

Parliament notes

Michele A'Court

Taking Sides

Drawing of the Beehive

The Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, believes that the Human Rights Act should be amended even if such an amendment conflicts with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Eric Sides, New Zealand's most famous Christian service station proprietor, recently lost his fight in the courts for the right to advertise for a Christian pump attendant.

It was widely felt that allowing such an advertisement would set a dangerous precedent, and could be interpreted to read, "Jews need not apply."

But the Prime Minister said, "Many people, myself included, believe that, in the case which he (Mr Sides) lost, (he law is an ass and it should be amended."

Mr Muldoon recognises "one difficult problem" however. To remove discrimination on grounds of religion from the Act "appears" he says, to conflict with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - which New Zealand adhered to three years ago.

He proposes an amendment to the Act to prevent a repetition of the Sides case and will leave it to the Law Draughtsmen to see if they can find a way to stop it conflicting with the Declaration of Human Rights.

But, Mr Muldoon says, if the conflict cannot be avoided "commonsense should prevail and we should make the amendment anyway".

All Things Come to those who Wait

The Hon. Jim McLay, Minister of Justice and Government Spokesman on Women's Affairs, has rejected a suggestion that a Royal Commission of Inquiry should be set up to look into family violence.

The suggestion was made by Dr. John Church, founder of the Christchurch battered wives support group.

Mr McLay pointed out that the Select Committee on Violent Offending had considered the question of domestic violence "only two years ago" and special domestic violence legislation was to be introduced to Parliament during this election year.

"That should be a clear indication that we are keenly aware of the problem and anxious to do something to deal with it," Mr McLay said.

Hart Plans its Next Move

Another mass mobilisation, even bigger than the massive one on May 1, is to be organised nationally by the anti-tour movement on July 3. This was the major decision made for future action by Hart's national council meeting, held on May 9 to sum up the May 1 campaign and plan further activities.

Seeing the May 1 mobilisation campaign as overwhelmingly successful, Hart leaders expect the July 3 mobe to attract even more New Zealanders out onto the streets against apartheid. July 3 will be the very last chance to have the tour called off, and the knowledge that the last demonstration was peaceful and well organised will likely mean an even bigger turnout. The fact that a majority of New Zealanders oppose the tour suggests that these plans are quite realistic. Anti-tour activities leading up to July 3 (which for Victoria students is at the end of study break) have been planned to start almost immediately. There will be pickets this Sunday 31 May to mark the celebration by the white racist regime of South Africa Republic Day.

Intensive activities will be organised at the local level around Soweto Day, June 16. This day marks the day unarmed Black schoolchildren were killed by South African security forces in this infamous township in 1976. Auckland activists, for example, intend to use this time to target National MPs to persuade them of the desirability of withholding visas from the Springboks.

However, some proposed activities faced the chop. It had been suggested that protest action be taken against the NZ Rugby Football Union at the Scots matches and All Black trials. However, this was decided against on the basis that people would be likely to see it as anti-rugby, that it may cause unnecessary aggression

from Springbok tour supporters, and would divert attention away from the campaign's anti-apartheid emphasis.

Overall, Hart's national council meeting displayed, after the success of May 1, a high degree of unity amongst those present. After an in depth summing up of the strengths and weaknesses of the campaign so far, Hart supporters are looking forward to success in the next couple of months. There is no question that Hart will not be moved from its position that 'the tour is stoppable'.

Red-Baiting Attacks Condemned

A further Hart plenary meeting, held last Monday 18 May, discussed the smear campaign being waged by Lower Hutt Mayor Kennedy-Good, and others, against the organisation. People present at the plenary were strongly of the opinion that the episode was simply a desperate, last ditch attempt to divert New Zealanders' attention away from the real issues of opposing apartheid and stopping the tour.

The meeting also re-affirmed the right of people of all political persuasions to take an active part in the anti-tour campaign.

Stephen A'Court

Victoria's President to Iraq

Trevor Richards speaks to a crowd of over 10,000 on the May 1 march.

Photo of Trevor Richards and a sign reading 'Fight Apartheid Stop the Tour'

When she departs for Iraq this Thursday, President Virginia Adams will leave Victoria behind for two weeks as she represents NZUSA at the Baghdad executive meeting of the Asian Students Association (ASA).

NZUSA is not only a member of ASA, it in fact holds the organisation's chair for 1981/2. This position gives NZUSA the role of supervising the work of ASA's secretariat (head office) which is based in Hong Kong. Adams will travel to Iraq with ASA's Secretary General, Loh Chi Kin, who is currently in this country to attend the International Students Congress and NZUSA's May Council.

The Asian Students Association is, as the name suggests, an international organisation comprising the national students associations of a range of South Pacific, and south east, central and east Asian countries. In the past, ASA has been particularly active in defending the rights of students in many of its third world member nations. In Thailand and the Philippines, for example, students face extremely harsh and repressive measures from their governments.

While in Iraq, Virginia Adams will assess the work done by ASA so far this year, make preparations for a full ASA executive meeting later this year, and discuss the two upcoming ASA international conferences on Youth, and the South Pacific.

Adams clearly sees importance in the contacts New Zealand students have with the Asian region. She claims ASA is "an important body, promoting student interests and defending democratic rights throughout Asia."

"Through ASA's links with NZUSA" she continued, "New Zealand students should better understand and know how to support Asian students' struggles."

Adams has past experience in working with ASA; experience which includes being one of NZUSA's delegates to ASA's seventh general conference held in Melbourne in January this year.

Stephen A'Court

Letters

Most Successful Attempt Yet

My dearest Editor friend,

I would like to say a few words in praise of the National Front Club but I'm afraid I can't think of any. Nevertheless I'll keep you posted.

Yours seriously,

Herman G.

P.S. Next meeting behind the bikesheds this Sunday. Don't forget the white sheets and rope. BYO victim.
P.P.S. All enquiries to 'This Isn't Facism but Enforced Democracy', Private Bag, Nuremberg.

Active Support

Sir:

As Radio Active's technician, I would like to take up some points made by "Pissed Off in the last issue of Salient.

Firstly, Radio Active has been connected to the cafeteria for many years, in a fashion which was consistent with most of Active's equipment; ie, for a long time the station has been forced to operate on a 'two tins with string between' budget. Two weeks before our Capping Broadcast, the connection was slightly altered to improve audio quality, both to air and to the cafe. In other words, the link, except for a short period, has always been available. The reason that Radio Active is not heard in the cafe is not that it is not available there, (we regularly turn the cafe amplifiers on), but that more discerning listeners (the cafe staff) prefer silence to hearing too much good music. (A problem obviously stemming from listening to commercial radio, where listeners actually enjoy three different records played five times an hour).

Radio B in Auckland have one of the best on-campus coverages of any student station in New Zealand. They obviously get on a lot, better with staff around their university!! We have tried on many occasions to broadcast to more areas of this university, but have always run up against stone-wall bureaucracy.

I thank 'Pissed Off for being amongst the noisy minority, and wish that more people would direct their complaints to the appropriate quarters, Exec for example. We will then be able to gauge student opinions and act upon them.

I agree wholeheartedly with the views of 'Pissed Off concerning the Space Invaders machine. (I can loan him a hammer and wire cutters if he's interested!).

As to our coverage outside the university campus, our ideal aim for an aerial is a 90 foot vertical mast which requires an area of land 120 feet in diameter. If anyone can suggest a suitable site, then, and only then, will we be able to get decent coverage. In the meantime, we'll just have to make do with what we've got, inefficient and unsightly as it may seem.

Andrew Congdon

PS. FM stereo would not cause the same aerial location problems, and would, in fact, improve our coverage of the greater Wellington area.

Capping Crap-Out Caps it off

Dear Sir,

Last year I gained my Bachelor's degree from this university and would like to have participated in the recent capping ceremony. The reason I didn't was not through choice but due to the fact that I was prevented because of a technicality.

I was caught up in the Qantas dispute during February and was stuck on the other side of the Tasman, I finally arrived back in Wellington the day after the VUW conferment of degree deadline and contacted the Academic Registrar, Mr Perrot, regarding the ceremony. He was very polite and told me in no uncertain terms that the university rules and deadlines that were there to be met and that I could have contacted him - from Australia if I had wanted to be capped. I explained that when one is stuck in Australia with no money that returning a form is not the major priority on one's mind. He was not impressed and said if I wanted to take the matter any further I would have to contact the Registrar - which I did.

Dr Harvey took exactly the same stand and added that if I really wanted to be capped I could attend the 1982 ceremony. I have since seen a senior lecturer and the head of my faculty and their enquiries met with a similar response.

All I can say is what a great way to conclude four years at this university. To receive this sort of treatment from two insensitive, bureaucratic 'administrators' really makes me wonder if the degree really was worth it. If it was, how can these two people, by their inactions, prevent you from officially receiving it just because you missed a deadline by *one* day (can they really be that inflexible?).

The Moral of the Story: If you want a degree from VUW do exactly as you are told, fill out all the forms on time and somehow control everything that happens to you - even things one would think you can't control - like being stranded in Australia due to an airline strike.

Yours, etc,

D.A. Campbell

In Defence of Virginity

Dear Stephen,

I invite everyone reading this letter to cast their minds back to last term's final issue of Salient. You may remember that the centre four pages were collection of material presented as a part of sexuality week. As usual it contained information that seemed to come from Forum magazine and opinions on the stance of women towards sexuality from WAG. On the whole it was the usual sexuality week stuff.

However there was an element inherent to its writing that I think is worthy of comment. It tended to glorify sex. It seemed to suggest that if you weren't actively abstaining in order to re-orientate yourself or having orgasms all over the place then you were somehow a misfit. This therefore, is a letter in defence of virginity, which despite the 60's revolution will always be with us.

Sex, like cars, is an industry. It's sold and it sells. A mystique surrounds the whole business, we're all expected to read up on the wonders of the female orgasm in the 'Hite Report' or similar 'scientific' publications. A successful sex life is a status symbol like a fast car, and like a fast car we are supposed to aspire to a string of 'zipless fucks'.

Very few non-religious people will happily admit to their virginity. Even Woody Allen's cult failure figure was without problems of sexual partners. Unless you have a good excuse (like being a nun) then to be a virgin is somehow not to be an adult. If you are a virgin seems to mean you are somehow unacceptable, you aren't a whole person and you must hide your sexual status from view and dispose of it as quickly and quietly as possible.

Let's face it, sex for the first time isn't as simple and easy as its put out. A lot of people are very shy and emotional constraints develop. Many people start to think that one day everything will magically be revealed. The advertising agents' fog filters betray us to the world of reality in all its anatomical detail and this real life human being.

It's time we recognise virginity as a state of affairs in itself, not a stage in one's development. We should think of it in the same way we regard people who haven't been out of the country. Not something there is any compulsion to get through but something you'll probably get around to one day. Just as Gays should not feel socially put down, neither should virgin people.

Luv,

Peter

Campaigning Without Alienation

Dear Ed,

Through your column may I address Peter, Oscar Wilde (Salient 4 May) and the like?

Please take heart! There *are* feminists who happen to also be female who *don't* alienate or reject men on the grounds of their masculinity.

There *are* gay-rights supporters - including male gays and lesbians - who decry and would prefer to disown the destructive, selfish, thoughtless actions of a loud few who do more to harm the cause than help it (eg the Cenotaph).

Same goes for the feminist movement in general, and many other people's rights groups.

I do take issue with Peter on one point; rape is a crime against women (though there are also women child molesters and homosexual rapes). Each rape attack may have one specific victim at the time, but how many women do you know who are totally unconcerned at the prospect of hitch-hiking alone or being at certain places (eg parks) alone at night, secure in the knowledge that they won't be attacked?

So anyway, my plea is to anyone who feels unjustly alienated or cast out from causes which you support, whether just in your own lifestyle if not also in active protest; those of us who are not so destructive and bigoted need you all the more.

We *all* need to realise we *all* must work together to make human rights not only legal but a social reality.

Earnestly yours,

Mary

Rape Study Challenged

Dear Sir,

The article 'An End to Abortion' by Joanna Davison et al (Salient 13 April) declared that 'A scientific study of 13,500 cases of rape over a 10 year period in the Minneapolis St Paul area revealed not one case of pregnancy.'

This 'study' of rape is often mentioned by people taking a SPUC line on this question. A request for a reference to this 'study' usually produces (at worst) silence or a reference to another SPUC type letter to an editor. At best it produces a reference to 'The Educator' 1970. I have seen a [*unclear: xerox*] of the page of 'The Educator' which reports this study.

'The Educator' is far from being a scientific or educational journal. It is a John Birch style of paper with lurid headlines. The rape reference is only a press report of one or two hundred words, with not much more in it than the short paragraph in the Salient article. 'An End to Abortion'.

Can the authors of that article please give a reference to a reputable journal which has given a proper account of this study?

Is it anything more than a myth?

Yours,

Jane Kirby

Bring Back Paul Norman!

Dear Stephen,

Does VUWSA have an environmental affairs officer? If so could we please hear from that person what they are doing.

Yours in greenness,

Paul Wiggins

Yes, but should they be Lashed?

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the person last issue who wrote that 'rape isn't a crime against a specific person because it's the person part that suffers the most damage, nobody thinks of that suffers the most damage, nobody thinks of themselves as a representative of anything under such individual humiliation..' While I didn't entirely understand all of his argument I was in agreement with several of his points.

Firstly the most humiliating aspect of a rape is that who you are as a person - your likes, dislikes and personality - are totally irrelevant to the rapist (I'm not including in this 'rape' by husbands/lovers). It lowers the sexual act to the level of a mechanical release of tension, like urinating or scratching. All of the elements that make sex such a special experience are totally removed.

Secondly, I agree with his accusation that radical feminists alienate male support. They not only alienate less radical females by their extremism. While I agree that women as a result of the social system are repressed, males are also a product of the system. Just because they come off relatively 'better' doesn't mean that there are no constraints on them, and I would argue that men, too, are 'victims' of the system. As for the stock response that males' deviations from normal expectations are much more acceptable, that is simply not true and only space and time stop me from giving examples.

Lastly, I too feel that I am a person first and a woman second, and as such life affects me first as a person and secondly as a woman.

Tina

PS. Where's the crossword? I had to listen to my Monday lectures. Also could the cooking columnist please specify how many people his recipes serve? This would save confusion. I would especially like the number of servings for the Malaysian Satay.

Alf is no Slug

The Gentleman editor,

Pursuant to our previous correspondence of May 4, it is my pleasure to inform the public of yet another glorious victory for the loyal troops of Alf's Army. I refer of course to the raft race held on Friday. While we (naturally) opted to proceed with decorum and dignity rather than with unseemly haste, we were the only

entrants to complete the course. While you other chaps (and ladies) all did jolly well, you all made the same error. You all went around the wrong fountain! Obviously, the fountain referred to in the instructions is not the one in the middle of all that cold water, but the wishing well across the road (reflecting current govt, policies). Never mind, we'll let you keep the prize, as our stalwart warriors have no need of courage inducing beer (round the back for the ol' brandy lads!), Our condolences to you all, and better luck next year.

Imperially yours,

(Secretary) 2nd Duke of Wellington own (Boots) Rgt.

Get Rid of STB Now

Dear Stephen,

Thanks very much for your coverage of the unfortunate STB issue. There are however a few items over which I feel some variance of view to that expressed in the two articles. On "The History. Why did VUWSA sign a \$40,000 overdraft guarantee for STB?" In 1979 I was present at an executive meeting where Stephen Underwood rather skillfully bulldozed through the increase in the overdraft guarantee to \$40,000. At this meeting there was no alternative opinion given and it was apparent that the executive [Treasurer (Political Science). President (Law), et al (English etc)] knew little of the financial realities of what they were doing.

Underwood assured them - money for jam - we were already in to the tune of \$17,000 - VUWSA would get 4% (\$1600 pa I presume) merely for letting STB use the BNZ's funds - and he unequivocally assured us all problems would soon be traded away.

After a brief discussion, during which no concrete facts were produced to show how or why this rosy future was inevitable, the guarantee increase was agreed.

Hence VUWSA now owes the BNZ \$40,000 because of the bankruptcy of STB - so much for all troubles being traded away.

The second portion of the STB article I felt would have lost nothing if it could have been expressed in a slightly more standard accountancy form. But from what I could understand of it several issues left me rather bemused.

First, currently STB owes AUSTS \$70,000 "under the Rennie proposal the new STB would immediately negotiate with AUSTS to eliminate this debt." If Mr Rennie thinks 170,000 can be just rubbed out, I (and the NZ Government) would be curious how.

Secondly, you wrote that Canterbury claims winding up would cost \$130,000; less than half the figure quoted from the directors for the same operation, yet your only explanation of the difference is staff payments (holiday and redundancy pay).

All this leads me to my basic difference of opinion with your article. To quote "even if this new company [the refurbished STB] trades profitably for only a couple of years..." Somehow you have fallen into the error of all [those before you who have supported STB; ie unreasoned optimism. In fact worse than unreasoned - irrational. For almost a whole page you list the confusion surrounding STB's future, how no two parties agree on anything - even such items as the \$66,000 which should surely have been concretely defined by an audit - and yet after running through the uncertainties suddenly up pops your recommendation that the organisation be kept going.

STB should be wound down as quickly as possible, without allowing undue haste to lead to too much waste. My reasons for this conclusion I list below.

- Fundamentally the question of whether STB provides any irreplaceable services needs to be faced. It seems quite apparent that it does not.
- Recognising that student travel services need not imply a student owned company, the only reason for maintaining STB would be that this is the least cost option. The long history of losses leads to no optimism over future profitability, especially if such comments as "Rennie's firm pointed out that, without interest repayments, STB had traded profitably" are considered. Why didn't he just say - if the business had no costs it would have been profitable. Such remarks do not engender hope and faith, and already the charity lavished on the management seems excessive.
- Finally, all of those who are to vote on this issue please remember, it is your money, you did not have to

earn it and therefore what right have you to waste it, merely to rescue a few egos till next time. I feel you have no such right.

Tim Brown

Just to clear up a few points: STB is not bankrupt, and VUWSA does not owe the BNZ \$40,000 - although we certainly would have to pay if the company is wound up as you suggest.

Eliminating the \$70,000 debt to AUSTS certainly does not mean 'rubbing it out'. Money will definitely change hands.

The Canterbury figure of \$130,000 to wind up STB is composed of the guarantees worth \$95,000, plus debts of NZUSA to STB. In a legal sense, this is all constituents would be liable to pay. The difference is that STB's total debts are far higher. In other words. Canterbury's figure means some creditors would not be paid. NZUSA constituents as a whole took a principled stand and resolved to pay all STB's debts, if necessary.

Which gets on to my statement that 'new STB' proposal is, if it works, the cheapest alternative. Both Rennie's proposal and my article were at pains to state future profitability "requires substantial investigation by any potential shareholders."

In fact I find your position somewhat unreasoned - it presumes STB will not be successful over the next few years. You discount a proposal which could prevent this Association paying over something like \$60,000 and getting absolutely nothing in return.

Ed.

WILD SCENES AT SOCK EXCHANGE

Mid-Year Examinations 1981 EXAMINATION CODESLIPS AND TIMETABLES Will be available for collection by students from the Mezzanine floor. Lecture Block between 9.00am and 5.00pm on the following days: Wednesday 10 June Thursday 11 June Friday 12 June Candidates must present identification and may collect only their own codeslip and timetable. Students enrolled only in wholly internally assessed courses will not be issued with codeslips or timetables. As codeslips etc will in future not be mailed to candidates, it is the responsibility of every student to collect his/her own on one of the prescribed days. Admission to examinations is by codeslip only.

A Thieves Fair

Transnationals Prop Up Apartheid

Demonstrators against apartheid gather outside the St George on April 9.

Photo of people at an anti-apartheid march

It's the real thing: South African employee of U.S. multinational.

Photo: Camera Press

Photo of a man with crates of coca cola

For over 100 years foreign investment has played a major role in pushing for a system of cheap labour in South Africa.

Today, some 2,000 transnational corporations (TNCs) operate in South Africa with an estimated 1977 capital stake in the apartheid system of \$24.5 billion, accounting for over one third of the country's gross domestic product.

The largest number are British-based TNCs. The British anti-apartheid movement has identified over 650.

The United States comes a close second with approximately 400 companies with direct operations in South Africa and 6,000 firms which do business there through agency networks. French and West German involvement is considerable with EEC countries clocking up two-thirds of all direct investment.

Profits Massive

Largely through the oppression of Black workers, the rate of return on foreign investment in South Africa is amongst the highest in the world. According to the US Department of Commerce the average rate of profit on US capital invested in South Africa is 18%. This compares with 13% for developed countries and 14% in third

world countries.

The South African economy is extremely dependent on TNCs. They own about 40% of South Africa's manufacturing industry and are involved in all the strategic sectors of the economy - iron, steel, chemical, auto and electrical equipment, machinery and engineering industries - industries which furnish the industrial infrastructure essential for militarisation.

Oil is one vital mineral South Africa lacks. The country is therefore especially vulnerable to an effective oil embargo. Five oil transnational - Shell, BP, Caltex, Mobil and Total - dominate the economy. Together they handle 83% of the refining and processing of petroleum products, generating 91% of the country's service stations.

Under South African law it is an offence for an oil company operating in the country to refuse to supply the armed forces. TNCs provided the essential technology for the government's SASOL plants which produce oil from the country's vast coal reserves.

Selling the Instruments of Oppression

Prior to the 1977 United Nations mandatory arms embargo, TNCs from France, Italy and Britain directly supplied police and military equipment to South Africa - to the tune of \$780 million from 1970 to 1977.

The embargo has resulted in a reduction in the supply of direct military equipment but a stepping-up of technology and indirect aid.

Corresponding to the South African government's rapid increase in military spending after the Sharpeville massacre, transnational electronics and related industries burgeoned.

IBM, Burroughs, ICL and Siemens provide the related technology for local arms production. Companies such as Plessey, Siemens and Phillips have set up their own subsidiaries in partnership with local companies.

Advanced, computerised techniques have been used to overcome a chronic shortage of skilled labour without upgrading the position of Blacks.

The South African minority regime has also harnessed the transnational computer business to step up the surveillance of the Black majority. Since 1967 a British ICL computer has been handling more than 10 million registrations of Blacks.

Heavy Mining Role

Mineral extraction earns South Africa \$7 billion in export earnings each year. This adds up to 55% of total exports. About 20% of tax revenue comes from this industry. Without foreign capital and technology, the growth of this industry would have ground to a halt.

Large segments of the mining industry are managed by finance houses whose prime backers come from Britain, the US and other western countries. Of the estimated \$20 billion invested in mining, about \$5 billion has come from abroad.

TNC capital dominates South African banking. The eight domestic affiliates of two British banks - Barclay and Standard - control over half the assets of the twenty biggest South African banks. During the 1970s transnational banks raised loans for South Africa. Between 1974 and 1978 approximately \$US11.5 billion was raised in international loans.

Volkswagen, Ford, GM, Datsun and British Leyland hold about 75% of the market for motor vehicles in South Africa. GM has been designated a national key point industry because of its strategic importance for the operation of the South African military.

State and TNCs have Mutual Interests

In the past decade the state has expanded its economic role in partnership with the transnationals. Their mutual interests lie in exploiting and repressing the Black population.

Intensifying pressures and threats of economic sanctions have necessitated state involvement to ensure that foreign investment was not made insecure. By 1973 almost 25% of all foreign non-direct capital had been invested in the state sector. Joint ventures and participation with state corporations now embrace all key sectors of the economy, including the military.

Faced with the growing struggle by Blacks for national liberation, the western powers' vested interest in the continuation of apartheid is being laid bare.

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This Week

The Library

Change of Location, Art and Architecture books.

All books in Class N (Art and Architecture) have been moved from the North end of Level 4 to the new shelving at the South end of Level 5, Rankine Brown Building.

Alpha Beta

Repertory Theatre 23 May to 6 June.

A play by E.A. Whitehead. Bookings at state Opera House.

VUW Film Society

Monday 25 May. 8.00pm. CB114.

Ankur (India).

Maori Education Foundation

Applications for assistance from the Maori Education Foundation close on 1 June 1981.

Anyone requiring application forms, or information please contact

Mary Poipoi

36 Kelburn Parade, upstairs

Ext. 812.

Play

How you Play it

Foreskin's Lament

Circa Theatre

The kids are not alright. Tupper, coach in the best beer-gutted tradition, reckons his club rugby side don't show enough team spirit. "You're too much of an individualist" he admonishes his talented fullback Foreskin, whose jinxing solo runs garner points but side-step the all important set plays. It's not enough to win. Tupper, like all moralists, attaches more importance to how you play the game.

His prescription? 80 minutes of uninhibited rucking. Not with the idea of freeing the ball - the backs' task is to gather up any loose ball and punt it back into the maul. The approved strategy is to advance slowly and in tight formation with one's mates, shedding as much blood and sweat in the process as possible, towards the enemy line. Tupper sees it as. "...striving for the common goal, all together ... the spirit to go through the fire, the war, the danger with your mates, and come out stronger for it at the other end."

Character building in other words. An ethos which has to be defended against subversives such as Foreskin who prefer to evade rather than trample over the opposition. The tragedy in *Foreskin's Lament* centres on Tupper's final, awful realisation that this creed of mateship which he has fervently bellowed at innumerable team talks is no longer relevant. That, as Clean brutally puts it, "The days of the rip-shit-or-bust coach are gone.

There wouldn't be one cunt in the team who takes him seriously."

It's 'Foreskin's Lament' but I say Tupper's tragedy because for me that's where the force of the drama lies. Tupper has lived the values which he has now lost faith in and his disillusionment is traumatic. "Traitor!" he curses Clean who in ghastly mockery of the team ethic has maimed his own captain. McGee's compelling insight into Tupper's dismay at the loss of those beliefs through which he has made sense of the world is the play's great achievement.

In the long soliloquy which ends the play Foreskin also declares that he, "can't play the game" anymore - but he never played the game in the sense that Tupper did. His commitment was always minimal. Club rugby was just a relief from academic life and giving it up will be no great strain.

Foreskin is not just less committed than Tupper to the rugby code - he positively opposes it. He occasionally professes support for the ethic but these protestations sound contrived in the context of his general attitude of disapproval. Indeed, take away the insistence that the team is greater than the sum of the individuals in it - the aspect which Foreskin takes most violent exception to - and there's not much left of the ethic.

Drawing of a tv screen and rugby posts

Too Bad to be True

The problem is that McGee gives Foreskin too much to lament: both the passing of a cherished code as well as the iniquities of that code. Necessarily the emphasis McGee places on the second aspect destroys the impact of the first.

For Foreskin really never lets up lambasting the values of his team mates. McGee's purpose in writing the play may well have been the laudable one of exposing the inadequacies of those values but in his enthusiasm to make his points clearly he sometimes mars the drama. He has Foreskin deliver a lecture to the team on the wickedness of sporting contacts with South Africa while Foreskin is always ready with excruciatingly correct lines such as, "Perhaps the wrong part is the way society makes little prisons for us to begin with - marriage, family, home, job."

And so say all of us. But unless the message comes naturally through the drama the playwright may as well just get up on a soap box and tell the audience what's wrong with society. For the play to work the flaws in society have to be made real in the drama. That is why, paradoxically, McGee's message comes through more effectively obliquely in his depiction of Tupper's plight than through Foreskin's carefully stressed correct views.

It is when McGee isn't feeling constrained to get the message across, but gives free rein to his talent for realistic drama, that the play works best. In Act I underlying the dressing shed banter one can feel the tensions which exist when real people relate.

Playing up Reality

The Circa production focuses on this gift for realism with the set for the dressing shed coming complete with the reek of liniment. The cast is similarly authentic. John Bach as the ambitious bruiser Clean and Keith Aberdein as Irish, whose mad sophistry conceals his essential pragmatism ("Costs nothing to play along" he tells Foreskin) are particularly impressive. The highlight of the show however is Grant Tilly's performance as Tupper. The integrity which he brings to his role as the anachronistic football coach perhaps unduly influence my view that the play should be restructured to make the role of Tupper central.

I'm not sure how the part of Foreskin could be played successfully. To work at all he has to appear one of the boys. Kelly Johnson in the part handled the party scenes in Act II sensitively but just wasn't rough and ready enough to be a plausible addition to the dressing shed.

To sum up, you're not supposed to play Hamlet without the prince, but perhaps *Foreskin's Lament* would work better minus Foreskin.

David Beach

Drawing of two people falling through a door

•P•O•E•M•S•

Endure

Where is the end of this twisting rope
My thoughts are as slippery as a bar of soap
Escape, Escape from this horrible time
Sit back, Sit back and sip some wine
Sit back, relax, don't blow your cool
Make the right decision but don't be a fool
Because I know there is a way out of this
For I shall endure
And there will be better times
Of this I am sure.

Andrew McLean

Victors Prudence

For us no defeat
Rather
bally body defect
as toe foot nerve hip spine rib and or leg
in debt or overdrawn
enforces frugality of action
and open handed thought.

Andrew McLean

Stuck

The Scheme of things
is rude
you've got to go down
to go up
Sure thing
Ya Hoo ...
Stuff
Down for how long
beneath accepted standards
of simple life even
basic fundamental bloody
insulting beneath pallid aura.....
Give me,
myself give
give to me
Decent opportunity.

Andrew McLean

Patriots to Die?

Picket Against Death Sentences in the

Philippines

Exposing the fact that nothing has changed in the Philippines since President Ferdinand Marcos announced the 'lifting' of martial law in January this year, a military court two weeks ago confirmed the death sentence imposed in 1977 on two leaders of the resistance to the Marcos dictatorship.

A picket protesting this move was organised on May 14 by the Third World Solidarity Committee, a group involved in building support for the struggles of people in the third world for democratic rights and against interference by the two superpowers in their countries.

The lunchtime picket held near Plimmer's Steps in the central city (the Philippines embassy resides in the Williams building), emphasised that the two men under sentence of death (Victor Corpuz and Bernabe Buscayno) represent the real patriots of the Philippines. Although charged with subversion and rebellion, their national democratic movement seeks to end the military terror and the United States' plunder of the Filipino people.

Both men were, before their arrest (and brutal torture in detention), leaders of the New People's Army, the main force of the resistance movement in the Philippines.

A delegation from the picket presented the Philippines embassy a statement condemning the death sentences. They also spoke with an embassy representative who was reportedly unable to satisfactorily refute charges of detention without trial, torture and murder of Filipino political prisoners.

When these two men were initially sentenced four years ago to die, a world outcry of opposition forced Marcos to announce a re-examination of the case. Although Marcos now intends to set 'an example' for the growing resistance movement, world opinion may yet save the lives of Corpuz and Buscayno. Letters demanding their reprieve can be sent to President Ferdinand Marcos, Malacanang Palace, Manila, Philippines.

Photo of people with protest signs on Plimmers Steps

The Second Great Salient Short Story Competition

Ever wanted to get some creative writing together, but never quite had the inclination? Salient's short story competition offers you the chance to win:

A First Prize of \$50 A Second Prize of \$25 Worth of Books, Courtesy Victoria Book Centre

Whether you've already won half a dozen Pulitzer prizes, or whether you're still learning how to hold a pen, your original short story can whisk you along the road to real fame and fortune.

The short stories will be judged by this year's VUW Writing Fellow, Vincent O'Sullivan. He will accept up to 3,000 words on the topic of your choice.

Closing Date for Entries: Friday July 17.

The winners will be announced, and published in Salient, a couple of weeks after this date. In fact most of the stories will stand an excellent chance of being printed during the third term.

So, if you fancy your talents as a writer, here's your chance to prove it.

Hear what these people have to say about Salient's short story competition:

"Every poxy Arts student writes short stories."

- Andrew Beach (1980 Media Officer).

"I couldn't give a stuff about your short story competition; and you can stick that anti-tour rubbish right up your jacksie, too."

- Ron Don.

"Have I got a story for you!"

- Simon Regan (British journalist).

"It's no use to me; I can't write any more."

- Tom Scott

"If only I'd known about it earlier - I could have had the competition run My Way. But then I suppose you'd rather have something which was short rather than lightweight."

- Rob Muldoon.

"Got about as much chance of success as STB."

- Steve Underwood.

"That's a good idea; I think I'll steal it."

- Alan Whelan (editor, Chaff).

"Salient's short story competition can go take a flying fuck at itself."

- Motion passed at a recent VUWSA Executive meeting.

Rules (The Fine Print)

- 3,000 words or less
- Typed (we have typewriters if you don't)
- Previously unpublished (and able to be printed in Salient)
- Any topic under the sun
- Open to anyone who's a student at Victoria in 1981
- Bring your story to Salient anytime up to July 17. Or, if you need further information, contact Stephen A'Court in Salient. One and all will be most obliged.

Australian Feminist to Visit

The A.U.S. Women's Department

The AUS Women's Department is an integral, though semi-autonomous, part of the Australian Union of Students (AUS). It exists to meet the needs of women and therefore actively works on issues such as sexual harassment, sexism in education, child care, abortion, women's health and sexuality. These issues are particularly relevant to women students, but they also reflect the sexism found in broader society which makes it impossible for individual women students to overcome their oppression alone.

The Women's Department provides a structure to enable women to confront and fight these issues by organising together, autonomously from men, and by being part of the broader Women's Liberation Movement.

I think it's important to understand the way the Department is organised because, as feminists, we believe the actual process and principles involved in any action are as important as the results we achieve. The Women's Department is organised in a way that facilitates and values all forms of contributions by women, attempts to break down concentrations of power and hierarchical structures, and enables women to collectively make decisions about our needs and priorities.

How do we Work?

We operate at three levels - campus, regional (or state) and national. Women's groups on campus offer support and encouragement to women and work to raise the consciousness about women's issues on campus. They receive regular information and resources from the Women's Department.

All student women are welcome to attend Regional Women's Policy Collective meetings (RWPC) which provide a forum in which women meet and discuss what each campus group is doing, what problems they face, and co-ordinate activities.

An important task of the RWPC is to ensure input into the Women's Department at a local level so that all women are involved in the decisions about policy, campaigns and direction. This is done through the election of one or more Regional Women's Organisers (RWO's), who along with the Women's Officer, the Women's Department Worker and a member of staff from AUS, constitute the National Women's Policy Collective. This meets regularly during the year to determine the running of the Women's Department and direct the Women's Officer in her work.

YOU DONT FRIGHTTEN ME, SINK.. YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN ME, SOCKS..

The Women's Department ensures that information between groups and states is kept flowing; produces material such as booklets, stickers, badges, leaflets; publishes *Women's News Service*, a regular national feminist magazine; circulates the *Women's Department Newsletter*, and maintains a resource library.

What have we done?

Because of the way the Women's Department operates the campaigns and priorities for each year are planned ahead from the previous years experience, as well as decided, should some crisis arise, by the National

Women's Policy Collective.

In 1980 we began with a national campaign, 'Stamp Out Sexism', which involved working with the AUS Education Department, teacher unions, women's advisory units and campus women and research assistants. This year we have maintained and developed these contacts, and the nature of the campaign has shifted from a national to a more regional nature. Student women, already active in education campaigns, are fighting the Fraser Government's cut to education funding, the imminent threat to re-introduce fees to tertiary institutions, the forced amalgamation of teacher training colleges and the resultant cuts in intakes, the withdrawal of funding to childcare facilities, the inaccessibility and below poverty level standard of the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme - all of which have a greater affect on women in terms of their access to and ability to study at educational institutions.

1980 also saw several crises around proposed restrictive changes to abortion laws. Although the Women's Department had planned a national campaign around the demand for free safe abortion, we found ourselves instead forced into reacting to attacks on abortion by right wing groups and politicians, something New Zealand women are familiar with.

In Queensland, the Government attempted to introduce legislation aimed at restricting abortion even to women whose pregnancy was the result of rape or incest, with penalties ranging from 3 to 12 years jail for women and doctors. National demonstrations and activities by women, and solid opposition resulted in the legislation being narrowly defeated.

1980 saw a national campaign to combat the extremely common occurrence of sexual harassment on campus. Male academics continue to use their double power, as men and as teachers, to harass or coerce women students sexually. This can range from subtle, verbal innuendo to blatant demands for a fuck. Increasingly women students are working together to raise the issue on campus and ensure that individual women have access to some counselling and/or redress procedures. The Women's Department is in the process of producing a 'tactics' book for women's groups.

To enable women to feel confident and capable of taking up issues of immediate concern on their campus, as well as national campaigns, the Women's Department organised a national Skills Workshop earlier this year. This was attended by Regional Women's Organisers and other women who were prepared to organise such workshops on a regional basis in their own states. The workshop included practical work on media skills such as all facets of leaflet production, screen printing, layout for student newspapers, information on cost cutting and distribution, use of graphics in feminist publications etc. Organisation skills such as discussion on working in women's groups, how to organise campaigns, dealing with male dominated bureaucracies, how to organise speakers, women's weeks on campus, etc made up the second half of the two day workshop.

Drawing of acrobats

Other projects the Women's Department is working on in 1981 include a booklet on women and the health industry, information on the specific issues of disabled women and feminism, the rights of lesbian women, women under unemployment, the defence of funding for women's refuges, changes in rape legislation, women in prison ... as well as the publication of books on childcare and the position of women on campuses.

Philomena Horsley

AUS Women's Officer

Forum Wednesday 27 May, 12 noon to 2pm, Student union Lounge. AUS (Australian Union of Students) National Women's Officer Philomena Horsley and NZUSA WRAC Co-ordinator Denese Black will be speaking on some of the issues that affect women in society and at university. There will be opportunity for general discussion. All welcome. Further opportunity for informal discussion will be at the first Women's Action Group second term social. 5.00 Wednesday 27 May. Ring Sue 758-271, or Ann 859-633 for more details.

Chilling Facism

Chilean Students Face Arrest and Torture

Amnesty International has reported the arrest of three students in Chile.

Patricio Lafranco, president of a students' cultural association, Mauricio Gomez and Ernesto Pallas were arrested on May 1 during a May Day demonstration in Santiago.

According to reports, Patricio Lafranco was beaten up by police in civilian clothes before being pushed into the car which took him away.

The three students are among 200 people who were arrested on May 1 in various parts of Chile. Most were detained after taking part in demonstrations or after distributing leaflets.

Torture a Real Possibility

Amnesty International is concerned that Patricio Lafranco, Mauricio Gomez and Ernesto Pallas may be being held in incommunicado detention by the Chilean secret police [CNI] and tortured.

The information received by Amnesty International suggests that all three students have been arrested for the peaceful exercise of their human rights and that they are prisoners of conscience. There is also concern that they may be sent into internal exile for three months without trial or the right to appeal, under the provisions of the new constitution which came into force on 11 March.

In 1980, 37 people were arrested after taking part in May Day demonstrations and were sent into internal exile for three months under Decree Law 3168, the provisions of which have now been incorporated into the new constitution.

Constitutional Terror

During 1980 there was a marked deterioration in the human rights situation in Chile. Amnesty International received many reports of arbitrary arrest and detention and routine torture. Those arrested included trade unionists, members of youth organisations, human rights activists and political opponents in general. In July 1980 the Government passed Decree Law 3451 which increased from five to twenty days the period during which detainees can be held incommunicado at the discretion of the Minister of the Interior. According to information received by Amnesty International, it is during this period of incommunicado detention, before prisoners are either released or brought before a court, that they are systematically tortured.

On 11 March 1981 General Pinochet declared a State of Danger [*Estado de Peligro*] for six months which empowers him to arrest and detain people for up to twenty days, to limit the right of assembly and freedom of information and to decree internal exile for a period of three months.

J. Gillespie

FILTER NON FILTER HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

Using the Right to Strike

State Workers Close Western Samoa

From the beginning of April, Western Samoa has been paralysed by a massive industrial dispute. Five thousand workers, representing virtually the entire state workforce, have been on strike. In New Zealand terms it is equivalent to a strike by all affiliates of the Combined State Unions (about 187,000 workers).

This article features an interview with WSPSA leader Ieti Taulealo and gives a background to the seven week dispute which has brought Samoa to a standstill. The article is reprinted from the "PSA Journal", the newspaper of the New Zealand Public Service Association.

The dispute began after a wage claim designed to boost the average wage in Western Samoa to about \$1500 per year. The claim was made by the Western Samoan Public Service Association but the Government refused to accept the union's right to negotiate with it. This in turn created a second aspect of the dispute - the acceptance of the union's legitimacy. Thirdly, the union has vowed to continue the struggle until all its members are offered reinstatement.

WSPSA leader Tuu'u Ieti Taulealo visited New Zealand to put his union's case to the Federation of Labour conference (5 to 8 May). He told the conference that the WSPSA had decided back in 1980 to advocate a minimum living wage - "I really don't want to give you this figure because it is a bit embarrassing." Later he told the Journal it was around \$1800.

The union called upon the Government to make a modest cost of living adjustment which would have brought the average wage up to \$1500 - less than what they believe should be the minimum. They made no headway whatsoever.

Conciliation Blocked

Taulealo said, "We have done everything we can to try to talk to the Government. In the absence of conciliation or arbitration procedures we eventually had no choice but to go on strike to get recognition of our case.

"We started talking to the Prime Minister who referred us to the Minister of Public Service who in turn sent us back to the Public Service Commission. We talked to them and compromised on what we had requested. The compromise went back to the Minister of Public Service who signed and approved it and sent the submission back to Cabinet. Cabinet decided to sit on it for six months and we got no clue as to what was happening until November 1980 when the Minister of Finance introduced his estimates for 1981. The estimates indicated that the Government would give us only a small part of our request.

"We decided there and then that we should press our case and about 5000 public servants marched on to Parliament. It was not a protest march, as the Government claimed. It was done in the way Samoans have traditionally dealt with matters like this. You all turn up, you sit outside until you are asked to come in, and then you tell them what you want. We sat outside for four hours while Parliament sat inside trying to decide whether they should talk to us or not. "The Prime Minister was eventually asked to come and talk to us. We presented our case and submitted a petition to Parliament. The petition was rejected because Parliament did not have the will to act on it. We went back to Cabinet and asked them to reconsider our case. Cabinet refused to do this so we decided to withdraw our labour."

Government Refuses to Negotiate

"The Government decided not to talk to us. They refuse to accept our legitimacy as the negotiating body for our members. After four weeks the Prime Minister announced that he wanted to talk to us. Everybody got very excited - especially us. We thought that at long last this guy has recognised our right to exist. However, after three days of meetings it became very clear that there was no way the Government was willing to do anything for us. They were very vague about the question of reinstatement for those who have been on strike. We refused to accept the possibility that strikers would not be re-employed. Also the Prime Minister refuses to recognise any arbitration in the public service and no offer has been made on our salary claim. Furthermore, he now wants a commission of inquiry to look into our case but the commission would be answerable to Cabinet and again would cut out the WSPSA.

"The willingness of the Prime Minister to 'negotiate' was only a way to mislead the public into believing that something was happening. This is because in Western Samoa we have got tremendous support from everybody - from farmers, from the public sector, from the business community and even now from the church. For the first time in Western Samoa the church is speaking out on social justice.

WSPSA Leader Ieti Taulealo.

"We believe what we are doing will determine the future of trade unionism in the small island nations of the Pacific. It is very important to get widespread support because it is a matter which will have far reaching effects both inside and outside Samoa.

"We need financial support. Our people have been without pay and with the minimal salaries they earn they are having a lot of trouble making ends meet. We have organised relief operations and we've had much assistance from local people. In addition to this we need industrial support - a ban on shipping to and from Western Samoa and a ban on handling the Polynesian airlines. This will hurt us, but in the long run it will mean security and harmony at home.

"At the moment our country is losing thousands of dollars every day. We are based on agricultural exports and the whole of the agricultural Department is closed. Unfortunately the Prime Minister still believes that everything is fine.

"In the event of total collapse the world will be looking towards New Zealand to bail out Western Samoa. The New Zealand Government has announced itself as Western Samoa's best friend. Therefore I ask you, is your Government prepared to stand by and watch or should it put political pressure on our Government to settle things now?"

The Background to the Strike

Western Samoa is a nation of 150,000 people. Of the workforce approximately 5000 work for the state (3.3% of the population, as opposed to 6.2% in equivalent employment in New Zealand).

The Government has stubbornly refused to acknowledge union rights, and an important part of the struggle has been whether the WSPSA has acted "faa'a Samoa" - in the "Samoan way".

Iteti Taulealo, leader of the WSPSA, insists that the union has gone out of its way to do everything properly. "In fact a lot of people wanted to go on strike last November but I said 'No, let's try again.' So we went down to Parliament and lodged a petition. This is the only way you can get a matter into Parliament for discussion. It went to a six member petitions committee that included only one person from the Opposition. It was not an impartial hearing. It was debated for two hours in the House but it got rubbished and proved again that the Government did not have the political will to accept us and talk about our grievances.

"We are an incorporated society registered under the Incorporate Societies Act. There is reference to us in Samoan legislation - for example we have a member on the National Provident Fund Board. But they won't talk to us as equals in this dispute."

Public Servants' Actions Correct

"A lot of our critics see our actions as something foreign, especially as many of our executive are young people like myself who have been educated overseas. But the support we've got from the public at large has been overwhelming, and to us that is the proof that what we are doing is right. People are now using what we are doing to voice discontent at the Government, at the central system, the Public Service Commission, the bureaucracy in the Government, etcetera, etcetera.

"I don't believe it is anything against the Samoan system. Our constitution was set up about 20 years ago and it was devised by a lot of our very important and very high matais from every village (these are people with titles, our chiefs and orators. Mr Muldoon was given a matai title). Then the country had a vote on what the matais had worked out. Now the constitution that was accepted specifically spells out that we have the right to form unions and associations. We see the right to strike as an auxiliary right of forming a union. We have followed the constitutional process all the way. I really don't understand when they say it is not 'faa'a' Samoa'. Without this right a union is a Sunday school picnic organisation.

"We want a formal negotiating relationship with the Government. We want it set down properly in writing so we have security and we know where we stand."

New Zealand Support

New Zealand trade unionists have been very impressed by Taulealo and the WSPSA. The organisation is very young and has had its first full time staff member for only four months. Despite that it has handled the dispute with an enviable degree of skill.

Taulealo was in turn impressed by the response of the New Zealand unions who raised \$10,000 in a few minutes - "I've never seen so much money in one day!" He told the Journal. "I have been very encouraged by my visit. People have been very good to me, especially the PSA. With support both here and at home we have a very good chance of success."

Education Action Meeting

A meeting of the Education Committee, and of all those interested in the area of Education, government cuts and student response, is called for Wednesday 3 June, at 4.00 p.m. in the Board Room. This meeting is primarily to plan Education activities for the second term. All are welcome.

Hard Ship

Apply Now; It's Not Too Late

As at 16 April 1980, 13,278 students had applied for the Supplementary Hardship Grant. At the same time this year there were only 7,912 applications in. It appears that there are many students who are not aware that they are eligible - e.g. here at Victoria, 3,282 are eligible but only 1,035 had applied by 13 April. Don't prejudge your case, and don't be put off by the forms. If you can't live on \$23 per week, apply for the SHG. It's not too late. There are many students not applying simply because they don't understand the complicated forms or the procedure of application. And the fewer students that apply, the less money the Education Department spends on bursary assistance. Comprenez vous?

See the university bursaries officer in the Registry for help in filling out your application form; or call in to the Students Association Hardship Office, open 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; and

1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. Wednesday. We'll be open for the next two weeks (until Thursday 4 June) to answer enquiries.

Give us Your Horror Stories

We'd also like to hear from any students who've received unsatisfactory replies to their applications for the SHG, and who are considering appealing, or applying for a re-assessment. You have a right to study without hardship. Again, don't be put off by the procedures involved and don't settle for less than you need.

A student worried over financial difficulties who takes longer to finish a degree uses up more of the Government's money by using the university for a longer period of time. I'm sure that the Government itself would prefer us all to get through the place as fast as possible. So, if you feel that you've been shortchanged, come and see us at the Hardship Office or go straight to the bursaries officer in the Registry to get information about the re-assessment conditions and the Appeals procedure. See you soon!

S. J. Hibbert

Education Officer

THEATRE WORKS Saturday Theatre Workshops for people 15 and over at Arts Centre 335 Willis St
Commencing June 6th Phone: 850-241 For details

Sport

North Island Universities Easter Rugby Tournament

Sport header

Auckland University came up with the idea for a Universities Tournament in the late 1960's. It was having trouble setting up its annual fixture with Massey and decided to put a proposal for an Easter Tournament to the other universities. The three North Island varsities - Waikato, Massey and Victoria accepted and all four sides took part in the first tournament at Auckland in 1969.

It is now established that each varsity takes a turn at hosting; and that the winners of Saturday's games play for the Penman Trophy on Easter Monday, while the losers do their best to avoid the wooden spoon.

Tournament has been put to the test a number of times over the last ten years. Probably the most serious was in the days of Petone's 'Champion of Champions' tournament, when Auckland was expected to take part in a quadrangular that established the top club in New Zealand. Auckland instead opted for the Varsityes Tournament and a chance to compete for a higher honour - the Penman Trophy!

Again this year. Victoria and Waikato had to fight hard to get a release from club rugby on Easter Monday. They got their way and, once again, Tournament survived. This year's Tournament provided top class rugby with a number of players having already attained national and provincial honours.

Results

Saturday

Victoria v. Auckland Won by Auckland 14-6.

Massey v. Waikato Won by Massey 15-6.

Sunday

Teams were scheduled to have a training run in the morning to decide on the teams for Monday. Training comprised soccer, grid-iron and touch rugby. Sunday afternoon there was a barbeque and drinks, followed by a 25 a side cricket match.

Monday

Massey v. Auckland [Penman Trophy] Won by Massey 15-10.

Victoria v. Waikato [Wooden Spoon] Won by Victoria 37-14.

With the spirit of Easter Rugby Tournament running high, all goes well for next year in Auckland.

Ted Thomas

Sports Council

Winter Tournament Sports Controllers

For those in any way connected with the Tournament being held at Victoria, we print below a list of contact persons. Overall Tournament Controllers are Stephen Dawe (contact through Studass) and Steven Tew (contact through the Rec Centre).

Soccer (Men) Bevan Clement 791-209
Soccer (Women) Barbara Hansen c/- Hutt Valley Intermediate School
Rembuden Martial Arts Leo Donnelly 893-423(H)
Rifles David Isles Twa 7699(H)
Hockey (Men) Robert Willink Vic House
Hockey (Women) Belinda Castelberg 847-048
Harriers Christine Smith 842-915
Rugby League Huata Nicholson and Ted Thomas 844-671 (H)
Netball Nicola Lindsay 856-461 (H)
Snooker/Billiards Stephen Dawe 758-602
Swords Peter Osvath 768-221 (H); 721-00 x765 (W)
Basketball Graeme Durston 849-335 (H)
Squash Chris Ashley 767-944 (H); Sieny Schottens 759-740 (H).

Cultural Conversation

Hermann Goering once said that when he heard the word culture, he reached for his gun. When the word is mentioned at Victoria, any good Ian Gordon clone should reach for his dictionary. On this campus, any non-sporting club falls under the cultural affairs umbrella. From the Scottish dancers to the Anti-Apartheid club, from Maths and Physics to Cathsoc, from the Nurses Group to the Tongan New Zealanders, the range is wider than the Concise Oxford's: 'Improvement by [physical and mental] training, intellectual development; particular form, stage or type of intellectual development or civilisation...'

Then again, the logical extension of that sort of definition could have had me handing out grants to the Karate club. At present we have over 40 clubs affiliated, this number may be slightly increased very soon. If anyone is thinking of forming a club and wants to affiliate, it requires getting only 20 signatures on a form from Studass and a short painless interview by your friendly Executive. From then on the use of all varsity facilities are yours - gratis, and you can even apply for a grant.

The Cultural Council met on Wednesday 29 April. 43 people attended from about 20 clubs. Each club reported past and present activities before a committee was elected made up of seven people from a reasonably wide cross-section of the clubs present. Literally, from the sublime to the ridiculous, with the sole male members of the committee coming from Cathsoc [Kevin Murphy] and Alf's Army [Terry Hughes], in between we have Alexandra Lutyens [Film Society], Bronwen Golder [Debating Society], Paulette Keating [Anti-Apartheid Club], and Dorothy Baker [Polsci Society], as well as myself as Chairperson, Kevin is the Treasurer and Sandra the Secretary. Ex-officio committee members were also appointed to contribute their various talents as and when needed. These are - Flavia Westermann [French Club], Richard Mudford [Drama Club], Maria Pantazis [Greek Club], Garry Ahai [English Language Institute] and Geoff Ludbrook [he may join the Classics Club].

With all that out the way, our main tasks are now administering grants, collating info for a resource tile, helping clubs run on-campus activities, and running our own activities. If any club wants a hand, just let us know. At present, we are helping with the organisation of One Night Asian Affair on 3 June. Our main activity this term will be the Victoria Day, but other ideas are still under discussion. We have a budget for this year of \$7,000, but the clubs will eat it up. Therefore with time and money at a premium, we would appreciate ideas from anyone about anything vaguely relevant. Keep in mind the definition above!

Other exciting things to look forward to are the New Zealand Students Arts Council travelling acts. Their

May Council and National Activities Seminar are being held over Queen's birthday at Wellington Teachers' College. All of this provides a necessary link with other campuses.

By the way, a useful definition to keep in mind when regarding the activities of your very own Cultural Affairs Committee is ... 'Culture is everything we do and the monkeys don't' [Oscar Wilde].

Cheers till next week!

Mary McCallum

VUW Cultural Affairs Officer

VICTORIA CATERING LIMITED wish to announce that CHIPS ARE BACK IN THE CAFE ALSO Hot Meals For Winter A selection of Steak & Kidney Pie, Curries, Soups, Pork Schnitzel, Fish, Shepherd's Pie, Mince, Steam Puddings & Custard, etc. We will not be opening the Food Service Bar on the top floor until a decision has been made on how it can be best used.

Radio Active

Radio Active header

We urgently require people to fill the following positions:

- Technical and engineering staff.
- Advertising copy writers and sales staff.
- BCA students wishing to gain firm grounding in administration.
- News staff readers, reporters, collators, writers.
- Announcers.

'Active' is particularly relevant if you're considering a career in any of the media spectrums.

We are not a one man band. We work essentially as a team, and as a team we accomplish a high standard in all aspects of our operation. This does not necessarily have to interfere with your studies, but does provide an interesting and entertaining outlet to channel your creative and administrative abilities into.

So if you wish to become part of the challenge and fun of broadcasting - come up to Radio Active, middle floor Student Union Building or, phone us on 738-566 Ext. 59, or Alister on 862-861.

Catering Corner

Welcome Back to Winter!

Drawing of a person with arrows in his chest

WHO'D CREATE A MGB LIKE THAT OZ FANA

Due to a considerable demand we have put chips back in the cafe! Burgers will be served sometimes - not every day - also in the cafe.

We have not yet decided on what is the best thing to do with the servery on the top floor. If anybody has any good ideas I will be happy to hear them. It needs to be an idea which is not going to cost money to implement and which also will not run at a loss!

This term try the hot meals in the cafe. They will cost you slightly more than a frankfurter and chips; but the nutritional value will be better and you will benefit from a good hot meal. We will be serving a selection of good nourishing meat or fish dishes and puddings and custard.

Please queue according to what you wish to buy. Queue separately for tea and coffee, cold foods, hot snack foods, and hot meals.

Please also remove your rubbish and help us keep staff costs, and therefore food prices down.

Lorna Conway

Manager

Editorial

The 'reds under the beds' shit hit the fan (for a couple of days, at least) last week with the leaking to the press of a document prepared by a small group of rabid Roman Catholics headed by the Mayor of Lower Hutt, John Kennedy Good.

Although prepared to disclose the names of so-called communists in Hart's executive to the Catholic Archbishop of Wellington, Kennedy Good is not prepared to state the names of his 'Committee of Lay People for Justice'. However, it's probably a good idea because, having read a copy of its report and seen the wild inaccuracies and its frothy mouth irrelevancies, I'm sure Kennedy Good would have major difficulty just getting the names of his own committee straight.

Thankfully, even the Catholic church considers the question to be relatively unimportant; an attitude which evidently led the report to be leaked, out of chagrin.

Kennedy Good and friends now join a select band of reactionaries who, despairing of principled reasons to support apartheid and the tour, have latched onto the idea of throwing the "communist" tag around and hoping it sticks. In their high minded and astute approach to politics, "communist" naturally means "devilishly bad". The National Front grouplet used the same tactic in Salient several weeks ago.

When the Auckland Regional Authority debated whether the Springboks should be allowed the use of ARA facilities, authority member John Banks claimed the whole anti-tour movement is a 'communist conspiracy orchestrated by the Labour Party.' Banks is also the National Party candidate for Whangarei this November.

These attacks from the fringe of sanity are, of course, designed to discredit a movement which has one of the broadest ever bases of New Zealanders' support. The attackers also hope to divert media and anti-tour supporters attention away from the real issues of the campaign: the plight of the Black majority under the evil of apartheid, and the linking of stopping the Springbok tour with the struggle to end apartheid.

It is quite true that communists are involved with the Stop the '81 Tour campaign. Communists are involved because they are opposed to the apartheid and the apartheid regime, and to build support for the Black liberation movements in Azania (South Africa). To me, such aims are eminently sensible and correct. Apart from working hard and particularly effectively in this current campaign, communists have a long history of anti-apartheid work. They were instrumental in conducting campaigns as far back as 1949 and 1960 to oppose contact with South African rugby.

With New Zealand society becoming increasingly decided one way or another on the tour issue, and those opposed to it being the largest group by a wide margin — the anti-tour movement is likely to be faced with similar attacks from pro-tour extremists growing ever more desperate.

Stephen A'Court

"It's true. You were actually born a beautiful princess but you were given to us to be brought up . . . and there's not a damned thing you can do about it!"

Drawing of a man and woman with a small child at a kitchen table

Salient Notes

Captain's Log Star Date 93/7/473

We have been drifting helplessly now for two weeks, our Technical Editor held hostage by a marauding band of Catholic Laymen. The crew are restless due to enforced idleness. Constipation very bad.

Captain Kirk "Steve" A'Court strode the bridge of the SS Enterprise. His skintight Levis bellbottom innerspace longjohns, shrunk almost beyond recognition, swished around his knee caps. "Lieutenant Wiggins, we have a traitor in our midst. Thrice this week there have been rosary beads in the rice bubbles, the swallows have flown backwards and Jessica Wilson has vomited live frogs. It is an omen. And for God's sake, fix the washing machine." "But Sir, ever since the Clingons made Sub-corporal Thorburn swallow z-levels X-pelair, we cannot fire the atomic reactors for fear of transubstantiation. Also the smell of burnt toast is becoming very oppressive."

A'Court was deadly calm. "Give me three ergs of retrospective legal advice, and send Michele in," "But she's your sister" squeaked semi-private Beach. "Why don't we attempt a landing on Sun Yat Sen?" "What do you think, Scotty?" asked A'Court. "Hoot mon" said Peter "Scotty" Hasset, "If ye'll take the high road..." "Damn right" screamed Helen McNaught, throwing herself into a vat of altar wine. "Calvin's go! a lot to answer for" muttered Paul van krimpen, fending of the dervish-like whirlings of Don Mackenzie's Hail Marys. "Why

don't we land" muttered Neil Andersen. "Damn right" said A'Court. Captain's Log Star Date 94/7/473

"Am beaming down for a shit."

Salient is enterprisingly edited by Stephen A'Court, printed by Wanganui Newspapers Ltd, Drews Ave, Wanganui (whom we can only praise to the stars), and published by the warped Victoria University of Wellington Students Association.

President

Photo of Virginia Adams

Welcome back to another term at Victoria. This term is going to be another one where students are expected to work their guts out doing academic work. For many this work is irrelevant to the jobs they wish to pursue, or to the things they really want to know about. I've noticed in the short time I've been here at University the increased workloads that students suffer from. Increased workloads do not come about because of any great desire by the University for us to broaden our horizons. Increased workloads have the reverse effect.

In this time of economic crisis (the end of which is not in sight), unemployment is not only hitting the working class but is also beginning to hit graduates. Even so students feel they have a better chance in the 'employment stakes' with a degree than without one. While students are working harder to obtain a qualification, the education system continues to be geared towards a purpose of social stratification. Cuts in education spending, course restrictions and increased workloads facilitate this.

Students who believe education is for all round development of the individual should fight the way the education system is being used against them. Organisation is required if this is to be done, and so is participation by as many students as possible. Your Students Association takes up student grievances and struggles to democratise educational institutions. The degree of success we have depends on the degree of student involvement.

So as you return to reading the boring, meaningless drivel that's called academic work remember, it doesn't have to be like that.

Virginia

Next Week in Salient

Once more we'll be back into the swing of things to bring you reports, among others, of:

NZUSA's May Council, from our on the spot reporters.

Developments of the Student Travel Bureau story, after putting several persons on the spot.

An in depth article on the struggles in Ireland, from a reporter who's probably glad she's not quite on the spot.

Sports

Harrier Club

Saturday 30 May

A run is being held in conjunction with the Kapiti Harriers Club. A 6000m handicap event, it will be held at Queen Elizabeth Park. Paekakariki. Meet at the Railway Station at 1.00 pm for a lift.

A Progressive Dinner and Car Rally will be held during the evening. Should be fun! For further details phone Ian Grant at 758-476.

All Summer Sports

Nominations are now open for Summer Sports Blues for the 1980/81 season. Nominations will close on Friday 5 June at 4.30pm and will be considered at a meeting of Blues Panel to be held on Monday 15 June at 7.00pm in the Boardroom.

Recipients will be presented with their awards at the annual Blues Dinner to be held in the third term.

Clubs are reminded that they must also confirm their present Blues standards or else forward revised standards for the Blues Panel to consider.

K. Callinicos

Secretary Blues Panel

Winter Tournament

Winter Tournament is only 14 weeks away and now is the time to begin considering whether you can take billets. We will have approximately 700 students to find beds for so we will need all the help that is forthcoming. A billets list will be started shortly, please watch Salient for further details.

Women's Soccer

We require players for the third team.

Experience not required - keenness essential. If interest ring Pat Lane on 844-644, or Sue Hurst on 894-082.

Tramping Club

The meeting for the Queen's Birthday Trip will be held in the Smoking Room at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 May. Slides will be shown and supper provided.

It is essential that those going on the trip are present as ice-axes, crampons, etc where necessary will be dished out and you will be told what gear to bring.

Any enquiries/apologies, ring Chris de Joux on 769-316.

Smallbore Rifle Club

We shoot every Monday night from about 7.30 in the Long Room, bottom floor of the Rec Centre Rifles and gear are provided, although you must pay for the (not very expensive) ammo. So come along and have a shot.

Cultural

Environment Group

To those who signed the Environment Group sheet, and any others interested in joining the group, a meeting will be held on Thursday 28 May, 12 noon in the Lounge. This meeting has been called to clarify the group's aims and form a basis for affiliation to VUWSA.

Women's Action Group

Meeting Monday 25 May 12 noon to 1.00pm, Student Union Lounge,

The Women's Action Group is a broad based group open to all women on campus. If you are interested in becoming involved and getting to know other women come along.

General discussion of second term activities. All women welcome.

Scottish Country Dancing

Tuesdays 5 to 7pm in the Dance Room at the Rec Centre. Come and enjoy yourself. If you haven't danced before we'll teach you. Any enquiries to Sharon 727-718.

German Club

All students of German, past and present, are invited to attend 'Ein Deutscher Abend' (farewell for Barry Empson) on 28 May, 34 Kelburn Parade at 6.30pm.

Tickets available from committee members.

Liferight

Meeting, Friday 12 noon, Smoking Lounge.

Bring your lunch, a friend and any [*unclear*: prolite] ideas you might have. Discussion will include the planned Pregnancy Aid Seminar and the setting up of a Feminists For Lite group. See you there.

One Night Asian Affair

Wednesday 3 June, 7.00pm. Union Hall \$3.00.

See the Dragon Dance, Indian fashion and slide Shows, hear the gamelan and sitar, join in the folk dances and eat Chinese, Indian and Indonesian food.

Debating Society

Union Hall Debate, Premier Competition

Golder v. Fanselow: 'That New Zealand needs a government that believes in free enterprise.'

Thursday 28 May, midday, Union Hall.

Cultural Clubs

Could the following people and clubs please leave contact numbers at the Studass Office for me:

Geoff Ludbrooke, Dance Club, Labour Left Club, SCM, Tonga-New Zealand Club, German Students Club, Photographic Society. Economics Club. 'Parenthesis'.

Many thanks,

Mary McCallum

Cultural Affairs Officer

VUWSA Films

Wednesday 27 May 2.15pm

Young Frankenstein (US 1974) 108 mins. Dir. Mel Brooks.

Young Fred Frankenstein, a brain surgeon, goes back to Transylvania and pores over his grandfather's notebooks. Funnier than *Blazing Saddles*. Marty Feldman (the man with the billiard ball eyes) is superb.

Thursday 28 May 5.00pm

Lolita (GB 1962) 152 mins. Stanley Kubrick.

Kubrick's adaptation of Nabokov's classic novel. "A diluted *Blue Angel* with a teenage temptress instead of a tart." (Stanley Kaufman).

PSA

'Support For the Polish Workers' Struggles'

Meeting this Thursday, Watch out for details (time, place, etc) on the leaflet and posters out this week.

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Victoria Book Centre Text books Student Discounts Stationery Private Orders General books Credit Facilities Currently Showing: A special display of books on the Biological Sciences Pop in this week to view or buy. Victoria Book Shop, 15 Mount Street, Telephone 729585/6

COMPUTER VISIT COMPUTER VISIT AIESEC COMPUTER VISIT AIESEC have arranged an Open Day for those interested in computing and in a career in that field. Numbers are limited, so ring Chris on 738-958 (weekdays before 10.00am), NOW. OPEN DAY OPEN DAY OPEN DAY

Free Financial Advice from your on-campus bank At the Bank of New Zealand we're on campus and we understand student money problems. If you have money problems (and what student hasn't?) advice is free at the Bank of New Zealand. You'll get good, solid, straight forward help from people who really understand money and how to manage it. We'll level with you about how you're handling your money and what we can do for you. You'll be surprised at the way we can help you sort out your problems. Come on in soon to our on-campus office and arrange a time for a chat. Call at the BNZ on-campus office, and arrange to see Jim Woolf, 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

Rec Centre

One Down!! Two To Go!

First term has departed from us, but the second term is only just starting to bud.

There must have been some frantic swat and essay writing after Easter judging by the change in numbers over here. You writer manic's must remember that with hard mental work, the body still needs some physical and physiological attention. So let us open up what the second term has in store for you.

Yes, it does look like we're about fitness, and we are! We now have fitness classes each day!! The Wednesday and Friday classes will be oriented towards ski fitness, so we will concentrate on leg strength and knee and ankle mobility. The Monday and Thursday classes will follow the pattern of the first term, everyone is welcome. The Tuesday lunchtime class is for women only, and provides an opportunity for women to gain and maintain fitness levels and exercise confidence. Ski classes start 1 June, and as there is a limited number in each class we ask you to enrol.

Classes

Fitness

Monday 5.30 to 6.30

Thursday 5.30 to 6.30

General fitness classes and continuation of the first term's work.

Wednesday 10.30 to 11.30

Friday 11.00 to 12.00

Ski fitness with emphasis on leg strength. Let's get in training now as snow is just beginning to fall.

Tuesday 12.00 to 1.00

Women only. Follow on from the first term.

Skiing

Monday 12.00 to 1.00; 1.00 to 2.00

Tuesday 5.15 to 6.15

Wednesday 11.00 to 12.00

Thursday 12.00 to 1.00

Friday 12.00 to 1.00

A large number of ski classes this term to choose from. But, don't miss out, as they're rather popular. Sign up early. All equipment is provided. Classes are in the gym.

Weight Training

Monday 12.00 to 1.00

Wednesday 12.00 to 1.00

Introductory sessions for people wanting to start weight training for fitness, and strength. Please enrol at reception.

Yoga

Monday 1.00 to 2.00

Thursday 1.00 to 2.00

Continuing the first term's programme; stretch, relax and enjoy.

Dance

Tuesday 10.00 to 11.00 Choreography

Tuesday 1.00 to 2.00 Beginners

These classes are for everyone interested in modern dance.

Badminton

Friday 9.00 to 10.00; 10.00 to 11.00

These classes are for beginners and intermediates. All equipment is provided.

Lunchtime Social Sports

12.00 noon to 2.00pm

Monday Soccer

Tuesday Volleyball

Wednesday Soccer

Thursday Cricket

Friday Basketball

Term one saw good support for these timetables are now at reception - get warm, another fun time. Entries close on 29 May.

Individual Programmes

If you would like individual advice on fitness or physical re-education, see Bernard on Monday 2.30 to 4.30; or Di on Tuesday between 9.00 to 11.30. Make an appointment at reception.

As winter brings you indoors, enjoy the warmth that physical activity gives you. There's lots of classes to choose from, or come and do your own thing. Term II timetables are now at reception - get warm, get involved, exercise your rights, and your body.

Drawing of a weight lifter

Student Health

The Seven Year Itch!

There seems to be some doubt about the aetiology of this widespread condition but none whatever about the less esoteric and mundane afflictions caused by certain persistent species of parasites which make their home in the skin or hair of Homo Sapiens (that could be you) and keep him/her up to scratch, as it were.

No doubt they have their purpose in the scheme of things and they have certainly been around longer than we have but they find us congenial hosts and prefer the accommodation we offer in abundance, to less desirable residences.

Some like *Demodex Folliclorum*, may not even make their presence felt. They are like tiny limbless grubs which prefer the oily glands around nose, cheeks and eyelids. In the latter their minute droppings, under the microscope, resemble coconuts at the foot of coconut palms - the eyelashes. They seldom do us any harm but occasionally cause blepharitis, an itchy redness of the eyelid margins.

Some, like house mites - of the *Dermatophagoides Pteryinissinus* type (a long name for a little fellow) choose to live near us rather than on us and live on our shed skin scales particularly around beds and on mattresses. They are known to be highly allergenic, dead or alive, to susceptible asthma and hay fever sufferers. The common ones which cause fiercely itchy lesions are *scabies* and *lice* (body, head, and pubic varieties) though there is some evidence that the degree of itching varies inversely as the duration of its infestation.

Sometimes serious infectious diseases are carried as passengers by the parasites but unfortunately it is

usually their presence not their presents they bring which annoy us, at least in New Zealand.

Scabies is caused by the habit of the female *Acarus (Sarcoptes) Scabiei Var Hominis* burrowing in the skin and laying her eggs as she goes. This and the subsequent hatching out of the young particularly when the host is warm, as in bed, or in front of a heater or fire, can be the cause of intolerable itching, leading to scratching and often secondary infection which sometimes makes the diagnosis difficult. Sites of choice are around the wrists, the finger webs, hands, elbows, belt lines, genitals, buttocks and ankles. Flatmates and especially sleeping partners of the patient are almost invariably infected and must be treated at the same time.

Communal blankets, sleeping bags (and their contents?), festivals and tramping huts etc are involved by the easy transmission of these mites and their eggs.

A cure is readily effected by a lotion or a cream prescribed by your doctor, but the instructions must be rigidly followed if success is to be achieved and this includes thoroughly washing the bed linen, undercloths and sunning of blankets etc.

The world seems to be going through a wave of increased incidence of scabies at present and entirely unrelated factors may be responsible for this.

Drawing of a spider

Pediculosis Corporis (body lice), *Capitis* (head lice) and *Phthirrus Pubis* (pubic lice) (for those without the benefit of Latin) are all very choosy as to their preferred sites and seldom if ever invade each others territory but can increase and spread to other bodies easily. They differ in shape and size but the best known are the pubic ones (Crabs - a name suggested by their appearance) more commonly invading *Homo Conjugans* and *Pediculosis Capitis* which are longer (1/8") and thinner. They all lay eggs which are attached firmly to the root of the hairs when laid and thus appear to move along as the hair grows.

Again treatment follows along similar lines to scabies but care must be taken to eradicate the eggs (nits) so second rounds of treatment within two to three weeks are desirable. Remember heat and sun kill lice. This is important with body lice infestations as they often live in the seams of clothing for a holiday.

Time does not permit more than a mention of fleas and biting flies which are after all, more in the nature of opportunist visitors out for a quick meal, and not permanent residents. They are often the cause of a more widespread residual skin allergy to remind the host of their visit.

Finally, not meaning to be nit picking, let it be said that most of these fellow travellers prefer the Legions of the Great Unwashed ie *Homo Pungens*, but at times they display a fine egalitarian sense.

Attention to simple rules of good hygiene will make us less inviting to these parasites. If, having read this far you are now itching, scratching or otherwise irritated, consider a visit to the health service. After all we have experts in avian parasites!

Paranoic Totalitarianism

Amendments to the Malaysian Societies Act

On 8 April 1981, new legislation was passed in the Malaysian Parliament to amend the 1966 Societies Act. The result is that 14,000 registered societies, made up of voluntary, environmental, religious, professional and intellectual organisations which represent hundreds of thousands of people, are now denied the right to criticise the Government.

The amendments classify organisations into three categories: political parties, political societies, and friendship societies. Any society that seeks to influence government policy in any way, such as commenting on government policy in public, raising criticisms of the ruling party, ministers, administrators either at local or federal level, will be defined as a political society.

The new law empowers the Registrar of Societies to ban organisations, remove their officebearers, amend their rules and include certain provisions in their constitutions. Moreover, the decision of the Registrar cannot be challenged in court. The only appeal is to the Minister of Home Affairs, whose decision is final.

The amendments which deny the societies' access to courts to challenge decisions of the Registrar and the Minister make a mockery of the rule of law. The independence of the judiciary and the rights of citizens and organisations to have access to the courts is a crucial means in which checks on the powers of government can be effected. By making irrelevant the judiciary in this matter, the government is pushing Malaysia in the direction of totalitarian rule.

Red Baiting

By defining societies which take on social issues relating to governmental policies as political, the government is making it impossible for criticisms to be raised against its rule by those who are not involved in any political party. Thus if the Medical Association were to make criticisms on the health situation in Malaysia, it would be banned unless it is registered as a political society. However, if the Medical Association were to do so, it may lose many of its members, for in Malaysia, politics, other than those reflective of Government's view, is a taboo.

Furthermore, whether the Government would grant the Association the political society status is questionable as the government might argue that there is no need for professional societies to be political.

The amendments which also curb the right of societies to establish links with international organisations is retrogressive. International relations help to broaden the outlook of Malaysians and promote an international perspective. It should be encouraged, instead of being curbed. The Malaysian Government is using the bogey of foreign subversion as an excuse to suppress genuine exchanges and solidarity between the Malaysian people and democratic organisations abroad.

The legislation is the latest in a series of repressive acts of the Government aimed at suppressing popular movement amongst the Malaysian people. In 1971, amidst widespread protests at home and abroad, the Government enacted the Universities and University Colleges Act [UUCA] designed to strengthen its control over the universities and to suppress student activities. In 1975, under the UUCA Amendment, university autonomy and students' right to organise were completely destroyed. Furthermore, amendments to the Internal Security Act made the death sentence mandatory for illegal possession of firearms. In 1979, university lecturers were banned from making political statements or taking part in politics. Last year the trade unions came under attack. Now, the hammer falls on all the voluntary, environmental, religious, professional and intellectual organisations.

What Price Success?

In the decade of economic recession in the Western world, Malaysia is one of the few third world countries that claim a steady GDP growth of 7 to 8% annually. The Government immodestly boasts about its economic achievements and recently launched its Fourth Malaysian Plan. If it is truly a story of success, a higher standard of living for the people, one would expect a grateful public and a more peaceful society. It is ironical that success should result in the Government feeling less secure and becomes more paranoid towards criticisms. Is sweet success only a sugar coated bullet after all? If quality of life has changed in Malaysia, one can only conclude it is towards the worse - a totalitarian society.

Source: adapted from 'Fajar'

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