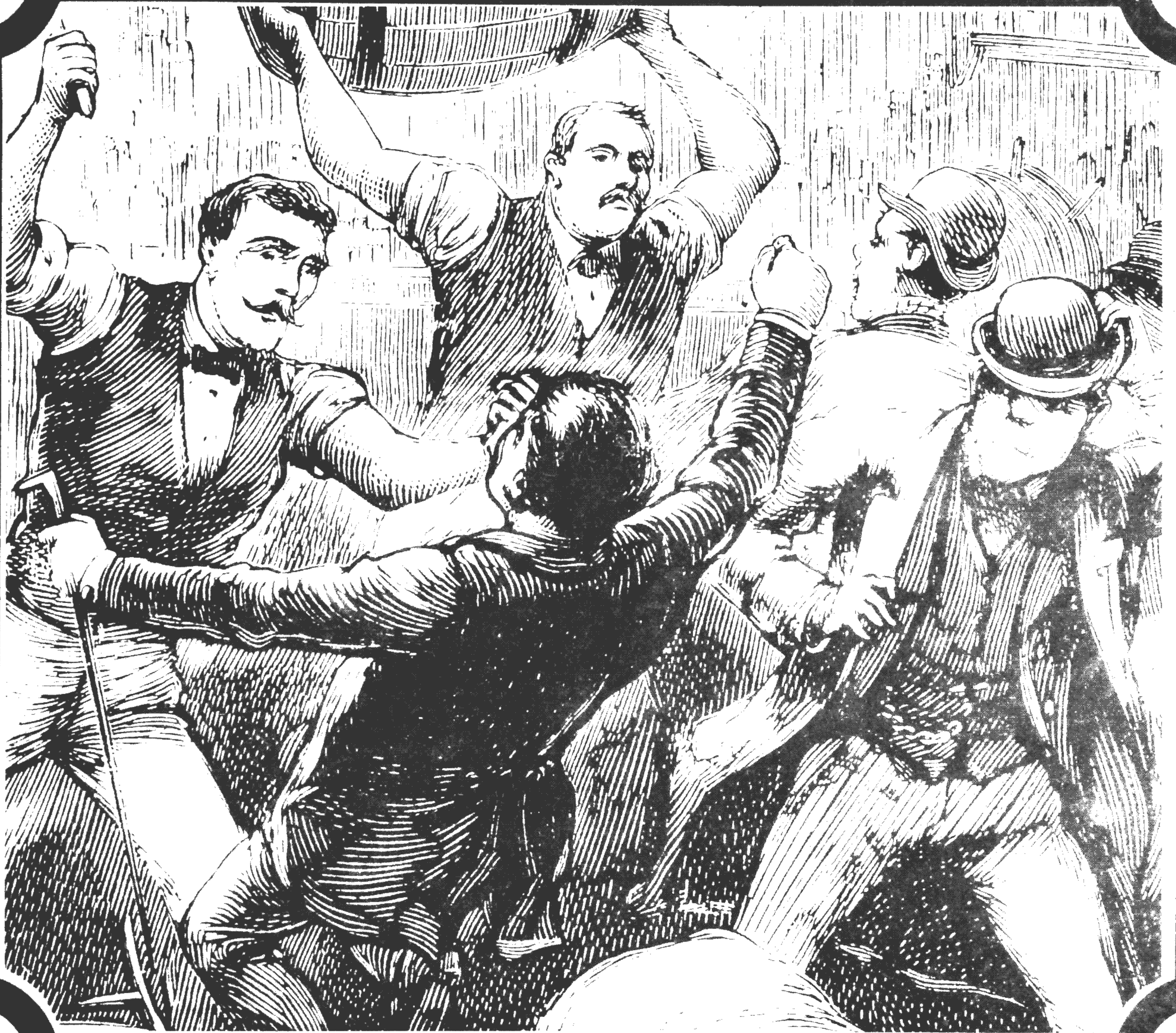


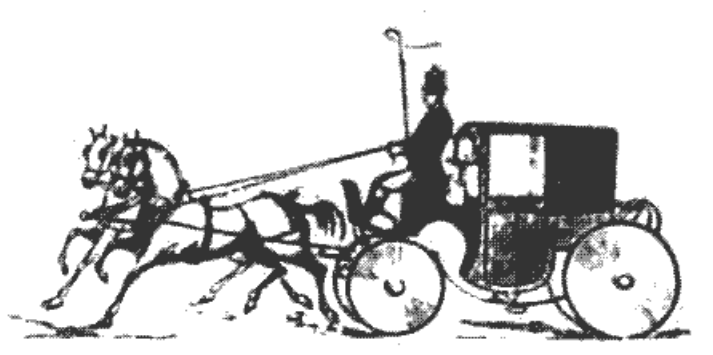
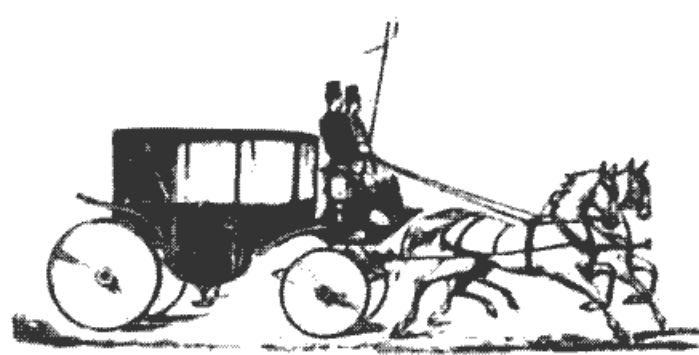
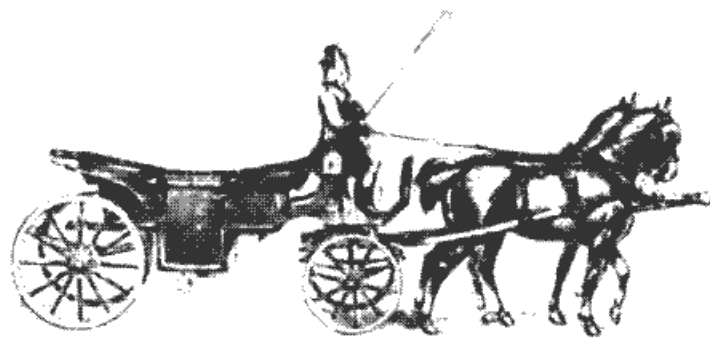
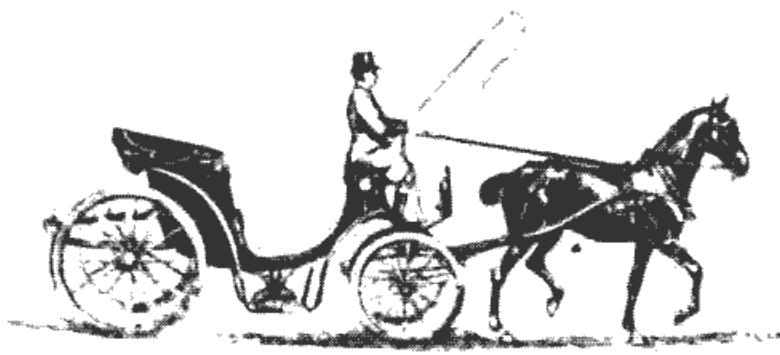
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 4, MARCH 22

SALIENT



SRC: BUSINESS AS USUAL



OBITUARY

"It is with great regret and deep sadness that I must announce the death of Mrs Rosemary Goodall, the office manager for the Students' Association since May 1973.

She joined the Association shortly after she had arrived from Britain by the overland journey and it was with this spirit of adventure and independence that she took the position of Officer Manager. Almost immediately she breathed fresh air into the Association administration throwing herself into the thick of what was going on. She continued in this way making the office a happy and pleasant place for staff to work in and for students to visit. She always had a friendly word for anyone who came into the office and she quickly became known as the person for whom nothing was too much trouble.

'Mrs G', as she became known to many also showed great interest in what we, as students and Association Officers, were doing, and was only too willing to help us when we needed assistance. She was there when we needed advice, a cheerful word or to be told to pull our heads in.

Although Mrs Goodall was never politically vocal she was a strong supporter for the aims and policies of the Students Association. She was intensely loyal to the Association and to young people in general. They were her life, she valued their company and friendship and in return many valued her advice, experience, understanding and warmth. That cliché 'the generation gap' had no relevance as far as Mrs Goodall was concerned.

In her work for the Association Mrs Goodall was diligent, efficient, and always gave her best. She undoubtedly ensured the smooth running of the Association during her years here, no more could have been expected of an employee.

Words cannot adequately express the gratitude and affection with which we remember Mrs Goodall. I know that many will understand what I mean and will endorse those sentiments. We are the richer for having known Mrs Goodall, we are the poorer to having lost her."

Gyles Beckford
President, V.U.W.S.A.

Notice is hereby given that there will be an SRC on Wednesday 24th March at 12.00 noon in the Student Union Hall.

All motions for the agenda to be handed in to the Studass Office by 4.30p.m. Monday 22nd March.

CAPPING CONTROLLER

Applications are hereby called for the position of Capping Controller. Capping Activities will take place from the 24th April to the 1st May.

All applications to be handed in to the Studass office by Friday 26th March.

Photography Society.

Every year, the photosoc manages to rise out of the flames - rekindled and enthusiastic. This year is no exception and the society got off to a rousing start with our A.G.M. last Tuesday when 25 people turned up to here retiring president Gyles Beckford roll out his annual repetition of photosoc A.G.M. funnies.

This year, the committee hopes to emphasise the social aspects of photography. Photographic expeditions are being planned starting Sunday 28th March to be followed by a tuition evening to show the basics of developing films and printing them. This will be held Tuesday 30th in LB2 at 7.30pm. Watch the restaurant noticeboard for details of these events. Enquiries to Craig 862-646

CULTURAL CLUBS AGM

The AGM of the Cultural Clubs Council will be held on Thursday 25th March at 5pm in the Boardroom. Each cultural Club is reminded that they are obliged to send two representatives and warned that if they don't (without prior notice) they will find it difficult to become reaffiliated and hence to obtain a grant.

Items on the agenda include the election of the Cultural Affairs Committee (which decides grants and the direction of cultural activities on campus for 1976), club reports, a short discussion on arts council and a discussion on ideas (plans and proposed activities for the coming year.

Anne Dwyer (Cultural Affairs Officer).

Christian Meeting

S.C.M., C.U. and Cath. Society meet together for once.

Discussion and tea - bring both. In the lounge, Wed., 24th March. 5-8p.m.

Women's Choice Club AGM

The Women's Choice Club was formed last year to help build the campaign for a women's right to choose abortion, free and easily available contraceptives and contraception advice and voluntary sterilisation

Come to the Women's Choice Club AGM, Tuesday, 23 March, 12 noon, Lounge & Smoking Room and plan activities and policy for 1976.

URGENT

Could R.N. McLean, president of the Students' Computer Society please call in and see me as soon as possible.

John Ryall,
Salient Editor.

SALIENT is published by the Victoria University Students' Association and printed by Wanganui Newspapers Ltd Drews Avenue, Wanganui.

VUW Sports Council SGM

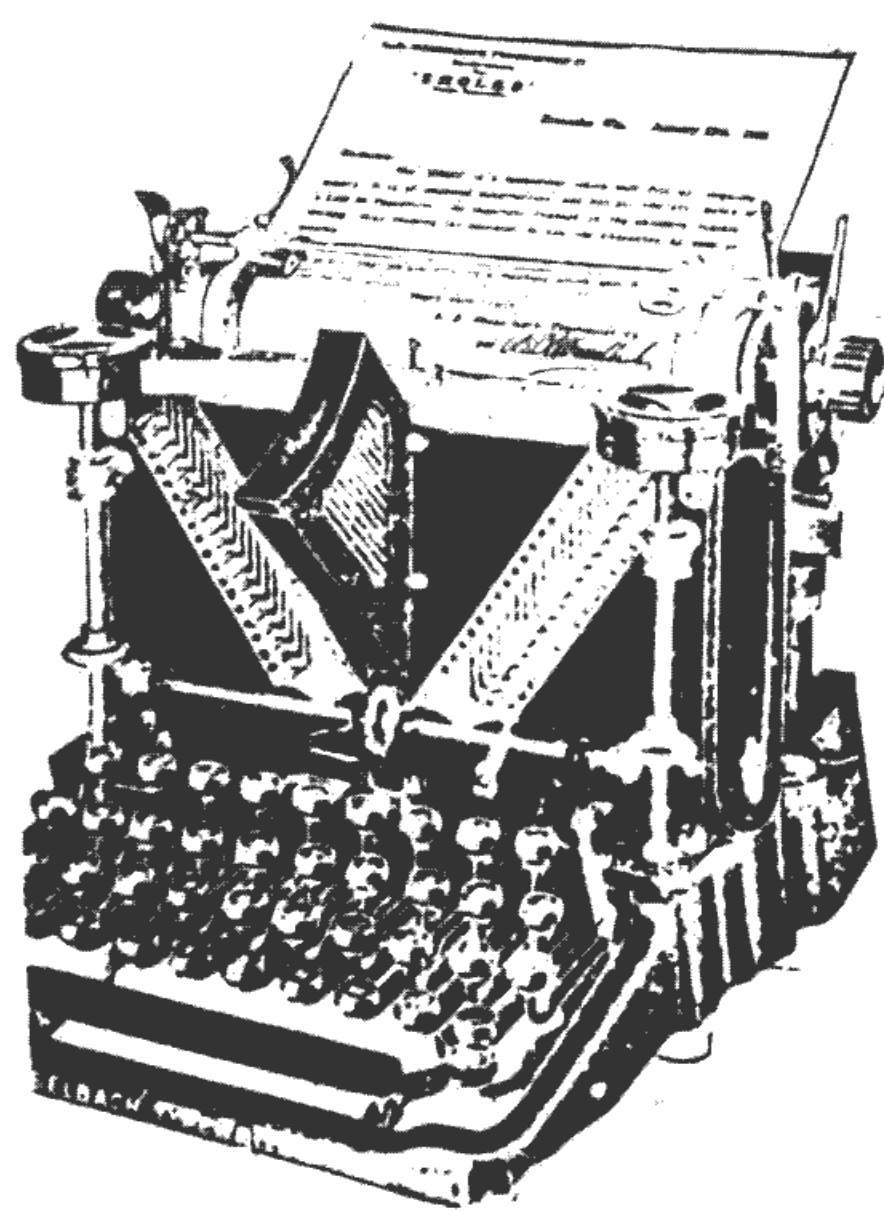
Date: Wednesday 24 April
Time: 7p.m.
Place: Union Hall.
Business: To fill vacancies on the Sports Council Exec. and name a Treasurer and one other.
Note: Clubs are reminded that they are entitled to two voting delegates.

Chris Hardie,
Secretary
Sports Council.

POTTERY CLASSES!

Interested? Classes start this week and YOU have the opportunity to partake in a club (ie the visual Arts Club), and learn with expert tuition how to fill your cupboards with various pottery articles. The rewards are great, the costs relatively small and the choice of what and how much is fired or made is up to you the budding potter.

For more information, contact Anne Dwyer c/- Studass or Rodger Hayward or Anne at Ph:758-396



SALIENT NOTES

Ryall's sitting in the editor's office popping the tops of beer bottles while the assorted staff of *Salient* performs their customary duties despite the evidence of a distinctly non-revolutionary attitude on the part of the editor in his refusal to share the ill-gotten proceeds of his writers' cheques.

Rachel Scott and Lindy Cassidy are turning in stalwart efforts on the layout table, and reading while Bernard Randall whispers surreptitiously into the phone.

Among others taking time out to assist in the production of this venerable newspaper are Gyles Beckford, Mike Stephens and John Henderson who, after burbling inanely for two hours has removed his diseased carcass from the premises, muttering about dead parrots.

David Murray, now that Tony Ward has relinquished his position as reviews editor in order to get a D for his thesis instead of an F, came bursting into the room yelling, 'I've done it, I've done it!' This sent Rose Desmond, Judith Ting

and Robert Lithgow diving for cover and David Tripe tripped John Blincoe up and sent Comrade Carson headlong into a freshly poured cup of tea.

David Murray consequently produced his first good photo from his back pocket, (much to the disgust of Lionel Klee and Chris Wilson who thought they had a monopoly on the camera clicking) and showed it to Lynn Peck who instantaneously split her sides with laughter. It was a photograph of Mike Stephens expertly laying out James Robb, Leigh Thomson, David Newton and Alison Bartlet on the front page, with Phillip Tree (with his fly undone), Derek Fikkers, Ann Elborn and Gary Henderson all trying to fly the highest in order to see what was going on.

Not to be outdone Pat Bartle (sporting a revolutionary badge) grabbed them all (with the aid of Mike Freeman,

Pat 'rock' O Dea and Richard Bohmer) and fed them into her typesetter. The typesetter coughed (as did Leonie Morris, suffering light-table fatigue) and out came Mao Tse-tung, Big Lenny and some nutter called Z.K. Muggleton-Spoffin.

Before it was too late Gerard Van Bohemen saved the situation, by wrapping them up in his amicable style, sticking stamps on the wrapper, and throwing them at the *Salient* taxi (Penny Booth) to be delivered to the bleeding masses.

And so another *Salient* was on the street. Ryall still awaited the criticism of Advertising Manager Warwyck Dewe and the letters from the many disappointed fans, plus Kevin Swann who reckoned he should have been at least 'mentioned in despatches'. But what the hell - back to the piss!!!

SALIENT STAFF MEETING

Salient Staff Meeting at 8pm on Tuesday 23 March in the Salient Office. Everyone Welcome.....Bring along your friends.....bring along your enemies.....bring along yourself.

S.R.C. REPORT

by Gary Henderson

NZUSA International Vice-president Don Carson survived a vote of no-confidence 65-59 after a long debate on the Middle East and the Asian Students' Conference at the Student Representative Council (SRC) meeting last Wednesday.

The debate over Don's voting performance at the Asian Students' Association meeting in Bangkok came at the end of a meeting which was notable for its "hit the heavies over the head" attitude.

It began on a rather tragic note, with the announcement of the death last Thursday of former Office Manager, Mrs Rosemary Goodall. The meeting stood in silence for a few seconds as a mark of respect, and a motion was carried that the Association send a message of sympathy to her family.

After this unhappy beginning, it swung back to more routine matters. The President, Gyles Beckford, called for reports, and Tony Ward, wearing his SRC co-ordinator's hat, leaped forward with an armful of important looking papers. These, it turned out, were a summary of current SRC policy which Tony had been directed to draw up last year.

The next report was from Peter Aagaard, and caused a bit of a stir. It was a document concerning the position of 'Senior Office Assistant', which is the new name of the vacancy left by Officer Manager, Mrs Goodall. This was presumably the full report to SRC, demanded at the SGM. It outlined what was involved in the job, and what the wage would be. Peter said the job description was virtually a summary of what Mrs Goodall did last year, and the wage that the Association intended to pay was about the same as the highest of four rates suggested by four different downtown employment agencies after they had seen the job description. Basically, the only differences in the job are the name and the pay, which is supposed to ensure that we get value for our money, and the new employee gets value for his or her work.

Farcical Downgrading

The first person to attack the report was (surprise surprise) Robert Lithgow. He said we had been told the job would be downgraded, and yet it was exactly the same. They had just written down everything Mrs Goodall did last year, then run up employment agencies for a suggested wage, which, he claimed, bore no relation to 'market prices' anyway, because only a small amount of New Zealand's employment goes through agencies. The only differences in the job were a downgraded status (less impressive name) and downgraded cash.

Then that man among men, John Henderson, stressed the importance of the personality of the employee. The position required more than just being capable of carrying out the work, and no-one seemed to be considering that. I think he meant that we were trying to suit the wage to the manual labour involved only, but I for one wouldn't want to be the person to have to put a dollars and cents value on personality!

Then Kevin Swann came forward, requesting to be allowed to raise 'two little points'. Unfortunately his first little point was so little that I missed it, but the second one (not so little) was that the average wage in New Zealand today is \$104 per week. With that titbit delivered, mission over, he sat down.

Underwood Flustered

Steve Underwood came storming up to the microphone and declared that Wright's idea of keeping the original wage and including an accountant's job in the position was ridiculous, because the \$2,000 was for the auditing, and they do burger all accounting, and we can't audit our own books, so we can't save \$2,000 that way, so there! I got the distinct impression he was in a bad mood. 'Does not suffer



fools gladly', says the Handbook.

After that, Angela Belich said that Canterbury Student's Association, who have an accountant, own their Union and probably needed one, but we don't own ours, so we don't need one. Then she reiterated what everyone else who opposed the report had said, finishing with that fine socialist phrase, "...stab in the back of the workers."

Peter Aagaard had his parting shot, and dismissed all opposing arguments as crap. It wasn't a stab in the back of the workers at all - we just can't afford to go on paying more than the job is worth. He said that unless the matter was cleaned up there and then, the general running of the association would be going downhill. We've already been one worker short for a month. A vote was taken, and the report was rejected but the arguing kept going. Officially, SRC can't bind the Executive financially, but if Exec overrules SRC's decision to keep the same wage as before, all hell is liable to break loose. Accusations of Exec ignoring SRC directives were already beginning to fly around the room as Gyles quickly moved the meeting on to the next bit of business.

The next bit of business happened to be a report from Tony Ward about how nothing interesting happened at the Professorial Board Meeting. He also informed us that the Universities information is held in a 1440 card sorter which can't be read by any computer in New Zealand or Australia. Hm!?

The next thing to come up was the election of an SRC co-ordinator. The two candidates were Tony Ward and a Mike McAleer. Tony said he wanted to keep working, in this position, in the best interests of students and also apologised for any mistakes he may have made in the past. Mr McAleer said he wanted to get on to Exec to implement student decision. He accused the Executive of being a strong-arm group, and he wanted to see more students involved by improving communications.

Ward Returned

When someone asked Tony if he planned 'to do any more hatchet jobs' he grabbed the opportunity of once more explaining himself over Mrs Goodall's dismissal. Lisa Saksen bobbed up and tried to restore a bit of sanity to the meeting by asking the President to rule that we shouldn't take anything that came up at the SGM into consideration when voting for SRC co-ordinator, because now that the Exec had been let off the hook, getting rid of Tony on those grounds would be using him as scapegoat. Fair enough. Both candidates left the room, and a vote was taken. Ward got back in.

There were no nominations for Welfare Officer, and only one for each of the others. Not exactly fierce competition, is it. Lindy Cassidy was nominated

for Education Officer, and said that her main campaign would be on assessment. After that, she needed to say no more. She was elected.

The nomination for International Affairs was Leonie Morris who read out a speech telling us how she wanted to open students' minds to world injustice. She's got her work cut out for her there! Her priorities, she said, would be campaigning against the 1976 All Black South African tour, and stressing the problems problems faced by overseas students here. She was elected.

Last, but probably not least - well, not by much anyway came Kevin Swann, last years National Affairs Officer, one again gunning for the same position. He drew on his past achievements, namely all the forums we had last year, and said that three more were coming up, as well as a large one on the fate of the cable car. Kevin was elected too.

No Confidence Trick?

It was about this time that Robert Lithgow (sigh), seeing that we were halfway through the meeting time, and only about a quarter of the way through the agenda, suggested that we discuss motion 8, which was a motion of no confidence in Don Carson, NZUSA International Vice President, who moved a resolution at the Asian Students' Association conference which expelled the National Union of Israeli Students.

Tony Adler the mover, spoke briefly on the motion saying that voting out the NUIS was against the Association policy of not victimizing any group, and this was a denial of their right to have a say. The seconder of the motion had a bit more to say. He claimed we voted 'out of character' with ourselves. We didn't vote the same way as Australia, which we usually tend to do, but sided with students from Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and other Moslem countries.

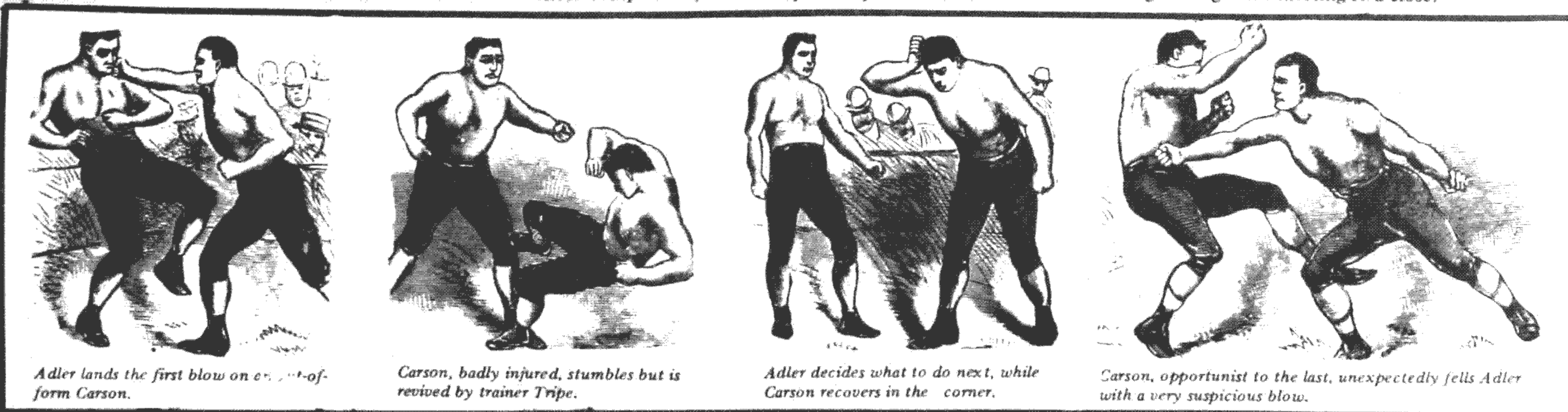
Carson said that it was the job of the National Executive to interpret policy, which was quite clear. Israel denies the rights of the Palestinian people. It is not a policy on the rights of Jewish people, just the Palestinians. He said his actions at the ASA conference were in accordance with NZUSA policy, and he had been quite careful about the wording of the motion, so that policy was clear. He claimed that even if he was wrong, it did not justify a vote of no confidence.

Then another speaker insisted that Don Carson should have abstained from voting. At this stage I think a lot of students still didn't realise that he actually moved the resolution. This speaker didn't think Carson was actually guilty, but if NZUSA policy is completely contradictory to a motion passed unanimously at every university in New Zealand, he should have known, and not moved the resolution, or at least abstained from voting on it.

Tripe Speaks

Then came David Tripe! He said that Carson was carrying out policy. If he hadn't proposed the resolution he would be doing a 'gross disservice' to NZUSA. Tripe said we were singling him out unfairly, and making him a scapegoat.

Eric Freedman then amended the motion to involve all members of NZUSA Executive to contravened the will of the students of New Zealand' by proposing the resolution. The amendment was incorporated into the motion. John Blincoe, NZUSA President, reminded us that the actual policy of NZUSA was about the right to self determination of the Palestinian people, and was not about Israel. The motion was finally put, and after a division, lost 66-59. With that, one of the most frustrating, confusing debates I've sat through brought the meeting to a close.



Adler lands the first blow on our out-of-form Carson.

Carson, badly injured, stumbles but is revived by trainer Tripe.

Adler decides what to do next, while Carson recovers in the corner.

Carson, opportunist to the last, unexpectedly fells Adler with a very suspicious blow.

The Facts, Bias and the Post

Every so often (in fact, most of the time) an avalanche of abuse descends on Salient. We're accused of being doctrinaire left-wing, thoroughly renegade. One letter, last week, suggested that Salient should be printed in red type and renamed the Peking Periodical or the Moscow Times.

There is a clear feeling that we are biased and that we're not giving the 'facts' that the downtown newspapers give, but merely some distorted prejudiced rave. Sure, you'll agree that everyone's slightly biased and the Evening Post, the Dominion, and (heaven forbid) Truth distort a little. But Salient is just too much - or could it be that our bias just doesn't coincide with the prevailing one?

In order to clarify what we mean, Salient will regularly look at specific sections of the newspapers downtown and examine them, substantiating our view that they are biased, although not ignoring the subtlety by which this bias is conveyed.

The first two articles that we will examine are taken from the last Monday's Evening Post (15.3.76). They are headed 'Rhodesians Digging in On Border For A Long War' and 'Spain Threatened by Military Coup' and are reproduced alongside.

by Anthony Ward

RHODESIA

The Rhodesian story starts with an account of the preparations of white farmers facing a 'stepped-up' African guerrilla campaign from across the Mozambique border. This clearly implies that the guerrillas are only coming from over the border, that Rhodesia is facing a nasty foreign invasion. It equally clearly leaves out the fact that the freedom fighters (notice how descriptions have different meanings?) have a lot of support from

Africans inside Zimbabwe (notice how even place names have biased overtones?)

The next bit speaks of containing 'armed blacks'. The whole tone asserts that these nasty horrible blacks have taken up arms and now the whites have to arm themselves in self-defence. Nothing could be further from the truth. The African organisations have spent years trying discussions, negotiations etc. All the while the Smith regime has been heavily arming its troops. And when the Africans decide that the discussions are futile, and take up arms to assert their rights to justice and equality then they are somehow

Rhodesians Digging In On Border For A Long War

CHIPINGA (Rhodesia) March 14.—
White farmers facing a stepped-up African guerrilla campaign from across the 1100km (700 mile) Mozambique border are digging in for a long war.

Some say the insurgency cannot be beaten back and two to five years is the longest they can expect to hold out. Most speak of a win-or-die struggle. All are turning their houses into fortresses with cellar hideouts, high sandbag banks around isolated farmhouses and searchlights.

They have radios that link them with regional security headquarters and warn neighbours.

The southern farming area is the newest sector in the campaign to contain the armed blacks who want to end 10 years of independent white rule in Britain's former colony.

The Defence Minister (Mr Van Der Byl) has told the white community of 250,000 to expect guerrilla warfare from neighbouring Black States regardless of whether the Premier (Mr Ian Smith) and moderate African nationalist leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, reach a negotiated settlement.

Mr John Crosthwaite-Eyre, a fruit farmer at Inyanga on the Mozambique border, said: "We are not racials. We support Smith when he says we want the best government, white or Black, in Rhodesia."

"Unfortunately I don't think the world is going to allow him to pursue that goal. Experience to the north in Black Africa shows that majority government leads to graft, corruption and the destruction of civilisation. We must fight by ourselves."

Edward Stocker who came

from England 38 years ago said: "If you think we are going to uproot and run, you're wrong. I've done more for this country than the average African."

The guerrillas can cross from Mozambique at almost any point of the border. They confine their operations to the night, bombarding farms with rockets and mortars.

"They always get out fast whenever fire is returned," said John Randall, whose tea estate runs along the border.

Mau Mau

He compares the campaign to the Mau Mau rebellion against the British when he was in Kenya in the 1950s.

But he says the Rhodesian security forces are better motivated in fighting the blacks than British soldiers and can "knock spots" off the English as fighters. The guerrillas have far superior weapons to anything the Mau Mau had.

The Rhodesian Defence Minister said in a television interview shown in London today there would be no immediate handover to majority rule in Rhodesia.

Mr Van Der Byl said the Government of Mr Ian Smith wanted a settlement but a settlement was not the be all and end all.

"There is no question of an immediate handover to majority rule. We are not going to do it and we are not going to be frightened into it," he said. African nationalist leader Mr Joshua Nkomo said on the same programme that there could be no compromise over majority rule in his negotiations with Mr Smith.

"You cannot discuss majority rule. That is just a must that has been delayed too long," Mr Nkomo said.

Mr Van Der Byl said that when the border with Mozambique was closed white Rhodesians were certainly concerned, but morale among the population had now returned to normal.

Mercenaries

"Traditional Rhodesian sang froid has reasserted itself. Everything is placid and normal. Everyone is quietly confident that if we get on with the job and keep our nerves

everything will be all right," Mr Van Der Byl said.

The British Foreign Secretary (Mr James Callaghan) is to be challenged in the House of Commons over reports of British mercenaries being recruited to fight in Rhodesia.

Labour member of Parliament Mr Gwilym Roberts said today he would be tabling questions to Mr Callaghan tomorrow asking him to investigate the reports.

"I shall be urging him to probe allegations that an undercover operation to recruit British mercenaries for Rhodesia has begun in London and South Africa," he said.

"British mercenaries have already done this country enough harm over Angola. If necessary legislation to put a stop to this undesirable export of men earning bloodstained money should be speeded up."

The "Sunday Telegraph" said former British Army and Air Force men were being offered £100 a week to help the Rhodesian Government fight black nationalist guerrillas.

Mr Callaghan warned only five days ago in Parliament that recruiting mercenaries for Rhodesia was illegal under the sanctions legislation which prohibits trade with that country.

He said: "It is a different position from that which obtained in Angola."

The reports said the recruits were being told to leave Britain as unobtrusively as possible to avoid the publicity which surrounded the departure of mercenaries for Angola

in the wrong.

'The Post' now reports a fruit farmer, Mr John Crosthwaite-Eyre, who makes two points. The first is that Ian Smith is a nice guy, who would work out a reasonable settlement if the world would only let him. The world's given him ten years since the unilateral declaration of independence - has anything happened? No. In fact, the only progress has been backward, towards apartheid.

Crosthwaite-Eyre's second point is that while he is not a 'racist', 'majority government leads to graft, corruption and the destruction of civilisation.' He reckons experience 'shows' this.

The major problem with this is that it has defined 'civilisation' purely in white terms. Sure the African governments have tried to stamp out the remnants of colonial rule. And why shouldn't they? Would you like to be continually reminded of a century spent oppressed? And while on graft and corruption, what about the morals of the businessmen who flout the UN sanctions on Zimbabwe?

But It's Simply Not Cricket

Another farmer, John Randall, comments that the guerrillas are nasty non-cricket playing people who only bombard farms at night with rockets and mortars, always getting out when fire is returned. This is actually well in line with the best ideas in guerrilla warfare, but the Post's report suggests they are somehow inferior fighters who are scared of the whites.

Mr Randall also draws a parallel with the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya in the 1950s. This is presumably to conjure up in peoples minds the terror of the trumped-up 'massacres' and 'terror' of the Mau Maus. These were indeed small compared with the massacres and terror spread by British troops suppressing the Kenyan nationalists.

The report then switches to London with comments from the Defence Minister of Smith's government (Mr Van Der Byl) and the African Nationalist Joshua Nkomo. After a conflict of opinions on whether majority rule is to be introduced, Mr Van Der Byl is given the final word describing how 'traditional Rhodesian sang froid' has reasserted itself. Everything is placid and normal. What a pity if this normality is disturbed by a bunch of nasty guerrillas!

The clear implication is that the present state of affairs is desirable and good. That is but one side of the story - the white's side.

We then move into a long section on the recruiting of mercenaries for Rhodesia from Britain. Mr Callaghan is reported as worried because the trade in killers would break sanctions. Nice to know he's still got a few principles, but how about the Africans' reaction to the story? How do they feel about foreign killers coming in to shoot them down? How would you feel if men were paid \$200 a week to hunt you down?

'Rhodesian government sources have welcomed' a British warning to the Soviet Union the report states. It is a 'step in the right direction' according to an official. The right direction is probably leading to British troops backing their white brother against the black communist horde. Wilson's note to the Soviets stated 'foreign intervention in Southern Africa was likely to hamper progress towards democratic freedom and cause unnecessary bloodshed'.

Who's Blocking Democratic Freedom?

Let's not stop there, as the Post so conveniently does. Let's look behind the news a little. Who has been backing up the illegal Smith Regime? Who has

some weeks ago.

Rhodesian government sources have welcomed the British Prime Minister's warning to the Soviet Union not to intervene again in Southern Africa.

One government official called it a step in the right direction and a welcome sign of British awareness of the situation.

"It is a pleasant contrast to the negative approach by the British Government to the Russian and Cuban intervention in Angola," he said.

On Friday Mr Harold Wilson gave the Soviet Ambassador in London what was described as a strong warning that all foreign intervention in Southern Africa was likely to hamper progress towards democratic freedom and cause unnecessary bloodshed. — NZPA.

Both clippings from Evening Post 15.3.76

been the real block to democratic freedom and the cause of peace?

Its not the Soviets. They've been in Southern Africa but six months. Few would support another area becoming a pawn in the superpowers' game, but what of the other side? What of the role of British and United States capital going into 'Rhodesia' to build up the economy? Wilson can give the Soviets strong warnings, yet he has done very little about this. The discrepancy is not picked up by the Post.

There are other points that could be picked up, but the conclusion is clear. The Post report covers, in some detail, the views of whites, and gives very little room to African views. A space ration of 10 cms to whites for every 1 cm for Nkomo is ludicrous - the population ratio is 1 white to 15 Africans.

We've seen that on many points the report gives a very one sided view, using terms that are defined in favour of the whites. As with so many New Zealand attitudes on Africa, there's a strong feeling that whites are really quite nice fellows. Its a feeling supported by this report.

That feeling is both inaccurate and racist. Both in what it covers and, more importantly, what it leaves out, the Post report is blatantly racist. To pretend that the Rhodesian side of the story is the only one worth worrying about is pathetic.

Enough said for the moment. Lets move across the page to the other lead international story: 'Spain Threatened By Military Coup.'

SPAIN

Now, as everyone knows, a military coup is a terrible and nasty thing (especially when carried out by the left wing army - Chile is somehow always missed on the news page. Funny that). Consequently from the very headline we are being forced to take side. Let's look more closely at the terms used. Who exactly is being threatened by a military coup? 'Spain' apparently, yet if one starts the story, its the Spanish government that s threatened. If the coup is actually anything like the Portugese one, the vast majority of Spaniards will benefit from it. They will (much against their will of course, since no one could ever support a coup) gain the rights of freedom of speech, of freedom to organise trade unions, and of freedom from Spain's neo fascist terror-police.

Those rights are denied Spaniards at the moment. Yet from this report and from the hundreds of other articles on Spain run in our newspapers you'd never know it.

Particularly disgusting in this respect are the Women's Weekly and Thursday articles on what a nice guy Juan Carlos is. Anyone who is elected successor by a fascist who came to power by murdering thousands of people and stayed there by sophisticated terror must be a nice guy. Especially if he's got brown eyes.

Back to the Post's Monday report. We have an

outline of a 'secret army society' plotting against the government. That is thoroughly reprehensible - except that there is no way of openly and peacefully opposing Juan Carlos's bunch of bandits (describing them as a 'government' is really a political act).

Genghis Khan & Boy Scout

As we read on, we find that this whole fear of a coup stems from alleged plots by the Military Democratic Union. We hear the prosecutor's version of the evidence from the court martial, but nothing from the defendants. We also are informed that Spain's generals are Right Wing and conservative (not quoted) while some captains are 'progressive' (quoted as its such a suspicious word).

If you have a look at the policies of these two groups, you'd find that, as in Portugal, the 'Right Wing' makes Genghis Khan look like a Boy Scout and the 'progressives' have wilk dreams of one day setting up a national health service. However, the Post tells you nothing of that, leaving an unpleasant shadow around the heads of the 'progressives'.

We then hear of talks aimed at speeding up Sapin's democratic changes. Few of these have yet been revealed so its hard to tell whether they are democratic or not (the fact that most of Carlos's buddies helped Franco indicates they won't be).

Also surely 'democratic' changes mean that the people have some say in what's decided? The mere suggestion that the Government has a timetable indicates they're surely in command, knowing what's going on. The pictures fare more murky than the Post thinks.

Now the interesting bit. A spokesman for this dreaded group of subversives who are threatening a 'coup' says they are prepared to give Juan Carlos time to carry out 'fundamental democratic reforms'. Doesn't sound too radical to me. Could it be the whole threatened coup was thought up to convict people at a court martial? If so, who doesn't the Post look a little deeper into its source material? If not, why is the evidence so flimsy?

So we have another report giving one side of the story. A few rifts show another spectacle underneath, but nowhere do we here of the sufferings of the Spanish people, or of their wishes on these important subjects. The reason for that could be the strong Spanish censorship, but even that could have been reported.

CONCLUSION

Thus we have two articles in the Evening Post on International News. On looking into both of them, it is clear that the Post is heavily supporting the status quo, be it the racists in Zimbabwe or the fascists in Spain. By all meanings of the word, these accounts must surely be biased. Yet they are not called such



by the people who know such things - Who know *Salient* is 'biased' for example or Who know that this article is 'biased' because it uses emotive terms such as 'racist' and 'fascist'.

Now being a decent sort of bloke, I'm quite prepared to admit this article is biased. There's two points - One - I'm biased toward letting more information come forward on subjects so people can understand them better. Two - I'm biased towards people struggling against oppression, for self-determination and justice. The Post is biased, (maybe not intentionally) directly in the other way.

There's another group of people, who see the two sides biased and cry out 'its all relative'. This may be logical (tho' I doubt it) but not very practical. There's various ways of approaching problems, but in the end, especially when they involve open conflicts, they mean taking some sort of stand on the issue. On Zimbabwe, the Post's report is clearly slanted towards the whites, while *Salient* coverage is slanted towards the blacks. I know which side I'm on!



Spain Threatened By Military Coup

MADRID, March 14.—The Spanish Government is working against time to avert a Portuguese-style coup, Government sources said today.

They said King Juan Carlos had been told of the serious implications of a secret army officers' society, nine of whose alleged members were sentenced last week to prison for up to eight years on charges of plotting a military rebellion.

Another alleged member of the group called the Military Democratic Union was detained outside Madrid yesterday.

He was identified as Major Antonio Cordoba, an army engineer attached to a tank regiment — the second alleged group member to be detained in the last three weeks.

The officers' group, according to the court martial prosecutor, was pledged to change Spanish institutions through a coup similar to the military rebellion of April, 1974, which toppled the Right Wing government of Portugal.

King Juan Carlos has been

told that, while Spain's generals were Right Wing and conservative, the officers' group attracted to its ranks "progressive" captains and majors who actually commanded troops.

King Juan Carlos conferred last week with the Prime Minister (Mr Arias Navarro), interior Minister (Mr Iribarne) and Foreign Minister (Dr De Areilza).

Details of the talks were not revealed but political observers believe they discussed the prospects of speeding up the Government's timetable for democratic changes.

Strike Waves

The dangers of delay were spelled out by a recent wave of strikes and demonstrations which left seven people dead, and by disquiet in the armed forces exposed in last week's

court martial of the nine officers.

Two army captains describing themselves as group spokesmen told a clandestine Press conference in the Canary Islands last week that the court martial, rather than breaking the group, had served to promote the organisation's growth.

They said the group was prepared to give King Juan Carlos time to carry out fundamental democratic reforms but added there was a limit to their patience.

The Government has already drawn up a timetable for reforms, including a referendum on constitutional changes this summer and General Elections next year for the Lower Chamber of a two-house Parliament.

But it has decided to submit many proposed reforms to the Parliament, a Right Wing bastion which could block them or water them down. — NZPA-Reuters.

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STUDENTS AND THEIR UNIVERSITY

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

by Leigh Thomson

Was Orientation Week successful? If you answer this question on the basis of how much alcohol was consumed at Sasrac, then obviously yes. But that Week wasn't for the benefit of the breweries. It was basically a series of activities designed to introduce students to the university - to what it has to offer.

It's ultimate success I believe will be measured as the year progresses. The degree of involvement by students in campus activities will be indicative of the idea that it takes students to make a university not Government grants and construction companies.

So, for the university to function as a place where people interact with each other, there must be a response by students towards the activities, clubs and otherwise, which the university offers.

Obviously, if students will not involve themselves, the university will continue to be a stronghold of apathy - picture a group of students huddled in the Rankine Brown courtyard, waiting for the next bursary payment to come out the yard littered with beer cans, pies, chips and 'Time' magazines.

If the above description was a little far-fetched then let me relate to you my experience last Wednesday night when I re-entered the university confines after 5pm to attend the first Ecology Action meeting of 1976. Myself and two other equally-lost students arrived at an empty Union Hall. A quick discussion followed.

After a brief flirtation with the Photography Club meeting at which we heard Gyles Beckford plotting to revolt against Hanimex (the colour processing people), encouraging his rapt audience to process colour films themselves - we fled with flushed faces to the French wine and cheese evening, and drank in its joie de vivre (translated 'wine' in English) for the next couple of hours.

ECOLOGY ACTION ADVERTISED

The Ecology Action meeting was advertised in the Newsheet but apparently its organisers lost interest. That didn't seem to matter so much, since not many other students had much interest in it either.

It struck me as being disappointing.

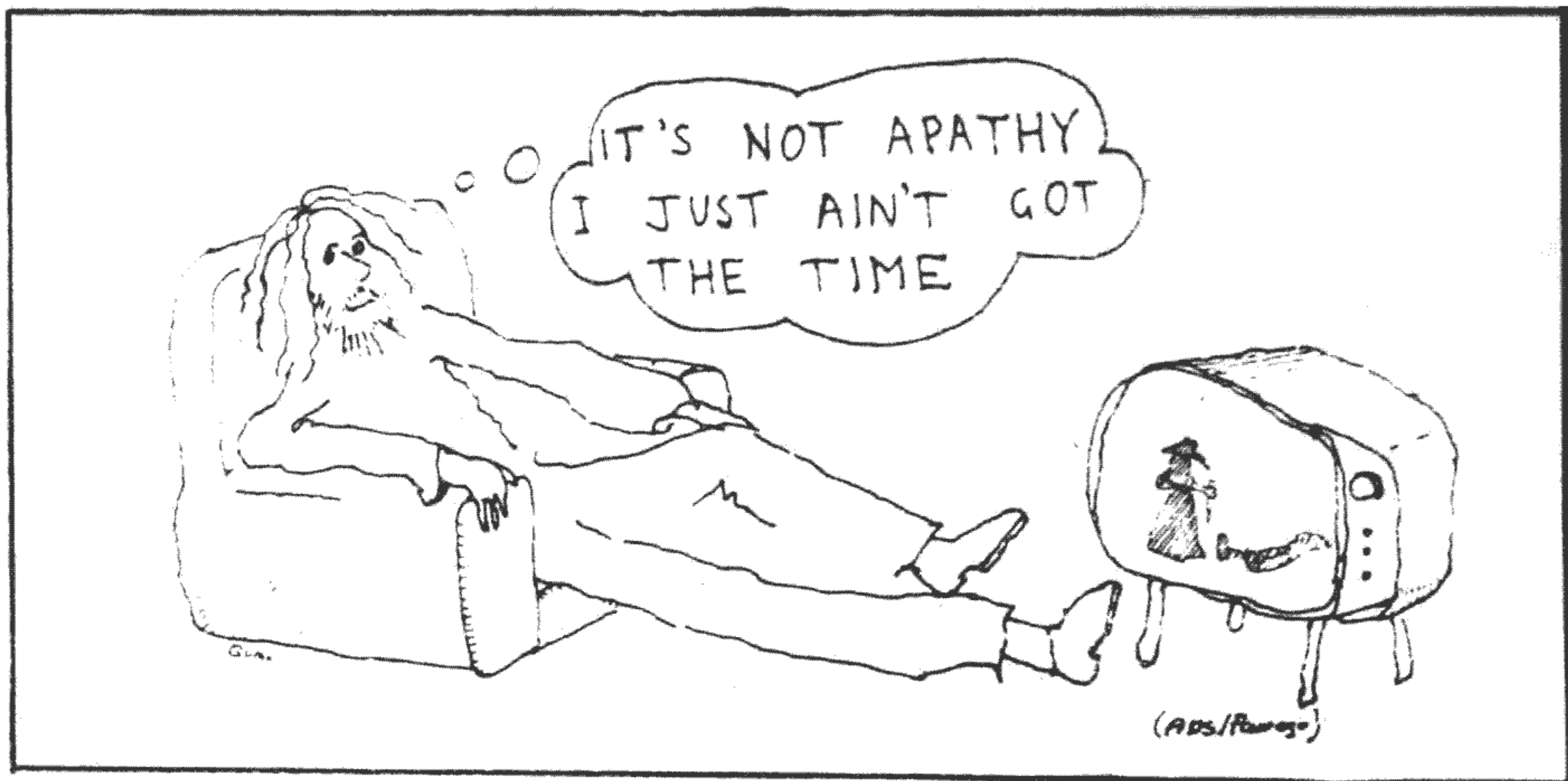
Has the environment question been 'thrashed' so much as to turn people off the issues involved? Does it mean that no students at university care about the environment in which we live? Of course not! You think to yourself, 'I do'. Well then, could you not have been there.

Many of us have been made aware of the present destruction of much of our physical environment. When the progress of man conflicts with the need to conserve the environment which sustains him then I suggest students, if they are concerned, should make their voice as members of the community heard. Ecology Action is one possible avenue to explore. But in fact we let it down.

The implication is that unless students commit themselves to anything (outside of themselves) there will be no ideas no stand made on issues which need to be investigated and canvassed.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The attitude of students towards university as an institution with necessarily determine their relative involvement in the place. I am not advocating that students rush in and 'get involved'. I would in fact rather they did only if they wanted to. There is no



pressure on students to do anything. And frequently they don't.

I am prodding at an institution and its members called The University. I suggest there is student inaction. I am not ignoring the groups of students who are active in a wideranging group of activities. However as a student who has been made aware of my own apathy over the past year or so, it seems desirable to question what people are doing at university, why, and the ways they are going about doing it. Here is an example: are students at university to learn or to pass a degree? Are the two the same thing. Or is each a mixture of the other?

It's not for me to give any correct answers. (I'm not able to anyway!). But it is for you, the reader (Probably a student, whether full time or part time), to respond. Either by asking yourself some of the questions I have raised, and/or by writing into Salient and expressing your opinion. You have nothing to lose except perhaps your anonymity and the ink from your pen.

STUDENT VIEWS

Why does it happen that only a tiny percentage of our student population direct, guide and publicise 'the student view' on every matter conceivable, without so much as a ripple or a protest from the majority of the student body?

What is the sense or the rationality in two percent of Victoria University's student population laying down policy for the whole of our student body.

Perhaps I am naive to think that students should be any different, any more aware of world and national issues than the average Kiwi. I suspect that all of us whether we be students, labourers or office dwellers, each pursue our own interests and goals without concerning ourselves with what we call the 'deeper' aspects or concerns of our society.

[Note: Dear Reader, please forgive me for stating the obvious, But then, I did tell you I am naive]

And there I was thinking that the student has the time and the 'level of consciousness' in which to think and develop sound practicable ideas which will enrich, enhance and draw our community together.

It is about time you and I thought through our motives for being at university, our motives for contributing so little to the university as a whole. If I am being a little harsh, please complain. Perhaps you can argue that university is just a place in which people spend a short period of their lives at. That

may be true. But it doesn't explain your responsibility towards the institution.

STUDENT POLICY BEING QUESTIONED

If Association policy is not reasonably representative of the views of our student body, is it useful or even significant. Is SRC simply a tradition rather than a valid forum for student views and affairs to be discussed.

Any student participation is better than none at all, but that is not a satisfactory answer to the question raised. If its (student policy) validity is questioned, what is the point of having it recorded at all. It may well be student policy, but it is not what students think! That is in essence what our SRC meetings are.

Take our policy towards South Africa and its apartheid system. Student policy is strongly anti apartheid.

A front page report in Thursday's Evening Post (March 18) described a referendum held at Massey University where the question asked was this: 'Do you want the Massey University Students' Association to have a policy of active opposition to the rugby tour of South Africa?' Twenty-seven percent of their students were interviewed; a majority replied 'no' to the question.

This percentage is contrasted with the two percent who decided the present anti apartheid policy at Massey's SRC. A similar reaction is possible at Victoria also.

This highlights in my mind what could be in many instances gaping discrepancy in what SRC policy is, and what the students actually think. In my mind, the function of SRC should be reviewed. Either it must encourage a larger percentage of students to attend or its role must be re-evaluated in the light of the Massey affair.

Perhaps the answer to student inaction lies in the fact that underneath it all the student is like the average bloke in the street. That may give us some idea of why the student acts, or doesn't act as he does. He may wish to be left alone by the pressure groups, by the government, by all things which tend to complicate matters. But the student too has to face up to the reality that you can't ignore what is happening about you.

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SOSC. DEBATE GETS UNDERWAY

This year Salient will encourage students to write about their courses, and to analyse the content of the subjects they are studying. It will also encourage a critical attitude to the departments in which they are studying, realising that the ideas fed into any courses are ultimately shaped by the ideas nurtured with that department's 'community of scholars'.

In Salient Issue No.2 a group of Sociology students ('Committee of Nine') wrote a 'sociology of the Sociology Department'. Since then we have heard rumours of the Sociology secret police trying to sniff out the 'culprits', and thought that would be the end of it. So, we were pleasantly surprised when a lecturer in the Department wrote a reply. We reprint his letter, and hope that it sparks the beginning of a continuing dialogue.

Dear Sir,

I would like to provide a commentary to the 'Committee of Nine' sociology of sociology department, and also their 'predictions' about 1976 sociology courses. I hope that my reply will provoke the Committee of Nine into clarifying some of their points and also confront them with data which they ought to take into account. In this way further dialogue may be possible

It is quite obvious that there has been a major change-over of staff from 1973 to the present with four staff leaving within a fairly short period. However, the various interpretations can be placed on this. The 'Committee of Nine' sees the significance of this change in terms of a power struggle between a conservative core and the radicals who were forced out, with the conservatives according themselves promotions, and replacing the departing radicals with incoming conservatives

We could do with some enlightenment about what these terms mean. Does the Committee of Nine mean 'radical' in terms of campus issues, teaching practises, or politically radical? On any one of these

criteria only one of the four who departed in 1973 could be termed a radical. The Committee of Nine also exaggerates the background qualifications and teaching qualifications of the 1973 group (in fact three of this group had their first teaching experience at Victoria), and the extent to which students were stimulated through being exposed to active debate between alternative theoretical positions (this was essentially the self-generated questioning of one or two of the group).

So the contrast with the present department is not as great as the Committee of Nine might like to suggest. To some extent the amount of contrast which might remain can be explained in more prosaic terms. Any department losing half its membership within a short space of time is going to face considerable problems in building up its own perspectives and research programmes so that it can provide its own stimulus to students.

The picture on promotions is not as clear as the Committee of Nine makes out. I know of at least five promotions within the department in the 1970s (three from lecturer to senior lecturer, one over the senior lecturer's extended scale bar, and two from junior lecturer to lecturer - the latter including the promotion of the present national organiser of the Socialist Action League, who presumably must be counted as a bona fide radical. How does this pattern of promotions fit the Committee of Nine's neat pattern?

I would not claim that these points explain away the points made by the Committee of Nine but they should be considered.

The criteria used in the table look reasonably good, although there are particular difficulties when you look at them more closely.

1. **Quality of lectures:** what does this mean when the class, say a stage III class is taught in a seminar style? What exactly counts as 'high quality' lecturing? - is it just rhetorical skill, or sheer content of material put over.

Lecturers may be trying to do any one of a variety of things in their lectures.

2. **Lecturer's interest in course:** how does a lecturer manifest interest in his/her course? It is obviously a subtle concept. For instance, does trying to involve outside speakers or films betoken interest in the course or is it a presumption of disinterest? Does invisible backroom work count at all.
3. **Workload:** this criteria seems to be measured on a different basis to the other dimensions. Presumably, it would be better to have an 'appropriateness of workload' scale, as work-load can be too heavy or too light or even scheduled inappropriately.
4. **New Zealand content:** while this is an important dimension, it must be remembered that New Zealand content is not appropriate to all courses, and that the amount of New Zealand content must be constrained by the availability of local material.
5. **Ability to develop critical thought:** this is undoubtedly the most important dimension as it surely comes close to being the guts of university work. But how can you judge whether a course is promoting critical thought or not?
6. **Lecturer's approachability:** to what extent does this involve more than just being available (eg keeping regular office hours) and tries to measure the extent to which a lecturer is able to relate to students on a one-to-one basis?

A seventh possible dimension could be the quality of feedback which could be reasonably readily measured by the quality and quantity of commentary on written work, although again, opportunities for doing this will vary with the type of material which students are developing.

There are a couple of problems about the way in which the scores have been made. One is that several courses are taught by several staff, and the course-

based scoring system obscures individual staff contributions. Another problem is how courses which haven't been run before can be predicted. A final problem is how reliable ratings of courses can be made when there is so frequently such a broad range of student opinion on courses.

A group of nine is not large enough for reliability. While it is to the credit of the group, that they were honest to leave demography courses out (these are very small courses), on the whole, I think it is dishonest for such a group to grade so many courses, and it is dishonest for *Salient* to publish them, unless of course *Salient* have evidence that the rankings made are more reliable than might appear on the surface.

This last point might even be extended into a sociology of the sociology of sociology departments; if you don't mind me going a bit Weberian on you, and bringing in a theory of charisma. I wonder if beneath all this evaluation there is not a fairly simple mechanism at work. Students, and especially those students who write critiques may well be reacting to the charisma of certain lecturers, especially those able to evoke the trappings of radical social ideologies. This is no bad thing, but can it be legitimately expected of all lecturers? Student popularity may be an ephemeral and superficial basis for evaluating lecturers but I suspect that it looms large behind the evaluations given by the 'Committee of 9'. Charisma is not necessarily backed by sound scholarship.

Yet, in employing such vague criteria as 'lecturer's interest in course' (= manifested enthusiasm?) or 'approachability' (=likeability?) aren't the Committee of Nine very vulnerable to using very subjective criteria, which might be repudiated if a larger sample were asked their opinion? The burden is on the Committee of 9 to show that they are not.

Yours,
Charles Crothers.

The Ridiculous Gets Sublime

TALES of POWER

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From the Courts



Depositions were taken in the Wellington Magistrates Court last week on a charge of rape laid against Erich Geiringer, medical practitioner.

It was revealing to actually listen to a rape case, having a fairly good idea about how horrifying it was supposed to be. I couldn't help but admire the courage of the twenty year old woman who was made to answer the most acutely embarrassing question by both counsel.

Mr Larsen (Crown Prosecutor) said at one stage that he was sorry but these things had to come out. Of course, it's the law not Mr Larsen who is to blame. It occurred to me how little, if anything, the last 4 years of the complainant's life had to do with the few seconds in question.

Yet about half an hour was spent by Mr Bungay (defense Counsel) prying out of her on cross examination that she had been pregnant at 16, lived with her boyfriend at 17, married and had a child at 18, left her husband at 19 and was at present living in a de facto relationship. The complainant also said she had seen Dr Geiringer on numerous other occasions and on one such occasion she had asked for silicone injections for her breasts.

Visit to the Doctor

In evidence the complainant told how she took her son with her to be inoculated and to ask the doctor about a sexual matter. 'What was that then the woman had been quite fluent with her answers. But from then on she could only answer after agonising pauses.

A whole courtroom of men, the atmosphere so silent that you could hear a pin drop, six newspaper reporters with pen in hand, and you've got to admit that you had gone to the doctor because you had been a bit 'dry' lately. Much worse was to come.

The complainant told how she was made to take off her trousers and pants and to lie on the Doctor's couch. He then began examining, what she could only manage to call her 'private parts'. She suspected nothing at this stage because it was merely routine. Then the doctor asked her whether her breasts were sensitive.

After she had replied that they were he began feeling them. Then quite unexpectedly he started to lick her breasts and then her 'private parts'. She was turned sideways on the couch and her legs were put up to the doctor's chest and the alleged rape took place. It lasted only a few seconds

but was complete. She then saw him zip up his trousers.

Mr Larsen asked whether she had noticed anything strange about his 'private part' and she said that it was circumcised. After the event in question the complainant stated that she said nothing because she was too scared and had not really understood what had happened. The doctor had remarked to her that she was a bit dry. The baby was inoculated and she went home.

Told a Friend

She stated that she broke down in tears when a friend who had come to her house to pick up some records, asked her what the matter was.

During her evidence her clothes and her pants, in a plastic bag, were being passed around in the court.

Mr Bungay, counsel for Dr Geiringer, looks like a Texan millionaire. He has a loud voice and likes the effect he can obtain with it, namely fear. The first question he saw fit to ask, after having dramatically risen from his chair was, 'Pregnant at 16 were you?'. The next question was, 'Lived with your boyfriend at 17 did you?'

I had a feeling that the woman had been prepared beforehand for this

deliberate onslaught because she replied with equal firmness and control. There were even traces of contempt and sarcasm in her voice. Mr Bungay then asked, 'Had a baby at 18?'. She replied that she was then married. 'Then you left your husband to live with your boyfriend?' said Mr Bungay quite explosively.

She stood her ground and adamantly rejected the claim saying that was incorrect and that she had left her husband and lived in a flat for some months before she met her present boyfriend.

Needless to say rape is rape regardless of who is involved. The justification for Mr Bungay's whole line of questions and for his attitude is that in a case where the outcome depends on who you believe, defense counsel are left no choice but to attack the credibility of the person alleging rape.

It is strange in sexual cases the complainant usually suffers greater stress from giving evidence and being cross examined than the accused does in defending the charge.

Helen Croft

NEWSHEET

MONDAY MARCH 22
12 noon MASS. Every week, same time and place. Come along and bring a friend. RB 819.
7.30pm WELLINGTON COMMITTEE ON VIT NAM Agm. Wellington Library Lecture Room.

TUESDAY MARCH 23
12 noon WOMEN'S CHOICE CLUB Agm. Lounge and Smoking Room.
12-2pm THE WIZARD SPEAKS. All Welcome. Union Hall.
7.30pm SKI CLUB Agm. Election of Officers/ Annual Report. Films. Drink. Lounge and Smoking Room.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 24
1pm MASS. A regular weekly prayer gathering. B 4.
5-8pm C.U. and Cath. Society Meet together for once. Discussion and tea - bring both. Lounge.
7.00pm SPORTS CLUBS: Remember to attend the SGM of Sports Council on Wednesday in the Union Hall.

THURSDAY MARCH 25
12-2pm NATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE meeting. All interested persons welcome. Board Room.
2.15pm UNION FILMS: This week Clint Eastwood in 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'. Memorial Theatre.
5.05pm MASS. Each week at this time followed by tea. Lounge, Ramsey House, 34 Kelburn Pde.

SATURDAY MARCH 27
9.30am EASTER SELECTION TENNIS TOURNAMENT. If you would like to try and qualify for the team you must play in the Tournament. A team of 24 to play Massey Uni the following weekend will also be selected after the tournament. Ring Chris Pastelidis 893-212 If you wish to enter.
Tennis Courts - Salamanca Road.

SUNDAY MARCH 28
9.30am EASTER SELECTION TENNIS TOURNAMENT - see Saturdays column.
2.00pm YOUNG SOCIALIST MEETING. Come and hear about plans for our National Conference at Easter. Weekly discussions on political issues concerning young people today.
Pilot Book Centre, 76 Dixon Street.

Newsheet, as you may or may not notice, is now incorporated in Salient but is still arranged and composed by John Henderson, and not by John Ryall, whose newspaper it happens to appear in. Any complaints are still to be referred to the Publications Officer (who, coincidentally, happens to be aforementioned Henderson) and will still be totally ignored, and that includes you, you mealy mouthed rat-faced snivelling imbecilic spoon-fed reptile. How the hell can you expect me to lead a full and happy life while I know that just around the corner a cretin like you exists solely to heap indignity and base superficiality upon a name that originally could rank with the best. I find your style of reporting and lack of individuality, wit and intelligence more than irritating and if you don't shut up soon and lay down your soiled pen forever I will be left with no option but call the church police.

LAOS — THE FIGHTING'S OVER

Things were obviously happening in Laos. Stories had been filtering through the closed border to Thailand about re education centres and big parades in the capital, Vientiane. The nervous General Manager of Royal Air Lao, a member of the Royal Family, had just swum across the Mekong to Thailand. A Thai police chief had added to 'Bankok Post' speculation by claiming that Vietnamese, under Hanoi control, were behind the border 'incidents'. His 'Catch 22' proof for this was that there was absolutely no evidence for this whatsoever, claiming that the Vietnamese agents were far too cunning to leave behind any signs of their involvement.

So the shooting exchange between a Thai gunboat and Lao soldiers indicated much more than just itchy trigger fingers and disputed river channels. The Thai politicians obviously thought that the last chapter of the Indo-China war, unless they were careful, would include some pages on Thailand.

The newspapers in Thailand were preparing the public for a possible military response and so were making Laos sound as dangerous and turbulent as possible. Flights were still going from Bangkok to Vietnam and the Embassy was still issuing visa, so I was already sceptical of the hysteria. Besides, to go to Viet Nam, I had to go through Laos.

A Royal Air Lao flight was scheduled to fly to Vientiane on Saturday. The Air France issuing office warned me to expect a phone call on the Saturday morning to inform me whether the flight would be going. What were termed 'gasoline problems' had kept most previous flights from leaving. This was no exception, and instead I had to take a Thai Airways flight the following day.

Food and Beggars

I had a meal at a Lao restaurant. First I added the prices and then converted to dollars. It sounded quite reasonable for a dinner. Then it arrived. Cold vermacelli with a few slivers of pork, and dessert turned out to be a cold drink.

Every few minutes a beggar would come in, approach me, the only European present, get down on bended knees and just wait, often with eyes averted. The process would be repeated round three of four tables and then he would leave. All without a word being said.

I could see that the entry of the forces of the Lao Patriotic Front (the Pathet Lao) into Vientiane had not yet made any great difference to the people and society. There are expensive-looking villas in the old colonial style and still well kept. There were also an incredible number of Mercedes cars around the streets. It is quite probable that Vientiane has a greater number of Mercedes than has Wellington; they weave their way, chauffeur driven among the bikes and beggars.

So the question is, 'What is to be done?'. The problems must appear intractable to many. If you confiscate the villas and put in the peasantry,

all you have is urban peasants. If you confiscate the Mercedes you have Pathet Lao troops driving the Mercedes. You also can't get hold of the cash that is used to buy the Mercedes because that is all safely in Surich and only tapped when needed.

Solving the Problems

The problems may appear intractable but those who say they are, together with those who advocate minor reforms to solve the problems of poverty, are those who don't have to endure the poverty and degradation. They are the people, rather, who benefit from it. Even while I was in Vientiane the final stages of a process were being carried out whereby the old colonial order that had changed in name only since the French withdrawal, was being swept away. Since the ceasefire in Viet Nam in 1973, Laos has been under a joint administration of Pathet Lao and the old pro-American group based in Vientiane. Since the Vientiane rightists who had previously been dependent on U.S. military, economic aid and intrigue found their base being swept away and preferred to take their chances with currents of the Mekong instead.

During the three days that I was in Vientiane, the final step was taken. King Vathana abdicated the throne and his nephew, Prince Souphanouvong became president of a new Republic.

The writing had quite literally been on the wall for some time. The Pathet Lao troops were in control of Vientiane. Their uniforms are much like those of the Chinese PLA. Rubber-soled 'bata bullet' style shoes with green uppers. Loose-fitting green trousers and open necked shirts. The caps are 'soft' ones with tiny black peaks. The uniform is simple and utilitarian, quite a contrast to the hip-tight style of the Tai military, revolver swinging low at a jaunty angle. Some were armed with machine guns, a reminder that even at this stage the transition in Laos is not always a peaceful one. The only perceptible insignia of rank was the occasional red armband, suspended for the epaulette.

The Pathet Lao have bases scattered through Vientiane, recognisably by the armed soldiers standing by swing-barriers over the gateways. From these depots rumbled the huge lorries that sped through the streets, each one with a quite large accompaniment of men. A vehicle here is quite a communal outing with many people inside or on the back braving the incredible output of diesel fumes and dust.

On my way back from the Viet Nam embassy I encountered a public meeting. There is an Arc de Triomphe on the outskirts of Vientiane, constructed from cement that the United States gave for the construction of the airport runway. The road had been closed off to one side of this Arc and the rally was in progress in the courtyard of a low white building facing the monument. Slogans had been hung and painted everywhere; all in Lao. The speeches boomed out in every direction for hundreds of yards. All over South East Asia the public address system substitutes for the transistor radio. I approached a guard and asked if I could take a photograph. He gathered my intention but was not quite sure whether it would be permitted.

I passed on to some others. They were more definite about it, but were quite happy for me to take some pictures of them. I didn't stay long. This is a country that has suffered, for total area, more bombardment than any other ever and is a country where the current issue of the 'Far Eastern Economic Review' speculated that the CIA was still active. This country belongs to the Lao people and their suspicion of foreigners is well justified. I moved on to find out later that I had witnessed a proclamation of a republic.

As I had feared, the staff at the embassy had not been notified that I would be arriving. The message that I was able to accept the invitation had been lost somewhere between Chiang Mai, Thailand Wellington and up to Hanoi again. I had suspected that I would be considered some itinerant hippy bent on some sightseeing after wearying of the grass in Katmandu.

This was not to be. The embassy staff sat me down at a small low table flanked by two other tables lower and smaller still and offered me tea. I was to become familiar with both table arrangement and the beverage in the next week. A cable would be sent to Hanoi that afternoon and when a reply was received they would contact me and issue a visa.



Don Carson, International Vice-President of NZUSA

Thus assured I left to see more of the sights of Vientiane

Vientiane Irrelevant

Vientiane in many ways must be irrelevant to the surrounding countryside. If Vientiane was suddenly removed the countryside would be adversely affected, but not critically. Pushbikes and Hondas would be a problem but many of the former are of such an incredible vintage and would see through a few years yet. The external commodity causing the greatest dependence is gasoline. Change that and all the little 'Stanley Steamers' in town would come to a halt.

I had my visa stamp safely in my passport the afternoon before I was due to fly to Hanoi. Though the Student Travel office in Bangkok had booked reservations for me on Aeroflot, a Russian State airline, it is always wise to reconfirm. A woman visiting the embassy who was an agent for Japan Air Lines agreed to reconfirm for me as I had no idea where the Aeroflot office was. Late that afternoon, minutes before closing I happened to chance on the Aeroflot office. As I had guessed my name was not on the passenger manifest. Worse, the flight was leaving at 8.00a.m. instead of 10.50a.m. Luckily, there was still a seat available.

Just before eight the boarding bell sounds. Baggage already checked in has to be identified by the owner on the tarmac and checked directly into the cargo hold. The initial check-in evidently meant that the bags made it only as far as the tarmac; not the plane. On board and strapped in we waited for the takeoff, but the announcement comes that there will be a delay.

Fortunately the possibility of leaving the next day did not eventuate and we were away within the hour.

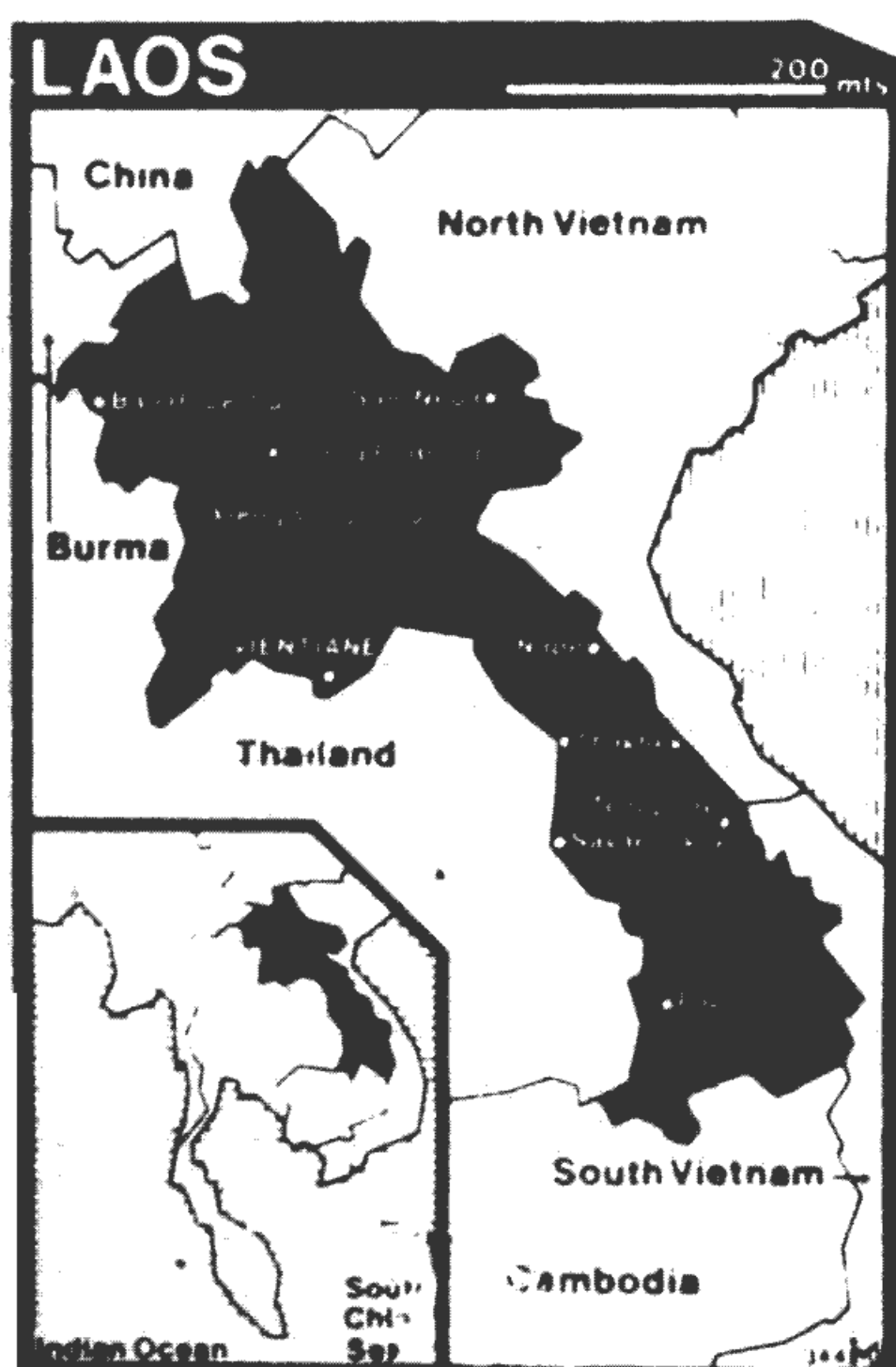
Conclusions

My lasting memories of this visit to Laos would be of the paradoxes of French and Lao, of the Revolution and the Royal Family, the Mercedes and the stinking rubbish heaps of Market Morning. Such contrasts could not last, they were contradictions and could only resolve themselves in a new order.

The United States had preserved the monarchy and now even though the incumbants of the institution were not impeding the new masters of Laos, the spirit of people's minds in building a Laos of democracy, unity, neutrality, peace, independence and prosperity required the old order to go. A monarch after all, is a feudal concept of servitude and served. By birth alone do you receive your curse or privilege.

The struggle of the Lao people had been a long and bitter one, one that the Pentagon and the CIA had attempted to hide from the world. Eventual military victory over the United States enable the people to then turn to the more subtle and yet no less dangerous forms of United States imperialism. The USAID personnel had been forced to leave earlier in the year and the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane now sits malevolently in a side street behind a high fence and hisses at the outside world through its barred, airconditioning vents in windowless walls.

The pious charity of the 'World Vision' organisation had also seen its day in Vientiane. The offices were deserted and the file lay strewn about the floor. No more would 'Uncle Frank and Auntie Shirley' write from Missouri to the 'orphan' child telling her about their two cars and Sunday school. The people of Laos would now be directing the future of their country on their terms.



TONGAN WORKERS

STILL CLUMSY AND



by Lynn Peck

Over the last five years one in every four people between the ages of 15 and 60 living in Tonga has been to New Zealand on a working holiday. Tonga's main export to New Zealand is her labour force. In 1965 the total number of Tongans to visit New Zealand was 285, by 1975 it was over 4,000.

Through the 1966 sponsorship scheme, immigration was permitted if the person was able to produce evidence that they had \$200 for each month that they intended to stay, or if they had a letter of guarantee from a citizen of New Zealand or a permanent resident. This scheme was not widely used until the 1970's when an availability of jobs led to an influx of Tongan workers, many on forged letters.

At the end of 1975 a total of 4,616 Tongans had temporarily migrated to New Zealand. Besides the obvious demand for labour in New Zealand, many other circumstances within the Tongan economy and society contributed to the insurge. But the factor that mainly permitted such a vast movement to New Zealand was that New Zealand was looking for a cheaper form of labour than was available with in her own labour force.

Tongans coming to New Zealand in search of Western riches, worked here at no extra cost to the social services, and the employer was able to avoid incremental payments and services necessary to attract additional labour.

Benefits from Reserve Labour

The situation must have become an embarrassment to the Government at the end of 1974. It is impossible that a government could fail to notice the movements of three thousand 'holidaying' Tongans, or to notice the financial benefit from a ready reserve work force in a time of industrial expansion.

Both the Tongan and New Zealand Governments let it pass until the economic recession at the end of 1974/5 made it necessary for the problem to be dealt with. But New Zealand, in dealing with a situation she had encouraged, found it most convenient to victimise and terrorise a minority group that found itself in the grips of a social and economic mess. The Law was used to effect South African-type controls on a group of immigrants when the Government thought it convenient to get rid of it. The logic being that the harsher the punishment, the less likely that it happen again.

The overstayers were breaking the law. Therefore, logically, the Law was in its rights to use whatever methods necessary to enforce it. Thus there was the occurrence of such behaviour 'alien to New Zealand's way of life'. (Fraser Coleman, Minister of Immigration).

In one well publicized event, two police dogs were used - one was stationed at the back door, and one was brought into the sitting room. When one resident asked a policeman to show a search warrant, one dog was moved forward and began snarling. Policemen threatened to set the dog on anyone who tried to move away.

Immigration officers were present at these raids - and appeared to go along with the methods used. Although it is common for travel agencies to hold passports of migrants, all Tongans found in these raids without a passport were taken into custody and held until documents were found. One group of eleven arrested in August for over-staying pleaded not guilty or entered no plea. Those charged with illegal over-staying were granted bail only on the condition that they each put up a bond of \$400, and each found two others to put up \$400.

Pass Laws in New Zealand

Section 33A of the Immigration Act 1964 Amendment 1968 gives the police power to take into custody anyone whom they suspect might be a prohibited immigrant and who does not have a passport in their immediate possession - this effectively puts every Polynesian at risk if they go anywhere without their passports, even New Zealand citizens.

The ad hoc arrangements for migrant workers were no longer working effectively. So, after the amnesty of March 1974 the New Zealand and the Tongan Governments got together and drew up a new agreement known as the New Zealand - Tonga Government Work Scheme. The new scheme, announced in October 1974, restricted and regularised the movements of the migrant worker through management by the employers, the Department of Labour, and Air New Zealand.

The basis of the scheme is that the employers are responsible for :-

- 1) Arranging accommodation of a standard approved by the New Zealand Department of Labour for their workers IN ADVANCE of their arrival in New Zealand.
- 2) Advancing the airfare of their migrant workers to Air New Zealand to be subsequently deducted from their workers' wages.
- 3) Arranging to pay insurance premiums covering accidents, sickness and guarantee continuous employment for a specified period.
- 4) Meeting the employee on arrival, arranging for his departure, and notifying the Labour Department of departure and any changes of address.

The Department of Labour is responsible for:-

- 1) Holding workers' passports and return tickets FOR SAFEKEEPING during their stay in New Zealand.
- 2) Endorsing receipts on employment vouchers to certify that this individual has the right to be in New Zealand and to be working.

Air New Zealand is responsible for:-

- 1) Arranging the recovery of fares and notifying employers and the Labour Department of the arrival and departure of the worker.

The Tongan worker is responsible for:-

- 1) Signing an agreement to abide by the terms of the scheme and to allow deductions from wages.
- 2) Remaining in the employment of his initial employer.
- 3) Leaving at the end of his permit.
- 4) Enjoying rights of equivalent to NZ workers and being employed under not less favourable conditions, and accepting the same obligations.

The permit to work had been extended to four months with the extra clause that it could be extended to six months if the worker so desired, and if the employer or another employer endorses it.

Controlling Industrial Labour

When the scheme was announced Mr Coleman and the deputy-Prime Minister of Tonga Hon. Tu'ita saw it in this light:-

"The work permit scheme, which will be administered by the appropriate authorities in both countries, should overcome difficulties which arose earlier under the uncontrolled working-visitor situation, where visitors' permits of three months were used by those intending to undertake employ-

ment in New Zealand. It will also protect Tongan workers from exploitation both in Tonga and New Zealand. Moreover, by introducing a systematic method of meeting the requirements of New Zealand employers, it will be possible to ensure that all parties are duly protected and avoid any sudden fluctuations in the available work force."

Yet the system does actually encourage such fluctuations in the available workforce and the income of Tonga, because the Department of Labour has the right to impose a limit on the number of workers entering the country under the scheme. There is no guarantee of a minimum flow to protect the Tongan economy. What to New Zealand is a slight reduction in immigrants may effect Tonga with increased unemployment and with the drying-up of remittances.

The wording of the Tongan workers agreement is highly idealistic and grandiose. No New Zealand worker has his passport impounded, is only permitted to work four months, has his travel rigidly controlled, his compulsory housing arranged and has no choice of employer (jobs are allocated while they are in Tonga).

The system also places unnecessary strain on the employer in cost and administration. It proves to be just as cheap now to employ local labour. The number of workers the scheme encourages them to take on is small because of practical measures of meeting them on arrival, and finding their accommodation.

To complete the mismanagement, the employer has total power over the worker as he is allowed to work only for him in the duration of the four months. Therefore the worker may be hesitant to request improvements or seek alternative employment because of the possibility of not getting an endorsement for that crucial two months extension. He is literally the employer's slave.

Cheap Workers on Demand

Another aspect that detracts from the scheme on the employers' side is the time lag. He must know two months in advance that there will be vacancies as it takes about that time to get workers out to New Zealand. He must have arranged accommodation, approved by the Labour Department, before his application for workers will be accepted. Then the job is sent to the Tongan Overseas Employment Bureau to be filled in.

Air New Zealand demands that a booking be made at least seven weeks in advance. Furthermore (to the Tongans' disadvantage), even if there is work available the New Zealand Government may in view of overall employment refuse permission for these workers to come.

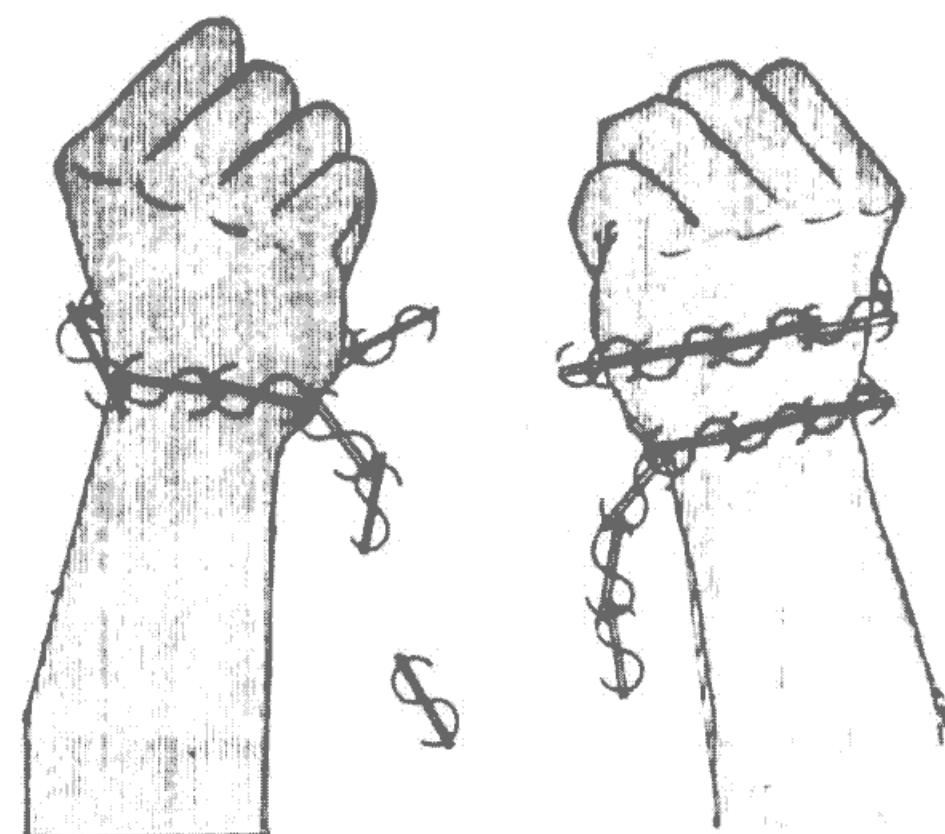
Table 1.

Results of the change in permit system for Tongans				
Six month period	Holiday	Work Schemes	Others	Total
July-Dec.1974	3080	138	255	3473
Jan.-June 1975	554	226	165	945

Table One shows that all the scheme has managed to do is effectively keep Tongans out of New Zealand. The total number of work scheme employees has not risen significantly since the introduction of the scheme. A total of over 2,000 illegal immigrants have been prohibited from entering, but still significantly the majority of workers find it more preferable to put up with the risks and the abuses of the old system. No doubt when the recession is over more opportunities will again be open to the illegal immigrant worker as

WORK SCHEME ~

AND EXPLOITATIVE



both he and the employer (for practical reasons) find it convenient to ignore the new scheme.

Meanwhile restriction on Tongan immigration has just meant other illegal immigrants take their jobs. Clive Edwards, in 'Temporary Emigration', (a paper presented to the Tonga Council of Churches Seminar on Land Tenure and Migration), said in September 1975: 'While it is true that (the present economic situation) has some effect it is also noticeable that a significant number of Fijian citizens, in New Zealand on three month visitors' permits, are being employed in factories previously occupied by Tongan workers. There is a decline in the number of Tongan workers in Auckland and an increase in the number of nationals from other countries strictly on 'visit' being employed. Employers are finding this more convenient.'

Scheme bombing out miserably

In practice the scheme is failing - one woman in the first group of five women working under the scheme for an Auckland factory earned for the first four months of the scheme:-

Table 2

	Tax	Main Deductions	Take Home Pay
Total \$943.41	154.59	420.09	373.00
(per week)	58.96	9.66	23.31
.....out of this \$23.21 the woman had to buy food, clothing, bus fares, and small luxuries such as cigarettes			
	Take Home Pay	food/clothing	Leaving Net
Total	\$373.00	296.00	77.00
Per week	23.31	18.50	4.81
.....for the full six months that the woman worked here			
Total earnings	\$1607.10		
Tax deductions	259.51		
Employer's deductions	526.89		
Take home pay	806.35		
Less food and clothing	444.00		
Less non-essentials	362.35		

Her holiday pay, tax and superannuation rebate amounted to \$200. New Zealand's dollar is worth 70c in Tongan currency, therefore she returned to Tonga with little over on Hundred pa'anga after 6 months work. Ninety percent of it remained in New Zealand. Of that taken home, ten percent will be spent on New Zealand exports to Tonga.

Commenting on these figures, the New Zealand Minister of Immigration Mr Coleman said in a letter to the Citizens' Association for Racial Equality:-

'I accept that a longer period in New Zealand would increase the savings available, but as you are aware the present conditions of the scheme for Tongan workers was settled after long discussion with all interested parties. Six months was agreed by all as being a period of time which would enable a person to earn a reasonable amount, gain a knowledge of New Zealand and yet not be separated from home and family for an undue time. I would not like to see the overriding factor in any work scheme as the amount of earnings possible but prefer to look at the situation taking into account the acquisition of skills by the individual, the opportunity to strengthen connections with New

Zealand and the need to have such opportunities available to as many persons as possible.'

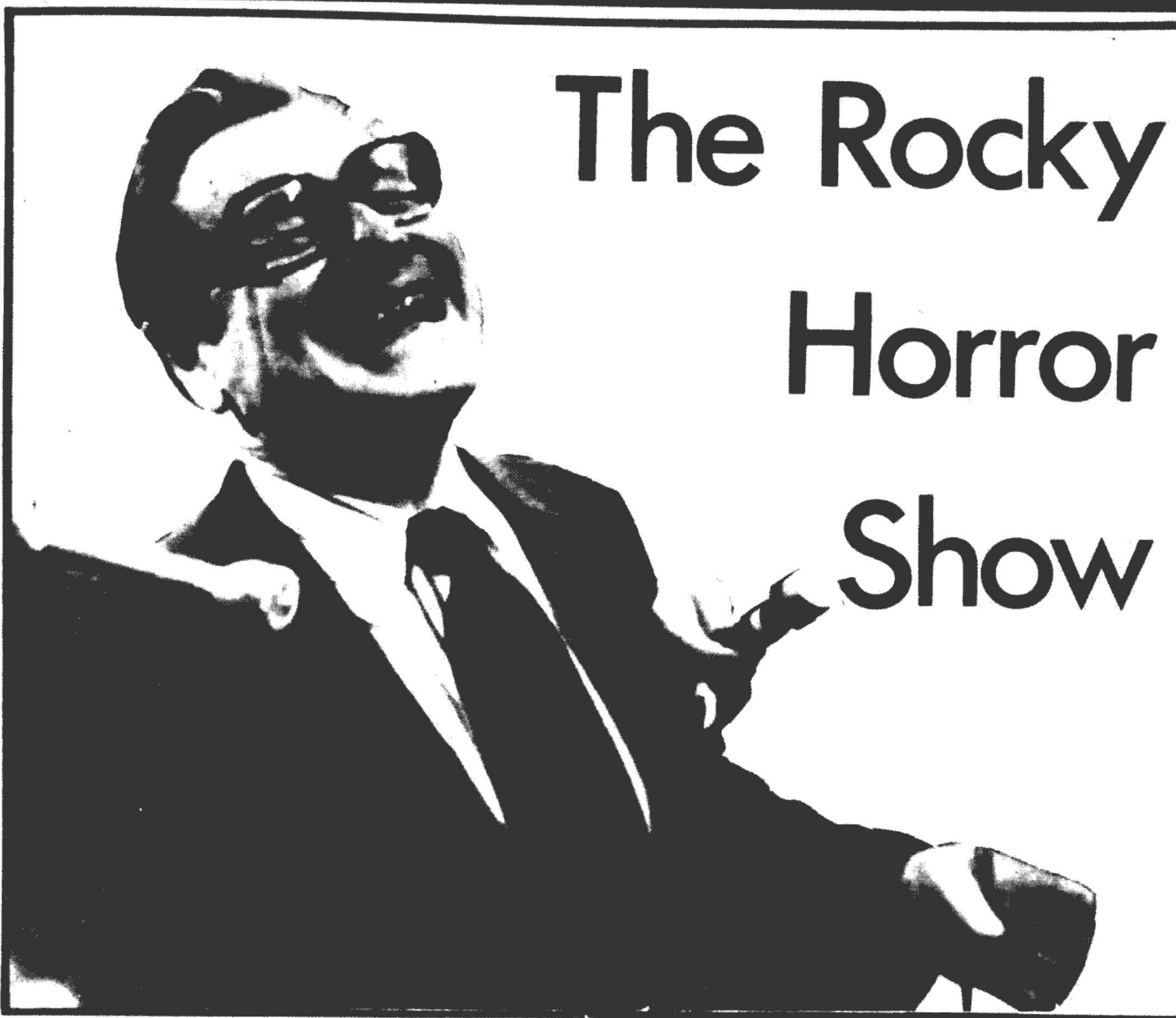
Yet the obvious reason why Tongan people come to New Zealand is so they can earn to save to build a house or secure an income from a small business when they return. The average income per annum in Tonga is little more than \$A160 per head, in New Zealand it is over \$2,000. The average wage is \$10 per week, while in New Zealand it is \$100 per week. The only acquisition of a skill these women learnt was how to live on nothing and how to sort four thousand cups a day on a moving assembly belt.

If the scheme remains unaltered it is unlikely that 'as many people as possible' will want to avail themselves of the 'opportunities' it affords. Unchanged, it will be little more than a 'cynical means disguised by grand rhetoric, to exploit the

labour resources of the Pacific if and when it suits New Zealand industry and the New Zealand economy.' (Joris deBres and Rob Campbell). It cannot be denied that some form of control over immigration is essential, if only to avoid the abuses that have accompanied the spontaneous and illegal immigrations of the past few years. At the same time, however, those controls should be exercised to the mutual advantage of Tonga and New Zealand, and not solely in the interest of one (and incidently the richer) party.

(For more information on Tongan migration see 'Worth Their Weight in Gold' by Joris de Bres and Rob Campbell published by the Auckland Resource Centre for World Development, P.O. Box 68-185, Newton Auckland 1.)





The Rocky Horror Show

The Vice-President of U.S., Nelson Rockefeller, is shortly to visit our fair land. He will be here from April 1 to 3, in the course of a six-nation tour.

Muldoon, our beloved Prime Minister, reckons Rocky will 'reaffirm and strengthen the many links between New Zealand and the United States'.

What links does Rocky and his family have with New Zealand? They're far more than the links of a friendly ally.

Control of 'Multinationals'

The basis of the Rockefeller fortune was always the Standard Oil group of companies, controlling Esso (now Exxon), Mobil, Amoco, Marathon, etc., etc. Rocky refines well over half of the United States' oil. It is difficult to price holdings so large, but the Rockefellers' share of the industry has to be worth \$US50 billion in the United States alone.

The Rockefeller family owns a considerable amount of New Zealand business. If you buy Mobil, Atlantic or Caltex petrol, if you buy the latest Dylan album on CBS, if you fly Pan-Am or even if you typeset your newspaper (as *Salient* does) on an IBM composer, Rocky and his brothers are profiting from it.

Overseas, they've sewn up the two largest capitalist monopolies, ATT and ITT (who make, through a subsidiary, all our telephones, and who used to own Avis Rental Cars). They control the largest financial houses in the world: Chase Manhattan (3rd biggest bank); New York Trust Co. (7th); Metropolitan Life (world's second biggest insurance company); and Equitable Life (the third), and so on.

Nelson (call me King) Rockefeller

So Nelson baby isn't just junketing. He's checking up on the greatest world-wide empire (Who said Imperialism is dead?) since Alexander the Great. And isn't it surprising that the old American foreign policy seems a lot in line with what Nelson and his brothers want? Henry Kissinger, like all

but one of his recent predecessors, is a Rockefeller protege. Nelson's brother, David, heads the Council for Foreign Relations which has a very strong effect on U.S. foreign policy.

Look at recent U.S. policy. The Rockefellers had a strong investment in the Vietnam oil industry and pushed for the U.S. to get involved. They are major investors in white South Africa. They pushed for U.S. involvement in Chile when ITT and the copper mines were threatened.

Nor are they alone - U.S. foreign policy in general is well tuned to the needs of U.S. business.

Now a little more on Rocky himself, which we ripped off from across the Tasman, from the Sydney University newspaper, Honirunka.

Nelson and his brothers and sister control corporations and 'foundations' which hold assets worth over \$US220,000,000,000 (that's right, two hundred and twenty billion). Their great grandfather, William Rockefeller, actually started the ball rolling when he began marketing a cure for cancer, and the family hasn't stopped accumulating other people's money ever since.

Nelson, The Political Rodent

Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller actually comes from a long line of choice rats. His grandfather, John D. Rockefeller, turned himself into one of America's super-rich by starting the Standard Oil Company and using all the usual cut-throat methods of free enterprise to eliminate competitors and set up a monopoly.

John D. Rockefeller II, Nelson's dad, excelled himself in 1914 when he had the Colorado state militia, the U.S. National Guard and a variety of hired thugs machine gun and burn to death dozens of striking miners along with wives and families. John D. Rockefeller II certainly showed them a thing or two, and he taught all his tricks to his kids.

Nelson himself went to the exclusive Dartmouth School where it is reported that his classmates voted him 'the man most likely to succeed' - it's amazing how perceptive millionaires kids are - and after a little training in the family business he set about becoming the family's politico while his siblings continued to accumulate more and more cash.

When striking prisoners at Attica gaol in New York took hostages and asked to talk over their demands with Rocky, he responded by ordering in guardsmen and cops - who killed off 44 people, including 10 of the 30 hostages.

The Bicentennial 'Celebrations'

Apart from the Vice-President's tour, the whole U.S. Government public relations job (200th anniversary, etc.) will doubtless spark great activity by anti-imperialists all over the world. Reports from Sydney inform us that over 200 separate events are planned to promote the U.S.'s self-styled image as the world's benefactor. (Not to mention our own Hamilton, which is virtually turning itself over to the American's).

They'd have to spend a lot of money to convince the Vietnamese (or the Korean, or Cubans, or Cambodians, or Chileans) of that. But for some reason they think New Zealanders will respond well to events like the Bicentennial week celebrations in Christchurch from 2-10 April, with everything from an anti-arms play to a 'Salute to America' concert.

Actually, New Zealand is one of the few places left in the world where Rockefeller thinks he can go without much opposition to him.

He's always making silly mistakes like that. He thought that the Latin Americans would like him too, when he went on a 'fact-finding' tour in 1970.

He lost an armoured limousine in Ecuador; 20,000 special deputies in Colombia couldn't stop the rioting (many joined in); in Venezuela and Chile the governments cancelled his visit.

In Bolivia, Nelson landed at the airport but couldn't get out of the terminal (it was rioting heavily outside), so he left again after three hours.

Rockefeller Chops Art

It even happens at home, too. One is reminded of the extraordinary creativity of the famed Mexican mural painter, Diego Rivera, who was hired by Nelson himself to paint the great mural in the Rockefeller Centre in New York. (For \$26,000 fee guaranteed by contract), Rivera said he would paint a representation of American life as depicted in a sketch he showed to Rocky (sketch guaranteed by nothing). \$26,000 was a lot of money then, during the Depression.

Rivera and Rockefeller signed the contract and the Mexican started work on some newer, more inspired scenes, like Lenin addressing the revolutionary masses, and police riding down unemployed demonstrators on Wall Street, and a syphilitic girl (representing life under capitalism). Rocky fumed and ranted, but Diego waved his contract and wouldn't stop painting until he was paid in full.

U.S. business, and Rockefeller especially, play a very similar role in New Zealand to that in Latin America. It's just better disguised. More urgently, it's worth knowing that Rocky owns Con. Eddison, the U.S. nuclear power giant, that's had so many safety problems, because they make things so cheap.

So it's about time Rocky and his gang of sophisticated rip-off artists were given the bums rush. All he's here for is so the U.S. and his brothers can make more money out of us. Let's tell him to piss off!

ACTION AGAINST ROCKEFELLER

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REVIEWS

David Buxton examines the nature of Science Fiction.

An Analysis of Science Fiction

Stanislaw Lem is a Polish science-fiction writer with interests in futurology, cybernetics, philosophy and linguistics. He is an original and innovative thinker but more importantly, rigorously scientific.

All his works incorporate the method of scientific theory - a dialectical process involving theoretical oppositions, a process of critical doubt that endlessly raises new questions for each 'solution'. Lem has expanded the boundaries of SF and has shown that it is not merely a simple displacement into cosmic warps of the standard spy/thriller plot.

Most 'original' thinking in western SF involves mere elemental change (eg the effects of a particular technological deformity) or a simple rearrangement of existing possibilities into a future projection (eg modern capitalism structured like the Roman Empire).

These works remain constrained within the implicit ideological bias of Western capitalism and involve the effects of technological progress on a capitalist or quasi-capitalist future society. Lem is not concerned with progress which is assumed, but with the price of certain kinds of progress and the impossibility of a 'final solution'.

SF Ideologically Grounded

Because it refuses to deal with the 'progress' of human society in a scientific manner, most Western SF remains at the level directly opposing science - ideology. Of course, SF has adopted a vaguely materialist philosophy of history, but without dialectics, materialism leads back to the old antimony of facile optimism or cynical despair.

Philosophically and geographically, Lem belongs neither to the deterministic utopias of Russian SF or the fashionable dystopias of the West (Huxley, Orwell). Lem rejects both utopia and dystopia as false solutions because they are *static and closed systems, whereas the structure of a science is always open-ended*.

This is related to the dominance of cybernetics and information theory in Lem's novels. A social formation is always in an open relationship with its environment as opposed to a closed system which is not in an essential relation of feedback to an environment (eg the thermostat - a closed loop mechanical feedback system). The fully-open system may be capable of changing its goals (whether by accident or design) and these changes are reproducible. (An open system is such that its relationship to a supersystem is indispensable to its survival, and there is an ongoing exchange of matter-energy and information between them).

Although negative feedback is the primary and overriding control device in nature positive feedback (amplification of deviations in the direction of change) also occurs (eg a forest fire, the 'population bomb', compound interest investment etc). Positive feedback is inevitably controlled eventually by *second-order negative feedback*. Since all natural and social systems exist in entropic environments of a limited supply of 'free energy, then if they destroy their environment, they necessarily destroy themselves. If you think this is boring, try reading the book.

A system in a positive-feedback relationship to its environment (such as our present technological-industrial system in which the tendency of capital towards absolute development of the productive forces, regardless of the value and surplus value this development contains) has therefore only two possibilities available to it.

It can move on and find another supply of free matter-energy so as to delay its own demise - as capitalism has done by increased exploitation of the 'Third World'. It can 'destroy' itself by morphogenic evolution to a new stage of organisation and relation (socialism).

Ideology A Closed System

Ideology as opposed to science is a conception of a closed system, even when it is theoretically advanced (eg Keynesian economics). In all feedback systems which are stable (eg an automatic pilot) damping is essential to prevent the system from going into ever-increasing oscillations around its position of stability. But damping can only come into play if the system is already oscillatory and any given form of damping can control oscillations only between certain limits within a given closed system of organisation.

What is not included within the cybernetic model of Keynesian economics however, is that its 'stability' is dependent on unlimited expansion. Consequently the system is not closed at the boundaries supposed by Keynes. The 'expectation of profit' has no limits defined by any parameter of the systems. It is an unlimited input resulting in exponential growth. Such growth cannot be controlled by manipulation of parameters limited by the system.

So any system which envisages an artificial closure of an open system remains ideology as opposed to science. The cybernetic influence can be most directly seen in Lem in the 'Cyberiad' (1965), a collection of robotic fables, one of which, 'In Hot Pursuit of Happiness' involves the creation of a series of microscopic cybernetic 'utopias', whose parameters are limited by an input of universal ideals and ethics, but which all succumb disastrously to an accumulation of positive feedback.

Lem's pet horror, as a dialectical artist, is a claim to final, static, perfection - be it religious, the myth of 'liberalism', or pseudo-Marxism. This is obviously applicable to the Soviet Union's proclamation of the achievement of a classless society in the early 1960's. At this point, Marxism, a scientific ideology which re-introduces theoretical contradictions back into the system it seeks to explain (following the method of all sciences) collapses into mere ideology, similar in structure to other ideological structures (ie religious or liberal-democratic) with the precise function of providing a coherent world view hiding the real contradictions.

'Utopia' and 'dystopia' must inevitably be co-terminous, since all stages of the evolution of an open system are merely relative to previous and future stages of historical transformation. In 'Return from the Stars' (1951), a time-contradiction astronaut returns to a pseudo-utopian conflictless humanity, and finds it degenerating into a hedonist anti-utopia.

Irrationally-used Science Destructive

Lem's first SF novel 'The Astronauts' (1950) grew out of his concern about the destructive powers of irrationally-

used science. It features an expedition to Venus from a 21st century utopian and classless Earth. Eventually the crew discovers that intelligent life has been annihilated by nuclear warfare. The novel follows the standard Vernean adventure form, supplemented with socialist utopianism and a warning of catastrophic alternatives. Lem considers this and his earlier works to be too optimistically naive, although some would argue that this utopian naivety remains a source of creative tension even in his richest works.

Lem's most famous novel, 'Solaris' (1961) operates on several levels. The plot is built as a defective puzzle, a parable of human relations and emotions and also illustrates his central motif - the inapplicability of anthropocentric criteria and 'final solutions'.

The hero, Kelvin, is assigned to investigate strange phenomena on the planet Solaris, which is completely covered by an organic ocean - a gigantic fluid brain. In a philosophic work 'Summa Technologiae' (1964) Lem defined Intelligence as a 'second-degree homeostatic regulator able to counteract the perturbations of its environment by action based on historically acquired knowledge', and in that sense the Solaris ocean is undoubtedly an intelligent entity.

It finally reacts to the activity of a human research station by synthesizing for each scientist, a living person which it had 'read off' his deepest memory encoded in the brain cerebrosidies.

That memory is, in an obviously Freudian hypothesis, a trauma of erotic guilt. Kelvin is visited by his wife Rhexa who committed suicide after being estranged from him. The visitors, or 'Phantoms' are human, although the Ocean has constructed their albumens from neutrinos, and not from atoms. The Phantoms also have non-human traits such as a compulsion to stay near the 'source' person and super-human strength when impeded in that. They possess human emotion and self-consciousness, yet in a very subtle way, they are not quite 'human'.

Projection of Mental Models

The central motif of pretending to a final solution or total knowledge is clear. Man projects his mental models upon the universe. On Solaris, the universe obligingly materialises one projection. Looking for new worlds, man finds only mirrors, a world stranger than Solaris - his own unconscious. The astronauts become involved in a struggle, a war which takes them by surprise, in the words of Louis Althusser, a French Marxist, in a tribute to Freud;

"... a war without memoirs or memorials, the war humanity pretends it has never declared, the war it always thinks it has won in advance, simply because humanity is nothing but surviving this war - living and bearing children as culture in human culture; a war which is continually declared in each of its sons - who projected, deformed are required, each by himself in solitude and against death, to take the long forced march which makes mammiferous larvae into humans, masculine or feminine subjects" (Freud and Lacan).

Confronted with his scars and deformities of the forced battle for humanisation, Kelvin eventually wins through to a painfully gained, provisional and relative faith in science as an open-ended, 'imperfect God'. The novel implies that this resurrection is a materialist, rather than a spiritualist mystery.

The second major motif in Lem's work is the opposition between human and non-human intelligence, eg the conflict between men and the impossibility of communicating to the non-dialectical 'oneness' of the ocean plasma of Solaris. This dialectic can also be seen in another major novel, 'The Invincible' (1964) where men explore a planet and come into conflict with a form of 'dead life' which has had a cybernetic instead of biological evolution. A similar theme is present in 'Eden' (1959) in which a crew of explorers on an unknown planet struggle to understand biological and social relations among its strange intelligent species, which is devolving to a biosociological monstrosity.

In his conception of the universe, Lem merely continues the modern scientific tradition of decentralizing the 'subject' into a more complex totality, beginning when Copernicus discovered that the earth is not the 'centre of the universe'.

Since Marx, we know that man is not the 'centre' of history, that history has no 'centre', because neither man nor the social formation which gives him his identity (and deformity) can be isolated as the subject of what is a process of continual transformation. And since Freud, we know that the human subject does not have the form of an ego, centres on the 'ego', or 'consciousness' - that the human subject is decentred, constituted by an unconscious, as well as a conscious mind. Lem's universe does not always respond to human models, as human intelligence is decentralized amongst many other forms. Man is not the measure of all things, except for other men.

Lem's Scientific Tradition

Lem's scientific tradition includes most of the theoretical discoveries of modern science (eg Marx, Freud, Darwin, Einstein, Watson & Crick, cybernetics theory). This is not an arbitrary list, because although the first two are subject to ideological lapses and misunderstandings even by their own practitioners, each possesses the structure of a science - a theory and a technique (method) that make possible the transformation of its specific object (eg historical transformation, the unconscious, biological evolution etc), in a specific practice. The practice is not the absolute of the science, but the moment in which the theory comes into theoretical contact (knowledge) with its specific object.

Lem is a theoretician, and knows that nothing, even a mere work of fiction, deserves the name of science, unless a theory gives the right to it, not by mere declaration, but with true theoretical rigour. This allows Lem to yield the secrets of open possibilities with breathtaking detail.

There are many levels on which one can appreciate the rich, dense prose of Stanislaw Lem, but in a time of unaccelerated change, when some human societies are already groping their way to a new and more rational organisation of the productive forces, he reaffirms a faith in a science which relies only on man himself and the dialectics of reality, rather than the modern trend to seek final solutions in vague humanisms, mysticism and falsely profound questions about the 'nature' of man. These are questions we have no right to ask, because we are not interested in answers - only a mere 'solution' which sufficiently covers our retreat.

REVIEWS

THE MELLOW FELLOW DISSECTED

Donovan Leitch, the prototypical wandering minstrel, has quite a history. Leaving behind a heavy, hard-drinking, hard-working Glasgow background - incorporating along the way generous dollops of an image angled towards divine decadence, he became the precursor of the gentle revolution philosophy, the voice of the facet concerned with the soft and spiritual.

He was also a cardinal figure in the English rock music scene's hierarchy, the inspiration for 'Hey Jude' and even further back - pre '64 - for such luminaries as Paul Simon

'Lou's folk scene - we all influenced each other' he said during the course of an interview conducted while he was visiting Wellington.

When it's put to him that he was possibly more of an imitative trend, rather than purely innovative, he laughs and says 'Dylan, you mean'. Yes, and outside of that the Maharishi and flower power. 'Dylan did influence me, and I was...kind of...two years behind every change in this sense, because I was also two years younger.

The Beatles, the Stones and the Yardbirds were three or four years older, generally'. So it seemed he was behind, but if you look back far enough into the Beat generation, pre 1964, when it was happening, you find that Donovan and coterie had still been about four years ahead of the changes.

Archie Fisher. Who? Archie Fisher that's who. The count, the strong Scottish influence for the English folk-blues schene. As good a technician as Pentangle's Renbourne and Jansch, he taught the latter his picking as well as acting as the major seminal influence upon Donovan. He was also the first British exponent of the style know as claw-hammer. Fisher picked the blues (and the sitar) long before other English musicians work exploring the same terrain. Along with Davy Graham quadumvirate formed what Donovan calls the early people. 'Ones that were probably the only ones at the time who knew how to do it, therefore - in the line of influence - their position is very strong.'

Donovan's upbringing was initially within the old Scottish grand matriachal social structure 'After the war, granny was kicked out', and - at 10 - he was brought south to England and the structure was snapped. 'No more folk family feeling. It was kind of the south of England, and I listened, when I was 12, to Elvis, the Everlys and Holly and the English artists, Cliff Richard, Adam Faith and Billy Fury - but at 13 or 14 my consciousness was awakened, and I became more aware of folk and blues. And I'd write poems when I was younger and, I guess, round about 12, I started reading Kerouac, Zen poetry, the beat poets from both sides of the Atlantic, and listening to jazz. So, slowly, I picked up on rare music.'

He was catapulted to stardom in early 1965 with the first every residency on 'Ready Steady Go' - probably rock music's televised acme - where he functioned as a hippy troubadour who commented on the scene. 'I had a record and a following. It seems the grannies would go 'Oh, really nice', and the young kids would say 'WHO IS THAT?', because I was dressed in just denims and a guitar - and through that appeal they released a record. I sang it to people on their sets, the camera coming in real close, the 18-year-old curly headed folk singer singing the songs to them -

and that was the beginning'.

Colours was released back to capitalise on *Catch the Wind's* success and Donovan, it appeared, had the world in his pocket. Through the psychedelic phase, which hardly needs to be re-hashed, he jumped out to join up with electric musicians of the highest calibre. Surprisingly, he can't remember, he says, who played guitar on 'Hurdy Gurdy Man'. 'Yeah, I know', he replies to the question. 'I can't even remember. I think it was Jimmy Page'.

Not Mick Taylor?

'No, not Mick Taylor, because I'd never worked with him before. I think it was Jimmy. But it was all in those days when everything was happening so fast nobody really knew what was happening. I wasn't even there for the cut. The guitar player put it down. I think it was Jimmy'.

His collaboration with Jeff Beck he enjoyed. They really did only two cuts - 'Trudi' and 'Barabajagal'. And they never played live; Beck's notoriously strong ego preventing it. 'He was a bit nuts, but only because he treads a tightrope. And many artists tread tightropes. And sensitive artists, sensitive people, I've found are prone to become successful, because millions of people will open up to you, and Jeff walks a tightrope, and he explodes now and again. Just as Brian Jones walked a tightrope, and many artists tread tightropes, and Brian's dead, and Jimi's dead and Joplin's dead. They all walked tightropes. Various degrees of accuracy every time they put their foot down. But, of course, for a few of them, the next time they put their foot down, the tightrope wasn't there'.

The *Open Road* album was also important in that it contained a specific blow at organised religion, 'Poke at the Pope', which was motivated by a general distaste of dogma in the church, and the power associated with religious bodies. Donovan considers that this power should be handed to the youth of the world. The churches as he sees them, are very powerful structures, but are completely lost as far as the Aquarian Age is concerned. 'Because they are of the Piscean Age, and they should stop. They should give it up. Give it to use. Yes, that's right. It's the end of that age and the beginning of Aquarius which means that the Pope should embrace the Dalai Lama of Tibet and the Dalai Lama should embrace him...the churches should bind together now, because there is no church any more.'

The future of the world he has a gloomy prognosis for - the music outlook he is a great deal happier about. The future will be theatre with music. The truly innovative one was Bowie, so Donovan considers him the most legitimate thing in the last five years. 'Elton is a master of disguise and he can create the Beatles sound for you and continue the tradition of Sergeant Pepper. And Alice has created also a theatrical event which is important and Bolan has created a street madness which is very clever but it seems to have been just European. It didn't become American'.

'It's difficult because we don't know one artist. Well, Elton has influenced everybody, but we don't really know one artist who has a completely original sound that is influencing everybody at the same time'. When it's suggested that some of the future lies in the hands of the singer-songwriters, he says he hopes the music continues as well.

His concerts do not follow any set format. The show begins. He gets his



guitar out, and he starts singing. He's played with bands and musicians over the years - on record, and occasionally on tour, but 'basically over the years I've been with a guitar, and I find, certainly in concert - that with a guitar there is much stronger communication than with a band. I've always been a solo artist, so in recent years I've been playing with a guitar and found it very nice'.

'I think my attitude has been accepted by the older people more than any of the other artists. I've never really been considered so revolutionary that I'm against the old, I'm not really, and - actually - my songs appeal to many older people and I can only think I'm allowed to move a little freer than the hard rock band because my attitude is a little different. I'm not out to create mayhem and chaos, which is what older people think you're going to create, when you've got an electric band. All I can say is that my attitude is not really that anti-social. I'm really a very social person. I love to help human relationships'.

'But it was important that I was singing protest. I was putting down because everybody my age at that time was feeling frustrated with society and with everything. Just at the time I became the voice. It was just one of those things'.

The question of other musicians' inter-

pretations of his material - in this instance, the Allman Brothers' 'Mountain Jam' crops up. Donovan loves it. 'I haven't been covered like Dylan and the Stones, so it was fun for me when other people did. It's nice to create something that other people can jam on.'

(His recent outings onto vinyl - 'Cosmic Wheels' and 'Essence to Essence' - had received a critical pasting. Did he think it was justified?)

'Cosmic Wheels made a charts success and was accepted very strongly. It was a feeling towards astrology and Essence to Essence was not accepted largely because people didn't know what to do with it. Both were actually before their time... yeah... I'm working now. The attitude of today I think is reflected in this new album I'm making, which puts it back. It hasn't got a name yet, but the songs are all cut. I have to finish it in early 1976 and, for me - it's the strongest Donovan feeling in many years in the sense that I think it will be accepted. But it will be accepted as the reflection of an attitude. Most of the material reflects an attitude I'm finding in my friends and associates, and the people I meet. And the attitude is that we've come to a point where we are free from the 60s in a way. We're free. We can understand the 60s and we can go on. It's a beginning concept'.

-Patrick O'Dea

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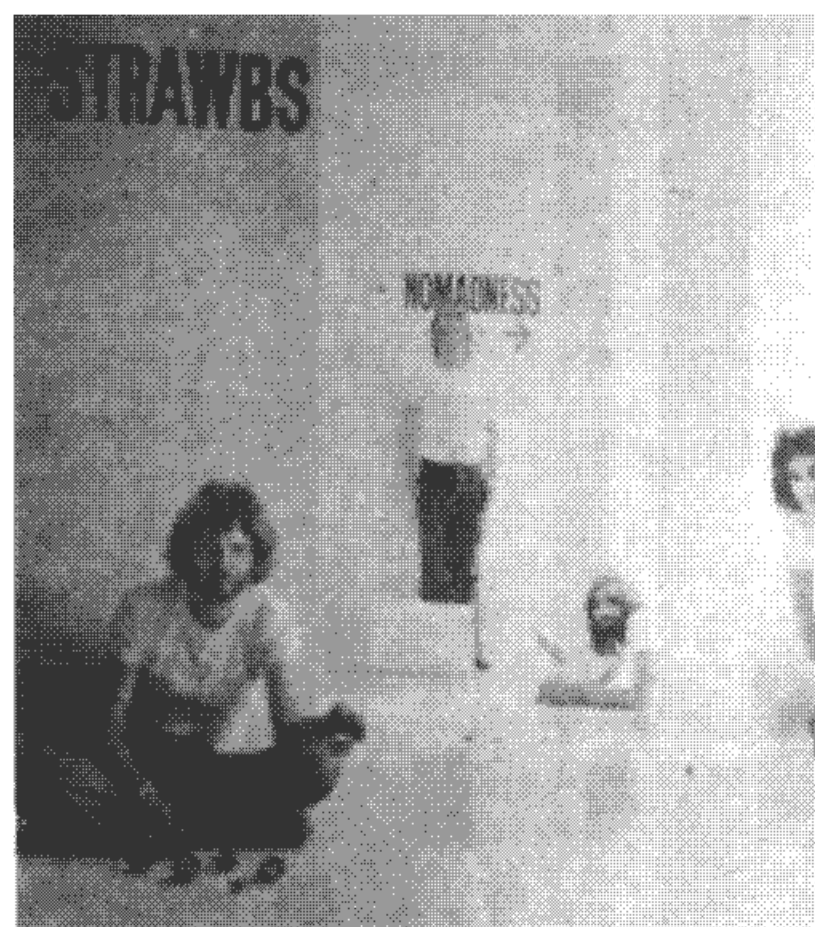
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REVIEWS

NO MADNESS :
THE STRAWBS

Anyone picking up this album and playing nothing more than the first track on side one might believe he was faced with ten examples of the Bachman-Turner style of solid, driving rock.

That would be a shame. The rest of the album is not like that at all and Strawbs fans can be reassured that the other nine songs are definitely of the more expected Strawbs style. This of course ranges from light, electric, country rock (*The Promised Land*) in Eagles fashion to very lively folk tunes (*Tokyo Rose* and *Little Sleepy*) reminiscent of Lindisfarne. In these songs, acoustic instruments replace much of the electric sound.

By way of a change, on this album there are three tracks of a style rarely found in Strawbs range. These are quiet, sentimental ballads and for me the best of the album.

All three songs are written and sung by the lead, Dave Cousins, and stand above the rest in the quest for musical excellence. 'The Golden Salamander' on

side one contains some very poignant lyrics -

'Oh Golden Salamander, you must take me as I am, I cannot change my colours, I am but a simple man'.

The other two 'Hanging in the Gallery', and 'So shall our love die?' contain similar themes and emotion.

The four members of the group are supported on this album by (and I quote from the cover) 'insanitary contributions' and 'indecent exposure' from a whole list of musicians. They include such well knowns as Tommy Eyre and Rick Wakeman.

Wakeman used to be keyboards player before leaving Strawbs for 'Yes' and now solo status. John Henderson reckons that Strawbs died when Wakeman left. Certainly they have changed, but they're not dead. Gone is the dominating influence of organ and moog, and the pace has slowed - a pattern begun on previous albums.

To replace that sound, more use is made of acoustic guitar. Keyboards, lead and bass are still very evident but they are used in a less ostentatious role. There has been no attempt to recreate the music of the Wakeman days.

The album is generally unpretentious. Emotional sentimentalism creeps through in the ballads but not to the extent that it should 'grate' with anyone. Certainly I find it very easy to listen to.

There are no great attempts made to introduce complex electronics into the production and the end result is an attractive, uncomplicated presentation.

If you like the more recent albums released by Strawbs then *NOMADNESS* will impress. Remember what I said to begin with, don't judge the whole album by track one.

- Mike Freeman

The title track begins with a simulated sound of a steam train, interesting enough if you like those kinds of stereo experiences, and progresses into an extended instrumental that has very little variation on a familiar beat. The lyrics in this track are not only meaningless but for the most part barely distinguishable.

The first track on the second side is called 'TVC 15', for a reason (please excuse my ignorance) that I have yet to distinguish, apart from the fact that TVC one-five enters the lyrics. This track is on the verge of the bubblegum music category and can be summarised as tremendously unexciting. The next track is 'Stay' (no comment as it inspires no inspiration one way or the other - strictly background music.).

The final track is 'Wild is the Wind' written by two characters calling themselves Dimitri Thomkin and Ned Washington. As I am not a music almanac dating back to who knows when, I cannot tell you where they fit into the music scene. This track is quite a beautiful love melody that has lyrics that, at a stretch, could be called poetic. There is a continuing interconnection of love, and the wind:

'Wild is the Wind' is mellow music, and strongly exemplified the feeling I have gained from this record that Bowie's music and presentation has mellowed.

No overall opinion of the record, does not lower my opinion of David Bowie and his music, but on the other hand except for a few selected tracks that was never very high anyway.

CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS? :
SUPERTRAMP
(A & M Records L-35725)

Supertramp's *Crime of the Century* was one of the best new group albums of 1975. This, their second album, has most of the elements of the first, the same five guys playing the same instruments (except Richard Davies who appears to have given up the harmonica which was so striking in 'School'). The Stacatto keyboards and urgent voices of 'Dreamer' return in 'Lady', the nice downturn of melody line of 'Asylum' is back, and the catchy clarinet playing from the last section of 'If Everyone Was Listening' can be found in 'Poor Boy'.

However, no singly instrument is played remarkably, and there is not the rich abundance of diverse sounds that made the earlier album 'great' rather than just 'nice'. For example, there's no equivalent of the amazing convergence of rhythms and indivi-

dual instrumental lines on the last part of the 'Crime of the Century' track. And not such imaginative other-instrument effects produced on the synthesiser.

Lyrics? The John Cleese-like character on the cover, reclining on deckchair beneath sun umbrella, surrounded by rain, smog, factories and general industrial murk is saying 'you needn't let this get you down', i.e. Crisis? What Crises? You can insulate yourself. That message takes the trite 'everything is OK so long as I've got you' form on 'Two of Us' and 'Poor Boy':

'The Meaning' is more original helpful: the urgent voices cry out against those who cover up their loneliness by building up their own little houses:

*'Well I just don't know the reason
Just don't know what to say
Just seems like a normal day'*

The lyrics, the slow pace, faint wailing in the background, and use of two voices one after the other as in conversation, make this a valuable expression of alienation. But again the message is 'What Crisis?'. In other words, there's no crisis - you've just got to fix your own head and life and you too can bathe in that little patch of sunshine on the front cover.

Overall, this is a 'nice' album. It will probably grow in you if you liked the stuff in *'Crime of the Century'*. But it's altogether a thinner effort - like an economy version, there's not so much music in it.

- John McBride

DAVID BOWIE :
STATION TO STATION
(RCA Victor APL1-1327)

Contrary to what might have been popular opinion Bowie's musical exploits have not yet died a natural death and hence we have *Station to Station*. As a whole this album is not a great departure from any of his previous efforts. Nevertheless there is a change in tempo throughout this album that suggests strongly that his style has begun to mellow, for reasons that, more likely than not, are commercial.

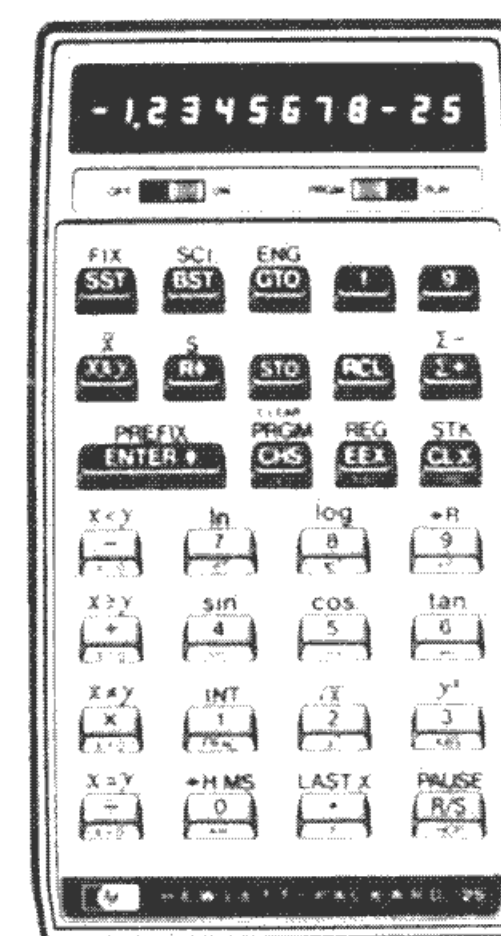
Lyricaly this album is as bad as ever with what becomes monotonous repetition in parts, and the characteristic slinging together of 'cosmic' phrases. However, in order not to deride the man's lyrics too greatly I must admit that he has the occasional poetic turn of phrase such as 'In this age of grand illusion, you walked into this life, out of my dreams.'

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REVIEWS

GALLERIES GALLERIES GALLERIES GALLERIES GALLERIES G

Three Wellington Painters; Gary Griffiths, Robert McLeod and Rob Taylor at the Elva Bett Gallery.

Don Binney at the Peter McLeavey Gallery.

Reviewed by Neil Rowe.

It is convenient to review these two exhibitions together only because they are in adjacent galleries in the same building and they both opened last week, not because of any similarity in the works exhibited nor in the policies of the two galleries. While Peter McLeavey represents established painters and is chary of opening his stable doors to new talent, Elva Bett is committed to showing the work of younger emerging painters.

Don Binney is certainly an established painter. He came to the fore in the early sixties as a member of what can almost be termed 'The Auckland School' which centred later on the Barry Lett Galleries. The current bandwagon at this time was a regionalist one.

Binney and his contemporaries, Michael Illingworth, and Michael Smither and such younger men as Brent Wong, Rick Killeen and Ian Scott were concerned with 'New Zealandness', with capturing the essence of New Zealand landscape, light and life.

They were painting in a stylistic tradition expounded earlier by Christopher Perkins in the thirties and later by Rita Angus. The use of parochial imagery was typical, as was an element of social comment and even satire.

A prevailing theme was nature's indomitable face, and the transitoriness of puny man's efforts under the looming landscape. The search for an emblem that would perfectly encapsulate the New Zealand thing was a major preoccupation.

The quest for national identity at this time was not however confined to painters. Composers also were striving for local motifs in their work, although the poets had long since given away the tui and the pohutukawa tree and were concerning themselves more with universal themes. Of the plethora of emblems invented at this time, Binney's birds and churches are probably the most successful.

RETURN TO BEGINNINGS

Birds we have in this current exhibition, Binney's first in Wellington for several years; bitterns - churches we do not. Gone is the bite and social comment. There is little development stylistically or thematically from his earlier work.

Instead these paintings turn inward. There is wry self comment in the pun when Binney, reproducing his successful



1960s formula calls the two bird paintings 'Once Bittern' and 'Twice Bittern'.

The two series exhibited here, 'Tree of many One', and 'A single field' are studies of a pohutukawa tree and a hillside that Binney sees from his window at Bethell's Beach and knows intimately. If there is no apparent growth in this show, if Binney, indeed, seems to be imitating himself, he is well aware of it. There is a strong element of self-examination in this work and, I think, a return to beginnings. The titles for these two series are taken from Wordsworth's 'Ode on Intimations of Immortality'

*But there's a Tree of many, one,
A Single Field which I have looked
upon*

*Both of them speak of something that
is gone:*

The Pansy at my feet

Doth the same tale repeat:

Whither is fled the visionary gleam?

Where is it now, the glory and the dream?

Has the 'visionary gleam' departed Don Binney? Will he join those of his contemporaries (particularly Illingworth) who seem to have painted themselves out in the sixties? Will his optimistic birds ever roar again? A sad day for New Zealand if they do not.

MAJOR TALENT ESTABLISHED

Of the three painters showing at Elva Bett's, Robert McLeod is the most mature. I have written elsewhere of McLeod's exuberant colour and paint handling, and of his stylistic affinities with the Scotsman Alan Davey and the sixties school of

British painters. McLeod is also a Scotsman, and has been criticised for failing to come to terms with his new environment. Ignoring this criticism, and well aware of the stultifying effect 'the New Zealand thing' has had on many painters and of its modishness, Robert McLeod has continued to throw brilliant colour on his canvases with gay abandon. Up until now that is.

The very large work hung here, 'The Long Way Home', represents a real breakthrough for McLeod and should silence his critics. Gone are the self-consciously childlike Alan Davey devices and the joyous colours. Instead the colours are muted landscape tones, ochre, grey and green, almost from Woolaston's palette. The composition is tight and altogether successful, no mean achievement in a work on this scale and the paint-handling is fluent.

Till now Robert McLeod has been a painter to watch. 'The Long Way Home' is his first recognisable New Zealand statement and firmly establishes him as a major talent in the local context.

EMBRYONIC STAGES

Rob Taylor is a prolific painter who is developing a highly personal style, which, I think, has yet to mature. That he is at least subconsciously aware of this is apparent from the embryo images which occur and recur in his work. His paintings

teem with organic imagery and movement and some fine gestural brushwork. There is a Francis Bacon influence here. Rob Taylor's work at its best acts as a mirror to the subconscious, but as yet it lacks structure and is frequently marred by a banal use of colour.

Gary Griffiths paints in a completely different tradition. His mentors are the American Post Painterly Abstractionists, Kenneth Noland and Gene Davis. His concern with colour and with optics come from close study of the work and writings of Josef Albers and his own painstaking research and experiment. Griffiths work is based on perceptual dynamics and colour interaction and I know of no other New Zealand painter working so effectively in this area.

It is early days yet however, as his technique is not yet up to the rigorous demands of this style of painting and does not yet match the sophistication of his concepts

There is an interesting development in the paintings exhibited here. There are two small pieces entitled 'We' and 'The Marriage and Myth and Logic'. In these paintings he has departed from his usual pulsating stripes and is painting hard-edged geometric figures on a colour field. The resulting figure ground ambiguity and the symbolic content is surprisingly successful. These paintings mark the first signs of an individual style for Gary Griffiths and bode well for his future.



BLINCOE: MAN AT THE TOP



Over the last few years students at Victoria have accused NZUSA officers of everything from revisionism and big power chauvanism, to mickeymouism. As a conciliatory gesture, Salient editor John Ryall stumbled down the hill to find out just what NZUSA's side of the story was. At the door, he met President John Blincoe, and the following is what ensued.

INTERVIEW WITH BLINCOE

Prior to your involvement in NZUSA what stimulated you to get involved in political activity and what political attitudes did you develop in the course of this involvement?

I've always had an interest in matters political and especially in student politics. Certainly one of the things that stimulated me the most was the atmosphere that characterised Victoria University in the early 1970s. I started at Victoria University as a first year student in 1970. Over the three or four years that I was there (1970-74) my own political attitudes changed very markedly, largely as the result of the exposure which I was subjected to from student debates and student organisations.

I've never been a member of a political party. None of the established political parties appeal to me, or have appealed to me. My own political position is not one which I'd claim to be very tightly defined. I suppose I would generally be described as being on the left-wing. I find no personal disagreement with the general position that NZUSA holds too.

What do you see as NZUSA's main role?

Obviously the main role of NZUSA is the same as that of a trade union, whose role is the protection and promotion of the welfare, the working conditions and the allowances of its members. But unlike most trade unions NZUSA is also in the position to take stands on wider social and political issues, both of a domestic and an international nature. It also has a role to work for the constituent associations on those things that can best be done on a national level (eg student allowances). Negotiations with Government can be best undertaken if there is a unified voice representing all university students.

How well at the moment do you think it's fulfilling that role?

It's very difficult to assess. The clearest areas in which NZUSA is fulfilling those roles is as a service organisation, with the Student Travel Bureau and the Student Arts Council. In political terms, however, it's more difficult. In relation to the bursaries campaign, had it not been for the efforts of NZUSA in conjunction with other student organisations, the last government would not have promised to introduce a Standard Tertiary Bursary, even though the system that has been introduced has been far from perfect.

On the wider social issues, NZUSA has for many years acted as a catalyst in bringing issues forward into the public eye. It has often worked closely

with other organisations and over a period attitudes and policies have changed. Students played a big role in the anti-war movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The question you have to ask is what would have happened had there been no activism on that question both in New Zealand and internationally. New Zealand would probably have become even more deeply enmeshed in Indo-China, and the United States would probably not have been as restrained as it has from attempting to smash liberation movements in other third world countries by military means.

How is NZUSA policy made and carried out?

Basically NZUSA policy is made by twice-yearly Council meetings in May and August. All of NZUSA's seven constituent associations are represented by delegates who are supposed to vote in line with decisions at general meetings, student council or SRC meetings on their own campuses. In between Councils, NZUSA is governed by the National Executive, which consists of the Presidents of the seven constituent student's associations, the Chairman of the Students Arts Council and the four elected national officers. The main responsibility for carrying out policy actually falls on those four (President, General Vice President, Education Vice-President and International Vice-President) who are elected at each August Council for the following year. They are supported by clerical staff and appointed officers.

STB Ltd has its own board of directors appointed by NZUSA council, and the Students Arts Council, which also includes some teachers colleges and technical institutes, runs independently under NZUSA's wing.

The former president of NZUSA was quoted as saying that NZUSA 'is structurally democratic but elitist in practice'. Would you agree with this?

I think it's fundamentally correct. The real problem in a student organisation as one of participation. The only way in which an organisation like this can be effective is if it is seen to have the active support of large numbers of its members. That is where the political clout of a national student organisation really lies, and it is actually quite pointless for NZUSA to try and promote policy unless it has the backing of its members. And there's no better issue to illustrate this than the issue of sporting contacts, where the only way we'll change the attitude of our government towards the sporting contacts with South Africa is if masses of people demonstrate their support. There is very little point in national officers of NZUSA making principled statements in the press about sporting contacts if when the crunch comes the membership doesn't support that position.

There is a feeling at Victoria that NZUSA is too far away from real interests of students. Do you agree with this?

There is obviously a communication problem. I don't believe the problem is nearly so great between the ordinary student and his or her constituent association. The problem really lies at a local student association level. Usually, at this level you can only get one percent of students along to a Special General Meeting. For NZUSA to be truly democratic local associations must be truly democratic, and have students taking a big part in their affairs.

One of the other problems is that NZUSA very seldom deals direct with individual student members. It deals mainly with the executive of the constituent associations. The only exceptions to this are when NZUSA officers quite often act as advocates and counsellors to individual overseas students; and a similar sort of servicing in relation to STB and SAC. One of the styles of work which the National Office is deliberately trying to develop is the campaign, where large numbers of students at local level are directly involved in a particular campaign (eg the bursaries campaign or the campaign to protect the democratic rights of Malaysian students studying in New Zealand).

What are the priorities in 1976 if NZUSA is going to become a force for change in education?

The priorities in the area of education are two: the ongoing struggle for student allowances, and the assessment struggle. Education itself is NZUSA's first priority, and in terms of personnel devoted to that area, it has an overwhelming share of the resources that are available. It has effec-

tively two out of five officers in that area alone. The trouble we have in this area is that so much of our time has to be devoted to the question of student allowances, which means that we can't put any real effort into other areas.

We were hoping that the whole question of student bursaries would have been worked out by this year, so that we would in fact have been able to devote more attention to other matters in the education field. But I'm afraid that this question is going to continue to occupy a great amount of time.

We hope that the assessment campaign will get off the ground properly this year. This is not a campaign that will be off the ground in two weeks and then can be left. It's a concerted effort to make people aware of the ideology of assessment, to make people aware of their own ability to question the means by which they are assessed, and finally to go about changing it.

What are the priorities in other areas?

In the area of welfare/accomodation we are mounting opposition to the user-pay principle with Student Health Services and have two publications under way - a legal guide for tenants, and an updated version of 'Living with Sex'. In international affairs the priorities are the mobilisation of students around the issue of sporting contact with South Africa in the form of opposition to the 1976 Rugby Tour, and the continuing struggle for the democratic rights of Malaysian students in New Zealand. In the area that is vaguely called National we will make our views known on environmental issues, especially nuclear power, and will support the struggle against foreign control in New Zealand. We will also make submissions to Parliament on the Privacy Bill, the lowering of the drinking age to 18, and on the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

One of the difficulties of NZUSA is that it has policy on a large range of things and not everything can be done at once. You've got to have priorities. Indeed one of the frustrating things with student organisations is that within the term of any elected official it is almost impossible to see any campaign through from start to finish, and sometimes you don't quite know just what your effectiveness on a particular matter has been.

Do you feel that in many of these areas students could be far more successful in pushing their case if there was a body which incorporated Training Colleges, polytechnics and universities.

If there were such a body it would have to be one where political differences could be resolved within the body, that is a national union of students. The NUS question is a touchy one that keeps bobbing up because of problems that keep arising concerning how effectively students are being represented at a national level and how well their needs are being serviced. For example, on the bursaries issue, because the bursary cases for university students and polytech students are now inseparable, if NZUSA makes some submission on behalf of university students and it is successful, polytech students are inevitably affected even though they had no part in formulating NZUSA's policy. Also because about three-quarters of student teachers are also part-time university students, NZUSA is obliged to take a pretty close interest in teacher training. In my view there would be a lot of merit in those things being put forward on a common basis, within a unified national student body.

There has been criticism in the past on the amount of money NZUSA spends on international trips and keeping up international contacts. What value do you see in this?

Most of our resources in international matters are directed to activities and campaigns within this country. They are essentially educative consciousness-raising campaigns. NZUSA's attitude towards membership of international organisations has always been a conservative one, particularly over the last five years. There is only one international student organisation that we are currently members of and that's the Asian Students' Association which we rejoined last year after a soul-searching debate, and rejoined on the basis that membership would help us to action our international policy. The percentage of the budget spent on keeping up our overseas contacts is quite small. Our most regular contact is the Australian Union of Students, with which we work closely, not only on international matters but on educational and travel matters as well.



'GET STUFFED'

THE NANKING

Over the next few issues I will be doing a few cheap Chinese eating houses around Wellington. In general, the Chinese style of cookery, its ingredients, and the social structure of the Chinese community in New Zealand makes Chinese food good value for students. In other words they are cheap because families provide the labour, they use only small amounts of meat, and they do not seem to need expensive premises to attract custom.

The Nanking is a case in point. They offer a fare of 75 different dishes ranging in price from \$1.30 to \$2.85. The first rule of thumb in choosing a Chinese restaurant (got this off my Chinese dentist) is to look and see if there are any Chinese eating there. This test was passed in this case. We went there for lunch and chose the following:

Roast Pork Chow Mein. \$1.85 (a reasonably dry noodle dish)

Pan Fried Steak and Fried Rice. \$2.00

Won Tons. \$1.00 (a side dish)

Both dishes arrived within a few minutes, and both were piping hot. This is crucial if you are to try and use chopsticks as they slow down the eating time considerably.

The chow mein is a noodle dish with a variety of steamed vegetables and roasted pork, thinly sliced and laid over the top of the noodles. Cabbage predominated with cauli, silver beet, peas and beans. All ingredients were hot, beautifully cooked and a delight to taste. The only reservation here was that both the peas and beans were frozen, and this is a time when most greens are as cheap as they are going to be.

The rice dish contained all the ingredients of the chow mein, substituting rice for noodles and beef for pork, and had in addition egg pieces and bean sprouts. All this was pan fried and again no complaints except for the frozen veges.

The won tons were a taste sensation (to coin a phrase) they are small pieces of pork enveloped in a thin crisp batter, and covered in a glutinous sweet and sour sauce. I have often suspected that the 'pork pieces' in the won tons are in fact bits of chippolata but I don't care if they are.....they are beautiful.

The service here is always quick and unusually cheerful and helpful. Don't hesitate to express your ignorance as to what the dish might contain. I believe that they are genuinely pleased to help.

The decor: Very basic. Formica and vinyl and old; but very clean. Not the place for an evening out but good for an individual feed or group meal.

I've never seen grog consumed there so p'haps not B.Y.O.

My suggestion would be always to ask for chopsticks, and never order the same dish for two people. The best way to eat at the Nanking is for everyone to order a different type of dish and then all to share a bit of everything. The chopsticks slow the whole eating procedure down and encourage conviviality. If the dishes are hot then you can take your time and will enjoy the meal a whole lot more.

For a hot drink you have the choice of tea, coffee or Chinese tea. Remember to specify black tea or coffee if that's what you want as they have a bad habit of assuming milk is wanted and the cup arriving with it in.

To sum up, a very pleasant meal, tasty, well cooked and cheap. The one disappointment was the frozen veges. I don't necessarily think it's the best cheap Chinese eating house in Wellington but it is one that I am happy to recommend to my friends and to you.

Name: NANKING
Type: Chinese dishes and fried European stuff (chips/steak etc)
Price: \$1.30 to \$2.45
Where: Willis Street, a few doors up from the St George corner.
Rating: *****

KEY

- ***** All things considered - price/type of place etc. I would go again and encourage my friends to as well.
- **** Enjoyed the meal - worth a look if you like that sort of thing.
- *** Unmemorable or mediocre.
- ** Remembered with specific complaints.
- * If you ask me.....avoid it.

— Robert Lithgow

Let me help you make a little money go a whole lot further

If you need a little help and advice on how to make your money go further while you're at varsity, see Richard Starke at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ. Richard knows the sort of money problems you're going to be involved with as a student, and he'll be pleased to give you all the assistance and advice that's possible. Apart from the BNZ services like cheque and savings accounts, free automatic savings facility, the Nationwide Account, travellers' cheques, and so on, there are two particular BNZ services that a lot of students have found very useful:



BNZ Educational Loans

The great thing about these is their flexibility. You can take one out for a few days, to tide you over a rough spot till the end of term, or you can borrow on the long term and plan things out over the years you're at varsity.

BNZ Consulting Service

Free, helpful advice on practically any financial matter, from people who understand money and how it works. And just by the way, there's another good reason for banking with the Bank of New Zealand, it's the only trading bank wholly owned by the people of New Zealand. Call at the BNZ on-campus office and fix up a time for a chat with Richard Starke or phone him direct at the BNZ Wellington Branch, Cnr Lambton and Customhouse Quays. Phone 725-099 ext 702.



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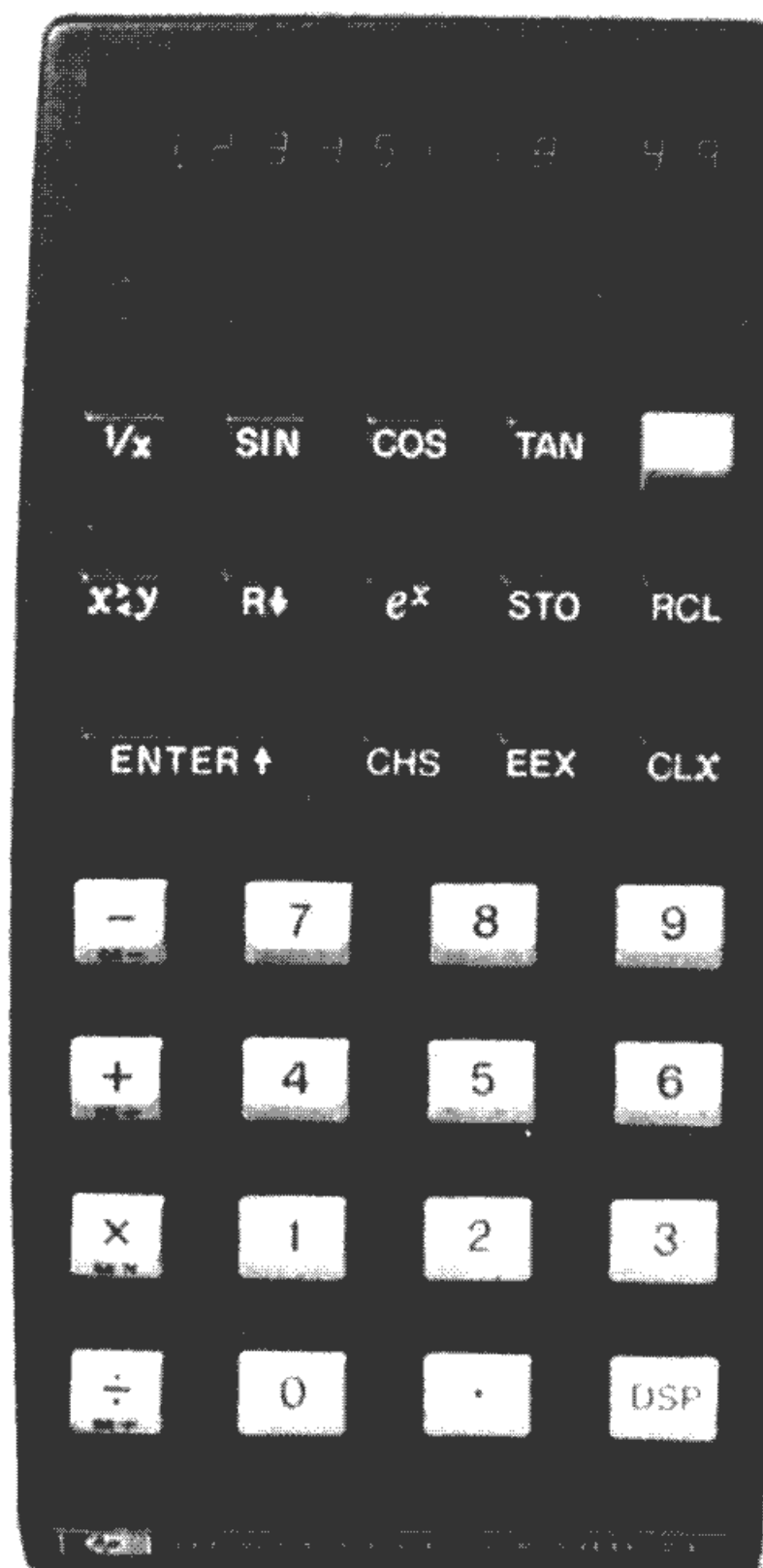
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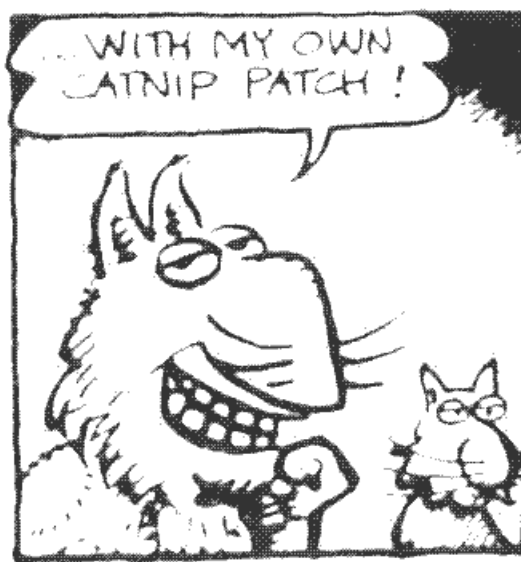
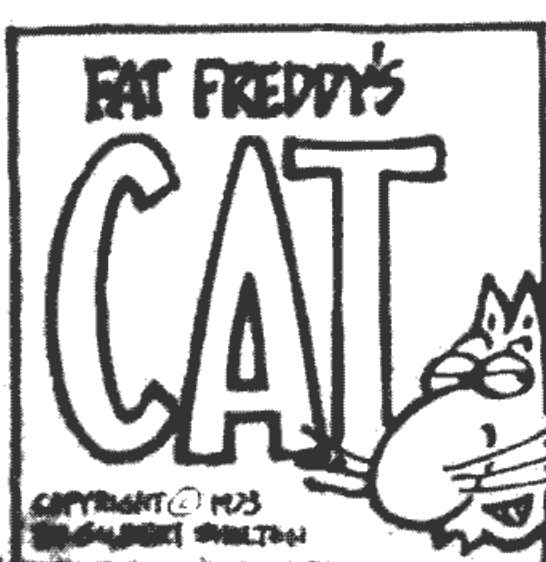
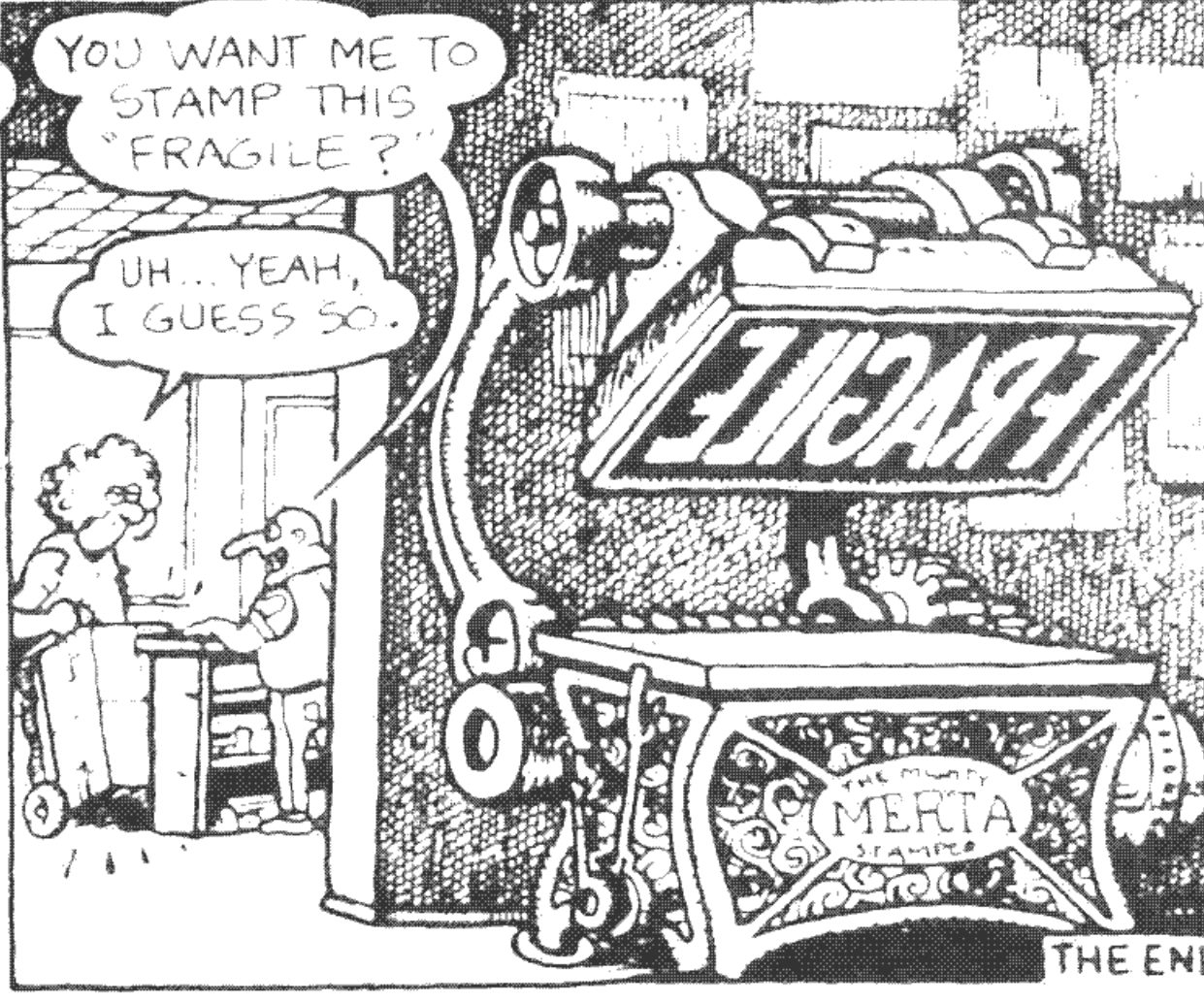
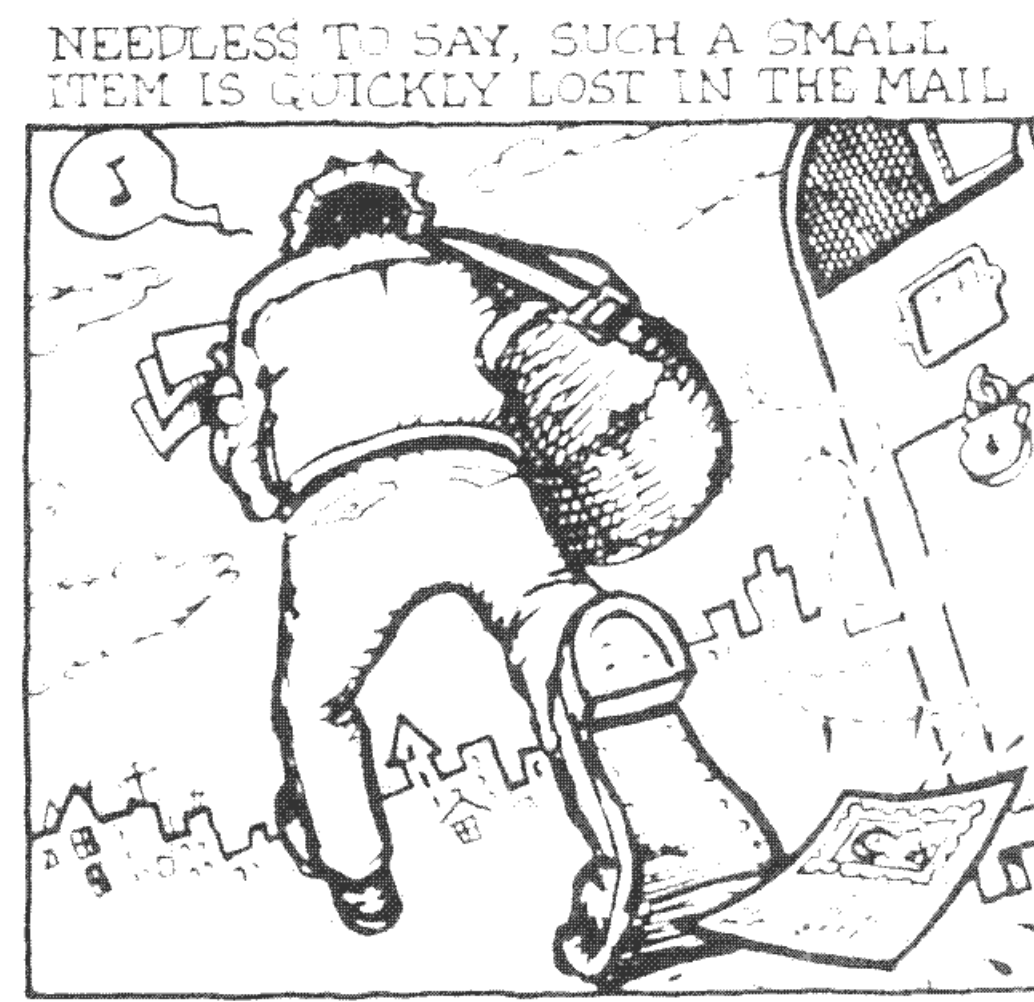
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Letters

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

Executive Defined

Dear Sir,

I want to offer the executive a bit of free advice. There are students at this place who strongly disagree with decisions that you are making. That is their right, and you should not fall into the trap of feeling it is your duty to cling to executive decisions as though they come from heaven.

If students vote to alter or overturn an executive decision or vote to condemn an executive act, then it is not your job to feel personally slighted and to justify at every possible opportunity your point of view. As elected representatives of our power you work for us. That's what a political position is for; that's what you are.

— Robert Lithgow.

Karori has a HART

Dear John,

As a result of our observations of the nonchalant attitude of Karori residents, a small group of students have endeavoured to start a new Karori branch of HART with the aim of discussing and sharing views on apartheid and generally trying to create an awareness of the facts upon the people of Karori. We shall also be working in with the national office.

Our next move is to show the film 'Last Grave at Dimbaza' at Helen Lowry Hall. The date and time shall be advertised well in advance of screening. All those who are concerned enough to participate in such a branch may contact us by ringing: 768-913.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Barnes,
Co-ordinator,
Karori branch of HART.

Mugleton Muddled

Dear John,

Even if you sit still its amazing what information you pick up. Even in the last week I inadvertently discovered that the nasty cat who spilled the beans on his associates who like Social Democracy, is none other than a respected and long standing member of one of the language departments.

Though I shouldn't be expected to find out all the information it is not unreasonable to expect that by next week I'll know more precisely who it is.

I also wish my protest to be registered that you allowed to be published a cruel and hurtful parody on my name penned by some obscure Transalvanian tramp. No more of it.

Yours sincerely,

Z.K. Mugleton-Spoffin.

Shot in Educ III

Who is responsible for allocating lecture rooms? Or better still, who is responsible for allocating lecture rooms which can hold only a restricted number of people and then not restricting the size of the class? All those people who find it difficult to take notes and listen to the shining wit of the lecturers, even when seated at a desk, must surely feel sorry for those 20-30 people forced to sit on the floor of Education III, twice a week.

Yes, many lectures may be a waste of valuable recreation time, but surely if the University is primarily a place of study, we should be encouraged to attend, not encouraged to sit in the sun and get by by reading your text book.

But I am beginning to wonder whether this University is a place to further your education or an institution designed to

churn out a specified number of arts and science graduates each year.

If it is the latter than I have no complaints about people sitting on the floor, about the lecturer's actively encouraging students not to turn up and telling them that they could easily pass the exams just by reading the prescribed texts.

I would have no complaints about tutorials being postponed because of lack of finance to pay wages. For if V.U. exists to produce graduates and the conditions for study restrict that then the situation can be remedied by making exams easier and thus still producing the right number of graduates.

But I believe that a University is a place to further your education and I demand that the choice of whether or not you achieve this should be yours and should not be governed by the fact that there are too few seats for too many or by the financial positions of the various departments.

— Greg Devine

Ticket for Tucker

Dear John,

Having only one hour for lunch between lectures on that ill-fated Thursday afternoon, I raced into line at Ye Olde Cafeteria, money in hand, keen and eager to purchase my delicious meal ticket.

Finally with only three minutes to go till my next lecture, and still nowhere nearer my food, desperation told me there was only one choice left: eat my meal ticket! Prepared for the worst, I bit into my meal ticket, liberally charged with free salt and vinegar.

And what a treat! Pulp prepared to perfection - ink aromatically blended - a feast fit to rival Des Britten's gourmet! Never before in the field of human consumption has so little been consumed so rapidly by so few.

Might I humbly suggest to the Cafeteria Powers-that-be that they sell only tickets, and scrap the crap.

Yours ergonomically,

Not any bloody flavour, is it?

O.C.F. Infiltrates M.S.A.

Dear Sir,

I noticed that the 'sketch' presented by the M.S.A. during the M.S.A. orientation night (5/3/76) had definitely smacked overwhelmingly of religious flavour. Although I am not a fervent Christian, I could still detect the unmistakable resemblances of that so-called sketch to the 'Prodigal Son' parable in the Christian Scriptures. Surely such obvious resemblances could not be due to mere coincidence; especially when the whole abortive farce had been produced, directed and acted by the current leading members of the Overseas Christian Fellowship (O.C.F.) movement.

For this reason, I would like to express my criticism at the executive committee of M.S.A. for allowing and encouraging the practice of such fanatical religious propaganda spreading through the M.S.A.

One should bear in mind that the M.S.A. exists only by consent of its members. One must also not forget the objectives of the M.S.A. as a source of assistance to, and as a representative image of Malaysian students in Wellington.

I see such unnecessary and unsubtle religious preachings as the effort of certain ex-members of the M.S.A. executive committee in using the association to further their selfish aims. They need and indeed, ought not to assume that since their preachings are consistent with their Christian beliefs, it is automatically rendered acceptable to all. If they are using the M.S.A. as a vehicle to advance their vested in-

terests, no matter what they turn out to be they are still guilty of being selfish and irresponsible.

During the election campaign of M.S.A. last year, the current president had unequivocally promised M.S.A. members that if he were elected he would not tolerate any religious-flavoured activities as representative of the organisation. How much is his promise worth, I wonder? What he has now done is in essence, a symbolical stab in the back to all M.S.A. members who have faith in him.

At this point some vital questions could be raised,

1. Can we interpret this pro-religious attitude of the M.S.A. executive committee as a forerunner to a cunning and diabolical (or godly) scheme to merge the M.S.A. with the O.C.F. movement?
2. Is the M.S.A. executive committee just a victim of sly manipulation of some individuals outside (or inside) the committee?

Therefore, to all responsible M.S.A. members, I would like to say **THINK ABOUT IT!**

Yours faithfully,

M.S.A. Member.

Editor Attacked (again)

Dear John,

In your article entitled 'Editorial Raves' (aptly named in this instance I feel) you make criticism of certain constitutional experts 'many of them prominent comrades from the Student Teachers' Assoc.'

I have never been much of a fan of student (teacher or university) journalism and the nature of your article heavily reinforces that prejudice.

In the first instance it is of no consequence that these people were members of some other organisation. We were at the S.G.M. in our capacity as members of VUWSA and we spoke and voted in that capacity and no other.

Your article suggests some kind of conspiracy on our part to upset the procedures of the SGM. In fact the very opposite occurred. We were upset by the procedure (or lack of it) of the meeting.

Your article suggests that our constitutional wrangling was out of order. It becomes clear that you have not yet left your schoolboy days and realised that you are no longer playing esoteric games. The decisions you make in SGMs and suchlike meetings influence the academic, and often the financial and social lives of the people on whom your decisions impinge.

The whole object of a constitution is to ensure that procedures are observed which will protect the rights of each individual member to have her/his say and to have equal influence, with all other individuals in the decision making process. Where those constitutional provisions are not observed there is a very real danger that those rights will be violated (whether intentionally violated or not makes no difference to the outcome).

Gyles had no right whatsoever to be in the chair under the circumstances. The reason I protested is that I observed three separate instances of individual's speaking or procedural rights being violated by him. That he did not do so with mal-intent I do not question, I have the utmost faith in Gyles' integrity. Nevertheless these people were denied the rights they purchased with their membership fees. If that doesn't bother them then that is fine, I suppose. But in those instances I am prompted to speak out from the fear that the next member who is deprived of their rights may be me.

Further to this the whole issue under discussion was one concerning a person's rights which had allegedly been violated by the Exec.

In respect of this constitutional matter alone we have the instances of a violation of the constitution in itself; a number of violations of member's rights under the constitution; and an exhibition of ignorance of the constitution by the person - the chairman - who is supposed to be the learned and trusted arbiter of constitutional questions in the meeting context.

This ignorance was further revealed in Gyles' later handling of matters of procedure which were damned important.

Your suggestion that we attempted to block democracy through red tape is completely unfair. Insofar as democratic procedure is that which is embodied in the constitution the meeting was in fact undemocratic. It was also undemocratic in fact as well - as is evidenced by the incidents I cited above. I am not terribly happy with constitutional arbitration of democracy but until our schools and social institutions teach us to unselfishly pursue a point of argument for the benefit of the collectivity rather than

for the benefit of ourselves, as is now the case, I will continue to put my faith in the procedures laid down by constitutions.

If these procedures are known and followed then they do not hinder but in fact expedite democracy.

Comments such as yours throw us right back into the capitalist doctrine of the 'survival of the fittest', and to the wolves with the rest.' Well friend I am not for that and that is not for me and if you expect me to stand mute while that reality is practiced or promulgated then TOUGH.

— Alex Purves
(VUWSA Member).

Birth Notices not accepted

Dear Sir,

I don't know whether or not you accept birth notices but here's one anyway on the off chance that it won't be lost by yourself or one of your cronies:

BORN to Mary, Mother of God, fathered by the Holy Spirit (who happens to be of an ethnic minority) a daughter. Many thanks to doctors, nurses, shepherds, Wise men and the plastic surgeon who made sure that Mary still appears to be undefiled.

— Kevin Phillip Bong.

Henderson's mate retaliates

Dear Sir,

I was thoroughly disenchanted by Gary Henderson's expedient and thoughtless article on the SGM held to dismiss the Exec.

While I have never held Gary's journalistic abilities in any esteem at all, this jumble of turgid and completely distorted phrases seems to have taken the cake. I appreciate the fact that *Salient* serves the purpose of entertaining as well as informing. I am not prepared to accept articles that not only fail to provide one unbiased fact but which come perilously close to sending the readers to sleep.

His writing style is undistinctive, academic, and boring and acts more as a political soporific than a forum for free thought and discussion. His political line has always been wishy washy in the extreme and seems to have taken a turn to the right. While his idolatry of those whom he THINKS are in power would be laughable had he not been so serious.

To describe Tony Wards rave as 'one of the most well presented arguments I've heard!' shows a total disregard for the fundamental principles of rational thought. Gary seems to either miss or ignore the fact that while Mr Wards arguments may have appeared logical in the extreme it is difficult to convince an intelligent man of the validity of an argument when the premises upon which it is based are not only false but have no substance in reality at all. I was never totally convinced of the adequacy of Gary's intellectual abilities - this report has shown him up to be the blabbering moron that he is.

Gary's second most blatant failure is his report of the speech made by John Henderson, his namesake who prefers not to know him. Totally ignoring the fact that the speech made by John in that meeting was the best he had ever made in his life, and seeming unwitting (sic) of the fact that at no stage did John try to logically disprove any of Tony's arguments (John assumed that the audience had picked up the fact that all Mr Ward's arguments were based on totally unrealistic grounds - Gary obviously didn't but I suppose we must take pity on the intellectually weak), Gary decided that John was motivated by some 'vague principle' and left it at that. Putting aside for a moment the fact that Gary wouldn't be able to recognise a principle if he saw one he has still been guilty of saying or implying something without offering (and obviously having) the slightest reason for doing so.

In mine, and most other's opinion, John said more in his thirty seconds than Tony did in his ten minutes. It is easier to argue from a position of ethics than it is to do from a position of expediency. And it is pretty obvious just which side Gary supported.

There are several other examples of Gary's partiality and incompetence in that article - those I leave for you to find for yourself. Suffice it to say that I am getting rather sick of this variety of reporting and that I am pleased to see that the editor of *Salient* is trying to get away from it.

I suggest that if you want to preserve that image you sack Gary Henderson and his cronies and give forum reports to someone who has the integrity to report the facts and not their idealised and warped version of the facts. Keep up the good work and keep telling us things as they are.

— James V. Watson.