

# SALIENT

Victoria University Students' Newspaper

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## Presidential election declared invalid

The Students Association is without a President-elect for 1976 following the decision of the Arbitration committee declaring the recent election invalid.

The sequence of events leading up to the decision started the day after the declaration of the result (Mr Beckford beat Mr Hay by 32 votes). On August 14 S.F.G. Hay LLB, the defeated candidate wrote to Kelvin Ratnam, the Returning Officer in charge of the election. In his letter he alleged that there was material and substantial interference in the election process.

as follows:

1. SULLIENT. The appearance of 'Sullient' on the day before the elections he alleged, was an 'obvious attempt to interfere in the outcome of the election in that it was 'grossly defamatory and criminally libellous' and designed to 'secure the casting of votes against (him) me.'

2. In the election supplement printed in 'Salient' before the election Mr Beckford's manifesto was considerably longer than the 200 word limit for manifestoes.

3. On page eight of the same issue of 'Salient' there was an editorial comment

which attempted to influence voters against him and could not be construed as fair comment on his policies.

4. On the front page of the same issue there was a caricature and commentary which constituted a deliberate editorial effort to influence votes against him.'

Mr Hay concluded by saying that 'in these various respects deliberate attempts were made to interfere in the process of the election' and that because of the narrow margin between himself and Mr Beckford and the 'particularly malicious nature of the articles referred to 'he wanted his complaints referred to the Electoral Committee.

The electoral committee consists of three persons appointed by Executive who appoint the Returning Officer.

The Electoral Committee decided to appoint three arbitrators to decide whether or not the election process had been 'interfered with' enough to call it invalid. Accordingly they called a hearing to hear both the complaint and evidence from interested parties on September 3 1975.

The purpose of the hearing was to determine the validity of the election and

not to decide on individuals and their alleged malpractices. However, as can be seen much of Stephen Hay's assertions focused on the alleged deliberate character of the alleged malpractices.

Evidence was also given by the other concerned parties, particularly the Returning Officer and the Editor of Salient.

On the basis of evidence produced at the hearing and investigations of their own the arbitrators came to the decision which is reprinted in full below.

It is important to note that the crux of the decision is that the arbitrators decided that the editorial comment on page eight formed part of the election supplement and therefore destroyed the impartial nature of that supplement. Because the vote was so close the committee decided that the irregularity could well be deemed to have had a material effect on the outcome of the

election and therefore ruled the election invalid.

Other important points in the decision are that the editorial freedom of 'Salient' is not questioned. It was integral to Hay's submissions that 'Salient' was constrained to be impartial with regard to elections; Stephen Hay's points 1-4 were all, strictly speaking, dismissed; and the committee's decision that the election supplement should be quite separate from the rest of 'Salient' changes established election practice (which they, in fact, implicitly criticise for becoming too lax); finally the committee lays blame, if it can be said to lay blame at all, firstly on the Returning Officer for inadequate supervision of the election supplement and secondly the editor of 'Salient' for interfering in the election supplement.

**THERE WILL BE A NEW ELECTION HELD WITH THE SAME CANDIDATES. POLLING DAYS ARE TO BE OCTOBER 1 & 2. POLLING WILL BE PRECEDED BY NEW CAMPAIGNS AND AN ELECTION SUPPLEMENT IN SALIENT.**

## ARBITRATION COMMITTEE'S DECISION

1. The complainants in this disputed election claim that there was a "material and substantial interference in the election process." In reaching our decision we have had to consider whether the election was executed with the proper formalities and whether the electors were able to cast their votes without hindrance and with freedom in choosing a candidate for a particular position. The particular task is to examine events comprising the election against the requirements of the Constitution. The Constitution does not go into laborious detail or contain a definitions section relevant to elections. Accordingly, for interpretation we have drawn on our own experience or involvement in University politics, as it seems was intended when we were described as arbitrators.

2. Specific complaints were made by the complainant, Mr Stephen Hay, and five (5) other electors and we will deal with these separately.

3. During the course of the hearing it was alleged that there were irregularities in the execution of the election in that

- 124 voting papers were invalidated because a polling officer omitted to write his initials on them
- there was no standard practice regarding presentation of I.D. cards.

4. We have considered the evidence of the Returning Officer and his chief assistant and consider that, in respect of this complaint, the election was properly executed.

5. Regarding (a), while we consider that there was no alternative to declaring the voting papers without the initials of the polling officer invalid, the large number of invalid papers in this election is a matter for concern. We heard vague allegations that a polling officer may have attempted to predict the likely voting behaviour of voters from their appearance and then failed to initial the papers of those not favoured. We therefore examined the invalidated papers. It was clear that even if they were declared valid the election result was not disturbed and the allegations appear completely unfounded.

6. Regarding (b), we do not consider presentation of I.D. cards to be a requirement of the Constitution or invariable practice and it is therefore irrelevant.

7. We have been asked to consider the effect of the publication 'SULLIENT' on the course of the election. This was published on the day of the election forum and apparently defamed some of the candidates. SULLIENT is an ad hoc publication which appears every election time. Anonymous and clandestine, it usually seeks to raise doubts as to the honesty, purity or capability of people or factions within the University. This particular SULLIENT appears to tell worse lies about some candidates in the VUWSA elections than candidates in the national elections are telling about each other. We personally consider them equally ineffective.

8. In any event SULLIENT is not an official publication. It had a limited circulation and was presented in a way that should have aroused the suspicions of a critical reader. We see no way a Returning Officer can control such matter and do not consider it invalidated the election.

9. The newspaper SALIENT featured in the rest of the complaints made.

10. One concerned the printing of a cartoon and commentary on the front page of SALIENT of 8 August which seemed calculated to influence voters against several candidates. We do not question the right of the editor of SALIENT to have, and to communicate personal bias. In fact we consider it part of the normal political process for individuals or cliques to seek to influence the content of SALIENT. Accordingly, we consider the alleged bias of SALIENT articles immaterial in examining the validity of the election.

11. A further complaint concerning alleged bias in an editorial article on page 8 of the same pre-election SALIENT. The article commented on the relationship existing between certain candidates and sought to persuade electors that the election of these candidates would be detrimental to students in general.

12. Section 29 of the Schedule to the Constitution governing the Conduct of Elections reads as follows:

"An Election supplement of Salient shall be issued under the authority of the Returning Officer and shall be paid for by the Association."

At the hearing into this matter the Returning Officer, the Editor of Salient, and the chief complainant and, in fact, all others present appeared to agree that pages 8 and 9, the two centre pages of the issue, constituted the required election supplement. We doubt, however, whether the material on pages 8 and 9 constituted a supplement — incorporated as it was into the body of SALIENT.

13. Whether it was a supplement or not, in our opinion, the draughtsman of Schedule 2 of the Constitution assumed the right of SALIENT editors to say what they liked in SALIENT generally but took steps to safeguard the rights of electors by prescribing that an election supplement should be printed in SALIENT under the authority of the Returning Officer and paid for by the Association. We consider that this provision exists to ensure that electors have opportunity to reflect on the policies of the candidates in the election as those policies are stated by the candidates themselves. As its publication forms part of the official election process, and is a duty cast upon the Returning Officer, we consider he should be scrupulous to ensure that its form exhibits the same impartiality as characterises his other election activities.

14. In examining the alleged supplement we have had regard to practice in previous years and to Part T of the Constitution which directs that acts need not be invalidated by failure to comply exactly with formalities so long as there has been substantial compliance. We considered the argument that only the candidates pictures and statements need to be taken as the election supplement. It was noted that a Magistrate conducting an Electoral Inquiry is, under the Local Election and Polls Act 1966, directed to determine "whether by reason of some irregularity that in his opinion materially affected the result of the election ... the election is void."

15. In our opinion, the critical editorial article would have received increased attention by proximity to the candidates statements. It formed part of the official VUWSA election publication and we consider it should have gained some respectability through this association even though it carried a by-line. We consider a principle must be reasserted: that the Supplement should stand apart from the editorial pages of SALIENT and contain nothing which might influence the choice of electors other than the policy statements of the candidates themselves.

16. We have therefore decided that the extra editorial material in view of the very close result, did have a material effect on the result of the election and accordingly the failure to comply with the strict formalities can not be waived. **THE ELECTION IN RESPECT OF THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT IS DECLARED INVALID.**

17. The complainant also relied on the fact that the successful candidate's policy statement exceeded an editorially prescribed limit of 200 words by some 160 words. It is our opinion that no clear advantage was gained as a result and in view of the above decision the matter is irrelevant. However, the circumstances which occasioned this breach as outlined to us at the hearing, emphasise the need for a stricter regard to the formalities of the Supplement. It appears that over some years there has developed a laxity in clearly distinguishing the respective jurisdictions of the editor of SALIENT and the Returning Officer in this area.

18. Our decision does not affect the validity of the elections for other positions. The small margin separating the presidential candidates was a crucial factor in our determination that the technical breaches had a material effect on the elections. The only other election which resulted in a narrow margin for the successful candidate was that for the position of Sports Officer but neither of the candidates for this position were discussed in the material article.

Signed:

S. Franks C. Knox P. Rendall  
**ARBITRATORS**



# EXEC

"Mr Henderson, would you please stop flicking paper and moving the table - this is not a seance!" Chairperson Sacksen warned as she drew everyone's attention to the Divine Light Mission's application to hold a rock concert in the Union Hall.

To the uninitiated like myself, executive meetings come as a jolt to the system. Whatever happened to the exciting debates, the passionate oratories and the fierce cross-table exchanges that send chills down your spine and make you feel glad that you live in a democracy?

Last Monday coolness and logic prevailed only broken by cries of "Order! Order!" from the chair, chuckles from vice-president Beckford as he gobbled four of the acting secretary's peppermints and a flurry of paper from myself as I attempted to jot down the witticisms before "Did you get that John?" was chanted for the 2nd time.

But central issues still remain. What decisions are your elected representatives making and how well are they individ-

ually carrying out their elected functions?

Reports from several executive members read like a primer for "why I was late for school" book. SRC Co-ordinator Dave Cunningham, seemingly having nothing to report on the SRC front, gave a run-down on latest happenings from the Standing Committee of the University Council. Apparently the topics of the week are the refunding of Henry Isaacs' fees as a contribution towards the NZUSA Southern Africa Scholarship, and negotiations over the power of waiving studass fees in the cases of hardship or conscience.

Vice-President Dianne Hooper had also very little to report - in fact she had nothing to report. She is devoting time to preparing a printed supplement for the Campaign Against Foreign Control in New Zealand (NZUSA prior to 1976).

Gyles Beckford has been organising the reprinting of stationery for the

Student Association's newly acquired University Bookstore and in between chatting to the academic registrar about new I.D. cards, he has been 'farting' around SASRAC for a few hours.

Cultural Affairs Officer Barbara Leishman put her report before the executive with the suggestion that a campus film society should be set up. She suggested that it should be a club (something like the food co-op) under the control of exec and SRC, with a five member committee. After some discussion over whether or not it should have an annual subscription, or whether or not it should be linked with polytech and training col or Students Arts Council, it was held over for further discussion.

Publications Officer, John Henderson reported on the last Publications Board meeting and suggested that the exec discuss next year's political climate. Unfortunately others were not so interested in discussing climates so the matter was first laid upon the table then surrounded with curtains, and finally pushed onto the floor.

Studass treasurer Mike Curtis, still looking groggy from his late night stints in the stockroom of the Victoria Book-

centre expressed his pissed-offedness with the Auckland University Students' Association and its president, Claire Ward, for taking it upon themselves to support a nuclear protest march through the North Island at the same time as a far more important event, the Land March. Following a motion from Mike, Lisa will now write a letter to AUSA expressing the exec's "disapproval" of the timing and opportunism of the march.

Sports Officer Kevin Wright, having checked that the Underwater Club was still underwater and the Hang-gliding club was still hang-gliding, made a gallant effort to obtain \$70 for the Ski Club as a refund for money individuals had spent in entering the Ski Tournament. His comment "I'm not sure what's going on now" summed up the state of the debate, and so the Ski Club missed out on its money until accounts were forthcoming from the tournament organisers.

President Sacksen and Acting Secretary Aagaard, leading the way in all things, packed up their papers. John Henderson rushed off to burn some libellous papers. Another executive meeting was over.

## '76 EDITORS APPOINTED

This year's most important Publications Board meeting strove hard to gain a quorum before it could elect the editors for the 1976 Handbook and Salient. Lisa Sacksen, the only applicant for Handbook Editor, was duly elected. Then, with the atmosphere charged (mainly with John Henderson's OB) the main business of the evening was raised. Applicants for 1976 Salient editor were: Robert Pui; John Ryall; and David Newton, Leigh Thompson and Martyn Cook standing as co-editors. "I thought there was another applicant" says Bruce Robinson. Henderson squirms: "I received a late application from Johnathan Hughes [founder and President of the Friends of

Salient Assn] but I know it's a put up job so I've refused to accept it", he says. Henderson nearly loses his job in the outcry that follows and Hughes' application is accepted and promptly forgotten.

The main debate centred around applications from Ryall, and the three-in-one package of Newton/Thompson/Cook. The trio presented a well thought out manifesto which attempted to define some reasons for student apathy and their proposed cure for it. Amongst the more imaginative of their proposals was to have an intensive pre-planning period over the Christmas break to develop "Subject of the Week" articles around which the whole paper could be based, giving a degree of continuity at present lacking. Each of the applicants were willing to work full-time on the paper next year.

Ryall on the other hand, presented a more traditional line. In fact his manifesto looked as though it had been copied from a speech by J. F. Kennedy and indicated that he is relying on the support of the student masses to turn Salient back into the paper it once was. The classic mistake of reader participation being overestimated repeats itself! The choice before the Board was the usual traditional radical approach vs. the potentially liberal, but new style of Newton and Co. Also underlying the debate was choosing between the lesser of two evils: to have an editor with affiliations with Cath. Soc as opposed to the trio, two of whom have commitments with Christian Union.

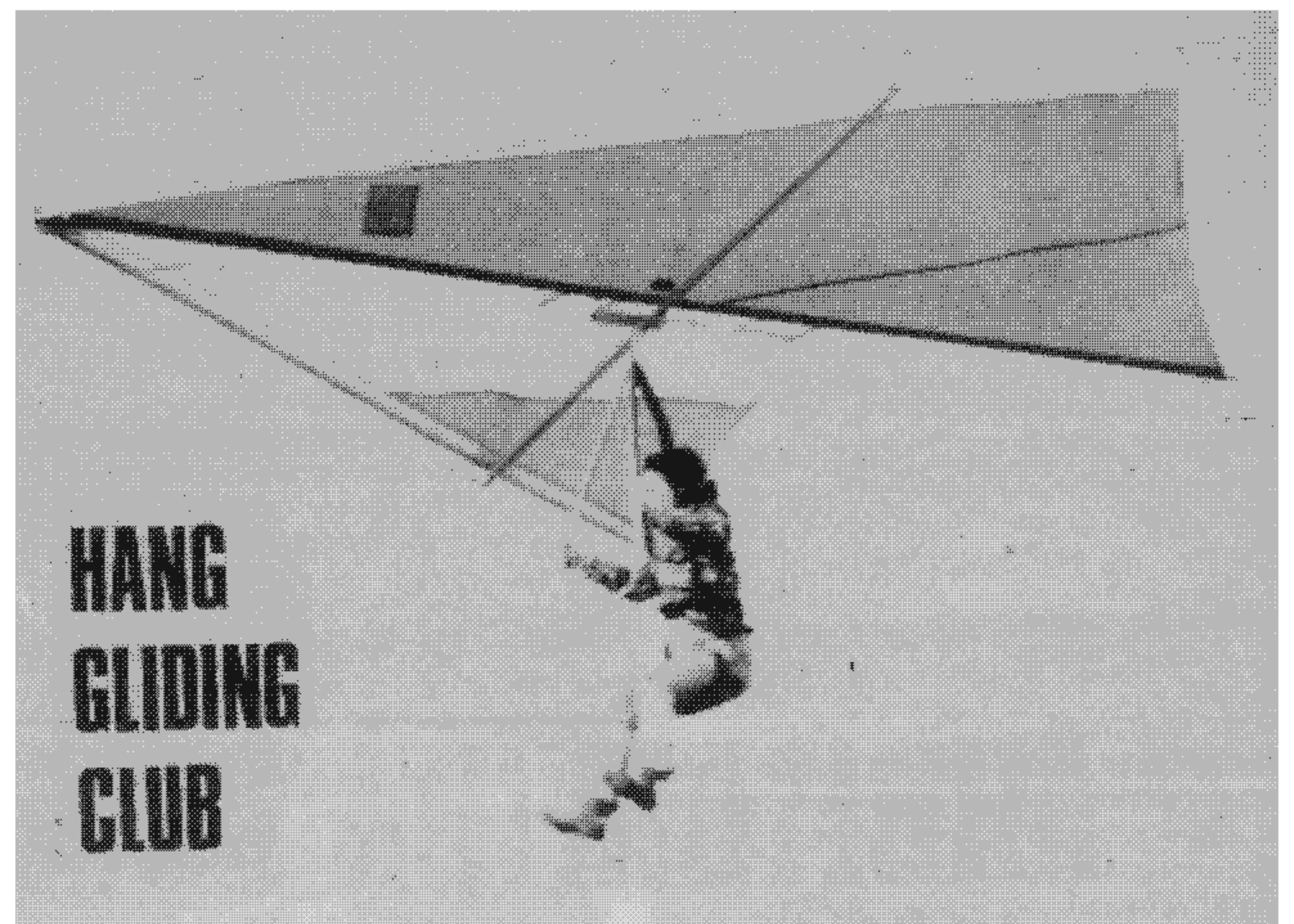
It was a close contest, but the traditional style won the day with John Ryall being elected as next year's editor. So to all of you concerned students who plan to be here next year, here's your chance to do something with your life: WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR SALIENT!!



This man is suspected of being the Publications Board Treasurer. Question: Can he play water polo with an overdraft?



On the right: Lisa Sacksen, next year's Handbook editor: on the left: Bruce Robinson, this year's Salient editor - once was enough.



Hang-gliding club has recently purchased its own professionally built glider. Several enthusiasts in the club are willing to teach you how to get into the air and then safely back on the ground. This new sport is very spectacular and offers great potential on the long summer days ahead.

It has already been discovered that Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki Hill are amongst the best easily accessible soaring sights in the world. Soaring is flying a glider along the face of a cliff in such a manner so that you can stay airborne for as long as you want. Another advantage of these sites is that if the pilot is skilled enough he can travel back on the top of the hill.

Although Wellington has good sites for the skilled person there is very little in the way of good training hills which are not obstructed in some way. Later

on this term, and after finals the club hopes to organise trips out of town for either weekends or weeklong periods. One place suggested is we take over the ski club hut. Although flying gliders in the Tongariro National Park has been banned, there are several good training areas just outside the park.

When people are just learning to fly it is essential that the conditions are right. This usually means the wind should be blowing steadily straight up a slope and not at an angle to it. The club will not let its glider be used when the conditions are not right. The club usually meets in the smoking room on Fridays at 12.30 p.m. Come along if you want to find out more about this new sport. You can also join the club by leaving your name at the Students Association or phoning Kevin 757-347 or Ian 698-150.

## S.G.M.

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting will be held on Friday, 26th September at 12 noon in the Union Hall

#### Items of Business

Moved: Aagaard pro forma

"THAT the NZUSA levy be increased to \$1.50 and that provision be made in the budget for an additional research officer."

If there are any more matters of business which Association members wish to discuss, they MUST be handed in to the Studass office by 4.30 p.m. on Monday 21st September.

Peter Aagaard  
Interim Secretary



## SCHOOL'S OUT:

### Wellington Central candidates have a go at students

by Randolph Churchill

About 500 students turned up to the election forum for Wellington Central candidates last Wednesday lunchtime. The forum which was chaired by National Affairs Officer Kevin Swann remained lighthearted throughout as the four candidates provided much in the way of intentional and unintentional humour and little in the way of serious discussion.

#### David Shand - Labour

The first to speak, David Shand, intimated that he belonged to 'a thinking persons party' and proceeded to list Labour's 'achievements' while in office. After this he listed some of his stands on local issues - most appeared progressive. However, more interesting was his re-gurgitation of the Labour line that 'we could have had unemployment but...' followed by dire warnings about what National would have done and plan to do. Although it is a fact that in the main Labour has attempted to keep down unemployment its treatment of migrant workers, among other groupings, has been shoddy. Shand attempted to say that despite the downturn in the economy Labour has not attempted to restrict the entry of migrant labourers from places such as Tonga. Unfortunately the falsity of this statement backfired on Shand the next day when a front-page article in *Salient* demonstrated that as a direct result of Labour's changed policy the influx of migrant workers from Tonga has dropped to less than 10 per cent of its former level.

Shand obviously had a lot of supporters and the applause he received when he reminded us that it was a Labour government who pulled NZ troops out of Vietnam was greater than at any other stage in the meeting. But despite my sympathy to the guy for losing by 27 votes to someone like Ken

Comber I felt that as with his statements on Tongan immigrants he was less than honest and seemed distant from and condescending to the students in the audience.

#### Ron England - Social Credit

No-one asked Ron if he belonged to a thinking man's party but he was asked if he was a serious candidate. His answer concentrated on the value of having a third party in Parliament which he considered sterile otherwise. He outlined Social Credit's stand on a number of issues informing the meeting that they had put a green paper on the environment. He summarised the Social Credit stand as being neither the capitalist way or the socialist way but for a new society based on the individual.



When I say law and order I include you down the back there with the paper dart.

When the time came for questions Ron didn't get many so he took the chance to outline a few more policies. The meeting was not amused but Ron kept on. Among other things he explained that members of the League were bound only to the League's fiscal policy should they ever be in the position of having a vote in Parliament. On other matters members would have a free vote.

#### Ken Comber - National

To the cry of 'Take it away landslide' Ken Comber started a speech that bordered on the evangelical. Apart from Ken's inability to circumlocute big words his message was fairly predictable. He identified the major issue as the management of the economy and supplied the usual National Party figures to prove his case of Labour mismanagement. He went on at length, also, about this country's debt to the farmers and how policies must be made with farmers in mind.

Early on Ken developed a habit of forgetting both the time of the day and the month of the year. He referred to the forthcoming August holidays and to a political opponent 'who is in the audience tonight.'

On trade unions he was again predictable preaching about the 'gangster trade unions which are holding New Zealand to ransom. Asked if a well-known monolithic, undemocratic and reactionary union going under the name of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union qualified for this appellation he ignored the question to tell us how he (as shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation) believed sporting tours should not be interfered with. It is interesting that he justified his support of apartheid sport by referring to the rights of the individual but when questioned about homosexual law reform he said he opposed this plea for individual rights because it was not in the 'best interests of New Zealand!'

Other snippets of interest are Comber's support of the Task Force - 'we have a community interest in this field' - and



Spot the MP.

once again his remarkable command of English - on the question of import controls he said we were living beyond our means and that we must cut down 'right across the border.'

#### Des Kelly - Values

Speaking last Des Kelly spoke in a practised stage whisper so that the audience which had got quite spirited during Ken Comber's speech had to listen quietly to the most vague of all the candidates.

Des spent most of his time making jokes about the other candidates and their parties but little on explaining himself or his party. Eventually he mentioned that New Zealand's population was rising in a roughly geometrical progression and that food production was rising only in an arithmetical progression. But this piece of Malthusian cant (Malthus was an 18th Century christian apocalyptic who blamed poor people for causing their own distress by breeding too rapidly) hardly stands up as a policy or a basis for a policy. Finally he did get onto policy. Values opposed foreign control of raw materials and industry, he said and immediately followed this one piece of information about Values policies with the claim that we should vote for Values because it had the only coherent policy of social reform!

Later on during questions a few more details of Values policy were gleaned from him. Values supported homosexual and abortion law reform. Values supported full employment and would have adopted the same policy as Labour during the current economic crisis. Values wanted a steep income tax gradation system going right up to 100% at the top level. Values also believed management and workers should co-operate. Workers should be on company boards and he saw 'no reason why they shouldn't be there' which completely ignores why workers aren't on boards in the first place. In fact, Values Industrial Relat-

ions policy appears to have got progressively more right-wing recently. Even the words 'worker control' were studiously ignored by Des Kelly. Lastly, Values allowed no free votes on so-called matters of conscience (there being party policy on what other parties have called matters of conscience).



Now...three votes a minute..ten minutes.. I'VE WON

One question which he did not answer perhaps gave better comment on his personal acumen. Asked about the important issue of the continued existence of the Auckland Task Force all the other candidates appeared informed and had opinions on the matter. Des Kelly could only say that he did not know much about it.

#### Conclusion

During the whole of the meeting some student at the back kept muttering 'schoolboy politicians.' As a concise comment it summed up the rather dull and petty characters of the election candidates for Wellington Central.

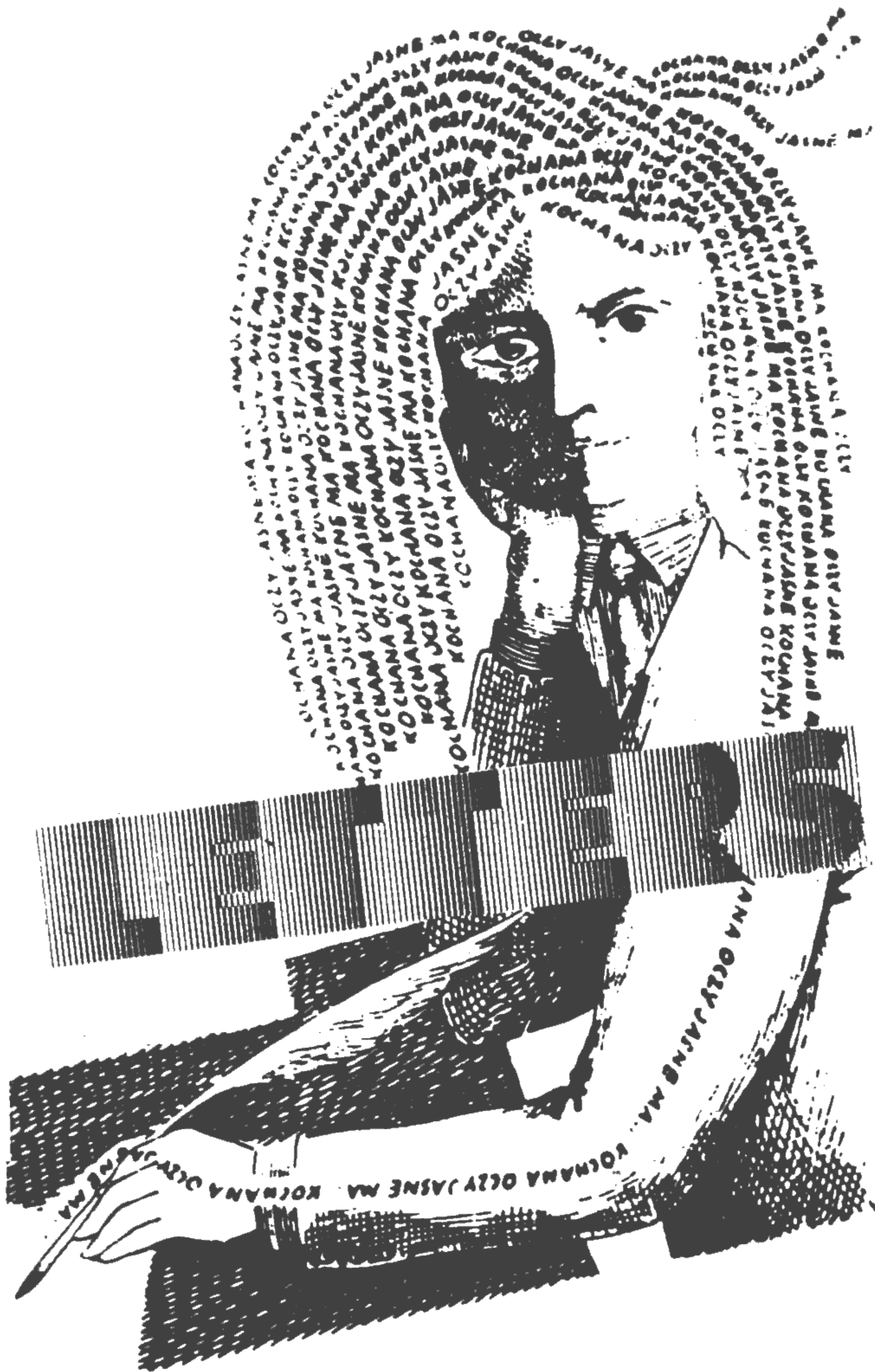


Above: Des Kelly  
Below: Ron England



Our prediction.....





Letters are indeed drifting into Salient – but nowhere near enough. As long as your writing is legible, your prose (or poetry) contains no libel, and you send it to the right address your letter will get into Salient. It's a marvellous offer and all you need to do is to sit down and find something to gripe about or something to sing praise of and write a letter about it and address it to:

**SALIENT, PO BOX 1347 WELLINGTON or ...**

**DROP IT INTO THE LETTERBOX JUST INSIDE THE DOOR TO SALIENT or ...**

**GIVE IT TO ONE OF THE STAFF OR THE EDITOR.**

## APOLOGY

Some of you who were expecting to see your letters appear in this issue will be disappointed. This is not due to any editorial decision but to a technical problem. We apologise for not being able to print these letters and hope to present them in next week's issue.

## 'Bluechip' stocks always win

The Editor,

As a shareholder I have to agree with M.H. Wilson that brewery shares would certainly have been a poor investment over the last few years. The steep fall in stock exchange prices is caused by the shift of capital to areas of higher profit and less subject to the effects of inflation. The small investors who while numerically large possess only a tiny part of the aggregate capital, have been the main sufferers, while the speculators are thriving along with the big financial institutions which can afford to wait and take advantage of the fluctuations in the market.

Over a longer period, however, of 15 or 20 years the figures would certainly bear out Mr Ward's argument. The chan-

ging fortunes of different enterprises and the boom and bust cycles normal to a capitalist economy could then be balanced out and a general trend established. In the liquor industry the trend toward monopoly is unmistakable. The recent surge of inflation and the effective contraction of markets have reduced real profits and hit the breweries especially hard. Their reaction - typical of monopoly - was to buy up their competitors and put up prices, resulting in further contraction of the market. Like so many other 'blue chip' stocks brewery shares have fallen heavily and are continuing to fall. For the small investor the behaviour of breweries shares illustrates an apt description of the stockmarket as '(the place) where capitalists despoil one another.'

M. Scott

## 'MSA Should make a stand'

Dear Sir,

It is understood that MSA will be holding its AGM on the 20th of September. Before the election, I would like to draw the attention of the members concerned to think about the past events of MSA.

WMSA used to claim to represent the viewpoints and interests of the Malaysian students in Wellington; as a member, I strongly feel that I have the rights to question the present executives of MSA on certain issues:

The Solidarity Week for Malaysian and Singaporean students in Wellington was held from 28th August to 3rd September. The programmes included visual exhibitions on various aspects of life in Malaysia and Singapore, forums, film shows, etc. Now the Solidarity Week has elapsed for more than two weeks and I am quite disappointed with the attitudes of MSA which shows no sign of positive reaction before, during and after the Solidarity Week. On behalf of most of the Malaysian students, I would like to know what stand the WMSA has towards the Solidarity Week? Why MSA remains silent and prepares to sit back throughout the Solidarity Week?

It seems that the interest of MSA as revealed from its activities are parties, dances and sports. On the contrary, MSA has never touched upon any socio-economic and political problems in Malaysia, such as the squatter problems in Tasek Utara, the student demonstrations in Malaysia in support of the hunger strike of the people in Baling, the introduction of greater repressive legislations and so on. If MSA does not prepare to make any comments or statements on these happenings, we may just conclude that MSA shows no support for the rightful demands for the under-privileged.

NZUSA has long been showing great concerns and supports on we the Malaysian students by launching campaigns on Malaysia like Khoo Ee Liam case and Eastern Cultural Concert, etc, throughout various centres in New Zealand. Therefore, MSA which claims to represent the interests of the Malaysian students should appreciate the good work being done by NZUSA. As we know that there will be a nation-wide campaign on the Halt All Racist Tour (HART) issue next year, MSA should then show its moral support and promote student solidarity.

Knowing the existence of these problems, students must make full use of the 'Golden' opportunity in the coming AGM of MSA to question the candidates what are their stand on these issues.

Overseer

Salient is edited by Bruce Robinson, published by VUWSA and printed by Wanganui Newspapers Ltd., Wanganui.

## Green knits while NUS burns

Dear Editor,

Your report on the NUS Working Party and the so-called unhelpful attitude of NZTISA members calls for a reply, especially as the attitudes of certain NZUSA members, in our opinion, left much to be desired.

When the question was asked how a national union of students could help our small developing student associations, David Cuthbert's reply was to the effect that it was hard cheese if the strong associations had the major control of such an organisation. What does one expect the reaction of our members to be?

Question for Sue Green - Is a reasonable attitude to be described as sitting at the end of the table and knitting throughout the meeting?

Yours disgustedly,

Joye Cookson  
Jeremy Templar  
NZ Technical Institute Students' Assn (Inc)

## Breweries shareholder sits back and takes it

Dear Mr Wilson,

I don't know the fluctuations of the share market between 1970 and 1975, but if one assumes the NZB shares remained at about \$1.70 each the nett income of the holder of 100 shares in 1970 would approach \$100. The 1:5 issue in 1970 would give 20 shares - if sold at \$1.70 each these would provide \$41. The 1:10 issue in 1974 would on 100 shares produce 10 shares, if sold providing about \$17.

Hence nett income on 100 shares would be:

1970	3.75
1971	6.25
1972	6.25
1973	8.75
1974	7.50
1975	6.25
	38.75

1971 share bonus sale 41.00

1974 share bonus sale 17.00

total income 96.75

This is definitely a far better investment than the P.O.S.B. My heart bleeds for the N.Z.B. shareholder.

The system used for D.B. shares is considerably more complex, but I am sure a careful analysis will show similar potential for profit.

L.G. Weeber

## Criticisms of Breweries article

Dear Bruce,

I'd like to respond to the criticisms of my breweries article in last week's Salient.

To Brewery Shareholder and ECON student, I suggest that a word's definition is often ideological. He/she is correct in its conventional usage. In radical economics however (e.g. Baron and Sweeny 'Monopoly Capital' (Penguin) p20) 'monopoly' has a wider usage meaning a concern controlling a large enough share of a market to heavily influence what is going on in it. It was in that sense that the word was used in the article.

To M.H. Wilson, who takes an inordinately long time to make three basic points, I confess error on using figures that:

1. assumed the shares par was \$1 and not 50c
2. got part of the bonus/cash issues confused
3. did not make allowance for capital losses.

While the last is always a difficult beast, so M.H. Wilson's figuring has some suspicious accuracy about it, I am grateful to him/her for pointing out these mistakes. However, I would appreciate more information on how these mistakes affect the other substantive points of my argument. I am also a little perturbed at my supposed penchant for half-truths, falsehoods, misconceptions and emotive journalism. Does M.H. Wilson have evidence to support this or does it display the penchant on his/her part?

In short, while M.H. Wilson is correct in pointing out three mistakes, I don't think these greatly affect the substance of the article or the conclusion.

Anthony Ward



Suggestions for Solidarity week organisers

Dear Sir,

Solidarity Week for Malaysians and Singaporeans is over. Its aims to promote socio-economic-political awareness, to appeal to students to drop their apathy and to show concern to the poor, were very good but its long term effects will not be very far-reaching. Why? It was the wrong approach. It seems to me that the organisers didn't think very carefully about the methods they used. It was too 'hot' for the masses to take. Even the name itself 'SOLIDARITY' to most of the Malaysians and Singaporeans, appears too red.

Political ideology is the main key to a meaningful life but it takes time to learn and longer time to accept. The organisers should understand that most of the Malaysians and Singaporeans in New Zealand come from the middle class. You mustn't expect them to overhaul their thinking within a short time. Don't forget 'WHITE TERROR' still exists.

I would suggest that:

1. The organisers should try their best to understand the masses. Who are friends and who are enemies? To unite those who are friends and then patiently by all means to win over those who are non-progressive or even reactionary. This is a long process. You should remember that revolution is not simply a 'dinner.' It does not occur within one day or one week nor at set hours. It comes from struggles and sacrifices. The revolutionary tree needs good organising and patience as fertilisers, if it is to be fruitful.
2. The organisers shouldn't be too individualistic. It is extremely bad and dangerous to a movement if they are too arrogant or stubborn.
3. The organisers should plan properly before they do anything. That is, they should plan a movement with thoughts and then action and not just with action.

The aspect which I consider as being most successful, were the exhibitions. They really depicted a real situation in our beloved country. That is:

1. Malaysia is in a state of profound crisis. This can be seen in terms of economic inequality, social deterioration, general poverty and in the forms of total neglect suffered on all fronts by the workers, the peasants and other exploited groups.
2. Malaysia is a capitalist country, dependent upon imperialism and dominated by sectors of the bourgeoisie allied to foreign capital. These sectors are unable to solve the fundamental problems of the country, problems which are derived precisely from class privileges.
3. For the great majority, however, life is a hard struggle to sell their intelligence and their labour day by day and on the whole they are deprived of the right to decide their own future.
4. In Malaysia the 'Reformist' and the 'Developmental' formulae applied by the Government have not succeeded in making any important changes.
5. The development of monopolistic capitalism prevents the spread of democracy and encourages the use of violence against the people. Violence exists wherever some own luxury homes while next to them the greatest part of the population lives in insanitary conditions and others do not even have a place to live; there is violence wherever food is thrown away by some while others do not have enough to eat.
6. Imperialist exploitation of backward economies takes many forms. It can take the form of investment in mines, rubber plantations and in industrial activities, both in banking and in commerce; it can mean technological control that forces us to pay the highest prices for equipment, licences and patents. They dominate important branches of industry and of the service industries. They create an imbalance in our agricultural industries. They penetrate our educational system and our culture. Because the ruling class is an accomplice to this situation and is incapable of independent survival, our foreign debt increases.

7. The owners of capital are concerned only to make money and not to meet the needs of the Malaysian people.

8. Malaysia today pays a very high price to maintain the group of businessmen who control the economy, who manage the political system and threaten the state when it refuses to grant them favours: That is,
  - They must be given some forms of 'special aid' otherwise they will withdraw their private investments,
  - They should be able to place profits in accounts of foreign banks.
  - They may sack workers who demand higher wages.
  - They may manipulate the distribution of foodstuffs or their manufactured goods with a monopoly enabling them to increase demand raise prices and thus continue to enrich themselves at the expense of the people.

9. Thousands of families are homeless and landless.

10. Neither the educational nor the medical needs of the people are sufficiently considered.

11. 40% of the total population receive wages which are not enough to cover their minimum needs.

12. The effects of unemployment or of irregular work are felt by a lot of people. Countless young people find opportunities for work both difficult and uncertain. Disguised unemployed are everywhere.

13. The facts prove that inflation in Malaysia is caused by forces fundamentally related to the capitalist structure of our society and not by salary increases as the government has tried to claim in order to justify maintaining the system and reducing the worker's income. The big capitalist, however, can protect himself from inflation and indeed can profit from it. His properties and his capital increase in value. His construction contracts with the government are adjusted accordingly and the prices of his products continue to rise and always keep ahead of any rise in prices.

One thing which I consider most disgusting is the MSA. In fact I am sick of mentioning it. It is not worth criticising because it is a 'dead' body. Its policies are only 'Young fellows should enjoy themselves first?' and 'Why should I be bothered with the poor?' Isn't it disgusting!!

'Yes and Just action'



Kim's tune ill sung

Dear Bruce

I would like to reply to Mr H. R. Kim who questions my article on Korea and believes that I have fallen victim of "the false propaganda of the North Korean Communists". ("Salient", August 8th)

I will confine myself to a few points in the interests of brevity.

(1) Mr Kim thinks that per capita income and export figures destroy my case. It must be a great comfort for south Korean workers who slave 10 hours a day, six days a week, for 35 cents a day, to know that per capita income is rising. Especially when their rice takes more than half their income. It must be a great comfort to the peasants, who are subjected to 100 different taxes to squeeze grain from them in addition to that which they must sell to the government.

South Korea is so successful that it can only produce 60% of the grain needed by the people to keep alive. In 1969 its grain output was two-thirds that in 1937. The irony is that south Korea used to be the granary when Korea exported grain.

It must be comforting to the south Korean people who have no democratic rights whatsoever, to know that exports are up. For them, any protest against Pak's fascism is followed by threats, armed repression, jail, torture and death.

(2) The Korean war. The actual facts about June 25, 1950 are these. For months prior to the May 1950 elections, which the Rhee regime decisively lost, both Rhee and his defence minister threatened to invade the north, declaring that they were ready to "take Pyongyang within a few days" and "do all the fighting needed". Rhee's troops had already made incursions into the D.P.R.K. on more than 400 occasions in 1950, 25 of them on four days between 3 June and 6 June. On 23 June Rhee's troops bombarded several villages north of the 39th parallel.

At dawn on 25 June the Rhee army launched a full-scale offensive which took the town of Haeju, five miles north of the 38th parallel. The D.P.R.K. radio declared that unless Rhee's army was withdrawn, the north would launch a counter-offensive and it began at 3 p.m. the same day. On June 26, 1950, the "Manchester Guardian" carried the following item (datelined Seoul, June 25): "The American officials confirmed that the South Korean troops had captured Haeju, five miles inside North Korea, near the West Coast." Of course, a small fact like this is missed out of all the pro-American histories of the war.

Recently, one of Pak's former henchmen, the retired south Korean navy chief of staff, Li Ryong Un, told the Japanese daily "Asahi Journal": "I can say, however, that every alleged threatening act by the north, whether charged by Syngman Rhee or by Pak Hung Hi, was without exception a provocative act by the military forces of south Korea." Li has also revealed a secret raid on the north which he led on August 10, 1949. Under his command, the south Korean puppet navy shelled the north Korean warships and fishing fleet at Monggumpo. He stated: "With the surprise attack on Monggumpo as an occasion, the war preparations were rapidly pushed ahead. . . . In fact, the war was started by the south." Presumably, Li, like myself, is a victim of "false north Korean propaganda".

And Mr Kim might recall the photos of John Foster Dulles, the notorious war-monger, inspecting the 38th parallel one week before the outbreak of war. During his visit Dulles gave the Rhee regime his personal assurance of American support.

(3) Actually it is irrelevant which side crossed the 38th parallel first; American policy from 1945 onwards ensured that war in the Korean peninsula was inevitable.

The United States unilaterally decided on the 38th parallel as the military demarcation. Unfortunately the Soviet Union accepted this declaration by the United States. The Moscow Conference in December 1945 formalised it. At the same conference a five year trusteeship was imposed on Korea. Denounced by the communists and bourgeois nationalists alike, riots broke out in the south against the trusteeships. Within three days of Japan's surrender, the Korean resistance movement formed a People's Republic Government which the United States refused to recognise and later outlawed on December 12, 1945.

In a parallel to Vietnam, the United States installed the Rhee regime in the south. Rhee's so-called Democratic Council was based on landlords, capitalists and pro-Japanese elements, all leading liberals in the south having refused to join it.

Rhee began suppressing the opposition immediately. A former official of the US military government admitted that the

Koreans' "condition became much worse during the American occupation than it was before." (A Wigfall Green, "Epic of Korea") Uprisings against Rhee's rule broke out repeatedly, the most important being at Yosu and Cheju Do in 1948 where large numbers of puppet troops went over to the people.

Mr Kim's reference to the United Nations are laughable. They could only fool schoolboys or apologists for fascism. Until recently the United Nations was completely dominated by the United States and was manipulated to force-through policies which served it.

The rigged elections held in May 1948 had been boycotted by every important political grouping in the south, apart from Rhee's. The most important rightists, apart from Rhee, went to the pan-Korean conference in Pyongyang in April 1948, where, along with communists and progressives, they supported peaceful reunification and opposed the US-imposed elections.

The Rhee regime combined forced voter registration with mass terror: official ROK figures give 589 dead in clashes in the five weeks immediately prior to the poll and 44 dead and 62 wounded on election day. (No doubt, Mr Kim will claim that the "communists" were responsible.)

The UN observers numbered thirty, including both delegates and secretariat. The commission endorsed the election in a report which was written in the tranquillity of Kuomintang Shanghai in its last days. It was headed by US puppet states like the Philippines and El Salvador which had never had an unrigged election in their history. Malleable states like India and Syria were also included.

(4) I am at a total loss to understand the meaning of Mr Kim's long quotations showing that north Korea will support the south Korean revolution and will reply to any invasion of the north with war. I pointed this out myself, and I applauded this revolutionary stand of the D.P.R.K.

The D.P.R.K. has consistently adhered to a policy of reunifying Korea independently and peacefully, without war or reliance on outside forces ignoring differences in ideology. In fact, as late as June 19, 1950, the D.P.R.K. Supreme People's Assembly proposed the unification of the Seoul and Pyongyang assemblies to facilitate peaceful reunification. The three envoys sent to Seoul on June 11, 1950, to discuss reunification were arrested — and presumably shot — by Rhee. If the south wants war, the north is ready to reply and smash the puppet regime once and for all.

(5) Mr Kim claims that the gunman who shot Pak's wife did so on orders from the north. This is quite absurd. Being Marxist-Leninists, the D.P.R.K. leaders do not engage in individual terror. They know, as well as I do, that the assassination of Pak would not change the character of his fascist regime one bit. It is the regime which must be smashed.

There are other, more credible, possibilities. One is that the gunman acted alone. In a terror-ridden society like that in south Korea, this is not impossible. Another is that Pak himself had his wife shot, for reasons which are unclear. One possibility is that he got sick of living with the former mistress of his former master, one Captain Johnson, an American intelligence officer.

In the interview quoted earlier, Li Ryong Un said that the alleged assassin, executed for the crime, was innocent. Sources within the Pak regime told Li that ballistics evidence in the possession of Pak showed the accused slayer's innocence. In fact Pak was having an affair with a movie starlet, Yun Chong Hi. His wife objected to this strenuously, and Yun was exiled to Paris. Within days of Mrs Pak's funeral, Yun turned up at Kimpo airport VIP lounge to a grand reception from senior government officials. Mr Kim, no doubt, will say that Li is a victim of "false north Korean communist propaganda."

Lastly, I couldn't help laughing at the magnanimous way in which Mr Kim didn't have me investigated, or as he put it: "Though I did not, and do not want, to find out about the writer of the article . . ." What a bloody cheek! He must think he is back in south Korea where threats like this are followed by visits from the butchers of the Korean CIA.

Yours fraternally,

Terry Auld



by Christine Gillespie

The idea of housewives being paid a wage by the Government seems reasonable. We work hard and do an essential job which deserves recognition and support. It hardly seems fair that so central a role be unpaid, with only our husbands' and childrens' love as reward.

There are a lot of people pushing the wage for mothers issue: the Homemakers' Union, the Values Party, and several M.P.'s, and while none of them agrees on where the money should come from, or who is eligible, they all applaud it as a sound notion.

I don't There are many good arguments against any wage which the Government might grant, and arguments against a wage of any sort. A 'token' wage could increase social divisions, reinforce women's economic dependence and low standing, and divert money away from public facilities which would help mothers - such as child care centres, automatic laundries and other community services. Even an adequate living wage would reinforce the view of motherhood and the home as women's only proper sphere, and multiply the difficulties of women choosing to work outside the home.

The payment of a wage effects a great number of women. It is therefore important to consider the arguments advanced in its favour.

### Equal Opportunity

*It is argued that a mother's wage would make the choice to stay home with children a real one - since the economic reasons for taking paid employment would be reduced; with equal pay widening the gap in living standards between one income and two income families a home-bound parent severely limits the family income - thus housewives and their families suffer economic discrimination.*

A reasonable assessment of the market value of a housewives work, counting overtime and weekend penal rates must surely be about \$10,000. The figure which is actually being thrown around is \$520 per year - \$10 a week! This 'Token' would hardly solve the problems of a family in economic need, could never substitute for a second wage and cannot be considered a living wage! It might pay the petrol on a second car, but for working people on a small wage it would be a puny contribution toward the family income.

Another negative consideration is the effect diverting the estimated \$62 million annually would have on the provision of community services useful to mothers working inside or outside the home. One probable effect is Government inaction on child care, be it short-term relief or full-time day care - it would undoubtedly be the cheap way out of providing the buildings, equipment, training programmes, staff salaries, and maintenance of good quality child care. It could also prejudice the employment opportunities of women, making their dismissal during recessions more acceptable. It would kill any chance of getting the unemployment benefit for married women, since the State could pay the much lower wage rate. All this would vastly multiply the difficulties of those families the wage is supposed to help. Only those already earning a surplus income would prosper.

### Dignity and Status

*Paying mothers will reinforce a homemaker's role as part of the economic workforce and one of great social value. It will give women dignity and self-respect, and reduce their economic dependence. The status of the homemaking role will be enhanced.*

Even if one is to accept that the only way to realise social value is through monetary reward, this argument self-destructs. \$10 a week is by anyone's standards a pittance and hardly a genuine recognition of the importance and

significance of homemaking. An unrealistically low wage would have the opposite effect of that intended - it would reinforce the very poor status of housework - its lack of dignity and value.

It is hard to see how a little pocket money each week means economic freedom for women either. While it may help those women who never get enough housekeeping money from their husbands, it will not give them an adequate living wage. And as has been pointed out before, the men who expect their wives to create happy homes out of thin air will just reduce the oxygen - give them \$10 a week less.

It would be an insult to expect us to be grateful for gold stars, as though we were children to be driven on to greater heights of devotion and self-sacrifice by a word of praise and a token reward. Real recognition of value means positive assistance - practical help and an acceptance of a social obligation to support the homemaker. And that means providing the goods and services to ease the job, while allowing women the opportunity to earn their financial independence.

### Justice

*(a) If a housewife got sick, or left, a housekeeper would have to be employed. She would then be paid for the same work the housewife does for nothing.*

A housekeeper is employed by the family on defined terms, hours to be worked, tasks to be completed and so on, and is paid out of the family income. The housewife's position is different in that it is her own home and family she is maintaining. In an equal marriage she has equal

access to the family income anyway, and equal say about how it is spent. Where the husband's attitude is backward, and he does not adequately maintain the family then a wife can seek maintenance from him, even though they are living together. It would help women in this position if it were made a much easier and less humiliating process.

*(b) This argument rests on the fact that women at home are severely disadvantaged in their 'employment' conditions. They get no annual leave, no lunch break, no holiday pay, no time off, no overtime payments, have no union and no employer. Somehow a wage will compensate for all this.*

The fact that women working in the home endure bad conditions is partly a reflection of the way employers view such isolated work, and partly a reflection of the backward attitudes some men have towards women and housework. Neither will be favourably effected by a wage for mothers.

Outworkers - women doing sewing or clerical work or packing at home - have had to put up with very bad conditions of employment. They are poorly paid. Often if they don't fill their quotas they lose their jobs - no matter what the circumstances. Domestic home-helpers also suffer the disadvantages of isolated work and unregulated conditions. They have no union to protect them. All these workers have is their inadequate wages.

A danger of emphasising the financial aspects of the housewives' position is neglecting the other disadvantages we face, particularly isolation and the lack of relief. Even the most devoted mother

needs some time away from her children. While it is vital that men be persuaded to accept their share of responsibility in housework and child rearing, other means of supporting and relieving mothers must be provided. Short-term child care, community centres, cultural, artistic and educational facilities, neighbourhood creches and nurseries are as necessary for the full-time mother as for the employed mother.

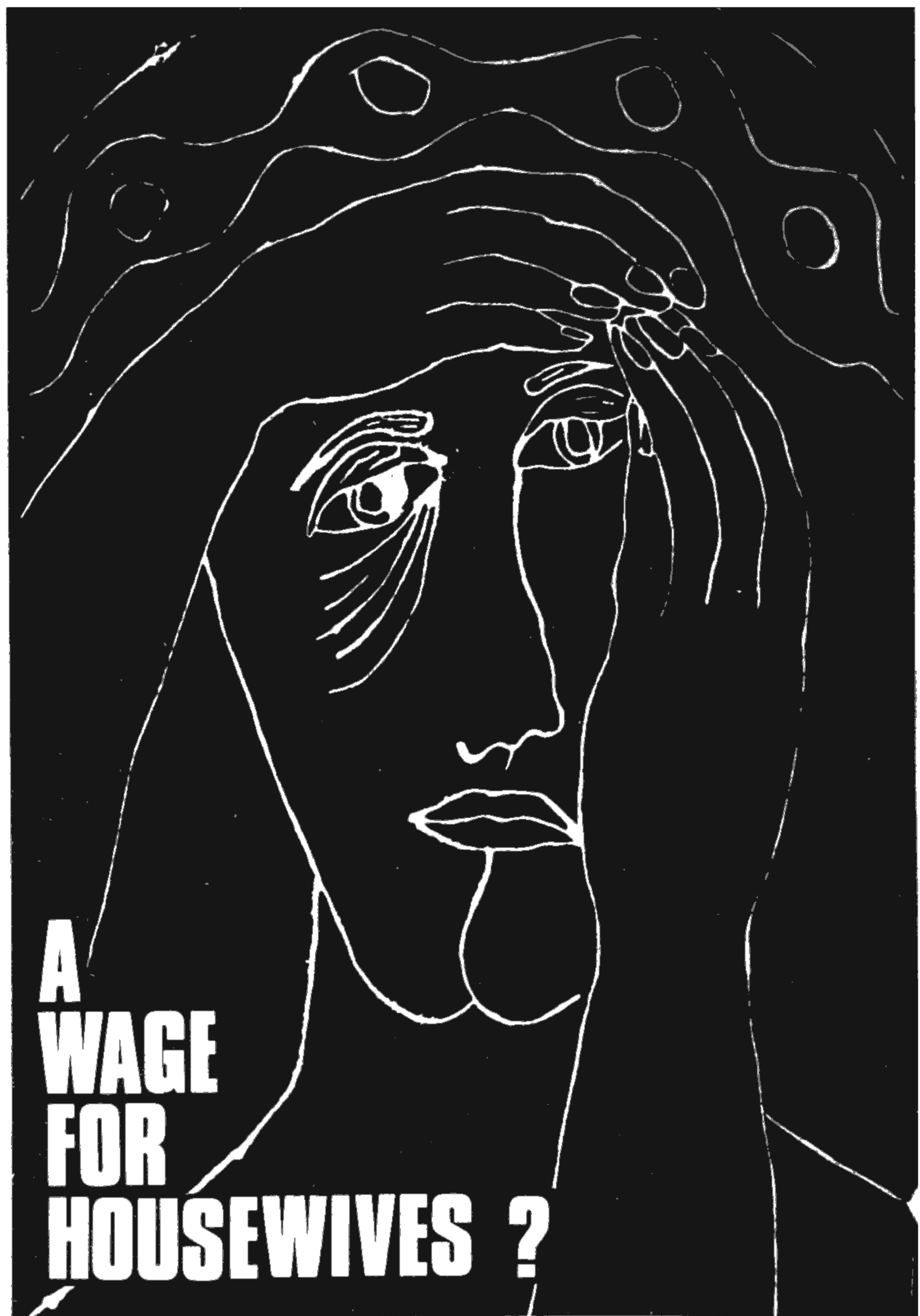
A token wage meets none of these needs.

### Maternal Responsibility

*A wage for mothers will encourage women to stay at home.*

\$10? Not much of an inducement! The base of this argument is actually that child care centres are bad for children, or that available creches are of poor quality. 'No-one can care for a child like its mother.'

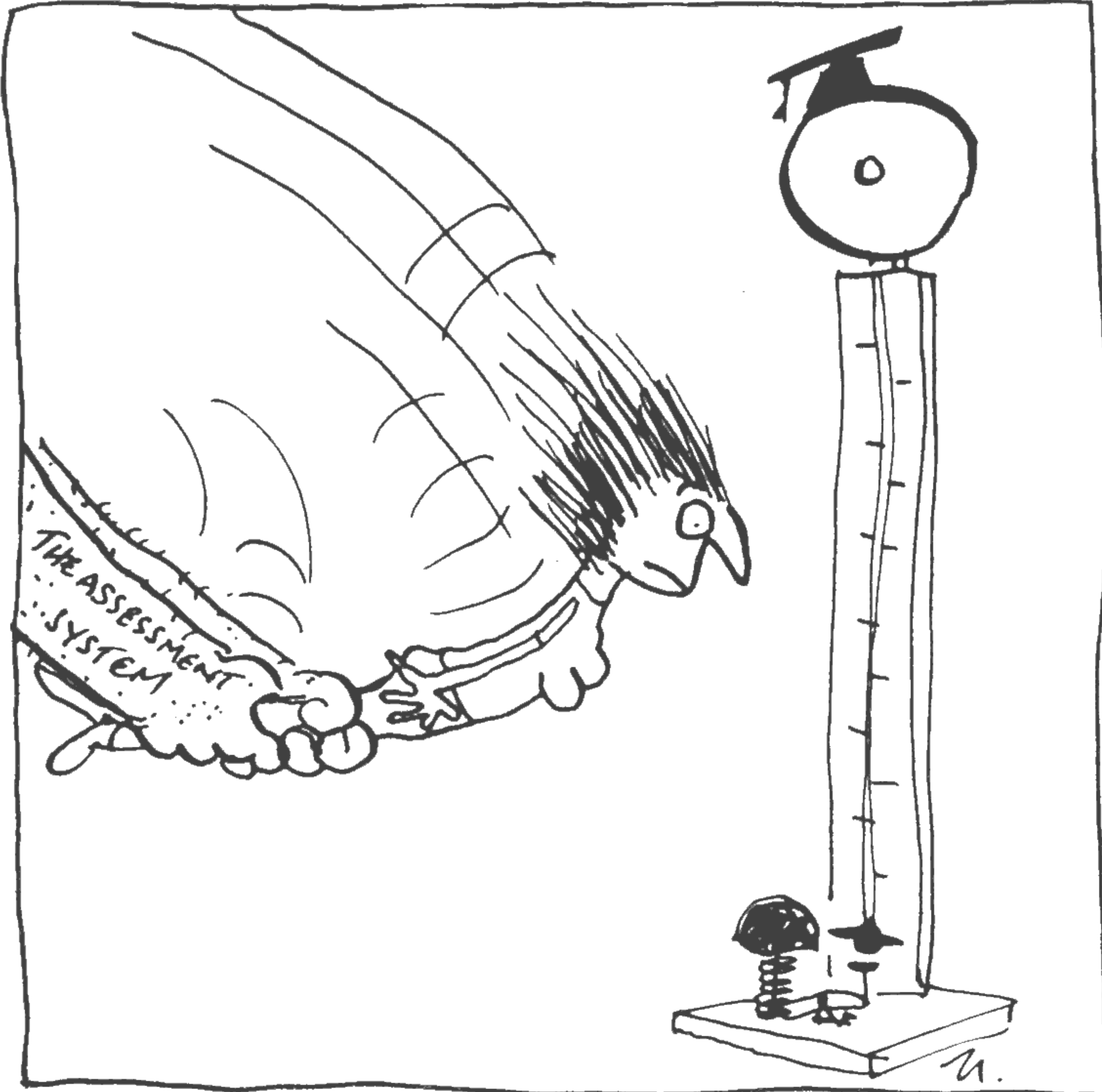
There is no reason why a good quality child care centre should in any way harm the emotional or intellectual development of a child, in fact it will enhance it. If our child care centres are over-worked and poorly staffed, it is only the concerted effort of central and local governments, employers and communities which will improve them. This will require money for staff training and salaries, buildings, and equipment. The diversion of money from this public use to individual women leaves all women to make their own inadequate arrangements, and to accumulate their own household equipment. The women who benefit are those who are already advantaged - who can already afford automatic washing machines and \$20 a week for a childminder. It is the poor who will suffer.





# NZUSA ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENT

The New Zealand University Students' Association has thirty-seven thousand members, from all seven universities in the country. Its policies are formed by twice-yearly councils, and are voted on by elected delegates from each university, to ensure that they represent the views of the majority of students. At NZUSA May Council this year, the following policies on assessment were formulated:



- E.4 THAT NZUSA believes that methods of assessment should be appropriate to the needs of students and the nature of the learning process.
- E.5 THAT NZUSA believes that assessment for the purpose of grading should not be undertaken by educational institutions.
- E.6 THAT NZUSA believes that a student should be able to choose the form of assessment most appropriate to his/her situation.  
*Note: The method of assessment to encompass internal assessment, final examination and any other means.*
- E.7 THAT NZUSA continue to research and publicise the ideological use of assessment in our society.
- E.8 THAT NZUSA publicise, promote debate on, and encourage research into the effects of different teaching methods on students.
- E.9 THAT NZUSA urge those universities with "terms" requirements to abolish these requirements.
- E.10 THAT NZUSA believes that the placing of code numbers instead of students' names on examination papers is desirable in the interests of unbiased marking.

In order to carry out these policies the education section of NZUSA has prepared a large amount of material on Assessment for the information of, and use by students. This includes posters, handbills, this supplement for student newspapers, and forums at which students will be able to express their opinions and their gripes about the way they are being assessed, and to put forward their suggestions as to action that could be taken.

In line with our policies this is intended to encourage students to think about the way they are being assessed and why and means of improving their own work situation. It is not intended to tell students how they should be assessed, or what forms of assessment are better than others, as this varies greatly among courses and people. We hope that students will participate in this and that it will lead to efforts to improve their work situations. Only if students actively involve themselves in actioning the policies of NZUSA, can the changes we are working for be achieved.

Sue Green,  
Education Vice-President,  
NZUSA.

"It is sometimes claimed that students are graded by universities in the same way that eggs are graded by packing stations. This, however, is untrue. There are only two important variables determining the quality of an egg – its size and its freshness and both of these are pretty accurately controlled by packing stations. The quality of a student's exam performance is, however, determined by a mass of variables (for example, memory, clarity and originality of thought, articulateness, luck as to which questions appear), none of which is on its own accurately expressed in the single grade awarded to each student. Thus from the point of view of accurate grading the egg gets a better deal than the student." A. P. Ratensis.

## MASS FAILURE AS AN EXAM TECHNIQUE

At Christchurch Secondary Teachers College in 1972, formal exams were made optional. This was the result of students' struggles against them.

A few students ran a campaign against formal examinations by raising objections in lectures and by circulating written arguments against them. After a lecturer attacked their views in an open lecture, the Students' Association decided to take the students' opinion. 65% of the students voted to boycott the next exam.

The Students' Association leadership confronted the senior staff with this information. The staff reply to students was that all who did not sit the exam

would fail their diploma.

The Students' Association leadership allowed itself to be bluffed into recommending that the proposed boycott be called off. The same day as the exam a mass meeting was held to discuss the situation. All except eight students voted not to boycott the exam in the face of the staffs' threat.

One of the students at the meeting suggested that if the vast majority were going to sit the exam, but were against compulsory formal exams, then something should still be done. He suggested "mass failure" as the staff had only required that students sit the exam.

At the exam centre later in the day

the same student handed in his paper with only his name on it one minute after the exam had started. Sufficient numbers of other students followed the idea of "mass failure" for the exam to be meaningless.

All those who failed were subsequently given the option of a written assignment done at leisure or another exam. Future proposed exams were modified into take home exams, or had options of written assignments done at leisure.

This illustrates that if enough students become concerned about the way they are being assessed, and are prepared to take action, very real gains can be made.

The subject of assessment is surround-

ed by inspiring stories about students occupying buildings, chopping up desks, barricading exam rooms and the like. Because most of these have taken place overseas, our campuses seem to be stricken with an "it could never happen here" attitude. The example of the group of students at Christchurch Secondary Teachers College clearly shows us that it not only could happen here, it has happened here. If enough students seriously think about the way they are being assessed, and why, and determine to do something positive to improve their conditions, it could happen again and again!



# SOME OF THE ALTERNATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is growing concern at New Zealand universities about methods of assessment - the evaluation of students' performance in their courses. The Conference of New Zealand Universities, which met in Auckland in August last year, expressed this concern when it passed a resolution requesting the universities to promote discussion and research on the use of assessment and moderation procedures in the universities and secondary school system.

In a report on different methods of assessment, published in July last year, NZUSA's Education Department argued that the primary purpose of assessment at New Zealand universities is to stratify students and to select the "brightest" students to do those jobs which are supposedly the most intellectually demanding in our society.

Because jobs in society are stratified - from Supreme Court Judge or managing director of a company to dustman or "unskilled" worker on an assembly line - the road to the top is a competitive one. One of the main functions of the education system is to select the "bright" students and to weed out the "failures". Education, at university, therefore becomes a competitive business.

As long as the primary purpose of assessment is to stratify students every method of assessment will create pressure on students and impede the development of forms of evaluation of students which serve the student by pointing out his weaknesses and helping him to overcome them and to achieve full understanding of whatever he is studying, thereby enabling the student to make a useful contribution to society.

Since all methods of assessment primarily serve the purpose of stratifying students there is no method of assessment which will provide students with a genuine opportunity to develop their own abilities free from the pressure of competition - the constant need to get a "good" mark.

But that does not mean that all methods of assessment are the same. In the short term students should press for methods of assessment which will enable them to spend as much time as

possible outside the classroom, learning from contacts with others and from the experience gained by extra-curricular activity at the university and by activity in the community in general.

In the long term the only truly effective way in which problems created by present methods of assessing students can be removed is by a change in the purpose of assessment and consequently a change in the social conditions which make stratification the primary purpose of assessment.

Whatever methods of assessment are used, students must be given the right to decide what form of assessment they want to be applied in the courses they are studying. This means they must be given this opportunity before their courses begin on the basis of full information about the content of the course, the amount of work required, the dates on which this work is due, and a timetable of courses offered by each faculty. The primary aim of faculty timetables would be to ensure that work is spread out during the academic year and is not concentrated at particular times of the year.

The opportunity for students to choose the method of assessment to be applied in their courses could only be carried out successfully if students were given full information about different types of assessment, the advantages and disadvantages of each type, and time to discuss different forms of assessment with other students. That is why the New Zealand Universities Conference resolution urging discussion and research on assessment at the universities is extremely important.

To date the university administrations have been very backward in giving students access to information about different types of assessment. Perhaps some of them want to hide the fact that they have in the past failed to encourage research on assessment, and that they have adopted new methods of assessment without proper consideration and discussion. However on the basis of the very limited amount of material available to students about assessment at New Zealand universities, let's look at some of the different methods.

## End of year examinations

The traditional method of assessment of students has been an unseen examination, often of three hours duration, usually held at the end of the third term at a predetermined time and at a scheduled place. Such exams are usually completed without recourse to books or notes and in the presence of a supervisor.

Supporters of this form of assessment have argued that it tests the students' quality of understanding under pressure and his ability to write lucidly and discursively. Also this method of assessment provides flexibility. The student who studies frantically at the end of the year after two terms of little effort is catered for, as well as the student who works regularly and steadily.

Critics claim that this form of examination is no more than a test of memory, speed of writing and quick wittedness. Students are forced to demonstrate the understanding of a subject they have acquired in a year in a test of no more than three hours. This situation intensifies nervous strain on many students, which can in some cases seriously affect the quality of their work.

Finally it is argued that examinations are not a "real life" situation. As one writer put it: "... it very rarely occurs in life outside the exam room that one has to take very elaborate and important decisions while isolated from all books, papers and consultation with other people." (Powell A. and Butterworth B., "Marked for Life: a criticism of assessment at Universities", Page 5)

In an effort to minimise the disadvantages of traditional forms of examinations, a number of variations on the unseen end of year exam have been introduced.

**Open Book examinations** allow students to take any material including text books into the exam room. This form of examination reduces the need for rote learning but could give the student a false sense of security since there will probably be insufficient time to make much use of the text books, etc.

An extension of the open book examination is to allow students to use additional material in the library as well as his own notes and books. This form of 'liberalisation' could merely compound the student's false sense of security, as well as being an administrative nightmare for supervisors. Furthermore it would need suitable library facilities, which would probably be beyond the resources of most New Zealand university libraries, especially at examination time.

A different way of overcoming the disadvantages of traditional exams is to give students **information about questions**. This system could reduce nervous tension and encourage students to study in depth. But when tried, it has tended to reduce the examination to a dull test of memory or writing exercise.

**Take Home examinations** are a system under which the student is given the exam questions a number of days in advance and has to hand the answers



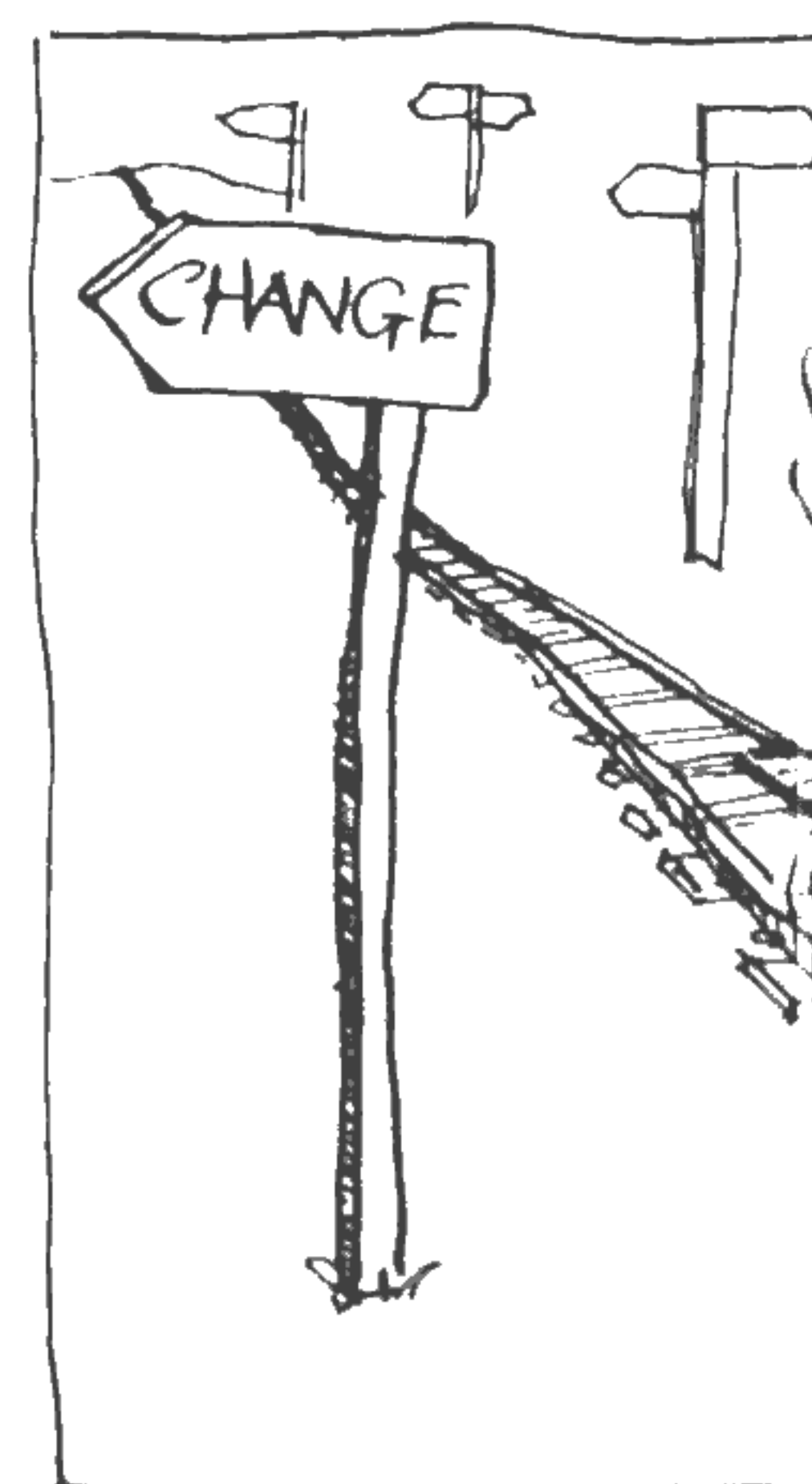
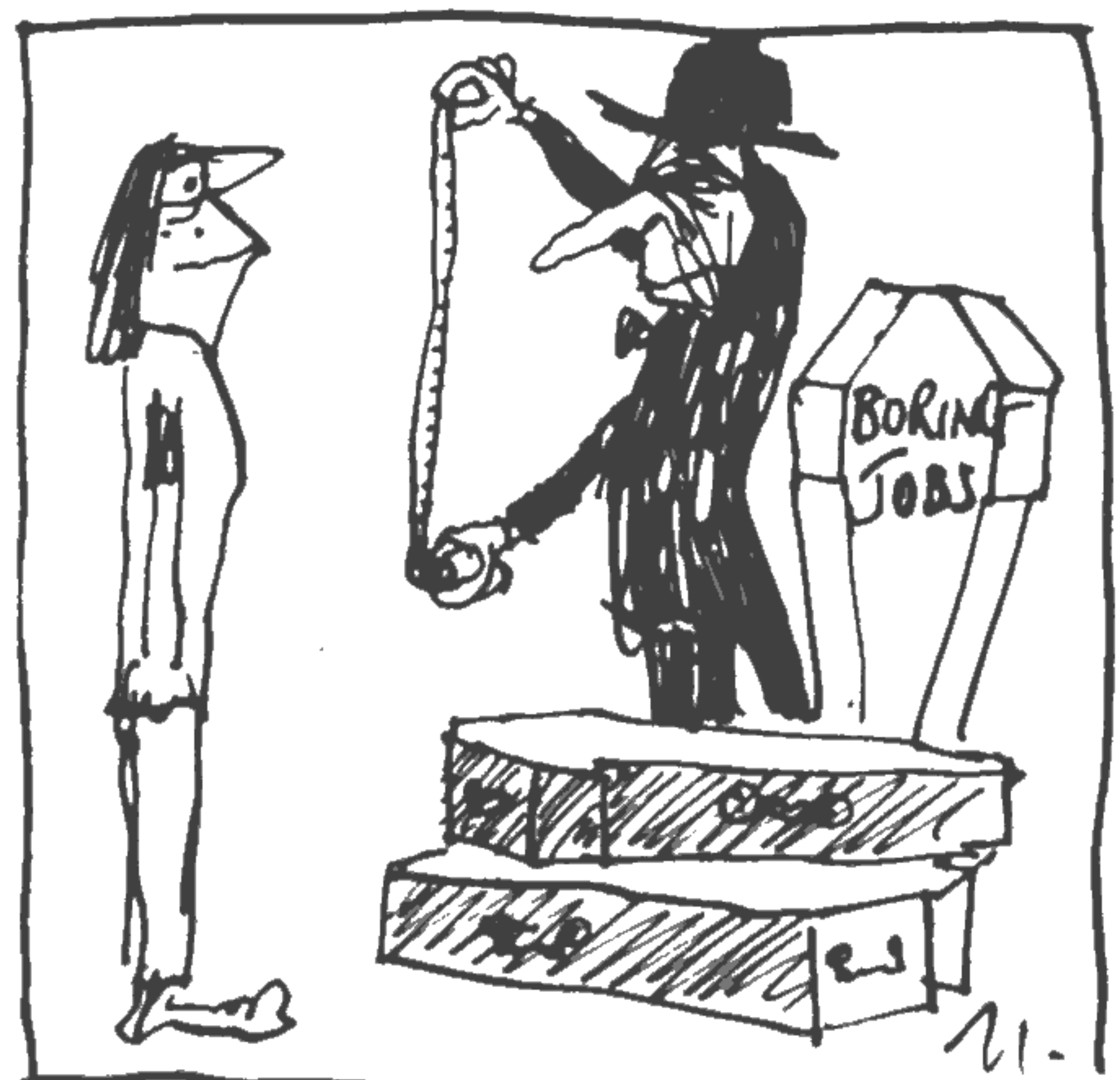
in by a definite date. The advantages of this system would be to free the student from restrictions of supervision and narrow time limits, thus reducing considerably the need for cheating, rote learning as well as nervous tension. However students would still be working to a time limit, and in large courses this condition could provide problems for students wishing to use limited library facilities.

## Continuous assessment

This method of assessment has been increasingly introduced into New Zealand universities in recent years as a means of decreasing, but not entirely removing, the emphasis on traditional exams. It means that evaluation of individual work done by the student during the term, with the marks assigned for that work contributing to the students final grade. However examinations, both mid-year and finals, appear to be fairly widely used as a part of this method of assessment.

The main advantages claimed for continuous assessment are that it provides immediate and repeated feedback to the student about his academic progress, and by spreading the period in which students are assessed continuous assessment reduces the peaks of intense pressure experienced under the traditional examination system.

It is probably fair to say that many students have plugged for continuous assessment to get rid of traditional exams. A survey of Canterbury University students late in the second term of 1973 found a general feeling of







udent satisfaction with the workload of continually assessed subjects.

However as with other methods of assessment the success of this method from the student's point of view depends on the purpose for which it is used.

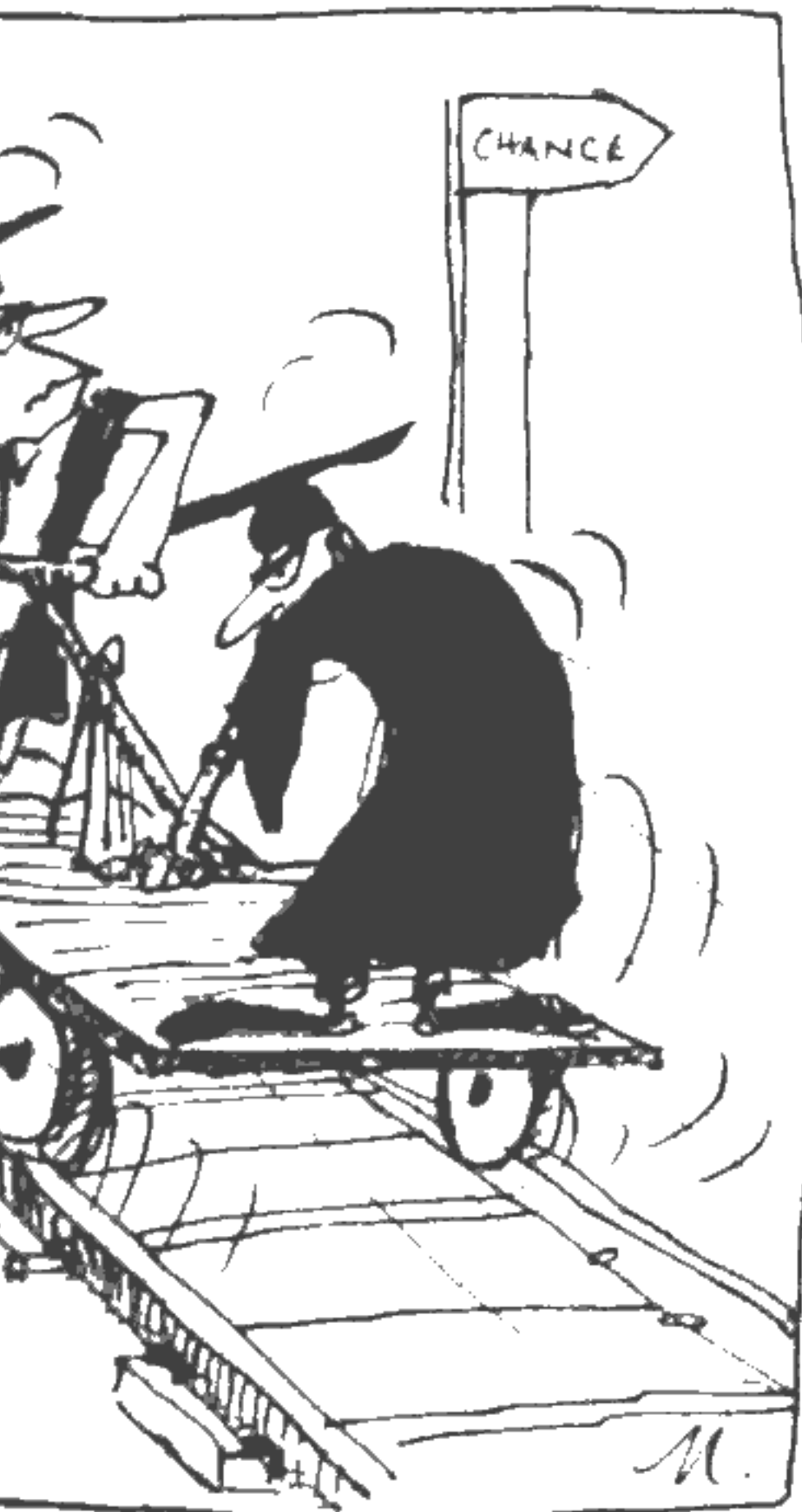
In a pamphlet published by NZUSA in 1971 an English educationalist, Michael Bassey, who was a supporter of continuous assessment, made the following warning:

*"In formal assignment assessment it is imperative that a student's motivation is interest in his work alone, for if his motivation were to be the need to get a successful mark for every assignment we would be replacing torture at the end of the course by three years of regular torture!" (Bassey, M., "The Assessment of Students by Formal Assignments", page 2.)*

The experience of continuous assessment at Victoria University to date suggests that this method of assessment has become a system of "regular torture" for many students.

Reports from that university's Faculty of Science, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Commerce and Administration and Student Welfare Services suggest that:

- A number of students are experiencing difficulty with their workloads, which suggests that workloads have increased;
- Pressure on students has been spread throughout the academic year and has probably increased;
- Pressure on students is uneven as a result of poor co-ordination within



- departments and between departments;
- Students tend to neglect unassessed work in favour of assessed work, thus tempting staff to make every piece of work subject to assessment;
- Courses have become fragmented (this is also a result of the introduction of the credit system);
- Pressure on staff has increased; and
- Students have less time to spend on extra-curricular activities.

One faculty at Victoria University commented in a report to the Professorial Board that "students feel under continuous trial in everything they do".

The limited evidence on continuous assessment from Victoria University is not sufficient to enable us to make any hard and fast conclusions. But it does suggest that this form of assessment has caused some very serious problems.

In an effort to overcome some of these problems the staff and students of the French sector of Victoria University's Romance Languages Department came up with a proposal to give students a "second chance". Their idea of "double chance" assessment was to give students a mark out of 100 for their performance in course work and then to give them the opportunity to improve on this mark by sitting an end of year examination. Students presenting themselves for both types of assessment would be given the higher of the two marks obtained as their final result. An important element in this proposal was that students would be told their mark for their year's work before the final exam.

The advantages of this method would be to give students two chances to score well and to give equal opportunity to those who prefer course work assessment and those who prefer final exams. But its disadvantages are that it would present students a most difficult, if not unfair decision, at the end of the year; whether to settle for the mark obtained during the year or to challenge the judgement of their lecturers by sitting a final exam. Furthermore it would not remove many of the disadvantages of continuous assessment that have already been mentioned.

Finally there is **group assessment**. This method introduces a qualitative difference to other forms of assessment in that students would be assessed collectively on the basis of a group report. Therefore it provides students with the opportunity to learn in co-operation with each other rather than in competition.

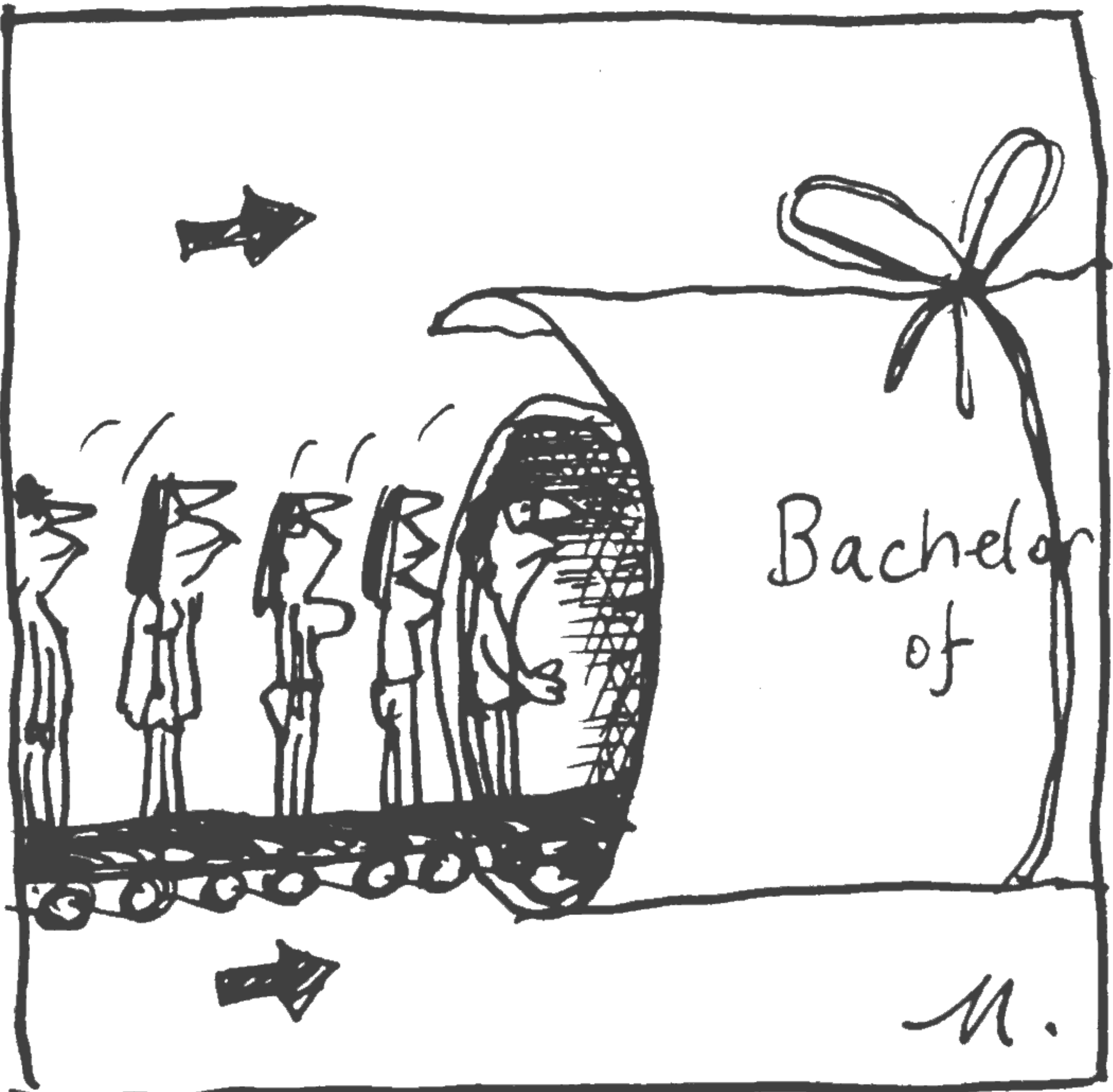
It was precisely because group assessment would fail to distinguish the individual differences between students and eliminate competition that it was curtailed by the Chairman of the Victoria University Department of Sociology and Social Work, Professor Robb, in 1973. Robb told the university's academic committee that "under this system it is extremely unlikely that any student will fail" and that it would be harder for a "brilliant" student to get his qualities recognised. In fact Professor Robb was arguing that the primary purpose of assessment at the university was to stratify students when he opposed the use of group assessment.

#### Conclusion

In its report on different forms of assessment NZUSA's Education Department recommends "double chance" assessment, group assessment, and "Take Home" exam forms of assessment which are least onerous for students.

But the report emphasises that students must be given the opportunity to decide for themselves the form of assessment they want, and that effective student action on the problems of assessment will only come when students start organising themselves in the classroom to press for change.

Peter Franks,  
Research Officer,  
N.Z. University Students Assn.





# DOUBLE CHANCE

In the report "Assessment -- Which Form is the Least Onerous", prepared by Peter Franks and Graeme Clark for NZUSA's August Council 1973, one suggestion made was that students should be assessed on a 'double chance' basis. This method is an extension of continuous assessment but has certain advantages for students in that they have a 'second chance' of improving their final mark in a course. Students are assessed on the basis of their year's work and are given the opportunity of sitting a finals examination at the end of the third term so that they can improve on the mark they are given for their year's work.

1975 is the second year of operation of this form of assessment in the French Section of the Department of Romance Languages at Victoria University. It applies to students in Stage II and Stage III language and literature courses.

Candidates have to attend the course-work and to sit the final exam, if they gain terms. But they are given a final mark which is derived from only one of these two, whichever is the better; that is, their final mark is the mark gained in **either** the course work or the final exam, whichever is the higher. Thus a student who scores, for example, 50% for coursework and 75% in the final exam or vice-versa will pass with an 'a' result.

The in-term assessment is chosen by

the lecturer in consultation with his/her class from the following alternatives.

Either

a) an oral exam and two essays

Or

b) an oral exam and one essay plus a 1 hour class test

Or

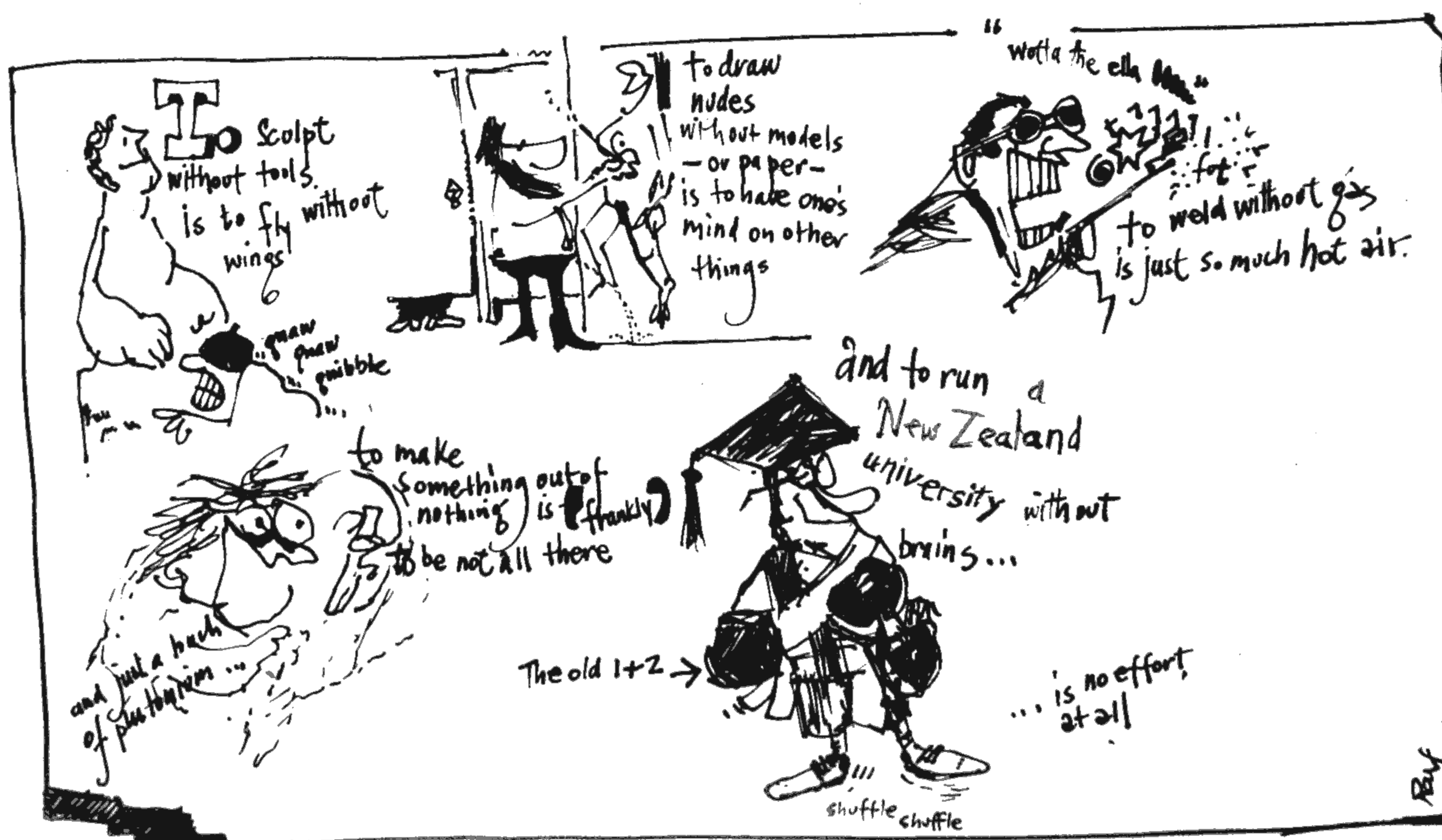
c) an oral exam and one essay plus an 'explication de texte' lasting one hour.

When it was proposed to introduce this form of assessment, the original intention was that the student should be told his/her mark for the in-term work, and given a choice as to whether he/she sat the final exam. However, the Victoria University Professorial Board deemed that the final exam should be compulsory, thus lessening the choices available to the student.

This form of assessment is one which large departments would find difficult to administer, and although it may reduce students' examination anxiety, it does not necessarily reduce work-loads or pressure on students. It does however give more equal opportunity to those students who feel more at home with total course-work assessment, and those who perform well in final examinations. Furthermore, it relieves some of the anxiety attached to 'now or never exercises.'

## RECIPE FOR ACADEMICS

- 1) Choose some knowledge which you think is valuable. Put limits on it. These may be chosen at random, or for some reason that you think is valid.
- 2) Entice a group of students. Don't allow them to ask why they should learn this knowledge. Tell them that they have freely chosen to do this course so they must be interested in it.
- 3) Give them a set of essay topics or assignments which you are sure will give them a full understanding of the knowledge you have to impart. Once again, don't heed their questions as to the relevance of your choice. Impress on them that you are the teacher, you have the knowledge and you know what is relevant and what is not.
- 4) Don't give them too much time to do their work. Remember that students must be kept under pressure, or they won't do anything for you; and if they get too involved in one piece, they might not want to go on to the next topic.
- 5) Take in their assignments and give them a mark. Remember that all students must be graded or they won't have any incentive to work harder next time, and you won't know which are the good and bad students. Don't worry about whether they have different workloads, are under stress, go through periods of unenthusiasm or anything like that; the important thing is to ensure strict uniformity.
- 6) At the end of the year, be sure to set an exam situation since it is the only time that you can really test their individual performance. If they complain about the invalidity of the exam situation since it actually only tests their memories and rapidity of writing skills, remind them that you understand, but that you went through the process too, and it's essential for anyone wishing to attain the height you yourself have reached.
- 7) Finally, be sure to set a pass mark which will give you just the right number of students for next year. If that upsets you at all, just remember that a certain percentage have to fail.





# Royal Commission begins

The Royal Commission on Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion got under way on the 10th September with its first public sitting at the Caltex Lounge in Taranaki Street.

The first part of the sitting, which was devoted to procedural matters, revealed that: while the Commission cannot offer anyone immunity from prosecution it is prepared to hear submiss-

ions which could lead to prosecutions confidentially and in private; ALRANZ is having difficulty preparing its submission by the 30th September deadline; and, three leading anti-abortionists from overseas, including Billings of the Billings ovulation method of contraception fame, are, by coincidence going to be in New Zealand early next month and will present submissions to the Royal Commission.

With procedural matters out of the way the four background papers were presented. The Solicitor General told the Commission what he personally understood the law in New Zealand on contraception, sterilisation and abortion to be. Following this the Department of Social Welfare revealed that it has done no sociological research for the Commission and has a fixation about ex-nuptial births. Finally, not to be outdone, the Department of Health present-

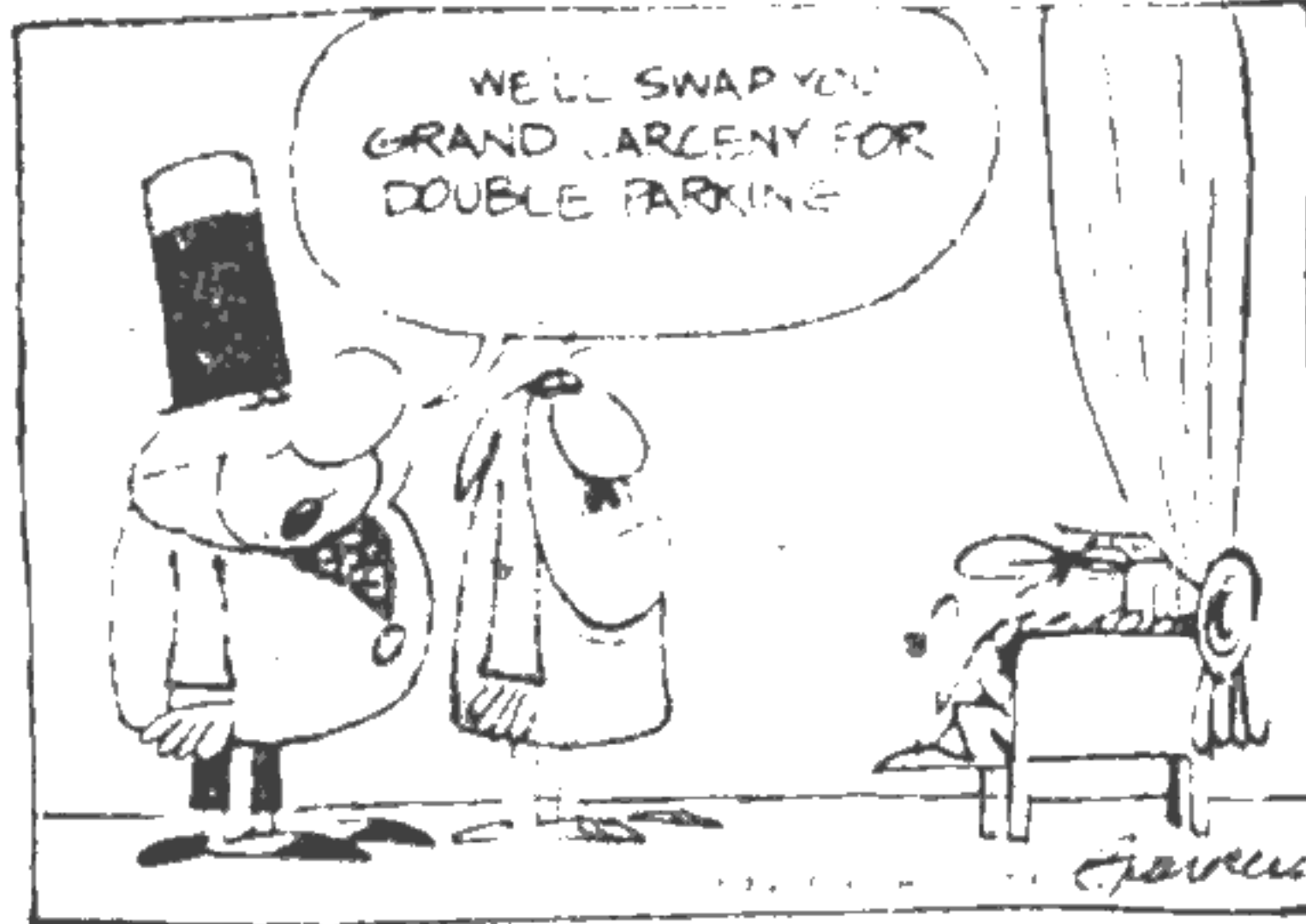
ed two papers: one on contraception and sterilisation (which showed that over the last five years the Taumaranui Hospital Board has performed 26 times the number of vasectomies the Auckland Hospital Board has) and the other on abortion (which gives an estimate of 13,000 illegal abortion attempts and 7,000 illegal abortions in New Zealand in 1971).

The Social Welfare Paper is full of banalities, such as, 'Not all women who conceive out-of-wedlock give birth to an ex-nuptial child' (p.10) and, is not worth reading. The other papers are well worth reading if you can get hold of them which, given the number produced, is doubtful.

If the first sitting is any indication the Royal Commission is going to be deplorably dominated by men. While the Commission itself, after the late withdrawal of Dr. Brinkman which

must have upset SPUC considerably, now has three female and two male members, the Chairman is Mr. Justice McMullin and he will strongly determine the proceedings, especially when it comes to what lines of cross-examination are to be allowed. Dr. Brinkman will probably be replaced by another male medical practitioner. All the counsel, all the first day's witnesses, the Commission's Secretary and his assistants and almost all the media were men. The stenographer was a woman.

New Zealand politicians like Royal Commissions, especially in election years, because they have a tendency to put into storage for a while hot political issues without opening them up to the charge of doing nothing. This Royal Commission is a blatant use by the present Government of this ploy.



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Tuesday 23 September  
Union Hall 12 p.m. — 2 p.m.

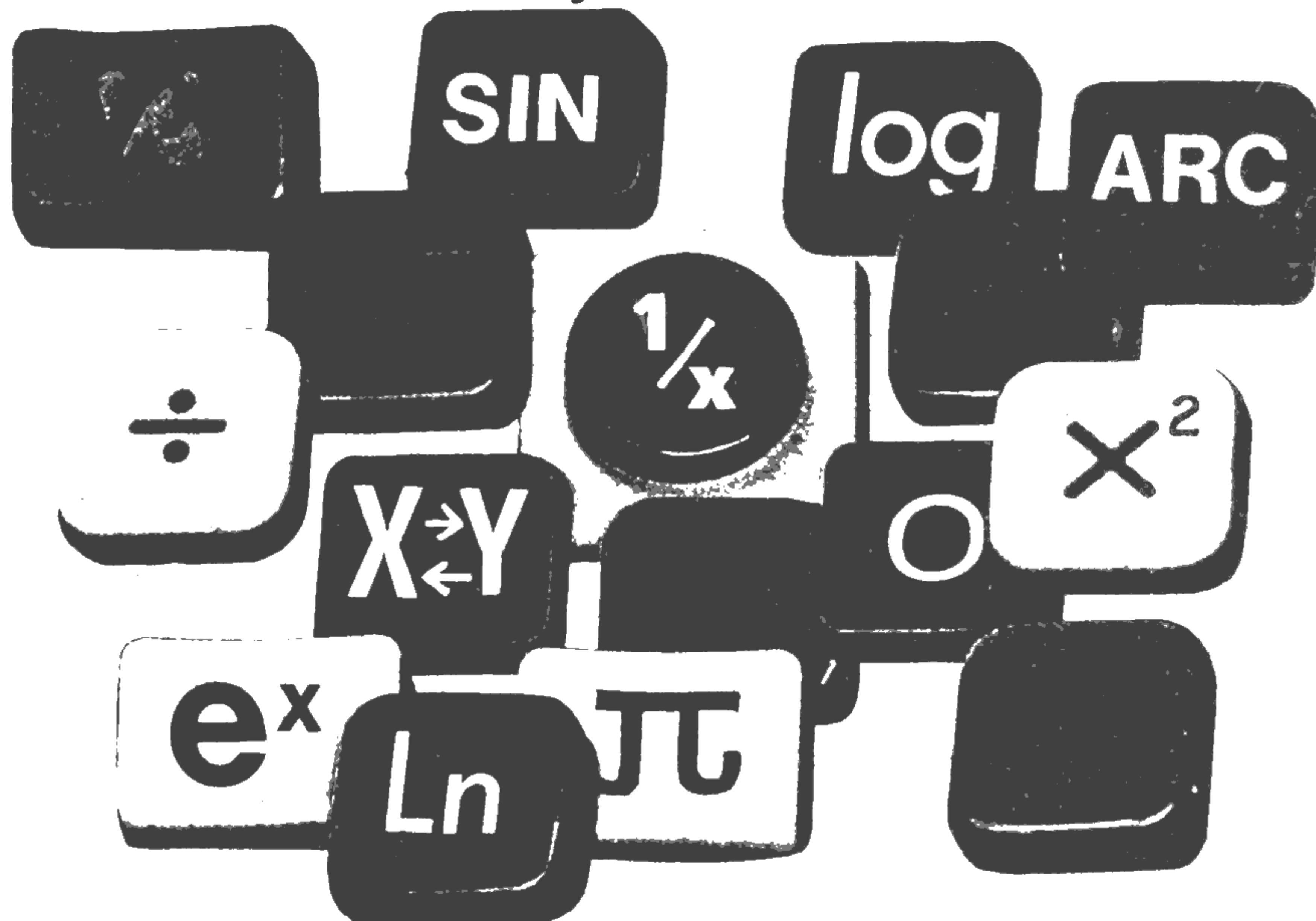
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We shall not ask you to speak or sing,  
We shall not ask you what you believe  
We shall not ask you to give money,  
We shall simply offer you our friendship,  
And a chance to sit quietly and think.  
And perhaps somebody will pray,  
And perhaps you will find here  
That which you are seeking ...  
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We are not cranks,  
We are not different -  
Except that we believe  
That God's light is in all men,  
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Discover Quakers at 8 Moncrieff Street  
every Sunday at 11 am.

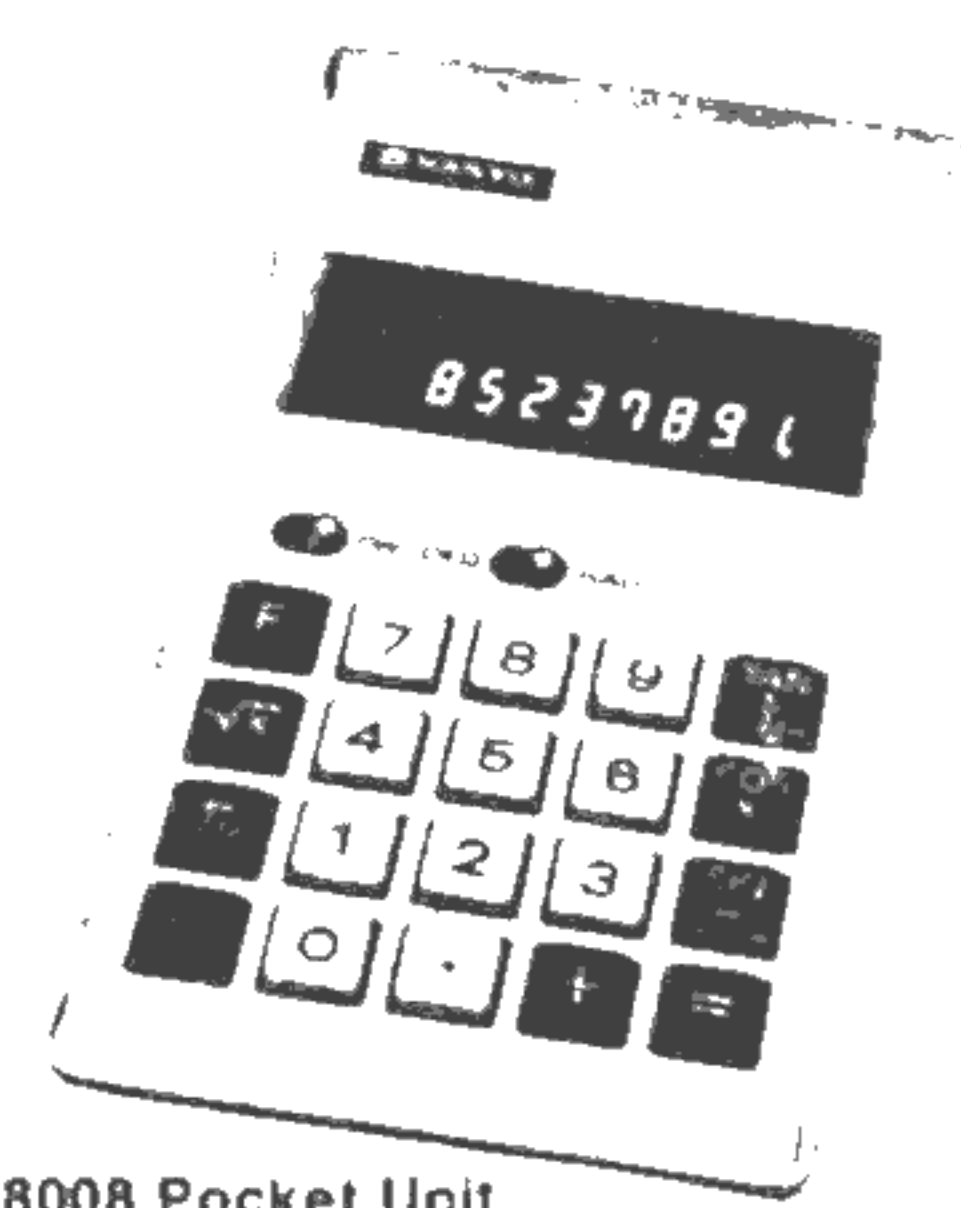
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**SANYO**  
what the future holds today.  
by AL TOXCRAT



# REPORTS FROM CHINA

*These three articles are the last in a series written by Victoria University members of the 1975 NZUSA Delegation to the People's Republic of China.*

## INDUSTRY: FIGHTING BUREAUCRACY

*David Buxton looks at several aspects of Chinese industry.*

Revolutionary committees are perhaps the most dynamic innovations in Chinese society and since the Cultural Revolution have been an essential part of every institution.

The Revolutionary Committee, which seems to have considerable autonomy in the day-to-day running and organisation of factories, is generally made up of Army representatives, cadres (mental workers) and workers – a “three-in-one” combination. Some of the cadres are appointed by higher authorities, and others are elected from workshops. All however, take part in manual work, especially the workshop cadres, who spend most of their time at their old jobs.

The committees try to achieve a balance of age, and also of ideological correctness and technical expertise. The factory revolutionary committee is responsible to a higher party committee, although it is not usual to have any party members represented on the factory committee.

Recently the army representatives have been gradually leaving the factories and returning to their units. During the Cultural Revolution, the army came out on the side of the “leftists” (i.e. the group pursuing a revolutionary road) and assured the success of the movement. Their function was to restore order and increase unity. But now, as the head of the revolutionary committee at the Kwangchow Textile Factory told us, a new period of history has dawned and army representatives are being called back. This may have something to do with the Lin Piao affair, but here I am only guessing. Much more likely factors are Mao Tse-tung's insistence on civilian rule, and what the Chinese see as the increasing danger of Soviet military attacks.

### PAY AND PRODUCTION

Production quotas for the factories are set by the state, usually at a provincial level, and discussed by the workers. Workers make up the balance and provide more detail to the plan and discuss how the task is to be carried out. Each factory also has a Technical Innovation group. Following the lead of the Shanghai Machine Tools Plant, which set up a Workers' University in 1968, workers are setting up universities or technical institutions attached to the factories. Some workers are selected to do full-time training, while many take part-time courses in technical instruction, to enable them to be able to carry out technical innovations. We were shown numerous examples of this, especially in Shanghai.

Pay differs according to skill, but the difference is not big. The average wage is 60 yuan a month (about \$NZ 30) with a range from 40 - 108 yuan. Wage rises are decided by the Revolutionary Committee in consultation with workers, usually on the basis of service. Although this sum is small, rent is only 5 yuan a month for two rooms, including electricity. Most of the workers live in apartments run in conjunction with the factory.

### BE PREPARED

The Kwangchow Textile Factory employed 3,000 workers, all organised into 60 study groups which met 3 or 4 times a week for an hour after the completion of a shift. These groups study occupational skills, literacy and most importantly the theory of Marxism-Leninism. At present the study groups are working in conjunction with the nationwide campaign of studying ‘The Dictatorship of the Proletariat’. All of the workers I spoke to, in different factories, were studying Lenin's ‘State and Revolution’ so it seems clear that the direction for study comes from above.

But those who draw the conclusion of imposed ‘brain washing’ are missing the point. From the Chinese point of view the more the people know about Marxist theory the better prepared they will be to recognise

and act on deviations from the transition to a classless society. The Cultural Revolution was one such mass action – now the people are much better prepared. Also the study campaigns are the best indication we have, that the State is still acting in the interests of the people. The current campaign may well be Mao's last great act to ensure the success of continual Revolution.

### COMBATting REVISIONISM

Most workers belong to Trade Unions, whose main function is to ‘raise consciousness and fight revisionism.’ Recently they have been organising Communist Voluntary Labour Days' once a month, where a day's work is given voluntarily, with 80% participation. The Union also helps with health and financial problems of workers and their families, and most importantly organises the fight against bureaucratic and elitist tendencies.

Remembering that ‘revisionism’ is something concrete, something that deprives workers of their power, the recently enacted constitution which gives workers the right to strike is a very important protection of their rights. We paid an unexpected visit to a Peking printing factory and were asked not to take photos of dozens of huge character posters hanging from the walls, because they were an internal matter of the factory. We were then told that the posters criticised the factory management for bureaucratic tendencies.

### WORKERS NOT WORKING

One very striking impression which I did find hard to reconcile with the huge increases in production over the past 25 years was that only a few people in the factories actually seemed to be working. Other workers stood around smoking and talking to one another. However production continued because most of the factories are very highly mechanised. But this impression fits in with the generally relaxed atmosphere of the cities, made more obvious by the absence of private motor cars.

The Chinese seemed to have escaped the worst excesses of bureaucracy, with a highly flexible system of decentralised authority which seems to involve a surprising amount of interplay between top and bottom levels. One thing that emerged from our discussion with Planning Officials was that they placed great importance on workers coming up with technical innova-

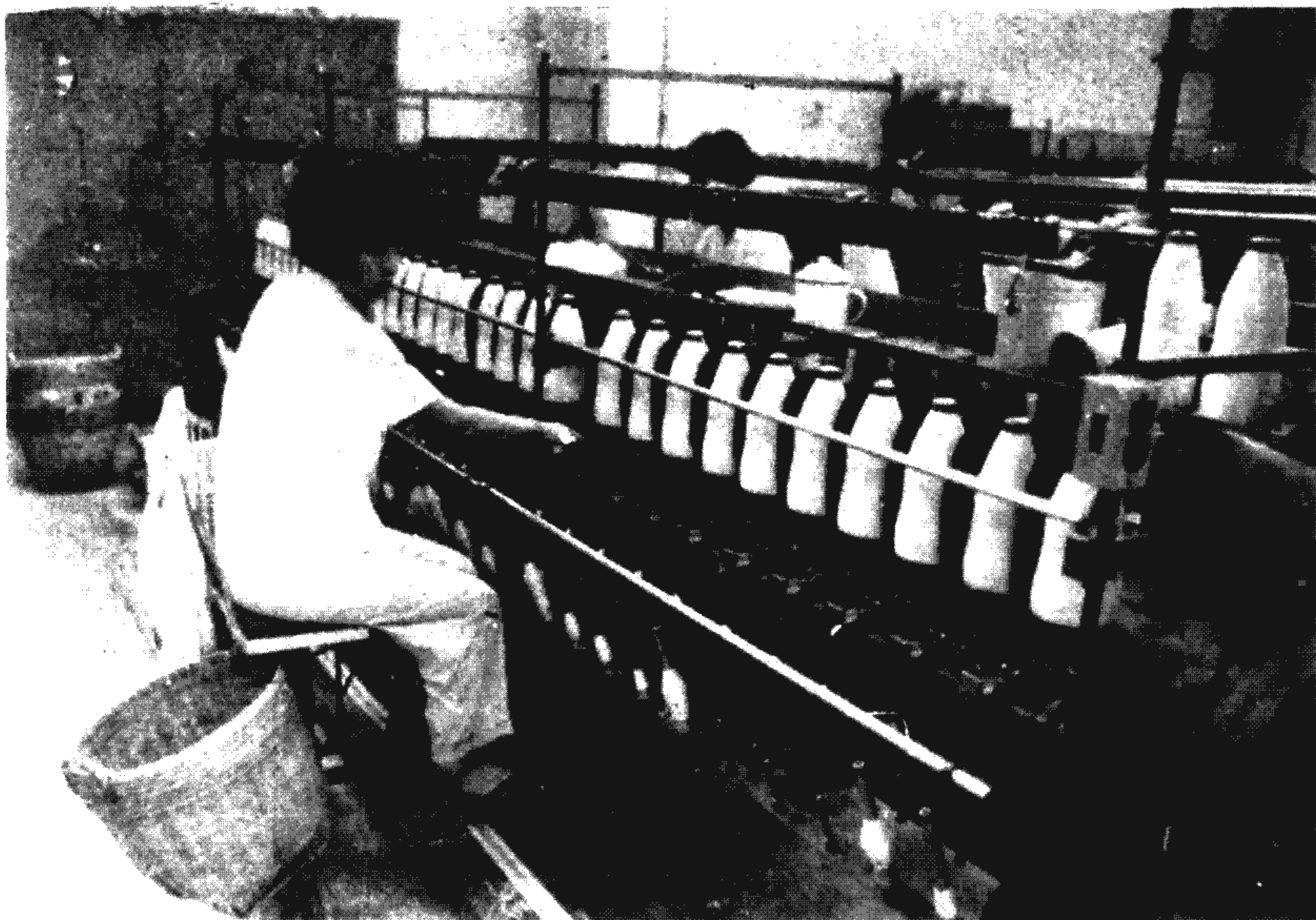
tions, and better work organisation to increase production. The system works on the assumption that workers know best how to increase production – similarly the different levels of management in the bureaucracy are best equipped to deal with local conditions which vary widely. The Central Government acts as the overall co-ordinator of these different levels.

### FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

What impresses me as a young person, like nearly everyone else who has visited China, is the tremendous drive to achieve a common goal which gives people meaning for their lives – something worthwhile and important that they can strive for. Individual initiative is not dead – instead its results are used to benefit all, not just oneself. It is the fundamental recognition of men as social beings; what is worthy of one is worthy of all. What many people do not realise is that the success of continual revolution is ordinary people standing up and criticising ‘revisionist’ tendencies in all levels of government. As it stands the Chinese system is fraught with dangers of control by a party elite, separated from the interests of the masses. The price of socialism is eternal vigilance.

I have tried to give the impression of the Chinese undertaking a vast journey towards a classless society. Until this state is achieved, there is always the danger of their revolution being nullified, negated. So the journey of transition is exciting, dangerous; people consciously creating history. We can only grope in the dark, treating each historical event as a complete surprise. Whatever one's attitude towards China, no-one can deny that what is occurring is a social experiment, a historical movement of profound importance.

Although I have consciously tried to present China in its own terms, I am not naive enough to suggest that China is anywhere near perfect. They still have great obstacles to overcome. But what I am suggesting is that whatever facts emerge from China should be placed in the context of a vast journey where elements are always confronting each other and changing. Perhaps the best summary I can use to end, is from a teacher of English I met in Peking who has lived in China for nearly eight years and has travelled all over China. “For the 5% of individuals life is very hard, but the other 95% (workers and peasants) really lap it up.”



*A female textile worker demonstrates her skill for the New Zealand students.*



# CHAN CHECKS OUT CHINA

Godzooks! me thought, when the letter arrived. I'm going to China! Having applied on an impulse and grinned stupidly all the way through the interview saying the most inane, irrelevant things. I concluded: right, being born Chinese has some advantages after all.

In the rush to get passports and injections and in accomplishing the difficult feat of putting myself firmly in debt for the next year or so, I found myself daydreaming a lot. I remembered my grandfather telling me stories about old China, about how he had to leave because there wasn't enough land to support him and his brothers and their families, about how crowded it was getting and about how he felt he just wanted to get as far away as possible from it. Then I remembered the tales my mother used to tell me about having maids fan her 'till she went to sleep, of their two-storeyed house in Canton, and the nightmares of running from Japanese bombs as a tennager. Dad's side of the family were poor peasants, Mum's side must have been middle to rich peasants.

In the weeks before the Delegation was due to leave, I was becoming more and more aware of being Chinese. Why

was I going? Most certainly not because I was an idealistic Marxist burning to see the leading socialist country, not because of my academic interest in analysing the country down to the fillings in its teeth, nor indeed because I felt like a holiday. Basically, it was a salmon's instinct to return to the spawning grounds, an incredible curiosity about the land of my parents and grandparents and how it had changed.

So, we were off. Leaving at 6 (or was it 6.30) a.m. on a Sunday morning in something like 2°C, we landed in Hong Kong some 16 hours later in the middle of a 35°C heat wave. Help, I thought, looking for the nearest fridge to crawl into. Going through Customs the guy asked me in Chinese 'Do you speak Chinese?' 'Oh, I can only speak a little although I can understand more than I can speak,' I said in Chinese. 'You can pick up your luggage now,' he said in Chinese. 'Thanks a lot' I replied in English and went to join the others at the luggage check out.

In the airport terminal and in the streets of Hong Kong where some of us went walking later that night, I was

feeling very much aware that I was in the majority. Very strange to walk down the streets realizing it's your friends who look different rather than you. Mind you, they were mostly ignored because Hong Kong is such an international city. China itself was an entirely different story.

Canton. This is it, I thought. This is where my family first crawled out of the sea, so to speak. And that's how I felt. Like Gulliver washed up on the shores of Lilliput. The southern Chinese are short in stature and I suppose the average height of the women would be around 5' to 5'2". I stand 5'4" in flat feet and 5'7" in my 3" platforms which are supposed to promote the long leggy look here in New Zealand.

One consolation was a visit to a textile factory where I wanted to ask a question of one of the workers. I asked in Cantonese and translated for our Peking interpreter what I'd asked! An indication perhaps that the move to have a unified language hasn't been completed yet.

So the stares I got in Shanghai and Canton were because of my height, the obviously foreign clothes I was wearing, and the European company I was keeping.

In Tsinan I decided to do something about it. I bought a pair of flat Chinese sandals, wore a pair of baggy trousers and white short-sleeved cotton shirt which seems to be the usual garb for mid-summer, put my hair in a plait and went wandering. To my delight, I was totally ignored! A funny thing happened on the way to a Tsinan people's store where the Delegation went shopping. A friend on the Delegation has violent red hair and a certain English aristocratic

air about her, and with her in her 3" platforms and me in my 'Chinese' outfit, we entered this store. She got mobbed by Chinese trying to see what she was doing and I got elbowed to the back of the crowd.

Probably the strangest reaction I had was a feeling of not belonging. When I was with the Delegation I felt very Chinese. Yet when I was alone on the streets and being ignored I felt like a homeless New Zealander. In some situations it was a bit hard to figure out exactly how I should have reacted. Like a banana. Yellow on the outside, white on the inside.

Back in Hong Kong, the girl at the X-ray Customs check said to me in English 'Can you speak Chinese?' 'Only a very little,' I said in Chinese. 'Did you have a good trip in China?' she asked in Chinese. 'Oh, I couldn't speak the language,' I replied in English. 'Not at all?' she said in English. 'Different dialects, I explained in Chinese. 'Please walk through the X-ray arch now,' she said in English. 'Thank you,' I said in Chinese.

## LEGAL STUDIES IN PEKING

*During a discussion with law teachers at Peking University the question arose as to what subjects were taught within the law faculty. Victoria law student Jules Maher lists and explains the subjects taught and their relation to Chinese life generally, and the legal system in particular.*

**Basis political ideology** - the study of selected works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Chairman Mao - is the first and most important of the subjects taught. It is studied not only in the universities, but throughout China in factories, communes, schools and any other place where people gather. It provides the basis for continued understanding of the development of socialism to communism. Only through this general understanding can the development of China be mass-based. Through widespread study of these works, unity and enthusiasm is generated towards the reconstruction of China. Law students share in this enthusiasm and derive from their study the desire to serve the people rather than a 'system' or themselves.

**Political Economy** is the second subject on the list. It explores the relationship between production, distribution and the source of political power. Students are aware of the reality that generally those who control the most vital areas of production also wield the greatest political power. The need for sound political thought by the workers in those areas is obviously central to the continued struggle in China towards communism.

**The history of the Communist Party** is also studied with great pride and respect for the difficult struggles it endured from its inception. The need for constant struggle in implementing Communist theory is learned from the Party's early difficulties in training leaders, in uniting peasants and workers and all the while remaining faithful to Marxist theory. The Sino-Japanese war and the betrayal of the party by the Kuomintang, which brought their coalition government to a bitter end, are no doubt two episodes bearing hard lessons. The fight for the

liberation of China took decades and students are made to realise that the struggle is not over yet. China is not a classless society and 'bourgeois thinking' is still present in China. The leadership of the party, therefore, must continue if development is to be guaranteed.

**The Theory of State and Law** is taught systematically under the theory of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. The Chinese are very conscious of the fact that in the past law has been used to protect the political and economic interests of the minority 'landlord' class. Under the theory of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat this minority class is controlled, or dictated to, by the masses. The role of the legal system is to protect the interests of the majority, and is thus clearly political.

Another subject includes a study of **Civil Law, Case Investigation and the Constitution**. Civil law includes divorce, family and non-criminal community law. Case investigation is probably the Chinese equivalent of our criminal law. They have an inquisitorial system in their courts, as opposed to an adversary system. The Chinese believe that there is a greater chance of discovering the truth in a particular case through intensive investigation and cooperation of all the parties involved, rather than through one lawyer presenting his version of the facts to a court. So, in any particular case, neighbourhood committees, fellow workers, family members and the Public Security Bureau (if the case is serious enough) will be involved in establishing the facts for the court. The defendant himself would be encouraged to participate and, if necessary, to engage in self-criticism. The emphasis is clearly on reforms and re-education of criminals rather than punishment. Involvement of the masses in these matters is strongly encouraged, both

to develop and exercise their politico-legal knowledge, and as a reminder to avoid 'counter-revolutionary' or anti-social activity.

A new Chinese Constitution was recently adopted after four years of discussion at every level throughout China. Study, discussion and amending resulted in a more up to date, simple expression of the legalities of a socialist society. Discussion continues today in the spirit of relating theory to practice and no doubt future amendments will be made as China struggles towards becoming a fully communist society. This struggle being mass-based means that these changes will emanate from the people rather than an elite band of constitutional lawyers. As already mentioned, law students will play an important part in encouraging the people to participate in this area.

**The political ideology of China and foreign countries** is studied. No doubt this subject covers foreign relations, something which nearly every person in China knows something about. For example, we did not expect people there to have heard of New Zealand, but to utter the Chinese translation in a crowd would start off a murmur of recognition and interest. Clearly they knew that their country had established diplomatic relations with New Zealand two and a half

Much importance is placed on **labour and physical training** - a subject which superficially bears no relation to legal studies. But when it is understood that the purpose of engaging in physical labour is to learn from the 'fine tradition of the labour of the workers and peasants', then the consequences such as solidarity with them and service of them become apparent. Legal studies thus are given a perspective: there is not study for its own sake, no theorising without reason - all is related to the reality of

the peoples' situation.

Physical training is regarded as necessary for the good health of every student. The welfare of students is a prime concern of the University. The abolition of degrees, formerly granted at the end of a study course, means the avoidance of academic elitism, the encouragement of academic co-operation, and the safeguarding of students' health through the removal of nerve-racking finals exams. Such concern for the peoples' health and mental well being was evident in every part of China.

**International law** must be a relatively new area for the Chinese, having regard to their long stay away from International Affairs. With increasing overseas trade, it has become necessary to be familiar with the ins and outs of international law. More importantly, though, is the use of international law for the protection of the Third World against foreign domination, and it is in this area that I suspect China will become most active in the future.

Finally, there is a subject entitled **theory and practice of law**. The Chinese believe that it is only through the practical application of theory that understanding can be developed and theories can in turn be improved. The practical application of skills learnt is attempted, as for example students assisting in the investigation of cases, perhaps preparing the facts for the court with others, or writing political critiques of the issues involved in the case.

In conclusion, I would stress that the studies at Peking University had a wide scope, but with a unity of purpose and taught in a humane fashion - things which our universities could do well to match.



# NEWS FROM MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

18-8-75

## Masked Man in Campus Drama

Police are questioning a 23-year old man caught distributing 'mischievous' leaflets at the University of Singapore yesterday.

The leaflets were allegedly signed by run-away Hong Kong born student leader Tsui Hon Kong - a final-year industrial engineering student who had been hiding in Singapore since last December's Government crack down on campus unrest starting with the arrest of Singapore University Students' Union chairman Tan Wah Piow.

Tsui was expelled together with five Singapore University under-graduates - former USSU secretary-general Juliet Chin, Yuet Ching, vice president Bong Hong Min, and student councillors Chia Yong Tai, Choo Foo Yong and Chuah Chong Lai.

The man, who was masked, fled to a small room on the ground floor of the University's administration block after a group of varsity students caught him distributing the leaflets together with three men.

The three men fled when students spotted them.

Mr Soh Weng Sing, an executive committee member of the USSU said:

'The man is not a local university student. When we confronted him earlier, he admitted that he was not a student here. We caught him with a bundle of leaflets allegedly signed by Tsui Hon Kong.'

'The leaflets contained strong statements which are dangerous and mischievous to the union and are aimed at pitching varsity student leaders against one another.'

'Tsui has not contacted the union since his last appeal to the university to allow him to continue his studies.'

'I am quite positive that he was not the real signatory to the leaflets because the words used and style of presentation is completely strange to us.'

Mr Soh added that the union has made an official complaint to the police.

A police spokesman said: 'The man was only taken in for questioning. No charges have been preferred.'

(NB: Tsui was arrested on August 18 in Johore Bahru, he had reportedly written several articles, which appeared on Singapore University notice-boards,



criticising the island state's social reform policy. He was fined M\$300 by a Malaysian court pleading guilty to a charge of illegally entering the country from Singapore.

The 12-nation Asian Students Association (ASA) was helping Tsui with his application for new identification papers from Hong Kong through the British Embassy in Kuala Lumpur to enable him to return to Hong Kong. Student sources disclosed that Tsui lost his travel documents during his flight from a Singapore police swoop which netted five Malaysians studying at Singapore University.

He allegedly owes the Singapore Government S\$10,500 for a scholarship which it granted him four years ago under the condition among others, that he should take no part in the island's internal politics.)

## August, 75 (Singapore Undergrad) Trial of Hishamuddin Rais (16th University of Students' Union secretary-general)

On 19th July, 1975, Hisham was charged with obstruction of civil servants in carrying out 'duties.'

His case had been put off twice in court as he did not turn up for trial. A warrant of arrest has been issued against him. He is one of the many student leaders who 'disappeared' after the Dec 3 Kuala Lumpur Demonstration in support of hunger strike in Baling in Kedah. Like many others, he expects to be arrested under the notorious Internal Security Act.

## 11-8-75 (FUEMSSO News Service) British Petroleum concern over Petroleum Development Act

British Petroleum Oil Co. (BP), whose operations in Kuwait were taken over by the Kuwaiti Government earlier this year, said that the amended Petroleum Development Act, 1974 could spark off widespread uncertainty in Malaysia's budding oil industry and in other investment sectors. According to the company, the issuing of management shares will give Petronas (the Malaysian state-run oil company: Petroleum Nasional) the power to hire and dismiss personnel in any oil concern in Malaysia.

BP, which has more than 90 retail outlets in Malaysia, has valued its operations in Malaysia at around S\$43.1m. It has no production or refining interests in Malaysia. Other foreign companies operating in Malaysia are Royal Dutch/Shell, Exxon, Mobil Oil and Caltex Petroleum, a joint venture of Taxaco and Standard Oil of California.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun .. Abdul Razak, assured oil companies in London on April 15th that the Malaysian Government has no intention of nationalising the oil industry; its main concern is to regulate and control the industries and enable Malaysians to participate in the industry through the Government. Meanwhile, Petronas has signed petroleum

agreements with the states of Perak, Malacca and Perlis.

## Of Shipbuilders and Shipbuilding workers

Opening the S\$50m, 400,000 ton new drydock at the Sembawang shipyard, the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, on 25th May, cautioned that Singapore would be priced out of the ship-repairing market if wage bills and repairing costs in Singapore yards failed to remain lower than those of comparably located competition. Mr Lee said wages could go up, but they must be less than those in Japan, Taiwan or Hong Kong...

In his annual report for 1974, Mr Chua Chor Teok, President of the Singapore Association of Shipbuilders and Repairers, reported that the industry had emerged reasonably well in 1974. The total revenue was S\$720m. He paid a tribute to the more than 30,000 direct shipyard employees 'whose skills, diligence and willingness have contributed towards the high performance' .... The Straits Steamship Co. Ltd. had an after-tax profit of S\$6 834,000.

## Singapore-Australia avoidance of double taxation agreement

The following statement was issued by the Singapore Government on 22 May 1975:

Singapore and Australia have agreed to extend for another five years the operation of Article 18 (3) of the Singapore-Australia Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement signed in 1969. Under this section, whose operation expired in June last year, Australia will allow tax sparing credits on income derived from interest and royalties which is exempted or is subject to tax at reduced rates under the Singapore incentive laws. With the extension of this section, Australian companies interested in manufacturing in Singapore will therefore continue to enjoy a favourable investment climate in the Republic as the tax concessions on the interest and royalty payments which they received from Singapore will be retained by them and will not be reduced by an Australian tax imposed on that income.



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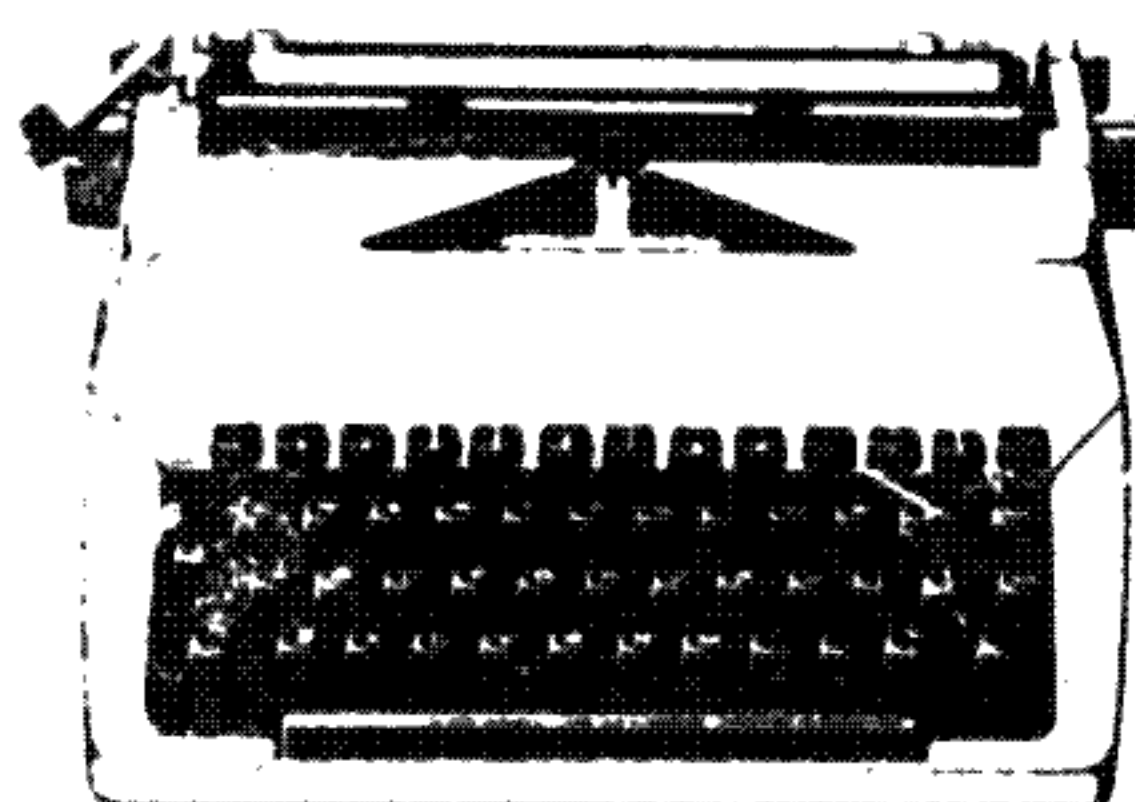
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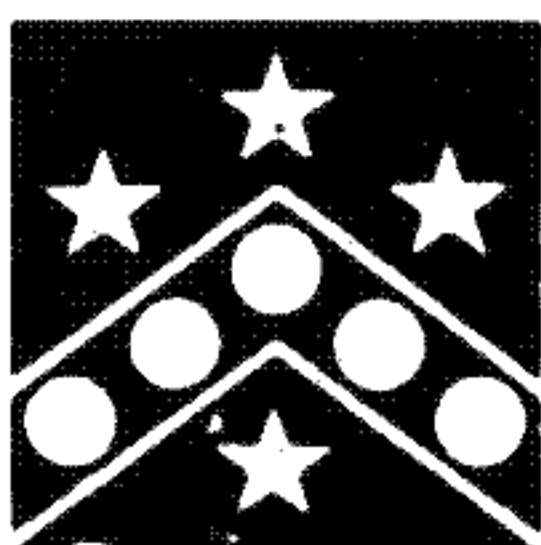


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## Pericles by Shakespeare

*Pericles* is a little-known play from Shakespeare's last period: the first of the Last Plays, so-called, along with *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*. It is a newly set text for ENGL 213 this year and will be presented in an experimental production by the Department of English at the end of this week. There is every reason to think that this will be a First Performance for *Pericles* in New Zealand. Directed by Linda Wilson and Judith Dale the production draws on the time and talents of assorted members of the university both students and staff from English, Drama, Social Sciences and Law.

Like the other late plays *Pericles* is characterised by a greater reliance on purely theatrical effects than Shakespeare had used before: more pageantry, Dumb Shows, processions, monuments and epitaphs, music and dancing. Its most remarkable feature is the Prologue - Figure of Gower, the fourteenth-century English poet (contemporary with Chaucer) from whom Shakespeare took the story. Gower enters to introduce the play, describes each new act in a prologue, controls the Dumb Shows, and in the later scenes 'presents' the action to the audience. Part of the play's authorship is disputed and only acts III, IV and V are certainly by Shakespeare; the two earlier acts have there-

fore been largely cut leaving the Gower-prologues and a variety of tableaux and Dumb Shows to represent the action.

*Pericles* is in an episodic - narrative - romance form covering a period of twenty years or so, many sea voyages, much parting and shipwreck, and five or six different kingdoms. Pericles, Prince of Tyre, journeys on across the sea of his life's troubles experiencing at different times the deaths of both his wife and daughter and the treachery of his friends. In terms of its total structure the play moves from Antioch and the incest of its king through scenes in a marvellously Shakespearean bawdy house to a final discovery, reconciliation and rebirth before the shrine of Diana. Marina the daughter whom Pericles finds again belongs with Pericles of *The Winter's Tale* and Miranda in *The Tempest*.

In this production *Pericles* is played by Jeremy Jayasuriya, Gower by Barry Nonweiler and Marina by Dinah Okeby. The brothel scenes call on the talents of Helen White as Bawd and Jim Spalding as Boulton. Performances are at 12 to 2 p.m. on Friday 19th September (primarily for the benefit of ENGL 213; admission free), and on Saturday 20th September at 8 p.m. \$1 and 80 cents for students.

## Asian Students Association Conference

1-11 November, 1975 Bangkok

NZUSA is sending 2 delegates (at least one woman) to the Asian Students Association 5th General Conference (7-11 November) and a Workshop on 'Women and the Third World' (1-6 Nov).

Asian Students Association is a federation of national student unions in Asia, with members from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Fiji, etc, and its head office in Hong Kong. The 5th General Conference will be covering business of ASA, reports from members, commissions, finance and policy.

The Women's Workshop anticipates a high degree of participation from delegates, both during the conference and on their return. Its objectives are as follows:

To train leaders in the women's movement among students

To promote awareness of the status of women and the need for work on women's issues.

To foster understanding and co-operation amongst national student unions in this area of work.

The Workshop will be run in 3 parts: a general orientation and briefing session; an extensive fieldwork programme in urban and rural areas; evaluation of the fieldwork and discussion on future plans of action.

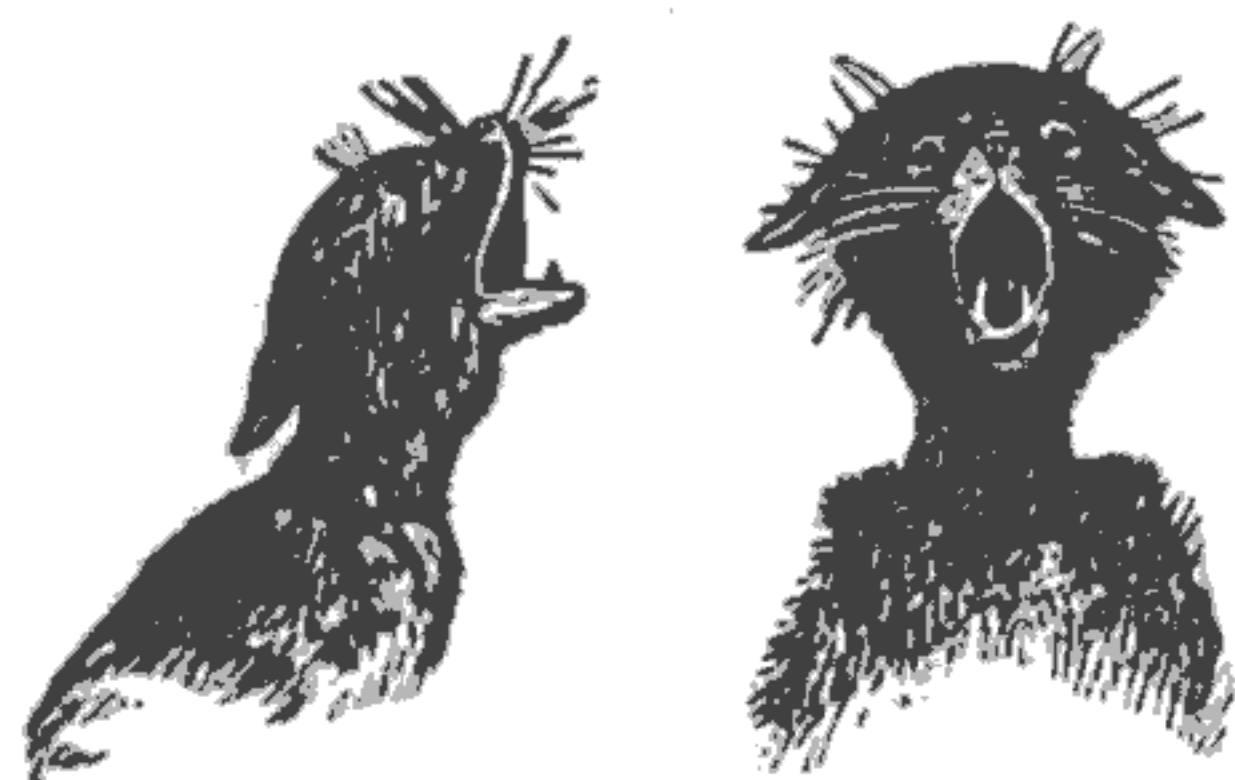
Participants will be expected to initiate surveys, research, workshops and publicity relating to the status of women on their return.

Applicants will need to be conversant with NZUSA and its policy, as well as its role in ASA, but more than that, ready to put in work before, during and after the Conference. All travel and accommodation costs of both delegates will be met by NZUSA.

Applications should include a curriculum vitae and a brief statement of the applicant's interest in and knowledge of Asian affairs, specifically student affairs. Applications must be with the President, NZUSA, P.O. Box 6368, Wellington, by Friday 26 September.

If you are interested in further information, Lisa Saksen, Bryony Hales (VUWSA Studass) or Alick Shaw, Don Carson (NZUSA) will be happy to give it.

## music



### Split Enz - Mental Notes: White Cloud

Well, here it is at last, the long-awaited debut album from the best group south of the equator. And, surprisingly, it was worth waiting for.

Mental Notes would be one of the ten best records I've heard this year. Everything about it is world-class - the music, its performance, the production right down through the engineering and the packaging. New Zealand rock has matured and borne fruit.

Mental Notes is a multi-layered album, bewildering in its intensity and complexity amongst which Philip Judd features prominently. He's obviously the main musical force with Split Enz, writing all of the songs himself or with Timothy Finn. As a vocalist he possesses one of the most distinctive throats in New Zealand rock - a harsh icy timbre reminiscent at times of Peter Hammill, but which some how transcends the purely imitative in most other places.

His lyrics too are crammed with surreal and dark images with lines like:

*'Death, glorious death,  
Is just another appointment taken'* which is out of 'Under the Wheel', a real killer, with some great keyboard work, especially the synthesiser at the end.

'Amy' (Darling) shows that there are two opposite forces at work in Split Enz's musical world which balance each other out. Side one has the stark, often frightening side, epitomised by Judd and his songs, and on the other, the zany comedy of Timothy Finn, as we see on 'Amy' - a charming little song which features many intricate time changes, along with a mean little guitar solo of Wally Wilkinson, and some tight - hit that snare drum hard - drumming from Emylyn Crowther. The bass should have been mixed up too, and a great deal more attention paid to editing.

The lighter side of Split Enz's musical persona also manifests itself in the closing cut on side one, 'So Long for Now', which further encapsulates Finn's comic view of life.

Side two is very much a showcase for the vocal and lyrical talents of Judd (arguably - and at this time - New Zealand's leading rock talent). 'Stranger than Fiction' starts the ball rolling, for my money, probably the best track on this excellent album, a really complex cut that almost defies description. The odd Genesis inflection creeps in here and there, but the group's own originality transforms their own influences, welding from seemingly disparate roots something new and refreshing.

'Time for a Change' includes lovely keyboard work, notably the piano introduction and the majestic synthesiser/mellotron at the end. 'Maybe' follows their current single and in its own right a great track but here surrounded by the cold, computerised elements that make up Judd's world, it sounds somewhat out of place.

'Titus' demonstrates Judd's sharing the vocal chores with Finn. The mandolin intro drifts from speaker to speaker around stark lyricism. There's a great keyboard section, with an almost Yes-like lushness at the end.

'Spellbound' comes next, another Judd classic. It begins with some eerie synthesiser, followed by Judd's 12-string guitar, and then in comes the rest. The title track rounds off the album neatly, being a few seconds of lunacy by Philip Judd.

What more can I say. A great album - I haven't played anything else since I bought it - and one which is a landmark in the history of New Zealand rock. Furthermore it could have the most stringent overseas standards applied to it and still come up shining. If ever a book on New Zealand rock and pop is written, it will be said that 1975 was the year New Zealand rock came of age, at last.

### Street Rats: Humble Pie; A&M

Steve Marriott has fallen on hard times. From the heady days of the Small Faces, his subsequent work has been rather disappointing. "Street Rats" continues the trend, being below the standard of previous Humble Pie Albums.

Side One starts with the title number, penned by Steve. I suppose Street Rats is supposed to be some sort of social comment. The technique is competent but needs to be more than that - as Arlo Guthrie once said "if you want to end wars and stuff you've gotta sing loud". The songs probably got something in it but Humble Pie's presentation certainly wouldn't let you know it. This distance from the music - almost as though they're hanging back not getting involved, is a feature of other tracks as well. Side One drifts through a collection of pop/rock numbers "Rock and Roll Music" (the line "That's the beauty of the melody being particularly ironic), ha/ha/ha/ha/ha/ha! We can work it out and Rain, plus two others Scored Out and Road Hog. Scored Out is the best track, the music's tighter and more involved even if there are definite shadows of Led Zepplin. What John Lennon and Paul McCartney would think of the hammering We Can Work it Out and Rain get I just don't know, so there's hardly any point me wasting paper speculating, is there?

Side Two opens a bit more hopefully with There 'Tis - Like Scored Out the music is tighter more together. Like most of the rest of the album the lyrics are just about meaningless. Let Me Be Your Lovemaker follows in this fine tradition - if it was reggae it might make some impact but it isn't so it doesn't. A little while later:

Baby you can drive my car  
And I want to be a star  
Baby you can drive my car  
Baby I love you

Magnificent . . . words fail me. The depth that is put into those lyrics!!!!!! Basically, Side Two is just as bad as side one, the songs far worse.

Give it a wide berth.

- Bob Fraser

### 25 Years of Prestige Various Artists - Prestige

This collection is subtitled as a 'specially selected offering of rare recordings, many previously unissued, by some of the great Jazz Artists who helped create the first Quarter - Century of Prestige Records (1949-74).

The record-buyer may well be cynical of claims of 'musically-valid vault rarities' when he considers the continuing exploitation of the early recordings of such artists as Joplin and Hendrix. In this case, however, the claim appears legitimate.

The extensive liner-notes are best ignored. The story of Bob Weinstock's metamorphosis from 16 year old record collector to business tycoon and founder of Prestige Records in 1949 is just another eulogy to the beloved

American Dream (yawn). So Bob is into coins and model trains. Enthralling.

Chronologically this anthology ranges from the very first title recorded by Prestige 'Progression' from Lee Konitz and Lennie Tristano, to Dexter Gordon's 'Wee Dot', recorded in 1970. Many of the major names of the two decades covered are included: Stan Getz, Gerry Mulligan, Sonny Rollins, Thelonious Monk, Kenny Burrell, Miles Davis, and the much-revered John Coltrane.

Those of you who see jazz as a decaying music form without any relevance to the contemporary scene could ponder on the fact that modern guitar greats like Jimi Hendrix, Carlos Santana and John McLaughlin have all named Coltrane as a major source of inspiration.

Not being a true jazz enthusiast, I could only recognise a few of the tunes. One number that has been given a new lease of life recently would be 'Twisted', a cute paean to schizophrenia covered by Joni Mitchell and Bette Midler amongst others. The 1949 version here features co-writer Wardell Gray on tenor sax and Al Haig on piano.

This double-album compilation is likely to have an appeal on two levels: the serious collector intent on adding new or modified recordings to his library, and the jazz lover seeking an anthology of major jazz artists at an attractively low price.

- Kerry Doole

### The Hues Corporation Wellington Town Hall 12.9.75

Soft soul, even at its acme, is not a musical genre that makes strong demands upon my listening time. So why was it that such a slick and derivative group like the Hues Corporation in concert, moved me so. Not for reasons of professionalism, certainly. Besides obviously knowing their material, the precision of their timing and choreography, and the admirable class of their band, they seemed to have a mental attitude of not treating this as "just another show."

Steve Gilpin opened. Supported by Mr Jive he progressed rather stiffly through a choice selection - Dobie Gray's masterpiece "Drift Away", Tom Jan's beautiful "Loving Arms" and a rock and roll medley combining "Jail House Rock" and "Blue Suede Shoes". Mr Jive were competent, but, like Steve Gilpin, never rose above the merely derivative. Which is a pity because Gilpin, apart from seeming still dazed by his recent car accident, was quite a powerful voice, which he uses well. The backing was clean, although sometimes a trifle thin and strained.

The Hues Corporation, uniformly attired in black and silver lame, kicked off with "Rocking Soul". Initially their stage movements also appeared a little wooden. But they loosened up as they warmed to their audience, and their audience, which covered the entire spectrum from 15-year-old teens to grandparents, warmed to them. Through "Check out your Mind" and "All Going Down Together" the female lead, Anne Kelly (who has the most sensual facial bone structure I've seen outside of Dyan Cannon) held the stage as they performed a song from their new album. I didn't catch the title, but its specific gist was that of a slow, dreamy love song.

"(Come along with us) We're the Love Corporation" worked around a frenetic dance routine. If nothing else, they definitely were more abandoned than most recent visitors to Wellington, and had the crowd clapping along with them. The only comparable recent group, I suppose, would have been The Supremes. However while they missed that trio's awesome power, there was a vivacity and freshness that others would do well to emulate.

The immaculately choreographed "Keeping it Business Together" was run into a disrupted

start a Motown medley: 'Runaway Child, running wild', 'Papa was a Rolling Stone' and 'Touch me in the morning'. While their interpretations lacked some of the original's intensity they were tied together with a snappy guitar solo from Mike Elliott. All beautifully timed with perfect support from the interplay between bass and drums. "One Good Night Together" was taken at a swept-up tempo, accentuated by hard-hitting stickwork and a tantalisingly brief piano break from Jack Manning.

Their two big hits, "Rock the Boat" and "Freedom for the Stallion" followed - interspersed with introductions and witty repartee embellishing the song's frameworks. Did I just imagine it or was there more than just a hint of ego conflict between the two male vocalists, Karl Russell and St. Clair Lee? Bows all around and then a fast exit, leaving behind memories of a show that, while not being an intense experience, remains one of the most enjoyable I've witnessed for quite some time.

- Patrick O'Dea

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