

Are we the Meat in the Borthwicks' Sandwich?

— by David Tripe

Photo of Gear meatworks

One of the big news stories over the last couple of weeks has been the proposal by Thos. Borthwick & Sons A'asia to take over the the Gear Meat Company of Petone. Borthwicks is a world giant of the meat trade, while Gear owns one freezing works only. Thus it looks like a straightforward case of a large meat company taking over a small one, as part of what the Prime Minister describes as a rationalisation process.

But the process is not nearly as simple as that, and there seems to be some confusion as to what is, in fact happening. It is probably fair to say that a good deal of the confusion has been generated by the plethora of statements from the two companies, from farmers, freezing workers, local MPs, cabinet ministers, and even the stock exchange, and this article attempts to sort through all this, and explain some of the background of this current series of events.

The Participants — Gear:

Gear Meat is an ordinary New Zealand public company, which has been established at Petone for nearly a century. There are lots of small shareholders, and so there is no one dominant group.

In the earlier days of Gear's operations at Petone, the pattern of the export meat trade in the Southern part of the North Island was somewhat different from what it is now. The Wellington urban area was not as developed, and therefore, because of the lesser local demand for meat and the greater supply of land on which to produce it, there was much more export killing to be done in the immediate vicinity of Wellington. With the passage of time, these factors have altered, and now the demand for stock-killing facilities is comparatively much greater in the Hawkes Bay, the Wairarapa, the Manawatu, and at Wanganui.

The effect of this process has already been demonstrated in recent years. In 1973, despite the best efforts of the local freezing workers union, Swifts (NZ) Ltd, the local subsidiary of Deltac International, a multinational company based in Chicago which operates freezing works throughout the world, closed down their freezing works at Ngauranga, in Wellington. It is very likely that, if Borthwicks buy up Gear, the operations of that freezing works at Petone will also come to an end.

Borthwicks:

Borthwicks are a very different sort of company to Gear. For the first hundred years or so of their existence, they operated as a family firm, and during this time, in addition to acquiring freezing works in New Zealand, they developed investments in Australia, the Americas, and Britain. Last year, however, they went public on the London Stock Exchange, and launched a massive expansion programme.

A major component of Borthwicks' New Zealand investment has been three freezing works that they have owned in the Southern part of the North Island. These are at Waitara (just out of New Plymouth), at Fielding, and at Waingawa (Masterton). Then, on 11 February of this year, the management of Borthwicks and that of another British-owned company, the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), announced a merger of their North Island operations to form a company called Borthwick Longburn Ltd. This brought the CWS freezing works at Longburn (just out of Palmerston North) under the Borthwicks umbrella, and gave that company 78% of the North Island stock-killing capacity, South of the line from Wanganui to Hastings.

These, then, are the companies involved in the merger proposal. If the merger goes ahead, Borthwicks will have a total monopoly of stock-killing in the Southern part of the North Island.

Developments in the Meat Industry:

Up until about ten years ago, a trend had been evident in the meat industry for the total amount of stock-killing capacity to decline, an effect brought about by steadily increasing productivity in the industry. In the last few years, however, this trend has been reversed, as the killing process has had to be slowed up to allow for the procedures which have had to be imposed to keep in step with hygiene requirements imposed by the United States and, more recently, the E.E.C - Therefore, instead of the demand for stock-slaughtering capacity decreasing, the desired number of freezing works is now starting to increase again.

Last year, the government set up the Meat Industry Authority to consider applications for new freezing

works, and it is currently sitting to consider two applications for the construction of a new freezing works in Central Hawkes Bay. These applications, by the Hawkes Bay Farmers Meat Co. for a works at Takapau, and by the Pacific Freezing Co. for a works at Dannevirke, both reflect the pattern of growth referred to above, in respect of the reasons for the close-down of Swifts' works at Ngauranga. It is also proper to note that both of these applications have been supported by Gear, who want access to more killing facilities in the area, and who have negotiated one chain at each works for their own use.

On the other hand, both of these applications have been opposed by Borthwicks, who would obviously have something to lose from the competition that they would encounter for stock in that area, should either of the applications be successful. Furthermore, they have already announced plans to add two killing chains to their Waingawa works, and one to the works at Longburn, plans which would obviously be jeopardised if there were to be a new freezing works in the region. It is therefore highly likely that, at least in part, one reason for Borthwicks announcement of their intention to take over Gear is a desire to demonstrate their own ability to achieve a successful rationalisation of stock-killing in the area, and to achieve the necessary increases in capacity, and so to stymie the two applications for new freezing works.

A Further Question:

One thing that the newspaper reports to date have made quite clear is that, before Gear could be taken over by Borthwicks, approval would have to be obtained from the Minister of Agriculture, who would be advised by the Meat Industry Authority and the Meat Board, and from the Minister of Finance, who would be advised by the Overseas Investment Commission. But, presuming that the management of Borthwicks is not stupid, it is reasonable to conject that they have already had in principle approval from the respective ministers that their application would succeed. This is obviously the case with the Minister of Finance, for Mr Muldoon has said that he knew of the proposal in advance, and that he supports it as a step towards the rationalisation of the meat industry.

This raises the very important question of how we are to be protected from monopoly and foreign control in our principal export industry, by the occurrence of such takeovers, when the Ministers who presumably protect us can be so effectively lobbied to support *[unclear: th]* these monopolies.

What This All Means For New Zealand

In order to understand how this process all fits in together, we have to understand something of the current position of the New Zealand economy, and of Borthwicks, and of the relationship between the two. And we should also have due regard for the importance of the frozen meat industry to our daily lives, because of the important role played by meat in this country's export trade.

The current situation of Borthwicks is that they are engaged in a massive expansion programme. The New Zealand Herald, quoting the London Financial Times, has accounted for this as a process which was necessary if Borthwicks "was to keep profits moving a-head in a tough trading outlook". The same article continued, again in relation to profits: "The Times agreed, and said that full-year figures might not be much more than \$NZ 1.78 million above last year's \$NZ 14.5 million". This would mean a total profit for Borthwicks of \$NZ 16 million, or greater; which is in excess of \$5 for every man, woman, and child in the country.

When he first commented on the takeover proposal, the Prime Minister said that he supported increased British involvement in our meat industry for two basic reasons. One reason was that British companies had strong reasons to ensure that New Zealand meat continued to go to Britain, because they had to sell it, while the other advantage he saw in British ownership was the political leverage that these companies had with their government. The only comment that seems necessary in relation to these is that, if we have had these benefits of British ownership in recent years, they have not done this country much good.

But this pattern of thinking has further, more serious, implications. For, essentially, throughout its history, New Zealand has been forced into a role in the international economy of being an appendage to the British agricultural system. In recent years, this pattern has altered slightly to allow for increased trade with with the United States and Japan, but we are still essentially in a position of producing one set of goods, exporting them, and then importing all the rest of our needs. This is undoubtedly a major factor in the current huge balance of payments deficit, which is a primary impact on the current economic crisis. Until we can break this bondage to foreign markets, New Zealand will not be able to develop as an independent nation with a self-reliant economy, and the extension of British control of our meat industry can only hinder such development. For, under such conditions, we are allowing the purchaser to determine the conditions of purchase.

Why We Should Oppose the Foreign Controlled Works:

It should be clear, then, that we are faced with more than just a rationalisation in the meat industry, to allow for greater efficiency, as some people depict the situation. Nor is the problem of the Gear takeover solely one that is engendered by the prospective establishment of a monopoly in the Southern part of the North Island. Nor we should oppose foreign control just because it is foreign. There is more to the problem than that.

The real concern is the pattern of New Zealand's economic relations with Britain, and with the other countries with which we trade. Will a takeover of Gear by Borthwicks suddenly give the British meat companies the necessary leverage with the British government to assure future sales of all our meat? Do we want to be always dependent on the sale of meat for our economic survival? Do we want, even further, to become auxiliary farmland for the cities of Britain, the United States, and Japan? Presuming that the answer to these questions is no, we must oppose the Borthwicks takeover of the Gear Meat Co.

Stopping the takeover will not be enough, of itself, to save us, but it can at least put us in a better position to start the struggle for an independent economy, and thence, for an independent New Zealand.

Newsheet

MONDAY 30 MAY 12-2pm Hear Henry Stubbs of the Tramways Union and George Goddard of the Wharfies Union on the Bus Strike. Union Hall. 12-2pm Women's Choice Club meeting to discuss action against the Royal Commission. All welcome. 12 noon Mass at No. 1 24 Kelburn Pde. All welcome. 8pm Smallbore rifle club every Monday night at Royal Tiger Range Mt Albert., All Welcome. First shot free. TUESDAY 31 MAY 2.15pm Union films: "Brother sun. Sister Moon" Memorial theatre. 3pm Faculty Reps meeting. Boardroom. 5-7pm Scottish Country Dancing — Union Hall. Come and see how its done — everybody welcome. 5pm Students Against Imperialism. Meeting: (1) Action against Borthwicks takeover bid for Gear Meat. (2) Action on July 4th against US Embassy social. (3) Fishing campaign goes on. (4) Organising social for next week. 5.30pm Cultural Affairs Council meeting for allocation of 1977 Grants. All clubs are allowed two reps and there must be at least one present if their grant is to be processed at this stage. Boardroom (1st floor union building). 8pm Hear Kevin Smith give an illustrated talk on "The Rahrates last stand". Supper and beech I eaves will be available. Memorial theatre foyer. WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 1pm Staff/student relations — a discussion organised by Teaching Research Centre. Hunter 107. 1pm Mass: RB 819. 2.15pm Union films: "The Three Musketeers" Memorial theatre. 5-10.30pm Sociology staff/student wine and stein and get-together. 5.30pm Sports Council: El action of 2 members to the committee of Sports Council: Election of 2 a sport budget. Notification of Sport Club liaison officer. Each club has two votes. 7.30-8.30pm Hang Gliding A.G.M. to reform the club — new members welcome. 8.30pm Debate: English Dept vs Law faculty. Lounge, Carlton Hotel. Admission \$1. Supper provided. THURSDAY 2 JUNE 12-2pm Young Socialists literature table. Main foyer. 5pm Union films: "Mash". Memorial Theatre. 5.05pm Catholic Society weekly mass and tea, followed by discussion Lounge, Ramsey House, 36 Kelburn House. 6pm Second in a series of public lectures on different aspects of Maori society. Tennis pavilion. This week: Mere Te Awa on women in Maori Society. Everybody very welcome. 8pm Young Socialists' Discussion: Socialists and the independent feminist movement — all welcome. Lounge. FRIDAY 3 JUNE 12 noon Bob Scott: "Social Science students as community activists". A Pol. Sci. Soc. lecture. Memorial Theatre. WEEKEND 3-5 JUNE Wellington Folk Festival '77. Student Union Building. 7pm onwards Friday. 10am - midnight Saturday and Sunday. Folk dancing workshops, concerts etc. etc. Register on Friday night in Lounge/Smoking Room. Any club can put notices in new sheet. Deadline is 12 noon Thursday in the Students Association Office. No late notices accepted.

The Great Divider

Reality is What Society Says it is

The Report of the Royal Commission on Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion could well be given the above subtitle. It illustrates the muddled thinking of a document characterized by an odd mixture of morality and expediency. A few examples may illustrate the point

Sitting the Facts

The Report states, "we say that the status of the unborn child is the cornerstone of the abortion argument". (p.180) Proceeding from this it goes on to say, "From a biological point of view there is no argument as to when

life begins. Evidence was given to us by eminent scientists from all over the world. None of them suggested that human life begins at any time other than at conception", (p.184) This is explained later on, "life begins at conception changes which take place in the unborn child are of a developmental nature only. There are no changes of a qualitative nature ... There is no point between implantation and birth to be accepted as the one at which the status of the unborn child is changed", (p. 190) As if to reinforce this point the Report later states, "All the witnesses who gave evidence before us were agreed that life begins at conception, and pregnancy at implantation".

Drawing Conclusions

So far, so good. But then the Report begins to become ambiguous. Having stated the facts of the situation clearly it then comes to an extraordinary conclusion: "One can debate at great length, but to no profit, whether an unborn child is a human being or a potential human being". (p. 189) We may well wonder how that conclusion follows from the facts as previously stated. The Report has its own way around that ambiguity. It differentiates between rights and status. Rights are inherent. Status is something which is defined by law. Rights are acknowledged: status is conferred. The Report, with only one exception, distinguishes between the rights of the mother and the status of the child.

Slavery as an Analogy

This method of argument, which sets aside clearly stated facts, implies that reality is what society, or the law, says it is. Two centuries ago society, and the law, regarded it as self-evident that a slave was a chattel, not a person.

Following the Report's line of argument it would be valid to conclude that the slave is in fact not a person, or, at best, that the personhood of the slave is something which one can debate at length to no profit. The US Supreme Court in the last century used a similar argument in the famous Dred Scott case. The Court held that although a negro was a human being, he was not a person in the eyes of the law. Society did not accord him that status. The Report endorses this argument: "any consideration of the moral issues of abortion must hinge primarily on the value which society places on unborn life", (p. 198) Hitler would have loved that argument. He had definite opinions on the status of Jews in a Nazi society.

Fetal Experiment

To add a further twist to its inconsistency the Report adopts a policy on fetal experiment which defines the fetus as the human embryo from conception to deliver (p.321) and regards as criminal any deliberate or reckless injury to it, except abortion (p.322). In other words, you may not deliberately or recklessly injure the fetus, unless of course you kill it.

The Basis of Decision

It shouldn't be a matter of surprise that the Report is illogical and inconsistent. You've got to expect that when the criteria it uses for evaluating right and wrong are themselves ambiguous. The Report speaks about endeavouring "to balance human needs and human distress with philosophy and scientific fact", (p.51) That seems fair enough, if somewhat woolly. But when we see how it is applied, it takes on a different character. Two examples will illustrate this. The first, on p. 118, deals with sterilisation, the Report states, "If society accepts the right of a couple to plan their family size, then sterilisation as the most effective means of birth control and family planning should be accepted". The Report is saying that if the objective is desirable, then the means for achieving it are also desirable. The means derive their justification from the end in view; they do not require justification in themselves. In other words, the end justifies the means. Think of how that idea would apply in war. The second example is on p.211, where the Report admits fetal defect as a ground for abortion. It turns to the argument against this advanced by those who say there is no logical reason why, if this ground is admitted, anyone should exclude euthanasia for the infirm. The Report says that it appreciates the concern of these people, but then blandly ignores the logic of their point, saying, "in the minds of most people there is a clear line of distinction between abortion for fetal defect and the practice of euthanasia". The significant point here is that the Report does not question the logic of the argument. It says that if most people don't see anything wrong with something, then it isn't wrong. This is the divine right of 51%, or, in plainer language, might is right. James K. Baxter had a point when he said that the new philosophy is fascism without the name.

Further Contradictions

When it comes to the specific question of what legislation should be enacted about abortion, the inconsistencies multiply. For example, the Report states that one of the factors to be taken into account in drawing up legislation on abortion is "existing scientific and biological knowledge" (p.267), some of which has already been referred to in this article. It goes on to add, on p.268, that "The genetic uniqueness and individuality of the unborn child and the control it exerts over its environment are now accepted as scientific facts. It seems to us that it would be somewhat ironic if the protection which the law afforded to the fetus when the genesis of life was only partly understood were now to be removed or reduced". Having made this clear statement of principle the Report goes on to contradict it on the opposite page (p.269). There it uses the term "potential life" in regard to the fetus, despite the scientific evidence that the Report has itself brought forward to show that it is actual life, not potential. The specific provisions which it then proposes as a future abortion law offer to the unborn child a protection which is less than that which was accorded to it when the genesis of life was only partly understood.

Woolnough Again

In another peculiar inconsistency, the Report uses the phrase "serious danger to the life of the pregnant woman" in its proposed law (p.283), despite its lengthy quotation from Mr Justice Chilwell in the Woolnough case about the difficulty of defining what "serious danger" means (cf. pp. 141-142). The Report doesn't just make mistakes; it repeats them.

Inconsistencies and ambiguities abound in this Report. I believe that it will solve nothing and please no one. It could not be otherwise when the Commission interposed compromise between clearly stated facts and the law relating to them.

— Fr. Owen O'Sullivan

Protestors call for repeal of abortion laws at Parliament.

Pumpkin Pie is Pudding

Tuck

"While few New Zealand adults are lacking in carbohydrates, this recipe for pumpkin pie is included, as last week's pumpkin bread recipe was to emphasise the different ways vegetables can be used."

Line a greased pie dish with short-crust pastry, made by sifting 8oz of flour and ¼ teaspoon of salt into a bowl; rub in 4oz of butter or margarine with the fingertips until the flour and fat mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs.

Add 1 teaspoon of baking powder, and mix to a very stiff dough. With a little cold water — too much water will make the pastry tough.

Roll the pastry lightly until it is ½ inch thick. Handle the pastry as little as possible.

Take:

- *1 cup of pumpkin pulp, made from steamed skinned pumpkin, with its seeds and stringy portions removed.*
- *1 egg.*
- *1 dessertspoon of flour.*
- *½ cup milk.*
- *¼ teaspoon cinnamon.*
- *1 dessertspoon golden syrup ½ teaspoon salt.*
- *Pinch of ground ginger, and nutmeg.*
- *2 tablespoons sugar.*

Rub the cooked pumpkin through a sieve. Beat the egg and combine with the remaining ingredients. Mix all thoroughly with the pumpkin.

Pour mixture into the pie dish lined with the pastry. Bake 40 minutes at 400°F, gas 7, until set and golden brown, and a clean knife inserted halfway between the middle of the pie and the rim comes out clean.

Helen Corrigan

let me help you make a little money go a whole lot further II 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 II 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. BANK OF NEW ZEALAND Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand

WELLINGTON FOLK FESTIVAL '77 Queen's Birthday Weekend 3-5 June at the Student Union Building Workshops on many aspects of folk music and folk art, an original songs competition/ concert, informal concerts, a ceilidh (folk dancing), informal music making and parties, and an incredible final concert on Sunday night. Register on Friday night (in the Lounge and Smoking Rooms) — \$6 for the whole weekend or \$2 for day and evening passes.

Salient

Official Newspaper of Victoria University of Wellington Students Assn.

New Zealand People Surveyed

The revelation that the CIA is being employed for intelligence purposes in New Zealand should not surprise anyone. Since World War II the US have used the CIA to do their dirty work in ensuring their dominance as the worlds biggest imperialist power. To make sure that American economic interests are never threatened, the CIA is sent world-wide to engage in corruption, double dealing and, in some cases, conspiracy against 'unfriendly' governments.

Muldoon claims that it is desirable to have paid agents of a 'friendly' country doing intelligence work in our country. But this is only half the story.

Over the last few years, US domination of the world has become considerably weaker. A new imperialist power has rapidly been making large strides to fill the vacuum.

New Zealand is one of the countries that the US knows it can rely on. We have been firmly ensconced in the American camp since WW II. The US, for all intents and purposes, would like to keep it that way. In short, it needs all the friends it can get.

Many people think that the US would not dare to interfere' in the domestic political affairs of New Zealand. However, in Australia the CIA has been shown to have played a part in the Canberra coup, and there is a body of opinion which credits the CIA with the financing of the cartoons which were so effective in publicising the policies of the National Party in the 1975 elections.

The tragic events in Chile, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic have taught the world that the 'friendliness' which the US shows towards nations tends to turn sour when the people in those countries attempt to gain some say in their own affairs.

It would be misleading to think that the only American agents in New Zealand are those of the CIA. The New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and intelligence personnel from Britain, France and Australia, as Muldoon himself points out, collude with the CIA and act as their local agents in New Zealand. SIS activity is considerable in New Zealand at present and is likely to increase with an expansion of personnel and power. Last week the Government announced that it was introducing legislation to enable it to legally tap anyone's phone. The implications of this are considerable.

Although much of the SIS effort is diverted in the telephonic communications sphere already, the legalisation of tapping is a further indication that the present Government has scant regard for the civil rights of citizens and is concerned only about the rights of the monopolies and big business whom they serve.

Both the SIS and the CIA work hard to counter progressive movements in New Zealand and would not be afraid to interfere in our domestic affairs if the 'need' arose.

The SIS and the CIA work actively to continue our dependence upon the western imperialist bloc. That dependence is firmly fixed by our economic subservience to the big powers. Muldoon's ineffectual rantings against the oil exploration companies showed this.

Superpower dirty tricks as practised by the CIA (and the KGB agents in New Zealand) are aimed at keeping up superpower hegemony over nations such as New Zealand. Kicking out the CIA and disbanding the SIS are important steps in the struggle of New Zealanders to control their own destinies free of outside interference.

Salient Notes

After the great Salient staff meeting had taken place (only the second of its kind in recent history), a new air of unity and co-operation breezed through the dim passages of the Salient offices. Moving toward with great purpose, carefully avoiding both left and right deviations, were Rose Collins, Lamorna Rogers, Lynette Shum, Jane Wilcox (no relation to Vic), Rire Scotney, and our Hong Hong correspondent. Sue Cairney. The middle ranks of mainly old hands consisted of Gyles Beckford, Bruce Robinson, a certain Salamanca Rd person, Peter Franks, Lisa Saksen, Patrick (carry me by my hands and feet) O'Dea, and David Tripe. Bringing up the rear were the faithful Eugene Doyle, Simon Wilson, Chris Norman, Rod James, Jimmy Greenoff and all the others who are momentarily lost to memory. A big thank you to all those who got us through the week without disaster - Meg Bailey, Sylvia Godard, Carolyn Bowman and Kathy Moody. Someone said that David Murray edited the paper but we're having that one checked out.

PS. Tom Duggan gets the paper up here on Mondays and Mike Stephens occasionally gets some advertising for us (for which we are truly grateful).

Salient is published by Victoria University of Wellington Students Association and printed by Wanganui Newspapers, Drews Ave, Wanganui.

President

—Lindy Cassidy.

Angel holding a sword

May 1977 and still no sign of a bursary increase. For the government and for some students the question of bursaries seems a non-issue. But for the majority of students, especially those flatting or living in hostels, the bursary issue is very real.

It is easy to exaggerate the plight of the "poor student" who regularly eats jelly meat and wears patchwork clothes. But there is no need to exaggerate — the facts speak for themselves. At Victoria this year, two thousand, nine hundred and fifty-six students receive a standard tertiary bursary — under half of the student population. It is estimated that of this figure one thousand eight hundred and sixty students receive the abated rate of \$13 and one thousand, one hundred students receive the unabated rate of \$24.

These figures were set in 1975 when the S.T.B. was first introduced and have not been adjusted to take into account cost-of-living increases. In 1976 the S.T.B. was barely adequate. In 1977 the situation is ludicrous.

In the annual Welfare Services Report on accommodation it was reported that the basic rent for fifty percent of the places in flats and houses listed by the service was \$13 or more per week. It was almost impossible to find places in flats costing under \$10 per week.

Added to this, the consumer price index has risen in the first quarter of this year by 2.4%. Prices for food, clothing and basic textbooks have skyrocketed.

So how has this affected students?

Obviously the poorer sections of our society are not coming to University. Those students unfortunate enough not to have some financial backing behind them are having to work on a more full-time basis to maintain themselves at university. Many students have loans either from parents or friends or heavy overdrafts from their local banks.

But some students don't survive. They don't die of malnutrition — they just leave university because they can no longer afford to stay.

This is why the Students Association is concerned about a cost-of-living increase. We are angry that the government has not complied to what seems to us a reasonable request, and we want some results.

In order to publicise our situation to the government and the public we are organising a campaign centred round letter-writing, leafletting the public, radio interviews and newspaper articles, with the primary focus being a major forum with government representatives.

To achieve maximum effect we need as much support as possible. This week we're having a meeting to organise the details of the campaign.

See you there.

—Lindy Cassidy.

Bursary News

The Education Vice President of the New Zealand University Students' Association, Mr Michael Shaskey, to day suggested that the Government should "get its act in order and immediately fulfil the promises it made to students in 1975."

"The Government is thoroughly and undeniably in breach of the commitments it made to students in the 1975 campaign," Mr Shaskey said. "Since the Government took office students have seen no significant improvements in the bursary system and they are getting anxious about the absence of any changes. There have been no adjustments in bursary values to take account of increased costs, the Government has not placed technical institute students on the same relative basis as university students, and there has been no appreciable progress with the Government's review of the Standard Tertiary Bursary."

Mr Shaskey stated that all of these commitments were given by the National Party "freely and without coercion" during the 1975 General Election campaign. "However," he continued, "their subsequent lack of action makes all of their rosy promises look like a cheap vote buying ploy that they never had any intention of honouring."

Mr Shaskey explained that students were having real difficulty in making ends meet and the longer the Government dragged its feet the longer students would have to make do with nothing extra.

"The only thing they have done is to convene a conference on tertiary bursaries in December 1976," he stated. "The conference made recommendations for immediate interim improvements in the bursary system, pending the outcome of the complete review. The Government has ignored these recommendations and has done nothing to get the review itself moving. Students are gravely worried, and their worry is founded on a reasonable fear that the Government will do nothing. They have done nothing yet," Mr Shaskey concluded.

Native Forest Action Council

Public Meeting, Memorial Theatre, 8pm, Tuesday 31 May. All welcome.

There will be a meeting of the Cultural Affairs Committee in the Board Room on Tuesday 31 May at 5.30pm.

Clubs who have tendered Grant Applications are asked to attend.

Sports Council S.G.M.

Wednesday 1 June, 5.30, Union Hall. Every student pays \$2 to Sports Council. Refreshments provided.

Judge smoking a pipe

SGM — Once more with feeling

Same game, different name. They call it an S.G.M. this week, but they may as well have entitled it "The Young and the Restless — Vic. Style", as those present were treated to emotion in every form except throbbing violins.

The meeting really began with the election of Sue Hanna to the recently vacated position of Woman Vice President. She expressed concern at the lack of student involvement on campus, due possibly to very demanding workloads and lack of finance, and stated equal opportunities for women (perhaps appropriately timed, in the light of the subsequent tone of the meeting) as one of her objectives as W.V.P.

Faculty Reps Elected

There then followed yet another attempt to complete the episode entitled: "Your Faculty Needs You!" Thanks to the abundant propaganda distributed by the Thorndon Apathy League, the majority of those present decided their faculty needed them like a dose of constipated prosophilia. Eight brave souls (approximately) (approximately eight and approximately brave) fought viscerously through the press of eager bodies, and emerged battered, bruised but egos intact — duly elected to the exalted mystical realms of Faculty Reps.

Despite the overwhelming success of its advertising campaign, the I.A.I. could point out that there are still at least three positions vacant, (on the Language and Literature Faculty) but it probably won't bother and "Wanted: Faculty Reps!" will become as regular a feature of S.R.C.s S.G.M.'S, B.U.M's, (oops: who said that?) as frustrated aviators with itchy fingers who haven't heard of the paper shortage. (That Was a mouthful, wasn't it?)

Now we must not be flippant for we come to the high point of this week's attempt at a meeting — the

abortion issue.

It was thanks to a successful procedural motion, "that item 6 be discussed before item 3," that abortion was discussed so lengthily, or even discussed at all.

Item 6, moved: Shields/Evans

- "That this Association calls for the repeal of all abortion laws and believes that abortion should be a woman's right to choose."
- "That this Association gives support to the Women's National Abortion Action Campaign."

Reform or Repeal?

Joan Shields spoke to her motion saying it called for repeal rather than reform because existing reform policy was messy. At present, the policy provides for women wanting abortions, jointly with their doctors to make the decision whether the abortion will take place. This policy may have implied that women couldn't make up their own minds as to their own rights, and that since doctors were often hostile to the idea of abortion, they should not have a say in a decision in which their only involvement was a subjective opinion.

There followed a cry which some might call emotive, which was to become characteristic of future opponents of the motion. The view expressed in the motion was "selfish" and a mother had a "responsibility" to "her unborn child"; life was an "ongoing process" and it was "totally irresponsible" to deny that life.

In an attempt to illustrate his desire for democracy, Gerard Winter announced his intention, if Item 6 parts "a" and "b" were passed, to foreshadow a motion calling for a General University Ballot on the abortion question. He believed that every student should have a say, since the issue was so important. He also spoke to part "b", demanding to know how the Young Socialists could both announce their active support for W.O.N.A.A.C., and claim that W.O.N.A.A.C was "apolitical". Lindy Cassidy answered the first part of Gerard Winter's argument by saying that since it was an S.G.M., all motions to be discussed at the meeting had to be lodged a certain time before the actual meeting, so he would be unable to put his foreshadowed motion before the meeting.

Bruce Robinson claimed that the Commission's report would make already restrictive legislation more vicious (for example, forcing, as the result of a court order, handicapped people into compulsory sterilisation, as is proposed in the Report) and force many women into back street abortions. This Association was to continue the fight against that which was being offered to us as "Abortion Law Reform", and to re-affirm our support for the Coalition Against the Abortion Laws.

A Call for Reality

Those against the motion and debating "When does life begin?" were accused, of being "Ivory-tower Intellectuals" by Gerard Couper, very fervent and obviously fully recovered from last week. There was, in his opinion, no point in debating the question of when life begins, for the problem still exists, and while the debate continues, people suffer.

Speaking time was limited to one minute, which did nothing to deter the number or the fervor of the speakers. Numerous aspects of basically the same views were put forward by each side, with nothing really original emerging and debate going repetitively round in circles.

God Ineligible to Vote

Just before the motion was put to the vote, however, one rather extreme, but much applauded view was expressed condemning the gall of Catholics. "God spoke to the Pope and told the Pope he didn't like abortions. So the Pope spoke to the people and told the people he didn't want them to have abortions. So now the Catholics tell everyone else they shouldn't have abortions."

Voting was extremely close. The first vote on Part "a" was 115-112 in favour of the motion, but owing to the closeness, another vote was held, this time in the form of a head count. Part "a" was eventually carried, 135-130 while part "b" was lost.

To summarise the abortion argument is difficult but it was basically centred on two main points: When does life begin? and whose responsibility and right is it to decide whether a fetus shall be aborted. There was a view expressed that those two questions could never be convincingly resolved. Because of the nature of the questions and because each individual has her/his opinion, all answers by necessity would be subjective.

— Rire Scotney

Hall divides for voting on abortion motion.

NZUSA in business

The commercial arm of NZUSA arose from the entry into travel by what is now Student Travel Bureau Ltd. STB Ltd was wholly owned by NZUSA and operated from each university campus. Early in 1976 it was felt that there was a need for a corporate structure that would facilitate the expansion of NZUSA in its commercial activities. As a result, May Council 1976 approved the formation of a holding company. This company is called Student Services Holdings Ltd. It is 100% owned by NZUSA which transferred its shares in STB Ltd to the new holding company (SSH Ltd).

The Board of SSH is comprised of the Managing Director, the President of NZUSA and four student directors, elected by NZUSA May and August Councils. The board would appoint from amongst its numbers directors to sit on the boards subsidiaries.

The way was now clear for the Board of SSH to investigate the viability of commercial activities other than travel that had been suggested by constituents of NZUSA. Two proposals were forthcoming in 1976, a promotions company (to take over the big tours from NZSAC), and a printing company. Both these proposals were rejected by May Council 1977.

Instinctive Impulses

Several years ago five campuses subscribed to a company called Instinctive Impulses Ltd (II Ltd) which published a cultural paper, New Argot. Publication of this paper ceased three years ago and the board of SSH Ltd made an offer to the shareholders for their share in II Ltd. As a result II Ltd became a subsidiary of SSH Ltd in late 1976. Its activity today has been confined to the publication of the Assessment booklet and one other small booklet.

The commercial arm has provided, in one way and another, subsidies for NZUSA e.g. if there were no commercial activities NZUSA would not be able to support the hiring of a Xerox machine. At May Council 1977 it was decided that these subsidies should be withdrawn and that NZUSA should become separate from and not dependent on the commercial arm. It is essential that the activities of the commercial arm strengthen rather than weaken NZUSA and that should there be a downturn in the viability of SSH Ltd and subsidiaries it should not be able to jeopardise NZUSA Inc. As a result of this withdrawal of subsidies and the extra cost of running a national office the Levy for NZUSA Inc. for 1978 will be \$2 up from \$1.60 last year.

A New Directive

At May Council 1977 several important changes were made with respect to SSH Ltd.

The company's aims have changed so that in the course of its activities it 'provides goals and services to the members of NZUSA and that where possible these be at a lower cost than otherwise available and that they contribute to the strength of NZUSA'.

While we would like to have complete ownership of any new venture, the board has been given authority to allow minority shareholders as long as SSH Ltd has the majority.

The directors may also set charges for the services provided by the commercial arm at such levels as they see fit to maintain a profit level sufficient to ensure the long term viability of the companies. This is a departure from present thinking that profit was to be avoided but is now necessary due to the effects of inflation of working capital and the problems of under capitalisation.

Should NZUSA be engaged in commercial activities? I believe that the answer can only be yes. University students represent a lot of dollars and through companies owned by NZUSA can use their collective buying power to secure lower prices and better deals.

Where to now?

The Directives of SSH have been collectively charged with the duty of presenting a report to each May and August Council on the future direction of SSH Ltd and its subsidiaries, and that specific proposals together with financial viability reports be presented for discussion. May Council this year asked that the Board of STB Ltd negotiate reduced fares, through the ISIC card on suburban and national rail transport. Should this objective be achieved many Victoria students will make considerable savings on the transport costs. It is also likely that a dental health insurance scheme will be put forward at August Council this year.

If you have any suggestions as to how and where the commercial arm can expand in a way that will benefit students and feel that you have the qualifications to serve as a director (there is one vacancy on the Board,

unite to the Managing Director, Student Services Holdings Ltd, P.O. Box 9047. Wellington.
— Steve Underwood

Arts-AGM

Arts Council is not a body most students are familiar with, but it does manage to swallow 45c of each students Students Association Fee. Last weekend I trooped along to the A.G.M. of Arts Council at which the main issue was its financial viability.

The meeting was opened by guest speakers Andrew Drummond and Nicholas Spiller from the Wellington Art Gallery. Their ideas were representative of some constituents who felt that the main role of The New Zealand Students Arts Council (NZSAC Inc.) was to further "the arts" and that financial controls on Arts Council would hinder such activity.

This view was opposed to the attitudes expressed at NZUSA May Council and at this meeting by Massey and Victoria who felt Arts Council should be subject to financial restrictions since it bears both a financial and cultural responsibility to its student members.

The two different approaches clashed many times and eventually Victoria proposed some constitutional amendments that would have ensured more democratic representation in Arts Council and greater financial control.

Victoria felt the issue of financial control was particularly important not only in the light of Arts Council past financial record which is very poor, but more particularly concerning two Arts Council activities this year both of which lost money despite the fact that it resolved this year to engage in low-cost campus-orientated activities.

Unfortunately the constitutional changes proposed by Victoria to guard against such losses — the setting up of a Financial sub-committee composed of all the treasurers from each constituent and the treasurer of N.Z.S.A.C. Inc. — was not voted upon because such changes require a month's notice.

There will now be a postal ballot to decide it. Victoria's other proposal for constitutional change — a management sub-committee to provide direct political representation for its constituents and thus make Arts Council more democratic was withdrawn without being voted on.

Debate also centred round the policy of Arts Council — which is now incorporated — which means it is separate from NZUSA. Although it could be a powerful political organisation the new Arts Council — NZSAC Inc. has no policy basis for this.

On the second day of the meeting discussion centred round Arts Festival which needs a large influx of student support to ensure its success. The budgeted number of student registrations is 2,500 and an incredibly astounding range of activities are proposed, covering all aspects of the arts.

— Lindy Cassidy

Cartoon of a jester stretching their legs

The Crisis, Rt Hon R. Muldoon

The short term has been dominated by the urgent need to restore economic solvency and stability through policies which do not at the same time increase social distress or tensions.

It would have been possible to quickly reduce the massive budget and balance of payments deficits and the disastrous rate of price inflation which the Government inherited in December 1975, by economic policies which led to a serious rise in unemployment, and which further increased social distress and tensions by forcing the lower income groups to carry an unfair share of the burden of economic adjustment.

Critics who claimed that such policies would be enforced by the National Government have been proved wrong. Very substantial progress has been made in resolving *economic solvency*. The budget deficit has been reduced to \$500 million (4½% GNP). The external deficit has been reduced from \$985 million (9% GNP) in year ending December 1975 to \$590 million (4½% GNP) in year ending March 1977 and is estimated to be further reduced to approximately \$400 million (3% GNP) in year ending June 1977. The rate of increase in consumer prices which peaked at 17.7% in the June quarter of 1976 has fallen to 13.7% in the March quarter 1977 and will continue to decline.

This substantial progress has been made possible through firm and well directed economic policies which have also maintained employment and business confidence and thus avoided the 5%-8% unemployment experienced in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. At the same time the reduction in real incomes, particularly after tax incomes of those on high salaries, has been very much greater than those of

wage earners whilst the real incomes of social security beneficiaries has been maintained. Real incomes from dividends have been sharply reduced. Under these circumstances there is no truth in the claim that the burden of economic adjustment has been disproportionately carried by those on low incomes. In spite of difficult economic circumstances an improvement in housing standards has been achieved since the rate of house completions has been in excess of that required by population growth — a marked contrast to the situation in the previous three years. At the same time the average price of houses and sections rose by 7% in 1976, well below the *increase in wages and salaries*. In 1973 and 1974 house and section prices rose by 34% and 33% respectively.

New Zealand's economic adjustment *is still not completed* but the *rapid* progress so far achieved, combined with the maintenance of full employment, is a remarkable achievement - and is viewed as such by overseas journalists, politicians and others who are familiar with the New Zealand situation. The major problem is inflation and with a lower rate of increase in import prices and continued restraint on incomes, a much slower rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index is possible. It is likely that the April 1977 survey will show that the increase in average weekly earnings over the year has been in excess of the rise in the Consumer Price Index. If this trend is continued the chances of achieving greater *measure of price* stability and eliminating the external deficit will be severely jeopardised.

In spite of the pressing and serious nature of short term problems, the Government has given major emphasis to long term social and economic requirements. A major objective of economic policy has been to expand export production and investment — with a considerable degree of success being achieved in farming, manufacturing forestry and fishing. If New Zealand is to improve its economic performance, and make possible full employment and a sustained improvement in living standards and in health, education and social welfare, it is vital not only to expand export production but also improve the efficiency and productivity of the public and private sectors.

One of the first actions of Government was to establish the Holmes Task Force to report on long term social and economic problems and recommend an appropriate structure for formulating and integrating policy in these areas. The establishment of the New Zealand Planning Council, together with the Commission for the Future, and consequential changes in the structure of Cabinet and Officials Committees will materially assist the development of more effective and coordinated long term economic and social policies.

However, the Government has already commenced changing the policy emphasis in a number of major social areas. For instance, a much greater emphasis on community health programme is clearly desirable. Medical spokesmen have repeatedly stated that an improvement in health does not require heavy expenditure on hospitals, expensive equipment and skilled staff — rather the need is for a change in life styles — more exercise, less alcohol, less smoking and an improved diet. It is equally clear that the present social security system does not adequately cater for many existing or emerging social needs although it largely achieves the purposes for which it was designed. The financial position of senior citizens will be markedly improved by the recently introduced National Superannuation Scheme.

In other social welfare areas the need is for a more selective range of policies. For instance, much greater emphasis on employment training and retraining facilities, and on family and individual counselling and support services — in marriage guidance, in family planning, in budgeting, and in other problem areas. These services require to be adapted to the special needs of the Maori people and the growing number of Pacific Islanders to assist them to integrate within an urban society and maintain their cultural affinities which enrich New Zealand society as a whole.

Considerable progress has already been made in developing these specialised services through a variety of structures - often with central and local Government in partnership with voluntary agencies. The next decade will almost certainly see substantial further developments along these lines which encourage local involvement, experimentation and the direction of effort into required areas — which are likely to vary substantially as between the various districts and cities.

CRISIS

Another area where significant changes are likely is in regard to worker participation. The outward or structural form of worker participation is less important than the need to ensure that employees achieve a much higher level of job satisfaction based in part on an involvement in decision making processes. Whilst much can be learned about the structures and forms of worker participation in Germany, Sweden and other countries, the need is to evolve concepts of worker participation which are relevant to New Zealand conditions.

The major problem confronting New Zealand is inflation and this will only be overcome if there is greater sense of group responsibility in pressing claims for higher incomes. If inflation can be beaten there are strong grounds for taking an optimistic view about New Zealand's future economic and social prospects. We have the resources, the skills and the opportunities — we also have, almost uniquely, a broad measure of agreement on the structure and the priorities which future economic and social policy should contain.

(We thank the Prime Minister for this contribution to Salient and invite readers' comments and criticisms - Ed)

1977 POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES Beginning this week, the Political Science Society will present to all students an "alternative lecture series" aimed at providing a close up view of practical action. Under the theme of "Forms of Political Action in New Zealand, ten speakers will present and discuss situations and themes covering much of New Zealand society. June 3 (friday) - Bob Scott - Director Wellington inner city mission "Time for Social Science students to be community activists." - to act as a resource for the community. June 10 (friday) - Mason Druckman - Chief editor: "Consumer." "The role of the press in a democracy." - suggestions for encouraging investigative journalism in New Zealand. June 17 (friday) - John Roberts - Pol's Professor V.U.W. "The work scene, future trends - is Beaurocracy fading - The individual, the public official & public policy - making. July 6 (Wednesday) Micheal Minogue - National M.P. 12.30 p.m. "Parliament." - a look at the relationship of a back bencher with the institution & the public. July 15 (friday) - Kevin Clements - Canterbury Sociologist. New Zealand as a Neocolonist in the South Pacific - making up for its overseas dependence by ripping off the S. Pacific - according to Galtungs Imperialist theory. July 22 (friday) - Ros Noonan - former Convenor IWY The Problem of Apathy, Cynicism & Apolitical behaviour - of university students in general, POLS students in particular. July 29 (friday) - Rob Steven - Canterbury Political Scientist. "The New Zealand Middle Class ft the Deepening crisis." - talking on the interests of the middle class, to which most students belong. August 5 (friday) - Rob Campbell - PSA Research Officer. "Trade Unions ft Social Action." - their place in social change. August 11 (thursday) Erich Geiringer - The good doctor "A look at the Independent Activist" - what can he achieve, the constraints on his action. All lectures will be held in the Memorial Theatre or Theatre foyer at 12 Noon.

45% Cutback in private overseas students.

Cut Overseas Troops [*unclear*: Not] Overseas Students

Latos: The Proficient Obstacle

By James T. Movick

Latos, the Language Achievement Test for Overseas Students, was devised by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER), at the request of the University Grants Committee, to measure the proficiency of foreign students in the use of the English language at the level required by universities.

Introduced in 1970 for overseas applicants to universities at entrance level, it was extended in 1972 and made compulsory for all overseas students whose mother tongue is not English who wish to enter a New Zealand university at entrance level, or a technical institute or senior high school.

The test is administered by the Universities Entrance Board (UEB) and is conducted in 16 centres overseas and 17 centres in New Zealand.

Purpose

When it originally devised the test, the NZCER saw the purpose of Latos as being both predicative and diagnostic; an aid to help in the selection of overseas student entrants, but also an aid to identifying overseas students' problem areas with a mind to providing extra training therein.

Cartoon of a robot writing at a desk

However in its 1976Latos Handbook for Candidates the UEB clearly sees the tests as being designed, not for any diagnostic purpose, but "to measure the ability of such applicants i.e. overseas students whose mother tongue is not English, to use the English language at a level that will be required for successful study at a New Zealand university."

It would therefore be correct to say that Latos is being used solely as an academic, supposedly predictive, screening test for overseas students, on top of all the other academic exams which all applicants, Kiwi and overseas, need to pass.

The Test

Latos is built out of a bank of 600 acceptable items, which bank the NZCER recommended should be extended gradually until there are enough for at least 5 independent tests of 160 items.

It is supposedly because of this limited bank that Latos is so strictly guarded, even to the extent of not

allowing the possibility of a group of educationalists, teachers and students nominated by NZUSA, to analyse the tests for us to establish, independently, its validity and usefulness.

There are four sections to the test, each of which is supposed to test different English language skills.

- Vocabulary.
- Reading Comprehension.
- Written Language.
- Listening Comprehension.

Candidates are allowed 175 minutes altogether to answer the 160 items. In 1975 the acceptable grade was raised from a 'D' - 11%, to a 'C' - 30%.

Criticisms

- Having passed N.Z.U.E., Bursary or their equivalents, such as Cambridge Higher School Certificate, it seems both unjust and unnecessary that overseas students should need to sit Latos.
- As a proficiency test, rather than a diagnostic one, Latos weighs heavily against those overseas students who have not been educated in the medium of English but who only take it as a subject. This is entirely contrary to the Government's supposed intention to allow more overseas students from such areas as the Middle East. Furthermore, as the Malaysian educational system changes to Bahasa Malaysia (Malay), it will serve to further restrict the number of Malaysian students entering New Zealand to study privately.
- As long as the test is one of current English proficiency, then New Zealand's educational aid, especially in terms of private overseas students, will necessarily be restricted to those areas where English is the medium of instruction.
- Being, as it is, based upon current English proficiency, Latos fails to take into account the potential development of the overseas student, especially those not instructed in the English medium.
- Having tested the overseas student, there is no feedback from the UEB so as to enable the overseas student to know which particular area he needs to brush up on.

Suggestions and Alternatives

- If there is a need to retain a form of language indicator such as Latos, then it should be a diagnostic process rather than a test of current proficiency.
- The possibility of establishing more summer English courses such as is undertaken by the English Language Institute at Victoria University, Wellington, should be looked at seriously so as to provide the necessary extra training, especially for those students not educated in the English medium.
- Considering that many overseas students already sit NZUE and Bursary and other English language university entrance exams, then those students who pass these, should not need to suffer the further ordeal and ignominy of a further English exam.
- In order to maintain and extend its educational aid commitment, New Zealand should perhaps look at the type and method of language courses offered by China, the USSR and the USA to foreign students who more likely than not speak not one word of the host language initially.

Conclusion

The New Zealand universities and Government should realise that in order to maintain their educational aid commitment, such restrictive screening tests such as Latos must be replaced by more diagnostic methods of English assessment.

Entry to universities, technical institutes and high schools should be based solely upon the academic qualifications of the applicant, and where overseas students sit the same or comparably acceptable exams, then there should be no need for them to sit a test such as Latos.

For those who may need it however, extra English language training courses should be offered. This serves to allow New Zealand to provide for a much wider range of overseas students, as well as avoid all the injustices and shortcomings inherent in the present system of entry, dependent upon Latos.

Clockwise from top: Students hold a demonstration in support of the Baling peasants. [unclear: De][unclear: 1974] K.L.; Eviction of Baling peasants; FRU fire teargas to disperse students seeking sanctuary inside the National Mosque; Housing; Australian troops in Malaya during [unclear: consion]1962; street peddler.

Redistribution [unclear: on] Retribution?

Restrictions imposed by the Government last year on the entry of first year private students from Malaysia have meant a drastic fall in this year's total intake of private overseas students.

The total number of first year private overseas students admitted to New Zealand universities this year has dropped by 45% - from 743 in 1976 to 407 this year, the lowest first year intake since 1967. The number of first year Malaysian students has fallen by a similar proportion from 546 last year to 293 this year.

Despite statements to the contrary these facts show that the intention behind the Government's recent policy changes is to axe private overseas student numbers.

Razak visits New Zealand

Discussions about reducing the number of private overseas students at New Zealand universities have been going on for a long time. The first public noises about overseas student cutbacks were made just after the former Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Razak visited New Zealand and Australia in October 1975.

Coming as it did against a long background of concern among students in New Zealand and Australia about Malaysian Government interference in overseas student affairs in both countries, Razak's [unclear: vis] subject of hostile demonstrations by [unclear: loerseas] students.

When Razak got [unclear: blaysia] he made a number of [unclear: statements at] the Malaysian Government would [unclear: c] number of overseas students [unclear: goin] and might even reduce these numbers [unclear: a] said the Malaysian Government [unclear: wo ol"] students' activities overseas. [unclear: Tess] Association report quoting these [unclear: is] said these decisions were partly [unclear: f] the demonstrations in New Zealand [unclear: ralia].

On the same [unclear: da eport] was published, the "Auckland Star" [unclear: icle] quoting anonymous Foreign Affairs [unclear: n] Wellington as saying that New [unclear: Zealan] already indicated to Malaysia that we will [unclear: strict] the numbers of Malaysian students the country simply because we are [unclear: becom murdered] with foreign students."

In March 1976 the of Foreign Affairs (Mr Talboys) visited [unclear: is] part of a tour of South-East Asian natiring his stay in Kuala Lumpur he [unclear: dise] proposed imposition of quotas on privats from Malaysia with the Malaysian [unclear: Foister] (Tunku Rithauddeen). As [unclear: M put] it later: "The Malaysian authorities [unclear: epted] the need for some form of control Mr Talboys' visit the New Zealand High Commission in Kuala Lumpur kept the Malaysian Government well informed of progress in the development of the NZ Government's cutbacks policy.

The question that has never been fully answered is this. Did the Malaysian Government simply accept "the need for some form of control" or did they originally suggest it?

This question becomes all the more important when it is considered that the Government's stated reasons for its new policy on private overseas students simply do not stand up to close examination.

Cutbacks Policy announced

As announced by the Minister of Immigration (Air Commodore Gill) on 11 October 1976, the main change in the Government's policy has been a decision to limit the number of private overseas students admitted in any one year to 40 percent of the total intake.

The Government decided that this policy would be carried out by reducing the Malaysian intake in 1977 to 50% of the total overseas student intake in 1975. It also decided that in 1978 the Malaysian intake would be reduced to 40% of the 1975 overall intake.

At the same time the Government announced that the countries from which private overseas students were admitted would be extended to include the Middle East. Previously these countries had been limited to member countries of the South Pacific Commission (excluding US administered territories), member countries of the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation and Bangladesh.

Mr Gill gave the following reasons for these decisions:

"Policy changes relating to the numbers of students admitted and source countries are designed to achieve a better balance, more closely related to our general overseas aid objectives, in the intake of private students and in the undoubted contribution these students make in our educational institutions. The changes will allow New Zealand's tertiary education resources to be available on a wider geographical basis."

These statements suggest that private students from Malaysia had been denying students from other countries places in New Zealand universities because of their large numbers. Malaysian students comprised 83% of the first year intake in 1976 and 78% of the total number of private overseas students at New Zealand universities last year,

But official statistics show that Malaysians have not been taking other overseas students' places. In 1976 over 90% of the applications for places in first-year courses at New Zealand universities came from Malaysians. For the same year 91 out of the 96 students who qualified for admission and were not offered a place were Malaysians.

Restrictions on South Pacific students

Another argument advanced last year for restricting entry from Malaysia was, in effect, that Malaysians were denying places that should have gone to students from the South Pacific. The Secretary of Labour stated in a letter: "It has become increasingly obvious that the vast majority of places offered to overseas students were taken by Malaysian students. This is not in keeping with our aim to give priority to the educational needs of the South Pacific."

However the fact was that by the time the Secretary of Labour made that statement new restrictions had been placed on the admission of students from the South Pacific. These restrictions were that applications from students in Fiji (the second largest national group of entrants after Malaysians) would only be accepted in exceptional circumstances for courses in Arts, Commerce and Science because these courses are available at the University of the South Pacific in Suva.

This year 114 private students from the Pacific were admitted to first year courses at New Zealand universities - a total increase of three on 1976 figures.

It is also clear that the Government's policy of allowing students to come here from the Middle East will not have the effect of making up for the cut in Malaysian numbers.

In a recent letter to NZUSA the Minister of Foreign Affairs said:

"As you know, the amended policy allows for private students from an extended geographical area to enter New Zealand universities. Arrangements are accordingly underway for the admission of private students from Iran and Iraq in 1978. It must be borne in mind, however, that because of administrative difficulties involved in building up a private student programme, especially in countries where, among other things, academic qualifications have not been assessed for comparison with our own, it will not be possible to admit a large number of Middle East students in 1978. It is expected, however, that the number will increase considerably in later years."

There is no firm evidence to support the optimistic statement made by Mr Talboys in the last sentence of that letter.

Defend University Independence

By Lisa Saksen, NZUSA President

One very disturbing thing about the Government's decision to cut back the numbers of private overseas students allowed into New Zealand has been the fact that the views of the universities have been completely ignored.

In this country universities are independent of government control although they are largely financed by public money. Under the 1961 Universities Act the Council of each University has the power "to determine each year the maximum number of overseas students who may be admitted in the following year as students to the University". And in 1970 a subcommittee of the University Grants Committee - the Overseas Students Admissions Committee - was established "for the purpose of selecting, on behalf of universities, overseas students for admission as students to the universities."

In view of these facts it could have been expected that the universities and OSAC (which is made up of the Chairman of the UGC, representatives of each university and the President of NZUSA) would, at the very least, have played a major role in formulating changes to government policy on the admission of private overseas students.

The Government and its departmental advisers took a long time working out the details of the policy which was finally announced by Mr Gill, the Minister of Immigration, in October last year. But at no stage were the universities consulted. As the Secretary of the NZ Vice-Chancellors' Committee said in a letter to NZUSA in August last year:

"The Committee has asked that you be informed that it is unable to comment on the views you express about restrictions on overseas students, because as yet, the universities have not been given any information about the matter."

Neither was OSAC consulted. Its annual meeting on 28 July 1976 was very reluctantly informed of the Government's policy changes by officials after pressure from the NZUSA representatives.

Even Mr Gill admitted that this was not a good situation. Speaking in Parliament on 21 October last year he was recorded as saying: "There had certainly been prima facie evidence that consultation with university

authorities had not been as good or as effective as it should have been."

NZUSA's opinion is that the universities, through OSAC, should be the bodies responsible for any alterations in overseas student numbers. The universities are the bodies best able to set quotas on overseas student intakes.

In the past universities have restricted the number of places available to overseas students in certain faculties because the demand for places in these faculties has exceeded the ability of the universities to accommodate all the students wanting places. NZUSA believes it is quite proper for the universities to be able to do that, even though we might disagree with them about particular decisions at particular times.

'Aid' from a Gun Barrel

The cutback in Overseas Students has been applied in New Zealand in order to restrict the numbers of Overseas Students that are able to voice just criticism of their authoritarian and corrupt governments back home.

In a more dramatic way the New Zealand, Australian and British governments together, have given military assistance for many years to the same authoritarian governments in order to smash the just struggles of the Malayan and Northern Kalimantan people in particular. New Zealand's present participation in this oppression is through its membership of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (Australia, New Zealand, U.K., Singapore and Malaysia) and the so called N.Z. Mutual Assistance programme.

New Zealand's involvement in Malaya goes back to 1921, but since 1945, when the ANZAM defence arrangements were worked out, New Zealand involvement in Malaya has increased. New Zealand gave support to the British in Malaya before 1955 in order to smash the so called "Malayan Communist Insurgency." Since 1957 when Australia and New Zealand associated themselves with the Anglo-Malayan Defence Agreement (which terminated in 1971)) and ANZUK (which terminated in 1973 and was replaced by N.Z. Forces South East Asia) stability and security for Allied interests in the area have been paramount. But the "security" that has to be protected is the extraction of the billions of dollars of profits from Malaya, North Kalimantan and Indonesia each year that goes to Allied Capitalists.

Such an attitude was summed up clearly in a Report by the United States Security Council in 1971 which said:

"The loss of Malayan and Indonesian tin and rubber would weaken the overall allied position while the unavailability to non-communist Asia of Thai and Burmese rice exports would be serious. The repercussions of communist success, would be felt beyond the confines of South East Asia."

New Zealand's justification for military involvement was put more obscurely in the 1966 Defence Review which said:

"New Zealand must be concerned with security and stability in South East Asia, for there is a communist threat in this area and the best way of countering this threat is through collective defence arrangements."

New Zealand's military involvement in South East Asia reflects our ties with and dependence on imperialism. New Zealand is partly dominated economically by foreign investment and we need to secure markets for our products overseas. Sir Keith Holyoake expressed the latter reason in a letter to the President of the United States in the early 1970's:

"Restrictive action on New Zealand exports to the United States makes it difficult for the New Zealand Government to justify to our people its alliance with the United States."

At present New Zealand, under the Five Power Defence Arrangements, provides a frigate on station for part of each year, an infantry battalion, an air transport squadron, periodic deployment of R.N.Z.A.F. strike aircraft and under the bilateral mutual assistance programme armed forces students from Malaya and Northern Kalimantan come to New Zealand. For example, 200 came in the 1975-6 period and N.Z. officers are sent to train the local regime's troops in Malaya.

The New Zealand Ministry of Defence spends at a conservative estimate \$20 million a year of the New Zealand tax payers money in order to preserve a reactionary regime in Malaya and Northern Kalimantan. By comparison an estimated \$6.1 million is spent on the education of private overseas students at New Zealand universities.

In the past there have been announcements that New Zealand troops will be in time brought home, particularly when Labour was in office. But recent events in Thailand make it highly unlikely that New Zealand will withdraw its troops from the region. In fact after discussion with Lee Kuan Yew recently Mr Muldoon said that when New Zealand troops leave Singapore they may not necessarily come home. It is possible that New Zealand and Australian troops may invade Thailand backed by Japanese and American finance and the Air defence system co-ordinated by the Five Power Defence Agreement. Articles in such papers as "The

Dominion" and "Christchurch Press" about New Zealand troops in the region may be attempts to butter up the New Zealand people so that they would support such an invasion.

We must of course oppose any military intervention in Thailand and demand the termination of the Five Power Defence Arrangement and all other forms of military aid that is intended to crush national liberation struggles.

PINTA KERJAAN PETURUN HARGA-BARANG DENGAN SEGERA.

Hisham's Case

Hishamuddin Rais, former Secretary General of the now banned National Union of Malaysian Students, was arrested by the Australian Commonwealth Police on 16 January 1977.

In Malaysia Hishamuddin led the struggle of students and peasants in 1974 against the Malaysian Government's decision to demolish the squatter township of Tasek Utara and build luxury housing in its place. In this struggle the students and peasants exposed the truth of Malaysian society so that the antagonisms inherent in it were based not on racial differences but on economic deprivation.

During the Tasek Utara struggle, Hishamuddin was arrested, allegedly for obstructing a police officer and jailed. He was released one week later on bail.

Following his release Hishamuddin became involved in the Baling hunger strike. Most of the people of Baling are rubber-tappers who can find no work during the rainy season. According to student sources the people of Baling were "literally at the brink of starvation, surviving on tapioca leaves and roots . . . Petitions to the authorities could not draw any sympathy. This leaves the Baling people the next alternative — mass demonstrations."

On 19 and 20 November 1974 about 100 hungry people held a peaceful demonstration and on 21 November some 12,000 peasants took to the streets. Tear gas was fired into the crowds as the Malaysian Government took fright in the face of the largest demonstration since the early days of the anti-colonial movement.

Students played a leading role in communicating the news of the demonstrations (the government had imposed a press blackout) and in rallying support for the people of Baling. On 2 December students from colleges and universities across West Malaysia staged demonstrations. The largest of these with 10,000 participants, took place in Kuala Lumpur.

The police cruelly suppressed this and other demonstrations held during the same week. Shortly after the army invaded the University of Malaya, the National University and the University of Science. They made room to room searches, arresting and detaining particular individuals under the Internal Security Act. This act gives the Malaysian Government the power to arrest and jail anyone at any time, who is considered to be a danger to "National Security". People arrested under this act do not get a trial and have no recourse to justice.

The Malaysian Government wished to arrest Hishamuddin under the ISA. This detention was a very real threat to Hishamuddin's life. As a result he went into hiding. Later his house was surrounded by the army, who mistakenly thought he was hiding there and his lawyer was arrested under the ISA.

Hishamuddin came to Australia as a guest of the Australian Union of Students after he had escaped from Malaysia, to attend the 1976 Council of AUS. During his time in Australia there was a constant flow of letters between AUS and the Australian Immigration Department on the subject of extending Hishamuddin's permit. At no time was he an illegal immigrant.

When Hisham was arrested he was charged with offences relating to his involvement in a demonstration against the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew', three months prior to his arrest. The Australian Union of Students together with the Overseas Student Service immediately launched a campaign demanding that all the four charges be dropped and political asylum be granted to Hishamuddin. The four trumped up charges were eventually dismissed. However political asylum for Hishamuddin was refused by the Australian Government, though he was given a six month permit to find a third country of refuge. Hishamuddin has refused to follow this course of action.

Hishamuddin's application is a test case for the Australian Government. Where does it really stand in relation to the suppression of the overseas student movement? The refusal to grant political asylum will mean that the Australian Government is working hand in glove with the Malaysian Government.

The campaign for political asylum is an important question relating to the survival, consolidation and development of the leadership of overseas student movements. Certainly, the overseas student movement has developed the tradition of daring to struggle and daring to win and is prepared to face sacrifices in the cause of political struggle for the interests of the people. The success of the campaign will strengthen the position of overseas student movements and its leadership. The campaign is also a struggle to defend the overseas student

movement.

Hishamuddin Rais

Drama

Love's Labour's Lost

Directed by Tony Taylor Downstage

It's Shakespeare time again. Theatre-goers of every hue will converge on Downstage for the rare opportunity to see the early comedy, *Love's Labour's Lost*. They will be disappointed. The faults; begin in the text . . .

The King of Navarre and his three lords take an oath to renounce all worldly pleasures for three years in favour of book learning. When the Princess of France and her three ladies arrive at court the men promptly fall in love and perjure themselves. There is a sub-plot paralleling the action on a lower social level. Not a very complicated story; not a very interesting story either. His characters are too foolish to initiate any exploration of human nature. The play is a parody on its own subject.

It is clearly full of topical satire, which is lost to us. Above all, it is full of wit. From hard-boiled cynicism to the gayest frivolity, from hack rhymes to moments of quite beautiful poetry, no opportunity is lost for exploiting the potential of language.

Some of the humour is very sophisticated. One has a growing sense watching the story unfold that realism must assert itself somewhere in all this nonsense. At the end it does. A figure arrives announcing the death of the Princess's father and we are jolted out of the fantasy. Then one of the lords is made to do penance for his cynicism and in proof of his love, by spending a year making the sick laugh. "That's too long for a play," he complains. The implication is that grim reality has no place in this entertainment, yet we must be prepared to face it outside the theatre. Shakespeare's characters have suffered gross self-deception we have been deceived along with them by abjuring responsibility as they have abjured true knowledge. An elaborate joke at our expense to be sure. Yet even if we leave our seats wishing for something more (which is the only way the joke will work) does this not argue against the play's production? The joke cuts both ways, bestowing little credit in either direction.

Love's Labour's Lost is not good dramatic material. Sheer strength of humanity is Shakespeare's greatest hallmark. Its relative absence is the severest limitation on this play. There is no development: acceptance of the need to break their oath does not make the men wiser, as they then pursue love as foolishly as they did their books.

The pre-eminence of words, the lack of character, the superficiality of theme and the simplicity of plot all demand a strong directorial stand. A *raison d'être* must be evident in the production, and style must be its medium.

Style, however, is not quite the right word for director Tony Taylor's latest effort. Mannerism, or even affectation, are closer. Homosexual punnage is used as a tritely amusing visual motif whenever the occasion arises. Many actors are called on to perform their oh-so-familiar stage tricks. All this forms a tediously repetitive pattern of visual jokes. Apart from four in moments of arresting importance, the play rides through the antics as a three hour of spiel of words. Some are clear some muffled, almost none raise a laugh. It is scarcely credible. The text reeks of wit yet has been treated as if there is barely a funny line in it.

The four moments should be the measure of the production's potential . . . The languid repose of the men at the play's start is atmospherically perfect. A magical expectancy precedes the arrival of the women in Act II. Death's entrance powerfully switches the action on to a serious level. The women's departure shown in tableau, creates an exquisite harmony of form and subject. Reality, represented by death, must be faced, and the drama rises to the occasion.

These are matters of style. Because they are so good they do not set the tone of the whole but rather show up its inadequacy. Are they the mannerisms of a director well capable of stylistic excellence, functioning much as the idiosyncratic clichés of an actor encouraged to do what is easiest? Or are they evidence that the play is unstageable?

All are essentially static. Raymond Boyce's set, sparsely adorned and encircling the auditorium, is in proper accord with them; and reveals the designer's not always apparent expertise.

However, for most of the play an aimless let's-run-up-to-the-mezzanine attitude prevails and the set is consequently abused. Such action shows the foolishness of the characters, but also results in exposing the idleness of the play. Playful gallivanting on the one hand is not the only way to define significant stillness on

the other.

Taylor seems to have recognised the plays faults, yet has been unwilling or unable to overcome them. It appears that poetry and wit are only so much empty verbiage if they are not presented with conviction. For that characters are needed within the play, and purpose is needed without. Taylor's actors received almost nothing from either source. The little he has done to replace the oral humour with a visual counterpart lacks discipline, is half-hearted and quickly tired of. By no means does it signify appreciation of the quality of the words. Even as pure entertainment (sufficient purpose to him in the past) the production fails. It is boring, and should not have been done.

(Abridged - Ed.)

— Simon Wilson

'I am a Camera'

Presented by Bats theatre company at Unity Theatre

Don't let the life history of John van Druten's I am Camera put you off, even if it strikes you as being in the play-of-the book-of-the-film-of-the-song mould. The geneology is comparatively simple. Its the play adapted from the story 'Sally Bowles', from the book 'Goodbye to Berlin' by Christopher Isherwood, and incidentally, the origin of the film 'Cabaret'.

It's very much a 'slice of life', play exhibiting no real climaxes, no obvious thematic development. As the title suggests Isherwood is a camera, recording scenes and sensations. But without the foundations of a well-made play, there is a shiftless quality, everything transient, thwarted by either circumstance or fate.

Bats Theatre Company provides a sensitive, intelligent interpretation, leaving one with a dominant impression of careful, thoughtful rehearsal. It is discrete, underplayed, at times charming but bedevilled by a quietness at the same time time So much so that with the arrival of Clive (Jim Morette), a big, brash American, the play literally blasts into life.

Perceptive set and lighting combined with striking costumes create a smokey, German, '30's [*unclear*: need; totally] believable.

Undoubtedly the leading performances are those of James Hewitt, as Christopher Isherwood, and Jane McLeod, as Sally Bowles. Both were sensitive, mature, generously playing to one another, but lacking in a measure of attack. Sally lacked the outrageous flamboyance that should have contrasted sharply with her [*unclear*: r] faultless 'sensitive' scenes. We should have left the theatre hating as well as loving her, understanding why she physically rejected Christopher, when so unreluctant with other men. She should have rivalled Clive for the scenes, providing the foil the lines implied. Ms McLeod is an actress of much talent. It is obvious she had conceived the role cerebrally, but did not quite realise it in her performance.

The others each provided a perfectly drawn character study, 'Frauline Schneider (Juliet McDiamid) the German landlady; a model of servility, Jenny Truer a poker-like Natalia, Kevin Rush an impetuous lover and Joan Foster as Sally's Mother truly an aristocratic Englishwoman.

In all, it is good, thoughtful, satisfying theatre from a company which exhibits unusual potential.
Elizabeth Ross

Health Service

The Fuel Crisis

Cartoon of ten faces

Food is fuel, lots of us have a weight problem, the majority of us, mainly due to the high calorific value of the food we eat in New Zealand, are carrying a few pounds too many. A few people find they are too thin and just can't seem to put any weight on.

Do you have a problem like this? Do you want to do something about it, because when it comes down to it, you are the only person who can stop yourself eating too much or even not eating enough?

First of all you have to find out why you have a weight problem. Maybe it's psychological. Maybe it's your metabolic rate. Some people burn up energy far more quickly than others. That's why your best friend can eat as much bread, spuds, cakes and sweets as they like without putting on an ounce (or a gramme if you've gone metric.) There's not too much you can do about increasing or decreasing your metabolic rate, but perhaps we can help in other ways.

How much exercise do you take? If you lead a very sedentary life then obviously you are going to have more of a problem than somebody who leads a very active life. Have you thought of having an exercise schedule worked out for yourself? It doesn't have to be violent exercise. The staff at the Gym will fix you up in that direction.

Finally and perhaps most important, what are your eating habits like? It's amazing how nearly everybody thinks they eat the perfect diet — perhaps you're trying to fool yourself. In fact, most of us eat too much of the wrong foods or too much, full stop. Our bodies can only break down and use up some of this food (and drink e.g. beer!), the rest is stored as Fat. So the answer is, to cut down on your eating or just change your eating habits. That doesn't sound too difficult does it? But you've got to have will power and the real urge to solve your weight problems and that may be the most difficult part.

A practical way that we can help you to keep at it is to come to the Weight Control Clinic on Mondays, run by the nurses, for any student.

Whatever your problem is, hopefully the nurses can help you, encourage you and generally sort your diet out. Perhaps you eat when you're bored or depressed. Do you nibble under pressure or when swotting? Perhaps you've got a craving for chocolate or other such rubbish. Anyway come down on any Monday and try us for size. We'll follow you up at weekly intervals.

Remember — Fatness is not Happiness.

Jim's Gym

Latest news from the Gym classes is that the Squash lessons are now fully booked for this session so until next time folks . . .

Keeping fit or keeping the cobwebs out for library friends:

Now the winter draws nigh and icicles hang by the wall, not all of us relish the idea of going outside to keep ourselves active. Midyear exams and assessment keep us idle and the human body regales in indolence until at last summer comes and the annual struggle to regain (usually in vain) lost levels of fitness begins.

As Gentleman Jim of the Gym has so often repeated, you don't need to commit hours to activity in order that it will be beneficial. By judicious use of Gym classes e.g. Learn Badminton on Tues. 11-12, Fri. 10-11, or Learn More Badminton Fri. 11 - 12 or Slimnastics for Ladies Wed. 12-1, etc. etc., and fitness or activity programmes as planned by the Gym staff Even the most pessimistic individual can be catered for.

Cartoon of two people hiding from another person who has a bow and arrows

Special Feature:

Dr Jim our resident Sports Dr. offers the following advice to victims of vicious exer-cycles, rugby balls, etc.

If you tear a muscle or sprain a joint or just strain something Pack the Injury in Ice for 20 Minutes Immediately, and Thrice Thereafter for the Following 24 Hours . . . then . . . see a doctor. If you need any help in returning to full sporting usefulness then the Gym staff will be glad to plan a rehabilitation programme.

Skiers:

The ski classes have started and in the absence of any snow locally the Gym Dri-Ski Run is in full swing. Book now to avoid disappointment.

DOWNSTAGE DOWNSTAGE Until June 2nd LOVES LABOUR LOST Anthony Taylor directs a production of this rarely performed early Shakespeare comedy Dinner 6.30 Play 8.15 All bookings 849-639 YOUTH THEATRE WORKSHOP Throughout the second term Downstage will conduct regular Saturday morning workshops for young people fourteen to twenty years old, under the direction of Associate Director Colin McColl and members of the Downstage Company. The workshop will cover movement, voice, improvisation and production. The workshop commences June 4th. The cost per term is \$20. Please contact Colin McColl at the Theatre for future details.

Rock

Cliff Richard

Interviewed by Patrick O'Dea

The purple bleeds into the maroon of this carpet Cliff Richard strolls into the room, nonchalantly, almost unobtrusively. The tinkling of wine glasses stills momentarily. The impression is stunning: my biography says he's 36, shoving 37, yet most of the people present put his age at about 23.

He's here, hard on the heels of his first ever major American hit, Devil Woman, in the course of another

New Zealand tour It's implied - but not stated - that it's also wound up with the promotion of his new album "Every Face Tells A Story" — an oddly comprehensive summation of the rockier aspect of his career to date with one obvious album market in mind: America. He's had everything else, believe me, and those session men are complete professionals but, try as he might, that particular success remains elusive.

The first Interview lurches. Richard, swathed in blue denim and set amidst a frieze of copper plaques and album covers is swallowing tomato juice and talking about religion. Every face in town freezes. Perhaps he should have called the new album Every Face Sells A Tall One. Somewhere in the recesses a phone is ringing. Smiles, apologies, nods. The interview is curtailed.

Richard returns, beaming. He completes his instructions into the microphone and an embarrassed silence falls. 'Hi', and after some preliminary talk about a mutual London acquaintance, the interview proper starts. Some of the statistics he comes out with strain credulity, but later legwork proves them true:

Cliff Richard

Salient: First things first. Can you give me a brief rundown on your career up until about the time of Move It in 1958?

Richard: Well, I didn't have a career before Move It. I mean, I was purely amateur at the time. I left school, I joined the band and just played local gigs until I met Norrie Paramour who gave me an audition with the band I had at the time. We called ourselves the Drifters — that was finally to be Hank Marvin, Bruce Welch, Jet Harris and Tony Meehan. It was just friends from school and when we did the audition, we just got the audition, and we made a record called Move It and that was it. That was the first record I ever made and it was a hit in a lot of countries at one time. A real good start. I mean, it was one of those ones. One of those dream ones. Start at the top sort of thing.

Salient: Well, a lot of people well, not a lot of people some people say it was the only good record you've ever made

Richard: Well, I think people are allowed to say whatever they want, but I wouldn't agree. Move It was the first rock ... first rock and roll record ever made in England, and it was an accident. If you listen to the follow up it's terrible. One of the main reasons is that they're so much better technically — the equipment is so fantastic we can make really good records. I don't mean just me — I mean we — being the world of people who make records. The quality of records is — you listen to a record made nowadays and compare it with anything made 15 years ago.

Cliff Richard

Salient: They had a vibrant feeling that is missing now

Richard: It's a different sort of thing...

Salient: They've lost spontaneity.....

Richard: The excitement then was raw and it was new and a lot of it is in the mind... it really is because I know that Move It when I made it was a very exciting record. The danger is that we forget Move It was exactly right and the most exciting thing for the time. I like to live in today. I love nostalgia but today's just as important, in fact, more important because we are making records now that are just as good as before. And yet I've made records — rock and roll, ballads, even latin things which are superior to earlier material. I mean, we didn't write them like that in those days. And I think to myself 'How do people say that Living Doll my first million seller, is better than Devil Woman?' It's all very subjective. Some people do actually prefer Living Doll to Devil Woman that's fine, but I know deep down that technically and in every way Living Doll is no way my best record. It may be my best single, but it's not my best record. But there again, that's my opinion, see. It's just got to be weighted against everybody else's.

Salient: How did you actually come together with the Shadows? How did that scene fall together and develop?

Richard: Move It was session musicians. But when I'd made it and it was obviously going to break into the charts, I got an invitation to do a concert tour with a singing duo, the Kalin twins, who were American — and I needed a good band. So I kept two of the guys from my school. And I found Hank Marvin playing in a coffee bar and he had a friend with him called Bruce Welch, who is now producing my records, and that is the nucleus I had with me, and on that tour I met Jet Harris who was playing bass for another band. And Jet liked our music better than he liked theirs so we swapped. And then they remembered a drummer called Tony Meehan, whom they'd played with in a London club. Soho's The Two I's, actually. There it was, the Shadows.

Salient: I realise that you said you didn't want to get hung up on nostalgia, but would you care to inform me about what was happening between Move It and your Euro vision song contest entry, Congratulations?

Richard: In about two or three leaps it would have to be, really. The next thing from Move It was a slow, downhill thing. And then there was Living Doll, and it was my first number one, so that there's an obvious progression. I was a rocker for three songs. The first one was very acceptable, the public loved it and made it number two, but there was a downhill slump really until Living Doll. And it got me into a whole new area

that I had never planned to go into ... I had never planned it, but it happened. And I made a whole string of records (Willie and the Hand Jive in 1962, Travelling Light in 1963 etc) all very melodic, springy things. About the same time it led to me being in films, too, because the natural step then for a pop singer is to be seen in films, and I did the Young Ones, which did for me exactly what Living Doll had done in the record world — the Young Ones did it even in a bigger way in the film world.

I mean, I was suddenly thrown in. The year that the Young Ones came out I was voted Box Office Star of the Year. Can you imagine? And there were people like Sean Connery and Sir Laurence (Olivier), and all that.....around. It doesn't make sense it makes a joke actually of awards. In a way, I never take awards that seriously. They are a great compliment, and I've got mine arrayed around my house in various places, in various rooms, but sometimes when you win an award you have to think about all the people you really rate and if you're really honest they're a little bit unfair. I mean, how could I be Box Film Star of the Year '62 and '63 —the first was for the Young Ones, the second for Summer Holidays — while there were some great actors out making great films, and I wasn't even acting. The Shadows and I, hummed and hawed through, you know, fourchord tricks and won those awards, but nevertheless it was obviously part of the make up of what I was obviously going to become which was very middle of the road and the Young Ones led to other films like Wonderful Life which then led to doing TV series. So it led to Congratulations, and it wasn't my idea of a great pop song, and it lost, but it sold, I think, one and a half million copies.

Cliff Richard

Salient: About this time your career had a resurgence?

Richard: I've had a strange career. The only way I try to describe it — for instance, when I went to America last year they kept saying: 'What have you done in between?' Like the Young Ones and now. And I said 'What did you mean? I've released nearly 80 records and only four of them have failed to make the top 30 in England.

Salient: Has your attitude altered since your last New Zealand tour. Like, the last time you were here as a gospel singer.....now, it's rock and roll.

Richard: Oh, sure

Salient: To a lot of people you're a rock and roll singer, anyway, but has the attitude behind that altered in that time

Richard: No, not at all. It's the same really. It's just that I mix the two together much more frequently than people think. The Christian side of my life is still predominant. Everything else has to take second place, I'm afraid. But not to the detriment of the music, and I think I've proved that by making records like Devil Woman along with what I believe. I wouldn't want to change that. In a way, it's been marvellous to be a pioneer in the Christian world because the pressures to get out can be really strong. I nearly did it, too. I mean, unspoken pressures, you know. 'You can't be a Christian and sing rock and roll — you can't be a Christian and be in show business' and I had to work it out in my mind 'Why do people say silly things like that?', you know. Didn't God create rock and roll? If there is a God then surely he created rock and roll — now it can't be that bad if he did it. So all we do is grab some of the stuff the Devil's taken hold of and take it back. And I really had to work it out in my mind. I'm invited to do a concert, say, at a university - as a Christian — and it's because I'm an established rock singer That's why I'm asked. So the two go hand in glove.

Cliff Richard

Salient: Devil Woman, after 18 years of trying, was your first American top 10 hit. Why did it take so long, and what plans have you for the future in that area?

Richard: I discovered this time that unless you break into the top 30 - really into the 30 - you don't sell any records. It's all on radio play, so that people relate to you as a record, so that people still don't know who Cliff Richard is, but if you say to any one of a million and a quarter people Devil Woman, they go 'Oh! Oh! That guy.' It seems to have been an international thing because even on the Continent there's been a terrific revival. The only trouble is, you know, it's great having this kind of thing happen, but there's no real way of following it up. Really, it's a bit of a problem, but a nice problem. One record in America doesn't mean a lot. It really doesn't. It does in terms of selling a million and a quarter records, but it doesn't mean anything because the people don't relate to you as an artist. You need to make about three or four hit singles before people relate to you as an artist.

j r s c STUDENTS CONCESSIONS John Reid's SQUASH CENTRE SQUASH: 60c per half hour per person Normally \$1.25 RACKETS: 40c GEAR HIRE: 30c per item CONCESSION HOURS 9-12 and 2-5 WEEKDAYS

The Carlton Hotel The friendly Pub in Willis Street We can offer you... *A Sportsman's Bar and Bistro downstairs. * Colour T.V. in the Sportsman's Bar. * Relax in our second floor Resturant a pint of 'Super' and a meal (Lunch Toasted Sandwich with Coleslaw and Chips \$112, also Omlets \$2,10. Bacon and Eggs \$ 2,10. Fish and Chips \$2.50). * Our popular Trendy Bar upstairs. * Late license Bar and Bottlestore service until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights.

Records

Emerson, Lake and Palmer: Works (Atlantic)

- And to, thus it was that in The Year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Seven, the Kings of Thunder Mountain once more did descend from on high.
- And they did deliver unto the slaving masses A Record, to wit, one Double Album of new material.
- And the people did rejoice and sing the praises of the Holy Trinity of Emerson, Lake and Palmer.
- And The Critic looked and listened. And he saw that it was good.

Or parts of it anyway. After three years, Three Goddam Years, we get some new material from Emerson, Lake and Palmer, a double album full of fact. Or should I say, one side of new material from ELP, and a side each from the individual members. I still haven't made up my mind whether it was worth waiting three years for one side of new group material, but ah, what the hell, it's good to have them back in any way, shape or form. During the years 1972-4 every time you opened a music paper there they were. During '74 they ruled the roost in America with the release of Brain Salad Surgery (their last studio album), followed by tours and a triple live album.

Cartoon of a pencil being inflated

Then in 1975 everything stopped. No tours. No records. Every so often since then we've seen little items in the papers about a new album or tour "in a few months". And so it went on, until now.

So 1977 is going to be the year of ELP's comeback. Whether it succeeds or not remains to be seen. On the strength of this somewhat patchy album I reckon they'll have their work cut out for them.

Taken as a whole. Works is a good album. Taken section by section, it's not so good. The first side is the grandiosely-titled Piano Concerto No. 1, in Three Movements, by Keith Emerson.

It's almost worth buying the whole album for this alone.

This is the first time in ages that Emerson has really stretched out and shown us what he's worth. It is a highly ambitious work for him, and one that succeeds admirably. The work features the London Philharmonic Orchestra under John Mayer, who orchestrated the piece in collaboration with Emerson. Emerson's playing is right on form, and in the course of the three movements he runs the gamut from classical to jazz to rock and back again. The orchestral accompaniment is superb, and the whole thing works a treat. I can see this putting a lot of so-called ELP fans off because of its lack of techno flash synthesizer overkill. That's their loss. It sure ain't rock 'n' roll, but I like it!

By contrast, side 2, Greg Lake's side, is frankly painful. Now, I've always liked Lake's songs on other ELP albums, things like "Lucky Man", "Take a Pebble", and "From the Beginning", but these aren't even a shadow of those earlier numbers. If these songs were done by some unknown they would never have been recorded, but as it's Greg Lake.....

They are all drippy love songs, bar one. I've got nothing against drippy love songs provided they are done with a modicum of taste. These aren't. This sort of stuff isn't even worthy of masters of wimperama like the Moody Blues. I can't believe that Peter Sinfield had a hand or three in the lyrics (actually, it's an interesting and not too difficult exercise trying to pick which lines are Sinfield's). I hate having to put down these songs, but crap is crap, no matter who does it.

The one exception among these songs is "Hallowed Be Thy Name", which is pure Sinfield in what it expresses, and which features the most amazing use of an orchestra in a rock song I think I've ever heard. This song is an oasis in a desert of fluff.

On to side three, which is Carl Palmer's side. I must confess to being a bit disappointed with this side. He plays it too safe, and the drumming and percussion is just a bit too ordinary for someone of his talents. Check out the live album if you really want to hear Palmer. That's not to say that these numbers are bad: the first one, "The Enemy God" is very good, though how much of this is due to Prokofiev, the composer, is a matter of conjecture. One track, "L.A. Nights", features Joe Walsh, but he doesn't do much. There's also a little Bach piece, and a new version of "Tank", always my favourite cut from ELP's first album. This time it's done with an orchestra, and the first part is very good, and very jazzy, like a Neil Ardley piece in places. The last part, however, is almost a carbon copy of the original, which seems a bit pointless.

And so on to the final side, and the first new group material in over three years. Once again they do an Aaron Copland number, "Fanfare For The Common Man". It's not bad, and rocks along quite nicely, the three of them making all the right noises in the right places. In other words it's standard instrumental ELP. "Pirates", the other track on this side, suffers from being too short. For the amount of lyrics in it, it would have been better

stretched out to a full side in order to allow more instrumental passages. I can see this developing into a very good live number (in fact, both these tracks would be good live). Here it just lacks something. So there it is, this is what ELP fans of the world have waited three years for.

General comments/summary: I'm glad they didn't do solo albums now. After hearing this I don't think they'd have been up to much, except for Emerson's (and as for a Greg Lake solo album.....) The group material is a bit hesitant and rather too much on the safe side. Perhaps after all this time off from recording and touring together they are a bit shaky. It shows promise though.

And remember what it says on the cover: "Works, Volume 1".

— David MacLennan

Conference of the Birds: The David Holland Quartet (ECM)

An Englishman, Dave Holland is amongst the leading world performers on acoustic and electric bass in the realm of modern jazz. He was brought to light in the late sixties by that was "star-maker" Miles Davis, and worked in his band when musicians like Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett, John McLaughlin et al were also being discovered. The first Davis recording date he is on, is, I think, "Filles de Kilimanjaro", with Chick Corea, when Miles was just beginning to move, tentatively, into new directions with electric piano and electric bass.

After serving his time with Miles, Dave Holland aligned himself with Chick Corea in a piano-trio with Barry Altschul on drums. They recorded in a purely acoustic jazz trio setting, exploring in the direction started in the early sixties by Ornette Coleman - that of "free jazz", "free" that is, both rhythmically and harmonically, using only fragments of melodic statement as a centre to work around, and to shoot off from into exciting areas of spontaneous improvisation. This band, with Anthony Braxton added on reeds, became known as the quartet 'Circle', which recorded a double album live in Paris; a great record in the development of free jazz in the seventies, both exciting and sustaining — once the listener comes to terms with Braxton's delight in blowing atonally, introducing frequent noise elements into his solos.

Which brings us to the disc under review, featuring Anthony Braxton on reeds and flute, Barry Altschul on percussion, Holland on bass, and Sam Rivers, also on reeds and flute. This type of lineup — two front-line horns with the absence of a chordal instrument — was favoured by the earlier free jazz innovators, as it lent itself to a much looser harmonic setting.

Sam Rivers, a jazz man of long standing from the early sixties, adds much to this album. His playing is lively, but not too aggressive, and subdues Braxton into a milder tone than he has previously used. The resultant jazz is no less free or exciting — atonality is still evident, more as a believable climax rather than a device in itself — and the whole is more pleasant to follow and listen to. All the reed playing is superb, Braxton and Rivers alternating between tenor and soprano sax, flutes, clarinet and bass clarinet. Quite a variety of sounds.

Although the date is Holland's, and he is credited with composing all the pieces played, the two horns stand out as the dominant instruments. Yet the bass playing throughout never falters and in his solo spots, he shows us his command of technique fused with imaginative improvisatory skill. Altschul on drums keeps the pace throughout, literally sizzles, urging the soloists on. With Holland, they form a truly cohesive rhythm section. With them the music swings; a great sense of swing and jazz rhythm throughout (unusual for "free" jazz?)

Standout tracks are "Inception" with good solos from all concerned; the softer more lyrical "Conference of the Birds" with Altschul doubling on marimbas, and the frantic "See-Saw".

If you're into jazz and can afford to be a little exploratory, pick up on this one!

— Tim Nees

Jeff Beck with the Jan Hammer Group: Live (C.B.S.)

One of the best guitarists in rock, Jeff Beck's appeal undoubtedly lies in his wildly erratic and highly unpredictable playing style, at times supremely brash, at other times very precise and intricate: Combine this with the finesse and technical sophistication of the Jan

Hammer group and an audience, and the result is one of the most musically exciting releases of the year.

Side One, first track is "Freeway Jam" from "Blow by Blow" and which serves as a vehicle for some amazingly fast and furious soloing from Jeff Beck and Jan Hammer interspersed between its nifty little guitar themes which serve as effective time changes. Earth (still our only home) has an infectious rhythm and sounds somewhat Stevie Wonder influenced, which isn't surprising since Beck and Wonder have been friends for some time, and have guested on each others albums. She's a Woman is a quite dynamic treatment

Flying pencil dropping letters on the ground

Side two opens with Darkness/Earth[unclear: i]Search of a Sun. Synthesizers sound [unclear: ou] eerie

pictures of fireballs zooming through space before the pace quickens and a fine interplay between guitar and keyboards develops. Scatter brain is the best track and is given a different arrangement from the Blow by Blow treatment, beginning with a light cabaret style intro with some tasteful blues licks from Beck. The tour de force Blue Wind from Wired closes the album with some heavy riffing in a manner similar to John McLaughlin on his Devotion album.

The production is very good for a live album with no detectable distortion and all the instruments come through clearly and, according to the cover: "the stereo spectrum of this album duplicates the stage set up with guitar positioned centre right, keyboards centre left, violin right and drums and bass centre". A welcome innovation as most live albums place the guitar in one channel and the rhythm section in the centre with nothing to balance the other channel.

— Geoffrey Churchman

Sport

Rugby

Sport

The Lions have now played three games in New Zealand. It is still a little early to make judgement on their abilities, but already there is a sense of disappointment as to their performances to date.

Certainly they handled the mud at Masterton extraordinarily well, but their performances at Napier and Gisborne were not up to standard. Nevertheless, the first three games of a tour are always difficult ones as the 1963 All Blacks and the 1972 All Blacks will testify when they were beaten by Newport and Llanelli respectively.

However neither Hawkes Bay nor Poverty Bay/East Coast could hope to match the strength of the famous Welsh Cubs which brought about the downfall of the All Blacks in 63 and 72. A truer test of the Lions ability will be against Taranaki this Saturday, a team which incidentally ran up over 40 points last year against Poverty Bay.

To date though a number of weaknesses have yet to be resolved. The fullbacks, particularly Irvine, and the wingers have shown great dislike at taking the high ball. There has been a certain degree of panic amongst the inside backs when they have been subject to pressure from opposing loose forwards. The covering of the loose forwards of the Lions hasn't been what one would expect from an international side. I think also that a side that is supposed to be famous for its mauling has also been disappointing, particularly against the Hawkes Bay side. However, with hard work, I believe that many of these faults will be ironed out before the test matches.

The Lions to date have yet to develop a true general in their play. In the 1971 Lions team, Barry John and Mike Gibson were superb at their ability to direct and general the play of the Lions. Phil Bennett didn't play at Napier and has the ability to fulfill the role played by John in the earlier tour. One suspects though that this Lions team may still miss the individual talents of players like J.P.R. Williams, Gerald Davies and Gareth Edwards who had that little bit extra which separates a good player from a great player, and also adds that ingredient of individual greatness which is required for the winning of a test match.

Soccer

The New Zealand soccer team added another good performance to their fine effort against Australia recently, when they defeated Luton Town this week. Once again Keith Nelson made the difference when he scored 2 goals. One suspects that the New Zealand side of 2 years ago would have lost this match because of their inability to take their goal scoring opportunities, but for the first time in New Zealand soccer, we have a genuine striker in Nelson.

Staying with soccer, one can't talk about sport this week without commenting on the FA Cup Final. Although feeling a little sorry for Liverpool, so close to their 'treble', I was delighted with the Uniteds win. This match certainly showed up the differing styles of the 2 teams. United reflects a European style of football more than the traditional English style, where they used massed defences, often not bothering to contest the battle for possession in the mid-field and rely on fast breakaways down each wing through the individual abilities of Steve Coppell and Gordon Hill. Liverpool on the other hand typified British football with the long slow build ups of their attack, strong mid-field players, and the running off of players like Keegan and Keighway.

I thought Liverpool probably did enough to win, but they spent so much of the time covering Coppell and

Hill that they forgot the tenacity and skills of Stuart Pearson and Jimmy Greenhoff. In fact it it hadn't been for about 3 fractional off sides against Pearson, he may well have scored further goals. I thought that Stepney was value for money, particularly with his ability to avert trouble for United with his taking of high crosses from Heighway, Neal and Callaghan.

All in all it was a thoroughly enjoyable match, hard, fast and, and above all, incident free. If one was able to stay up until 4 in the morning, the crowds were good entertainment with their singing. It was somewhat ironic that United fans stole Liverpool theme song at the finish but that's football.

- Our man in the stands.

Cartoon of a rugby player with bites taken out of their body

Colin Morris Records Caption Competition

Last weeks winner

This weeks competition

What's wrong with an 10 of 2.

—' Fucked in the head.'

Captions must be submitted before 2.00pm on the Wednesday of the issue week and must include name, address and phone. Judging will be done by the Salient staff. No Salient staff may enter. Captions may be dropped into our letter box inside our door or in the Studass office. The prizes is an LP of your choice courtesy of Colin Morris Records LTD Winners must contact us as soon as possible.

Letters

Letters can be handed into the Salient mailbox just inside the door or in the Studass office, or sent to Salient, Victoria University of Wellington Students Assn., Private Bag, Wellington.

Letters must be double-spaced and written on one side of the paper only. Please keep them concise and short.

We got so many letters on abortion last week that we are unable to print them all. These will appear next week

— Ed.

James Robb meets his Moby Dick

Dear Editor,

If you excuse the pun James Robb was completely out of his depth in his article on fishing in last week's Salient. It is only unfortunate that the shining beacon of his ignorance was not swamped by the dark underlay.

First point. Despite a few isolated instances the New Zealand fishing industry has not over-exploited fish stocks — a fairly constant catch of about 50,000 tonnes over many years has shown this. Lack of finance and the predominance of other primary produce areas has also meant that there has been little if any expansion in this sector. The high supply of meat and dairy products in this country has also meant demand for fish has not risen sharply. Until recently many edible species were not even fished by our fishermen.

The only source of capital to over exploit our resources has come from overseas either through the appearance of predominantly subsidised foreign fishing boats or through joint ventures.

But elsewhere massive depletion of stocks is occurring as mainly Japanese and Russian fleets move into the few remaining new grounds and fish them dry in a few seasons leaving undersea deserts that will remain for decades. The same process happened in whaling where the few big whaling nations gobbled up whales all over the world nearly wiping whales from the face of the earth. Our fishermen will never catch near the 10 million tonnes a year the Russians and Japanese do. So let's put the blame for over exploitation where it belongs —

with the big imperialist powers and their respective monopolies.

Kicking the big powers out of our waters will help conserve resources. Foreign nations catch $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fish taken in our waters — Russia and Japan alone take over 50%.

Second point. James raises some highly questionable data in his support. His figures for the decreasing Icelandic fish catch are all for years when British trawlers had virtually unrestricted access to Icelandic grounds and decreasing catches were inevitable. Iceland also had no control over the total catch in its waters — it now has that control through its 200 mile zone. James Robb says "It is impossible for each country to solve its fish conservation problems individually" when this is obviously not the case with New Zealand. Most of the fish we are concerned with migrate very short distances — all within our waters. Also the nearest major fishing power is 1500 miles away (Australia) and would hardly be affected by the setting up of a 200 mile zone around our coast.

Next time he jumps in boots and all to defend the 4th International's sage line James Robb should at least get his facts right — the problem is If he got his facts right he would hardly be defending the 4th International.

Yours,

Captain Ahab

P.S. The announcement of the intended 200 mile zone recently means nothing unless foreign fleets are kicked out and a moratorium is placed on the formation of joint ventures. Declare a 200 mile zone now!

Dear Sir,

Young socialists - is not that the party for the people, the people's party. I suggest that J. Robb is nothing but a large turd that missed being flushed. His argument against a 200 mile fishing limit is in truth a fantasy of his mind. To argue as he has done is no argument. What he says adds up to nothing. I ask but one question. If these Russians, who are supposedly non-capitalist, are not exploiting our resources, then what are they doing here? Is it not true that their own fishing grounds are perhaps already over-exploited? I suggest we hear from the fishing men again.

T.S.D.

Dear Sir,

James Robb just aint been paying much attention to the real problems faced by NZ fishermen as outlined in 'Salient' and some other papers.

For all his waffle about finding international solutions to the depletion of fishing stocks, his article raises not one practical suggestion for the fishermen to follow except open the doors to foreign exploitation!

Mr Robb's high falutin, windy rhetoric is reminiscent of the pronouncement of his mentor - Trotsky by name - who said, on being appointed Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the new Soviet Republic, that his programme was to 'issue a few revolutionary decrees and then close all the embassies down'.

Needless to say Trotsky was given the heave-ho by the Russian people in short time.

Just Fishing

Further Comment on "Malaysian Socialist Review" Editor — Alan Pinjen, touring New Zealand

Dear Editor,

Steam punk style boat

First of all, I must say that Alan Pinjen is not the real name of the Malaysian Socialist Review editor. I doubt very much that it is for security purposes as he speaks so openly. Some 'rumours' have spread among Malaysians in New Zealand and Australia that Alan Pinjen is from a rich family which has 'fishy' relations with the Malaysian Government. If these 'rumours' are true then it is not hard to see why the MSR editor has to use a false name. Time will prove whether these 'rumours' are rumours.

MSR has very little support among overseas students in Australia. From what I know, there are only two Malaysian Trotskyites (including Alan Pinjen) in Australia. If we investigate the MSR or Malaysian Trotskyites activities in Australia we will be able to find out why students in Australia don't support MSR or Malaysian Trotskyites.

Malaysian Trotskyites and Trotskyites in Australia are trying to infiltrate the OSS (Overseas Student Service) and split students away from this organisation. This can be considered as a threat to the students movement in Australia and the campaign to gain political asylum for Hishamuddin Rais. Moreover, Trotskyites in Australia infiltrated the Australian Union of Students and controlled the students' printing machines.

They refused to print posters for the campaign to gain political asylum for Hishamuddin Rais, although the decision had been made in the meeting to permit students using printing machines to print the posters. Alan Pinjen even attacked Rais. He accused Rais of being 'reactionary' in nature as Rais belongs to the petty bourgeoisie. What Alan Pinjen is trying to do is to fool the public. I think someone should remind Alan Pinjen that he also belongs to the bourgeoisie.

Alan Pinjen is an opportunist. He tells different stories in different places at different times. For example: when he came to NZ he said in Auckland that the struggle in Malaysia is between races, and in Wellington, owing to the students' attacking and criticising, he said that the struggle in Malaysia is the class struggle. Alan Pinjen even claimed to have strong support from Canterbury students as no one attacked or criticised his saying??

I strongly believe that the money for Alan Pinjen touring New Zealand came from "Young Socialist" (Trotskyites, body) in New Zealand and Australia? "Young Socialist" and MSR are making use of each other to push propaganda on their associations. One would presume that the money came from the Malaysian Government, was it not from "Young Socialist" (Trotskyites).

Alan Pinjen will come again to find some followers in NZ. He has to sell the reactionary Trotskyites' teaching in NZ as there is no market for him in the Australian student movement.

In short, Alan Pinjen is a phoney, the betrayer of the student movement. He will come again to earn political capital. We should be ready to 'welcome' him.

Malaysian Reporter.

International Student Congress A Resounding Success

Dear Editor,

As an overseas student attending the congress, let me express my thanks to WMSSA, NZUSA, Fijian Club, Tongs - NZ Club and all those involved in making the congress a real success. The hospitality and the help in making my stay during the congress (many students attending may have the same feeling too) a very interesting and meaningful way of life, is worth a million "thanks" and this spirit must be kept up.

I hope WMSSA could in the future organise such activities to serve their fellow members. I hope WMSSA activities will attract most students so that the overseas students, especially Malaysian students, could meet and discuss their problems in a warm and friendly atmosphere. I hope every overseas student, especially Malaysians, could lend their hands so as to make WMSSA a successful and progressive organisation. To WMSSA committee members, although there are problems ahead, do not be afraid. Dare to face, dare to win.

I am disappointed and angry seeing WMSA officially boycotting the congress. Their reason (suited to the Malaysian Government) is that they must not or should not take up any political issues. From Salient I read the issue on "Hawkers Scenes" put up by WMSA. From what I read, no statement or any voice from the irresponsible WMSA committee members. The sketch seemed to make a laughing stock of hawkers and other ordinary people in Malaysia. I dare not comment more as I do not really follow this issue. But the question I am asking is are the sketches a political issue too? Our hawkers also play an important part in the economy of our country which politics relies on and depends much for its functioning. So what is really politics or political

issues? Are we taking political issues to suit the minority oppressor or for the majority oppressed.

Cartoon of a mountain climber

We are here under 5 Power Defence Pact. So are we not in the political circle? Since we are in this political circle, then why can't we take up the so-called social awareness issue. To the WMSA committee members and its members, it is high time to question what they are doing.

We are blinded and influenced by our own politicians trick — that is "Politics is dirty, keep away from it". Let us carefully analyse it from the point of the politician and also from the minority oppressed. The politician (who decides for the majority) are employing all sorts of politics to control the masses in serving their own need while on the other hand the politicians are spreading the so-called "Don't get involved in politics" etc to the majority oppressed with a sole aim to keep them quiet and work for them. Are we students going to keep quiet seeing all these injustices occurring to our people? Or are we trying to educate ourselves in understanding the problems confronting our people. We came at the expense of the majority oppressed. So it is our duty to serve them by reflecting their aspiration in their struggle against injustices.

Cartoon of a mountain climber

I hope every Malaysian student would unite together and reflect the aspiration of the majority oppressed and let a lot of our fellow students know more about the injustices occurring in their own country.

Once again salute to WMSSA for the activities for us. Keep up your good Job, WMSSA.

Yours,

Average Outstation Overseas Student

Dear Editor,

Cartoon of a mountain climber

Please allow me a space to congratulate the organisers of the International Students Congress. The success is undoubtedly attributed to their hard work.

The Congress really educates me in many ways besides widening my scope of knowledge. This is the first time in my three years in Wellington that I have seen anything healthy and refreshing such as this.

Living under the oppressive rule for over 20 years, I, like most other Malaysian students have tended to take for granted practices that are unjust and inhuman. The outspokenness of so many students during the congress really helps me to understand my basic rights for the first time. It is also the first time that I realise so many events have taken place in Malaysian society even during the time I was there. It is really a pity that this rare opportunity was not carefully weighed by the general Malaysian and Singaporean students whose turnout for the congress could have been better.

With much reluctance I would also like to express my utmost disgust with MSA for its official boycott against the congress where important issues affecting us were discussed. Had MSA taken an active part, I am sure more Malaysians would benefit from the educational aspects of this congress. While savouring the sweet memories of the congress, I cannot help being indignant recalling MSA's innuendo attacks on MSSA in its special statement earlier. Such statements merely revealed the irresponsibility and stupidity of its committee. It is now evident that MSA Committee had attempted to mislead the members about its role in the Congress Planning by claiming that it 'has been attending the meetings and is still attending the meetings' — a lie which is easily exposed by sheer facts. It is not surprising to see MSA remained silent after the reply by MSSA.

I sincerely advise the MSA Committee to stop making too many excuses and humbly learn from the good points of MSSA.

The Anti-Cutback campaign is a good opportunity for MSA to redeem its past misconducts. As a member of MSA I hope the committee gives its active support for MSSA on this issue rather than being dragged on by the pressure of the community's concern.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MSSA Committee members for their good work. It is an incontestable fact that they deserve the loudest applause for what they have done so far. Keep it up.

An Ordinary Malaysian

Dear David,

Cartoon of a mountain climber

It is indeed heartening to note that a local action committee has been set up in our campus to co-ordinate the National Overseas Students Action Committee (NOSAC) on student cutbacks. This shows that we are well

on the way to getting something concrete being done. To these groups of students who are now devoting their time planning on a local campus level and who have shown their willingness to promote students' interests I can say that I readily offer you my warm support and hope that you will be successful.

I think that this Action Committee needs all the support it can get and I hope that all students (both local and overseas) will be solidly behind you.

Concerned Student

Robinson Remonstrates

Dear David,

The 50 students who left behind their cafe lunches and abandoned their library seats for 2 hours last SRC solely in order to commit this association to the furtherance of injustice in the Middle East must be well pleased with themselves. They probably think that now they've won so overwhelmingly they won't have to stack another SRC, or even go to one, or think about the question for at least another year.

The only problem that appears to face them is their own guilt at the extreme right position they were "forced" to adopt. The election of the former terrorist Menachem Begin as Israeli head of state that very night will no doubt "force" these valorous defenders of the right of Israel (zionist, expansionist and fascist) to exist (i.e. expand) even further to the right in the future. I wonder if their guilt will increase.

While even Carter and Brezhnev, the world's most powerful right wingers, are prepared to re carve up the Middle East to accommodate some form of Palestinian homeland, Vic students are not prepared to do anything at all to solve the Injustice that faces the Palestinian people. In fact, we recognise the right of existence of the state that grew on their dispossessed land, their massacred bodies and their continually retreating refugee status in camps which are regularly bombed by the self same "sovereign" state. This state must exist as it has existed and 'defend' itself — as it has defended itself — this is the Vic policy. This is our first contribution to solving the injustices faced by the Palestinians.

Our second contribution is even more deplorable. [*unclear*: The Palestinian] people had been voiceless for a long time after [*unclear*: 1946] reactionary Jordanian regime had for much of this time assumed the role of their spokesman. The formation of the PLO was in effect the formation of a government-in-exile for at last the Palestinians had their own voice, elected from among their own people. But still all those who wished to sweep the Palestinian question under the carpet (headed as always by the Israelis) adopted the view that the PLO did not exist and therefore the Palestinians did not really exist either. This is currently our view. But elsewhere this view has been challenged. The UN overwhelmingly recognises the PLO. So do many governments. But we at Vic do not. Neither does Israel. Neither does South Africa. How the hell can the Palestinian people have any say in the future of the Middle East if they are denied the right to their own representatives! How? Obviously those students who voted out reality (that the PLO is the national authority of the Palestinian people) know the answer. What is it?

Cartoon of a mountain climber

Cartoon of a mountain climber

One and a half hours of argument without facts, facts (but not many) without relevance and rhetorical questions without even rhetorical answers has led our association to its current position. We now see no solution to the no war/no peace of the Middle East. We don't really care if the [*unclear*: exist or not]. The hypocrites peace

whose only contribution [*unclear*: to] is the raising of their right arm here (at SRC) in order to cut off the right arm of the Palestinian people are responsible for this. It is unfortunate that like all hypocrites they will do nothing to change the situation.

Yours,

Bruce Robinson

Porzsolt apologised to

Dear David,

As the writer of "Women in Unions", Salient, 4 April, I wish to reply to the letter from Vivienne Porzsolt published in last week's Salient.

Firstly, I acknowledge that Ms Porzsolt was not Informed that her talk was to be reported and apologise herewith.

Secondly, it was not my intention to portray Ms Porzsolt as a lone battler against sexism in the face of implacable male worker opposition — the article did acknowledge that the union, for example, for supportive. Also it was not intended to downplay the role of unions in supporting women workers — a role which Vivienne enunciated in her letter, but which, in my opinion, she did not enunciate quite so clearly at the meeting of the Women's Study Group. Given that it was not the point she was trying to get across, in my opinion her talk came across as making more mention of the obstacles faced by the women than the support they (undoubtedly) received from co-workers.

Finally, I strongly object to any implication that the article in question sensationalised "working-class sexism". The article was not anti-worker, nor did it suggest that the working class is peculiarly sexist.

Virginia Branney

the adventures of FAT FREDDY'S CAT WHAT KIND OF DOG ARE YOU? I'M A POLICE DOG! YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A POLICE DOG TO ME! NATURALLY! I'M IN PLAIN CLOTHES!

You can't buy these specialist National Semiconductor Calculators in a shop \$49.60 (Special Offer (We Cut out the Retailer!) General \$66.59 Limited Period Only.) instead of the \$114.95 you would pay in a shop. Statistics \$48.33 instead of the \$59.95 you would pay in a shop. Commerce \$48.33 instead of the \$59.95 you would pay in a shop Physics/Engineering \$99.64 instead of the \$153.60 you would pay in a shop And there's More (and programmable versions too) That's the reason you Can Afford them! Send this coupon for full information on the National Semiconductor range to: NOVUS National Semiconductor Calculators Ltd 65-67 Birkenhead Ave Birkenhead Auckland 10 P O Box 72-053 Northcote Point Auckland 10 Telephone 489-175 Name..... Address— 1 YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL CALCULATORS

A pointed order

Dear David,

As regards SRC meetings. Firstly I think it would be desirable to publish a full agenda for these meetings say 1 or 2 days before the meeting if possible. This also applies to SGMs. The point of this is that quite often students, or myself anyway, are unaware until after a meeting has started as to exactly what motions are to be discussed. Hopefully this will prevent motions being weasled through the meetings right at the end catching what few people are left napping. With particular reference to an Underwood/Cassidy motion several weeks ago which sought to increase their own honorariums; this was nearly weasled through with most people being unaware that it was even going to be discussed. Thank God someone moved the motion to hold an SGM to discuss the matter. This is the kind of railroad [*unclear*: tactic] which may be avoided if [*unclear*: the agenda] is made public beforehand.

Secondly. I have yet to see an SGM or SRC start at 12.00 as they are supposed to. Cannot Lindy Cassidy move a bit more quickly; after all, as Peter Gibbs has pointed out in his SRC write-ups in Salient, the agenda is rarely completed before 2 p.m. or before the quorum is no longer present. Take Wednesday 25th's SGM for example; it didn't start until 12.15. If It wasn't for the procedural motion which moved item 6 to item 3 on the agenda, the abortion question would not have been debated to the extent it was. As it happened 262 people voted right on 2 p.m. I wonder how many would have stayed had the other motions been dealt with first? As it was the other motions didn't get a chance as time prevented this. No doubt Mr Thrush and Co. will be pissed off that their honorariums haven't been increased. All I can say is that Lindy Cassidy is to blame for not opening the meeting at 12.00 as should happen.

That's about the end of my gripe for now so we'll see you at the next SRC at about 12.30.

Yours truly,

Gundtfartin arseholes

(P.S. Mr Murray: pertaining to the SGM on the 25th is it your usual tactic to snipe from the back of the hall or are you too gutless to get up the front and speak when it comes to something as important as the abortion issue which was being discussed then? Answer please!)

(Dear Mr Arseholes, as you will know if you attend SRC's and forums, it is my custom to throw suggestions and, when the need arises, insults from the back of the Hall. This increases audience participation, livens up the meeting and ensures that the meeting is not overly bored by a delivery from me on the rostrum — Ed.)

Another plea for wage cuts

Dear Ed

I'd just like to write a little letter in support of poor Lindy (alias the President of VUWSA) and her \$60 per week. With three children (whoops - who said that?) and an aged grand-person to feed she needs every red cent she can get. I just can't see how she could possibly afford a new pair of shoes per week (not to mention rugby boots) on any less. After all, we couldn't expect her to chair SRC barefoot and being a principled person, I'm just absolutely certain she'd never wear the same pair of shoes to SRC twice. So let's quit hassling the poor kiddie and do someone else.

Messrs Hannah,
Gubb and
Raymonde

Dear Salient,

KAPOW!

So we are now paying our student president the princely sum of \$60 a week — and about time too in my opinion.

It never ceases to fascinate me that the tinpot Muldoons on this campus were patently noticeable by their absence when this question was debated by the student body. Now they come crawling out of the woodwork with their whinging letters to Salient, and not having the intestinal fortitude to advocate wage cuts for our student leadership, they resort to rather pathetic personal abuse.

Unlike the majority of your leaders I remember the last time we gave the student president a raise. And every now and then I see the hard-done-by types who raved and ranted against the decision then driving down Plunket Street from their nice homes in Karori on the way to their cushy Jobs in the city. There's one thing that hasn't changed, however. These types are still screaming for wage cuts — for everyone but themselves.

Ordinary Bloke

Another Pres says

Dear Browin & Edith,

"If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Yours etc.

Harry S. Truman

(We have reason to believe that this letter is a forgery — Ed.)

Ok Roger!

Dear David,

On the question of the ANZUS Treaty I would just like to point out that the United States is protecting its own. God bless America!

(signed) Roger Ramjet
(Hero of the American people ... and nice too)

The Hun Charges

Dear Sir,

I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms with regard to the prejudicial nature of the letter titles. If anyone expresses a view contrary to the party line they are immediately subject to, oppressive ridicule e.g. "Pope writes to Salient" and "Commerce student lets it all hang out" to name a few [*unclear*: in the interests of healthy political debate], goodwill, and fairplay this abhorrently fascist practice should be terminated immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Attila the Hun

(The Editor reserves the right to label the letters as he thinks appropriate — Ed.)

Bourgeois art criticised

Dear David,

HOW TO BECOME A LION

Sitting by the catalogues in the library I have observed that within a 5 minute interval an average of 4 people collide as they enter and exit through the door leading to all other floors. This means that in one day 1344 persons will collide with some person.

This dangerous practise needs further investigation. How about cutting another door where that crappy painting of a sadistic capitalist beating the proletariat with a whip is now hanging on floor 2.

Sincerely,

Sue Market

Rankine-Brown philosophy

Dear Editor,

As a Malaysian I am torn by conflicts within me.

Can I do something useful while in NZ or am I here solely to get a degree? Study hard everyone tells me Yeah, you are right — the more you study the better you will do. Yet I begin to question myself There must be something wrong somewhere 'cos I feel so dissatisfied yet don't know the reason why having been here for only three months I don't know which way to go So can anyone enlighten me?

1st year Student

Object to Mount St Closure

To: The City Engineer
Wellington City Council PO Box 2199 Wellington

Cars parked on Mount Street

From: Name.....

Address.....

I Hereby Strongly Object to the Proposed Closure of Mount Street, Kelburn and Request a Time be Set aside for the Hearing of My Objection.

Signed:.....

Date:

This is no ordinary street closure. The land around Mount Street is owned by Brierly Investments, and the proposed closure would allow Brierly to buy the land comprising Mount Street and thus erect a high rise apartment block. Plans for this have already been referred to in an article published by the Evening Post.

However it can be stopped, using available legal procedure. The City Council is obliged to hold a hearing for every person who objects to the proposed closure, so the Flagstaff Hill Residents Association has formulated a plan to flood the City Council with objections each asking for a different hearing date in the hope that this will force them to cancel their plans. Anybody affected by the closure is entitled to object, and as students thus affected we all have the legal right to do so. So act now, and use the form below to request a hearing for your objection. Objections close 20th June;

Cars parked on Mount Street

V.U.W.S.A. INSURANCE Be future minded! For helpful insurance advice, contact Jim Henderson, Phone 737-428. 726-606

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