A well attended public forum brought the four day Gay Liberation Conference in the Union Building to a close. A panel including a gay male, a gay female, a transvestite and a member of the society for homosexual law reform gave their views and answered questions. This forum was a vital part of the conference as ignorance is the main enemy of Gay Liberation.

Reform or ......

Jack Goodwin from the NZ Homosexual Law Reform Society was first to speak. He said that his society had the image of being a bunch of oldies but in fact they and Gay Liberation had a lot in common.

Goodwin spoke of the difficulties in getting reform through Parliament. He praised the organization of the National Party Conference which had passed a remit favouring law reform with a considerably larger majority than a similar Labour Party Conference remit. A number of Cabinet members and Parliamentarians are supporters of the NZHRLS. The parliamentary process is inhibiting their wish to introduce a law reform bill. Cabinet members cannot bring private members' bills into the House, and MP's in marginal seats have been discouraged from introducing such a controversial bill for fear of jeopardising their seats and the Labour Party's majority.

The Society had been concerned with the very narrow area of discrimination in law against gays, whereas Gay Liberation took on the fight against much wider areas of discrimination, said Mr Goodwin.

....Revolution

"I'm as fed up as you are with society," Jack Goodwin told the conference, "but short of revolution we're doing all we can to change it."

"Let's have a revolution, then," murmured some of the audience in reply.

"Well if you want a revolution there may not be much hope for gays," replied Goodwin. "Look at Cuba!"

Jack Goodwin's final remarks were on the need for unity between his society and the more radical members of the Gay Liberation.

Blackmail and beatings

The second speaker, Dick Morrison said that sodomy laws were directed against gay men, and that this repression was driving many neurotic. "The cops have broken in on gay couples at two in the morning — they have to if an anti-gay neighbour complains. And then, if they won't admit to the 'crime' of being homosexual, they must submit to a degrading physical examination. Cops also threaten gays with arrest under indecency laws."

He said there was no acceptable place for gays to meet, which left them in the degrading position of having to frequent public toilets to meet their own kind. Gays are continually harassed by police; there are cases of blackmail and beatings, and some have tried — even succeeded — to kill themselves after being arrested. Gays must live in continual fear of the police.

All of these laws have been set up for a definite purpose: to maintain the hetero-sexual nuclear family unit which present society depends on. People must be forced into definite sex roles to maintain it. "The law is oppression codified and enshrined"; and of course it reinforces peoples' prejudices — "Well, if it's against the law, it must be wrong."

Crumbs from the table

These laws affect the quality of life of every gay. They must be scrapped. He said that gays demand full equality; the law repeal will be a major reform, but it must include the same age consent as for heterosexuals — not at 18-20, which he calls the "Curse of the table" which each white straight male-dominated society."

Sharon Alston then spoke for the gay women. She expressed her agreement and solidarity with Dick, saying that the audience might wonder why it was that gay women should be involved. The law did affect gay women. She said that the laws on sodomy were ridiculously vague: they refer to penetration, but don't say of what and with what. She said that gays did not want concessions — they want a total ban on all discrimination.

The third sex

A representative then spoke for the third sex, the transvestites. She acknowledged the work of the NZHRLS but wanted far more than they were offering. She knew of people who had been kicked out of their jobs for no other reason than their gynæus. One such woman was a lesbian who told the managers of a team of marching girls she led that she intended appearing on television to express her views, and would they mind? They said no, they wouldn't mind, because she didn't have a job with them any longer.

Drag's another problem with toilets. They can't legally enter a woman's toilet, but don't like using the men's. Even transsexuals who have had surgery can't get a sex change on their birth certificates or passports. She finished by insisting that people stop waiting around and start taking action against discriminatory laws.

People were then invited to ask questions.

Many came from the gays themselves, especially asking the NZHRLS to justify its meagre demands. Mr Goodwin was asked what it was going to do once these immediate objectives were achieved: he envisaged proceeding to further reforms.

Repression

Some of the other laws which discriminate against gays were discussed: there included the prohibition of adoption; total lack of taxation relief for dependents in gay marriages; lack of other privileges for the married such as purchasing rights, State Advances loans. Gays mentioned discrimination in employment and discrimination against children of gay parents.

Another form of discrimination was mentioned — female prostitutes are fined $40 - $75 whereas males can get two months imprisonment.

A gay who had been through Teachers' College described his own harassment. It was impossible, he said, to be able to act straight all the time, and when the pupils found out they continually ridiculed him.

Another case was brought up by a lecturer who knew of a student who had been failed terms because the tutor knew the student was gay.

It was pointed out that there were even more harasses for school pupils, some of whom fail because of hangups about their sexuality. People get the impression that the best cure is to get out, screw some woman and settle down in suburbia, but the problem came back later even worse. One said that he had ended up in mental institutions.

The psychiatrists themselves could not agree. Porurua had given him shock treatment to cure his homosexuality, which left him only worse; he overdose and ended up in Sunnyvale, where he was told there was nothing wrong with him and he needed rest.
Abortion Action

Submission to Parliament

The Women's National Abortion Action Campaign (WNACAC) presented its submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Women's Rights on April 9. Organizers had previously been given the impression that the Select Committee would be unwilling to dwell on this controversial issue (the hearing in fact took no more than 25 minutes), so a picket was organized to draw attention to it. The picket was also to point out that a Committee of Inquiry into Abortion set up in 1976 had told women to come out by recommending no change in the laws, and the present Committee was urged to rectify this by recognizing women's right to choose abortion. Police claimed it was illegal to picket inside parliament grounds. Since when?, but because of pouring rain it was called off anyway.

As had been predicted, the views of those present the submission were not greatly sought by the politicians, with the exception of Mary Beath and Dorothy Jeffery, who were more sympathetic than the others on the Committee.

Abortion Action Day

Wednesday, April 21, has been designated Abortion Action Day, when Women's Abortion Action Committees in the main centres will be making a concentrated effort to bring the abortion rights campaign into the public eye and involve as many supporters as possible.

In Wellington, plans are underway for a variety of activities, in which support of the campaign will be encouraged to participate: Radio Windy Talk Back Programme

This show runs from 8am to 12 noon, hosted by Brian Edwards, Diane Corney (WNACAC) and Jacqueline McCullough, Secretary of the local Women's Abortion Action Committee, will be discussing the aims of the campaign, as if you were near a radio and a telephone on April 21, they would welcome some supportive comments.

Information Booth

The booth will be in Civic Mall from at least 10:30am to 2pm to provide information to interested shoppers, to sell pamphlets and posters and to talk to a wide range of people.

Speak-Out

The city council has agreed to allow us the use of the Civic Mall stage for an informal forum or 'spoken-out'. The object is to provide for as many people as possible to contribute their views to, merely comment or to relate their experiences concerning abortion, contraceptive advice, efforts to get sterilized, and so on. A microphone will be available for those who need one and, to ensure a lively discussion, please be prepared to participate!

Dr Erich Gernderg, Shirley Smith (Wellington lawyer), Phil Burk (actress, writer), Helen Smith (Porirua City Councillor) have been invited to contribute their views, together with Dr Gerald Wall MP and Dr Diana Masen (President of the Wellington Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child) who are opposed to abortion.

Organising Meeting

After the day's activities, all women interested in helping to organise the next WNACAC activity are urged to come along to an evening meeting. This will be in the Tennyson Pavilion on Wellesley Road, next to the John Hind Squash Courts. At present, an abortion tribunal and conscience is being discussed, along with the possibility of a tour by a spokeswoman from WNACAC in the United States.

If you can help with the booth, contribute at the speak-out or in preparations for Abortion Action Day, please Jacqueline McCullough (SSS-201) or come along to the Licensing Room, 13th Floor, 12pm on Sunday, April 21 where banners, etc will be listed. Otherwise, come along on the day, and lend us a supportive voice on the talk-back programme.

- Gillian Googol

Press charge sheets are given by the Police to members of the Frass before the Court begins, so that the correct charge and name of the defendant to be recorded. If the accused is a European New Zealander no indication of his race appears on the sheet. If the accused is a Maori this appears on the sheet. Another subtle form of segregation.

From the Courts

In the Lower Hutt Court a young man was fined $100 and placed on probation for one year on a charge of theft from his employer. Mr. Patterson SM stated that this type of offence where an employee steals from an employer is causing a great deal of concern and is an embarrassment far beyond the $6.50 value of the goods. No mention was made about what em- ployers steal from employees, of course.

A young man pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking and entering. His lawyer in mitigation referred to a recent TV programme on a Denison Centre and suggested that the Court might accept such a sentence on his client together with a fine and restitution. The lawyer further stated that on his advice his client had been helpful to the police. Mr. Patterson SM sentenced the defendant to an adult work centre and probation. Where interest was the lawyer acting in his client's or the Court's?

A middle-aged man appeared on being found unlawfully on premises. It was obvious that he was undergoing medical treatment and the question of intent could have been raised. However the defendant pleaded guilty. Mr. Patterson SM stated that the defendant had the sympathy and understanding of the Court. This was very short lived as the Magistrate imposed a fine of $50.

A young man appeared for sentence on a charge of assaulting his wife. Police alleged that the defendant punched his wife in the face several times. This resulted in a number of loose teeth, swollen eye and a broken nose.

A young man pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking and entering a Holden, the property of Murfet Motors. When asked whether he wished to be dealt with by this Court or the Supreme Court the defendant pleaded guilty, showing he did not understand what was going on. Mr. Patterson SM asked if there was a Male Welfare Officer in Court. There wasn't. The case was stood down for a short while. Later with a lawyer acting for him the accused pleaded guilty. The lawyer made an attempt to speak in mitigation for his client - but how can a lawyer successfully mitigate for a client with only 10 minutes briefing?

A young man pleaded guilty to a charge of using obscenities in company. Mr. Patterson SM asked the defendant why he did not live at home. "Because I don't agree with my father," came the reply. "Well, I don't agree with you either," replied Mr. Patterson SM. Later the defendant went a snigger ripped through the Court. Defendant was fined $80 and 50 court costs.

We shall not ask you to speak or sing.
We shall not ask you what you believe.
We shall not ask you to give money.
We shall simply offer you our friendship,
And a chance to sit quietly and think;
And perhaps somebody will speak;
And perhaps somebody will pray;
And perhaps you will find here;
That which you are seeking..."
Clean up the beach (& your soul!)

by Kevin Miles (Environmental Officer)

Of course the beach is going to be a beach clean-up at Oriental Bay. "So what?"

Publicity obviously; radio announcers will be there, newspaper reporters Z2M, ZBB... the whole works. "Publicity for what?"

To tell people that there is still an environment worth living in this year and probably for a couple more years. But also to tell them that we may not always be so optimistic. If we remain complacent...

So what can Ecology Action do? Are they just a useless bunch of EcoFreaks helplessly decrying the situation? Obviously so much will only be superficial talk. Even if it is possible to make local bodies create suitable environmental laws, they still must adequately enforce them and as with any other situation, the majority of the people must be in accord with the laws to make them work.

But the environment crisis is more basic - it's life styles that require changing as well. As Ken Derry says in "Think Little..." the environmental crisis rises closer to home. Every time we draw a breath, every time we drink a glass of water, every time we eat a bit of food we are suffering from it. And more importantly, every time we indulge in, or depend on, the wastefulness of our economy - and our economy's first principle is waste - we are causing the crisis. Nearly every one of us, nearly every day of his life, is contributing directly to the ruin of this planet. A protest meeting on the issue of environmental abuse is not a conviction of accomplices, it is a conviction of the guilty. That realisation ought to clear the way of self-righteousness that almost conventionally hovers over these occasions, and let us see the work that is to be done.

And the work is understanding our position fully in respect to our environment and educating by example once this position is understood. If we start at Oriental Bay, maybe, just maybe we can make a clean sweep of the whole town, and go right to the hearts of the people: "not by words will we find truth, but by the side of a sewerage outlet and on a contaminated motorway..."

The Salient office is on the middle floor of the Union Building. LETTERS can be stuffed in the box outside, handed to the editor, or posted to Box 1347, Wellington.

The phone number is 702/10 and the editor's home phone is 554-881, Norman Kirk took note.

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Suffering the obstacle course

Re-orienting the University

Talk at the latest meeting of the October Club centre around the Orientation Week discussions and lectures. This year a group of students formed an Orientation Committee to approach stage 1 students to try and create some awareness among students about their role in the university, and the university's role in society.

The medium chosen was that which figures most prominently in the life of the student: the lecture. Coupled with hand-outs which were designed to create student awareness, these lectures were aimed at building a common atmosphere conducive to dialogue and discussion.

Opposition

Some staff members were receptive to the action that was being initiated. Others, however, were quite dubious, and apparently fearful of what might evolve from free, critical discussion of the issues facing their departments. The difficulty of actually getting into some departments necessitated toning down some of the lectures. If everyone is to be reached, a cordial atmosphere between staff and student must be maintained.

The actions of the Orientation Committee were bred out of the dissatisfaction and frustration which are so often on campus at the moment, and the belief that these feelings are unredeemable consequences of the way the university operates and what it operates for. Many students simply do not enjoy university, feel bored, fed up, and out of course, a suffering that one has to experience to some distant but enticing future which one would tend to view their problems as peculiar to themselves, not realising that the problems arise not from within, but from outside pressures.

Orientation lectures attempted to create this realisation. The solution of the problem is in a sense sociological because the pressures do not exist at an individual level, but that of the group. The focus therefore is not on the individual but on collective participation in real and collective action.

The Rationales preface analysis.

Many students have a diurnal attitude, resulting from a long history of constricting and negative influences. Critical awareness is minimal and honest appraisal of what education is all about is almost nonexistent. The development of such an attitude is only one example of the ideological infatuation of subjects that are taught. Many subjects simply discourage critical appraisal of their own particular reason for existence. From sociology to chemistry to business administration, underlying rationales preclude a true critical analysis.

Most subjects are grounded in a firm belief in the positivism of empiricism, of a supposedly value-free study of what is. If what exists around the student is to be studied, and the scope for this type of superficial study is endless, then to accommodate it all and continue studying it, almost unavoidably leads the student to a position of assent, to an unquestioning acceptance of the status quo. Challenges posed to this orthodox methodology are treated in a totally cursory fashion, because alternatives cannot be studied by such methods. Take, by way of example, the study of dialectics. The theory involves the resolution of contradictory and opposing forces, yet in it is studied with methods grounded in theories involving equilibrium theory which involves ideas totally inappropriate for the study of the conflicts of dialectics. The study of radical alternatives therefore becomes mere tokenism, and the supposed liberal arts in reality are as narrow and accepting as commerce and science subjects, because all are reducible to a common denominator of ideological mystification.

Alienation

A lot of students have no idea what feeling of frustration and discontentment abound. The university after all is really nothing more than the people in it, and to talk therefore of university as something "out there," detached and dominating, can only mean that the student feels dislocated. Feeling of alienation, from what should really be the fruitful and rewarding relationships with those whom one is surrounded with, finds it counterpart in other areas of university life. Subjects, for instance, are not to be enjoyed but mastered. Instead of becoming part of a student's life, they become outside of and opposed to the student, to be summarily avoided. This can be seen in the way in which textbooks are avoided like the plague in the period November to March. As long as knowledge is to be dissected, dealt out and digested, and learning manipulated and distorted, so as to become compliant with the demands of getting a job and earning a living, such alienation is unavoidable.

Staff not the enemy

The focus of conflict in the university is not student-staff relationships. The idea that they are is a throwback to days at school, and memories of authoritative and apparently omnipotent teachers. The polarisation that this mistaking view leads to is a hindrance to student-staff unity and frustrates the creation of a learning atmosphere.

Staff themselves have their own set of pressures that tend to ensure the maintenance of the status quo. The pressure on staff that exists is an institution interlocking with the rest of society. Its insidious demands that it fulfils its function within society, and so the question of the university's function in society cannot be divorced from the question of assessment and evaluation. As a process, this function will remain.

No assessment

Assessment, something which is a direct course of the present dissatisfaction on campus, is not in itself wrong or somehow injurious. But the reasons for being assessed will determine the methods of assessment used, and the strictness with which they are applied. The university as an institution embodies the rest of society. Its insidious demands that it fulfils its function within society, and so the question of the university's function in society cannot be divorced from the question of assessment and evaluation. As a process, this function will remain.

The type of change that the October Club is hoping to achieve and which was attempted by the Orientation Committee involves advancement on two levels. Dialogue and thought must be complemented by positive action. This combination of action and reflection should lead to changes on both the structural and consciousness. This sort of synthesis was the one aimed for by the Orientation Committee. The success achieved and the experience and guidelines gained promise well for future action.

-Peter Martin

Living on a tight budget is no bed of roses

Mike O'Flaherty, like David Tope, seems to be under the misconception that middle-class Pakelins are less entitled to liberation than their working-class Maori sisters.

Mike O'Flaherty does not approve of the ramifications of the women's liberation movement on the abortion issue, does he think he, as a male, can choose which issues the women's movement should concentrate on, and which it should cast aside? Does he consider himself an expert on women's suffering?

He doesn't think that the abortion movement will help working-class women. As the full demands of the women's liberation movement cannot be met by the capitalist system, women, no matter how women have the same political opinions, and we are more concerned at present with getting women to recognise their oppression, than with having political wrangles. The women's movement is different and independent from all other movements and must not be conflated by political boundaries. While it must unfold according to its own dynamic, it is also a part of the anti capitalist struggle.

In reply to Mike O'Flaherty, Salon No. 4, March 27. 1974.

At the time of the "Up From Under" column, I attempted to reply to some comment made about the women's liberation movement. It is not intended to indicate what the movement is trying to liberate itself. I should think that that is obvious, and anyway the comment took more than one article to discuss.

Just as he has misconstrued the purpose of the article, Mike O'Flaherty has misconstrued the theme of the article. University Feminists is not about University Feminists, and therefore comments can only be applied to University Feminists. That University Feminists members are mainly middle-class Pakelins does not lead to the broad generalisation that the women's movements as a whole is middle-class and Pakelins. Besides, the

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Student politics
alive and well at AGM

About 90 people turned up to the Students' Association AGM on April 26. The report of last year's treasurer, Byron Cullen, stirred the meeting into life. The minutes of the last AGM and the accounts were presented generally. Various methods were put forward of making sure that the elections were fair and that the accounts were approved. The accounts were approved by the students present. The accounts were approved by the students present.

Solidarity — Pensioners and Students
The trend towards students showing respectability towards students on the AGM floor has been generally good. The accounts were approved by the students present. The accounts were approved by the students present.

Unhealthy, Fatty...

What else but cafe food! Again the complaint about the lack of variety, the absence of meaningful value and the high prices has been voiced and each time louder. However, the students are not satisfied with just the low prices, but also with the low quality of the food. The accounts were approved by the students present. The accounts were approved by the students present.

Support for Kindergarten Teachers
The final motion from the floor called for the students to sign the claim by Kindergarten Teacher's Association for an equal position to Primary School Teachers. It was carried unanimously.

SALIENT PAGE FIVE, PAGE 17

vided, they proved to be one of the slowest

moving items. It was agreed that some balance

must be maintained and that less pastry and
cakes be supplied to allow for more fruit

and vegetables.

No-confidence Vote

Last of the formal motions was a vote of

no confidence in the position of Deputy

Managing Secretary of the V.U. Building.

This motion was carried.

Privileges for Some

Don Carson, the Association's Sports

Officer moved that the Association should

make a definite stand over the proposed

leasing of the new cricket pavilion. At the

current moment, however, the lease money has been lent to the cricket, soccer

and hockey clubs to enable them to have

the right to lease the top of the position.

The terms of the lease, according to the

Wellington City Council, are that only club

members and no others, — students or

non-students, can use the facilities. The situation is

especially strained because the students' membership in this year's cricket club is

twenty. The motion was passed which pro-

vided a voting privilege which allows only

hockey and cricket club members the use of the facilities.

Support for Kindergarten Teachers

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students to sign the claim by Kind-

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position to Primary School Teachers. It was carried

unanimously.

ONE YEAR AFTER

Last week we commemorated the anniversary of Jesus' birth. But we negl-

igated another important anniversary. The date of the calling off of the 1973 Springsbrook Rugby Football of the Southern Africa is here in the

txt of a pamphlet prepared by the National

Anti-Poached Committee for the occasion.

On April 10, 1973, a year ago today —

the Government informed the New Zealand

Rugby Football Union that the scheduled 1973 season had been abandoned. The

reason was that South Africans were not able to select their team on time.

What has happened in the year since the

Springsbrook tour was cancelled?

Government

Government for its part has been con-

sistently in upholding the Olympic principles of non-discrimination in sport. As a

result no racially selected team has been allowed to

South Africa New Year's Day. But while Government will not permit racially

selected teams to enter New Zealand and

 racist apartheid under our noses, Mr Kirk

 has made it clear that Government is not

 prepared to prevent New Zealand from

 travelling abroad to compete against South

 Africa. Government is firmly

 opposed to this, and invari-

 ably communicates its opposition and its

 position on sports bodies concerned.

Sports Bodies

In the past year a number of New Zealand

sporting bodies have sent teams to compete

in South Africa. These include squash,
surf lifesaving, women's hockey, trap

marine and a club rugby team. In the coming

three years a large number of New Zealand

sporting bodies will seriously consider

competing against South Africa. These

 include women's hockey, rugby, soccer,

 softball (men and women), golf, bowling,

 netball, tennis and others. By going to

 South Africa these teams are able to

 much more of the good work achieved by the

 abandonment of the Springsbrook rugby

 tour.

By competing against South Africa,

these sports bodies are defying both inter-

 national opinion and their own Government. They are behaving in an arrogant and a

 arrogant manner. They are taking decisions

 which will reflect badly upon their own

 nation, and which will give aid and support

 to those attempting to ensure the continu-

 ation of white domination and control in

 South Africa.

Before deciding against racist South

African teams, New Zealand sporting

bodies should look carefully at the behav-

 iour of their Australian counterparts. Faced

 with similar situations, in the past few years

 two Australian sporting bodies (tennis and

 squash) have decided against touring South

Africa because of the opposition of the

 Australian Government.

Racists desperate for NZ support

Our sporting bodies should realise that 

white South Africa is looking to them for

 their aid and support now more than ever

 before. It is no good our sporting admin-

istrators saying that "we can't help the non-

 racist sports", or "we will only send a club team

 South African blacks need us all. Take

 the recent Pelcom club tour for example.

 Their baggage manager, Mr Johannes du

 Flaro summarized it when he said

(Dominion 2.3.74): "South Africans feel

 very badly about the cancellation of last

 year's tour. Pelcom's tour is more than just

 a club tour. We must, and do, treat

 them as internationals. They are making up

 for the loss of the Springsbrook rugby tour of

 New Zealand."

Oppression in South Africa increasing

Some people maintain that the situation

 is improving in South Africa. Take Andy

 Leslie, the captain of the Peroni rugby

 team on their recent South African tour.

 When he arrived back in New Zealand he

 told reporters (Dominion 28.3.74):

 "I was surprised at the lack of apartheid

 in South Africa. We weren't expected to

 expect anything of the sort. Everywhere

 we saw virtually nothing of it."

Apparently he failed to notice, among

 other things, that every team he played

 against had been selected according to

 the principle of apartheid. He

 apparently ignored the fact that under

 the recent legislation introduced this

 year it will be possible for the South African

 authorities to punish non-racial sports

 bodies who make representations to inter-

 national sporting bodies for membership.

Last year Mr Hassa Howa, Chairman of

 the non-racial cricket body had his passport

 revoked in order to prevent him from

 travelling to London to put the case of

 his association before the Imperial Cricket

 Conference. Furthermore, Mr Morgan

 Naidoo, Secretary of the non-racial swim-

 ming association was slapped with a banning

 order after the racing swimming body had

 been expelled from the international

 swimming body.

Even Graeme Thorne, the ex-All Black

 who has recently returned from South

 Africa had to admit that "It is going to

 take an awful lot of persuading South African

 whites to pack down in the same scrum

 with blacks."

No one should believe that by playing

 non-White South African teams and non-

 White South African sides are a

 lot of rubbish and nothing but window

 dressing. That sort of thinking does not help

 non-white sportsmen. When people under-

 stand about apartheid, and what is happen-

 ing in this country, they won't play sport

 against South Africa. It only confuses

 things.

Pay cuts are confirmed by HART and CARC. We sing the same song.
The AGM discussed several motions that would nominally reshape the executive of the association. From a practical point of view, the passing of these motions would have minor effect on the forthcoming elections except to confuse them momentarily. The following is the Electoral Committee's interpretation of them for the election April 23 and 24.

1. The position of President remains unchanged and the candidates are Don Carson, Stephen Lungeley, John McDonald, Peter Rotherham.

The motion regarding NZUSA Liaison Office has the effect of removing this position as of December 31, 1974. In other words, it will be contested by: Tony Lane, Anthony Ward.

Under motion number 5 any position for which only one application is received, then that applicant must receive at least 50% of the vote, i.e., not more than 50% of voters having struck out his/her name.

The only nomination received for the position of Women's vice-president was that of Diane Hooper. Under normal circumstances her appointment would be final as of the last possible time that she was able to withdraw her application (4.30 Monday, April 8).

A debatable point as to whether or not this motion can or should effect the election process that has already started. The committee feels toward the view that the spirit of the constitution and the spirit of the motion itself should be interpreted to include this motion in the rules for the forthcoming election. However, as this point has not been finally decided, it will be made clear on the voting papers.

Candidates are reminded that photographs for display at polling places can be obtained through application to Salient urgently. Polling boards will be at the following times and places:

Tuesday April 23 and Wednesday 24
Library foyer 8am to 6pm both days
Student Union foyer 8am to 7pm both days.

There will be an election forum on Monday April 22, watch for notices of time and place.

Robert Lithgow Returning Officer

Expresed student opinion will determine my actions throughout the remainder of this year if I am elected President. SRC is the policy-making body of the Students Association and no member of the SEC can disregard its directives. Those who disagree with SRC policy have the opportunity to show it through a democratic process instead of choosing to make allegations about the operations of a mythical clique. I will continue to be available to all students wanting advice, support or just to talk.

I am an Arts student; the present Sports Officer, and have been active in student affairs for the past three years. Because of this, I have an extensive knowledge of the way the university and student activities are operated and of the personnel involved; this is important knowledge for a President especially when he is elected in a by-election to take office immediately.

The provision of student car parks in Waite's Road is a recent positive achievement that I can claim. As Sports Officer it is difficult to separate personal achievements from collective efforts, or bureaucratic functioning. Because of Sports Council policy I have initiated, a small number of elitist and badly run clubs will find it difficult to obtain grants this year. Better grants will be available to those clubs which deserve them.

If elected President, my primary concern will be among the areas listed below and I will work towards them at both the SRC and Executive levels.

1) Academic workload is the most immediate problem facing the majority of Victoria students. Activity in social, sporting and political life has dropped off alarmingly in the last year.

2) Because of the pressing needs of work, SRC has declined as an active forum for policy discussion. I intend to cooperate with the SRC Co-ordinator to give a high priority to providing opportunities for wider student participation and involvement in areas as diverse as capping or the forthcoming ZANU appeal raffle.

3) The cafeteria facilities can and must be improved. Wastage on perishable items must cease and retail buying of fruit and vegetables must be replaced with wholesale buying. The number of food outlets in the Union and their efficiency should also be investigated.

4) The first priority for Welfare Services must be the provision of adequate creche facilities; the theatre foyer is not a long term solution. There are vacant university buildings in Kelburn Parade which could be used for a creche.

5) The Staff Club in Rankine Brown is a privileged facility. If regular liquor provisions are obtained for the Union, the Staff Club should revert to library use. Staff and student relations will be enhanced by sharing recreational facilities.

I make no apology for, or secret of, my political beliefs. Last year I was on the executive of the Wellington Committee on Vietnam and have worked with other organizations for progressive change both on and off campus. I will give continued support to progressive groups such as the Tenants Protection Association, the National Anti-Apartheid Committee, the Committee on Vietnam, Pensioner's Association, and others.

My previous experience has been: Sports Officer, SRC Rep on the Joint Committee of University Council, Publications Board, Victoria International delegate to 1975 May and August NZUSA Councils.

I am a student standing for President of the Students Association, interested in giving students a voice, and interested in student social activity, at the expense of intellectual wakening. I am an alternative for a 'cleique' who for the past few years or so, have controlled internal politics and finance. Hopefully the majority can once again control decision-making for the student body.

My reasons for standing for President are numerous. Firstly, I am tired with the constant attacks by left-wing extremists alleging that most students are apathetic and not interested in student affairs, this is incorrect, students are interested but rarely have the time to express their opinions through campus or socialist representatives.

Secondly, I object to a 'cleique' carrying so little student support controlling the Students Association, many of whom are using their posts to expand extreme left-wing political influence. This concerns me that the present executive have spent too much time on arguing the virtues of the far left and not enough time catering for the desires of students in general.

The past year has shown that the Students' Association has been tightly controlled by a group of extremists who have little interest for the students in general. They have in their attempt to destroy Capping done away with the social activities of Capping - was this a reflection of student opinion? If not why has this sort of activity been abolished?

Disatisfaction is rife in the university it comes from many neglected quarters. There is a concern by many students that secrecy as to the goings on of the Students Association is a practice of the Students Association. There is some truth in this, I believe every student should if desired have the right to know, Student Association activities and decisions will be published in Salient weekly.

If I am elected President I will inherit the problems associated with the cafeteria. I will look at evidence of different groups and decide which is the best way to improve the cafeteria, after a series of public forums on the problem will have be held.

Basically I am an alternative to the various left-wing candidates, personally I am liberal-moderate in my political outlook. This is immaterial if elected, for not as one of my opponents wrote: "Most students do not vote; I do not represent them or their interests. Such students are not represented by the absurd selflessness that imagines..." - Don Carson. For becoming President I will represent all students.

I believe that all clubs at this university should have the right to use facilities of the university free of charge. If and when the Sports Council takes the licence with the City Council they will be banned by the Sports Officer to allow all groups within the university to have free access for functions, provided the group is responsible.

Finally I ask you to record the words of Abraham Lincoln - a President should be "from the people" a reflection of public opinion within the society from which he comes. "For the people" once elected representing all those he is President for: "by the people" without a positive vote from you the above will become invalid. I ask each and everyone of you for your vote.

Diane Hooper
Woman Vice-presidential candidate

Crecipe facilities and student involvement in their own association would be the two areas of my immediate concern as Woman Vice President.

The students trip to CHINA is on again this year. For details, see the union noticeboards.

Other Candidates

Two Presidential candidates failed to present their manifestos before the stated deadline. They are Peter Rotherham and Stephen Lungeley.

Both candidates for NZUSA Liaison Officer also failed to show up in time for photographs and with their manifestos; Tony Lane and Anthony Ward.

The deadline was advertised in Salient two weeks ago, so these candidates have only themselves to blame.

To find out what their views are and what their faces look like, come to the election forum on April 22.
The following is the text of a submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Women's Rights by the National Abortion Action Committee. The hearing of the submission took place on April 9, 1974.

The Women's National Abortion Action Campaign was initiated to campaign for the removal of all restrictions on women's right to control their own reproductive lives. We believe that one of the most outstanding injustices to women in New Zealand is the fact that restrictions on this right still exist, a right which we feel is basic and essential for the achievement of real emancipation and human dignity for the female sex.

To quote from a leaflet we distribute: "It is a woman's fundamental right to decide for herself when and if she will bear children, to have control over her own body. This right is presently denied by the laws prohibiting abortion, by the laws prohibiting those under 16 from obtaining contraceptives, by the lack of free, easily available contraception and sterilization, and by the backward attitude of our educational institutions towards realistic sex education. All women suffer to some extent in this situation, but those with means suffer less than poorer women. The right to be free from the fear of unwanted pregnancy and childbirth must become a reality for all women."

**A Novel Idea?**

Our point of view on abortion and birth control in general is far from new; it has been put forward for decades by women all over the world. From the beginning of the twentieth century, women in many countries have demanded and fought for the legalization of abortion, on basically the same grounds that we do: that women have a right to freedom of choice in a matter concerning them so closely.

Our own New Zealand experience is worth noting here. In 1936, the major women's organizations in this country were among those who made submissions to a Committee of Inquiry into the incidence of septic abortion. Widespread concern had been expressed at the rise in the number of women dying as a result of illegal abortion over the preceding years. The case for legal abortion was put forward, and, according to the Committee's report (Parliament, Appendix, to the Journals, 1937-38, v3, H-31A.3) the sentiment behind it was substantially backed by public opinion.

On page 11 the report states: "It is clear that, whether the motives be worthy or selfish, women of all classes are demanding the right to decide how many children they will have."

And on page 18: "Evidence was given by responsible and representative women in support of a mother's right to say when she will bear her children...."

However, the Committee chose to ignore these arguments, to characterize this right of women as a "privilege," and to recommend as a "solution" to the problem of illegal abortion a strong appeal to the womanhood of New Zealand to overcome their "selfishness" and respect the "privileges of motherhood".

We sincerely hope the women of New Zealand will not be offered the same "solution" in 1974.

**Science and Social Policy**

Women have always wanted control over their reproductive lives. What is new is the possible solution to this problem that desire easily and safely. Medical science can now provide women with complete security against unplanned childbirth.

The great advances in contraception made in the past few decades have raised women's expectations. Sexual relationships no longer be fraught with anxiety about unwanted pregnancy, anxiety which has been a blight on the lives of virtually all women and which no man ever has to experience.

The new methods of early abortion which have been developed can further dispel that anxiety by providing a simple, non-traumatic solution to contraceptive failure.

Undoubtedly, if we had a positive social policy, both pre- and post-conception birth control methods could be even further improved.

Such advances can be of real benefit to women and can greatly enhance their feelings of security and dignity, by giving them control over an important area of their lives.

Yet we are faced with the absurd contradiction that these advances are being denied to women.

Contraceptives are not legally available to all. They are costly, they are not readily accessible, and, they are simply denied to some by doctors who refuse to prescribe them for their own personal reason. Women cannot effectively choose to prevent pregnancy unless they have all the means of prevention available to them.

We have laws prohibiting abortion, the origin of which dates back to last century. For most women who conceive accidentally, the only alternative offered by this society is compulsory continuation of pregnancy. The right to choose, which was never guaranteed before conception, is definitely unavailable after it, except to the few who have the cash and the connections. And their "choice", involving as it does clandestine activity and possible risk to health, is just as degrading or retrogressive. Equally degrading is the manner in which the law allows abortion only to those whose health is seriously endangered or those who are prepared to have themselves certified to be on the verge of mental collapse.

Sterilization operations are refused to women on the ground that they have not produced sufficient children. Many gynecologists do not consider women fit to make such a decision for themselves, and they arrogantly make it for them. Applicants for sterilization operations are also required to obtain the consent of their spouse, even if they are separated from them.

Sex education in our high schools is a farce. By the time they receive it, young people today are already aware of how to produce a pregnancy; what they want to know is how to prevent it....

**Effects of Restrictions on the right to choose**

Since abortion has been labelled a crime, it is extremely difficult to get an accurate picture of how many women suffer through lack of access to safe, legal abortion. The facts are buried under a heap of secrecy and hypocrisy. The only serious study we know of is the National Research Bureau Survey made in early 1972, which was commissioned by the Abortion Law Reform Association. That survey estimated that about 6,500 illegal abortions were taking place annually. It also estimated that attempts at abortion totalled about 11,000 a year.

There are other figures which have bearing on this question, such as the continuing high rate of births outside marriage, the numbers of women who have children, and the proportion of bride who are pregnant, which is widely claimed to be one in three. It would be ridiculous to pretend that all the births involved in these cases were voluntary. The area in which it is most difficult to see the effects of abortion laws is that of married women, having no recourse to abortion, these women must resign themselves to additions to their family if they have an unwanted pregnancy. According to the above-mentioned survey, married women constitute well over half of those seeking abortion.

Our case does not stand on numbers alone. If an injustice is being done, it matters little whether it is to one person or one million; it is still an injustice. But it is clear to us that the abortion laws, and other restrictions on women's control, have been responsible for bringing a great deal of strain and misery into the lives of many thousands of women over the years.

**The Wider Implications**

Women's susceptibility to the unplanned birth of a child is used to discriminate against them in employment and throughout public life. Employers refuse to promote women or accept them for positions of responsibility on the grounds that they might get pregnant and have to leave. Only a few years ago, a large national bank had a policy of sacking women upon marriage, in anticipation of their becoming pregnant! Mortgage finance is refused to women on these grounds also. In fact, when women try to make any kind of long-term commitment, they come up against this barrier of being considered a "poor risk".

We wish to state here that we firmly believe there should be no handicaps placed on women simply because they have children, and we would draw the committee's attention to other submissions which deal with the need for maternity leave, childcare and so on. But we insist that if women are to be able to enjoy equal opportunity with men, they must be given the means to plan their lives, and this includes the means to exercise free-
This woman was the victim of a criminal abortion. Her body was photographed exactly as it was found by police in a bloody and barren motel room; exactly as it had been abandoned there by an untrained, profit-seeking abortionist. Becoming frightened when “something went wrong” he left her to die alone.

(Continued from previous page)

dom of choice over when and if to have children.

The Current Controversy

Since this submission is presented during a period of significant public interest in the issues of abortion, we wish to deal with the main arguments raised against our case for women's right to choose abortion.

1) "Abortion is murder"

This argument is raised on the claim that a fetus is a "human being". The point at which it is said to become a human being is the "moment of conception". We consider this argument to be based purely on faith, not scientific knowledge. Science explains human life as a continuum, with the process of conception merely a stage along the way. If opponents of abortion wish to be consistent they should all oppose contraception as well, but only some of them do. The state has not upheld the view of this last group by banning non-medical use of contraceptives.

"Human life" is different from "human being", the latter being the status accorded to all members of society. Embryonic human life has only the potential to become a human being. It is at birth that we begin life as social entities and it is at birth that society regards us as human beings, counting our age from that point. This is the prevailing attitude and it is a perfectly rational one. "Abortion" is the death of an unborn child.

One of the greatest inconsistencies of our opponents lies in the fact that they would prevent abortion altogether: they do not propose a total ban on abortion. Yet the law allows abortion on wider grounds than for the preservation of the physiological life of the pregnant woman, which is presumably the only allowable ground for those whom abortion is "murder". Anti-abortionists are therefore prepared to make exceptions to their own "rules" as they themselves see fit. Their stated concern for the "sanctity of human life" is merely a cover for their real intentions. Their main concern is to keep the decision out of women's reach, to contain abortion within limits acceptable to themselves.

2) "Abortion is dangerous"

Claims and counterclaims abound on this question. We believe, however, that there is no question that early abortions, performed on healthy women under proper medical conditions are even safer than childbirth. And the only way to ensure that most abortions can be carried out early, when they are safest, is to make sure that when women want them they get them, and are not kept waiting while someone else decides their fate.

We concede that there are dangers inherent in the abortion procedure, just as there are in any operation. But how can they be compared to the dangers of illegal abortions performed by unqualified people? It will be time to discuss the essential dangers involved in abortion when the practice is given the same scrutiny and is researched equally as the methods of improving fertility and maintaining pregnancy. If New Zealand can produce experts in those fields, why can it not do likewise for the cause of preventing unwanted pregnancies?

3) "Legalized abortion will mean overcrowded hospitals"

The end result of uninterrupted pregnancy is birth. Confinements take a lot more hospital time and space than straightforward abortion (which, incidentally, leave only one person to care for the patient). Early abortion is carried out successfully and safely overseas in clinics staffed by qualified personnel; there is no need to increase the burdens on general practitioners.

Women should not be penalized for the failure of successive governments to provide an adequate medical service. Whether they want their pregnancies ended or carried to term, they should have access to proper medical care.

4) "Legal abortions will lead to permissiveness"

Here we get a little closer to the real motivation behind the anti-abortionists' campaign: the desire to enforce one moral standard on all.

Moral persuasion against extramarital sex being something of a lost cause, the self-appointed guardians of public morals try to discourage it with punishment. "Women must pay for their sins", it is said, on the assumption that all unwanted pregnancies occur outside marriage. But even married women are not spared: "Women must pay for their irresponsibility".

There are many reasons why women become pregnant unintentionally, not the least of which is giving ignorance of, or lack of access to effective contraception, for which we have these very moralists, to name.

It is barbaric to punish these women by insisting on unwanted births. And what effect does this have on the children born as a punishment?

We find such punitive attitudes abhorrent.

5) "Illegal abortion will lead to euthanasia"

What we are seeking is women's right to control their own bodies. We do not want to see how people can associate this with the killing of the aged or infirm. It seems to us that those who always attack abortion in this fundamental right fully (and nowhere in the world has this yet been done) would be most concerned with this "outlawed act".

Reference is frequently made to Nazi Germany in support of the above anti-abortion arguments as an example of what can happen when the "sanctity of human life" is violated. But the fact is that Hitler was a staunch guardian of pre-marital human life and he ruthlessly suppressed abortion, invoking the death penalty for women charged with this "offence."

The Nazi example adds weight to our caution over that of opponents of abortion.

6) "The population will decline - the labour force will be depleted"

The comparison with Nazi Germany is more apt here. Women's rights are to be subordinated to the needs of society. It is claimed that this is the "interest of the nation". With precisely such philosophy did Hitler find his regressive ream.

There are more rational and humane ways to achieve a productive society without suddenly raising or lowering the population level. The idea of claiming population control as a battle is as absurd as claiming that abortion is a moral issue.

The current campaign to repeal the abortion laws dates back to the National Women's Action Conference held in Wellington in April 1972. From this conference, education activities and public protests for repeal of the laws were sparked for the first week of May. Because of the response to these activities, the Committee which had organised them decided to continue, and to campaign around the following demands:

Repeal of the abortion laws: freely available contraception for all who want it, voluntary sterilisation, and a realistic sex education programme at all levels of schooling.

By early 1973, it was obvious that the campaign appealed primarily to women and was being organised by women to secure their right to control their reproductive lives. As a logical next step, the word "Women's Action has added to the name of the Action Action Committee At this stage, Committees were functioning in the three main centres.

From the outset, the campaign has concentrated on involving as many women as possible, for it is women who suffer under these laws and it is women who must act to change them. Activities have included marches and pickets, public meetings, deputations to Parliament and delivering a petition on request will deny men a "right"

A man should not be able to have children, to order by forcing a woman to go through with an unwanted pregnancy. A right to decide for a father-to-be cannot be legislated for without condemning some women to compulsory motherhood. In any healthy relationship, mutual agreement would easily be arrived at without resort to the law. We are opposed to any law which bolsters the tradition of regarding women as breeding machines, and their children as property.

8) "Women will abuse the freedom to have abortions at will"

This is like saying that people will get sick on purpose to take advantage of free medical care.

The first line of defence against unwanted pregnancy is knowledge of and access to effective, safe contraception. If that fails, for whatever reason, the only left is abortion. For them the choice of abortion itself to be wrong, we have no moral ob- jection to the number of times women resort to it. But if women did have adequately protection against conception, it seems highly unlikely that they would deliberately choose to abuse the freedom of choice.

The right to act according to one's own conscience

We recognise that some people sincerely believe that babies should be morally avoided. We are aware that there are Catholic and other women whose beliefs would never allow them to have an abortion for themselves. We respect their point of view and do not ask for a moment that act any differently from their conscience will be supported. We would appreciate a similarly generous outlook towards those who want legal abortion available. Everyone should have the right to choose another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another in acting against their will to conceive another. WONAAC

With the campaign growing in different centres, the need for more efficient co-ordination was evident. So WONAAC was formed in Wellington, July 14-15, 1973 and the Women's National Abortion Action Committee (WNAAC) was formed from this. Its task is to co-ordinate nationally a women's action campaign for the demands listed above.

WONAAC includes women from a number of different organisations, and seeks to unite in action a broad spectrum of groups and individuals in the community, who feel that abortion is a matter of individual choice, not a matter to be decided by the law.

The campaign's action perspective is based on a recognition of the need to keep the campaign visible, so that it can attract public attention and in so doing bring the government's attention to the matter, in a way which it cannot easily ignore. In addition, a visible, active campaign can give confidence to the thousands of women too intimidated by anti-abortion propaganda to be convinced as yet that the right to choose abortion can be won.

WONAAC is confident that large numbers of women will join the campaign, putting pressure on the government to make abortion a matter of choice, for all women.

What is WONAAC?
morality on the rest of the population through the laws of the land or through any other means of control. Some governments have been guilty of perpetuating the coer- cion of women by refusing to remove the restrictions on abortion. Recently, we have seen both sides of the House assuring Members that should the abortion issue arise in Parliament they will have a "consent" vote. It is the height of injustice and hypocrisy to propose to exercise this right to Parliament while continuing to deny it to the public. If it is a "consent" vote, then what does the law have to come into it?

No concessions

We are opposed to the idea that restri- ctive abortion laws need only to be slightly reformulated. We think that such a concession to one's own body is absolute, and those women who want the abortion or for reasons of physical or mental health, rape, economic and family difficulties, or risk of foetal deformity have a double claim on the law. Being a woman with an unwanted pregnancy is sufficient qualification by itself. If anything, it should be the case that the vast majority of women seeking abortion have. If it is not legally recognized, these women will continue to seek relief in self-abortion or backstreet abortion and the problems will continue until they want a solution to their problem, which is an unwanted pregnancy. There is no other solution.

“Better contraception” is no solution to a pregnant woman. She cannot turn back the clock on a child she does not want. Childless couples must be helped by other means which do not de- pend on the mercy of the law to be effective. It is lack of respect for this dignity which leads to the inclusion of some restric- tions in “liberal” abortion laws overseas. Many people are fooled into thinking that partial reform, while it may not be all that is needed, will at least be "a step in the right direction". We seek to explain why it will not, and why it will instead be a setback. We will go over the four restrictions which are most common.

1) " Abortions may be performed only in licensed hospitals"

The simple procedure required for most abortions can adequately be carried out in a clinic or doctor's office. Hospital boards are notoriously conservative. Already few abortions and sterilization operations are allowed in public hospitals compared to the number estimated to be done in private establishments. This restriction plays a major role. Restricting abortions to hos- pitals would help those who could save large sums of money at the expense of those who could not.

2) "Abortions may only be performed by licensed physicians"

There is no reason why women should be forced to leave their jobs in the hands of those who have proven themselves unsympathetic to the problem. This restriction has been put forward oversights by opponents of abortion who know nothing of the problem.

3) "Abortions may only be performed on women who are pregnant for medical reasons, unless the woman's life is at stake"

This kind of restriction essentially says that a woman has a certain stage in her body suddenly belongs to the state and it can force you to have a child, whatever your intentions, in a certain stage in your pregnancy. (b) because late abortion entails more risk to you than early abortion and the state must "protect" you even if your con- sidered decision is that you want to run that risk and your doctor is willing to help you.

4) "Abortions may be prohibited when the married woman's husband or the young woman's guardian gives their consent"

We have already indicated our point of view on the "right of the father-to-be. In- voluntary pregnancy in a woman in a certain stage in her life is no concern for her husband. Involuntary pregnancy in a young womaninvoluntary pregnancy in a young woman threatens her existence wherever the thing the right to abortion should give her: the right to decide for herself, the right to be her own body.

In the case of these laws bring about many equally unjust situations to which we have now. They will satisfy to some extent those women who can buy their right to be chosen; they will make poorer women suffer.

That this real, only invite women in the same way that our current abortion laws do: it assumes that we are lacking in the ability to judge a situation for ourselves, we assume responsibility for our own decisions. This is the paternalistic assumption on which the abortion laws were originally founded. We already allow abortion for medical reasons regardless of the possibility of foetal viability. And who can say with any certainty exactly the moment of viability is repugnant. It will not change today's estimate of ever-increasing advances in technology. If one day it becomes possible to support a three-day-old fertilized egg outside the uterus, that should then be cause to ban abortion altogether?

There are reasons why abortion may be risky; she might seek a late abortion, and she should be able to obtain one legally if she wants. She may discover that she had German measles in early pregnancy and the fetus is deformed: she may have had a sudden mental breakdown; or some calamity may have changed the circumstances of her life. Whatever her reasons, she belongs to herself and not to the state.

A partially reformed law will give people the illusion that things have resolved, while in reality the female population has been saddled with the same basic denial of dignity and freedom. We reject these methods of buying women off. We want no concessions; we want women's rights.

What must be done in New Zealand?

We have in this country a history of innovation in social legislation. New Zealand women won the right to vote 27 years before their counterparts in the United States and 35 years before the women in Britain. We have since lost ground steadily. The clear af- firmation of this record on the part of women to control their own lives.

To correct the injustice of restrictions on this right, the government must implement the following:

1) All laws restricting women's right to abortion must be repealed. No woman wanting an abortion should be refused. This way requires the adoption of sex education and training programmes for providing the qualified staff for them. Such clinics should be part of the free medical service.

2) All laws restricting access to contracep- tives and abortion services must be repealed. Contraception must be readily obtainable and free on social security. Public education campaigns to combat the misuse of effective contraceptive techniques should be launched by the government. These should be of an open and non-threatening nature and must not be directed against any particular social group because of its economic status or racial origin. The government must be made to improve birth control methods, instead of increasing the number of abortions, in order to prevent social legislation, so that there are entirely satisfactory methods for women at all times.

3) All experiments and experiments on the right of a person, married or single, to voluntary sterilization at their own request must be stopped. Any attempt to impose sterilization as a pre-condition for abortion must be outlawed.

4) Sex education must be extended throughout the state education system and especially in schools concerned with preventing conception. Sex education must be on a factual basis and attempts to impose an unrealistic moral view must not be allowed.

The control of hypophyscal secrecy which has something to do with induced abortion does not look good for the future of the birth control. In particular, regarding abortion, in beginning to the tension, contraception must no longer mean restricting the right of women to marry or to marry anyone. The government must be examining the issue and the urgent need for positive action.

We will not be bought off. We will not be satisfied until the right to choose has been won for every woman.

A Woman Doctor Deals With the Medical Issues Involved

[Prepared by Margaret J. Sparrow for the National Women's Liberation Conference, held at Victoria University of Wellington, July 14-15 1973.]

Although I am a member of a number of groups working for women's rights and professional, I would like to make it clear that I do not speak for any of them. What I present today is a personal view.

My position is that the view of a practising doctor is not necessarily that of a woman or a human being, or an interest in the quality of life, and a humanist concern for people.

At the outset I must state that what I am saying is based. You also have your own particular bias and I think it is help- ful that we recognize this and grasp each other's values and endeavour to find areas of agreement.

I received virtually no education on abortion during my medical training. I did not take the trouble to read the Crimes Act 1963 and the majority of doctors was confused about the law and its inter- pretation. I found it difficult to discuss abortion with my colleagues and even with my patients. I ignored the problem for as long as possible. I had an inkling that all was not well. When a patient said, "Well, if you can't help me I'll just have to find someone else", I pro- fessed something about the dangers of going to someone else, adding up the "goodness", "But if you do need help after an illegal abortion, come back and see me", For- tuneately one of them did and I was forced to rethink my position and my whole attitude to abortion. I supported the Abortion Law Reform Association.

I am frequently asked, "Are you for or against abortion?" To me this is a non- question. I am neither. For me abortion is a fact of life, sometimes natural, some- times voluntary and sometimes medically necessary. And yet people don't ask me, "Are you for or against appendectomy?" It is clear that aborting a medical event it is also something more than that. It is a topic which arouses very deep feelings. It is a complex problem with ethical, social, legal, medical and very per- sonal aspects, none of which can be re- garded as isolation. Many individuals feel that they have worked through to a position that they find tolerable, but our society in general has been unable to reach agreement on some of the major issues.

There is much argument about what the real issues really are. The only way abortion can appear uncomplicated is to concentrate on one of the issues such as, "Who does human rights belong to", and to take the freedom of the individual, or feminist rights, but the complexities of the above and other issues are unanswerable to this one-dimensional approach.

So we are left to a pretty shaky start. One must also be aware of the inter- nal conflicts. There is a great discrepancy between professional attitudes and actual practice, between theory and practice. We don't really believe in abortion doctors professing the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception, while they do not believe in abortion doctors treating patients. There is also the conflict between reason and emotion, exemplified by the young woman who sincerely believes that abortion is the best method of contraception, until the morning after. She may also have a con- flict between deliberate planning and the use of contraception.
very human tendency not to plan. The law highlights the conflicts that exist between freedom and control, and the rights of the individual versus the society.

With such a complex subject and so many areas of conflict, abortion is an ideal subject for a crucible and the tactics are far from subtle. The question you overstated your own case, you monopolize the dialogue, you only marshal those facts which support your argument and you use all the emotive language at your disposal. When you have finished, you may feel very strongly that this is the only way to tackle the problem, but what is obvious is that it often leads to confusion rather than enlightenment.

I will now concentrate on some of the major issues surrounding abortion, not because I think that they are the most important, but because this is the area in which I have a personal responsibility to contribute. The so-called medical decisions that doctors are making are often a reflection of their own bias rather than decisions based on purely medical facts. The whole issue of abortion does not exist for the benefit of the abortion issues and doctors merely select those papers, scientific articles or opinions which support their own ethical or moral stance.

Such controversial issues are:
- What are the medical indications for abortion?
- Physical indications: Pregnancy?
- Mental health? Congenital deformity?
- What are the social indications for abortion? Family planning?
- Under 16 years? Family planning?
- What are the psychiatric effects of an abortion on the mother?
- What about the rights of the unborn child?

I will deliberately not have an abortion on the mother? On the child? On the unborn human life? Very often discussed.

When does contraception and abortion become an issue?
- When does contraception and abortion become an issue?
- Who should decide whether to have or not to have an abortion on the mother? On the child? On the unborn human life? Very often discussed.

Some questions I am frequently asked:

Where is the right to decide whether to have or not to have an abortion on the mother? On the child? On the unborn human life? Very often discussed.

Taking the last question first, I can find no sound reason for assuming that I know better than doctors and their patients what is best for them. It is as full as possible, considering all the alternatives. Each case is different but in general the right decision should rest with the women.

Papers can be cited to "prove" what ever stance one adopts and even the same paper will support opposite conclusions. Take for instance on the topic of psychiatry, the excellent book by the Swedish paper by Kirtin Hox. It is a follow-up of 16 years of women women who had been aborted in Sweden, where there is no legal abortion. The conclusion is that for those 140 did in fact have an abortion, while 86% continued the pregnancy. 23% were considered to have adjusted to their situation.

"I can find no sound reason for assuming that I know better than doctors and their patients what is best for them. It is as full as possible, considering all the alternatives. Each case is different but in general the right decision should rest with the women."

Almost immediately, 33% of their sample had achieved adequate levels of contraception, while 24% were still showing significant disturbance after 18 months. The paper concluded that the mental health of women denied abortion was worse than those granted an abortion. Others however use the fact that the majority adjusted well and emphasize the need for support services etc. It convinces the pro-abortion is not the only one that there are workable alternatives.

So what? All this doesn't mean that the abortion is a waste of money, say at quickening, others at the point of viability about 26-28 weeks. Others say at birth. At the first international conference on Abortion in Washington, October 1974, a final statement was issued and is often quoted: "Our group found no point in time before the birth of the child or before the birth of the child at which point we could not say that this was a human right."

The second conference, held in England, 6 months later, was the second major conference on abortion. The conference was attended by doctors from 20 countries, including the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Holland, Italy, Canada, Israel, Australia, and South Africa. The conference was convened to discuss the legal and political aspects of abortion, as well as the medical and ethical issues involved.

Arbitrarily lines to serve our social needs but these need reviewing in the light of new knowledge.

Where does the "morning-after" pill fit into the scheme of things? High doses of oestrogen and progesterone should not be used in the first trimester of pregnancy because of the risk of serious congenital anomalies.

I hope that this has at least demonstrated what a large grey area there is between abortion and contraceptive. There is no simple answer, but there is a need for further research into these areas.

With improvements in medical science the discussion we have today may become irrelevant. Is it not already the case that abortion will be the contraceptive of choice in most countries? Is it not already the case that abortion will be the contraceptive of choice in most countries?

Dr. Martin Squires

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Peasants will have to fight

Requirements of landless peasant families under the "Federal Land Development Authority (Filda)" are seen by "foreign experts" as the most successful attempt to remove the problems of tenant farmers in Malaysia. "Filda" schemes are the most publicized projects in the country. However, this optimistic view at once exposed by the revelations of the facts.

According to the Government's census in 1955, there were then 790,000 peasant families who were landless. By 1960, according to a radio broadcast by Tunku Razak (then the deputy Prime Minister and leader of Kuala Lumpur's Development Party, the government) has succeeded in settling 14,000 peasant families which means that in the 14 years after "independence", only 1,000 families were resettled each year. Thus a mere 2% of the total number of landless families benefit from this very expensive scheme. At this rate, it will take the government at least 330 years to resettle the landless peasants. This is not taking into account the number of the peasant families who are made landless each year through rural landlordism and exorbitant land taxes resulting in accumulation of land in fewer hands in the rural areas.

Thus, not only is the Filda scheme a failure, but also a sham — it is used to cover up the need for total land reform in the countryside. People with liberal attitudes tend to be happy at the achievement of the government in the sense that at least 14,000 families enjoy the benefits of the scheme. However, even this view is deformed when facts and figures are revealed.

Indebtedness

Each settler family on acceptance of resettlement in the scheme was given an imaginary loan of $15,000 to $25,000. A certain acreage of land was allotted to each of the families, usually about seven acres. This allotment is more or less on a temporary basis in the street that if the land is neglected that family will be asked to leave the scheme to make way for another peasant family, without any form of compensation for the work already done on the land. Although this land allocation was released because after being landless for general reasons, each peasant family is empowered to take the land for keep. Being landless and poor all their lives, they acquired the imaginary loan without means.

As they have no means to repay this imaginary loan system, each family will be given a monthly allowance of $700, land measured by any standard, is far below the poverty limit. Out of the $700, the have to contribute 50 cents to "revenue", and $1 to "co-operative" in the scheme. Still the tenants remained without and on the landless for without because they were promised that when the land became successful, they could earn at least $250 to $400 per month. With these earnings, if realized, they can afford to give a decent life to their family, and there will be surplus for them to pay the imaginary loan. In time, they were promised, the land would be theirs.

Permanent Debt

Blit Valley, Filda Scheme is the oldest scheme in Malaysia. No doubt, one of the most successful. A primary jungle has been transformed into a "urban" rubber plantation. The rubber trees grown from good seedlings produce latex in good quantity and quality. Ordinarily, with that amount of latex produced, they could have easily earned $600 per month. But strangely enough their income did not increase.

As their productivity could give them an ample earning of about $400 per month, the government has limited their income to the amount of $20. Any income surpassing the $70 limit is automatically expropriated by 'Filda' under the pretext that the excess sum is used for the payment of the imaginary loan.

This imaginary loan has become a bogey, it has been escaped as a manoeuvre by the government as a sleight of hand to deny the settler title to the land. As a test case, a settler in Blit Valley with the cooperation of others, cannot enough money to pay off the imaginary loan. But 'Filda' complied with the bold answer that it was not prepared to accept the payment. Neither would it accept the tithe of land to the settler concerned. Similarly, a settler in Kampung Awang Filda Scheme paid his debt "voluntarily" for three years in succession only to be told by the Filda that his debt has increased to $18,000 i.e. an increase of $4,000 from the original imaginary loan. The actual life expectancy of rubber trees is between 15 — 20 years. Beyond that period replenishing is necessary, and for that, the settler must new go to Filda for a new imaginary loan to the tune of $15,000 to $25,000. Taking the above into consideration, the settler will be trapped into the status of charity labour or rubber estate workers without any labour benefits like social security, holidays, medical benefits, sickness or hospital benefits.

Expulsion from the Scheme

Recently, settlers in certain schemes (Blit Valley) were ordered to leave the scheme. They were told to leave the scheme before a certain date, and if they failed, they would be imprisoned for non-payment of the imaginary loan, or be physically removed from the schemes. The reason for the expulsion was said to be due to the settlers "sleeping inside a plot of land near the latex project" to an "unnatural and disorderly" and not the Filda. From time to time, the settlers do worry that the plants are going to be confiscated by the authorities. As the settler's income is not sufficient to maintain one person, nor a family, especially those having children.

In some schemes, notably the Blit Valley and the Baby Janda schemes, the settlers are living in utter poverty and despair, and so far, they have taxis traveling in the restricted areas, who are in the Latex project ordered, and so far, they have taxis traveling in the restricted areas.

Retoration to the "outside" ditches the government has blocked the access to both of their land areas, and security guards are stationed there. Thus, not only are the settlers reduced to charity labour status, their freedom of movement is illegally restricted. This is similar to New Villages Schemes set up by the British in 1948 to combat so-called "terrorists" Filda scheme has been turned from an economic development into a political concentration camp.

Paradise for big contractors

From year to year, the development expenditure per family and per acre in the schemes have increased, but without corresponding increase in the benefits to the settlers. Those benefiting from the increase in the expenditure are big contractors who are invariably patrons of the Alliance Party.

In these very years that their lands would be grabbed by the government unless they paid their taxes. The warming came at a time when a great movement in the district went out to stop land taxes due to their falling income because of the falling rubber prices. Income in rural Malaysia has fallen to a level lower than any other period since 1957. Thus more and more underserviced peasants will be rendered landless due to this new land-grabbing policy of the government.

Only when the peasants unite in struggle will the land grabbers be thwarted.

Footnote

As the Filda Scheme does not solve the problem of landless-ness, the peasants are forced to open up some rural areas by group efforts despite the warnings and barbaric treatment of the government. According to incomplete statistics, 200,000 acres of land in Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, and Kedah were opened up by the landless peasants themselves. In Pahang alone, about 50,000 acres of land were involved. In Tererak (Pahang) 5,000 peasants were "illegally" involved in the cultivation of about 30,000 acres of rural land.

In 1973, the State Governor of Kedah revealed 101 cases of illegal settlers of land and 120 were reported in the following year. Ironical is the just struggle of the landless peasants is recklessly suppressed by the authority. These peasants were forced out of their newly cultivated land by armed police and put into jail.

On September 3, 1969, Hamid Tush, the leader of a group of landless peasants in Telok Gong (Selangor) was arrested for "illegally" going up to 80 acres of rubber jungle and he was put into the Batu Gajah detention Camp.

In January 1973 about 200 acres of padifields in Kampung Java of Pekan were destroyed by bulldozers and 100 lorrys, under the supervision of the Penghulu (District Officer). Newspaper reports, under the supervision of the Penghulu (District Officer). News reports, under the supervision of the Penghulu (District Officer).

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On January 4th, 1973, Nanyang Siang Pau (a local Newspaper) reported that a team of armed police led by the district officer of Sungai Sapat (Kedah) went on a wild search for a group of "illegal" tapioca planters in the "claimed government lands". Fortunately all planters escaped in time even though their crops, tools and belongings were confiscated. These planters were having for any land for years but their requests had never been met.

The crucial point of interest is that why the government authorities declare the landless peasants the right to open up some rural jungle land for cultivation purposes? Firstly, the landless peasants are to be used as cheap labour sources in the Filda Scheme as shown in the above article and secondly, those rural jungle lands (which are claimed to be the properties of the Sultan of Kedah state are either reserved by the condominium-bureaucrats for foreign capitalists as industrial sites or sold through bribery and corruption with large profits.}

John Reids

SQUASH CENTRE

GOLF : 50c Bucket of balls

CONCESSIONS

9 — 12 and 2 — 5

Increase in the Development expenditure per family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Development expenditure per family</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955—56</td>
<td>$ 4,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961—65</td>
<td>$ 12,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966—70</td>
<td>$ 20,874</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Supplied by ex-chairman of Filda)

Land taxes in Malaysia

Malaysia is a paradise for foreign investors. Not only can they reap cheap labour, but they also enjoy tax holidays for a period of five to eight years. If allowed if the government agrees. (Inc a report in The Guardian, last month, Mr. Adam Raphen, President of South Africa, /the highest rate of return for foreign investment in the world after Malaysia). They also enjoy a lower rate of taxation. In plantation industries, foreign capitalists pay land taxes of a mere 30 to 60 cents per acre each year, while a villager in a rural acres has to pay between $5 to $12 per year for the same amount of acreage.

According to a new land tax law, the government can expropriate any land belonging to a peasant if he is unable to pay his land taxes, without the option of giving the peasant the chance to buy the land by auction as formerly done, or putting his case for his failure to pay the taxes. "The Umno Melayu (Malay Mail) reported on August 8, 1972 that the District Officer of Ternah ordered a warning to villagers in the district"
Guerrillas will never give up

Dear Roger,

Kingston to King Ang is his letter which appeared in the issue no. 5. I was similar to a few comments. I am not sure of being in revolution or not. I think the people in Sarawak are exploited by the computer bureaux which are in charge of the important government duties and have not changed in the last for the past 10 years. The people become the victims of unemployment, inflation and lowering prices of commodities. The wide rural areas are plunged into bankruptcy and the livelihood of the peasants is poor and miserable. What sort of social justice and progress has the Sarawak government committed?

The aim of guerrillas is obviously to change the economic system and to liberate their fellow citizens. With the explosive development of the Kek Chok and his group it is believed that the majority of the group are dedicated and freed to surrender. When the economic system has shown no sign of improvements which are on this side, it is possible that the people of Sarawak who have been betrayed by Rong and his group.

King Ang also raised a question on "what is the meaning of a man and a woman in the struggle to achieve social justice in a developing country?" The failure of the Indonesian Communist Party by taking the "big ad leaves the people and the guerrillas in the struggle in the back of the country to the workers, one million in peasant organisations and tens of thousands of sympathisers. As the fascist forces start to expand, the terror of the workers and the sympathisers are massacred. Another example shown by the people's struggle is the foreign domination in Chile by Parliamentary elections further affirm that lose a way to achieve social justice in the people's armed struggle.

Over the past ten years or more, the reactionary governments intended to eliminate the guerrillas by spreading the amount of tens of millions of dollars and gathering thousands of combined troops (Malayan and Indonesian).

However, they haven't been successful and will never be successful.

The surrender of Rong and his group is a setback to the revolutionary movement in Sarawak. But it is possible that the people of Sarawak under the leadership of the communist party, will learn a lesson from it and sum up the experience that they will be more determined to fight until the end and this situation is the only solution for the people of Sarawak.

Michael Lim

Academic bourgeois arrogance

Dear Roger,

In Salient on April 5 you published an unsigned article called "Putting Service on Students' Money" desiring the attention of the Mulock's introduction legislation which was to restrict student financiers. I was interested in agreeing with the article, I was however, disturbed by the attitude expressed in one paragraph: "Mr Goldie said that these views were based on his experience of life. However, company managers and owners are money-making captives aiming at making as much dough as they can at the expense of the workers and other non-captives.

Perhaps one way the university could perhaps help fight this evil: make a course in ethical judgement for a B.C.A. student. I suppose such a prerequisite wouldn't do the law faculty any harm either. I'd just like to bear one good reason against this idea.

Derron Katz

T.B. - is there a rule against publishing anonymous letters?

A distorted view of Singapore

Dear Sir,

I thank the review on Singapore in Salient the week before last in the work of a narrow-minded and hypocritical perspective. K. Meem puts out a very distorted view of Singapore and ignores the numerous impressive advances in areas of Ley's Government. I think Salient is better off without the likes of such people.

T. Ong

Big Jack

Dear Sir,

I agree the rugby season is upon us and we can bow down in awe before the person by the name of (name I mention it?) Jack Bullens, who I am sure we all hold in great reverence and who deserves all the adulation and acclaim he gets. It is a kindness to the rugby, public relations, Ratu's, the RSA and Godomone.

Your sincerely,

Vernon B. K.

[Your "active" on homosexuality was also received - not amended - Ed.]

Where do our values lie?

Dear Sir,

The article in last week's Salient "Pensioner's seaside returns to arena with list of where the values in New Zealand society lie," is a valuable study with an economic profile, people are of interest only in so far as they contribute to the profit making process, this when in no longer possible they are thrown aside. The neglect of the aged by family, society in New Zealand is to my mind a good reason upon which the present capitalist outlook in New Zealand should be reviewed. The aged are in this case, as in a situation that is economically imposed.

At present in this country is a world expert on Geriatric Medicine, Professor M.R.P. Hall, who within his statements since 1969 has shown two important points.

Firstly that "...the needs of the elderly... are... dependent on the social structure of the community..." and that "...activity of the elderly often arise from prejudice in old age..." amongst other things.

Finally, when an opportunity to do something positive comes up, where are the dis interested students? At the inaugural meeting on 10th December of the proposed Consumer and Administration students association, no load- mounted critics (or supporters) were there. No supporters is understandable - in a discussion as to whether or not those present were representative of all B.C.A students, or only the disinterested, one bright spark stated that nobody could be satisfied with the system as it was - so if you're interested in it you are a nobility - or haven't thought about it.

If you're disinterested - or positively satisfied, take an interest next time you hear of this group. They need your help to prevent B.C.A graduates from being mere machines.

Ex-dissatisfied

Communication

Dear Sir,

All students write essays. It is in their own interest not to leave them to their own devices and, of course, it is a matter of courtesy. Unluckily, there is a country where an essay is not prepared by "marketers", whose scarcely words are too often illegible. Admittedly some student essays are unreadable, but a number of staff could barely defend themselves from some humour in language. Let us face it, communication, like conversation, is a two-way process; a little more courtesy and they might be more communication.

B. Cook

Ethics for capitalists

Dear Sir,

In general, it is accepted by true socialists that a large proportion of business executives and

The hypocrisy of Moral Rearmament

Dear Sir,

P. Aron fails to realise that he is being "punished" by MRA when he lets himself be subverted by its teachings.

Enclosed is a news clip from the "Dedication" (1961) by F. D. G. A. Bultitude. It speaks for itself as "factual" and "unbiased". Please read it carefully and compare it with the position of MRA's position by Jefferson in respect of South Africa.

"How would you as an American Christian like to live in South Africa and suffer for God's sake, what the coloured people are suffering for? Would you uphold the evil practice of apartheid? This is against all the teaching of Christ.

The news report merely serves to convince me of the pernicious influence of MRA. What it wants is what employers want, a service unquire

ing working population which is gullible enough to permit the employers to maintain the status quo. Before you condemn yourself to the fate of their agents and stop thinking MRA thoughts you are being conned.

Anak Sarawak

Why me, Lord?

Dear Sir,

Peter Rotherham makes a "Feudal slip" in his position in the "laudable" aspirations for Auld and Franks. When he quite correctly claims the above mentioned "aristocracy" has reduced to mindlessly apologising for the outrages (!) which have been committed in the name of socialism by" the people of the country, he should also remember that "large doses of blind faith are needed" in this "feudal" world. This is not solely "liberal", but also says that faith only "stands by the way" in this "feudal" world. These words mean you have to convince the new Rationalist Society of Rotherham, rejection of religious type thinking. His comparison of "the people of the country" to a superstitious anti-communism, he simply laughts at the fairytale has been called "counter revolutionary," as it was a ridiculous farce. In other words, the "feudal" (sinister) faith in the petty bourgeois prejudices of some sections of his student audience. Furthermore, Peter Rotherham has blind faith that all the specific points brought up against him by a his critics - there is no one of which he assures - you have been forgotten by these same readers. Thaus of us in the Rationalist Society of Rotherham who were originally reluctant to criticise the anti-communism leanings of Rotherham in our previous letters & how we have supported that action. Peter Rotherham has fully exposed himself as a social type of person - a sociatal in words and a shit in deeds.

Sam Hangan,

V.U. Rationalist

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A piece of cake for everyone

Dear Sir,

For an overseas public that has been weaned on a 20-year news diet of Malaysia's grim jungle skirmishes, racial tension and confrontations with Indonesia, success is an unusual concept in Malaysia. The imperatives made by Malaysians, especially students, overseas are not always favourable because in most cases the critics tend to be obsessed with their own prejudice preconceived ideals. They often overlook a new force that has permeated every walk of life in Malaysia. This new inspiration is prosperity - a piece of cake for everyone to share.

The economy is booming as never before. An upsurge in exports last year has boosted the national output by 15.5% or more, in some states such as Sabah and Sarawak, economic growth is phenomenal. In 1972 Sabah had the highest trade record deficit since the Second World War. However, in 1973 it was a completely different story, the economy recovered dramatically and resulted in an all time trade surplus record, an increase of about 50.

I do not for one moment suggest that Malaysia has no problems. Malaysia, perhaps more so than many developed countries, has many pressing delicate and urgent problems. The restructuring of Malaysia's wealth, with the ultimate aim of eradicating poverty and re-structuring Malaysian society in order that the identification of race with occupation and location may be avoided, is not simply an exercise in figures. It involves breaking down attitudes which in some aspects are a legacy from the British rule. Thus the critics of Malaysia must bear in mind the recent socio-economic development trend and the unique situation Malaysia is in when they embark on greatly exaggerated allegations and one-sided criticism; most critics sitting in the Salient do. Take this one taken from last year's issue for example, "The Razak regime was grooved and installed by British imperialism...to indulge in various forms of bribery and corruption, extending plundering and formed a comprador feudal bourgeoisie, capitalist class possessing enormous fortunes. The regime has been going all out in consistency implementing a Malay chauvinist policy with a view of undermining the broad anti-imperialist unity of the people of all nationalities and diverting the people's attention from the target of their struggle so as to maintain their fascist rule." This type of baseless allegation or biased criticism is uncalled for. Not only because it sounds more like a James Bond movie but even more so because it is pure "white lie".

To most overseas public racial equation may sound strange but in Malaysia it is a reality. Malaysians have to face, a fact for a long term political stability. It is a known fact that the Malay comprise 50% of Malaysia's total population, hold the political reins but only have a 2% stake in public company; the Chinese who make up 57% of the population hold a 79% share (the remainder 68% is in the hands of private foreign investors). The new economic policy is aimed at correcting this social and economic imbalance between traditionally rural Malays and urban Chinese. The idea was conceived from the May 18, 1960 riot when the blood of seventeen was shed in the street. This is not simply because the Malays and other indigenous people are in the majority, not only because the existing racial imbalances are fertile ground for political and social tensions, but fundamentally because it is the right and just thing to do.

The myths inherited from the colonial era still exist in the mind of a considerable number of Malaysians: that each race was graded according to economic status. A white man was called "Tuan" meaning master, a Chinese man was called "Tang" meaning merchant or rich man while a Malay man was called "Bapa" implying simplicity with a connection of being lazy and only fit to do a drudge. The government is trying to dispel these myths and has pledged to help the country's five million Malays to own and control 30% of the economy by 1990 with other races owning 40%. This assumes that Malaysia's spectacular economic growth will continue and foreign private investments in either and in any sector, which accounts for 43% of all foreign holdings, will decline steadily.

Malaysian, however, should not be too optimistic about this development plan but at the same time and by the same token should give it a fair chance, after all most countries think we are doing better than most developing nations of the Third World.

Henry Lawton

A review of MSA's Suara Siwa

Dear Roger,

The editorial in Suara Siwa is a piece of cake bloody bullshit. By "criticizing" the High Commission the editor tries to hoodwink and misrepresent to the first year students who are new to the concept of criticism, to be independent and progressive bodies. And putting up an advertisement in the local pop music (their only programme each year) these ultraflannel and manipulative tricks to healthy culture of the Malayan people. MSA, was, is still and will always be a puppet of the Malaysian government. There is no way for me to go long enough to prove this point to you foibles. That is the healthy nature of this organization and prove those truth in a fact.

Ken Lim is a first class representative of the people who do not care and express his views in a at least forward statement but to "crowd round" the beater at his next round of jargon, to fight for a revolution with religious and political organizations (which they virtually already are) To be uneducated or be "Redline star" are two qualities equally valid, one is not better than the other, and both peddling racial chauvinism. Both writers are openly promoting the racial fanaticism. They provide no solution but incite hatred among the races and inflame the emotions of the people in Malaysia as "chickens with no guts" to resist injustices. Their two sensationalistic articles only aggravate the already vitriolic scientific truth that "where there is oppression there is rebellion". These two also fail to see that this is a class issue rather than a racial issue. Who are the real enmanaces of the Malayan masses? They are the British colonialist, American imperialist, Soviet social imperialist and the local reactionary puppet authorities.

Using the serek of "divide and rule", enforced by racist and fascist laws, the authorities have been abundantly preoccupied special rights for the Malay, and that the Malay language will be taken as the national language, in a vain attempt to win over the Malayan, and promote friction among the multitudes in our motherland. But have the poor Malay peasants and fishermen lived become any better ever since the so-called independence in 1957? The evidence is evidently no. The mass who do really benefit are the 10% Malay ruling classes.

The present situation of mass unemployment, high rate of inflation, severe housing problems, unformed population and ever rising prices of commodities are the only apparent economic achievements by the Razak Government. Aware of this ruthless society, many people are finding their way to work while passing day. Malaya will soon see the day when a new society is born, of foreign domination and where the long oppressed masses are masters of their own land.

The last article that entitled "Truth" by MSA's "Montreal", John Chin is a far cry from the reality and context of the situation of this revolutionary era. It is a mere waste of the members money to have this expedientible Rider preaching article in print. The only line that is worth a glance is this two and a half pages of this is the caption "Listen to that Fantastic", Suara Rayaay.

Wilson stretching his neck

Dear Sir,

During the recent AGM held on April 5, Peter Wilson in his social report and also refused to change the word Malayan High Commissioner to Malaysian High Commissioner (which can be vaguely practised) that Malays is a Neo-Galloisian commutation, and therefore is not accepted. Because he cannot accept it, he pretends that Malaysia as a political reality does not exist.

The funny thing here is why does he change his opinion so rapidly. If I am not mistaken he used the same word in his colonist times, Malaysia, in both of press and presidential statements dated 10.9.73 and 12.9.73 respectively concerning the Malaysian High Commissioner's intimidation of Malaysian students last year. It seems to Wilson, that the word "Malayan" is just a new form of term, but now it is. The most important thing, however, is not so much to change his mind so quickly as to what that change implies.

By using the term Malyan High Commissioner he is immediately recognizing the existence of two Eastern states namely, Sarawak and Sabah (because Malaysia only covers the Malay states) and at the same time implies that Jack DeSilva does not represent those two eastern states, of which to any sensible person he does. Secondly this change of word could mean that there was no intimidation by the Malaysian High Commissioner as stated in his Presidential report which the student body, confirmed, such intimidation was made by the Malaysian High Commissioner. Whatever, his political inclination he is bound to the existence of Malaysia as a political entity. But if he must so insist in traducing colonial and neo-colonial mind and memories why not begin at his own doorstep of New Zealand? There is an old saying which says: "If you stretch your neck too far you tend not to see the dirt on your own body."

James Maling
Once again Mr Rotherham

Dear Roger,

You say that I have been ‘silenced’ because having had two weeks to compose a reply to your rejoinder Mr Rotherham’s latest attempt to stifle my voice has been disguised merely by its schoolboy evasions of the issue at hand. Anyone reading Salient for the first time would be tempted to think that our discussion has nothing to do with Socialism and the Social Democratic Federation principle — ‘If it rains in New York, all Salentins will put up their umbrellas’ — the Socialist Americanists of the day.

The editor of ‘Socialist Action’ signified the new doctrine by means of an obelisk, a stocky vibrating pseudo-classical structure with towering red and white flagpoles. Further, the Socialist Americanists devoted half the funds of the publication to the purchase of soccer tickets. Both are the order of the day in the new socialist movement which is led by Mr Rotherham and his co-workers.

Mr Rotherham’s article is an excellent example of the way in which he uses his position as a socialist to gain the advantages of social promotions and to ignore the problems of the working class. He speaks of the need for socialism but does not address the practical steps that need to be taken to achieve it. He is more concerned with the form of socialism and the methods by which it can be achieved than with the content of socialism, which is about the needs and rights of the working class.

Mr Rotherham’s argument is a classic example of the way in which he uses his position as a socialist to gain the advantages of social promotions and to ignore the problems of the working class. He speaks of the need for socialism but does not address the practical steps that need to be taken to achieve it. He is more concerned with the form of socialism and the methods by which it can be achieved than with the content of socialism, which is about the needs and rights of the working class.

With these points in mind, it is clear that Mr Rotherham’s argument is flawed. He is not interested in the needs of the working class but in the form of socialism that he believes will benefit him and his colleagues. He fails to recognize that socialism is not just about the form of government but about the needs and rights of the working class.

I would urge Mr Rotherham to look closely at the needs of the working class and to work towards the achievement of socialism. He should recognize that the working class is the most important group in society and that their needs and rights should be the focus of any socialist movement.

Yours sincerely,

Levin

Mr Levin

Dear Mr Levin,

I think your points are very well taken. Mr Rotherham’s argument is indeed flawed. He is more concerned with the form of socialism than with the content of the ideas that underpin it. He speaks of the need for socialism but does not address the practical steps that need to be taken to achieve it. He is more interested in the form of government than in the needs and rights of the working class.

I would urge Mr Rotherham to look closer at the needs of the working class and to work towards the achievement of socialism. He should recognize that the working class is the most important group in society and that their needs and rights should be the focus of any socialist movement.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rotherham

Atoralism and freedom are relative not absolute

Dear Roger,

I do not think that I can accept your view that Atoralism and freedom are relative not absolute. I believe that Atoralism is an absolute good, and that freedom is essential for human dignity. While I agree that some restrictions on Atoralism and freedom may be necessary in certain circumstances, I believe that these should be kept to a minimum and that they should not be used to justify the infringement of basic human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

The guns on Malay

Dear Roger,

I was very interested to read your recent letter. I agree with you completely that Atoralism and freedom are relative not absolute. I believe that Atoralism is an absolute good, and that freedom is essential for human dignity. While I agree that some restrictions on Atoralism and freedom may be necessary in certain circumstances, I believe that these should be kept to a minimum and that they should not be used to justify the infringement of basic human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Knocking Debbie

Dear Sir,

I have been very disappointed with the way in which Debbie’s article on the Atoralist movement was written. It was very one-sided and did not give a fair representation of the views of the Atoralists. I believe that the article should have been more balanced and should have included more information on the Atoralist movement.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Smith

Knocking Debbie

Dear Sir,

I have been very disappointed with the way in which Debbie’s article on the Atoralist movement was written. It was very one-sided and did not give a fair representation of the views of the Atoralists. I believe that the article should have been more balanced and should have included more information on the Atoralist movement.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Smith
CONCERT

Mammal last Thursday

Mammal is the sort of band that incites storms, sometimes they are nasty and sometimes they are just plain dirty. I hadn’t seen them since early 1975, big and bold with Dan Hunt in front of the town library, pouting away at “Gimmer Shelter” and “Delta Lady” while spinning in the cream-colored boogie and boogied. Mammal have no class you see, they’re too goddamned nasty, like any musical cheapshot shuffling to the microphone to mumble the title of the next song: resonating “Yeah...” TootleTottieBum...they’re keeping it moving for eight minutes. But don’t be fooled by the music, they’re a bunch of lairs: things like “Neil Young...” “Ohio,” long and tawdry with some distasteful harmonica then into “It’s All Over Now” and “Johnny B. Goode,” and a bit of good stuff like Fret’s “Wailing Wall.” Remember when they would say “I’ll be Creeping,” then the mild ass would fill with evil and bad, and the crowd would shrivel back. On some night something could have easily happened; the Union Hall was in darkness, the light show was flashy, the guitars were screaming. Rick Bryant was screaming, the drums were pounding and people were thrusting themselves into a frenzy. What did happen? Well Mammal played some fine music and the people had a good time. There was Rick Bryant blowing into a saxophone, and new member Peter Kennedy on guitar—and some good original music; a sound of applause for “Maurice” and “Children of the May,” even the damn good Tampa Mammoth songs: “I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” “Get Next to You” and “Goud Nice,” faithfully copied right down to the four-man choruses, which shows, if nothing else, they’ve got real talent: not the sort of thing you’d expect from a Wellington band. Mammal is really a University band after all, it is an institution, and they’ve been around. On a recent visit, a music researcher apparently saw money: with this sort of interest and support Mammal could easily become extinct. Is this good thing? Not! Let’s try and get a Monsanto into the Hall’s audience, just to blunder onto the Victoria University pendants, organizing a “bare Mammal” campaign. Mammal by buying their records and going to their concerts all, Mammal is kin man....

-Brian King

POMES

MIDNIGHT

Midnight Juliet

Why can’t you talk? You turn, face motionless— revolving, invincibilities freeing you dead as ice. You say, I just can’t get my point across, you know. I know. I know. I just can’t get it across. And I get it across. Midnight Juliet naked last night, wandering snowstorm, covered with a strange light, suffering from overexposure Chihuahua on the cliffs today you can’t talk freezing under the counterfeit face blue as ice and half abandoned. Chippie me with being alive, period. Society doesn’t have an obligation to resolve the loneliness of the individual. That kind of pathetic “love me...” I’m just doing my thing.” “It’s finally made up the big movement. And as Wired Doctor Says (New York Times) Magazine Sept. 1975) it was also the story of Janis Joplin.

Thursday

BULLDOG’s Thursday

LUNCHTIME CONCERT UNION HALL 45c

Presented by VUV Folk Club

October 15th 1973

UNCERTAIN/CONCERTUNITY

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