

SALIENT

Victoria University Students Newspaper

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**If you could see
their national sport,
you might be less
keen to play their
rugby.**



SHARPEVILLE '75

EDITORIAL

A predictable reaction to our cover and the story on page 3, both on Sharpeville Day Thursday March 21 is 'Oh no, not again!' It does indeed seem that this happens every year at about this time, and may appear turned off by its repetition. A note on how Sharpeville is not an isolated incident but more a symptom of continued repression and violence is on the opposite page - it needs no repetition here. What I want to discuss here is the basis of the 'Oh no, not again' school, particularly as it relates to New Zealand society.

Sharpeville is not an isolated incident in South Africa, but no more is it an isolated incident in the history of white colonialism. A major part of the justification for white colonialism in the late nineteenth century was the idea that the white man was the cultural - even perhaps genetic - superior to the owners of the land he was taking. Hence Kipling's 'white man's burden', hence the ideas that such peoples as the American Indians or the Maoris were not fit to control the land they owned and cultivated.

And what was the basis underlying this colonialism? Some apologists have tried to claim it was based on an unselfish desire to help the natives, such as with the missionaries. In fact, by their devotion to a European doctrine, and their almost complete ignorance and intolerance of native customs, the missionaries and those associated with them did considerable damage to local self-respect and culture. Yet the vast majority were not missionaries but land-grabbers who were quite prepared to accept racist ideas to justify their (by their own standards otherwise inadmissible) robbery. It was a highly possessive individualism, bound up with the whole economic basis of particularly British imperialism, that denied the native inhabitants their right to their land, their culture and often even their lives.

These ideas have proved remarkable resilient through passing time, clearly so in places such as South Africa and the States but also in Australia and New Zealand. They are in part indicative of the lowly social and economic roles these racial minorities are forced into in present society. They also serve a very useful function for the ruling class in dividing the working class to enable ruling them to be easier.

Such ideas as 'we are one people' further compound the problem, as implicit in them is a method of judging people by European standards, and not by standards that are sensitive to different cultures and experiences. Changes are occurring, as with Te Reo Maori week and its publicity last year, but there is still a long way to go.

This is the real relevance of Sharpeville - a relevance that the 'Oh no, not again' attitude obscures. Both in New Zealand and in South Africa there are large steps that need to be taken to eradicate the menace of racism. By being aware of this, and being constantly aware of it, we can fight against both the racist and oppressive regime in South Africa and the racism inherent in all of us through our very upbringing.



Those who did work on SALIENT (and I must stress again that it does NOT, in fact, exist) were:

Bryony Hales, Quentin Roper, David Tripe, Bruce Robinson, Lynn Peck, Tony Robinson, Rob Pui, Lisa Sacksen, Phil Tree, Monty Arnott, Marty Pilott, Brian King, Lionel Klee, Mike Curtis, Derek Fikkers, Don Carson, Colin Feslier, Vas, Chris Haggart, David Waghorn, and Stephen Prendergast, who did the photography. Booby prize goes to John Henderson, who among other things wrote the SALIENT notes (NB John Henderson, like the rest of SALIENT also does not exist).

This issue was edited by Anthony Ward, who issued his orders from bet the voluminous folds of a large number of pink paper handkerchiefs, and who spent his leisure time breathing out dangerous influenza germs and infecting me, among other people. Advertising is managed by Stephen Prendergast (552 469 home) and Christine Haggart (58 452 home). SALIENT is published by the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association and printed by Wanganui Newspapers Ltd, Drews Avenue, Wanganui.



There is no SALIENT this week. The newspaper you are reading is merely a figment of your imagination and should be treated as such. As well as this half the SALIENT staff are at present down with the dreaded lurgy so the non-existent newspaper you are holding in your hot little hands is probably infected with every greebie known to man. So much for the good news. As you may have heard we now have a new editor (Bruce Robinson) who will be taking over as from the next issue, and who will (I hope) be producing a newspaper of about the same quality as the one with which you were afflicted last year. Anyway, to get down to tin tacks, people who did NOT work on SALIENT this week were:

Sir Keith Holyoake, Brigadier Gilbert, Sir Jack Marshall, Amos, Che Guevara, Queen Elizabeth, Mao Tse-tung, John the Baptist and Enoch Powell, with a special mention to Colin Feslier who managed to avoid his responsibilities.

Good News ... and Bad News

WHY I WAS NOT BORED WITH PROF BOARD

For the two newly elected students' reps on Professorial Board, Pat Martin and Pip Desmond, the opening hour of their first Board meeting was a harrowing affair. Motions, reports, and interjections were flying at an incredible speed, as were the points of order and points of information. It was only the experienced and steady mind of that old hand on all sorts of committees, Gyles Beckford, that prevented the two eager youngsters from being swamped under an avalanche of meeting procedure. Gradually, however, the pace slowed, as the Vice-Chancellor reduced the rate of motion passing to 10 a minute. Indeed from there on, to sit back and watch democracy at work, was a beautiful thing. To attempt to report on such a moving experience is a difficult task, but I think it could be best handled by summarising the results under two broad headings in two parts - Good News and Bad News. Firstly, the Bad News.

Exam Timetable

It looks as though the exam timetable is here to stay. Some 200-250 students stated in the enrolment questionnaire that because of exam clashes, they had been prevented from taking their preferred courses. Of these, only 40 or so are considered to be serious clashes - the other

200 students will have to like it or lump it. The Registry was quite proud that it had kept the number down to 40 - it pointed out that the university offers 500 undergraduate courses, and if a student wishes to take any three of them, with no restrictions on his choice, then the number of choices open to him is something in excess of 20 million!! (Basic sixth form combinations and permutations). Of course, restrictions do exist, and there's a lot of them, so to say that there is 20 million choices is a slight exaggeration, if not a wild absurdity. But the Registry was confident that it could reduce the number of serious clashes to around about ten next year, and provision will be made for those ten students to sit special exams.

The Prof Board showed good scholarly wisdom in dealing with a couple of other matters - which brings me to the second part of this report, the Good News.

Student Bursaries

The Board expressed its continued support for the NZUSA attempts to get bursary increases, and expressed its disappointment with the token increases that were recently announced. In fact, the Vice-Chancellor was so disappointed that he intends taking the matter up with the New Zealand Vice Chancellor's Committee. So now, even the academic big wigs are on our side, and it will be interesting to see if Phil(anthropist) Amos can weasel his way around them.

Accommodation

A positive step was made by Professor Niculescu on combating the appalling staff and student accommodation situation on this campus. He proposed setting up a committee to take an urgent look at the situation, and laid special emphasis on the committee trying to improve public relations between the university and the community. This rather strange emphasis was, I think, in part prompted by the continuing controversy over the Von Zedlitz building. From the viewpoint of a Kelburn resident, the university's unpopularity is not hard to understand - most people would object to a two story wigwam outside their living room window, so what chance has a ten storey Von Zedlitz got? However, there may well have been a lot of truth in Prof Niculescu's wider comments. He pointed out that Wellington doesn't take very much pride in its university, and one of the most popular pastimes of the Wellington citizenry is taking sideswipes at the university. It must be admitted though, if some of those sideswipes had balls and chains on them and demolished such architectural eyesores as Kirk, LB1 and Easterfield, then it wouldn't be such a bad thing.

Many of the other matters were neither Good News nor Bad News - in the main they were just non-news. That is, they were of only minor general interest. In fact, they were of minor specific interest. In further fact, they were just plain minor.

By way of ending, just let me add that if you are a student and you have read this far; don't ever hesitate to approach your student reps on Prof Board or any other committee, if you ever have any problems with courses, lecturers, workloads, etc.

Pat Martin

HELP!

As International Affairs Officer I am responsible to SRC for implementing SRC policy on international affairs. The main work involved in this is making SRC policy known, through letters, press statements, representations to government, lobbying of MPs etc.

I see this however, as only one facet of my job. As important as this is organising on campus around international issues. This can involve initiating SRC debate on international affairs, organising forums, speakers, films, etc. to highlight certain areas, and publishing information.

All these I hope to do not merely as IAO, but in conjunction with clubs (on campus) working in international areas. Therefore I will also be working to help clubs and action groups be either established or continued. An important part of this work is raising awareness and knowledge of international issues on which action is needed. Information coming to the NZUSA International Vice President, to the International Affairs Officers on all campuses and to action groups needs to be brought together and passed on. This can be done largely through SALIENT, but also other publications, forums, etc. To help in this work I would like to establish a place in the Union building for the National and International Officers to keep material, information and where we can be contacted.

My first job will be to convene a committee of people interested in working in international or national affairs. This committee is in great need of members so anyone interested is most welcome to join us by leaving your name and phone and address at the Students Association Office.

Bryony Hales.

SOUTH AFRICA - a continuing Sharpeville

21st March 1960, Sharpeville, South Africa. Sixty-nine men, women and children shot dead for peacefully protesting against Pass Laws.

March 1971, Port Elizabeth. Eleven people shot over a bus boycott against increased fares.

May-June 1972 all black South African Student Organization's protest over the inequalities of African education and against the expulsion of student leaders Ramobithi Tiro and Abraham Tiro.

3rd June 1972 St George's Cathedral, Cape Town. 100 white students demonstrating peacefully against apartheid clubbed down by South African police.

June-July 1972 English speaking white National Union of South African Students out in support of the all black South African Students' Organization.

October 1972 - April 1973. Illegal strikes by 250,000 African workers over pay and over working and living conditions. February 7th 1973, Durban. Workers baton charged and beaten up by South African police; 200 arrested and tear gas and salivation dogs used to disperse the rest.

February 1973. Banning orders served on eight leaders of the English-speaking white National Union of South African Students.

August - September 1973. Mass banning orders served on black leaders of the South African Students' Organization, most of whom fled South Africa.

February 1st 1974. Abraham Tiro, ex-secretary of South African Students' Organization assassinated by letter bomb sent by the South African Security Police to his address in Botswana.

11th September 1973, Cartonville. Police shot eleven miners dead at protest about working conditions.

September-November 1974, Durban, University of Turfloop, at pro-FRELIMO rallies: thirty-eight black leaders of the South African Students' Organization and the Black People's Convention were arrested by the South African Security Police badly beaten up and detained without trial.

Sharpeville is thus not an isolated incident. The South African Government has a coherent

policy of destroying all opposition to its racist policies. Peaceful protests are met time and time again with rioting by the police - tear gas, dogs, clubs and often bullets.

How many more Sharpevilles are necessary? Apartheid is clearly a crime against humanity, and yet New Zealand apologists for South Africa still insist on sporting contacts, on "building bridges", in maintaining that things are improving and in hypocritically contending that a trade boycott against South Africa would hurt the Africans most of all.

Advocates of sporting contacts with single-race South African sporting bodies conveniently overlook the role that such sporting tours play in



The aftermath of Sharpeville



assisting the South African Government and the racist sporting bodies in their attempts to isolate and smash South Africa's non-racist sporting bodies and sportsmen, who have fought for over 20 years, under severe political and sporting harassment - including disbarment from international competition - for "selection on merit and not on racial grounds" of sporting teams.

Our "bridge-builders" equally naively overlook the Afrikaner mentality which sees sport, as did the Nazi Germans at the Berlin Olympics in 1936, as an integral factor in maintenance of the myth of their racial superiority as embodied in the concept of "Baaskap", and our New Zealand hopefuls who tell us that things are improving likewise seem to fail to perceive that the removal of petty apartheid in no way alters apartheid in its substance.

Finally, it is equally apparent, despite hypocritical contentions by our businessmen to the contrary, that a trade boycott against South Africa could in no way make the African's plight any worse than it is at present, and instead would be highly beneficial in assisting the end of such exploitation.

So help to make the 21st of March, Sharpeville Day, a day of commitment against Racism and Apartheid. Phone Paul Swain, 757-842, and assist with leafletting, and at 8p.m. in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, listen to Neville Curtis, the banned ex-president of the National Union of South African Students, and learn about the hidden face of Apartheid.

- Lloyd Jobson

Banned S.A. Student to tour NZ



Neville Curtis

Neville Curtis, the banned South African student leader who fled to Australia late last year, arrives in New Zealand on March 19 for a three week public-lecture tour that will take him from Whangarei to Invercargill.

Mr Curtis was one of the eight leaders of the National Union of South African Students served with five-year restriction orders in February 1973.

Prevented under South Africa's general purpose Suppression of Communism Act from writing or speaking in public and from being at gatherings of two or more people, he was arrested eight times for breaches of his banning order.

The breaches involved such offences as playing cards with friends, having dinner with his family, and communicating with other banned people.

More than 75 youth leaders were banned in 1973 and for Mr Curtis, his arrest spelled the end of his university study.

A Bachelor of Arts graduate in politics and English from Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, he enrolled for his Masters Degree at Capetown University.

His first draft of a thesis on decision-making in South African politics was 'confiscated' by the Security Police and his second draft was banned.

From July 1969 to January 1972, Mr Curtis was President of the National Union of South African students and lead the Association through a series of massive

national student protests that resulted in 1972 in some 1000 arrests around the country.

Following a direct personal encounter with the Minister of Police he sued the Minister for assault and won \$750 in damages.

Under his leadership NUSAS was responsible for the first public calls inside South Africa for some ten years, for an end to visits by overseas sports teams, to investment by foreign companies in South Africa, and to the supply of arms to the Pretoria Government.

The Association also pressed for rights for black workers and for majority rule in South Africa through allowing black South Africans to participate fully in national politics.

The result of these efforts was that the Vorster Government set up two commissions of inquiry (the Schibusch Commission and the Van Wyck de Vries Commission), both of which accused NUSAS of leading extra-parliamentary opposition intent of the overthrow of the government, the subversion of the economy, and the promotion of revolution.

In 1970 and 1971 Mr Curtis toured the United States, the second time as a guest of Mr Ramsey Clark, former United States Attorney General.

Following these tours his passport was withdrawn and, to get past emigration officials at Capetown for his escape to Australia, he used a borrowed United States passport in the name of L Reynolds.

Mr Curtis will start his tour of New Zealand in Wellington where he will address a public meeting in the Town Hall on Friday March 21 - the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in which South African police broke up a peaceful black demonstration.

His tour is being organised by the National Anti-Apartheid Committee.

ARGENTINA

ANOTHER

CHILE?



The military coup in Chile in September 1973 was the most severe set-back for the radical and labour movement in any country in recent years. Over 20,000 workers, peasants and radical political activists have been murdered under right-wing repression, more deaths than in the Chilean wars of 1829, 1851, 1859, 1891 or 1932. Around 150,000 people have been detained since the coup, many of them brutally tortured. Many continue to seek asylum as refugees, while others continue to rot in concentration camps.

Most people are familiar with these facts. But not many people are aware of a similar situation to Chile before the coup presently arising in Argentina. The following article outlines the current wave of right-wing terror sweeping Argentina, Chile's near neighbour. It is edited from the newsletter of the New Zealand Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners.

Argentina in recent years has undergone dramatic social turmoil. During the past year a complex political process has been unfolding - accelerated with the death of Juan Peron - that has been marked, above all, by a rising wave of rightist terror coupled with deepening government attacks on civil liberties.

Right-wing death squads acting in concert with government and police agencies have created an atmosphere in Argentina today filled with ominous signs that the complete destruction of even the most basic democratic rights once again threatens Argentina.

The government and the right wing have portrayed leftist guerrillas as a major threat to social stability and used this as a justification for the growing suppression of democratic rights. All too often the Western press has echoed this theme.

In reality, however, the victims of the twin scourges of rightist terror and government repression represent a broad spectrum of Argentine society. They have included parliamentary critics of the regime, trade unionists, a variety of leftists, academics and student leaders, journalists, artists and others.

The Repression . . .

The November 6 declaration of a "state of siege" by Minister of the Interior Alberto Rocamora signified

a further escalation in the government's attempt to curtail civil liberties. Since then the situation has progressively degenerated.

The state of siege came five days after the assassination of Alberto Villar, chief of the federal police, by left-wing Peronist guerrillas. His assassination was immediately followed by the murders of four people: Ruben Bouzas, Juan Carlos Nievas, Cesar Robles - all members of the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (Socialist Workers' Party or PST) and Carlos Alberto de la Riva, a professor at the University de la Plata. All four were murdered by right-wing death squads.

In the aftermath of these killings, the government attempted to portray itself as a disinterested force seeking to restore order in the face of violence between rival gangs of bandits from left and right who threaten society. However, the rightist death squads continue to operate with impunity, while those who have been to the left of the regime have borne the brunt of the repression - belying government's neutral posture.

One of the authorities' first acts under the state of siege was to raid the national headquarters of the PST, a legal political party that fielded candidates in the last two presidential elections. Nine persons were arrested in the raid and charged with possessing "arms of war". The PST had been given special permission by the Minister of the Interior to defend itself against right-wing terrorists, making this charge particularly hypocritical.

After the raid of the national office of the PST, other PST offices were raided. In addition, raids were made on headquarters of the Argentine Partido Comunista (Communist Party - PC). Again, arrests were made. The previous month similar raids had been made on the offices of both organizations. All present were beaten and arrested. A young woman present at the PC office died from what the police claimed was a sudden kidney failure.

Although under Argentine law a state of siege does not legally empower the government to ban political parties or restrict their functioning, raids of this type seriously hinder the work of a party, and violate its right to function.

Under a state of siege, the government can arrest anyone it believes is involved in "subversive activities" and transport detainees to any point in the country. Such detention can last up to thirty days, and the only recourse open to detainees is to leave the country.

Raul Alfonsin, a leader of the Union Civica Radical (Radical Civic Union - UCR) remarked that "the state of siege has always been used to trample on individual freedoms and rights".

The government does not need special powers to move against individuals engaged in violent actions. These are illegal under existing Argentine laws. Special powers, however, are useful to create conditions that make it easier to victimize political and trade-union activists. The state of siege permits holding prisoners incommunicado for extended periods, enabling the government to use torture to terrorize political oppositionists and trade-union militants.

The Repression mounts . . .

Under the state of siege, repressive actions have multiplied against left political parties and trade-union activists, including the use of procedures that according to the government's own statements were not authorized by the state of siege.

On November 14 Rocamora pledged that "there will be no restrictions on the internal activities of recognized political parties." He said that internal activities, conventions,

and even special rallies were permitted provided the authorities received prior notice.

On November 8, the government had banned the congress of the Frente Izquierda Popular (Popular Left Front - FIP), a small party that had supported Peronism for virtually its entire history.

On November 9, a Communist Party Rally was banned in Cordoba. According to police the grounds included "knowledge that in the said meeting they were going to attack the institutions of the state".

On November 14, the very day Rocamora promised "no restrictions", a rally planned by the PC to commemorate the Russian Revolution was banned.

The plenum of the Partido Socialista Unificado (Unified Socialist Party - PSU), one of the parties composing the ruling Peronist coalition, was banned November 9.

Fourteen trade unionists were arrested in Cordoba three days after the declaration of the state of siege. They were former leaders of the light and power workers' union and the automobile machinists' union which earlier had been placed under government trusteeship.

A planned strike by metalworkers in Santa Rosa was declared illegal by the Ministry of Labour, and the workers were threatened with sanctions under the state of siege rules.

In Salta, the police arrested the rector of the university, H. Martinez Borelli, on suspicion of complicity with "extremists".

The universities:

During the months preceding the state of siege a number of universities were placed under the administration of government-appointed, right-wing interventors who purged the universities of left and liberal professors. Parallel to this, rightist gangs demanded the resignation of suspect educators under threat of assassination.

Minister of Culture Oscar Ivanissievich announced on November 8 that arrangements were being made to bring troops onto the campuses if the police forces were unable to keep things under control. A series of expulsions were threatened to break student strikes against the university clamp-downs. Even rather



Isabelita Peron: allows the right a free hand

(Continued from previous page)

conservative students received harsh treatment by the authorities.

A member of the Franja Morada, the student group of the UCR, was arrested and tortured. A protest signed by several prominent student leaders published in the Buenos Aires daily *La Razon* November 12 said that Horacio Goytia, an engineering student, was arrested on campus November 8 and beaten up in the Office of Student Affairs.

Goytia was then taken to a police precinct. *La Razon* reported: "The interventor-dean of the Engineering School, Arturo Bonetto, said that Goytia left his institution 'in perfect physical condition'. On Saturday he was taken to Argerich hospital, where he was to undergo urgent abdominal surgery."

The press:

The influential Buenos Aires daily *Clarín* specified in its November 8 issue that a state of siege "cannot be used to penalize publications for expressing criticisms or opinions of the government's actions."

Nevertheless, the Peron government began closing down newspapers even before the state of siege. In the past year ten publications have been closed, and the government has taken control of the television stations that broadcast nationally.

The latest two newspapers were ordered closed on December 20. *Cronica*, a mass-circulation daily, was closed for advocating an armed invasion of the Falkland Islands, whose ownership has long been disputed by Argentina and Britain. *La Calle*, a small left-wing daily, had given prominent coverage to the rightist terror campaign.

The December 21 *New York Times* noted: "Most newspapers have practised a kind of self-censorship by relegating the political murders to their inside pages and by adhering closely to official accounts.

Superthugs:

New fears of still further repression

came on December 6 when President Isabel Martinez de Peron Demanded that Argentine congress grant more presidential prerogatives, particularly in the field of national security.

The chief executive called on the congress to grant her the authority to create a superagency for national security and defence, a central intelligence committee, and a committee for internal security.

The measure authorises the national executive to establish "security zones" in areas where it considers "security" to be threatened. It recommends measures permitting the take-over by government and military authorities of natural, energy, and industrial resources in these areas, along with the communication media, public services, "orientation of public opinion", and transport.

Laying the basis for total abrogation of democratic rights, the December 6 bill is part of a more general drive for total governmental control by the Peronist right — a drive marked by total disrespect for civil liberties and human rights.

Already the regime has used the state of siege to settle accounts with liberal and left Peronists. Dissident Peronist legislators have been purged, subjected to arrest and even assassination. Of the 21 provincial governments, six have been intervened by the national executive.

Death squads

The right-wing death squads have continued to operate with impunity under the state of siege. The discovery of four bodies wrapped in a red flag in a Buenos Aires garbage dump was reported December 14. Police identified two of the victims as high school teachers who had been arrested for painting slogans on a wall and later released. "This garbage dump" reported UPI "has been used to dispose of at least 207 bodies this year."

The AAA has threatened a wide spectrum of parliamentary figures, educators, left-wing defence attorneys, non-political artists, and public

figures of all kinds. In many cases it has carried out its death threats in the most brutal ways.

The behaviour of the death squads "has begun to take on the aspects of the cult of sadism and obscurantism typical of fascist commandos," noted *Intercontinental Press*.

French correspondent Philippe Labreux wrote in the November 3 *L'Express*: "They work with complete impunity and the obvious complicity of the police, as well as the other repressive forces. Their threats are taken seriously. Those whose names appear on their death lists go into hiding or leave the country." Labreux noted that about thirty journalists have been forced to leave Argentina as a result of AAA threats.

Resistance.

In recent weeks there have been signs of a growing resistance to the state of siege by the Argentine people. Article 5 of the security law, under which the state of siege was called, grants the minister of labour the power to declare strikes illegal. Among the strikes which have been declared illegal in recent months two in La Hidrofila and Santa Rosa. The Hidrofila strike was only broken through police intervention and numerous arrests of strikers. In the Santa Rosa strike, the workers won their struggle after a 26-day strike despite the government ban. The workers formed a strike committee and won wide support from the workers of Santa Rosa and from political organ-

izations. Their victory was more than simply a strike victory but an initial victory over Article 5.

There is far more to the Argentinian story than recounting the fascist terror. At stake are principles of how Argentinian society should be ordered — to the benefit of the people of Argentina (as argued by the socialists) or for the benefit of a small elite and the profit of large American companies (see the article on multinationals in the last issue of Salient) — as proposed by the right wing. The Peronist government, in cracking down hard on leftist groups while leaving the rightist death squads untouched, is displaying clearly which side it supports: and if by chance it loses, there is always the CIA behind it, as in Chile. Argentina at the moment is a particularly bloody and obvious example of the world-wide struggle between the supporters of self-determination and the organized economic and military might of the United States.

If you wish to assist the work of the New Zealand Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners, write to P.O. Box 1467, Wellington. Subscriptions to the NZLA newsletter are available at \$1 for a year (6 issues), from the same address.



Riot police in Buenos Aires

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IN LAMBTON QUAY JUST ALONG FROM CABLE CAR LANE

JOHN HENDERSON
AT
the EXECUTIVE

Bad luck, friends, Nutcase Henderson is back again with another report (for want of a better word) on the state of affairs of the Executive, who latest meeting was held on Monday, March 10.

ROCK CONCERT

The Exec decided some weeks ago that they would not allow a rock concert to go ahead unless the organiser presented an itemised budget beforehand. (The reason for this would better remain unprinted). This decision still stands, as this budget has yet to appear.

BUDGET

Because of various muckups in accommodation, arts council, and the food co-op, the association lost about \$4000 last year. This year Mike Curtis has budgeted for a rather optimistic \$3470 surplus.

I would like to publicly question some aspects of the budget:

1. The election budget for 1974 was \$440. There were three bouts of elections, two more than is usual. This year \$450 is budgeted. Does this mean the Exec expects some of its members to resign?
2. Last year legal expenses were \$380. This year they are budgeted for \$1500. Why?
3. Why did Mike budget for \$200 in toll calls? Are they necessary?

HONORARIA

The planned increases in honoraria will by now be common knowledge. Interestingly, though, the Exec agreed to them. Funny.

SASRAC

SASRAC made \$348 last year, but Mike Curtis is not at all happy about its present form, i.e. in the Lounge and Smoking Rooms with soft music, firstly because it is a cliquy sort of institution and secondly, because its legality is in doubt. The Exec decided that the caf bar experiment would be continued and would become the venue for SASRAC.

SRC report

John Henderson

SRC time has come again and in its wake it has left some new student representatives and a very relieved SALIENT reporter. Relieved because this SRC had, in sharp contrast to last week's abortion, more than a smattering of interesting topics.

The first item was a report from the Education Sub-Committee which said that they would submit recommendations to the Professorial Board relating to the proposed abolition of the pre-set timetable. (It was the SRC who made these proposals, not the Prof Board.) While the Registry says that they know of only four people seriously inconvenienced by the pre-set timetable, the figure uncovered by the enrolment questionnaire on the subject was closer to 250. This fact says many things for their principles (or lack of same). Pat Duignan, the mover of last week's motion on the pre-set timetable, announced his pleasure adding that he would still like to see more flexibility in the exam system.

Next came a report on another of Tony Ward's madcap student flat schemes, followed by a rave from Lisa Sacksen on the elections. Gyles Beckford (Prof Board), Peter Aagaard (Union Management), Colin Feslier (Pubs Board) and John Ryall (Faculties) then gave brief summaries of the activities of various student committees.

WELFARE VICE PRESIDENT

There was discussion on the introduction of a full time NZUSA Welfare Vice President. It was agreed at the last NZUSA Council that the introduction of this position was a priority so the Exec discussion was centred on the responsibilities of this job. They decided to recommend a political position rather than an airy fairy old lady worrying herself neurotic about mental health, the general decline in students' moral standards, and the inadequacy of pillows in houses of residence.

PARKING

At the moment anybody (including staff) can use the Wai-tata Road car park. The fact that staff do use this supposedly students' only car park may be attributable to the STAFF ONLY sign prominently displayed in the parking area. The Exec decided to have this sign changed to STUDENTS ONLY as being an unobtrusive way of discouraging the staff.

ACCOMMODATION

The Stuart Williamson hostel has once again been offered to the VUWSA for use as a student flat, this time for two years with an option of extending the lease for another year. Discussion was lively, varied, and incredibly frivolous. Just to give you an example of how the exec really works, here are a few excerpts from this discussion:

Aagaard: 'But they would have to be friendly and all that shit.'

Roseveare: 'Not people trying to shove knives in each others backs'

Feslier: 'I thought you were going to put students in . . .'

Aagaard: 'They're not all like you'

Sacksen: 'I rule that completely out of order.'

End of THAT discussion. And again:

Feslier: 'I would like to move an amendment. . .'

Sacksen: 'It's out of order, Colin. . .'

Aagaard: 'I am trying to speak. . .'

Feslier: 'I am trying to move an amendment.'

The first official motion discussed asked SRC to ask the Prof Board reps to ask Prof Board to reschedule Environmental Biology from the second to the first half of the year to alleviate exam stress for science students taking this course. As neither the mover nor the seconder were present at the meeting John Roseveare (I think) spoke to the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The next motion concerned courses which have been advertised in the calendar and subsequently cancelled. After an argument lasting about five minutes, in which Colin Feslier tried to prove that 'ever' had the same meaning as 'even', sensible discussion (if you can call any discussion in which Colin participates, sensible) on the motion took place. The SRC was told, among other things, that the 'B' stream of Sociology 101 had been cut out without any warning being given to students even at enrolment, and that many students wishing to take the 'B' stream of this course had turned up at what they thought was a sociology lecture and discovered that they were being taught psychology. Some were not even aware that they were not, in fact, being taught sociology. There were, incidentally, 306 students in K303 attending the first sociology lecture. The SRC passed a motion asking Prof Board to write to students who have pre-enrolled in a course subsequently cancelled.

Sacksen: 'Mr Feslier appears to be muttering. Carry on, Peter.'

Eventually they did have some sane discussion on this lease and it was decided to authorise Peter Aagaard to go ahead and negotiate the lease pending a final Exec decision.

Another property under discussion at this meeting was 71 Hopper Street, a large house owned by the City Council and offered to the VUWSA for lease. After some discussion rising at times to the standard of the previous item the exec decided to authorise Peter Aagaard to have some preliminary talks with the WCC

ACCOMMODATION NOTICEBOARD

The Exec decided that one of the noticeboards in the Union foyer would be turned over for accommodation purposes.

POLICE ON CAMPUS

- A. Alfonso's food bar was burgled recently and Byron Buick-Constable, Managing secretary of the Union, called the cops without consulting any member of the Exec. The Exec passed a motion of censure against him, not that that is likely to do any good: the general feeling about censure motions nowadays seems to be 'OK, I'm censured. So what?' Not like the good old days - it was regarded in nearly the same light as a motion of no confidence. Ah! Nostalgia.
- B. Two detectives were allegedly on duty at the Gay Lib Ball. An extremely annoyed Exec swore for a while and then asked Rob Pui to write a letter to the Commissioner of Police.

CATERING

- A. The Exec was told of the opening of the hamburger bar which is now open from 11 to 7 in the downstairs caf and which produces damn fine chips.
- B. The Exec noted with pleasure that the meat pies now appeared to have meat in them. The milkshakes are still fairly watery though.
- C. There was a suggestion that sandwiches be in the future sold in the caf.

TIMING OF MEETINGS

Incidentally, if you are wondering when the Exec meetings are, and if you want to come along and watch your elected representatives misappropriate your funds, the Exec decided a couple of weeks ago that meetings would take place at 6.00 pm on the first and third Mondays of each month. So come along, they're always good for a laugh, if nothing else.



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Then came the elections. With a surprising lack of fuss and a not-so-surprising lack of enthusiasm the following were elected:

Union Management Committee
Angela Belich, Robert Lithgow, Rod Prosser, Pat Duignan, Dale Stevens and Ralph Gerdelan

Prof Board
Pat Martin and Pip Desmond

Catering Sub-Committee
Stephen Underwood, Mike Curtis, Peter Aagaard and Ralph Gerdelan

Pubs Board
Bryony Hales, Kevin Kane, Dale Stevens, Jamie Belich, Diane Hooper and Peter Franks.

Faculty of Arts
John Ryall, Lionel Klee, Petra Munckhof and Sean Cassidy

Faculty of Languages and Literature
Lynn Peck, Ann Dwyer, John Kinder and Linda Hardy

Faculty of Commerce
T Duggan, John Grainer, David McLay and Don Huse

Faculty of Science
There were no nominations.

MOVED: Feslier/Cunningham
'That this Association in recognition of the long years of service to education in New Zealand by the Hon P A Amos, do present to Mr Amos a matched set of two face-cloths - one for each.'

RIDER: That they be a wishy-washy pink to match his politics.

CARRIED

UNANIMOUSLY WITH ACCLAMATION'

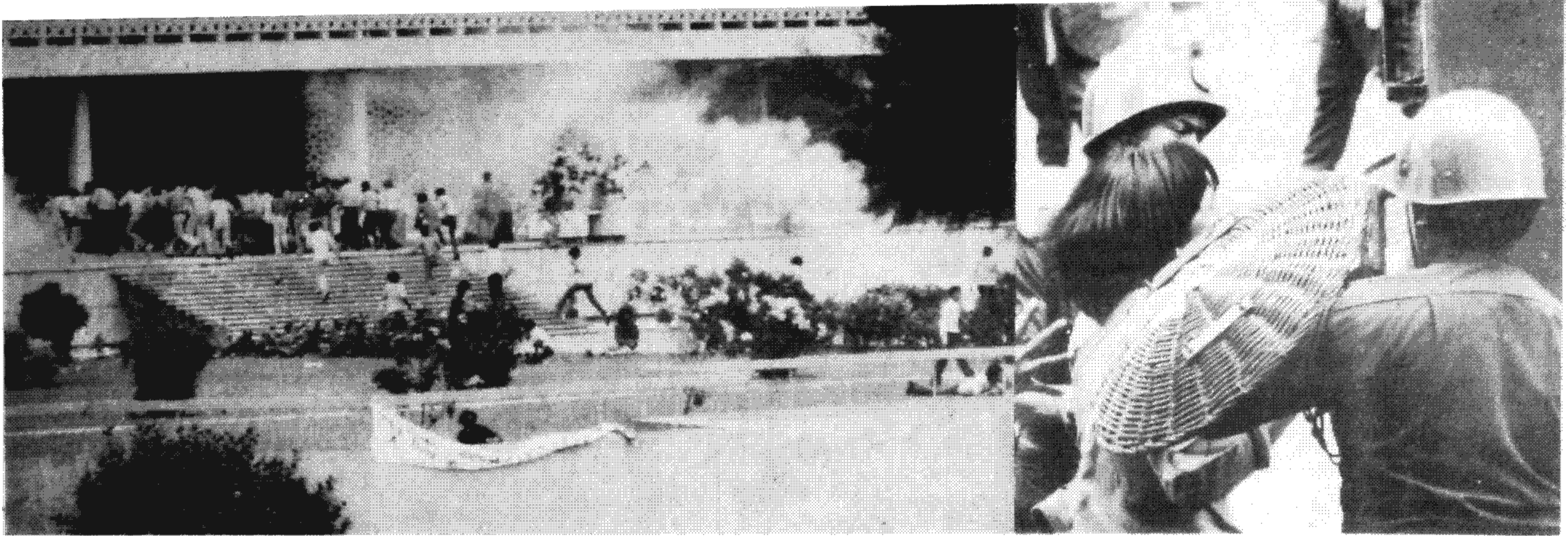
Hear Hear! Make sure you come along to the next SRC. Believe me, it's well worth the time spent.

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MALAYSIA SPECIAL



Mass Repression in Malaysia

by Don Carson
International Vice President,
NZUSA

Events have moved rapidly in Malaysia in the last few months with the Razak Government implementing a wide-scale repression programme against students, workers and peasants who have risen in protest against the economic conditions and lack of democratic rights in Malaysia. The notorious Internal Security Act (ISA) is being used to detain many student leaders including Hamzah Kassim, known to many New Zealanders after his speaking tour here in October and November last year.

In September the squatters of Tasek Utara in the province of Johore Baru became an important cause supported by the University of Malaya Students Union (UMSU) in a campaign for social justice and economic independence for Malaysia. The reaction of the authorities was to arrest the leaders and bulldoze the houses down. In December, the peasants in Kedah province marched in Baling to express anger at their plight, brought about by the falling price of rubber, on which they are largely dependent, and the rising cost of living. Students of the universities and other tertiary institutions joined in the protest this time and the government response was panic. On December 4, 1100 students were arrested on various charges, mostly unlawful assembly, and then released on bail to await trial. Others were not so fortunate and were taken to prison under the ISA and have yet to be released. These include more than 14 student leaders, two university professors and one university lecturer. Under the ISA a cabinet minister can detain someone for an indefinite period without specific

charge and many hundreds are now in prison for periods of up to ten years. This is the fate of Tan Hock Hing, the assistant to the Secretary General of the Labour Party of Malaysia.

Lim Ma Hui, the Chairman of the Asia Region Committee of the World Student Christian Fellowship was arrested on 30 December by the Special Branch under ISA. At the beginning of January, Razak Ahmad, a lawyer from Johore who has undertaken the defence of students involved in the Tasek Utara squatters' demonstration, announced that he was taking the Government to court to expunge a sentence of Home Minister, Ghazali Shafie's White Paper, which attempts to link the activities of the UMSU Chinese Language Society with communist activities. In mid-January he was detained under ISA. His arrest has touched off a wave of protest among lawyers. The Penang Bar Council passed a resolution calling for the abolition of the Internal Security Act. All opposition parties, from the left wing to the right wing racist parties have united to organise an anti ISA drive. To cause such opposition gives some indication of how serious the Malaysian Government views the situation. On December 4 the Kuala Lumpur police were given instructions to arrest everyone in the demonstration even though they could only manage to grab one-third of those present. The Government then moved to prevent any repetition of the demonstration and sever any bonds that were forming between students and oppressed sectors of society.

Ian MacDonald, President of Australian Union of Students, who was in South East Asia at this time describes these subsequent events:

'At approximately 2.00 am on Sunday morning,

8 December, over 2500 para-military and other police moved in on several campuses. Their major target however was to detain the leaders of UMSU. In the pre-dawn raid between 25 and 30 prominent students were arrested. Every room in the colleges were searched, and any student who complained about what was happening was severely beaten with three-foot canes. Despite the obvious planning that went into the raid, three well-known activists escaped, namely Hishamuddin Rias, Hamzah Kassim, and Kamaruzaman. All were forced to go into hiding, as the Government set about with the intention of capturing them. By early January only Hisham remains free. [In March Hisham still remains at large.] At this stage the tension in Malaysia increased. Whilst the issue of starvation and unemployment had motivated the student movement initially, a broadening situation developed. With widespread public support, the students had effectively forced the repressive regime to act in its own defence, for sympathy with the students demands was increasing not only in the villages, but also in the cities. This is especially seen in the support given to the students during the raid by the local communities adjacent to the campus. The police in an effort to create a better image in these areas had to invite these communities to a 'goodwill tea party' with plenty of free food as bait! To show the depth of the mass mobilisations in Malaysia, several campuses have been indefinitely surrounded by soldiers. Students are regularly searched and checked upon entrance.'

'The reaction of students to the 'raid' was spontaneous. Over 2000 students marched around the University of Malaya campus after being forcibly prevented from going downtown. At the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang

«OPINION»

MALAYSIAN AND SINGAPOREAN STUDENTS

How well do we know our countries and people? We might have seen what has been happening around us and might have been informed of the events in our countries, however, are we really receptive and concerned?

The governments of Malaysia and Singapore are always afraid of their people knowing the true facts of the situation. In their efforts to retain their control over the people and to promote their ruling interests, they have employed methods of providing distorted and censored information through their mass media and suppress public opinion unfavourable to them.

When threatened by unrest and criticism, these governments do not hesitate to intimidate and arrest the critical or rebellious elements: e.g. the arrest of the editors and proprietors of Singapore newspapers and, more recently, in Malaysia the arrest of outspoken students, academics and a wide range of people of different political opinion.

Do you feel the present governments represent your opinion as a citizen of Malaysia or Singapore? Do you feel that you as a member of present Malaysian and Singaporean society, have any commitment to social justice and the development of the well-being of the people of Malaysia and Singapore?

We intend that this paper will provide you with an uncensored and critical viewpoint and give you an opportunity to express your concern and opinion without fear of repression. Unity is essential for change!

NOTICE

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THANK YOU

(continued from page one of this supplement)

over 1000 students attended a rally on Minden campus, with students urging a continuance of the struggle. Several groups came to the students' defence, including the ABIM (Malaysian Muslim Youth League) whose president was detained. Boycotts of lectures began to be widespread. The University staff associations at several universities issued a statement on 11 December calling for the withdrawal of police, the release of all students and staff, and an end to arrests. On the University of Malaya about 2000 students gathered to burn effigies of Razak, Ghazali Shafie, and Mahathir bin Mohamed the Education Minister. On 13 December a secret ballot was held to determine further student action. This vote is extremely important in determining the depth of student solidarity against government actions and the future course of activity by the movement. A total of 4431 students voted of which 65.7 per cent were in favour of leaving the campus and returning to their homes, while only 16.2 per cent were for staying and 18.1 per cent abstained. The same number of voters expressed their desire for a postponement of examinations by 75.5 per cent as against 9.1 per cent, whilst 15.4 per cent abstained. The reason for leaving the campus was a deliberate strategy for students, many of whom live in rural areas, to return home to explain to their local communities the real nature of events in the cities. Given the extreme reaction of the press this was an obvious necessity. Thousands of students boycotted their exams and returned home.

The Malaysian Government immediately attempted to justify the actions it has taken. At the post election meeting of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) motions were passed talking of the dangers of being toppled. Razak appeared on television blaming communists and other 'anti-National' elements for fomenting strife. Ghazali Shafie was more specific, on overseas student organisations he said:

'I wish they would mind their own business. They have their own problems - they have the Irish problem, the Aborigine problem, the Maori problem. Let them sort out their problems first before meddling in our affairs.' Mahathir advised Australian students to get rid of their colonial mentality and added: 'We don't need any advice from them on how to run this country. They should learn how to solve their own problems first. They solve their problems by shooting the Aborigines and having a white Australian policy.'

The attempt to push the blame onto alien agitators is one of the oldest political stratagems in the book. Such glib formulas ignore the response, however, of the many people who were compelled to march because of the pressure on one side of the falling price of rubber and on the other by sharply rising price of goods. Selmat Ahmad Kamal, President of University Sains of Malaysia describes the plight of his countryman as this: 'Malaysia is among the richest countries in South East Asia, having a per capita income of more than M\$1200 per annum (NZ\$360). Yet many of our peo-

ple are extremely poor. Even the Government admits that 40% of our people live below the poverty line. This situation worsened with the recent drop in the price of rubber and the steep increase in the price of food. The incomes of many families in places like Baling, Selama and Kulim fell sharply, below M\$25 (NZ\$7.50) per month per household. They could not afford rice and had to be content with eating tapioca. Some lived on tubers found in the jungle. Several children died as a result of eating wild poisonous tubers. According to the State Representative from Baling, when he visited the home of one of the victim's families, he did not find a single grain of rice there.

The peasants from these districts appealed to the authorities, including the 'peoples' representative for help but they received only empty promises. Therefore they decided to dramatise their plight by means of demonstrations to force the authorities to take some remedial measures. They marched by thousands to the various district towns, some walking as far as 22 miles. They surrounded the district offices and demanded to speak to the Chief Minister of the State. In one place, they lowered the State flag and in its place raised a bunch of tapioca and the portrait of the Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, together with a slogan. The slogan read, 'Razak, we do not want to eat tapioca.' They demanded that the price of rubber be raised, the price of food lowered, and the allowances and salaries of Ministers and 'peoples' representatives be cut. (There is a bill before Parliament to increase the salaries and allowances of Ministers and

REPRESSION HITS PROFESSORS TOO

Professor Syed Husin Ali, a Malay lecturer at the University of Malaya, was arrested by the Malaysian Secret Police on 7 December 1974 on a charge of having helped the Malaysian Communist Party in 'subversive activities' in institutions of higher learning and 'acting in a manner prejudicial to the security of Malaysia'. On 4 February 1975 he was detained for a period of two years under Section 8 (c) of the Internal Security Act 1960, in Taiping Detention Camp.

We print here a letter on his arrest by his wife, indicative of the very great concern many in Malaysia are feeling over now-almost non-existent democratic rights and civil liberties in Malaysia.

STRUGGLE TO THE END

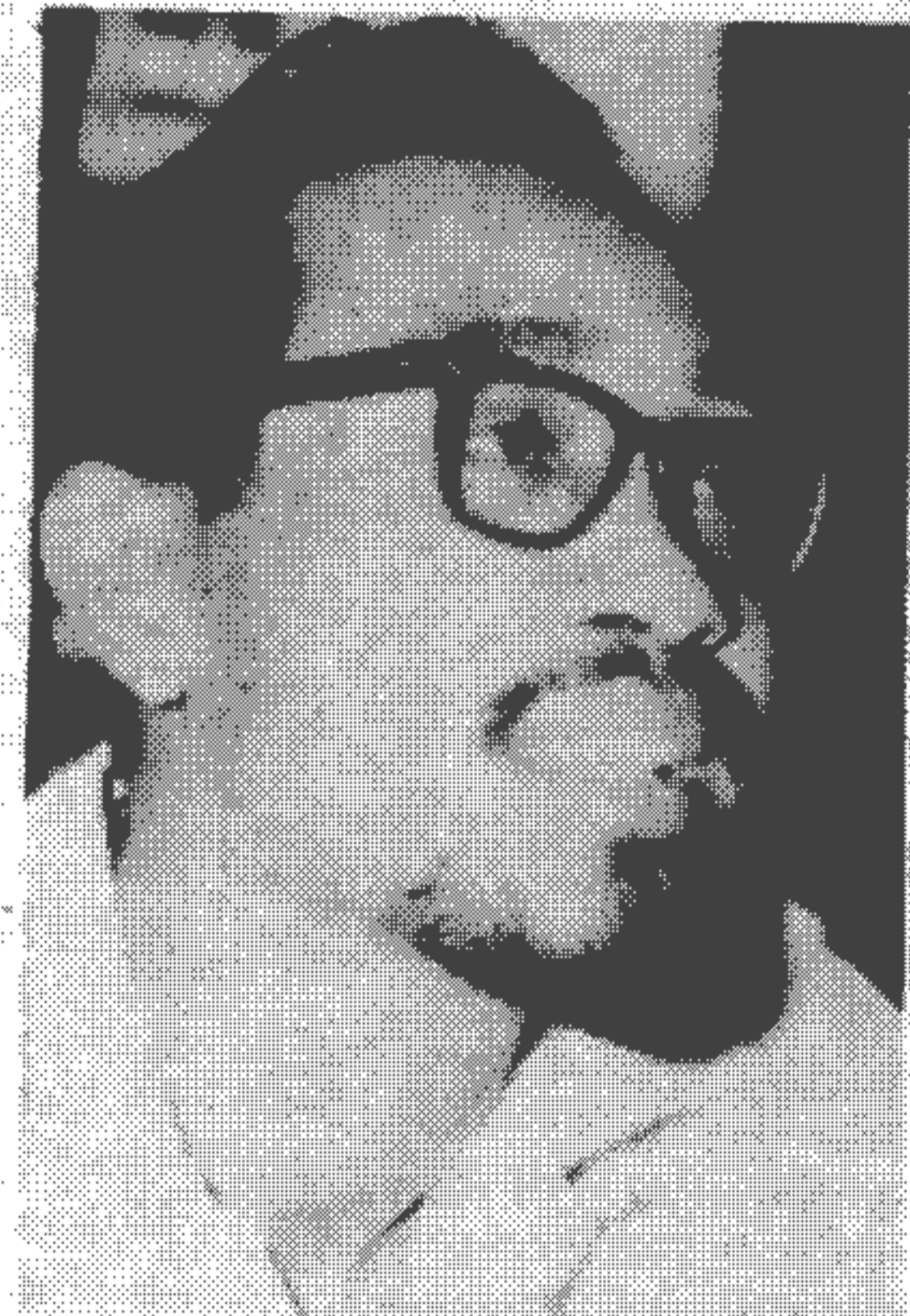
I would like to know why my husband was arrested.

What 'crime' has he done? He was arrested at 2.00 am (7 December 1974) at a time when people sleep. Is it that the government wanted to terrorise us?

My children and I condemn the arrest of my husband and other friends, and we condemn the method of arresting him secretly.

If the arrest was connected with the demonstrations of the peasants and students, I am fully convinced my husband and his colleagues are on the side of truth. He has spoken against poverty, hunger and injustice. Just as the students who are now demonstrating. All these protests were started by the rakyat of this country themselves, as in Baling, Kulim, Sik in Kedah and other places, who are impatient with their living conditions, who subsequently became courageous as to hold big processions to protest against the policy of government that makes the rich grow richer whilst the poor become impoverished. 'Harapkan pagar, pagar makan padi'. What else is left to us as human beings but to protest our rights?

I challenge the government which arrested my husband to charge him in open court, if it is true there is still justice in this country. My husband has the right to defend himself if the government has the 'right' to arrest, detain, and accuse him. Only cowards make accusations without permitting replies. We dare to be tried, dare the government bring them to trial?



Prof Syed Husin Ali

I have gone to High Street Police Station where my husband and friends are kept. But the government have directed the Special Branch not to allow me and my children to meet my husband. When I persisted and asked as to when I could see him, a Special Branch man told me, 'You will be informed in due course'. Until today I have not been told as to when I and my children could meet him.

These are the laws and regulations practised by people in power who act arbitrarily, although they love to talk about democracy and justice.

This act of forbidding visits has caused me to suspect that my husband and his friends in detention are being given bad and improper treatment which is inhumane. Otherwise why are we - wife, children and family - not allowed to meet them?

As a wife and mother to my children, this statement is not made as an appeal or to plead for sympathy. I am a Kelantan born who is proud of Tok Janggut. It is the spirit and courage of this Kelantan hero that make me unafraid, but indeed leads me to be more determined in facing the condition that is forced on to us. It is not the cowardly spirit of the descendants of those who have sold our people and country for generation after generation. According to a Malay saying, 'Genggam bara api, biar sampai jadi arang.'

Sabariah Abdullah
(Mrs S Husin Ali)

Lee Kuan

On February 22 1975 Tan Wah Piow, President of the University of Singapore Students' Union was sentenced to one years' imprisonment by Lee Kuan Yew's Court after being found guilty of rioting in the Corporation Drive premises of Pioneer Industries Employees Union on October 30, 1974.

Also found guilty were two former American Marine (S'pore) workers Ng Wah Ling and Ms Tan Kim Hong and each jailed for a month.

Tan Wah Piow had been acti-

vely involved in people's rights in Singapore up until the time of his arrest. He had been campaigning against higher bus fares and for the release of political prisoners. He had been organising Bangladesh flood relief, had set up a Retrenchment Research Centre to look into the problems of laid off workers, and was active in organising and helping squatters throughout Malaysia.

Tan Wah Piow, Ng Wah Ling and Yap Kim Hong were charged with unlawful assembly and inciting to riot in front of the premises of the Singapore Pioneer Industries Employers' Union (PIEU).

Industrial workers in Singapore are heavily exploited by foreign multi-national capitalists. In 1973 the real wages of workers have fallen (wages up 8%, inflation 25%) while their productivity has risen by 17% in money terms, thus increasing the profits - normally exported from Singapore - of the companies. Lee Kuan Yew has always sided with the foreign multi-national capitalists. In order to cover up the obviousness of who he favours he set up a National Trades Union Congress to nationalise all forms of exploitation and thus act as a facade to show workers they are well taken care of. In fact, the National Trades Union Congress urges workers not to ask for their rights and encourages them to leave all decision making to the few elite bureaucrats

who already monopolise authority in Singapore.

Since February 1974, 14000 workers in Singapore have been laid off. Some workers have been given as little as a few minutes' notice. Compensation has been rare, and in many cases non-existent. In order to exonerate the powers that be from blame, some factories have adopted the practice of forcing the workers to resign by imposing stringent disciplinary measures such that anyone can be sacked on the slightest excuse.

The Retrenchment Research Centre that was set up by Tan Wah Piow aimed to help the thousands of affected workers. Tan Wah Piow as President and Juliet Chin as Secretary of the University of Singapore Students' Union arranged for laid off workers to speak on the campus and to use the facilities of the Student Union for meeting, printing, purposes, and other needs. As a result of this 200 of the workers laid off from an international fibre yacht company (American Marine) have formed a reasonably well organised Union.

The Pioneer Industries Employment Union, a puppet union for Lee Kuan Yew's government, was approached by these 200 workers in October 1974, and was requested to take some action on their behalf. They demanded that the PIEU fight on their behalf for compensation from American Marine and other industries, and for workers' wages to be paid in cash, not coupons. (Workers



Tan Wah Piow and escort

peoples' representatives by 50%.

The privileged situation that the rulers of Malaysia are in it obviously threatened by such cogent criticism so the clamp downs on rights and liberties become a double edged weapon. Critics of the Government are dealt with and secondly the cause of the disturbances, if not the reasons for the social injustice themselves,



The Baling marchers

are identified by the Government for the Malaysian people. There are three reasons that probably bear heavily on the Government. Linking in this situation.

Firstly the student content of the demonstrations, on December 2 - 10,000 students in Kuala Lumpur, 2000 in Penang and 1000 in Ipoh. The fall of Kittachorn in Thailand as a result of primarily student activities is a fresh memory for many Government heads throughout South East Asia.

Secondly the basic requirement for foreign investors that there be political stability, imposed by whatever means that a Government may decide is necessary, to maintain a climate suitable for private enterprise. Foreign capital, the Malaysian Government advisors would argue, is easily scared off by unrest in a particular region, even if the demonstrations could otherwise be ignored.

Thirdly, the multi racial nature of the demonstrations. In the past the ruling authorities in Malaysia have managed to turn the grievances of one racial group against another group, thus setting the Malays and Chinese and Indian communities against each other to ensure the status quo remained. This was usually facilitated by political groups being formulated along racial lines, giving them an easily identifiable racial bias and identification. This time, however, the action has comprised all racial segments. The attempt has, of course, been made to turn the conflict into a racial one. Ghazali Shafie has issued a White Paper accusing the Chinese

Language Society at the University of Malaya of having links with the illegal Malaysian Communist Party. This is obviously an attempt to link the phobia of communism with that of the fear of a Chinese takeover held by a number of Malays.

The situation in Malaysia has direct implications for students in New Zealand. Dr Mahathir is likely to be coming to New Zealand to put Malaysian students right on what his cabinet has called a 'hate Malaysia' campaign being conducted by students overseas who have become 'out of touch' with the situation in their homeland.

While the ANZUK defence agreement linking New Zealand, Australia and United Kingdom officially expired at the beginning of this year, the five power defence pact which incorporated Malaysia and Singapore as well, is still operative. Trading links are being developed - for example, a Malaysian trade mission visited New Zealand in the middle of the month. On the other hand, the Malaysian immigration authorities refused to permit Alick Shaw, this year's NZUSA President, to enter Malaysia for a brief period in early December.

It is very obvious that the issue of the Eastern Cultural concert in 1973 and last year's arrest of Khoo Ee Liam were not temporary and isolated manifestations of rabid High Commissioners and overzealous police in Kuala Lumpur but an overall and continuing development of police state methods by an increasingly fascist Malaysian administration bent on the physical destruction of all critics and criticism, however valid their cause.

Yew's Justice

at American Marine were being paid in coupons; an illegal practice not officially condoned by Lee Kuan Yew's government. These coupons can only be used in a supermarket run by an American Marine company and as a result the workers had no cash and couldn't afford to travel on buses or send their children to school).

In late October, a confrontation occurred between Tan and Phey Yew Kok (general secretary of PIEU, and also president of the NTUC and a member of Parliament!) in which the PIEU was given one week to start acting for workers.

After the week, workers again arrived at the PIEU offices. Officials refused to see them, closed all the doors, and even pulled down the blinds, and then proceeded to smash union furniture and equipment! At no time did the picketing workers participate in this strange and wanton smashing of PIEU equipment by its own officials! At the time Tan Wah Piow was across the street conferring with USSU members. It was decided that he should not take a leading role in the demonstration outside the union offices.

Soon after the demonstration the PIEU union officials made an announcement that said the workers had come in through the back door of the buildings and had smashed up the equipment. One union official had in fact cut his own hand in an effort to prove that the workers had come inside and smashed everything up.

As had been previously arranged, the government and the Singapore Press accepted and endorsed the PIEU's definition of events. As a result the government ordered the arrest of Tan Wah Piow, Ng Wah Ling and Yap Kim Hong. The charge that they 'incited to riot' and 'unlawfully assembled' was of course a political fabrication. The arrest aimed to persecute and make an example of leading participants in the workers' struggle against exploitation.

Tan Wah Piow was arrested at 9.30 pm on 1 November 1974 in a friend's flat by three plainclothes police, without court warrant. All his written documents were confiscated. He was interrogated for six hours immediately after the arrest and was denied his right to a lawyer. Ng Wah Ling was arrested at 2 am on 2 November and Yap Kim Hong on 7 November. All rejected the charges laid against them.

In a letter from prison Tan Wah Piow wrote that his arrest should be viewed in the light of activities of the students' Union during the last few months. 'Our protest against bus fare increases, our statement

against arbitrary detention of political detainees, our protest against the \$5 100 dollar increase in university fees, our involvement in the Tasek Utara Squatters issue, our intentions to start up an independent press and lastly, our setting up of the Retrenchment Research Centre, were activities and campaigns that were not viewed favourably by the authorities.'

Local and International Support

The first to support the arrested trio and their struggle for workers' rights were the Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union, the Acting President of the University of Singapore Students Union, the President of Nan Yang University Students' Union and the president Ngee An Tech College Students Union. As a result of this widespread campus support police were called in by university administrations to suppress the tension.

The Trial

The trial of Tan, Ng and Yap began on 11 December 1974. The Australian Union of students sent their president elect to observe the trial. When he arrived in Singapore he was forced to sign a statement saying that he would not meet local student leaders, attend the trial, or criticise the Singapore government. Finally he was deported after 24 hours in the country.

In order to ensure the success of the trial Lee Kuan Yew's police arrested and deported six student leaders who were key defence witnesses. The government claimed that 'instead of studying' these students were 'meddling in Singapore's politics'!

The government intended to convict the three accused at all costs. Piow has since been jailed for a year, the others for a period of one month each. It is still the custom in Singapore to flog so called criminals such as Piow.

Conclusion

The trial is, of course, a frame-up and a fabrication. It would not be difficult for Tan, Ng and Yap to prove their innocence if the judiciary system in Singapore were independent of political pressure. It is no exaggeration to say that by the above events alone Singapore manifests all the qualities of a fascist state. But the struggle will continue. Tan, Ng and Yap are not the first political victims. Workers of Singapore have been the victims of a negligent and elitist political system for decades. All fighters for workers' rights must rise up and spread awareness of the Singapore and Malaysian situation throughout the world.

STOP PRESS

MALAYSIAN GOVT IGNORES WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN DETAINING TOP SARAWAK POLITICIAN A SECOND TIME

Datuk James Wong Kim Ming, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Sarawak National Party, was rearrested on Monday February 10, 1975 by Security Police from Kuala Lumpur after the High Court of Borneo sitting in Kuching ordered his release.

The Court unanimously ruled that he had been illegally detained in Kamunting Detention Camp for political opponents, Taiping Malaya a being outside the jurisdiction of the State of Sarawak. The issue arose after he was arrested in Sarawak under the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance (Sarawak) on October 30, 1974 by order of the Federal Secretary. No charges were specifically brought against him.

Datuk Wong's lawyers challenged the arrest as unconstitutional and illegal, in the High Court of Borneo, and sought a Writ of Habeas Corpus to be issued and directed against the Malaysian Government. On February 8 the Court ruled that Datuk Wong had been illegally detained and issued the writ which in effect commands the persons detaining to produce or 'deliver up the body' before the Court of the person illegally detained. Three writs were directed against (a) the Federal Secretary, Sarawak, (b) the Minister for Home Affairs and (c) the Officer-in-charge of the Kamunting Detention Camp.

Datuk was flown back to Kuching on February 10 after the Court issued



Datuk James Wong

the orders and he was released. According to reliable sources he was immediately arrested again by the Kuala Lumpur police waiting for him outside the Court. This time he was arrested under the Internal Security Act which gave the police wider powers.

Closely following this arrest a Democratic Action Party member of parliament was similarly arrested and detained.

In Malaysia the government has carried out large scale arrests since September last in an effort to totally stamp out all forms of opposition.

It is clear now that the Malaysian government is prepared to ignore any court decisions against it in order to retain control of the reins of power.

Hisham and UMSU

The following is a summary of a taped message from Hishamuddin Rais the Secretary-General of the University of Malays Students' Union (UMSU), played to Malaysian and New Zealand students in Australia and New Zealand in October 1974. The tape was brought over by Hamzah Kassim who visited the two countries on a speaking tour on the squatter problem in Malaysia. Hamzah Kassim has now been imprisoned under the Internal Security Act by the Razak government for his participation in fighting for the cause of the poor. Originally Hisham was to have made the tour in August when demonstrations against the Malaysian government were held in Australia and New Zealand on Merdeka Day (31 August). Hisham explains in the tape he was unable to come. No summary could convey the encouragement and enthusiasm which Hisham spread, but it will give those who did not hear the tape the opportunity to read the main points.

Hisham explained that it appeared that the government had directly interfered in the issuing of Hisham's air tickets, since the airline's claim that his phone was out of order was completely fictitious. In view of the cancellation of Razak's visit to Australia and New Zealand to avoid confrontation over the case of Khoo Ee Liam, the reason for the government's involvement becomes clear.

Hisham talked about the events that culminated in the suspension of UMSU, specifically the Tasek Utara problem. He described the Tasek Utara issue as a continuation of the struggle by the poor and landless to survive in a country whose wealth of resources - oil, rubber and timber - are controlled by foreign investors - particularly the UK, USA and Japan. This state has existed ever since independence in 1957, to the point where 60% of the country's economy is in foreign hands, with new investment planned and encouraged every day. Hisham sees this as evidence of the neo-colonial structure of the country in which pre and post independence rule has changed only in the nationality of the rulers, but

not in policy. The poor have remained poor and ironically, among the poorest are the Malays, the group which is supposed to have special privileges under the constitution. But it is in fact clear that these privileges apply only to the rich and ruling Malays.

In Hisham's opinion, the Tasek Utara issue directly threatened the foundation of the National Front, which won the recent election with a majority of almost 90%. In his words the election was a 'Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola' one, by which he meant that the apparent choice was actually a deception since the end result was the same - a virtual one party state. The squatters posed a threat in that they withdrew support for a party which up to the time of election had condoned their election, but when votes

supported the poor and oppressed and hence their involvement in the Tasek Utara issue, through which they attempted to show that students and the people in the kampongs are struggling alike for the same end and therefore must work together.

When two students were arrested in Johore Bahru over the squatter issue, including Hisham himself, the response in Kuala Lumpur was immediate - 3000 UMSU members of all races demonstrated their support. After the demonstrations the government initiated action which led to the deposing of the legally elected student leaders of UMSU. Hisham interpreted this as an attempt by the government, which was in fact successful, to divide the students and therefore divert their attention away from the real issue at hand. During the following week, no mention of the squatters' plight was made by the press, but rather headlines were focussed on students' internal dissent, a result of the trap set by the government to perpetrate the neo-colonial structure of Malaysia through the tactic of divide and rule.

Australia, United Kingdom and North America.

He stressed the fact that students living overseas have an important role to play which complements the struggle of the people at home, but he added that he understood and appreciated students' fear of reprisals on returning home.

Hisham discussed the suspension of UMSU in light of the University and College Act 1971 which gives the government power to suspend or abolish the university constitution, whenever they see fit. Hence they can legally suppress student opinion in any of the nation's tertiary institutions. In 1971, 22 student organisations condemned such an Act and on requesting discussions with the Minister of Education recently were informed that these could take place. However, since the suspension of UMSU, he has denied this, claiming students are too immature to participate in politics. Newspapers continually condemn students, turning them into mere hooligans in the eyes of the public, a result of the extensive government control of the mass media.

Hisham then described the current situation as one characterised by increasing demand for democratic rights mainly on the part of workers exploited by foreign ownership. One newly emerging group are school students who are taking an unprecedented step in their demand for rights. However, Hisham forewarned that if universities can be suspended, schools can be similarly treated under existing legislation.

Finally Hisham stressed the urgency of the plight of political prisoners, whose fate has never been publicised in Malaysia. He described how he was forbidden to mix with 31 other prisoners held in Johore Bahru prison under the Internal Security Act. It appeared that this situation was typical at all police stations and prisons throughout the country, but since arrests are made under cover of darkness usually, calculating the number of detainees is made difficult.

Hisham sent his thanks to everyone for their support which has helped to bring international pressure to bear on the government, forcing them to acknowledge the problem of the squatters. He expressed his desire to visit New Zealand at some stage, to describe these events in person. However, until then he reminded students of his university's manifesto 'land for the landless - land for the poor'.



were no longer needed, turned and destroyed their 'houses', leaving them landless, homeless and in some cases unemployed too.

Hisham reminded students of an incident in 1969 when Hamid Tuah was arrested over the Telak Goh issue and imprisoned under the Internal Security Act for four years. His 'crime' was helping to transform acres of swampy ground into land fit for cultivation.

Like him, UMSU has constantly

Hisham warned students not to fall into the trap of this 'non-issue' but instead to write in a campaign for the restoration of UMSU.

This is vitally important as UMSU constitutes the only force which stands for the interests of oppressed people, since no opposition party exists in Malaysia. However, in the face of such a serious setback, students at home derived great encouragement from reports of student campaigns in New Zealand,

"Anti-National"

"Anti-National", they said
Lo, here is the proof.
Is this truly so?

If
To destroy the colonialists
To oppose to the end the imperialists
To eliminate oppression
To liquidate injustice
... this be "Anti-National"
Yes, I am AntiNational!

If
To entomb the system of discrimination
All injustice all servitude
And bury feudalism
... this be "Anti-National"
Yes, once again my declaration is
"yes" and it's true
I am Anti-National!

(From "Poem from Prison" by Said Zahari, 1963)



Students being arrested

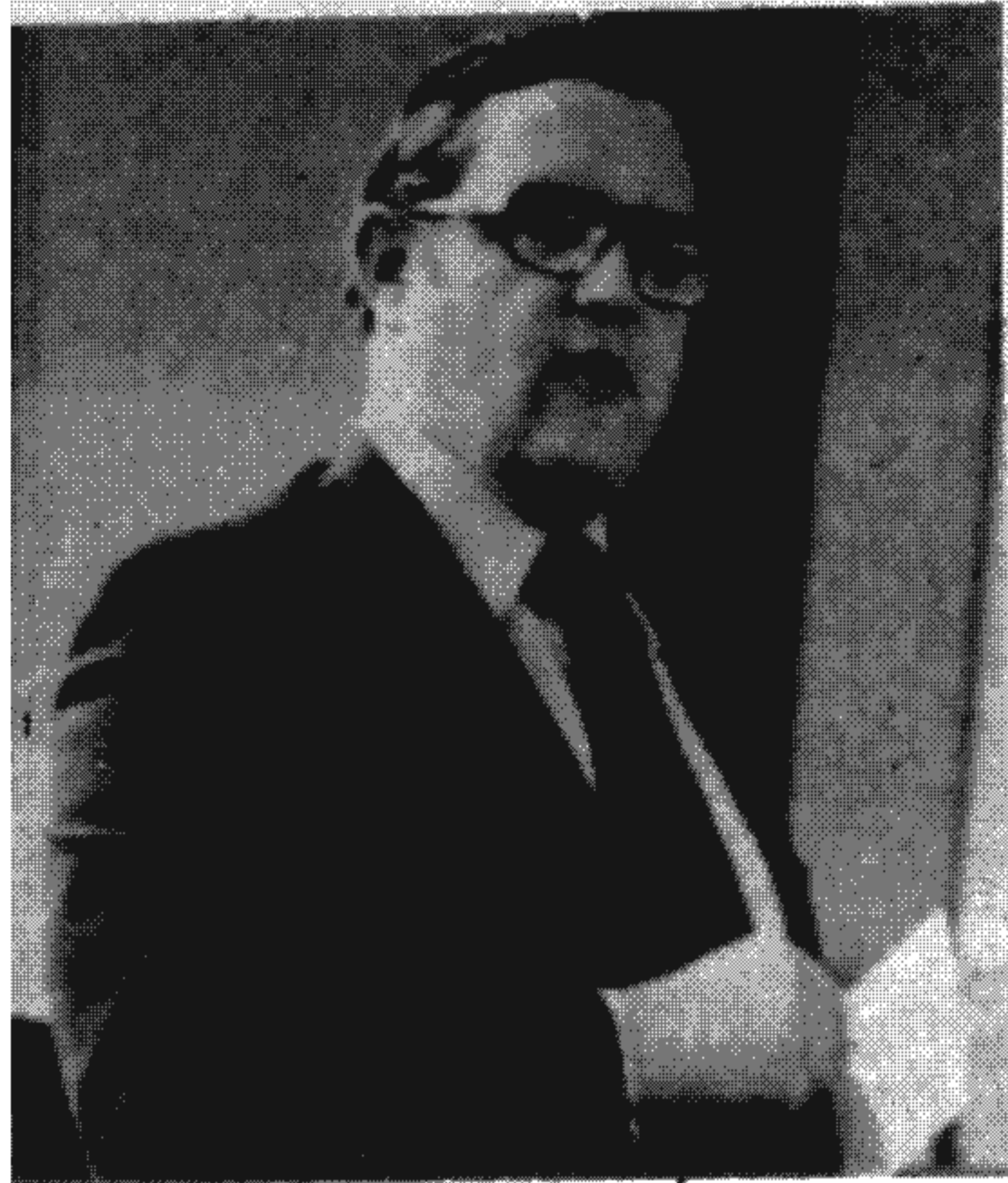
WE MUST ADMIT THAT IT (the Students' Union) IS A VERY RARE ORGAN LEFT IN SINGAPORE WHICH CAN STILL EXPRESS INDEPENDENT, CRITICAL IDEAS AND CAN STILL ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE PUBLIC SENTIMENTS WHICH EXPRESS THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MAJORITY WHO HAVE NO CHANNEL TO REGISTER THEIR RESENTMENT. OTHER EFFECTIVE ORGANISATIONS ARE EITHER BANNED AND NON-EXISTENT OR EFFECTIVELY CRIPPLED WITH THEIR LEADERS THROWN INTO PRISON. KNOWING THE SOCIAL VALUE OF OUR STUDENTS' UNION, WE MUST WORK HARDER TO ORGANIZE THE UNION TO SERVE THE PEOPLE WHENEVER POSSIBLE ...

...WE ARE ALL IN THE UNIVERSITY AT THE EXPENSE OF MANY OTHERS. REMEMBER OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY, OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND FREEDOM."

- TAN WAH PIOW



SHAND, SHIELDS, HUNT



Jonathan Hunt says that if Labour does not honour its promise on bursaries he will seriously consider his position in the party!

by John Ryall and 'friends'

The triennial Election talkathon is with us again. Last week the Labour Party sent two of its Wellington hopefuls and one of its more experienced Parliamentarians along to tell Vic students what its all about. The big gun was that arch sidestepper of issues Jonathan Hunt while the Wellington hopefuls were David Shand (who does have some sort of chance) and Margret Shields (who has no chance to win in Karori). Judith Tizard who runs the campus Labour club chaired the Forum and a couple of hundred students turned up as well.

Shand got up and said that he was interested in 'social change' but wasn't prepared to opt for any real direction for change. He just liked the idea of social change. But the direction is important. Hitler was keen on a kind of social change and was ready to shoot people to prove it.

Jonathan Hunt touched on issues he wants left alone in the Election campaign, such as the 1976 All Black tour of South Africa, foreign control in New Zealand and union bashing. But on the other hand, as politicians say, he didn't want to be thought a racist, wants an independent New Zealand and a fair go for unions. Its just that he would rather prefer not being in a position of saying this too loudly and too specifically.

Shand handed out backhanders to some of his Ministerial brothers by saying how stubborn Departments of State can be, regarding their Ministers as "nuisances". He mentioned Education and Immigration as two examples, which could be another way of saying that Amos and Fraser Colman aren't strong enough to get what they want done.

All three Labour speakers expressed qualified support for homosexual law reform. "The issue will be resolved by a free vote in the same sort of way as capital punishment in 1961" said Hunt.

When they got to the "resolved" question of bursaries all three candidates got a voiciferous if antagonistic reaction. It was getting down to specifics that was the main weakness of the Labour team, and this was its downfall when it had to deal with a subject on which the audience were both experts and victims.

Jonathan Hunt, waving his copy of "Labour Achieves", lept in to defend the interim "increase" which he noted he knew very little about. "The new increase is only an interim one. As a member of the Labour Party I know that the implementation of the standard tertiary bursary will be done by the end of year," he said.

These statements were accompanied by cries of 'bullshit' and 'will you resign if it's not done?'. But students did not just confine their dissatisfaction to interjections. The actual terms of the \$150 bursary "increase" are that it is conditional on a student receiving a fees and allowances bursary, a boarding allowance and a hardship bursary. One student estimated that the hardship bursary requirement would cut out 85% of students,

the fees and allowances bursary 70% of the remainder, and all except a handful would be further eliminated by not receiving a boarding allowance.

Obviously if a student had a fees and allowances bursary and a boarding allowance he would find it difficult to claim a hardship bursary. So the conditions placed on the interim "increase" were such that it precluded everyone except a few people.

Hunt dismissed these fears as "idle speculation" but could not tell the forum how many students the new bursary would affect. He received

received a burst of applause for his acknowledgement that women students living away from home were considered to be in the most serious of financial difficulties. However, the logic of the new bursary seemed a little suspect when he added that the second most serious category were female students who were not living at home even though their parents lived in a university town. Students in this second category, in fact, can not receive the extra \$150 allowance because they are not eligible for a boarding allowance.

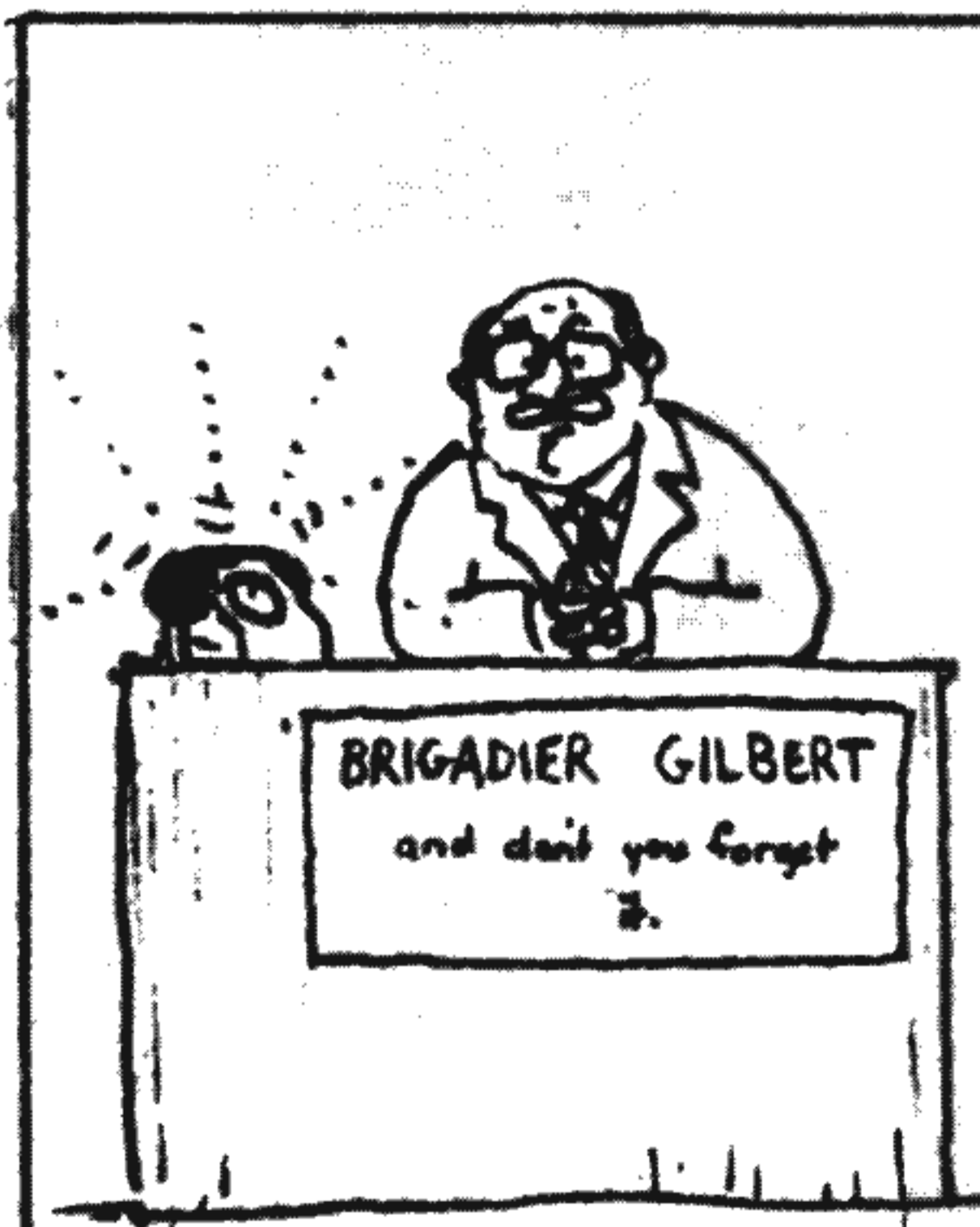
CONFUSION

Student President Lisa Sackson pointed out that the administrators of the new bursary were in as much confusion as Mr Hunt. She had telephoned the Education Dept after the Minister's announcement to find out the exact criteria that the bursary would be given on, and to enquire about the procedure for applying for one. The Education Dept knew nothing about it, had no application forms and suggested that she telephone the university liaison officer.

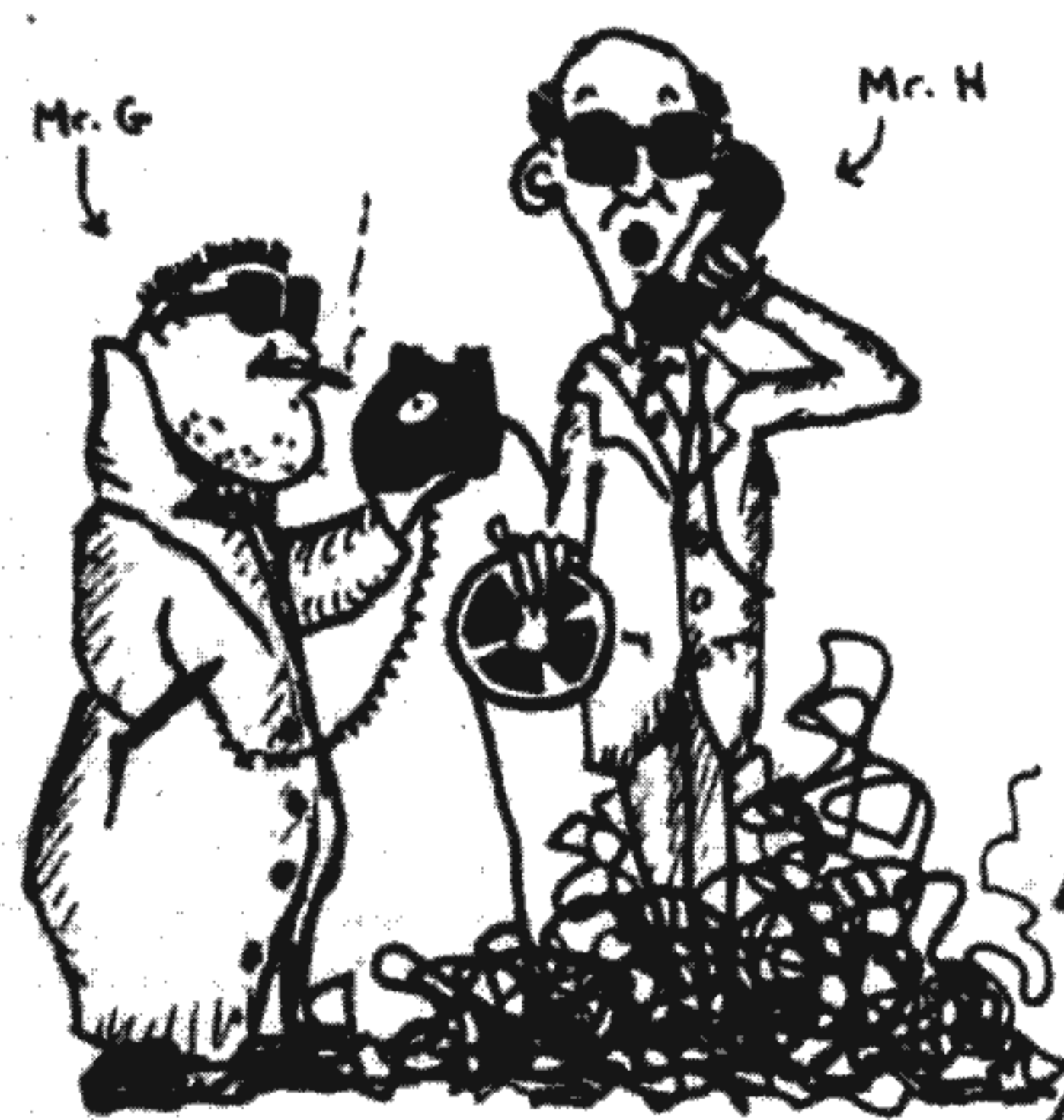
Confusion may have been rife amongst the bureaucrats in the Education Dept, but the students in the Union Hall gave a very clear opinion of their opinions on the bursary. Numerous individuals accused the government of political manoeuvring and of forgetting its election promise. One student expressed student thought very clearly when he said, "The bursary's a bloody rip-off! We're sick of Amos and his promises of standard tertiary bursaries. We've had had promises of white papers, pink papers, green papers, and purple papers with spots. Where do we go now?"

If Labour wants to "Come Alive" in time for November it will have to put more into its efforts - - - and in the case of the student bursaries this means more money.

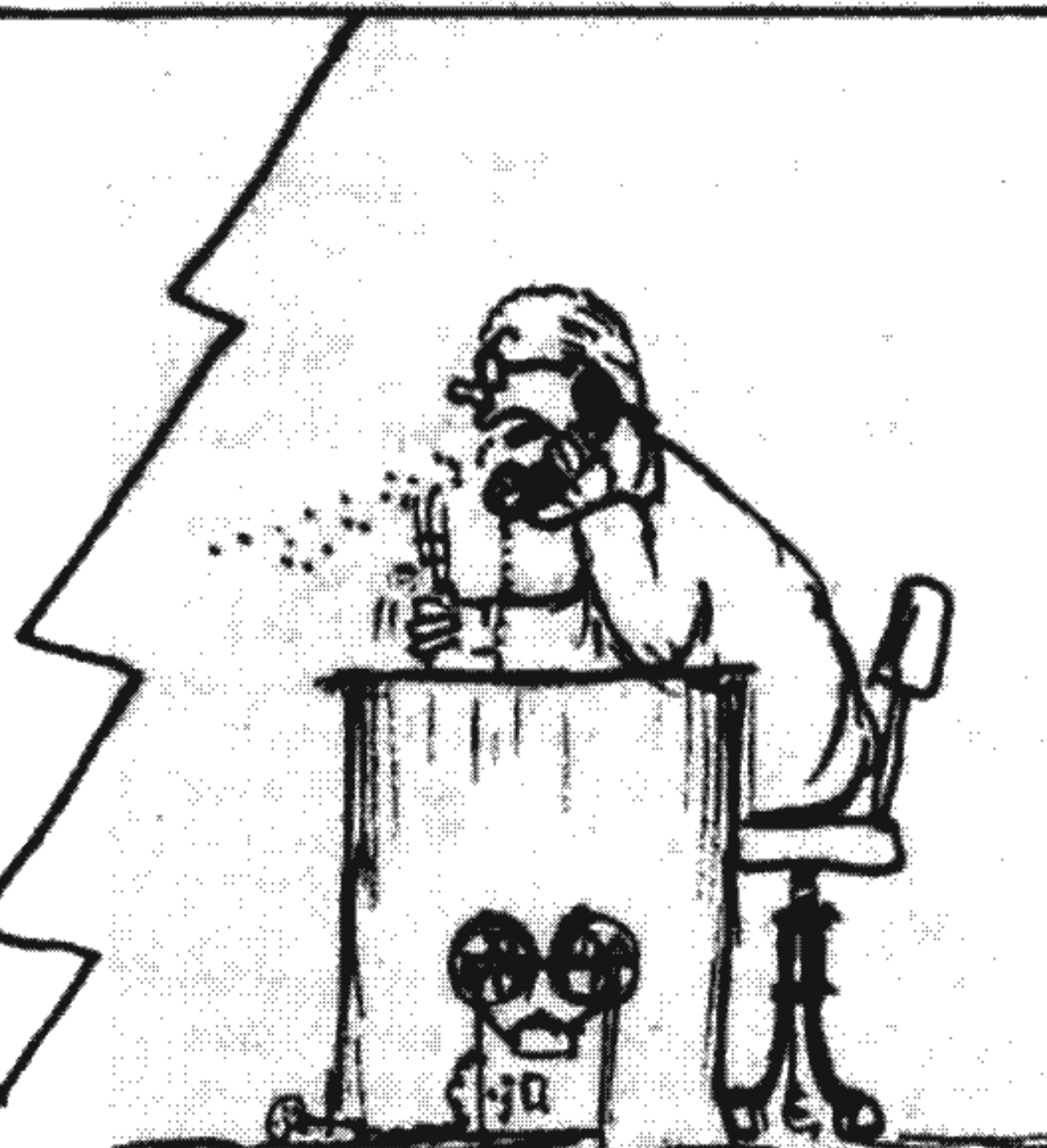
THE YEAR OF BRIG BOTHER



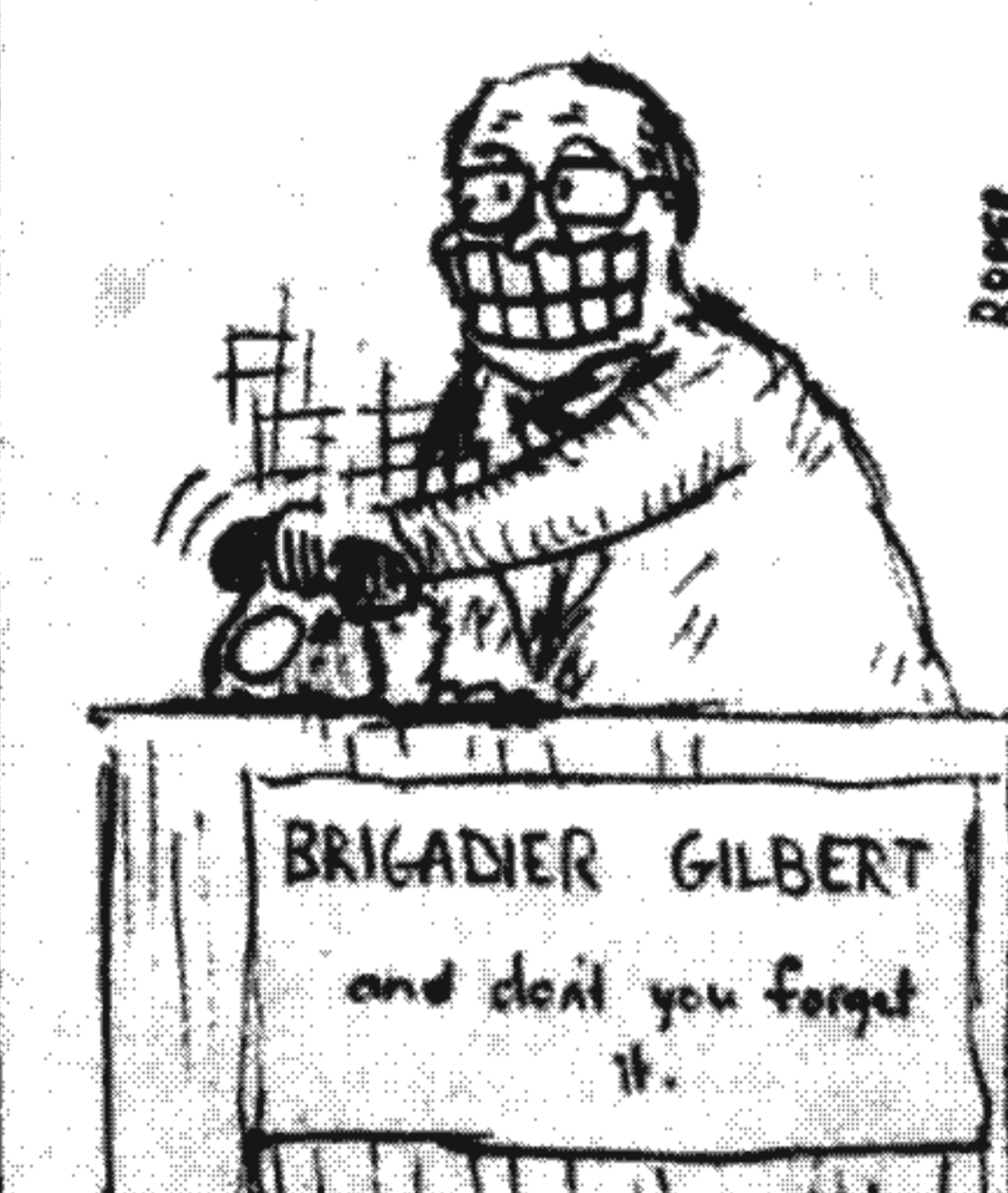
...and these allegations of SIS surveillance surveillance on university campuses... excuse me...the phone....



Uh...sir... about that tape we made of that pinko NZUSA president having a crap at 1.35 this afternoon.... it seems there was no paper....and he found the tape....and he used.....



WHAT? YOU IDIOTS! CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT?



Ahh...Gentlemen - Where are we now? About your ridiculous allegations of surveillance....

PRESS STATEMENT - SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

The New Zealand University Students' Association today described a statement by the Director of the Security Service denying that the Service was conducting surveillance on any university campus as totally unsatisfactory. The Acting President of NZUSA, Mr John Blincoe, was commenting on last Friday's DOMINION report where Brigadier H E Gilbert stated that suggestions in a recent

DOMINION article that there is Security Service surveillance of students on university campuses were not based on fact.

Mr Blincoe said that Brigadier Gilbert's statement was inconsistent with statements made by him in the past. It was also in conflict with NZUSA's knowledge of SIS activities.

"Brigadier Gilbert has indicated in the past that while the service has no interest in the universities as such it does take a close interest in political activities undertaken by students which the Service con-

siders might be 'subversive', 'Communist-influenced' or 'extreme left-wing', Mr Blincoe said. 'Brigadier Gilbert has described what he calls the 'student rebellion' and 'New Left' as second only in danger to the Soviet espionage system as serious subversive forces,' Mr Blincoe added.

Mr Blincoe said that in view of the Service's near-paranoid attitudes there could be little surprise that NZUSA found Brigadier Gilbert's Friday statement unsatisfactory. 'What we need,' he said, 'is an assurance that the Security Service takes

no interest in any university student on account of his political activities. And we would challenge Brigadier Gilbert to deny that the Service maintains files on student political activists.'

Mr Blincoe concluded by re-iterating his Association's support for the Deputy Prime Minister's call for the Service to be disbanded.

John Blincoe
Acting President

reviews

PHILIP TRUSTTRUM - Recent Paintings Peter McLeavey Galleries

Reviewed by Martin Edmond

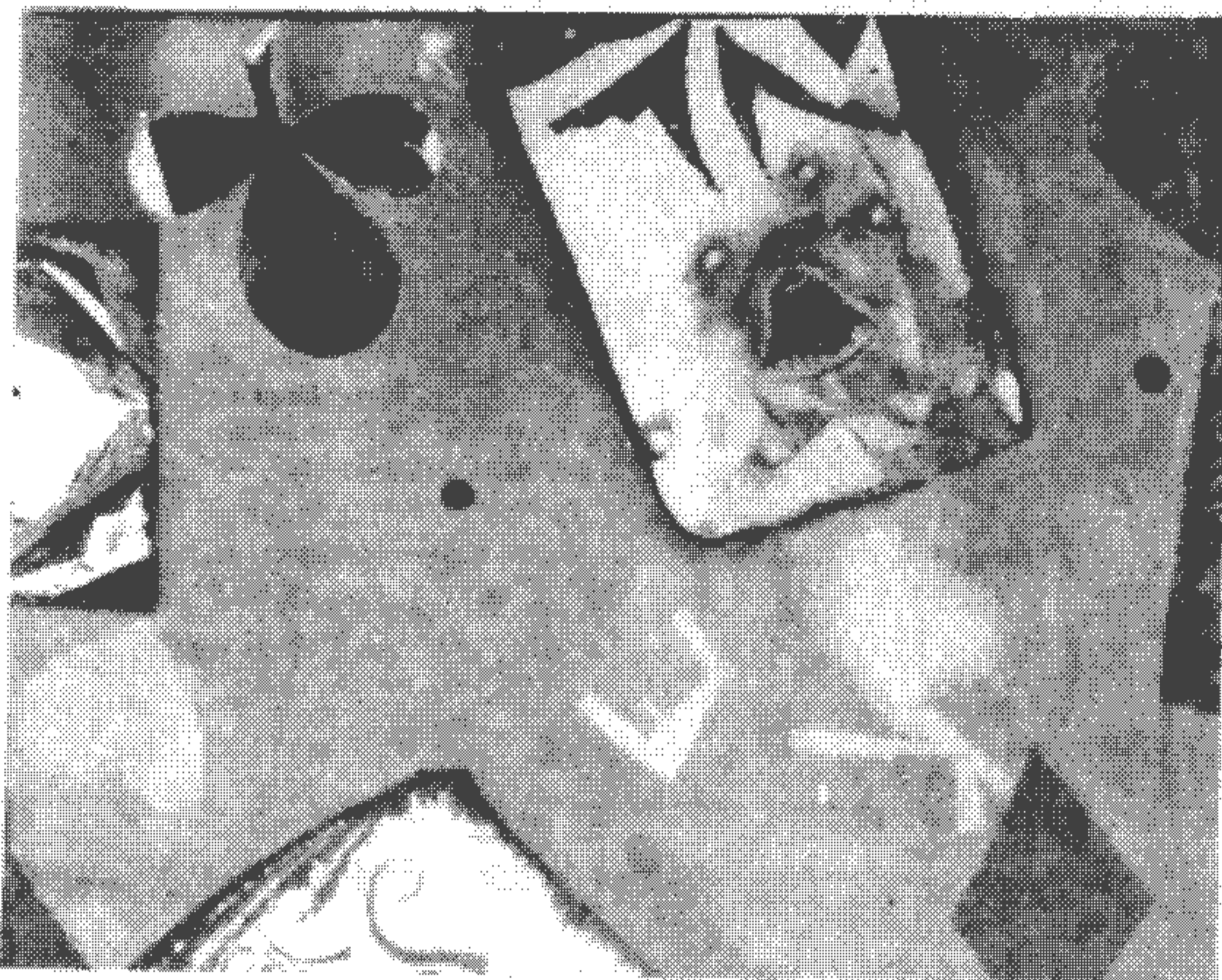
Philip Trusttrum's last exhibition in Wellington in July 1974 was a fine show, presenting as it did a series of delicate paintings of a domestic garden setting, houses through trees, backyards, frontyards and so forth. I discussed the show in this paper in terms of a tension and an achieved balance between the image and the expressive vision between a flat surface of design and the three dimensional quality of 'real' things. And I suggested that perhaps at some stage one or other would have to give ground. The present exhibition, an even finer show, supports and gives further evidence of the idea of productive tension; yet with perhaps one exception, all the paintings take as their subject things 'out there'. Some of them are garden studies as in the previous show, yet the overall tone is quite different. It is, if you like, heavier. Paintings like Peach Tree are as lovely as anything in the earlier show, the pattern of leaves and branches worked into a tapestry-like design as before; but the paint itself is handled with more vigour, more intensity. There is more of Van Gogh than there is of Matisse. A glance at 'Sou-Wester' makes the point immediately obvious. It is a view of a house through trees, like 'Lavender Tree' in the last show. Everything is in motion, however. The sky behind is boiling in storm,

the trees wild, the house a stillness under threat. I do not mean to say Trusttrum has progressed beyond the merely lyrical into something more significant; such a deduction would be facile in the extreme. And 'Sou-Wester' was painted in 1973, before most of the paintings in this and the previous show. Only that that remarkable quality of stillness achieved in the garden paintings is not so much in evidence here.

What there is, is a far more precarious sense of balance; indeed, in the painting 'Horse-rider' it looks as if the child sitting on what I take to be a rocking-horse is about to burst the bounds of the painting. The image is constricted inside the frame; this has the effect of making it loom out of the painting, as if any moment horse, child and their vivid blues and yellows might explode into the room in which one is standing. Trusttrum has achieved in this painting too a curious effect, like a paper cut-out, both with the use of a scraper of some kind and through his unwillingness to cover the whole painting surface. His colours stand beside one another, they do not intermingle. This last is a technique he has used to a different purpose in his spare delineations of branch and leaf in some of the smaller works in the show like 'Hill' and 'Garden'.

There is a further work to go beside 'Horse-rider', that is simply entitled 'Ride'. I found it the only disappointing work in the show, I think because the attention is drawn more to what the image is than to what the painting as a whole is doing. You seem to look downwards, in another shot of

Trusttrum's 'Joker'



frozen motion, on a rider and her(?) horse; but apart from rather dumb enquiries as to which bit of paint describes which part of the anatomy of which participant, I found little to involve me. Except that the use of the browns, oranges and yellows shows and excellent colour sense. It seems paradoxical, for the kind of painting that I take this to be, that it works more as a flat painted surface than as a representation of horse, rider or ride.

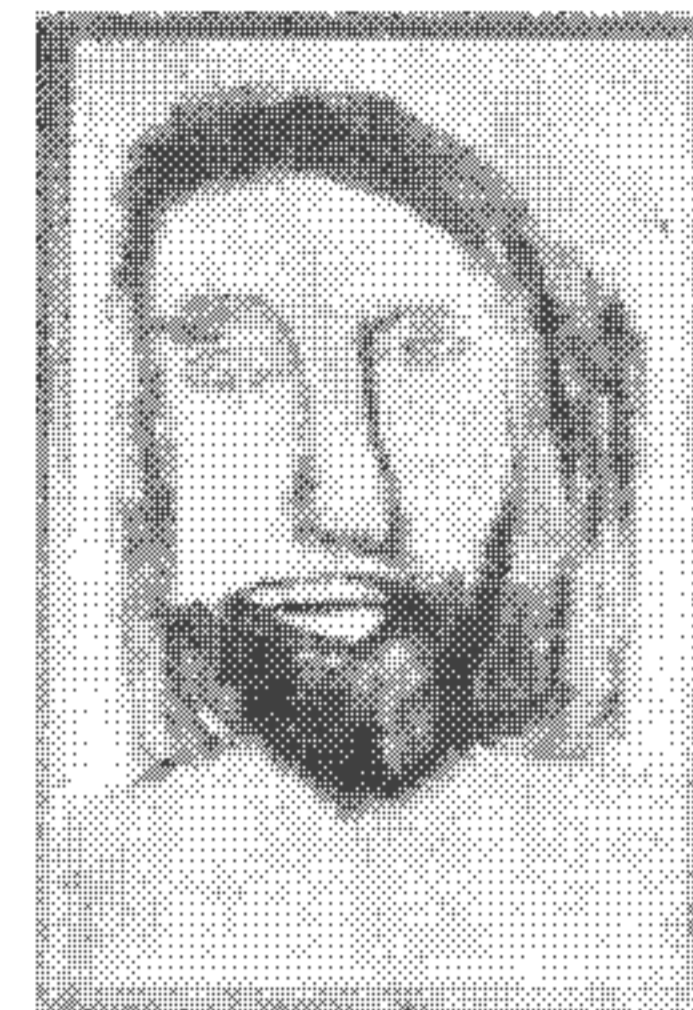
I suppose in any show, however small (in this there are nine paintings) one is tempted to pick favourites. Mine without a doubt, is 'Joker', the first in the catalogue and, I understand, the latest to be painted. Into a flat red field, disproportionately contained by a brown border inside the frame, thrust three... things, I would like to say presences: they could be playing cards. One indeed, with his demonic grin, suggests the joker. The field itself has cut into it (with again, that cut-out effect) a heart, a diamond, a Club, a spade, and fragmentary letters from the funny-man's title. The painting for me is strongly reminiscent of an earlier work 'Ancient Temple' which hangs in the VUW library. There is a similar sense

of a veil rent and torn, through which we might see wonders. Though somehow in 'Joker' the movement is reversed, we do not so much peer into its depths as stand back to receive that which is pressing out toward us. Well, I do not feel I have even approached the significance the painting has or might have for me, which is why I am led back to it. It is the most painterly work in the show, in its tendency towards abstraction and perhaps therefore the most difficult to discuss.

I want to end simply with saying again what a satisfying painter Philip Trusttrum is, in such lovely works as 'Back View' and that such achievements as this, as well as that of 'Joker', tend to negate the criticism I read recently, that paintings showing the influence of 'adopted styles' may appear 'anachronistic'. It has been pointed out, I think by Robert Creeley, that there is no reason that poets should not be writing in strict sonnet form, if they could make it work for them, though he felt such a situation unlikely to occur. So it is with painting, we should appreciate what we are given, with a generosity akin to Trusttrum's own.

UPSTAIRS ...

Upstairs, in a little gallery which I understand to be a part of the Bett/Duncan Galleries, there is an exhibition of paintings by Dylees Rees. She is a young painter, with only 18 months or so activity behind her: this is her first gallery exhibition. The paintings show something of the technical immaturity one would expect to find; but this point must be immediately qualified. For the intensity of her vision and the urgency with which she must have had to set it down mean, that in the best works, the paintings stand entirely on their own and admit no qualification. There is in works like 'The Fat Invalid' and 'Christ' a complete lack of self-consciousness, an openness to the demands of - a rather obsessive - impulse; it is not Expressionism or Naive Primitivism or anything like. The only comparison I would make is with the paintings children are likely to come up with. Granted, it is a hit or miss affair, but then I tend to find at the highest level of sophistication, paintings still either 'work' or they don't. It is as if something were there to be said and so it got said. A very worthwhile first show.



PARIHAKA

ASK THAT MOUNTAIN
the story of Parihaka by Dick Scott
Heinemann/Southern Cross (1975) \$8.50
Reviewed by Anthony Ward

The story of Parihaka is a long and bitter one, characterised on one side by the dignity of the Maori leaders Te Whiti and Tohu and the patient determination of the many tribes associated with Parihaka; and on the other by the violent land-grabbing of the Pakeha, supported by a racist government and one-eyed courts.

Parihaka lies on the western slopes of Mt Egmont. Its fame stems from the developments there in the later nineteenth century, after the Maori failures in the land war stemming from the Waitara block dispute where government troops were sent in to reinforce an entirely spurious (as a government commission later admitted) European claim to Maori land. As Dick Scott notes in his introduction, the post war reaction to a continuation of such activities was a doctrine of passive resistance, not a wish 'to serve Europeans in their own coin.' Passive resistance consisted of 'European' fields being ploughed, of barrier fences constructed and of transport disrupted. Yet rarely was overt violence used, and Europeans were welcome at Parihaka as visitors. The whole clear and orderly aspect of Parihaka was far from the stereotype of filth and debauchery that Europeans tried to put upon it. The government encouraged attempts to weaken Maori morale (e.g. by liquor, p46) were resisted by Te Whiti and his tribe. Yet the government response to the passive resistance was well in line with its action on the Waitara dispute. Realising the highly dubious legality of the imprisonment of the ploughmen, the government passed a series of Maori Prisoners Bills (1879-80) allowing indefinite imprisonment without trial. Later, when the anti-Parihaka adventures of the impetuous Minister of Native Affairs John Bryce were heavily criticised by Judge Gillies in 1882 and the persecution of Titokowau, another chief associated with Parihaka was withdrawn the government hastily introduced legal remedies to ensure that Te Whiti and Tohu were convicted. Parihaka itself was attacked and destroyed by soldiers and (as Scott euphemistically puts it) 'the women were frequent victims of drunken and diseased soldiers'.

Yet this whole affair failed to break the courage of Te Whiti or his people - after his second prison term ended in 1887 Te Whiti enjoyed a tumultuous journey home to Parihaka. From then until 1907, when both Tohu and Te Whiti died the communal spirit and strength of Parihaka continued - until eventually sold out by the MP for Western Maori, Maui Pomare in the 1910s.

For the chronology of events - and a very detailed one at that - and an impressive layout with a wealth of photos - Dick Scott has done a first class job. Yet lessons from the experience of Parihaka could be drawn a lot clearer. Scott notes in his introduction that the 1960 Descriptive Atlas of New Zealand named Parihaka 'Newall', and some of the quotations make interesting reading: The New Zealand Times around 1880 on charges of brutality against imprisoned Maoris,

'We scarcely care to say what should be done to those busybodies, slanderers and tale bearers who invent and circulate such abominable falsehoods' (p85). Shades of the National Party's attitude to those pointing out the prevalent racism at the present? and a West Coast Settlement Act of 1880 has many phrases in common with Labour's revised Unlawful Assembly Act.

Both in his introduction and concluding pages Dick Scott argues the spirit of Parihaka of cross-racial understanding and cooperation as a guide for the present. Brian Jackson, a British educationist out here last year, criticised the education of Maoris and Polynesians as a 'disaster' - a description that can well extend to many other aspects of our society. Te Whiti's ideas were based much on stressing the virtues of Maoritanga against European capitalist culture. So long as New Zealand society is infected by the rampant individualism of capitalist attitudes communal ideals such as those of Parihaka can find little place, and true respect for a communal culture is impossible.

In total then, *ASK ANY MOUNTAIN* is a profoundly disturbing documentary of an episode of our history that requires much greater reappraisal than occurs at present, but is handicapped in several respects. There is not sufficient anger over what happened, and the wishy-washy 'answers' provided are no real solution. One could also question the \$8.50 price, but then that is due to yet another failing of our economic system - a complete inability to hold prices at a reasonable level.

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If you need a little help and advice on how to make your money go further while you're at varsity, see Errol Hanna at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ.

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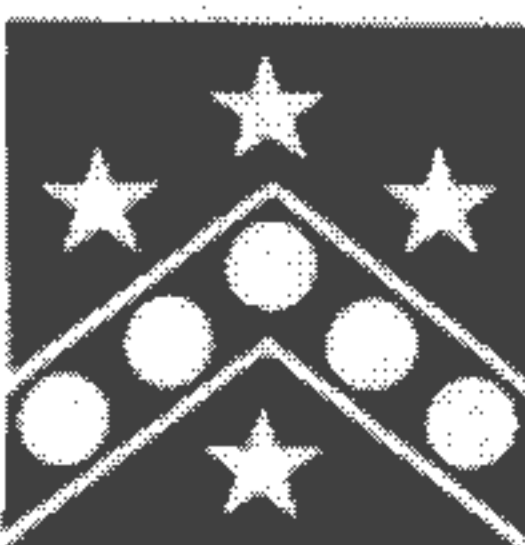
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**SO QUICK BRIGHT THINGS
COME TO CONFUSION**

Three Theatre - A Midsummer-Night's Dream



Reviewed by Liz Rowe

It's difficult to fathom the reasons that prompt amateur groups to 'do' Shakespeare, and especially difficult to understand why Three Theatre should choose such an elusive, delicate comedy as *A Midsummer-Night's Dream* for their anniversary production. *Hamlet* or *Macbeth* would have provided the opportunity for some fine rhetorical bombast, but *A Midsummer-Night's Dream* needs music, gossamer magic and mystery to succeed. These we did not get, instead, we were treated to hessian flat-footedness and Shakesperian farce. Paul Hamlin's and David Brown's musical settings had elegance and enchantment, but the chillingly bare set, where primordial canvas lumps did duty for mossy slopes, presaged more truly the earnest jocularly to come.

There were some fine performances. Rodney Bane's Puck, lithe and quick, gave a sense of the deep mischievousness that underlies the fairies' pranks; the principle of misrule that guides those spirits who 'run/by the triple Hecate's team/ from the presence of the sun/following darkness

like a dream. But dreaming and darkness were lost whenever the fleshy band of associate fairies trudged on stage, or John Callen as Oberon and Pamela Steele as Titania, like a too-long married couple, picked at their quarrel over the Indian boy.

Athenian aristocracy was better served than the underworld. David Austin, although inclined to rush his lines at first, had, by the final act, developed well into the kingly, assured, but reality-circumscribed Theseus. He was not well-matched by Jane Muir as Hippolyta, who gave a performance more reminiscent of the Queen Mum, gracious smiles and little else, than a 'bouncing Amazon, buskin'd mistress and warrior love.' Jane McLeod on the other hand, was well cast as Helena, her voice and gestures perfectly capturing the distress of a discarded maiden, yet with flashes of comic petulance that prevented us becoming too deeply involved in her fate. Her erstwhile lover, Demetrius (Stephen Fearnley) and Lysandes (Syd Bird) were a competent, if unmemorable, pair of love-sick youths. The final member of the quartet of lovers, a rather ruffled Hermia (Liz Lipski) showed naivety and sensitivity in her handling of her role, but neither she nor Helena had sufficient strength to vivify the lovers' complex distresses, and it was left to Bottom and his fellow rustics to save the play from complete disintegration. Lion, Wall, The Man in the Moon, and Thisbee, all played their parts with engaging seriousness. Sydney Biggs' Bottom's pretensions to culture and to worldliness were finely done, but we were left with no sense of Bottom's honest, stolid working on his experience, his search after meaning and pattern.

Perhaps this was the underlying fault in the whole production; not once were we moved on from the simple dichotomies of illusion and reality, art and nature, light and dark in the way Shakespeare's text should move us; rather we were left in the same comfortable certainty in which we started. The fairies' antics were finally no more than a mechanical contrivance for confusion, Bottom's transformation a chance for superior laughter, and the multiple pairings a proper instance of social order.

Producer Jacquelin Jones took Bottom's admonition all too literally:

Man is but an ass, if he go about to expound this dream.

**FOUR NEW ZEALAND POETS:
ALAN BRUNTON, DENIS GLOVER,
SAM HUNT AND HONE TUWARE**

The New Zealand Students' Arts Council announced today a national tour by four of New Zealand's most well known poets - Alan Brunton, Denis Glover, Sam Hunt and Hone Tuware. The tour is to start in Auckland at the end of March and will move through the coun-



try over the following five weeks, visiting secondary schools, universities and teachers' training colleges. Public performances in seven major centres will also be presented. The Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council has given the tour substantial assistance with a grant for performers' fees and allowances.

The tour proposal came from some of New Zealand's newly emerging poets who expressed the desire to read their works alongside their more well known contemporaries. The tour has been arranged so that in each centre one or two of the touring poets will visit schools, accompanied by a poet from the region. This tour will give an opportunity to many young poets throughout the country to read their works.

At each centre there is to be major public readings. Here an attempt will be made to highlight the more theatrical aspects of reading poetry, with careful use of lighting and stage techniques. In an effort to breakdown the limitations of mass readings, i.e. too many words, Mr Alan Smythe and Mr Wystan Curnow of Auckland have compiled two audio visual presentations using tapes of well known poets.

'The tour aims to bring poets into direct contact with the community, to give people the opportunity to probe the thoughts of the poet and to restore the tradition of the bard,' Ms Dianne Robson, Assistant to the Director, New Zealand Students' Arts Council said. 'It's difficult to predict exactly how this will go. It's never been attempted before.'

'The initial work done on the tour has produced an excellent response from many sections of the community. We have received lots of good wishes and undoubtedly the tour will do much for the New Zealand poet.'

WELLINGTON
Friday April 18, 8.30 pm - Union Hall,
Victoria University
Sunday April 20, 8.30 pm - Downstage

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COOKS AND STEWARDS.

Students who joined the Cooks and Stewards Union and worked on the ferries during the vacation are requested to attend a meeting to discuss conditions and suggest improvements.

Wednesday March 26th
12pm Activities Room.

Kevin Wright
Daniel Tan
Stephen Prendergast

HAN SUYIN

Internationally famous writer and lecturer on China is visiting New Zealand this month.

She will be speaking in the following cities on these dates:

Hamilton - March 17

Wellington - March 19 at the Wellington High School hall (Buckle Street, behind the Dominion museum). Admission \$1.00, children and senior citizens 50 cents. Tickets available from the DIC or from Mrs Nancy Goddard, secretary, Wellington Branch, New Zealand China Society, Phone 558 464

Dunedin - March 21

Christchurch - March 23

Han Suyin's visit is being sponsored by the New Zealand China Society.

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ROCK



POP, ROCK AND CARIBOU

Rolling Stone 15 August 1974: 'Caribou is not wearying in the same way as would be an album whose makers were bored with their work. Caribou is dispiriting because it logically extends Elton's weak strengths and strong weaknesses, the superficial powers that have taken him so far. The thin roots that kept him in touch with an organically nourishing topsoil have been sundered and at last he's on his own, fulfilling his weird hybrid nature in a self-designed hothouse, where nothing but lurid display is valued.'

Nearly every song on Caribou suffers from a blithe lack of focus, an almost arrogant disregard of the need to establish context or purpose. It's as if Elton and his band are so convinced of their own inherent

inspiration they no longer feel the need to establish coherent moods. Shifting from sentimental to heavy to mocking, they not only fail to touch all bases but undercut all credence they might possibly have achieved.'

Of all the superstars to come out of Britain in the seventies, Elton John is undoubtedly the most successful. And his continued success seems assured, for unlike his rock counterparts, Elton doesn't draw his energies from a largely decadent sub-culture which, always capricious, thrashes on everything for new kicks. His music is sophisticated pop. With lyricist Bernie Taupin, Elton has produced a number of very fine albums: each distinctive, each enormously popular. More recently, with 'Don't Shoot the Piano Player' and 'Yellow Brick Road', Elton has established himself as a grandmaster of pop.

Pop, that catchall music form with a traditional middle-of-the-road bias and a tendency for excess: but without the raw edges that define the boundaries of rock. It's a form which has always striven for precision and clarity, and for an aural rather than visual apprehension. Where rock is often primitive in its attempt to liberate, pop is ever only simplistic - a basic verse/chorus/verse/chorus/chorus structure, an instantly recognisable tune and a strong hook in the chorus. Its major strength is the simple melody (something which Elton always provides to complement Taupin's lyrics)

The relationship of pop to rock is an interesting one. Contemporary pop seems to have truly arrived when our counterparts in the fifties picked up on certain artists and openly flaunted them in the faces of their elders. It duly arrived in the course of the Historical Struggle, which the young were finally to win that superweapon of modern electronics - VOLUME! In the fifties the vanguard of pop was rock 'n roll, but at the centre was schmalz. By the early sixties schmalz had been stripped down, tightened up, and given grand treatment by producers such as Phil Spector; it was now attracting an audience of millions of bobby-soxed crazies to its new heart. When the Beatles spear-headed the English invasion (these metaphors can be treacherous) they spawned a multitude of imitators. Pop, then at its zenith, had bridged the oceans with devastating candy-coated diplomacy.

Meanwhile rhythm and blues was spawning rock; that beat-inspired, guitar-based behemoth which relied on volume and pitch distortion, (what Wilfred Mellers called 'the techniques of ecstasy'), to accurately capture the mood of the counter-culture: and later to voice the demands of a rebellious and dissatisfied populace.

On the American West Coast rock was at the centre of a whole new life-style; a movement which began to disintegrate after 1967. More recently the East Coast cities especially New York, were the leaders until the scene became stagnant in its own decay. Today the focus has shifted to the South: to groups like the Allmans, Little Feat, and Lynard Skynard and music with a fresh and welcome integrity.

Which brings us to Caribou.

Caribou, it seems to me, is essentially an American album: like 'Piano player' and 'Yellow Brick Road' before it, Caribou is the work of two artists who have embraced the superficialities of American culture as only foreigners can. It has, significantly enough, been dismissed by the rock establishment (in tabloids as far removed as Rolling Stone and Hot Licks) as being gimmicky and superficial; the main criticism being that none of the songs (except maybe 'The Bitch is Back') rock at all. Equally significant is its acceptance by less prestigious purveyors of the pop culture - the magazines which offer pin-ups of Glitter-Bandits and Good-lookers. (I remember also a rave review in Critic last year.) Thus, if Caribou is banal it is deliberately so, locating itself squarely in the realm of three minute pop fantasies.

Let's compare Elton with his rock counterpart David Bowie: both are superstars and both are English. There are interesting similarities. Consider 'Space Oddity' and 'Rocket Man' - both evoke a disturbing sense of the loneliness of space travel. Bowie's song is characteristically morbid, cynical: and Major Tom is less sympathetic than Elton's introspective traveller,

(Elton is always sympathetic - 'Levon' and 'Daniel' for example). Similarly with 'Starman' from Ziggy Stardust and 'I've Seen The Saucers' (Caribou). Bowie's song relies on campy, heavily-accentuated exuberance for effect ('He to-ld me, let the children etc'): Elton relates his fantasy in a direct, unembellished manner. Like all good pop singers, Elton croons sweetly, tenderly and most important - clearly. On all the songs the voice is up-front, clear and strong.

It may be that the main function of pop is story-telling. Where rock is usually confessional - the vocalist sings about his or her thoughts, feelings or experiences - pop reworks the traditional ballad form, telling a love story, usually in the third person. And like all successful pop lyricists, Taupin tells a good story. On Caribou one song 'Tickin'', is noticeable in this respect: 'Tickin'' is the album's most ambitious song, and the longest and is reminiscent of the work on Madman Across The Water. On this track the music builds slowly, inevitably to convey both frustration and futility in a forceful denial of the viability of the American Dream.

More recently Elton has: been elevated to the Playboy Hall of Fame, played on John Lennon's new album, and signed a contract with MCA for eight million dollars. His act was one of the few to draw concert audiences and to maintain consistent record sales in midst of the recessed economy in the United States last year.

So as the seventies pass the half-way mark, and despite the worst bodings from the prophets of doom, our civilisation progresses towards the Technological Age: its development being charted by musicians who, like Keats' poets, often prove to be the antennae of the race. All the signs are that the music of 2000 will be sophisticated and new.

And that it will be good.

Brian King

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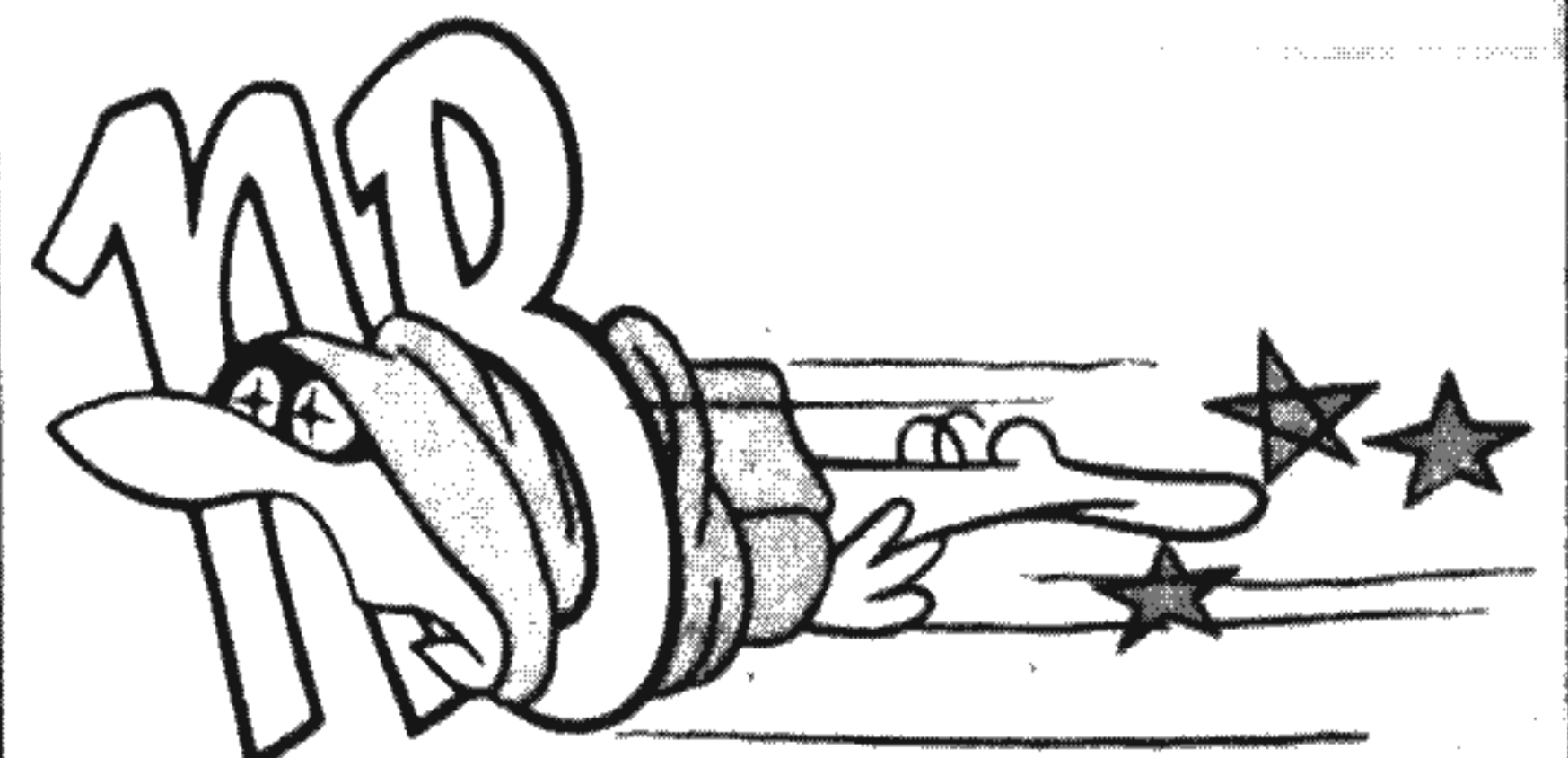
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PEACHES

TWO BANDS!!

Two concerts this week, both on Friday night. Saxonhair are playing again at St. Anne's Hall in Northland with Bandisguised, and Rockinghorse are at the Union Hall with Country Fliers. So it's a toss-up.

My suggestion is that you try and catch both concerts: the distance between the Union Hall and St. Anne's is not great — perhaps thirty minutes on foot via the Kelburn Viaduct.

Aficionados will no doubt want to check out Kevin Bailey, Bruce Robinson's recent replacement in Rockinghorse. (He's played with Clinton Brown and Keith Norris before in Taylor and they should be extra tight). On the other hand Saxonhair are Salient's tip for 1975 and no self-respecting concert-hall bandit would consider missing them. Anyway:

Union Hall, Friday 21.3.75
ROCKINGHORSE plus Country Fliers and supports, lights etc. Students \$1.50 at door.

St. Anne's Friday 21.3.75
SAXONHAIR plus Bandisguised.
Admission 50c.

Both concerts start at 7.30.

NOTICE: Rock Club AGM, 12.15
Wednesday 19th in Smoking Room.

WISHBONE ASH

IN CONCERT

Last Friday night at the St James Theatre in Wellington, there was a concert which featured the Australian group Hush, from Sydney. My initial reaction when they appeared on stage was a desire to laugh: they appeared to be just a little pretentious. This was particularly so in the case of the guitarist, who appeared to be trying to make himself look like Mick Jagger, with the same smooth almost babyish face, and the straight shoulder-length black hair. The effect was topped off by his pink clothing, with fluffy pink epaulettes.

After they had been playing for a while, however, one felt obliged to take Hush with rather more seriousness. They were supported by a good lighting job, which attained such heights as spotlighting the right people at the right time, in marked contrast to the usual lighting effort which one sees in such places as the Wellington Town Hall. They displayed a reasonable degree of musical competence, though no-one would suggest that they were technically brilliant. The line-up of drums, bass, and guitar was quite well balanced, though they tended to drown the vocalist, the fourth member of the group. The stage act was generally impressive, obviously being rehearsed, with the three mobile members of the band playing together, in meaningful spatial arrangements. It is unfortunate that they did not meet with a better response from the audience for what was generally quite a good performance.

All this was in marked contrast to their supporting act who followed them — an English group called Wishbone Ash. Apparently they were at the end of a world tour, and tiredness from this might be an excuse for what was a thoroughly bored performance, in which the performers appeared to be only in it for the money. Technically, the musicianship was of a higher standard than that produced by Hush, and the voice of Martin Turner could be heard clearly, even if the music was less together in other respects. But by the end of the concert, there were not a few empty seats, and you could see that there were some people in the audience who had dropped off to sleep.

The thing which annoyed me the most about the performance of Wishbone Ash was the complete lack of interest that they displayed. I did not see how they could possibly be enjoying playing their instruments as they were. The members of the group (except of course for the drummer, who tended to be fixed to one spot) if they were not doing a solo spot, wandered aimlessly around the stage, and if there was another member of the group not doing a solo, they would often retire to a corner of the stage for a chat — while still mechanically playing at their instruments. The musicians appeared to lack enthusiasm, and because of this, their music became boring to listen to. They went through some typical ruses of attempting to get audience participation, but on one occasion when band member Andy Powell attempted to lead the audience in clapping to the music, he failed through his own inability to clap in time with the music himself. But the humorous moment of the concert was when drummer Steve Upton made a speech about the Australians calling people such as themselves 'pommie bastards'. He said that Australians should be called 'Aussie poofers'. In the light of that concert performance one wonders who should really be calling who what!

David Tripe

YES

RELAYER by YES (ATLANTIC)

'Relayer', quite simply, is the best damn record Yes have ever made. I never thought they could surpass the brilliance of 'Tales', but they have. The introduction of ex-Refugee man Patrick Moraz on the ivories has, as with all Yes personnel changes, injected new life into the band.

As a whole, this album is far more aggressive than one would normally expect from Yes. This is mainly due to the fact that Steve Howe, as he said in a recent interview, has finally come completely to terms with the electric guitar. Howe's work on this album is almost completely electric, and his playing has improved no end; it sounds like he's been listening to McLachlan in parts. Alan White's drum work has improved vastly too, gaining a new tightness reminiscent at times of Bruford.

'Relayer's' magnum opus is a piece called 'Gates of Delirium', which comprises all of side one. It has a war and peace theme, and is probably the best of all Yes's 20-minute epics. It is divided into several sections, the first of which comes over as a stirring call to arms.

Then, a change: Reason speaks to dissuade the people from war:

"Listen should we fight forever
Knowing as we do know
Fear destroys."

Reason is cast aside:

"The Fist will run
Grasp metal to gun"

The battle begins. The instrumental work in this middle section perfectly evokes images of war. It is aggressive, percussive music. The group fight it out, with Howe's slashing guitar running very much to the fore. The music builds up to a climax, then — victory. Good triumphs over Evil. Moraz and Howe combines forces to bring the battle to a close.

Peace and hope for the future returns in the beautiful, melodic final section, with Anderson's atmospheric vocals out front, backed by Howe's steel guitar and some acoustic strumming. This is one of the most beautiful melodies Anderson has produced, and indeed, it does come over as uplifting and hopeful after the din of battle:

"The sun will lead us
Our reason to be here"

'Sound Chaser' begins side two, with a King Crimson-style jazz opening, which returns later in the track. Howe lets fly with the best electric solo he's ever put down, before the piece slows down again for the final verse. Back to jazz, then in comes Moraz with a brief but exciting solo. The rest of the group join in again for the freak-out final section.

The album closes with 'To be Over', one of those quiet, pleasant tunes in the 'And You And I' mould. This track is a link with side II of 'Tales'; listen to the middle section and you will find the main theme of 'The Remembering / High the Memory' restated in a different form. 'To be Over' also features a pedal steel solo from Howe — an unusual instrument for Yes, to say the least.

Yes have produced one hell of an album in 'Relayer', and it's my bet that the next one will outshine even this. Roll on April 13 at Western Springs!

David MacLennan.

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DRAGON

SCENTED GARDENS FOR THE BLIND by DRAGON

I remember when I first heard 'Vermillion Cellars' (the single from this album): Graham Nesbitt put it on the turntable like a man who has to quickly get rid of something radioactive. Or maybe it was just me.

'Vermillion Cellars' — after playing the song over and over I still don't know why it has this title. All of the songs on 'Scented Gardens' are unusual: all very exotic. I keep seeing pterodactyls flying around the primeval swamps inside my head, it's that kind of album. Imaginative, evocative, compelling.

Two songs, 'La Gash Lagoon' and 'Sunburst' have the same delicacy as, say, 'Close to the Edge'. 'Sunburst':

Far above the eagle flies
Dream the dream, light the light
It's alright.

the organ dominates, colouring the music, extending the edges: suddenly the drummer cuts in as the lead guitar and bass rivet another line, and the music soars like a bird in flight:

I don't know how far I'll go
Before I leave this life behind.

'La Gash Lagoon' is strangely beautiful:

I've seen them at day's end
Trying to drive the city dreams away.
They don't want to say it
But they hope that tomorrow will
be a better day.

The music sweeps into the heart of a Polynesian that is romantic and dangerous. It's a musician's album finally: Dragon establish aural vistas in the mind with the precision of some archetypal acid band. The music on Side One is the best I've ever heard from a New Zealand band: the three songs on this side are destined to become classics. Unfortunately Side Two is not so good; 'Grevlynn Candy' is uninspired: the tempo is corny, and the ending is electronic nonsense. 'Darkness' isn't much better — straightforward feaking music. Which leaves the title track.

'Scented Gardens for the Blind' is really and extended madness piece, just like the book. (Janet Frame's Mayor, you'll remember, planned to plant especially aromatic flowers so that the blind could appreciate the gardens too.) Only Dragon's madness is more like the stoned ramblings of a third-rate and juvenile plagiarist than the genius of a serious talent.

It is clear that Dragon have assimilated sounds from overseas: there are suggestions of Bowie ('And it was alright, to see the people all in smiles, And it was alright, Jim Morrison had them in the aisles') and of Lou Reed ('In the evening when the coloured girls go, all night long'). In context, however, these lyrics describe how we continue to ape the cultures of other countries and worship their stars. As such they reveal Dragon's real strength; whether great or mediocre their songs are original and true.

'Scented Gardens' is the best album I've heard for months. I strongly recommend it.

Brian King.

SPORTS

WEIGHTLIFTING AT VIC

In the already overcrowded weightlifting room in the gym, new things are happening. The weight mechanics are grabbing hold of this Olympic lifting thing like it's gone out of fashion. 'What's Olympic lifting?' you say. You know, all that snatch and clean and jerk thing, that you saw the Russians, Rigert and Alexeev doing at the last New Zealand Games. In case you are thinking (careful now) that it's all grunt and groan, the lifters will tell you different. Quite apart from the already enthusiastic mob of weight trainers, the lifting boys are finding out all sorts of weird and wonderful things about 'mechanics' 'angular momentum' and 'application of forces along a straight line'.

Of course it's rather a crowded sort of room down there and there's a few nongs down there who keep the place in an acute state of chaos. So the enthusiasts have encouraged these characters to keep the place tidy, by gently wrapping six feet or fractionally less than two metres of quality New Zealand iron round their heads.

If you have read this far in the article, either you are an avid reader of rubbish or maybe you are interested in the weightlifting scene. If you are (it doesn't matter which) jog along to the old gym, tie up your sandshoes and mosey down the old weight room or enquire of the physical welfare officers as to just what this old weightlifting is all about.

TANGERINE DREAM

ELECTRONIC MEDITATION by TANGERINE DREAM.

Stand guard Kiwis: The Germans are coming! The latest piece of Krautrock to reach these shores is Tangerine Dream's 'Electronic Meditation'. As avant-garde aficionados will know, this 1972 offering predates the Dream's other albums released here, 'Atem' and the popular 'Phaedra'. (It's interesting to note that Festival is responsible for this release, whereas EMI brought out the other two.)

It's impossible to tell from the record, but I presume the lineup of Tangerine Dream to have been the same as for 'Phaedra': Chris Franke, Peter Baumann, and mastermind Edgar Froese, who composed all 5 tracks (he's just released a solo album for Virgin).

The amateurishly designed cover is perhaps the biggest disappointment of this record. The liner notes attempt to explain the album's concept; a musical journey through a burning brain, through its birth, death, and resurrection. In print this seems like so much metaphysical nonsense, but the music itself evokes many suitably vivid images.

What of the music? Compared to tracks like 'Phaedra' and 'Mysterious Semblance at the Stand of Nightmares' which are great for drifting off into a stoned stupor, much of 'Electronic Meditation' seems harsh, discordant at times. The barrage of synthesizers, mellotrons and keyboards are less in evidence, guitars, drums and flute playing a correspondingly more significant role, giving the album a heavier, more rhythmic feel.

Side I is full of interest: a slow build-up, the incursion of flute and drums, then sonic guitar screechings. Musical disintegration seems inevitable, but they somehow slide out of it, an ethereal flute and organ taking over.

Side II similarly begins slowly, then builds up with drums, becoming reminiscent of Pink Floyd's 'Interstellar Overdrive'. The flow is suddenly interrupted by heavy breathing, then it resumes, only to be cut by a church-like organ and some Germanic ravings, the album fading into electronic drones.

La 'Electronic Meditation'? A most worthwhile album, if not as accessible as 'Phaedra' (my flatmates were unimpressed). Sadly, it seems destined to enjoy the fate of obscurity faced by other Continental progressive groups like Amon Duul, Can, and Gong.

Kenny.

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SURFRIDERS CLUB

There is a surfers club on campus, of a low membership though it may be 1974 was an inactive year. However, it was an active club in years gone by and promises to be even more active this year. We have two 8' x 6' x 5' nylon trampers' tents for weekend trips, which on long weekends might stretch as far as New Plymouth and Gisborne. On a less grand scale we usually have day trips (Sundays seems to be traditionally suitable — give or take the Saturday night head) which straddle the countryside to Castlepoint, Palliser, Lake Ferry, Titahi Bay, Lyall, Houghton, etc. etc.

Basically, if you can get yourself (plus board, although you might be able to borrow someone's) to the Cenotaph by Parliament Buildings at 8.00 am on the Sundays selected, we'll (those with cars) endeavour to find a pub.

We've got \$24 social funds so membership is minimal (50 cents) — helps petrol subsidies.

Easter tournament is coming fast and it would be good to send a team. This would make it into more of a competition sport. Contact Derek McCorkindale 331-232 (home) 46-040 ext. 915 (business)

Grant Dyson

RUGBY LEAGUE

The Victoria University Rugby League Club will soon be commencing another winter season and all those who wish to be involved in either playing or administration are asked to contact R. Taukamo, phone 892-287.

Last season this university won the Rugby League section of winter tournament being unbeaten and it is hoped an equally strong team will be fielded this year both in local club and winter tournament competitions.

It is of no importance if you have not played this sport before as all that does matter are interest and determination. Many ex-Rugby Union players have made the grade in the past and few would revert back to their original code. The opportunity is yours!

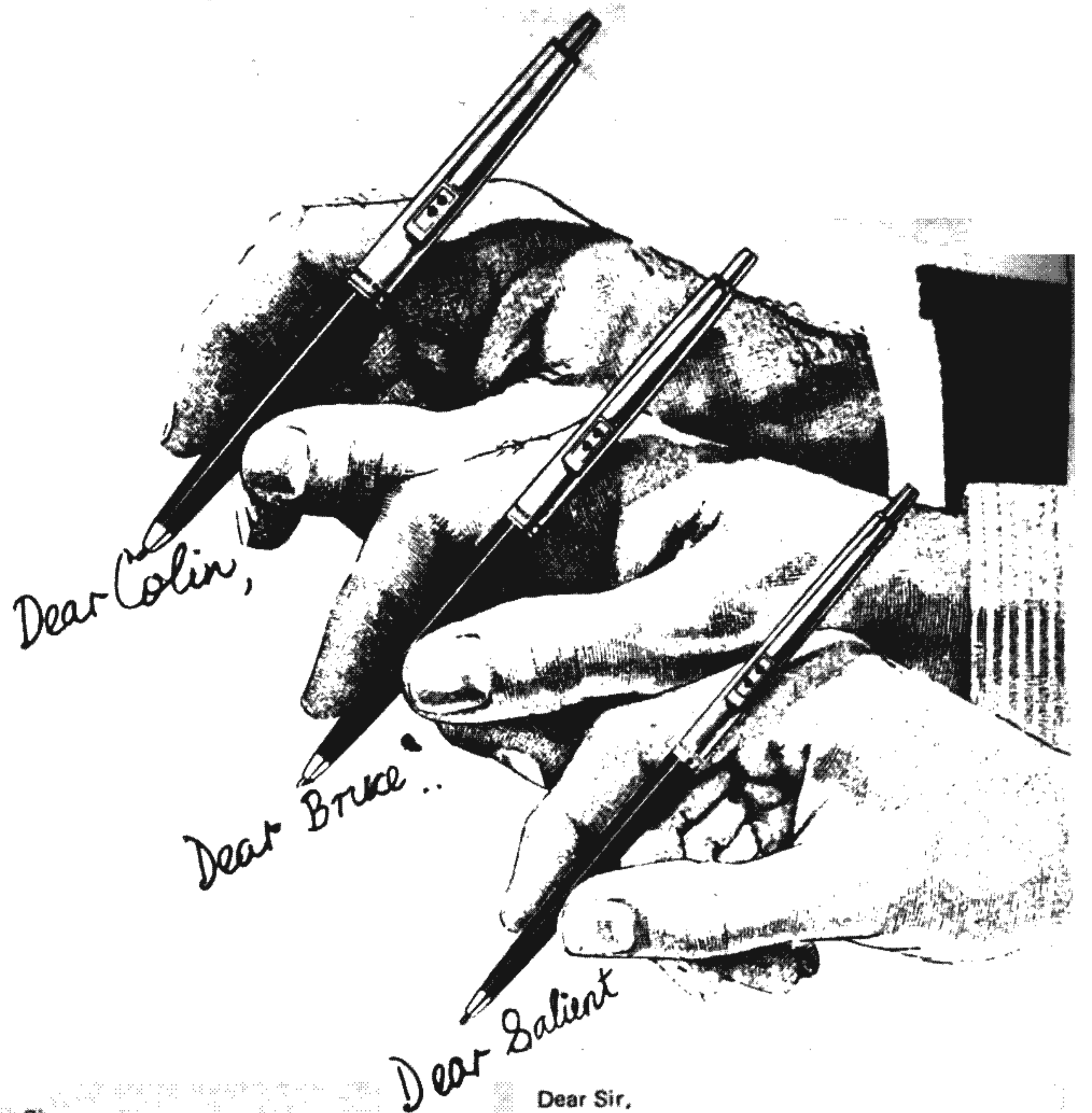
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Dear Sir,

I have just received from a young student friend cuttings from the SALIENT relating to the proposed demolition of Hunter House.

I was a student 1910 - 1915, when Hunter House was Victoria University College and a framed photo hanging on the wall of my flat is one of my prized possessions.

I am sure many old students, like myself, would be aghast at the idea of destroying the old building not only for sentimental reasons but also from aesthetic considerations and to have it replaced by a modern structure would be nothing short of sacrilege.

If the decision became solely one of finding the necessary funds to finance the strengthening of the building, I am sure a nation-wide appeal to ex-students would meet with a ready response.

Of course I realise many men treated the college as a night school and took no part in the corporate life of the college - but even these I am sure would be very adverse to seeing a lovely building such as is now Hunter block being destroyed.

With best wishes to you all in your efforts to preserve a building so full of happy memories to so many people.

Sincerely yours

Ernest H W Rowntree

Dear Salient,

Many forms of poetry are recognised and hallowed because of their complexity or their simplicity, their rigidity or their freedom of style. For some reason the toilet wall style of poem has not received the recognition it deserves. It follows a definite pattern - rhyme pleasing to the ear and easing to the bowels eg 'I sought relief and found only pain, I'll never eat in the cafe again.' There is a basic honesty always to be found in it, no pretention no - in Mel Brookian humour - jerking off in trying to create something that will only be critically analysed by stuffy intellectuals. The toilet wall poet uses a medium immediately accessible to the ordinary man (with regular habits). Because the reader is removed from a pretentious position and put into a basic functional one the poetry does not need pretensions but relies only on basic functional language. Its accessibility also lies in its not being hidden away in dusty tomes but displayed in a convenient position - usually at roughly eye level from a seated position - and does not contain any implied warnings like 'don't change, disfigure or mutilate' that other art forms have but instead invites addition or alteration. Having become aware of this vital but too often suppressed form of expression only recently because of an unmentionable stomach condition I have decided to do an exhaustive survey of all the works of our local talent. I am hoping that legislation will go through soon legalising homosexuality as it will enable me to carry out my work without undue interference from the police. I hope by writing this that other people might, instead of staring at their shoes and trousers round their ankles, become aware of the delightful little snatches of doggerel that are there for their enjoyment. Also I hope that once they become aware they try their hand at it too, of course one must start from the bottom and work up as a novice could not expect to write anything comparable to 'Here I sat broken hearted, tried to shit but only farted' but with years of selfless dedication to the cause could become a master. Here's hoping that I can look forward to many more enjoyable bogs on campus this year.

PM

Dear Sir,

In the last issue of SALIENT, there was an article, noticeably unsourced, but which I gather was derived from Tricontinental Press, on the subject of multinational corporations. After due consideration, I would venture to describe this article as possibly misleading or misdirected. Multinational corporations appear to be being blamed for all the problems brought about by foreign investment in underdeveloped countries, as the source of dual economy problems, as responsible for all capitalist exploitation, and for the enduring balance of payments problems faced by less developed countries. Multinational corporations should not be regarded as a problem isolated from all the other problems of the capitalist economic system, as they are in this article.

Although I am no admirer of the activities of the multinational corporations, it is much too facile to blame them for all the problems of underdevelopment... for example, the remission of profits earned by multinational corporations to the investing countries should be contrasted with the similar drains on poor economies caused by the interest payable on loans from the World Bank and other aid-giving organisations. A dual economy situation, in which a highly developed export sector coexists with a peasant farming system, can still occur when the export sector is under domestic ownership. And it would be hard to believe that the prime reason for United States military intervention in Indo-China was the need to protect investment by United States companies in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Certainly the activities of the multinationals pose problems for many countries, but it is foolish to suggest that they are the only things causing problems.

David

FAIR USE OF LIBRARY CARRELS

Dear Sir,

Just a few lines regarding the allocation of carrels at the library.

1. A number of them be reserved for the use of Honours students as a group.
2. Masters students may be allocated one each - on application. This is in view of the fact that a number of them need their own carrels.

The above arrangement will enable undergraduates to use the rest. This will minimise the problems of having books left on the carrels by the graduate students. However the same problem may worsen if the carrels are not allocated at all.

Here's hoping the library authority may look into this matter.

Yours sincerely,
INTERESTED

Dear Mesdames/Sirs,

I want to make clear that not all of the article on Women's Studies signed with my name in the latest SALIENT was in fact written by me. In particular I refer to the section on the administration's attitude to the course. The emphasis in my article was on the fact that only student support and constructive criticism will have any real impact on the form and status of the course. I made no reference to the attitude or behaviour of the administration.

Debbie Jones