

What is happening to our executive?

Drawing of a couple of people walking away from a larger group of people

Editorial. Exec: 2 down....

To whom it may concern

I regret to have to announce my resignation from the position of SRC Co-ordinator to take effect from Wednesday 14 March for personal reasons. Due to 'unforeseen circumstances' I will no longer have the time this year to do the job properly, and I think it is better under those circumstances to give the chance of filling the position to someone who can.

It is not a decision I make lightly, a lot of students are rightly worried about this year's Executive and the 'teething problems' it has experienced, and resignations like this early in the year don't help. I apologise for that and hope like hell that someone with at least common sense and preferably dedication as well, will take it upon themselves to stand for this important position. Thanks to everyone I've worked with.

Jonathon Scott

What a fine, co-ordinated and principled Executive we have for 1979, working so diligently for the good of the students that elected them. First it was Kevin Ward who threw in his towel from across the Tasman where he was holidaying. Next to reach for his pen was Treasurer Peter Edwards who tendered his resignation at the last Exec meeting, but after about two hours of discussion was persuaded to withdraw it, but he still remains a likely contender in the resignation stakes. Jonathan Scott didn't take the chance of being so persuaded, he secretly made his decision and then dropped his little bombshell in Andrew Tees' hand, cunningly disguised as a handwritten piece of paper.

If we ignore Kevin Ward, who it is clear never had any serious intentions towards the job, and also the two other people who have so far this year privately threatened resignation, we have seen two resignations submitted (one successfully) for most pitiful reasons. Peter Edwards had a gripe with one or two Exec members and he tries to get out. Jonathon Scott's reason, presumably a fear of blemishing his academic record, seems even more paltry.

One is forced to ask just what these people thought they were doing in standing for an Exec position. The job is not, as some seem to think, a little ego trip and an excuse to pick up \$300 in honoraria. Exec members are elected to represent their members and administer the Association for their benefit. It is not an easy job, either in the work involved or in the sacrifices which must be made to do it properly. The work of an Exec member is not something s/he fits in when there's no more work that can be done for the 'A' pass, and the pubs are shut, it is something that takes precedence over the latter and ranks at least with the former. It is no excuse to whine "I didn't appreciate how much work would be involved", when you stand you accept that you will spend whatever time is necessary to do the job properly.

It is in a sense ironic that the Association, which functions at least in part, to bring students' heads out of their textbooks and into the real world, suffers from elected officers who are not prepared to do that themselves. Part of the reason that Students' Association are under such a strain at the moment is that there is a shortage of people who are prepared to make the sacrifices necessary to keep the organisations functioning smoothly. Resigning not only places considerable extra strain on those that do remain with the "sinking ship", but generally undermines the the concept of making a sacrifice in order to do the job adequately.

The appalling performance of the 1979 Exec is particularly serious in the light of the forthcoming SRC elections. As well as the 6 SRC officers there are any number of positions on various committees around the university. In the past the record of holders of SRC positions, particularly those for committees, had been shocking.

The problem is not resignations, it is rather that the people just stop doing the job, fail to attend the meetings and, in some circles, make the Students' Association a laughing stock. Standing for an SRC position demands the same commitment that standing for an Exec position entails. It is disappointing that the Exec has set such a poor example in this area.

Peter Beach

Elections

The Second SRC of 1979 will be held on Wednesday 14 March at 12.00 noon in the Union Hall (top floor Union Building). It will be largely taken up with elections, elections and more elections. All the following positions will be decided then, so roll up and take your place. If you have any queries about any of the positions you should enquire at Studass Office (ground floor of the Union Building graveyard end).

Executive Positions

Following the resignations of Kevin Ward and Jonathon Scott there are two vacancies in the Executive of the Students Association. They are the Man Vice President and the SRC Co-ordinator.

The Man Vice President should act with the Woman Vice President as a deputy to the President, helping with the administrative side of VUWSA as well as deputising for the President when the occasion warrants.

The SRC Co-ordinator is responsible for administering the vast system of SRC Reps - see the list below, ensuring that the SRC Officers are doing their jobs adequately — where necessary co-ordinating their activities, and generally acting to check that SRC policy is being successfully actioned and the views of students properly represented on the various committees.

Both these positions carry an honoraria of \$300, so a reasonable amount of time is expected from the incumbents.

Applicants should make their nomination in writing, and take it to the Studass Office by Wednesday noon. The election will be held during the actual SRC.

SRC Officers

There are seven SRC Officers jointly charged with executing the policy of the SRC.

The seven positions are: Education Officer, Women's Rights Officer, National Affairs Officer, Overseas Students' Officer, International Affairs Officer, Welfare Officer and Environmental Affairs Officer. A more detailed run-down of what these various positions entail is given in the first Salient of 1979.

All the positions carry an honoraria of \$100 with a further \$100 given for the [*unclear*: officer] to use in actioning the policy (eg printing posters etc). These positions are very important in the running of the Association, and will involve quite a considerable amount of time during the year.

SRC Representatives

The SRC Reps sit on a variety of committees of the University and Association and are expected to express the SRC opinion to these committees. As most of the committees only meet infrequently, the positions are not particularly [*unclear*: onerous] There has however been a history of SRC Reps who just don't bother to turn up even to the meetings. It's a very small commitment and if people take it they should honour it.

Nominations will be taken at the SRC itself.

The list of positions is given below, with the number of reps required given in brackets after it.

- Union Management Committee (5 reps at least 0 being a women).
- Catering Sub-committee (4 reps)
- Publications Board (6 reps)
- Victoria Book Centre Board of Directors (1 rep)
- Professorial Board (3 reps)
- Environmental Studies Committee (2 reps)
- Committee on Exams at Entrance Level (1 rep)
- Pacific Studies Committee (1 rep)
- Parking Committee (1 rep)
- Teaching Aids Committee (1 rep)
- Teaching and Learning Centre (1 rep)
- Disciplinary Committee (2 reps)

- Arts Faculty (4 reps, 2 for 1 year and 2 for 2 years)
- Language and Literature Faculty (4 reps, 2 for 1 year and 2 for 2 years)
- Science Faculty (5 reps, 1 being a woman and 1 a graduate)
- Commerce Faculty (5 reps)
- Library Committee (2 reps)
- Timetable Committee (1 rep)
- Library Usage Committee (7 reps, 1 from each faculty and 1 graduate)

President

Last week there was a forum on Wednesday about NZUSA (the New Zealand University Students' Association) your Association. Three dollars a year of your Students' Association fee goes to this body to represent you at National level on such vital student welfare issues such as bursaries and student unemployment. Yet, despite all these salient facts, few people there asked many questions. Hopefully, that means that everybody is happy with NZUSA at Victoria, however, I suspect that might be a naive assertion. The next National Executive meeting of NZUSA will be here in Wellington on 17 March.

Also, last week and perhaps more importantly, the SRC Co-ordinator Jonathon Scott handed in his resignation, effective as of 14 March. So, we now now have Two vacancies on the Executive. If you Want to be on the Executive and be Src Coordinator or Man Vice—President Turn up to the Src at 12.00 in the Union Hall this Wednesday, when the By—Elections will be Held.

The resignations don't help when viewed in the context of the 'teething' problems of this year's new Executive. An example of this so far has been a disagreement between two executive members which nearly resulted in the resignation of the Treasurer, not simply for 'personal' reasons, but because one Executive member chose to carry on the disagreement in "vendetta" style Consequently, the problems had to be discussed by the Executive at one of its regular meetings at which, of course, the resignation of the Treasurer was withdrawn.

Hopefully, these problems have been solved and the Executive will now work constructively together without the need for 'arbitration' for the rest of the year.

Sooner or later, that is, before the 3rd of June, the Association has to prepare a submission to the University Council on the future basis of the financing of the Association and Union. Such important matters as the contribution students will be making for the upkeep of the Recreation Centre and the future of the finances of the catering operation will be included. Naturally, we need to ensure that students do not end up paying for future costs which morally should be borne by the University. The University will probably try and make students pay (through their fees which are high anyway) for a substantial part of the running costs of the facilities (i.e. as much as they can get out of us). Hence, a great deal of time has to be carefully spent compiling this submission and a sub-committee of the Executive has been appointed for this purpose.

Well, that's all for now and I hope you've been actively appreciating all of the Orientation activities over the past few weeks. '

Andrew Tees

Salient Notes

It's Tuesday morning at the Salient Hospital for the Hopelessly Infirm. The Operating Theatre doors swing open and in lurches white-gowned Surgeon-General Peter Beach, drunkenly pulling on a rubber glove onto his right foot. "Ready for the operation?" he leers at Head-Nurse Kathyne Fleming. "Yes, doctor," she answered, putting down her beer. "Bring the ingredients!" bowls Richard Riddiford from his prone position on the floor. The patient, Kris Malloy, suffering from third degree burns over 90% of his body after an argument with a meat pie, is brought into the Theatre on the shoulders of those trusty stalwarts Pascal Brown and Mark Wilson.

Mistaking the identity of the patient, Peter throws himself onto Pascal and sinks a scalpel into his chest; before being restrained by a passing Lisa Saksen, using her professional wrestling background to great advantage. Mistaking her moves as an amorous advance, and determined to uphold his family's honour, Andrew Beach throws himself upon her, fails to gain a purchase on her blood-stained operating gown, slides to the floor and lands at the foot of Victoria Quade. She, in turn, mistakes this for yet another example of women's mistreatment by males and hurls a gin bottle which hits Geoff Adams safely on the head.

Just when things looked very black for everyone, Stephen A'Court wandered in, inquiring if anyone had seen his pet ferret called Winstone. In the ensuing lull in the conversation, the operation continued apace. Soon

blood was flowing satisfactorily and Virginia Adams called for a "wee cup of tea". Lamorna Rogers, Chris Conway and Helen Aikman who were playing Cludo in the corner agreed wholeheartedly but were unfortunately swept away moments later in a tidal wave of blood; Peter had just discovered the jugular. Just then, Caretaker Simon Wilson walked in and said "This room's in in a disgusting mess. Clean it up at once." A scalpel flashed and Simon's worries were brought much closer to home.

The operation is nearly over.. .all signs of life have left the patient and most of the staff. "You did a good job under difficult conditions, Doctor" said Lorraine Wilson... Another [*unclear: awkward*] pause in the conversation which is filled with the arrival of morgue attendant Leonie Morris, bedecked in a lurid grin: "How's business, boys?" she inquires. The three morgue-droogs (Alan McArthur, Rick Peterson and Graeme Robertson) rub their hands and chortle. "Are these to have here or take away?" asks Tim Bollinger. James Morgan, who only wants a good night's sleep, can take no more and cuts the lights.

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SIS and the \$9

Salient has learned from several independent sources that the SIS has been called in to investigate where the leak of the Education Department's proposal to Treasury of a \$9 increase to the bursary came from. It appears that a list has already been drawn up of all people who have access to the information. News of the SIS involvement provides a graphic example of the kind of work the SIS engages in: hardly in the counterespionage field as officialdom would have us believe.

For students, however, it highlights another aspect. The Education Department is understood to be unofficially denying that the increase was actually proposed. The question Salient wants to ask is this: why would the SIS be called in on something that isn't true?

Top of the Week

The Singapore Solution

Muldoon Makes his Move

On March 3rd Prime Minister Muldoon announced that price controls were to be lifted and greater foreign investment was to be encouraged. This signals the first faltering steps in the much prophesised restructuring of the economy. To an extent, these steps mean that Muldoon has accented the advice of many "neoclassical economic "experts" that the solution to all ills is to remove price controls and let "market forces" have their way with the economy. This solution has a simple attraction.

However, its similarity to the systems adopted in South Korea, Singapore and Chile (the latter under the influence of the "Chicago gang" of economists trained by Milton Friedman) gives grave cause for alarm. In essence these policies have abolished protection of local import substitution, which provided a certain amount of stability and kept people employed, and concentrated their attention on developing a highly efficient export manufacturing sector. This sector has grown up through the investment of foreign capital, technology and expertise, and remains dependent on and subservient to that foreign investment.

In simple terms, these economies are geared not towards providing a decent standard of living for the people of their respective countries, but towards enlarging the coffers of the foreign investors. For ivory tower economists who do now worry about these things, the export booms that have been produced have served as excellent models. Even Muldoon, who previously has been at pains to keep a distance between himself and the "experts", has often gone on record with praise for the Singaporean system. He mentioned it again in favourable terms during the March 3rd speech.

Control of the economy shifting into the boardrooms of the United States, Japan and Western Europe is one consequence of the Singapore solution. There is another vital factor: the appalling social cost. In all the above mentioned countries the standard of living of the ordinary people, the people who do the work that creates the profits for the foreign investors, is deliberately kept at an extremely low level. All trade unions except those run

by the Government are banned. Genuine working class organisation, a basic right of all workers, is forbidden. Political opposition is suppressed. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has locked up thousands of "dissidents" during his long term in office. The few formal trappings of democracy that do exist are nothing more than a smoke screen for a fascist state.

This hasn't happened in Singapore just because Lee Kuan Yew is a "bad man". His policy, the one Muldoon is now espousing, demands that a safe return can be guaranteed to foreign investors. To give them this, he must keep wages down and destroy attempts by workers to fight back. Our own Prime Minister will have to do the same. It won't be his smiling face that attracts the monopolies from far away. It will be the guarantee of a cheap and docile workforce, coupled with promises of cheap raw materials like energy, coal, forests. The West German investment mission due here on March 14 will be looking very closely at our "cheap" resources.

Prices: What are They and Where do They Come from.

New Zealand's economy is strongly monopolised. In most sectors only a few companies control the market. Any genuine relaxation of price controls would free these monopolies to charge whatever the market will bear. Given their monopoly position this will mean huge price hikes in the months following "lift-off". Muldoon has suggested that competition will be the natural regulator of prices. In fact, whatever competition we do see will be in the form of monopolies squeezing out their smaller rivals through price wars. This is precisely the history of that well known New Zealand monopoly, Watties: price wars, destruction and / or takeover of competitors and subsequent increases in prices.

. . . and now introducing economic wizard — Prime Minister Robert (call me "Basher") Muldoon.

Drawing of Robert Muldoon

Part of the idea behind this scheme is to weed out "inefficient" New Zealand industry, the industry that cannot adapt to, and find markets, in the export field. In effect, the big internationally competitive firms would drive the others to the wall. At the moment, our import controls act as a safeguard against this happening, but the policy outlined by Muldoon could well be a softening up process for their removal.

Attempts to boost company's real profit rates by allowing them to raise prices will in all probability be linked to attempts to hold wages down to "responsible" levels. Associate Minister of Finance, Hugh Templeton, and Labour Minister Jim Bolger have already made such a call, while there have been hints that the Arbitration Court will not consider any general wage orders in the near future as award wage rises have been too high! In his speech on March 3rd, Muldoon used the metaphor of the carrot and the stick, meaning that local industry will not be beaten into restructuring. The metaphor has another application: the carrots are being offered to foreign investment, the stick will be used to beat down the workers. Our Prime Minister may well brand this prediction as "an outcry from the know-nothing element". The trouble with that is, the evidence just isn't there to back him up.

Simon Wilson and James Morgan.

Bottom of the Week

Food for thought

Some say you are what you eat. Evidently there is more to this than ever a red blooded meat eater might have expected. In fact, one of the great christian endeavours in the history of carnivorous enterprise is being threatened by an insidious conslaught of Islam. It all arose from the recent pronouncement by the Ayatollah that eating frozen meat is a religious sin and resulted in unprecedented upheavals in our country.

Immediately an emergency meeting of cabinet was called to decide how best to deal with this heresy in our meat industry. First, however, the Minister of Defence pointed out that he too shared the Ayatollah's dislike for frozen meat, but by virtue of the processes of thawing and cooking it could be made quite palatable.

The Prime Minister not one to be bluffed by such ontological refinery declared the freezing industry at stake, which he added would be burnt on the morrow. However after urgent consultation with Federated Farmers he withdrew this remark on the condition that the freezing workers immediately embrace Islam.

A spokesman from the freezing workers union remarked that he did not foresee too many problems; nothing he contended, that 6,000,000 dollars and a bit of polygamy would not fix. However he made no bones about the fact that it could be a long thaw before the management would agree to his proposals. Amongst further conditions he listed were speed reading courses in the Koran, prayer calls on top of smokos and special

provision for pilgrimages to Mecca.

The farmers have once again found themselves stricken by forces beyond their control. Reaction to the pronouncement that henceforth all woools sheds must face Mecca has been mixed. In good faith the government has promised it will be pay cost plus expenses for the relocation of woools sheds. The DSIR are working on a diviner that will assist in the reorientation of the buildings.

Incredibly, Mohamed Smith, a farmer from Marton, has made the astounding discovery that his sheep are now bleating *al-lah* in preference to the much hackneyed *bah-bah*. Asked to comment on this development he suggested that no one was going to pull the wool over their eyes. Pressed further to speculate that if this spread to the rest of the flock New Zealand may soon become the largest Islamic nation on earth, he replied that the bloody Beehive was wasted on civil servants anyway and that he had always suspected the Moghul element in its architecture.

Perhaps the bitterest blow has been the proclamation that farmers are not to swear at their dogs. Wives everywhere are up in arms at the effect this will have on their marriages and children. The longer Cambridge Dictionary of Imprecise and Downunder phrases are to issue an Ayatollarised edition.

After announcing these emergency measures the PM hinted that if the Iranians refused to meet NZ halfway on the matter he was considering stretching the 200 mile fishing zone to 200,000 miles to teach the "Iranians a lesson". If, he added dryly, they refused to eat meat they certainly were not going to eat any fish.

Richard Riddiford and Lewis Holden

RAVIOLIS FATHER EPISODE THREE What a glorious day. Not a cloud in the (2) Over here ! (4) why, if it iisn't Ravioli's farher's son, Ravioli himself! (5) Keep it quiet! There are ayes and ears all over the place ! I have something confidential to discuss! (6) I hear that you like myself are intrigued by my father's peculiar pastime! ypu too ? Tesd! I hope he's not coming down with something! Then, if you want to know more, meet me here at noon tomorrow! (1) ? (8) You know what I've told you about those esplosives. My friend gere tells me that there are already eyes and ears all over the place ! Remember - noon tomorrow I have a plan ! cheerio ! CONTINUED

Asian Students Association

Over Christmas Lindy Cassidy and Grant Liddell attended the 6th Conference of the ASA. Below is part of their report.

6th Asian Student Association Conference

Many New Zealand students will not be aware of the existence of the Asian Students Association (ASA) let alone the fact that, by virtue of their membership of the New Zealand University Student Association, they are automatically members of ASA. However, it is important to understand the role ASA plays in the Asian region and the significance of NZUSA's membership.

Background to the Conference

The Asian Students Association was formed in 1969 as an American-inspired response to the Soviet-backed International Union of Students. NZUSA was one of 9 founding members which included national student unions from Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, India, Australia, Phillipines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka (then Ceylon).

The 1970 NZUSA delegate recommended withdrawal from ASA as it was a reactionary body that tended to act as a crutch for American foreign policy. Consequently, in 1971 NZUSA withdrew. In 1974, NZUSA attended the ASA Conference as an observer and the two delegates subsequently recommended NZUSA's rejoining on the grounds that ASA now played an independent, non-aligned role in the Asian region. In November 1975, NZUSA attended the ASA conference at Chieng Mai as a full member. At that conference the Pakistan National Student Delegation (PNSD) was elected as the Chair of ASA and also the host of the next conference, scheduled for November 1977. However, because of the internal situation of Pakistan the ASA Conference had to be postponed and the venue changed to Hong Kong in December, 1978.

"Self-determination and self-reliance" was the theme of the 6th ASA Conference and one which was re-iterated in much of the discussion and debate which took place. The delegations to the Conference included the University South Pacific Students Association, the Hong Kong Federation of Students, the Pakistan National Student Delegation, the Singapore National Delegation, the Australian Union of Students, the National Union of Iraqi Students, the National Union of Syrian Students, the General Union of Jordanian Students, the

National Student Centre of Thailand, the Korean Student Committee in Japan, two Japanese student unions, the Nationalist Independent Student Organisation of Nepal and a delegation of Phillipino students from the University of the Phillipines and the University of St. Scholastica College.

[unclear: Issues] and Policy Debates

Though the Conference reached a fair degree of unanimity on most political issues, there was fierce debate on the overall world situation and, in particular, the role of the Soviet Union. There was also much discussion on the problems experienced by students in their education, and on the right to organise democratic, open student unions.

Subsequently a detailed charter of Student rights was added to ASA's policy.

This Charter declared the right of students to a free education in all sectors of education. It included the right to live free from hardship by the provision of reasonable student allowances; the right to freedom of thought, action and speech; and the right to organise autonomous democratic student unions, free from intervention and repression from governments and other administrations. It declared the right of students to involve their unions in social and political issues, particularly in assisting the struggles of the poor and oppressed, and participating in the control and running of tertiary institutions.

The section on the South Pacific was enlarged to incorporate the increasing attacks experienced both in Australia and New Zealand on people's democratic rights, i.e. SIS legislation, bans on political speakers in New Zealand, bans on marches in Queensland, the 1977 Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion legislation, etc., ASA also condemned the New Zealand government's attacks' on the rights of overseas students — particularly the cutbacks in the number of students allowed in and their right to stand for positions in both local and national students associations.

However, the most vehemently debated issue was that of the conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States. This debate was mainly between the Middle East block who attempted to apologise and cover up for Soviet aggression in the world, and the rest of the ASA members, particularly NZUSA, PNSD, HKFS, and USPSA. The first debate on this question ensued when NZUSA proposed and USPSA seconded, a motion expressing concern over the increasing involvement of the two superpowers in the South Pacific (NZUSA policy 1.32). Because the Middle East block could not deny the Soviet presence in the South Pacific, they tried, by way of three amendments, to move that specific mention of the two superpowers be deleted and replaced by the word "imperialism". All three amendments were defeated, with the substantive motion finally being overwhelmingly passed, thus illustrating the depth of feeling and experience against both superpowers in the Asian region.

The second motion to cause heated debate was that moved by the Pakistan National Student Delegation, and seconded by the Hong Kong Federation of Students. This condemned the quest for hegemony by the two superpowers (USA and USSR) in the Indian subcontinent, considering it as a danger to peace and freedom in that region. The Middle East bloc were so incensed, particularly by the fiery speech made by the PNSD representative, that they refused to comment. Needless to say the motion was again passed by an overwhelming majority.

Future Activities

The conference stressed the need to broaden its base of activities from that of politically oriented campaigns to educational activities and cultural and sporting exchanges. It also encouraged a more regular dissemination of information. The need to undertake more educational activities and research was stressed at the "Education for Development in Asia" Conference. Proposals for the regular publication of an educational bulletin and posters, concerned with common problems experienced by students, were adopted. The Student Charter of Rights will be a basis upon which to build a programme of educational activities in the coming two years.

The conference also gave its endorsement to a South Pacific conference to be held in late 1979 in Fiji. The purpose of the conference would be to consolidate, the ASA's South Pacific regional members i.e. New Zealand, University of the South Pacific, Australia, and Papua New Guinea. At the last National executive a sub-committee was established to draw up the plans for such a conference in conjunction with the three other National Student Unions.

Activities in the sphere of women's rights will be pursued through the Women's Commission. Concrete proposals were adopted to publish and distribute a regular women's newsletter. Though the problems experienced by Second and Third World women are sometimes very different, most of the member organizations expressed a desire for information on the various campaigns and activities on women's rights.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of ASA, a festival of Asian students, highlighting ASA's cultural aspects, will be held later this year. The site of the festival has yet to be finalised. Cultural co-operation is to be accorded an important priority in the future work of ASA, and projects in this field will include the publication of an Asian students' songbook with accompanying tapes.

One of the most important contributions that ASA makes to its members is in the form of dissemination of information on what is happening politically in the region, both in a general and a particular student content. This year's Secretariat are undertaking to publish "ASA News" at regular three-month intervals. The first publication will be out in March April. However, it is up to the constituents to send regular contributions outlining issues of concern to students in their country. It has been suggested that each constituent appoint a correspondent who has the responsibility of sending information to "A SA News". As well as a regular magazine it is anticipated that the Secretariat will publish a newsletter.

Another proposal that was adopted was to have days of solidarity in commemoration of certain student struggles. This would not be the same as the IUS (International Union of Students) days of solidarities with the people's struggles in remote, and sometimes irrelevant parts of the world. Rather, these days are to be special occasions. There will not just be posters but also rallies and demonstrations in as many constituent countries as possible. The first solidarity day is with the Palestinian people on March 31st. There will be different levels of activity for different constituents' needs. Thus, for NZUSA and AUS there will be information outlining the history and present-day struggles of the Palestinian people. For the Middle East countries and other countries where policy is in support of the Palestinian struggle there will be agitational posters and leaflets. There will also be solidarity rallies in countries such as the Middle East and Pakistan. Other proposals for days of solidarity were. Day of Asian Student Unity, Day of Solidarity with That Students, Day of Solidarity for the Pacific Ocean as a Peace Zone, Day of Solidarity with the Korean Struggle, Day of Solidarity for the Indian Ocean as a Peace Zone, etc.

One way of dealing with student demonstrators.

Photo of protesters being arrested

NZUSA's Membership and ASA

It is important to ask what benefits can be gained from continued membership of ASA. Firstly, there are the obvious advantages of co-operation and co-ordination on specific issues. The campaign on political prisoners in Malaysia and Singapore and the October 6th Coup in Thailand, are past examples where demands and action were co-ordinated. Without the information that ASA was able to provide from its members and contacts on the situation, our own campaigns would have been severely limited.

In the future we can look forward to co-ordination on issues of immediate concern to our students, such as the pressing unemployment situations among graduates, educational campaigns where innovative forms of assessment used in one country could be translated to another, the continued defence of overseas students' rights in both New Zealand and Australia, the campaign for a nuclear-free zone of peace in the South Pacific, women's rights and the general political situation in the Asian region.

Another important benefit that NZUSA gets from membership of ASA is contact with other member organizations, particularly in the South Pacific region, Singapore Malaysia and Thailand and Hong Kong. Without these contacts NZUSA would be considerably weakened in maintaining international relations with other student organizations, providing reliable information for its own membership and concrete support for overseas students.

It is important that New Zealand is seen in student eyes as being part of Asia and is attempting to play an equal role there in integrating itself in the region. For the overseas students studying in New Zealand it is a positive orientation that the regional body to which NZUSA belongs is the Asian one. It is a logical extension of our international policy, which has little European leaning and is virtually concentrated around South Pacific and Asian issues, that NZUSA should belong to specifically and Asian body.

Finally, one must contemplate the disadvantages of not being a member. Obviously it would mean that NZUSA would have little contact with outside student organisations, since we do not have the resources to maintain individual contacts on a regular and thorough basis. It would also mean that NZUSA would have little credibility in the eyes of the other national student organizations, not only for our nonparticipation but also because few student organizations would have knowledge of our activities. Consequently, we could not expect much support for our own campaigns, it must also be remembered that ASA is the only democratic, independent and non-aligned regional student body in the world and stands in glaring contrast to that well-known Soviet front, the International Union of Students.

Lindy Cassidy

To be continue a

There's no Smoke without Smoke

It certainly wasn't hard to find a place to sit down at the "find out about your National Students' Association" forum on Wednesday. Although advertising for the forum wasn't much in evidence, the poor attendance along with near total lack of feed-back from the floor during question-time seems to suggest a general lack of interest in NZUSA among students.

A diversion: a brief and stirring introduction by Zac Wallace representing the workers sacked on the Mangere Bridge in May last year, roused some feelings of sympathy among those present. A motion expressing solidarity with the worker's struggle was unanimously passed and a donation of \$34 collected to support the men and their families in their plight.

Back to NZUSA and perhaps some insight into why there is such a lack of student interest. Having come under considerable attack from some campuses and individuals for failing to represent students, Chris Gosling (President of NZUSA) took great pains, firstly to stress how effective a national body to co-ordinate student actions and demands can be, and secondly, to make it quite clear that NZUSA policy is adopted democratically by delegates voting in line with their campus policy. The emergence of unrepresentative policy could only result from the campuses being at fault in the way they establish their policy. This is not something NZUSA can be criticised for.

So NZUSA is established as a truly representative body. What now? We learn from Gosling, Grant Liddel (Education and Welfare Vice President) and Lamorna Rogers (the Women's Sights Action Committee Co-Ordinator) of some of the areas NZUSA has been working in and what successes it has had. Pressure on the Government for better living standards, a higher bursary and continuation of the SC AP scheme has at least brought a recognition that students are not getting enough to meet their needs. However, it was disappointing that Liddel didn't take up the question of the Education Department proposal for a \$9 bursary increase and indicate any plans for immediate action.

Attempts to give the Human Rights Commission "a bit of confidence" by NZUSA to act on attacks on our civil liberties (the SIS Act) and international issues like getting the Governments ban on the South African scholar speaking on topics while in New Zealand lifted are not having much success says Brown. Hopefully this issue will "blow up" as he predicts it will.

General Vice-President Brown.

The Women's Rights Action Committee is one section of NZUSA which is more action - orientated. Lamorna Rogers gave a strong indication that we can look forward to an action - packed year of campaigns to counter the growing attacks on Women's Rights - especially concerning women's right to work, sex-stereotyping, injustices against working women and a continuation of the pro-choice / abortion campaign.

I came away from the forum thinking yes, NZUSA is a democratic body that can represent students on a national level. But it didn't offer any opportunity for involvement of ordinary students in activities to fight the battles.

Endless negotiations and submissions are a useful and valuable part of our struggle, but they don't constitute the main thrust of any campaign. What is needed is mass action to involve all NZUSA's 39,000 membership, to twist the government's arm - force it to do something about student demands. And NZUSA's role is surely to organise such mass action.

Virginia Adams

Ron: a Born Leader

Last Thursday being International Working Womens Day, a Forum was held at high noon to discuss "A Womens place is in the House of Representatives". Speaking at the PSA-organised meeting were three speakers (Mary Batchelor, Labour MP for Avon; Ron England representing the Social Credit League; and Lisa Sacksen from the Working Women's Alliance) presenting a wide (at times incredibly so) range of views.

To kick off, Ms Batchelor made a short speech in which she agreed vehemently with the topic, but expressed doubt that Parliament was the best way to bring about changes in the prevalent attitude towards women. Society's attitude towards women and, more importantly, women's ideas about themselves, must change first. Too many women, she said, were reluctant to accept the obligations that would be entailed in their

breaking out of the wife / housekeeper / mother role. She described many women as having a "blue rinse mentality", due to social conditioning to housewives; for too long, we were told, women have devoted all their energies to matters such as home life.

She was quite scathing about the help given to women by various human rights organisations saying "We get reports, debates but no action". On this strident tone Ms Batchelor sat down, leaving the floor to Mr England.

On an extraordinary, Orwellian note, Mr England stated that while men and women are complimentary, they are not equal. Men, for example, are much better suited to leadership (????) he then went on to comment on the masculine nomenclature of the womens struggle - "fight" apparently is something that women don't do. Not that the womens movement is a fight it's a "subtle infiltration".

Obviously concerned about the present role of women in society, he offered the following helpful hints - women should learn more about being effective, they should be seen more and they should try harder to use the opportunities available to establish a better position in society - but not supposedly as leaders, a task for which they are biologically unsuited. Stirring stuff indeed.

Ms Saksen then swept onto the scene. Showing some disregard for the question under discussion, she talked about the nature of women's oppression and possible solutions to it. Starting on the subject of equal pay legislation, she said that under the present circumstances this is largely meaningless. What is needed is the availability of equal jobs. She pointed out that if women were to occupy the same range of jobs as men, 73% of women would have to change jobs. (As a comparison, a study in the American south during the 60s showed that if black men were to obtain parity with white men, 64% would have to change employment.) Moving on to working mothers, she made the point that for this group of people, what society gives in times of wealth it takes away in times of hardship. When the economy was last in a boom period (some time ago now) these women were siezed upon as a large untapped source of labour. Now that the economy is in need of some "fine-tuning", a single income family is being presented as the ideal for which to strive, with working mothers being made to feel that they are neglecting their children.

She went on to mention the DPB as another example of how women are being mistreated. Many women feel (justifiably) that they would be unable to survive on the pittance that this benefit is, and are therefore forced to remain in marriages that are unsatisfactory, painful and often violent.

How, asked Ms Saksen, can 5, 15, 30 or even 93 women MPs change this situation? Women have no more innate ability to change society through Parliament than men do. What is needed, we were told, is to change the very structure we live in. "We have to fight and we have to fight now."

On this Churchillian note general discussion was started. Unsurprisingly the unfortunate Mr England came in for a great deal of criticism. "Is the role of women" he was asked "secondary to the role of men?" No said Mr England, going on to say in the next breath that while women are equal, they are not absolutely equal, The men should give the more obvious kinds of leadership, while women are better [*unclear: suited*] to more gentle forms of leadership institutions, the arts, in the home etc. "There is plenty of scope for women to take their place".

President Gosling watches Education and Welfare Vice-President Liddell.

Photo of President Gosling and Vice-President Liddell

This line of questioning continued for quite some time, with Mr England's attitude becoming ambivalent to say the least. His comments started to weave a fascinating and richly textured tapestry, with the most fascinating contradictions being expressed. We were told that "a woman would only become PM if a suitable man could not be found to do the job". "I believe men generally should front up leadership - I can see that this is the way that men are put together". We were also told that social pressures on women to conform to preconceived ideas was a bad thing which should be fought as much as possible. His solution to this problem was predictably economic - once we understand our resources both human and physical, things will, in some mysterious way cure themselves.

After this, a switch in the direction of the questioning gave the hapless Mr England a respite. Ms Batchelor spoke a warning about the dangers of tokenism, perhaps a strange choice for one of only 4 women in an otherwise male Parliament, She said that in all too many cases, a business would appoint one women director as a salve to its conscience and this liberality would extend no further. She reiterated that change could only come when women wanted it to happen. She ended on a warning note that traditionalism wasn't confined to stereo-typed feminists who are reluctant to investigate new forms of reform.

Ms Saksen escaped from being asked too many questions, but on the ones she was asked, she made the very relevant point that men are not the impediment to women's progress, rather it is the people who possess the money, power and influence. Her solution is a Socialist society, where hopefully these distinctions will be minimised. Even in a socialist economy, said Saksen, progress would be slow, but nevertheless much faster than here, where the only things women get are those that the people in power are prepared to give them.

The forum ended with Ms Batchelor saying action must come from the people - and if the people are in favour of change, Parliament too will toe the line.

Andrew Beach

How Secure are Tenants' Rights?

Tenants Rights A summary of some of the laws relating to tenancy.

If one reads the pamphlets and booklets distributed by various organisations one learns that the tenant has an armoury of rights which he can insist on so that the landlord must acquiesce for fear of being in breach of the law.

A tenant's rights and obligations primarily stem from the contractual arrangement which exists with the landlord. The rights and obligations under the tenancy arrangement will cover the rent, rights to assign, pets, parties, guests etc.

The rights under the Rent Appeal Act 1973 are mainly the right to pay an equitable rent, the rights of landlords to take a security, the rights of tenants to receive receipts. The Property Law Amendment Act 1975 implies a number of covenants and remedies on both landlords and tenants which in effect provides that all dwellinghouses will be made and kept in fit and habitable condition. Other useful aids for the tenant are also included.

The most important item in any tenancy arrangement is either its duration or the period of time that either party can give notice to quit. Until 1961 tenants in New Zealand like many other countries including Britain, had what was known as a security of tenure, i.e. they could not be evicted provided they observed the terms of their agreement and paid the rent. The landlord could not regain possession except in a number of specified circumstances e.g. needed the house for his own or his children's personal use.

Today, if the period of giving notice is not specified Section 105 of the Property Law Act states that if there is a tenancy "it shall be deemed in the absence of proof to the contrary to be a tenancy determinable at the will of either of the parties by 1 month's notice in writing."

The tenant is entitled to a full calendar month to vacate the house from the time he has received notice to quit in writing. It should be noted that if the tenant gives the landlord any thing less than a month's notice in writing that he wishes to quit, the landlord can (and this happens in Wellington) claim rent owing at a later date. Landlords will often use the excuse of not receiving notice, to keep the tenants bond.

This one month's notice is not much when one considers that for many tenants the requirement of shifting when he does not wish to is a great hardship. Students often seem to be evicted just as exams are coming up, others are evicted just as they have their children settled in at the local school, and the reasons for these evictions?

'Thou shalt not call the landlord a silly bastard'

Drawing of a sad person sitting outside a sold house

The law does not require any reason to be given. Often evictions are made because the landlord fears that the tenant may object to a rent rise, a new tenant is not likely to move in and then appeal against his rent. Sometimes the eviction is on ground of race, or the tenant having ing children. To prove that these are landlords grounds is very difficult. The most common cause of unfair evictions is because of some minor argument occurring between the landlord and the tenant.

Should the tenant be evicted for any reason real or imagined or none at all at the whim of the landlord? Those who argue that this should be so, argue that if the tenant wants more security he should bargain for it. He can always take a lease on a long term basis. However just as a person is not normally contracted to his employment for life or even for a long term, why then should the tenant?

A tenant should have flexibility to move about as circumstances change with the only proviso that the landlord be given a reasonable opportunity of finding a replacement tenant (in this era of the collapse of employment in some areas, transfers of jobs etc etc, tenants do have justification for shifting as much as they do).

The second major argument in favour of the status quo is that the landlord should be capable of being as flexible as possible in the use he can make of his investment. There is some merit in this argument, one tenant in one house should not stop an entire area of a city developing into a commercial zone but on the other hand the situation of allowing speculators to buy up houses and letting them run down, then to tear them down at the first hint of a possible profit when the price for land is right, should not be so readily tolerated.

If the landlord wants to evict the tenant he should have to proceed before a judicial body at his own cost and prove that he has sufficient reason to oust the tenant from his/her home.

The Reality of no Security

Tenant's remedies may appear adequate, but when one comes to use and rely on these remedies it is found that they are of little assistance.

Instant Eviction

If a tenant comes home from work and finds all his belongings thrown out on the street and the locks of the flat changed, what can he do? The law does not allow the landlord to evict without notice. But the landlord has acted and the tenant is out. As the landlord is in the wrong the tenant can sue for possession to be returned to him. If the tenancy is a normal statutory monthly tenancy or one of a short period of time, it is not worth the trouble and considerable amount in legal costs to get the flat back, only to find the landlord serving a legal notice the moment the tenant has regained possession.

Flatting — heaven off earth

The tenant is better off suing for damages, and usually he / she will not be able to show much loss in money terms. Thus if he / she is thrown out and the financial loss is not considerable, he / she may as well move on; and concern him / herself with cancelling phone, electricity, gas and newspaper accounts, getting his mail redirected and generally reorganising him / herself and family.

The tenant does not even have the privilege of breaking back into his / her home if it appears that there will be a breach of the peace. The Crimes Act prevents the tenant from getting back in and an attempt to do so would probably lead to arrest.

Non security of tenure

The tenancy agreement may provide for work to be undertaken by the landlord but the landlord may subsequently refuse or persistently put off doing anything. Can the tenant do anything? He / she can if necessary sue the landlord. Again, it's not worth spending the money to sue, only to find you are evicted for your attempts.

Conversely the tenant may obtain a pet, or take on a life style that the landlord does not approve. The landlord may then make it clear that the tenant must remove the pet, or conform to the landlords ideal of a proper lifestyle. The tenant may argue as much as he likes that the agreement says nothing about pets or lifestyles and legally the tenant is correct. However the landlord is also acting within his rights as they presently stand in terminating the tenancy agreement by giving proper notice.

If the house falls into such a state that the City Health Inspectors become concerned and the landlord fails to repair it, the tenant can always be comforted that the Inspectors will come to his/her aid and may use their most compelling power over the landlord, ie having the house condemned. The landlord will then lose out on his/her rents and profits (and incidentally the tenant loses out on his/her home).

It follows then that the biggest asset the tenant has is his good relationship with his landlord. The problem with this "asset" of good relations is that it is generally one-sided. In theory the landlord and tenant stand at arms length and bargain for a tenancy arrangement which will be satisfactory to both.

However the landlord need only appear fair and reasonable at the time when he is negotiating the tenancy with the tenant. Once the tenant has moved into the flat and settled there, s/he realises the s/he must be on good terms with the landlord at all times. The landlord can forget to carry out promises made and yet stipulate more conditions for the tenant to fulfill knowing full well that the tenant is likely to put up with considerable hardship rather than going to the time and trouble of shifting out.

Tenants are told that the law says that they get what they bargain for, but if they do not constantly please the landlord they stand to lose possession of their home.

The landlord unlike most businessmen does not require "goodwill". Whatever grievance the tenant has, be it his landlord constantly annoying him by unexpected visits, refusing to give receipts or the taking of illegal monies and bonds; the answer will always be the same: is the tenant prepared to risk losing possession if s/he speaks up?

Legislation

In the 1970s the legislature has recognised to some extent the weak bargaining position of tenants. In 1973 the Rent Appeal Act was passed to ensure that rents were to be charged at an equitable level complying with the

covenants in the Property Law Amendment Act were imposed on all tenancies of dwellinghouses. To act upon one's rights pursuant to these Acts gives a degree of security. The landlord cannot evict a tenant solely for the reason that the tenant exercised his rights pursuant to the Act.

However this does not prevent landlords from evicting for other reasons. The effects of these Acts are that for 6 months after the tenant has so acted, there is a presumption that if the landlord tries to evict the tenant it is for the reason that the tenant has acted pursuant to the Act, and it is up to the landlord to prove that his reasons for eviction were otherwise.

Although useful, the Acts have little impact. If the tenant finds his flat not to be in a "fit and habitable" condition (as a result of the landlords breach of covenant) he must give a months written notice to the landlord to repair the damage. If the landlords does not do so, the tenant can do the work and deduct the amount from the rent. However if the landlord denies the breach, the tenant cannot proceed, but must take the matter to court. It is not worth the expense and trauma for the tenant to go to court to fight for the flat, which because of a lack of security can then be so easily taken away from him. (The writer has never heard of a case under the Property Law Amendmant Act 1975 appearing before the court)

The Rent Appeal Act has had doubtful success in controlling rents. Its only real value is that it effectively gives 6 months security to tenants. Wellington Tenants' Union advocates who have appealed before the Rent Appeal Board found the board's "guesswork" performances at fixing equitable rents unsatisfactory. The Board's effect was to deter the most unscrupulous landlords from charging whatever they liked. The Rent Appeal Act by it's simplicity of prodecure, encouraged tenants to go before the Board without Lawyers. Yet for many, the appearance before the Tribunal is overwhelming and now a \$10 appeal levy is imposed on applicants.

It is necessary to recognise legally that the landlords present wide privileges should be curbed to the extent that the tenant has a reasonable security in his home. At present, the tenant is discouraged from making improvements to his home as it often tends to lead to rent increases or the landlord putting the flat up for sale.

However the average landlord does not throw tenants out on the merest of whims for no tenant means no rent.

The 1973 legislation brought in the basis for paying equitable rents. In 1975 the statutory covenants was brought in that the dwellinghouse be in a fit and habitable condition; it is time that the legislation brought about the improvement of the tenancy itself. The tenant should be able to ensure that the landlord does all that he has bargained to do.

Thousands of calls from tenants in the Wellington area received since the Wellington Tenants Union began its operations in 1972 suggest that there are enough landlords or agents who have been and are acting unreasonably, to warrant change in the law so that tenants have the security to which they are entitled.

T. C. Thackery

Chairman W.T.U. 1979

Students wanting more information on questions relating to tenancy, NZUSA has put out a Tenancy Handbook available from the Studass Office, which should answer many of your questions. If this is not enough, WTU VUWSA or NZUSA may be able to help.

The Sovietisation of Vietnam

The Soviet Union is currently striving to build up its strength in South East Asia using its vassel state Vietnam. In the first part of a two part article, David Murray details the strategies that the two countries have used. Next week he will move on to examine the conflicts between China and Vietnam and the possible gains for the Soviet Union in the region.

In the heady, euphoric days of 1975 it teemed at long last that the peoples of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos had freed themselves from outside control, but events in these three countries have proved the exact opposite. As one who took part in the huge anti-war mobilisations in the early seventies I am forced to come to a reassessment of the political situation in South East Asia. That reassessment has been highly unpalatable but present day realities in a world situation which is becoming increasingly complex and tense have to be faced up to.

Over the last few months, the South East Asian region has become the most politically unstable part of the world. The primary reason for this is the attempts by the Soviet Union, using Vietnam as its cats paws, to bring the region into its sphere of influence.

With the strategic situation in Europe presently at a relative stalemate, the Soviet Union is seeking new spheres of influence in the Afro-Asian area to outflank the United States and the NATO countries in its bid for world dominance. Since 1975 it has succeeded in Angola, Ethiopia, South Yemen, Afghanistan and now more and more obviously, in Vietnam. The Soviets are quite open about this policy, Leonid Brezhnev, Soviet President, has expounded the strategy in a book devoted to what he calls the "Asian Collective Security System" under Moscow's tutelage.

Victory denied

But how does Vietnam fit into all this? For thirty years the struggle of the Vietnamese people against French and US imperialism captured the imagination of oppressed people around the globe, and the shock waves of the liberation struggle echoed around most second world countries such as New Zealand and Australia. The world-wide mass movement against US aggression was a blow that US imperialism never recovered from and marked the beginning of its downward spiral.

But after liberation, the fruits of victory in Vietnam were snatched by the imperialist Soviet Union carrying on and refining the vilest traditions of the previous British, French, Japanese and American invaders. Setting itself up as a self-styled saviour of the Vietnamese people, and hypocritically exploiting the mass anti-US movement, it has turned Vietnam into a semi-colony through its influence with what is now the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party — the Pham Van Dong — Le Duan gang.

The other important feature about the present leadership in the VCP (Vietnamese Communist Party) is that it is following an expansionist doctrine which is deeply rooted in the VCP's history, going back to 1930. This is the doctrine of the "Indo-Chinese federation".

The Federation

In 1930, the VCP changed its name to the Indo - Chinese Communist Party. This was thought "logical" because Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea were all under French rule at the time. The ideological undercurrent of this policy however denied the national independence of both Laos and Kampuchea and produced a chauvinist mentality amongst many of the Vietnamese Communists, namely that Indo-China equalled Vietnam. Eventually the "minorities" of Laos and Kampuchea would be absorbed into a unitary Vietnamese nation. This is despite the fact that the national cultures and languages of the Laotian and Kampuchean peoples are markedly different from those of the Vietnamese.

This "tendency" grew stronger in the 1940's as plans for the Federation were worked out in earnest. Although the IC P's name was changed to the Vietnamese Workers Party in the 50's, the Vietnamese always insisted on "having a say" in neighbouring Communist Parties. It was the resistance of the CP of Kampuchea (formed on 27th September 1960) to pressure from the VWP that explains Vietnam's virulent opposition to Pol Pot and CPK. This will be covered in a subsequent article.

So with the marriage of the small Vietnamese hegemonists (there were substantial elements within the VWP who were opposed to this policy of hegemonism but by 1978 these had been purged from the leadership and in some cases the Party by the Pham Van Dong - Le Duan gang) and the most dangerous superpower in the world today; the Soviet Union, a vile brew has been produced. Vietnam and Russia now walk in step on most major questions, and the economic / military stranglehold which the USSR has over Vietnam gives the latter no option but to be drawn closer and closer to their Russian patrons.

How They Got Together

Moscow's interest in Vietnam started rather belatedly in the mid 1960's only when the Vietnamese people's struggle was gaining the upper hand over US imperialism. In the late 50's when US power seemed to be stable in the area, the opportunists in Moscow were not interested in helping the Vietnamese struggle. It is also interesting that during the great struggle in the international communist movement in the 60's, the Vietnamese adopted a "neutral" stance between Marxism and the new Soviet revisionism. This "neutrality" within the VWP on the most fundamental principles of Marxism - Leninism of the era was developed gradually into revisionism and laid the groundwork for Soviet imperialist penetration. Gradually in the late 60's and early 70's the evidence of pro-Soviet forces inside the VWP gaining the upper hand became more apparent. Most people in the New Zealand antiwar movement either did not see it or did not consider it as significant as, in retrospect, it obviously was.

Firsthand reports by foreign travellers to Vietnam in the 70's, stands taken by Vietnamese diplomats, news of purges of anti-revisionist elements in the VWP, the adherence of Vietnam to Soviet foreign policy, the cultivation of fraternal links with bankrupt "Communist" Parties the world over, the subtle attacks on China and

the incidents of Vietnamese armed attacks on the neighbouring Communist Party of Kampuchea all added up to a dangerous flirtation with the Soviet imperialists.

While the Vietnamese people were in the last stages of freeing their country of US imperialism, the Hanoi leadership were rapidly swapping one predator for another and selling years of hard toil down the river.

Leaning Towards Russia

These changes have become painfully obvious since 1975. An announcement by a prominent member of the Central Committee of the VCP and editor of the VCP daily newspaper summarises it well.

"During the Vietnamese war it was vital for Vietnam that both China and the USSR helped North Vietnam to the full. Today it is no longer vital for this country to follow that policy.....There is a tangibly strong Soviet interest coinciding with Vietnamese interests — to reduce Chinese influence in this part of the world. We begin more and more to lean towards the USSR".

In June 1979, Vietnam joined Comecon which is Russia's answer to the EEC, except that Russia controls the "division of labour" within the community. Under it, each member state had particular areas of "specialisation" ie, Cuba supplies sugar and other agricultural products. Eastern European countries supply different manufactured goods etc. The net result of this is that economic development within those countries takes on a lop-sided character and therefore makes them that much more dependent on Moscow for aid and loans.

Comecon is ideal for Russia — they receive products that are generally less profitably to produce from their satellites, and export those things which are more profitably to produce. Even before Comecon, Soviet credits and loans were the basis of Vietnamese economic development supplemented by Japanese, American and European aid. Because of this, the socialist model of self-reliant agricultural development, such as that pursued by Kampuchea, has been abandoned. Whereas Kampuchea had a rice surplus only two years after liberation, Vietnam still imports large quantities. As a result of Soviet dependency, the Vietnamese people are suffering.

Doing Moscow's Dirty Work

The Vietnamese leadership had also taken on the role of carrying out foreign policy and diplomacy on behalf of the Soviet Union. Pham Van Dong's recent trips around ASEAN countries in order to drive them into an alliance against China and against Democratic Kampuchea is the Kremlin's method of trying to isolate and encircle China by hostile neighbours. These nations, however, have been able to see through these feints of the Pham Van Dong - Le Duan gang and have been put further on guard by Vietnam's expansionist actions. So desperate for friends have the Vietnamese been, that in order to carry favour with the Malaysian Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong promised to stop all aid to the Malayan Communist Party, who are presently waging the liberation war in many parts of Malaya, also placing a wreath on the so-called "National Monument" in Kuala-Lumpur which eulogises the role of British imperialism in Malaya. The monument has been blown up at least once by the MNLA (armed wing of the Malayan Communist Party). Pham Van Dong further threw out proletarian internationalism when he made similar promises on a visit to Thailand in early 1978.

It is not, surprising that in carrying out Soviet foreign policy in South East Asia, Vietnam had made enemies of many of the Communist Parties in the region. The Parties of Burma, Malaya, North Kalimantan, Indonesia and the Philippines have all attacked Vietnam's expansion into Kampuchea. No doubt Vietnam further alienated the CP of Indonesia by following the Soviet Union's endorsement of the invasion and occupation of East Timor by Indonesian armed forces.

Stocking Up

The last major link between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, and perhaps the most important one is military. According to "The Australian" (17.2.79) the Russians have dramatically stepped up arms shipment to Vietnam. Approximately every fortnight since last September Russian ships laden with the latest military equipment have been arriving at Vietnamese ports.

The usual Soviet trick is to unload outdated and obsolete equipment onto its client states — Somalia and Egypt were two good examples before the Russians were booted out of both countries. However, Vietnam has been supplied with the very latest hardware. These include the latest Surface to Air Missiles (SAM's), rocket launchers, self propelled guns, and an awesome display of military aircraft equal to that sold to any Soviet client state outside the Warsaw Pact. The latest MiG 25 and 27's and Su 7's. The most advanced lighter China has are MiG 21's.

Vietnam is also said to have been supplied chemical gas, and deadly anti-personnel weapons by the Soviet

Union. The infamous "cluster - bombs" were reported to have been used in the invasion of Kampuchea.

David Murray

Photo of a soldier next to a missile

Refugee collusion

Refugees have paid Vietnamese government officials an estimated US\$30 million to flee the country, a US congresswoman said recently.

Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, Democrat-New York, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Refugees, said the figure was based on her talks with refugees in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

The figure is "rough but conservative", she said.

Holtzman said Vietnamese government official she spoke with denied any "collusion" with those receiving money although they admitted there was bribery of lower level officials. Nonetheless she said, she believes the government is "substantially involved" with the "racket of refugees".

At a press-conference prior to her departure for New York, Holtzman said some refugees told her they spent a night in government quarters and were then escorted directly to large boats the following morning. "There were reports the boats were actually docking in the ports and people were boarding directly from Vietnamese ports," she said. However it is hard to believe that such "enormous boats" mooring near Vietnamese ports would be hard to detect, she said.

Holtzman said Vietnamese officials told her a bill had been promulgated and is aimed at making the exodus more orderly. But the officials assured her that the bill is not designed to stop the outflow of refugees", and predicted that the refugee exodus from Vietnam "will continue at a high pace". She said there were reports that some 500,000 Vietnamese want to leave the country, plus refugees from neighbouring Kampuchea and Laos.

'Restructuring' the New Zealand Economy

This article has been taken from the New Zealand Monthly Review

In his "State of the Nation" address last January, the Prime Minister made reference to restructuring the economy—the first time that he has done this in the last 18 months. In this, the first of a two part article, Geoff Mason offers his notes on "restructuring" in New Zealand.

When the New Zealand Planning Council talks about the need to 'restructure' the economy, it is referring to changes in *what is produced, how it is produced, and who produces it*. In the course of the historical capitalist cycle of boom/collapse/depression/recovery, some kind of restructuring has always been a central aspect of the cycle's recovery phase.

What happens is that, following the collapse of capitalists' profit rates which signals the end of a boom, a period of full-scale slump creates the conditions necessary for profitability to be restored by means of substantial *structural change* in the economy.

Restructuring of capital: reinforcement of tendencies towards concentration (growth of enterprises through continued reinvestment of profits) and centralisation (growth through mergers and takeovers of capitals) as 'inefficient' capitals are weeded out ('rationalisation of industry'). Entire sections of industry may be run down while new and more profitable branches of production are expanded.

Restructuring of labour processes: introduction of new plant and equipment and new methods of work organisation (for example, new automations and speed-ups, more shiftwork, tighter work discipline, increased 'casualisation' of working conditions, designed to increase labour productivity). Such changes are more easily imposed on a trade union movement weakened by the existence of a pool of unemployed. During the 1930's Depression in Britain, for instance, "areas of production where working class resistance was strong such as coal, steel, railways and the docks, were run down and new industries such as chemical and electrical engineering which employed labour in a different kind of way, were expanded rapidly" (G. Kay).

The State's Contradictory Role

The present emphasis on restructuring by economists, politicians, businessmen and others in the media and in official propaganda reflects the pressures on profitability which built up on an international scale in the course of the post-World War II boom (mainly rising costs of production and overproduction of goods and services in relation to effective demand). Three decades of essentially expansionary 'Keynesian' policies,

intended to prevent a return of economic crisis on a 1930's scale, succeeded not only in fostering entrenched inflation but also in preventing the profit-restoring mechanisms of depressions (restructuring of capital and of labour processes) from coming fully into play. The overall interests of private capital accumulation now require restructuring to take place and this is reflected in the changing nature of state intervention (to be discussed below).

However, in New Zealand as in many other countries, working class resistance and struggle is sufficiently strong to prevent any *consistent* pursuit of restructuring objectives. Western capitalist classes are facing an unavoidable dilemma: "On the one hand, since crisis is a necessary interruption to the process of accumulation, the state must tolerate and, at times, facilitate crisis; on the other hand, economic crisis must be moderated by the state to prevent its spilling over into a general crisis which threatens the very existence of capital" (Ben Fine & Laurence Harris).

In New Zealand, government efforts to "moderate" crisis (for example, election year deficit spending) have led to charges that, so far, restructuring has not got beyond the stage of rhetoric. Yet as the pressures on government leaders to "facilitate" crisis intensify, we can expect renewed attacks on working people and the weaker "expendable" sections of private capital.

Winning Over the Public

In this context, the last few years of official rhetoric advocating restructuring have served the attempted purpose of softening people up for the years of economic hardship ahead. Continuing ideological campaigns seek to identify "New Zealand" with its present type of social system. Capitalists' problems are labelled "ours". Typically, the Planning Council refers to problems stemming partly from external developments which "we" can do little about, and partly from internal changes which are much more within "our" own control.

In particular, sacrifices are demanded because of "our" balance of payments difficulties, the implication being that the present high levels of overseas borrowing cannot continue indefinitely. Although New Zealand cannot borrow further from the International Monetary Fund without incurring supervision from that body (according to Reserve Bank economist R. S. Deane), there seems little reason to doubt the Prime Minister's frequent boasts that "our" credit rating with major international banks is still very high. After all, these banks are in business to lend out at interest and New Zealand (regardless of what government is in power) still compares well with foundering underdeveloped economies such as Turkey, Peru, Zaire, Iran. Furthermore, the tendency is for the banks to make new loans to their debtors in order to enable old loans to be repaid. IMF supervision, if it comes (for instance, in the shape of restrictive guidelines for government expenditure and credit control), will serve the overall interests of New Zealand capitalists in worsening the present economic crisis and seeking to control the restructuring process which follows. It seems reasonable to conclude that the primary purpose of official campaigns stressing "our" balance of payments problems is to "justify" the need for a period of slump.

Capitalist Priorities

The priorities of capitalist restructuring are evident in a recent report by the Planning Council's "Economic Monitoring Group":

The present problems have been described as "structural", requiring shifts in the pattern of resource use. In part this means more resources need to be employed in industries and firms which have a more favourable impact on the balance of payments. But also, for restructuring to be successful, more efficient resource use will be required throughout all sectors of the economy, whether directly concerned with exporting and importing or not. . . . Policies relating to money, credit, exchange rates, subsidies, incomes and protection should all be geared to achieving the required results, with efforts focused on keeping down unit costs of production.

(Sept. 1978 report, pp. 16-17, 33. emphasis added).

Most of the crucial political and ideological battles in the class struggle in the foreseeable future will centre on the attempts of the New Zealand capitalist class and the state forces at its disposal to justify crisis and reconstruct the conditions necessary for renewed growth in private capital accumulation. The changing nature of state intervention is best analysed in terms of (i) the "internationalisation of capital" (ii) the "rationalisation" of state expenditures (iii) the purging function of government deflationary policies.

The "Export Strategy"

As a result of New Zealand's extensive overseas borrowing and consequent adherence to IMF "free trade" policies, the option of protected industrial development through import controls is no longer open. The official strategy now is "*export-led growth*": this reflects the fact that New Zealand capital is inevitably being drawn

further into the internationalisation of capital process whereby international corporations organise their production with scant regard for national borders in order to secure the cheapest possible supplies of labour, raw materials and energy sources as well as access to markets.

Firstly, more and more New Zealand capitalists will follow companies like P.D.L. Industries and Rothmans in shifting production into areas of relatively cheap, controlled labour supply (for example. South East Asia and the Pacific Islands), especially where suitable incentives are laid on as in the New Zealand government's Pacific Islands Industrial Development Scheme. Such exporting of jobs (or the threat of it) in itself weakens the position of New Zealand trade unionists. Secondly, real wage levels in New Zealand (falling since 1974) will remain under consistent downward pressure and similarly trade unions under attack as necessary incentives for international capital to step up its operations in New Zealand. New Zealand branches of international firms were major contributors to the vaunted manufactured exports boom in the mid-1970's.

The whole manufactured exports strategy reflects the need to minimise dependence on a low-paid domestic work force as a consumer market. However, many New Zealand-based manufacturers *need* a strong domestic market as a base from which to attempt export operations in a highly competitive world market. Manufactured exports grew only 4.2% in the year ending June 1978 compared with 65% and 43% in the two [unclear: proce e] rapid growth [unclear: betwee] seen in retrospect to [unclear: h he] result of now-[unclear: comple produc] tion capacity [unclear: b tempor] arily [unclear: favourab between] the New [unclear: Zeala dollars]. Successful [unclear: exp lia] such as carpet, [unclear: whit g manu] facturers [unclear: have n retalia] tory trade [unclear: mea by Aus] tralia to [unclear: offse of sub] stantially [unclear: lowe ew zea] land.

In this [unclear: cont rising to] note a [unclear: renew making] New [unclear: Zealand avail] able to [unclear: intern ttractive] terms. At a [unclear: rec japan-] New Zealand [unclear: l ncil, the] chairman [unclear: of Finance] Corporation [unclear: re ressiively] more [unclear: welcomi overseas] investment [unclear: in and the] New [unclear: Zealand the U.S] has been [unclear: assur estors of] their [unclear: welcome as part] of the [unclear: govern ured ex-] ports [unclear: strategy, a recent] spectacular [unclear: gn tures be-] tween New [unclear: Z ns from] many [unclear: differen e dishing] industry, [unclear: there flurry of] interest by [unclear: We anies "in] such raw [unclear: mate ergy, fish], timber and [unclear: w ds of the] honorary [unclear: pres cal Asso] ciation of [unclear: Ge he gov-] ernment is [unclear: rep a cata] logue of [unclear: inve for the] absorption [unclear: of gas and] South [unclear: Island German] firms.

United States [unclear: Vi Mor] Mandate signs Muldoon't visitors book watched by Ambassador Selden. Happy days are here again?

Photo of Robert Muldoon

Image of a large group of people

Changes in State Spending

"Rationalisation" of state expenditure is taking two main forms: (i) cuts (ii) redirection.

To the extent state spending is cut, obviously the tax burden on private firms can be further reduced and, equally, the inflationary impact of the government's budget deficit can also be checked. Media coverage given to a Planning Council probe into social welfare, health and education spending indicated that cut-backs can be expected in these areas. One estimate by a government department of what might be needed to support solo parents and their families in 5-10 years was reported as "so frightening that the Planning Council has not been allowed to publish it". However, at the present time, it is redirection of state spending which is likely to be of greatest significance. Expenditure, even if it is not drastically cut, will be made to conform more closely with needs of capitalists: for instance, there may be a shift in education spending towards vocational training and retraining at the expense of, say, teachers college salaries and university student bursaries.

The so-called "user-pays" approach of the present government to the pricing of state services has led to massive increases in the receipts of government trading corporations (up 150% since 1976). This reflects a clear shift away from blanket subsidies of private capital (such as under-priced transport, energy and communications facilities) towards more *selective* subsidies, for example, the new high levels of taxation and incentive allowances for export manufacturers and the increasing scale of direct state financing and supervision of industry through, in particular, the Development Finance Corporation. This redirection of state subsidisation and assistance for private industry clearly favours technically-advanced capitals and accelerates the failure of less efficient firms.

The present array of export incentives (estimated at \$1 billion per year) is a gigantic money-spinner for certain large firms but the limited export gains achieved have been more than wiped out by increasing freight charges and interest payments on overseas loans (the deficit on the "invisibles" account). The situation now exists where some companies (e.g. Tasman Pulp & Paper) receive substantial cash payments from the state instead of tax rebates because previous tax incentives have already reduced their tax liability to zero! In both

the 1977 and 1978 Budgets, the government announced plans for new export incentive schemes (including "high priority guidelines") which would attempt to discriminate between exporting activities which are heavily reliant on imported machinery and raw materials and those which are not. However, due to manufacturers' objections to the problems of implementing the new system, existing incentives have recently been extended until 1983.

The Purge is on

Government deflationary policies such as high interest rates and clamps on wages — the abandonment of Keynesian full employment policies — must be seen as far more than attempts to reduce the rate of inflation and the balance of payments deficit. Lower levels of domestic purchasing power increase capitalists' problems in selling goods and services produced by their workers and so further accelerate the elimination of less productive capitals and the "rationalisation" of the industries concerned. Examples of industries in New Zealand which the government is deliberately letting run down in this way are retailing, clothing, car assembly and, so far most spectacularly, housing and construction.

In statements on restructuring by "experts" both in government and the private sector, the rundown of "inefficient" economic activities is frequently described as resources being "freed" for export production and efficient import substitution. However, the obvious result of bankruptcies and production cutbacks in a period of world recession has been heavy unemployment (partly concealed by migration) which of course facilitates the imposition of changes in labour processes. Apart from the onset of greater "discipline in the factories" (shown in speed-ups and reduced absenteeism and labour turnover), there is a trend to increased "casualisation" of work conditions which may, if unchecked, seriously jeopardise trade union influence, for instance, the temporary hiring of schoolgirls and students by Aulsebrooks Ltd. just after heavy layoffs of regular workers had been announced.

Much state intervention serves multiple restructuring purposes. The legislation for extended shopping hours, for example, not only attempts to break down workers' conditions but is also designed, according to a member of the Planning Council (Dr Brash), to cause a shrinking of the retail sector: "For the survivors, the turnover would go up substantially, but not everyone could survive the implementation of longer hours and Saturday trading."

In his recent Orewa speech, the Prime Minister commented favourably on "increased efficiency" brought about by "the problems of the last two years", namely some trimming of overheads in industry and the introduction by some manufacturers of labour-saving plant. Next month. Part 2 of this article will look at certain sectors of the New Zealand economy in detail, in order to examine the impact of deflation and restructuring to date.

Geoff Mason

The article was withdrawn by the printer.

Drawing of a person with many faces

Your money man Richard Starke Bank of New Zealand Wellington Branch Richard Starke at the Bank of New Zealand is always willing to talk to you about your financial problems. He knows it's tough for a student to make ends meet those days. If you've got a special financial problem call into our campus office and arrange a time for a chat. You'll find an understanding attitude backed by solid, practical help and advice. You might be surprised at just how much we can do for you. Advice is free at the Bank of New Zealand. So, if there's a financial problem worrying you talk it over with us. We'll do our best to help. Call at the BNZ on campus office and arrange to see Richard Starke or phone him direct at BNZ Wellington branch, corner Lambton and Customhouse Quays, phone 725-099 Bank of New Zealand Here when you need us - on campus

DANCE COMPETITION SPECTACULAR THIS WEEK AT HEATS Thursday & Friday From 9 pm
FINALS Saturday FREE RECORDS, SUBSTANTIAL PRIZES STUDENTS only \$2 admission Thursday,
Friday, Saturday COFFEE BAR Join the Club Inferno Student Discounts

CAMERA ART Capping photos a speciality Academic Regalia supplied free. All students qualify for 10%
discounts on photographs. Ronald D. Woolf Managing Director 'A.R.P.S. F.P.S.N.Z. SPENCER DIGBY
STUDIO 2nd floor Prudential Building Phone 725-315 332-340 Lambton Quay, Wellington After hours:
882-129

Notices

[unclear: Squash] Club

[unclear: pen] Club Night
[unclear: onday] 12th 7.00 pm
[unclear: quash] Centre - Salamanca Road
[unclear: ee] Squash and Refreshments
[unclear: I] Members + Prospective Members [unclear: elcome]

[unclear: Labour] Club:

[unclear: M] - 12 Noon, Wednesday 14th March, [unclear: unge], 1st Floor Union Building

[unclear: Athletics] Club

[unclear: those] students how with to compete in the [unclear: ter] Tournament Athletics meet in Auckland [unclear: Easter] are requested to put their names and [unclear: itact] addresses on the list in the Studass office [unclear: -ing] Tawa 5733.

[unclear: Environment] Group

[unclear: General] Meeting: Thursday March [unclear: nd] at 5.00 pm in the Union Hall [unclear: I] interested students are welcome

[unclear: Hence] Faculty Orientation [unclear: Ogramme] For 1st Year [unclear: Students]

[unclear: Ursday] 15th March [unclear: Ogramme] Commences 9.00 am Union [unclear: LL]
[unclear: Ner] will be available at \$1.50 to those stu [unclear: ts] who have ordered it on their registration [unclear: ns].
[unclear: Cial] in Union Hall 7 pm - 9 pm

[unclear: M] Secondhand Bookstall

[unclear: ice] is given that cheques and unsold books [unclear: be] claimed at 32 Kelburn Parade on Mon. [unclear: and] Tues. 20th March 10.30 am to 1.30
[unclear: laimed] cheques may be posted out to address [unclear: ided] but unclaimed books after 20th March [unclear: be] forfeited.
[unclear: cheque] will be reissued.

[unclear: VUW] Cultural Affairs [unclear: Council]

[unclear: Ctoria] Campus Organiser

[unclear: The] Cultural Affairs Council is calling candidates to apply for the above po [unclear: on]. The successful applicant will be [unclear: uired] to:

[unclear: ordinate] the organisation of The Vic [unclear: ia] contingent to the Students' Arts Fe [unclear: al] to be held in Christchurch (May 5-

[unclear: n] a competition to select the team that [unclear: represent] Victoria on the University [unclear: illenge] Television Programme (TV 1: [unclear: bably] to filmed in the August vac [unclear: on]).

The Victoria Campus Organiser, to be [unclear: irged] with all facits of advertising and [unclear: motion], will as well be expected to [unclear: st] the Cultural Affairs Council with [unclear: other] major events in 1979.

Along with a grant for materials of [unclear: 0], an bonorium of \$150 shall be off [unclear: d] to the successful applicant.

Those wishing to seek the Position [unclear: st] supply their name, address, phone [unclear: mber], and any details they feel rele [unclear: t], by 4.00 pm Thursday March 15, [unclear: the]

[unclear: retary] of the Cultural Affairs Council

[unclear: ter] C/- The VUWSA Office Union Building VUW Cultural Affairs Council VUWSA Private Bag Wellington

Applicants from a shortlist will be re [unclear: red] to appear before the Cultural Af [unclear: s] Council

Committee at 6.00 pm MonMarch 19.

[unclear: d]
A. Norman

[unclear: tural] Affairs Council Secretary

Tramping Club

Otaki Trip, 16th to 18th March. Trip list closes at noon on Wednesday 14th March. Anybody still on the list then will be assumed to be coming.

Easter Trip This year we plan to go to the Cobb Valley and adjacent areas in NW Nelson Forest Park. Easy, medium and fit trips will be run. The trip is limited to a total of 36 people. Cost \$30 approx.

Details on club notice board, middle floor, graveyard end of Studass building.

Liferight

The AGM of Liferight will be at 12.30 on Wednesday 14 March in L.B.2.

If you care about the unborn child, come along and help us decide on our activities for the year.

Photographic Society

First meeting of 1979 and the AGM will be held on March 21 at 7 pm in the lounge, first floor. Union Building.

All interested people welcome.

Attention All Club Executives

You are required to file Club re-affiliation forms with the cultural Affairs Council before April 1 1979. To be eligible to receive funds from the Cultural Affairs Council you must have re-affiliated before April 1 1979.

Re-affiliation forms are available from the Student Association office in the Union Building.

To assist your re-affiliation Cultural Affairs Council Committee meetings are set down for the following times (please attend in person):

Monday 12 March, Thursday 15 March, Monday 19 March, and Monday 26 March. All meetings are held in the Boardroom between 5 pm - 6 pm. The final meeting will be on Thursday 29 March between 5 pm - 7 pm in the Boardroom.

The meetings are also opportunities for you to discuss your proposed grant applications with the Cultural Affairs Council Committee. They will also provide a venue for your club to outline what other assistance it may wish from the Cultural Affairs Council, or from other clubs.

Agendas will be available from the Student Association office the day of the meeting.

P. A. Norman
CAC Secretary

Crossword

Empty crossword

Across

Down

REC Centre

Recreation What does it cost? Well, the activity itself cost nothing, if you have all the gear, e.g. running

.... personal ground (free air), shoes — Centre staff will advise (no kickbacks), shorts, T—shirt, towel.

If the urge to run should come upon you whilst on campus and all you just happen to have is a pair of shoes, then the Centre will hire the rest at 10c per item if you haven't any shoes and barefoot in the park doesn't appeal, then the exercycles in the Centre are a very good, weather independent, substitute.

We sell badminton shuttles and table tennis balls.

Now we understand people, don't understand why we are nasty enough to Demand some form of security for Your equipment; and further, we will only take an International I.D. card or driver's licence as security. The reason is, that our facility, being so beautiful and desirable, is coveted by non-university people in the community. They, too would like all the great and wonderful benefits to be enjoyed by regular recreation. But, they don't want to pay. So we have to try and spot them a student ID card with a photograph would solve all that. Some equally unpleasant university people collect towels, T—shirts and shorts. These have been seen at national and international sporting events world wide. A valuable and difficult to replace card or document is therefore requested. A student ID card with a photograph would solve all that. Our racquets cost \$30 - \$40 and table tennis bats approaching the \$10 mark, basketballs \$30. You paid for them, so that is why we need the documentary security.

We don't like using valuables. Assessing the value of such items is difficult and ovten a bone of contention at reception. We cannot take the responsibility of your valuables when times get hectic in the Centre, a student ID card with a photograph makes things so much quicker and safer.

Have you seen Your Recreation Centre timetable? Come and get one from the Centre reception. There might be something in it for you.

Recreation Centre Quiz, 1979, No. 1. Subject:

Sport

- Is golf driving you to drink taking steps to Putt things right?
- Is the latest film about rugby league called "Scar Wars"? Yes / No.
- Are professional tennis players paid "gross net profits"? Yes / No.

Answers on one side of paper only be next week.

Lunchtime sport programme

The volleyball, Indoor Hockey and Basketball programme needs more players and trams. Be in.

Your Recreation Centre Be in.

Student Health

Food Glorious Food

There are many reasons for being overweight or too skinny. Maybe its because of snacks — a health hazard, or perhaps its been a problem for a long time and you've tried to get rid of it on your own. Maybe its leaving home and setting up in a flat - incorrect budgetting and not allowing enough money for kitty - or studying and not having enough time to prepare, let alone eat a good meal. Perhaps ingesting hostel food in bulk.

A change in life style often means a change in food habits — and is often synonymous with getting fat. How do you say to your flatmate "I really like your sausages and spuds dish and your spuds and sausages dish, But....."

While at university your bodies are probably undergoing their final growth spurt — this requires energy, as does the mental study. But students lead a largely sedentary life; one that often is fed on fast foods, chips and beer, and given little opportunity to exercise.

Why you Should Lose Weight

Evidence is accumulating that many of the diseases peculiar to the western civilisation are caused by unnatural and excessive food intake. Being overweight spoils the appearance and makes you feel uncomfortable, particularly in warm weather.

If you're overweight, you may care to come along to our weight clinic, we're here to help you. With regard to the question of confidentiality and privacy, there's no mass group humiliation - people are dealt with individually.

A Weight Watchers Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon, between 2 - 4 pm, at the Recreation Centre. Celia, one of the nurses together with Diana Jones, from Physical Recreation Centre, are the people you see. We like to weigh you in each week and then spend some time discussing exercises, food habits and how you would like to lose weight. We give the guide-lines - you lose the weight.

The scales inside the Health Service are available for anyone to use when you wish and we also have many good pamphlets with detailed information on this important subject.

Drawing of a man in big pants

Greece is the Word

The Greek Tycoon

Director: J. Lee Thompson Kings

The only really bad film, I think, is one that doesn't succeed in what it sets out to do. Every movie sets up its own inner framework of ends and means, with its own set of values if you like — and then, by the end of the film, has hopefully achieved the effect it set out to create. If it fails to do this, it will be an unsatisfactory film. Which is why I would say Grease, for example, is a good film, and Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band is a bad one.

Both these films were star-studded musicals produced by Robert Stigwood and his cohorts for the purpose of making money (and lots of it) by entertaining the public. But the former, for all its technical mistakes, had life and energy, its own perverse sort of vigour in its music and humour — in short, it was entertaining; I found it enjoyable to watch. However, Sgt. Pepper's etc., despite being more spectacular and a great deal more polished, was slow and dull (and often embarrassingly tasteless).

It was a failure on its own terms, just as are action films that fail to excite us, horror films that fail to horrify us, sex films that fail to arouse us, romance films that fail to touch our emotions, and, to get to The Greek Tycoon, biographical or historical films that fail to give us the insight we want into what really went on and the way publicly known people behaved in private.

"The most famous woman in the world"

This sort of curiosity always surrounded (and obviously still does) the very private married life of Jackie and Ari Onassis. She was after all, to use the film's words, "the most famous woman in the world", and her personal life, along with the endearing exploits of Margaret, Anne, Charles, and (more recently) Farrah, kept the likes of The New Zealand Woman's Weekly in print for years. The debt we owe Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is great indeed.

Not, of course, that The Greek Tycoon is for a moment about her. Presumably for legal reasons, names and places have been slightly changed to draw a transparently thin veil of fiction over what we must take for fact: President John Kennedy becomes President James Cassidy, Jackie becomes Lizzie Cassidy, Ari Onassis becomes Theo Tomasis, etc. It is clearly a formality only. But the very fact of it being so suggests by implication, you'd think, that what we see in the film is in essence the Truth, at last.

Here's where Tycoon founders. For we are never given any clues as to how much is fact and how much fiction, how much knowledge and how much speculation. Is it all nothing more than educated guesswork? Or was the script worked on by people who actually knew the real-life counterparts of these characters, people present when some of these events took place. Director J. Lee Thompson isn't telling, and so the film that promises to satisfy our curiosity in fact only frustrates it.

Incomplete Characters

Maybe that wouldn't have mattered so much though, if we'd been provided with characters and relationships we could believe in anyway. The Greek Tycoon gets closer to success here, having a great asset in Jacqueline Bisset (Jackie is Lizzie is Jackie) She's a good actress, but she's so often given silences instead of dialogue and has her (admittedly gorgeous) body displayed to advantage while having her eyes hidden behind sunglasses, that her character remains as enigmatic as our recollection of the woman she portrays. That, late in

the film, she gets partway towards a three-dimensional characterisation, is a credit to her resourcefulness.

Playing opposite her, in the title role, Anthony Quinn is.....well, Anthony Quinn. But he does succeed in making of Tomasis quite a credible figure. Ruthless yet vulnerable, a combination of brutishness and sensitivity, he is a man struggling to reconcile contraries, and he emerges as a kind of Greek tragic hero in modern dress. Again though, development here stops well short of a satisfying completion. Given these deficiencies in the characters, the relationship between the two never quite becomes clear enough.

How the Other Half Lives

There are, however, some things The Greek Tycoon does do well. For those anxious to see how the better half lives, it should prove fulfilling — its aim often seems to be to overawe with a lyrical spectacle of opulence. We see the world's privileged on a nonstop carousel of parties, cruises and gracious living through a continually gauzy and sun-drenched lens. The photography is pretty indeed: personalities may be ugly, but there is nary a blackhead or stray hair in sight.

In this respect, it beats even The Betsy — glamour-seekers and readers of the fashion pages take note. However, the direction is not always so superficial. The film's best sequence is the inevitable assassination of the President, handled as it is with ingenuity, and a fine sense of timing and visual effectiveness. It's a shame the rest of the film isn't as good. Still, we can remain hopeful. A few more movies like this one and the Woman's Weekly might go out of business. And then there'd just be the embarrassments of Parliament and the National Film Unit to be disposed of.

Paul Hagan

Photo from the film 'The Greek Tycoon'

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News from M'sia & S'pore

Malaysian Government and Malaysian Airline System Clamp Down on Airline Workers:

Recently the Malaysian government [*unclear*: out] the notorious Internal Security Act [*unclear*: co] work. This time it was used to clamp [*unclear*: he] airline workers, who have asked for [*unclear*: a] 30% increase in their wages and better [*unclear*: working] conditions. The government [*unclear*: cried] to justify its action by claiming [*unclear*: that] the airline workers for the Malay[*unclear*: an] Airline System (MAS) were work[*unclear*: ing] against the interest of the Malays[*unclear*: ian] Airline System and thus the securi[*unclear*: ty] of the nation.

The background to the dispute and [*unclear*: the] direct confrontation between the [*unclear*: Malaysian] Airline System and the Air[*unclear*: line] Employees Union, (the union that [*unclear*: has] grown up with the support of its [*unclear*: members] — the Airline Workers) dates [*unclear*: back] several years. Since coming into [*unclear*: being], in 1972, MAS which showed a [*unclear*: healthy] profit of M\$24 million last years [*unclear*: after] a dismal previous year, was expect[*unclear*: ed] to do even better this year. With [*unclear*: the] increase in cost of living in recent [*unclear*: years], MAS employees have demanded [*unclear*: for] a rise in thier wages, but were tu[*unclear*: rned] down. Thus the workers have to [*unclear*: resort] to 'go-slow' in their work. The [*unclear*: Government's] and MAS management's [*unclear*: response] to the action of the workers [*unclear*: has] been threats and intimidation.

In the face of these threats and in[*unclear*: timidation], the airline workers stood [*unclear*: firm], and in the

end MAS offered an 8% increase in their pay, but not the 30% rise demanded. As a last resort, [unclear: crew] cabins refused to work beyond [unclear: their] working hours. The MAS man[unclear: agement] retaliated by suspending them [unclear: and] their union.

The government stepped in and de-registered 874 members and 7 workers were dismissed from their jobs. Dr Mahatir, the Deputy Prime Minister, threatened the abolition of the union. Other unions also supported the demand of the airline workers. For example the four workers unions in Port Klang issued a statement of support. The government retaliated by sending Federal Reserve troops to prevent the Klang port workers going on strike in sympathy. It also detained 18 members of the Employee Airline Union under ISA thus dealing a crippling blow to the workers leadership. This was followed immediately by a group claiming to have the support of the majority of the airline workers offering to negotiate with the Government to 'save' MAS. The National Front voiced support and were willing to negotiate with the instant committee.

The government also putting Donald Uren, Asian representative of the International Transport Federation under ISA and Johaun Haut, the assistant general secretary of ATF was deported, for endangering the "internal affairs" of MAS.

The whole episode has shown the arrogant irresponsible and unjustified acts of the Malaysian Government to the demands of its peace-loving Malaysians for the right to a decent living. If the government wished to prevent its image going down the drain, along with its claim of being a democratic country it should immediately release the detainees, reinstate the unions and its members and give decent wage increase to the workers.

Records Third thoughts

Split ENZ

Frenzy

Perhaps since Second Thoughts I have come to expect too much of Split Enz. That album for all its weaknesses is the best one ever produced by a New Zealand band - in moments of generosity I have gone so far as to say I consider it one of the best albums of the 70's. Dizrhythmia only approached its predecessor in patches and what about Frenzy?

After a few listenings my initial dislike had eased a little, indeed there are moments of genuine delight on the album. This album seems to be a conscious effort by Split Enz to alter their musical direction — certainly there is nothing on Dizrhythmia that anticipates Frenzy. To reluctantly draw comparisons, the sound on this album is a mix between the Move and Devo. The electronic, automative sound of Devo mixed with the usual Move effects coming out in curiously laid back fashion. That sound becomes acceptable after a while but it sits uneasily, as though Split Enz were trying too hard.

In a way this is a frustrating album — Tim Finn seems to have purged the Enz of what were once notable features of the band. Rayner's piano playing (amongst the most ornate and impressive in contemporary rock music) is curiously muted except on "Stuff and Nonsense", a song completely at odds with the rest of the album and, incidentally, written by Rayner. Predictably, Robert Gillies saxophone is missed and attempts are made to replace it with electronic sounds and pounding bass and percussion. One of my complaints is that no material written by Phil Judd has been included in the album. Reports from the UK say that he produced some brilliant songs for the band after he re-joined. Judd was the genius behind the band and Finn must learn to live in his shadow. Judd's "Sweet Dreams" and "Second Thoughts" are the best songs ever written by a New Zealander. Since Judd left for a second time is Finn trying to bury his ghost?

The general failing of this album comes from the lack of melody as well as the use of hackneyed melody lines hidden behind an obtuse 'wall of sound'. Typical examples are "Frenzy" (a conscious attempt at a "theme song"? — Frenz of the Enz / Split Enz lunatic music / Frenzy). This song has been around for years and discredited equally as long. Can you remember "Do the Hucklebuck" and "The Crunch"? Similarly "She got Body, She got Soul" (yuk) shows an insistence on a melody that is cliched, predictable and amateur.

There are good moments on the album: "Give it a Whirl", "Betty" and "Master Plan" are not up to previous standards but are fleetingly engaging. More than anything, this is Tim Finn's album. He has fallen in love with an idea and tried unsuccessfully to make it last an album. He lacks the mastery of Phil Judd in being able to

control his craft. Rather Finn lets himself slip into predictable, at times clichéd, musical alleys. Sometimes the product is entertaining but, on the whole, it is a major disappointment.

Paul McHugh

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So now we are Orientated

Orientation 1979

Photo of a woman drinking beer

By the time that this issue is printed, Orientation for 1979 will be over. Time to reflect upon what must be the most comprehensive single activity conducted by the Association in the year.

The aim of Orientation in any year is to get students (especially first-year students) adjusted to the political, sporting and cultural life on campus. In a University with increasingly heavy workloads and financial pressures, it encourages student participation in non-academic activities — hopefully for all year. A University 'education' should include much more than lectures, library and passing exams. It is Orientation which introduces the possibilities open to students throughout the year.

Caroline Massof, co-controller of Orientation, is pleased, generally, with the way things have run. At the moment it looks as though Orientation will be financially successful.

Student attendance and participation in many of the smaller but worthwhile activities is one thing that has worried Massof. She says there exists a general opinion that Orientation consists entirely of piss-ups and activities for first-year students. The Orientation programme shows that this is not the case, but as long as this opinion is prevalent, piss-ups become well patronised while many other cultural activities (such as some theatre and workshops) are relatively poorly attended.

Asked whether Orientation catered well enough for older students, and other significant groups such as overseas students, Massof's basic response was "not really". She qualified this statement by pointing out that Orientation is restricted financially, and must conduct activities which are sure to attract a wide appeal and therefore not lose money that belongs to all students. She added that many activities, such as the film programme, dance and theatre workshops, poetry readings and drama performances, were eminently suitable for older students as well as all other students. This is true, but the fact remains that older students were not directly catered for and no appeal was made to them throughout the Orientation advertising.

Massof was concerned at the lack of interest from most of the sporting and cultural clubs. Several meetings were called early in the planning stages between the controllers and club reps but the response was poor. And at the Mad Hatters Tea Party, there were only two overseas students clubs present. Massof explains that part of the problem was the fact that in past years, Orientation was organised on a part-time basis. Orientation this year was organised full-time over many weeks. With timetables worked out weeks in advance, lethargic clubs found themselves out in the cold.

Apart from this, Orientation '79 was let down claims Massof, by non co-operation from many Exec members. This occurred, she says; both during the organisation and during the running of Orientation. She cited the example of Exec members failing to turn up on the first "Monday of term to be put in stocks. The event had been arranged well prior to the date, and each Exec member knew about their commitment. Re-arranged to the date of the Drinking Horn, Exec attendance was again pitiful. As reported in last week's issue, there was friction between Orientation workers and an Exec member at the end of the vacation, which cannot have contributed to smooth organisation. It would appear that there is fault on both sides. When one considers the importance of Orientation in the Association's calendar, non co-operation and petty disputes are irresponsible in the extreme.

Increased student participation in nonacademic activities is not solely the responsibility of Orientation. Students themselves have the final decision in what cultural, sporting and political activities they will become involved. Orientation worker can arrange and promote a wide range of activities (as they have done), but it is

up to students whether Orientation becomes limited to concerts, hops and piss-ups.

But for all these problems (many of which are inevitable in any year) Orientation, from the participating students level must be seen as a resounding success. The concerts and hops (apart perhaps from Citizen Band) were all attended in large numbers. The Orientation controllers and workers must be congratulated for the care with which they arranged a wide range of both new and established bands.

Any profits from Orientation will be [unclear: p] into a separate Social Budget and used to bring cultural performances to the University throughout the year. Hopefully, the aims and spirit of Orientation will extend beyond the two weeks just past.

The Orientation workers have completed a titanic amount of work, and have done it well. In many years, Orientation has not been better organised, or seen as much student involvement, as Deadwood Revival. Caroline Massof and Debbie [unclear: Mon] tgomery (the other Orientation controller thank "all the Exec members who did help and all the team for all the shit-work they did". It is a thanks expressed on behalf of all students.

Stephen A 'Court

Photo of a band playing music

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VUWSA FILMS TUESDAY 2.15 "IF....." a fantasy of revolution in an English public school. Starring Malcolm Mr Downen WED 2.15 'SLEEPING DOGS' - a not so fantastic film On Nz Under Fascism With Sam Neill.

KELBURN PARK STORE CONA COFFEE BURGERS TOASTED SANDWICHES GROCERIES Kelburn Park Store. Salamanca Road (Near the Cable Car Route) Hours. Monday — Thursday 9.00 am - 9.00 pm Phone 723 602 Friday 9.00 am - 6.30 pm Saturday 10.00 am - 5.30 pm

Letters

Drawing of a person inside an envelope

[unclear: M]ore Handbook Letters

[unclear: Dear] Sir,

Incoming students must look to the Hand[unclear: ok] for helpful advice in dealing' with the com[unclear: exits] of course selection and enrolment. [unclear: ay] I suggest that the compilers of this year's [unclear:

andbook] have seriously let them down.

Although the Political Science section re[unclear: rs] constantly to what happened "in 1978", [unclear: fact] the copy is 95% an unaltered replay [unclear: the]1977 commentary. And that 1977[unclear: ommentary] was self-confessedly written by [unclear: third]-year student who laughingly admitted [unclear: me] he had not attended a single POLS 111 [unclear: 112] lecture.

This leads to such absurdities as "congrat[unclear: ations]" to a lecturer who had nothing to do [unclear: th] either course in 1978; to totally inacc[unclear: ate] descriptions of course content and ass[unclear: sment] procedures in 1978; and to gratuitous [unclear: suit] to the secretarial and academic staff who [unclear: ere] unimaginably burdened by the unforeseen [unclear: flux] of over 900 first year students.

In 1980 I hope our incoming students are [unclear: tter] served by their Handbook.

Margaret Clark

Chairman, School of Political Science and Public Administration.

(In 1980 I hope the Handbook editor(s) will [unclear: eive] contributions from Pol Sci students on [unclear: e] courses, rather than nothing at all, as hap[unclear: ned] this year. We didn't realise that the co[unclear: te] had substantially changed, hence the err[unclear: v]. Ed.)

[unclear: Dear] Sir,

I am in the habit of taking your work ser[unclear: sly], but when I find that in making your [unclear: '79] critique of the teaching and organisation [unclear: the] Psychology Department you simply re[unclear: oduce] almost word for word that which ap[unclear: ared] in 1978 I suspect that I have been un[unclear: se].

For your information, changes were intro[unclear: ced] in 1979, but your reporters have obvious[unclear: not] attended the new courses, nor have they [unclear: en] fit to obtain fresh data. It is not for me to [unclear: vise] you on the training and orientation of [unclear: ur] observers, but I can only assume that you [unclear: II] share my concern with them that they have [unclear: t] done their task with that degree of scientific [unclear: jectivity] that might have been to their credit.

Yours sincerely,

A.J.W. Taylor

Professor of Clinical Psychology Chairman of Psychology Department.

[unclear: V] Mess

[unclear: Salient],

Congratulations New Zealand on the birth your latest media mess, 'The Club Show'. [unclear: era] inclined to think that the 'Club' is sup[unclear: sed] to represent all that is admirable about [unclear: e] 'Good Kiwi Joker' and his habits, i.e. sport, [unclear: er] bellies and the admiration of big tits.

For those of you who missed the show here [unclear: e] some of the highlights:

[unclear: meras] focussing on stage props that were still ing put in position.

[unclear: a] inoperable telephone that kept bleeping when [unclear: swered].

[unclear: magical] crossbow that shot two inches higher [unclear: an] it was aimed.

[unclear: -clinicians] visible trying to arrange sets, and a [unclear: mera] man who could not follow orders.

group of mediocre artists the best of whom [unclear: as] probably the Maori High Marx (fitting that [unclear: ey] should perform in our so called classless [unclear: ciety]).

[unclear: stly] a compere who looked like the local yo[unclear: el] making his debut as Master of Ceremonies [unclear: the] Te Puke shearers ball.

Who do the clowns who run Avalon think [unclear: e] are in this country that we are going to [unclear: accept] such embarrassing rubbish for entertainment? [unclear: this] show continues it will prove by its [unclear: acceptance] that we are indeed a pathetic little society a country lacking in innovation and rapidly [unclear: ning] a reputation as being good for old peo[unclear: e], children and animals.

Clean up the Media New Zealand.

J. H. Carroll.

Christian at University

Dear Editor,

T.S. Koh brought out some important points in his letter 'Christian Saviours' last week. The welfare and acculturation of newly arrived overseas students are primary areas of concern for associations genuinely working for the interests and well-being of students. We should welcome such frank viewpoints and sincere concern.

It is significant that such an important issue be brought to the attention of the Malaysian community. 'For too long, we have been plagued with apathy. Vital issues affecting overseas students were cast aside. Criticisms were countered with personal slanders, rumours, foul languages and tantrum. Hopefully, such immature, infantile disorder is a thing of the past. I plea that this issue be intently and intelligently discussed and debated by all interested parties and individuals concerned. If we believe in ourselves and have faith that what we do is right and the truth, then we are not afraid to speak our mind or have our ideas challenged. It is only the fakes, the fanatics and the crooks that are afraid of the dark and avoid open discussions.

Having written so far on the rules and morals of debate, I have a few questions which I challenge the various overseas Christian groups to answer. However, just before my questions, I wish to clarify my stand. Firstly, I am not antichristian. In fact, I respect the genuine Christians who truly follow the teaching of Christ: those who show concern for humanity, are aware of social problems and injustice and work to improve the livelihood of the people. The work of organisations like SCM (Student Christian Movement), CORSO and World Council of Churches are the most evident examples. Secondly, I am strongly against dogmatists and fanatics who shut themselves in a coconut shell, divorce from concrete realities around them. Such persons or organisations are not only doing a disservice to the true teachings of Christ, but are preaching a very sick and twisted world outlook, which is harming many lives.

Now the questions:

- If the overseas students Christian Groups are genuinely interested in the welfare of overseas students (as shown by their enthusiasm in looking after the 1st year students), why is it that all these years they never dare make a stand, let alone do anything, on the many issues that directly affect overseas students, eg. immigration problems, cutbacks on overseas students, the capping issue, etc, etc.
- Besides the policies that directly affect overseas students are the many social problems, injustice, racism, corruptions and poverty of our people back home. As students who come from such backgrounds it is only humane that we are concerned, try to understand and do whatever little we can to solve such problems. To me, preaching sins, doomsday and praying to be given a ticket through the pearly gates into heaven is a far cry from cruel realities. Perhaps my holy brothers can explain how to put biblical theories into practice.

Salina.

Drysdale Debunked

Dear Sir,

I must reply to at least part of Miss (?) Drysdale's odd letter in the latest issue of Salient I sincerely hope that she was writing "tongue in cheek", but I suspect not. Although most of her letter was ridiculous I was particularly worried about the paragraph on abortion. Of course abortion legislation seriously affects women, it can hardly affect men, can it?

I do not propose to enter into an abortion debate, but the sooner people stop seeing it as an alternative to contraception (or abstinence if she prefers), the better. Having an abortion is not an experience that one would wish to repeat, nor in fact, that one would wish to undergo if it could be avoided. Abortion cannot "encourage the frequency of debauching". It is a last resort for women who do not want to go through with pregnancy. Permit them this dignity at least — the right to choose.

Yours in considerable trepidation,
K.R.

Exosss Groops

Dear Sir,

In these times of trial, pestilence, and National governments we must ask ourselves "has the Almighty abandoned us?", and if so, "Why". A tittle thought shows us that the answer to the first question is Yes.

Imagine the humiliating blow to God's ego when his ultimate creation repaid him by continually bombing out. Imagine the embarrassment of being used as an excuse for all his Lookalikes' barbarous activities. One can see God being left with two alternatives:

- abandon the world and start up somewhere else,
- transfer his attentions to a creature worthy of them.

Indeed, he chose the second alternative and devoted his attention to that most deserving and downtrodden animal, the sheep. He even recreated himself in the image of a sheep, as evidenced by the coming of his son in the form of a lamb to inform man of this new state of affairs. This new position (which mankind has chosen to ignore) is that only sheep are permitted in Heaven; the only hope for man being conversion to a sheep on death. Those who don't make the ovine cutoff are condemned to eternal goatery.

New Zealand is, as we all like to maintain, God's own country, because the place brims with sheep but contains very few people. However, we squander this opportunity to ingratiate ourselves by portraying them as stupid, slow, and ignorant; we slaughter them in the thousands and generally give them a hard time. This has got to stop!!!!!!

Jews recognize an earlier divine experiment by refraining from eating pork. Now that God is a sheep (and not a pig) it is even more important for us to give up mutton. Sheep must be granted equal rights, and people must start marrying sheep in order to gain divine acceptance by proxy. Failing this a diet of Exosss Groops-though unpalatable — is known to be acceptable. A new shipment is due, so be ready.

J. C. Grope

Society for the advancement of Exosss Groops.

English Department Ok

Dear Sir,

I was glad to see your Poetry feature on 26 Feb recommending Sam Hunt and Gary McCormick so enthusiastically. But it's both cheap and inaccurate to say "Their poetry is not exactly what teachers at school or our glorious English Department teach". Every year for the last five or six years Sam Hunt has been invited to participate, by reading and discussing his poetry, in ENGL 251 New Zealand Literature, for a fee paid by the department. He's also one of the most popular participants in the "Poets in Schools" scheme.

Last year the English Department hosted a seminar on N.Z. writing which made your fourthformish "academic v. relevant" hang-up look silly and obsolete. This year we're collaborating with Pen (the writers' union) in an even bigger and more open conference. Sam Hunt and I were both on the committee that hatched and approved the idea.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Roger Robinson

Chairman, English Dept.

Copping a Feel

Was Drysdale Serious?

Dear Peter,

While reading Kathy Drysdale's letter in last week's Salient about unwanted pregnancies being suitable punishment for nights of debauchery, and other such enlightened ideas, I was waiting for the ironical twist at the end. It has to be somebody's idea of humour, I thought. However it seems that Kathy Drysdale's letter was

completely serious.

Drysdale claims that it is an "untruth to assert that women are at an economic, social and academic disadvantage at university." Drysdale's claim ignores a number of facts. Women make up only 40% of the total student population and only 31% of graduates are women. Surely this shows that women are at an academic disadvantage at universities. Economically, women students are at a disadvantage because, on average, they earn less than men, during the long vacation.

A survey carried out by the University Welfare Services in 1976 - 1977 showed that in the vacation women students, on average, earned \$400 less than male students. Drysdale writes "True, men tend to get some better paid jobs, such as in the freezing works and in the Woolstores. So what? Good on them; not everyone's cup of tea, and the jobs demand more strength than most women have." Nobody is saying that men students shouldn't get paid well for hard physical work or that such work is "everybody's cup of tea". But there is no proof that "these jobs demand more strength than most women have". Some men are stronger than some women, and some women are stronger than some men; women should not be denied access to any job because of the fact that they are female.

It is always hard to prove social discrimination. However some examples of the social discrimination of women university students are obvious. Drysdale claims that it is "unadulterated rubbish" to assert that women speak less than men at SRC's. I counted the number of women and men students who spoke at the last SRC; 7 women spoke and 12 men. Furthermore at SASRAC, the main social activity on campus, women are far fewer on the ground than men. At SASRAC on Thursday 7 March approx. 112 of the students were male and 32 were female.

The social, academic, and economic discrimination of women students is a reality. It is a reflection of the discrimination of women in New Zealand society as a whole.

Drysdale's comment "that the availability of abortion would, it seems to me, merely encourage the frequency and energy of debauching, thus making one even more tired - leading to an even shoddier work output" is one of the cruellest and most absurd arguments against the termination of an unwanted pregnancy by abortion that I have ever heard. In conclusion of her letter Drysdale tries to guess who wrote the article in handbook on women students, wondering if it was written by either a "Male Chauvinist" or a woman laughing at the "lunatic fringe of the Women's Liberation Movement." It was, in fact, written by the Co-ordinator of the NZUSA Women's Rights Action Committee and intended, I'm sure, to be taken seriously.

Yours sincerely,

Leonie Morris

Active and the Union Building

Dear Sir,

On page 6 of your issue of 5th March 1979 you ran an article on Radio Active. In the third to last paragraph there was the following statement "Most people wouldn't realise, says Campbell, that they are insured for defamation to the tune of \$50,000 with the Union Building as surety."

This statement is incorrect. The Union Building is not and never has been a security for any activity of the Students' Association. The indemnity for \$50,000 is a requirement of the broadcasting license issued to Radio Active and is by way of an insurance policy with the State Insurance Company.

Yours faithfully,

S. Underwood.

Gosling Strikes Back

Saxby Answered

Dear Sir,

I am replying to a letter which has been circulated to all student newspapers by Mr P. J. Saxby. This person has long involved himself in besmirching the reputation of NZUSA and its officers through inaccurate allegations and innuendo.

I am always happy to engage in debate on NZUSA and its activities on a factually critical basis, and I believe this strengthens the effectiveness of the organisation. I am however reluctant to involve myself or NZUSA in a slanging match with individuals who have ulterior motives. But, because Mr Saxby raises a number of important issues in an inaccurate manner, I feel compelled to reply. This I will do by considering each of his points.

"NZUSA continues to adopt policies which are not representative of student thinking." Mr Saxby failed to give any examples of this whatsoever. NZUSA's policy making is carried out in a thoroughly rigorous and democratic manner to ensure that it is as representative as possible.

Policy is set at bi-annual Councils by delegates from each constituent students association (i.e. every local students association in the country). These delegates are almost invariably directly elected by the members.

Delegates represent and are bound by the policy of their association, thus All NZUSA policy comes straight from local association policy. Further, all policy motions are considered twice, first by commission of the relevant officers, and then by full Council when constituent association Presidents (who are All directly elected and immediately responsible to students) have the final say.

In addition, to scrupulously ensure that NZUSA policy is representative, any policy motion voted on must get an Absolute Majority of the 42 Possible Votes. Thus a motion which recieved 20 positive votes, 10 against and 12 abstentions would Not be adopted.

Here are some facts for Mr Saxby: At the last Council of NZUSA policy motions were passed in the area of Education, Welfare, Accomodation, National, Womens and International. Over 98% of all policy motions in these areas were passed with majorities of 2 / 3 or greater. Over 70% of these were infact passed Unanimously.

Significantly, in the areas of International and Education, which Mr Saxby picked out for comment the figures were unanimous 59% and 81% respectively, of which 100% and 97% respectively found majorities greater than two thirds.

In the face of these facts I would like to see examples of policy which Mr Saxby considers "not representative".

Mr Saxby also refers to recent attempts by delegates to resist attempts to introduce safeguards". To be quite honest, I have no idea what he is talking about. Some facts and examples would be appreciated!

2. The following are just some examples of successful work done by NZUSA which could not have been done by anything but a national organisation.

Chris Gosling in a reflective moment.

Photo of Chris Gosling

- the introduction of the Standard Tertiary Bursary in the first place, following nationally organised protests over bursaries in 1974 and 1975.
- Increases in the bursary level for 1978 and 1979, and specifically an additional \$1.50 per week in 1979 as a Direct result of personal representations to the Minister of Education by NZUSA officers after the 1978 budget.
- A well accepted submission to the University Grants Committee earlier this year on the subjects of university library services, university teacher training, student welfare services and costly courses. All bread and butter issues affecting most students.
- Representation of NZ university students at Bursaries conferences in 1976 and 1977 and strong representation to a government working party which is at present making recommendations to the Minister of Education on improvements to the STB.
- Provision of an extensive resource centre for local associations on wide spread issues.
- The introduction of a hardship bursary of up to \$7.00 per week for students unable to gain sufficient vacation employment.

The list goes on. At present NZUSA us working on:

- Ensuring the Students Community Service Programme is reintroduced for 1979-1980 vacation.

- Working for an increase in the hardship allowance.
- Undertaking an income and expenditure survey of students to try and establish a proper basis for the bursary level.
- The increasingly serious problem of student accommodation.
- Planning specific action during the year to gain essential increases in the bursary level, to improve the standard of teaching in universities to prevent short-sighted slashing of education funding and so forth.

All these activities necessitate national organisation and representation. Much of the work involves personal representation to government or departments, or coordinating student activity on a nationwide basis. Local associations can do none of these things.

As to Mr Saxby's allegation that "there is evidence that the primary object of NZUSA campaigns is to organise students politically rather than to win Bursary increases". Part of the fight to win bursary increases or anything else involves organising students. If Mr Saxby sees some more insidious motive for this "political organisation" I would like to see his "evidence".

3. This is simply untrue. The Total budgetary allocation for both of Mr Saxby's "notable" examples of the National Overseas Students' Action Committee (NOSAC) and the Women's Rights Action Committee (WRAC) is less than 4% of the total budget for 1979!

This figure is less than the 1978 allocation of just under 4.5%. So where Mr Saxby gets his "increasing part of its [NZUSA's] income to minority interest groups notably NOSAC and WRAC". I simply do not know. This is all besides the fact that women students form just under 40% of total NZUSA membership, and overseas students a significant and notably underprivileged number. Is Mr Saxby suggesting that even less than 4% of NZUSA's budget should be applied to the specific needs of nearly half its membership?

In relation to control of NOSAC and WRAC:

- The financial allocation for each is set by full August Council (which normally means all the association presidents).
- The NZUSA President is on both committees.
- Both committees of standing committees of National Executive.
- Minutes of NOSAC and WRAC go to National Executive.
- National Executive has the power to reverse any decision made by WRAC or NOSAC.
- The NOSAC and WRAC Co-ordinators are elected or ratified by Council.

How much control can you get?

4. At this point Mr Saxby lapses into a bout of Ayn Rand philosophy. In my view the situation is quite clear. Mr Saxby believes that the Government should not be seen as a cure for all evils. However, because of the nature of education in New Zealand this is a ridiculous argument.

The type of education members get, the level of allowances they receive, the amount of employment that is available to them, the political decisions made on the behalf, are All made by a national governmental structure. To think that these things can be affected by anything but an organised national student body is to adopt a Don Quixote approach of charring alone against windmills. Most of the problems facing student that Mr Saxby talks about are Caused by government and must be responded to at a government level. I would also like Mr Saxby to [*unclear: outline*] exactly what he means by that handy little [*unclear: slur*] "the political factions involved".

5. I really don't know where to start. Mr Saxby asserts that the NZUSA officers are incompetent to handle the financial responsibility entrusted to them. He cites (inaccurately) one supposed example.

The criticism of the management of Student Travel Bureau Ltd arose not "recently", but [*unclear: ove*] 12 months ago. It resulted in considerable changes being successfully implemented in STB Ltd. In relation to the guarantees mentioned. Constituent Associations were not "required" to provide it (NZUSA and especially STB Ltd, cannot require Constituent Associations to do anything) but agreed to do so in August. The reason that this has become "unstuck" is not due to any mismanagement, but the fact that one campus has now gone back on its agreement. It is hoped that this matter will be resolved to everybody's satisfaction as soon as possible.

Mr Saxby gives no other "examples of administrative disasters... from past years". If they do exist at all, restrictions and controls at present in operation ensure that there is no room for such "disasters".

Mr Saxby's last paragraph is perhaps the most interesting and ironic. I welcome the existence of any group or individual who wishes "to provide facts on NZUSA and students and to consider various ideas to alter the present set-up".

If Mr Saxby's letter is any indication he has no real wish to provide facts on, or ideas to alter NZUSA. The letter's combination of omissions innuendos and unsubstantiated allegations can only be designed to harm the image of the association and eventually destroy it. This is clearly shown by Mr Saxby's failure to honestly portray the actual political and philosophical reasons for his opposition to NZUSA, while he frantically casts around for supposed areas of failure by NZUSA in order to dupe other students into adopting his stand.

Such attempts should be of grave concern to all students. NZUSA plays an important and vital role in their

education. Any attempt to weaken or destroy the organisation will have a considerably effect on the sort of education students get and their opportunity to get it.

I ask all students to consider these matters seriously and make their decisions on the basis of fact not smear.
Your sincerely,
Chris Gosling
President NZUSA

Tertiary Bursary — Special Hardship Allowance

In certain circumstances the Department of Education will pay a Special Hardship Allowance of up to \$7 per week to students who are already in receipt of the Unabated Tertiary Bursary.

To qualify for this Special Hardship Allowance, students must be able to show that their ability to save money over the Summer vacation was impaired because they were unable to find a job for part or all of the vacation or because of some other circumstances beyond their control.

Students who wish to apply for the Special Hardship Allowance should contact Mrs Mildred Brown, Accommodation Officer, 6 Kelburn Parade, to obtain an application form and to discuss the evidence required to support their application.

Students who are receiving the Abated Tertiary Bursary who wish to apply on grounds of hardship to have their abated bursary increased to the unabated rate, should see Miss Daphne Dawbin, Liaison Officer, at 34 Kelburn Parade.

Students who have already had their abated bursary increased to the unabated rate, do not need to make a further application for the Special Hardship Allowance of up to \$7 per week.

I.H. Boyd
Director of Student Welfare Services

Bring and Buy — Open Market Day

The Cultural Affairs Council is organising a bring and buy - open market day on April 18 Wednesday Lunch Time (11 am - 3 pm.) If your organisation - club group or Alliance (preference given to campus based fund raisers), would like to participate and raise some money, then drop a line asking for further details to the Cultural Affairs Council Secretary

C/— Students' Association Office Union Building VUW
or postal :
Secretary Cultural Affairs Council
VUWSA
Private Bag
Wellington

Fantastic Performance April 1st
Sunday afternoon — Keep that Sunday free for a student extravaganza next only to the Students Arts Festival! Come and hear one of New Zealand's top bands.

Student Travel to the Arts Festival May 5 - 12 in Christchurch

If you wish cheap travel to the Students' Arts Festival, then contact the Cultural Affairs Council at VUWSA (Students' Association Office Private Bag, Wellington, leaving your name, address, phone number, and dates that you'll be at the Festival.

Union Catering Operation

Restaurant Opening Hours

- 11.30 am - 1.30 pm Mond - Frid.
- 4.30 pm - 7.00 pm Mond - Thurs

Menu

Lunch Time

Toasted Sandwiches, Hamburgers, Pizzas, Sandwiches, rolls, cakes etc.

Dinner

Steaks, Schnitzel, Sausages, Meal of the day, Salads, etc.

Patronize your restaurant. Food is delicious and reasonably prices.

The Crunch is Coming!

There are three major financial issues which will affect every student. Our library is the wont financed of all NZ University libraries. Secondly, VUWSA is likely to be asked to pay much more for the running of welfare faculties because the University wants to cut its spending. And lastly, the Education Department has recommended a \$9 increase to the STB which Muldoon is unlikely to approve. The Progressive Students Alliance is holding an organizing meeting on Tuesday 13th in the Lounge. Be there to hear the Vice-Chancellor and a University Grants Committee representative explain the official position.

Organise action to prevent University financing going down the drain!

REVUE '79 ACTORS MALE AND FEMALE MUSICIANS AUDITIONS TUESDAY 13 MARCH
UNION HALL 8AM. EVERYONE WELCOME