

University Cuts

Front page 'University cuts' showing a building being cut down the middle

University Cuts

- No More Staff Appointments
- Further Cuts in Library Services
- Students Paying to Use Student Health and Other Welfare Services
- Abolition of Many Small Courses
- Cuts in the Equipment Grant
- Abolition of Post-Doctoral Fellowships
- Deference of Building Maintenance
- Reduction of Cleaning Standards to Below the Stated Minimum
- Phasing out of the Open Entry System to Universities

These are some of the likely consequences of a Government proposal to cut university spending.

This proposal constitutes the biggest threat to educational standards that students and staff at New Zealand universities have ever had to face.

As we go to press, the details of how big the cuts will be and what measures will be taken by the universities to cope with them have not yet emerged. Salient reporter Kathy Jamieson has had her ear to the ground, though, and has come up with enough evidence to file the following story.

On March 15, the Vice Chancellor (Danny Taylor) wrote to all Chairmen and Heads of Departments, asking them to assess which of the courses they offered might be suitable for withdrawing from the curriculum. The letter signalled the beginning of a cost cutting venture at Victoria that, if implemented, would completely undermine the principles on which our education system is based.

It should be stressed at the outset that this is not something the Vice Chancellor and the university administration have dreamed up by themselves. Nor is it the result of malicious thinking on the part of the University Grants Committee (the body that is responsible for allocating money to universities). The blame lies fairly and squarely at the door of the Government.

The Minister of Education, Merv Wellington, has informed the UGC that the Government intends to cut this year's university budgets. Furthermore, although it may not be openly admitting it, the reduced level of expenditure for 1979-80 will form the basis for future grants. That means that the cuts made to services this year will be permanent. It also means, considering that the university is by this time committed to almost all of its expenditure, that drastic long term cuts will have to be made to bring the cost of running the university into line with the amount of money Government is prepared to spend on it.

The Government Attack

Taylor's letter states that the picture the Chairman of the UGC (Dr A. T. Johns; has painted is "a very gloomy one indeed". On the face of it, this might not appear to be the case. The Government proposal seeks to trim a mere \$3 million off the block grant for the current year. However, nearly all of this must come out of non-salary expenditure (most university staff have security of tenure, and in any case the universities are not prepared to introduce redundancies under any circumstances — a position that students must wholeheartedly support). Non-salary items amount to only about \$20 million right around the country, so the cuts will average 15% across every area of university activity.

The crucial point is that the universities are already underfinanced. Taylor noted that "the university is already alert to the need to use its resources to the fullest extent, and that internal procedures for the control of enrolments, the scrutiny of existing and proposed courses, the redeployment of staff posts and the implementation of economy measures are now firmly established". In other words, university resources are stretched just about as far as they can go.

In some areas, like the library, it's even worse than that. Last year, being election year, the Government came up with a non-recurring grant that was used in part to save the library from dire financial straits. This year it is threatening to take away more than than it gave.

Yet the Vic library remains at the bottom of the list (and still falling) of all the university libraries in terms of money spent on books and periodicals, staffing ratios, seating accommodation and space to store books. Already there is not enough space to accessibly house all the books the library administration has and thinks should be easily available.

The library is not alone in this position. In fact, it would not be unrealistic to suggest that many areas of expenditure have been trembling on the brink of collapse for some time. Many others have been put into cold storage, while funds for any unscheduled projects that come up are always almost impossible to find.

This year the grant to universities for the next five years will be announced. To keep par with inflation and maintain even the present inadequate level it will have to increase by at least 40% overall. It now appears that there is no way that can happen if the present proposal goes ahead.

In a confidential letter to Merv Wellington (the contents of which were circulated at the end of last term in a leaflet), Dr Johns stated: "Cuts of the magnitude suggested. . . can probably be met for one year by the expenditure of all reserves and going into deficit. . . [But] without compensation for this year's proposed level of funding, the New Zealand university system could maintain reasonable standards of teaching and research only by a considerable limitation on the entry of students and a reduction of staff over a period of years."

Depression Tactics

This letter, from which the 15% figure also comes, contains intimations of a kind of horror story for university education that has a direct precedent in the depression of the 1930s. In his report to NZUSA May Council, Research Officer Ian Powell, has outlined the policies then adopted in the education field. Among them he lists:

- a great reduction in the number of bursaries. In the years from 1927 to 1934, the proportion of students on a bursary dropped by over half, from 48% to 21%.
- the withdrawal of payment for some university chairs (ie professorial positions). Effectively this meant the drastic scaling down, and even a complete halt, of some departments' work.

University colleges were not the only educational institutions hit. Other measures included raising the entry age to primary school from 5 to 6 years, closure of kindergartens, withdrawal of grants to public libraries, the severe reduction of Teachers' College students' allowances and the closure of some Teachers' Colleges.

Among the consequences Powell included were:

- the severe erosion of education facilities at every level
- an increasing proportion of part-time students (by 1934 they were in the majority)
- the effective limitation of university education to those from wealthy backgrounds.

In a disturbing exhibition of history repeating itself, the education proposals of the present Government appear to be an almost measure for measure copy of those from the past.

Bursaries to be Slashed

Several reliable sources have suggested that \$5 million is to be chopped out of the bursaries allocation, in spite of the fact that its level is 23% lower than that in 1976 when the STB was introduced. There, are several ways this might happen. There could be a direct cut in the level, but as this is clearly the way most guaranteed to antagonise large numbers of students it seems relatively unlikely.

Conditions for getting and keeping a bursary could be made harder. Already only 50% of Vic students get any sort of bursary at all, and of these only half are on the unabated rate. Means testing (of the parents or student) is the most commonly mentioned possibility for achieving this. Alternatively the STB could be tied solely to the 7th form bursary exam, with stricter conditions relating to failure during a student's years of study. The current allowance for students to pick up a bursary while actually at university could be dropped.

A loans scheme could be introduced. Like means testing, this has long been in accordance with some elements of Government, Education Department and Treasury thinking, and appears linked to it in the Review of Financial Assistance for Post-Compulsory Study. Like means testing again, it is being mooted not simply as a way of redistributing the bursary grant, but of reducing its level.

An End to Appointments

At Victoria, 80% of the budget goes in salaries of academics. If we add the salaries of non-academic staff, most of whom the university would be equally [unclear: reluctant] make redundant, the figure rises to [unclear: a] 87%. This means that any real [unclear: saving] university expenditure cannot [unclear: come] ediate. It also means that the [unclear: appo] ment of new staff is practically out [unclear: o] question.

Already at Victoria, the Vice [unclear: Chan] has placed a temporary ban on the [unclear: ad] tising of

vacancies and offering of [unclear: po] itions. This measure will be in [unclear: forcer] least until the university finds out [unclear: exa] how much it will have to trim back, comes on top of a policy, in [unclear: operatio]1974, of reviewing every vacancy as [unclear: i] occurs and, if necessary reallocating [unclear: it] another department. When this [unclear: happ] the original vacancy is either frozen [unclear: o] banded.

To date \$403,476 has been made [unclear: a] ble in this way, \$172,897 (the [unclear: equiv] of 11.9 lecturer's salaries) coming [unclear: in] reallocation of this year's staff [unclear: positio] (

Budget for 1979, Victoria University of Wellington.

). Almost none of that money [unclear: has] spent, or to put it another way, [unclear: almos] none of the departments that [unclear: thought] were getting much needed extra [unclear: staff] had their expectations fulfilled.

Particularly hard hit have been [unclear: the] ulties of Law and Business and [unclear: Admin] tration. The latter expected to get [unclear: six] new staff members this year. Only [unclear: on] has been appointed. These faculties [unclear: ha] the highest turnovers in staff (due [unclear: prin] cipally to a variety of employment [unclear: op] tunities for top qualified lawyers, [unclear: acco] tants, etc.). They also have the [unclear: highes] staff/student ratios (see Table One). The blanket ban on new [unclear: appointments] its likely continuation in a slightly [unclear: mo] ied form will be disastrous for them.

The Commerce and Administration faculty is the most important of its [unclear: kin] in the country. Already many of its [unclear: cc] ses have restricted enrolments; even [unclear: w] these, staff consider that the high [unclear: ratio] undermine teaching standards relative [unclear: ll] the rest of the university. Once the [unclear: cu] are introduced the faculty will [unclear: almost] tainly have to curtail the range of [unclear: cours] that it offers. (The irony is that it is [unclear: no] improbable to suppose that this [unclear: would] the last field of university work the [unclear: Go] ernment has its eye on in proposing [unclear: the] cuts, yet it will inevitably be among [unclear: the] that suffer the most).

The non-appointment of staff will [unclear: m] in many instances that the usual [unclear: practic] in most departments of giving some [unclear: pos] graduates tutorships or Junior [unclear: Lectures] while they continue their own [unclear: academic] work will cease. Lecturers and [unclear: senior] turers, stripped of their small course [unclear: tea] ing because there won't be many [unclear: small] courses, will be redeployed to do the [unclear: wo] of the missing junior staff. This is [unclear: alread] happening in the public service, [unclear: where a] similar sinking lid policy has resulted [unclear: in] highly qualified personnel doing the [unclear: wo] normally reserved for clerical staff.

Table One STAFF/STUDENT RATIOS 1978 RankingDepartmentRatioFaculty
1Accountancy21.3Commerce and Ad ministration2Business Administration17.4Commerce and Administration
Law3Law16.9 4History16.3Arts5Political Science and PublicAdministration15.2Commerce and
Administrat6Economics14.9Commerce and
Administrat(Average)11.913Mathematics11.4Arts/Science14English10.5Language and
Literature15Information Science9.9Science30Botany6.8Science31Romance Languages6.2Language and
Literature — The top six, middle three and the bottom two departments are given. — The ratios are based on the numbers of "effective full-time (eft) students". Thus there are even higher proportions of students being taught in the Law and Commerce and Administration faculties (where part-timers tend to congregate). Ref(1)

[unclear: dents] may be asked to pay doctor's [unclear: The] Students' Association may be [unclear: ted] to help pay the salaries of some [unclear: e] staff (think what that would do to [unclear: !]). Areas such as Counselling, [unclear: Car- visory] and the Creche may have [unclear: raffing] cut back (both officers and [unclear: n] staff). The chance of persuading [unclear: ment] to introduce dental and [unclear: op- ic] services on campus may vanish.

[unclear: Small] Course Abolition

[unclear: is] letter, Taylor states: "The UGC [unclear: eks] our comments on the possibility [unclear: ndrawing] courses — *or indeed entrie* [unclear: es] — with the object of rationalising [unclear: offerings] where student demand [unclear: l], and of avoiding costly duplication [unclear: rses] within the New Zealand univer[unclear: stem]. It is my clear understanding the present economic climate the [unclear: nay] well be obliged to require [unclear: univ- to] implement programmes of rat- [unclear: ation]involving the deletion of [unclear: exist- rses]". (Emphasis mine).

[unclear: how] it is proposed that entire sub[unclear: e] scrapped is not clear, but if it hap[unclear: in] the 1930s depression it could easily [unclear: in] the one we are now facing. At [unclear: a], it could mean the shelving of [unclear: o] start a School of Librarianship [unclear: ear]. The Professor has already been [unclear: ted] but there are no other staff as [unclear: hese] positions are of course frozen by [unclear: blanket] ban. Staff in other depart[unclear: are] covered by their security of [unclear: but] although the university cannot [unclear:]

11] not introduce redundancies, the [unclear: liment] itself might feel under no [unclear: oligation].

[unclear: etion] of some small existing courses [unclear: appear] to be a relatively minor prob[unclear: hop] those with less than three, say [unclear: udents]? The more commonly ex[unclear: figure] is ten. In one department [unclear: knows] of, the cut off point seems [unclear: wenty]. Furthermore, Taylor's letter "At the 400- to 800 levels small [unclear: are] common because of the degree [unclear: ialisation] at these levels, but the [unclear: ons]are directed at them also." (em-[unclear: mine]). Just what sort of a death [unclear: ill] that spell for post graduate work?

[unclear: questions] are intended to estab[unclear: nechanism] for finding out which [unclear: would] get the axe. They are as [unclear: s:]

[unclear: ch] of the courses must be offered [unclear: year], and why?

[unclear: ch] of them are desirable, but such [unclear: their] withdrawal would still leave [unclear: bject] offering of reasonable breadth?

[unclear: ch] of them could be made subject to [unclear: oviso] that they be offered only if [unclear: lments] in them reach a specified [unclear: ber]?

[unclear: idea] behind the chopping of [unclear: ourses] is to redistribute the money [unclear: le] for staffing and equipment, but [unclear: t] hard to forsee the probably long [unclear: onsequences] of such a policy. Cour[unclear: t] fall into the first category would [unclear: ot] to be small in the first place, es[unclear: y] considering the tendency of most [unclear: ments] to make such courses pre[unclear: tes] for higher study and majoring in [unclear: evant] subjects. Trimming back the [unclear: would] leave the departments offering [unclear: ing] close to a skeleton appreciation [unclear: r] various subjects.

[unclear: most] students, this would rule out [unclear: ssibility] of study in the sub-field of [unclear: t] interest to them. For all [unclear: depart- it] would mean the curtailment of [unclear: h] into many areas that most need [unclear: h]. In the "core" courses, it is al[unclear: mpossible] to find a topic that needs [unclear: hing]. In the "peripheral" areas [unclear: s] often a great amount waiting to [unclear: e], a great number of real contribu[unclear: hat] could and now may not [unclear: mater- At] the post-graduate level, reducing [unclear: mber] of options would inevitably [unclear: an] sizes to numbers untenable at [unclear: vel].

[unclear: ts] in the Equipment Grants

[unclear: Audit] Office (so Johns' letter notes) [unclear: ers] that the grants for equipment is [unclear: v] inadequate. This means that the [unclear: ill] not mean simply that some ac[unclear: will] have to do without the equip[unclear: hey] should rightly have, for they [unclear: ling] that already. The result could [unclear: a] lot more activities in that position, and could even end some completely. Hardest hit through' [unclear: this] measure again will be the "peripheral" areas of expenditure, and any major new items departments had hoped to buy to keep abreast of standards.

Photos showing student spaces including a lecture theatre

*** Abolition of Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

New Zealand universities have a programme of offering one year research fellowships to New Zealand post-doctoral graduates. The scheme is aimed particularly at bringing New Zealand graduates back from overseas and offering local graduates the chance of doing significant work in their own country. Combined with the cutback of small courses the abolition of these fellowships would have serious repercussions on knowledge on New Zealand life and resources, at a time when we can least afford it.

*** Deferral of Building Maintenance and Reduction of Cleaning Standards**

Building maintenance is already well behind; cleaning standards have already been reduced to a minimum. The Johns letter did not mention the shelving of the building programmes, and in fact Victoria has learnt that its quinquennial request for building finance was not high enough. It is possible that construction will go ahead because of the employment opportunities it offers. The spectacle of lonely lecturers wading knee-deep through piles of paper in deserted buildings, some brand new, some falling down around their heads, is perhaps too far-fetched, but it does contain a large grain of truth .

*** An end to Open Entry**

The only way to reduce the expenditure of universities in the long term and still maintain a reasonable

standard of education, is to reduce the number of students. This would have to be done in conjunction with dwindling staff numbers, and could be implemented in a variety of ways.

The most drastic would be for the Government to fix the number of students each university could take. This goes directly against the New Zealand concept that everyone with UE has the right and opportunity to enter university. The number of classes with restricted entry could be greatly increased, and/or UE could be raised to the 7th form. Both these measures have been raised often in the last few years and are sure to be looked at very carefully this time round.

Abolition of the direct entry for people over 21 years of age, restrictions on the availability of the STB, partial or full abolition of the fees bursary and higher "internal" costs for students would all be ways of achieving the same end. The result of course, would be to further turn the universities into bastions for the children of the rich and culturally advantaged.

Without doubt a limitation on the numbers of people entering universities, whether it is done directly or indirectly, would be the most serious result of the Government proposal. Not just for the universities, or for students and potential students, but for the whole country.

Why should they do it?

The consequences of reducing the level and availability of education at any and all levels will be apparent to anyone looking to the long term future of the country. So surely it isn't possible that the Government will take such steps?

The simple answer is that it bloody well is. Whenever a government gets into an economic crisis it cuts expenditure on all the areas that do not directly contribute to the economic policies it has adopted. The present Government's record with such actions are more than enough to fill a sinking ship.

The appointment of a nobody as Minister of Education was one of the first signs in 1979 of what was coming. Merv Wellington, with a low rating in Cabinet and what often appears to be a callous indifference to the plight of education, has made a great number of statements that give nobody in the education field any causes for comfort.

He believes the first priority should be education for children between the ages of five and fifteen. This means, it is becoming apparent, that tertiary and preschool training are being pared back to a level less than they can bear. But it doesn't augur well for the primary and secondary even augur well for the primary and secondary schools, which are being threatened workloads for teachers, inadequate building and equipment financing, the scrapping of school publications and the building of a reactionary "back to basics" movement.

"The country is now at a turning point and education will have to make some appropriate changes", Wellington has said. "There are some very important questions to be answered in the next 24 months. It might be painful for some people" (

"Education News", March 1979.

). Combined with Government statements, this suggests that money saved in one area of education will not be re-allocated to another, but will be lost to the field altogether.

Fighting Back

This article has been written in a speculative tone: this and that might/could happen, etc. This is not because there is much doubt about the results of the Government's policies regarding universities and education generally. Far from it. What is in doubt is whether they will be introduced, and that is because it is possible for us, students and staff, to change the Government's mind.

This can only be done if the widest possible range of the university population, acting together in the largest possible numbers, stages a massive show of opposition. Immediate action can take the form of a university contingent to join the Trades Council demonstration at the opening of Parliament on May 17. A forum is being held at 11am on the day (in the Rankine Brown quad if weather permits) and a march will lead off from it soon after 12 noon. The Association is calling on all students and staff to join this march.

As we go to press longer term action has still to be decided, but by the time of publication NZUSA's May Council will have adopted a major campaign strategy. This could involve:

- closure of the university
- a massive demonstration
- the linking of our demands to those of all other educational bodies affected by education cuts.

The next Salient will contain more news on this.

As we begin the fightback to save our diminishing educational standards and opportunities, it is worth remembering the famous words of Peter Fraser: *"The Government's objective, broadly expressed, is that every*

person, whatever his level of academic ability, whether he be rich or poor, whether he live in town or country, has a right, as a citizen, to a free education of the kind for which he is best fitted and to the fullest extent of his powers."

That objective has never been realised in New Zealand, but now, more than ever, we are moving away from it.

Kathy Jamieson

Editorial

The drug question is one which tends to arise time and again, with a kind of monotonous regularity. That it should be so much in the news is, really, not surprising, though. Drug convictions are among the most common type of criminal convictions in New Zealand. The vast majority of these convictions are for offences relating to marijuana.

Estimates of the number of people in this country who indulge in this drug vary considerably, but most hover around the 200,000 mark. This probably makes cannabis offences the most widespread criminal offence in the country, after our national part-time, drunken driving.

When one is faced with a law that is honored in the breach, one does not automatically argue for its abolition. There would be very few New Zealanders who have never violated our traffic regulations. But no-one seriously argues that they should in consequence be scrapped.

While it is impossible to rigorously enforce them, our traffic laws provide a disincentive to people to consistently endanger the lives of others through reckless driving, and provide a mechanism whereby those who do can be punished. Furthermore, most of our traffic offences carry relatively light penalties. Exceeding the speed limit by 10k/h will usually earn only a \$20 fine. Parking offenses etc also carry light penalties. So in general we could say that our traffic laws provide a service to the community, even though they are generally broken. Minor transgressions do not earn disproportionately heavy sentences (and most offenses are of this nature), but individuals who exceed normal bounds can be clobbered.

Now when we turn to consider the drug laws, the important question to ask is not whether or not people on the whole respect the laws — that is not necessarily the criterion to use. However when there is a law so widely disobeyed, the question to ask is whether its continued existence is of benefit to the community.

If we just concentrate on the marijuana question, it is hard to see just who the law as it stands benefits. It does not "protect" the community by making the drug unavailable (I would be amazed if any university student would be unable to procure some marijuana if s/he had the urge). Rather the laws harm the community by applying quite disproportionate punishments for the offence. Average fines possession for personal use are currently running between \$100 and \$200, which few could regard as trifling. A significant number of people earn prison sentences for marijuana offences. In this case the punishment is out of proportion to the seriousness of the crime or its widespread nature.

Furthermore, by keeping these laws in existence, the police and other enforcement agencies are obliged to spend vast amounts of time and resources in chasing marijuana users. This time would be far better used in trying to track down those who are involved with "hard drugs", which I think everyone agrees are a far more serious problem than marijuana. In fact the police probably actually actively seek for marijuana rather than other drugs. Marijuana is extremely difficult to conceal and transport because of its bulk and smell. While marijuana is usually dealt, in by the hundred weight, or even the ton for most other drugs a kilo is a huge amount. Clearly police who look for tons of grass are going to have much more success than their colleagues on the lookout for a kilo of heroin. Like anyone else, members of the police like to have an impressive record of "kills".

The drug debate is often side-tracked by hoardes of "medical experts", exactly half of whom can be guaranteed to say that marijuana is good, the other half to say that it is bad. In view of the division of opinion, it seems unlikely that marijuana has any outstandingly harmful effects.

Most would probably agree that any use of drugs, whether it be marijuana, alcohol, nicotine or cocaine, is undesirable. But with the marijuana laws we are left wondering whether the attempted cure of outlawing the drug is worse than the drug itself.

Peter Beach

... CONINUED FROM ISSUE 8 JOE SPUTNIK AND THE MYSTERY OF... oh my stars and union jacks! An egg! EPISODE NINE Fried with onions, Quite! and here's another! Who are you! And what's the meaning of this? Throwing fried eggs about like they were golf-balls! Don't you realise there are million of hungry people in Asia who have to eat their egg saw because they can't afford a pan to fry them in !! ...And take off those rificulous clothes! But your head it's... its... How embarrassing. Yes, it is true. I wear these clothes to

cover up my mutated head. I was operated upon by a mad genius and, as you can imagine have had a terrible grudge against egg's ever since! MAD GENIUS ? NICE DAY! Yes! But I'd better tell you the whole story your life too may be in danger! URG...! BANG BANG WATCH FOR EPISODE 10...

President

Drawing of a person selling hats

Aha! It's the beginning of term again! Sorry about that — nothing we can do about it.

Well, not this week, but next week at a Special General Meeting on Wednesday the President faces a motion of no confidence in himself, largely because he failed to get elected a delegate to the May Council of NZUSA by an SRC last term. This is in spite of the fact that he got elected by a reasonable majority at the elections last year. SRC sent the person he defeated last year as a chief delegate. Come to the SGM and decide whether democracy is to continue or be aborted. All are welcome.

More important is the work of VUWSA; at the moment it seems that very basic concepts of tertiary education are at risk. The university faces a drastic cut in the amount of finance available for its proper functioning as an educational institution.

It is common knowledge that the Government is trying to find ways to cut expenditure and the universities have come under scrutiny. Recently Alan Johns (Chairman of the University Grant Committee) pointed out to the New Zealand V Vice-Chancellor's Committee that the Government's scrutiny of the university system is taking place at the same time that the universities are negotiating with the government through the University (Gr yearly) block grants for 1980-1985.

Already recently University Councils have been asked for a substantial cut in their 1979 budgets. This is particularly serious for Vic as the "fat" has already been cut out of the University budget. Thus the outlook for the university, [unclear: hen] your education is very gloomy. In the coming Salients there will be articles on the University finances — read them and become familiar with the issues involved. Scaremongering is not the name of the game. Dr Johns, Chairman of the UGC has already stated that if the [unclear: Government] decides to cut back university spending there will have to be a restriction on the numbers given a university education. A document circulated to many [unclear: departmen] heads suggests that many small courses at 100, 200 and 300 level with [unclear: enrolments] under 20 students will be axed. The [unclear: UGC] has asked for information on the [unclear: possibi] of withdrawing courses and entire [unclear: subject] where student demand is small even at [unclear: th] 200 and 300 level.

These are some of the facts and [unclear: studen] and staff must realise the urgency of [unclear: the] situation.

If you care about your university and your education support your Association in its stand for the reasonable financing of tertiary education. If, for example, [unclear: yc] want to accept cuts in Library hours, [unclear: well] fare and health services, do nothing. [unclear: Oth] wise wake up — the university could have closed down by the time that beauty [unclear: slee] of yours comes to an end at the finish of your drowsy lectures!

Andrew Tees

(President VUWSA)

Salient Notes

"You can't take that," said Stephen A'Court, pointing at the light table, "we need it to put out our paper." "Too bad," growled reposessor Andrea Carruthers. "You didn't pay your HP, and my boss, Nasty David Murray, says this has to go."

Kathryn Fleming quietly reached for a scalpel and started chopping off Andrew Beach's shoe laces. Close to tears, the afore-mentioned juvenile letra-setted "You Bitch". After that things were fast and frantic. A bottle was thrown, a window broken, a dog eaten and nine people laughed.

Well known silly person Karen Jamieson gazed on in wonder as a polaris submarine cruised in. "I'll take three copies of Canta and a dead fish" said Captain Geoff "Skippy" Adams. "Your story," giggled Mark Wilson. "Well I might settle for a dead fish" confessed Geoff.

Speaking of dead fish, infamous necrophiliac and pursuer of quarter pounders Without cheese Peter Beach crawled in at this moment (on his belly no less!). Alan MacArthur explained that it was a result of the self-hypnosis course Peter was doing, which, combined with a hard night on the town had produced the most unfortunate results.

"How horrible" gasped Michele A'Court. "Oh, it's not so bad" said Alan, "I mean last week he thought he was an editor." The burst of merriment that this remark produced was interrupted by the continuing skirmish around the light table.

A tall man in monks' habit was preparing to lay down his life in defence of the light table. "Who is it?" asked Michael O'Flaherty. The answer came back; "It's Simon Wilson." "Ha" laughed Michael, "there's a pseudonym if ever I heard one."

Whipping his walking stick out of its shoulder holster, Chris Conway flung himself into the fray. Unfortunately the fray had by this time moved to another part of the room, and it was a passing [unclear: innc] cent called Paul McGrath who bore the brunt of Chris' well meaning hurtle.

The howls of pain were most unpleasant to behold and Lorraine Wilson, even compassionate, turned on the radio to spare our shattered nerves (if not Paul's shattered tibia).

On the radio was the latest offering from those well known warbling clones. The Chipmunk Brothers. As if pulled up on strings, Kris Molloy rises and moves onto the dance floor. And what a magnificent solo performance. The Brooklyn Shuffle, the Wellington Wander, and the Varsity Hustle are all done to perfection.

Living over to that dazzling red-heads Victory Quade, he twirls her over his head. Unfortunately, Tori's mass is greater than appearances would suggest, and Kris' biceps promptly deflated, and he landed in an untidy heap at the feet of Virginia Adams. "Oh Kris," she breathed huskily.

Helen Aikman, embarrassed by this display of affection, went off and in no time flat had produced the following paper. And the radio continued to blare, prompting Tim Rochford to twang his broken Stratocaster and mournfully sing ballads of the good old days of punk rock.

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Top of the Week

[unclear: More] Opposition [unclear: o] Cuts

Pick the biggest joke (if you can')

Photo of three men

[unclear: ents] should take heart from the [unclear: moves] by primary school teachers [unclear: se] cuts in education spending. It [unclear: inevitable] that other education groups [unclear: low] the course the primary teachers [unclear: ng]. And for all those who hope [unclear: will] be possible to unify all [unclear: educaups] in opposition to the new Gov[unclear: t] policy this development is most [unclear: ging].

[unclear: the] time this issue is printed, NZUSA [unclear: ve] decided what action the univer[unclear: dents] will be taking to oppose the [unclear: on] cuts. It is to be hoped that it [unclear: possible] for the student [unclear: organisao] work together with teacher groups [unclear: a] broad band of opposition. We [unclear: e] details of NZUSA's programme [unclear: ext] Salient.

[unclear: of] the most encouraging signs of [unclear: hers] stand is the unanimity of the [unclear: n] (only 3 dissenting voices out of [unclear: 0]). Although at this stage the NZEI [unclear: y] called for stop work meetings to [unclear: government's] policy to them, this [unclear: y] the NZEI suggests that they are [unclear: plans] for properly organising their [unclear: rs] should it prove necessary.

[unclear: the] universities have only recently [unclear: ssure] placed on them to curtail ex[unclear: ire], primary and secondary educa[unclear: ve] been feeling the effects of Govern[unclear: olicy], to an ever increasing extent, [unclear: e] last two years or so.

[unclear: sinking] lid policy of staffing Govern[unclear: epartments] (whereby staff who leave [unclear: automatically] replaced) has included [unclear: se] the Education Department. As [unclear: y] and secondary education are dir[unclear: dministered] by the Education Depart[unclear: unlike] universities which go through [unclear: versity] Grants Committee), the [unclear: of] the sinking lid policy have al[unclear: een] felt — fewer school inspectors [unclear: lable] to assist and advise new tea[unclear: he] National Film Library is having [unclear: il] its activities due to staff reduct[unclear: fresher] courses have also had their [unclear: reduced] due to staffing shortages.

[unclear: ever] as well as the sinking lid policy, [unclear: ave] been other direct reductions in [unclear: g] in this area. There has been a [unclear: on] in the quality of school buildings [unclear: ir] maintenance, causing some pupils [unclear: oused] in sub-standard accommod[unclear: School] publications have also been [unclear: d], in particular a revision of a rea[unclear: imer], "Ready to Read" has been [unclear: through]

insufficient funding.

[unclear: notwithstanding] these cuts, which [unclear: en] mainly in the form of indirect [unclear: on], our friend on the hill, Merv Wellington, is talking about a further reduction in expenditure in all sectors of education.

Primary education is now regarded as being the crucial section of state funded education. It is at this level that children do a greater amount of the development than in any other sector of the education system. This is also the area in which the greatest developments are taking place in teaching techniques, some of which will change our whole programme of primary schooling. Any cuts in spending in this area will not only impair the quality of the job presently being done, but will completely shelve any plans of actually improving the quality of education in this sector.

It is in vogue, in some areas to claim that university education is a "privilege" and a "luxury". I will not be diverted here to refute these claims, but they certainly have no merit when applied to primary education. If we are to keep even half an eye to the future, we cannot allow this area to suffer.

Gleneagles Agreement? what Agreement?

It has been suggested that Muldoon was in a somewhat humorous, whimsical frame of mind when he palmed the job of Minister of Education onto hapless Merv Wellington. If that is so, he must have been completely hysterical when he appointed Ben Couch Minister of Maori Affairs.

A strong starter in the race for the title "Best Friend of South Africa", Couch, since appointed, has spent most of his time actively supporting the South Africa regime.

[unclear: ,] he is considering an offer to tour South Africa, paid for presumably by the South African government. His comments on the Gleneagles Agreement [unclear: hit] jackpot in the "Stupid Remarks Stakes

Although Ben Couch could scarcely be accused of keeping his personal views hidden, he exceeded even his own normal tactlessness

When the Combined State Services Organisation announced its new policy of not allowing civil servants to draw full pay while in sports tours of South Africa, many people welcomed an overdue positive measure against these sporting contacts. In the spirit of Gleneagles, this move represents a "discouraging of sporting contacts."

The policy of allowing sportsmen and women touring overseas on full pay, is, presumably, a tradition aimed at giving some encouragement and assistance to amateurs who otherwise might face severe financial hardship. But, as Muldoon agreed at Gleneagles, New Zealand will no longer encourage its sportsmen and women to travel to and compete with teams from South Africa. By withdrawing the privilege of leave with full pay, the CSSO is honouring this principle.

Couch however claimed that this was a policy of "selected censorship" and should not be allowed. He argued that it discriminated against those who wished to support the apartheid regime. This was, I thought precisely the intention of Gleneagles.

One wonders how long Couch will survive in cabinet. Even Mr Thompson (Minister in charge of CSSO) and hardly the most liberal face in the National Party, took public exception to Couch's remarks. Couch's comments however may have an indirect benefit. With cabinet ministers publically squabbling, Muldoon may be forced to take a firm position on New Zealand's relations with South Africa.

Bottom of the Week—

PM Strikes Back

The Union of Prime Ministers threatened mass strike action this week as a result of threats by the Treasury to tax their paltry travel allowance. Union representative Rob Muldoon explained his union case:

"I don't think people in the Labour department realise just how much a Ford LTD costs to run. And that isn't to mention the cost of flying back to Tamaki every weekend to check on Thea and the kids. I couldn't believe it — just the other week, the Air Force charged [unclear: u] for borrowing one of their Andovers to take us to an important conference."

"Strewth", said Minister of Labour Jim Bolger, "I'd like to help you, but the boss has told me to be more assertive with the union movement."

"But really," wheedled Rob, "We don't get that much. For instance our allowance is hardly any bigger than

the annual salary of the airport engineers."

But it was all to no avail. Left with no alternative, Rob raised the matter with the FoL. Biding his time, Rob leant across his fence when Sir Tom was mowing his lawn. "I got a problem Tom", said Rob. "Let's go down to the Fisherman's Wharf and discuss it over dinner" said Sir Tom. "But you're a trade unionist" said Rob, "You can't go in there." "Oh it's alright," laughed Tom, "I'm retired now, I can flaunt my wealth."

It was over Lobster Thermodore that Rob raised the question of strike action. "Quite right" said Sir Tom, concentrating on the Rothschild '57;"we'll back you up all the way."

The next day, the news hit the street. "Read all about it" cried newspaper lackey Hugh Templeton, "Prime Minister threatens strike action unless demands met."

Interviewed by Mr Sardonic 1979 (Ian Fraser) the Prime Minister said, "I think that when our union goes out, it will be made abundantly clear that we are indispensable to the running of the country." The facts do not seem to bear this out though. A Heylin poll conducted this week produced the following results: 97% couldn't care, 2% didn't know, and 1% urinated against a wall.

And so the stage was set. Thousands of school students' holiday plans were liable to be disrupted by the self-orientated attitude of this small section of our population. Jim "Lantern Jaw" Bolger was grim when he faced a news conference. "I don't think we have any choice but to deregister the Prime Ministers' Union. I'm sure this is just what my boss would tell me, if it wasn't him I was deregistering. As it is I think I'll just sit here and sharpen my pencil."

"Suspend him," hissed Tizzy. "Oh shut up," whimpered Wally. "I can handle this, Tiger".

Local liberal George Chapperson suggested Muldoon be beheaded as an example to others, but Bolger, always with an eye to the future, demurred.

Bolger suggested a one man commission consisting of one-man-sinecure-at-large Sir Keith Holyoake (who would at least be able to swap knighthood stories with prominent trade unionists). Kiwi Keith would be able to arrive at an unbiased decision which all parties would respect.

"Nonsense" said Rob. "I'll fire him." "No, I don't think that would be a good idea" said Sir Tom. "But you said that you would back me up," spluttered our victimised Prime Minister. "Did I?" asked Sir Tom, perusing the new car price lists.

"Jim!" hollered that incomparable example of tolerance and politeness. RDM, "Tell them I'm right."

"Well I would tell them, but my boss told me not to back down to trade-unionists. But then, you are my boss. How about this. You say you were wrong, and then as soon as you are back at work, I'll say that you were right."

And so that was how it was boys and girls. The trade union that thought it was backed by the FoL found itself up the proverbial river without a paddle. But everyone was happy with Jim's wonderful compromise — except that is for the man in Treasury who suggested the idea in the first place. He is out on the streets looking for a job.

Andrew Beach

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Bursaries: The Fight Continues

Well, haven't we had a good campaign on bursaries? I suppose we'd just better pat ourselves on the back and wait for the nine dollar increase.

It is sad, but I fear that all too many university students will be thinking along exactly those lines. Filled with virtue after having recovered from pneumonia contracted by marching in the pouring rain, some will think the whole campaign is over and that the question of a rise in the Standard Tertiary Bursary is out of our hands and in those of Government. The more people who believe this, the less chance that we have of actually getting any increase.

The Beginning of a Campaign

In the past our demonstrations have represented the climax of a campaign. This year however, because of the leak of the Education Department's proposal for a \$9 increase in the STB, we marched at the beginning. The reason for this was simply that it was imperative to clearly demonstrate student support for the proposal.

Having done this we must now strive to ensure that the proposals are actually put into effect.

To do this, student organisations will have to operate on many levels - official, unofficial, and government level and at local level. We must use every tool in our possession to keep hammering the message Students are not satisfied with the present level of the STB.

A Hard Fight

When we started the campaign, few thought that it would be an easy one. We thought we were in with a chance, as we still are, but in the past government has never been very easy to convince over any increases in the past, and there was no evidence to suggest that their attitude had changed.

Now however it is clear that their attitude has actually suffered a relapse. In the past Government actually paid token lip service to the concept of free and open education at all levels of the education system, including university education and student bursaries.

It is now clear that they are dispensing with even that token support. It is reliably rumoured that, far from increasing the level of bursary support for students, they are actually seeking to cut the \$30 million currently spent on the STB to \$25 million.

Oh Woe!

The cry will probably go out that students are about to get nailed, and we may as well pack up any ideas we had of an increase and go back to our textbooks.

Not so! Government, saying they want \$5 million cut out of the STB, and Government actually doing it are two different things. In everything he does Muldoon's prime motivation (and all other members of his Government and party) is to ensure that National is still the government in three years time.

To be sure, MPs are concerned about the economy; most New Zealanders are. But above all else MPs want to be sure that they are still in parliament at the end of 1981.

The conclusion to be drawn from this observation is that the Government will only adopt those "tough and rigorous measures" necessary to correct the economy, that they think the voters will stand for. All students vote. The more definite we make our opposition to these proposals, the more Government will be reluctant to institute them.

... I FREAK OUR EVERYTIME YOU BRING UP THAT... BURSARIES BUSINESS... IT'S ALL SO... SO... I KNOW .. MESSY! COMPLICATED... CONFUSING BUT LOOK! WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S HEAPS ON HAPPENING. JUST FORGET THE STUDENTS RIGHT? WOW YES ! THAT'S EASILY DONE...

There is another danger that we face though. If students are able to pressure the Government so that they do not impose the cuts, we shouldn't then be content to see no increase in the level of the STB.

The arguments in favour of a \$39 STB are many and varied. To maintain its original value against inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index require a value of \$39. If we take the view that the STB should reflect average hostel fees, we get the \$39 figure. The only way to calculate what the level should be and not get \$39 is to calculate what Government would like to spend on the STB. On that basis the level would be \$0.

This is the basis of our argument. Students need at least a \$39 a week bursary if the universities are going to have anything that comes close to free access. We are not satisfied with a \$30 STB, nor a \$35 STB, we believe that the level should be \$39. And as for a cut.....

More than the \$9 Deal

While the April 11 demonstration [unclear: w] built around a \$39 bursary, we [unclear: should] forget about the problems in other [unclear: area] of the STB. The iniquitous [unclear: abatement] still remains with all its anomalies [unclear: firm] intact. Eligibility for the STB has [unclear: not] altered since its introduction, the [unclear: require] ments are still as narrow as ever. [unclear: Govern] ment has as yet made no moves to [unclear: inde] the bursary which would at least [unclear: preven] the real value of the bursary from [unclear: con] uing its present decline. Length of [unclear: tenu] of the STB has also not been changed.

Students should not forget that all these problems still remain in the [unclear: system] When we examine Government's [unclear: perfor] ance on the STB we should look [unclear: further] than just the rate. When we look at [unclear: any] proposals for changing the STB we [unclear: must] look further than the rate.

Part of a Trend

University Education is not the [unclear: only] area that Government hopes to cut. If [unclear: i] comments of Merv Wellington (yes he's the Minister of Education) are anything to go by (and notwithstanding his other

faults, Merv can be relied on to [unclear: commu] cate Muldoon's views fairly accurately) the whole of the Education sector is [unclear: goin] to have the knife applied to it.

Muldoon's comments over the last [unclear: feve] weeks indicate beyond all doubt that [unclear: the] working people in the country are also going to be nailed even further to the [unclear: was]

It's happening all around us, and it affects us all directly. Like all these [unclear: grow] we have a choice. We can bow our hands and resign ourselves to living in Muldoon New Zealand or we can stand up and [unclear: play] a part in shaping our own destiny. [unclear: Even] though our power is limited, the [unclear: people] we have to deal with have their [unclear: Achilles] heel — they want to stay in Parliament and in Government. That's more important than all the "economic reforms" in [unclear: t] world to most of them.
Peter Beach

The Dwindling Exec

Dear Andrew,

I hereby resign from the Executive of VUWSA, effective as of Friday 11 May 1979.

My reasons are the following:

I no longer have the time to do my duties as Secretary satisfactorily, and I have been looking for an opportune time to resign. With the resignation of the Cultural Affairs Officer (Michael Carr-Greg) and the resultant bi-election, the time seems ripe.

I would like to thank the office staff who who have supported me, and the executive, and without whom the Association could not function.

Yours sincerely

J. Hebenton

Salient also understands that Michael Carr-Greg has resigned as Cultural Affairs Officer, but as he has not sent in an official letter of resignation, and at the time of going to press is understood to be holidaying in Australia, we have not been able to establish his reasons.

As the Constitution states that if three or more vacancies have occurred in the Executive before June 1, a bi-election will be held for all such positions, regardless of whether or not any of the vacancies have been filled by SRC elections in the interrim.

This means that there will be an election held shortly for the positions of:

- Man Vice President (presently occupied by Alan Philips who was elected by an SRC early in the year following the resignation of Kevin Ward).
- SRC Co-ordinator (presently occupied by Deborah Montgomery, who was elected by SRC following the resignation of Jonathan Scott)
- Welfare Officer (this new position was created at the AGM, and has yet to be filled)
- Secretary (following John Hebenton's resignation)
- Cultural Affairs Officer (following Michael Carr-Greg's resignation).

No Confidence in the President

Added to these recent resignations, at its last meeting of last term, the VUWSA Executive passed a motion calling for a Special General Meeting (to be held on the second Wednesday of the second term) to consider a vote of no confidence in the President (Andrew Tees).

Should the SGM pass this motion, there will be a total of six vacancies in the Executive. Probably a record for this time of the year.

The motion from the Executive calling for the SGM was in response to the last SRC of last term, where Tees unsuccessfully stood for three positions in an attempt to get elected a delgate to NZUSA May Council.

His triple failure in an arena where Presidents have in the past had no trouble in getting elected shows that Tees has lost the confidence of the SRC. The Executive took the view that the only way to determine whether the President clearly had the support of the members of the Association was to put it to the vote — and hence

the SGM.

Tees appears to be adopting the novel position that it was "undemocratic" for the SRC not to send him to May Council. He points out that in the Presidential elections last year he gained the support of 9% of those eligible to vote, beating Simon Wilson by 121 votes. He seems to use this to argue that the SRC should have automatically elected him ahead of Wilson.

Tees' concept of democracy seems to be that once a person has been elected by general ballot, the SRC should have no say whether or not this person is still fit to represent them in an official capacity. By voting once members of the association have discharged their democratic duty.

This is a particularly bankrupt argument. The Association should be trying to involve as many of its members as much as possible in the decision making process. Real democracy involves people in far more than one vote a year for members of the Executive.

No Faith in SRC

Tees has this year adopted an attitude of disregard for the SRC, he believes it to be "controlled by a sectarian minority that is not representative of true student opinion." In his President's column we are regularly told about how SRC consists of the PSA political heavies. Tees has yet to explain how an organisation of 20 or 30 can run an SRC of 200 or 300, but then again, from his point of view, that's not necessary. He just wants to be able to use the PSA as an organisation he can use to assist him in a little "red-baiting". Indeed, red-baiting is probably the only argument that he could use to defend himself. No-one is particularly likely to defend him on the basis of the work that he has done.

The Executive took an interesting position at its last meeting (shortly after the motion calling for the SGM had been passed, when it agreed to pay the President's fare to the International Students' Congress (ISC) in Auckland. As the SRC was clearly not happy about sending Tees to represent them at NZUSA'S May Council, I wonder why the Executive thought that it would be happy to have him representing it at the ISC.

It is not yet clear where this money for Tees' trip came from, but if it came from the \$300 that SRC allocated for assisting the travel of students who wished to attend, the Executive will have some questions to answer. It is highly unlikely that the SRC would have intended \$34 of the \$300 to be spent on transporting Tees to the ISC.

Why Resign?

It is not hard to see why Heberton resigned, indeed it is hard to see what his reasons for standing were in the first place. He is now saying that he stood for the position because he felt he had something to say on the election noticeboards (namely that the Secretary should be full-time).

This year he has so far justified his position on Executive by claiming that an incompetent is better than no-one. In the case of Heberton, this argument does not have universal support. But at least his resignation clears the way for someone who is prepared to do the work to take the position.

Although Michael Carr-Greg has not sent an official letter of resignation outlining his reasons for resigning, it appears that he basically believes that other members of the Executive have been obstructing him and preventing him from carrying out his job properly. It is not clear to me however that resigning from the position will in any way improve the situation.

Carr-Greg is in as strong a position as any of the Exec members. He was elected by a healthy majority, and since then has done his job well. It is unfortunate that, rather than continuing, he has decided to resign. If he stands for re-election (as is rumoured likely) and is successful, it is hard to see that his position on the Exec will be strengthened to the extent that he will always get his way. While a protest resignation can be a worthwhile thing, in this case it is unlikely to achieve anything.

Peter Beach

[unclear: Utopia] for \$12.75—Cheap at the Price?

[unclear: enior] political science lecturer Prof. [unclear: Cleveland], believes the cost of text[unclear: s] will eventually be so high "that [unclear: nts] won't be able to afford to buy [unclear: t]". Many students, however, faced [unclear: a] total textbook bill for a year's study [unclear: ell]-over \$100, would tell him that the [unclear: s] already here.

[unclear: eland's] Book

[unclear: he] recent publication of Prof. Cleve[unclear: s] own book, "The Politics of Utopia"

These two piles of books, watched over by shop assistant at the VBC, Robin Hickman, represent the required reading of a first year arts student doing English Literature, History (early modern Europe) and sociology.

The cost of the books, after student discount, is \$97. As well as this there is a Handbook issued by the History Department and a number of small volumes published for the English Department by Witiata Press. The added cost of these would make the student's book bill around \$105 for one year's study.

Photo of Robin Hickman with books

[unclear: s] caused murmurings of discontent a—[unclear: g] this year's POLS III students. "Re[unclear: mended]" reading for the course, it sells [unclear: he] Victoria Book Centre for \$12.75. [unclear: t's] the nett price, the 10 percent dis[unclear: nt] having already been deducted.

[unclear: Asked] why the book is so expensive, Prof. [unclear: eland] questioned whether in fact it is ex[unclear: sive], compared with text books for other [unclear: l] one courses in comparable teaching a—[unclear: such] as sociology, education, psycholo[unclear: nd] anthropology.

[unclear: He] gays he has been "crashing out" cheap [unclear: books] in the department for several years [unclear: sing] the university's own multilith prin—[unclear: equipment]. The forerunner of "The [unclear: Po- s] of Utopia". was produced by this [unclear: me- d], he says, and never cost more than \$6.

[unclear: However] this system proved inadequate [unclear: year] when 915 students enrolled in POLS [unclear: says] Prof. Cleveland, and supplies of the [unclear: ks] ran dry. In trying to produce more, [unclear: ays], "I used the xerox machine here un[unclear: t] caught fire".

[unclear: The] problem is that the multilith system [unclear: nly] really designed to deal with small runs [unclear: o] department typists, "already snowed [unclear: er] with work", had to do the typeset—[unclear: by] typing out a complete master copy.

[unclear: For] these reasons, Prof. Cleveland decided about June of last year to have the book put out by a commercial publisher, the result being this year's \$12.75 price.

No Greed

Wanting, he says, to get the book out as cheaply as possible, he "gutted" it down in length and got an assurance from the publishers, Methuen, that they would put it out at \$10, "a bed-rock minimum" says Prof. Cleveland. "Since July of last year the price has crept up, due I think to inflation. It's not because of any greed on my part of that of the publishers. It's accelerated beyond \$10 and that's unfortunate, but I still think \$12 is cheap for a text book."

Asked why he went to Methuen to get the book published when, as a local publisher working with a small run and higher costs, the book was bound to be dearer than if published overseas, Prof. Cleveland says that in order to have copies of the book available for this year's students he didn't have much choice. He had to go to someone like Methuen, who could have the book produced within eight months.

"I had to pull my finger out. Books do not magically appear on bookshelves. If I had started negotiating with Harper and Row or somebody like that I would have kissed goodbye to that (having the book ready for this year), they would have taken 12 months," he says.

"I agree that there is a differential between local and overseas publishers, but if I wanted to get books into peoples's hands I couldn't dicker around."

Alternatives to Books

While Prof. Cleveland's explanation of why his book is the price that it is may seem quite reasonable, the fact remains that even if a book price is justifiable, many students will still be unable to afford it. There is a need for alternatives to the prescribing of expensive textbooks and also a review by some departments of their reading lists to make them better related to the actual course.

One possible alternative is for greater use of the multilith system for producing small-run, in-house publications which, like the 'Notes on New Zealand Government', are much cheaper than commercially published textbooks.

Another is for the use of audio-visual outlets to provide students with secondary material rather than relying only on books.

Prof. Cleveland says that as books become too dear for students there will be an increasing onus on staff to produce in-house publications which they can afford and to make use of audio-visual techniques. In line with

this, his department is this year, as an experiment, recording all its lectures on tape, which are available to students to listen to in the library. When the library's audio-visual equipment, currently on order, arrives, he is hoping to upgrade this service by including slides.

It is hoped that these facilities will be available by the end of the year. At the moment, however, the library is waiting on confirmation of an order for television monitors from Australia.

Realistic Reading Lists

On the need for a review of subject reading lists, especially at the first year level, senior lecturer and acting director of the Teaching Research Centre, Brad Imrie, says that lecturers should realise there is only a limited amount they can expect students to read and only a limited amount they can expect them to be able to afford.

The question they have to ask themselves when prescribing a book is 'Is this book going to help the student to learn and how can their attention be focused on the things in it that they should learn,' he says. "Other universities, one at least, have a ruling that no lecturer can recommend a book that he has written. I'm not saying that this is a problem here, but there could be exploitation."

Where there is a problem, says Mr Imrie, is that students having to depend on the standard tertiary bursary for income just do not have the money for books.

One possible solution to this would be the payment of a book allowance to students, he suggests. Care would have to be taken to prevent a black market of these springing up, he says, but this could be prevented with correct administration.

While agreeing that greater use of the multilith system for producing in-house publications would help alleviate the cost problem, he says that if there is any increase in this field, the university's printing facilities may not be able to cope.

Printing manager Stuart Taylor disagrees, however. He says the only limitations on the multilith department are those of people and equipment. The department produced 90 percent of the 60 publications in use by the university this year, he says, and the only reason the other 10 percent had to be farmed out to commercial printers was because the production has to be crammed into two or three months at the beginning of the year.

Over the last five years, he adds, the plant of the department has been built up so that at the moment it has a replacement value of around \$75,000.

But while these, and no doubt other, alternatives are available, to a certain extent, they dodge the real issue, which is can anything be done to reduce the price of commercially published books?

Accepting the reasons given by Prof. Cleveland for the high cost of New Zealand produced books, the main one being the small demand resulting in small runs, why are overseas-produced books, with a much larger demand, also dear?

According to senior anthropology lecturer Dr Nancy Pollock it comes down to the overseas book distributors. Their monopoly is a major factor in the cost of imported books.

Dr Pollock, concerned for some time about the rising cost of books and the problems this causes for students, is hoping to conduct a survey of the university staff on the subject and their attitudes towards it.

"The crucial issue here is the number of books that a student can be expected to buy," she says. "One point that is obvious, though, is that we can't do without secondary material, so what are the alternatives, the possibilities?"

Mark Wilson

Drawing of a man on a tall ladder cutting a tall flower

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Are you an 'A' Student?

Below is the text of a letter we received from the Australian Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, in reply to our request for clarification of the position of overseas students who wish to visit Australia.

Dear Mr Beach,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 12 March 1979 concerning the refusal of Australian visitor visas to a

number of Malaysian students studying in New Zealand.

The Australian Governments present visitor policy emphasizes visit applications overseas should be closely examined so as to ensure visas are granted only to applicants intending a bona fide visit to Australia. In any case where it appears the visit application is designed covertly to obtain entry for other undisclosed purposes such as residence or to engage in employment or formal studies, the overseas post concerned is required to refuse a visa.

Where doubt exists that a genuine visit is intended enquiries are made to establish either that they are well-founded or that refusal of a visa is not justified. When a visitor does overstay the consequences to the Australian community can be serious.

There is no general restriction on Malaysian students or on any other group of students visiting Australia. Visa applications are assessed and decided individually.

The Australian High Commission Wellington has reported that between 1 and 15 February 1979 16 visit applications were received from Malaysian students. Of these 7 were granted visit visas and 9 were refused. The refusals were on the grounds that the bona fides of the applicants could not be accepted, ie it was considered, on the basis of information provided, that they would not comply with the conditions of visitor entry.

The Department is not prepared to comment on what a "Reference 'A'" stamp indicates.

There is no set formula by which students and others can persuade an overseas post they intend a genuine short term visit. As mentioned earlier each application is assessed on its merits in the light of information provided by the applicant and taking into account any other information available to the overseas post.

If any of the applicants recently refused visas feel there is additional information, omitted from their unsuccessful applications, which would warrant a re-consideration they are invited to bring it to the attention of the Australian High Commission in Wellington.

Yours sincerely,

T.A. Smith

for Secretary

In the first issue of Salient this year, we expressed concern over what appeared to be the grossly iniquitous way in which the Australian High Commission in Wellington processed applications from Malaysian students to visit Australia.

The concern was centred around the fact that many of the Malaysian students applying for visitor's permits to Australia (in order to take advantage of the cheaper Wellington/Sydney/Singapore route) have had stamped on their passports "Reference A". "Reference A" means that you are not permitted to enter Australia at all.

The questions that we raised in our initial article were:

What does "Reference A" indicate?

What are the criteria that are applied to determine whether a student is classed as "Reference A"?

Will those students who have been classed "Reference A" remain permanently ineligible for visitor's permits?

What is the origin of the information upon which the decisions of the High Commission are made?

In an effort to get some sort of answers to these questions, Salient wrote to the Australian Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (as the High Commission itself was forbidden to comment). Their reply (reprinted here) is predictably vague and unhelpful, but it does contain some informative snippets if you care to be cynically inquisitive.

The letter states that "in cases where it appears the visit application is designed covertly to obtain entry for other undisclosed purposes ... the overseas post (in this case the High Commission) is required to refuse a visa" (our emphasis). As examples of such criminally surreptitious "undisclosed purposes", the Immigration Department's letter cites attempts to reside permanently, be employed, or be educated. Aha! We feel enlightened. In an effort to preserve the virgin, unpolluted shores of Australia, the Aussie High Commission will refuse visas to all those likely to try and stay permanently (and engage in other such criminal activities).

Unfortunately, this explanation of "Reference A" will not suffice. Why, for example, has Reference A been only applied to Malaysian students who wish to fly home during the long vacation?

More importantly, how does the High Commission determine whether a particular student is likely to become an illegal immigrant? According to the Immigration Department, a visa refusal is based on

"information provided by the applicant", and secondly by "taking into account any other information available". Well, let us take a look at these two methods of gleaning information about prospective Australian visitors.

On the application form for a permit to visit Australia, there are a total of seventeen questions to be filled out. The questions concern themselves only with the necessary statistics of name, age, sex, occupation and citizenship. There are also questions about the intended visit, such as why you want to go there and how long you intend to stay. However, what is conspicuously lacking on the application form is any question which could conceivably expose a potential "overstayer" (or any other type of "criminal"). In other words, the "information provided by the applicant" cannot be the basis upon which "Reference A" is stamped upon the passport of anyone wishing to travel to Australia.

Although the Australian Immigration Department is "not prepared to comment on what a "Reference A" stamp indicates", we can (by a little logical deduction) work out the basis on which it is applied. If the Australian High Commission does not base visa refusal upon "information provided by the applicant" (and we have seen that it doesn't), "Reference A" must be applied on the basis of "any other information available".

As soon as we realise this, the question that immediately springs to mind is: What is the source of this extra information that the High Commission has on Malaysian students?

If we were daring enough to draw our own conclusions (in the absence of any willingness of the Australian Immigration Department to tell us) we could end up concluding that someone is keeping a close eye on Malaysian students while they are in this country. Who is doing the watching? Why are they watching? Is it only Malaysian students who are being watched? Well, until we get our hands on some evidence, you'll be able to answer these questions as well as us.

One other question that concerns us, is why is it that the category "Reference A" is applied predominantly to Malaysian students? Salient knows of only one non-Malaysian who has been classed as "Reference A". He was a Scandinavian who had a previous overstaying conviction. Upon trying to leave this country and fly through Australia, he applied for a visa to do so, but ran up against "Reference A". But this is the only instance of a non-Malaysian that we have found being so barred from Australia.

The Australian Immigration Department claims that there is no specific restriction on Malaysian students (or on any other type of student, for that matter) who are trying to visit Australia. But this official statement does not explain why during 'the past six months over 30 Malaysian students seeking the Wellington/Sydney/Singapore flight have been prevented from doing so. And despite this statement, all fourteen Malaysian students who applied for visitor's permits were given "Reference A" during February.

Everyone is willing to concede that any country may be justifiably concerned over the type of person wanting to enter their country. It is largely this concern which justifies the existence of Immigration Departments throughout the world. But when, in practise, an Immigration Department uses a specific regulation in a discriminatory fashion, its basis for existence is taken out from under it. Looking at the actions of the Australian High Commission and Immigration Department, one cannot help but conclude that this is exactly the way in which the category "Reference A" is being operated.

HIDING SOMETHING PERHAPS? HMMM YOUR VISA PROBLEM MUST BE BOTHRING YOU AGAIN! OH GOD! AUSTRALIAN GOVT.

The matter of secrecy over the operation of this policy has been in no way cleared up by the "letter-of-explanation" Salient received from the Australian Immigration Department. The Department flatly refuses to disclose the criteria which a person must fulfil to escape being branded "Reference A". In fact, the import of "Reference A" is so shrouded in mystery, the High Commissions of other countries are apparently also in the dark. In one case Salient knows of, a Malaysian student was classed "Reference A" when she applied to fly through Australia from New Zealand. She then went to the British High Commission, as she also intended travelling there. The British refused give her a visa until they found out what "Reference A" meant. Eventually the British High Commission found out what it meant, and then allowed her a visa.

This situation implies that "Reference A" denotes that a person is a risky proposition only in Australia. Why this should be so is hard to say, but it suggests that "Refernce A" is something more [unclear: tha] a simple "likely to become an illegal immigrant" distinction.

If we realise a little about the transit system for people flying through [unclear: Australia] on their way to another country, we see that "Reference A" will not stop anyone who is determined to become an illegal immigrant. That is, if I were to book a flight through Australia on my way to somewhere else, I do not have to apply for a visitor's permit. I would be allowed to remain "in transit" for up to 72 hours without a permit. During this 72 hour period, I could easily disappear and become an illegal immigrant. Anyone who was determined to become an illegal immigrant would not risk getting a "Refernce A" by first applying for a visitor's permit.

This whole issue is one which must concern all those people who, at some stage, might want to get into Australia. It would appear that Malaysian students must get a little bit more than "concerned". If the Australian

Immigration Department had been prepared to tell us exactly what has been going on, perhaps the air would have been cleared. As it stands now, the "Reference A" issue look suspiciously discriminatory against Malaysian students. As a result, the Australian High Commission and Immigration Department have made their operations highly suspicious also.

Stephen A'Court

PEPE LOPEZ TEQUILA THE SPIRIT OF MEXICO OUT ON ITS OWN COCA-COLA "COCA COLA" IS THE REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF THE COCA COLA COMPANY

[unclear: NZUSA]: the Old Guard Passes on

[unclear: he] end of March, Peter Franks left [unclear: ISA] after five years working for the [unclear: ciation] as its full-time Research [unclear: Officer]

[unclear: A] graduate of Victoria University, [unclear: r] was active in local student politics [unclear: was] co-editor of Salient in 1973. He [unclear: works] for the NZ Clerical Workers' [unclear: ciation]. During the May holidays [unclear: r] Beach interviewed him about NZUSA's [unclear: and] effectiveness as a pressure group.

[unclear: Salient]: You first enrolled as a student in [unclear: 9] and were a member of NZUSA for [unclear: years]. What were the main changes [unclear: took] place in the Association over [unclear: period?]

[unclear: Franks]: When I started university NZUSA starting to emerge as an effective nat[unclear: l] pressure group which had a full-time [unclear: rest] in advocating the educational and [unclear: are] interests of its members.

[unclear: Up] to the mid sixties, the Association [unclear: a] pretty part-time affair, usually run [unclear: ather] elderly part-time students. But in [unclear: sixties] the universities grew tremendously [unclear: omplex] educational institutions and there [unclear: a] big switch from part-time to full-time [unclear: y]. That really meant that if students [unclear: e] going to have any say at all in things, [unclear: had] to develop their own organisation [unclear: present] them on a national basis. This [unclear: reflected] within the organisation in the [unclear: dy] increase in the number of full-time [unclear: cers] between 1966 and 1974.

[unclear: The] important difference between [unclear: USA] in the late 1970s and say ten years [unclear: re] that, was not so much the politics [unclear: he] association — the things it asked for [unclear: so] on — but the fact that it had full[unclear: people] who could concentrate their [unclear: gies] on advocating the student point [unclear: ew] as a pressure group.

[unclear: NZUSA's] growth as a pressure group, [unclear: erved] with the bread and butter issues [unclear: cting] students, coincided with and was [unclear: cted] by the growth of the mass move[unclear: ts] against the American war of aggress[unclear: in] Vietnam and the apartheid regime in [unclear: th] Africa. A very large number of stu[unclear: s] were drawn into political activity by [unclear: e] campaigns and it brought about a [unclear: rgence] of radical ideas on campuses.

[unclear: However] the conservatives who ran the [unclear: cations] at the beginning of the decade, [unclear: t] like the idea of students associations [unclear: oming] too involved in politics beyond [unclear: campus] and there were big debates [unclear: this] basic question. It really came to [unclear: ad] in 1972 over a move to give \$2,000 [unclear: UWSA's] funds to medical aid for Viet. There was a big SGM held outside [unclear: kine] Brown and the Left had a narrow [unclear: decisive] victory.

[unclear: In] the early 1970's most student politi[unclear: s] — from the big campuses at least — [unclear: e] committed to the idea that NZUSA [unclear: ild] have broad interests in politics, that [unclear: as] a good and proper thing for it to be [unclear: rested] in international affairs, in the [unclear: ronment], in race relations, as well as in [unclear: cation] and welfare matters.

[unclear: More] recently there has been a down[unclear: in] political activity on campuses, Vic[unclear: a] a lot less so than most of the others. [unclear: is] reflected in a growing conservatism [unclear: ZUSA], for example, a reluctance to [unclear: sider] the relationships between what's [unclear: pening] on campus and what's happen[unclear: in] the wider society.

[unclear: think] it true to say that students as a [unclear: p] are more conservative than they were [unclear: or] even ten years ago, and that change [unclear: flected] in NZUSA. A point that needs [unclear: e] stressed is that the present leadership [unclear: ZUSA] cannot be damned with the [unclear: of] their predecessors. Without excep- they are all relatively new to student [unclear: tics] and quite young, compared to past [unclear: ted] officers. The old guard has well [unclear: truly] passed on.

[unclear: most] feel like adding "R. I. P." to that. [unclear: B the] fact that there has been a complete [unclear: nge] at the top in NZUSA doesn't [unclear: ans- the] criticisms that it's unnecessary to [unclear: e] a large national students' association [unclear: hat] there is very little evidence that [unclear: tents] have

benefitted more than they [unclear: ld] have without NZUSA.

[unclear: nd] it hard to accept that anyone could [unclear: o] naive as to imagine that students could expect to get improvements in bursaries, in welfare services and so on without effective national representation, particularly at a time when the economy is in a serious crisis and the government has declared that it is going to cut education spending.

Peter Franks: "If God wrote to the VCC and told them about the Second Coming, they'd write back a two-line letter saying they had considered it and decided it wasn't necessary."

Photo of Peter Franks

It would be nice to think that there were kind, benevolent people sitting down in the Education Department, the University Grants Committee or the universities, who spent all their days worrying about how they could make the world a better and brighter place for students. But it just isn't so.

I've had civil servants say to me that they're pleased NZUSA has been around to think seriously about the complex question of financial assistance for students because the Department has not had the financial resources to put into doing any major work on the subject. Now that's a rather horrifying confession to make, if you think about it, but it's a reality, particularly as the sinking lid policy continues in the public service and staff numbers drop.

Another thing is that students as a pressure group have few sanctions to impose, they have little muscle to put it bluntly. Unlike even the weakest trade union, NZUSA has no formal status as a negotiating body. It has to rely on the wits of its leaders, on the forcefulness of their arguments and on the backing they can get from the students. And that last thing, backing from the membership, is the most important.

It has been argued at Canterbury, for example, that the local association could employ its own research officer, fly him or her UP to Wellington to negotiate with the Education Department. NZUSA would then become unnecessary. Would you like to comment on that?

In the quiet and peaceful world of the 1950s that sort of arrangement would have been quite suitable, but it's just not real in today's situation.

I've sat at meetings and heard people spout on about these research officers who are going to be employed with virtually no support services and who are going to be expected to carry out the seven labours of Hercules, and I've thought "poor buggers", the first day on the job they'd better book themselves into a funeral home because they'll be worked into the ground.

If students are going to have any hope at all of dealing effectively with governments or the universities they need their own expertise, they need to have people who can develop a detailed understanding of the problems and develop effective working relationships with government officials.

Now this isn't a plea for the whole show to be taken over and run by experts: control must be held by elected officers and constituent presidents who can be easily booted out if they make mistakes and go against policy. But to do their job properly, these people need good advice, they need proper support services, and these things can't be done on the cheap.

At the moment NZUSA is involved in very difficult and quite crucial negotiations on future bursaries policy. An attempt is being made by Treasury in particular to change the traditional grant-based system we have developed in New Zealand and to sneak in greater means-testing, loans and so on.

Now I don't like Treasury's ideas one bit, but you have to recognise that they're clever people, they're people who get up very early in the morning and have about half a dozen very nasty ideas of how to save the taxpayers' money before breakfast. To counter them you need to put in a lot of work and effort, it's no good going along to meetings and shouting slogans because that's not going to convince anyone.

I don't want to sound unkind, but I can just imagine what could happen if you just had your poor over-worked, jack of all trades research officer from Canterbury flying up every wee while to "negotiate" with such people. I'm afraid they'd be gobbled up very fast.

Are you saying that NZUSA is a powerful effective pressure group that never makes mistakes?

No, I'm not saying that at all. NZUSA's effectiveness depends very much on the issue. For example the Association has had for a long time a very liberal policy on drugs, and a few years ago John Blincoe put together one of the most formidable submissions NZUSA has ever prepared, which advocated that policy in a very well research, coherent and forceful way. The government wasn't convinced, although I, don't doubt that students would strongly support the NZUSA policy. But it's got nowhere and you'd have to say NZUSA has not been very effective on that issue.

Take another example. Students' Associations have been complaining about internal assessment ever since it was introduced. NZUSA has published pamphlets on the subject and suggested practical ways of improving things. But there's been little change.

In this case one of the main reasons why student policy hasn't worked has been because of the very nature of the universities. You're not only dealing with seven autonomous universities or with so many faculties inside

each university, but inside the faculties are the different departments, all of whom have different policies. A senior civil servant told me that the universities internally are like a collection of feudal baronies, and I'm afraid that's a pretty accurate description.

Are you saying that NZUSA's failure to change policies on assessment is due more to the nature of the universities than to a failing on NZUSA's part?

Yes. You see the cards are very much stacked against students in their dealings with the universities. Students are a transitory group whereas the people who run the universities are round for donkey's years. If they get a bit of an eruption one year in a particular department or so forth they just have to bide their time and wait it out.

I've often felt with university people that they expected you to be seen and not heard and just wait for them to throw you a few crumbs every now and then, a bit like the archetypal English squire visiting his peasants in their hovels on the estate and distributing a bit of largesse. Universities emerged as institutions in medieval times and I really think that their view of the world hasn't changed too much since then.

Would it not be better to have the universities under the direct control of the government and end the present system of university autonomy and the block grant?

I don't think so. I think that if you let Treasury get direct control of the universities it would be like moving back from feudal society to slave society, particularly at the present time.

I am not attacking university autonomy as such. What I am criticising is the irresponsibility of those academics and administrators who refuse to respond to criticism from students and from the public at large.

Vice-chancellors, in my experience, are fond of telling people that they're wonderful progressive people themselves but that they can't force the conservatives on their staffs to do things. And this becomes the stock-in-trade excuse for failing to change things like the incompetence of many academics as teachers.

It sounds fine until you have a few dealings with the Vice-Chancellors' Committee on which all the vice-chancellors sit and which is sort of their answer to the politburo. It would be hard to find a more unresponsive, stick-in-the-mud outfit than the VCC. Let me give you some examples.

When I started at NZUSA it was decided that we should do some work on foreign military funding of university research. The Association asked Owen Wilkes to do this because he had a very wide knowledge of military research. Owen drew up a questionnaire and I sent it to the universities. Back came the reply that it had been referred to the VCC. Some time passed. Then the VCC replied saying that the project was unnecessary and that the questionnaire wouldn't be answered. End of story.

In 1974 there was conference of NZ universities at which it was resolved to hold a national conference on staff training. Nothing happened so a couple of years later NZUSA wrote to the vice-chancellors and asked them what would be done. Back came the two-line answer, that the committee had received reports from the universities and decided the conference was unnecessary.

The amusing thing is that when the national review of teacher training got underway in 1977 most of the academics who took part got really upset when we criticised the lack of proper teacher training in universities. After the review was over the VCC put out some sort of a statement bemoaning the uninformed criticism of the universities, and that was clearly aimed at NZUSA. You see you can't win with these people. You ask questions and they refuse to answer them. You suggest that they hold conferences, and they turn that down. So you get bloody frustrated and criticise them publically and they get all miffed and hurt.

I sometimes think that if God wrote to the VCC and told them about the Second Coming they'd write back a two-line letter saying they'd considered it and decided it wasn't necessary. It's a pity because their insensitivity to criticism lays them open to attack from those who want to cripple university education.

Getting back to NZUSA as a pressure group there are two other comments I'd like to make. First it is easier to deal with politicians and civil servants who are more amenable to public pressure than the universities are. Second my experience at at NZUSA was that the fewer things you concentrated your resources on, the better: The bursaries campaign has taken up a lot of resources but its been necessary to get the results we achieved

(Due to a shortage of space it was necessary to cut parts of the interview which is why it is a little disjointed in parts — but I think we got all the gems in! - ed)

You cant Fine~Tune with a Chainsaw

At 2.30pm, May 17,1979, a new Parliamentary session under the leadership of Robert David Muldoon and his National Party will be opened by a previous National Party Prime Minister, Sir Keith Jacka Holyoake. In the two and a half hours preceding this event of pomp an expected twenty thousand New Zealanders will voice their protest against "the increasing cost of being a New Zealander in this place once called God's own paradise."

Pat Kelly, President of the Wellington Trades Council, which is the co-ordinating group for the demonstration, says this of the issues. "This could be the worst session of Parliament for the working people in the history of New Zealand. The Government faces a deepening economic crisis and has shown that it intends to load the weight of that crisis on the backs of working people. We do not accept that soaring unemployment and an attack on living standards are responsible ways of dealing with the very real economic problems which New Zealand faces. The first step towards getting change is to leave the Government in no doubt about the size and depth of public feeling. From the response we've had so far, this is likely to be the biggest march in New Zealand's history."

10,000 marched through the streets of Wellington in late 1977 to protest at the SIS Amendment Act and the groups involved in that demonstration were many and varied. This protest however has an even bigger power base with over twenty five different groups involved, ranging from the unions to student and teacher groups to youth groups and service organisations

The time has long passed when we could sit complacently on our bums waiting for the "economic miracle" to eventuate. Rather the reverse has happened to the extent that a member of the Planning Council recently noted informally that New Zealand will be on the brink of bankruptcy by the end of this year if the Government continues to satisfy its appetite for foreign loans.

The "Amazing Doctor Muldoon" has been using his scalpel with a vengeance, taking huge swipes at consumer subsidies which have been slashed by more than 35% in the last three years. He and his cronies' unmitigated avarice is evidenced by the rise of \$17,500 in the Prime Minister's salary since 1975.

Unemployment

It goes without saying that New Zealand is facing a crisis situation. This can be seen in the thousands of people who emigrate each year. Gone are the days when unemployment statistics could be calculated on a cheap three digit calculator.

Unemployment is the heartbreak of the late 1970's. It is a sad fact of life that in 1975 the National Party stated that it would not use unemployment as a balancing factor in economic management. Their policies and results however do not support this assertion. It is a fact that under the present government unemployment has been doubling every year.

"We'll have to lighten the load or sink—I need three volunteers to swim ashore."

Drawing of men in a 'budget' boat

A recent report from a government working party on unemployment predicted that if the present trend continues by 1985 300,000 will be unemployed. And this figure ignores redundancies that are going to occur as a result of technolo-developments. These figures mean by 1985, for every four people [unclear: wor-] there would be one unemployed.

Drawing of a man poking himself in the eye

Not without cause the trade union movement is extremely concerned about these predictions, and at the recent FoL conference a great deal of debate centred around the problem of redundancies. An example of the attitude of the unions to redundancies is Mangere Bridge, where the carpenters have been on strike for 11 months over a redundancy agreement.

Price Increases

At the beginning of 1976, New Zealanders faced the shaky end of the early 70's boom period. The Muldoon mini-budgets again became the vogue, and with them came the catch cry of "user pays". At that time electricity charges took a bounding hike, as did postal charges. Milk and bread were no longer seen as food stuffs for the masses as they, and other basic commodities, began the steady climb "to keep pac with inflation."

At the same time our home grown source of finance for future expansion was thrown out the door, so that the country can now boast its claim of having one of the most foolishly funded superannuation schemes ever conceived.

The increase in prices over the last 3 years, 1975 - 1978 are best illustrated by observing the changes which have occurred in the buying power of an hour's work at the average male wages for bread and milk.

Since April 1 this year, the cost of milk is up a further 30%, butter a further 20% and likewise with bread. On top of this electricity charges increased yet again, this time by an average of 46% — this at a time when New Zealand has a 40% surplus generation capacity. Rail charges are skyrocketing and various rail services are being pruned — so much for living off a bursary!!

But as the prices escalate, and as employment possibilities are eroded, the large companies show increased profits. In the past few years however, the total government revenue gained from company income tax has

failed from 22% in 1975 to 17% in 1978. The thought is not a pleasant one when wage and salary earners are paying even larger amounts of personal income tax.

The Rally on May 17 will show the Government that people are fed up with being mere pawns in a power play. We expect to see you there. A student contingent will leave Hunter lawn after assembling at 11.30 to march to Civic Square where bands play and protest leaders will address the masses. Then at 12.45 the march will leave to move through the city to arrive at Parliament grounds at 1.15. Trades Council have called a two hour stop work to assure a large turnout. Remember this is an avenue for you to show your right to dissent.
Jim Brown

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Nuclear Power: Boon or Bane

[unclear: he] recent near disaster at the Three Mile [unclear: d] nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania, altho[unclear: ar] from being the first, was the most ser[unclear: of] the 'near misses' in atomic power pla[unclear: The] 'malfunction' has posed many ques[unclear: about] US nuclear policy, the safety [unclear: ards], the policing of these standards, [unclear: asic] design of the reactors, the US Go[unclear: nent's] policy of encouraging the ex [unclear: on] of domestic and international nu[unclear: power] and the integrity of the com[unclear: s] which design and run the reactors.

[unclear: early] not all these questions are rele— [unclear: to] the New Zealand situation. Never[unclear: ss] it is clear, with world-wide dimini— [unclear: supplies] of fossil fuels, that our Go[unclear: nent] will, in the not too distant future [unclear: nsidering] alternative fuel sources. One [unclear: ese] sources will undoubtedly be nuclear [unclear: Becuase] of the serious implications of [unclear: or] change in our energy policy, Salient [unclear: be] examining, in the following issues, [unclear: anous] options that are available. We [unclear: d] to examine the areas of nuclear po[unclear: solar] power, fuel cells, the possibility [unclear: tracting] petroleum products from fo- [unclear: further] hydro-development and any[unclear: else] that the investigations toss up.

[unclear: cause] of its topical interest, this, the [unclear: article], will deal with nuclear power. [unclear: er] however than launching into a ta[unclear: humping] article on dangers that it is [unclear: lways] easy to quantify, I will start by [unclear: ining], in non-technical terms, the basis [unclear: hich] nuclear power depends.

Basic Concepts

[unclear: clear] power depends on certain fea[unclear: of] the structure of the atom. For our [unclear: ses] it is convenient, although not to[unclear: accurate], to regard the atom as consis[unclear: f] two basic parts: a

tightly bound in [unclear: ucleus] carrying a positive charge about [unclear: n] a number of very much smaller electrons [unclear: ing] a negative charge) circulate. This [unclear: us] itself has two components: protons [unclear: n] carry a positive charge and neutrons [unclear: h] a number of very much smaller electrons [unclear: s] of the atom are determined by the [unclear: er] of protons in the nucleus - all ch— [unclear: e] atoms for example, have 17 protons, [unclear: number] of neutrons however can vary. [unclear: xample] in a handful of chlorine atoms, [unclear: erage] $\frac{3}{4}$ would have 18 neutrons but $\frac{1}{4}$ [unclear: d] have 20. Atoms with the same num[unclear: f] neutrons are termed "isotopes". For [unclear: oses] of identification an "atomic num[unclear: is] defined, being the sum of the number. [unclear: f] protons and neutrons. Chlorine has [unclear: otons], therefore the isotope with 18 [unclear: rons] has an atomic number of 35, and [unclear: d] be referred to as Chlorine 35.

[unclear: Radio] Active Decay

[unclear: hile] many isotopes are quite stable, a [unclear: ficant] number are not. For example [unclear: on] 12 (carbon with 6 neutrons) is quite [unclear: e], however Carbon 14 (with 8 neutrons) [unclear: t]. When Carbon 14 is formed it decom[unclear: s] to form Nitrogen 14 (ie nitrogen with [unclear: tons] and 7 neutrons). The mechanism [unclear: is] process, whereby a neutron is con[unclear: d] into a proton need not concern us, it [unclear: cient] to say that it can take place.

[unclear: here] are two important features of this [unclear: y] process. The first is that, in the course [unclear: energy] is released. This energy in the [unclear: of] high energy waves that are termed [unclear: ma]" waves. It is not known exactly [unclear: but] in large doses, exposure to gamma [unclear: ation] causes death, in smaller doses, can[unclear: nd] foetal abnormality.

[unclear: he] second point is that this decay process [unclear: not] occur spontaneously. For example [unclear: arbon] 14 atoms do not decay at the same [unclear: nt], but in a random fashion over a period [unclear: me]. For purposes of comparing the rates [unclear: hich] various isotopes decay, the term 'half-life' has been coined. The half-life of Carbon 14 is 5,740 years. This means that, with a lump of Carbon 14 it will take 5,740 years before half the carbon 14 is converted into Nitrogen. Thus when people refer to certain waste products of nuclear reaction having half-lives of say five thousand years, they mean that after five thousand years half of the waste will no longer be radioactive. In other words one ton of radioactive material of a half-life of five thousand years will be half a ton of radioactive waste in 7000 AD.

The fact that Carbon 14 is radioactive however should be no cause for alarm, its effect is absolutely minimal. Indeed the decay of Carbon 14 is very useful in that it is the principle behind "radiocarbon dating" — but that's another story. As we will see in the following sections, nuclear power operates on somewhat different principles, however the decay of radioactive wastes does follow this "natural" process. Nuclear processes have realised the great dreams of the alchemists, the transmutation of substances. But there is a price to be paid - radioactivity.

Nuclear Reactions

The nuclear decay of Carbon 14 occurs spontaneously, without help or hinderance of man or beast. It is however possible to *induce* a change in a wide variety of isotopes. This is generally done by bombarding the atoms with energetic particles (ie particles moving very quickly). These particles may be electrons or neutrons, or, as in a historic experiment by Rutherford helium atoms (also known as alpha particles).

Photo of a nuclear explosion

Rutherford's experiment involved bombarding Nitrogen 14 (7 neutrons and 7 protons) with Helium 4 (an alpha particle). A reaction took place which produced Oxygen 17 (8 protons and 9 neutrons) and Hydrogen 1 (1 proton). In other words Rutherford, by bombarding nitrogen with alpha particles managed to artificially transform nitrogen into oxygen.

Where the Energy Comes from

These simple examples are of course far removed from plutonium, uranium, huge reactors and atom bombs. They illustrate however the principle that it is possible to artificially transform elements. We are approaching now the great Uranium fission reaction which is far more complex than these simple examples. But before this there is one other important question we have so far ignored which must be answered. So these reactions can take place, how is it possible to get energy out of them?

The release of energy from nuclear reactions can be shown in another innocuous, but historic example. In 1932 the following reaction was produced: Lithium 7 was bombarded with Hydrogen 1, the product of the reaction was two Helium 4 atoms. When measuring weights, it is hopelessly impractical to use grams, milligrams or even micrograms. The unit of mass that is used is the Atomic Mass Unit (amu). The mass of a

proton is a approximately 1 amu.

If we measure the weights of the reactants (in amu's) they are 7.016004 for lithium and 1.007825 for hydrogen giving a total of 8.023 amu. The mass of helium however is 4.002603 amu. So the mass of the products of the nuclear conversion is 8.005206 amu. This means that in the course of the reaction 0.018623 amu of mass is "lost". Actually "lost" is not the correct term, it is in fact converted to energy. The amount of energy being given by Einstein's famous equation: $(\text{Energy released}) = (\text{mass lost}) \times (\text{speed of light}) \times (\text{speed of light})$.

Well how much energy is this? If we apply Einstein's equation (and convert to units we are more familiar with) it turns out that one Lithium atom being hit by a hydrogen atom will produce, if it happens once a second. 0.00000000000028 watts. Not very much power at all! However in one gram of Lithium there are 6,024,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms. So if one gram of lithium were converted per second, it would produce 1,674,394,000 kw. Quite a bit of power!

Well, you may ask, how is this energy released? The answer depends really on how big you are. If we were about the same size as atoms, we would see two helium atoms moving around more rapidly than were the original lithium and hydrogen atoms. Being, however somewhat larger, we are not able to observe this. What we detect is the consequence of particles moving more rapidly - we feel the container get hotter. Temperature is nothing more than the speed with which the molecules or atoms are vibrating or moving around in the substance.

Uranium

Enter Uranium

For a large number of practical reasons, it is not sensible to use lithium and hydrogen to produce energy in this fashion. Principally this is because of the huge amount of energy required to accelerate the hydrogen atoms so that they will react with the lithium.

If we take Uranium 235 (92 protons and 143 neutrons - a very large atom) and direct a fairly slow neutron towards it, the neutron will be "captured" by the Uranium atom producing Uranium 236 (144 neutrons). Uranium 236 is generally unstable and will promptly decompose. There are a variety of products that are formed including Barium, Krypton, Xenon and Strontium (all of which themselves are radioactive). More importantly though, in the decomposition of Uranium 236 further neutrons are produced (an average of 2.5 neutrons for every Uranium 236 atom that decomposes).

The fact that the decomposition of U236 (U is the symbol for Uranium) produces further neutrons is of crucial importance in the development of atomic devices, because it means that the reaction can be self-sustaining. In other words the necessary "reactant" neutron, is produced by the reaction itself. Of even more importance though is that more neutrons are produced than are put in, so the reaction can not only sustain itself, but it can grow. The reason that the average number of neutrons produced is 2.5 rather than a whole number is that there are two modes of decay, roughly equally likely for each U236 atom, one releasing 2 neutrons the other 3. If we follow the mode of decomposition in which three neutrons are produced we see that for each U236 that decays, 3 neutrons are released, which can collide with 3 more U235 atoms to form U236, decompose to produce 3 more neutrons etc.

Another Scarce Resource

There is however a drawback in this scheme, U235 is very rare. Only about 0.7% of natural Uranium is U235, the remainder being U238 (146 neutrons). Now U238 is unaffected by low speed neutrons, it can capture them without decomposing. For this reason it is generally necessary to "enrich" the Uranium that is used in these reactors. While it is possible to produce reactors using natural Uranium, most use material which contains up to 90% U235. The process used to "enrich" the fuel need not concern us here.

There is a further problem though, and this is that while U235 needs slow neutrons for capture, in the reaction it produces fast neutrons. It is necessary to slow these fast neutrons down. Related to this is another problem, which is that as the reaction produces more neutrons than it started with, the reaction tends to snowball. This means that more and more energy is produced Obviously this is unsatisfactory, for a usable reactor one requires a fairly constant supply of energy.

Nuclear Power: Boon or Bane

The nuclear power plant on Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania

To combat these two problems a "moderator" is used. A moderator is a substance which will slow all

neutrons down and capture a certain proportion of them. A variety of moderators are used, the most common being water, heavy water (ordinary water consists of one oxygen atom and 2 hydrogen atoms bonded together. It is possible however to produce an isotope of hydrogen which has 1 proton and 1 neutron - ordinary hydrogen has one proton and no neutrons - called deuterium. Water made with one oxygen and deuteriums is called heavy water), and graphite, all of which operate satisfactorily as a moderator.

The other factor is "leakage". After U236 has decomposed the neutrons will travel a certain distance before being slowed down or captured by the moderator. Suppose the average distance travelled is x . If the lump of Uranium is so small that, on average travelling a distance x will put a neutron outside the lump of Uranium (as neutrons are not bound to stay within the Uranium), obviously most neutrons will be lost, ie will not be able to react with further U235 atoms. It is actually possible to calculate the size and shape necessary to produce optimum operation.

In this context the phrase "critical" has been coined. In this context it does not have quite its usual meaning. A reactor is "critical" if it is operating in such a way that the neutrons released by one fission produce on average, one further fission. In other words the reaction has an approximately constant release of energy. If fewer than 1 neutron is produced it is subcritical; if more it is super-critical. Clearly if a system is sub-critical the number of reactions is decreasing. Criticality is determined by the combination of the particular moderator used and the size and shape of the Uranium.

The principle, as an aside, on which an atomic bomb works depends very much on the shape and size of the Uranium. Two hemispheres of Uranium are produced which are each subcritical. When the two halves are forced together however the system becomes highly supercritical, and the snowball effect proceeds almost unchecked. The bomb explodes.

Control of the Reactor

Reactors are controlled by the insertion of rods of a neutron-absorbing material. Power is increased by removing the rods, decreased by increasing the number of them. To shut down a reactor a whole host of control rods is slammed into place. Most of the reactors which are being used at the moment are run on this basis. They use enriched Uranium and are light-water moderated depending on the capture of slow neutrons (which are often called thermal neutrons) giving these reactors the name "thermal" reactors. The Three Mile Island reactor was of this type.

Before going on to discuss the way in which nuclear reactions are utilised in practice, it will be as well to recap on the development so far. In a thermal reactor, low speed neutrons are captured by U235 to produce the unstable U236 which decomposes to a variety of products releasing energy and on average 2.5 high speed neutrons. Some of these neutrons escape from the core and play no further part, the others collide with atoms of the "moderator" which captures a proportion of them, and slows down the remainder so that they are low speed and can react with further U235 atoms. The criterion that is used is that on average each fission will produce only one neutron.

Other Types of Reactors

From this we can see that two important points emerge. The first is that as with our fossil fuels, with thermal reactors we are depending on a scarce natural resource. While Uranium is relatively abundant, the useful component, in these types of reactors, U235, is very rare, and can only be made useful by an enrichment process, whereby the U235 is concentrate. This process is costly, and through it we are rapidly using up all available reserves. For this reason thermal reactors are not expected to remain economical for more than a few decades. It is worth emphasising that enrichment does not actually convert U238 to U235, it merely sifts out, as it were, most of the U238 so that the product is more concentrated in U235.

This problem does not appear insurmountable however, as a new type of reactor has been developed, the so-called "fast reactor" with its close relative, the "breeder reactor" These can use either U238 or Thorium 232 as a fuel. In the case of the former, one of the intermediate products is the lethal Plutonium 239, which is highly radioactive, and can only be produced artificially. The story of Plutonium is however extremely complicated and will have to wait for a subsequent article.

The second point that emerges from a study of any fission reactor, whether thermal, fast or breeder, is that you are dealing with an inherently unstable system. The process is basically a chain reaction, which is contained with leakage and the presence of a moderator. While atomic cores are designed physically in such a way as it is impossible for them to go supercritical to the extent of acting like a bomb (as too much leakage occurs for them to do that), with any malfunction that does occur, the first tendency is for the system to go supercritical, thereby heating up and causing a variety of problems which include that of a "meltdown", which we will consider later. There are also a variety of similar problems which can occur relating to the actual

technology that is used, and we will go into these in more detail when we consider the Three Mile Island incident.

However in the fortunately-unfortunately story along which atomic power appears to develop, there is a "fortunately": Fortunately these problems do not exist with "fusion power", and unfortunately we have yet to develop fusion power, although it is widely considered to be "in the air". But again that will have to wait for another article. The point is that the problems inherent in thermal reactors, of fuel shortage, can at present be resolved, and it is believed that shortly those which are part and parcel of fission reactors generally, may become soluble in the future, when fission plants are replaced by fusion plants. From New Zealand's point of view it is clear that the present generation of nuclear power plants are only a temporary phenomena, and even fast reactors are unlikely to stay with us for a very long time.

Nuclear Wastes

For the purposes of compartmentalising the issues involved, no mention has so far been made of nuclear waste. Indeed little attention has even been given to the products of the nuclear reaction that we have considered. However the late appearance of this topic in the article should not imply any lack of importance, indeed I believe it is one of the crucial issues involved in the nuclear power question. Experts can argue until they are blue in the face about the relative safety of various reactor designs (although the Three Mile Island disaster has left many of them without a great deal of credibility), but no-one can argue that the waste products of today's nuclear power plants will not be a mill-stone around the necks of future generations.

Many of the products of the nuclear reactions which occur in thermal reactors have quite short half-lives, some of days others of millionths of a second, and when the reactor is shut down few of these products remain radioactive. Some however have very long half-lives, Plutonium 239 for example (which is the product when the U238 present in the fuel is bombarded by a neutron) has a half-life of 24,000 years. Therefore these types of products tend to accumulate in the reactor. When, for example, one is shut down, virtually all the Plutonium that we generated in the life-time of the reactor is still present in it. In some cases large amounts of these products are produced.

For example it has been estimated that if all the Krypton 85 generated by thermal reactors were to be released directly into the atmosphere, the level of radiation due to this product would reach 1 mrem/year by the year 2000. For purposes of comparison the legal limit in the United States for workers in nuclear power plants is 5 mrem/year. This particular example is particularly worrying as Krypton is a gas, and the difficulties of containing a radioactive gas safely for a long period (Krypton has a half-life of about 11 years) are far greater than for a solid. In the case of Krypton it is not even possible to cause it to react to form a solid or liquid, so this is a very major problem. It has yet to be solved.

Current Storage Techniques

There are several techniques which are used to store these wastes, most of them involving burial, either in the ground or at sea. And let no-one think that the containers that are used have an unimpressive safety record. For example the casks that are used to transport radioactive wastes weigh about 50 tons empty, are designed to withstand a 30 foot drop onto hard ground or a 40 inch drop onto a 6 inch diameter steel pin. They can be safely immersed in a gasoline fire at 1475 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes followed by immersion for 8 hours in water. It's no tin can. And while the storage tanks used for long term storage are probably less thoroughly constructed, as they will be subjected to fewer strains, they are built on the same scale.

It all sounds very impressive, and it is. But there is one factor which should however be stressed. How long do these structures have to last? According to a variety of estimates at least 5,000 years. For Science Fiction buffs the theories about what the world may be like in the year 7000AD make fascinating *[unclear: reading]* Some postulate space travel, others galactic government, time travel - the works. Well the containers that we build today will have to remain until that time. Most such writers suggest that our present lives will be lost in the mists of ancient history by that time. If that is the case we must hope that our containers last longer than our heritage.

It should be emphasised however that no firm decision has yet been made about the final disposal of the wastes. Most regard our present system of underwater and underground as "storage" until we can find a truly safe method of disposal, when they will be pulled up and the wastes disposed of for the last time.

It was rumoured however that the US recently found out that they had "lost" one of their storage containers, dumped somewhere in the Pacific Ocean — well I hope that one at least was well made. The other disturbing question is why was the development of the industry, the great proliferation of these devices permitted before a safe method of disposal has been developed? I shall return to the question of control - not of the reactors themselves, but of those who run them, later in the article.

Theory into Practice

Having now established the principles on which reactors operate, we must consider how these principles operate in practice. The problems involved in this case in putting theory into practice are far from straightforward. While it might be instructive to consider all the various possibilities in reactor design and attempt to evaluate them, it would be a very lengthy exercise. In view of the mishap it might be more to the point to rely on one example, the one along which the Three Mile Island reactor was designed. Nor is this a particularly poor practice as its design is of the bulk of the current generation of nuclear power plants.

Having a nuclear reaction plodding along happily is of little benefit unless there is some way of extracting the energy. Earlier it was pointed out that the increase in energy during a nuclear reaction is manifested in an increase in temperature (ie most of the energy is released in the form of heat). In heat is not the most satisfactory form to have energy in, it cannot be efficiently stored or transmitted, and it is not even particularly easy to get work out of it. For this reason energy is extracted in a seemingly inefficient and indirect route, however it is the best that man has come up with.

Pressurised water reactors have in common that some system of heat transfer to convert water to steam, which in turn is used to drive a turbine. Generally the system is designed so that the coolant is also the moderator.

The Three Mile Island Reactor is a Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR). In these types of reactors the moderator that is used is water. The water is pumped through fuel cores and into a heat exchanger. The heat exchanger is basically a boiler - the water passes through pipes surrounded by water. The cold water is converted to steam by the hot water from the reactor. The steam then drives a steam turbine, thus generating electricity.

One reason that the device is called a Pressurised Water Reactor is that the temperature of the water, and hence the surrounding water, is greater than the boiling point of water (at atmospheric pressure), typically being closer to 300 degrees Celsius. By pressurising the water it is possible to keep the boiling point so that at 300 degrees Celsius it is still in its liquid form (a pressure is applied on the same principle - by increasing the pressure inside the cooker, the boiling point of water is raised and there is no steam). When this "hot" water comes in contact, in the heat exchanger, with water at normal pressure (at 100 degrees) the normal water is converted to steam.

One important point to realise is that there are two separate systems of water. The water that circulates through the reactor is "hot" and circulates endlessly through the reactor. The water never comes into direct contact with the water used to drive the steam which is non-radioactive, or to be more precise, far less radioactive as some radioactivity is transmitted through the heat exchanger where the two systems are separated by a small amount of metal. The whole system is shown schematically below, which is actually of the Three Mile Island plant.

Three Mile Island Disaster

The difference between theory and practice doesn't always work out. Lives can be lost, circuits fail, instruments malfunction and operators fall asleep. One quite knowledgeable person who knew what happened at Three Mile Island plant but at present is thought to have gone some way to this.

A secondary loop, carrying non-radioactive water to the steam turbine lost pressure, for some as yet unknown reason which drives the water into the heat exchanger turned itself or was turned.

A loss of pressure in the secondary loop caused both the steam turbine and reactor to be shut down. The steam turbine was shut down as planned, however for the reactor it did not. As well as generating steam for the turbine, the heat exchanger also functions to cool the water in the secondary loop. This meant that, as the reactor was still operating at normal temperature the secondary loop was shut down water in the primary loop became hotter than normal, and as a result the pressure in the primary loop rose dramatically above its normal operating level of 2155 psi to 2350 psi.

When the pressure reached 2350 psi the reactor was "scrammed" - boron rods (which were used very efficiently) were dropped into the core to kill the reaction. At the same time an emergency valve on the primary loop opened (as planned) to reduce the pressure in the primary loop. What was unexpected was that the valve remained open after the reactor had fallen.

[unclear: ater] flowed out of the relief valve [unclear: er] pressure fell drastically, causing [unclear: rgency] cooling system to pour thou[unclear: f] gallons of water into the primary [unclear: ll] of which gushed straight out of [unclear: f] valve and into the containment [unclear: g]. It is estimated that over 250,000 [unclear: of] water escaped into the contain— [unclear: ilding]. A technician watching the [unclear: ncy] cooling system discharge into the [unclear: loop] was misled by his gauges into [unclear: g] that the water was back to its nor[unclear: land] manually shut down the water [unclear: g] into the system.

[unclear: ie] time between turning off the emer[unclear: ater] and closing of the relief valve, [unclear: er] level fell to the level which unco[unclear: te] core, causing a dramatic increase [unclear: emperature] of the core which burst [unclear: tective] zirconium coating around some of the fuel rods. This caused the release of the two radioactive gases, krypton and xenon, which escaped through the still open pressure valve and into the containment area, adding highly radioactive gases to the radioactive water already there.

vi The problems really began as the level in the containment building was high enough to activate a sump pump in the building which piped the contaminated water into an auxilliary building. Unlike the containment building, this auxilliary building was not designed to contain radioactive products, and as a result the dangerous gases were released directly into the atmosphere from the plant's cooling system.

The layout of the Three Mile Island Reactor

Nuclear reactor diagram

vii Although there was little that could be done to stop the gases that had already been released into the atmosphere, there was another problem that had developed. When the water level had fallen below the level of the core, a bubble of gas formed above the core. The bubble was very like an air lock in a pipe. Not being able to fill it from above, there being no access, and it not being physically possible to fill it from below posed a substantial puzzle.

The Bubble

When the core became uncovered the intense heat, over 700 degrees C, caused the water to vaporise, and then under the influence of radiation to split into its component molecules, oxygen and hydrogen. A mixture of oxygen and hydrogen can become explosive (as manufacturers of the Zeppelins found) once the composition of hydrogen exceeds 7%. It actually reached 2.5%. Had there been an explosion it would have blown the top of the reactor housing off, and probably the top of the containment building as well, spreading radioactive material for miles.

As it happened it was possible to remove the bubble. The hydrogen was dissolved in fresh water pumped into the primary loop/drawn off into an arrangement where the hydrogen and oxygen were recombined to form steam that was then pumped back into the containment building where it condensed and was left as water.

The Chance of Meltdown

One further possibility that was given some attention by the media was the possibility of a "melt-down". This was especially feared when it was thought that pressure from the bubble could completely uncover the core. Deprived of water, which acts as both a coolant and a moderator, the core would have heated up to an alarming degree. Under such conditions it has been feared that the heat could melt the concrete floor of the reactor and melt its way into the earth.

If a melt down did occur there are two possible consequences. The core could continue to melt into the ground until it found a pocket of water which it would then vaporise and send up as a geyser of radioactive steam. The alternative would be for it to melt into a blob some 50 feet down and spray out deadly radiation. Either event would cause thousands of deaths, particularly as most nuclear reactors are situated in highly populated areas. A third possibility, popularised in a book of the same name, is known as the China syndrome. Under this scenario the core would continue to melt its way right through the earth and end up in China. This however is not widely considered as a likely turn of events.

The Wastes Released by the Accident

In the course of the accident a variety of contaminants were released into the atmosphere, the most serious two being krypton and xenon (you'd better keep away from Harrisburg Superman). Radiation measurements taken at Three Mile Island during the course of the accident showed that the radiation level was about 300 millirems over the Island well below the maximum safe level of 500 millirems set by the US Government. However at one point the radioactivity of a steam cloud-shooting above the site was measured at 1,200 millirems. But as far as we know the effects of radiation at present, it is unlikely that anyone in Harrisburg was seriously affected by the radiation. However our knowledge of the effects of low level radiation doses is still very limited.

More serious though, potentially, are the wastes that presently remain, for the moment safely behind the concrete walls of the containment building. The two major problems are 250,000 gallons of contaminated water and a considerable amount of radioactive krypton. Being a "noble" gas, it will not react with other chemicals, and therefore it is not possible to incorporate it into a solid mixture. Nor as krypton is extremely radioactive with a half life of ten years, is it possible to leave it lying around. It was predominantly due to krypton that the level of radiation at the top of the containment building was measured at 30,000 rads, which is 1000 times normal levels, and would kill a human being in less than a minute.

To cope with this problem, workers at the plant are attempting to separate the contents of the containment building into pure water and a radioactive sludge which it would then be more convenient to dispose of. However no reference has yet been made to how they intend to solve the problem of the krypton. It all looks as though it will be a long time before the plant will operate again. It has been estimated that it could take two years just to decontaminate the containment building.

Questions Which Arise

The problems at Three Mile Island raise many serious questions for the American public concerning the present Federal system of controls over reactors and their safety. One of the points to emerge from the accident is that the plant operators, Metropolitan Edison, hurried construction of the Unit II reactor (which was the reactor which gave all the problems) in order to get \$40 million in a tax write off and a \$49 million rate increase. These rushes had caused many problems in the unit, which had been closed for repairs for 195 of the preceding 274 days. Indeed the pump failure which started the mishap was the third such failure, although on the previous occasions the emergency backup facilities had operated as planned.

Further evidence was produced that the company violated Federal regulations by operating the plant during maintenance periods. Indeed it now appears that at the time of the accident pumps which are not allowed to be out of action for more than 72 hours if the reactor is operating had been shut down for a full two weeks at the time of the accident. If those pumps had been in 'proper operation the failure of the pump in the secondary system would not have caused the near disaster that it did.

Allegations have also been made about the effectiveness of the Federal regulations if they are not policed properly. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), it was claimed, should have detected not only those design faults which exacerbated the situation, but, if it had been more diligently monitoring the activities of those companies which operate nuclear reactors, would have been able to ensure that safety measures were followed.

New Zealand

The Lesson for New Zealand

Many eminent scientists have disagreed on the safety of nuclear reactors. Some have claimed that the chance of a nuclear mishap is so small it is not worth curtailing a useful tool in a time of dwindling energy resources. Others maintain that any risk is too great. The important thing for us to keep in mind when this debate arises, as it surely will, is what sort of reactor the supporters of nuclear power are referring to. It is a kind of ideal reactor. One that is built the way it was designed, operated by people who are skilled in their job, a reactor in which safety measures are followed and where devices are used as they are intended.

The Three Mile Island incident has shown many salient points about how plants operate in practice as opposed to grand theories. The list includes:

- The company operating the plant delayed shutting it down because each time the plant is shut down it costs them a minimum of \$500,000 in lost revenue.
- The plant was run when safety regulations demanded it be shut down.
- The government regulatory commission as well as the company failed to detect, or chose to ignore, several design faults.
- The staff who run the reactor are fundamentally untrained in the principles of the plant they are operating.
- The construction of the plant was hurried so that the company would gain more money.
- To minimise costs most reactors are built in highly populated areas.
- The issue of disposal of nuclear wastes has not been solved, even though there are 72 plants currently in operation in the USA and another 94 under construction.
- Casks of radioactive waste, stored until a truly safe method of disposal is developed, have been "misplaced".

It goes, almost without saying, that if it were an "ideal" reactor, the Three Mile Island incident could not have occurred. When we in New Zealand are asked about nuclear power (assuming we will be asked, which

judging by current government attitudes is far from certain), it is the Three Mile Island reactor which we should look to. Wednesday April 4 tells us more about nuclear power than all the academics and experts in the world. It shows us, not how plants should work, but rather how they do operate in practice.

Do we have sufficient faith in our Government and the big American companies (who would undoubtedly build any reactors we wanted) to be sure that the unscrupulous practises revealed in Pennsylvania will not be repeated here?

For myself, I trust the principles on which nuclear power is built, and I believe that properly designed and administered, and with appropriate waste disposal methods, nuclear power can be invaluable. But I have no faith in existing methods of waste disposal and even less in the integrity of the parties currently participating in the industry.

Peter Beach

People who are interested in reading further on the nuclear power question might like to read:

- Our Nuclear Future, Edward Teller and Albert L. Latter
- Nuclear Energy, Raymond L. Murray
- Nuclear Power Generation in New Zealand, Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry 1978.
- Nuclear Power Reactors, J. G. Beckerley (ed) all of which are available in the Library.

The information on the Three Mile Incident came from Time and Newsweek April 9 and 16.

Oil Crisis! Whose Oil Crisis?

During the current petrol restrictions, many people have compared our present situation with the situation of New Zealand in late 1973 and early 1974, when we also had petrol restrictions. Then, as now, we were told that the problem was cutbacks in supply by the oil-producing countries.

Over the last few months, however, it has been from time to time suggested that there is no crisis of oil quantities, but only of oil prices, and there is some evidence to support this view. Because this confusion exists, we believe it appropriate to look back at the "oil crisis" of 1973 and 1974, to see what really happened. Salient special reporter, Michael O'Flaherty, takes up the story.....

There are two popular conceptions as to the causes and effects of the 1973 oil price rises and supply cutbacks: firstly that it was an attempt by the oil-producing countries to hold the rest of the world to ransom; and secondly that it was an attempt by the Arab governments to defeat Israel by forcing the withdrawal of economic support for that regime, which defeat they had not been able to achieve militarily. These popular conceptions, however, are far from the full story, and although they may look good for popular consumption, there was far more to the 1973 "oil crisis" than that.

Control of Production

To start with, it is important to understand something of Middle East oil production. In most cases, and particularly in the Persian Gulf and on the Arabian Peninsula, production is controlled by the oil companies, with only minimal involvement by the local governments. A prime example of this is in Saudi Arabia, where production is largely controlled by the Aramco consortium, which is owned 30% each by Texaco, Standard Oil California (known as Socal or Chevron), and Standard Oil New Jersey (Exxon or Esso), and 10% by Standard Oil New York (Mobil). The Aramco partners, together with Gulf, Shell and BP, who are collectively referred to as "The Seven Sisters", control and manage much of Middle Eastern oil production, and in those cases where part of the production is in the control of national oil companies, the "sisters" were often responsible for the marketing of it. Five of these companies are US owned, and, of the other two, Shell at least is significantly US controlled. The history of oil production in the Middle East cannot be separated from the history of these companies.

Another feature to look at is the relationship between the United States, as host country for most of these oil companies, and the various Middle Eastern countries involved at the time of the 1973 "oil crisis".

Many of the major oil producing countries, and notably Saudi Arabia, are stooges for the United States. Saudi Arabian participation in the 1973 oil embargo was to try and protect its position in the leadership of the Arab world (one could almost believe that the US government might have put the Saudis up to it). It is also believed that the United States supplies Israel with arms to the extent that it does to keep radical Arabs so involved against Israel that they do not attack the massive US investments in the Middle Eastern oil industry. That provides a new perspective to the discussion of the oil embargo as a further means of waging war against Israel.

Cutbacks and Embargoes

So much, then, for one of the conceptions about the 1973 oil crisis. It is true that production cutbacks and embargoes were initiated as a means of trying to reverse Western, particularly American, support for Israel, but the circumstances of this support for Israel, and the extent of actual support for the cutbacks must make one question the significance of this factor.

Perhaps the best way to test the validity of this is to look at the actual effects on oil shipments caused by the embargoes and production cutbacks which were so topical in late 1973 and early 1974. To start with, the cutbacks, and even the embargoes, would be likely to have very little effect on the United States, which was regarded as the chief villain, because it imported such a small proportion of its total oil consumption, and only a proportion of these imports came from the Middle East. The effect was likely to be much greater in Europe, which might be more sympathetic to the Arab cause. The Iraqi Vice-President, Saddam Hussain, condemned the cutbacks as having been devised by "reactionary ruling classes well-known for their links with America."

Drawing of a man in a car with a noose around his neck

More interesting, perhaps, are the facts that show that the expected oil shortages resulting from the cutbacks, failed to eventuate. Rotterdam in Holland was not supposed to receive any oil supplies, yet in one sample week in mid-December 1973, it received 5.6 million tons of crude oil as opposed to its usual 6 million tons.

The figures that were produced in the United States to demonstrate the effects of the cutbacks varied according to their political purpose. While Energy Secretary William Simon talked about the tight embargo, total crude oil imports over the embargo period were up 11% over the previous winter.

It is interesting to note, moreover, that during the embargo, United States domestic production was reduced from 9.3 to 9.1 million barrels per day. One might have thought that the spectre of cutbacks would have caused efforts to be made to increase production.

Prices and Profits

The cutbacks in US domestic production of crude oil give a clue to what was a much more significant factor in the 1973 "oil crisis". Throughout the 1960s, there had been a continuing threat of overproduction from the Middle Eastern oil fields, with prices being kept low as a result, especially as Middle Eastern oil was very cheap to produce.

This had affected the economics of oil production in other markets, and particularly the market for natural gas in the US, which was subject to price controls. Any change in the cost of oil from the Middle East, therefore would allow for a change in the price of oil and natural gas in the United States and other markets, substantially inflating the value of these stocks which were wholly under oil company control.

Since most of the oil supplied to the United States market (the world's biggest) is of domestic origin, any increase in the world price of oil would therefore result in immense windfall profits to the major oil companies.

And that is just what happened in 1973, although the oil companies had been making the most of the price increases to increase profits throughout the 1970s. Of a 55 cent per barrel increase from the oil companies in late 1970 and early 1971, the breakdown was given by the [unclear: Ira] Finance Minister Jamshid Amouzegar [unclear: a] 20 cents to higher transport costs, [unclear: 10c] to the producing companies, and 25 [unclear: cen] to oil company profits.

But the oil companies also gained at those times when OPEC producers decided to raise their oil prices unilaterally. The government share was always set as fixed percentage of the actual sale price and so when OPEC prices for Arabian [unclear: li] oil were raised on 16 October 1973 [unclear: from] \$3.01 to \$5.12 per barrel, the oil company share of this went from \$1.24 to \$2.07 per barrel. In December, the [unclear: pric] was increased again to \$11.65 per [unclear: barre] and the oil companies' share [unclear: increased] \$4.65. These increases in profit [unclear: margin] were more than enough to compensate for any cutback in production.

One of the clearest examples of how [unclear: t] major oil companies benefitted from [unclear: the] "oil crisis" is in the sale of Kuwaiti oil [unclear: te] BP and Gulf at 2% more than the going rate. The increase was able to be passed straight on to the consumer, and so [unclear: Gult] and BP were not hurt.

Meanwhile they were still getting [unclear: the] balance of the oil (40% of Kuwaiti production) at \$7 per barrel, making the average price of their oil \$9 per barrel. Any production cutbacks were made up from the state-owned 60% of the oil production, which only served to lower the average cost of the oil to the companies.

It would hardly be suprising then, to discover that oil company profits were increased during the period of the "oil crisis", especially when one remembers that the companies were getting much [unclear: o] their oil for much less than the \$7 to \$1 paid in the Middle East.

In March 1974, Chevron (Standard Oil California) was reported as making a profit of an extra half million dollars a day as a result of price increases. Overall it was estimated that net receipts of oil companies would increase by \$24 billion, of which at most \$11 billion would have gone to taxes to the US and foreign governments, leaving at least \$13 billion as the figure for increased oil company earnings. Arabian oil revenue was estimated at \$17 billion for the whole of 1974, while Exxon (Standard Oil New Jersey) earned profits of \$21.3 billion in the first six months of 1974.

However, it wasn't only the US oil companies that benefitted relative to the rest of the world. Those countries that imported most of their oil requirements, such as Japan and the countries of Western Europe, found that the price rises seriously affected their balance of payments positions, whereas the United States was not affected to nearly the same extent. In consequence, at least in the short term, the American economy moved into a stronger position relative to its competitors.

The 1978/79 Oil Crisis

After having looked back over some of the history of the 1973/74 "oil crisis" it is hard not to be a little cynical, especially when we find that our own Minister of Energy is confused as to the extent to which we need to save oil, and as to the amount that we are in fact saving. The few signs that are emerging as to the effect on oil company profits all point to increases, however, and the Dominion 30 April reported that the five major oil companies had increased profits by an average of 53%. Moreover we find that the cutbacks in Iranian supplies have been used to justify a complete deregulation of oil prices in the United States, which must help profits still further.

I think we could be excused for being cynical when the oil companies are getting such a first-rate opportunity to line their pockets.

[unclear: Kampuchea] Since 1975

[unclear: eek] I examined the background to [unclear: mation] of the Democratic State of [unclear: chea]. Since 1975 there has been [unclear: tge] of anti-Kampuchean material [unclear: t] by the western, and latterly the [unclear: press].

[unclear: eek's] concluding article takes the [unclear: of] a reply to this material by examining [unclear: he] events in that country from 1975 [unclear: present] time, based on material [unclear: ed] by authentic sources, most of [unclear: has] received little or no reportage [unclear: v] Zealand and, I suspect, most other [unclear: ies].

[unclear: se] of space limitations I cannot cover [unclear: material], but at the end I will give [unclear: ces] to the articles used, for readers [unclear: e] interested to follow up.

[unclear: en] the armies of the NUFK (known [unclear: arty] as the Khmer Rouge) entered [unclear: 1] Penh, they met little armed [unclear: resis- The] puppet troops of Lon Nol, [unclear: e] their intensive training by American [unclear: ilitary] advisors, which numbered up [unclear: 00] at the peak of the fighting, had [unclear: dispersed] or surrendered without [unclear: a The] low morale of the Lon Nol [unclear: fighting] a war they had no interest [unclear: had] no chance of winning, partly [unclear: nted] for the rapid collapse of the [unclear: in] its last two years. But the success [unclear: NUFK] lay largely in the support [unclear: to] it by the Kampuchean peasantry [unclear: nade] up 85% of the population.

[unclear: was] the deliberate policy of the [unclear: to] work amongst the peasantry, [unclear: ally] the poorest peasants. As in [unclear: this] group proved to be both the [unclear: oppressed] section of Kampuchean [unclear: y], and at the same time the section [unclear: willing] to join the armed struggle [unclear: t] the US and its puppet government, [unclear: ghting] force of the NUFK was, and [unclear: provided] by the peasantry.

[unclear: len] Cities

[unclear: hough] the NUFK expected Phnom [unclear: o] have suffered from a massive refugee [unclear: oblem], caused by the effects of the [unclear: hey] underestimated the tremendous [unclear: val] of population that had gone on [unclear: last] five years prior to 1975.

[unclear: g] Sary, Kampuchea's Deputy Prime [unclear: er], commented in an interview with [unclear: veek] (8/9/75) ". . . we thought there [unclear: 2] million people in Phnom Penh, but [unclear: we] entered we discovered 3 million."

[unclear: e] of the accusations made against [unclear: ampuchean] government was that they [unclear: essly] evacuated almost the entire [unclear: ation] of the city. This rested on the [unclear: prion] that the population was made [unclear: established] urban workers and it was [unclear: the] brutal Utopian outlook of

the [unclear: ment] which evacuated them and [unclear: them] work in the fields.

[unclear: fact] only 500,000 of the 3 million [unclear: true] city dwellers. Over 80% of the [unclear: ation] were refugees from their ori[unclear: homes] in the countryside. This con[unclear: strongly] with the situation in South [unclear: am] where in Saigon there was the [unclear: mena] of a huge, rootless lumpen [unclear: nt] which had built their existence on [unclear: ption] and criminal activity during the [unclear: eriod] of the rule of the US puppet [unclear: e].

[unclear: e] mobilisation of the Kampuchean [unclear: ation] in Phnom Penh by the NUFK [unclear: itremely] rapid following their entry [unclear: he] city. The fanatical cries of the [unclear: rn] and Soviet press in condemning [unclear: ove], begs the question of why the [unclear: ation] was done.

[unclear: m] Penh: The conditions

[unclear: nom] Penh had not only been swollen [unclear: times] its original size; by the end of [unclear: ar] there was little drinking water [unclear: nly] a few days' supply of rice left. [unclear: was] the result of the US policy of [unclear: ituting] arms shipments for the thous[unclear: of] tons of rice per month it had pre[unclear: ly] flown in to keep the swollen pop[unclear: n] alive.

[unclear: ansportation] of the grain surpluses [unclear: e] outlying liberated areas into the [unclear: s] not feasible as the NUFK had [unclear: transportation] or fuel, and because many of the roads were still out of action.

The only other possible option was to appeal to outside countries and agencies to begin airlifting massive amounts of food into Phnom Penh. This would only have postponed the pressing question of Kampuchea's development, and would also have made the newly independent country, susceptible to foreign influence. Ieng Sary again: "We had to solve this problem by ourselves on the basis of self-reliance."

CIA's Last Fling

There was a second and equally important reason for the evacuation of the capital. The US, now in desperation, would have one last attempt to "save" Kampuchea. The CIA devised a plot to create an unstable situation in the capital and to overthrow the new government.

The main points of the plan are elaborated by Ieng Sary: "There were three main points to the plan: (1) If we were unable to solve the problem of feeding the population, they would make trouble with agents infiltrated among the people. (2) Many of the Lon Nol soldiers who waved white flags had in reality hidden their arms. They intended to attack after we had taken Phnom Penh. (3) They planned to corrupt our troops and [unclear: weaken] their spirit of struggle with loose women, alcohol and money.

CIA sponsored World Airlines unloads arms at Phnom Penh in place of food. 8000 dies in the last week of this operation of starvation.

Photo of World Airlines in Phnom Penh

Of the three points the first is the key. By immediately starting the evacuation, the Kampuchean leadership prevented the US enemy from exploiting the economic difficulties that they had created. The instigators of the plot were dispersed and NUFK power was consolidated.

The evacuation itself and the way it was conducted during the months of April and May was also seized on for ammunition against the new government. The evidence of the reported atrocities during the evacuation were almost entirely provided by refugees and presumably intelligence agents still inside the country. There were however still some western journalists and civilians who witnessed the evacuation and the story they tell is a different one.

The Evacuation: What Really Happened Continuing Difficulties

Two American journalists, Porter and Hildebrand, describe the hasty but elaborate organisation used for the removal. Reception centres were provided in most parts of the country for peasants returning to their own villages as well as those en route.

At the first of these centres, some distance outside the capital, the evacuees were registered, given papers and directed towards their old areas. On arrival they were met by another reception committee which immediately assigned them land to cultivate.

Other observers note that the migrating people were provided with food on the journey and this is backed up by several refugee reports in Thailand (N.Y. Times 23/6/75).

A New Zealander in Kampuchea at the same time, Shane Tarr, noted that the elderly received special treatment and that among the old people he saw making the journey, very few were seriously ill (Chicago Tribune 25/6/75), this again contrary to most reports of the day.

There is no doubt that there were many deaths associated with the long trek. But to blame these on the actual evacuation as the US government and political commentators have done is a case of misplaced responsibility. The conditions which prevailed prior to the final liberation of Kampuchea — massive starvation, disease and lack of adequate medical care were the legacy of a corrupt regime directly controlled by the US.

The Alternative?

If the NUFK had not taken this radical step in the transformation of war-torn Kampuchea, the situation in the capital would have led to a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions. Rather than being an unnecessary brutality on the same scale as Hitler's Germany, as one American commentator described it (Washington Post 23/6/75), the action taken reflected a coming to terms by the NUFK of the conditions that actually existed as a legacy of US policy.

At the same time as taking this step, they also started the process of socialist reconstruction of the country, a process impossible under early 1975 conditions, and one that also attracted fire from ill-informed, hypocritical and hateful newspaper reports outside the country.

As a footnote to the evacuation, some 100,000 people were left in the capital, a fact not widely reported. The impression was given that Phnom Penh became a "ghost town". By mid-August 1975, some 70 factories in the capital were in production again.

Two more events occurred in 1975 both of which should give readers an idea of the great difficulties that the new government faced both internally and externally.

A mere six weeks after liberation, in early June 1975, Vietnamese forces attacked and occupied Kampuchea's Koh Way islands and began making incursions into the mainland of Kampuchea. The Kampuchean leadership at the time remained silent about the attacks, not wanting to provoke a bigger conflict than they could handle at a very difficult stage in the progress of the country's development.

Hanoi's only response was to escalate the attacks and to float rumours abroad of a "border conflict". Given the hostility of the western press towards Kampuchea the rumour was slanted so it implied that Kampuchea was at fault, giving them a reputation of having an aggressive foreign policy.

These Vietnamese claims on Kampuchean territory, ran counter to an agreement reached by the two countries in 1966 and 1967. Under this agreement Kampuchea included the Koh Way island group, and also areas bordering the south of Vietnam in the "Parrots' Beak" area, as well as an agreement over Kampuchea's territorial waters.

Right from the start, the new government was faced with a hostile Vietnam, determined to undermine the Kampuchean revolution by drawing away resources used in Kampuchea's reconstruction and attemptin to create instability in the region.

Ford's Farce

In addition to hostilities from Vietnam, Kampuchea suffered an attempt by the Americans to also destabilise the newly independent country.

On May 7, 1975, the United States sent a spy ship, disguised as a Panamanian merchantship deep into Kampuchean waters, under the pretence of having drifted off course. Kampuchean patrol boats detained and bordered the vessel, to interview the captain. At dawn the next day the US sent jet fighters to bomb and strafe the patrol boats and some areas on shore, as well as offshore Tang Island.

In a statement by the Kampuchean Foreign Ministry, it was revealed that the "merchant ship" was carrying sophisticated radar equipment. Newsweek (26/5/75) called the operation "a daring, show of nerve and steel." It was in fact a guttless and cynical manoeuvre by President Ford to boost his election chances in 1976, by attempting to bolster the spirits of a nation shattered by earlier defeats in South East Asia.

With enemies all around, Kampuchea began the herculean task of both starting to reconstruct the country and trying to maintain its own national independence from external aggression and internal infiltration from the active networks of US, Soviet and Vietnamese agents.

What they Achieved

The acid test of the Democratic Kampuchean government which, it has since been revealed, is led by the Communist Party of Kampuchea, is how well its development strategy has worked for the people on which the liberation movement was based — the peasantry, especially the poor peasantry.

Once again, if you read the Evening Post, Time or Newsweek, you would probably know little of their development strategy or any of its results.

The leadership of the CPK — Pol Pot, Khieu Samphan and Ieng Sary argue that the economic problems of

Kampuchea can only be solved if the nation can cut its bondage of feudalism and neo-colonialism from the western capitalist countries.

Immediately following the evacuation of the cities came a nationwide collectivisation campaign aimed at removing the feudal landlords and abolishing private property, with the exception of personal effects. Rural communes were established which ran the affairs of the members and a nationwide drive for irrigation and communications construction began.

These irrigation works very rapidly spurred on agriculture, and by 1977, the country was getting two rice crops from most areas, and in some three. 1977 saw a rice surplus, most of which was purchased by the state from the communes and exported to obtain the goods necessary for industrial development.

Each cooperative ran its own medical centre and schools. In two years, the problem of malaria, which at one time had affected up to 80% of the population, had been reduced to relatively minor proportions.

On January 5, 1976, the 1000 member National Congress adopted a new constitution. It gave supreme power to a People's Assembly of 250 members — 150 peasants, 50 workers and 50 soldiers. The representative structure consisted of, at the lowest level, phums (hamlets), khums (villages), sroks (districts) and finally khets (provinces).

The leading force in the society became the Communist Party of Kampuchea, which had organised and led the patriotic armed struggle from 1968 to 1975. In April 1976, Khieu Samphan became Chairman of the State Presidium and Pol Pot became Prime Minister with deputies Ieng Sary and Son Sen.

The Constitution also laid the foundations for equal participation in the society by both men and women, freedom of religion, formalising of the worker/peasant ownership of the means of production, and a new foreign policy of neutrality and non-alignment.

Foreign Policy

Democratic Kampuchea set up diplomatic relations with many countries including Sweden, Egypt, China, North Korea, Yugoslavia and Romania. Kampuchea was admitted to, and played an active role in, the non-aligned movement, especially in their exposure of the role that the USSR had played in hampering their struggle for national independence. They were also admitted to the United Nations.

The Refugees

When any major social upheaval takes place, there are bound to be human casualties. What was happening in Kampuchea between 1975 and 1978 was a complete transformation in the social fabric of a country which had been exploited by colonialism and imperialism, into a socialist state.

Consequently, in 1975, a stream of refugees began crossing the Thai border. Interviews with these refugees, who were predominantly ex-functionaries of the Lon Nol government, showed that the main reasons for flight were; hunger, rigorous living and working conditions and the small hope of seeing a short-term improvement in Thailand.

There have been charges of large scale executions during and after the revolution. It must be said that undoubtedly functionaries and soldiers of the Lon Nol regime were executed. However the reports of the severity of these measures varied from region to region. This indicates that during the instability of mid-1975 many old scores were settled by NUFK forces on the spot, but that this was not the general policy of the new government. In fact, as the NUFK consolidated its power over the country in late 75 and 76. the refugees reports of executions declined, and those of rigorous living conditions and food shortages became the main reason for leaving.

Mass Genocide?

The Far Eastern Economic Review concluded that "despite some refugee accounts, it seems doubtful that blood was spilt as a matter of policy by the new Cambodian rulers. But sweat and tears are certainly in for the duration." (Feer Year Book 1976).

To back up their claims of mass genocide in Kampuchea, the western press carried a series of photographs, one of which appeared on a front cover of Newsweek in 1977.

The source of these photos is not known, but they are believed to have come out of Thailand. The most notable feature of these photos is that they appear to have been "arranged". Certainly this is the case for the Newsweek cover photo. There the photo, meant to portray a Khmer Rouge soldier beheading a prisoner, was later proved to be a shot of a peasant manually digging a field with a primitive tool.

Fake Photos

The first newspaper to have an option on these photographs was the Bangkok Post, a notoriously anti-communist publication. But although it attacked the new government fiercely from the start, it turned down the photographs, explaining that ". . . the offer was turned down because the origin and authenticity of the photos was in doubt" particularly because of "the way the alleged Khmer Rouge soldiers were dressed. . . other observers pointed to the possibility that the series of pictures could have been taken in Thailand." (International Bulletin, April 25, 1977).

Another cornerstone of the anti-Kampuchea barrage is the notorious Readers' Digest book "Murder of a Gentle Land" by Barron and Paul. This was extensively drawn on by the western press to attack the new government, but as Malcolm Cauldwell, a noted scholar on South East Asia writes, it has long been discredited and refuted in the west.

It is interesting though that the very same book was serialised on Radio Hanoi. (China Broadsheet Nov. 1978).

Soviet Hypocrisy

The Soviet Union's attitude to the new government should also be noted. Although as late as October 1977 (according to Time) the Soviet Union praised Kampuchea, it later not only broadcast Vietnam's crazy slanders against the Pol Pot government, but also "quoted at length from western publications, critical of Cambodia, adding that Pol Pot was pursuing a policy of genocide (Time 15/1/79)".

All this background leads into the present situation, and the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea on Christmas Day 1978.

When did Vietnam Begin its Attacks?

The Vietnamese annexation of Kampuchea's Koh Way islands in 1975 was only the start of a concerted military campaign to topple the CPK government. This involved not only attacks launched along the border, but a number of attempted coup d'etats fomented by Vietnamese agents inside Kampuchea. The coups relied on old reactionary elements inside Kampuchea for their support. One Vietnamese agent — Khemarin who was captured by the Kampucheans on December 4 1977, told of how he worked for the CIA from 1959, surrendered to the Vietnamese authorities and was then sent into Kampuchea to spy for them.

Coups were fomented in September 1975, April and September 1976 and again in April 1977. Evidence of these attempts has come from the confessions of the plotters themselves.

In the middle of 1977, Hanoi signed a "Friendship and Solidarity" treaty with Laos, a treaty which they later used to justify occupying Laos with large numbers of Vietnamese troops, which isolated Kampuchea even more, leaving her with a hostile bloc in the East and a hostile Thailand in the West.

It was also in early 1977 that armed conflict started on the border in earnest. The outside press lumped the blame for the fighting onto "Kampuchean belligerence" which they said was typical of the Pol Pot regime in general.

Nothing to Gain

But if you examine the historical circumstances in which the fighting occurred, it becomes apparent that Kampuchea had nothing at all to gain by provoking its neighbour. Vietnam on the other hand had everything to gain by launching attacks on disputed pieces of territory, especially those around the Parrots Beak area, a region which Kampuchea had let Vietnam use during the Vietnam War against the US.

Towards the end of 1977, Vietnam commenced saturation bombing of South Western Kampuchea in preparation for large scale attacks. Russian military supplies and advisors were dispatched to the region where the attack would be launched. In all, 14 divisions of troops were to be used.

In November 1977, the attacks were launched on Svay Rieng province (in the Parrots Beak) and in December on Kampot and Takeo provinces. The Vietnamese attacked with conventional tank warfare, leaning heavily on Soviet military commanders.

The Invasion Flops

Despite the size and intensity of the assault, the Vietnamese had little success. Their air strategy failed just as the Americans had failed five years earlier. The tank warfare was easily combat ted by the KRA

(Kampuchean Revolutionary Army).

Further aggression followed after January 1978 but Vietnam only committed 2 divisions to harrass the KRA along the extensive border with former South Vietnam.

Two factors counted for the reduced conflict during mid 1978. The first was that it was the rainy season in which the Vietnamese army had no chance of launching a successful campaign. The second was that Vietnam had realised that if it wanted to turn Kampuchea into a puppet state, the job would have to be done properly, especially in view of the effectiveness of Kampuchea's guerilla army.

Vietnam set about planning a decisive campaign. For this they needed direct and massive Soviet backing. During 1978 Pham van Dong, Le Duan and the Vietnamese Chief of Staff, Van Tien Dung, visited Moscow. Van Tien Dung had extensive talks with USSR Defense Minister Dmitri Ustinov, and on returning home he moved a further 12 divisions into jump off points in Vietnam and Laos.

At the same time Prime Minister Pham van Dong toured ASEAN nations with his "smiling diplomacy" to soften them up for the proposed invasion. He [*unclear: receiv*] an icy welcome.

Kampuchea Prepares

The Kampuchean leaders were awake to these developments after the [*unclear: unsuccess*] ful bid of November 1977, and began to make preparation for the war they knew was bound to eventuate. Foreign Minister Ieng Sary went to Thailand to negotiate a settlement to the border problems in the west. The state apparatus was [*unclear: move*] rapidly to the west of the country and Phnom Penh was all but evacuated. The KRA wound up for a large and extensive campaign.

The Phoney Front

However, no-one but the [*unclear: Kampuchean*] were prepared for the massive assault that was finally launched in December 1978 when Vietnam could hold back no longer.

In order to save some face in the invasion, the Vietnamese pulled a cheap trick by creating a "front" to legitimise the annexation. And so the "Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation" (Knufns) was created with great fanfare from both Hanoi and Moscow.

The front in fact consisted of expatriot Kampuchean of all political persuasions (including pro-Lon Nol and pro-CIA elements) and headed by people who had been thrown out of the country because of their pro-Vietnamese sympathies. When the invasion came, the Knufns had not even celebrated one month of existence.

The invasion force, according to most accounts, consisted of 18,000 Knufns troops, 100,000 Vietnamese troops and about 1,000 Russian, East German and Cuban advisors. The force split into five major attacks, including one through Laos and mounted a blitzkrieg which reached the Thai border within 20 days.

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Hollow Victory

The attack by tanks, planes and strong armed columns was first proclaimed as a major success by both the Vietnamese and outside press. But this overlooked one vital factor.

The KRA refused to fight the war on the enemy's terms. With the size of the invasion force, there was no chance of successfully engaging them in conventional warfare. The KRA simply dropped back into the rural districts, sheltered by the peasants and the jungle, and let the Vietnamese overrun them. By January 18 the invaders controlled most major towns, the highways and the main roads, but very little else. A similar situation exists today.

[unclear: hin] days the KRA were mounting [unclear: s] on the invasion troops, and the [unclear: had] started to encounter severe [unclear: lties]. For one thing all food had to [unclear: plied] by air from Vietnam as the [unclear: iroducing] areas were still under [unclear: ntrol]. Most of the troops, although [unclear: ly] trying to pass themselves off as [unclear: ors], could not speak Khmer and [unclear: hich] added to the traditional dis[unclear: f] Vietnam, could not have endeared [unclear: o] the people.

[unclear: this] day the Knufns puppet gov[unclear: nt] has not managed to establish any [unclear: of] order in the country, and accord [unclear: latest] reports, the country is once [unclear: n] a shambles. The old problem of [unclear: e] refugee columns flocking to the [unclear: as] the invading armies break down [unclear: vernmental] system in the country[unclear: s] cropping up once again.

[unclear: What is] the Knufns?

[unclear: art] from its inability to achieve con[unclear: Kampuchea], the main feature of the [unclear: is] its umbilical ties with the Hanoi [unclear: e]. The "Head of State" is Heng Sam[unclear: CPK] defector to Vietnam. The Sec[unclear: General] of the front, Rua Samay, in [unclear: it] public appearance in Hanoi in [unclear: y]1979 at a small rally, spoke about [unclear: mes] of the Pol Pot — Ieng Sary cli[unclear: nd] then went on to spend the rest [unclear: speech] emphasising the "special [unclear: ity]" between the Cambodian and [unclear: mese] people. Indeed, how much [unclear: 'solid'] can you get than when one [unclear: y] controls the other?

[unclear: Vietnamese] at first announced that [unclear: were] no Vietnamese troops on Kam[unclear: an] soil. This claim fell about as flat [unclear: announcement] of setting up the [unclear: NS].

[unclear: ociated] Press carried a statement [unclear: am] Van Dong, addressed to Thai [unclear: Minister] Kriangsak, assuring the [unclear: that] no Vietnamese troops would [unclear: ach] the Thai border. A day later, the [unclear: rime] Minister replied, saying that' he [unclear: at] the original message a little [unclear: puzz-] Thailand and Vietnam shared no [unclear: on] border.

[unclear: er] the Vietnamese were forced to' [unclear: to] the invasion, but declared it to [unclear: matter] between the two countries [unclear: ned]."

[unclear: d] Reaction

[unclear: rotest] motion went forward in the [unclear: ty] Council of the UN, but was vet[unclear: the] USSR and Czechoslovakia. The [unclear: s] proclaimed the invasion as a "true [unclear: 's] uprising".

[unclear: day] the situation in Kampuchea is [unclear: nclear], but we can say a few things [unclear: tely]. The Heng Samrin regime is unable to consolidate any power over the country, and is in existence only because of massive occupation by Vietnamese and waves of troops trying to knock out KRA resistance. The KRA on the other hand are having remarkable success in small guerilla attacks against the invaders, and have obviously opted for a long struggle, similar to the struggle between 1968 and 1975.

World public opinion, low troop morale and economic problems at home mean that Vietnam cannot keep large numbers of her troops in Kampuchea forever. With the Vietnamese gone, the Knufns would be nothing.

Why Worry?

To some it may seem that the fuss over this invasion is rather misplaced. But in looking at the world situation, the question of who controls Kampuchea becomes a vital issue. Vietnam wants to control the whole South East Asian region under its pipe dream of the "Indochina Federation". They have had some success.

In harmony with this desire of the Vietnamese, is the Soviet Union's desire to control a strategic band from Africa across Middle Asia and extending to Vietnam. They have also had some success.

Kampuchea is a lynch pin in the strategies of both these two expansionist powers. Two powers which are becoming cosier and cosier in their relationship. Without backing the invasion of Kampuchea would never have taken place.

Superpower rivalry is coming closer and closer to home for New Zealanders and we should be concerned about a situation that could bring us into a new world war. The chief protagonist of such a war would undoubtedly be the aggressive new power of this present epoch — the USSR.

I hope by writing this article that I have made students aware of the courageous struggles of the

Kampuchean people against the French, the Americans, and now the Vietnamese and their backers, the Soviet Union.

David Murray

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Notices

Women's Action Group

The first Women's Action Group meeting for the second term will be on Thursday 23 May (second week of term) in the Lounge, Union Building, at 12.00. There will be a speaker and discussion.

All women are welcome to join the Women's Action Group or attend WAG meetings. The strength and direction of the group is dependant upon support from women on campus.

If you are interested in the feminist perspective or would just like to meet other women on campus, please come.

Parking Permits

VUWSA parking permits for the Wai-Te-Ata Road students' car park have finally arrived, and are available from the Students' Association Office for \$1.00.

Cars not displaying parking permits will be towed away.

Debate

"That New Zealand is a Dropout".

Victoria versus the Institute of Management, Monday 21 May, 12 noon, Lounge, Union Building.

See the top Victoria team (very entertaining) battle it out against the downtown executives.

Table Tennis Tournament

A handicap Table Tennis tournament will be held in the Gymnasium-Dance Room of the Recreation Centre on University Open Day (Friday 18 May) from 5-7pm.

All welcome.

Prizes for the winners.

Library Hours

The University Council has approved certain changes in the hours during which the Library is open. These changes are based on recommendations made in 1978 by the Joint Committee of Library Staff and Users. The changes affecting the rest of 1979 are as follows:

Details of hours and services, and any alterations to them are displayed in the Library display case in the Rankine Brown foyer.

[unclear: Sport]

[unclear: Sports] Week 22nd - 26th May

[unclear: Sports] Week has been designed to publicise sports in general and specifically the [unclear: which] administer sports here at Vic. The programme of events will lead [unclear: and] coincide with the official opening of the Recreation Centre and over [unclear: y-five] sports Clubs are participating, [unclear: e] range of sporting activities will be [unclear: play] and most of the Clubs are in [unclear: non] members to become involved, [unclear: s] Council have co-ordinated the Clubs' [unclear: mme] and in addition there is a tour [unclear: nt] with Massey University, a "Super [unclear: competition] and a hop to conclude [unclear: eek's] events.

[unclear: Sports] week needs you

[unclear: Sports] Week is your chance to break out [unclear: dy] boredom and widen your interest [unclear: mpus] - sports clubs have taken the initiative [unclear: e] to advertise the activities and if it is [unclear: successful] we need You - the students [unclear: t] involved and support the clubs. If [unclear: hing] interests you and you've got a lecture [unclear: p] it - one won't make any difference and [unclear: nay] well discover something worthwhile, [unclear: ctivities] planned cover team sports as [unclear: s] individual pursuits and no matter how [unclear: unco]-ordinated or uninterested you [unclear: you] are, there is a sport for you. You [unclear: have] to be an active sportsman or [unclear: sports- n] to take part; there will be numerous [unclear: es] for the uninitiated to try these sports [unclear: or] themselves. Involvement is your choice, [unclear: a] positive response before University puts [unclear: a] rut.

Apple computers Apple Computer System Now in New Zealand Apple II Computer System is designed for day-to-day tasks in Education computer assisted instruction (CAI), student/tutor research at all educational levels — in all disciplines, administration. Smaller Businesses Financial Planning Scientific Research and development apple computers CED Distributors Limited Box 72-053 Auckland Phone 486-200 See the Apple II, the Commodore Pet and the TRS80 at Calculator Centre Auckland Christchurch Dunedin Lorne Street back of 246 201 High Street, between 134 Stuart Street (Eclipse radio & Phone 370-326 Tuam & Lichfield Phone 60-504 Hobbies). Phone 778-102

[unclear: From] the [unclear: Courts]

Photo of an arched doorway

[unclear: y] it is that the law in New Zealand [unclear: s] to be totally unable to deal with of [unclear: rs] with the severity or leniency that [unclear: ropriate] to the crime. Many people [unclear: tly] have been dealt harsh sentences [unclear: times] which are brought about by [unclear: economic] conditions or repressive [unclear: ition]. When an offender comes before [unclear: ne] court finally who deserves every [unclear: he] gets there is insufficient legislation — [unclear: o] give it to him.

[unclear: man] who appeared before Mr Hobbs, [unclear: ecently] was sent to prison for 18 months [unclear: isqualified] from driving for 2 years. The [unclear: was] charged with driving while disqualified [unclear: nd] causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drug. The man had a history of driving which according to the magistrate showed dreadful inevitability that an accident with tragic

consequences would occur sooner or later. Such an accident occurred on November 9 last year.

There can be no excuse for offenders of this nature. In this particular case the offender had a history of bad driving habits which can surely only result from a thoroughly irresponsible and couldn't-care-less attitude to what is a very serious business. Because there can be no excuse for killing a person through drinking and driving there is no circumstances which should prevent a hard penalty being imposed. At present the maximum penalty is five years or a \$4,000 fine and of course a period of disqualification from driving.

It is quite reasonable however to disqualify the offender from driving for the rest of this life. If this sounds harsh just remember that through his actions a person has been killed. Would you condone giving a murderer a gun and letting him loose on the world? To allow an offender back on the road is to place in him a trust which he has already betrayed with tragic consequences. And surely the penalty should be fulfilled to a greater degree. In this case the defendant was only imprisoned for 18 months, 5 years would still be a light sentence for such an offence.

Repressive law placed another \$500 in the Government's depleted coffers lately when a 21 year old man appeared in court on two cannabis charges. The man was charged with possession, and selling, of cannabis. He sold the cannabis at a small profit to friends and acquaintances. It seems unlikely that marijuana laws will be changed while they bring in so much money for the Government.

Chris Conway

Free Financial Advice from your on-campus bank At the Bank of New Zealand we're on campus and we understand student money problems. If you have money problems (and what student hasn't?) advice is free at the Bank of New Zealand. You'll get good, solid, straight forward help from people who really understand money and how to manage it. We'll level with you about how you're handling your money and what we can do for you. You'll be surprised at the way we can help you sort out your problems. Come on in soon to our on-campus office and arrange a time for a chat. Call at the BNZ on-campus office, and arrange to see Richard Starke, or phone him direct at BNZ Wellington branch, corner Lambton and Customhouse Quays, phone 725-099. Bank of New Zealand Here when you need us - on campus

[unclear: Don't] these [unclear: People] Ever Fuck

[unclear: ry] Shelley is laughing up her decom— [unclear: sleeve] for we have created a mons— [unclear: his] monster is Disco. There is not [unclear: e] Doctor Frankenstein, but uncoun[unclear: ousands], and their creation feeds on [unclear: n] minds, draining them of all coherent [unclear: nce], leaving a pathetic husk possessing [unclear: ertest] platitude of intelligence, vacantly [unclear: ing] "Get down and boogie," "Oohhh, [unclear: "] and recombinations of this shattered [unclear: nt] of vocabulary.

[unclear: cannot] destroy this fiend, for it is self[unclear: ing]. Disco is the raison d'etre of Dis[unclear: o] we are beaten and pulped into screa[unclear: ubmission] under tonne upon anony[unclear: iny] tonne of such abominations as [unclear: er] of emetic action) Dance Dance[unclear: (ance] in your pance), Boogie Oogie[unclear: (Bugger] Ugger Ugger), Dance across[unclear: or] etc etc ad infinitum ad nauseum. [unclear: me] while I get a fresh bag and [unclear: emp- one]).

[unclear: ny] turn away, only to commit a greater [unclear: till], vanishing without a whimper into [unclear: orass] of "Rock" typified by the West [unclear: industry]. This is a world of "making [unclear: sharing] the night together", "the right [unclear: f] the night" "sharing a bed". Don't [unclear: eople] ever fuck? Billy Joel's Only [unclear: ood] Die Young can be paraphrased [unclear: x] words - 'I wanna fuck a Catholic [unclear: g]. Put that way, it's a vile little song. [unclear: s]. if he said that, they wouldn't play [unclear: he] radio, would they? A million and [unclear: rsecs] from Bring On the Nubiles

[unclear: e] appearance of Toto is the ultimate [unclear: ay] of these gentlemen (sic(k) Ex[unclear: musicians] fronted by a Charles Bron[unclear: one], they've realised that anyone can [unclear: s], they've found the formula and they' [unclear: g] to get rich, rich, rich.

[unclear: course], those two classifications don't [unclear: t] the field. There are the relatively in[unclear: us] efforts of Abba, Brotherhood of Man [unclear: at] and so fifth (inflation strikes), that [unclear: duce] mild nausea in the less hardy ty[unclear: it] tend to inspire pity rather than con-Mind you, their money is as good as anyone else's. Input x, y, z; output \$\$\$.

We now come to the electronic orchestras, monuments more to manufacturers than performers. ELO, Genesis and such, who may infrequently take your attention, but for the greater part of the time are just there. However, someone must be encouraging them.

Which leaves? Punk, New Wave and the few survivors of the decline and fall of Heavy Metal / Rock.

Which is where David Telford took off in the March 26th Salient, putting his brain into overdrive leaving the rest of him in second. Much of what he says makes sense only to the converted, which is rather futile and rather a pity.

The strangest thing about Punk is that it always seems to bring out the worst in the people who don't like it. Rather like Rob Muldoon. Otherwise sober, rational citizens start to froth at the mouth and gibber incoherent condemnation.

The problem arises, what do we call this music. The word Punk has been depreciated by its opponents until only a Punk can refer to "punk" without remark. If anyone else says it, people strangely conclude that that person disapproves. The alternative blanket term is New Wave, a disgustingly imprecise and somewhat arty word that doesn't really tell you much and means even less. New Wave is something you can't fit under any other heading.

Telford submerges himself in superlatives. Superlatives are just the rather boring result of boundless enthusiasm. I honestly can't say that Anarchy in the UK is "brilliant, searing" or the Ramones are "brilliant, subtle, titanic" but I do know what I like, and such descriptions as "bloody good", "bloody fantastic" correctly convey a purely subjective impression. As for those who don't agree with my views, well there's no accounting for taste and they can take a running jump up their arse for all I care. (Please pardon that intrusion of my ego. I am still taking the tablets.)

The answer to the accusation "no-talent punks" is right there in the music. The accusation would seem to imply the critic had listened to punk. Oddly (or not so oddly), in my experience this has not been the case. Twenty seconds is usually enough for them. The Jam's unbelievable rendition of the Batman Theme (no bullshit) has more balls than a stud farm, and should replace its model, the insipid original, now if not sooner. It's not punk, but the Ramones' beautiful (???) rendition of Needles And Pins (yes, that one) totally destroys the myth of the no-talent moron. Ramones have convinced me, at least that the "dum brudders" image is just that-they're not brudders and they're not dum. And they don't all sound the same after one or three listenings.

In spite of Ramones, Dead Boys etc., it is a simple fact that the best punk and new wave comes from the land of the Poms. This is a significant state of affairs in view of the current state of the nation, a breeding ground for apathy and depressed disillusionment, with the futility of constructive action in the face of the Unions, inflation, Old Uncle Tom Cobbley and all an established reality.

New Wave is growing. Where civilisation plumbs new depths, it scales new heights. And so out of Akron came DEVO. There has been nothing like them before, may they inspire new wonders. In the beginning there was the end, and in the end we were all DEVO.

And surprise of surprises! What with DEVO, The Clash, Elvis Costello and Public Image (the return of Johnny Rotten, spelt Lydon) all occupying or having occupied places in the forty top-selling albums, it appears there is hope yet. John Barry plays Devo half a dozen times on the ZM Sunday night show, the album is advertised on radio a few times, a few appearances on Radio with Pictures and, by God it sells. Compare that with the fanfare and ceremony it was felt necessary to get "Spirits Having Flown" off the ground, even [unclear: with] the Bee Gees' awesome reputation.

You don't have to be punk or new wave, though. Occasionally otherwise despicable artists astound us. Thus Paul McCartney turns out Girls School and then kills it stone deader than Raid by slapping it on the back of Mull Of Kintyre, the lowest of the low. Village People almost restores your tolerance of Disco, then some Aldebaranian Hybrid called Herb And Peaches spews up Shake Your Groove Thing and you're bed-ridden for six weeks. It's a cruel world.

I am very much afraid that I cannot let my name be known, living as it were in the enemy camp, tortured by extracts from "Grease" or "Meatloaf". I remain, sir, your most obedient servant.
The Paranoid Android.

Drawing of a blind man and a woman putting on lipstick

Books

The Pakeha Papers

Jules Older.

This book covers the attitudes of Pakeha towards the Maori people, detrimental attitudes that have had detrimental effects. There has been a lack of effort to create an egalitarian society, where all races within it have respect and equal opportunity, or as much as possible in a world ruled by chance.

There are many bad statistics relating to Maoris, their achievements in education are minimal compared with Pakehas, for no other reason than that the education system largely ignores the cultural differences, with the result that Maoris fail where there is no need to. The book explains the statistics well, and therefore fulfills its role as presenting a self-contained case for the need of projects which encourage Maori people to work towards control over their own affairs, as befits any self-respecting society.

An important theme in the book is to attract more Maoris into professional positions. For example, having Maori doctors would result in definite improvements. Maori doctors would be sympathetic towards Maori problems, integrating both systems of medicine so that Maoris can feel that their Maoritanga, fluent in all of their life, can survive and will be upheld.

Pakehas have radically different notions of culture than do Maoris, that is why Maori doctors will succeed where Pakehas consistently fail. I think the argument is convincing. Maoris intensely dislike hospitals, operations and western medication, and are better off being attended to by their families in their own homes. Parts of their body are taboo for medical inspection, Pakehas don't understand this, therefore the Maoris avoid visiting the doctors, a vicious circle that exists everywhere in racial relationships in New Zealand. As a result of not bothering to understand the Maori, they have poor health records compared with Pakehas, high mortality rate, high infant mortality.

Pakehas generally do not want to face the reality of prejudice. They stamp Maoris as second class citizens, hide in better suburbs and higher jobs and never comprehend the reasons why Maories are living and working in lower standards. In fact, they jump to the conclusion this is the best Maoris can do (and Polynesians I include in all these distinctions) with the result that they look on them as second class citizens. When will it ever end? In fact, the book itself is published because the NZ Medical Journal would not publish Jules' reports; because of pressure not to do so, as Maori issues were hot politically, and the editor did not want trouble. He lied to Jules, claiming with a myriad of bad excuses that the material was rubbish, when in fact it is not.

Such pettiness and defence mechanisms are illogical in reality, because Maoris suffer and suffer as a result of it. The book should be widely read, because it will succeed in awakening New Zealanders to the bad effects of their actions, thus stimulating an environment where change for the better is possible, where intelligent Maoris can help direct their people out of confusion towards a system of values that services the needs and talents of a much abused race. How many Pakehas are prepared to encourage Maoris and assure them that bias is over? The book is well worth reading, because it is real in its direction.

Activity called positive feedback - if you are positive about social problems, people become positive also, people want to fulfil achievements, but it has to be made possible first. This book is a positive step in what one would hope will be a chain of responses, where progress is made. Loud noise, belief in the invincibility of values will achieve what government fails to do. Consistent positive values are the answer, for Maori, for Pakeha. Are you part of the positive chain, or part of the wall that makes progress impossible?

Modern day Pakehas have little idea of Maori people, thinking of them as existing at the bottom of our society, with little understanding of the reality of the truth, that Pakeha invaded and destroyed Maori life, is no small matter at all, yet it is glossed over to the extent that reality barely exists.

Sandra Watson

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Music

Stand and Deliver

Drawing of a microphone

In less than three months, Smashed Executive have come out of nowhere, claimed a track on Radio Windy's highly enterprising "home grown" album, played a limited number of gigs very impressively and generally grabbed that all important public awareness.

Whether awareness will turn into acceptance time will tell, but once hassles as divorced from music are resolved and an organised period of concerts arranged I believe they will turn into one of the most potent bands playing in Wellington.

Their strength is in their songwriting. They do a high percentage of original numbers and the covers they do are remade and remodelled to such an extent that the originals lie meekly in their time warp.

The original numbers are well written songs featuring a tight rhythmic drive, little soloing and occasionally

very intricate time changes. TV and Not Any More stand out as class songs and soon Mental Blanco and Let Us Help The Aged will be equally excellent.

A four piece band - though the line-up could well evolve into a six piece with the addition of a keyboardist and another guitarist - Smashed Executive appear to view the rock vehicle with different eyes than your normal mundane "cover and deliver" band. Whilst setting up the equipment before a gig, tapes of synthesised music are played to the waiting crowd. Dischordant and alienating, but at the same time aware and intense, it provokes reaction. And with Smashed Executive reaction is provoked throughout the whole gig, a joy to the ears of anyone bored by the latest radio sounds.

The man with the ideas, who also writes most of the material, is guitarist Malcolm Pickup. And least the cynic in you should recall English music names such as Johnny Thunder Dave Volume and of course the Clash's Joe Strummer and think the name is a mock I can assure you that it is not, rather just a delightful coincidence. The other members are Tony Parkinson on drums, Kevin Hawkins on bass and vocalist Delmer Mason.

Malcolm Pickup is a serious musician, a man who has been listening to music for years and who respects and acknowledges many influences, namely Syd Barret, King Crimson, David Bowie, Roxy Music - Smashed Executive's blockbuster version of Virginia Plain is so simple and so excellent — Eno and early Amon Duul amongst [unclear: oth] But the band ultimately want to be [unclear: as] sified as possible to avoid any limiting [unclear: o] gorisations.

An intense and intelligent man, [unclear: Malc] has been playing guitar and writing [unclear: for] number of years and a frustration with was offering on the New Zealand music coupled with a dedication and belief [unclear: in] could be achieved has meant he [unclear: would] have to become so completely [unclear: immerse] a band unless he had complete faith [unclear: in] they could and, I believe, will achieve.

Tall and lean, Malcolm cuts a [unclear: strong] crashing down relentlessly on his [unclear: Strato] Moving very little, occasionally [unclear: taking le] backing vocals, it is his incessant [unclear: guitar] and frenzied and snappy lead work [unclear: that] band the knife-edge attack it possessed, looking on stage, it is very obvious he [unclear: ca bout] how the band is performing.

But like all new bands, they are [unclear: plagu] and crippled by problems — sound [unclear: and] lume distortion, mythical PA systems, [unclear: tr] port hassles and so on. And obviously [unclear: m] and more frustrations are ahead of them, whole business is very costly and at [unclear: the] ment Smashed Executive are [unclear: commandin] very minimum concert fee.

It is clearly going to be an uphill [unclear: strug] for the band, as it is for any band in [unclear: New] land, but these four lads seem to have [unclear: vantage] in that they have a healthy [unclear: belief] themselves and a resounding faith in [unclear: their] terial. They know they can improve a [unclear: I] what they are at present and at [unclear: present th] are, to me, the most promising and [unclear: captin] ting new band in a long, long time.

When the improvement reaches its [unclear: zen] I think we, the Wellington audience, [unclear: will b] proud of our home-grown band because [unclear: b] then they will be in the top bracket of [unclear: Ne] Zealand bands.

Smashed Executive have no frills, they simply stand and deliver, and they neither dictate nor compromise. All they are asking for is an audience to listen seriously and decide they are simply four musicians who love playing music, who have a love of music in general and who would like to share a little with you, the Wellington public.

Colin Williams.

Records

Icecream after a Chili Pepper

New York - New Wave Sophistication Talking Heads: 77

Drawing of a chilli and an ice cream

Talking Heads is a part of the New Wave of groups, musicians, street politicians, poets, criminals, anarchists (eg Malcolm Mac Lean) and others, redefining popular music, (it bloody well needs it) and the direction it's heading.

Talking Heads are original creative artists who play witty, clever, intelligent music, they add balance to the more sharply defined pun! style of groups like the Ramones, the Vibrators, the Sex Pistols, the Boomtown Rats etc (not that these groups aren't important or brilliant, their matchless energy, vitality, commitment, power and intensity make their significance clear.)

The first I heard of Talking Heads was a single (My love is a building that's on fire). Right away I liked the unique style of the group....a vast number of charmingly twisted melodic breaks tacked seemingly haphazardly together with enigmatic lyrics. David Byrne the group's lead guitarist and vocalist has a unique and interesting vocal style, and Jerry Harrison's Keyboards and synthesizer work is technically well executed and fun. These two tend to obscure the fine work (and solid stick work) of drummer Chris Frantz and bass guitarist Martina Weymouth.

Tentative Decisions is the first track to impress on the first side, with some lyrics that really require some thought (believe it or not). No Compassion is a song about the pressure of modern society and the problem it generates and that you can't survive in it. If you worry about other people's problems "They say compassion's a virtue but I don't have the time.....talk to your analyst isn't this what they're paid for".

The Book I Read is a track that is really just straight music and some great work on the keys by Harrison, which is followed by a track on Talking Head's favourite subject (buildings) in Don't worry about the government. Psycho-Killer (another brilliant number) wraps up the album.

Really the album just seems to get more memorable each time you play it. So if you're bored of the latest, mindless disco slime [unclear: por] ring out of the radio or Heavy Rock giants [unclear: like] Uriah Heep, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, [unclear: ask] Deep Purple who have not progressed (or [unclear: other] just regressed) or have just broken up (or [unclear: des] have a listen to some Talking Heads. (If [unclear: you] into Punk listen to it when your ears are still ringing after a Ramones number, the effect is amazing (a bit like icecream after a chili pepper).

Talking Heads are out in front (listen to them you'll hear the future of popular music. David Telford.

[unclear: Film]

[unclear: is] for Horror [unclear: Hitchcock]

[unclear: s] week I was going to write a review of [unclear: n] Girdler's The Manitou. However, it [unclear: the] Plaza for just one week. A shame, [unclear: e] it was quite a worthy film. It's not [unclear: t] often we get to see a real hide-your[unclear: ite]-your-nails wet-your-pants horror. [unclear: The] Manitou isn't necessarily that good, [unclear: first] half (after that it rapidly became [unclear: ous] and disaffecting) was excellent [unclear: the] best work I've seen in horror at[unclear: ere] a long time.

[unclear: eral] things in the film, like visual links [unclear: cho], would have prompted me to bring [unclear: red] Hitchcock (yet again). So instead [unclear: ght] it would be interesting to let him [unclear: out] the film for himself. This he does [unclear: Francois] Truffaut's book, Hitchcock, [unclear: which] the following extracts are taken:

[unclear: ock]:— In writing a screenplay, it is [unclear: al] to separate clearly the dialogue [unclear: he] visual elements and, whenever [unclear: e], to rely more on the visual than [unclear: dialogue]. Whichever way you choose [unclear: e] the action, your main concern is to [unclear: he] audience's fullest attention.

[unclear: nming] it up, one might say that the [unclear: rectangle] must be charged with [unclear: emo-]

[unclear: ut]:- Incidentally, on reseeing your [unclear: n] of The Thirty-Nine Steps, I realised [unclear: s] approximately at this period that [unclear: gan] to take more liberties with the [unclear: ios], that is, to attach less importance [unclear: credibility] of the plot, or at any rate [unclear: ver] necessary, to sacrifice plausibility [unclear: ur] of pure emotion.

[unclear: ock]:— Yes, that's right!

[unclear: aut]:— It's a style that tends to do away [unclear: nything] that is merely utilitarian, so [unclear: etain] only those scenes that are fun [unclear: ot] and to watch. It's the kind of cine[unclear: it's] extremely satisfying to audiences [unclear: t] often irritates the critics. While [unclear: g] at the movie, or after seeing it, they [unclear: alyze] the script, which, of course, [unclear: t] stand up to logical analysis. So they [unclear:

ngle] out as weaknesses those aspects [unclear: e] the very essence of this film genre, [unclear: instance], a thoroughly casual approach [unclear: plausible].

[unclear: ock]:— I'm not concerned with plausi[unclear: that's] the easiest part of it, so why bo[unclear: Do] you remember that lengthy scene [unclear: Birds] in which the people are talking [unclear: the] birds? In that group there is a wo[unclear: ho] is precisely a specialist on the seab[unclear: birds], an ornithologist. She happens [unclear: here] by pure chance! Naturally, I could [unclear: ade] up three scenes just to give that [unclear: a] logical reason for being there, but [unclear: ould] have been completely [unclear: uninteres-]

[unclear: ut]:— Not to mention the waste of time [unclear: s] public!

[unclear: ock]:— Aside from the waste of time, [unclear: nake] for gaps or flaws in the picture. [unclear: e] logical: If you're going to analyze [unclear: hing] in terms of plausibility or credibility then no fiction script can stand up to that approach, and you wind up doing a documentary.'

Truffaut:— Incidentally, one play on words I rather like is your own saying: "Some films are slices of life. Mine are slices of cake."

Hitchcock:— I don't want a film to be a "slice of life" because people can get that at home, in the street, or even in front of movie theatre. They don't have to pay money to see a slice of life. And I avoid out-and-out fantasy because people should be able to identify with the characters. Making a film means, first of all, to tell a story. That story can be an improbable one, but it should never be banal. It must be dramatic and human. What is drama, after all, but life with dull bits cut out. The next factor is the technique of film-making, and in this connection, I am against virtuosity for its own sake. Technique should enrich the action. One doesn't set the cameras at a certain angle just because the cameraman happens to be enthusiastic about that spot. The only thing that matters is whether the installation of the cameras at a given angle is going to give the scene its maximum impact. The beauty of image and movement, the rhythm and the effects everything must be subordinated to the purpose.'

Truffaut:— In many of your pictures..... there are, aside from coincidence and implausibles, many elements that are arbitrary and unjustified. And yet, in the light of a cinematic logic that is strictly personal you impose them in such a way that once they're on the screen, these are the very elements that become the film's strong points.

Hitchcock:— The cinematic logic is to follow the rules of suspense.'

Truffaut:— I see. Now, let's go back to the scene in the cornfield (in North by North—west). The most appealing aspect of that sequence with the plane (attacking the hero) is that it's totally gratuitous - it's a scene that's been drained of all plausibility or even significance. Cinema, approached in this way, becomes a truly abstract art, like music. And here it's precisely that gratuity, which you're often criticized for, that gives the scene all of its interest and strength. It's deliberately emphasized by the dialogue, when the farmer, who's about to get into the bus, points to the oncoming plane and says to Cary Grant, "Look, here comes a crop-dusting plane." And then he adds, "That's funny, there are no crops to be dusted!" And he's right, of course; that's the whole point: there's nothing to be sprayed! How can anyone object to gratuity when it's so clearly deliberate - it's planned incongruity? It's obvious that the fantasy of the absurd is a key ingredient of your film-making formula.

Hitchcock:— The fact is I practice absurdity quite religiously!

Hitchcock:— Psycho has a very interesting construction and that game with the audience was fascinating. I was directing the viewers. You might say I was playing them, like an organ.

Drawing of a lion tamer, and a lion in a cage

Photo of Alfred Hitchcock holding a head

Truffaut:— I admired that picture enormously, but I felt a letdown during the two scenes with the sheriff.

Hitchcock:— The sheriff's intervention comes under the heading of what we have discussed many times before: "Why don't they go to the police?" I've always replied, "They don't go to the police because it's dull." Here is a perfect example of what happens when they go to the police.'

Truffaut:— Would you say that Psycho is an experimental film?

Hitchcock:— Possibly. My main satisfaction is that the film had an effect on the audiences, and I consider that very important. I don't care about the subject matter; I don't care about the acting; but I do care about the pieces of film and the photography and the sound track and all of the technical ingredients that made the audience scream. I feel it's tremendously satisfying for us to be able to use the cinematic art to achieve something of a mass emotion. And with Psycho we most definitely achieved this. It wasn't a message that stirred the audiences, nor was it a great performance or their enjoyment of the novel. They were aroused by pure film.

Truffaut:— Yes, that's true.

Hitchcock:— That's why I take pride in the fact that Psycho more than any of my other pictures, is a film that belongs to filmmakers, to you and me. I can't get a real appreciation of the picture in the [unclear: terons] we're using now. People will say, "It was a terrible film to make. The subject was horrible, the people were

small, there were no characters in it." I know all of this, but I also know that the construction of the story and the way in which it was told caused audiences all over the world to react and become emotional.'

Hitchcock:— It's an area of film-making in which it's more important for you to be pleased with the technique than with the content. It's the kind of picture in which the camera takes over. Of course, since critics are more concerned with the scenario, it won't necessarily get you the best notices, but you have to design your film just as Shakespeare did his plays - for an audience.'

And that's all, folks.

Paul Hagan

DOWNSTAGE THEATRE HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS AT THE HANNAH PLAYHOUSE
Noel Coward's **DESIGN FOR LIVING** and Pinero's **THE SECOND MRS TANQUERAY** These two productions play week and week about. **BOOKINGS AT THE HANNAH PLAY HOUSE 849-639 AT THE STATE OPERA HOUSE** Shakaspere's **MACBETH** A ten day season from Sat 12 May to Wed 23 May at 8.00pm. and **THE GINGERBREAD MAN** A musical play by David Wood A ten day season from Wed 9 May to Sat 19 May at 11.00 am. **BOOKINGS AT THE STATE OPERA HOUSE 843-842**

REC Centre

The big news for the Centre is the Open Day. Everything recreational will be happening at the Centre on the two days (May 25 and May 26). Rumour has it that the Governor General will not only be opening the Centre, but playing in the Vice Chancellor's Five against the Maintenance Team in the first round of the indoor soccer competition.

However, notwithstanding all that drivel, one major feature of the Open Day will be a special commemorative issue of the fitness class, on Friday May 25 at 4pm. This will present a memorable "fitness to music" session to all who want that little bit of extra pre-ski fitness.

And, talking skiing, the learn to ski classes start this term. Our dry ski slope in the Old Gym will again provide the opportunity for you absolute beginners to get a taste of the exhilaration to be experienced on the slopes. The classes are on.

Get your name down on the list at Reception now. Classes are limited, so be in.

The fitness you require for skiing can be obtained in handy 40 minute packages on Tuesdays 12-1 and /or Thursday 5.30-6.30. Again; be in, be fit and skiable.

The new soccer draw is not in operation and we will be starting the first round of the Sweet FA Cup knockout competition, so if your team has been entered, make sure that it turns up. (Liverpool failed to qualify for the tournament again).

Beginners' badminton classes continue this term on Tuesdays 10-11 and Fridays 10-11. The Friday 11-12 class takes a rest this term, but will be back next term.

We want to start a social volleyball competition on Thursdays at 12 noon. Has your Department, class, group or regiment got six or seven or so people who want a bit of a hit and a giggle over the volleyball net? Get your team entered this week at the Centre Reception. The winner of this sociable little contest will qualify to come again next term.

Weight training programmes are still available, and ladies, you are welcome to try try the ancient art of anti-gravitating. Programmes are available from Hugh or Diana.

The Sauna has had a rest over the vacation and is now up to winter temperature. We can't provide the snow, but, at \$1.00 per session, it's got to be the cheapest hotspot in town.

Other social sports offering are:

- Badminton on Tuesdays at noon
- Basketball on Fridays at noon
- Hockey (mixed) on Mondays at noon.

Be in.

Our weight loss clinic has been most successful this year and our Health Service-Recreation Centre team will be hard at it again this term, helping you to lose those kilos and feel better.

Answers to Quiz No 5

- Four (but you can only see 3)
- A nice person
- No (nor, obscene caller, has it anything to do with that)
- Of course; it was Uriah Heep

Quiz No 6

Again, the free Sauna has yet to be claimed. Maybe our contests are just a little too hot; again, the same

prize for the best example of the classic fourteen line sonnet, written in iambic pentameter on the delights of any form of physical recreation. Please note, that in the poetic form we require, some obvious words do not scan too well.

Cryptic Crossword

Empty crossword

Across

Down

Last Week's Solution

Across: 1. Bright, 4. Select, 8. Left in the dark, 10. Enlists, 11. Elton, 12. Is counted, 16. Cairn, 17. Diction, 19. Olive branches, 20. Loyola, 21. Chases

Down: 1 and 14 Ballet School, 2. Infallibility, 3. Hairs, 5. Element, 6. Enacted rights, 7. Taking, 9. To shudder, 13. Conceal, 15. Gnosis, 18. [*unclear*: Conch]

Student Health

Understanding Cystitis

Cystitis (infection of the bladder) and Urethritis (infection of the urethra) are the most common types of lower urinary tract infections. Cystitis occurs more frequently in women than in men because of the shorter female urethra (passage from bladder to the outside).

You have probably heard more of cystitis than urethritis because, as they cause the same symptoms, it can be hard to distinguish between them.

Causes

Most of the bacteria (germs) which cause these infections to grow naturally in the bowel without causing infection, but when they move forward, up the urethra to the bladder, they readily cause infection, ie E' coli. Other causes are vaginitis and local irritation of the urethra which can occur in sexual intercourse.

The Early Signs and Symptoms

- Frequency of urine
- Burning and a painful sensation when urinating.

Infection may reach as far as the kidneys, with symptoms such as back pain, constipation, pus and blood in urine, fever and chills — generally a more serious stage of cystitis.

For the Future

- As sexual intercourse can cause or aggravate infection, passing urine and washing afterwards can be helpful.
- Following bowel movement, you should wipe from front to back. Wiping in the other direction will only encourage the bacteria to move forward.
- Always wash your hands after using the toilet.
- Wear cotton pants in preference to nylon, pantyhose and girdles with cotton gussets. Synthetic fabrics (nylon etc) cause moisture to be retained, allowing bacteria to travel easily from the bowel to the urethra.
- Do not use vaginal deodorants.
- Good fluid intake. If you find coffee, tea, alcohol and spices irritate the bladder, avoid them.
- Empty the bladder frequently
- Menstruation may increase the risk of infection, so take extra care with personal hygiene during your

periods.

Cystitis is extremely common, and in many women recurs, though you can lessen the chances of another attack by following the above suggestions'. There is no reason to put up with symptoms as treatment is simple and doctors prefer patients to report early.

Here at the Health Service the Doctor sends your midstream urine specimen to the laboratory for testing and then will usually prescribe an antibiotic. A urine sample will be necessary before and after treatment.

For you to help Relieve Symptoms Yourself.

- drink up to 4 pints of water daily as this dilutes the urine and washed out the urethra.
- Barley waters make life a little easier — helping to alkalize the infected acid urine.

Home Recipe for Barley Water

A packet of barley flakes from a health store; 2 tablespoons barley; and a little sugar. Cover with about 3 cups of boiling water. Allow to stand for about 10 minutes, strain off and drink while hot.

- soak in hot tub 2 or 3 times a day.
- try a hot water bottle on your abdomen and back (wrap a towel around this bottle so it doesn't burn but only heats).
- take 2 tablets of a mild pain killer, perhaps either disprin or paracetamol every three or four hours.
- every time you pass water go and wash the perineum gently. Dab it dry, don't rub it.

Other causes can be: hormonal changes, stress, childbirth, chemicals or physical problems eg blockage in the urethra.

Don't be shy about seeking help from your doctor.

Sexed - GLORIA HAS A VISIBLE ORGANISM

Capture the rich, round flavour of Rum & Wine Port Royal cigarette tobacco Port Royal Cigarette tobacco Flavoured with Rum and Wine 50g NET WEGHIT WHEN PACKED "Ready-to-Roll"

Letters

Drawing of a woman writing with a feather quill

Letters handed into the Salient office (first floor, Union Building, graveyard end) by Wednesday 12 noon will, barring unforeseen disasters, be published in the following issue. Letters handed in after that time may be held over to a subsequent issue. Letters should be typed (there are typewriters available in the Salient office), double-spaced and on one side of the paper only. If you cannot type, we will accept Printed letters (again double spaced and on one side of the paper only). Any letter that we cannot clearly read will not be printed. The editor reserves the right to abridge letters that are of tedious length.

A Presidential Puzzle

Dear Peter,

Greetings from the depths of the never-never (otherwise known as Heretaunga).

One major question (well two really) 1. Why doesn't someone slip Andrew Tees a severe case of the rubber dicky before he does irreparable damage to the public image of the student movement in general and VUWSA in particular.

2. How has he lasted this long without resigning or getting rolled.

Yours in hopeful expectation,

Sean Tuohy & Chris Galbraith

Elect the Editor!

Dear Salient,

In the editorial of Salient, April 2, the editor, Peter Beach, attacks the motion to be presented to the AGM moving that the Salient editor be elected by the SRC. I want to take issue with your basic position and with the arguments you use.

I believe there is nothing wrong in principle with having the election of the Salient editor more open and democratic. To the contrary, such a reform is desirable, and even urgently necessary.

The main thread running through the editorial's argument is that having an SRC elect an editor will mean that Salient is entirely bound by SRC policy. To quote, "If of course it is intended that the editor is to be responsible to the SRC, the editor will be completely tied to whatever the SRC policy may be at the time." On this ground, Peter implies that this method of appointment is actually less democratic than the present one. Yet this is based on an assumption. Nowhere in the motion did it say that the editor will be bound to present SRC policy and nothing else. Nowhere does it say that debate will not be allowed in Salient.

Beach's assumption is quite false. The front page of Salient carries the line: "Newspaper of the Victorial University Students Association", but that has not meant that Salient has carried nothing but Association policy (which is generally decided by SRC).

Beach also says that the job requires skills that can't be judged by the students at SRC. And he says in a somewhat contemptuous tone: "it is ludicrous to suppose that an SRC of several hundred students, most of whom have little idea of the work involved, will be able to correctly assess the relative abilities of a number of candidates to perform these tasks adequately".

But students are considered competent to elect the positions of President, Secretary and Treasure, all of which involve tasks as complex as those of Salient editor.

The essential thrust of Peter's argument is antidemocratic. That is, he does not want the position to be put up for discussion and vote in front of the democratic body of students. This is a deplorable position.

In contrast, I believe that we need the most thorough democracy in the Students Association. Students should have the power to decide on such a fundamental matter concerning their Association.

I had considerable doubts about the motion in its original form. These doubts centred on the positions of the Publications Board and the way that the new policy would fit into the present constitution. These doubts were confirmed by the lawyer's demand for a rephrasing of the motion. I also have my doubts about the intentions' of the motion's movers, but on this basis one cannot support or oppose policy.

Let me make it quite clear then that I, and the Young Socialists whom I represent, support any moves to democratise the Students Association and make the editorship of Salient and the newspaper itself more accessible to students.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Mulrennan.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you on two topics. Firstly, in relation to the recent article on the Middle East peace treaty. I disagree with Carson in that I believe that the Jews have a right to their home land which has been denied them for 2000 years. The Jews were a race which for centuries were divided, persecuted and alienated from their home and religion - now they've got it back and they have more right to it than the Palestinians. It belonged to the Jews before the Palestinians were even thought of.

However, I agree that Carter should get his finger out of the pie — the last thing he is concerned with is peace in the Middle East and it seems ironic that he should use a bribe, the tools of war. The US is far too happy to stick it's meddling finger in other countries' politics. They got their arse kicked in Vietnam but that was not enough to teach the buggers who seem to think they are God's gift to world politics. Before they meddled in the Middle East the Americans would have been well advised to clear up their obligations with the Vietnamese who they seem to have forgotten now that they've finished ravaging, killing and maiming. The boat people have no where to go so let's see the US pay it's debt to humanity and relieve this political problem or is that on too low a scale for them. After all there are only 200,000 homeless boat people.

The second point on which I wish to expound is why has our great leader seen fit to send Gandar to London. He is going to represent New Zealand at a most important time on matters very important to the New Zealand economy - meanwhile the voters of Rangatikei didn't even consider him able to represent their needs in Parliament. God save us from bungling incompetent Prime ministers intent on ruining us. Does Mulddon think he can abuse his position, and appoint his ousted cronies to positions such as this, and get away with it.

Yours in non-expectation,

C.C.

YOU DISGUST ME. IT MAKES ME SICK. TO LOOK AT YOU.

More on Brierleys

Dear Peter,

In Robert Knyvett's letter in your 9 April issue, discussing the situation of Beaths in Christchurch before the Brierley-engineered takeover by the DIC, he proposed three reasons for the sorry state of Beaths.

- Poorly used assets.
- Bad management
- Lazy workers

He then, of course, says that all New Zealand workers are lazy, as all students know!!

Robert Knyvett might find it interesting to join the workforce sometime and discover that management spend most of their time trying to stop workers doing any work. And what does he mean by poorly used assets!!

The prattlings of the idle rich don't hold much water with the working people of New Zealand.

Yours,

James Mulrahey.

More on Punk

Dear Sir,

(Please print this letter!) David Telford's article was one of the most real (ie relevant, straight forward and factually-based) articles about punk written. Stu Frater should either listen to the Ramones (or the Rezollos, Jam, Clash, XTC, Penetration etc), or, if like parents of the 50's, 60's, he decides its "all the same" from the first listening, then he should read the "Rock" column in the listener (he seems the sort to read Rosemary Macleod) — that reviewer loves the Ramones (and he's got bloody good general taste).

"Respectable" fucking well is a "trendy" track as is "Miss You". But to the point, the Stones (personally, I luv' 'em) never did anything quite like "Respectable".

Sure the "New York Dolls" were around for a while (shit hot too), but that doesn't mean Johnny etc grew from them (B/rats — Stones; Jam — Who, etc. Lou Reed is acknowledged as an elder punk (hah hah) anyway.

Frank Zapper was socially relevant, but why does he record nowadays. (ie I bought "In New York", "Studio Tan", "Sleep Dirt") — but what are they about? Who buys them?

About his comments on sales figures — so the Squee Gees (who did they have kids?) are "where its at"? David Telford's statement on success through "bubbling under the charts" is oh so relevant — I mean only slaters buy a Gino Vanelli single.

Any band that achieves financial success does lose credibility if it continues to pose as off-the—street "punks" — Mick Jagger singing 'Street Fighting Man' with a cosmeticised face — even the great wank sometimes.

Vive Burning Spear and the Clash's version of "Police & Theives".

Tetrapod
IV Dunedin

P.S. Look at the Sales Figures for Punk / New Wave / Power Pop records! eg Ian Dury.
I WISH YOU WERE DAED! WAIT A MINUTE.

The Status-quo

Dear Salient,

Are socialists logical? I know I'm logical but then I'm not a socialist.

I take a quote from a scrap of socialist propoganda I found on a library desk: "It must be emphasized that it is impossible to take a genuinely neutral stand on these issues. If you have no policy on abortion, for example, then you are in effect supporting the status quo - one which means oppression and suffering for New Zealand women - including women students!"

Apart from the usual emotional and irrational content of this statement, it has another grave flaw which is brought to light by taking the meaning of this statement to its logical conclusion. If to have no policy on abortion is to support the status quo then what of the 5000 or more students who don't attend SRC's, who indeed did not attend the AGM do these people support the status quo? If so, why isn't VUWSA's policy on abortion one that supports the status quo?

It must be remembered that VUWSA is a compulsory organisation and that these students are the group of people the association purports to represent. If, as the socialists suggest, attempted neutrality is supporting the status quo then the majority of Victoria's students support the status quo.

Since the Association is supposed to be democratic its policy should be in compliance with the majority of students views, that is : The Status Quo. If the students who do not turn up to SRC are not attempting to be neutral what are they doing - they are certainly not attempting to take sides.

Your logically,

Mz. Status Quo.

More Beer, Better Lectures

Dear Sir,

On reading CAM's letter to you I thought it a shitty-shame that a member of the academic profession wastes his breath and student time saying "All varsity students love beer." A professional academic doesn't have to do this but he should of course try and re liven up the lecture if the study material and the way it is presented is poorly.

Make the lecture interesting.....
.....somehow.....

Tex

Mr Editor,

Hello I'm going to congratulate you sir on [unclear: a] story you printed in the last issue. The article question was the one concerning the [unclear: University] ning \$10,000 from its investment of our [unclear: bursar] payments.

It was a concisely written piece, that unlike articles about Kampuchea, was and is relevant [unclear: t] us. Unfortunately, the article should of read "\$10,000 in eight weeks" not six weeks. I [unclear: dou] if that error

was the writer's fault, who you [unclear: did] not credit. If you do not credit these writers you may lose them.

I am sir the Gumboot Maniac
(Apologies for the mistake - ed)

Bargain Books

Dear Sir,

In reply to I B Flapworth, could I suggest [unclear: hi] trivial comments re Dr L Cleveland's book [unclear: show] Little economic sense. Consider these facts:

- As this book is written specially for POLS [unclear: st] dents it's hardly likely to be discarded after first year (especially if Cleveland's still [unclear: runni] the course next year) so you're almost [unclear: certai] to be able to sell it to one of next year's [unclear: stuc] and retrieve a substantial part of your \$13.
- The paper and binding are substantially similar to the other POLS textbook which is an overseas publication. As Cleveland is aware student's aren't generally well off he was probably working to a minimum budget to [unclear: achic] any sort of reasonable looking product [unclear: which] might sell to other people apart from [unclear: student]
- I didn't use it at all for my first essay and go a passing mark.
- Comparison with Lipsey - ever heard of 'economies of scale? Lipsey is an established [unclear: tex] book into its fourth edition and certainly produced in larger quantities than an exploratory first edition of 'Utopia'.
- 'Utopia' may need revising to a second [unclear: editor] in a few years so what's the point in putting [unclear: r] ney into something which could be in good [unclear: o] dition but of little use before much longer, [unclear: as] more expensive book could be.

Yours economically and [unclear: democraticall]

Another POLS III student.

YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT BAD. IN FACT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU BORDER ON THE TERRIFIC.

Honest to the end

Dear Sir,

An end to subversion and suspicion!

I confess, I know Paul O'Donoghue and we are in fact the best of friends, therefore I told a little white lie when I said that "Rumour has it.

....." I know that Paul is a pillar on conservatism, truth and integrity (which I am also — as I Paul well knows.)

But, due to his underhand treachery and the I heinous stab-in-the back he delivered me, I have to inform you that he has been removed from my Christmas card list

Yours in betrayal,

Kathy Drysdale

Pooling Our Resources

Dear Sir,

Re the letter on the Boyd-Wilson carpark (SALient of April 23).

Who needs a carpark anyway? (I don't even have a car.) However, I'd like to make an alternative suggestion: How about a varsity swimming pool? By all accounts the field is pretty well irrigated already, so it shouldn't be too much hassle. Please believe that I am serious, there is a chronic need for a pool for those of us born with fins for feet. Our water-polo and swim teams would benefit incredibly.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica M. A. Wilson

P.S. Down with Rugby

A Pertinent Question

Dear Peter,

Who the hell is Merv Wellington anyway?

Les. G.

E LIESI GOD, DESPISE ! NO-THATS NOT TRUE EITHER

[unclear: Her] Silly Letter

The Editor,

[unclear: atron] saint of A.R.S.E. (the Association, [unclear: tist] Society Exponents) I feel compelled and commend Sir William Bush on his [unclear: it] letter in the last Salient.

[unclear: ry] official capacity, and as a former ex[unclear: Aristocracy] College, I would like to give [unclear: am], my whole-hearted support in his va[unclear: empts] to revive the "old right". I cannot [unclear: a] more worthy cause in this left-wing[unclear: inated] society. "Back to the old glory of [unclear: er] class, serfdom, and caviar for breakfast", [unclear: a] say. Besides, with fuel the price it is, I [unclear: o] with a few dozen slaves to push my Rolls [unclear: ty].

[unclear: ere's] a toast to the Czar and to all those [unclear: s] from the Aristocracy who have given so [unclear: King] and country and expect so little in [unclear: Gloria] in Excelsius!

Yours so faithfully,

Sir Terence James Doolittle Jnr.

12th Duke of Wellington.

[unclear: o] Big Operas too

[unclear: sir],

well-known that persons from Christchurch [unclear: n] provincial and ignorant; nevertheless you [unclear: be] careful what you let them print in your [unclear: per]. Their claim that this year's Arts [unclear: Festi- see] for the first, time an opera of the 'size' [unclear: &] Aeneas performed in any New Zealand [unclear: is] sad in view of the fact that that very same [unclear: as] performed by Victoria's music society in [unclear: t's] own union theatre in 1972. Nor has the [unclear: ociety] ceased to put on operas of similar di[unclear: ns]. Dido & Aeneas is actually quite 'small' [unclear: is] go; I do not know quite how the Canter[unclear: udents]' Association measure operas but I [unclear: it] is done with imperial weights or measures.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona McAlpine

[unclear: nority] Group

[unclear: d],

[unclear: e] it here at varsity. I find at least half of [unclear: ures] I attend interesting and I enjoy my [unclear: asses]. I'm not interested in politics or a [unclear: s]. I'm a virgin and a Christian. I don't [unclear: r] smoke. Tell me, am I really in a mino[unclear: up]?

[unclear: o], Mr Simmons, I was disappointed not to [unclear: ply] to my reply to you in the last Salient. [unclear: Miss] J.C. Apulet, at 14 I think you are [unclear: young] to be considering marriage!

Love,

Carol Addley.

[unclear: bet] I can make Andrew Tees smile. Andrew, [unclear: e] interested, let me know.

[unclear: eswick] Read the Bible

[unclear: r],

[unclear: il] to see what Mr Beswick is complaining [unclear: n] his letter "Catholicism at home" in Sa[unclear: 8] April. Surely there would be something [unclear: with] Catholics if they did not wish to convert [unclear: rid] to a Catholic outlook and since we live [unclear: mocracy] we have everyright to work to[unclear: hat] end since such work is beneficial to [unclear: nmon] good.

[unclear: ot] his quote from Pope Pius XI's great en[unclear: I] fully consistent with the claim that the [unclear: 'S] teaching is revealed truth? Surely she [unclear: be] contradicting this claim if she kept chan[unclear: r] teaching to conform with the latest scien[unclear: eory] that happens to be in vogue. The Church [unclear: oves] to give a new interpretation of some [unclear: ent] in Holy Scripture bearing on natural phe[unclear: a] or such like when she is assured that una — [unclear: of] scientific teaching demands a revision of [unclear: eived] interpretation, she would also remind [unclear: it] is we who have been at fault rather than [unclear: cripture] itself.

[unclear: ely] Mr Beswick's only cause of complaint is [unclear: disagrees] with the teachings of the Church. [unclear: onder] if he is familiar with these teachings, [unclear: read] any of the encyclicals: The Condition [unclear: or] (Pope Leo XIII); Reconstructing the So[unclear: der] (Pope Pius XI); Christianity and Social [unclear: ss] and Peace on Earth (Pope John XXIII) or [unclear: e] read the NZ Tablet - where he can read a[unclear: e] activities of the Catholic Woman's League [unclear: Knights] of the Southern Cross.

Yours,

Catholic Student.

Catholicism Attacked

Dear Sir,

In reply to the letter by the anonymous "Catholic student" (23 April) I would like to make the following points:

- I didn't deny the existence of "charitable works" by the Catholic Church, but they are not the dominant feature Catholic propaganda makes them out to be. They are outweighed by the Church's exploitive practices. As for examining the accounts of Mission—Aid societies I don't doubt they would show losses. The relevant accounts however are not ones from a small sector of the Church's operations. The relevant ones are the consolidated accounts audited by an independent auditor. I have tried to get information on the Church's finances, but the accountant was intensely secretive and he claimed there is no consolidation at the end of the year.
- "Catholic student" resorts to the familiar form of apologetics which asserts that what one hand of the Church does cannot reflect on the other. This isn't true when what the hand does is an example of Catholic ideology in practice. My example was of this kind.
- The Church's objections to secular education may appear "valid" to a Catholic but that is only to be expected. The Catholics know as well as everyone else that if their children were protected from indoctrination Catholicism would wither away within a few generations.
- I did not claim the Church controls the media. It has members and sympathisers in the media who can generally suppress or slant its content but their control isn't complete.
- I didn't say I agreed with Henri Beranger's statement about putting down priests. The best way to protect society seems to be the Chinese Government's method which involves re-programming priests and other guilty of Catholic thinking. When Governments do this it gives the pro-Catholic media less scope to create martyrs.
- "Catholic student" claims "one expects to find perfect followers of Christ's teachings" in the Catholic Church. This is a typical example of Catholic arrogance and I hope any "separated brethren" who read the letter took note.
- I'm surprised that nowhere in his letter does "Catholic student" accuse me of being "paranoid" for saying Catholics influence the media. I also quoted a thirty-year-old study (because its credentials are less open to dispute) and I wasn't accused of taking the situation out of its "historical context". Catholic apologetics are not what they used to be.

Yours etc,

G. Herrington.

WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING ME ALONE FOR AWHILE WHILE I WORK THIS OUT BY MYSELF? THANK YOU.

Tees in Error

Dear Peter,

I wish to correct an error which appeared in the 23 April issue of Salient on page 2 under the title 'President'. Comment is made by Andrew Tees that "at least 3 constituent associations of NZUSA will move to wind up the Student Travel Bureau Limited".

At this time, unless Andrew Tees knows something not known to the rest of us, only the Auckland University Students' Association Inc., is presently debating whether or not it should move a motion to wind up the Student Travel Bureau Limited at May Council. A Special General Meeting was held in Auckland at the end of last term, followed by a referendum to consider the question.

It may be that Andrew Tees can advise your readers which other two constituent associations of NZUSA are so inclined.

Further it is worth noting that as reported in the Auckland Star of Thursday 19 April that the principle reason lying behind the move initiated by the Executive of the Auckland University Students Association (Inc.), is that "they feel that Students Associations should not be involved in commercial enterprises as a matter of principle because students lack the time and ability to run them properly". This statement contrasts somewhat markedly with the reason advanced by Andrew Tees in his article.

The comment is further made by Andrew that these constituents "feel that the debts of STB Limited should be paid out of the surplus on the Student Travel Card (ISIC)". This is in fact exactly what is occurring at present. The guarantee sought by the Board of Directors of STB Limited from NZUSA's 7 constituent associations is to

allow the company to operate its so called trust account system completely independent of its working accounts. The effect of this arrangement is to give an absolute guarantee to student clients of STB Ltd that their monies are in fact held in a separate account from the company's working account thus ensuring payment to the travel supplier in all circumstances. This is a facility not normally available in this country's travel agencies. Clearly if the requested guarantees are not forthcoming then the Board of Directors will review the situation to determine whether such protection should in fact be provided.

Yours sincerely,
David Cuthbert
Managing Director
STB Ltd.

More on Punk

Dear Sir,

While rightly condemning the woeful naivety of D. Telford's recent text on punk, Stu Frater fell into a similar pattern of ill-informed generalising.

To wit: "I do not see how punk music may be compared with the Stone's for a start!"

Stone's music has been redolent of punk since 1964. Cop the style of "19th Nervous Breakdown", "Mother's Little Helper" and "Get off my Cloud". Since Loog Oldham's time, the Stones have always adopted a "punk", arrogant stance. What was Brian Jones if not the archetypal punk?

If Mr Frater would carefully analyse either form, he would find it consisted largely of 12 bar and blues — sped up to make rock'n'roll. The difference is that punk lyrics today are more relevant to contemporary England (unemployment etc) than the Stone's are. This lends credence to Telford's "divorced from reality" theory on the established rock star.

Secondly, Frater says: "very few punk guitarists could play guitar with any sort of distinction". This statement is loaded with the inference that technical flash equals good guitar. It ain't necessarily so Stu — as Keef himself has said: "rock'n'roll is about sound, not technical proficiency". (Guitar Player magazine)

Punk Guitar is a characteristically harsh sound — imbued with the emotion - evoking "wall of sound" one encounters in a modern industrial city. Emotion is the essence of good guitar. Not the sterile sporadic, finger prowess of such "maestros" as George Benson.

As a finishing irony, Frater gave us a bitch quote from Mick Jagger about the Stranglers — as though it was gospel. Not so. Michael Philip sacrificed some credibility recently when, in response to a critical concert review from Rolling Stone, he cancelled that paper's right to future concert tickets courtesy of the Stones.

Just who is the fuckin' establishment anyway?

Yours faithfully,

Alistair Armstrong.

The Muldergate Scandal

Sir/Ms/Madam,

With regard to the South African "Mulder-gate" scandal, I think it would be appropriate to see a bit of investigative reporting on the part of our student sleuths (?) as to whether, if, when, and how our national rugby football union(s) have been implicated. For instance Ron Don — Auckland RFU Chairman and staunch South African (ie apart-hate [phonetics!!]) supporter. Perhaps an inter-university link up — do it on a national scale.....?

I am getting tired of seeing La Heyman trotting out his tired old arguments in favour of a Zionist Israel. The fact is that it is an enclave of western influence in a potentially very hostile area; as alien perhaps as the twelfth century Kingdom of Jerusalem was in its day. To quote him, "Israel has been seen over the last 3,000 years as

home of the Jewish people" — unadulterated nonsense. And the recent "Peace Treaty" while progressive in that it represents a coming to some as yet undefined, or untested rapprochement of two Middle East states, is also ominous in that it involves US military and financial support in large quantities, and has destabilised and polarised previously friendly regimes. The apparent Islamic resurgence and the Iranian revolution are not exercises in pseudo-intellectual sophistry, but gut responses to perceived realities (Has La even been to Israel?).

Andy Tees, yes, well. . . . would it be utterly preposterous to suggest, with Mulder-gate and all, that he is an SIS plant? After all, it Has happened before.

Sincerely yours,

Jill Bronstein

Turn the Carpark into Boyd - Wilson

Dear Sir,

To Mr McDonald who envisions turning the Boyd - Wilson field into a car park.

The field's closure last year was due (I'm not an English student) to, the wearing of sprigs during practise sessions, the poor weather we had last winter and mainly, the excessive use made of Boyd Wilson field.

At least 100 people can be seen using the field on a Monday evening, which would suggest that either Mr McDonald doesn't know what he's talking about or that Mr McDonald doesn't know what he's talking about. Also, if Mr McDonald does not know the difference between sports persons and "jacko homos" then I would advise everyone to stay clear of him.

With the over use of Boyd Wilson field it would be wise to suggest the expansion of the field. Why not convert the carpark below the new gymnasium into a new playing field. With less parking the incentive to walk and do Mr McDonald nald's and everyone elses body a little good would be increased and also help the nations petrol crisis.

Is there not enough concrete, asphalt and steel, and slightly stupid people around the Universtiy already?

Yours faithfully,

Tob Kos

Darting Around

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the first year Dart Association, I would like to inform our members of a scaling down of operations, due to economic conditions in the timber industry and an acute shortage of handouts. Alternatives considered — grow your own, or import from the science faculty.

Any more planned aeronautical displays have been therefore consequently delayed until further boring lectures. Our co-ordinator Titus Groan is leading a deputation to parliament for government assistance.

Yours faithfully,

"Shitwil"

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Look on the Bright Side

Drawing of groups of people

To all who cherish a smile,

Where have all the smiles gone? I can't say I'm exactly seduced by the cheerless facial expressions that smother the university campus.

What could possibly cause all those sulks and snarls? I mean to say, why grimace at the torrential winds and rains that assault you at least twice a week. It could be three times a week.

"Oh dear." sobbed poor Judy. "Will I cross the overbridge without my skirt being blown up around my neck?" 'Well Judy, even if you are prone to blush (be an optimist) maybe you made someone smile. Perhaps a passing pervert.'

Why sigh because you can't find enough change to purchase a super-tasteless cup of coffee or some ultra-delectable soggy chips from the cafetaria.

And just because that most important book for your law assignment has already been issued, and then you discover your money, notes, half a bottle of gin And Bus Pass have been removed on a permanent basis from your bag, does not mean the foyer should be drowned with tears and fears.

C'est la vivre C'est la vivre C'est la vivre Imagine this:

One morning the sun will shine, the wind will caress and cool your face as you stroll with ease ap the terrace. The coffee will taste like heavenly nectar, your lectures will become tolerable and ooze with interest making life become a natural flow of peace and tranquility.

Your most hopefully,

(Miss CM. Beatty).

P.S. I said imagine this don't expect miracles.

Shoot an O'Donoghue Now!

Dear Sir,

Paul O'Donoghue is a silenus! In fact it maybe asked when this derelict reject came off the factory line. Judging by "its" lame use of English in "its" article on "Drysdale's modesty exposed", I can only say that it (he?) frequents the nether-nether regions of Titahi Bay!

If it (he?) has the gall to reply to this informative message, I can only say that he is blind to the people's slogan: "Shoot an O'Donoghue now!"

I remain,

Your most humble & obedient servant.

"7244046699230"

Four Gripes

Dear Sir,

Not being the complaining type though I would just like to slate a few niggles I have with some of the happenings around our glorious campus'

- You thought Bob Stephens talked dribble well this Bertram lad's and all out candidate for the Guinness Book of Records, "See how many words I can cram into a lecture" award What's worse though he seems to have borrowed Bob's cryptic code of illegible ramblings.
- The high turnover of staff in the cafe milk bar makes getting what one wants virtually impossible. Just as you train one of the dimwits in what type of milkshake you like they seem to get the proverbial wanders.
- The fact that this week's Salient came out a day late. This meant I had to miss out reading my favourite newspaper and actually take notes on Monday morning lectures.
- Dildo of the week should be our friendly Les (libel laws) Cleveland and his references to our glorious student opinions and viewpoints. I suppose he can't remember the days when he inundated the press world with the smut he now calls political science.

Yours in upmost importance,

I B Flapworth.

PS Re Cam's letter of 23.4.79. Although I have great admiration for "her" wit and integrity, I am very sentimental about my given name so please in future could you keep you Flap's to yourself. See you in Econ 101 lectures Dear.

Give us a Grope

Dear Sir,

How long must we put up with this sacreli— gious fiend, this perverted fondler of other people's naughty bits, as he continues to plague your pages with satanic exaltation. Yes, I refer to you Mr Grope and your vile hoard; the Exoss Gropes Marketing Board, as evil a group as has ever sailed with Charon.

Again I return to the tried and true methods of theology to prove my points. As all know religion is inherently useless, and NZ depends on sheep as one of our more useful Domesticated Animals whilst the almighty Hedgehog has never allowed itself to be subjugated, thus I postulate that the Hedgehog is more useless and therefore more religious. Again the most worthless Degree is a B.A. and what noise to sheep make? I rest my case.

Mr Grope wishes for biblical evidence and this he shall have: Leviticus, chpt 1, verse 2, "When any man of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of cattle from the herd or from the flock". Now who ever heard of a nock of hedgehogs? Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want...." Obviously the Lord is a creature with dominion over sheep and thus cannot possibly be one.

However, never in the Bible is the hedgehog mentioned explicitly whilst all other manner of creatures are, thus the only option open to us is that the hedgehog is referred to as the Lord. Quod Erat Demonstrandum.

Yours theologically,

Arthur P. Hedgehog ESQ.

No More Graffiti in Salient

Dear Sir,

I feel justified in saying that I speak for the majority of right thinking students when I say shame on you for continuing to print "letters" which are no more than an excuse for adolescent perversion for those who are unable to located a clean lavatory wall to deface.

I refer particularly to the tirade in Salient fee the 9th April signed "Ralph the wonder llama". This purile degeneracy belongs in the sewers, not on the pages of a paper financed by our already excessive students association fee.

Other writings of this ilk have appeared recently in your pages under the pen names of J. C. Grope and Arthur P. Hedgehog and I feel most strongly that you should partake in some form of censorship with regard to this type of filth and I would appreciate it if other concerned students made their feelings known through these pages with regard to such letters.

Yours sincerely,

Dratsrab Detogib.

The wrong Fly-Past

Dear Sir,

I humbly wish to point out the bloody great error in the "POLS flypast" article. The so called sacking (walking out) of the tutor did not, and most probably never will happen in the POLS 101 morning lecture. The so called sacking was initiated in the most mind stimulating lecture of Physics 101.

Thus, the whole point of the aforesaid article was blindly missed. The so said tutor (of Phy 101) being the only learned scholar who could explain the marvellous mysteries of hand propelled, folio aeronautics, turned his back on the poor inmates of the so called lecturer. This most shameful act, am sure would never be partaken in by the POLS 101 tutor who just loves those dam darts!

Yours in Good Faith,

Misquoted Flying Ace.

Drawing of a porcupine with sticking plasters

WELLINGTON WILL MARCH ON MAY 17th To PROTEST THE RISING COST OF LIVING!! ALL OUT SUPPORT US!! WE'VE GOT A RALLY TO ORGANIZE! HELP! TRADES COUNCIL DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST AT THE RISING COST OF LIVING. THE MARCH WILL BE HELD ON MAY 17 AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT THE STUDENT CONTINGENT WILL ASSEMBLE ON THE HUNTER LAWN AT 11 - 30 am TO MARCH DOWN TO CIVIC SQUARE WHERE WE WILL JOIN THE TRADES COUNCIL MARCH TO PARLIAMENT — See story page 10 ALL OUT !