

Labour Labyrinth

See Middle Section

Image of Escher's perpetual motion machine

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First Thing on Monday Morning!!!

Agrarian images Student radio ad

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'The Week' needs people to use their ingenuity and sell the paper on a commission basis at 10c a copy. New Zealand's only nationwide independent newspaper needs your support. If interested ring the Distribution Managers Sharon and Rod Clarke 338-217

Cafcinz Meeting. 7.45 p.m. in the Boardroom, Student Union Building, Victoria University to discuss some of the problems of organisation, etc that we face. There will also be a report from the subcommittee set up to consider our aims and objectives. Please come to decide what we want to do.

Wednesday 29th September.

Salient Notes

A Poem (none of this nasty ideological rubbish: it is the seventeenth major cause of [*unclear*: footrot] you know and whats more my mummy told me not to talk to strange men in green caps).

Silence. Nothing but beautiful liver-flavoured silence. Fuck I love it. I mean to be quite frank I really Get off on it. And nature I mean O Wow I mean can't you just see me there grooving along with nature man and all the tittle rabbits busy copulating to their hearts content and all the hedgehogs balling it up (NB my obstetrician told me they cause brain damage so watch it).

No wait a minute let me take another slurp of my buttercup wine: the hedgehog is trying to commit hari-kari and its John (my Daddy's a trendy lefty) Ryall who has finally realised that he's been deposed by that well known opportunist and nature lover David Murray (call me David Murray). Creeping naturalism has claimed Ben Smith who has started the long march to Eketahuna (The big smoke as we say in hip circles).

Ben is not exactly running but he is walking rather fast pursued by wraith like figure of Katy Corner and Bruce Robinson (of Bruce Robinson fame) who got typed on this line because I couldn't bloody-well think of where else to put him. However the two L's are more fortunate because I specially designed this line for them. At this stage I show my objectivity by not referring to the debate over a certain matter I'm not going to talk about, The air is rather thick with flying custard at the moment and I am being hard pressed but that doesn't worry me for that master of objectivity Mr John Bowden takes a long draw on his lighted copy of "a Scotchman guide to geranium collecting" and passes it to Neil Gray who is on the point of speaking to the motion on the flaw.

Confused? What does it all mean you say Well may you ask. And Tony ward does. In fact he asks rather well I thought but then I'm biased cos I'm Just a frustrated hedgehog really, trying to get into his pants. He's still trying to be that big word I can't be bothered spelling; fact he's doing it so well that he also answers to the names of Pat Starkey. Steve Underwood and Mike Stevens. Mind you those names have got a lot to answer for.....

Rose Desmond is not going to have any nasty things said about her this week and neither are Lionel Klee. Pal O'Dea nor James Robb who have come out of the psses in to the Salient notes proper.

At this point the style of the notes has changed because Roy the window cleaner (as distinct from Roy the

carpark attendant or Roy the rock freak) has knocked the hedgehog over the head with Patrick Mulrennan's three ton ice pick. "Ooooh!" screams Kevin Swann. "I've never seen that done before". "You've got a lot to learn." says Warwyck Dewe, nervously shuffling "backwards and forwards to one side of Jules Maher. who has emerged from the confines of his hedgehog farm to do some Salient proofreading (he seems to drift in at the same time each week.....strange man!)

But back to the hedgehogs....."but what about good old fashioned sex," scream out Penny, Patsy and Angela, as Gyles Beckford tells a nasty little Monty Python joke about three Salient reviewers and a pseudo American-camel smoker (no names mentioned at this stage although I'm sure Gerard Couper, Richard Mays and Katy Corner are blushing). It seems that the Salient reviewers were using their sexual powers for careerist purposes, the whole racket being run and financed by Ben Smith Enterprises of Hamilton, New Plymouth and Moir St.

Before I finish these Salient Notes I'd just like to say a big Hi to all the hedgehop in the Sociology Department, especially that special little hedgehog who lost his prickles when David Hyams hit him over the head with a student questionnaire.

p.s. This isn't very obscure is it?

p.p.s The Salient subscriptions have been cut by half for anyone wanting to get their names in the last issue!

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The President Speaks

Vacation Work, Christmas 1976

Gyles Beckford

Drawing of a man with a bowler hat

We expect the coming Christmas vacation period to be a particularly difficult one for vacation work, certainly more difficult than last year (and last year was bad). If you are counting on a well paid holiday job to raise funds for study next year, we think it will be essential for you to do some early planning. We also think you could take some early action, and we suggest you do the following:

- Contact the employer who gave you a job last year. Do it soon. He might be able to fix a date for you to start work there again.
 - But, if you can't do this, or if he has no jobs —
 - Go to the Department of Labour (District Office, Tory St) and register for work.
What will happen then is that —
 - ¶ They will interview you, and prepare a registration card.
 - ¶ They will ask for your student I.D. (in the past they have had some problems with fake students).
 - ¶ They will stamp your registration card with the date on which you reports) to them.
 - ¶ They will send you on to the Social Welfare Department to fill in more forms.
 - There are some new regulations which require you to prove that you are looking for work, by collecting signatures of employers who could not give you a job. The Department of Labour will —
 - ¶ Try to get you a regular vacation job.
 - Send you to the Careers Advisory Board, 6 Kelburn Parade, to look for work through the Vacation Work Service there.
 - ¶ Try to place you on relief work.
 - If you don't manage to get a job —
 - ¶ You will at least have the written evidence to show you tried.
 - ¶ You will be paid an unemployment benefit, after a short delay.
 - ¶ The benefit will be paid from the date you registered with the Department of Labour.
 - Obviously enough, if you spend a lot of time looking for work, and then register in December, you lose money. You should therefore register first, and then look for work. A good day to register would be the day after your last exam (they probably won't buy anything earlier than that).
- But a good time to start looking for vacation work is about now.

Exams are a-Coming!!

It is drawn to the attention of students that the University endeavours to provide special examination facilities for those with physical disabilities and for others in exceptional circumstances during the end-of-year degree examinations. Students who wish to make use of such facilities should contact either the Examinations Officer in the Robert Stout Building, or one of the Student Welfare Service staff members.

Students are advised to read the aegrotat regulations in the University Calendar. If in doubt about whether to submit an aegrotat application, enquiries should be directed to the Liaison Officer or staff members mentioned above.

Gay Liberation Meeting

Smoking Room, September 30th at 7.30pm. Topic: "Ideas for the National Conference".

Graduate Assistant Wanted for a Health Team Development Project

Nuclear Physicist Visits New Zealand

Walter Patterson, a nuclear physicist and author of the recently published book "Nuclear Power" is in New Zealand brought here by Friends of the Earth. He speaks in Wellington on Thursday, 30 September at Ewen Hall, 355 Willis Street, 8p.m. and also at Victoria University Union Hall on Monday 4th October, 12 noon.

New Zealand Green

Consolidated Silver Rips Apart New Zealand National Parks

by Neil Gray

A few days ago, the Prime Minister announced that the Government may consider schemes involving the "controlled mining" of resources contained within the boundaries of New Zealand's National Parks.

The case presently in question is that of Consolidated Silver Mining Co., and their activities in the Fiordland area, but what is interesting to note is that Muldoon's comments were made about National Parks in general.

This would seem to imply that the Government's intends opening up, for massive commercial exploitation, the few remaining unspoiled natural resources we have left.

While such action may seem remote to an unaware public, it is important to point out how little protection the National Park's Act does in fact give these areas.

The main effect of the National Parks Act is to set up a National Parks Authority - which is empowered to manage those parks 'in the National interest'.

The act itself contrary to popular opinion, does not prohibit mining - or for that matter any other form of exploitation - rather it directs the Authority to formulate policy that enables such parks to be 'preserved in perpetuity for the benefit of the people of New Zealand'. The contradiction here is that, although it is the job of the Authority to preserve the parks, the government (in its wisdom of what the 'national interest' involves), may direct the Authority to support and supervise any commercial exploitation.

Mining Act Opens the Gate

Concerning mining, the most influential Act is the 1971 Mining Act, which gives carte blanche mining rights to any enterprise which has a prospector's permit.

This act was originally brought into being to facilitate the growth and development of mining in general. Its conditions make it clear that, in the case of prospector's permits being given, the company involved may utilize its claim in any means it sees fit.

It is an ill thought out piece of legislation which has, ironically, helped restrict further exploitation of the National Parks.

Prior to 1971, a prospector's licence was separate from the right to mine. Thus before a company could gain mining rights, it had to conduct thorough prospect surveys and present a realistic scheme for approval.

The right of companies to prospect National Parks, while obviously displaying intent, did not threaten the existence of the parks, and so prior to 1971 the Authority found no reason to restrict them. In fact often these surveys were of assistance; for as a Lands and Survey Department spokesman put; "The Authority is interested in the geological content of its parks - as well as its forest and animal life".

This is shown in the statistics of permit approvals given from the period of 1967-71. Of the over 160 [unclear: applications] for prospecting rights only a few were refused.

The 1971 Act puts the matter in an entirely different perspective. It is not surprising therefore, that the Authority has not granted prospecting permission for any one of the 67 applications since 1971, when such permission would effectively preclude their ability to control exploitation.

What has become a matter of increasing concern is the Government's intention to ride roughshod over the principles of preservation laid down in the National Parks Act for the sake of crude and temporary, economic gain.

A background to Consolidated Silver's participation in Fiordland reveals how tenuous the prospects of these parks surviving really is - especially in terms of a government whose sole perception of what makes a nation great is in terms of its ability to generate money.

Muldoon Linked with Consolidated Silver

Consolidated Silver Mining Co. was formed in 1968 with the purpose of exploring the feasibility of the commercial mining of metals including those held in National Parks. It is difficult to work out where the 'silver' bit came from (silver deposits in NZ being negligible), apart from affirming that it is part of some Multi-national mining conglomerate.

OUR PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY CANNOT TOLERATE CONTROLLED MINING OF NATIONAL PARKS EXCEPT OF COURSE DURING MONTHS WITH AN 'R' IN THEM

The plot thickens when, seeking further information, the researcher finds that Consolidated Silver's registered offices (source: 1975 business directory) is c/o Keenan, Mills, Muldoon & Browne - chartered accountants of Auckland.

Between the time of its inception and the instigation of the 1971 Mines Act, Consolidated Silver received several prospecting rights, mainly concerned with the Fiordland Area.

The Company's major find has been the discovery of large deposits of vanadium and iron oxide at Mount George, within the Mt Aspiring National Park.

In January 1972 the Company's technical director, Doug Alexander, writing in 'New Zealand Engineering' said that: "the size and significance of the deposit to New Zealand are hard to overestimate" and that the Company proposed using sophisticated smelting and 'chemical extraction' techniques which would maximize productivity.

The Company's lack of access to the technology needed for such an exercise was apparent, and soon they had solicited the financial support of a powerful Australian ally, Carpentaria Exploration Co. (a subsidiary of Mt Isa Mines) - conditional to the provision that Carpentaria took two thirds of any prospecting titles.

Nats Support Mining Scheme

The National Government of the day, though tut-tutting the extent of foreign control, actively supported the scheme in its embryo form.

It was left to the Labour Government in 1974 to accede to the scheme as proposed, and in that year they commissioned a commercial viability survey, an environmental impact report, and investigations into the involvement of New Zealand Steel.

It was this last aspect, and the demands by Labour that Government take up more than 50% of the total shareholding, that put the damper on Carpentaria's participation. The anticipated quick profit was placed in a position of dependence upon their subordination to New Zealand interests - a bane to any powerful multi-national - so they pulled out.

Thus Labour, in spite of itself, stopped a mass, foreign controlled, commercial venture succeeding in Mount Aspiring National Park - but it has set a dangerous precedent for future mining agreements.

Ever since the proposals of 1974 an enlightened conservation pressure group has acted very efficiently in reinforcing the principles of the National Parks Act.

It would appear however that Consolidated Silver has found powerful allies in Government, for despite a clear statement from Minister of Lands, Venn Young, in August that Consolidated Silver would not receive the

right to mine in Fiordland, Muldoon's statement is a doubletake.

Govt Serves Mining Companies

Recent press releases indicate that the Minister's of Lands and Mines have been discussing ways in which the 1971 Act may be amended to allow such proposals as those of Consolidated Silver.

The Mines Department, with the diminution of its state responsibilities, has become in effect a service organisation for mining interests, with little interest in conservation. In fact, in a telephone conversation with a spokesman from the Department, he justified his Department's support for proposals such as Consolidated Silver's by saying that "most national parks are only National Parks by accident anyway". Such an arrogant attitude is obviously doing much to support the claims of potential exploiters.

At present, Consolidated Silver has two possible proposals under consideration.

(a) The Mount George Scheme : This scheme calls for the extensive mining (by tunnel method) of the Mount George area, with the building of an underground conveyer to carry ore to Deep Cove, from where it would be shipped. Consolidated Silver points out to conservationists that this system removes all the doubtful environmental consequences of the traditional strip-mining method, but the impact of their scheme must be placed in its proper perspective.

The amount of industrial development, support systems and living space needed for such an intensive mining operation must completely destroy the area as a National Park. The whole area would be subject to the considerations of the operation, rather than vice-versa.

The Mount George scheme involves, if it is to be given the go ahead, some amendments to the 1971 Act. Apparently recent discussion between Venn Young and Mines Minister Holland has cleared the way for amendments to the Act. These discussions have come after "a number of misunderstandings" existing between the National Parks authority and Consolidated Silver have been rectified, at least to the satisfaction of Ministers concerned.

If the proposed amendments are made law, it will mean the end of the Mount Aspiring National Park and set an example for similar schemes in other areas.

(b) Beach Sand Utilization : This prospect involves the large scale use of ore bearing Fiordland sands. What is of concern in this case is that current interdepartmental discussion suggests that such a scheme can be accommodated under the auspices of the present Act, which may give Consolidated Silver the right to indiscriminately utilize of the sands of the fiords, and construction of any facilities it sees fit.

Ripping Off Natural Resources

The example of Consolidated Silver serves as a graphic reminder to all as to the slender line that separates the nation from being totally involved in the mechanisms of economic necessities.

Whether it is in the "national interest" to assume that the existence of Nature is simply there as potential profit; to be extracted at the whim of those in a position to "make" out of such an undertaking, is debateable.

The Government's apparent willingness to bend over backwards to help the mining interests shows that the New Zealand public is on the losing end again.

Like the Comalco debacle, it is difficult to see us benefitting from schemes that are a simple partnership between rank opportunists and overseas mining giants - fostered by a government that has lost touch with the feelings and needs of its people.

The principles that resulted in the foundation of the National Parks of today are being ignored. A serious, sincere policy towards National Parks and conservation involves more than mere lip service to the sources of ecological stability.

The price of fish(ing)

"If the Russians are allowed to continue fishing in Cook Strait, within three years the ground will be useless for fishing by anyone". So said a senior member of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries earlier this year as large Russian fishing fleet encroached upon traditional New Zealand fishing grounds with alarming effect.

Over recent years foreign fishing fleets have been an increasing problem to New Zealand. The possible results of the on-again-off-again Law of the Sea Conference and the fact that one of the biggest foreign fishers is also one of the two nuclear-mad superpowers has helped to bring this urgent problem to the public eye.

The Foreigners Arrive

Since the early 1960's, large foreign fishing vessels have been coming to New Zealand in ever increasing numbers. First the Japanese, followed in the early 70s by Soviet, South Korean, Taiwanese, and, to a smaller extent US fleets, have been operating in and around New Zealand Waters.

As a result, New Zealand, which was the number one fishing power in our region as late as 1970 had dropped to number two by 1971 and has occupied the number three position since 1973. In some areas, such as the Canterbury Bight, foreign competition has meant a decline in fish stocks (through overfishing and use of small mesh nets which take immature fish) and a consequent decline in the number of NZ fishing vessels and fishermen that the area can sustain.

The effect of this competition on traditional New Zealand grounds has also been evident in another sphere - the sharply rising price of fish as New Zealand fishermen are forced to travel further for smaller catches.

The magnitude of the competition is shown by recent flotilla of nine Russian trawlers, a mother ship, and an oiler which, when fishing off the Canterbury Bight, caught an equivalent catch to that of 60 NZ trawlers.

Russian trawler off NZ coast.

The Big Two

The USSR and Japan catch well over half the total fish caught in our area. These two imperialist powers having depleted grounds closer to home go further and further each year in their search for new grounds to milk dry. Japan arrived off our shores in the early sixties and had outstripped the New Zealand catch by 1971. The USSR first appeared in 1971 catching a mere 10,400 tons. By 1973 it was catching 74,300 tons a year (9,700 tons more than NZs catch for 1973) and the figure has been rising since.

Worldwide the Soviet Union and Japan are the two largest fishing nations. Both are catching a total of about 10 million tons a year. Forty-two percent of the Japanese catch and about 82% of the Soviet catch is made in the waters of other countries. While the Soviet Union and Japan were the two main culprits in the extermination of 90% of the world's whale population through overfishing, they are still attempting to increase fish catches. This year the USSR announced plans to increase its catch by over 30% in the next five years.

The world's oceans can only sustain a certain number of fish. Russian and Japanese expansion is based on merely increasing the scale of their hunting operations and not through cultivation. The intense greed of these capital-intensive industries is leading us toward a situation of marine deserts in the immanent future. What has happened to whole populations is now threatening to happen to other marine species.

A possible portent of the future of New Zealand's fishing industry if these foreign fleets are allowed to continue to fish our waters is contained in Peking Review (7/4/76):

"For six months in 1972 and 1973 Soviet trawlers in the Indian Ocean caught fish and prawns in the off shore waters of Pakistan. Using large fishing vessels and long nets, the Soviet Fleet hauled nearly all the fish swimming in shoals before they could come near the coast. As a result, one-third of Pakistan's fishing vessels could not put to sea, over 6,000 fishermen were out of work, and the loss of foreign exchange income exceeded 150 million rupees."

The UN Law of the Sea Conference

In the middle of this critical situation, both in New Zealand and worldwide, there came the proposal at the Law of the Sea Conference for the establishment of 200 mile exclusive economic zones off all coastal countries. The coastal country would have total control over all fishing activity within the zone.

Several countries including the United States have already declared such zones. The response of the Japanese and Russians has been to launch a new offensive in their fishing operations to gain "traditional rights" in areas that will come within the planned 200 mile zones. More subtle pressures to subvert the planned 200-mile zones are being tried as Jim Campbell, the General Manager of the NZ Fishing Industry Board has warned:

Look at the developing nations," he says, "They are pushed into a position by people who are technologically superior, financially equipped, with access to markets, whereby they are giving away their resources because they do have the means to assess and then develop them.

"We need an interim period specified by the Law of the Sea Conference so that small coastal states are not forced to allow exploitation by others. We need assistance through FAO (the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation) to assist and guide little nations like New Zealand and Fiji to assess our resources." (Evening Post 19/2/76).

The proposals of the Law of the Sea Conference are part of the total move by third world countries for a new economic order. One aspect of this is removing the ability of imperialist powers to exploit without

restriction raw materials found in other countries.

The actions of the OPEC countries brought this issue out into the open and it is the crux of the 200-mile zone concept, as B.J. Kenton, president of the Federation of Commercial Fishermen, has said:

"Many people infer that the 200-mile zone is going to give us a whole new resource but I believe it is only giving us back" (read 'from the imperialists') "the right to manage, control and exploit the resource that I feel is rightly ours".

200 Nautical mile circles and approximate extent of continental shelf

Map of New Zealand and surrounding islands

The Law of the Sea and New Zealand

With the proposed extension of a fisheries management zone to 200 miles New Zealand would have the fourth largest fishing zone in the world - some 1,409,500 square miles.

However, the possibility of the establishment of such a zone is being treated in a totally cavalier manner by the present government.

The Secretary of Defence Mr John Robertson has pointed out that New Zealand is "woefully unprepared" for the establishment of the zone and called for action now to decide policy. His call has been echoed throughout the New Zealand fishing industry. The government response has been as hard to find as was Parliament in the first six months of this year.

On the two main problems facing a depressed industry: (i) the need for capital investment and (ii) the problem of foreign exploitation of fish stocks, the government has advised the industry to: (1) "Think Big" (Mr MacIntyre, Minister of Agriculture and fisheries 9/6/76) and (2) is busy arranging joint-stock companies with foreign fishing nations, is busy bartering off assessed fish stocks for questionable assurances on markets for agricultural produce, is busy putting off the date of establishing a 200 mile zone, is not so busy in building up a patrol force capable of properly policing a 200-mile zone, and has got its feet up and is snoring while the Question of immediate steps to control and restrict foreign fishing activity before the establishment of a 200 mile zone passes it by.

Action Needed Now

The only spark of action from the government was the announcement in the budget of a tax on foreign fishing vessels which visit New Zealand ports. But the government has made it plain (in answer to questions in Parliament) that this is a purely fiscal measure and is not protective or conservational in character. In fact the big two, the USSR and Japan, are both capable of operating independently of port facilities and will be unaffected by the measure.

The willingness of the government to join the third world countries in their struggle for control of their national resources will be reflected in its attitude to the planned 200 mile zone. At the moment it is avoiding the hard decisions. It is shooting at Taiwanese intruders but taking no action against worse intrusions of our territorial waters by Russian and Japanese vessels. Time is running out.

"Our administrators now as never before will have to justify the wisdom of their decisions, not only to themselves but to the people of New Zealand. A considerable depth of interest and concern in this matter is evident among the public, and woebetide the authors of any decisions that are not patriotic and just." P.J. Stevens, President, Wellington Trawlmen's Association, Commercial Fishing, August 1976).

Studass Fee Up ... Well Almost

Sgm Report

A Special General Meeting was held last Wednesday to discuss a number of important things. The major issues were :-

- A change to the constitution to allow no-confidence votes at executive elections.
- Methods for paying off the cafe loss.
- Women's Commission - to continue or not to continue.

Probably, the most notable thing of all about this SGM was the lack of attendance. At a meeting where a fee increase is being discussed I would have expected a few more than the hundred or so hard core students to turn up.

It seems that extensive advertising in the last issue of Salient had little or no effect on the attendance.

Anyway, gripes aside, it was a reasonably boring SGM, especially after Mark Sainsbury and Simon Treacy withdrew their motion for the erection of a fifty thousand dollar "Smokers Paradise" on campus.

Ubiquitous Ward Declared Missing

The first motion to come up was a Ward/Beckford concoction. I was very upset not to see you there Tony — I can't call you ubiquitous.

This was a very carefully drawn up motion, which had been checked over thoroughly by the Association Solicitors to ensure there was no loop-holes, dealing with executive elections, and the provision of a no-confidence clause.

Gyles Beckford explained briefly that under the present regulations a vote of no confidence was only possible when there was only one candidate standing for a position. Under the new regulations it would be possible to have a no confidence vote, whereby no candidate would be elected if the total number of no confidence votes exceeded the number of votes any one candidate obtained.

This wasn't just some waffly clause which would never be used anyway, as could be seen by the recent Auckland presidential election where five candidates stood, and none were elected. The motion was passed unanimously, with no discussion.

The next motion gave executive the power to allocate funds for the costs of an election as it saw fit, because of the inadequacy of the present budget of \$150. This was passed with little discussion again, and only one dissent from an unnamed shitstirrer at the back of the room.

Chairman Something of the Past

Chairpeople were back in the news again with an Aagaard motion to change any reference of chairman in the constitution to chairperson. This motion also went through with hardly a whimper.

Next was a fairly long discussion on what was going to happen about the cafe losses. Steve Underwood moved a motion that the fees be increased by two dollars, which would be used to pay off the accumulated deficit of \$47,000 over a four year period.

After some questioning which established what alternatives were available (i.e. the milking off of money from the 2nd Building fund which was to have been used to pay for a lift), Neil Gray stood up and made yet another speech (I don't think I've yet seen a motion go through after discussion if Neil Gray hasn't been involved).

He didn't think that future students should be made to pay for past students debt, which was a bit of a red herring, because they would have to whether they liked it or not.

This impassioned plea was followed by questioning over the value of having a lift, and safeguards against future losses?

Steve Underwood said that one positive step would be the proposal to employ an accountant next year. He was then questioned about the dubious nature of accountants and replied that it wasn't "to fiddle the books", although he did notice some dissent from the audience.

Kevin Swann was opposed to milking off of other funds which had been set aside for specific purposes to finance cafe losses. Peter Aagaard thought that Studass fees were high enough already.

Lloyd Jobson then took the stand to a rousing cheer from the masses, and said that he had one "very simple point" (nobody believed him of course), "and that was if Fritz (1972 Catering Manager) could make a profit why couldn't anyone else?"

Gyles Beckford was opposed to the principle of subsidising the cafe, as this hadn't been done in the past, although he didn't think that taking money from the second building fund was subsidising the cafe.

Steve Underwood then took up his right of reply, saying that there was a need for flexibility with the second building fund, and that it shouldn't be disturbed.

The motion was then put and lost, with a for-shadowed motion to take the money from the Building fund passed - the proverbial robbing of Peter to pay Paul.

Industrial Relations Campaign Discussed

Proceeding from another fine dissection of the catering situation it was on the the allocation of \$100 for an Industrial Relations Campaign. David Murray stated that as an earlier SRC had supported the struggle against proposed Industrial Legislation money was needed to fund this campaign. Lloyd Jobson wanted to know how the money was to be used, and Gyles Beckford and David Tripe explained that it could be used most effectively in producing leaflets and other publicity material.

It was then Neil Gray's turn to point out that August Council had decided to make Industrial Relations

number one priority, but that it had only allocated \$200 of funds for this purpose, and that more money was needed from constituents. The motion was carried.

Anne Dwyer moved a motion to increase Arts Council subscription from 35c to 50c to allow for inflation, and a cut in the Government grant to QEII Arts Council. As the money was to come from the Studass General Account, and did not call for "an increase in fees, it was easily passed.

We were then onto possibly the most contentious issue of the day (i.e. Women's Commission at August Council).

Gyles explained the background to the debate, and left it up to the speakers. Sue Jarvis was the first and she said that the majority of delegates on Women's Commission were in favour of its continuation, including one delegate from Canterbury who had earlier moved a motion at an SGM there opposing the commission. Ms Jarvis thought that without a Women's Commission women's issues would not obtain the priority which they deserve.

Shall we tell them?

Photo of two students

Underwood Enterprises has just bought out Catering. Prices will be going up 50% tomorrow.

Photo of two students

Lindy Cassidy said that NZUSA's structure [*unclear*: was s] adequate to action policy on women's issues and that the Women's Rights Action Committee being set up would be a positive step in this direction.

Democracy and Women's Commission

David Murray felt that other campuses were undemocratic and that women on women's commission were making policy out of their own heads and not from what their students wanted. (This seemed like a bit of a red herring when the same situation occurred on every other commission).

John Ryall felt that the women's commission was tackling the problem the wrong way around because the reason for inadequate Women's policy did not lie in NZUSA, but in a lack of any policy on the constituent campuses. However, Neil Gray (again!) thought that a Women's Commission was necessary until such time as there was action at campus level.

Lynne McGimpsey said that the arguments against women's commission were arguments against all the commissions.

Angela Belich was the next person to take to the pedestal saying that if women's policy was not seen as important in NZUSA then the thing to do was to see it as more important on campus, and not just through another bureaucratic structure.

Go now my son and sin no more, Peter Aagaard.

Photo of Peter Aagaard

Peter Aagaard thought that the commission hadn't been given enough time to prove itself, and that it should be reassessed after two or three councils.

Leonie Morris thought that all it had been doing was "chucking out old policy, and making new ones".

John Bowden (*the objective SGM reporter - ED*) was next to step forward saying that Women's Commission had been serving a useful function in clarifying policy which had been earlier spread out over three or four commissions in a piecemeal fashion.

Gillian Goodger was the last speaker, taking issue with Leonie Morris's argument saying that what, in effect, happened on every commission was old policy being thrown out, and new policy being made.

It was finally narrowly decided to go ahead with the commission, and at about 1.55pm when Boh Drummond still hadn't said anything all the meeting ended. (Bob reckons the only good SRC reports are ones which mention his name, so I thought I'd better put it in.) I refuse to mention Derek Fickers now that the smoking ban has been implemented.

Making the return trip; NZUSA 's David Tripe

Photo of David Tripe

Singapore: Behind the Economic Miracle"

An excellent publication compiled by the Federation of U.K. and Eire Malaysian and Singaporean Students Organisation (FUEMSSO). Price: Two pounds (about NZ \$6.00, postage included). Write to: FUEMSSO c/o NUS (International Sec.) 3, Endsleigh St., London W.C.1

Review:

This 92 page book reveals, amongst many other things, the blatant violation of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights in Singapore.

Media

"The King is dead, long live the King! which is to say the Salient editor for 1977 is David Murray. But in the true spirit of democracy for which Vic is well renowned, we elect our Kings.

This occurred in a Publications Board meeting last Wednesday when the three candidates for editor were interviewed and David eventually chosen (the members of Publications Board are all elected by SRC at the beginning of each year so in theory the decision was a democratic representation of student opinion).

The candidates were David of the Salient Socialist Party (a right-wing fabrication describing the alleged 'salient clique'), Alan White, a Polytech journalism student, and Martin Doyle the famed poet and bohemian.

Each had a different approach to offer and the issues discussed were important for anyone dissatisfied or simply concerned about Salient.

Should an editor attempt to be objective and simply 'reflect' student opinion or should he be allowed to push his/her own political line?

Alan White said he would try the former if he became editor and would publish anything students submitted. However the Publications Board was unsatisfied with this because it showed little understanding of the running of a student newspaper (articles don't just appear - they have to be vigorously ferreted out) and also because they were worried at the effect this would have in practice. To be 'objective' means to exert no controlling influence over the paper and would result in a directionless student version of 'The Dom'.

David on the contrary admitted his political bias and saw Salient next year having a definite progressive direction. This view also worried some of the questioners for they were apprehensive about David excluding articles whose political content he didn't agree with. However he proceeded to make abundantly clear that he believed in free debate and thus would publish anything he disagreed with (well anything intelligible anyway).

He saw Salient as both reflecting the concerns of students and providing a progressive lead on important national and international issues - particularly the fight against creeping fascism.

Martin Doyle, valiant in defeat, completed the line-up. He too admitted his political bias but vowed he would attempt to provide plenty of variety for Salient.

Experience in the end won the day (as it always does - Ed), and as all those dedicated followers of Salient will know David has worked for Salient all this year and therefore must have a few clues.....or so the theory goes.

So if you walk past the Union Building late any night, don't worry about the strange noises- its just David strutting round Salient office practising bitter jibes and subtle witticisms in preparation for the edification of next year's students.

— Gerard Couper

Tv News : who should Control it ?

Hear Brian Edwards, Simon Walker and John Barningham

Wednesday 29 September 12 noon in the Union Hall

Drawing of people hiding behind a chair

Anti-Calendar Meeting. Friday 1st October, Smoking Room.

If you are interested in making a contribution to these departmental critiques, the coordinators are:

All welcome to the meeting - if interested phone David Murray or Lindy Cassidy(editors)

END OF YEAR CHARTER FLIGHTS Student KUALA LUMPUR LONDON SINGAPORE AUSTRALIA BANGKOK JAKARTA Travel Bureau WORKING HOLIDAY IN USA, CANADA NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING FARES. FLIGHTS, ETC. FROM student travel bureau Middle Floor Student Union Building. Phone 738-566 Ext. 59 or 22 Courtenay Place, Phone 856-668

Pol Sci ~ for and against the status quo

Dear John,

I disagree with Neil Gray's criticisms of the POLS department. To assert that it is peopled by 'aloof and unapproachable structuralists' indicates a myopic and partisan viewpoint.

There is a distinction to be made between the practical studies of existing states and political phenomena (whether institutionalised or not) and those that are concerned with the theoretical foundations of politics itself, ranging from Politics and Morals, to Plato and Machiavelli and Marx. In this latter category I suggest from my experience and the course outline that there would be a lot of latitude for extra-institutionist twaddle and forwarding of one's views outside the (apparently) dogmatic strictures of the institutionalists. If some students are alarmed at the possibility of being duped into some disagreeable ideological disposition by the crafty insinuations of the 'hard line structuralists' then I suggest they transfer from these practical studies, where such rigid categorising supposedly occurs to the theoretical courses where they will be competed to make their own analysis of politics and need not fear being programmed by the nasty structuralists.

However, I feel that such a radical conversion will be unnecessary, the criticism forwarded by Gray and some others are largely unsubstantiated by details of specific courses or instances of dogmatic structuralism, ideologically biased; and educationally unrealistic.

The charge that courses should be more 'relevant' is a radical's euphemism meaning 'Marxist'. The dissatisfaction expressed by Gray about the Marx courses illustrates clearly the frustration of faith, he would doubtless like to see all pretensions of impartiality discarded (whether liberal or radical) and establish explicitly Marxist lecturers delivering Marxist analyses to 'sympathetic' students.

POLS students left of liberal seem to orientate towards the practical studies of politics and away from the theoretical, perhaps because the discussion of the philosophical foundations of politics is discomfiting in its vagueness and inconclusivity. I contend that the criticism of 'structuralist' is nothing but a criticism of 'non-Marxist'. Gray's argument against Prof Murphy expresses this viewpoint clearly, he maintains that Marxist thought cannot be understood "...unless his [Marx's] notion of Capital is considered a live rather than a dead issue". What he is saying is that we should all study the practical and contemporary application of Marxist dialectic to current problems.

The analysis of Dialectical Materialism as a philosophical system supplying the foundations to this sort of analysis is best left indefinitely because for one thing it stops us getting on with the business of cleaning up the world and secondly it might have a few leaks in it anyway. Though this impatience for activism may be considered morally laudable by some it is intellectually corrupt, such enthusiasts are unprepared to research the theoretical basis of their beliefs, and press for more practical and topical analyses and less criticism of the intellectual foundations on which they depend.

'Dejected Sucker' (Vol 39 No. 21) claimed the workload was too high and the assessment too frequent. I feel that the standards at Victoria are low enough that any cretin who does more than ten hours work (set hours incl) a week should be able to get a pass even if he sleeps through the exam. If you want anything better than that that you should have to work for it, too much of this much-aided gripe about course assessment and workload is simply a complaint that the courses aren't easy enough. There is no educational philosophy behind it but sloth. Assessment of some sort or another is both academically and bureaucratically necessary, students who are ill-equipped to master stage one courses could otherwise enrol in courses that they were insufficiently gifted to begin to comprehend, causing a burden to the lecturers, the other students who could be both able and interested, and the administration of the University.

If you disapprove of assessment then all you have to do is get a C pass to go on to the next course, that minimum requirement is pretty low. If you are at University to get an education and not a degree then the low grade your un-cooperation with assessment will provide you with should not bother you. If you claim you want a "good degree" for use in the commercial market then you will damn well have to accept competitive study and rigorous assessment. It seems that the only kind of assessment some students are prepared to accept is one that makes no discrimination in the quality of the work produced, which would result in the lowering of the already low standards of the University and a disadvantage for all students in consequent deterioration of teaching quality.

Some form of meritocracy exists in all human groups. Even in the Utopia-lect of China a vigorous worker or exemplary Party member is rewarded for his/her efforts, and I can see no justice at all in an academic system again that fails to favour the person who is prepared to work and exercise their talents by allowing them to progress to higher-level studies before those who have now shown equal competence. To argue that some have greater advantage than others because they are brighter or from cultural backgrounds that emphasise scholastic success, and so should be handicapped in some way, (or those that do not possess these attributes be

given some compensation) is to stumble into a mire of determinism that recognises no such thing as volition, and thus rejects merit and blame, something that even China and other countries allegedly adhering to a deterministic concept of history and human behaviour do not do.

Drawing of faces

If we accept that sometimes we act strongly, and overcome obstacles, and other times we give up in despondence or out of genuine disinterest, then we recognise that sometimes we choose a meritorious course of action and other times we choose a blameful course. The point is that we are responsible for our actions, if we do well, we expect and receive credit and if we do poorly we expect to be held accountable for it, or at least not to receive credit. To criticise this as a capitalist plot is to show abysmal ignorance of the reward and punishment system that operates within all human groups. (A problem for Sinophiliacs - How can Chairman Mao be revered when he is the inevitable product of influences over which he had no control?).

Changes in the system of rewards themselves may be arguable, but that merit be recognised and rewarded is beyond dispute and dialectic.

One of the repercussions of the internal assessment system is that now a student can pass a course knowing only about 40% of the content. I have spoken to many students who claim that though they passed with a good mark in their exams they know little of the material involved because there was no need to be familiar with very much of it. Assuming that students will team for themselves is crap, if that was the case they needn't attend University, unless that is, the motives for attendance are socio-cultural and not educational. I am here to get a degree, if I wanted to get an 'education' I would stay at home and read and forget all about deadlines and terms, exams, seminars and the whole of assessment. As for the popular 'intermingling of ideas' defence I would suggest that it is rather an intermingling of like-minded individuals or groups that is found satisfying, one feels culturally, not intellectually, alone when away from the University. The exchange that is rewarding is the sympathetic identification of people with compatible prejudices.

The POLS department has its proportion of eccentrics, some charming, most not, but I do not consider them to be at all aloof or unapproachable, nor do I consider that the department is dominated by 'hardline structuralists'. The practical courses obviously stress the 'componential' analysis that is required in such studies, but they do not prejudice the student into thinking that only governmental and socially established institutions have any political reality. Of the courses I have taken and discussed with others politics has been considered as explicitly a part of non-institutional influences.

In such courses as the United States Government (102) the intention to study the existing political structure is stated quite clearly, and no pretence is made of making a Marxist analysis of the relation between the Senate and the Executive, nor should there be. Other courses, such as all of Dr Vasil's have been and most probably will be, are tedious, but these historical analyses are not structuralist, they examine the totality of political influences and not just the formal structure. I suggest Gray and others dissatisfied with structuralism enrol in PolS 301, Political Community, next year where you will experience such a dearth of structural or institutionalism that it will come to seem like a haven of commonsense.

Mark Carey.

Pols 100 Level Letter

Dear John,

As a first year POLS SCI student, I have become acutely aware of the problems and hassles that Neil Gray has written about. I intend to comment briefly on the two POLS courses I have taken this year.

POLS 111 - This course was titled an "Introduction to Politics", but what do we get - a scratch-the-surface, institutional look at New Zealand government. I appreciate the difficulties that may have arisen through the death of one of the course lecturers, but the content seemed to me to be banal, uninteresting and about as far divorced from my own ideas of what an "Introduction to Politics" should be as I can imagine.

Peter McKinlay, writing about the sociology, makes a very valid point when he mentions that the social sciences including POLS SCI - 'deals in the very stuff of human existence'. After taking this course, I can honestly say that I am not any more aware of my existence than previously. What is clear, however, is that I recognise how isolated and powerless I am in relation to those institutions of which I am supposed to be a part (the New Zealand government).

POLS 112 - An "Introduction to Political Theory" must be the most difficult to teach in the whole department, and to some extent I sympathise with the lecturers. However, the structure, content, and workload of this stage one half unit is mystifying and oppressing the students, so I wonder how hard the lecturers are

really trying.

How can any student get any sort of understanding of Political theory with such superficial coverage? I cannot take time off for detailed individual study of Marx or any other theorist because I have to prepare for a test or write a mini-essay on another theorist.

I was most irate when Dr Levine proposed another piece of work on top of all our stuff so far. This sort of treatment displays insincerity on the part of the lecturers.

Political Science has the potential of being an exciting field, but from what I have seen in these courses, POLS SCI at Victoria University has missed the bus!

Yours in all seriousness,

HEC.

Le THEATRE des ILES presents 'THE BALD SOPRANO' by Ionesco & JARRY !! Ubu Cocu A Bilingual Programme Memorial Theatre, Friday 1 Oct: JARRY!! Admission \$2.00 Students \$1.50 Sat. 2 Oct: Gala Evening of both plays. Admission \$5.00 Wine and food after the performance. Bookings: 727-071

DOWNSTAGE Until 26 October UBU - based on the work of Alfred Jarry Directed by John Banas Late-nite and lunchtime theatre: 'STRINDBERG'S WOMEN' 'THE STRONGER' - By August Strinberg Thurs-Fri 12.30p.m. Fri-Sat 11.00p.m. Student Concessions available. Bookings 847-639 and Hanah Playhouse.

Odds & Ends

Legal System

Terms in this subject this year will be granted to every student with a 45% or higher mark average. There will be no discretionary grant of terms below 45%

(from Law Faculty Noticeboard)

Torts

Is what happens in Torts indicative of Law Faculty thinking?

Salient deadlines preclude any thorough analysis on the present situation in Torts, but it appears from our investigations that a quarter of those students who enrolled in the class will not be able to sit finals because they did not pass terms. Of the 60 odd who missed out, only 15 students were eligible for terms consideration because the others had already fallen by the way-' side (discouraging course content/structure?)

What about the unfortunate 15? The cut-off point was 120 marks out of a possible 300 for two opinions and one terms test. An average of 40% sounds pretty fair until one realises that the average class mark for that notorious first opinion was about 25 - 30%.

Prof Palmer stated in class that those who failed terms could write an explanation to him which could cause him to change his mind although, he had never changed his mind in the past and couldn't imagine the circumstances under which he would in the future.

One particular student who had applied himself diligently all year (100% tutorial attendance, full participation in socratic discussion during lectures) missed out because his total mark of 108 was 12 below the cut-off point.

However good his case was, what chance of terms reconsideration did he have in view of Prof Palmer's virtually flat statement that no appeal stood a chance of success?

Concert Preview

Music Room (H332), Wednesday, Sept. 29th, 1.10pm and 8pm.

On Wednesday, the Music Society will present two concerts featuring pianist David Guerin. David completed a B.Mus Hons in Musical Performance at Victoria University last year, having studied in Wellington for several years with piano tutor, Judith Clark. He now lives in Auckland, where he is studying with Janetta McStay, and he was recently placed third in the Auckland Star Piano Concerto Competition.

The first of the concerts on Wednesday will be a lunchtime recital, at which David will play Beethoven's Sonata in A, opus 101, and Sonata (1945-46) by the American composer Elliott Carter. Admission to this concert is free.

In the evening, there will be a student concert, with works by Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn and Arnold Bax. Student performers include Rosalind Salas, Soprano, Ingrid Palmer, piano, Robyn Stapleton, clarinet, Greg Hill, horn, Kathleen Culliford, oboe, and Rosemary Quinn, piano. David Guerin will appear as the guest artist, and will play 5 Debussy Preludes and the Chopin Fantasie Polonaise. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

..I THINK ... THEREFORE I AM... FAILED TERMS!

Gym Available Gym Available Gym Available!

In an attempt to conserve funds and the hope that the building programme will commence shortly the Gym will be closed on weekdays from the first week in November (Friday 5th) until early February....

However whilst the Gym is still open try a pre-study, or pre-dinner or pre-luncheon or pre-anything workout. Any member of the Gym staff will gladly advise you on activity programme to suit you.

In the even fo the a student group, club or organisation showing itself able to muster enough support to justify a booking in the evening the written requests must be made to the member of the Gym staff before September 30th.

The Gym will be open on weekends as usual.....

If you enjoy cycling inthe sun and no wind then the newly repaired Gym exercycle provides just that at no extra cost.

Frisbees Frisbees Frisbees.....

Unlimited throwing in the Gym on Fridays 1-2pm. Come along and throw away your cares and woes. Here I go swinging low. Bye bye Frisbee !!!

NEWSHEET MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 12.00 Come along to share a mass. K. Pde 50 1pm Sosc 301 course questionnaire will be administered. LB 2 TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2.15pm The Salzburg Connection. Spy Thriller of the best type. The forces of bourgeois freedom and democracy clash with the forces of Nazi repression. Directed by Lee Katzin. Memorial Theatre. WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 12noon TV News: Who Should Control It? Hear Brian Edwards, Simon Walker and John Barningham give their views on it. Union Hall. All Welcome. 1.00pm Mass will be celebrated. All welcome. K 718 2.15pm To Kill a Mockingbird : Starring Gregory Peck in the story of an Alabama Black wrongfully accused of murdering a white. THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 5pm Tommy: Plenty of good hard driving rock and full of the decadence of the whole hipped out freaky pop-rock scene. Directed by Ken Russell. Starring Eric Clapton, Elton John, Jack Nicholson, Oliver Reed and Roger Daltrey. Memorial Theatre. 5.05pm Share a mass. Partake of tea. This is your last chance. All welcome. Ramsey House Lounge. 7.30pm Gay Liberation Meeting. Topic: Ideas for the National Conference. Lounge and Smoking Room. FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER 12noon Anti-Calendar Meeting 12 noon Smoking Room. All Welcome. SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 2pm Young Socialist educational : "New Wave of Protest". All welcome. 76 Dixon Street.

Condemning Cutbacks

Communique: of the National Malaysian Students Conference held in Christchurch on 18 and 19 September 1976.

Preamble:

The Conference dealt with a wide range of general issues, specific problems and solutions relating to the quota on private overseas students from Malaysia.

The Conference:

- Agreed that by virtue of New Zealand's political and economic relationship with Malaysia there was no truth to the myth that Malaysian students in New Zealand were dependent on the New Zealand tax payer for an education, especially when, for example, trade between New Zealand and Malaysia is in favour of New Zealand. It was also pointed out that because New Zealand has certain economic and military interests in the region, she has a moral obligation to continue her aid to Malaysia without penalizing the number of private Malaysian students coming to New Zealand.
- Agreed that the Government should maintain the total number of overseas students coming to New Zealand without restricting any one particular group.
- Pointed to the dissatisfaction of the universities with the way in which the decision was made.
- Highlighted the fact that the Bahasa Malaysia requirements in Malaysia already restrict the number of

- Malaysian students coming to New Zealand.
- Agreed that Malaysian students do not deny educational opportunities to any other overseas or New Zealand students.
- Expressed strong dissatisfaction at the Government's lack of consultation with the universities and the students on the decision to drastically reduce the number of private Malaysian students coming to New Zealand.
- Agreed that action should be taken on a national and constituent level to mobilise opinion on this issue.
- Agreed in principle that a national body of overseas students be formed, the first step being the reinstatement of the position of overseas student officer of NZUSA.
- Reaffirmed the 1975 recommendation of the Overseas student Congress, that the 1977 Congress be held in Wellington.
- Agreed that the theme of the 1977 Overseas Student Conference should deal equally with the South Pacific and South-East Asia.

Endorsed and adopted by the Conference with the dissent of the Otago delegation to items 1 and 4.

A two day conference was held at Canterbury University on 18 and 19 September to discuss the recent NZ Government announcement to cut back the number of Malaysian students coming to study here next year. The meeting was attended by two delegates from each university and about a hundred interested Malaysians.

The conference began on Saturday morning with a talk by Dr Kelvin Clements, a lecturer at Canterbury on "NZ-Malaysian Relations", which gave a perspective of the unequal relationship between the two countries'. In his opinion NZers had to change their arrogant attitudes towards people from the third world and not to think in terms of what they can profit from their contacts with these people, but what they can learn from them. He said the intended cut back on the number of Malaysian students coming here was typical of this arrogant outlook. There was no justification in doing this, as NZ could benefit from the exchange of ideas and culture with other people. He revealed that in 1972 the cutback was already mooted by both governments.

Don Carson followed up on this view with a background history of NZUSA's protracted struggle to defreeze the incredible numbness of ministerial minds in handling the whole issue. He pointed out that in the first place the cut-back was decided without any prior consultations with the people most concerned about it - OSAC and Malaysians. He said a lot of confusion was created by the fact that several government ministers were involved from the deputy PM who first consulted with KL authorities, to the Minister of Immigration who finally accepted responsibility for handling the matter. Mr Carson said even then the minister was not certain about his facts when NZUSA made representations on behalf of Malaysians to him.

A delegate from each centre then reported to the meeting on the feelings of Malaysians in his campus. Auckland MSSA, representing the majority of Malaysian students at Auckland University, submitted a background paper which set out arguments against the cut back.

The discussions wound up with the delegates passing a series of resolutions summing up the arguments against the cut back. A join' communique was drafted to be made public as soon as possible.

Another matter discussed was the 1975 Overseas Student Congress' decision to hold an International Students Congress in Wellington over Easter. All delegates reaffirmed this decision and recommended that the ISC/77 deals in equal measure with the affairs of S.E. Asia and the S. Pacific. An invitation was extended to the Director of OSS in Australia and the President of the Malaysian Union of Students in Australia to attend the congress. A resolution passed urged that in view of the increasing awareness among women of their social status the ISC/77 hold a special Women's session.

Image of a large gathering of people

The conference went on to discuss the setting up of an Overseas Student Service in NZUSA to look after the affairs of overseas students. It was decided that the position of Overseas Student Officer would be reinitiated so that someone could be appointed to investigate the possibility of setting up the OSS.

VUW sent two delegates who reported back to a meeting of about a hundred Malaysians on Monday night 20 September in the smoking room and lounge. During the same evening members of Auckland MSSA showed slides on the history of student activities at the University of Singapore and also showed slides on Auckland MSSA activities.

Labour ~ The Progressive [*unclear*: Myth]

By Anthony Ward

"What has happened in the Middle East has shaken the capitalist system to its very roots. The fight over the next few years will not be to balance oil prices but to prevent the whole structure from collapsing." Norman Kirk, at the 1974 Labour Party Conference.

It's not a happy time. Even crumbs and damp pieces of cloth (the students staple diet) are being hit by inflation. Unions and others trying to win back a cup of cold tea are threatened with heavy fines and deregistration. Local racism is coming more and more out of the woodwork. Muldoon's paranoia of the Soviet extends everywhere.

The contradictions, as Mao said, are sharpening. Conflicts of all kinds that could be postponed during the boom come out with a vengeance in the slump. If you think this is bad, the President of the Manufacturers' Federation reckons we just might have a real recession next year.

So what's the answer? Where's the elusive elixir? David Exel came up here a couple of weeks back to tell us its the Labour Party. While the reception he got was not the most friendly, the questions he raised are important ones. What is the role of the Labour Party. How much can we expect from it?

Even in its own terms, the Labour Party is not doing too well at the moment, as Exel was ready to admit. The problems go a fair bit further than he suggests though. Its not that that the people at the top of the Party are 'wrong' somehow, and everything would be roses if they were replaced. As we will see a little later, the Labour Party, the very essence of its role in the slate system cannot solve our problems. In fact, it often intensifies them.

How Labour is Labour?

But firstly, in its own terms, how has Labour been faring? The electoral disaster of November 29 is still fresh in the mind. The result was a combination of factors. National's vote increased little to 39% of the electorate, whilst Labour's support slumped, much of it to the low turnout. The Labour Party has long claimed to be part of the Labour movement. It seems members of that movement are having doubts about the association.

The Party has moved a long way from its early days when it was seen as the political wing of a Federation of Labour struggling to smash capitalism. Militant unions then, after their defeats in the 1912 and 1913 strikes, realised they did not have the strength to take on the Government in an outright fight. In the Unity Conference of 1916 it decided to push for its aims (which centred around "socialisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange") through Parliament.

If the road to Hell is paved with good intention, the Labour's road to power was paved with discarded policies. Nationalisation of land was dropped in 1931, and the 1935 manifesto pledged not "abolition of the wages system" but to take up where Seddon had left off. Michael Joseph Savage campaigned not as the working class's friendly uncle but as everyone's friendly uncle.

The 1939 Labour Cabinet visit the construction site of the Centennial Exhibition. Centre is the Prime Minister, Michael Joseph Savage. Next to him on the right is Walter Nash, Minister of Finance and later Prime Minister: and on the left is James Fletcher, the contractor for the job, who needs no introduction. Photo Alexander Turnbull Library.

Photo of a large group of construction workers and Labour cabinet

For all that, the Government of 1935 had many members who had been through the mill, and strong ideals, if the socialism had become pale. The changes made by that Government were many. The two most important were the "welfare state" and a system of import controls, which would protect New Zealand industries and hence guarantee workers jobs.

Many of the Government's actions, particularly after Fraser became Prime Minister, were at best questionable (see the earlier articles on the Second World War in *Salient* no's 5 and 6). But the major steps of import controls and the welfare state provided the basis (along with good export prices) for the prosperity and relative equality of the 1945-65 period. They were a significant victory for the working class of this country. Significantly, they were also in the interests of industrial capital. A contented workforce in a stable economy is obviously a profitable workforce.

From the large successes of the 1938 election, the Labour Party went steadily downhill. It lost seats, it lost members and at times it lost interest. Most importantly, imbued with the great ideology that the state is neutral and stands above classes, it lost contact with the labour movement. The persecution of the Public Service Association in 1947 and the deregistration of the Auckland carpenters Union in 1948 were political blunders of the first order.

Labour Sells Out in '51

The Party started its period in the wilderness in 1949, and with no especially strong line against the Holland Government's rabid 1951 attack on civil liberties and the waterfront unions (Nash declared himself "neither for nor against" the workers' struggle) seemed destined to stay there. The 1951 confrontation showed up another

major effect of the Labour Government's reign - the union movement split in two. The radical Trades Union Congress urged the need for organisation and strong unions. The Federation of Labour held strongly to the benefits of cooperation with the Government, and even helped Holland smash the waterfronters.

Wandering around in the wilderness, the Party picked up a few disciples, a few new policies and one or two new faces. The electoral success of 1957 (when Labour got a majority of two seats) was a political disaster. Labour faced a major economic mess, caused by falling export prices but greatly helped by National's dismantling of import controls.

The stem economic steps of the 1958 Black Budget were technically successful (they kept the ship afloat), but politically suicidal (all the crew left). Other measures of the administration were equally popular. Progressive steps such as recognising China or asking the Rugby Union not to tour South Africa (who wouldn't let Maoris in the team) were quietly shelved. Industrialisation was encouraged, but in a disastrous way. There was little consultation with local people and the benefits (e.g. of Comalco) were never quite apparent.

It is clear that the Party had lost contact with the Labour movement. It was trying to manage capitalism better than the Nats (in which task it probably succeeded). But its members left in droves, and at the 1960 Party Conference there was strong support for a motion attacking the Government for being completely out of touch with what was left of the Party rank and file.

As in 1951, and again in 1975, Labour's 1960 reward for its compromises and ploys was a low turnout at the polls (especially of Maori voters) and a sacking as the Government. Its attempts to restore the Welfare State and reintroduce import controls once again got whittled away by the National Government.

Again into the wilderness. And Satan said: "If you will bow down before me I will give you all this." Lip service to socialism went out the door like a shot, but electoral gains didn't come easily. The members of the Parliamentary Party were changing. Fewer now came from trade union backgrounds. Many came from professional liberal backgrounds. None dared think of the class struggle.

The Technocrats Rejoice in '73

Labour eventually resurfaced on the Treasury benches in 1973, no longer the party of the working class but more a amalgam of political compromises. Regional development, the environment, compulsory military training - all played their part in Labour's election victory. Foreign policy took a decided turn for the better. These, however, were the actions of a liberal democratic party, not a party whose electoral support was the urban working class. These people's faith met little response.

The two key points of earlier Labour Governments the welfare state and a controlled economy - took a pounding. The technocrats got in and fouled it up but good. Roger Douglas's superannuation scheme has been called many things, but it certainly wasn't egalitarian. Bill Rowling's adherence to capitalist free enterprise economics coupled with Kirk's impatience made the 1973 boom reach ludicrous heights, and made the consequent recession the worse. On the encouragement of overseas finance bodies, import controls all but disappeared.

On involvement with the unions the Government's record was equally bad. The widespread reaction to the use of injunctions against union leaders in 1974 was met by an unyielding Government. "No one is above the law", proclaimed Martyn Finlay clearly recognising the class bias of the law. "I've had a guts-full of militant unions", said Norman Kirk.

Bill Rowling was a little more sophisticated. With "full negotiations" and "meaningful discussions" with the Federation of Labour (whose apron strings to the Government have still to be cut) the Government cut workers' pay by some 8%. Few problems. Muldoon's attacks so far come to 5%. Who said Labour Governments were bad for business?

The years 1972-5 were thus in many ways a replay of 1957-60. The Government got absorbed in managing the economy, and became more and more technocratic. The Parliamentary Party became divorced from the rank and file who supported it. Membership turned downward again. The result was coupled with an amazingly stupid election campaign and Bill and the girls and boys were on the road again.

Labour Play Pitiful Opposition Role

Labour in opposition, as in 1950 and 1961, shows an advanced case of shell-shock. The most remarkable thing its done so far is to have a record numbers of members sent to the privileges committee. There has however been a realisation of the problems of communication ("with the election and 10 000 Auckland hotel workers pulling out of the Party thats not surprising).

Yet it's still the same ball game. When Muldoon pushed through the Industrial Relations Amendment allowing employers to sack on the spot, the Labour Party stoutly attacked it. Not on the grounds that it was an

unwarranted attack on workers tenuous rights. But on the grounds that it wouldn't work The end is apparently not in question only the means.

The picture that emerges is fairly clear and fairly unpleasant. What working class base the Labour Party once had in its policy and actions has long gone. The stress is on technocracy and meritocracy. "We can plan anything better", and "if you're good you can get to the top". The ideals behind the most successful moves of the first Labour Government have been lost on the way since. Import control is a dirty word now, and is for egalitarianism.....

So, David Exel might say, you see the problems. Now isn't the best way of doing something about them joining the Labour Party and changing it? Surely if the student politicians took over the Labour Cabinet things would be better?

There is no denying the fact that better people in Parliament would make some difference. But where would they come from? There's a long history, on both sides of the House, standing against it. Thinking "wouldn't it be nice if.....and rushing off into action never really got anyone far, We cannot ignore the history of the Labour Party, the history that has led, through successes as well as failures, to the present situation.

Role of the State

Nor can we ignore, as Rowling and Tizard seem to be ignoring ("Karl Marx and I aren't even good friends") some essential issues on the nature of the state and the participation of people in that framework. The analysis must go a little deeper than a quick summary of the history of the Labour Party.

The chief function of the state in any society is that of social cohesion. The state arbitrates between various groups and claims to decide things for the good of all. As Engels put it "in order that society should not consume itself in fruitless struggle it becomes necessary to have a body, seemingly standing above society". This body is the state.

Yet there is a contradiction between the state's assumed role and its chief function. It is a matter of logic that, given an antagonistic class society, where one class exploits another, the state must take some part in that struggle. Simply because its role is social cohesion, protecting the status quo, the state must also be protecting the interests of the ruling class.

The class nature of the state is thus a matter of objective function, not of who is in power in the state at a particular time. Yet the state is not just a "committee of management" of the bourgeoisie. This is so for two reasons. Firstly, the bourgeoisie itself is far from being a united class. Secondly, because the state attempts, in its own terms, to "stand above society", it therefore has some independence of its economic base.

Capitalist society, based on the commodity form of production, has within itself several sub-modes of production. Different sub-modes are characterised by differing methods and forms of production. Thus while they all are part of the capitalist mode of production these are significant differences between the agricultural sub-mode, the small industry/service sub mode and the big industry sub mode. Within each sub mode, stemming from the productive relationships, there are classes, essentially based on owners and workers.

The classes stemming from each sub mode exist beyond their purely economic existence. They have political and ideological attributes as well. Thus in New Zealand the agricultural sector is marked by a particular political outlook, essentially opposed to the extension of state control and a particular ideology of the value of hard work, rugby, and mistrust for the city. The industrial sub mode on the other hand, dependant as it is on state protection, has differing political and ideological attributes. Politically it seeks an uneasy extension of the state's regulatory role. Ideologically the values of consumerism and city living are strong.

The overall class of owners therefore comprises the collection of the owners in the various sub-modes, and the overall class of workers similarly includes workers in different areas. These groups are known as class fractions. As part of its role of social cohesion, the state must clearly attempt to unite the ruling class fractions (into a 'power bloc') and also try to disunite the working class fractions.

In these attempts the state is caught in contradictions. Competition, especially between bourgeois class fraction, tends to fragment the ruling class. There is no one the farmers hate more than the finance companies. At the same time, the development of society breaks down divisions and hence unifies the working class. The fact that the jobs of respective unification and fragmentation get more difficult over time is a major reason for the growth of state 'intervention' in the economy.

The second reason why the state is not just a management committee of the bourgeoisie lies in its relative autonomy from the economic sphere. Because it exists with a particular institutional framework on the political level, the state is the focal point for class struggle. And class struggle necessarily implies that the dominated classes can achieve some measure of success. Successes, albeit short lived, can be seen in the working class's victory in 1935 in New Zealand, or the petty bourgeois movement in Germany that brought Hitler to Power.

Labour Party Lost Class Consciousness

With this analysis in mind, what function does the Labour Party have in the state in capitalist New Zealand? The principle contradiction (the main opposition of forces driving society along) in capitalist society is economic, between capital and labour. On the political level this contradiction is reflected in the forms of class struggle.

Within the state itself the Labour Party does to some extent represent the working class. It certainly gains its basic support from this class, and is hence in antagonism to the National Party. However, as we noted before in surveying its history the Labour Party has lost much of its class consciousness even in this framework. In Australia Whitlam even claimed that Labour was the party of "the whole people", the Liberals representing special class interests.

Also within the state, and largely because it is more: attuned to the desires of the more oppressed members of the community. Labour takes a more humanitarian and involved role than National. But these actions, because they take place through the state apparatuses, have in themselves loaded political and ideological roles. Instead of encouraging people to work together, to form self-help groups, the state stresses "individual" pay outs.

This is part of the most important weapon the state has to fragment the working class - that of 'isolation'. It appears in various forms. Individual welfarism is one. Another is, because the state appears as a liberal democratic body with equal rights for all citizens it therefore confounds the unity of the working class stemming from production. Through various of its agencies, particularly the education system, the state re-enforces individual bourgeois ethics.

A quick look at the present Labour Party shows it is pursuing this role of isolation to the letter. There is a stress on individual achievement, the 'meritocracy'. Douglas's superannuation debacle was reinforcing class and income divisions. And, most importantly as far as progressive movements are concerned, a Labour Government institutionalises and thereby disorganises them. This is clear in the emasculation of the trade union movement under Labour Governments. It is also clear from the dearth of protest groups under Labour, which are now getting back into swing.

How Should We View the Labour Party?

The major point to be made is that while the Labour Party does to some extent represent the working class inside the state, the state itself is a ruling class institution. In other words, the principle contradiction on the political level is not between National and Labour within the state, but between the state and the dominated classes.

The history of the Labour Party that was outlined before thus must be seen as much more than accidental developments caused by a few individuals. It is also more than a party starting off with socialist ideals and getting these whittled down whilst in office. Both of these pictures are superficially correct. But the practice that stems from them is incorrect - thinking that all we need to do is change the individuals or reassert 'socialist' policies.

Bill Rowling: facing a grim future?

Photo of Bill Rowling

What the Labour Party is up against is the very structure and nature of capitalist society. Its functioning within the state's ambit itself precludes the possibility of radical long-term measures. And its very functioning there means that the Party's 'content' must become firstly compromised and finally overwhelmed by the state's form'.

How then should we view the Labour Party? Kirk's quote from the beginning - stopping the capitalist system from collapsing fairly states how the Party sees its role. It is obvious that if real steps are to be taken towards socialism they must be taken outside the Labour Party. But, especially when the major question is not "whether socialism?" but more "whether fascism?", there are clearly situations where Labour's stand is progressive and worth supporting.

The situation is just that though "supporting" does not mean trying to reform from inside or tilting at the unalterable windmills of history. Making concrete steps towards a decent society for all requires three things: mass organisation; concrete and correct analyses and effective leadership towards real goals. The Labour Party, both because of its specific policies and its objective position, can provide none of these. David Exel's pleas for people to join must be rejected.

Photo of the 1973 Labour Cabinet

The 1973 Labour Cabinet. Front row, left to right: Rowling; Watt; Tirakatene-Sullivan; Kirk; King, and

McGuigan. Only two of these six are still M.P.s.

Feminist Polemic

In Defence of Women's Liberation

by Gillian Goodger

I would like to take issue with Lindy Cassidy and Leonie Morris on the ideas they express in their article (Salient 21, Sept. 6) and letter (Salient 23, Sept, 20) regarding the feminist movement. The position they put forward has been at the basis of a number of debates on campus this year, notably the difference over the Women's Commission, so I think it is about time it was examined fully to see how valid it is.

Leonie and Lindy criticise the women's rights movement as "middle-class" in composition and outlook. They say women should be "changing society" instead, and that their oppression will be removed in the course of the wider struggle. Arguing against the present focus of women's right to abortion they say that working class women are only concerned with abortion at the moment when they need one, whereas their main demand is for "better working conditions and higher pay."

Their vague and confused mutterings about "contradictions" do not obscure the fact that their arguments have no basis in reality. Where L & L fall down is in their attempt to impose a dogmatic schema of "how the working class revolution must be made" to the real life struggles of women in New Zealand. The assumptions they make and the conclusions they draw are therefore quite erroneous.

Firstly, to insist that the women's movement declare itself for socialism and that women should not launch an all-out fight for their rights unless it is consciously part of the struggle for socialism, is ignoring the way that most people become involved in political action. It is not only middle class people who have absorbed the ideology of capitalist society and the sexism and prejudice of all sorts which goes with it. Were New Zealand working people as class conscious as L & L like to think, we would have had a revolutionary upheaval before now.

Everyone in this society has been infused with myths and illusions which keep them believing in the system, and very few people discard these ideas overnight and suddenly realise the need for revolutionary change. In most cases it takes experience in coming up against injustice and realising that society cannot provide for basic human rights and needs, for people to come to such a conclusion.

Every struggle against the oppressive conditions under capitalism helps the struggle for socialism, whether the participants are fully conscious of this or not, in that it challenges the status quo and ultimately brings more people to the realisation that the system needs to be scrapped. The movement for women's rights is doing just that.

Not only are Lindy and Leonie confused on how women come to be conscious of their oppression, but they don't realise how that oppression is instituted and maintained. The family is not a protective haven for working class women, it is the primary institution which keeps women in their place. Certainly in a society which provides for little personal contact and relief from alienation and loneliness, the family may fulfil this function, and certainly it provides a certain amount of 'security' for women and dependants, where there is no alternative means of surviving.

The situation is perhaps analagous to jobs. Socialists seek to remove the present system of 'wage slavery' whereby everyone who works is exploited by an employer, and receives less than the true value of their work. However, as most people need to work in order to live in this society, we support the right of everyone to a job. Similarly, the position of women is connected to their primary role in the family, but instead of calling for the abolition of the family (as L & L assert) which is not a meaningful slogan, the Socialist Action League and Young Socialists advocate the provision of alternative facilities for the functions that the family fulfils. The key to freeing women is not in getting men to share some of the household drudgery but in making such work a social responsibility and organising laundry facilities, childcare centres, house-cleaning and restaurant services, alternative ways of caring for the old, the young, the sick - all the tasks which have been loaded on each individual family to cope with, and have ultimately been the responsibility of women.

The women's movement has brought forward the demand for such alternative facilities to give women freedom from domestic slavery. Inasmuch as these demands cannot be met without a total restructuring of society they are anti-capitalist demands. Socialists should be putting forward such alternatives, not telling women about the joys of the family, which they are just beginning to recognise as being rather a fraud.

Because they ignore the role of the family and don't have a realistic conception of how the majority of

people come to accept socialist ideas, Lindy's and Leonie's suggestion for what women should be doing are quite misplaced and out of tune with the real situation. They pretend to know what working class women want. I would like to know where they got the information that the main demand of working class women is for "better working conditions and higher pay" when working class women, as a group, have not yet made clear their demands. The newly-formed Working Women's Council may give some basis for making such statements when it gets going, and I support it wholeheartedly as a way of reaching out to more women and bringing them into political activity.

Drawing of a man holding a woman

It makes sense that Working class women relate not only to bread and butter demands but to all the forms of oppression they suffer. Working class women suffer oppression as women even more than other women. They have the lowest paying, most demeaning jobs, and then come home to the work of caring for the children and keeping the house. They are often subjected to physical brutality from their husbands. They rarely have any free time away from their children or job. They have less access to birth control information and cannot afford an abortion to prevent unwanted children.

Because large numbers of lower income working class women couldn't come to a meeting in the Town Hall to demonstrate their opposition to Gill's Bill doesn't mean they are any less concerned. Obviously it will take a very large, outreaching campaign to begin to involve those women who have the least time for political activity. This is what the women's movement and in particular the campaign to repeal the abortion laws is trying to do - with little help from people like Lindy and Leonie. Instead they criticise the focus on abortion and say that it "should be seen within the total context of the fight for a decent standard of living, day-care and a women's right to work". This is meaningless if meant to be a prescription for action.

Certainly women fighting for the right to abortion see that they face obstacles in many areas - in fact being actively involved in such a struggle makes many women realise just how much they are up against. But you cannot fight a concerted battle on many fronts at once. Linking the contraception, abortion and sterilisation demands makes logical sense to most people; but to raise the demand for child care, job opportunities and everything else within the same action campaign narrows that campaign to those people who can agree on every demand and tends to dissipate its striking force. For example the committees which were set up to oppose the Gill Bill recently were able to get wide-ranging support from people of all different political beliefs and persuasions. They were able to unite on that one thing, and successfully frightened off MPs from passing the Bill. The parliamentarians were made to back down in the face of public pressure organised by women.

Lindy and Leonie are concerned that [*unclear*: th] the women's movement take "working class demands" instead of supposedly "middle class demands" like the fight to abortion. The points of emphasis they suggest are jobs for women, daycare and equality within the family.

Although L & L prefer to shy away from abortion, the feminist movement can't ignore the fact that it is the issue or which women are facing the greatest attack by the reactionaries. The issue is simply there, in the public eye and many, many women are concerned about it. Opinion polls showing a clear majority in favour of the availability of abortion cannot possibly be reflecting only "Middleclass views" when the overwhelming majority of people are working class!

To fail to take up this issue would be to miss an opportunity to mobilise women in a real fight against the government and the status quo. Certainly it is a reform which can be accommodated within the capitalist system (so is "equality within the family" which doesn't even challenge the government or the capitalists to do anything!). But fighting for reforms can give women a deeper consciousness of their position in society and inspire them with confidence in their abilities to take political action. This must be distinguished from operating in a reformist way, which involves fostering illusions among women that the government will solve all their problems if they only ask nicely, and stifling any actions which threaten to 'go too far' in terms of asking for things the politicians are not prepared to give.

Fighting for democratic reforms, in an uncompromising way, is also in the interests of the working class. Lenin made this point over and over again. For example, in refecting the views of one P. Kievsky, who had argued that socialists should abstain from the fight to win for women the right of divorce on the grounds that such a reform would be meaningless under capitalism, Lenin said:

"Only those who cannot think straight or have no knowledge of Marxism will conclude: so there is no point....in freedom of divorce, no point in democracy. But Marxists know that democracy does not abolish class oppression. It only makes the class struggle more direct, wider, more open and pronounced, and that is what we need. The fuller the freedom of divorce, the clearer will women see that the source of their "domestic slavery" is capitalism, not lack of rights. The more democratic the system of government, the clearer will the workers see that the root evil is capitalism, not lack of rights...."

"All 'democracy' consists in the proclamation and realisation of 'rights' which under capitalism are realisable only to a very small degree and only relatively. But without the proclamation of these rights, without

a struggle to introduce them now, immediately, without training the masses in the spirit of this struggle, socialism is impossible." (From "A Caricature of Marxism and Imperialist Economism," written August-October 1916. In Lenin's collected works. Vol 23, pp. 72-74).

L & L conclude their article with a quote from Lenin. Where it is taken from they don't say, but the context is obviously very important and in this case very misleading. When the Communist party condemned 'feminism' in the early part of the century they were in fact referring to a section of the women's movement which believed that liberation could be achieved by reforming capitalism. This is what Lenin was concerned to distinguish the Communists' policy from. The quote in fact validates what I have said; that women's oppression is part and parcel of class society, and that the struggle against oppression is bound to work against that society. It is not necessary nor is it realistic to demand that the whole women's liberation movement at this stage must have a conscious policy of working for socialist revolution.

The views put forward by Lindy and Leonie represent the political outlook of Maoism. The attacks they make on the women's liberation movement are simply another proof of the bankruptcy of approach. That they can ignore and disparage one of the deepest expressions ever seen, of outrage and indignation against oppression, surely brings into question the claim of Maoism to be a revolutionary doctrine.

Maoism has nothing practical to offer N.Z. women who are coming to grips with the injustices they face.

Theatre

Canadian Mime Theatre

Any art form has two primary elements; basic technique, and imaginative development of this technique. Because mime is not often seen by the 'general public' a mime show can use basic mime techniques with great success. But generally this success is a 'one-er' and if mime is to develop into a popular art form, it cannot continue relying on its basic tricks as how pieces for the public.

Not that I'm accusing the Canadian Mime Troupe of this; however I do see a contradiction in their work between imaginative development and these basic techniques. Their performance on Friday contained seventeen separate sketches, that fit into four basic categories - simple mime tricks; social situations - such as 'The Audience', 'The Doctor's Waiting Room' and 'The Recital'; metaphysical skits that border on modern dance such as 'The Search'; and those I call purely imaginative such as 'The Fear' and parts of 'Duet'.

I see the first three categories inherently limiting for mime and perhaps for Adrian Pecknold and his troupe.

In the show they were well done and very funny, but I have seen similar done equally well (by Living Theatre Troupe) and better (by Marcel Marceau).

They left no lasting impact in my mind and for me it seemed as though there was little room for development. Obviously skits such as the 'Doctors Waiting Room' in which an itch is transferred from one patient to another tap a very old joke that is still viable; and perhaps it is funny because it's so familiar. But all such skits bore little concrete relationship to reality they were acted out in an abstract realm of their own.

They were familiar situations, but presented in a vacuum. Perhaps this is just a personal prejudice about mime that I'm expressing, rather than a valid comment on the show. Perhaps it is a prejudice against overseas performers; because I thought the last skit - an ice-hockey game done to strobe lights was very effective, but again limited. For a start it was using an old technical trick, and also bore little relationship to the audience - how many of us have seen a game of ice-hockey?

Whether all this is my limited viewpoint or a valid comment is hard to decide. All I can say is that a good percentage of the audience would have described the show as "good light entertainment" rather than "electrifying" or "stunning".

There were, however, very exciting moments that I thought showed an imaginative use of the art form. For example the skit 'The Pear', and parts of 'Duet' such as when one performer used another as a towel and a shower. And the end of the 'Lone Ranger' when fingers spread lowered behind the other hand represented a sunset.

Again it may be my personal taste that isolates such instances. But it seemed to me that they were a genuine development from the basic techniques of mime rather than simply variations on a theme.

After the performance I could not help thinking about the future of mime as an art form - where can it go from here?

It doesn't seem to me there are many avenues open if this performance is any indication.

Now you may think this is all so much bullshit. I admit I have become disillusioned with a lot of theatre because of what I see as its elitist nature - and that is a political value judgement. That's the spectacles I see

things through at the moment. I find its no longer possible for me to go to a performance and say that was quite nice, and leave it at that. There is a little man inside my head analysing the wider implications of it.

If you have comments to make on this I would be pleased to hear them via the pages of Salient.
— Gerard Couper.

'Claw by Howard Barker:

Directed at Circa by Jean Betts

Claw is a violent and unusual play. It is full of savage humour and mirthless laughter; brutally callous, and of an intensity that doesn't seem to belong to our age at all. The scheming machiavels, malicious heroines, and scandalous tricksters are all lifted from the world of the Jacobean Theatre; but the play is set this side of World War Two and diagnoses the present state of British Society.

The story centres around a working class lad who is determined to 'claw' his way to the top and worm his way round the ubiquitous English class sytem. Howard Barker (his play, Cheek was performed at Unity earlier this year) uses this framework to reveal the corrupt and farcicle nature of British social convention. He illustrates all too clearly the 'divide and rule' principle of social control: 'If you've got a stirrer, promote him!' But woe and betide anyone who tries to 'take onthe British Ruling Class.' Intrinsic to this stance is the question: 'Is this any basis for a system of government?'

Claw shows the almost paradoxical effect the works of Karl Marx have on society. Marxist precepts are inextricably woven into its fabric, but Marx himself lived in another century and did not forsee social developments like the welfare state and 'liberal democracy'. Just as scientific concepts change in the light of new discovery, so social doctrine must evolve to keep us with social change. Barker highlights this by describing a fifties youth group, the Young Communist League, sitting around waiting for Marx's revolutions to occur. If socialism is to succeed, an entirely new approach is required (Tony Been, come back, all is forgiven.) Accompanied by songs from the sixties John Lennan's Working Class Hero: some Rolling Stones and the Troggs - the whole 'crisis of British socialism' is examined in a novel and exciting way.

Barker's characters are not drawn full-bodied. He is more concerned to show the effect the environment has on a character, and the subsequent effect that character has on others - and not the effect he has on his inner self. There is a delicate balance to sustain here between archetype and characature. If there were any laurels to be handed out for performance, they would have to go to John Reid for his dual roles as Mr Biledew and working class demobbed serviceman; and Clapcott - a tory cabinet minister. Biledew, rendered impotent by a war injury, turns to the works of Marx for salvation. Reid's portrayal of him as the dour, brooking but compassionate voice of conscience, made a great impression. As Clapcott, urbane, unruffled and slightly overweight, he underwent a complete transformation, and was equally convincing. It takes a good deal of concentration to handle roles like these with such assurance.

Janice Finn is a very accomplished actress. She plays Mrs Biledew and Angie, Clapcott's wayward wife, Although John Reid wasn't as polished a performer as Miss Finn, his characterisations had more depth. Angie and Mrs Biledew were p played a little too much as charicatures. The mannerisms and the style of her performance were good but became predictable as the play progressed. None the less, the overall standard of performance was high.

Micheal Wilson features as Claw, alias Noel Biledew. He gave the part his usual energy, but his characterisation did not reach the level set by the other two.

Jean Betts seems to enjoy aggressive play's and this production almost snarls at the audience. The last scene is almost given over to two monologues delivered by Peter Haden (as an ex IRA Terrorist) and Miceal Morrissey. This scene is beautifully constructed and sustained for the twist at the end, but during it, the thread of the play is easily mislaid. Barker has included enough material in these two monologues to write another two plays, both of which would be equally absorbing. The only major detraction from the show was the awkward and untidy set which at times made the actors look as if they were working with a disability.

Claw is an extremely evocative play. Its images are clear and well developed. The performances are of a high professional standard, This is an excellent opportunity to see modern NZ-performed English drama at its best.

Richard Mays.

Rock

"NRPS" — New Riders (of the purple sage)

Well, here we are with another in the long line of New Riders' discs, ones which are pleasant, harmless, and slightly above-average easy-listening music (for the porch on a sunny day). But the New Riders are simply no longer providing sufficient fresh material, as are the Charlie Daniels Band and the Ozark Mt Daredevils (to mention only a few). There have been set formulae for country songs for decades, and the New Riders just aren't adding much to Merle Haggard's and Hazel Dickens' songs.

For example, "Don't Put Her Down" starting with side two to be fair, is as sentimental as a boondocks ballad can get. Woozy pedal steel accompanying 'There's more to her than powder and paint....don't put her down, you put her there....'.

Whereas Gram Parsons had the ability to create masterpieces out of essentially stale material - to resurrect them through a genuine love of, and feeling for the songs he was singing - the New Riders don't seem to bother to change the pattern enough.

With "Honky Tonkin" comes a pick-up in rhythmic interest, there's a firmer foundation. But, again, its initial appeal won't last long.

"Thanks but no thanks, baby. I don't want no lonely, lustful woman's irate husband coming after me" - god lyrics, eh, but tedious once registered in the brain.

It's the same story with "She's Looking Better Every Beer" - 'Her hair is soft and shiny, her eyes are bright and clear'. Admittedly the guitar work is smooth, but still on the sleepy side (or are they trying to just be 'laid back'?)

Congratulations to Marmaduke Dawson for "Can't Get Over You". No, this song won't induce anyone to burble about its technicalities for hours, but there's a good sound/feel and a few Surprises even though the choruses do sound familiar. Side two [*unclear: clos*] closes with Loudon Waiwright's "Swimming Song" which is a bit of a laugh. It's the liveliest, and shortest, track on the album, and the jaunty vocals are right in keeping with the "banjo-pickin" bounce and humour.

Side one opens with "15 Days Under the Hood" which, after three playings is sticking in the head like an ad for Kentucky Fried Chicken. It's a repetitive, Commander Cody-type rocker (to pay it a compliment).

So far, the New Riders have always included a song about a lady on each lp. "Annie May" is this one's contribution, and it's no "Louisiana Lady" or "Portland Woman" by a long shot....."She's not quite a lady, babies come and go, but as long as she's taking care of me, that's all I need to know.." or "Annie May comes from Alaba Alabama, nearly made it through the seventh grade." It's something else from the wrenching lady-love songs on the first two lps.

I've heard Chuck Berry's "You Never Can Tell" ('It was a teenage wedding....') also too often so that by the second playing it gets to sound like————— (insert your own non-favourite band here). One redeeming point is a fine interplay between pedal steel and guitar — the old musicianship is still present somewhere so why are they using up so much energy in reproducing often-heard and little-improved numbers?

"Hard to Handle" by Otis Redding, is, for me, the high point on "New Riders" and the track I'll pick out to play to an interested party when I (rarely) play bits and pieces. Having been conditioned to loving Jerry Garcia's utter destruction of any words or coherence at all (on "Bears Choice") it's interesting to know what it's all about: "I'm advertising love for free, so won't you place your ad with me..... Boys will come a dime a dozen, but that ain't nothin' but 10c lovin'..." This is the one track I'd like to hear the Country Flyers or a loosened-up Slack Annie play... they'd most likely do it more than justice, all the other tracks, too.

Some of our local bands can, I know, produce as skilled an interplay between instruments as Buddy Cage, John Dawson, and Dave Nelson do here on guitars.

Lastly, an unspectacular rendition of "Dead Flowers", which has the feel of a wedding rather than a funeral. However, some fine pedal steel and a smooth, continuous flow makes it vaguely worthwhile. The song certainly has changed over the years. And the Red Hot Peppers' version's far more interesting.

As in all the New Riders' lps since "NRPS" and "Powerglide", which are, or should be, staples in anyone's collection, this disc will be played by me a half dozen times a year, for two reasons: A) I actually do consider three tracks to be for above average and the lp worth keeping for that reason and for nostalgia's sake, or B) To boost my guilty conscience about visitors ('ignorant' ones) who say "How come you got so many discs you never play, eh?" Well, 'time is slipping.... into the future' too rapidly to pay full homage to all my "fine" albums. My basic grips about "NRPS" is that the New Riders lps peter off in memorability with each successive one. So there.

- Katy Corner.

Films

Scenes from a Marriage

Ingmar Bergman's 'Scenes From a Marriage' is an overwhelmingly intense film. Its theme is the coherent ambivalence of life, the subject a couple in love.

Johan is 42, a shining product of his cultured bourgeois environment. His liberal veneer (he does not allow his wife a career, he simply expects it) snuggles in very happily with his basic conservatism. He has a strong faith in conventions. When his wife asks him, is he living as he wants to he says yes. She means, is he happy with their marriage, with his job. He is not, but he believes quite fundamentally that his form of marriage, his style of profession, are the best means of attaining a purposeful, satisfying existence.

Marianne is 35. She shares Johan's background (the film has her put it in that way), and likewise believes in the form of their marriage. However she has no trouble uniting this form with its content. Educated but soundly conditioned - she understands the word 'perspicacious' but has never seen its application to her - she accepts her supportive role. About to have their photo taken, says, 'I'll try and make myself look small' - in order that he will bring to their relationship the same volume of love that she does. Her claim, 'I made up my mind at the beginning to believe everything Johan says,' contains a good deal less irony than she intends. It is not that she thinks him incapable of lying, but recognizes the need for implicit trust.

The film charts their attempts to come to terms with the essential vacuity of their lifestyle, and the even larger vacuity which reigns when they are separated from each other. Put very simply, first Johan and then Marianne reject the love of the other but try to maintain in their 'new' lives the conditions in which it was given. This process is considerably complicated by the love that remains, and by the individually and gradually perceived notion that they have irreversibly confused content and form. Apart from this cumulative recognition, he develops in that he becomes able to expose his fears to her, and she undertakes through psychoanalysis the process of becoming aware of herself. Nevertheless, in spite of this progress, their final acknowledgement of their love puts them right back to square one: she implicitly accepts his definitions of her and the love they share, and he gains a deep strength from her acceptance. Naive faith is transformed into a weary but happy resignation.

Scenes from a Marriage is psychological and behavioural realism of the first order. In the hands of a lesser director it would be a romance; Bergman has created a relentless barrage which leaves one exhausted and confused. The reason is threefold.

Firstly, the profound realism plays havoc with our ability to organise the ambivalence (the above synopsis is very broad sketch indeed). This ability is natural enough in life, but must be applied to art, part of whose purpose is the revealing of life's organisational methods. The difficulties Bergman places before us are intended to make the rewards all the more valuable.

Secondly, the means employed to tell the story owe much to documentary. There are six 'scenes', each with a title, the film begins with an interview which establishes the relationship, and during the film's course both the protagonists deliver lengthy verbal assessments of themselves to each other. The titles (with one exception), give us a metaphorical framework for interpretation. The interview and moments of self-explanation provide definitions which, by considering the circumstances in which they occur as well as what is actually said, enable us to strengthen our comprehension but do not precipitate relaxed viewing.

Thirdly, the camera is rigidly applied for much of the time to individual faces. This technique is analogous to the neo documentary form, in that we are at once almost emotively inside the subjects, and forced to study them because of their unremitting presence. Unfortunately, a paradoxical situation is created, whereby there is so much vital action we want to see but which remains off screen, yet to show more would be to slacken the intensity.

The major reason for this demand for more is the brilliant acting. The empathy which Liv Ullman (Marianne) and Erland Josephson (Johan) share with Bergman and each other is largely responsible for the success of the film. Ullman is my pick of the world's screen actresses, and here her ability is never better proven. She has in Josephson (the architect in *The Passion of Anna*, the doctor in *Cries and Whispers*) a tremendously fitting counterpart.

But moreso than the acting, the lasting importance of this film lies in Bergman's attempt to extend the bounds of cinematic form. The creation of mutually exclusive demands on the camerawork is one indication that he is not entirely successful, yet this is a minor matter. The synthesis of documentary approach and fictional, intuitively understood content means that through the dissemination that occurs our deep emotional

relationship with the story provokes analysis. Such a forceful indication of the inseparability of intellect and emotion is a rare achievement.

Given all this, the ending, in spite of (or perhaps partially because of) its broad social and philosophical pronouncements, is surprisingly light-weight. The happiness the couple finally achieve is only possible because it is transitory. It exists, as the title tells us, 'in the middle of the night, in a dark house' Yet this title is clearly a metaphor. We may recognise that they are lost in the world, but this one moment almost asks us to forget that, to treat the story just as a romance. The propelling intensity of all that proceeds does create a desire for relief, but within the precepts of the story none is possible. It is almost as if Bergman takes pity on his audience, which in this case is a dangerous thing to do.

Scenes from a Marriage is a flawed masterpiece. Its portrayal of a marriage reaches far into the psyche of anyone able to identify with it, and provides for all a devastating example of genuine artistry.

— Simon Wilson.

All the President's Men

Just as Grand Prix bred its crop of racing drivers, and Downhill Racer nurtured countless skiing enthusiasts, so All the President's Men will inspire thousands of starry-eyed romantics to head for the world of investigative reporting.

The Watergate Affair meant many things for many people (eg for Richard Nixon it was one long pain in the arse), but for newspaper and magazine journalists it meant a reassurance in their power to influence the highest echelons of power and consequently change society. For the people reading the newspapers it was a reaffirmation of the "freedom" enjoyed by every American citizen, especially the freedom to write and publish "the truth".

Articles appearing in newspapers and magazines in every corner of the Western world have applauded the efforts of the Washington Star and reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward for defying the White House and other sources of authority in publishing the corruption and lies that were behind the actions of the American leaders in the 1972 election campaign.

Warner Brothers, the great upholders of all that is good and pure in the American way of life, have turned Bernstein and Woodward into cult figures with a film that mystifies audiences everywhere as to the true nature of American society.

Bernstein and Woodward are on the bottom of the reporters' heap - Bernstein about to be sacked, and Woodward confined to stories appearing on page 32. They are the ones who get "the right break" and fairly soon they are sitting on the top - a symbol to all Americans of how anyone can make it if they try hard enough.

And Woodward and Bernstein do try. They pursue every lead they find, eventually uncovering all the Watergate mess and exposing Nixon as being at the centre of the whole conspiracy.

But while we remain tied up in the adventure story of uncovering the Watergate conspiracy, we forget that in forcing Nixon to resign American society has not radically changed. It has become too embarrassing for a fool like Nixon to hold the presidential office, and so he is replaced with Gerald Ford, who hopefully will be able to tidy up any mess a little better.

During the course of the film neither of the reporters question what they are trying to achieve by exposing the Watergate conspiracy. Are they trying to show that people are oppressed by corrupt politicians or that American society is fundamentally based at all levels on the use of money and power for personal ends? I would suggest they are trying to do the first, believing that they have a duty as reporters to expose corrupt politicians so that they can be replaced by other honest people. They never think about the second alternative.

Apart from the rank ideological nature of the film's content and direction, the various events alluded to would only be known by persons who had followed the Watergate revelations as they came out. During the first night's screen in Wellington many people walked out before the end, probably because they were bored with a story that they couldn't follow nor were particularly interested in. If we ignored the content and direction of the film, it would pass off as a fairly mediocre documentary. If anyone thought it was anything more, then you must be so far into the convulsions of the American state machine, that you can't see the effects that it is having on the real world.

— John Ryll.

The Salzburg Connection Turn 28 Sept. 2.15pm

Helen Macinnes' best-selling novel as a spectacular spy thriller. Every country in the world has top espionage agents out to steal a box of incriminating Nazi war documents that has fallen into the hands of Anna Karma, representing the United States and democracy is Barry Newman, star of "Vanishing Point".

Starring: Barry Newman Anna Karina
Director: Lee Katzin.

To Kill a Mocking Bird : Wed 29 Sept. 215pm

Adapted from Harper Lee's sensitive story about an Alabama lawyer who brings up his two motherless children more successfully than in defending a Black wrongfully accused of murdering a white. Beautifully underplayed for maximum impact by Gregory Peck, and for which he was awarded the 1962 Oscar for the best actor of the year.

Starring: Gregory Peck.

Director: Robert Mulligan.

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Some Careers ...

The University. Educational Myth Exploded

By Erasmus

"To sell yourself is to turn yourself into a commodity. A commodity does not control the market: its nominal worth is determined by what the market will offer".

During my attendance at this university, I have given a good deal of thought (and fame of my lecturers would say, perhaps too much time and effort) to the education process - a process which involves the aquisition and giving of knowledge (sic!).

Only recently, has it began to crystalise in my mind, what I object to at this university. Namely, that I, as a student, am not in control of my own learning situation. When I use the world control, I mean I have very little say (if any at all) over the direction of my learning - and the same goes for every other undergraduate student!

You may consider this an odd thing to say, so lets examine it fuller. Sure, as individuals we have:

- an initial choice in what degree we undertake.
- The credit courses to make up that degree.
- When I am in a course - a limited choice of essay topics etc.

But the most crucial choice is taken out of my hands, i.e. The Content, Direction Structure and Teaching Method used.

When I use the expression "control over my learning" - I don't mean control and direction over lecturers (although some people may see that as desirable). I mean equality in decision making about my own course of study.

At the basis of this is that the teacher/lecturer has knowledge and skills etc which could be of assitance to the student, to develop critically his own knowledge, skills ideas and understanding about a certain area of knowledge or subject. But at present, in my opinion, the situation in many subjects is the following:

"Instead of communicating, the teacher issues communiques and makes deposits which the students patiently receive, memorise and repeat. This is the "banking" concept of education, in which the scope of aciton allowed the students extends only as far as receiving, filing and storing deposits. They do, it is true, have the opportunity to become collectors nad cataloguers of the things they store. But in the last analysis, it is men

themselves who are filed away through the lack of creativity, transformation, and knowledge in this (at best) misguided system."

Paulo Freire: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, quoted in "A Course Evaluation of POLS 213 (1974) by Chris Wainwright pub 1975 VUW.

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Now you may consider that this is of little concern to most students i.e. that I am alone in feeling this way. Now this maybe so, but if it is, I think it is for the following reasons:

- Most students have not given much thought to the whole learning process, of which they are a part - either they don't care, they are too busy with heavy workloads, (keep at it sucker!) or they have decided to ignore the implications of the "learning process".
- All they want is another few credits towards that flimsy bit of paper - their degree.

At least the Russians are honest enough to admit that education is primarily a political tool for the construction of a communist society(

Nigel Grant "Soviet Education" - London, Penguin Books 1964 p 23.

).

In New Zealand "the educationalists" are still trying to maintain the charade that the education system has not become a "knowledge industry" whose main task seems a preoccupation with skills for the graduate market -that includes research.

"Higher education has become an essential part of the apparatus through which the inevitability of future social change is built into present social structure. Therefore the university, which has always played the uneasy role of both guardian and critic, preserver and destroyer of the existing state of knowledge, becomes a sharp focal point of the conflict between continuity and change."

N.J. Smelser "Sociology an Introduction" N.Y. J. Wiley & Sons Ltd 1967 p 406

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Some advice to lecturers, at this university - if you can't take the heat get out of the fire!

During the twentieth century, especially since the second world war, western man has seen the ascendancy of the university to one of the most important institutions in society. Through its major role as provider of knowledge and expertise, the university has been pictured as enabling the business and government sectors to survive and prosper in an increasingly complex technological society.

The function of the university is seen as having changed - relinquishing its traditional dissident ideas of the house of intellect (conservative) and the social innovator (radical), the university is now seen as providing the technical expertise to sustain fully the post industrial society the life blood of the existing order!

R.G. Snyder in his article "Knowledge, Power and the University: Notes on the Impotence of the Intellectual"(

R.G. Snyder "Knowledge, Power and the University: Notes on the impotence of the Intellectual" in "Towards the Sociology of Knowledge" edited by G.W. Remmling, pub. Rout ledge & Kegan Paul London 1973 p 339-360.

) expressed it in the following manner:

"Because the development of our industrial society has led to increasingly complex technical problems, knowledge practical, not theoretical has become highly differentiated and specialised. The university and its constituents have adapted themselves completely to this development..... The university has established an organisation of knowledge which basically orients itself as a service industry to the government and business sectors. Knowledge is organised into discrete units; it is not treated as continuous and developmental One studies a body of knowledge rather than the process or forms that may lead to the discovery of knowledge."

The university and the populous therein - both staff and students are thus constrained by the demands of an external factor, to supply the manpower (both physical and intellectual) needed by the technological society. Thus certain areas of knowledge and especially alternative methods of learning - have become very sensitive areas for the teaching staff in this university. To be avoided at all costs because the alternatives may bring attention to the fact that the university and its teaching staff have lost control over the institution.

Knowledge and the graduates of the "knowledge industry" have become commodities of the technological society. C. Wright Mills has stated it in this manner:

"To sell yourself is to turn yourself into a commodity. A commodity does not control the market: its nominal worth is determined by what the market will offer"

I.C. Wright Mills. "The Social Role of the Intellectual" in Irving Louis Horowitz (ed), "Power, Politics and People". The collected Essays of C Wright Mills, N.Y. Oxford University Press, 1963 pp 301-2

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As a consequence of this, more and more courses within this and other universities, have become very specialised, standardized and narrow in their focus, with increasing emphasis on methodology - methodology

so that students will have marketable skills upon graduation.

What does this mean to the undergraduate student at this university. R.G. Snyder put it in this way: "The standardization of curricula, is of course, most evident at the undergraduate level. There, the novice student is supposed to absorb data and techniques and parrot them back to the professor/lecturer.....This process may be learning but it is only a small part of education. Independent thinking is the last thing in the world that the student is asked to do. The goals of this system are to eliminate controversy and induce a routinized pattern of thinking and behaviours. It is a socialisation process that prepares the student for any number of technocratic jobs, including, of course, the academic profession."(

R.G. Snyder op cite pages 352

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By now you are probably saying to yourself, "its alright to criticise the present system, but what are the alternatives" The intention of this article was to bring to your attention that there are alternatives. But it must be remembered that of the learning process involves the seeking and practice of alternatives. But before we can consider alternatives, students and lecturers must gain control over the learning process!

"The regaining of control of the university as an institution by the intellectual is an [unclear: absolute] prerequisite for rejuvenation of the intellectual as a social innovator. With [unclear: such] institutional control, the intellectual can shape his environment to suit his own needs: he may reform curricula, deemphasise artificial regulations, overcome [unclear: departmental] obsolescence and even fulfill [unclear: his] major public service role which is to provide the knowledge to make an intelligent and self-conscious citizenry and to [unclear: provide] significant social, political, and [unclear: economic] alternatives from which people can choose."(

R.G. Snyder op cite page 356

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Let the Sosc debate continue

Let the questioning begin in the geography dept

I hear the sounds of revolution in the Pols Sci Dept

May history crumble to its knees

And the English Reformation Begin.

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Drawings of an animal dressed up in four different costumes

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The desired educational level is a university degree, preferably in the social sciences or health related science fields. Applicants with tertiary health related non-university or teaching qualifications may also be considered. Minimum age is 21 years, preferred ages between 23 - 35 years.

The duties of a Health Education Officer include planning and co-ordinating health education programmes according to the needs of the Health District; research into and assessing these needs and the evaluation of such programmes; providing health information by the use of various publicity methods and working with people.

Further information can be obtained from the Staff Clerk, Department of Health. P.O. Box 5013, Wellington.

Applications should be made on form PS 17A available from any Post Office and forwarded to:

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Department Of Health
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by 22 October 1976

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Detailed information on the course of training and subjects to be studied may be obtained from any District Health Office or from Head Office, Department of Health.

The salary payable during training, on qualification and after appointment, can be ascertained from the Staff Clerk.

Applicants should use form PS17A obtainable from any Post Office and quote vacancy No. 59. Copies only of testimonials should be enclosed and forwarded to:

The Staff Clerk,
Department of Health,
P.O. Box 5013,

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Letters

Letters header showing a woman driving an old fashioned car

Women's Liberation Debate Continues

Dear John,

The last two Salient's have contained arguments for a middle-class women's movement from Lynne McGimpsey and Mark Buckley. Their arguments do a severe disservice to those genuinely committed to women's liberation and their points need to be refuted.

Lynne's article denies that the differentiation of women into classes should have any effect upon the policies of the women's movement. Thus, she does not feel it wrong that the spontaneous demands of middle class women on abortion are made the most important aspect of the women's movement. This middle class political hegemony as expressed in groups such as WONAAC has led to a movement almost exclusively populated by middle-class women.

If Lynne McGimpsey had indulged in rational thought rather than trying to defend Trotskyite politics she would have noticed that the major concerns of middle class and working class women are fundamentally different. Working class women tend to see economic issues, a woman's right to work, equal pay, rising prices etc as most important. The only socialist women's group primarily working with working class women. Working Women's Alliance, has found this to be the case. Middle class women tend to see questions of political and ideological relevance as important: sexism in the media, women's right to tertiary education, abortion etc. So when Lynne McGimpsey asks socialists to "unconditionally support" the middle class women's movement she is asking them to put middle interests above those of the working class - but such are Trotskyite politics.

The question of political sexism which Lynne argues affects all women equally in fact, hits the working class women hardest. As any progressive Malaysian and Vietnamese (whom Lynne McGimpsey "supports") could tell her sexism like racism is a political weapon in the hands of the bourgeoisie in its efforts to breed distrust and disunity among its opponents primarily the working class.

It is in the interests of working class men and women to unite together against it. Men to renounce privilege and women to combat male supremacy. The blame for the real injustices perpetrated in our sexist society should be laid with those responsible - the bourgeoisie. Once again one cannot expect this of a middle class led and dominated movement.

Maria Buckley's article asserts that women have been relegated to their oppressed position "by virtue of their anatomy". She fails to support this nonsense with any facts - mainly because there are none. As another feminist, Juliet Mitchell, pointed out when visiting New Zealand a while ago, the difference between women and men physiologically is extremely small and that the primary question is the social treatment of those differences. Just as in South Africa, where there is no basic physiological difference between white and non white there is a massive social differentiation of the two ostensibly based upon this physiological difference.

Given this one would have expected Marie to explain how this social difference had been built up. The only time she does comment upon how this social difference is sustained she points to capitalism as the cause. Yet she denies a connection between the women's movement and the working class movement to destroy capitalism. And she too opposes the leadership of working class women of the movement.

Both writers appear to put the abortion movement at the head of the women's movement calling it 'revolutionary'. Again we just get the unsustainable assertion that the right to abortion will result in women gaining control over their bodies. This is true in only a narrow sense. The right to abortion can give women the right to plan their pregnancies and family sizes to fit in with their personal needs - it does not and cannot stop women having babies and it does not and cannot stop women being tied to child-rearing for a large part of their adult lives. The control over the body it gives is very limited. Also it is no way liberates those women who work from the vagaries of the labour market here the capitalists have won the right to control women's bodies. Having left unsolved the oppression of women by the capitalists and male supremacists how is the right to abortion revolutionary?

Also because abortion is seen as so important attacks upon the Catholic Church are considered vital to the women's movement. Many working class women are Catholics and many are being turned away from women's liberation by the primacy of the abortion struggle within it. Let me add here that I am not calling for an end to the abortion movement - it is a right women must gain but that socialists should work for a working class and not a middle class women's movement.

Yours,

Lincoln Frisbee

Msa In the News Again

Dear Editor,

I wish to take this opportunity to reply to two letters that appeared in two previous issues of Salient in which my name was mentioned and, of course condemned. First, I must express my extreme disgust at this small bunch of gutless Malaysians who criticise their fellow students behind tasteless and obscene pseudonyms. I hope the editors of Salient will be more discerning in future not to publish such obscenity that offends public decency.

To this small bunch of self-righteous Malaysians whom I am convinced, has nothing constructive to do but to indulge in cheap tricks of character assassination and name calling, merely to satisfy their perverted instincts; I think, you are merely exposing your own cowardice and stupidity that not only make yourselves a fool but harming the image of innocent Malaysians.

The decision whether or not to stand for the presidency of MSA is entirely my own personal decision dependent on my commitment and individual circumstances. I need no exhortation from idiots like you. In any case, I do not think I would have much satisfaction in leading a bunch of idiots like you who will be engaging in disparaging activities no matter what has been done. So, for God's sake, spare this column for more constructive criticism and objective facts.

Loo Kim Hoe.

Christians Murdered in their Beds

Dear Sir,

Terry Auld praises the achievements of Mao Tse-tung. He forgets that these impressive material achievements in China since 1949 have taken place at a tremendous cost to human life and liberty. The persecution of the Christian Church is a prime example of the ruthless methods adopted by Mao and his cohorts.

The campaign opened with war on 'superstitions', rooted as they are in a bourgeois society. Then came a campaign of re-education, then the phase of active opposition. Church schools were closed, church land confiscated, missionaries were confined to their residences by 'pass' laws (South Africa does not have these alone) and so called trials of Christians took place on false charges (eg hiding enormous sums of gold in the church, murder of Chinese, refusal of food to children in Christian orphanages). Physical violence and even Heath was the lot of steadfast Christians. Basic human rights were denied to men merely because their beliefs differed from the atheistic party line. Fortunately the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians.

Sincerely yours,

Cart Telford.

A Spacefiller Written on Friday

Dear John,

Just thought I'd Tell you that that we've only Half an Hour to send this goddam awful newspaper to the printers.

Yours Forever,

Milly Crumpet.

STUDENTS! GO FLY A KITE! With the help of THE PENGUIN BOOK OF KITES you could do just that. This book is a comprehensive and thoroughly illustrated introduction to kites and kiting covering their history, their making and their flying. Illustrated with over 100 detailed and tested kite patterns. Now available - \$6.35. Published 15 September by JOHN McINDOE 'A GIRL LIKE I' - a funny from Rosemary McLeod of 'LISTENER' fame (\$3.95) and MIRACLE — a romance by Vince O'Sullivan, N.Z. poet This book is an intricate play on much that New Zealanders hold dear, and on a good deal that they don't! \$2.95. VICTORIA BOOK CENTRE 15 MOUNT ST. PHONE 729.585

Letters

Letters header

Letters can be handed in at the letterbox just inside the Salient office or handed in to the editor personally. However if you wish to pay 8c postage then send your letters to P O Box 1347, Wellington. Letters should be double spaced and on one side of the paper only.

Katy Comer Bares Her Soul

Dear John,

I've been told to elaborate upon my motives for composing the style of reviews that have been printed to Fax and which seem to upset certain people (wish I knew who you were, would like to have friendly discussion). Ok:

- Each 'review', excluding Sarstedt, has been regarding a hand/person towards whom I am particularly biased or to whom I owe a large debt, as they have moved my life so far in what I consider to be a good direction. My special love of music lies, in America, in particular. West Coast bands that point is no doubt obvious. This is the reason for my 'writing' as if everyone knows who Jerry Garcia is. Are my 'reviews' different from others; if so, why are you griping - I, personally, have finally had enough of review pages that make me laugh with bitterness and frustration. So from introvert to extrovert.
- Never have I taken an English course at varsity, and never successfully at high school, so I may be considered illiterate, if you like. Music is my life, whether you like it or not - I am not being aggressive here. Therefore, it is my fault entirely that my 'reviews' lack specificity. Again, I bargain hard for the LPs I want (though never yet have I received a complementary copy, except P. [*unclear: Sarstedt*]). Will attempt to be more specific in future, probably annoyingly so, if possible for me, or else become an addict of Abba (impossible).
- I can't help using the word Feel, because 'my' music - the music which makes me feel content and natural - is inherently related to my US bias. Sorry, Britishers.
- From now on, since some people seem to be so tense, not fully understanding my motives and thoughts, I will attempt to write normal, dull, specific 'reviews', including as many swearwords and references to Marx as possible. Will that make you happier? Have I cleared up any of your problems?

Love,

Katy.

p.s. I go to the Royal Tiger solely to listen to the music.

p.p.s. Ben, think you'd better print this soon before I get lynched.

If you're referring to Ben Smith, the Rock Reviews Editor, he was last seen wandering around the Union Building muttering "Why does she persecute me?" - Ed.

Rock Reviewer Eats Shit

Dear Editor,

An open letter to Kerry Tool....sorry, I meant Doole!

Dear Kerry,

I guess it really is too much to ask of you to read this after your scathing attack of my 'Cry Tough' review. But in the interests of self-defense (it is still a democratic country I hope....after reading your letter I'm beginning to doubt it!), I will answer you point by point.

Point 1. It may not have come to your attention but there is not one bum track on that album. Now in all my time of reading record reviews I have seen that a couple of times, I felt 'Cry Tough' deserved, that praise so I gave it! Hardly 'phlagnarism' is it? What the hell would you have said? Something like "honestly there is not one poor cut on this album".....still means the same, there is bugger all difference! So to say I 'phlagnarised' Steve Clarke on that point is just fucking horse-shit!

Point 2. Seeing that you are such a great follower of the rock scene I guess it wouldn't be too much to remind you that Nils Lofgren played on the same bill as Dr Feelgood on a tour of Britain last year and was quoted by 'Melody Maker' as saying they were his favourite rock act in Britain. It was on that statement that I formed the conclusion that the song 'Cry Tough' referred to them, also if you had listened hard enough you might also have heard Lofgren sing:

'Dr Feelgood you're right down my street', to it could well mean that he digs them and he is saying it in the song. So you can read what you like into it!

Point 3) Having looked at Steve Clarke's article and reflecting on what you said regarding the complexity of the song etc, it also came to my notice that he was not only referring to that one track but also the whole album's complexity in relation to Nils Lofgren's earlier albums. Take a look its at the beginning of his review. My words are simply the same.

Point 4. Anybody with a bit of musical knowledge can see that 'Mud in Your Eye' is a throwback into the sixties era, the changes are classic and what does the piano do if it doesn't fill? I also note that you take two entirely separate pieces from Steve Clarke's review and try to make it look the same as mine! Well fuck you, that what ! heard so that's what I wrote; the lyrics are the same yes....but they are the ones that also came through the headphones and impressed me, that's why I quoted them!

Point 5. What Clarke said and what I said are similar but not the same.

All that's left to say now is that I printed that review two days after the album's release on June 19, it was not printed until after mid-term break, one week later I purchased the said N.M.E. and realised just how similar the two reviews were; in fact several people pointed it out to me but realised I couldn't have plagiarised simply because I wrote what I did before that particular issue of N. M.E. had seen the light of a New Zealand day.

C'mon Kerry, lets see you get your shit into one sock! Things like this are bound to happen and the number of times I have seen reviewers write similar, if not the same things, about an album numbers about 1,000 times; you want proof? Take a look at Nick Morgan's review of 'Rastaman Vibration' in last weeks Salient (13.9.76) and then take a look a Robert Palmers review of the same record in June 17 'Rolling Stone' of this year! Now I don't think that Nick Morgan phlagnarised 'Rolling Stone' but there are untold similarities!

Which just goes to prove what I say about similarity between reviews.

Still I can't praise you enough in that you spent untold trouble comparing an NME review and mine and came up with your conclusion two months after my review had been printed and 1½ months after NME hit the newstands!

Finally, I wrote the review of 'Cry Tough' because I fell Nils Lofgren deserved notice. You seem to think (or imply) that I couldn't give a blue shit about the record and just ripped off Steve Clarke's piece, well bullshit! Because along with 'The Last Record Album' by Little Feat, 'Silk Degrees' by Boz Scaggs, 'The Royal Scam' by Steely Dan and 'Rastaman Vibrations' by the Wailers that album enjoys prime lime on my stereo.

So, I dare you to write a review of an album that tome nit picking bastard like you couldn't go back through every rock mag in creation and find some similarity with.

Thanks for telling me what thousands have,
Grant Cairncross.

p.s. you can put a plague on my cranium but I cordially invite you to go put your head up a dead bear's hum because that's were it belongs.

A Review of '76

Dear Sir,

As my first year at Vic comes to an end and exams approach it is interesting to speculate on the worth of spending a year in this red brick asylum. But who has the time?

There are many forgettable events (or do I mean rememberable). Robert Muldoon was always to be found splurged across the weekly letters column and while this is preferable to having him in the vicinity of the PMs seat, the fact that we have both testifies no doubt, to his absolute popularity. Poor Robert David was the recipient of much abuse - it did little for his ego, but gave a lot of pleasure to thousands of varsity students throughout New Zealand and was a source of inspiration to numerous 'trendy lefties' of my acquaintance who suspected it all a fascist plot, on sound logic, which at the moment escapes me. His very presence incited many to riot - nobody is safe any more the man should be arrested and sent back to the Ireland he came from.

Should we have become weary of this royal self, there was always the Governor (Rubber Sump) General Yet by some trick of fate he largely escaped mention on campus, wait until 'they' get hold of his successor.

Highlight of the year must have been the lousy cafe food - the beer they served was like vinegar and the tomato sauce must be Watties. (Tomatoes, like the voting public have little choice and always end up in the can).

The STB which National (still the govt?) said, was too standard, was, we discovered, not standard enough. And a good March might have been slotted in somewhere but principles most have been of dubious quality this year, since many ceased to have them, if the rain fell or wind blew.

A pleasant concrete jungle atmosphere was maintained, if not encouraged, as the Cotton and Von 'whose his father' Blacks rose rapidly into the sun set. By 1979 its estimated mat on a clear day the sun will rise in the Rankine Brown court yard at 10am and set about 2.30pm

The August vacation (euphemism) was an interesting phenomenon - many returned in such a bad mental condition that the quantity (and quality) of darts per lecture has decreased to below subsistence level. Campus life never ceased to be interesting however, especially if you minimised wasted time by not attending lectures.

Its a time consuming hobby, but sitting a half dozen three hour exams, another popular past time I understand, will make a fitting end to the year. People, by their very nature, enjoy endurance tests, especially (if not only) when paper and question sheets are provided to (permitted) entrants, so that they can use the time constructively.

One thing disturbs me - these know all cynics and their sarcasms who criticise and do nothing to many of them and not enough hard working, right-thinking, decent liberal Americans. (Like the sort who died in the war(s) for people like me).

Signed, yours 'til you get the bad Anoni Mus Redherring (Home Grown)

Those Petty Little Creeps!

Dear Anti Smoker Lobby,

When are you Gods/Goddesses going to pass a 'law' to prevent me from biting my nails?

Or is your example the one to follow?

It seems smoking is anti social?

Just as my smoking it an infringement of your rights to clean air your actions are an infringement of mine.

As to my absence during the voting on this issue - I frankly have more to do with my time than waste it on hung up, petty little creeps. And to get this much together to express my distaste is more than you deserve.

A Lady

The Blue Haze find its Way into the Salient Letters Page

Dear John,

We would like to point out a major inaccuracy in Martin Doyle's SRC report of last week. He refers to

some arguments against smoking including the "privilege of clean air". We humbly suggest that there is no such thing. Clean air is a Right not a fucking privilege.

Yours, in the interests of health.

Derek Fickers,
Gordon Purdie,

p.s. Does the anti-smoking lobby give Left thinking people cause for concern as well?

Good lefties are healthy lefties - Ed

The MSA Argument Continues

Dear Sir,

No one who has any sense of morality and a conscience can remain not being outraged at the smear and defamatory campaign going on. Indeed this sort of activity should be outwardly spoken against and condemned.

TLK Cheong, Ding Heiflai, Harun Butuh, & Hussein Wong, Sally "Kam Lan" and "Turn Lam Pah" - doubtlessly the same group of morons with debilitated mentalities - seems bent on tearing certain people's name and image to shreds, as though on a personal vendetta. I for one, will not stand idly nor passively by to witness such flagrant and irresponsible abuse of the free press and freedom of action here by an anonymous group of idiots to discredit persons who have been courageous enough in their conviction and concern for the well being of MSA to identify their thoughts along with their name.

Not all the criticisms made about MSA were extreme or vicious. As a matter of fact, many were made in an attempt to press a point home; some were even constructive. If the previous MSA or this group of numskulls felt that some of the criticisms were indeed ignorantly and malevolently made, then they should have heeded what a certain academic had to say. MSA should have told the people simply and clearly what they were trying to do and why. They should have explained and justified their methods. They should have been frank about difficulties and shortcomings. Only by a deliberate effort of this kind can prejudice and ignorant and malevolent criticism be avoided and a discriminating body of public opinion built up."

It is the kind of warped mentalities and attitudes of the aforementioned group who perceive participation in terms of retaliatory after actions instead of meeting the inquiries or criticisms head-on that is going to cause Malaysians to shy away from MSA. What are these "Tua Lam Pans" afraid of, if they are really interested and concerned about the apathy of Malaysians? Signing in nom de plumes is a definite sign of apathy; a sign signifying people who are afraid to be committed.

It is also deplorable to see this group of carried-away idiots spilling over in their attacks on people not concerned with MSA. If this is not an attempt by idiots to manifest their pent-up frustrations and perhaps some irrational thirst for "virtuous vengeance" tell me, what is?

Furthermore, I fail to see what sort of obligations are upon persons who have something to say about MSA. Explain why they are obliged to stand for elections?

I think I need say no more. Forsooth then, sirs and madam, if you truly have the interest of the people at heart, have the decency to let us know who your honourable beings are. If not....shut your goddamn mouths! For if anything will be the death of MSA, it is from irresponsible "character assassinations" by mad moronic ignoramuses like you.

On The Feminist Debate

Dear Sir,

Political issues that cause controversy amongst feminists must be discussed and resolved if women are to achieve liberation.

There is no way of avoiding conflicts of an ideological nature - they are even desirable because they challenge women to think about the system in a critical, aggressive way. And criticism and aggression are things women are not usually equipped to handle.

But women do not have to adopt stereotyped male (capitalist?) methods of solving problems. They are

sucked in if they allow ideology to cut them off from the support of their sisters and the self respect there is in affirming a personal definition of what is woman.

J. Charman.

Drawing of a man with a smaller man in his mouth