

SALIENT

Victoria University Student Newspaper

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Trade Mission Picket

LEFT: Photo shows a scene from Monday night's picket outside the James Cook Hotel, where the visiting Portuguese Trade Mission were guests. The crowd of over one hundred suffered only one arrest on a matter unconnected with the demonstration. The Mission which left for Auckland today (Wednesday) is here to promote trade with New Zealand, needed to subsidize its government's military expenditure in Africa, over 50% of its annual budget. The flag is that of the MPLA, (People's Movement for Liberation of Mozambique) - one of the African independence movements the Portuguese are trying to suppress. Yesterday (Tuesday, September 25) was the ninth anniversary of the launching of armed struggle for liberation in Mozambique, observed as a day of international protest against Portuguese colonial wars in Africa.

Duplicity in High Places Revealed by the Ghost of Omega

by Roger Steele

The adage about the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing sometimes even applies to our adroit Prime Minister, Norman Kirk, particularly when his right hand is being manipulated by Uncle Sam. Norm was caught unawares a while ago when the US State Department let it slip that they were expecting him to visit the US in the near future. Anxious to look as though he was deigning to visit and not just being pulled there by his puppet-strings, Norm put on quite a show of annoyance.

Now he's likely to be embarrassed again, if a report in the Otago Daily Times of September 15 is accurate. And if it is it should also rekindle a debate that fired up many New Zealanders a few years ago - the Omega debate. The report quotes from an interview with the US Navy Secretary, Mr John Warner, on the Navy and related topics. Omega is one of them. "Mr Warner said the Omega Navigational system was not an essential part of US Naval operations in the Pacific," runs the report. "A station in the South Island of New Zealand which was keyed into this system was closed some months ago...."

In Salient March 14 we reprinted a correspondence between Mr Kirk and Owen Wilkes, Chairman of the Committee Against Foreign Military Activities in New Zealand (CAFMANZ). Mr Kirk declared "US military detachments operate in New Zealand on the basis of intergovernmental agreement and other formal written approval. As you know some of these exchanges were publicised while others dealing with the administrative matters or containing classified information remain confidential to the two parties...."

In the event that both the Navy Secretary knew what he was talking about and that the NZPA got it down right, Mr

Warner has certainly let the cat out of the bag as far as Norm and that other apologist for US Imperialism, Keith Holyoake are concerned.

It was Holyoake who mishandled the Omega debate from the outset in 1968, when it was announced that the US Navy planned to build in the Southern Alps

an Omega very low frequency (VLF) radio navigation transmitter. This transmitter, in connection with only seven others, gives a world wide coverage. This is very useful if you happen to have submarines armed with Polaris missiles busy roaming the world, with the Omega system they don't even have to surface to as-

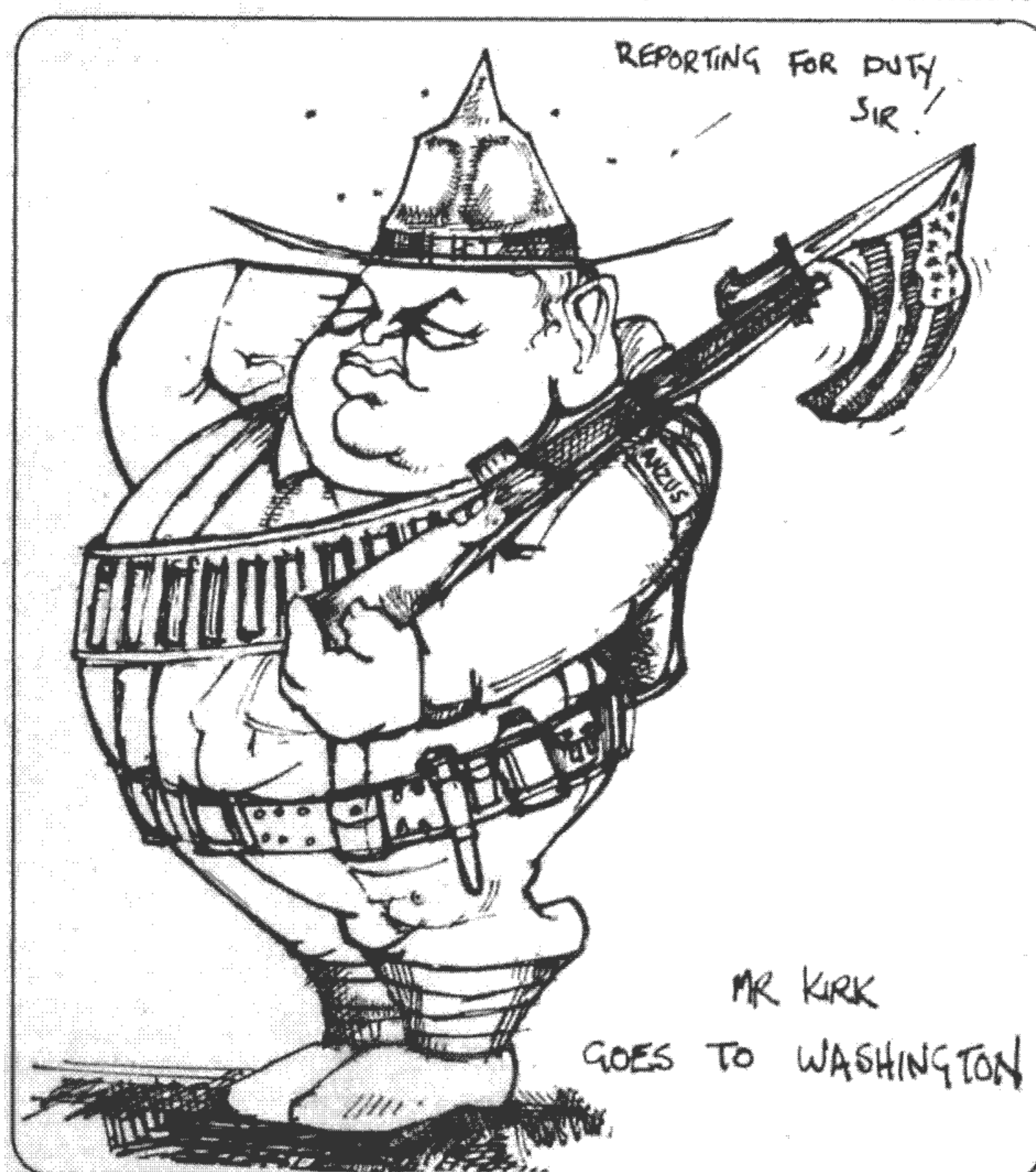
certain their position. With characteristic disregard for people's credulity, "Kiwi" Keith and his Yankee mates tried to pretend that the Omega system was mainly used by fishing boats.

After a national outcry in June and July 1968, and after numerous physicists had discounted the fishing boat explanation and confirmed the Omega's military use, the then Prime Minister claimed that the outcry came from "the twilight world of science fiction and political mumbo jumbo."

Credulity was further bent when the government attempted to play down an objective report by the Royal Society on the Omega system. The Department of External Affairs circulated to the media a very biased summary of the report with the covering note "draw on it freely, but it is not for attribution".

After various investigations by NZ and US military and political personnel, it was eventually announced in 1971 that the Omega station would not be built in NZ after all. It later transpired that the US made this decision in 1969, but Holyoake despite repeated requests never let on that he knew anything about it. Perhaps he didn't - the final announcement about the siting of Omega actually came from Australia.

Now with this latest revelation from the US Navy Secretary, it is rather confusing to try and work out when, if ever, the truth has been told, and to work out the actual history of the Omega nuclear warfare subsystem in New Zealand. Only two things are clear. First; that we have never been told the full story by our politicians, National or Labour, and second; that the only people with all the facts up their sleeves are the Americans, who reveal things to us poor, dumb Kiwis when it pleases them.





Exams - A smokescreen for inequality

by Graeme Clarke (VUWSA Education Officer)

It's the exam time of year again. Many students are in the process of twisting and warping their brains by indulging in the practice of cramming. And what for? It is all to get that little scrap of paper which tells an employer you have made the grade.

The degree awarded after successful completion of studies is meant to be proof that a person has acquired a certain level of proficiency in a field of study. Underlying the success of a student in any given field is the assumption that the degree of success obtained is a reflection of the student native intelligence. Thus, in a society where jobs are stratified into hierarchies of complexity, success at school and university ensures the student of a complex top job. As well as this, when he leaves university, the student who succeeds will get more status and material rewards than the failure will get. The failures in the great education gamble get low level jobs in the hierarchy and are subject to the authority of the successes.

The tables show that between universities and between years in the same university, there is considerable variation in pass rates. This means that either there is a corresponding variation between years and between universities in intellectual ability, or that the degree does not accurately specify levels of

intelligence between students who have not studied the same courses in the same university in the same year. It is unlikely that IQ varies so much that in VUW's Accountancy Department pass rates for stage three could change by 25% in one year. Employers hire graduates on the basis of their degree. If the preceding reasoning is correct then it is unimportant for that degree to reflect accurately either ability in a field of study, or IQ. This being correct, what determines the pass fail rate, and why is it necessary to have exams?

Beyond the Students' Control

Does something external to the student govern the pass rate fluctuations? One possibility is that the demands of employers for graduates affects pass rates. At VUW this could be done through the Business Studies Advisory Committee and the Careers Advisory Committee where company directors are heavily represented. The other possibility is that students pass or fail according to the needs of the department. If a department wants few graduates to enhance a reputation for producing quality, pass rates may be low. Or, if a department wants lots of students in order to boost staff numbers or research capability, pass rates may be high.

If these are some of the reasons which govern success or failure in the university, why bother

to have exams at all? The answer is that they claim to be objective measures of a persons ability. And it is important that a person who passes must believe he passed because he is superior, and that the failure recognise his inadequacy.

Privilege in Society

The exam rigmarole which students suffer is no more than an elaborate smokescreen to hide the perpetuation of privilege in society.

A look at who goes to university confirms this statement. There is a disproportionate representation of the middle classes at the university. For example, only 5% of university students in 1969 had parents who held semi-skilled or unskilled jobs. Yet this category comprises about 40% of the labour force.

Success in education is determined not by the intellectual ability necessary to pass exams, but primarily by ones class background.

The person who works low down the hierarchy of jobs is primarily required to follow orders. He transfers this to his family life. The family is also run in an authoritarian manner with the breadwinner being the oppressor. The children of ordinary workers grow up in their first five years learning to behave according to the rules laid down from above. Schools are also forced by and large to treat working class children in the same way. This is what the children themselves expect.

The middle class family operates differently. The breadwinner is high up the job hierarchy. He generates the orders which achieve the organisations goals. The middle class man is able to generate the correct orders and behave in the correct manner because he has internalised the norms of the firm.

Rewards for Conformists

This situation is transferred into the family. By subtle pressures the child is trained to adopt the norms of behaviour the parent requires, and thereby regulate its own behaviour without constant recourse to rules and discipline.

At school, the middle class child finds its own family conditions reproduced. Our education system values and rewards this ability to conform to certain norms of behaviour and to internalise them while retaining flexibility and critical reflection within those norms. Obviously the children of the middle class have a head start in the exam stakes. It is hardly surprising that the kids with all the advantages succeed.

Many university departments state quite openly that they reward those who internalise the departments norms. For example, the Sociology Department's list of criteria for marking some essays at 101 level was the following: "Marks will be awarded for identifying what the question requires, then providing it." This approach requires the internalisation of the assumptions of the questions. Within that framework, 'independent' thought was also rewarded.

Thus, exams are not really important, as the level of IQ is not an important requirement

for being a success in the economy. The important ability that is required to be a success is a class characteristic learned in the home. One of the major function of education and examinations in this society is to obscure this fact and throw a smokescreen around the inequalities of status and reward that are perpetuated in our society. Ability is not of major importance in determining the success of the individual, jobs need not be hierarchical and rewards unequal. You suffer exams to help hide these facts.

(Source: Vice-Chancellor's Committee, "Statistics of University Student Performance", 1972)
Pass rates in selected subjects at New Zealand Universities, 1970

Year	Subject	Highest	Lowest
1	Accountancy	62.6	37.0
2		70.2	65.8
3		74.1	63.9
1	Economics	70.0	37.1
2		77.3	41.9
3		100	54.5
1	Education	79.2	67.5
2		88.4	65.5
3		96.4	76.1
1	English	78.7	57.1
2		83.1	71.2
3		93.8	80.0
1	Geography	88.8	66.4
2		90.4	76.5
3		93.8	80.0
1	History	82.9	56.0
2		89.4	70.0
3		100	80.6
1	French	82.3	60.0
2		88.6	54.1
3		92.9	73.3
1	Psychology	89.3	53.2
2		90.4	40.0
3		96.8	59.4
1	Chemistry	74.2	54.7
2		79.6	64.9
3		93.8	68.3
1	Physics	72.3	50.7
2		73.9	52.6
3		100	43.7
1	Pure Maths	70.3	49.9
2		74.6	56.5
3		75.3	65.7
1	Zoo/biology	89.9	52.1
2		100	67.6
3		95.9	78.9

(Source: Vice-Chancellor's Committee, "Statistics of University Student Performance", 1972)

Shifts in Pass Rates Greater than 15%, at New Zealand Universities

		1969		1970		Pass Rate Diff.
		Enrol	Pass	Enrol	Pass	
Accountancy I	Auckland	(377)	28.1	(456)	56.1	28.0%
Accountancy III	Victoria	(113)	49.6	(108)	74.1	24.5%
Economics II	Otago	(72)	77.8	(81)	45.7	32.1%
Geography III	Auckland	(56)	73.2	(73)	90.4	17.2%
History I	Waikato	(103)	33.0	(109)	56.0	23.0%
History III	Canterbury	(85)	75.3	(75)	93.3	19.8%
History I	Otago	(253)	91.7	(310)	76.1	15.6%
French II	Auckland	(104)	76.0	(115)	54.1	21.9%
French III	Canterbury	(19)	100	(25)	76.0	24.0%
French II	Otago	(39)	89.7	(44)	72.7	17.0%
Psych I	Victoria	(196)	69.9	(201)	53.2	16.7%
Psych II	Otago	(14)	42.9	(20)	70.0	27.1%
Psych III	Victoria	(26)	84.6	(32)	59.4	25.2%
Psych III	Otago	(7)	100	(4)	75.0	25.0%
Chemistry I	Lincoln	(118)	53.4	(125)	68.8	15.4%
Chemistry III	Otago	(22)	77.3	(26)	92.3	15.0%
Physics III	Victoria	(12)	66.7	(13)	84.6	17.9%
Physics II	Canterbury	(57)	50.8	(69)	73.9	23.1%
Physics III	Canterbury	(15)	93.3	(13)	69.2	24.1%
Maths I	Waikato	(29)	48.3	(108)	68.8	20.5%
Maths III	Victoria	(97)	48.4	(85)	75.3	26.9%

Right-wing crash in MSA elections

by Peter Franks

The political struggle among Malaysian students on campus reached a high point on Saturday when right-wing forces were decisively defeated in an attempt to regain control over the Malaysian Students' Association (MSA).

The Annual General Meeting of MSA was one of the liveliest and most chaotic meetings on campus this year. The lights were switched on and off, paper darts of meeting papers were thrown round the room and frequent booings and procedural wrangles interrupted the debates. But underneath the childish atmosphere in intensive political battle was fought out as the retiring president of MSA, Steven Oh was forced by the right-wingers to defend almost all his executive's actions over the last year.

MSA was set up four years ago as a breakaway group from the Malaysia-Singapore Students' Association. As Krishna Menon shows in an article in this issue there is a lot of evidence that this move was the result of pressure from the Malaysian High Commission, aimed at strengthening the links between the High Commission and Malaysian students.

For most of its existence MSA has been controlled by right-wing Malaysian students who have tried to get all other Malaysian students to join it. Because ordinary membership of MSA has been restricted to Malaysians the association has not been affiliated to VUWSA.

Last year MSA moved slightly away from the right with the election of Steven Oh and his supporters to the association's committee. Stephen Oh showed that his frequent statements that MSA was an independent body were more than phrase-mongering when he criticised the Malaysian High Commissioner's allegations about "communist subversion" of Malaysian students in New Zealand.

In his presidential report to the AGM Steven Oh repeated this criticism and stated bluntly that "the sincerity of the Alliance Party (which governs Malaysia) can be manifested only by its willingness to listen to the Malaysian people and not to just its supporters." The right-wingers questioned him closely about these remarks. What was wrong with the High Commissioner telling students not to take part in communist activities, asked Michael Lim, a former president of MSA. The High Commissioner didn't attack MSA, said Thomas Iboh, one of the leaders of the right-wing group standing for the MSA committee and a former secretary of the association. "All he did was to express his concern."

Steven Oh stood his ground and refused to let his opponents force him to take an anti-government position. He repeated time and again that he was concerned about the High Commissioner attempting to infringe students' rights

of free speech and action. The majority of students present strongly supported this stand. They rejected an attempt by Thomas Iboh to water down the criticism of De Silva and howled down another member who claimed that the High Commission was the guardian of Malaysian students.

One of the most surprising decisions of the meeting came during discussion of the association's finances. A motion to donate \$200 to the Vietnam Aid Appeal was carried with overwhelming support despite Thomas Iboh's cry that it meant giving money to the 'Viet Cong'. A furious debate about constitutional law followed when Michael Lim attempted to make the resolution binding on the incoming committee.

The question of the association's links with the High Commission was again brought up during the discussion on finance, when right-wingers attacked the committee for receiving assistance from High Commission staff in the preparations for MSA's recent ball. Steven Oh admitted that the High Commissioner had donated \$100 to pay for the band and that members of the High Commission staff had helped with the cooking. Replying to Michael Lim's claim that it wasn't proper for the association to censure the High Commission after asking for its help, and another suggestion that the MSA Ball should have been called the High Commission Ball, Steven Oh said the High Commission staff had acted as individuals not as representatives of the Malaysian Government.

Although the right-wingers dominated most of the meeting they lost heavily in the elections for the MSA committee. A group of independents, supported by Steven Oh, were elected to every position they stood for, and only three candidates on the right-wing ticket were successful (they were elected unopposed). In the election for president Ken Lim got 121 votes (60% of the members present) to David Cheung's 53 (about 25%). Ken Lim promised that MSA would resist political interference from the High Commission (or anyone else), that it would not try to dissolve MSSA, and that it would immediately seek affiliation to VUWSA. To this end the meeting amended the MSA Constitution to remove a clause which discriminated against non-Malaysian members.

When the Malaysian High Commissioner made his outburst about "communist subversion" of Malaysian students in New Zealand he no doubt expected that he would frighten the majority of them into obediently toeing their government's line. It is ironic that the aftermath of the controversy De Silva created should see the liberals firmly in control of both MSA and MSSA.

Salient Notes

This issue of Salient is dedicated to Colin Chin, Garry Mead, Brian Farrington and the workers of Wanganui Newspapers, the unsung heroes of this paper. Colin is the treasurer of the VUWSA Publications Board, and is the man who metes out our wages at the munificent rate of ten cents an hour. He also pays the printers bills, at a somewhat higher rate. Garry is the boss of Wanganui Newspapers and Brian is the production manager. Why did we choose this issue to dedicate to them? Because we've had to chop the size down from the usual 20 pages to 16. Colin says so because we've overspent our budgeted page allocation, and Wanganui strongly hints so because of holdups at the paper mill and because of the international paper shortage. Thus while our dedication is largely sincere, as those men (despite their ideological persuasions) do a great job for us, it is also tinged with regret.

As you've probably guessed, there's a political lesson to be gained from the paper shortage. It's all an international monopoly capitalist plot, and we kid you not. The Bowater Corporation has a virtual monopoly on newsprint sales in NZ and they've declared that there will be a shortage of newsprint for at least ten years. If you prefer to believe that they're just waiting for the trees to grow, fair enough, but when we're told that we'll have to pay \$50 extra per ton and we've got no choice we get a little bit cynical. If the shortage gets worse and Salient starts appearing printed on dry-cleaned second-hand toilet paper, you'll know that the capitalists have decided to give the chop to us rather than the trees.

As the sparrows twittered gaily in the university graveyard at 6 a.m. on Tuesday morning Salient editors Steele and Franks, with their trusty comrade-in-arms Ted Sheehan, were speeding up the island to the New Zealand Insurance Company's AGM in Auckland. In next week's issue you can read the tale of their attempts to subvert NZI's indulgences in South Africa. Behind them they left Neil Pearce, Bruce Robinson, Claire Smith, David Tripe, Stephen Hall, Wong Ahfo, Jonathan Hughes, Helen Pankhurst, Kathy Baxter, Grub, Gordon Clifton, Lloyd Weeber, Tony Ward, Les Atkins and Les Slater putting the final touches on the penultimate issue of Salient. Next week is your last chance to get your words in print in Salient this year. So send in your letters and articles by the end of the week. We'll print all that fits.



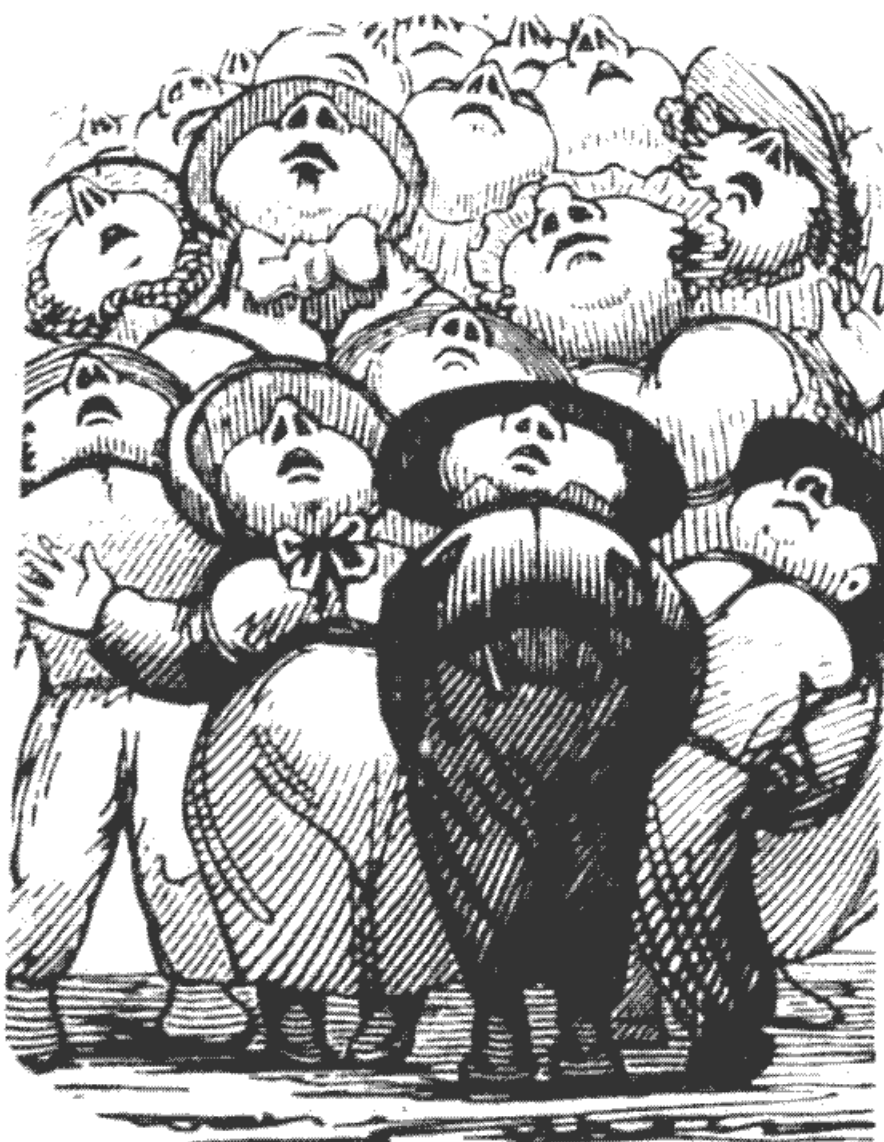
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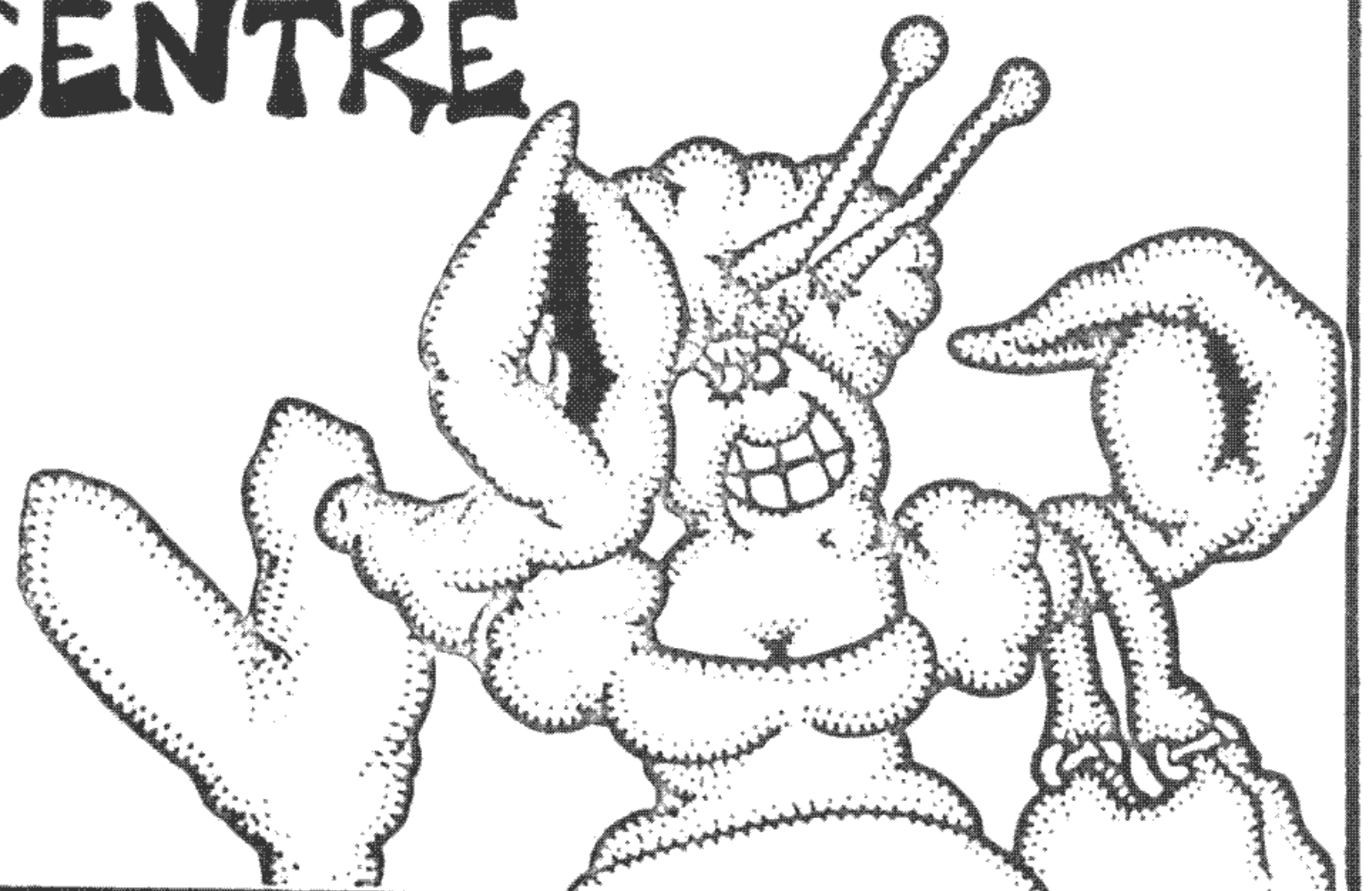


ONE OLD OXFORD
OX
COLOURING
BOOK



JUST
ARRIVED
AT
THE

UNIVERSITY
BOOK
CENTRE



And now for a new Aro Street...

by Stephen Hall

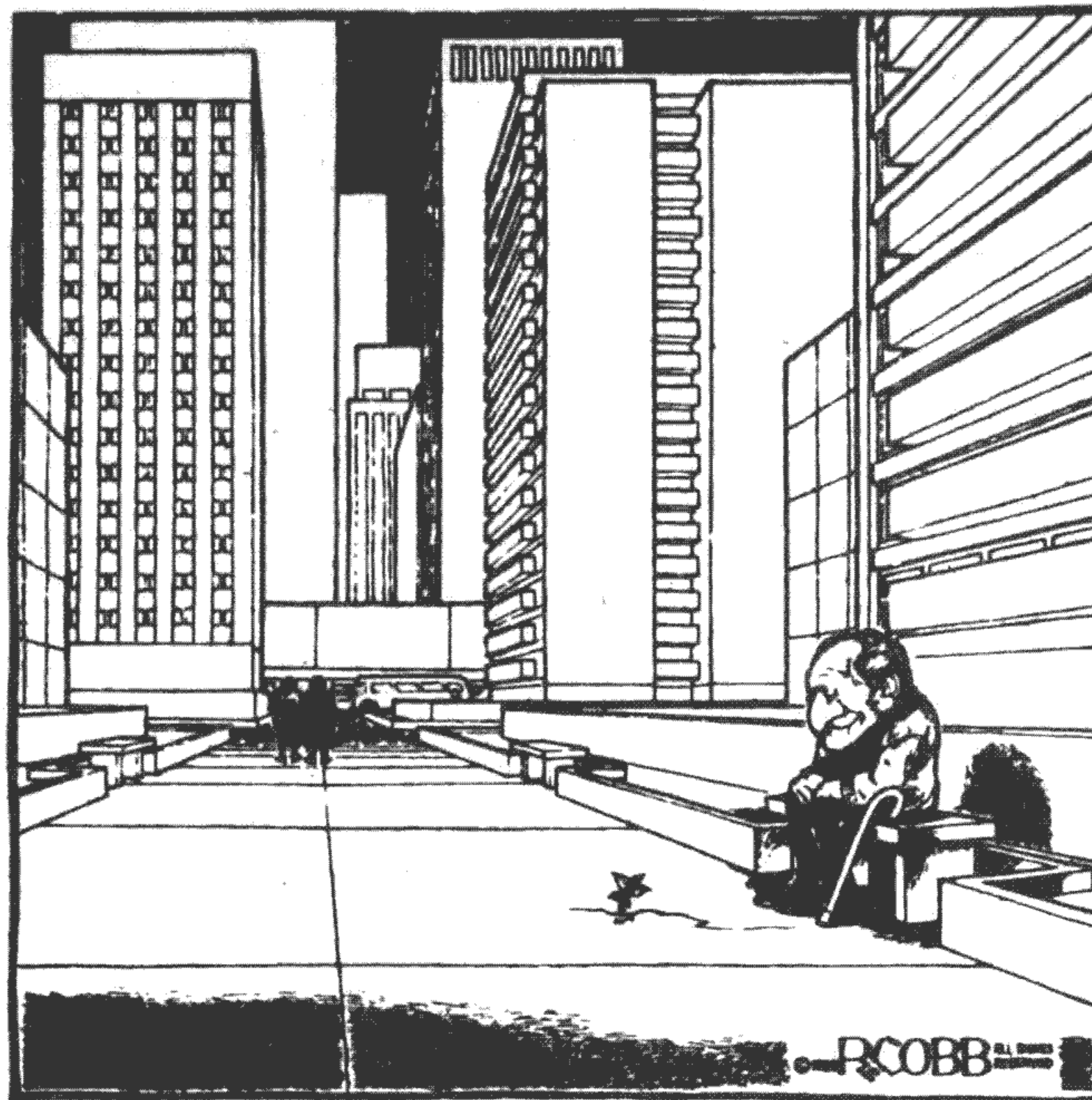
The aesthetics of Aro Street are to be improved by an urban renewal scheme. Re-development is the name of most of the game. The Wellington City Council will build council flats and other areas will be destroyed and rebuilt by private developers. Properties will be bought under compulsion, leases amalgamated and then sold to private developers.

The Council wants to alleviate the housing shortage "by injecting an increasing supply of housing into the area" and also wants to decrease substandard housing in the area.

Some residents, realising the implications of this plan recently organised two meetings on the issue. The first meeting included an outline of the plan by the town planning section. It became clear during the meeting that the council wants to develop an area of high density housing. Up to 10 storey blocks are envisaged in some areas. An interesting comment by one planner was that in high rise buildings young married couples don't "require living close to the ground as others do." It seems that the prime factor is cramming as many people as possible into as small a space as possible (at 80 people to an acre).

The project is to consist primarily of private development for private ownership. Private development is not for flats. In 20 years if you want to flat in Aro Street you will have the choice of a council flat or a council flat.

At the first meeting the council neatly sidestepped questions on private development which will upgrade the area out of the price range of most of the present residents. At no time did the council consider that pressure on landlords to improve their neglected premises could upgrade the area.



Also involved is the process that the council calls "relocation" of residents. When Cr Porter talks of the ease of "relocation" and one remembers the motorway destruction, one wonders just how easy it will be.

The council is not totally insensitive

however. At the first meeting it was stated that local residents could upgrade their own homes but no priority would be given to them. At the second meeting, held last Monday night, Cr Shand stated that such residents would now be given priority. This meeting involved a more

detailed explanation of the scheme, including a slide-show of the exteriors of Aro Street and the interiors of beautifully furnished council flats - which incidentally are let unfurnished.

The total plan, involving a little mentioned motorway feed-on will drastically affect the area. How sure is the council that the residents want to live in council blockhouses, divided into single blocks, blocks for married couples and blocks for the elderly? Admittedly the housing in the area needs improvement. The improvement can start right now if the council enforces its housing regulations.

Objections to the scheme can be made and legal help is available at 48 Aro Street on Tuesdays from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. The council has been surprised by public interest in their plans. They should be further surprised by the residents uniting to actively voice their views on the future of their area.

- *****
- 1) Copies of the plans are available at:
 - Central Public Library (ask in the NZ Room, Room 6, upstairs)
 - Brooklyn Branch Library
 - Room 8, 6th floor, Municipal Office Building (behind Town Hall). Use the Wakefield Street entrance and take the lift.
 - 2) You have till 4pm Wednesday October 24 to register your objection to the proposed plans.
 - 3) Sometime after October 24 the City Council will publish (in the "Public Notices" of the Evening Post) a summary of the objections they have received. If you think you might want to support or oppose someone else's objection, you can inspect that summary in the City Council's offices. You will have one month from the date of the publication in the Evening Post to send in your notice of support or opposition to any of the objections already made.

Sports Council A.G.M

It looks as though the whimperings heard in the cafe and library recently about the dictatorial attitude of sports committees over grants are unfounded. At the Sports Council AGM last week almost all of the same committee were re-elected for another term to administer the allocation of the annual Sports Club grants.

Four of the largest, and most expensive sports clubs on campus didn't think the AGM was worth attending or even sending an apology to. These clubs - cricket, soccer, rugby and ski - are dominated by graduates and receive 36% of the Sports Council 1973 budget of \$5000.

Are these clubs' actions to go unnoticed or will we see some positive moves to ensure

that these clubs do not become so immersed in their own little world. Who will pop their bubble?

Back at the fray chairman Mike McKinley delivered the annual "state of the union" speech, on the past year's activities and questioning the place and activities of some so-called sports clubs on campus. But despite the moving speech not a soul offered up as much as a whisper of criticism of the past sports committee and its actions.

Just as the meeting looked as though it would lapse into oblivion, Don (I really play sport) Carson expounded his views on the equality of sportmen, and how nice it would be if we left it up to the individuals to decide how good they were, instead of writing it all down on a piece of paper and giving it to some elitist type sportsman. When the matter was put to the vote it was lost.

With little other real business left the meeting continued quietly and finally died a quiet death. Members of sports committee for 1974 are: Mike McKinley - chairman, Chris Hardie - secretary, Geof Tedd - Treasurer; Andy Wright, Marion Kolston, Warwyck Dewe and Dick Orgias.

Cafe Changes

The Union Management committee has decided that it is now able to announce the planned alterations to the catering services offered in the Union.

Nationwide will not be managing catering in 1974, and the practice of finding outside contractors will be discontinued.

The University through the Union will be taking over catering and will be employing a manager. The person appointed is understood to be highly qualified and experienced both as a chef and as an administrator.

Student representatives on the Union Management Committee understand that this is not going to guarantee an automatic increase in the quality of catering, but

believe that the path is now open to a radical reappraisal of the types of meals, hours of opening, and prices which will be changed.

David Cunningham

HANDBOOK '74

The copy deadline for the clubs section of next years Handbook is November 1. This should consist of a short description of your club, its aims, activities etc. Cultural clubs are to, under threat of determined napping by the Wai-te-ata expendables, supply also two telephone nos. of committee members resident in Wellington over Orientation and the time and place of their first meeting in term. Sports clubs are advised by Don Carson to do the same. Now is your chance to benefit from.....

Continued from previous page

presented for general (i.e. male) enjoyment, the vanity of advertising and the simple incomprehension of those men and sadly, women, for whom the whole thing is "so irrelevant".

Sunday was spent firstly in workshop discussions and finally in a wearying parade of findings, recommendations and resolutions. The fate of the latter is already presaged by the comments of our Prime Minister who, at a speech earlier this year, placed the cause of crime in the breakdown of the family - thereby placing women in the most intolerable of situations. The family is her only legitimate role, if she fails that, she fails the welfare of the whole State.

This is the thinking which led Kirk to conclude that equal pay is the greatest threat to social stability.

When informed by reporters that the United Women's Convention had unanimously urged him to appoint a special adviser on women, Kirk replied that he did not need one. After all, he has a wife. If there should be anything requiring a woman's view, he need only ask her. Undoubtedly, our other resolutions will meet an equally obtuse reaction.

No-one at the Convention expected the fight for human rights to be easy. And, as Elizabeth Reid suggested, the fight will be waged outside the "normal channels of protest" But then, as we travelled home from Auckland that weekend, we had the feeling that perhaps, together, we could do anything.

a report from the Otago Daily Times, 20/9/73, about a university with its priorities in order.....

OTAGO UNIVERSITY BUDGETARY PLANNING

Maori Studies Accorded Priority

The establishment of a Maori language course at Otago University will be a priority in the next quinquennium (five-yearly) budget, which begins in 1975, the Vice-chancellor, Dr O. H. Irvine, confirmed last night. He said that submissions for the next five-yearly budget would be sent off either this or next week, and the setting up of a course in Maori language was one of two priorities in the budget. The other priority issue was a proposal for the expansion of the practical teaching of music at the university. There is strong student support for the immediate setting up of such a course at Otago. A petition, calling for a Maori language course next year, has been signed by well over a third of the student population of 6,000, after only a week in circulation. The placing of the course as a priority on the 1975 budget was made at the recommendation of the Arts Faculty. The Dean of the Faculty, Professor Margaret Dalziel, told the June University Council meeting that Otago was the only New Zealand university not already teaching Maori or which had not prepared definite plans to do so. She had said that even if the council accepted the proposal immediately, it was unlikely that new staff could be appointed by 1975 and a course begun by 1976. The faculty recommended the appointment of two lecturers in Maori, which must be in a separate department.

CHILE: Rampages, Breadlines & the Black Market

By Bob Jones

On Tuesday September 11, the Chilean Armed Forces finally carried out the golpe blanco (white coup) that they had been constantly urged by rightist Chilean groups to do over the past few months.

In the following days the news media have been full of protest reports from all over the world; 12,000 parading in Rome; 20,000 led by the French Socialists Party in Paris; 5,000 marching in Berlin; 300,000 Peronists in Buenos Aires; the Governments of Mexico, Venezuela and surprisingly Costa Rica (the last earthly paradise) declaring three days of mourning; the predictable outbursts from Castro and fashionable mouthings from lip service revolutionaries; band wagon jumping by Whitlam and even as I write this, protestors from predictable sources stand outside the Chilean Consul's office in Wellington.

Clearly there are a lot of people unhappy in the world at the turn of events in Chile but one can only wonder if their combined sorrow outweighs the joy that I confidently feel exists in Chile with the end of the Allende nightmare administration.

When I was in Chile a few weeks ago, I observed a situation of a ghastly misery, an atmosphere of dispirited, disorganised, hopelessness.

We had flown into Santiago at five in the morning from La Paz on a Lufthansa flight and found ourselves to be the only passengers in the front cabin. The German air hostess came and sat with me and enquired if I was staying long. A couple of weeks, I replied, and she promptly handed me some soap telling me there would be none available in the hotels. (She was right — there wasn't). When I expressed surprise, she went on to explain the numerous other shortages prevailing in Chile and showed me food parcels, for Christ's sake, that she was carrying in for Lufthansa ground staff.

Now I will not endeavour to make expert judgement on Allende's Chile, nor am I qualified to do so, but I will merely report observations of my stay and draw some obvious conclusions.

Arriving at Santiago's top hotel, the Sheraton, opposite the Presidential Palace in which I had been booked for two months (the hotel not the Palace) I found my room still un-made after the previous day's occupant. A complaint to the reception desk flushed forth a maid with fresh linen who proceeded to make the beds. The peculiar greyness of the sheets caught my attention and I touched them, to find that they were not merely damp, but literally wet through. I stormed downstairs to protest and encountered a nonchalant receptionist at the desk. The manager was produced. "Sir", he said with a sadness I was to encounter often over the subsequent days, "we just don't care anymore" These were sentiments I was to hear often.

The Chilean escudo one year ago had an exchange rate to the US dollar (a currency that has weakened badly itself over the past year) of 46 to one. Today it is nearly ten times that, but from the first to the last minute of my Chilean stay I was constantly harassed by touts offering me the equivalent of ten to fifteen times the official rate. They wanted the foreign exchange to purchase essentials such as soap, medicines etc. on the huge black market in foreign commodities that has developed in the Allende era. A colour Kodak film would ordinarily cost the equivalent of \$(NZ)10. I paid in black market escudos and it cost me 50 cents, cheaper than anywhere else in the world. Needless to say not too many Chileans are taking colour photographs.

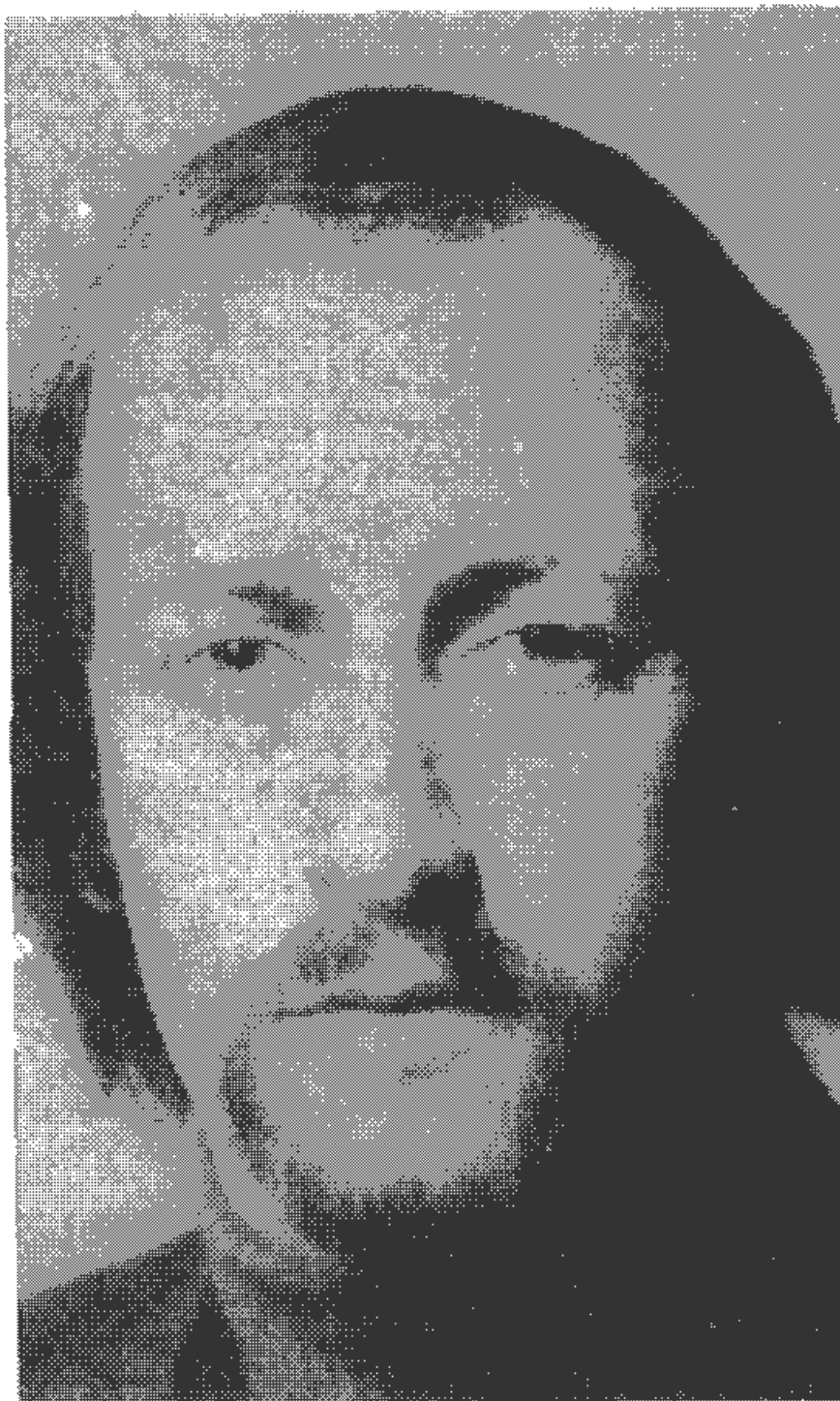
Red meat was almost totally unavailable and at a later date, snowbound in a hotel in the deep south for three days, I am fairly certain we ate cat for each meal. In this same hotel we wore overcoats and gloves for breakfast, for high up in the Andes as we were it was bitterly cold and there was no heating fuel. An American sociology post-graduate student who was a prisoner in the hotel with me and who had come to admire the brave new world (he was more than a little disenchanted at this point) fortunately spoke Spanish and was able to advise the management that we would not be paying our bill unless heating was provided. Some fresh trees were chopped down and fires lit as a result.

I saw few tourists in Chile and I suspect that the group of a half dozen people who were snowbound with me in the hotel were typical of the foreign visitors. They were all young enthusiastic socialists who had come to sympathetically inspect the Allende experiment — a French school teacher, two Puerto Ricans, one a doctor and the other a lawyer, two US sociology post graduate students and others of similar ilk. We staged an international chess tournament with New Zealand sharing the honours with Chile in the final.

Santiago was a more impressive city than I had been led to believe with fine buildings in desperate need of maintenance set against the magnificent back-drop of the Andes. There was little new construction activity, unlike most South American cities (even La Paz and Asuncion are enjoying a building boom) and the few new structures being erected were usually blocks of luxury flats being built for army personnel, presumably indicative of Allende's desperate wooing of the military which reached fever pitch in the last fortnight of his Government.

Chile is a modern, sophisticated country with

BELOW: Bob Jones



ABOVE: Presidential Palace burning after attacks by Chilean Airforce jets during the coup.

a huge urban middle class and a contrasting illiterate, impoverished peasantry. Few would dispute that a need for agrarian reform existed but the hooliganism, looting and murdering on the land that followed the formation of the Allende coalition resulted in agricultural production virtually coming to a standstill. I heard numerous stories of large well developed ranches being occupied by the peasantry, of the former owners being booted out penniless and in some instances, murdered. Then the new 'landed gentry' would cease all work and commence a diet of meat, ceasing once all the livestock was gone.

In Santiago I saw many factories that had been nationalised, both large and small. They were always easily recognisable by the run down condition of their exterior maintenance, in striking contrast with those factories which remained under their original ownership and management. The Chilean flag flew from each nationalised factory.

I tried to ascertain the formula for deciding which industries were nationalised and was told that it largely depended on the mood of the extreme militant unionists who have vigorously supported Allende throughout. Obviously this excludes certain prime target foreign-owned activities that were part of the coalition government's formal nationalisation programme. But I noticed many tiny factories that were engaged in non-vital activities carrying the flag.

I was told that the militant unionists who when I was in Santiago were rampaging across the city at will, would hear a complaint against a 'boss' and launch literally a physical attack on the factory, seize the building, chuck the bosses out and declare the factory a workers' commune. In some cases the police would intervene and hand back possession — in other cases not.

I was told that inevitably such 'captured' industries broke down and came to a standstill under worker management. I was shown many factories that had once been thriving entities but had since withered and died.

I recollect one day in Santiago when a TV channel was stormed and seized by a group of students. The police recaptured the station in a gun-fire battle. This sort of thing was occurring daily and not being publicised outside of Chile.

All of the many Chileans I spoke to asked me about emigrating to Australia or New Zealand. All felt that Allende would endeavour to serve out his term despite the fact that the country was economically slowly grinding to a halt and civil war and chaos seemed inevitable. All the people I spoke to were hoping for a military intervention but few had faith in this occurring because of Chile's firmly established democratic institutions. The fact that there was a precedent for this in 1924 when economic chaos had

threatened gave little faith to people that it would re-occur, for that was 50 years earlier. The army had staunchly maintained an independent role during Allende's reign.

Despite world criticism I am convinced that the military take-over was an action of great responsibility and patriotism by the armed forces who had remained admirably patient to date. I am also convinced that it is an action that has the support of the vast majority of Chileans.

I must be remembered that this was not the seizure of control by power-hungry Generals who had the might to back their will. It was an unselfish action by the only group in Chile which had the power to end a Government that had brought the nation to the brink of chaos and collapse. If power was their objective then they could have acted much earlier, and they have been under constant public urging to do so. Only they could have saved Chile and they have done so.

The armed forces and police have remained neutralist throughout and have carried out their normal duties. Despite any distaste for the Government that they may have had, their loyalty has been to the constitution. Some prominent military personnel have actually openly supported Allende and the way in which the armed forces have hounded the extreme right wing Fatherland and Freedom movement would give the lie to any suggestion that they were not impartial.

No doubt Allende will become a folk hero with students, left-wingers and the like outside Chile, but I doubt if he will be remembered fondly in his homeland. He was a man whose obsession with an ideology made him place communism first and Chile second. He was not big enough a man for the role he sought to play.

I find his inevitable deification in certain quarters preposterous and a bore. The suggestion that Allende be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize is outrageous. Would it have been made if he lived? The fact that it came from a female Labour MP (Ms Liv Aasen — a Norwegian parliamentarian) are three counts against it being taken seriously, but I shall await Idi Amin to a make the appropriate mocking of this proposal.

I shall be returning to Chile shortly to try its trout fishing and shall look with interest to see if the 500 yard long bread queues are still part of the daily scene. It's my bet they won't be and it's these things that count, not fairytale ideologies that should be ranked with belief in Father Christmas or Jesus in their merit.

One final irrelevant but cheerful note. Chilean women are undoubtedly the best looking in South America and present a serious challenge to the Thais and Costa Ricans for the honour of the most beautiful women in the world.

reports, we do not draw the same conclusions as Jones. We believe his conclusions typify the short-sightedness of many people in analysing events in that country. Jones makes great play of the black market, sodden bed linen and 500 yard long bread queues. But Allende fell not because his administration was incompetent or corrupt, but because the Chilean bourgeoisie, who largely retained their ownership of the means of production, were not prepared to give up their power peacefully.

While it has not gone as far as the British Government and given diplomatic recognition to the junta, the Labour Government in New Zealand seems to have quietly accepted the military regime as the legal government of Chile. Mr Kirk's comments on the coup were restricted to a few platitudes expressing the hope that social and economic progress would continue within the framework of the law.

Mr Kirk and his government seem to have a liking for illegal governments. They accept the military junta in Chile without any public protest, and they still give diplomatic recognition to the 'Mayor of Phnom Penh', Lon Nol, and his cronies while treating the only legal and truly representative government of Cambodia, that of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as a band of "communist rebels".

Is this an 'independent' foreign policy, as Kirk has frequently boasted, or is it a policy of keeping in step with Washington which has been behind conspiracies to oust both Sihanouk and Allende?

—Peter Franks & Roger Steele

AN EDITORIAL NOTE

Last week we published what we believe to be a correct analysis of the Chilean situation, by Terry Auld. The main thrust of it was that because Allende had adhered steadfastly to constitutional means of political struggle, trusted in the army and failed to lead the working class and peasants in seizing state power, the Chilean ruling class was able to deal 'a fascist blow to the head' of Allende's reformist government.

As Auld showed in his article, Allende was no Marxist. He failed to rely on the masses or to provide them with genuine leadership, and finally sold them down the drain. Ignoring the experience and advice of revolutionaries like Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tsetung and Enver Hoxha, Allende restricted his "socialist" movement solely to parliamentary struggle. In doing this he was encouraged by the Chilean "Communist" Party and its Soviet comrades. With supreme irony 'Moscow News' printed an article lauding the "prolonged democratic struggle within the framework of the existing Constitution and law" in Chile, only a few days before Allende was overthrown.

This week we print an article by financier Bob Jones, who has just returned from Chile. While we are happy to print the article because of the first hand experience it

The History behind De Silva's Threats

By Krishna Menon

Diplomats fall in the same category as public utilities like toilets and sewers. Every so often, these utilities tend to break-down and all hell breaks loose as the shit oozes out.

Malaysian students studying in NZ, it has been claimed, 'have been subverted by communist propaganda' and further 'that a foreign power' is behind it all' and that the subversive movement was 'playing on Chinese chauvinism'.

Quite often, when one reads these familiar phrases — 'foreign power', 'Communist subversion', 'national security', and so on, one tends to be very much suspicious that one is not reading the thoughts of a live human being but more so, of a dummy. The appropriate thoughts ooze out as varied sounds from the larynx, but the brain is rarely involved in the process. And it is this sort of retarded consciousness that is very much a part of political conformism.

However, the recent revelations of the Malaysian High Commissioner have taken its toll. A very real fear seems to permeate the minds of many Malaysian students at this University. Within the little huddled groups in the cafeteria, there is talk of 'surveillance' of deviant students by hacks in the pay of the High Commission; of a 'black-list', of possible repercussions when students return home to Malaysia and so on. Big Brother is watching and 1984 becomes very real.

The Malaysian High Commission has had a long history of influencing Malaysian student studying in New Zealand. A brief survey of the history of MSA/MSSA reinforces this assertion. Prior to 1963, there were two associations, the old Malayan Students Association and the Borneo Students Association. In 1964, with the coming into being of Malaysia (in 1963) by mutual agreement, both associations were dissolved and the Malaysian Students Association was formed with Singapore students being an integral part of that association. However, in 1965 Singapore became a republic with its separation from the Malaysian agreement. Consequently, in 1966, the association changed its name by resolution at an AGM to MSSA. With this act, the ground was laid for the events that followed. The first signs of intrusion by the Malaysian High Commission into this area came in June 1969 when the Director of the Malaysian Students Department of the Malaysian High Commission for Australia and New Zealand (which was at that point based in Sydney) wrote to a group of Malaysian students at Auckland university to the effect:

"I am to reiterate our advice as contained in our letter...wherein we stated that all Malaysian students are to take whatever steps necessary towards the formation of associations exclusively of Malaysians, with provisions for associate membership to non-Malaysians who are interested in Malaysian affairs."

Subsequently, at the AGM of the Auckland University MSA, the association resolved by 224 to 14 not to split into separate Malaysian and Singaporean groups as advised by the Sydney office. However, on the initiative of a group of students, MSA eventually came into being. The Sydney office responded by sending a cable of recognition which meant in fact that all Malaysian students would have to join MSA if they wished to liaise with the High Commission for any reason whatsoever (if not the private students, certainly the scholarship ones had to do so).

Interestingly, the MSA came into being despite the findings of an Investigations Committee which reported that:

"We have found that the formation of such an association as MSA would be interpreted by most Malaysian students in Auckland as a political move and would also be detrimental to the existence of the MSSA."

During the same period, it was reported in the bulletin of the National Union of Malaysian-Singaporean Students of Australia (NUMSSA) that directives had been received from the Director of the Students Department of the Malaysian High Commission in Sydney demanding the formation of the Malaysian Students Association, 'to promote national unity...in each and every state of Australia.'

The scene shifts now to Massey, where in April 1971, the Evening Standard reported:

"A senior Malaysian student said in an interview last night that he had been indirectly offered about \$1500 to start a Malaysian Students Association (MSA) at Massey University... The student said he had been told that a sum of about \$1500 was given by the Malaysian Government to a student starting a Malaysian Students Association at Canterbury University, and there was no reason why a similar thing would not happen at Massey."

The Malaysian High Commission subsequently replied by describing the allegations 'as completely groundless and preposterous.' At Victoria during the same period, the VUW Studass moved a motion which was passed among furious discussion, 'denying all its facilities to the MSA as an organisation.' The then President of the VUW Studass, to his credit, stated 'it would seem to me that the AGM did itself no honour in passing a motion proposing to refuse the MSA the rights to use any of the Union facilities. I seem to have been under the illusion that the union was to be regarded as a forum of free speech and that means anybody can say anything.' Subsequently, the motion was rescinded at a SGM held two weeks later.

In Christchurch the MSSA began to fade away with the emergence of MSA. Among the benefits the association reaped, was a large club house paid for by the High Commission. At Otago, 'the concept of parochialism has been decisively rejected with the formation of the Chinese Language Club.'

Perhaps the main theme hammered out by the Malaysian students in support of MSA has been the desire to 'foster a spirit of unity and identity', 'to promote a favourable Malaysian image', 'to assist Malaysian students' and so on. It is this very sort of attitude that revolves around the kind of parochialism exemplified by the concept of 'national identity' that has been the major contributing factor to the sort of political fragmentation that has afflicted Malaysian and Singaporean students in NZ.

It might prove entertaining at this point to refer to Mr De Silva's remarks as reported in the Marlborough Express on September 11:

"I am faintly amused at Mr Chan's attempt to appeal to the New Zealander's liberal sentiments. What about a liberal attitude to Malaysian students? Why are they continually smeared as running dogs of the Malaysian High Commission?"

Answering the question himself, he said: "It is merely because the Malaysian Student Associations throughout this country do not toe the pseudo-revolutionary line of the bogus revolutionaries who are installed in key positions in the NZUSA and some other University Unions in this country."

The major course of Mr De Silva's sudden hysterical rantings was the 'Eastern Cultural Concert' organised by the Chinese Language Club of Otago University which toured the four centres during the August holidays. The programme described the concert as depicting the 'culture of the Malay peninsula, Singapore and Sarawak.' De Silva, on the other hand, saw it fit, to interpret it as 'containing vicious propaganda, similar to that used by the banned Malaysian Communist Party and the Barisan Socialis (Socialist Front) in Singapore.'

The Otago Chinese Language Club in its recent press release has denied having, as De Silva claimed, received any financial assistance whatsoever from any foreign power. In one instance, the Club pointed out, the two huge paintings which formed the background scheme of two items were actually made up of 48 bed sheets contributed generously and painted by the students themselves. Also, it pointed

out, several items that appeared in the show had been performed in Malaysia. This fact merely bears out the falsity of De Silva's allegation.

Much of the fear that now appears to haunt quite a number of Malaysian students in the light of the High Commissioner's remarks, is not altogether fanciful. This is particularly so when one refers to De Silva's assertion that "Active participation, if any, in the organising or in the cast of such shows, with its back-up of revolutionary propaganda literature, would constitute active participation in a political movement aimed at overthrowing the Constitution of our country and the rule of law." Also, he "reserved the right to take any steps necessary to combat the subversion of Malaysian students by arm-chair revolutionaries in New Zealand."

In Malaysia, the 1948 Sedition Act which was amended after the May 1969 riots, prohibits utterances or printed statements which appear to question i) the special position of the Malays and other indigenous groups; ii) Malay as the national language iii) the citizenship rights of any ethnic groups and iv) the rights and sovereignty of the Malay rulers (Sultans and Kings). The powers of the law extend also to inflicting penalties on the importation or publication of materials expressing certain views or doctrines. Reports, to this effect have it that a considerable quantity of material is confiscated annually.

The Internal Security Act includes a chapter 'relating to the Power of Preventive Detention' which specifies that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King), "if satisfied with respect to any person that, with a view to preventing that person from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of Malaysia or any part thereof or to the maintenance of public order or essential services therein, it is necessary to do so, the Minister may make an order— (a) directing that such person be detained for any period not exceeding two years (this may be extended for a further period or periods not exceeding two years at a time) or (b) imposing restrictions in respect of his activities and place of residence and employment; prohibit him from travelling beyond the limits of the country, prohibit him from being out of doors between such hours as may be specified in the order, and prohibit him from addressing public meetings or from holding office in, or taking part in the activities of or acting as adviser to any organisation or association, or from taking part in any political activities," to name a few.



Jack de Silva

A survey of the newspaper reports of the activities in NZ during the past weeks merely reinforces the very strong current of fear experienced by Malaysian students. Thus, to refer to the Straits Times (Malaysian edition) of September 11, 1973:

"The Government is taking a serious view of the attempts to subvert Malaysian students in NZ, a Foreign Office Spokesman said here today."

"We are trying to get more information on student activities in NZ," he added.

"The Government can take action against students attempting to subvert other students."

"Certain groups of students are against the

concept of Malaysia. They have been out of the country for many years and are out of touch with conditions here."

A further illustration perhaps of the sort of threat that has become quite commonplace being the remarks of the Prime Minister a few years back:

"Whoever talks or takes any step which reveal that they have subversive and treacherous intention, then we shall take the action against them as we did against the communists."

"I like to see if we can make an example of these traitors."

Jack's remarks are, as one may note, quite in keeping with the kind of pretentious language that is often used.

Also, under the Malaysian Constitution, there are very few institutional restraints on the exercise of power by the Federal Government, so long as it commands a decisive majority in Parliament. While the Constitution enumerates a number of fundamental rights, 'these may be limited or suspended by an ordinary legislative enactment.' Thus, if democracy and individual liberty are to be preserved, it depends upon the self-restraints of the Federal Government.

In Malaysia, national identity has 'evolved around primordial concepts of race, language and/or religion,' and likewise, the Malaysian constitution reflects the division of political and economic power between the major ethnic groups in the country. One major obstacle, it has been pointed out, to achieving any kind of solution, 'has been the total absence of any initiative in encouraging or even permitting an objective study and analysis of the varying sociological and historical factors involved in the three primordial-based behaviour systems, which have shaped the attitudes and behaviour of the major communal groups in Malaysia.' The prevailing attitude has been summed up quite appropriately as 'if we don't think about it, don't recognise it, and just ignore it, it will eventually go away.'

In this theatre of multi-ethnic, 'zero-sum game', communal politics, it becomes a little easier to understand the emotions and fears that have been evoked as a consequence of the High Commissioner's threat. The perimeter of vision becomes more restricted as the sense of powerlessness solidifies, a powerlessness in respect of changing the state of affairs evoked by the ideology or complexity, a powerlessness quite often hidden underneath a facade of frivolity and complacency. Things happen thus, because of a combination of fate and manipulation.

A Malaysian student's letter which appeared in The Press of September 12, noted quite appropriately, 'returning students educated in NZ, are critical of the Government's tactics to politicise socio-economic problems into 'sensitive issues' not to be discussed, and to polarise otherwise horizontal strata along vertical lines or 'race'. The Government's reaction to this 'opposition' is to suppress the symptoms like 'communism' and 'student subversion' in the wishful hope that the fundamental problems would be forgotten.' He signed it 'Sarawak's George Orwell'.

Recently a delegation headed by the President of NZUSA Stephen Chan, forwarded a nine-page submission to the Prime Minister requesting 'an investigation of the activities of the High Commission, with a view to the withdrawal of recognition of his diplomatic credentials.' However, as far as impressions go, not much should be expected. 'Subversion', as it was pointed out at the meeting with the Foreign Affairs Secretary, is quite a common occurrence and while it may not be of any significance in the NZ context, in such vital areas as South East Asia where the communist threat is a living thing, you know....

It remains only to hope that students will not permit the issue to die out a natural death. (Refer Dominion, September 19 — 'that the High Commissioner has been directed to 'play it down'.') What is called for then, is the strengthening of the student bodies in a renewed effort to vigorously oppose any further efforts on the part of the High Commissioner or any Government representative to intimidate students studying in NZ. In this united front, lies our only hope.

References: i) Means, G.P. Malaysian Politics pg 413.
ii) Snider, N.L. Asian Survey December, 1970, pg 1073.

It is most regrettable that the Malaysian High Commissioner, Mr Jack De Silva, should make allegations about our 'possible' collusion with the 'foreign power' behind the concert which was staged in the four cities last month, which distorts the theme of the concert.

The Chinese Language Club of the University of Otago, which organised the Eastern Cultural Concert, feels it necessary to clarify De Silva's groundless claims, despite the predicament we expect to find ourselves in.

The total cost of staging the concert, which came to about \$3000, was almost covered by revenue from ticket sales of 2000 at \$1 each and the subsidy promised by the NZ Students Art Council. Under no circumstances do we need to appeal to a 'foreign power' for financial assistance. The costumes and props were all the efforts of the enthusiastic students who eagerly wished to see the concert turn out to be a success. The two huge paintings which formed the background scheme of two items — 'The Pineapple Harvest Dance' and 'When the Sea Roars' — were actually made up of 48 bed sheets contributed and painted by the students themselves. We could have easily dispensed with the need for such time-consuming work, if we had the boss back stage to lean on, not forgetting the 'quota' of the Department of Labour, which has to be satisfied at the end of the year.

We would challenge anyone to step forward

"Most Regrettable"

STATEMENT BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE CLUB

with a specific charge and the relevant evidence about the accusation that a 'foreign power' sponsored the concert.

The accusation of 'vicious communist propaganda' is similarly unfounded. As was stated in the concert programme, our main aim in staging the show was to introduce a healthy culture to the students of our motherland and let our NZ friends understand the culture and lives of the people in our country. We believe that culture should be one which reflects the lives of the people, and not that of the feudal minority.

The charge of 'playing on Chinese chauvinism' is an attempt to distort the theme of our concert. The items of the concert are representative of the way of life of people of the various races in our country.

The 'Pineapple Harvest Dance' reflects the life of the growers of three races. 'When the Sea Roars' is an item which depicts the sufferings of the Malay fishermen along the east coast of the Malay Peninsula. 'The Bamboo Dance' portrays the various padi-planting processes of our

Malay brothers. 'Rubber Tree — our Beloved Mother' reflects the sentiments of the poor rubber trappers who constitute the three major races — Malay, Chinese and Indians — in our country. The Malay song 'Bersatu' is another interesting item which Mr De Silva missed. It calls for the people of all races to unite and live together as brothers and sisters. A glance at the list of items in our programme shows that the charge of 'Chinese Chauvinism' is yet another false allegation.

Finally, we wish to add that a concert of this nature is not uncommon in our country. Most of the items in the concert, such as 'The Pineapple Harvest Dance', 'Books, Books, Books', 'When the Spring Comes' were staged in various towns in our country by the Malay University students during their tour around the Peninsula early this year. 'When the Sea Roars' was performed in Singapore by the Southern Arts and Culture Society. The sketch 'We Want to Live' was taken word for word from a widely circulated magazine "Varsity Culture" (fourth issue,

p. 21-24) published by the Malayan University students.

It never occurred to us that a concert of this type would result in such an unfortunate scene. Neither did we ever expect to be accused of such things as being in league with a 'foreign power', 'attempting to overthrow the Malaysian Constitution' and 'playing on Chinese Chauvinism'.

As mentioned above, the main items of our concert have been publicly staged in our country in recent years and were believed by us to have been approved by our government. We regret very much the magnitude of the dispute generated about our harmless concert.

Up to the present moment, we still do not feel anything was wrong with the concert. Our main objectives in staging the concert have been achieved to a very great extent. Massive applause at the concerts and numerous letters of encouragement from friends all over the country are evidence of support for our concert.

We hope that this statement will clear up all the accusations, and we wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our fellow students and New Zealanders who have shown their deep concern and sympathy towards the position we are in. We are an affiliated club of OUSA and we declare here that no political party was involved in organising this concert.

—Chinese Language Club, Otago University



Chinese streets - the centre of People's G

by Ted Sheehan

Perhaps the greatest difficulty facing a visitor to the People's Republic of China is the shift in mental attitude needed even to get an approximate understanding of what is observed.

For a visitor from a small, western-orientated, capitalist country such as New Zealand, the problem is even more acute. Adjustments have to be made to a vast, Asian, socialist nation whose economic development runs the gamut from communal, labour-intensive agriculture to heavy industry plants that dwarf anything this country has to offer.

One of my major interests while in the People's Republic was to attempt to gain some understanding of the human relationships engendered by a socialist means of production. Accordingly, I considered Shanghai, the largest city in the world with its population of more than ten million, should be able to provide me with some answers to the questions I was asking.

Naturally, in a city that size, one quickly adjusted to the sight of hundreds of thousands of people thronging the streets at most times of the night and day, engaged in virtually every form of human activity, with the exception of one or two that might spring easily to the reader's mind. The significance of this common sight, and its relevance to my interest, did not become apparent to me until much later, after a visit to a Shanghai housing resettlement area and after much reflection on what I'd seen.

At the housing settlement, a vast residential area filled with high-rise blocks of apartments (though not to the same heights as western apartment blocks), three or

four of us were invited into the home of a woman who had just finished her shift at a nearby cement factory. She told us that her husband was still working at the cement factory, that her teenage son was due home from work any minute and that her younger daughter was still at school. That comprised her family and she freely gave us details of the family income, cost of living expenses and other household details.

Looking around the flat, I could not suppress a feeling of surprise and some disappointment. Although it was extremely tidy, with colourful decorations, books on the shelves, bright curtains and a generally airy, cheerful aspect, it was so small. There were only two medium-sized rooms, with toilet facilities and a kitchen that appeared to be shared with the family in the next flat. I couldn't understand it. It all appeared far too small for a family of four.

Having been raised in a family of 13 and subsequently having lived in various flats with populations ranging from two to ten, I had some understanding of the domestic disagreements and petty irritations that can so easily sour close relationships. What about the obvious one, the housework? Who does that? "No trouble," she said, "Whoever happens to be in the apartment just does it."

"No rosters, no assigned duties, nothing like that?"

"Oh no, whoever happens to be there. Sometimes the family next door does ours and we do theirs and we all help to clean the hall etc."

"Does your husband help?" A bright laugh. "Yes," she said. I was left with the impression that sometimes the old man was a bit slack about cleaning up but his wife

looked quite capable of keeping him up to scratch. (On another occasion, we were told of one woman who objected to her husband's laziness about housekeeping. She solved the problem by leaving home to live on a people's commune. The husband complained, the neighbours told him a few home truths and eventually he realised where he'd gone wrong and managed to persuade his wife that she could safely return home without being forced to do more than her share of the housework.)

"What about the cooking? Does each family cook separately or is there a communal kitchen?" Another laugh and the information that each family cooked separately. (At least another bizarre western myth about China had been disposed of.)

The problem still appeared to me to be unsolved. It was apparent that little or no tension existed within the family, but that didn't square up with the apparently cramped home. It was only later that I realised where the extra living room was. It was the street.

Since the weather in China is generally warm and humid, there's no obstacle to spending much more time outdoors than New Zealanders do. It's a common sight to see whole families eating their evening meal out on the footpath. Washing in a basin and many other domestic chores are frequently done on the front doorstep.

The community feeling this fosters is very strong. Street lighting is often used to read or play cards by, and neighbours and friends stroll up and down the footpath, stopping for a chat now and then.

Since every home has its own electricity there's no real need to use the lights for reading. I concluded that the companionship of neighbours was the reason so much time was spent outside the house.

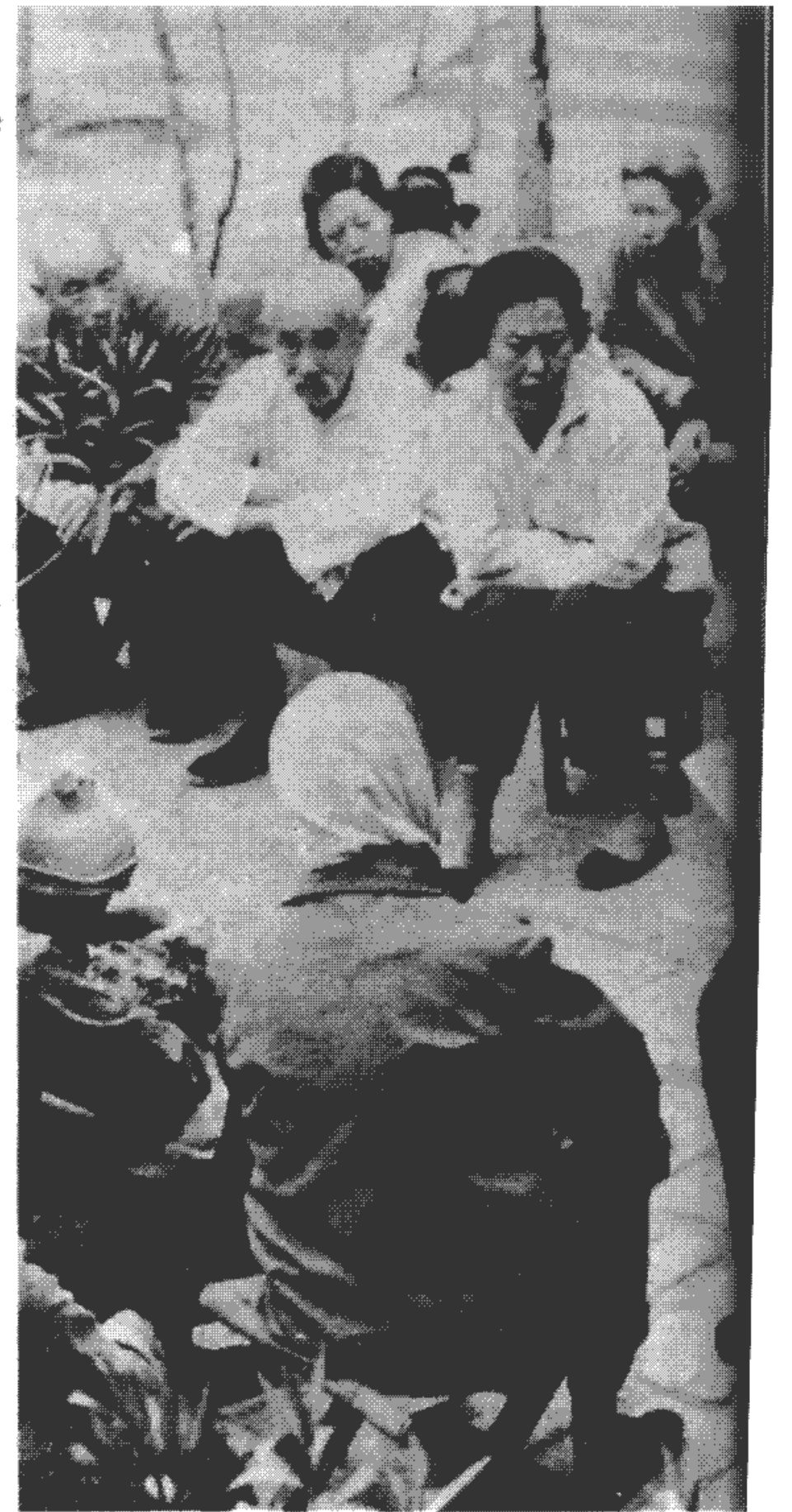
This sense of community, so vital in such huge cities, is strongly reinforced by the Chinese system of local government. The basic unit of local government is the street revolutionary committee. Elected by the community, which can number around 50,000 people, this committee employs staff who organise the study of Marxist classics by the people. And it organises study and discussion of national and international policies and the implementation of Chinese Communist Party decisions.

It establishes small factories and other enterprises that fit in with the state plan. It also operates nurseries, schools to supplement those run by factories, restaurants and household service shops which do laundering, mending, haircutting and other tasks. The workers on the street revolutionary committee spend at least one day a week working in a local factory or other unit to keep in contact with the people.

Apart from that, they go out as much as possible into the street to talk to the residents and find out about local conditions.

Working under the revolutionary committee is the neighbourhood committee. This is a people's organisation, not a unit of government.

Generally, the most active on the neighbourhood committee are those who work in local enterprises and are what the



Chinese call "neighbourhood people". They are either old, retired or have to stay at home to look after the kids. These neighbourhood committees cover between one to eight lanes, about 2000 people on average. They act as a link between street revolutionary committees and the people. They inform the people of the decisions and policies of the Government and organise discussion on how to carry these out. The neighbourhood committee also passes on the demands of the people to the street revolutionary committee.

Translate all this structure into terms of human relationships and one begins to see how flexible it is. It must be difficult to become alienated and remote from your neighbours and friends when the person working next to you may be the chairman of the street committee, when the shop you take your laundry to is run by the same committee, when the old man sitting in the sun as you go to work may call on you in the evening to ask you to a meeting to discuss some point of China's foreign policy.

In addition, friendship and understanding must arise between you and your neighbour if you have a chance to chat each evening as you both eat the evening meal or play cards under the street lighting. If you have a complaint about the way things are being run, it's not necessary to write a letter or call at any office, you're more likely to meet someone who'll pay serious attention to your complaint just walking in the street or working just down the road.



Govt. aid to Portuguese trade

By Peter Franks

Despite Mr Kirk's recent criticisms of Portuguese colonialism in Africa, and his statement that Cabinet Ministers will steer clear of the Portuguese trade mission currently visiting New Zealand, the Government is quietly encouraging trade with Portugal.

Replying to criticism from "The Dominion", Mr Kirk stated on September 6 that the Government's policy of not embracing Portugal too enthusiastically was based on "our opposition to Portuguese colonialism as a whole, diametrically opposed as its philosophy is to that which we have pursued in our small territories in the South Pacific, now almost all running their own affairs."

But an article on Portugal in the July issue of "Export News", a handout produced by the Trade and Industry Department for New Zealand exporters, gives quite a different impression and encourages exporters to trade with the Portuguese.

There is no hint in this article that the Labour Government does not want to embrace Portugal too enthusiastically. Nor is there any suggestion that the Portuguese are, in Mr Kirk's words, "holding down by force the legitimate wishes of the people of several large territories to have a choice in their own affairs and shape their own future."

In fact the article paints a very favourable picture of current developments in Portugal. It glosses over the fact that the country is governed by a fascist dictatorship, and, adopting Portuguese terminology, describes the country's colonies as "the Portuguese overseas territories." The article claims that Portugal's economy is developing slowly but steadily, and states that the regime's Third Development Plan aims for "a more equitable distribution of income, and progressive correction of regional imbalance in development."

The people of Portugal's African colonies would regard this statement about the development plan as no more than a cruel joke. Because it is almost completely lacking natural resources



Photo shows a member of a Portuguese youth movement which is modelled on the Hitler Youth.

Guine-Bissau, on the west coast of Africa, has been neglected by the Portuguese, while the wealthy colonies of Angola and Mozambique have been ruthlessly exploited. The article says nothing about the Portuguese Government's policy of forcing its African subject to work for starvation wages, and its total failure to provide these people with any sort of education or medical services.

"The Portuguese economy is strongly dependent on external transactions," states "Export News", without going on to say why. It is no surprise that a country which spends over 50% of its annual budget on maintaining an army of over 250,000 men in Africa badly needs overseas trade to support its economy.

While the outlook for trade with Portugal

"may not be encouraging at present, New Zealand exporters would be unwise to dismiss Portugal too quickly". The article helpfully details the three most promising areas for New Zealand exporters: agricultural machinery and equipment, hotel and catering equipment (for the growing tourist business), and beef and lamb.

Contracts between New Zealand and Portugal are at present very limited. Apart from honorary consuls in Auckland and Wellington neither country has diplomatic representation in each other's capitals. In fact our main ties with Portugal are through trade. So if the Labour Government is at all sincere in its opposition to Portuguese colonialism it might be expected to point out some of the negative features of the country in its handouts to exporters.



Government



TOP: A section of the Fengsheng area in Peking.
 ABOVE: A study group meets in the courtyard.
 BELOW LEFT: Morning in a lane.
 BELOW: A doctor from the People's Hospital (second left) frequently makes home calls with a neighbourhood health worker.



Making money from death

by Don Carson

Remember George C. Prill, the top man from Lockheed International who was here at the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) Conference last year? He was very emphatic that Lockheed was rapidly moving out of the nasty armaments business and into the field of nice things like pollution control.

"Salient" has just received the listings from the United States of the top 100 defence contractors to the Pentagon for last year. At the top of the list, pouring out military supplies to the tune of \$1704 million, is good old Lockheed. This prime spot has now been reached after a long haul up from the number five place in 1968, not too bad for a firm with a policy of "withdrawal".

The next in the list are McDonnell Douglas with \$1693 million, General Dynamics with \$1275 million, General Electric \$1258 million, and Boeing \$1170 million. These five companies make up over 20% of the Pentagon defence contracts and thus comprise a considerable political lobby in Washington. "Scoop" Jackson, a contender for the Democrat nomination in 1972, is known as "The Gentleman from Boeing".

The top five are not the only interesting listings. Raytheon holds number 12 place with \$500 million. A man from Raytheon was at PBEC. Fridge makers Westinghouse fill the number 16 slot and the Honeywell Corporation which makes air conditioning and anti-personnel weaponry are in number 18 place.



Twentieth placed is IBM, currently having a financial problem with fines of nearly \$400 million imposed on them for violating the anti-trust laws. The ubiquitous International Telephone and Telegraph corporation involved in a pre-Watergate Nixon scandal and attempts to overthrow Allende in Chile, are next on the list in 21st place. Standard Oil of New Jersey (now renamed Exxon (sic) to rhyme with Nixon) are in 25th position.

Number 30 is Standard Oil of California which has direct Pentagon contracts of \$9,000. The general manager of Standard Oil's listed subsidiary, Caltex New Zealand Ltd, is bridge builder of the Rugby Union, Jack Sullivan.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology sells \$127,275,000 worth of knowledge to the military while John Hopkins University sells a mere \$71,717,000.

Perhaps Nixon's recent pleas to the Senate not to cut next year's military expenditure were not so much to protect the shores of San Clemente from alien hordes but to keep the wheels of commerce turning and to foster the "unfettered pursuit of knowledge".

Tests off; repression on

"The end of French Nuclear Testing for another year does not mean the end of French Colonialism in the Pacific," said Mr Robert Reid, Associate Secretary of the South Pacific Action Network (SPAN) and South Pacific Officer of the New Zealand University Students' Association.

"SPAN and NZUSA believe that the damage caused by French Colonialism is far greater than just Nuclear Testing. The economy of French Polynesia is being ruined by French military presence. France is stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars of nickel from New Caledonia every year. And in the anachronistic condominium of the New Hebrides the indigenous people are refused citizenship of their own country," Mr Reid said.

SPAN has called on the New Zealand

Prime Minister to support the action of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Fijian Prime Minister in taking steps to end French occupation of the Pacific.

"New Zealand must oppose all other aspects of French Colonialism and not just Nuclear Testing if it is to be seen as sincere," said Mr Reid.

"As France and the United States of America are the only powers not moving towards self-government for their territories in the Pacific they must be brought to the United Nations Committee on Decolonisation."

"If New Zealand does not do this it shows that it has no genuine concern for the people of the Pacific but only a dubious concern for the health of New Zealanders," said Mr Reid.





According to Labour

"The Nation": Labour Party monthly tabloid newspaper – the first two issues reviewed by Michael Law.

Along with just about everyone else on the political left of Tom Skinner (and that's no mean number when you come to think of it) I could not see much harm in the pinkos of the Labour Party turning out yet another tabloid.

Of course, the Labour Party's publishing record is pretty dismal when you think about it. Me old granddad remembered John A. Lee's leaflets but where did that get him? – tipped out on his arse when the Nash/Savage gang didn't need him. Then there was the "Southern Cross", a Labour Party daily. FOL President Fintan Walsh always insisted that his statements be printed in full on the front page. Thus assured of an audience, he wrote even more turgidly than usual, and so it came to pass that not even the best racing column in New Zealand could save the "Southern Cross".

A few years ago, some of the Auckland activists in the Labour Party published the inoffensive "Statesman". A sort of house journal for the converted, even that farted in church and liberal old Norm Douglas burned a whole issue which contained a few words he didn't like.

Now they are at it again. The Norm Kirk flunkys, Hunt and Moore, aided by the unimaginative Wybrow, have formed a little company to publish "The Nation". Major partner in the company and editor of the paper is Graeme Colman, who was an ardent campaigner for Moore in the last elections. Little is known about this Colman except that his journalistic career boasts some time on the Rotorua "Post" and the "Auckland Star".

With predictable arrogance, Hunt made it clear that Labour Media Ltd would be only too happy to help with trade union journals and similar ventures. After the dismal achievement of "The Nation" so far, it's my guess that there will be few takers.

"The Nation" must be the most appalling publication to be produced in the last ten years. I remember hearing Kirk telling a young Trot that "Socialist Action" was neither read nor of use for bumwiping. "The Nation" falls into the same category.

Essentially, it is a mere mouthpiece for the established party line. It completely lacks imag-

ination in its content and its layout represents a nadir in journalistic history. Furthermore, there is a dangerous attitude to working people generally and trade unions in particular which reflects the true class interest of today's parliamentary Labour Party.

This urban manufacturing class arrogance is blatantly clear in the second issue. The August 10 performance of Hugh Watt is recounted in the most laudatory terms. 'Mr Politics', he is called, the man who saved New Zealand from Industrial Anarchy. The Nation's centre spread, while nominally rejecting the right wing thesis that wages cause inflation, actually reinforced the anti-worker, anti-union prejudices cultivated by the established media, the Employers' Federation and the National Party goons. No call is made on the Labour Party for effective price control, profit control and rent control. No attempt is made to analyze the causes of inflation, or any other crisis of capitalism. Not even a hesitant return to the old Social Democratic catchery of nationalisation is attempted. No, 'Mr Politics' saved the nation by applying, albeit in a slightly more balanced way, the remedial techniques that have failed the National Party for the past 12 years.

The question that springs from this is "Why?" The answer is simple. The Labour Party today represents one of two main trends existing among the ruling class in New Zealand. While the National Party represents the rural and rural dependent and servicing industries and the large financing corporations connected with these interests, Labour has emerged as the political representative of the new secondary industry bourgeoisie, those elements that got their start during the war years and require steady protection to ensure their continued growth. They are also the industries of mass affluence and a party with a policy of mild redistribution ensures a steady market of a fairly large mass with some surplus disposable income. It's a fine balance and if Labour should tip too heavily in favour of social welfare, then the Tories can always be brought back to remedy the situation.

"The Nation" concentrates on this political programme. So power cuts are featured in the first issue as Tory mismanagement. We are not told why some bugger turns off my water-heating while the Japanese-Rio Tinto-Comalco plant maintains production. Nuclear tests are another feature in the first issue. Again, the

from "The Nation" - August Issue
GUM-DIGGER DAN BY LAURIE FOLLAS OUR ALL-NZ CARTOON



DAN WILL BE BACK - BECAUSE HE'S OURS - AND A FAIR DINKUM KIWI!

monotonous interview with the monotonous Fraser Colman. Most of us would have been far more interested in learning why Colman's attitude to immigration is proving even more racist than ex-Minister David Thompson's. Many of us would like to know why the Becks, shanghai-ed from Botswana back to South Africa, their mother unable to find work, their father in prison, have not been allowed to enter New Zealand. Beck was a good trade unionist – perhaps Labour is afraid he might discover how the New Zealand worker is being conned.

But the anti-union approach in "The Nation" takes an even more sinister turn when one looks at the threatment of the Engineers' Union. Probably the most right-wing union in the country, and certainly the one most normally compliant to the political needs of the Labour Party, the engineers are viewed patronisingly as interrupting Jim Boomer's golfing holiday. While not condoning the Kawerau dispute, "The Nation" evokes just a tinge of sympathy for poor overworked Boomer. This investment in sympathy will return a hundredfold when Boomer votes in Labour's interest on the FOL executive and when his union comes to wield thousands of card votes at the special FOL conference next month. By licking Boomer's bum at this time, "The Nation" implies disapproval for the militant sections of the trade union movement which are calling for disassociation from the savage anti-union legislation which Labour has recently imposed.

Much of "The Nation" is Ministerial Press statements, the rest apology. Take the David Shand story. Here's young Dave, off to 'uncover the rot' of fruit distributors while in the same issue Fruit Distributors Ltd have a nice feature ad. As the revenue drops, it is David Shand's expose (if there ever is one) rather than that ad that is likely to go.

"The Nation" is doomed. Founded from within the Labour Party establishment, there is little possibility of it becoming independent from the day-to-day needs of the Labour Government. As such, it will continue to be an apologist, and with the Labour Government already in the shit up to its neck, apologists for its policies face an uncertain future.

A Saga of the NZ Revolution

Smith's Dream: C.K. Stead. Longman Paul, 1973. Paperback. Reviewed by Rob Campbell.

Stead's dream has recurred again in paperback form, which one supposes must indicate that it has been successful commercially. It deserves that success, and even rises to some literary merit in sections where the "great New Zealand novel" syndrome drops from the author's sight. Reviewers at the first publication were pretty kind about the novel, though many have found the ending, to use Stead's phrase "less than satisfying". In response to this Stead has changed the ending of the book (you can see the boldness of the type changes) in a way that he regards as more honest.

Smith's Dream is a personal saga on the beginnings of a New Zealand revolution, centering round a character with whom one suspects Stead sympathises. He is a rather vague left-winger who derives most satisfaction from the contemplation of his own reactions to what happens around him, cuckolded but reassuringly still virile enough to get it away with a farmer's daughter and even with his wife later in the story. As opposed to him the security forces (in neo-fascist New Zealand) are head-prefect boxing champion he-men, and the guerrilla's dour, but brave and dedicated fighters. The occasion for the insurrection which Smith gets caught up in, is the rise to power of a dictator, aided by the quiescence and docility of the New Zealand people which Stead so obviously despises.

Some of it has a pretty real and exciting ring to it though, and anti-imperialist youth will enjoy descriptions of US Marines getting their heads shot off by good Kiwi guerrillas. The Marines have been sent (in an advisory capacity of course) to protect democracy from rising again, and the New Zealanders, remembering how the yanks got at their women in World War Two, are understandably pissed off. The yanks use helicopters like Wicker's Television show on deer cullers, throw bombs all round the place and appear to defoliate Coromandel. Its quite a bit to pack into 140 pages, especially for a Professor of English – buy it for your Mum for Christmas, and bring a little bit of Vietnam home to her.

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RECORDS



Goathead Soup: The Rolling Stones.
Pre-release review by Gordon Campbell.

A new morning for the Rolling Stones. An amazing LP easily the best since "Let It Bleed" and I've a feeling that the flash from this will last a lot longer.

Some random impressions. Wyman has all but left the group, he shares bass chores with Jagger, Richard and Taylor. Jagger also plays piano on one track, and guitar on another. Mick Taylor at long last gets room to really stretch out and just about walks away with the record. The Stones are definitely no longer dominated just by Mick and Keith, Taylor's presence comes through loud and clear in every track. Also the first LP in which the Stones really get into wah wah guitar from both Richard and Taylor. More good news: the horns and keyboards fit in perfectly for the first time. Jim Horn is a great improvement on Jim Price and Bobby Keys. Nicky Hopkins generally avoids that music box twinkling he sometimes gets into; at least on all cuts except "Angie". Unfortunately there he coincides with a bit of simpering vocal from Jagger, and together they almost sink it, but the song is strong enough to survive. It's weird that "Angie" and "Silver Train" which sounds like a leftover from "Exile" were released as singles. With the notable exception of "Silver Star" they're the weakest cuts on the album.

Some of the more interesting tracks are: "Dancing with Mr D", Mick Munster rides again. "I saw the flesh fall off her bones/the eyes of her skull burning like coals.... Lord, Lord get your hands off me/I'm dancing with Mistress D." Great fun, and no one, least of all Jagger takes it seriously anymore.

"Hide your Love" - a rewrite of "Casino Boogie" from "Exile" but a vast improvement. Jagger sings magnificently, a great Ronettes clapalong in the background, and Richards does the identical bass runs he did in "Casino". Another fun song, "Coming Down Again" - begins with Elton John type piano, then settles in to a stunning vocal performance from Keith Richard. Good lyrics, in fact this LP has the best the Stones have ever done. "Winter" - Jagger's tribute to Van Morrison. Imagine the best of the Stones combined with the brooding intensity of "Astral Weeks". The Belfast cowboy dominates this track in every way. "Wished I'd been out in California/when the lights on the Christmas trees went out." Building to a typical Morrison image: "I just want to wrap my coat around you/Oh and I want to burn a candle for you." Then in come the swooping violins from "Madame George" as Jagger scats his way out.

Ten tracks, well over forty minutes and the only real bummer is "Star/Star", a silly groupie song to the tune of "Carol" with a singalong chorus about "starfuckers". A pointless drag.

So after ten years while the rest of the rock pantheon, Presley, Dylan and the Beatles are all burned out the Stones rock on magnificently. Rock and roll is the Rolling Stones. Accept no substitute.

Greetings from Ashbury Park N.Y.: Bruce Springsteen (CBS 474 118).
Reviewed by Richard Best.

When I first heard this I said good fucking relief (honest I did).

Then I thought
1) No - the dictum today is keeping the whole thing in perspective.

2) I asked the pertinent question: is Bruce Springsteen the new Dylan or a counterfeit folkie with a flair for faking it?

And then I thought: Jesus, I don't even like Dylan.

Seriously though, folks, the world doesn't need another Dylan - and with that, Greetings from Ashbury Park could well be the year's best. Per se. From anybody.

I know nothing about Springsteen, don't want to. (With a small tear in one eye I remember a Melody Maker interview with a callously bitchie Van Morrison, how it shattered me and destroyed five of my most-loved LP's). Good news is that Springsteen is Van Morrison away from suckle-sweet Tupelo Honey. Robbie Robertson cut free from Cahoots and a man who writes like I always wanted to and sings like the guy you always wanted to hear. And he's got shit-all to do with Dylan.

No bull - if you've believed nothing I've written on 12" plastiks in the last six months, believe me now.

Greetings from Ashbury's obvious highlight is "The Angel", a New York transvestite's tale - done for the day, he undresses, carresses his penis and looks sad-eyed at the crumpled mess of queen gear by his bed. Painful delights like the other polished finesse and stacks of good, good words on the record.

This is brilliant and if you're interested I'm giving this whole cruddy record review business up soon cos I always like the wrong damn things.

I mean, just who the fuck is Bruce Springsteen? You know, so what?

Before the Dawn

A PLAY BY REWI ALLEY SET IN
PRE-REVOLUTIONARY
SHANGHAI, 1936.

In his poem *Autobiography*, Rewi Alley writes of Shanghai in 1936:

*Gone were dreams in the daytime; and/
down one reeking lane after
another, fronted with blasphemous/
names, 'Five Happiness Courts',
'Blessed*

*Harmony Alleyways', where people/
rotted in conditions intolerable in the
New Industry that went to make men/
rich; make who rich I never really
found out; all connected with the busi-/
ness seemed to be rotting in one
way or another.*

It is this world of exploitation which he portrays in *Before The Dawn*. The play is a collage of situations which Rewi Alley witnessed many times in his work as Chief Factory Inspector over the decade before the Peoples' Government won power in 1948/49. The play is written to portray the existing situation for Western eyes rather than present immediate alternatives for the Chinese people.

In his production notes, Phil Mann gives an indication of the way in which the problems that such a Chinese/Western play presents were dealt with:

"When Rewi Alley was in New Zealand in 1972 to receive an honorary doctorate from this university he indicated that he

Rock became cerebral.

Dylan, Simon, Cohen and others brought poetry to rock. Fair enough - they had the artistic ability to do it. But there are too many lyricists who feel they must be poets. For no extra cost you get a lyric sheet with "Wishbone Four". Read it and you'll see what I mean. And if rockanroll is art, what do you call the words to Led Zeppelin's "The Crunge" -

*"I wanna tell you 'bout my good thing
I aint
disclosing no names - but she is a good
friend
I aint gonna tell you where she comes
from if I tell you you won't come again
I aint gonna tell you that
I should do but I know now let me tell
you 'bout
my girl open a newspaper and what do I
see
see my girl looking at me and when
she walks,
she walks and when she talks, she talks
and...."*

Poetry?

The Elton John/Bernie Taupin partnership suffers all the more because of Taupin's self-confessed desire to write poetry. His best lyrics are those he writes when he forces himself to be simple and neglect his ambitions. They don't ask to be judged as poetry. But the lyrics to "Tiny Dancer", "Rocket Man" and "Your Song" do. And the lyrics are pretentious, naive and trivial.

There is nothing wrong with being serious if you keep it all in perspective and if you have the artistic ability to be serious. Most rock lyricists are banal, amateurish and insipidly stupid when they try to express their philosophy of life in rock music. If rock is submitted as serious art, then it will be judged as such. Someone's heading for a fall.

did not mind how his play was produced so long as the message came through. We have attempted to keep to his notes. In working on the play, certain conventions have been established. We sought to introduce ideas in the make-up, movement and line delivery derived from the Chinese theatre. This is not to say that we have imitated or imported ideas wholesale, but rather that the Chinese example has led to different conventions in the Western theatre. For example, in the script there is no attempt made to hide the bad characters; nor is any such attempt made in the production, but rather they are pushed to a level of vicious caricature."

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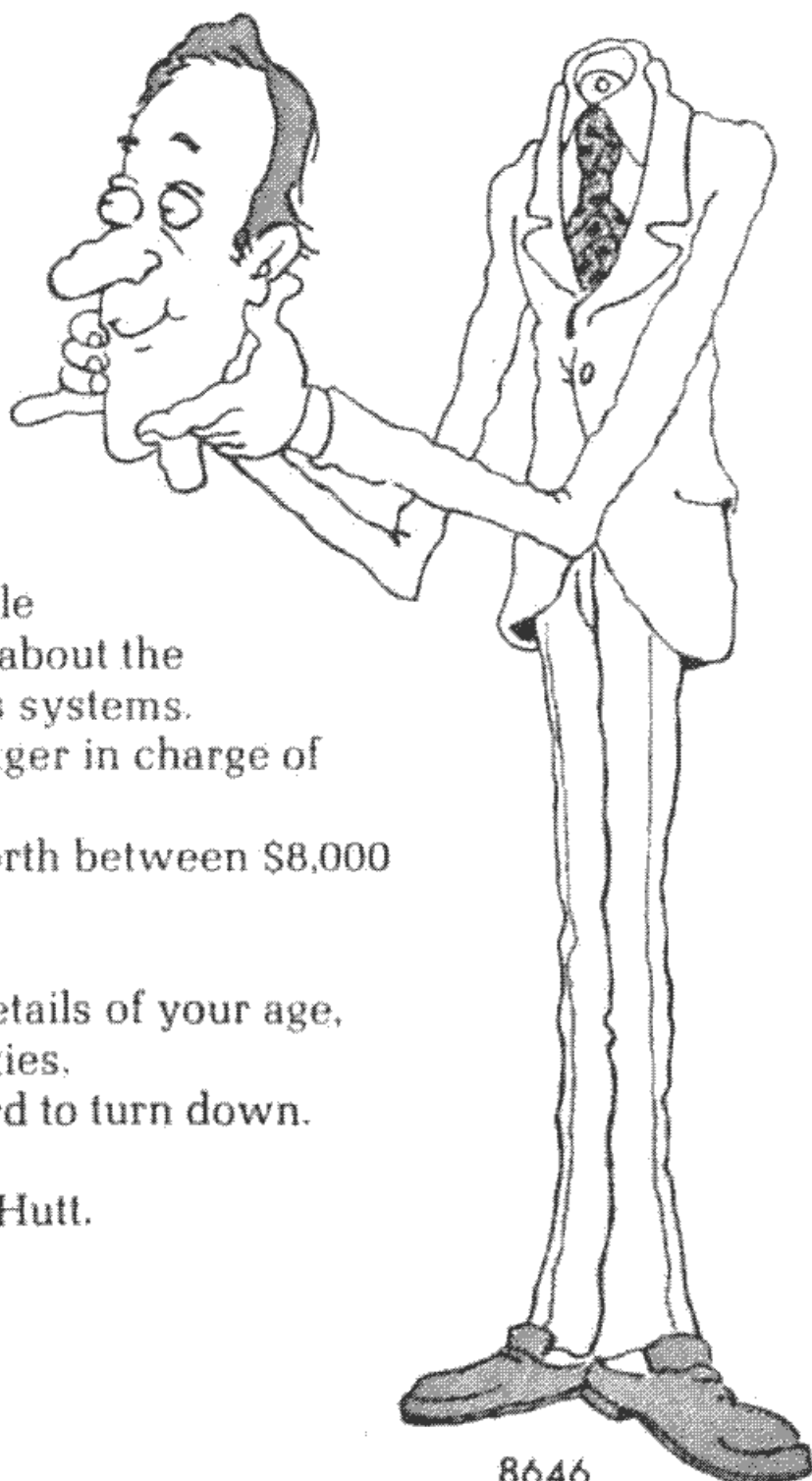
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LETTERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be given to one of the editors, left in the box outside the Salient office or posted to Box 1347. Salient prints all the letters it receives with the exception of those which infringe the laws relating to obscenity and defamation. Because of this latter category we have lately had to decline to print letters on various subjects by J. Hiew, Anon, Doug Wilson, and several others about a certain notorious half-baked bastard who shall remain nameless. A satirical contribution about a 'Mr Abracadabra' transgressed both areas of law. Pity isn't it?

Ka Ora te reo Maori

Ki te Efitia, Te Aomarama.
E te hōpa, e Rotia,
Tena koe, ara koutou katoa, tane mai, wahine mai, nga kaimahi tahi o ta tatau nupepa, o te Ao Marama. Kia whakahauihia au e te Komiti Maori o te Wharewananga o Wikitoria, e te Rōpu Te Reo Maori, me te katoa noa hoki, kia tuku i a matau mihi nui whakaharaha ki a koutou mo te tino pai o a koutou mahi ki te tainga korero katoa mo te Ra Nui o te Reo Maori. I timata ta koutou mahi mai i te 29 O Akubata mutu pai i tenei ra, te 19 O Hepetema. Aka nei pea kei te haere tonu. Me ki tonu e matau mehemea kaore koutou me ta tatau nupepa, e kore e kaha rawa te horapa haere o te rongonui o tenei ra. He tika he pai te awhina mai a te Whakaahua Irirangi a te Irirangi. He itiiti te awhina mai a etahi o nga nupepa. Tena ko koutou katoa, ko koe nei to koutou kairahi, he tino puku mahi rawa atu. I tino toa koutou ki te pakanga kia tika ta tatau ra, a i tino tika hoki, ara i tino oti pai nga mea katoa. Pai ana te putanga mai o au whakaaturanga katoa i roto i te Ao Marama.

Kia nui nga ora ki a koe, ki a koutou katoa.
Heoi ano,
Na Hemi Potatau

TRANSLATION:
To the Editor, The Salient,
Friend Roger,

Greetings to you, and indeed to all of you, both men and women, co-workers in the production of our newspaper, the Salient. I have been instructed by the Victoria University Maori Committee, the Te Reo Maori Society, and several others to convey to you all, our tremendous heartfelt thanks for the very successful way in which you fully publicised the National Maori Language Day. This publicity began in the issue dated August 29 right up to this, the 19th day of September. Perhaps it may still be continuing. We do say that, had it not been for you and our newspaper, the publicity of the day would not have been so far-reaching. Certainly, we acknowledge the important part played by Television and Radio; and to some extent by the newspaper. But all of you, with you (editor) as your leader, put a tremendous amount of work into it. You fought well in the campaign for the success of our day, and you emerged the victors; that is, everything went well, and everything was done well. Those issues of the Salient came out with the fullest satisfaction.

Long life to you and your team.
Yours sincerely,
Hemi Potatau

Food for Thought

Dear Sirs,
It is time we did something about the appalling service and food in the Union Buildings. All this year we have put up with high prices, and such poor quality food that perhaps we should be thankful for the minute quantities served.

The poor service reflects the contractor's incompetent administration of the catering facilities. When the contract was held by "Fritz" Levenbach we enjoyed much better services and fare, even though there was much valid criticism of his management.

Too often there is an intolerable wait while some item on the unimaginative menu is procured. Steaks, sometimes as palatable as leather, are often no bigger than two or three square inches in area after fat has been cut off, and vegetables are nearly always boiled into a tasteless pulp evidently devoid of much nutritious value.

When it became apparent to the managers that the cafeteria was losing patronage and profits because of the deteriorating service and food their response was to provide, in the downstairs cafeteria, only lower-quality — smaller quantity, high priced — higher profit items of doubtful nutrition.

It is evident that the catering contractor — Nationwide, and its reputed owner IPT (operated by the CIA) has provided nothing like the services contractually required. They should be liable to forfeit the contract forthwith and might well be held punitively liable for breach of contract.

This is not a criticism of the employed staff who seem to be as efficient as possible given the limitations imposed on them by the management.

Les Slater

To Wit

Dear Sir,
It was with interest that I read the pontifications of that great proletarian Jonathan Livingston Owl. His comments reminded me of a verse learnt at my dear mother's knee, and I'm sure that Jonathan could well heed the message so subtly hidden between its lines:

"The wise old owl lived in an oak,
the more he saw, the less he spoke,
the less he spoke, the more he heard,
What a fucking silly old bird."

Yours Orthologically
Buck Shot.

Where are the Big Guns?

Dear Sir,
There was no All Black test on 22/9/73 but where were the long rifles from VUWSA and NZUSA when MSA had its AGM?

Recognise it or not, MSA exists. Their absence at the MSA AGM and their presence at the MSSA AGM shows clearly that MSSA is the running dog and puppet of Peter Wilson, who, at the MSSA AGM stated that he was there to see that "members of MSSA were free to organise themselves without interference from hostile elements." In other words, MSSA is still immature and cannot stand on its own feet.

MSA Hardcore
No. KB1257.

Buchanan Replies

Dear Sirs,
Please allow me the privilege to solve the mystery of PUKÉ. This group of pathetically understood pseudo shit-stirrers seem to have little else to do (except wank) than to systematically press their cynical comment forward on my letter 'Give us a fair go'. For their benefit, and for that of Joseph Smith, another PUKÉ fuckwit, I will interpret my letter, seeing as how they don't seem to have intelligence to do so themselves.

My letter simply tried to point out that there are many groups, not only Christians, who don't seem to get a 'fair go' in your paper. (Congratulations to Doug Conrad, unfortunately unknown to me, who seems to be one of the few to appreciate the various problems existing in your 'fair' paper as I do.)

And so you see PUKÉ (Pathetically Understood Kraped out Experience) the letter is not rarely a 'mind-fucker' to those who have the sincerity to recognise the problems which confront us. It is only a problem for those who don't want to recognise the facts but merely wish to mope over the past instead of facing the future. Surely sir, we must pity those among us who would rather live in antagonism than in fellowship.

This is indicative of a great percentage of the letters in your paper.

Yours in fellowship (hopefully for the last time),
H. Buchanan.
P.S. Judging by Joseph Smith's fucking wanked out comments I'm not likely to see him in heaven anyway.
Yours dim-no more

MSA: AGM Minutes used as Toilet Paper?

Dear Sirs,
It was alleged at the MSA Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 22/9/1973 that the minutes of last year's AGM might have been lost by the past secretary, Mr Thomas Iboh.

From my understanding, the present (outgoing) President of the MSA did NOT have a cordial relationship with his secretary, to the extent that the latter had to resign.

Probably, in an apparent attempt to prove the present committee's weakness at the Association's Annual General Meeting, the Association's secretary who resigned used the Association's AGM minutes as toilet paper. Whatever is the truth in the alleged loss of the minutes, the duty of the President is to find out whether in fact they were thrown out in the toilet and NOT to come along to the meeting to blame the loss of the Association's minutes on the past secretary. The President is held responsible for everything that members of his committee have done.

AMEN!

An Open Letter to the VUWSA Executive

Dear Sir,
In the interest of upholding the constitution of MSSA, I would like to draw your attention to the following points.

Under Part G S.13 of the constitution of VUWSA, the Executive has the jurisdiction and authority over any affiliated body, of which MSSA is one.

At the MSSA Annual General Meeting on 15/9/73, it was moved that voting rights be granted to all persons present at the meeting. This motion was carried by a voice-vote of those present and not by its ordinary members only. It is respectfully submitted that this contradicts Article 9 (IV) of the constitution of MSSA which provides that only ordinary members have voting rights. In fact, or so it seems to me, what that motion did was to alter Article (IV) without recourse to constitutional means as provided in Article 11 of the said constitution. Thus, those who were not constitutionally entitled to vote voted. This makes the AGM (and the general election) null and void: Lane V Norman (1891) 66 L.T. 83.

Mr Chua, the chairman at the meeting, stated that he put two absentee votes into the ballot box. To the best of our knowledge there was no indication that s.35, s. 36, s. 37 of VUWSA (schedule 2) were complied with. Hence is the declared result of 83-69 to be taken as final? Please clarify.

There is no necessity to invoke section 51 of VUWSA (schedule 2) because once the AGM is declared null and void, the general election being included in the AGM (unlike the VUW general election which is an event independent of an AGM) is necessarily null and void.

Yours sincerely
Amateur Constitutional

Of Critics and Lecturers

Dear Sirs,
In Salient 23 Gordon Campbell states: "...one of the arguments against freedom advanced at the meeting (with the English Department) was that at 17 a student didn't know what to choose and therefore had to be told by the Department. The existence of zombies like this, of course, is an indictment of our high school system. But is that any reason to perpetuate the dependent relationship at the university level?"

A few pages later the same gentleman begins a review of Orff's "Carmina Burana" with: "This doesn't sound too promising. So who really needs 700 year old poems set to music in 1937 by a German music teacher? You'd be surprised, this is one of the most exciting, colourful works in the classical repertoire."

What prompts Mr Campbell to assume that, while the average student in the English Department knows so much about English literature that he ought to be able to choose his own texts, the same student is at the same time (by Mr Campbell's own suggestion) totally ignorant of one of the most famous works of 20th century music? And if Mr Campbell so dislikes "the dependent relationship", why does he take for granted in his review that the reader is in just that relationship to him?

Peter Russell

Marriage is Necessary

Dear Sir,
Kay Goodger's letter last Salient heralding a new age of sexual freedom points clearly to the misunderstanding of marriage prevalent in our society.

Marriage is very necessary as an institution in our society. It is the sign by which society knows that it must give special consideration and care to relationship which the two people have and are going to develop. Marriage is the free association of a man and a woman who love each other, who trust each other's love, and who want to share the future together.

Marriage provides security, stability and something to be relied on for husband and wife; it provides a secure and stable environment in which their children can grow; it provides a relationship which society knows has some strength and is reliable.

On this last point to take a practical example, the commercial world knows that it can be lenient and patient with a married couple in financial arrangements for the relationship is more secure than that of two people not under an obligation to each other.

The picture of two mature adults going public in their total commitment to each other, giving open testimony to the great trust each has in the other, is more beautiful than that presented by the advocates of sexual freedom: their necessarily involving a note of limitation or lack of total self-giving in a relationship between two people.

Yours faithfully,
Harry Theates

Ersatz & Propaganda

Comrade Eds,
Peter Russell in "The Age of Ersatz" (Salient, September 19) makes a valid point. While perhaps not original, the reminder does us no harm. I feel his arguments can be developed further to demonstrate the causes and reasons for this assault on the language.

There seems to me to be a variety of causes for ersatz language. Commercial exploitation leads to the desire for novelty which brings such bastards as "foodarama", "washomatic" etc. Then there is overnice prissiness which leads to a desire to place some distance between oneself and the "unpleasant" parts of one's experience. This gives us such things as "toilet" for lavatory or bog. This tendency isn't confined to fussy old ladies. Even Chiang Kai-shek, when threatened by the Chinese Red Armies, bravely ordered an "advance to the rear".

But this desire to avoid one's own experience by distorting the language that describes it has taken on an uglier form over the past few decades which by no coincidence, are the era of the rapid development of mass communication media.

Starting with the American paranoia of the Cold War period and leading up to the American experience in Vietnam, the meaning of words has progressively been distorted to aid the Pentagon in its ideological war.

To demonstrate this, one has merely to look at the real meanings of some of the phrases the Pentagon has spewed out. "Special war" means wholesale and indiscriminate shooting, burning and looting; "strategic hamlet" equals internment camp and "Vietnamisation" means "Things are getting too tough, we're shooting through, you jokers can look after yourselves!"

It's interesting to note just whose experience is being distorted by all this bullshit. The Vietnamese were under no illusions; they were getting shot. The American soldiers and the Pentagon similarly knew what was going on; they were doing the shooting. No, the only people who believed in special war, strategic hamlets etc, were those in the rest of the world whose only contact with Vietnam was through the mass media.

The verbal inflation mentioned by Russell was given (and is still being given) a massive boost by the media, which are being manipulated by Pentagon PR men.

These techniques spill over into other parts of our lives. Food price escalation, for example, sounds safely technical. It's a step removed from the more disturbing realisation that it's costing more to feed a family. Even for those who think the Vietnam war has nothing to do with them, that should mean something.

The point is that monopoly capital, both in its imperialist and domestic forms, has a stake in the crumbling of the language to hide its real aims and actions and that it is consciously applying this process on a global scale. People's anger and action, not T.S. Eliot poetry, is a better and more useful reaction.

Ted Sheehan



From "The Graphic Work of M.C. Escher", available at Sweet and Maxwells University Bookshop.

M.C. Escher - Yes Certainly

Dear Sir,
Who is the artist of the sketch published in Salient, September 19, page 15? Could you please publish more of this person's work?
Thanking you,
Sam Dormer.

Long Live the Communist Party of New Zealand (V.G. Wilcox, General Secretary)

Dear Sirs,
When Terry Auld writes about events in Chile, he writes a good article. He indicates the class forces behind Allende. He even goes to the extent of discussing such fundamentals as working class State power. In all this, he holds himself up as a Marxist-Leninist. He even makes a bow to Mao when he suggests that 'Political power grows out of a barrel of a gun'. He goes the full distance in his final paragraph. 'Khrushchev,' he says, 'has his Allende. The revisionists around the world will bury their Chilean dead with the usual hypocritical plaudits of peace.' Then comes the punchline thus - 'But will they bury their counter-revolutionary ideas?'

In that last line, Terry reveals the basis for his opposition to the CPNZ. For here he is saying that thinking is primary. In his article, 'Fact threatens world peace' ('The Paper' No. 2) he performs the same gymnastic feat when he points to 'a flaw in Soviet theories' relative to imperialism and war. The implication here is that if the leaders of the CPSU could correct their theories, then things would change and the Soviet Union would again become a revolutionary force. The truth of the matter is that the fact that revisionist ideology has been embraced by Khrushchev and his successors, demonstrates an already existing, non-proletarian class orientation which was proved by the adoption of this revisionism. It was the class position of Allende which was the primary motive force in bringing about his political demise. The fact of his holding revisionist ideas was a secondary, though active, contributing cause.

In both these cases, Terry is smuggling in the completely idealist, anti-Marxist concept that thinking determines being. Why? I discuss this later.

The only correct Marxist-Leninist approach to this question is to ask ourselves 'Why do these idealist ideas occur?' and the answer must come up in time that these ideas arise from the class position of the people putting them forward. Allende, Khrushchev, and Terry Auld. For 'in a class society every one lives as a member of a particular class and every kind of thinking, without exception, is stamped with a brand of a class' Mao Tseung, 'On Practice'.

From this it follows that it is insufficient for a person to change his ideas, for this creates a new contradiction needing solution. Thinking gets out of kilter with the actual class position of the person whose thinking is changed.

In Terry Auld's case, his position as an academic instructing the children of the working class, places him firmly in the camp of a petit bourgeois intellectual. Thus, his acquisition of some Marxist-Leninist book learning still leaves him to identify himself with the proletariat for which Marxism-Leninism is a weapon in the struggle for power against the bourgeoisie. This Terry Auld consistently refuses to do. For instance, the suggestion that the anti-apartheid movement is essentially a movement of international working class solidarity against common business interests has met with his violent opposition whenever it has been put forward. Instead, Terry Auld on these occasions consistently propagates a humanitarian, non-class, non-Marxist approach to the question. He opposes apartheid on the grounds that it is morally wrong.

There is one other conclusion to be drawn from the way Terry formulates his ideas. The whole tenor of his article places the question of social organization in the lap of the ruling clique and he sees the ideas of this clique as being decisive. Power, according to Terry, is exercised by Governments which are personalized in Khrushchev, Allende, Dubcek, Hoxha, Mao Tseung etc. He sees Marxism as having been applied in ways of which he disapproves and have failed on that account. The implication here is clear: rulers should first submit their ideas to Terry Auld for examination and approval and thus avoid the embarrassment of his criticism when the results of their administration collapse as have those of Khrushchev, Dubcek, Allende etc.

The reader of 'Salient', of 'The Paper' will search Terry Auld's articles in vain to discover just what he understands by, for instance, the dictatorship of the proletariat.

I hope that the above sets out in understandable terms our differences with Terry Auld. In a word, we, being Marxist-Leninists, are of the opinion that being determines thinking, and Terry consistently asserts the opposite point of view, namely, that thought determines being. I suggest that his strictures on the CPNZ and its leadership nationally and locally, stem from this anti-Marxist approach. I further suggest that our Party can look to the future with confidence because of its absolute confidence in the NZ working class to grasp the weapon of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tseung Thought and use it to make revolution.

Yours fraternally,
S. Devereux

Revolution is the Main Trend in the World Today!

Dear Comrades,
So 'Ex Party Member' comes on again. Good. First I wish to accept unconditionally both his and Terry's statements that 'Ex Party Member' is not Terry Auld. Of course, I did not say that he was. But the response has been gratifying. Thanks, boys. More is now known about both of you than was the case before the correspondence opened.

Now, Comrade 'Ex', you say that the CPNZ is a rotten tree and must collapse. Your public declamation denies your contention that you would not join any group which actually did oppose the CPNZ. Your action in writing to 'Salient' puts you firmly among those people generally referred to as the Bailey/Manson group. Whether these people are firmly organized or not is beside the point. They are firmly united with you in their attempt to kill the CPNZ.

One thing comes through clearly from 'Ex Party Member's' letters. He or she demands that Party members who have been elevated to leading positions should, ipso facto, become superhuman. Many people regarded Stalin in almost this light and accepted any and all statements made by him as gospel, thus substituting a religious, dogmatic, non-critical ideology for a critical Marxist-Leninist one. If 'Ex Party Member' was so easily put off from Party membership by a couple of statements, then obviously his Marxism was but a shallow veneer.

The Chinese Party, while defending Stalin's good name against the Khrushchevite attack stated in its letter to the CPSU of September 13 1963:

"It is true that while he performed meritorious deeds for the Soviet people and the international communist movement, Stalin, a great Marxist-Leninist and proletarian revolutionary, also made certain mistakes. Some were errors of principle and some were errors made in the course of practical work; some could have been avoided and some were scarcely avoidable at a time when the dictatorship of the proletariat had no precedent to go by. In his way of thinking, Stalin departed from dialectical materialism and fell into metaphysics and subjectivism on certain questions.... These mistakes caused some losses for the Soviet Union and the international communist movement."

When Dev wrote under the heading of 'Another Look at Economic Problems' his shots were aimed, not at Stalin, but at those who while claiming to be Marxist-Leninists, had taken up the metaphysical formulation by Stalin in 'Economic Problems of Socialism', namely, the theory of maximum profit.

These people included some in all Communist parties who later became openly revisionist in their political orientation. Where did 'Ex Party Member' stand in the controversy? He does not say. Does he dare? But if Dev's poor effort was such as to cause him to give away the revolutionary path, we are entitled to enquire as to the depth of his Marxist-Leninist convictions. We are, of course, completely unaware of his contributions to this movement. The CPNZ is the only organized group attempting to bring a revolutionary consciousness to the NZ working class. We do this in the face of the bitter opposition of the 'non-existent' Bailey/Manson group. We will carry on precisely because imperialism is revolutionizing the whole of social existence. It has, or is in the process of, destroying the small scale nature of all industry, the basis which made New Zealand 'the paradise of the Second International' as Lenin put it (not a social democratic paradise' as 'Ex Party Member' has.) Huge monopolies dominate the total life of the NZ people and the stronghold of small scale capital in agriculture is coming under attack.

This is the foundation upon which we build and upon which a revolutionary movement is emerging. 'Ex Party Member' is such apparently because he/she is unable to see the connection between the economic base and the consciousness of the people who serve that base. What is true for NZ also applies in France, Greece, Australia, Canada and the USA.

Revolution is the main trend in the world today in this material sense. It is the duty of Marxist-Leninists to bring the working class to realize this trend in its own consciousness and practice.

The CPNZ is doing what its forces are capable of to achieve that end and will be successful in spite of the efforts of the groupings of ex-party members whether or not they are an organized opposition.

Now I close, wondering whether Auld's acquaintance be forgot.

Regards,
S. Devereux

Travellers
in
COFFEE LOUNGE
40 WILLIS ST.
WELLINGTON
OPPOSITE
DOMINION ARCADE

Sex, Dynamite and Law

Dear Sir,
Kay Goodger in Salient Sept. 19 certainly shows the weak basis upon which her group of pro-abortionists set their arguments. The criticisms Dr H.P. Dunn for attacking the "sexual revolution" she advocates.

But to appeal for absolute sexual freedom is to misunderstand the nature of human (as against purely animal) sexuality, to destroy the basis for true maturity and social responsibility in this area.

The social dimension of sexuality which comprises social structures and attitudes, has always placed sexuality under the control of some laws. I challenge Kay Goodger to point out one social grouping that has not exerted at least some control over sexuality.

That Kay is now bucking at something that has been found to be universally necessary is absurd. Claude Levi-Strauss has described sex in society as 'dynamite' - it needs to be handled carefully. Sex is at the same time most private and most public, therefore some controls are required in society.

I can see today the body being used as a toy or machine while psychologists tell us of the link sex has with personality - one effects the other greatly. Moreover isn't it strange that it is only now when the traditional (Christian, if you like) moral code is nearly completely eroded that we get the cry that ours is a 'sick' society.

In an age which is sick from impersonality Kay Goodger et al, advocate quickie, limited relationships.

In an age which is sick from lack of trust Kay advocates a condition where one can never trust another person to enter into a totally self-giving relationship.

Kay sets up a situation which objects to permanence, faithfulness in the most complex and important human relationship. No wonder modern society is sick.

Sex should be enjoyed but where it is divorced from responsibility it is outside a human concept. And at this situation one should feel guilty - or has one's humanity been so debased that shame and guilt have been excluded completely?

Yours,
Jennifer Hyatt.



De Silva's Motive

Dear Sir,
The real object of Mr de Silva's exercise in illogical rhetoric is simply this: to provoke Malaysian students who are anti-Government, be they 'Communist' or not to come out in the open and be identified. This has been achieved to a certain extent, no doubt. The urgency to suppress 'discontented' and 'subversive elements' has been emphasized by the recent arrests of a number of professional people in the colony of Sarawak. They include lawyers and doctors and among them is a close friend of the 'Chief Minister' (BBC report, Sat. 22nd) This motive has been further made clear by a play used at the MSA elections on Saturday 22nd to provoke Malaysian students into saying whether they would support an armed revolution at home or not. An attempt was made to move a motion to that effect at the meeting. Fortunately, it was ignored.

If it had been put to the floor [the Government agents (respectfully) would have a field day taking down names] those who were for an armed revolution would have implicated themselves (be they Communist or not) and if they had remained silent, the effect would have been the same.

It will be a long struggle between the mover of that motion and I. I suggest he resigns himself to his fate when he gets back as by his actions he has made himself a marked man; otherwise he should reform his ideas as it is not too late.

Your running target- Red Malay.

The Power of Jack's Library

Dear Sir,
"Just how much freedom does the Malaysian Embassy allow Malaysian students, Chinese and Malay...?" This was the question directed to Mr Jack De Silva on the radio programme "Checkpoint" on September 11. The following is the exact extract of Mr De Silva's answer to the question.

"I encourage them to read widely of their interest in politics. I have a better library on for example Ho Chi Minh's work, General Giap's work in my house. I invited students, some students had already come. A few thought it was a trap because they had been scared by the revolutionary left-wing communist propagandists of Victoria University; and they came, and I ask you Mr Chan if you are interested in North Vietnam's Workers Party publication, come to my house, it is better than anything you've got at Victoria University. I encourage you to do that if you are interested."

I am here to witness the truth of Mr De Silva's statement. I was one of those Malaysian students invited, and later became a regular customer of Jack's private library, unknowing at that time it was a trap due to my ignorance. I used to call him Jack, believe me or not! He has a marvelous collection of revolutionary literature on Ho Chi Minh's work and General Giap's work, really better than Victoria University's library.

Being misguided at home about communist philosophy on account of the complete ban on progressive books under the fascist government, I shall thank Jack for the encouragement and opportunity for my first contact with communist ideology in his library. I was engulfed in the wealth of Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary ideology and theories mainly in Jack's library. I started there - not to understand the origin, causes and role of communism in Asia. I am deeply inspired and convinced what Ho Chi Minh said, "that the history of all societies up till the present day, has been but the history of class struggle. These struggles can take either the form of political struggles or the form of armed struggle - the armed struggle being only the continuation of the practical struggle."

This is well-suited for a society like Malaysia, which remains divided into classes. We can distinguish two kinds of politics as defined by Ho Chi Minh, "The politics of the classes and nations of exploiters and oppressors and that of the exploited and oppressed classes and nations. Hence two kinds of wars, of states and armies diametrically opposed to each other, and the one revolutionary, popular and just, and the other counter-revolutionary, anti-popular and unjust." How convincing is the fact revealed by Ho Chi Minh.

Back to the subversive business I shall admit that I have been subverted by Jack in a beneficial way that baptises me with new thought: despite the fact that it was a trap set up by Jack so as to fish up revolutionary Malaysians. Anyway, I will stride on with my belief adopted from Jack's library to serve those oppressed, even though I might have been black-listed by him. It is a dismay to Jack that he has lifted up a prodigious stance to pound on his own toe: providing facilities to train up revolutionaries, finally opposing him. This is what the stupid reactionaries always do.

His statement on radio was contradicting his futile, delusive claims to the press that Malaysian students were being subverted by a foreign power (Jack means China). He had publicly admitted subversion of Malaysian students and that the foreign power is Mr Jack De Silva himself!

His virulent claim to dishonour the fine Eastern Cultural Concert as subversive and his contempt of New Zealand liberty is intolerable. It should arouse our Malaysian and New Zealand brothers and sisters indignation. A wolf in sheep skin has exposed itself. What shall we do? Let him escape? No! We shall unite all the righteous, broad-minded Malaysians and New Zealanders in the strongest front to offer this wolf a severe onslaught, a lesson to teach the blabber not to be so indulgent in interfering in New Zealand students' activities.

Jack's Insurgent



White Man?

Dear Sir,
Well how's this one for discrimination? A friend of mine is an ex-Whangarei biker. He needed a new tyre for his Triumph Saint, which is in beautiful order and passes all the requirements for a warrant of fitness. Going into Whites Motorcycle Shop in town he asked if they would put the tyre on for him. Taking one look at the bars on his bike which are a foot high and a second look at my friend the attendant refused to serve him. Bloody shithot eh!

G. Wana.

Blue Arrow Knows

Dear Sirs,
Money and criticism have one thing in common. Blue Arrow can take them both - in any quantity. This week the criticism was seen to be unfounded with the incredible success I had with my tips. What about Charger at \$9 for a win and \$3 a place. Also Zoro at the Methven Trots being 19/19 in the betting came in and paid \$16 a place. It all goes to prove that putting your money where Blue Arrow's mouth is, is much better than a kick from a donkey.

The Trentham Gallops two weeks back are not worth mention, because, no doubt, most of you followed my advice and stayed at home. The Trentham Races are a classic example of how racing can go to the dogs when the Mafia have control over the horses. Bribes of a few sacks of oats or a bale of hay are not uncommon and enough to persuade a horse to stay a good half mile behind the leaders. Admittedly the Mafia control at Trentham is bad, but the Maori influence at Otaki is by far the worst. You will never see a rich Pakeha leave that course - remember that next Saturday when you have the inclination to head towards Otaki.

For those Maoris heading for Otaki, I suggest you take a close look at Cattleya and also Nabua. Just remember follow the Blue Arrow and you will find the target.

Blue Arrow

Study for Revolution

Dear Salient,
James Masing is raving on again, as is typical with him, being a member of the capitalist elite. He is trying to hide the revolution from international applause and protect a senseless system.

We are forbidden to speak politics and if we criticise the Government, it is not safe to say in one place, Masing's idiotic statement and I quote "subversive ideologies and political views, are not quite tolerated in Malaysia at the moment and the advocate of such is likely to suffer a severe reprimand", meaning it's a quick trip to a firing squad after a mock trial.

De Silva and Masing just show the intolerance the Malaysian Government has towards anyone who thinks for himself.

James Masing is studying in NZ so he can return to Malaysia to support a feudal-capitalist system to line his pockets because he becomes a member of the system to suck the workers, whereas we are working to understand the system so we can destroy it.

Masing is saying that no bloodshed and pain is worth the goals we are aiming for, he wants to bleed his people so he can live in style and keep the workers ignorant. A quick revolution will destroy this enslaving system and the pests that go along with it.

Long live the revolution!

Yours sincerely,
Revolutionists.

THE NEW ZEALAND MUSIC THEATRE ENSEMBLE

Stravinsky's "The Solider's Tale"
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Two exciting stage production with a full professional company of actors, singers, dancers and musicians.

ST JAMES THEATRE - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4 at 8 p.m.

Bookings at the D.I.C. Tickets: \$3.50, \$3.00, \$1.50. Students half price.

A Music Federation of New Zealand (Inc) production with the support of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council.

THE NEW ZEALAND MUSIC/THEATRE ENSEMBLE

An Open Letter to Mr Peter Wilson

Dear Mr Wilson,
 You don't know us of course, but we don't hold it against you. After all we can tolerate different life styles — some people like working and you like what ever it is you like. We don't mind all our spare cash going into funds controlled by the students (?) association, wouldn't hurt some of the exec members now would it? Anyway we'd just waste it on meals or clothes or rent. We are long suffering too — we listen calmly to any manner of radical pronouncements made by student representatives on our behalf — we watch the appreciable shrinking in the size of tea and coffee cups over the last three years with equanimity — we are still waiting, after three years for hot water to come out of either the green or red taps in lecture block one. — we understand that these things take time, and that more pressing concerns must come first.

However when (as we did tonight) we crawl away from our selfish pre-occupation with our work in the building to find pommy psychiatrists on the bottom floor, vice regal piss-ups on the top floor, and no coffee in the middle floor its enough to make you wonder (about what we're not sure).

Any way if you can tear yourself away from whatever you do in that secluded wing of our (?) building (do you ever get locked out of it?) and try and stretch the coffee service out for another six weeks we might even consider voting next year.

Yours humbly,
 Douglas A. Wilson
 I.R. Parker
 D. Collins
 P.W. Bennett

L.C. Goh in Reply

Sirs,
 With thanks to both "Wondering" and "A Lim" (Salient Vol. 36 No 23), I am given the opportunity to make a reply in this paper regarding an opinion survey among the Malaysians on M.S.A. — M.S.S.A. issue.

To "Wondering" an extra word of thanks for holding me in such high esteem; one of the "big guns" in student politics. Me? As say Man! Does the phrase "big guns" have a meaning in more than one sense? But to me frustration such a low-footed (in more than two) view is germinated by one who has a, in his own words, "considerably less fertile mind". Hence my feeble friend can consider himself having "wondered". I give him the term "referendum" was therein dropped and "opinion poll" adopted. The term "referendum" was therein entitled to go ahead with any personal survey at campus if he has the balls him? Godmother or lack of a personal name? It is hoped that I've not departed excessively from his style of writing.

In reply to "A. Lim" our fence-sitting individual specialist, I owe him no duty to withdraw my remark unless it could be shown that the statement refers to him and that it was defamatory of him. Since he is so concerned about Law books, I would suggest he read them before he starts "talking wind". It is ironic that, having considered the remark of mine as "a very serious malicious remark..... the idea of the referendum should assert that "right from the beginning..... low-handedly and self-contradicting, slogan-slinging homo sapien, who approached him efficiently failed to support his allegation against me with evidence. And who, may I request him to elaborate, is the group of "loyal M.S.A. supporter" who approached him? The pot is calling the kettle black! As told that I am a Malaysian student his ignorance could be satisfied if on campus. And I won't even bother to ask who "A. Lim" is anyway. Unlike him, I'll not assume that he is learned as he claimed I am.

Hurrah Jack

Sirs,
 I was bewildered by David Tan's callous and stupid press statement in Salient last week. Who, in the name of God, is David Tan any way trying to pop his fat, flat nose into other people's business. I sometimes wonder if him because I do not honestly think he has the guts or intelligence to do so. David Tan does not realise that he is only a puppet of Peter Wilson and his clique and that he is being subverted, not by communist ideology, but by ultra-radical left ideas, you are being used and manipulated by them David boy, for their own selfish motives.

I wholeheartedly support Mr Jack De Silva for his statement. I consider it his duty as Malaysian High Commissioner in New Zealand to remind Malaysians, especially Malaysian students who are being corrupted by unwarranted external ideologies, of their rights and obligations as Malaysian citizens. Had Mr De Silva not done so he would have failed disastously in discharging his duty for the larger interest of Malaysian people. Mr Jack De Silva should be knighted for his courageous and commendable action.

I challenge David Tan to issue another press statement deploring the suppressing freedom of individual in the Republic of Singapore. David Tan might not know that Singapore is an authoritarian government in disguise. The government has no political opposition to minimise the iron grip of the Singapore government. Freedom of expression, even in fashion, is denied. Fashion-conscious Singaporeans would be persecuted if they behave or dress like "hippies". It is a social crime to have more than three children in Singapore. Such are the extent of authoritarianism in the Republic of Singapore.

So if David Tan is so democratic about things, it would do him a hell of a lot of good to mind his own business and do something more positive to improve the political situation in his own country. Instead of behaving like a cooking pot who calls a kettle black.

Dear Eds,
 Now that you have done it, I would like to give you a toast Jack. It's about time that somebody had the guts to tell these fucking communist bastards to keep their stinking asses to themselves and get lost. Long live Jack. You're just great man!

Yours,
 Jill.

Yet to be Convinced

Sirs,
 Mr dear Revolutionists, you sure scare me. Do you think that you and I could discuss this over before the "New Enlightened People's Republic" takes over Malaysia. In this way we can join your bandwagon. If after our discussion, I find that you have better things to offer and a substantial degree of success in achieving them. After all, aren't I a peasant, a member of the oppressed.

Since you know me, you hold the card of our rendezvous. If not, why don't you stop hiding behind a flimsy bamboo curtain and come out into the open. What's there to be afraid of after all, you have the support of the majority....or is it the strategy of Revolutionist to be a coward? Just by the way, would it not be a more sensible thing to do to "stick one's head in the sand" to think, than to stick it out and let it be cut off?

Fellow Comrade,
 James Masing.

SRC or Farce

Dear Sirs,
 Many of us who have religiously supported SRC, ignoring those reactions which have grizzled that SRC is a farce, we are finding our beliefs being shaken by the heretical doctrine of the power elite.

Those of you who attended the SRC meeting on August 30, will recall that a motion was submitted, ordering student reps to attend meetings of the catering sub and union management committees (where students are in a majority) and vote in favour of reducing the price of tea and coffee to 5 cents. Those against the motion (including most of the student reps) would be upset if the price reduction was tinkered with. Those in favour argued that the reduction in cost of tea and coffee could be offset, by reducing and organising, staff. It was suggested that the price reduction would act as a direct incentive for students to clear their tables after meals. The motion was carried by the Management Committee, which was meeting within a few days. Here, was lost 5-3. This situation is extremely grave, and, as a simple democratic principle, it deserves further analysis.

It seems that many of the reps (excluding Wilson, Randal and Howell) were either not aware of the meeting or purposefully did not attend. Several reps were approached, and their reasons for not attending given. One said that he had so much work to do, and he couldn't give a stuff anyway. Another said that he had other commitments that night. The most serious statement was that "many students do not know what they're voting on at SRC".

The last statement implies that although motions may be passed at SRC by a majority, the power elite may decide subjectively whether or not the motions are acceptable. The basic question that arises is: whether this type of control has been used in the past?

It is also obvious that many people, including the reps themselves, don't know who exactly comprises the committees. It was stated that "it was virtually impossible to keep track of all student reps". This situation is extremely serious, and will have to be looked at in depth in the future.

It appears that when the veneer of "free speech" is scraped the true power forces within the student body are polarised and exposed. As is typical of many unions, the executives are tending to treat the rank and file members as clients, rather than participants. Hopefully, this attitude will change next year, as more people become determined to put the interest of the students first.

Yours
 Paul Swain.

MSSA AGM Fraud

Sir,
 On September 15, 1973 we saw the biggest blunder of the year in the MSSA Annual General Election. Not only was the conduct of the election of office bearers in contravention of the MSSA Constitution by allowing non-financial members to vote and thus defeat the purpose of being a financial supporter of the association but also we have the President of VUWSA interfering and influencing the Chairman and committee on how the election was conducted. It only reminds me of the general election in Vietnam and how the US imperialists told the Vietnamese how to conduct their elections — mind his own business and at the same time stop interfering in the affairs of an overseas student association. The white man manipulated a poverty stricken country. And here in New Zealand we have a glaring example of our own affairs.

What happened at the AGM was a direct castration of the MSSA constitution under the very eyes of the very people who are supposed to know better — the big bosses of VUWSA and NZUSA.

No representation without constitutionally fair elections.

Yours in Fair Deal
 Democrat.

Apartheid hampers African Development, not Intelligence

Dear Editors,
 In reply to the letter written by S.K. in the last Salient, I have this to say. S.K. should not dare pontificate about matters he clearly does not understand especially when it comes to South Africa as people of lower intelligence because they have been unable to develop separately at the same rate as whites. This statement itself contains a full dose of racist undertones, and is an insult and an affront not only to the black races in South Africa but to the black races because S.K. claims the colour of their skin is based on the colour of their skins.

For S.K.'s information and enlightenment South African politician and Member of Parliament said that separate development is a word the right wingers use when referring to the world and apartheid in order to fool and perpetuate racism. It is a system of apartheid racism. It is a system founded on avarice supported by greed and perpetrated by cruelty. Has S.K. ever looked at the areas designed for the Africans as their homelands? What natural resources are in these areas, and is the land adequate to support the black population, or good enough for farming? The answer is no! Is white South Africa prepared to lend the blacks enough capital to make the areas truly economically and politically independent? The answer is yet another no! If white South Africa was prepared to do all these things for a start, they would actually destroy their privileged positions and who can do that except in this world? who is non-existent in this world? Take a look at the educational structure for the blacks. It is designed to keep the blacks in their lives. It is inferior to that of the whites. This is inferior to that of the blacks. This is designed for the blacks to be regarded as menial labourers all their lives. The body and the whites like S.K. say that lack of development in blacks' areas is brought about by their intelligence not realising that these homelands for separate development are designed to be satellites of white South Africa held at mercy of white economically destitute, socially backward.

Nick Masimba Mwedzi
 P.S. The fact that S.K. didn't sign his name only goes to explain that S.K. is not very sure of what he/she is talking about, let alone understands.

Hurray for Jack

Dear Eds,
 Now that you have done it, I would like to give you a toast Jack. It's about time that somebody had the guts to tell these fucking communist bastards to keep their stinking asses to themselves and get lost. Long live Jack. You're just great man!

Yours,
 Jill.

From Sarawak with Fear

Dear Editors,
 To be a known 'subversive element' is a dead Malaysian. That's the most basic principle one could find in Malaysia. "Govt. taking a serious view of student subversion". "Bid to brainwash our students". "Our students and reds in New Zealand" etc.....so run the headlines of the Malaysian Nation Newspaper, Straits Times.

What is the chain reaction at home? Today I received a letter from my parents advising me not to get involved in student politics; enclosed therein were some home-news clippings. I am the son of my father; but I'm also a chicken feed to the Malaysian fried chicken.

Chicken Feed
 P.S. Only after firm assurance that my identity will be kept strictly confidential did I dare venture to write this letter.

The Owl, not the Knife is Twisted

Dear Sir,
 May I reply to your correspondent Mr Owl? Mr Owl claims he is in possession of a bloody big knife with its blade in his eyesight. Perhaps he is unaware that work, and that his knife has a very dull edge, and his venom directed at Alick Shaw does nothing more than reveal a twisted mind.

Just for the record, I might add that the Hutt Valley High School Old Boys Association pointedly ignored my application for membership, that Alick Shaw has no right to reveal to my knowledge, and that Stephen Chan comes from the north not the south.

Generally hailing
 Dave Cunningham
 P.S. I'm in no way related to Joanne Cunningham, Isa Cunningham, General Cunningham, Admiral Cunningham, or Sir Allanby Bowater-Cunningham

Wilson Saviour

Dear Editor,
 I do not agree at all with the writer of MSSA Fiasco which appeared in the Salient on September 19.

Rather what happened was something that's out of the world. No other Annual General Meeting (and student association election) has ever been so fair as the MSSA election. Why I say the MSSA election can be as fair as the MSSA election, is because I was not and am not a financial member and am not a member on my behalf and on behalf of a dozen other non-financial members (who rushed down from the library to vote) by abrogating the requirements of the MSSA constitution and magnetic persuasion. It is the dynamic and credible personality of our great Chairman P. Wilson who fought for down-trodden non-financial members and could do nothing but agree.

Long live the saviour, light, guide and patron of MSSA and champion of non-financial members — Peter Wilson.

Yours in balls,
 R.A. Montree

The Rotten Tree

Dear Editors,
 Re the letter "CPNZ — A Rotten Tree". Salient September 12.

This ex-party member's letter had some justification — if nothing else, I should be more interested in party exposures of administrative incompetence in expelling the Wellington District CPNZ. This course was set by a few old men of its political committees.

Many ordinary members, rather than scab on their mates for their socialist principles stood by the expelled district — which is a right of all understanding members.

As for Comrade Dev? Isn't it now ironic, Dev was kept out from all party branches on the express orders from Comrade Wilcox. My understanding of Marxism-Leninism is my guide to principles.

F.C.

Ersatz Extremities

Dear Sir,
 ersatz adj (Germ) artificial; used as substitute for superior or natural product. (Penguin Dictionary)

When did they last pick husbands by their feet, which look plastic nylon noiseless prefabricated neat? Feet are meat.

True meanings have always been in discreet.

Yours sincerely
 Thoroid May

Sense and Nonsense

Dear Sir,
I agree with David Tripe on French nuclear tests. I support the reasons for the French Tests. Unless France has a nuclear deterrent we could need Com-pulsory Military Training at a European take-over USA attempt at a European Russia as well as France. But they haven't got the guts. They are just Yank lovers.

I should like to comment on some of the letters you have published, which to me are so full of incorrect statements as to make them look foolish. The language used by Hugh Buchanan is more suitable for lavatory walls or perhaps his own home. I agree with his statement for a living type should be working for the taxpayers, I'm not a taxpayer but feel sorry for those who have to carry this rubbish into print.

(Signature unreadable)

"A cuckoo's egg in the nest of Nature"

Dear Sir,
From the way some people who speak one gets the impression that they hold that humanity is purely animal, only a more advanced animal. How ludicrous!

These people say that mankind should lord it over nature, and it is as instinctive as for a beaver to be an architect or a hunted stag a strategist. But mankind is not a usurper in the realm of nature but has a nobility, a dignity that places a person far above any other animal.

Run instinct for all its worth, show how a person's delicate sensibility in a thousand directions is but a development of that instinct, use instances of inherited tendencies and herd psychology and one will come up against a gantic difference between the person and another animal. Only human creature, or towards their own thinking process. So this power of reflective reason is a drastic line between the living thing that can reflect on its drawing a drastic line between the reflection and the animal. Man's power of reflection and reasoning is quite beyond any other power in animals.

The difference between dead matter and living, between unconscious life and life that has sensations is not more pronounced than the difference between the living thing that can reflect on its feelings. A person can be the object of his/her own thought and this act is not susceptible of any physical explanation. Scientists show how emotional impulses are governed by electrical impulses, which cannot be explained by science, which relates and digests the work of the independent organization of all the earth.

And if science in the future should prove that our bodies are part of a coherent system of gradual biological evolution, we humans are still, as in- tellectual beings, a cuckoo's egg in the nest of nature. Thus the human per- son's dignity must be acknowledged and safeguarded particularly with ref- erence to each person's life.

Yours faithfully,
C. Natkin

Broadcasting - Education or Propaganda?

Dear Sir,
On Monday September 16 com- mencing at 1.15pm and concluding at 27 minutes to 2 pm a speaker was given from Station 2YA. (I missed the talk on interference with radio broadcasts. He mentioned the various forms of "jamming" He mentioned jamming with deliberate interference then went on to explain that stations in Europe were broadcasted Russian news in English to people all over the world. He said news, not anti-Russian propaganda. He went on to say these broadcasts were being jammed by the Russians but the Germans were able to get some of these broadcasts. He did not mention them myself.)

He mentioned why the Americans were jamming broadcast stations in Ger- many (I have heard the deliberate jamming being done by stations in the so-called free world, (I suppose being free they are allowed to jam "unfree" countries' broadcast stations.)

Other subjects of the foreigners were mentioned. The Comalco was dealt with, the production of alumina transport of the raw material over the Australia to NZ. The huge amount of electricity being used, how much was being paid for this project, how much of this electricity was subsidising the profits were going.

Children from kindergarten up are told about the manufacture of aluminium and other goods on radio and shown the facts that should be told, the facts that really concern all of us from kindergarten up are oh so carefully omitted.

Finally I want my grandchildren to be given the apple not just the pips.

H.E.H. Green

Singaporean Society

Dear Editors,
Is the Malaysian Singaporean Stu- dents' Association with committee members dominated by Singaporean students a fair representation for all the Singaporean students? Obviously it is not a fair prac- tice of imperialism by the Singa- porean students with the co-oper- ation of all Malaysian students.

Why can't the Singaporean stu- dents form their own association like any other country since they come from a so called "rugged society"? Is it because they are not capable of forming their own association? Isn't this a shame to themselves that they can't stand on their own two feet and have to depend on fellows stand- ing on your own two feet and prove your capabilities and that you really belong to a "rugged society"?

Yours sincerely
A Malaysian student

The Peanut Crunch

Sir,
The peanut machine in the Union Hall has, over the past week or so, been the cause of much undue worry and strife. It's recent fancy for itself in the role of a gambling device as opposed to an effective dispatcher of money, leaving many students sorely dissatisfied.

The real crunch came, however when this infernal device locked itself into a men's lavatory in the student union building, causing general annoyance as well as a near-serious accident.

There are many members of the university who have been put to a lot of trouble by the peanut machine and we suggest that the simplest way of dealing with the problem is that the machine be removed as soon as possible.

Signed (sort of)
Some Friends of Clapcotts

Spike's Sex Life

Dear Sirs,
As our last letter didn't seem to reach print, please allow us to extend a few words to 'Spike Milligan and his Goons'. His letter, Salient no. 21, would have been better in a bin rather than in Salient. After all, sir, if one cannot recognise his 'cock from a banana' then one is in big trouble, especially if he happens to eat a lot of bananas. We would suggest, sir, that Spike could tell the difference between his sex life and his arse - poor chap his sex life seems to be ruined or is it? It is about time sir that people commented on 'letters' rather than people, but I suppose that makes us hypocrites.

Yours (not that this letter is like to reach print in your supposed un- censored paper)

All the WDU Supporters at the Varsity.

SSA Formation

My very Dear Sir,
As a Singaporean I am gratified to know that at long last we are going to have an association of our own - Singapore Students Association.

It is about time too that Singaporeans should feel proud in having their own association and not having their- selves looking at our failure to form a club with Malaysians having griev- ances against their government under the protection of Singapore students.

Forward Singapore.

Yours in SSA,
V.A.L. Thambi.

Myths about Mao

Dear Sir,
From what I've heard and read from the students who toured China, I can see that there is much to be ad- mired in that country.

However, the fantastic rate of economic growth and the rise in standard living and social services does in fact, hide that quality which is most objectionable in any society, I am speaking about in power through the out- lawing of the really challenging criticism of the dominant regime.

The 'Hundred Flowers' campaign initiated three months after its introduction as an invitation for Mao to speak their minds. How- ever, only three months after its in- troduction a violent campaign was initiated against those who offered 'criticism'. The critics were made to hurl at them. During the earlier land reform campaign Mao himself killed while other estimates have the figure much higher.

The Cultural Revolution was be- gun at a time when Mao faced major opposition. It was accordingly a very serious committed suicide. Public beat- ings were only those who were the 'correct thought' proposed by Mao could be at ease.

It is seen from articles in Chinese papers that the intellectuals, those who are accustomed to thinking for them- selves, have proved more resistant to Maoism than other groups. So educa- tion institutions were prime tar- gets during the cultural revolution.

Mao may be right in wanting reform but the methods used are often out- rageous in anybody's language. The Chinese Communist Party is estab- lished as a whole reform movement. That Mao prevents similar bodies today can only be to the detri- ment of China. Surely we do not have such naively to hold the most perfect form of human government has been achieved in Mao's form of commu- nism?

Yours sincerely,
Clive Thorpe.

Wanking - the spike

Dear Sir,
In reference to 'Spike Milligan and the Goons' letter. These wanking intel- lectuals wouldn't know intercourse from masturbation. Judging from their insistent conversation about 'cocks' they're probably all fucking queers anyway. Nevertheless, they can always go back home and take it up the arse- no-one's going to listen to them any- way.

Yours against all homosexuals,
T. Oughton and fellow WDU support- ers at the Varsity.

Where are you from?

Dear ignorant Malaysian students,
I do sympathise with Malaysian High Commissioner, Jack De Silva in his point of view.

As long as Jack is the representative of Malaysia, he has responsibility for looking after you (Malaysian students in NZ) and has the right to advise you not to be subverted by the foreign powers.

It's beyond imagination why most of you are not tolerant of Jack's statement.

As far as I am concerned, the only fault he committed was choosing the academic sanctuary to make a speech which involved political problems and led to controversy.

Even if the Vice Chancellor and other people besides you confused Jack, you didn't have to refute him. Are you not Malaysians coming to live in the paradise freedom of NZ?

You have to remind yourselves as Malaysians whether your ancestors came from other countries or not, and you know your Government's policy very well which is anti-communism.

If all of you are against your gov- ernment then where does your beau- tiful country have to go?

Now, check your passports, don't spit on your face, don't be chauvinists and behave yourselves.

Yours sincerely
K.O.R.

The Benefits of Christianity

Dear Sir,
I see over past weeks letters and editorial comments criticising Chris- tianity for doing nothing that benefits society.

But we must see the distinct differ- ence between what Christianity has done and still does in society and the activity of a group such as the Commu- nist Party. The Communist Party and Maoist groups could be criticised for doing nothing more practical than planning the Revolution.

However, right from the arrival of Christianity in New Zealand prac- tical help has been given to those in orphanages, soup kitchens, hospitals, services in recent times, etc. have Christians are adapting their resources to provide help for those with a new set of needs. Homes for unmarried women, for the elderly, for alcoholics where the need for greater care of Maori culture and language becomes apparent the Churches smartly take heed.

It seems to have been the policy of the Communist Party in this country to leave practical help to others while concentrating on political activity. But we can see from the Socialist Action group that this is changing.

Christianity, on its part, is changing its traditional approach of leaving principles up to others. The Christian greater activity are now directed, so is seen as an integral part of Christian service in society. If one really looks clear, the movement for meeting mod- ern needs is well under way.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Bates.

A True Malaysian Chinese

Dear Sir,
One of the purposes of using my Chinese name is to draw out people like "A True Malaysian Chinese" in order that they may give vent to their true Chinese feelings. I am not trying to conceal myself because if I did I would have used a pseudonym in- stead of my real Chinese name which I am quite proud of, if you don't mind. All right if Kiwis don't know my Chinese name, but that's irrelevant isn't it?

As a point of explanation, I did not in my initial letter sparking off this debate, hold the view that the Malay "Special rights" as provided in the Malaysian Constitution should re- moving this clause at the difficulty of point in time in view of its sensitive nature. It is simply my belief that too much agitation and incorrect agitation in this area would produce a bloody race riot as in the May 13, 1969 one. But I quite clearly did point out that this special rights provision should only be temporary and cited Article 1 (4) and 2 (2) of the UN Con- vention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in support. Unfortunately, the reference to the two articles were deleted by the editors when my letter was pub- lished. (As far as I know, Malaysia is not a party to this convention).

I am quite flattered, Mr Editors, that because I have tried to justify the special Malay rights as being nec- essary but only temporarily in Malaya, I should only receive for his rights in this area would produce a bloody race riot as in the May 13, 1969 one. But I quite clearly did point out that this special rights provision should only be temporary and cited Article 1 (4) and 2 (2) of the UN Con- vention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in support. Unfortunately, the reference to the two articles were deleted by the editors when my letter was pub- lished. (As far as I know, Malaysia is not a party to this convention).

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the adventures of the FABULOUS FURRY

FREAK BROTHERS

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by Gilbert Shelton



LETTER FOR YOU, FAT FREDDY!

UH-OH! IT'S FROM "THE SUPERIOR COURT JURY COMMISSION!"



IT SAYS THAT I AM IMPANELLED!

WHY ME? WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

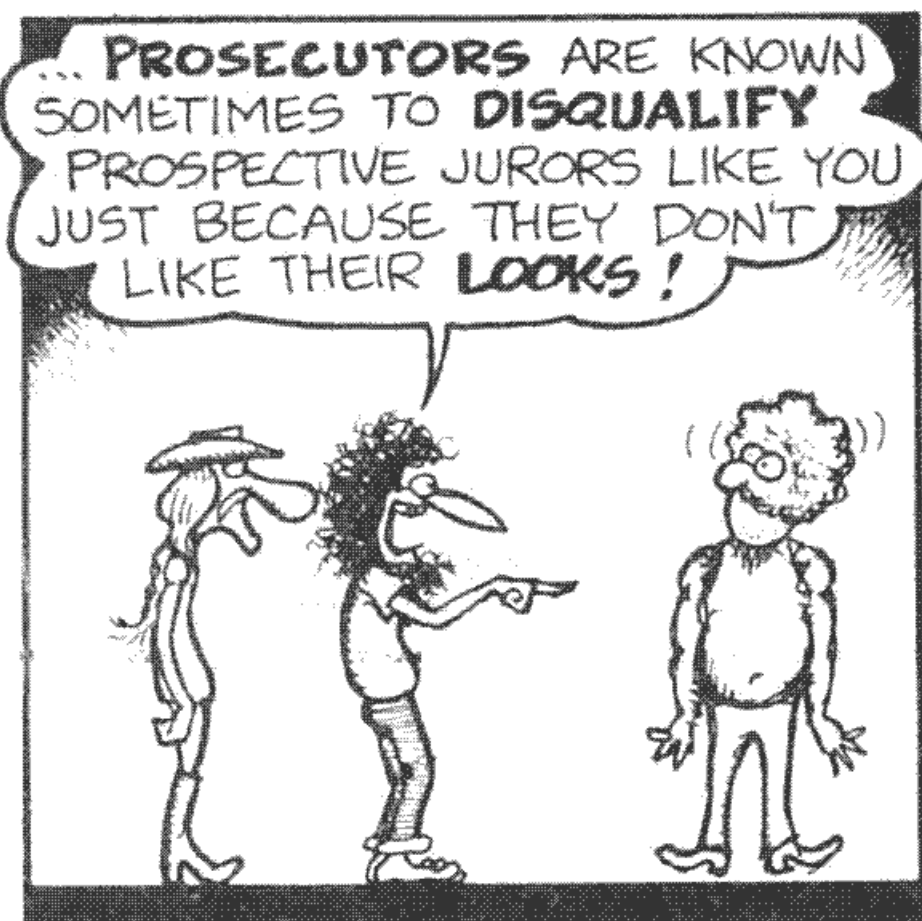
IT'S ALL RIGHT! IT ONLY MEANS THEY WANT YOU TO SERVE ON A TRIAL JURY!



WOW! IT SAYS THEY PAY YOU \$6 A DAY PLUS ROOM AND MEALS!

FAT CITY!

THERE'S JUST ONE THING, THOUGH...



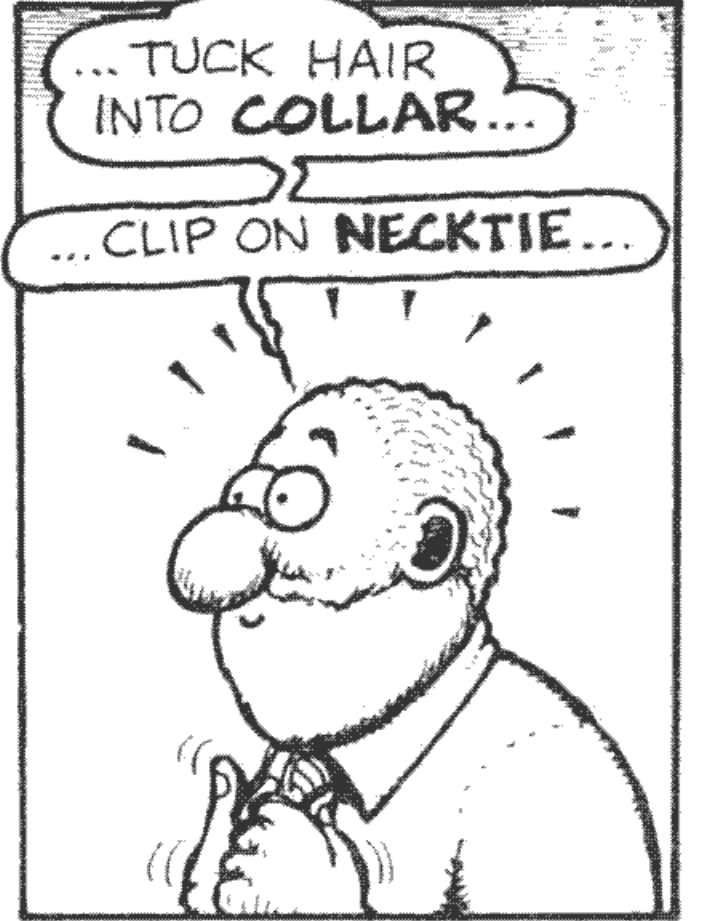
...PROSECUTORS ARE KNOWN SOMETIMES TO DISQUALIFY PROSPECTIVE JURORS LIKE YOU JUST BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE THEIR LOOKS!



WELL, I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN TO ME! I'M GONNA LOOK SUPER STRAIGHT!



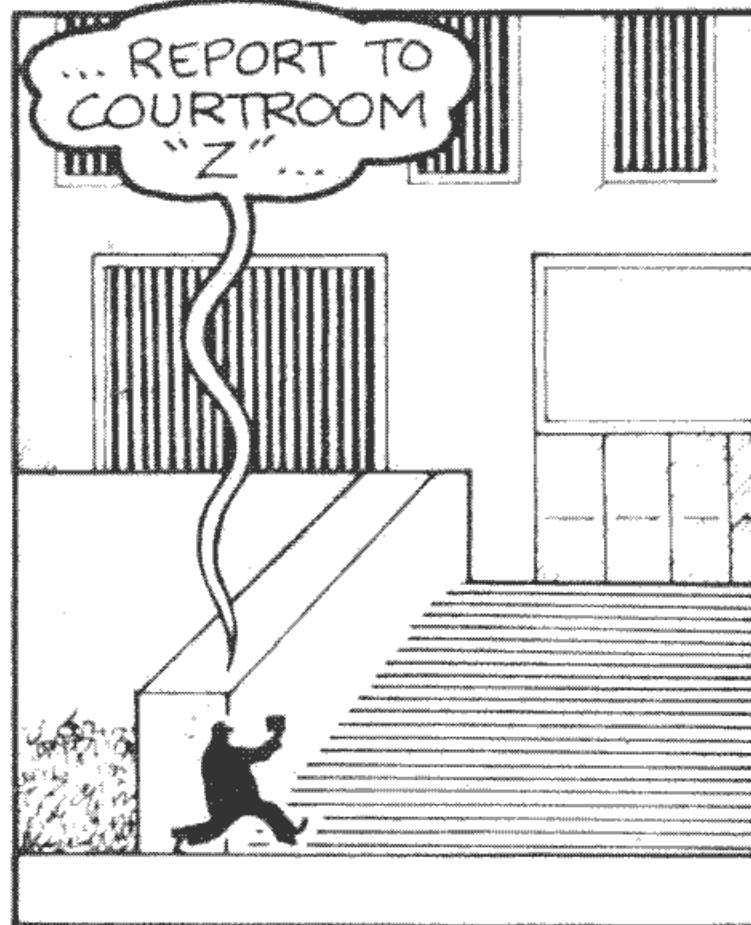
...SLICK BACK THE OL' HAIR...



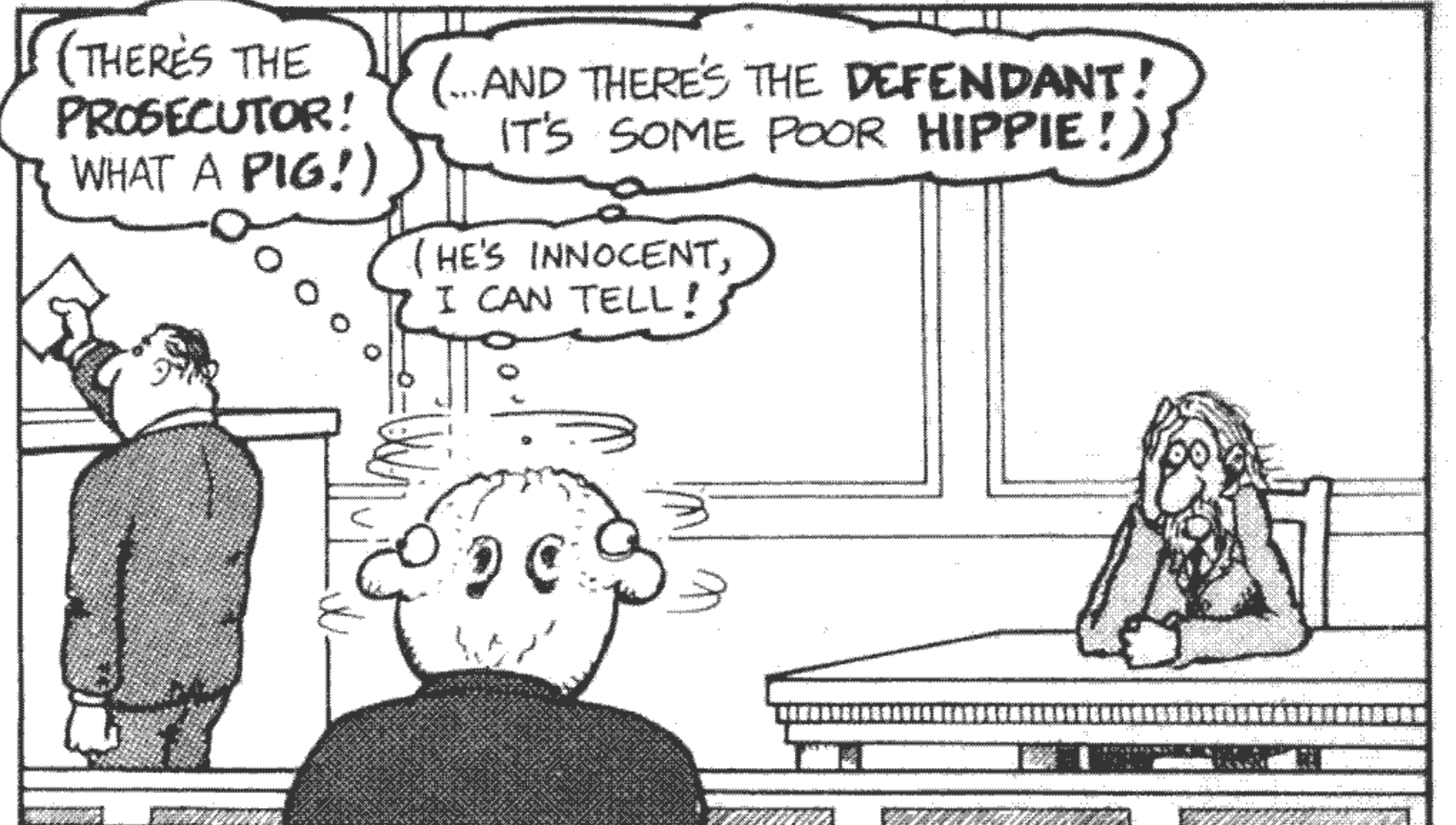
...TUCK HAIR INTO COLLAR...
...CLIP ON NECKTIE...



CLEAN, PRESSED, DARK SUIT...
BRIGHTLY POLISHED SHOES...



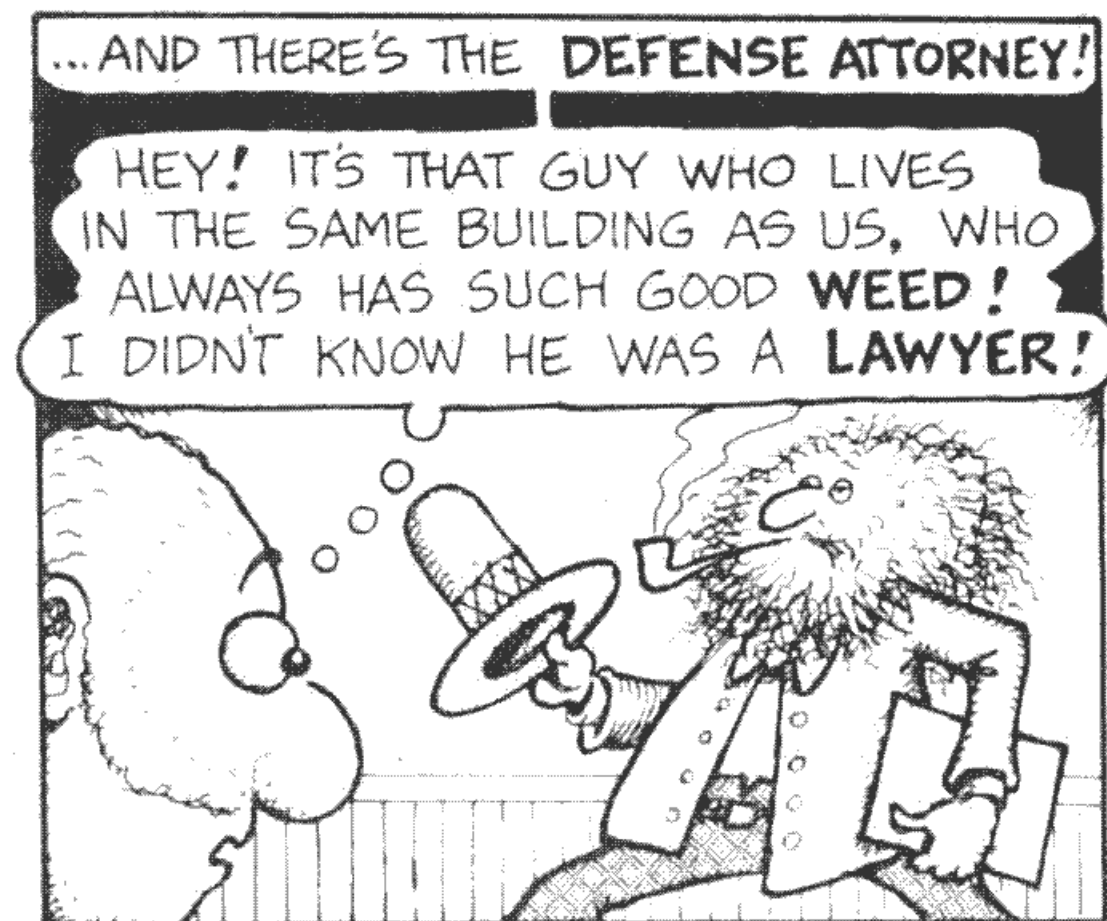
...REPORT TO COURTROOM "Z"...



(THERE'S THE PROSECUTOR! WHAT A PIG!)

(...AND THERE'S THE DEFENDANT! IT'S SOME POOR HIPPIE!)

(HE'S INNOCENT, I CAN TELL!)



...AND THERE'S THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY!
HEY! IT'S THAT GUY WHO LIVES IN THE SAME BUILDING AS US, WHO ALWAYS HAS SUCH GOOD WEED! I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS A LAWYER!



YOU CAN DISMISS THAT ONE, JUDGE! I DON'T LIKE HIS LOOKS!

(GASP!) DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

SEE? HAIR? "FUCK" T-SHIRT?



OH, WELL... SEE YOU ALL LATER, I GUESS!

THE END

FAT FREDDY'S CAT

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BY GILBERT SHELTON



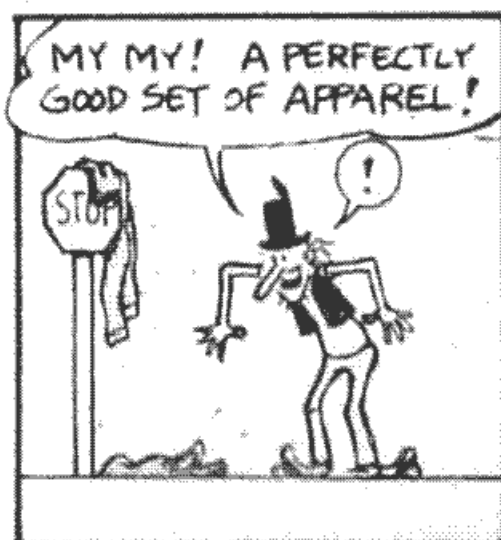
THE CAT IS ASLEEP ON MY GOOD SUIT!



"OUT" YOU GO!



OH NO! HE TOOK THE SUIT WITH HIM!



MY MY! A PERFECTLY GOOD SET OF APPAREL!



PLEASE!? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH IT??

END