

# SALIENT

Victoria University student newspaper

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Six people live in this Newtown cellar

Squatters outside American mansion

gaining entry



## HOUSE WASTED ON YANKS

In last week's Salient a note on the front page announced a squat organised by the Tenants Protection Association. The attempt to gain a house was inspired by the plight of a family of six who were living in a Newtown hovel scarcely bigger than a caravan. And, of course, there are scores of other ill-housed people in Wellington. On Saturday afternoon about 40 people gathered at 23 Fitzherbert Street Thorndon and gained entry to the house selected for the squat.

There are twenty-five odd rooms in the house — it could accommodate fifty people in comfort. Of these twenty-five rooms the U.S. Embassy,

which was given the house by the Ministry of Works, is using one room for storage of stationery, and two rooms for general junk. Soon after the house was taken over by the squatters, the police arrived and drove them out on threat of arrest.

In the past, the T.P.A. has squatted in a number of empty houses and has ensured that they be used for accommodation. T.P.A. has had little trouble from the law and the police in doing this: the laws broken are negligible compared to the urgency of the need for houses and the obvious (short term) solutions which T.P.A. offers.

What happened on this squat was

different but only because the house is owned by the Americans. They may be using it with crass inefficiency, but our police will defend their claim to it.

Now it has come to light that the house is of historic interest in that our greatest writer used to live there. It has also come to light that the Americans intend to demolish it to build a new embassy.

The Tenants Protection Association, and now a number of other interested parties, intend to campaign to save the house for some form of better use. A public meeting is to be held with this aim. It

will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday April 17th in the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Park, opposite the vacant house at 23 Fitzherbert Street Thorndon. For any further information please contact Salient. If you want to help try and win back this house for the people, for shelter, for culture or whatever, you should come to this meeting.

## BURCHETT:



(See pages 7, 8, 9, 10)

### A JOURNALIST WHO MADE UP HIS MIND

"My concept of reporting is not just to record history but to help shape it in the right direction. In the world of journalism and writing there is room for many different concepts and different roles of journalism. The field which I chose for myself was to move into areas of world importance and events of world importance to investigate to the fullest extent possible, decide what is right and what is wrong in the thing, and support the cause which I find is the right one. In the sorts of situations in which I've been dealing it's not been too difficult to assess what is right and what is wrong. My first real reporting was in China at the time of the Sino-Japanese war, where it was clear that for all the weaknesses and all the faults, and all the horrible faults of the Kuomintang regime in China, the fact was that China was the victim of Japanese aggression. The Chinese people had to be supported in their fight regardless of the ideological content of that regime. And so I did support them whereas lots of other people would say, 'well they're both right and they're both wrong', or 'China is an introspective sort of society', or 'Japan is dynamic and has all these sorts of problems', and so on. Well I think that sort of balancing act is wrong, and it's not my concept of journalism.

I think you have to find which side is right. I suppose I'm as much of a publicist as a journalist, and I was confronted with the same thing when I went to have a look at the war in Indochina for the first time. It was clear that the Vietnamese were fighting for their independence while the French were trying to re-impose a particularly odious sort of colonialist regime, so I supported the Vietnamese people and supported them in the most effective way I could devise. But always dealing with facts. It's essential to deal with absolutely objective facts in a situation to bolster the cause which you are defending. But I'm not saying, and I've never said, that's what all journalists should be because there are other types of reporting. Somebody might go into a court for instance and he has to report the objective facts on each side of the case. But in many cases, where the issues are very clear, and the world is being informed almost entirely of the other side of the case, I think it's very important that a voice or two, a lone voice or two, should try and correct that imbalance by going all out to present the side of the case which he or she considers is the just one".



# Cafeteria; Bad Management Hits Students In The Guts

By Gordon Blue

The mob who run the catering operation at Victoria University is the International Telegraph and Telephone Company (I.T.T.). This company specialises in promoting insurrection in Chile; exploiting black labour in South Africa, Rhodesia, Angola and Mozambique; and generally bolstering reactionary governments all over the Third World. As a sideline they helped ensure Nixon's re-election last year. A brief description of the company's operations would include bombs for Vietnam, bread, motels, telephones, and V.U.W. students' food under the name of Nationwide Food Services. Nationwide is a subsidiary of I.T.T.'s Australian subsidiary, Thomas Nationwide Transport.

Since the profit question does not and should not arise in the cafeteria Nationwide have only food costs and overheads to pass on to students. Their labour content is high, but considering the size of the operation the other overheads should be low as there are no rates or rent.

Assuming that the food cost per portion of two pieces of fried fish, two scoops of potatoes and one scoop of soggy peas is 15 cents (which is stretching it), where is the rationale for charging 50 cents and then losing on it? Fish should be supplied for no more than 30 cents per filleted pound, if bought wisely. Certainly no one ever got half a pound of fish when they ordered such a meal, so where are the costs? Lamb is about 37 cents per bonned pound. Assuming that Nationwide did serve such a dish as lamb casserole they should be able to do so for a cost of 40 cents.

Compare the cafeteria here with that provided on the waterfront. It is also a subsidised venture but suffers from incredible irregularity of custom because of the unpredictable nature of shipping and therefore work. The cafeteria on the wharf has very high labour overheads since they have 5 or 6 subsidiary outlets that are poorly patronised. However a wharfie can get a three course hot meal, soup, meat, 3 vegetables and potatoes, tea, and bread and butter for 63 cents. The meat dish will range from steak and kidney to chicken. For a lunch of 2 fillets of fish, a sausage and potatoes they pay 30 cents. Most importantly the servings are massive. Yet the subsidy on the wharfies' cafeteria is no greater than the amount students effectively subsidise their own cafe by paying for the Union Building and for the overheads

of the catering operation. This comparison shows that food costs for commercial caterers are not as high as some people would have students believe.

There is no need to do a restaurant critic's job on the food. It is just suffice to say it is appalling. Why can they not serve real soup? It costs almost nothing to make from remnants of other dishes — bones etc. Maggi Soup is expensive and horrid. Why can't they buy fresh vegetables? Why can't they sell bread, cheese and cold meats instead of those ghastly dry rolls of bread that taste of little else than Eta Mayonnaise. Sandwiches and bread rolls are as expensive as they are down town. Coffee or tea is twice the price charged in many other factory or commercial cafeterias (they cost 4 cents on the wharf).

I was not aware that the Victoria University Students Association was so important to I.T.T. that they should seek to destroy its finances. But for "experienced caterers like Nationwide to lose \$17,000 in one year suggests more than just inefficiency.



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It would appear that these rogues are not very efficient at managing other people's economies; witness the \$17,000 lost last year while students paid to lose it and ate shit into the bargain. Nationwide are on a management contract, they don't lose their own money and they are hopelessly inefficient. The food provided is enough to turn a soul to wheatgerm and yoghurt.

This year food prices in the Cafe have risen 20%, tables are not cleared and the swill goes on. The reasons given for the price rise are (1) an increase in food prices of 12% and (2) Equal Pay for women. In fact it is bad buying, bad management and bad cooking which does it. An operation selling food at low prices depends on low wastage and low labour content. On a traditional basis the retail cost of a meal is divided into 3 parts: one-third cost of raw materials, one-third cost of labour and other overheads and one-third profit.



## FROM THE COURTS

Last Friday in the Magistrates Court Arthur Montgomery King 28, unemployed hairdresser pleaded guilty to stealing \$63 cash and a cheque to the value of \$70.

For the prosecution Sergeant W. T. Jaques said that King admitted approaching a middle-aged man in a city bar and subsequently adjourning to King's flat for sexual intercourse. Before leaving the bar King spoke to a male accomplice who left early and hid under the bed in King's flat. While the sexual act took place the accomplice stole the contents of the complainant's wallet. King was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$31 restitution by Mr Wicks S.M.

Arthur King appeared in court dressed in women's clothing, not surprising when one remembers that transvestites are female in almost every respect and will not "change back into men" at the whim of a policeman or magistrate. What is

surprising however is the fact that Mr Wicks chose to make several cruel jokes at King during the process of justice. Defendants are not usually addressed as Mr or Mrs by Wicks or any other magistrate but on this occasion it was "Mr King", the heavy emphasis on the Mister producing the expected titter from the less compassionate people in the courtroom. The just and impartial magistrate raised another laugh when he announced that he could not send King to Arohata, "because you're not a woman".

He went on to point out that disciplinary problems would arise if he sent King to Mt Crawford prison and he would therefore impose a fine, although he was suspicious of how King would raise the money.

Throughout the trial Mr Wicks made no effort to conceal the disgust which the defendant's private life so obviously aroused in him.

Although King was being tried for theft the fact that he was a transvestite was never allowed to be forgotten. The "Evening Post" reported the trial under the headline, "Thief worked from under pervert's bed". Who are the perverts in our society? Those who are transvestite in a heterosexual society or those who abuse their offices to make fun of them.

A few other examples of Mr Wicks S.M.'s Thought may be of interest to people who still consider that personal prejudices have no bearing on the process of law in our society.

A young labourer was recently convicted of stealing a radio which was traced from the second-hand dealer to which the radio was sold. The police suggested that \$18 restitution be paid to the dealer, the price that he paid the defendant for the article.

The defendant was dressed in a faded denim jacket, a white shirt, dark trousers and a purple T shirt. All his garments, as well as his long hair were quite clean, if slightly dishevelled.

"Were you dressed like that when you sold the radio?" asked Wicks. The youth nodded.

"Well the second-hand dealer can whistle for his money as far as I'm concerned — he should have known better than to buy a radio from someone looking like that. (e.g. like a large percentage of male university students).

To a youth who broke a bottle on the street Mr Wicks commented, "Apart from possible harm to motorcar tyres, this town's so full of hippies and hoboes walking around in bare feet you might kill someone with tetanus.

Notice the order — damage to property first, and people second. And of course we all know that anyone minus shoes and socks is either a hippy or a hobo, don't we. You in the library without the footwear — which slot do you fit in to?

By Don Franks

## STAFF THE FILL-UPS FILE

Phil Harkness may have been tossed overboard at the Dom, but the Salient ship keeps on sailing! I was in the "Sweat and Sour" in Cuba Street the other night with my beau when I saw a really disgusting sight. A country bumpkin eating Worcester sauce sandwiches!! Low and behold it was none other than Graeme Collins of Salient. With him were the Editors, Roger Steele and Peter Franks, typist Irene Kennedy, Publications Board member Lincoln Frisbee and his mate Bruce Robinson. We left in high dudgeon for the Yeung Shing where I discovered Gyles Beckford, Cheryl Dimond, Lionel Frisbee and his chum Neal Pearce practising layout on the table cloth. Really it was too much to find such gaucherie displayed in Wellington restaurants. I dropped my escort and headed straight for the university to the Salient office to make a strong complaint. Don Franks was boiling the radiator water to make tea while Robert Campbell was lecturing him on the economic history of tea plantations in the Indies. Photographers Grub and Bob Good were loudly moaning about their wages to Publications Officer Peter Boshier ("it's not my responsibility, you'll have to see the editors"). Tom Proctor was on the phone calling New York. "Please come clean with me Mr Ruckerfeller or I'll expose the whole deal in Salient". The only sane person I could find to complain to was the Deputy Managing Secretary of the

## SHREWD STUDENTS CAMERA SHY

Less than half the students who enrolled this year had their photographs taken for the University's academic records.

After the controversial showing of these photographs to a 'police' inquirer last year, it seems that most students, except freshers, are wary of going through the routine.

Under pressure from the Students Association, the negatives have been destroyed under the Acting Registrar's surveillance, and only one copy of each photograph remains.

Total cost to the university for the photographs was \$859.01.

Union, Lindsay Rea. "Yes I quite agree. Look at their office for example, what a disgusting mess. They should be disciplined", she said, grinding her fag butt into the lino. My heart was heavy as I left the campus. To be objective (as my editor says I must) Lloyd Weeber, Jonathan Hughes and Les Slater were doing some good work but the rest of them are a pack of dirty lazy pricks, even those nice Frisbee boys. There's only one thing for students to do. Join the right thinking Young Socialists and boot the buggers out!

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### COPY DEADLINES

All copy should be handed into the editors, or left in the box outside the Salient office no later than Wednesday evening, unless it is sensational, up to the minute news. It should be typed or written in legible printing, double-spaced on one side of the paper only. If it is not the sub-editors will hack it to pieces.

### ADVERTISING

is in the capable hands of Roger Green who can be contacted at Salient (Phone 70-319, ext. 75 & 81) or at home 793-319.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

should be thrust into the box outside the office, thrown on the floor or posted to Box 1347. If you can't say your piece in about 300 words then come and see us.

# Registry Aids Army NO PRIVACY FOR STUDENTS

There seem to be more leaks in the University Administration than in a sieve. Last year Salient exposed that students' enrolment photographs were freely available to the police and anybody else who cared to call. Recently National Military Service registration forms, liberated from the Labour Department, came into Salient's possession. They showed that the University Administration had been giving information about students to the Labour Department to assist their administration of Military Service.

Part of the OHMS campaign against conscription was to send in false registration forms to confuse the system. These forms, along with the odd genuine one, were processed and investigated by the Labour Department, who checked names and addresses, birthdates and occupations.

Many of the forms showed that the person supposedly registering was a student at Victoria University. With the help of the Registrar's Office the Labour Department checked whether or not the name on the form was on the University roll.

Last week when Salient asked the Registrar's Office if it ever gave inform-

ation to government departments, an assistant registrar, Mr Keys, said that it was general policy not to give information to anybody "except when it was in the student's interest". In cases such as a death in the family, or where the Social Welfare Department needed to get in touch with a student over benefits, the Administration "pulled out all the stops". Mr Keys said he could not see how it could be of any help to a government department to know whether a person was on the university roll or not. But he implied that it would be a simple matter for the Labour Department, for instance, to check up with different faculties and individual departments.

Although a phone call from a Salient reporter requesting the address and phone number of a student produced the reply that "we are not allowed to divulge any information on students at all", students need to know that a definite policy exists and is being adhered to in every faculty and department, as well as the registry.

Salient demands that the Administration make a clear statement of policy in line with student demands that all information about persons on the university roll be utterly confidential.

## ASSAULT IN LECTURE ROOM

At 10.04 a.m. on Friday March 30th a student was assaulted in a lecture theatre in the Hunter Building.

Students in a Sociology 200 level class had just started answering questions in a written examination when the student stood up, ripped up his exam paper and began to give a lecture from the front of the class: "What you are going to observe in the next 50 minutes is a social phenomenon. As students of sociology we are taught to observe and analyse such phenomena. But here is a case where we are affected by what is happening. We are the subjects rather than the observers of this action".

He was going to continue to tell the class that assessment was nothing more than a method of stratifying the class. It treated knowledge as a commodity like capital, which divided student from student. It encouraged people to have more; more marks today, more money tomorrow. It slotted people for a particular role in the capitalist machine.

While an older woman in the front of the class yelled out "druggie", the two lecturers (both of whom had rejected the functionalist theory of stratification in favour of the conflict theory) began to try and stop the student disrupting their class. With comments such as "get out son", "go give your lecture outside", they grabbed the student and attempted to drag him outside.

The student managed to escape and walked quickly around the room, continuing his lecture but closely followed by the two lecturers. Finally, when the lecturers saw that force would not remove the guerrilla lecturer from the room they remembered their sociology theory which predicted that the rest of the students would not question the system and would be against the disruptor. The lecturers called for a vote on whether the lecture should continue. Twenty students voted for the test, three students voted against.

At this stage the guerrilla lecturer left quietly.

high quality print, but takes two weeks for Sentinel to complete and the average cost for 2,500 copies of an eight page edition is \$220. As one of the objects of *Gazette* is to report on Council meetings, this lengthy deadline defeats a primary purpose. The remaining feature articles are often so lengthy and dull that they are not read.

The Association suggested that a much cheaper and more attractive process could be used by typesetting copy on its IBM composer, then sending it to Sentinel to print offset. In this way a more versatile paper could be produced, using for instance photographs and graphics, and at a much reduced cost of \$120. In addition, this would be a useful financial supplement for Salient layout staff, who at present are paid a pittance for their efforts.

There has been no official reaction from the *Gazette* committee to the student's proposals, though it is rumoured that Dr Taylor, raised his eyebrows at the 'trendy' edition put out last year. Dr Culliford, who is apparently meant to control University Publications, promised to call a meeting of the committee three weeks ago, but not a word has been heard. *Gazette* as it stands needs to be improved and could be with only a little effort. At present it is an unforgivable waste of money but it seems that the University is unconcerned with such trivialities.

## Gazette~ A Waste Of Money

By Peter Boshier (VUWSA Publications Officer)

In July of last year, the Vice Chancellor, Dr Taylor convened a meeting of 'interested persons' involved in the Universities prestige publication *Gazette*. "The time has come to consider changes in the Publication", he said.

As a result of this meeting, the Students Association Publications team looked into ways of streamlining costs and improving the publication. To this end they produced a 'pilot' edition last year. While it was only a mild departure from the old style *Gazette*, the University has apparently rejected the 'pilot' style and reverted to the costly, cumbersome and boring old *Gazette*.

Editing of copy is done by Mr Kim Keane, the University's aging Information Officer, who sends it to Sentinel Press where a letterpress image is made of copy, and then it is put onto metal plates and offset printed. This process produces a





# DEMONSTRATIONS: TIME FOR POSITIVE TACTICS

*Iriquois and Sioux helicopters hover just above the trees, filming the crowd below and radioing information on their movements back to the communications headquarters. On the ground police officers, safely away from the action, issue directives to their forces in the front line. Every few minutes a flare casually crosses the sky signalling one of the helicopters to travel to the source and report on crowd movement. The officer in charge of operations, from the comfort of his car, barks out ultimatums to the crowd through huge loud speakers mounted on the roof. Hidden from sight behind large buildings a mobile police station efficiently processes the arrested. Photographing them with polaroid cameras, securing their hands behind their backs with disposable plastic handcuffs and taking them to empty rooms in the Navy barracks for holding until space can be made for them in the cells in the Central Police Station. A crowd outside a U.S. Navy hanger uses the cover of a smoke bomb to rain a barrage of stones at the buildings. One of the helicopters reports that the demonstrators are closing off the second road into the airport so a decision is made to lift the barricades on the main entrance road. Half a minute later police assemble into a cordon. They form a line three deep and begin to wade through the crowd. The ones in the front have crossed and linked arms, they use their elbows and knees to bunt their way through. The second line have their arms free, they punch across the shoulders of the first line and they are punching at anything in their way. Behind them the third line of the cordon concentrates on pushing. They provide the momentum for the operation. As they move they grant a sort of war cry, and within 2 minutes the road is clear.*

All this may sound like riot squad exercises somewhere in Japan, or maybe a National Guard warm up in Ohio. Does it seem incredible that the scene is set in Christchurch? Maybe - maybe not. But that's where it was. If we learnt nothing else in Christchurch on the weekend of April 24-25th, we learnt one thing; the police have got themselves organised. The emphasis is on technical sophistication to the point of automation, and in the ranks policemen are being trained to behave like automatons.

Chief Superintendent Tait, the man responsible for it all, called it the 'new look' demonstration, although he denied that the tactics were new - "some of them were used notably in the 1951 waterfront strike". He said new or old we could expect to see them in the future.

What does it mean to those of us who want to go on to the streets to express an urgent point of view?

The police at Harewood put themselves firmly between us and the Yanks. They were not even going to let us look at what the Yanks are doing down there. Not that that's new, they have always put themselves in the middle, that is part of the reasons why we call them pigs. But before Harewood-Weedons we could kid ourselves into believing we had a fair chance to

demonstrate. But not anymore. When you are a disorganised crowd lugging around banners, you can't demonstrate against military installations that are being protected by police who treat it as a military exercise. Nor can you create dialogue with a cordon of pigs controlled from the air.

Maybe the time for dialogue has ended? Seriously, we're getting to the stage where the right to demonstrate is fast going. This was clearly evidenced at Harewood, when police threatened a group at the airport with summary arrest if they tried to demonstrate elsewhere. And from the demonstrators point of view, persuasive argument and massive peaceful demonstrations have had little effect on the U.S. military. So where do we go from here? Open confrontation? Street fighting? Okay laugh, so we're not in Detroit or Chicago, but the point is that demonstrators are now at the stage of thinking about it and planning for it. Now just imagine if Nixon takes it upon himself to order further bombing of Hanoi because he decides the Vietnamese are not playing the game right. Well fuck it! I mean what do we do then? Maybe we picket the U.S. Embassy - we engage in dialogue, but only dialogue on the 16th page of the "Post" along with the women's news.

We learnt this in the Mobes in Wellington last year. 5,000 people marched peacefully around the streets and it received about 12 column inches in the middle pages of our great independent newspapers. Yet an hour after the march 150 people went up to the French ambassador's residence to protest against nuclear tests. Because the police tried to stop them, they blocked off the road and there was open confrontation. Eight people were arrested and it was spread all over the front page of every paper in the country. That told us something. And if the Springboks come how many of us are going to be doing something and I mean really doing something. Carrying the banner around won't be enough, but if we try to do any more the pigs are going to be right there - trying to stop us.

Which brings us to the question of how we treat a pig when he stands between us and the people who are dropping bombs on the Vietnamese, or the people who tread on Africans like they were grapes. Do we say "well heck, you're a guy with a conscience so will you please get out of my way"? It's likely that he will tell us to piss off! Or perhaps if he has half a conscience he will tell us about the three kids he has to support and how he's only doing his job. What he won't do is get out of our way. So what next? Well, if the argument is that we have to keep up the dialogue with the pigs, or anyone else, chances are they will see more in our arguments if we show them we believe enough in what we're saying to risk getting our heads busted over it. Some people call it being committed to the cause.

It's a funny thing this dilemma we have over the police, we're not quite sure how we should treat them. When we're with our friends we call them pigs, when we're in the front line we call them fascist pigs, but when we're in the lock-up or on neutral territory talking to them, we think that they are humans who just don't understand. It's a problem that is unique to revolutionaries. Most people know how they feel about their law an' order men. The Mongrels for instance know how they feel about the pigs - they hate them. Most of the Mongrels have been in the front line from a young age and they learnt from that young age that the pigs

are definitely not their friends and if a pig had any good in him he wouldn't be one. If the pigs get in their way there's no question about it - they fight them. Now the pigs are getting in our way, they're treating demonstrators the same way they treat the Mongrels, the rules have gone, and demonstrators may have to start reacting accordingly.

At Harewood the pigs showed that they had the equipment to arrest large numbers of people, a lot more than they have been able to in the past. They have got mobile police stations which are mainly concerned with getting identification. Once they have got your photograph and thumb print even if you do escape they have a good chance of finding you. And with these new plastic handcuffs things are easier for them. They can hold you any old place for long periods, it doesn't have to be a secure cell, because these plastic things are a bit more than handcuffs. They are about 18 inches long so they can be used as thigh cuffs, upper arm cuffs or even arm to leg cuffs. Which means that even if they put a half dozen of you in the middle of a field with only one pig watching, it's going to be hard to escape. So we have to start fighting a little harder when they try to arrest us and we have to fight a bit harder for our brothers and sisters when they try to arrest them. Because if we don't, and if we don't start thinking about all this we are no more than paper tigers.

It is necessary that we create dialogue but it has to be with the right people. The people we have to relate to now are the ones that are getting kicked in the teeth the same way as we are. They are the only ones that will understand. The people we want dialogue with are the Polynesians and the working class whites, but before they will listen to us they have to see that the pigs can't push us around. They just won't be interested in our intellectual analysis of capitalist oppression if that's all we have to offer.

The events in Christchurch showed us that we need some new tactics, I'm not prescribing violent demonstration as the only answer but if we are saying things like 'Help Yank Out The Yanks' or 'Give A Stuff Disrupt', when the time comes we have to do more than just push against cordons of pigs. We have to take our militancy out of the safety of our home ground. If we are going on to the streets with an aim we have to go some way near to achieving it. Some hoary old radical once decreed that it was imperative of a revolutionary that he be successful. In New Zealand, the radicals are beginning to see this need and are working towards its realisation.

By M. F. Hobbs

# Volunteer Service Astray

## VSA - Short Term Solutions Not Enough

By M.A.K. (a Samoan living in New Zealand)

The Volunteer Service Abroad scheme, which was originally designed to assist under-developed countries in the Pacific and South-East-Asia, may have outlived its usefulness. The concept of Volunteer Service Abroad is becoming more a publicity stunt for some, while for others it is a cheap way of getting a trip overseas and a good holiday somewhere in the Pacific or South-East-Asia. It is similar to the Army where the prospect of a trip to Malaysia and South-East Asia caused so many young people in the past to volunteer for service without first asking themselves whether the presence of New Zealand forces in Asia and Indo-China is or was justified.

In the Pacific, particularly in Western Samoa, the V.S.A.'s like their American counterparts are not welcomed with open arms anymore. After talking to numerous volunteers and locals in Samoa, one can only conclude that too many swollen headed volunteers are included in the quota N.Z. exports to these islands every year. With great ideals and full of enthusiasm with the concept of "us helping them; teaching them; freeing them from the bonds of their primitive cultures;" many have little appreciation for the great part the culture plays in the Samoan's everyday life. And it is not unusual to find that many criticisms of the Samoan culture by volunteers stem mainly from the fact that the local culture does not conform to their New Zealand oriented way of thinking.

But of course members of the Volunteer Service Abroad Organisation will argue that the volunteers who go to Western Samoa do so as a result of requests by the Western Samoan Government. But there is a vast difference in being requested by the Government and being wanted by the people whom the volunteers will have to work with. Volunteers are not automatically accepted by the people simply because they are accepted by the Government.

No longer do the Samoans and many other Pacific Islanders view the scheme as a way of helping them. In the last few years, it has become quite apparent to the Samoans that the attitude prevailing amongst many volunteers is typical of that common to some of the early missionaries and other Europeans. Their mission was that of "Peace and assistance". The missionaries in their attempt to christianise the Samoans have left revealing scars in the culture and customs of the people. Similarly the forceful tactics employed by the European policy makers to have their policies — their so-called assistance — acceptable to the Samoans resulted in some unnecessary butchering. The prime example of this was the shooting of a greatly respected Samoan Leader and several other Samoan dignitaries by the N.Z. navy on the 28th December, 1929 at Apia, while the former were staging a peaceful, unarmed demonstration, which has left an unhealed wound in many Samoan hearts.

Now the continual arrival of VSA's (and American Peace Corps, who have an even worse missionary attitude) and the lack of cultural consideration shown by many is slowly causing these wounds to bleed again.

### WHAT HAS VSA DONE IN WESTERN SAMOA

Most of the praise for the scheme has come from either the returned volunteers or people directly involved with promoting the scheme. Criticisms by the recipients of the scheme have been totally ignored or dismissed as emotional and detrimental to the aims of the Volunteer Service Abroad organisation.

While I am not claiming that the scheme has been totally useless in all parts of the Pacific, a lot of damage done and unnecessary costs have been incurred by the Samoan people. For example various projects have been abandoned or left incomplete by departing volunteers whose one or two year terms had expired. The incoming replacements did not agree with these projects and therefore did not continue them.

**The Volunteer Service Abroad organisation should have realised by now that by continually trying to provide short-term solutions to long-term problems in countries like Samoa, is delaying any effort by the Samoan government to implement long-term solutions.**

Wouldn't it be better for V.S.A. to collaborate with the Samoan government in assessing the need for qualified people, and then sponsor young Samoans to train in New Zealand in the professions and trades that are most needed? Such a scheme would be similar to the Colombo Plan. As there is a number of young unemployed Samoans with Form 6 education, whose only hope of employment is to immigrate to New Zealand, there would be no shortage of applicants.

However such a suggestion would be very difficult for V.S.A. to accept. Sponsoring Samoans to New Zealand for specialised training would be contrary to V.S.A.'s apparent philosophy, that "we have to go over there otherwise our assistance could not be publicly and internationally recognised". One only has to

flick through some V.S.A. publications to notice the great importance placed on the increased number of volunteers leaving New Zealand year after year. And wouldn't it also be interesting to know how many of the numerous commercial firms listed as sponsors would have volunteered as such had the scheme not involved selling V.S.A. overseas?

### School Leavers Picnic?

A fair number of volunteers leaving New Zealand every year are school leavers. These kids, having lived with their parents all their lives, and with no qualifications or experience (apart from U.E. and fluency in English) are expected to go out to the islands to teach. History has proven that for a long time the Samoans like other Polynesians have been the "problem", the target for study by European students. And now sending these school kids to Samoa as teachers implies that members of V.S.A. view the Samoan way of life as inferior and its standards as incorrect and in need of adjustment.

Furthermore, as stated earlier, there are already enough Samoans with good secondary education who are finding it difficult to get jobs. The continual arrival of these school-leaver volunteers to teach Form II & III General Science, Geography and Social Studies means the continual denial of jobs to the capable Samoans.

The volunteers have argued that the scheme is regarded as a type of ambassadorial system. Volunteers not only offer some of their knowledge to the Samoans but learn from them certain values which could be brought back to New Zealand. The irony of the argument is that there are already more than 20,000 Samoans living in N.Z. and it could hardly be said that there is a rising interest in Samoan values among New Zealanders.

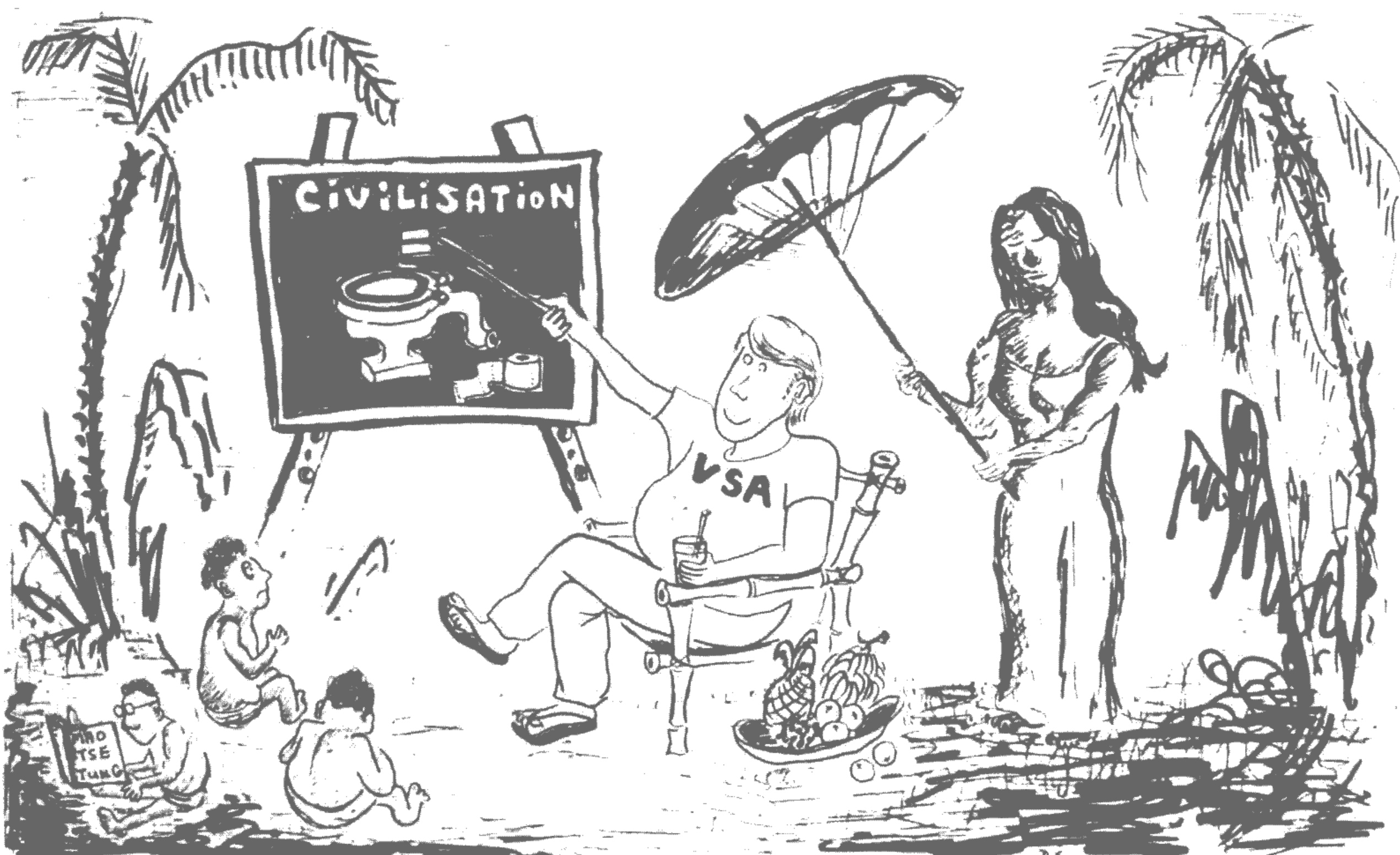
### Cheap Aid?

It is said that the V.S.A. scheme is voluntary and independent of the Government's foreign and educational aid. This sounds great. However the recipients of the scheme accept it as New Zealand aid, implying that it is government sponsored, and as such view it with disappointment as it is certainly a very cheap form of aid for any country to offer. Consequently the V.S.A. (and the Peace Corps especially) are now commonly referred to as "Ai Afu" — a term which generally means "parasites". This indicates the unpopular and tarnished image V.S.A. has in the Pacific Islands at present.

The arrogance of many volunteers does not end when their term expires. Back in New Zealand, the many Pacific Island people now residing here are finding it increasingly disturbing to discover that some of these volunteers have unofficially declared themselves authorities on Samoa, Fiji, Tonga etc, while others have assumed the right to speak for various island groups. Furthermore they even see fit to make strong and biased criticisms of the Government and the people of the islands who had shown so much tolerance for the attitude displayed by the volunteers.

A prime example of this was what happened in 1970. A research officer of the organisation Peter Gapes went to Samoa for a week and on his return wrote an article on Samoa in the "Listener". The article was not only filled with a lot of factual errors but just about every Samoan word therein was misspelt.

**The Volunteer Service Abroad Organisation must understand that the volunteers they send out are only providing a short term solution to long term needs. The best way of helping to eradicate these long term problems would be to follow the same sort of scheme the Government is carrying out i.e. bring them out here and give them the necessary training.**



a.g.m.

### WANTED

Students to stop a donation of \$1,000 from going to H.A.R.T. If you want to use student funds for student purposes come to the Annual General Meeting of the V.U.W. Students Association on Thursday April 5th at 7 p.m. in the Union Hall.

### PUBLICATIONS

Distribution Manager for Cappicade '73 to organise sellers and push Cappicade sales. Remuneration is calculated strictly on a sales basis and is as follows:

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# Survey confirms exploitation

More than 1000 British companies employing nearly 200,000 Africans, decided by mutual agreement that the most comprehensive wage study ever made in South Africa should not be published.

The report, done by the South African Productivity and Wage Association, found that nearly 80 per cent of the Africans employed by these companies were paid below subsistence level. The majority of African employees of British companies were receiving below the poverty datum line wages (\$20 - \$30 a week for a family of five). No wonder the companies didn't want to publish the report.

Officials of the Productivity and Wage Association said that the results should be interpreted with caution as they probably gave an unduly favourable picture of wages actually paid by the companies. Only 13% of the 1086 companies surveyed, presumably the best, agreed to co-operate. The survey showed exactly the same results as the report from the "Guardian" published in last week's "Salient".

In South Africa publication of the "Guardian" report had spokesmen of British controlled factories hotly denying explaining or partly confirming the disclosures, or just dodging press inquiries. Frank Lester, managing director of General Electric Company in South

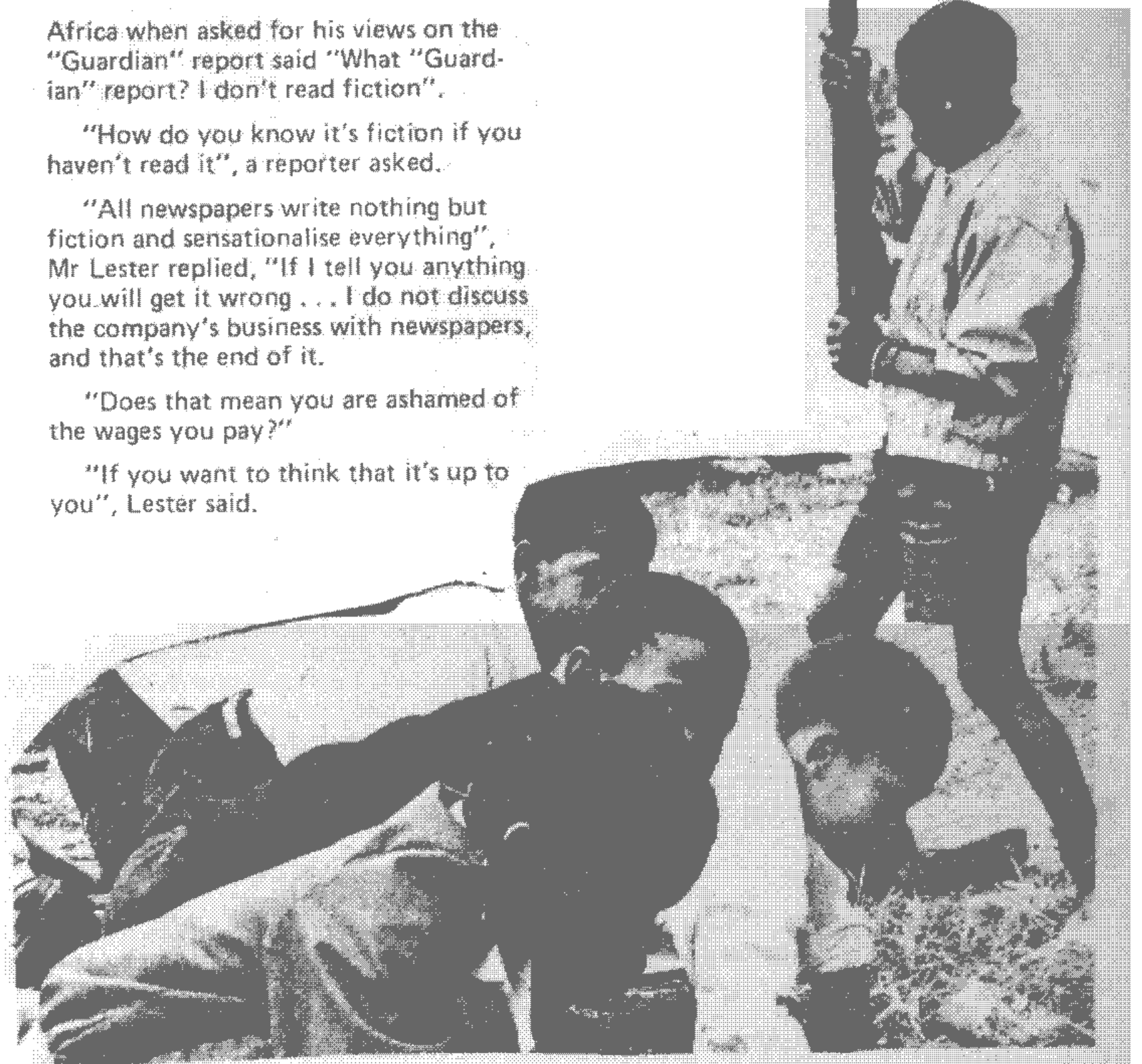
Africa when asked for his views on the "Guardian" report said "What "Guardian" report? I don't read fiction".

"How do you know it's fiction if you haven't read it", a reporter asked.

"All newspapers write nothing but fiction and sensationalise everything", Mr Lester replied, "If I tell you anything you will get it wrong... I do not discuss the company's business with newspapers, and that's the end of it."

"Does that mean you are ashamed of the wages you pay?"

"If you want to think that it's up to you", Lester said.



## BRITISH STUDENTS CALL FOR SHARE BOYCOTT

By our London correspondent

The British National Union of Students is campaigning to force British universities to give up any shares they have in South African companies or British companies with interests in South Africa. Following the recent exposures in the "Guardian" and other papers of starvation rates being paid by British companies, action groups are being organised in about half the country's 45 universities and university colleges.

At Manchester University the Students Union has decided that if the University Council does not agree in principle to give up its shares in South Africa at its next meeting in May, students will take disruptive action. Manchester University has more than 12 million invested in South Africa.

The Students Union at the University of London's Institute of Education, representing 19,000 students, has called for a campaign in all colleges of education to ask London boroughs to sell any shares they have in British companies with subsidiaries in South Africa.

On the evening of Sharpeville Day the West London Anti-Apartheid Group joined with students to deliver a letter to the Mayor of Chelsea and Kensington protesting at the Royal Borough Council's investments in Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd. (\$40,000) and Bowaters Papers Corporation (\$10,000). "Consolidated Gold Fields", the letter stated, "are notorious even in South Africa for the dangerous conditions under which their employees work and live... From 1936 to 1966 19,000 men were killed in their mines, 93% of them black. In 1971, 524 blacks and 21 whites were killed and 25,000 blacks and 2,000 whites were disabled for 14 days or longer. In spite of the dangers and discomforts, the 60 hour week, is a mere \$10 a month. They have to be contract-migrant workers, living on the job in concrete sheds with bunks all round the walls. Their appallingly low wage is sent home to support their wives and children.

"Bowaters Paper Corporation made 700 workers redundant in Kent and Cheshire immediately prior to expanding new works at Mere Bank, near Durban in 1971, through their subsidiary, the Mondi Paper Company"

"It behoves all of us, and our elected representatives in particular to consider what is more important

to consider what is more important, greater profits and the continuation of near slavery, wherever it may occur, or human decency".

Both these companies have financial interests in New Zealand. Consolidated Gold Fields of Australia owns Zip Industries of New Zealand and the British parent company's strong links with South Africa (which go back to the days of Cecil Rhodes) are no doubt the reason why Zip exports domestic appliances to South Africa. Bowaters own about 17% of the shares in the Tasman Pulp & Paper Company, as does Reed, another British company found to be paying its African employees starvation wages.



### APARTHEID: DON'T BE AN ARMCHAIR CRITIC!

It's easy for New Zealanders to say they're against apartheid, and joining a demonstration doesn't cost us anything either. In South Africa it's a different story: the protestor may get a police baton on his head, and if he works to change the apartheid system he may end up in gaol. Why not put your money where your mouth is, and back up those who suffer for their opposition to racism in Southern Africa, with a donation to:

#### THE DEFENCE AND AID FUND

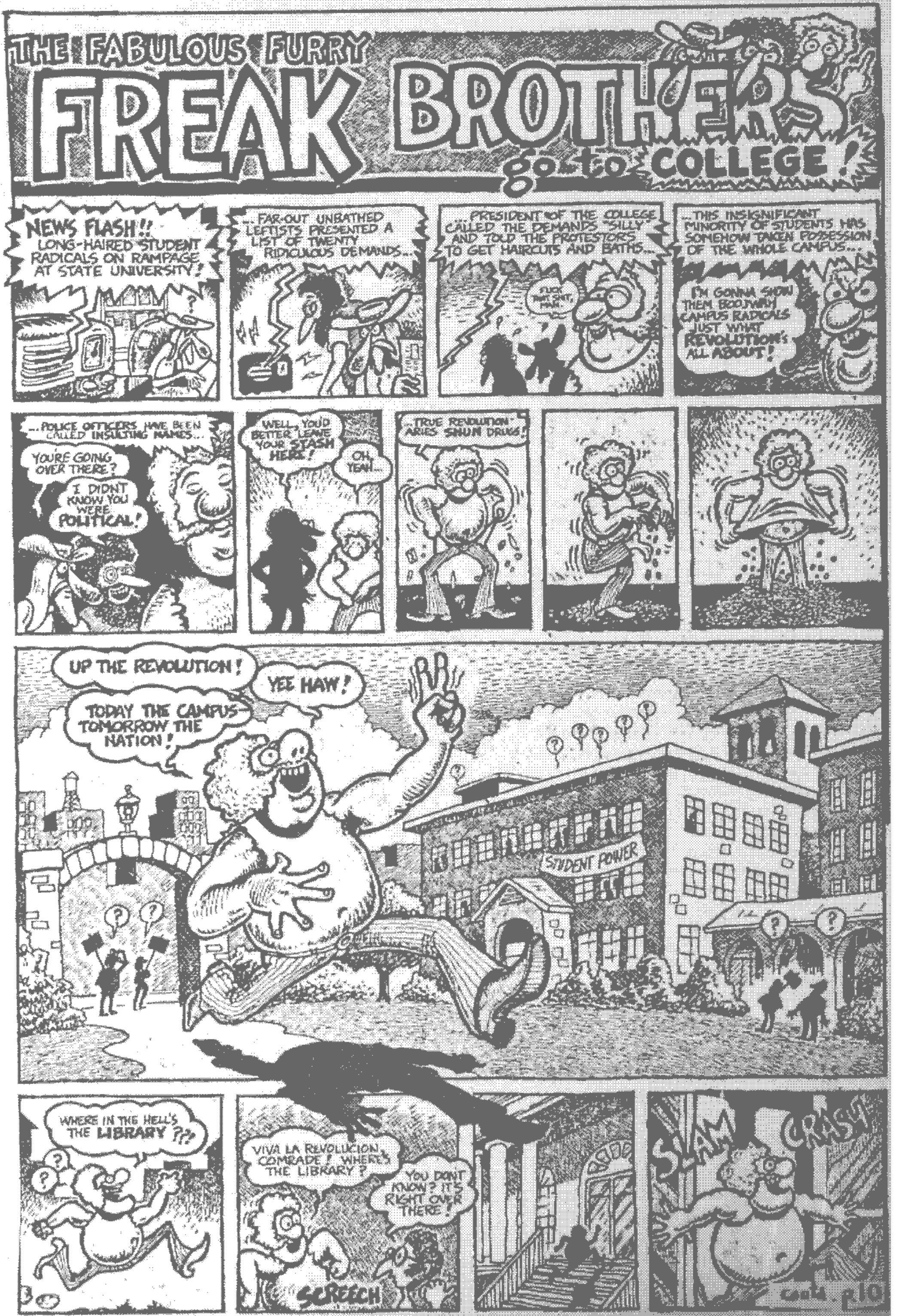
We are paying legal fees, making grants to prisoners' dependents, helping Rhodesian detainees to carry on their education, publishing literature... will you help us? Send your money, asking for our information pamphlets and bi-monthly Newsletter to:

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# INDO CHINA

## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

Wilfred Burchett has spent the last three decades covering Asian revolutions. He has been the only western journalist to consistently report the Indochina war from the side (indeed from the inside) of the liberation movements. For most of that time he has been an exile from his home country — Australia.

For seventeen years the Australian Government refused to renew his passport, alleging, amongst other things, that he participated in "brain-washing" activities during the Korean War. When the Labour Government came to office in December 1972, one of Whitlam's first acts was to renew Burchett's passport. Burchett has just visited Australia again and the extreme right-wing Democratic Labour Party tried to jack up a Senate investigation into his activities abroad in an effort to prevent civil action by him against one of the D.L.P.'s leading members for defamation.

The Committee on Vietnam has sponsored a New Zealand tour by Burchett, during which he has spoken to large meetings throughout the country, and shown a film, "The Price of Peace", which he helped to make in North Vietnam last month. His depth of knowledge and intimate experience of the leadership of revolutionary Asia have made his tour of immense value to the New Zealand anti-imperialist movement.

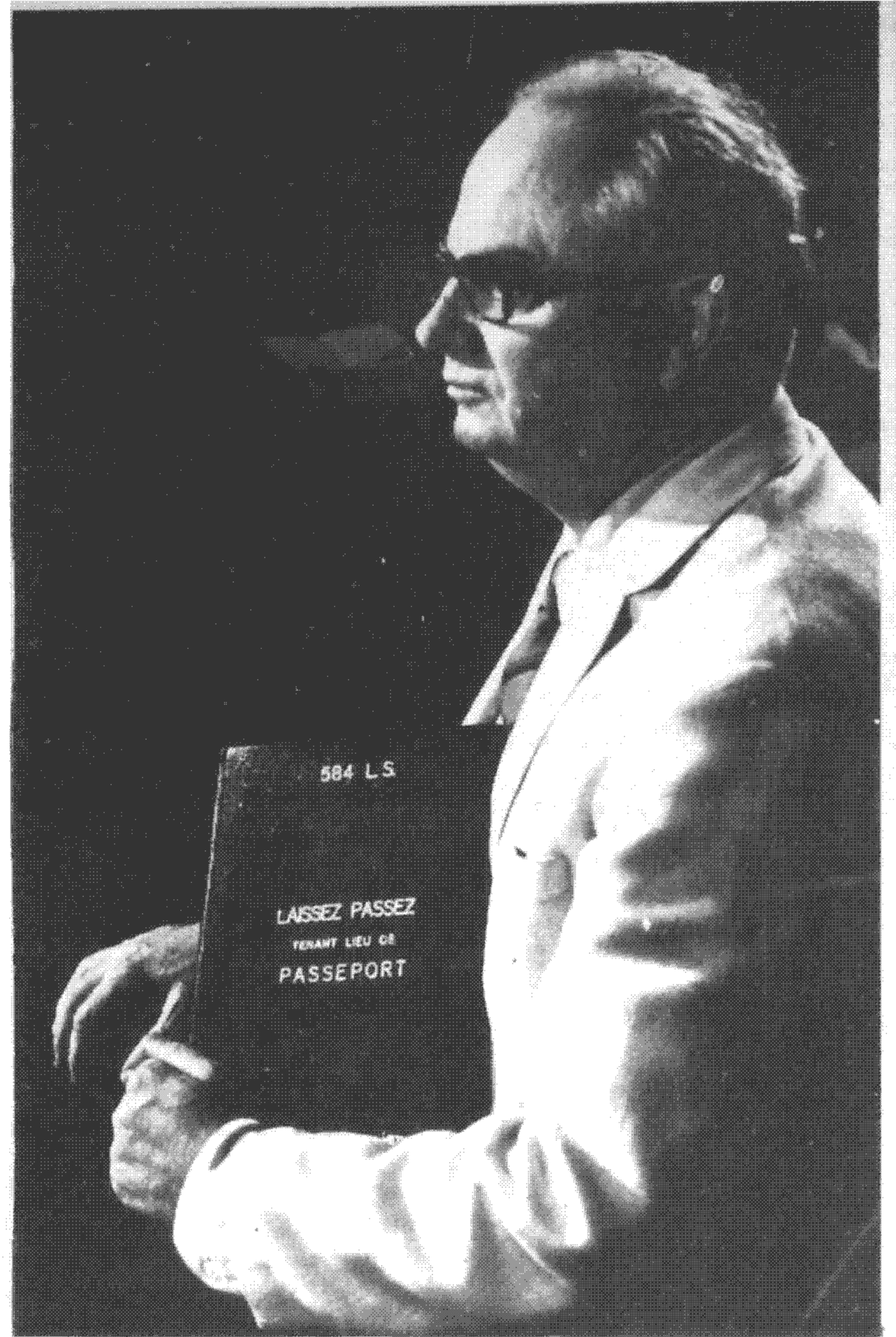
SALIENT recorded a long interview with Burchett during one of his brief rest spells in Wellington, the bulk of which is printed in this issue.

### CHANGES IN FOREIGN POLICY

*SALIENT: How much importance do you attach to the recent foreign policy moves by Australia and do you think they are going to have any lasting impact?*

Since taking office the Whitlam Government has done a few things which are irreversible. Certainly they were things that needed to be done and which only brought Australia into line with a lot of other countries. But still these were steps which simply could not have taken place

if the old Government had remained in power; specifically things like the recognition of People's China, recognition of North Vietnam, and the establishment of Diplomatic relations with China and North Vietnam. The Australian delegation in the United Nations has been instructed to vote with Third World countries on all questions pertaining to colonialism and neo-colonialism. The previous Government had always voted with South Africa, Rhodesia and New Zealand, and there is an effort to carve



out more or less for the first time in Australian history, an independent foreign policy and orient it pretty much toward Asia. These are irreversible trends which are all to the good.

The Australian Government and, I suspect, the New Zealand Labour Government, is up against one thing in making these moves. That is, the permanent establishment of the Departments of External Affairs. They're extremely conservative and ultra-reactionary characters for the main part, and their automatic reflex when any question of change comes up is to check it with Washington. Last time I went to Canberra, I walked into the main hotel, the Canberra Rex Hotel, and there's this clock in the entrance, which shows two times, Canberra time and Washington time; it was simply symbolic of this automatic reflex to check everything. As far as I know, every proposal that was made to change foreign policy, to take an independent line, especially if it was progressive brought an immediate reaction from Washington funnelled through the External Affairs Department. "We mustn't move too quickly, this would offend the United States, this would put us in wrong with the United States", and so on. So even with the best will in the world the new Government in Australia and, I suspect, in New Zealand, has got that sort of braking process.

Australia's never had an independent foreign policy. In the old days before World War II it was a carbon copy of British foreign policy, since world war II it's been a carbon copy of American foreign policy. Now there's a clear trend to have an independent foreign policy even if it upsets the United States and Great Britain, and that's all to the good.

*SALIENT: Could you tell us the reaction of people in socialist countries to the "normalisation of relations" with capitalist countries?*

This goes back to a principle which was enunciated quite a long time ago — the principle of peaceful co-existence between countries with differing social systems. In China's relations with foreign countries this principle was enunciated very early in its first negotiations with the Soviet Union (it's not a capitalist country, but the principle was stated there). Relations

between all states had to be on an equal basis, with mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. That was the first time the Soviet Union had established relations with another socialist country on that basis, but Mao Tsetung insisted on those principles when he headed a delegation to the Soviet Union shortly after the setting up of the Chinese People's Republic.

China has used that formula as the basis of its relations with capitalist states right from the beginning. This doctrine, the five points of peaceful co-existence, was developed further in June 1954 when Chou En-Lai visited India, and together with Nehru formulated what became known as the Panchsila principles. At China's insistence it was also the formula accepted by Afro-Asian states at the Bandung Conference in 1955. This is the basis of the foreign policy certainly of China and a lot of other socialist states: the capitalist world exists, it's a reality you can't ignore, so get the best possible deal you can with them. The "best deal" is the five principles of mutual non-interference in each other's affairs.

I visited Peking immediately after the decision announced by Australia and N.Z. to recognise People's China, and the decision by Australia to recognise North Vietnam (took place while I was in Hanoi). The official and popular attitude was: "well, so much the better, there are more areas of friendship". They came to think, rightly or wrongly, that Australia and New Zealand are not tarred with the same brush as the old imperialist powers or the new neo-colonialist powers like the United States. Now our governments have changed they believe they can look forward not only to formal relations based on the five principles but to friendly relations. They hope that this new independent foreign policy which is beginning to take shape will not only be an independent but also a progressive foreign policy.

Many countries in Asia have had enough of being tied up to military alliances and being put under the "protectorate" of S.E.A.T.O.

I think the neutral countries in Asia are looking for these new type of relation-

ships. They've had enough of being tied up with the old type of colonial relationships which involve military pacts, military alliances, being put under the "protectorate" of things like S.E.A.T.O. All sorts of countries in Asia which don't have anything like progressive regimes, want to have neutral and independent foreign relations and end the old type of cold war relationships.

**SALIENT:** I suppose Malaysia would be a good example of this development?

I was in Australia when the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister was there and I saw him on television a couple of times. I thought it was significant that he was taking this sort of line: "we want to be independent, we want to be neutral and we want to get rid of all the old entanglements that plagued us in the past". I don't know whether to take that as a statement of government policy or as a reflection of what public opinion wants to hear in Malaysia. I think it's quite definite that public opinion wants this.

Even in Thailand after the Draft Agreement to End the War and Re-establish Peace in Vietnam was announced, the number two man in Thailand, General Parapas, made a statement that if the agreement was implemented Thailand would withdraw from S.E.A.T.O. and revert to its traditional neutralist stance. I don't think that that was a statement of government policy or government intention either but it was something the people wanted to hear. There's very strong public pressure reaching up into very important sections of the bourgeoisie and the intellectuals in Thailand to revert to its old neutralist stance. Thailand was always very proud it wasn't colonised and they're very unhappy to see themselves all of a sudden being taken from behind.

So there's a very definite tendency among the peoples of South-East Asia to end these old unequal relationships which have brought disaster and catastrophe, as has happened in South Vietnam.

The D.R.V. and P.R.G. leaderships see the Ceasefire Agreement as the concrete expression of very important gains for their revolution.

#### THE PEACE AGREEMENT AND AID SCHEMES

**SALIENT:** Could you explain the Vietnamese concept of the stages of the revolution and its connection with the Peace Agreement?

Let's take the discussions I had with the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi and the leadership of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. They see the Agreement as being the concrete expression of very important gains for the revolution in Vietnam. The 1954 Geneva Agreements allowed the revolutionary forces to consolidate completely in North Vietnam,



and to build a socialist regime. This time the Agreement gives them half of South Vietnam. It will be seen when the various maps are published as well showing where the zones are delimited, that the N.F.L. holds a good half of South Vietnam territorially. If the people who were bombed out of the countryside and had to take refuge in shanty towns around the big cities, were allowed to go home you would have half the population within the areas controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. So as far as Vietnam is concerned, the revolutionary forces have the top half which has the greatest part of the population, 21 million compared to 17 million in the south; they have half of the south territ-

orially and population-wise when conditions are normalised, and politically they have at least half of the other sector which is nominally controlled by the Saigon regime. So this is a very important thing for them, after all they've been engaged in this independence struggle for about 2,000 years; 114 years of which has been the stage against colonialism and neo-colonialism. They think they've come to the end of that stage and now the stage is set for the consolidation of all these gains.

If one takes the position in Indochina as a whole, the revolutionary forces in Laos and Cambodia have been immeasurably strengthened by their struggle, not by any action taken by the North

to wind up that war in a very great hurry. After seeing the North Vietnamese he went and saw Sihanouk for about three hours and gave him the same sort of briefing on Indochina, and offered stepped up military aid to Cambodia. The aid was accepted in both cases. I saw Sihanouk immediately after that, within about 48 hours of his seeing Chou En-Lai. He explained what he'd been told by Chou En-Lai to me and a couple of other correspondents and there was no request not to publish it. Nixon raised the question of Indochina himself, and Chou En-Lai said: "I think our conversations should be limited to matters of

Chou En Lai told Nixon: "If you don't leave we will continue to give the people of Indochina everything we have and they need to continue their struggle until you go".

bi-lateral interest, of mutual interest. But as you have raised the matter of Indochina I would like to state our position. Our position is that you should not be there and that it is shameful for a world power like you to be engaged there against small developing countries. We think you shouldn't be there and that you should get out". Then he said "we have explained our position that as far as normalisation of relations is concerned this can not be brought about as long as you are occupying part of the Chinese province of Taiwan. Your position is that until tensions are lessened in South-East Asia you will have to continue to occupy part of Taiwan. What is the cause of tensions in South-East Asia? - your presence in Indochina. So from your own logic it's clear that until you leave Indochina there can be no normalisation of relations with China. We think you should leave but I would like to make our position quite clear. If you don't leave we will continue to support the people of Vietnam and the peoples of Indochina and give them everything we have and they need to continue on their struggle until you go". And that was it. The aid to both Cambodia and North Vietnam, I don't know about Laos because I was not informed of that, was considerably stepped up after the Nixon visit. If you look you can find absolutely no trace of how the Vietnamese position has really changed. If you go right back to April 1965 when Pham Van Dong made his first five point statement on the basis on which negotiations could be conducted, and take that and the various proposals of the N.F.L. including the seven point proposals of July 1971 and

Vietnamese but by the United States. They provoked the resistance movement, they fertilised the resistance movement by the brutality of their methods; the wholesale bombing of villages and towns, the wholesale looting and murder. So the revolutionary forces in Laos and Cambodia have been enormously strengthened. In Laos, at least two-thirds of the territory and over half the population is under the solid control of the Pathet Lao. In Cambodia 85 - 90% of the territory is controlled by the resistance forces. Lon Nol hangs on in Phnom Penh exclusively due to the operations of the United States Air Force. Take the events of recent days when someone from the Lon Nol Airforce bombed Lon Nol's own palace

## Thieu's Only Chance Of Survival



and then took off and landed in the resistance areas, following which Lon Nol grounded his whole airforce and still has it grounded. The latest news is that he has arrested 50 astrologers. Lon Nol takes more notice than anyone in Cambodia of astrologers and they predicted that his reign in Cambodia would be ended by the end of this month. These are facts which are public knowledge, so if one looks at the position in Indochina from a revolutionary standpoint the situation is extremely favourable and immensely more favourable in Vietnam than it was at the time the United States decided to intervene.

In Cambodia Lon Nol hangs on in Phnom Penh exclusively due to the operations of the U.S. Air Force.

**SALIENT:** Some sections of the anti-war movement in New Zealand and elsewhere have accused the Chinese of forcing the Peace Agreement on the North Vietnamese and the P.R.G. They have claimed that from the Nixon visit onwards the Chinese have "sold out" on the Vietnamese revolution. There was a rumour that straight after the Nixon visit Chou En-Lai flew to Hanoi to brief the Vietnamese on his talks with Nixon. Is that correct?

Yes. Two or three days after Nixon had left China, Chou En-Lai went to Hanoi and briefed the North Vietnamese leadership, in fact the Political Bureau of the Lao Dong party, on exactly what had gone on and offered stepped up aid, military aid. His assessment was that there were no signs that Nixon was going

compare them with the Agreement, this is a logical succession of negotiating positions, which were spelt out in a little more detail at various stages of the negotiations. What is embodied in the Agreement is a logical development of negotiating positions going back to April 1965. So I don't see any evidence where the Vietnamese have changed their positions at all. I think one thing on which the "Vietnam watchers" all over the world are agreed on is that the Vietnamese always retained in their own hands their own decisions and remained completely independent of any outside pressures, advice or whatever you want to call it.

**SALIENT:** Could you give a clear indication of the D.R.V. and P.R.G. positions on aid from countries like Australia and New Zealand?

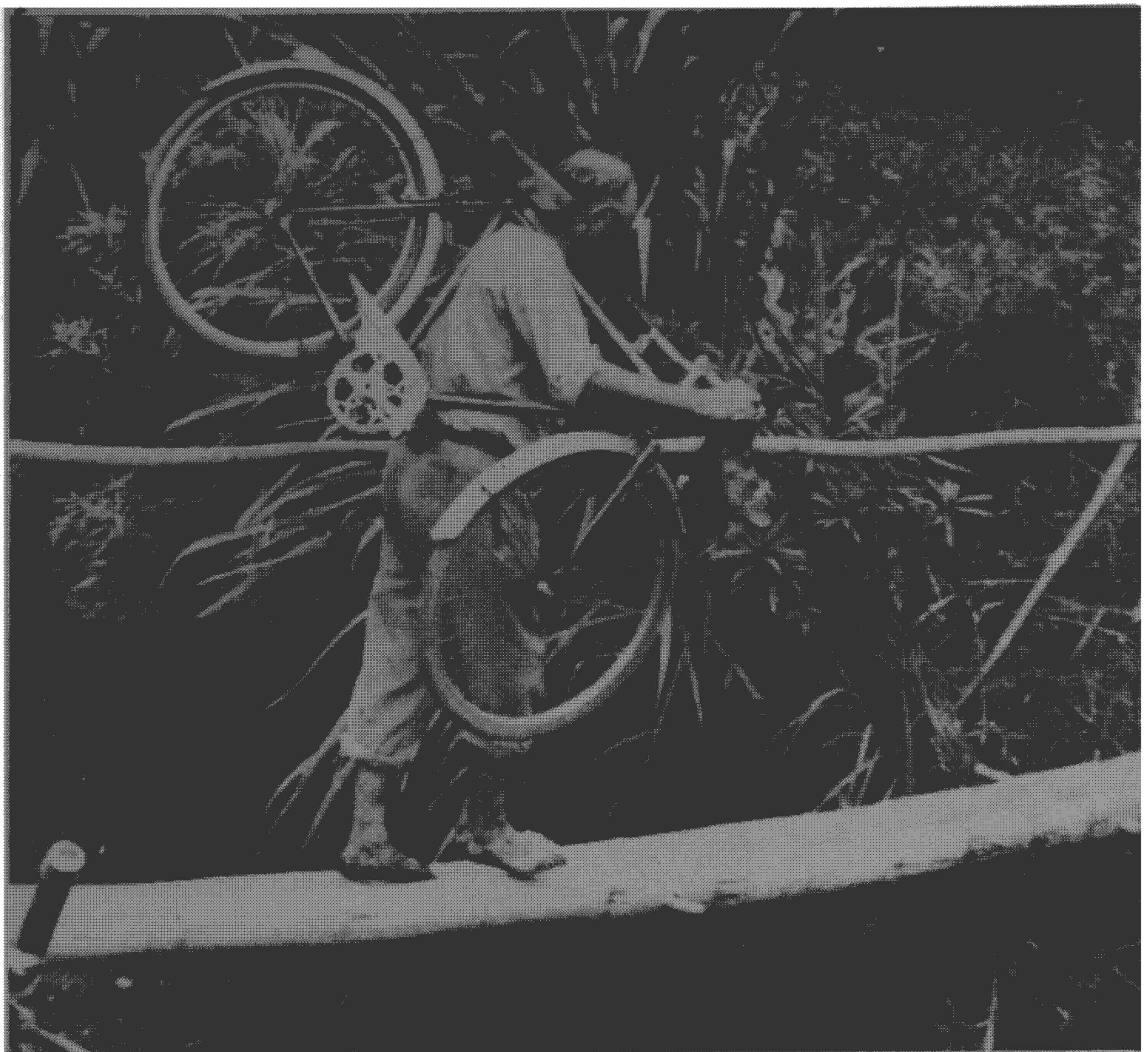
If there's one thing that the D.R.V. and the P.R.G. are absolutely adamant on it's that they are not going to fritter away their independence which they have defended with such difficulty over all these years by falling for the machinations of international aid organisations. I can quote the words of Pham Van Dong when I spoke to him at the beginning of February. They're absolutely determined to remain masters of their own house and to rebuild in their own way, with their own plans, and with their own people. "Masters of their own house", that was the key phrase he used. They don't want multi-lateral aid from international agencies at all because they consider them to be very dangerous sorts of organisations, and they've studied what's gone on in other countries, which apparently gained their independence only to lose it economically. They want bi-lateral aid. What they really need are freely disposable funds on which there are absolutely



no conditions attached whatsoever. Pham Van Dong made another remark which was quite interesting considering the low living standards, the poverty really, of North Vietnam. He said, "well, we have to do everything possible to raise the living standards of our people, that's absolutely essential, but we're not going to become slaves of the consumer society concept. We think there are other things in life apart from material things, there are certain thresholds beyond which you have to go when you are considering the reconstruction. We are discussing these things now, but we have to define what are the ingredients, what is the quality of man, the quality of life, the quality of society? We are specifically going to take these things into account in our reconstruction of society. We are going to be original, we are going to find the Vietnamese way of doing these things in accordance with our own traditions, our own history and our own culture". I think we are going to see a mushrooming of all sorts of phoney organisations exploiting the natural generosity and

The Vietnamese don't want multi-lateral aid from international organisations because they've studied what's gone on in other countries, which apparently gained their independence, only to lose it economically.

guilty consciences of people to pull in money and to use this money to gain political influence in Vietnam, perhaps particularly in South Vietnam and particularly in that area which is still under the control of the Thieu government. For instance I don't know too many of the details but as far as I understand this World Vision Organisation, it proposes to collect large sums of money, part of which will be used to resettle those unfortunate people who were bombed out of the countryside and forced to settle in shanty towns on the outskirts of Saigon and other areas. The idea is to put them in so-called model housing projects around Saigon in order to prevent them in fact from going back to their villages, and there are all sorts of political conditions, or religious conditions which amount to the same thing, to which people have to subscribe to become beneficiaries of this aid. This is an absolutely intolerable form of external interference in the affairs of the Vietnamese people which they will reject. But the United States has every reason to encourage these people to spread the burden of



have just been invented for a very specific political purpose. The manner in which this rash of atrocity stories suddenly occurred and the reasons attributed to it confirms my suspicion.

At least the American P.O.W.'s back home are not like the unfortunate N.F.L. prisoners who were thrown out of helicopters to their deaths in the hundreds, and the people of My Lai, and hundreds

militia man, or someone from the army, appeared they were given medical attention first and were treated absolutely correctly. I saw the first 114 prisoners who were released, and they were the ones who should have looked the worst. The priority release was for those who had been in prison the longest, those who had been captured in 1964 and 1965, and the sick and wounded. They all looked in remarkably good shape. The first comments when

have been the urban intelligensia who were not aligned during the war, a lot of them doctors, school teachers, students, buddhists and catholics, who in the later stages of the war turned against Thieu. Thieu no longer has the support of the majority of the catholics in South Vietnam.

The number of neutralists and leftists held prisoner is usually stated at approximately 300,000. People who had relatives

## val Is To Keep The War Going

reconstruction out into the international field, to restore the things they have destroyed and at the same time to use political pressures to keep the people inside the sphere of this fascist regime in Saigon. I think one has to be terribly vigilant about these agencies and consult the real representatives of the Vietnamese people. The Government of North Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government and other Third Force elements as representatives of the Vietnamese people in Paris and elsewhere all reject this World Vision sort of planning.

### U.S. PRISONERS WELL TREATED

SALIENT: Now all the P.O.W.'s are back in the United States they're starting to make statements about the brutal treatment they got in the D.R.V.

I think the way that was reported was pretty significant. The day after the last P.O.W. had returned there were simultaneous press conferences across the length and breadth of the United States, at which the old atrocity stories were hauled out. The commentary was that these stories would probably strengthen the hand of those in Congress who wanted to block any economic aid to North Vietnam. I think you only have to look at those two things to see why the atrocity stories were cooked up. It would be a good idea if somebody suggested that an impartial doctor would look at this chap Stratton who said that his arms and body had been burned by cigarette butts. To the best of my knowledge and belief the Vietnamese simply don't go in for that sort of thing and I think these atrocity stories

and hundreds of other villages which suffered the same fate. The Americans all said officially that they were in very good condition when they were released; then all of a sudden, when the political motives dictate the need, they find they've been the victims of atrocities. I think it's a put up job.

SALIENT: Did you see any of the Prisoner of War camps in the North, as you did during the Korean War?

No I didn't see any of the camps, but I spoke with individual pilots. One or two said they had some rough treatment from peasants when they were captured but that was normal. They fell alongside villages which had just been bombed out. Not only that but they had to be secured very quickly because they had all sorts of means of communicating with helicopters and planes. The peasants had to grab them quickly and immobilise them before they could call in the rescue planes which had a standing operating procedure. This was to spray the whole area, where the pilot went down, with vomiting and nausea gas which immobilised people temporarily, sometimes for weeks, so the Americans could come in without any opposition and rescue the pilot.

I suppose I talked to about half a dozen pilots. A couple said they had been a bit roughly treated by peasants who captured them, but the moment the first

At least the American P.O.W.s are home, not like the hundreds of unfortunate N.F.L. prisoners who were thrown out of helicopters to their deaths.

they got back to the Clark Airbase in the Philippines were what good condition they were in. They were the worst! The others afterwards were in much better condition.

SALIENT: Let's talk about the political prisoners held by Thieu in the South. How many people are being held and is it true that he is planning to eliminate the lot?

There are two broad categories of prisoners. Firstly those who were arrested from 1954 onward for actual or suspected support for the resistance war against the French. That was a crime. That was subversive! Especially after May 1959 anyone who was suspected of 'harbouring an intention to perform an act which would menace or threaten the security of the state', which meant anybody who had the slightest sympathy with the N.F.L. was jailed. The numbers of prisoners was increased by the 'Phoenix Programme' which was aimed at eliminating what they called the 'Vietcong infrastructure'. 21,000 people were officially stated by the Saigon administration to have been executed, and another 30,000 to 40,000 were supposed to have been arrested. So that is one category.

But after the Draft Agreement to End the War was published toward the end of October, and Thieu saw the role the 'Third Force' elements were to play in the proposed Council of National Reconciliation and National Concord, he directed his police machine against anybody suspected of neutralist sentiments, or anybody who had not supported completely his line on the war. According to official figures published in Saigon, 40,000 people were arrested within the first two or three weeks of the publication of the Draft Agreement, and arrests have kept going at the same tempo ever since. The victims

in prison, came through from Saigon to Paris before I left. They brought lists, and various documents which showed that a black list has been drawn up of those marked down for execution; just as the Nazis, towards the end of World War II, dragged out all those they thought would become political activists after the war was over, like Thalemann the German Communist Party leader, and shot them. There have been numerous authenticated accounts of people actually executed, and authenticated black lists of those political activists who have to be liquidated. According to the Agreement, political prisoners have to be released within 90 days of the signing of the Agreement, by the end of April, but so far practically none have been released at all.

It's a very serious matter, apart from the sheer injustice of the arrest of all these people for political reasons, because it's very difficult to envisage a political solution when the vital third ingredient is simply eliminated. The concept that was written into the Agreement and officially endorsed by Thieu and the United States, is that there should be this National Council composed of three equal parts: the Saigon Government, the P.R.G. and the vital bridge element, the 'Third Force'. The whole concept cannot work if the third element is missing. This is a very serious matter on which great concern is being expressed all over the world, especially by the buddhists, and catholics and other exiles in France who know the real facts. They're the people who've borne the brunt of this latest wave of arrests.

### CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

SALIENT: Newspapers here have described the violations of the Ceasefire

# Bogus Atrocity Stories

as if the war hasn't stopped. Could you tell us of the real position as regards the violations of the Ceasefire? How serious are they?

One of the difficulties is that all the news comes out of the Saigon Command, and the correspondents themselves have been bitterly complaining of this. In fact a number of correspondents have been chucked out, not because they are progressives but because they felt they had to try to get to the truth of the violations. They were prevented from going out on the spot, and checking up for themselves. When the D.R.V. and the P.R.G. members of the quadripartite Joint Military Affairs Commission arrived in Saigon they were immediately put behind barbed wire on

Saigon Airport and held absolutely incommunicado; it was absolutely forbidden for the press to come anywhere near them. The first meeting of the quadripartite commission took place with armed military helicopters soaring over the top of the buildings where they were kept. Six tanks were drawn up outside the building with their guns trained on the building and truckloads of troops, armed to the teeth were placed all round the building. The head of the D.R.V. delegation protested and said "you've tried to threaten us ever since the start of the war with your bombs, your shells, your planes, and don't think you're going to have any influence on us through military pressures at this first meeting of the Military Affairs Commission".

That was the atmosphere and the press couldn't get anywhere near. Well known American agencies like N.B.C. and U.P.I. had their chief correspondents thrown out just because they tried to get some sort of contact and check up on the violations. All the news about the violations comes exclusively from Thieu's side. I don't think anybody doubts that Thieu's only chance of survival is to keep the war

going. There was a report in the "Chicago Daily News" on March 21st by Larry Green, their local correspondent, who quoted official American figures claiming that tremendous violations had been going on and quantities of tanks, armoured vehicles and North Vietnamese troops were moving down towards South Vietnam in violation of the Agreement. But this correspondent was a little bit sceptical and he wrote: "Both the press, which is disseminating the information and the public, which is reading it, are prisoners of what they're being told. There is no way to check the government's claims; to count the trucks moving down the Ho Chi Minh trail or the tanks moving across the Demilitarised Zone, or the communist troops moving into South Vietnam. There's no way to confirm when or where pictures they might show of the infiltration movements were taken. It should be remembered that in the past there frequently has been little correlation between what was being said officially about conditions and events in Vietnam and reality, except when the news from Washington was bad". He poured complete scepticism on this report of what seemed to be a major violation.

A few days later there was an N.Z.P.A. — Reuter report from Washington which was published in "The New Zealand Herald" on the 29th of March, saying that "the White House Press Secretary, Mr Ronald Ziegler, hinted that Mr Nixon was less concerned than he was two weeks ago by the alleged movement of thousands of North Vietnamese troops and hundreds of tanks into the South in violation of the Ceasefire. Asked how the President felt about the infiltrations Ziegler said the United States had every hope and expectation that all parties would scrupulously observe the Ceasefire".

In other words these 'violations' are what the hard-boiled journalists call 'diplomatic statistics'. To serve some political or diplomatic move the Americans invent things like the 9,000 violations or the 40,000 troops. If it suits them to do away with it then all of a sudden they disappear into thin air. There have been violations from the very beginning by the Thieu forces. After all it's not the N.F.L. who have planes, and Thieu's airforce has been operational until very recently, averaging about 200 sorties a day. They have been moving in to try and take positions around the perimeters of the zones controlled by the N.F.L. I'm sure the N.F.L. have instructions to bend over backwards to avoid responding to provocation and so give pretext for large scale renewal of the fighting. I'm sure that if they push into some sensitive area the N.F.L. will hit back, and that's apparently what has been going on in the last few days.

The very day after the conclusion of the Ceasefire, according to the word I had in Hanoi at the time, the Saigon regime dropped parachutists and carried out a very big operation at the Qua Viet estuary south of the Demilitarised Zone. Aerial bombings preceded this attack; parachutists were dropped in an attempt to seize territory right up to the Demilitarised Zone. The N.F.L. resisted and flung them back. This was a very sensitive area deep inside the N.F.L. lines, and I suspect the same thing has happened when we keep getting word about a Saigon base encircled by the N.F.L. I imagine that they parachuted troops in and tried to seize an area inside N.F.L. territory and met strong resistance. But what is clear is that the D.R.V. and the P.R.G. have absolutely

The only person who has a vested interest in violating the Ceasefire Agreement is Thieu, just as he threatened he would.

no interest in violating the Ceasefire. The Ceasefire Agreement is a good one, a very good one. The only person who has a vested interest in violating the Ceasefire, as he threatened he would, is Thieu. So I think all these reports of violations must be taken with a very large grain of salt when they refer to violations by the N.F.L. and the P.R.G.

SALIENT: On the subject of getting news out of Vietnam can you tell us what was the success of the American blockade, the mining of the harbours and the rivers?

Well it was another of the Americans' inglorious failures. Of course it caused some difficulties at times, but it never prevented supplies moving to the south in the quantities they wanted to move them; as the pattern of the warfare showed. The resistance forces were never short of materials because of that blockade, and right up to the Ceasefire they seemed to have ample quantities of whatever they needed in any particular place. One quality of the Vietnamese is that they are never taken by surprise. They'd anticipated the blockade, the mining of Hai-phong harbour, and the renewed bombings, from the time the bombings first started. They'd made alternative arrangements and contingency plans. The day the mines went into operation they pulled a lever and 'Plan B' went into operation, and the supplies never stopped moving towards the front.

Next week Burchett talks about the situation in Cambodia and discusses the past, present and future roles of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who was ousted by a right-wing putsch in 1970.

A number of correspondents were chucked out of Saigon, not because they are progressives, but because they tried to get to the truth of the violations of the Ceasefire.

Continued from page 6 !!



... more next week

# BOOKS

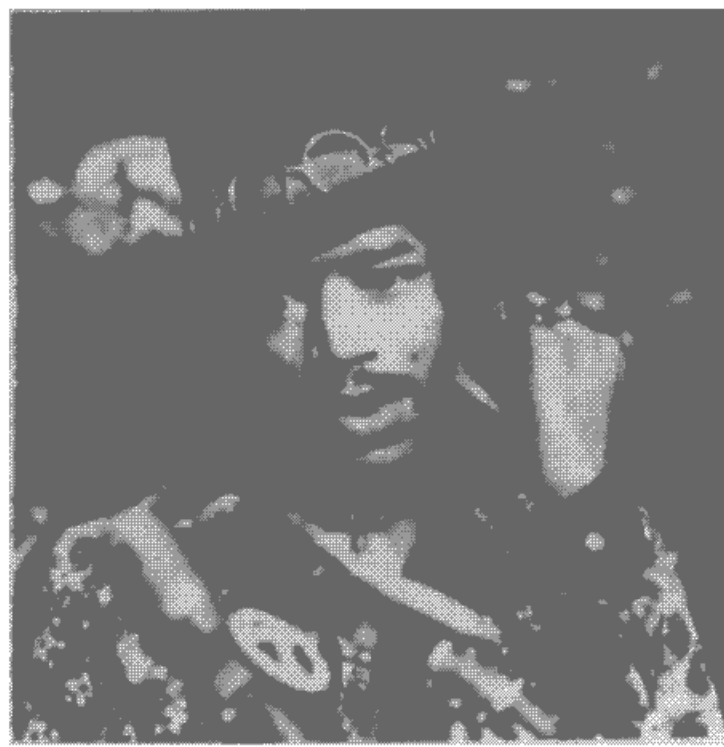
*Hendrix: A Biography* by Chris Welch. Published by Alister Taylor. Price \$2.95. Reviewed by P.F. O'Dea

Chris Welch's biography of Jimi Hendrix is one part resume, one part 'critical comment' (culled no doubt from Melody Maker's files), three parts interview transcripts and 15 parts photographs. If you're the type that purchases books to leave lying discreetly on a coffee table in full view of visitors, this could be the one. Right at the end of the introductory paragraph, it says: "Jimi's death was an accident, as avoidable as the nonsense that pursued his career". The nonsense which followed his death, which includes this lavish pro-

duction, has not yet ceased. Hopefully, it will.

Reading this book leaves one with a nauseous feeling - like watching a movie of a buzzard tearing decaying flesh from a corpse. Perhaps anticipating this, Hendrix said: "It's funny the way people love the dead. Once you are dead you are made for life. You have to die before you are worth anything". Obviously, some people are taking full advantage of this. Then there are the others. The one who refuses to come to grips with reality. "People say he's still here", one of the Hendrix groupies is quoted as saying. "But mentally and physically he isn't here. That's why he said: 'When I die, just keep playing the records'." If you take that advice at face value, you'll learn a hell of a lot more about Hendrix than this book will ever teach you.

There is, however, a need for a definitive biography, not just a poking about among the bones. Hendrix was, after all, one of the rock culture's unique personalities - but it needs to be written by someone with more empathy towards his subject, someone not quite so obviously blinded by the flashing of dollar signs that he can't see the typewriter keys. The major problem with such a biography (and



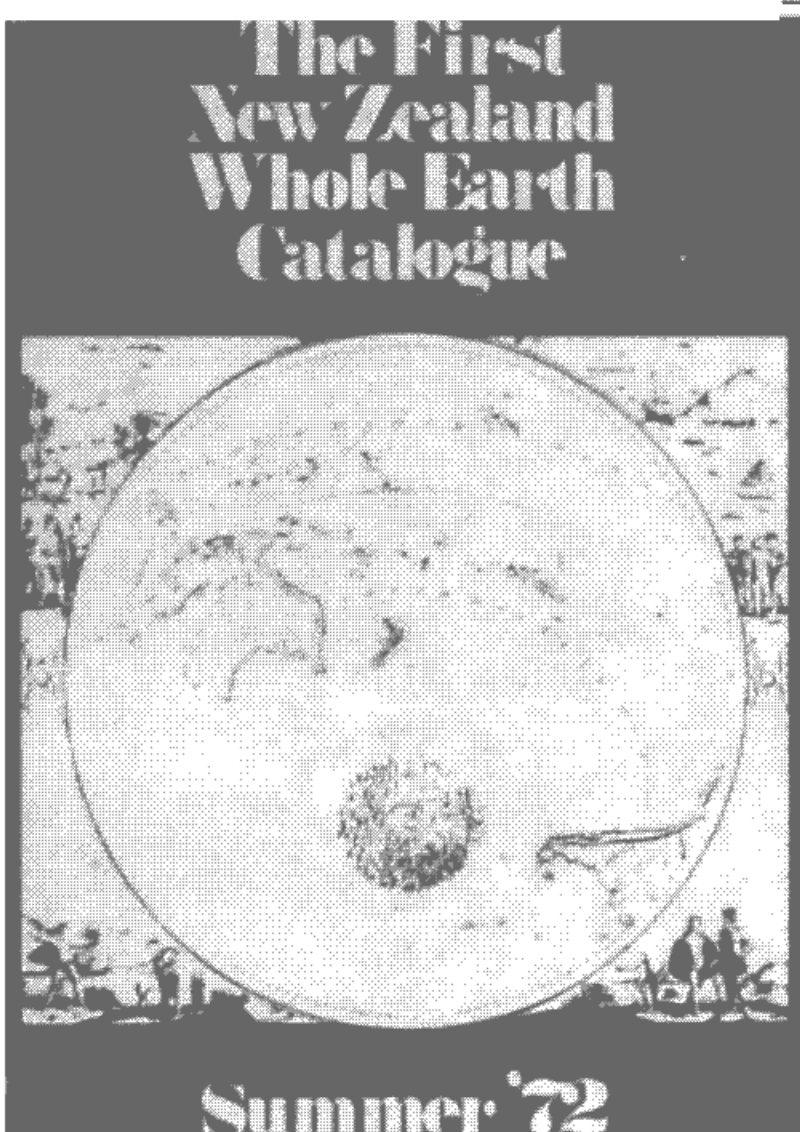
the same problem that Scadutto ran up against with his Bob Dylan book) is that no one really knew the complete Hendrix. This quandary was encapsulated by the Hendrix road manager, Gerry Stickells: "To everybody he had a different side. I don't think anybody knew him. I knew one side of him. I don't believe anybody knew where Jimi was really at, or what he was thinking about at any point, although a lot of people profess they did".

Welch is one of the older style of music writers, and when he escapes from transcription, this particular fact is painfully

evident. The only 'original' comment in this conglomeration of recycled cliches is banal restatement of the obvious: "When a great talent dies early, it is often said that perhaps it was just as well, as the talent was obviously on the way down, and that a lifetime of mediocrity lay ahead", and so on.

The most enlightening section of the book is Keith Altham's interview with the man himself, conducted a few weeks before Hendrix's demise. Marred as it is by the fatuous introduction, it does show that there is not necessarily a link between illiteracy and stupidity, even though the reverse may apply in Welch's case. Rapping about change he would like to see, Hendrix surfaces with this comment: "You have to be a freak in order to be different. And them freaks are prejudiced. You have to talk in a certain way to be with them. And in order to be with the others you have to wear your hair short and wear a tie. So we're trying to make a third world happen. . . ."

If you feel that you must have this book, pick it up as a bonus with a subscription to Rolling Stone, and make your own comparisons. Alternatively spend the money on Elia Katz's "Armed Love".



Reviewed by George Rosenberg

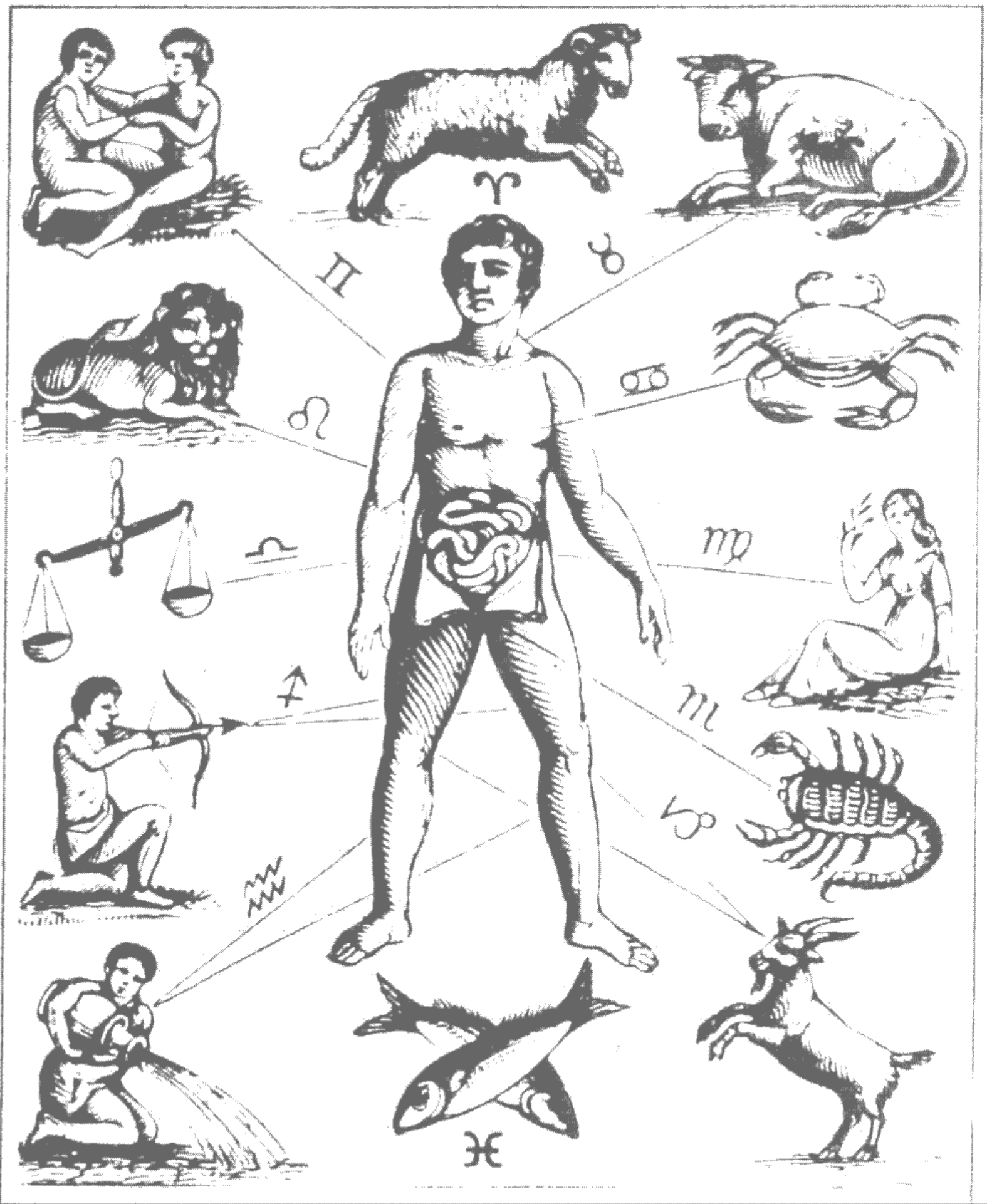
A mighty fine publication that will be bought, and should be bought by every hippy household in New Zealand, that will be read by every hippy member of every hippy household, and which will then lie in the bottom of the hippy bookshelf (because it is too big to stand up), until the marijuana planting season, or maybe the time of the year when you breed pigs.

Every page opens a fascinating insight in a world where practical earthy things are no longer practical. If you ever have opportunity to fatten a nice little sow, or run a milking cow on your two acres

of lush grass it is likely that you won't need the whole earth catalogue. The information is there, but surely it is information which is inborn into practically every rural area in New Zealand. If you don't have the information inborn, just slip along to your nearest Government Bookshop, or your friendly Agriculture Department Farm Advisory Officer, and the book you buy off the man you ask will tell you all you need to know.

But who could tell you *all* the plants in New Zealand which can get you "high" not your Farm Advisory Officer, only your *Whole Earth Catalogue*. Who, apart from your fellow penal inmates could give you such a wealth of information on how to shoplift, only your *Whole Earth Catalogue*. Who, apart from your wealthy, trendy and well (if conventionally) educated friends could tell you about all the modern, trendy schools which provide the only decent education in New Zealand for those whose parents can afford to send their children there, only your *Whole Earth Catalogue*. Who . . . how to turn a railway carriage into a house . . . Who . . . how to start your own underground newspaper . . . Who . . . how to build a geodesic dome, buy a typewriter, make wine and beer, beat your landlord, buy a good book, start a real revolution, grow coffee, alter your consciousness . . .

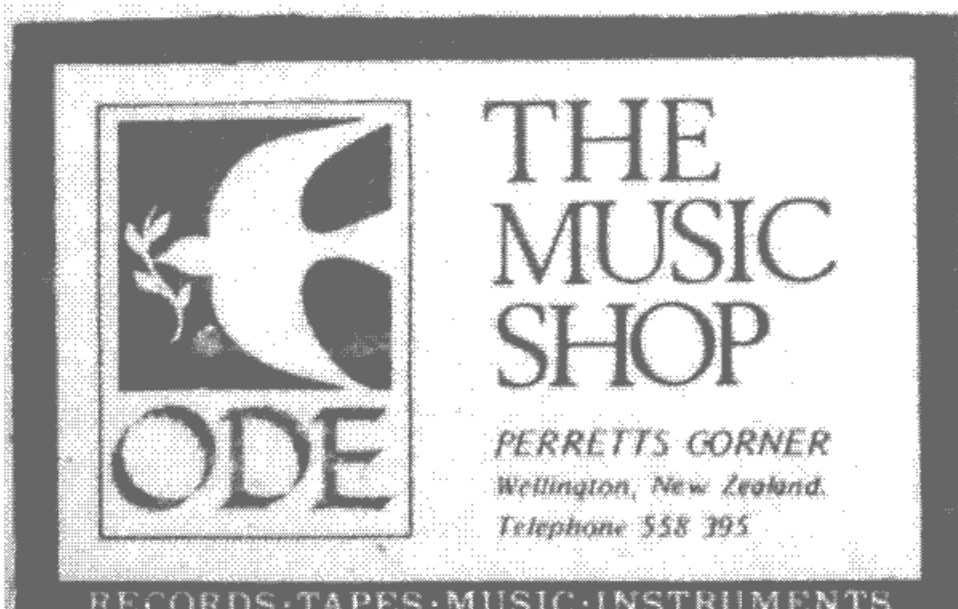
There can be little doubt that this book is fascinating to read, fascinating to dream about, occasionally (for some people) fantastically useful, worth every cent of the \$4.95 it costs (no profit, it claims, to the publisher) and due for a second edition this year. It's a bit like the Values Party.



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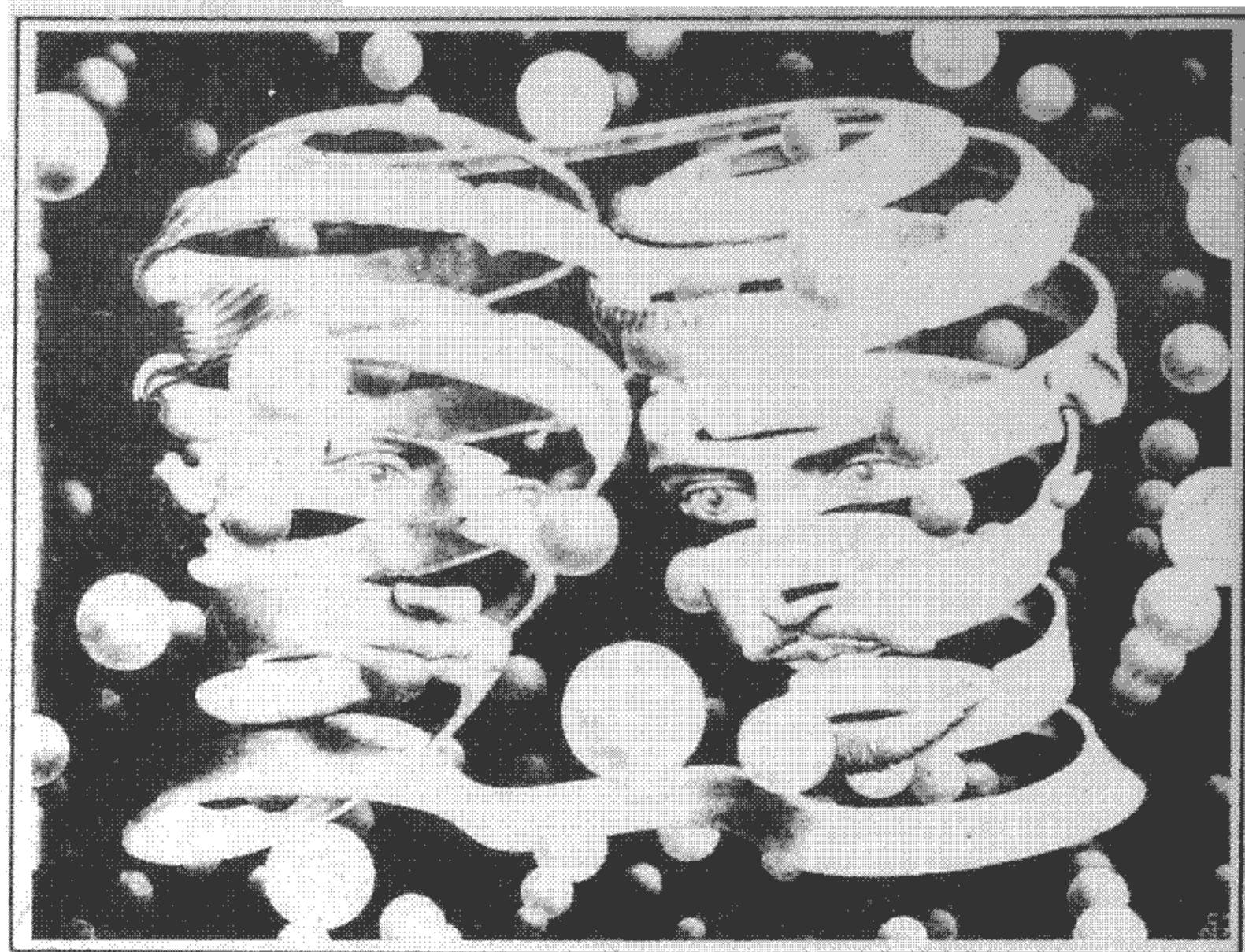
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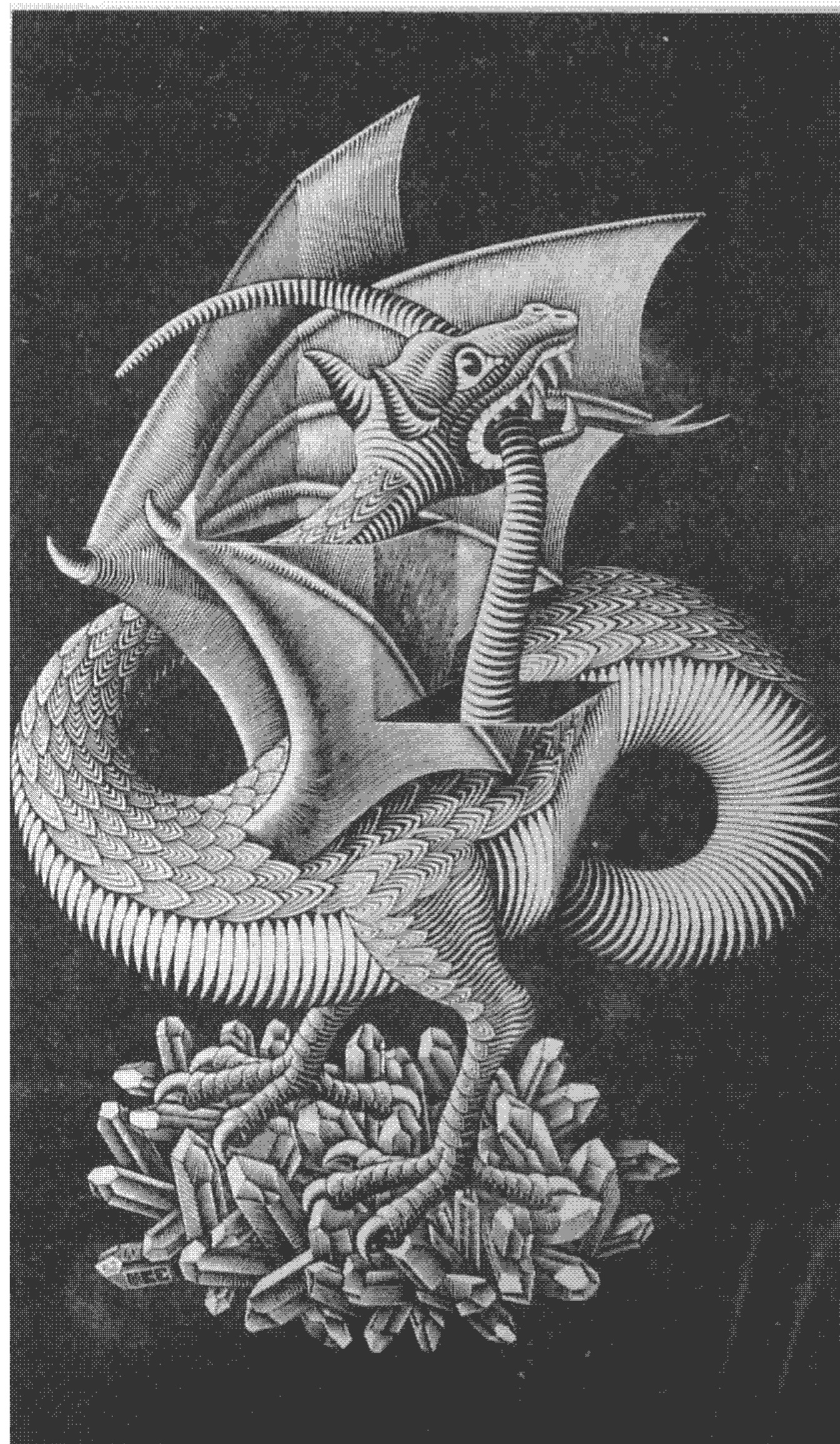
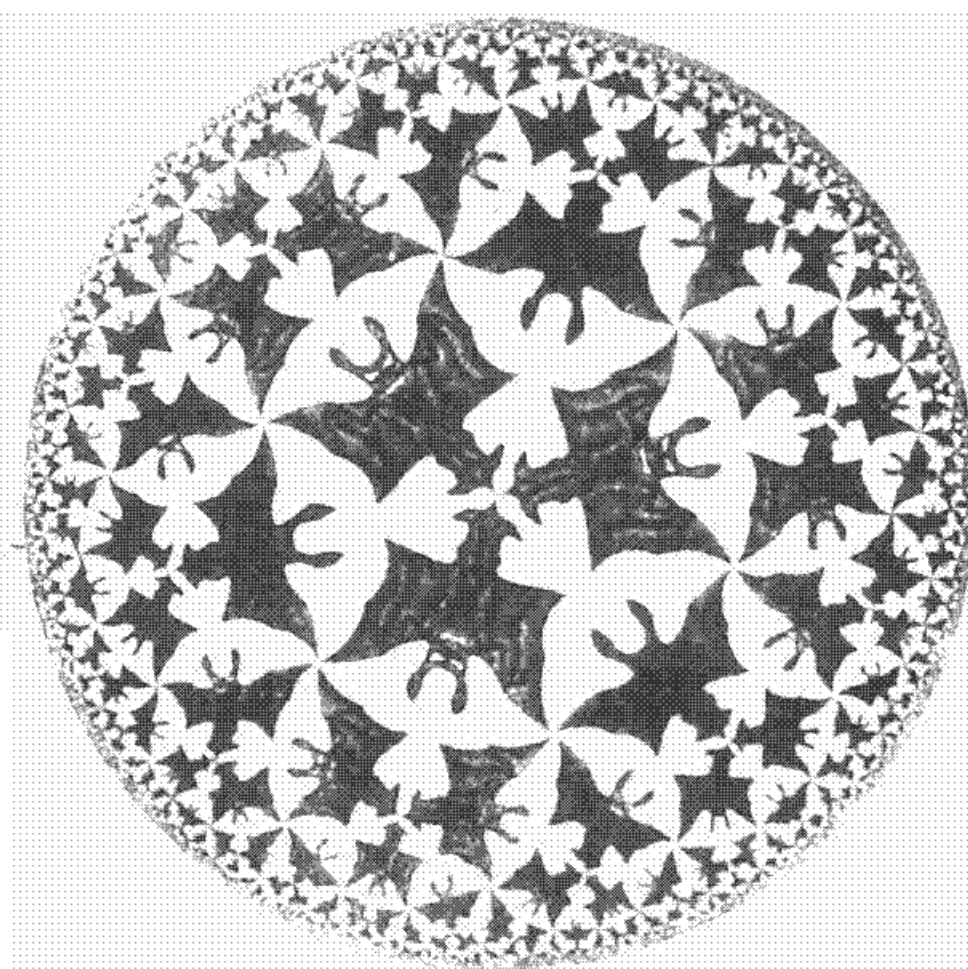
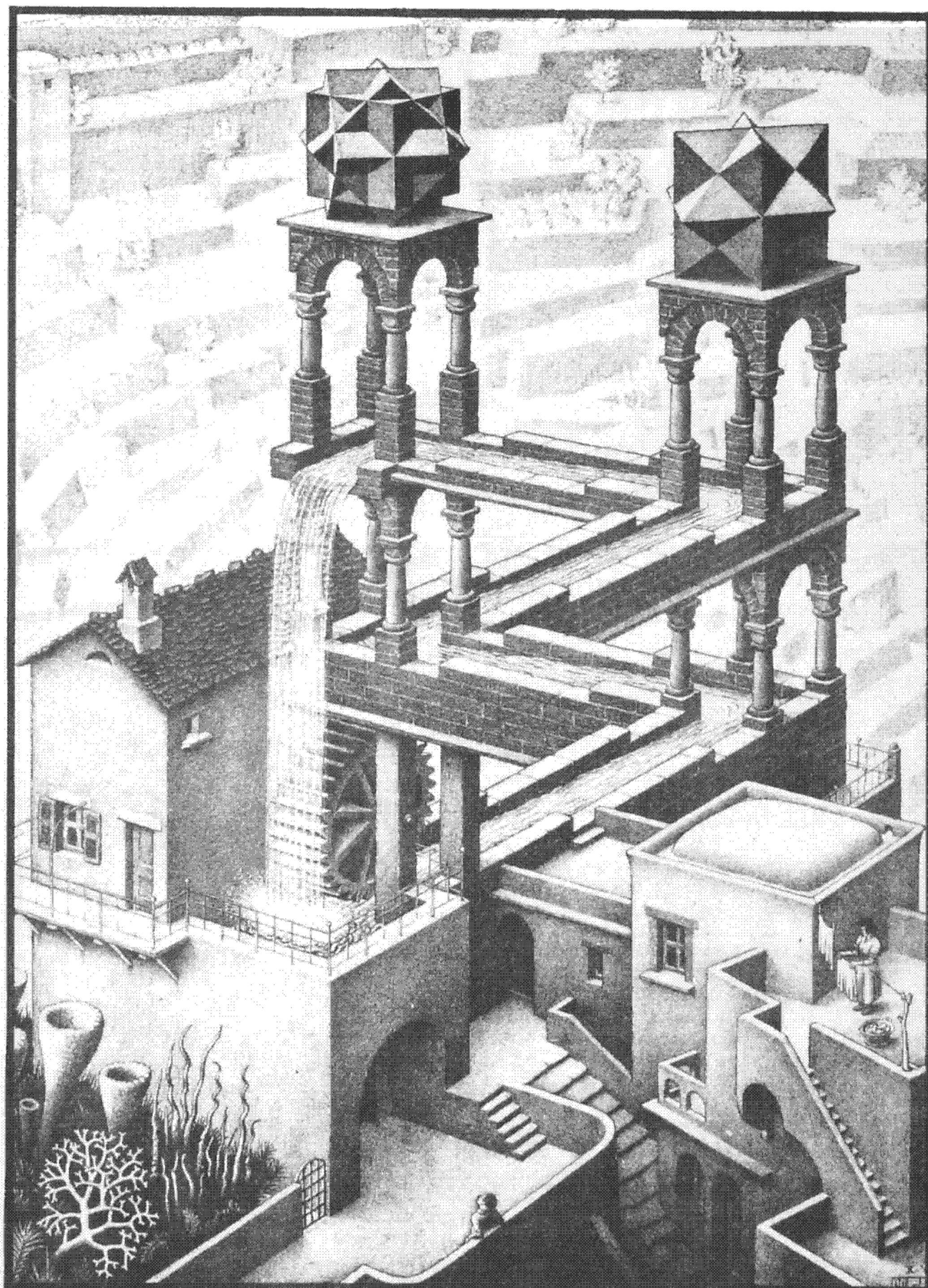
MAURITS ESCHER, born June 17 1898 in Leeuwarden, Holland, is one of Europe's most original graphic artists - and an extremely skilled one.

He is, without any doubt, primarily a graphic artist; he has said that most of his life has been spent in making some kind of analytic composition out of his subjects by means of graphic processes such as wood-engraving or lithography.


Yet Escher sees unlimited possibilities in a theory that has been exploited for over 500 years: rendering the natural appearance of forms in space and through distance. Not

content with the traditional theory, Escher combines several viewpoints in one print. The spectator has the sensation of viewing the scene simultaneously from above, below and on the same level.

The artist's technical mastery is unmistakable, making his most imaginative subjects convincing - sometimes frighteningly so. That his imagination is, to say the least, eccentric cannot be denied: his work is at once surrealistic, representational and macabre. Escher is mathematician, photographer, architect and visionary. He is all these things, and more: an artist.



# RECORDS



## Slow to 20 - Jim Post (Festival) Reviewed by G. Mazengarb.

Jim Post grew up in Colorado in a small town, learned how to boogie, drink, applejack and play pretty keen guitar. After dropping out of High School through a fast-developing social conscience he joined the mainstream of earnest young folkies playing usually for free in coffee bars, booze bars and roadhouses. "But the truth remains that no-one wants to know", and so Jim Post unlike most of these frustrated pickers strummed his way into a recording studio and started singing strange little ballads like Mr Acres who lived with his daughter and their son and when the daughter was lured away by a handsome hunter poor Mr Acres lived all alone in his mountain shack; filling out the gaps meanwhile with subtly disguised protests and comments on society and people, and doing it cleverly enough not to antagonise. [Sounds like another gutless hippie wanker - Ed.] His album called *Colorado Exile*, was something of a neglected masterpiece. Disillusioned by the lack of interest he had created, Post started writing songs like *Sing*.

"I've been making music ever since I was a / young child I'd go back to the forest, stand up / on a stump sing to the 20,000 trees, And I'm / gonna go on singing, 'cos it makes life so easy / I sing because I'm happy, sing because I'm free".

And that basically is what this new album is all about; he has unloaded the burden of protest, the obligation to tell people things they don't want to know, or prefer to ignore, or know and are trying to help. He has realized that the message he was trying to sell people at \$5.75 a time was no different to the message every other folkie thinks is so unique. So where is he now? This is best expressed in a couple of lines from a track called *Homemade Music*:  
"Goin' back home to make some home-made / music again with my family and friends".

Altogether the album sounds like a slightly heavier James Taylor, with the same introspective songs and good but not outstanding music.



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## Loggins and Messina : Loggins and Messina SBP 474 049 Reviewed by P.F. O'Dea

Take one generous helping of Buffalo Springfield two years before they even saw the inside of a recording studio, add another equally generous portion of the Byrds rehearsing around the time of their *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* - Dr Byrds and Mr Hyde era and you have the new Loggins-Messina effort. Simple isn't it. *Your mama don't dance and your poppa don't rock 'n' roll*, goes the single lifted from this album. At the time of writing it's slotted at 13 on the NZBC Popometer, which is where it deserves to be. As a description of the album, however, it's perfect. Frankly, it's the worst record I have had the misfortune to hear this year.

A lengthy period of time has elapsed since Lillian Roxon wrote that Buffalo Springfield could have been the group. It was an even longer time before that that the group actually broke up. Why then, I wonder, do the offshoots persist in trying to put a post-Springfield scene back together when the five of them couldn't handle the potential in the original group.

The brains behind the Springfield were Steve Stills, who managed to recapture a few sparks of former glory with Manassas, and Neil Young, who learnt that attempted re-creation was nowhere two albums ago. Together, you might recall, they contributed disproportionately to *Deja Vu* - but even the best on that came nowhere near *Expecting to fly* or their door opener, *Broken Arrow*. Where does all this leave fellow Springfield conspirator, Jim Messina? Charging blindly into a dead end, dragging with him Kenny Loggins and all the other accoutrements of bland-plastic hip-country muzak. That's where.

Despite its proximity to Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, *Angry Eyes* is by far the best track on the album - the others aren't worth mentioning. The self-conscious lyric ("*you wanna believe that I am not the same as you / now, I can't conceive, oh no, of what it is you are trying to give / with those angry eyes / well, I bet you wish you could cut me down with those angry eyes*") lurches drunkenly over a backing reminiscent of the Stones' *Can't you hear me knocking*? It's a straight steal, but at least it's a relief from the tedium of the other cuts.

If anybody at Phonogram knew what they were supposed to be doing, we would have seen the New Riders of the Purple Sage's third album a long time before this release. As it is they're not going to make much head way on an album market with this collection of instantly forgettable phoney cowboy nonsense angled at the top 10. At this point in the review, a certain female poked her head around the door, and said "That's n-i-c-e. Is it the Partridge Family?"

## Full House - J. Geils Band. Atlantic Reviewed by Redmer Yska.

The J. Geils Band are one of the most popular 'live' American bands. This album was recorded before the legendary Detroit audience and it features songs from their last two studio albums. *J. Geils play South Side Chicago Blues* - the standard 12-bar Otis Rush and John Lee Hooker stuff. But unlike the limp imitations of the usual white Blues' bands, they play a more frenzied rock and roll blues that must be admired for its sustained energy level if for nothing else. The trouble with this music is that it has all been played before. Practically every song on this record could have been played by Mitch Ryder or MC5 (before the same audience), or Ten Years After, literally ten years ago. The record is saved by *Hard Drivin' Man* where they make some use of Seth Justman who used to play piano on Jerry Lee Lewis 45's! His piano on this track is excellent and they really seem to play some exciting rock and roll. However apart from this number and a few good harmonica solos from Magic Dick(!) the album is largely disappointing. Peter Wolf the singer must take some kind of prize for his bawled inanity: "Take out your false-teeth, I wanna suck on your gums!" Perhaps it would have been different if I'd been there that night.

## Hudson - RCA (Playboy Label) Reviewed by E. Brik

"Well I know you're wondering what I'm leading to/well I wrote this song for you". And of course everybody's wondering what Hugh Hefner's doing, dragging groups and single artists, usually second-rate and always virtually unknown, from obscurity into semi-obscurity using the impetus and status of the monolithic Hefner empire.

This album is probably the best yet released on the Playboy Label, but the difference is only comparative. Very much a studio album, it comes close to being coy and pretentious. Hudson has managed to create a series of album tracks all too slightly pretty and shallow though perfectly produced. It amazed me how they managed to sound like so many different groups (Beatles, Graham Nash, Herman's Hermits) and hence how little unity existed throughout the album.

Disconcertingly they manage also to create a very antagonistic response in me when I listen to the album - perhaps because of arrogance exemplified in a comment printed on the cover: "There are few people we care about enough to call our friends".

Left to their own resources Hudson could develop a good sound of their own, if they stop using proven formulae. This album remains little more than nice, easy listening music.

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## Don McLean - Don McLean : United Artists Reviewed by Stephen Matthews

Well, if it isn't Mr American Pie himself, with a whole new LP bursting with self-penned, honest-to-God songs all about such things as *Bronco Bill*, *Narcissism*, and *On the Amazon* (a double entendre maybe - nudge, nudge, nods' as good as a wink to a . . .).

That familiar, ever-present voice that we have grown to know and love; so sweet, so saccharine and oozing so much sincerity. It's the sort of synthetic shit that's wowing the Greggs Coffee set down at Wellington's newly-acquired bastion of the 'arts', The Settlement.

The backing, yet again, is the most exciting part of the record, especially the slide guitar work (no credits provided). But one musn't judge our Don too harshly now. A friend of mine assures me it's all 'right for the heart'. That's all we need.

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# LETTERS

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## Abortion Fantasy

Dear Sirs,

I was pleasantly tickled with Jacqueline McCluggage's article (SALIENT March 19) dealing with the Women's Abortion Action Committee and the legalization of foeticide.

There was that marvellous passage when she called forth Surveys and Statistics to add weight to her arguments. I am reminded of the story of a certain Jacqueline McGarbage who petitioned the Government to pass a Bill declaring the moon to be composed of cheese. You see, the cheese could be quarried and fed to the Starving Millions. The Petition had the backing of the majority of citizens. Yet the Prime Minister declared: "It is beyond my power. I cannot change such a reality". 65.2% of the nation's women were heard to mutter, "What right has any man to force his philosophy on us"? And Jacqueline McGarbage herself said: "The goals of the Cheese Movement are distorted and the issue confused with false philosophical and religious arguments". Obviously she was right.

Secondly, I too am concerned that backstreet abortions are hazardous to health. I am reminded of the story of the burglar who burnt his face and hands with an acetylene torch while trying to open the safe of a Bank. This prompted a certain Jacqueline McGarbage to petition Parliament to take all locks off safes in the interests of public safety. Also, the penalty for some burglaries exceeded 14 years so that the removal of such locks also meant the removal of the injustices of the penalty. It should be obvious to all moralizers that the legalization of burglary would remove all burglars, just as the legalization of foeticide would remove all illegal abortions.

A small word of disagreement though. I notice on page 3 of SALIENT (March 29) that the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child is termed 'Catholic dominated'. I am told that the Patron and the President are not Catholics, and would be loath to call it Catholic ridden for fear of unjustly insulting the majority of members.

Yours sincerely,  
Bruce Goodman.



Dear Sirs,

Those imbeciles at the 'Dumb-minnion' disgusted me with their stupid report of the arrival of the Chinese Diplomats on March 27th. They made it sound as if the circus had arrived in town and let's all have a good giggle about the 'three big chiefs' etc.

If this sort of view reflects the feelings of the New Zealand public that's too bad. I wonder how people would react in Peking and how New Zealanders would react if a similar report were published about the New Zealand delegation's arrival there?

Thank you,  
R. Pui

## Franks Strikes Again

Dear Sirs,

Don Franks strikes again. Mr Griffiths of the Defence Department joins the ranks of those manipulated and exposed by Mr Franks' razor-edged intellect. These ranks are also known to house such a personage of CP007 and doubtless many other officials of the evil "capitalist-militarist power structure".

I wonder if we are going to be subjected to Don Franks' giant ego for much longer or if the editors are going to start exercising a certain selection in the articles they choose to print.

Yours etc  
A.M. Jacobson



## The University is Not Perfect

Dear Sirs,

How trying it must be for you to be a part of the institutional network of a modern university set up to perpetuate the existing economic and social order. One wonders what kind of mental contortions your poor editorial writers must suffer or compulsive institutional recidivists. Or did Mr Steele on some occasion actually lead the procession to the registry to demand his fees back?

Perhaps the basic fallacy in Mr Steele's disjointed search for truth is the belief that disciplined study at a university of the type he so willingly associates with, serves primarily or solely to stifle creativity and to adapt students to their future roles in "the system".

Maybe Mr Steele has a conception of an ideal society in which the kinds of skills and abilities that are taught in New Zealand universities are no longer necessary.

Devoid of grubby accountants (and for Professor Philpott's benefit, of economists) and untainted by medical practitioners, dentists, architects, engineers, veterinary scientists, graduate school teachers, and people stifled

through their exposure to political scientists, historians, and scholars of literature, our society will flower with adventurous creativity. "Typical conservative bullshit", snorts Mr Steele in reply. Or is it? Possibly. In Mr Steele's University of Utopia his lecturers will be challenging orators, teaching with honesty, clarity, and vigour the range of topics which Mr Steele might approve - and genuinely inspiring students to seek the truth, whatever that may be, and to question without fear the foundations of Mr Steele's ideal society.

In the meantime, however, we must stoically bear the fact that the teaching staff are a bunch of mortals with certain particular skills and a reasonable range of normal human foibles.

Could it be that the ultimate villain is neither, as Mr Steele might imagine, the misguided search for truth nor the economic structure of society?

The ultimate villain may very well be that chasm that seems to divide practically every statement of moral ideals from the implementation of those ideals.

Mr Steele hopes that students will "at least question some of the more glaring illusions about the university". One might hope that in their questioning they will be able to distinguish as Mr Steele clearly cannot, between a statement of fact and an expression of an ideal.

It may be that our universities are not particularly skilled at seeking or teaching "the truth", but that ought not to stop either Professor Philpott or anyone else from suggesting that the search for knowledge ("truth" if you prefer) and the transmission of knowledge are proper or even central roles of a university.

I can conceive of student beliefs but not of student experiences which might, to use your rather odd expression, "repudiate these claims". It is, when all is said and done, rather ironic that many of those students in the United States who urged the destruction of their institutions were frequently the first to desperately seek readmission when they were (under compulsion) invited to leave.

How, Mr Steele, do you justify your continued association with the university if, as an institution it is as stifling as you suggest and if, in the final analysis, it is simply serving interests which are unacceptable to you? Or is it, after all, that you are a dedicated social democrat who believes that the institution is amenable to reform from within, or perhaps that you are a faithful Thomist persuaded that in the end, reason and justice will prevail?

I for one am not unduly unhappy with the ways in which our universities have developed and changed over the last decade. Imperfect they may still or always be. But to opt out simply because they fail to perfectly embody their own or a Salient editor's ideals would be romantic idealism at its least helpful.

Lindsay G. Wright.  
(Research Officer, Association of University Teachers).



## Shame on Singaporeans

Editor  
Salient.

Dear Sir,

For too many years now Singaporeans have been hanging on to Malaysians to organise things for them.

It's about time they learnt to be independent and took over MSSA. As it is, they are dividing Malaysians by forcing them unnecessarily into two associations.

Come on, crew cut parasites, don't you know how to mind your affairs?

Sincerely Yours,  
Charlie Chan,  
MALAYSIAN WONDER.



## Big Brother Wilson

Dear Editors,

It reassures me no end that Big Brother Wilson is going to be more vigilant over the job of ensuring that we are not exposed to the outer world (i.e. "sexism, racism or commercialism"). I'm sure that friend Peter will now have a clear conscience and will be able to devote more nightly hours to sleeping than worrying about his subjects being taken advantage of by someone handing out free cigarettes.

If, in the future, anyone sees a "long hair" in a gestapo uniform (with rifle etc.), standing at the cafe door, they can rest assured that Wilson is on the job and can allay any fears of being approached by either a sexist, racist or commercialist.

I am etc.,  
D.H. Sullivan.

# Money... when you haven't got much of it how you handle it counts



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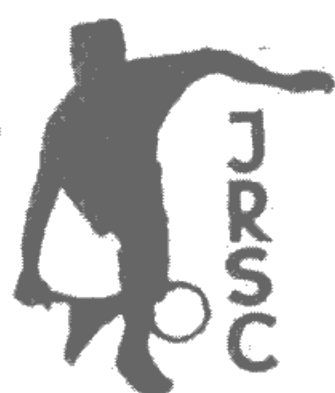
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295-299 Willis Street, Wellington. Opposite Dental School) Hours: - 7 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., 8 days a week.

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(BE A MANGLE)



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# LETTERS contd.

## Catholics and Abortions

Dear Sir,  
As Catholics have been quite rightly mentioned in the 'Salient' as being prominent in the extensive opposition to abortion, I would like to point out some reasons for this opposition.

First, there is the high value Catholics put on the dignity of the human person. In this context we see that a person gains fulfilment not only through using the good things in life, but also through struggling against difficulties, through facing up to obligations and the crises of life. We all know that the human person has a dignity which raises her or him out of the realm of merely seeking and enjoying a comfortable life. A person is meant for greatness. And pain and trouble often provide the opportunity for the heroic. Catholics support opposition to the degrading 'easy way out' of inconvenience or obligation.

Second, we realize that man knows the nature of the human person. Because a person is of such a kind certain actions are violations of her/his human dignity while other actions emphasise this dignity. Talk about one person being unjust to another illustrates this. Because we know what we are we realize that we have rights. But we also have obligations to ourselves and others. Catholics join with the many others in saying that foeticide violates our own humanity and the (at least) potential human person in the womb.

Finally Catholics oppose the view that in this age mankind has grown-up, that the human race is nearing the peak of perfection. The examples of South African Apartheid and American involvement in Vietnam etc. show that technological advancement is quite different from moral advancement. Mankind is more clever now, not more good. So men still make wrong moral decisions. The human person always remains weak but potentially great.

With these considerations, plus the fact that the scientific and social factors of the abortion question weigh heavily in our favour, Catholics feel honoured to participate in what is the most rational and humane stand concerning abortion.

Yours,  
Tony Brown



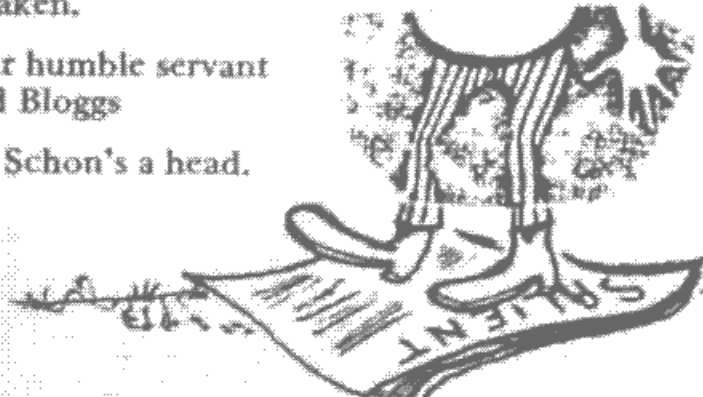
## We Want Fat Freddy

Dear Sir,  
I am disturbed; (even more so than usual) at the lack of episodes of your friend and mine; Fat Freddy, from the pages of Salient. Many other students echo this complaint with despair at each oncoming week and agree that 'Fat Freddy' (universally regarded as a folk lore) is symbolic of many aspects of this institute and will support me in demanding the return of our friend to each edition of Salient.

I request, on behalf of most free thinking students that we see more of 'Fat Freddy' in future Salients or further action in the form of petitions, picketing or wholesale slaughter will be taken.

Your humble servant  
Fred Bloggs

P.S. Schon's a head.



## Solidarity with H.T. Lee

Dear Editors,  
Enclosed here is \$17 for Mr H.T. Lee. We would like to express our moral support to Mr Lee whom we learned is in financial difficulty. This is to show our admiration of his consistent efforts in the anti-apartheid movement etc.

Overseas Students.

[We understand that a number of other donations from overseas students have been received, as a tribute to his activities in New Zealand - Eds]

## Strength in Christ

Dear Sir,  
I would like to comment in answer to the published letter "Effusion of Christian Smut" (14/3/73) written by Brent Ellis. Although I am not a V.U.W. student, I hope a technician's retort may be published.

Brent should remember that a Christian is "a follower of Christ" which can be interpreted as "a learner from Christ" and admit that we do not yet understand all things. We accept some statements on face value. I bet that when your teacher first taught you 2+2=4 you learned this without getting down on the floor by yourself to prove it. Time will show proof (or otherwise) of the Dogma. Have you a better code to live by?

Who the hell uses Christianity as a yardstick? - Millions - come and join us! How otherwise can you learn the strength coming from a cleared conscience and a true aim in life.

I've found strength in Christ. I have been working for V.U.W. for 6 years and during this time have had a wife attempt suicide twice

(success on second time) brought up two adopted Maori kids with some success and am still learning of true life. I think a lot of V.U.W. students are failing to see their danger in rejecting the Christian Faith.

(I dropped out of Psychology 1 after six months).

Fred Lane  
Psychology Technician  
(part-time)



had plenty of Salients at hand according to her statement.

## Another contribution we wouldn't print

Sirs,  
In the March 14 issue of Salient you boast about the amount of copy of mine you have rejected (Page 12). However, you failed to volunteer any more information on the matter, so I thought I would fill in a few details for your readers.

It is not just the copy I have submitted to you which has been rejected; everything Young Socialists Club members have submitted to you for publication this year has been rejected. The total now comes to four articles - one for each issue of Salient which has been published this year.

Did you reject these articles on the grounds of length, or on the grounds that you had too much copy for each issue? No, you made it clear that you rejected everyone of them on the grounds of its content.

Did you allow us to reply to an unsigned article which attacked YS Club in your March 7 issue? No, you told us that our reply was 'lies'.

Do you believe in the right of all groups on campus to explain their views through the pages of Salient? It appears not. In fact you showed your real colours when you declared 'there is no room' for articles of mine in Salient (March 14).

Apparently YS Club members are not the only ones who have been sickened by your demagoguery. The recent rash of letters which have appeared in your Letters Column indicate that other students are also beginning to see through your 'radical' posturing. This is not surprising. Students are not slow to identify and condemn any anti-democratic action by their 'leaders'.

After all, this issue really reduces itself to one of democratic rights. YS Club is not demanding that you give up your political ideas (whatever they really are); it is not demanding that Salient become a mouth-piece for the politics of YS Club. It is raising a very simple demand: that YS Club members be given the same right as others to explain their ideas to students through the pages of Salient. Up to now you have consciously denied us that right but from now on it might be advisable if you start extending this right to us.

Peter Rotherham,  
Co-ordinator,  
Wellington Young Socialists.

(Mr Rotherham fails to explain where he derived the notion of his right to space in Salient. Editors of Salient are appointed on the understanding that they have complete discretion as to what they publish. If students want a paper that is edited rather than collated they have to expect that some copy will be rejected on the grounds of its content. Mr Rotherham's contributions were like political advertisements and were full of factual errors. We would be happy to point these errors out at any public meeting, but we do not want a long haggling debate in Salient - Eds.)

## A Bloody Minded Reply to Felicity Tuohy

Dear Sir,  
I bleed for Felicity Tuohy and her predicament in the cop shop but feel she has done the sisterhood little good by her inept use of woman's greatest weapon, the period.

Of course the curse arrived at a moment of stress - it always does. Wise sisters count the days; if the timing's out for a big occasion a sympathetic doctor can fix things with a few mild hormones. Real irregularity can disappear with a few months' course of the Pill.

Use the material at hand if caught out. A wadded handkerchief is first choice; a pad of toilet paper or newspaper the second - Russian women used newspaper for years and Felicity

battle and doing more harm than good".

By the end of the Civil War there were incredibly harsh conditions of starvation etc. throughout Russia. The peasants in particular felt aggrieved because for more than 3 years they had been forced to supply food to the towns for little or no return. The situation at Kronstadt, where food speculation was rife, reflected the tremendous discontent throughout the country, and the desire for a free market in food.

A free market was introduced under the New Economic Policy in 1924. Trotsky in fact advocated the idea a year before Lenin did, and had his view prevailed earlier the discontent that gave rise to the uprising would largely have been dissipated.

G. Rua falsely imputes a direct personal responsibility to Trotsky for the suppression of the uprising. Certainly as a member of the Bolshevik Government he accepted his share of the political responsibility, saying that though the New Economic Policy should have been implemented earlier that did not mean that the revolution should cut its own throat to atone for it.

Had the Bolsheviks failed to storm Kronstadt while the sea remained frozen, the naval forces of the capitalist states would undoubtedly have intervened and seized a position of immense strategic value. However in the administrative sense Trotsky bore no responsibility for suppressing the uprising. All counterinsurgent action was directed by Dzerzhinsky, the head of the Cheka.

G. Rua talks naively about the anarchist Makhno. For all his 'successes' against the White armies Makhno was unable to defeat the Red Army because the well-to-do Kulaks who supported him failed to gain the support of either the workers or the poor peasants. Why is G. Rua so reticent about Makhno's blatant anti-semitism. His atrocities against Jews require some explanation.

For further information to refute anarchist accounts of Kronstadt, Makhno etc. write to the Marxist Labour Group, P.O. Box 3906, Wellington.

Yours fraternally,  
Hector MacNeill

(Abridged - Eds)

## Poor Bloody Cat



Dear Sir,  
Please let me convey, through your column, my deepest disgust at David Crayford's letter of "chunderous froth". He has outrageous concern for what Jellimeat smells and looks like all over his sterile kitchen walls, but not the least concern for his poor bloody cat, who has to eat such processed, garbary non-food. (Jellimeat is 80% moisture - see details on can). For Christ sake what kind of values do students have, when they worry about walls more than cats!

Yours with an angry hiss,  
Ms Diane Hooper

## Money in the Bank

The Editors,  
Just wanted to congratulate the unnamed author of the 'Right Hand Column' for coming through with a solution to the appalling lack of inane chit-chat in 'Salient'.

I must admit though, that I prefer to wank with my left.

Yours etc.  
Tom Manning

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# René Magritte

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Pan/Ballantine Books: \$3.95.

This is another amazing book which has recently become available at the University Book Centre. Magritte, a Belgian Surrealist who died in 1967, was a painter of revelations. Before he died, he created the most astonishing visual dialectic of our time.

