Knit

Letters Competition

Only one week to go to get your letters in for the competition. Entries will be judged on one criterion only: originality, but must conform to the usual specifications for letters set out at the beginning of the letters page.

Smarter than a hippo? Then maybe Exec is the place for you Applications for positions on the 1979 Executive of the Students' Association are now open. The positions available are: — President Man Vice President Woman Vice President Secretary Treasurer Publications Officer Accomodation Officer Sports Officer Cultural Affairs Officer SRC Co-ordinator Each position carries an honorarium. Applications will close on Thursday, 27th July at 4.30 pm and should be lodged in the box in the Students' Association Office. Any application may be withdrawn before 4.30 pm on Friday, 28th July. Polling will be on Wednesday, 9th August and Thursday, 10th August — 8.30 am - 6.30 pm. Further information on the positions is available from the Students' Association Office and further information on the elections can be obtained from the Returning Officer. Anyone wishing to register an absentee vote should see the Returning Officer as soon as possible after all the candidates are known. Lamorna Rogers RETURNING OFFICER