

# SALIENT

Victoria University Students' Newspaper

Vol 38 No 24 September 25, 1975



ROBB



# TWO PARTY POLICIES ON STANDARD TERTIARY BURSARY

by Anthony Ward

Some five months ago a large group of us wandered down to Parliament to support the case for a Standard Tertiary Bursary. The march was organised after a long period of frustrating delays in trying to get the Labour Party to fulfill a 1972 campaign plank to pay such a bursary. After we'd all enjoyed ourselves shouting 'we want more' etc we wandered back up the hill and waited for Budget night to see what might happen. Something did happen on Budget night (22 May) but it wasn't terribly clear what exactly it was. The Student Teachers Association STANZ, which saw its members being depleted because of heavy salary cuts, got annoyed and staged another march. This led to concessions to them (who said the days of effective marches were over?) and further confused everybody. It certainly seemed to confuse the National Party, who's bursary proposals, in late August, were attacked as vague and nebulous by Sue Green (NZUSA) and Mark Peck (STANZ).

Well then, who exactly gets what, when and how? The following is an attempt to sort out a general idea of what the present bursary proposals are. They certainly shouldn't be treated as absolute truth, but they may prove helpful.

## Labour's scheme

The present Government's plan is to provide a standard tertiary bursary for all tertiary students. This will be at a basic level of \$24 a week from the beginning of next year. If a student's home is within a university centre and he/she can do the chosen course at that university, (i.e. essentially can commute daily by public transport - Upper Hutt and Paraparaumu for Vic) then the bursary is reduced by \$11 a week. For fourth and subsequent year students the bursary is increased by \$3 a week. This arrangement takes the place of the Fees and Allowances Bursary and the Boarding Allowance as at present - though it has been extended to include "sufficiently mature" sixth form leavers. Defining "sufficiently mature" proved a real headache - the Department has now settled on those who have UE and have been away from



VUWSA President, Lisa Saksen, addresses 3000 students at Parliament

school for two years and those who have done well in sixth form certificate (getting under 12 points, i.e. being in the top third of each of your four subjects).

Junior Scholarships are still in force (tho' not talked about much) at \$300 per year, but the A and B bursaries have been changed - a pass in the Bursaries exam in 1975 will give a student a lump sum of \$250 at the end of the first term of the first year at University. Students at present at university who've been getting an 'A' or 'B' bursary will get the difference (if any) between the \$250 and the 'A' or 'B' bursaries they've already received. There is no way A or B bursaries can be 'picked up,' as they can at present. There are various further provisions for paying fees (replacing the old Fees Bursary) and for married students. Discussions are at present under way (Confused yet? No? Oh well, carry on ....) on support for costly courses (eg Architecture) and methods of paying the bursary.

That, in rough, is how the STB affects university students. The same thing applies to Tech Institute Students, with one exception - they will be eligible for the full bursary on leaving from the sixth form. Seemingly a decision to go to Tech Institute makes one "sufficiently mature" but deciding to go to University requires another test to establish this. Interesting. There are further complications as applied to student teachers. Those on the three year course at training college will have a choice of either getting their present salary levels, with the present \$200 a year bond, or of taking the STB and not being bonded. This choice exists for those at teacoll at the moment, and those entering next year. What the long-term plan is is still a matter for consultation and discussion.

Division U: The Department's decision on this is not very clear but the policy is as follows:

"6 Division U

Division U applicants will have the option of accepting the Standard Tertiary Bursary and no bond OR Division U allowances paid concurrently with the Standard Tertiary Bursary. Students paid the Division U allowances will be

bonded on the existing basis, i.e. a headsum of \$1,500 with a service requirement of one year for each year on allowances less one year when the full course of teacher training has been completed. The Studentship Deferment Scheme will be discontinued for 1976, but will be considered for later years as part of the overall review."

(Department of Education Circular 1975/130 27 August 1975).

University students on the teaching studentship have not had their position clearly defined yet. Students presently on the studentship will still receive the

it would appear that the present Government's STB plan would be introduced next year, and the revised and overhauled plan the year after. This, while it contradicts some of National's earlier comments on the STB (saying they'd scrap it completely) gives no indication of what the revised and overhauled plan might be. Further room for doubt (either of National's scheme or of their understanding of the situation - or both) was the idea to put Tech Institute Students 'on the same relative basis as university students.' Now, as we have noted above, tech institute students are not going to be on the same basis under the present scheme. Does this mean that only those tech students



'Craggy Pillar of Wisdom' Les Gandar puts the National Party line to students.

studentship allowances on top of the STB. Those entering next year, it appears, will have the same choice as teachers college students, only the bond requirements will be a lot tougher.

There are various further points about the introduction of and discussions around the STB, but these can best be dealt with after considering National's alternative.

## National's policy

As expected, the Opposition took great advantage of the furore over the Bursaries issue. When we galvanted down to Parliament, they came out to try to win support and some votes. Muldoon was cried down by the multitudes but Les Gandar managed to make a few good points. The confusion and the arbitrary way Amos went about making the bursaries decision both provided considerable ammunition for the National Party. As yet, they don't appear to have done much with it except practice shots.

National's policy, as announced at the annual conference of the PPTA in August, is indeed nebulous and vague. There are some good points - it promises negotiations with 'student bodies, professional organisations and affected institutions. Other ideas include maintaining the present A and B supplementary bursary system, maintaining the present level of student teacher allowances (which aren't too different from Labours). From Muldoon's statement,

who have been to the seventh form (or are "sufficiently mature" sixth form leavers) will get the STB? Rather than resolving things, National appears to have added one more anomaly.

Beyond this, there is National's record on students to think about. While generally benign to university students (ie not doing much to hinder them but only a little to help them), the tech institute students were left in appalling positions. It is one of the benefits of Labours scheme in that it recognises the common ground between tertiary students and may get us away from the ludicrous present emphasis on universities.

## and so what?

Despite a long period of discussions (see Salient 1), it is clear that the STB was included in the Budget this year as a direct result of NZUSA/STANZ/NZTISA pressure, and the bursaries marches. Consequently, there was considerable confusion when the details came to be worked out (including the changes in the student teachers' positions). There have been disturbing traits in the discussions, which have tended to be with the institutions and the professional bodies (PPTA, NZEI) rather than the students representatives. Particularly in the case of student teachers, this is ridiculous - PPTA and NZEI made a few moaning noises when the Budget came out and STANZ did the hard work in organising student teachers into protest. Also, there is suspicion that the Department is trying



continued from previous page  
to get the students organisation to do some of its work for it - for example in constructing a cost-of-living index for students to give the STB automatic boosts, to keep up with inflation. However these problems are undoubtedly not due in the main to the party in office, but to the way the system works and the immense pleasure such people get out of dealing with student politicians.



NZUSA Vice-President Sue Green

In toto then, there are problems yet to be resolved in the Labour plan, and problems yet to be thought of in the National 'alternative.' The very fact that this 'alternative' was announced at a PPTA meeting indicates that National has as much regard for students organisations as Labour. There is, in essence, little to choose between them at the moment - both are introducing the STB next year (National a little more dubiously), and both are committed to further negotiations with interested parties. In view of the clear point that the STB has only come about through effective student organization and leadership, the essential question on this issue is not which party is in office next year to negotiate with but how effective NZUSA/STANZ/NZTISA negotiations are and how much support they can get from students. Proposals to withdraw from NZUSA would cripple this effort, and could materially affect the levels of bursaries we get in subsequent years. The way society works at the moment is not on social need - its on who can organise the best and make the loudest political noise. Over the last two years NZUSA has proved itself very able in these respects - individualist breakaways would both harm our chances and student credibility generally.

Lastly, a question worth thinking about. The extra money students will get next year has to come from somewhere eventually the people of New Zealand. Does that not involve us in some sort of obligation to them?

#### Glossary

NZUSA	New Zealand University Students Association (representing us)
STANZ	Student Teachers Assn of New Zealand
NZTISA	New Zealand Tech Institute Students Association
NZEI	New Zealand Educational Institute (primary teachers union)
NZPPTA	Post Primary Teachers Assn (secondary teachers union)

#### QUAKERS

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 ...  
We are not saints,  
We are not cranks,  
We are not different -  
Except that we believe  
That God's light is in all men,  
Waiting to be discovered.

Discover Quakers at 8 Moncrieff Street every Sunday at 11 am.

# SALIENT ON VUWSA REELECTION

A large number of students feel that *Salient* should not take sides or comment on the elections. This was the view of Stephen Hay and the main reason for his laying a complaint against the conduct of the elections.

But in its decision printed in last week's *Salient* the arbitrators into the election reaffirmed the freedom of *Salient* from outside editorial interference of any sort and reaffirmed its right to make any comment it likes within the bounds of the law (e.g. libel laws).

Why should there be this editorial independence and why should *Salient* comment on prospective (as well as existent) executive members?

\* A *Salient* editorially independent from the executive in particular and other association officers is potentially more useful and lively than one that is a mere mouthpiece for the powers that be. An independent press has no vested interests.

\* A newspaper has a responsibility to students to critically examine their leaders and potential leaders and it is in the best position to do this.

\* If *Salient* was to ignore the possibility of critically looking at election candidates it would be performing a *disservice* to students. As long as criticism is responsible *Salient* can help students make a more informed and therefore more democratic choice.

To help you make your minds up in the new election for the 1976 President we have taken six important questions and seen how each of the candidates stand up to them on the basis of their past record and stated manifestoes.

#### 1. Will he be a full-time President?

**Beckford:** He says he will be but last time he was President he moonlighted for STB downtown - appears to have reformed.

**Hay:** He says he will be full-time when necessary and in matters of 'direct student concern' only. It's hard to see him doing this if he is keeping on a full-time job downtown next year (he plans to); can't take too many sickies ...

**Westbrooke:** He says he will be full-time but (again) will probably get around this by defining all his activities in the Young Socialists as necessary to the job.

#### 2. What is his education policy?

**Beckford:** He appears to support present policy and supports the assessment campaign planned for next year (and is the only candidate to have been involved in it so far). He also wants to see workloads reduced.

**Hay:** He has no education policy. He advocates the use of special exams (if you fail your final exam you get another go around about January). Its a great policy for students in the last year of a degree, but in reality it involves working harder and losing holiday pay for the quirks of an irrational exam system. He says nothing about assessment generally or of workloads.

**Westbrooke:** He says nothing in his manifesto except that he supports 'student control of assessment.' He has had nothing to do with assessment and workloads campaigns in the past and his little activity in the bursary campaign was often spent in attempts to split it.

#### 3. What role does he see for the Association?

**Beckford:** He wants the association to get out of the Union Building and to be active all round campus. It's hard to see what he means by this and it appears that he will end up supporting the status quo. He wants the association to be active not only on local campus matters like organising socials, looking after student accommodation needs, extending counselling services, etc. but he also wants it to be a medium for expressing students views on many things such as the proposed '76 tour. He opposes the professionalisation of the association.

**Hay:** He sees the association as a social club. The association should not be involved in politics according to him but should only be concerned with matters of direct student concern. He has often intimated that he would like to see SRC abolished. If so the President would be able to reign by decree without any real checks on him. He believes in professionalism. He wants there to be professional handling of invested monies and would like professional advocates to handle things like the STB. He opposed mass student action on the STB and wants to withdraw from NZUSA.

**Westbrooke:** From looking at his manifesto you would think he wants the association to become a branch of WONAAC. Actually he emphasises the role of the association as the initiator and organiser of campaigns. The campaigns he suggests are mostly unlikely to elicit much mass student response and would form a shaky base for the association. As neither he nor other YSers have ever partic-

ipated on Studass or university committees as student reps or in the daily run of association activities it would be safe to say that he doesn't see these as very important.

#### 4. What stand does he have on the cafe?

**Beckford:** Doesn't form part of his campaign but he has had a lot to do with it in the past.

**Hay:** He seems appallingly misinformed on it. His policy asks that rental charged to the management be reduced - none is charged. He also wants students preferred over outside staff - which is the case at the moment and should improve next year if sandwiches are made up here again.

**Westbrooke:** He says nothing on the question and has not been known to do otherwise.

#### 5. A major campaign will be waged next year to stop the '76 tour; what stand will he take?

**Beckford:** He has said that he supports HART and will work to stop the tour.

**Hay:** He opposes politicking. You can safely assume that he supports sporting contact with South Africa.

**Westbrooke:** He opposes the tour but also opposes HART. The Young Socialists have never liked HART since it advocated disruption in '72.

#### 6. What has he already done for students?

**Beckford:** He has already served half a term as President and been on the executive for a considerable time. Although he has a tendency to avoid hard work he has contributed much to the social and political life on campus.

**Hay:** He says he is a member of various students committees - they appear to be something to do with the Weir House Association. His policy statement contains so many inaccuracies (come in and ask us to point them out) on matters of vital student interest that one can conclude that not only has he little to do with students association affairs (or even student life generally) but also he is terribly mis-informed on them. However, he does offer his contacts in the business world.

**Westbrooke:** His involvement in student affairs is somewhat greater than Hays as is his state of information about them. Little more can be said about him except to state that he is mainly seen at the many 'Socialist Forums' and lunch-time foyer displays organised by the YS.

## UNSPORTING MOVE?

75 members of VUWSA (and also presumably of Sports Clubs) have put their names to a requisition for a Special General Meeting to discuss a change in the Constitution that would give Sports Council a levy from each student of \$2.00. However the total Association fee will only rise by 50 cents. The motion takes \$1.50 out of the General Account which is used for the general running of the Association, such as paying the office staff etc. as well as providing grants to Cultural Council and Sports Council.

By trying to make the amount of money going to Sports Clubs an invariable amount, this proposal would take from the whole Students' Association budget flexibility to respond to different priorities of students every year. It is also an attempt to shortcircuit the democratic process that operates at Victoria. Every year groups which benefit directly or indirectly from VUWSA's budget can come along to the Annual General Meeting and make their bid for more money in the context of the association's entire activities. By writing the amount that Sports Council gets into the budget, the students who put their names to the requisition are trying to make students examine the needs of sports clubs in isolation from the rest of VUWSA's activities.

This Special General Meeting is on Wednesday, 8 October from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Be there and express your views on MONEY.





Letters can be handed in at the letterbox just inside the SALIENT office or handed in to the editor personally. However if you wish to pay 4c postage then send your letters to P O Box 1347, Wellington. Letters should be double spaced and on one side of the paper only. We'll print just about anything you send in except we can't print libellous material.

nificance of Man is found in the process of living, not in the origin of the species, nor in the eventual extinction of the species.

Chin's next tour de force is the extension of his argument from the biological theory of evolution to the influences of evolutionary theory in Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology and religion. In this step he ignores the origins of the theory of evolution. The idea of evolution arises in response to attempts to understand a world in which change takes place and change becomes meaningful when it is seen in terms of process. This is not an idea of modern times, elements

### Fullsome prose

Dear Sir,

God; your correspondence columns go even lower. This new nadir is reached with Bulwer Keir Lytton's arrogant and stupid attempt to assassinate my very good pupil, I.A.Q. Richards. And, worse yet, the verbal sot maliciously insulted the good L. Jobson. The latter is a man of integrity and peace, and is Apollo to the ape genus whose tradition is maintained by Lytton. This garrulous ruin of an author cheapens the literary metier with every breath. The repulsive simian mentality of the man is an embarrassment to my profession, and I am moved to protest at the continuation of the deplorable practice of printing this gorilla's inane utterances.

It may interest your patient readers to learn that this worn-out sack of literary and artistic mutation was once seen in a public convenience. There, with a limp, lying voice, the marmoset mind (which, incidentally, almost made Darwin eat those glorious words) was expounding its theory of belles lettres. This amounted to a lot of dirty words and several attempts to wrench open the mud-spattered overcoat with which Lytton's brutal body was nominally covered. It was quite evident from the sexual orientation of Lytton's lispng grunts that the moron regarded 'belles' and 'French' as words with the same meaning. There is, also, the documented evidence of Lytton's pamphlet, 'Lettering the French Way,' which is as appalling in its grammatical misconstruction as in its sexual misinformation. Furthermore, I am quite sure it was Lytton who wrote the obscene air 'Gumboot Upper,' which you will remember, caused questions to be asked in the Lords. Of course, a doctor made it perfectly plain; the procreative instructions were more appropriate to the horse-fly than to homo sapiens.

Lytton is eighty seven years old, and you can see his teeth on the pavements of Islington any day, without watching their baring on the printed page. Who needs a porridge of lies and slander when good people like G.Z. Chesterton might give you Caspian caviar perceptions? All the major newspapers include in their editorial policy a procedure for returning Lytton's manuscripts unopened; you might care to follow suit.

And, by the way, I wish to report a cover-up in which you've been, sorry to say, an unsuspecting accomplice. 'Where Do you Stand' was a very interesting quiz (I romp in as mad, bad, and dangerous to know, incidentally) and one of the questions made use of a glorious movie which you named as 'The Battle of Algiers.' The correct title is 'The Battle for Algiers,' the meaning of which is quite different.

So many journals propagate this error, and I won't lay discredit at your open plan office in particular. Even with assiduous 'spotters,' you can't spot everything. I thought you'd like to know all the same.

Dissociating myself from Lytton's 'Gibbon and other greats - a literary memoir of Whipsnade,' Sir Edmond Gosse, Aubrey Beardsley's adolescence, and the U.S.A.

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
George G. Saintsbury

The Orkneys,  
Dec. 1904.

## LETTERS

### Conservative Elements in MSA be Eradicated

Dear Sir,

In view of the AGM of MSA last Saturday there seems to be a growing force who are looking forward for a change in its leadership. Though lost in the election, the spirit lingers on. To quote from its manifesto: "No student with conscience can ignore and avoid political issues that are of direct concern to us

The other force (an integrating body of the last committee) came into office with the assistance of a handful of conservative elements. These elements though they claim to be aware of the injustices back home, are not prepared to do anything or show any moral support unless pressure builds up in its members. These elements have no initiative in doing constructive things unless to cool down the discontents of the students. What a malicious plot to cover up the truth so as to baffle the fore-going student movement.

I suggest to all Malaysians to think twice before making any final decisions in agreement with these elements.

As a matter of fact, these stumbling blocks must one day be exposed and diminished in conjunction with the awareness of the students. Truth can no longer be deceived or hidden. There is a saying: "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool most of the people most of the time."

Observer

### Won't vote for Hay this time

Dear Sir,

As I was passing the Student Union foyer last week I saw a lass I presume to be our President posting a large notice on the Board about the election results. Now what strikes me about this matter is that the Arbitration Committee ruled the election invalid on a technical point only (and one that I don't think had any relevance to the outcome of the election). This means to me that Steven Hay didn't complain because he thought that any vital democratic process had been negated but simply because he's a bad loser.

I voted for Hay last time. I certainly won't vote for him again.

Yours faithfully,

E. Austin

### No hair on this Chin!

Dear Bruce,

I feel I must take issue with your contributor John Chin over the article 'Evolution: a donkey story.' Chin calls for an 'unbiased study of the theory and an open discussion of its meanings in all areas of life,' and continues 'nothing short of intellectual honesty will do.' Either he is guilty of intellectual dishonesty or a remarkably shallow thinker. Take for example the passage:

'Given the fact that the human being is a biological freak and the result of some remarkable mistake in the evolutionary process, he must objectively be no more meaningful than the inanimate chemical and physical properties that make up matter'

This reductionist argument is invalid. There are many examples to refute this argument. The whole is often qualitatively distinct from the sum of the parts. An atomic bomb is more than the sum of its components - the meaning of an atomic bomb is more than particular physical and chemical combinations. For particular physical and chemical combinations result in the qualitatively distinct nuclear reaction - which is both physical and chemical and more than physical and chemical. Similarly a human being can be composed of matter having chemical and physical properties, and yet be qualitatively greater than the summation of his-or her components. We recognise this by making a distinction between the animate and the inanimate, between the living and the dead.

John Chin denies this by stating:

'What does this mean? It means that if we begin with the inanimate, our very lives must be inanimate.'

This does not follow. For the process by which the inanimate becomes the animate is coherently described by the theory of evolution. Since the theory is coherent - it indicates a logical possibility, it is therefore not subject to a purely logical disproof. An attempt to discredit the theory must be empirically grounded.

Chin goes on to cite B.F. Skinner saying 'To man qua man we readily say good riddance' and suggests that this is a logical consequence of a theory of evolution. 'Origin determines destination. So much for the significance of man.'

What a load of crap! Why should origin determine destination? What are consequences for the significance of man? Suppose we agree that Man is dust and to dust he shall return. Does this make life any less significant? Definitely not for the sig-

of it are found in Heraclitus, and the Judean prophets. It has been put to many uses both positive and negative by those who see change and seek change.

Chin picks on B.F. Skinner to illustrate the potential misapplication of the idea of evolution, but he does not spell out what he means by 'it may be wise to think of the alternative.'

The alternatives to the idea of process are twofold. Since the idea of process arises in the attempt to understand change it may be denied by either denying the intelligibility (meaningfulness) of change or by denying change itself. Both techniques are used by the ideologists of those who do not want to see or seek change.

The totally meaningless change of the existentialist can be dismissed. For we do give meaning to our lives and existence. The anguish of the existentialist usually smells of the self pitying indulgent and impotent intellectual, rejecting the world in order to assert in subjectivity.

Such I suspect is not the path advocated by the Chin's of this world. They seek, like Parmenides, to deny change by viewing the One, the unchanging, the eternal. Since it cannot be found in this world they seek it in another, and in the process deny the reality and importance of this world.

In the history of Christianity this is the path of the Gnostic heretics, who in their search of 'real unchanging' knowledge found it a necessity to deny the historicity of salvation.

If Chin is trying to re-enthron the Christian god, perhaps he should take note that this god has shown a remarkable interest in change, in process. Admittedly priesthoods have arisen seeking to create an other-worldly religion legitimising the status-quo, but remarkable as it may seem this god has raised up a succession of prophets from Amos, to the Taipings to many of the present student activists in Asia.

Take warning the word of the Lord is a two edged sword. If an ideology of the status-quo is required perhaps John Chin should turn to Confucius who has a much better record of serving the ruling class than Yahweh.

I challenge John Chin to describe his alternative to evolutionary thought.  
Dave Cunningham





### Another 'swinging voter'

Dear Editor,

I've voted conservative all me life in these here students association elections - right back to the good old days of Gerard Curry when boys were boys and girls were girls and the Law Fac ruled the roost.

Now then, take this Hay fella. Can I put one question to him. Steve, I'd suppose you'd be a sporting sort of a joker. Right? Right. You know as well as I do (being the son of a double All Black who won blues for hockey at varsity) that down there on the rugby paddock, in the mud and sweat, no joker would deny that when all's said and down, it isn't who wins or loses the match but how you play the game that really counts.

Sportsmanship, Steve old mate, that's the name of the game. And you've shot in your nest as far as I'm concerned. Jesus, to have to sink as low as going to that pack of student geriatrics we call the 'Election Committee'. Christ, most of those buggers are so decrepit that they couldn't tell a textbook from a copy of Best Bets.

Steve, you've just kissed my vote good-bye.

Yours down in the scrum

J. Sullivan

### Smoter Smotes Smith

Dear Bruce,

I read with disgust an advertisement for the Tennis Club, printed in the last issue of *Salient*. I find it amazing that such a progressive newspaper as your own could find it in itself to print such an outmoded request as, and I quote, "Girls please bring a plate". The ad further went on to direct enquiries to "Murray 788-310." I would suggest that people do this. After all the man can't be just a number - he must have some humanity. But there I go again, letting my prejudices get away on me: after all, this Murray may be a female. After all, what's in a name?

I challenge you, Murray, closet female or whatever you are, to emerge and inform us what you are driving at when you ask the girls to bring a plate. Do you realise that this request, small and harmless though it may appear, in truth epitomises all that is bad, nasty and chauvinist in this male, piggy world. It is the first shot fired in this Sarajevo of the feminist world. Look out, Murray, think before you write another ad.

Mrs Billie Jean King (oops, sorry, I mean Ms.)

### Student upset

Dear Sir,

I am most upset by the recent influx of Malaysian letters in the last few issues. While I hold nothing against Malaysians (some of my friends know Malaysians and say they are nice, generous people), I wonder if you could even up the range of people from whom your letters come. Whatever happened to the old caf complaints?

Yours sincerely  
An upset student.

B. C. A.

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For information re the dive phone Ron UH88-897  
Sandy UH84-443

### Lesson for MSA

Dear Sir,

It is evident from an analysis of the development of Malaysia and Singapore society that culture is not value free, in fact it reflects the ideas of the class that holds the power. In a society like Malaysia and Singapore where there is a very unequal distribution of wealth, the majority being poor and a few contemptuously rich, culture and art are used by the status quo to rationalise and perpetuate this unfair state of affairs.

Malaysia and Singaporean society is going through a period of convulsions. The majority of the people namely, the workers and the poor are demanding change whilst the privileged few stubbornly resist and oppose any form of progressive change. In this conflict, where does the progressive culture stand? "Art for Art's sake." only consolidates the power of the oppressors. Art in the service of the people can politicise the people and help them transform their oppressive environment into one which is based on justice. Through the medium of art, it can be used to educate the masses, exposing and attacking the sources of social ills, mobilising the creativities and energies of the masses to work towards the creation of a just society. Only when this is done through the medium of art, can it be said that art is truly serving the people.

In fact, the latter is the basic principle ran by the University of Singapore Student Union Social & Cultural Committee. They tried to put on regular cultural activities - to promote a culture that reflects social reality. Sessions held where students get together and through collective effort produce songs, poems, drama based on own experiences, and sing, dance and act.

Besides they put on: (1) Holiday camps to discover the happiness and spirit of group life and learn something beneficial (2) fortnightly social gatherings, an opportunity for students to interact, to learn from one another.

Hope MSA will learn from them.

### Putting the cap on the Antibes

Dear Sir,

I am very sorry Papa wrote to you some weeks ago. Papa is grown very sorry too

Infirm in age, Papa said some cruel things about Mr Lloyd Jobson. They are not even acquainted and it is an embarrassment to my family that its oldest surviving member should stoop to denigrating strangers.

So, to make amends I insist you print my apology to Mr Jobson. Offence was meant in a senile and irresponsible way; the capable and younger Lytton genus extends its abashed apology with all the esteem which can be conveyed with the printed word.

May we also extend our recommendation of Mr Jobson's real contributions to the pursuit of a decent society.

Yours sincerely,  
Felicia-Sally Lytton

Cap D'Antibes  
1839

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### Fooling around with politics

Dear Sir,

In last Saturday's AGM, a small group of MSA members played around with a social and cultural association and deviated from politics. These people have an ulterior motive in deceiving some of the members.

An analysis of the past, MSA had already been involved in politics.

For example:

1. As a social association, instead of celebrating the Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Puasa etc., why are they so concerned about Merdeka Day which is a political day, every year.
2. Most of the members will still remember that during Merdeka Day Ball in 1973, our High Commissioner, Mr Jack de Silva, attacked some of the patriotic students for putting up an Eastern Cultural Concert which he alleged was a danger to the Malaysian Government.
3. In the Malam Malaysia which was held in August this year, they also put up films showings which were produced by the Malaysian authorities to praise their achievements and ignore the majority of the poor working people.
4. Why are the ex-MSA executives so concerned with the relationship of the people from the High Commissioner which is a well-known fact that they are the representatives of a country. What benefits the association with close relationships with these people?

On the other hand, these small groups of people discriminate against the force of Malaysian students here, by saying that we can do nothing about injustices in our society. But in fact Malaysian students have sacrificed a lot. For example, last year on the Tasek Utara issue, NZUSA (the national students body which supports and sympathises with the struggles of the Malaysian people) received donations of more than NZ\$2000. With this sort of pressure, MSA was forced to hold a squatters party which aimed to ease the students' dissatisfaction.

These people hope that most of the Malaysian students will be like them without taking action against oppression, injustice, anti-democracy given by our Government. We all know that the fruit of success is up to us to fight for it, it doesn't fall automatically from the sky.

Finally, I like to call on the members of MSA to beware of the newly elected executive and don't let them fool us again. Beware of our society, our majority of suffering people. Try to serve them when you go home.

MSA member.

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

### Notice to all Architecture Intermediate Students

A meeting will be held on Thursday 2 October 1975, at 4 pm in the Conference Room, Sixth Floor, EASTERFIELD for all students who wish to apply for acceptance into the 1st Year of the B.B.Sc. in 1976.

The course program, entry requirements, career prospects etc. will be discussed and copies of the 1976 Prospectus will be distributed. The staff of the School of Architecture will be available to answer queries.

At 5 pm the meeting will adjourn to the School of Architecture, 91 Kelburn Parade, where Intermediate Students will be able to look over its facilities and meet some of the students.



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### Keep exposing

page 5

Dear Sir,

It was very interesting to read about our money grabbing diplomats. Malaysians should write more often to expose these things.

Most of us would not like to stick our necks out as someone suggested last week. However, there are other ways of contributing to the betterment of our society. We can write and express our thoughts, contribute moral and financial support to those who are actively involved and risking their freedom for some ideal which they may never see succeed. In the long run all these count.

While we are in NZ we can read material not available at home. It is also very important to talk to NZ'ers who are prepared to listen about Malaysian politics. Most of them have only a vague, tourist impression of the situation there. If we can correct this view, we have achieved something. But first of all begin by educating yourself on the subject.

Another Disgusted Malaysian

# KEEP NEW ZEALAND ROVING.

### Doctor Dino

Dear Sir,

It must be very dangerous for anyone to express his feelings publicly now that 'Dino has declared all such persons as "psycho-somatic." NZUSA harbours a few mentally sick persons, as does VUWSA according to him.

Dino seems to have a grudge against those people which interfered with his otherwise fair observation of the Malaysian situation.

If Dino means what he says, then let us all hear more in depth analysis from him instead of making ill-hidden abuse on the integrity of people who are really making history.

Student of History



# SRC REPORT

## Abortion - new policy ?

by Gary Henderson

People! People everywhere and more coming in the doors. That was the unbelievable scene in the Union Hall, minutes before last week's SRC meeting was due to make its fortnightly apocalyptic impact on University life.

When the meeting started at least 4 out of every 5 people stopped talking to listen. Apologies and last week's minutes were rapidly dealt with - something much more important was ahead.

Under Matters Arising a question was asked about the progress of the investigation into the business of a Malaysian High Commission car being parked outside the Union at the time of the MSA ball. The Publications Officer, some of you might know his name, said he was waiting for a reply to a letter he had sent to the Palmerston North Post Office before he could seal the case. Apparently this means he is attempting to get the vehicle registration. So far so good.

Next came an important report from Peter Rendall who was on the arbitration committee dealing with a complaint made about the elections. An editorial comment in the election supplement in 'Salient' was deemed to have had a material effect on the election results and so the Presidential elections were declared invalid. The committee's decision has been posted in full on the foyer noticeboard for some time now and was also printed on the front page of last week's 'Salient.'

Three more reports, containing notices of meetings etc followed. Rod Prosser's education report had to do with assessment and reps are being asked to send in reports of their experiences with

assessment in their courses.

Now comes the bombshell! The first motion on the agenda said that previous SRC policy on abortion be rescinded and replaced with a motion reading:

That this association condemn the unjust social conditions which oppress women, leading to unwanted pregnancies and the wish to terminate them, and therefore calls for the establishment of increased forms of assistance for women who experience difficulties during pregnancy; and furthermore, that this association oppose any liberalisation of the existing law on abortion, and express the view that abortion be made available only when the physical or mental health of the mother is in serious danger.

The mover of the motion (Helen Cull) said in a well written speech that SRC policy had not changed since 1970 and that SRC seemed generally opposed to abortion law reform as it refused to give money to the abortion march and visiting feminists like Nan Bailey and Jessica Star. Ms Cull claimed that social injustices were the root cause of the problem, and that we should look at them. I think she is only half way there. Social injustices have causes too - why not look at them.

Abortion, she claimed, was *not* the only alternative, and she advocated increased sex education and contraceptive advice and counselling, personal and financial assistance to creche and day care centres, and financial assistance to medical and legal counselling services.

Her comments were reinforced by Pip Desmond who seconded the motion. She said that we should be trying to

remedy the social and economic problems which bring about the need for abortion. She then sat down and the attack commenced.

First up was Gillian Goodger, attacking from the rear, who moved an amendment which effectively altered the spirit of the motion. Lisa disallowed it on those grounds, so another Young Socialist disagreed with her ruling. After a brief scuffle the amendment remained disallowed.

Peter Aagaard agreed that abortion should not be an easy method of contraception, but wanted to know what was going to happen to women who were 'forced' into wanting abortions in the next 30 to 50 years before socio-economic conditions were changed. The next speaker, a girl, supported him. Changes take time - meanwhile people are suffering.

Then came Pat Duignan who saw himself as a champion of the rights of the foetus which he claimed was a person. He asked us if we were prepared to end human life because we couldn't see it? He was supported by Cath Bergin who said that people were unsure as to when human life started and that we should agree that it began at conception. She was booed along with Pat Duignan.

Then Anthony-cool-and-sensible-but-nevertheless-ruthless Ward declared that we'd get nowhere with philosophical issues, so he concentrated on social issues, by telling us that 40% of the Remuera Clinic's patients had used 'effective' contraceptives. He also said that the Law doesn't stop abortions, it only forces them backstreet, overseas and into a higher income bracket.

Helen Cull, mover of the abortion motion



Another guy claimed that bringing a child into an unhappy home, in bad conditions was a crime against the child. Abortion was the product of an imperfect world he said. Maybe that's the whole problem.

A 'mother' spoke next. She said 'prevention is better than cure,' abortion has high complication rates, and has long term effects. Her argument was a bit emotional and had several unsubstantiated facts - she was booed by one side and cheered by the other.

Then our old friend Gibbs mentioned the long waiting list for adoptions but was given his usual treatment by the SRC.

Tony Lane then mentioned that Catholics formed a disproportionately high percentage of the Remuera Clinic's patients and that these people were forced by the situation to go against their own feelings.

Finally Lisa recognised the third or fourth attempt of a local campus Catholic to get the motion put. The motion was put and carried. Calls for a division and a count saw the motion still carried 164-113.

The next motion concerned the Maori land march, but there was a delay while all the socially concerned people left the room. A young Maori teacher, Eruera Nia, spoke to us outlining the problems of organising things for so many people. The march would be at its largest when it reaches Wellington and that local Marae accommodation which could hold up to 600 people would prove quite insufficient. All organisations sympathetic to the March were being approached to help out in billeting marchers. The march is due in Wellington on the weekend of October 12-14 and a motion was passed supporting the march and offering the facilities of the Union Building to the marchers over that weekend.

Finally, Peter Aagaard and Kevin Swann were elected on to the Union Management Committee and the meeting collapsed from exhaustion.  
(p.s. Gary Henderson voted for the abortion motion in case you wanted to know)



## LAND MARCH

At the last SRC meeting students voted unanimously and with acclamation to support the Maori Land March and to offer the facilities of the Union Building to the marchers when they arrive in Wellington. This motion was also passed at Union Management Committee.

Now we've got to put our motions into action. What I need quite simply is help. I need people who are willing to offer both their cars and themselves to get the whole thing properly organised. Anyone so motivated should approach the Students Association office and ask for me. You will be welcomed with open arms. And don't forget that individual billets are still needed.

Lisa Saksen  
President

  
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### NZUSA Trip

Applications are still open for two positions on the NZUSA delegation to the 5th General Conference of the Asian Students' Association to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, between 1-11 November, 1975.

As the Conference will be held in conjunction with a Seminar on Women in the Third World, women members of NZUSA are urged to apply. Fares to Bangkok and accommodation costs incurred during the Conference will be met by NZUSA. Applications must be with the President of NZUSA by Friday 26th September. No late applications can be considered.

Copies of the prospectus on the Women's Seminar may be viewed on request from the President of your local association. If any further information is required, please contact the President 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.



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# ELECTION. MK. II. SUPPLEMENT

## WHO; President

### Participatory Democracy - a game for 5000 players.

An appeal by a V.U.W.S.A. presidential candidate in the last student elections having been upheld (see notice board in the Union Foyer), a new election for the position of president is being held. Here are a few ideas for the three thousand or so that never seem to bother to vote.

**WHEN:** Wednesday 1st October  
Thursday 2nd October - both days 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Rankine Brown foyer and Union Foyer.

**RULES:** Very simple. If you are a paid up member of the students association just front up to either polling place and identify yourself. Take a voting paper and fill it in.

**SELF EXPRESSION:** Basically we recognise three types of vote:

- (1) The vote for a candidate. This is done by crossing out the names of those candidates you don't want.
- (2) The informal. A vote this way is a vote for the electoral process while informing all the candidates that they are not your choice. This is achieved by crossing out all the names on the ballot paper. The informals are counted and recorded separately, and I believe are a greatly underutilized expression of opinion. I'm hoping for a good 1 000 of this type this time.
- (3) The Invalid. This one is for those who think not only the candidates but also the process is a waste of time. This vote is achieved by either making your paper ambiguous, or by writing extraneous details on the form. Again these are counted separately, but are unsatisfactory in as much as the true reformer cannot be recognised in the results from the bumbler who spoils his paper by mistake.

There should be something there for everyone.

An election forum will be held Monday September 29th - Union Hall 12-2 to help you make your choice.

The number of each voter is written on a corner of the ballot paper as the voter receives it. The sole purpose is to enable the removal of the multiple voters efforts. Of course, because of this the vote is not strictly a 'secret one' but rather a 'confidential vote.' Yes, the vote of any person can be traced, but with the above exception they are not. The confidentiality lies with the controller of the election. and that system has worked well since the start.

I would like to appeal to all students to vote. If you cannot think of it as your right or your duty ... think of it as your money.

*Robert Lithgow, Returning Officer.*

Gyles  
Beckford



Next year the Association will need to have a President who will be available at all times to represent and action the views of Association members. The President must also seek out those views and attempt to give the Association some positive direction. That can only be done by getting out of the Union Building instead of waiting for students to come to the 'mountain.' The time has come for the Association to be active all over campus.

The major activities I see as important and which I will work for are:

Full support for the assessment campaign through which students must be able to say what form of assessment they want and what the workloads will be for their courses.

The appointment of an overseas student counsellor to help overseas students with immigration and other problems. The position for a third student counsellor exists now and it must be filled with a person who will help overseas students on this campus.

Student accommodation is necessary. I see it as essential that the university earmarks land in the Clairmont Terrace area for student housing. The Association must lobby the Housing Corporation, the City Council and the

University Grants Committee for funds and the Association must use the newly created Trust Fund to build its own student flats.

The extensions to the Gymnasium must start next year and plans must be made for future extensions to the Union Building. At the same time the Building Fund must be brought under Association control so that it can be used and invested to the benefit of all members. The proposed rugby tour of South Africa will be an issue on this campus. I will support and work for the stopping of that tour. But that can only be achieved by full debate on campus and not simply by a donation to HART or any other group.

I will continue to support the use of Association monies for putting on social activities. SASRAC, the hops, and the Mini Festival have all shown that the Association has a responsibility to support them.

There will be different priorities and other issues, some of which I may disagree with, but which I will honestly represent.

The President cannot work hidden in an office whether it is in the Union Building or downtown. And students do not need outside 'professionals', financial or political, to tell us how to run our Association.

Stephen  
Hay



**GENERAL** - It is my intention as President to be full-time, as the circumstances require: to become involved in matters of direct student concern only, so as to preserve Executive from petty politics - especially political extremes - and the polarity which has existed there until now. I am genuinely concerned to achieve the specific planks in my policy and, unlike previous Executives (with which my rival has been closely associated) expect to be able to achieve something tangible and of real benefit to students. Through prudent financial management it is my intention to overturn the desultory investments of previous Executives and to reduce the present Studass fee - which, by any standard, bears no correlation to the so-called 'benefits' associated with Studass membership. The motive behind my invalidating the previous election on the basis of Salient's declared partiality is an example of the 'equal access' principle I intend making Salient policy.

**BACKGROUND** - LLB graduate; now researching LL.M.; current and sometime member of various student committees.

**POLICY** - introducing 'specials' examinations, akin to Massey, so students failing a paper in the final year of a degree or professional course can sit another paper

within 12 weeks of sitting the examination they failed.

- subsidising university creche (affecting 120 children) at least with an additional full-time supervisor.

- Introducing a strict editorial policy for 'Salient' so it becomes a newspaper for students, and less a paper for the editor - by insisting on an overall balance in the selection of articles so no particular viewpoints are exclusively presented.

- no 'politicking' except in matters affecting students directly.

- stopping STUDASS payments to outside pressure groups.

- ambitious financial policy using trustee investments and restoring to STUDASS the powers of investment of all its income.

- cutting NZUSA links but retaining Student Travel arrangements and using the levies paid to NZUSA (\$8,500) for student purposes here. This permits VUW an independent viewpoint on all issues and lets it accommodate individual student opinion.

- improving the cafeteria - reducing the rental payable by management, cutting selection apart from meals - both permitting price reductions - and preferring students over outside staff in employment



WHEN; OCT. 1st & 2nd, 8am - 6pm.

REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

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Voices from Women's Liberation

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Ian

Westbrooke



As students show dissatisfaction about events on and off campus, on issues from racism to assessment, it is the President who should be playing a leading role in initiating action around such issues. Over the last six weeks since the first vote was taken neither of the other candidates have condescended to show any interest in what students are discussing. On the abortion issue in particular, they both prefer to remain silent.

As a Young Socialist, I have been involved since 1971 in antiwar, anti-apartheid and bursary actions. Throughout this year, I have been active on the issues that students are debating, at SRC, forums, etc. Being involved in the concerns of students is one reason why I think students should support me. The President of the Association is not just an administrative position.

The present abortion debate is an issue where the President should take a stand - a stand for adopting a policy supporting 'A Women's Right to Choose.' Fighting the oppression against women that says that all pregnancies should be brought to term, is the same fight for social justice as that against the Vietnam war and racist sports tours. Condemning women to lives as 'mere reproductive machines' denies women the right to determine their own lives in the same way that the Vorster and Thieu regimes have denied self-determination to the oppressed

people in their respective countries.

With the elections approaching, broader issues that go beyond the campus assume more importance for many students. Bursaries, abortion, the 1976 South African rugby tour, and Maori rights are some of the issues that students have shown concern for. Students should be challenging the politicians on their stance on these issues and helping build activities like the Maori land march. That march, as an activity by thousands of Maori people in election time will force their demands onto the politicians, particularly the Labour government, as has never happened before.

I want to be elected so that the Students Association can get involved in drawing students into such actions around our concerns independent of the political parties. The Young Socialists, through the Socialist Action election campaign have experience at doing just that - challenging the Labour government on its record and championing the rights of the underprivileged in this society. Vote for Ian Westbrooke, the candidate pledged to campaign for:

- women's rights
- student control of assessment
- solidarity with the struggles of oppressed people in New Zealand and overseas.

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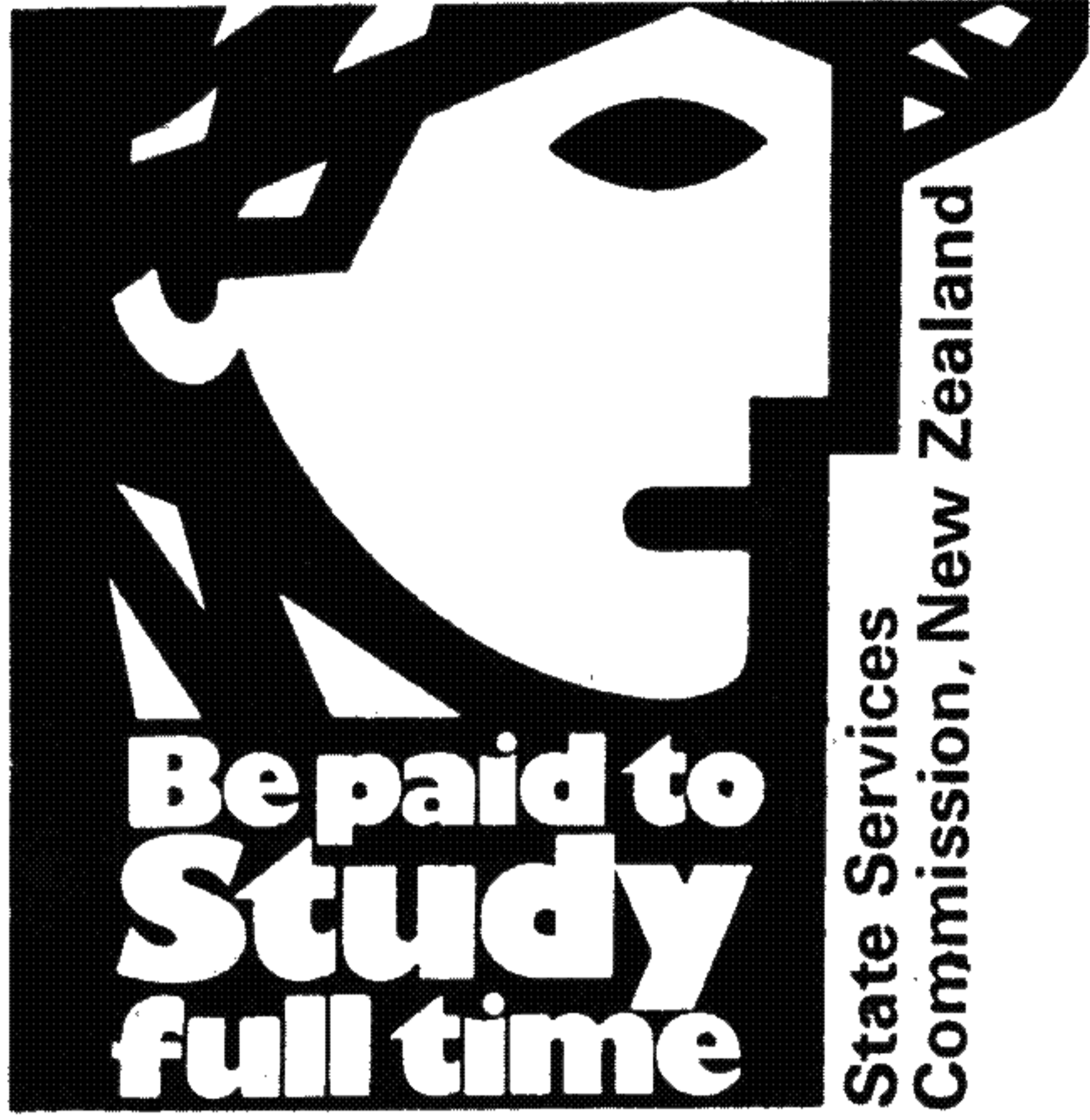
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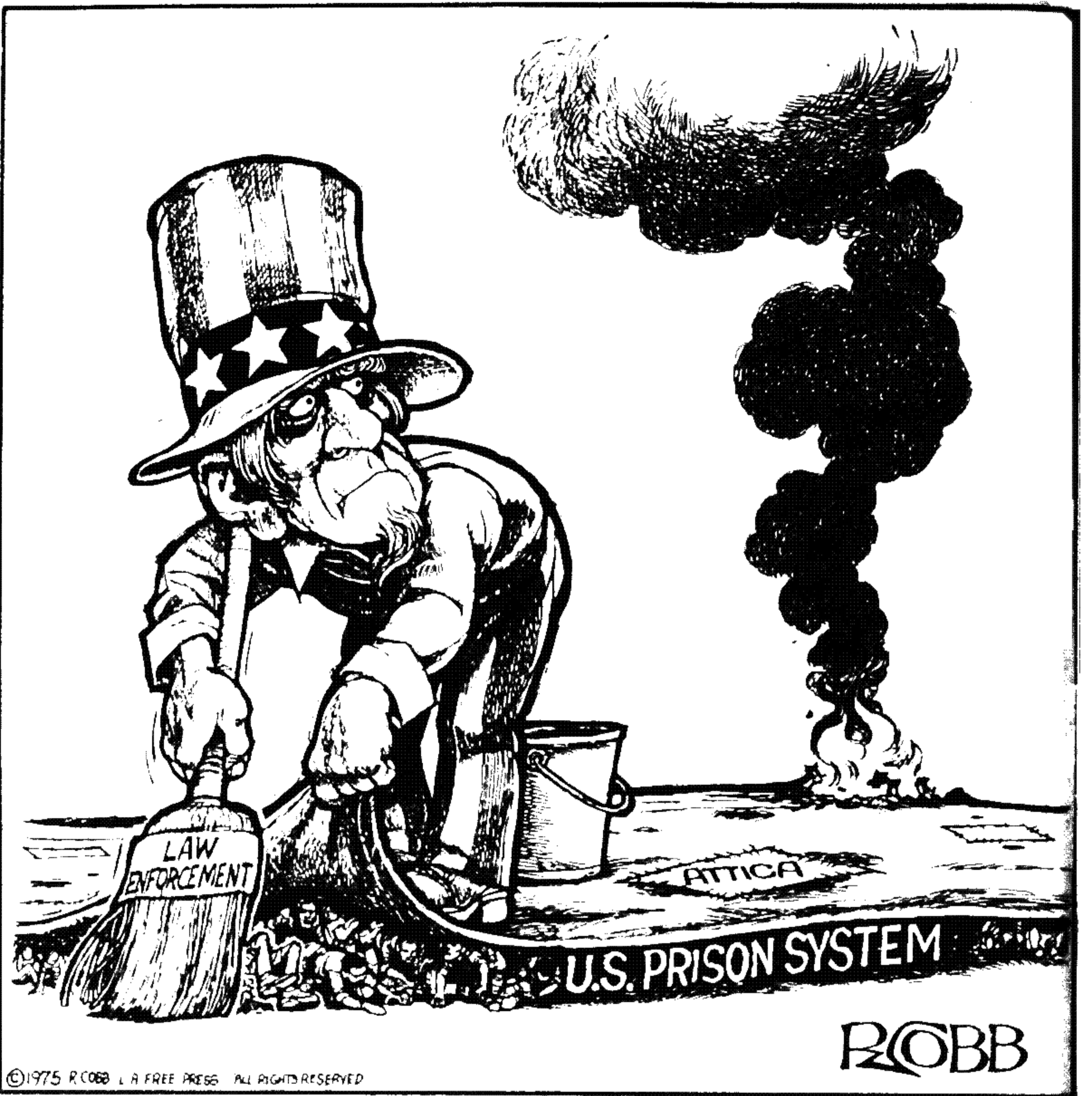
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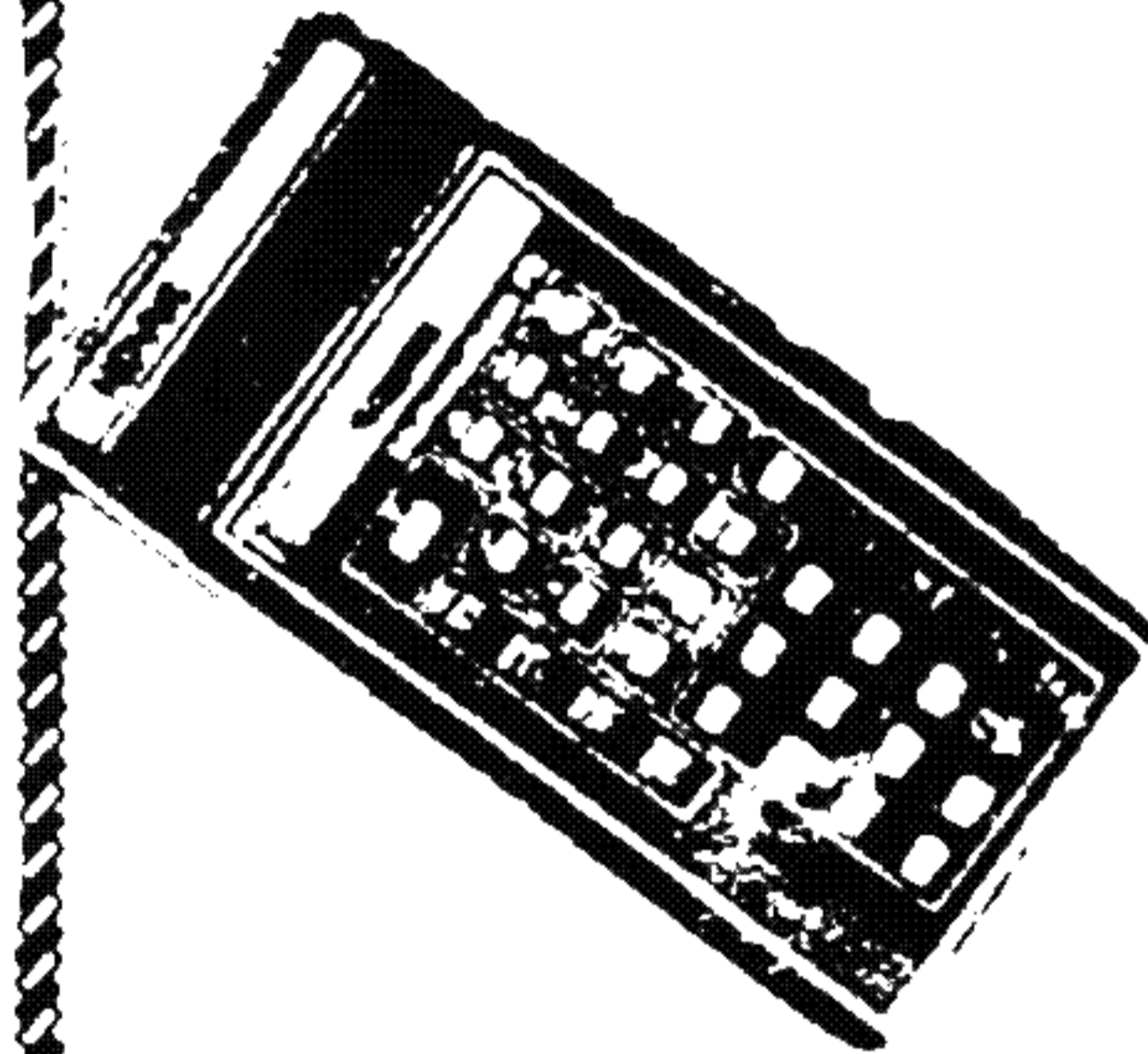
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The following articles have been summarised from reports filed by Wilfred Burchett from Saigon — Ho Chi Minh City. They were first published in the New York revolutionary paper "The Guardian". Burchett has published many books on Vietnam and toured the liberated areas of south Vietnam on many occasions before complete liberation this year.

# Vietnam after victory

There has been astonishing progress toward normalization of life in Saigon since its liberation. Conditions will soon permit the transformation of the Military Administrative Committee into a people's revolutionary committee, such as are already functioning in some of the city's suburbs. The Military Administrative Committee was temporarily established because of the grave security and other problems which the liberation forces inherited from the puppet regime and American occupation.

'Besides the normal health and nutrition needs of a city of 3.5 million people,' Dr Nguyen Van Thu, in charge of public health and social affairs, told Wilfred Burchett 'the Americans left behind 130,000 persons in Saigon alone who were drug addicts or had venereal diseases. The prostitutes numbered between 100 - 300,000, while there were about 300,000 pickpockets and other thieves.'

On the day before liberation, the police abandoned the prisons and 7,000 ordinary criminals escaped, helping themselves to weapons left in the streets by puppet troops. There were about 200,000 war orphans whose fathers were among the American, Australian, South Korean and other invading troops. There were tens of thousands of new refugees from the fighting preceding the capital's liberation. At least a million people were unemployed prior to liberation.

Saigon 'a mountain of garbage.'

'Saigon was once known as the 'pearl of the Orient,' but what we found was a mountain of garbage,' said Dr Nguyen Van Thu. 'The garbage had been uncollected for fifteen days prior to liberation and, in any case, there were only 120 garbage trucks for this large city with the result that rats were spreading plague. There were also cases of cholera and typhus.'

'One of the first tasks,' he said, 'was a mass inoculation campaign which has already reached two-thirds of the population.' The inoculation campaign paralleled a vast cleaning operation carried out mainly by students and the public.

Since liberation prostitution has been banned and 'nightclubs', opium dens and other drug outlets have been closed. An important member of the Military Management Committee told Burchett that 'Saigon must have formerly been one of the world's most corrupt cities, with one of the highest rates of crime. But now it is among the cities having the lowest level of crime. The level is lower than in Paris, a city of comparable size. Frankly, we thought the problem of public order and security would have been much more difficult to solve. But it was far easier to stop the 'cowboys' (thieves on Hondas) and 'hooligans' than we expected. We anticipated that the difficulties caused by antisocial elements and many other social problems could not have been brought under control in a very short period.'

'The former regime,' he noted, 'had a

very big police apparatus and could not maintain public order. You see that we have very few police on our street now, yet within three months the rate of crime has dipped to extremely low levels.'

**Middle class gets out**

The reconstruction is going to follow socialist policies from the beginning. US propaganda about the 'bloodbath,' circulated both in Vietnam and the US,



"Life in the countryside has improved considerably".

frightened the middle class. They fled and abandoned their factories and enterprises, depriving workers of their already inadequate livelihood. Over 70% of industrial and other enterprises were abandoned in the Saigon area. Within days of entering the city the Military Management Committee sent cadres to the abandoned factories to get them back into operation. These cadres constitute an effective management for many of the factories in Saigon-Cholon.

When production resumed, the new management announced a 50% wage increase plus a free canteen lunch for the workers. This meal had formerly cost the workers as much as 30% of their daily wages in some establishments.

New enterprises such as artificial limb factories have been started to absorb the unemployed who were swollen by 300,000 former puppet soldiers from the Saigon area. Demobilised soldiers are taught weaving, tailoring, typing and many other activities that will enable them to be productive quickly.

Over 400,000 workers have joined the new trade unions and the Revolutionary Youth League has attracted more than 300,000 members. The introduction of socialist economic policies was the only logical path once the capitalists had aban-

doned their role. There will still be a place for private enterprise for the few capitalists remaining, but they will have to follow policies in conformity with an overall economic plan based on the resources of the whole country.

The military management boards have been careful to ensure proper distribution of products and that factories are supplied with the raw materials needed for production.

**Agricultural co-ops**

In the countryside, cooperative work in agricultural production has been started. This has been the result of stark necessity. Years of war have resulted in many villages in the delta losing many people, as well as their draught animals and plows. Wilfred Burchett spoke to Vo Thi Phuong, president of the women's liberation association of Long Thuyen just outside Cah Tho city. She had lost 20 family members, six fighting the French and 14 during the fight against U.S. imperialism. Other women had lost all their sons.

The only solution was for families to pool their resources and cooperate in mutual aid teams that would ensure that all members' land would be worked. This step was taken as the result of peasant discussion at local level, and not by administrative decree from above.

Le Quang Thanh, secretary of the party committee of Tan Hoi village, in My Tho province, told Burchett that 18 labour exchange teams, each with 10-20 members, had been formed. 'The principles of the Labour exchange are that the strong will help the weak, the rich

## UNITED STATES SLANDERS

A considerable campaign has been waged in the international capitalist press to present the leaders of the Democratic Republic of South-East Asia. Refuting this slander, a P.R.G. spokesman told Burchett that 'the U.S. is trying to sell the idea that Vietnam is now a great power and will soon be in the streets of Bangkok. This is a slanderous allegation.'

'We fought under the slogan of Ho Chi Minh, that 'there is nothing more precious than independence and freedom,' a slogan that you can see displayed all over the capital. This is true not only for us, but for others as well. It is a universal truth.'

'We fought for our own independence,' he continued, 'but we won't close our eyes to the suffering of others who do not yet have their independence. Other peoples have supported us and it is our duty to return that aid. But we have an obligation to rebuild our country, as Ho Chi Minh said. This is our revolutionary duty and by doing this we can better contribute to the world revolution. As others helped us, we will actively support popular struggles morally, politically and, if possible materially.'

## SAIGON—THE FINAL ASSAULT

The Liberation Armed Forces decided to launch a five-pronged attack on Saigon on April 27. The outer defenses were to be crushed and the capital seized in coordination with mass uprisings of the people inside the city. Prior to the assault commando units had been infiltrated into the city and were hidden, fed and guided to key targets by the people.

Planned as a five-day battle, it ended two days ahead of schedule because of the active role of the masses in the city and along its perimeter. On the night of April 29, workers seized control of the electric power plant, the petrol storage depots of Esso and Caltex, as well as other key installations, in order to prevent sabotage.

By 10.30 am on April 30 the PRG flag flew over the presidential palace. A half hour later General Duong Van Minh declared unconditional surrender over the radio.

A total of 680,000 puppet troops were thrown into the battle, of whom 21,000 were killed or wounded, 231,000 captured or surrendered, while the remaining 428,000 simply fled. During those three days, the Liberation Armed Forces put out of action 11 infantry divisions, 8 main-force regiments, 216 battalions of civilian guards and regional troops, 12 armoured regiments with 800 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 35 artillery battalions with over 700 artillery pieces, three air divisions with over 1,000 planes and helicopters and 1,200 river boats and other naval vessels. Additionally the Liberation Forces captured more than 1,000 other aircraft and ships, 6,500 military vehicles, 600 artillery pieces and 275,000 diverse types of weapons.

When the final assault was launched, the Liberation Air Force had already put out of action the Bien Hoa air base and Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airfield. At the same time, A-37's and F-4's, captured at Da Nang, protected ground troops from any air attack launched from the puppet government's last airfield at Can Tho in the Mekong Delta. The liberation forces had long before infiltrated their forces into the Da Nang air base, studying techniques on the ground. They started air training in captured planes from the day of Da Nang's capture.

**Separate representation**

Burchett was told that for the moment both north and south Vietnam will have separate diplomatic representation abroad. Complete national reunification will not be possible until a solid socialist infrastructure is built in the south. However, the People's Revolutionary Party, the southern section of the Vietnam Workers Party, has now reverted to its original name. The armed forces had begun to be unified from the moment of the U.S. invasion and operated under a single strategic direction.



# THE PRESIDENT SAID TODAY...

— Lisa Sacksen

Under the present credit system operating at Victoria both students and lecturers are faced with a number of dilemmas.

From the student point of view the credit system has many good features. It provides increased variety and choice of subjects which makes any ideas of a return to the old unit system untenable.

From the lecturer point of view it has become more difficult to include within a 4 credit course an amount of material that is a viable unit to teach and learn, without increasing the workload beyond that formerly carried by one-third of a unit.

Clearly many lecturers have given up this struggle and are placing far too much work in courses that would not previously have merited it. This trend has in effect been encouraged by the proliferation of small courses that has effectively divided many lecturers from one another. Seemingly unaware of the workloads operating in other courses, they insist on levels of work which are totally inappropriate to the credit value of the course.

An associated problem is the gross lack of co-ordination between lecturers in timetabling student assignments. A lot of students have found this year that they have to hand in major pieces of work for more than one of their courses all in the one week. To make students work flat knacker like this is quite indefensible on educational grounds.

The difficulty in defining workloads

is trying to find out what to compare present course requirements to. Personally I favour comparing the workloads for the present 4 and 6 credit courses with the workloads students experienced under the old unit system. After all if a 6 credit course is the equivalent of half a unit under the old system then that 6 credit course should carry half the workload of an old unit.

I believe that an alternative method of trying to formulate an 'average' number of hours worked by students and then taking that as an 'average' workload is very dangerous and alarmingly divorced from reality. Few people would question that part of a student's educational experience is having the time to compare work and ideas both inside and outside the classroom. Any attempt to restrict this communication to an 'average' can only have disastrous effects. It would turn the learning process into even more of a mechanical, individualistic process of swotting madly for tests and churning out assignments than it is at the moment.

Any attempt to place an 'average' on the learning process is also illogical and unfair on students. It really denies the fact that there are important differences between individuals in their ability to understand new ideas and produce essays etc. For example some students are so startlingly brilliant that they can pass courses with the minimum of effort and others are so smart that they can successfully play the system for all it is worth

and bullshit their way through university.

Workloads are fundamentally linked to the method of assessment. Under the present system of interm assessment, workloads will rise merely as a function of the system. The problem is therefore twofold. It is impossible to counter rising workloads without providing some relief in the methods of assessment.

At present students are like mice in a treadmill. The faster they run the faster the treadmill will turn thus making the mice run even faster.

This treadmill is just a small part of our overall education system, which is highly competitive and designed to stratify people to fit into certain slots in society. To change the education system means changing the present structure of our society.

However this is unlikely to happen in the next few years so we should set ourselves the task of slowing down the treadmill to alleviate the burden students suffer under at the moment and to improve the learning and teaching environment at this university.

I do not believe that interm assessment just happened to come along with the credit system. Neither do I think that some person sitting in the Registry conspired away for years thinking of a way to defuse the potentially explosive student political bomb. Like every movement in history, the causes are many and sometimes unexpected, but as it has worked out, these

two systems couldn't have been better for totally oppressing students in a way that was politically subtle.

One other danger is that student leaders can easily become divorced from the feelings of students in fighting for changes in assessment methods. In the rarefied atmosphere of a committee room in the Robert Stout building, confronted with the collective wisdom and experience of academics and administrators, it is easy for student leaders to forget what is actually going on in the classroom. After all, the University can always throw back in our faces the fact that students wanted interm assessment. Like babes in the darkling wood, we were ignorant of the effects of the system we helped create.

Students must demand of their leaders that they want to fight on this issue. Student leaders need to understand what is going on in the classroom and what students want. And students cannot let debates and battles on assessment to be confined to committee meetings of the myriad of committees of Professorial Board, Council and the faculties.

In the long term unity and militancy will make it possible to change the small world we live in so that it better represents what we think should happen in education. We cannot go backwards to the old system for that is in the past. The present is inhumane, intolerable and largely worthless. The future is in our hands.

## 'SLAG'

SLAG is a play about Women's Rights, girls' schools, hockey, hysterical pregnancy and sex, not necessarily in that order. It is a play all women should see and all men, if they're the slightest bit interested in what goes on in a woman's head.

It was first performed in 1970, in one of London's fringe theatres, and was an immediate hit with the critics of avant-garde theatre — "stunning wit and dazzling virtuosity". They playwright, David Hare, was about thirty when he wrote 'Slag' and before this he wrote the screenplay of 'Morgan — A Suitable Case for Treatment'.

'Slag' is on the stage at the Performers' Theatre in Courtenay Place (phone 846-580) from September 20 for an initial season of two weeks. It is very definitely a poor theatre, poorer than it would like to be, but it does not aim to be a second Hollywood Hannah

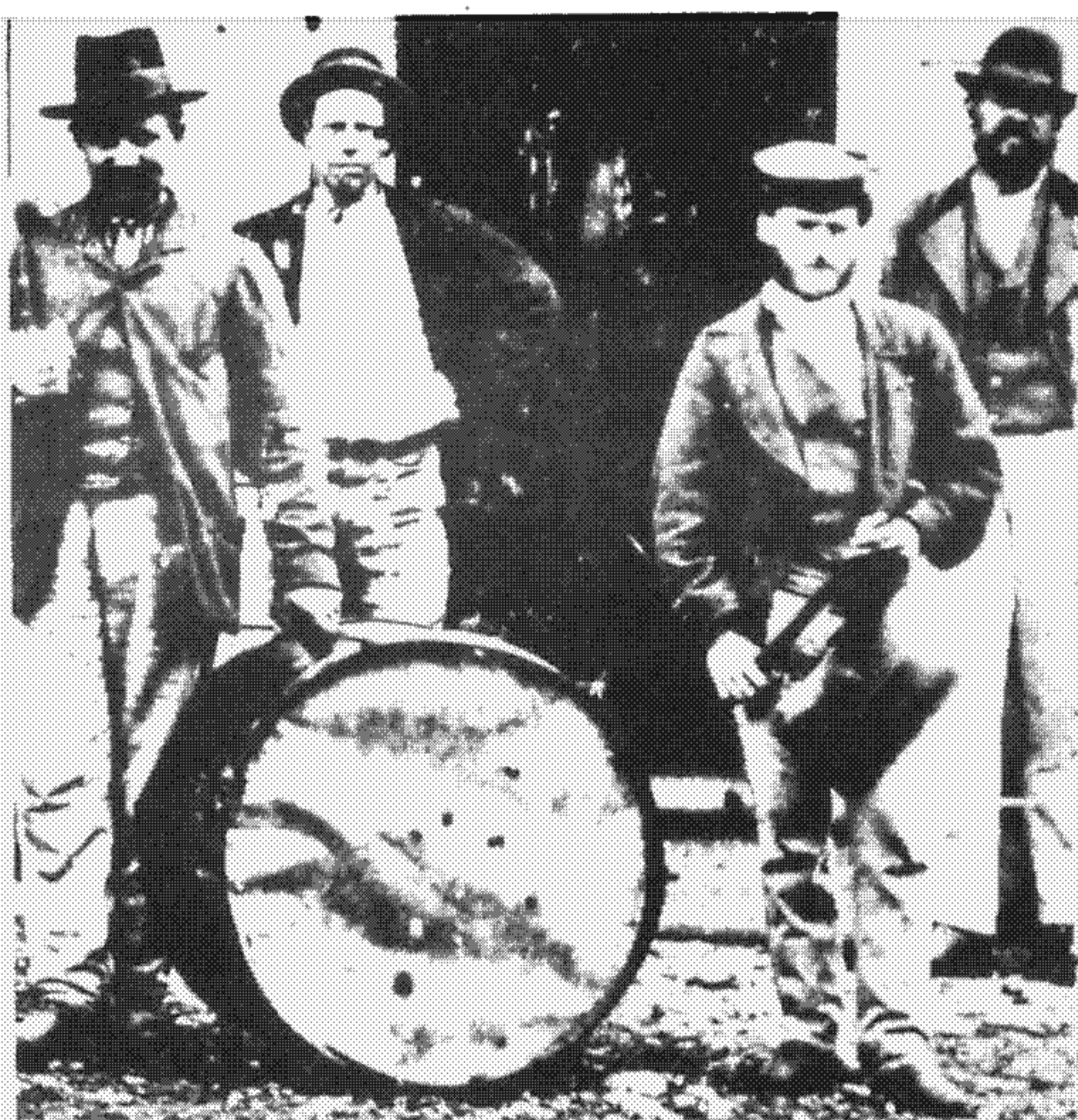
'Slag' is directed by Jean Betts, played by Robyn Smart, Ann Budd and Carole Beu, and costs students \$2.00.



## antisalientnotesantisalientnotesantisalientnotesantisal

9 p.m. Salient office. Suddenly in bursts some Federated Farmers' heavies. "Where's John Henderson", they cry. Everyone scatters. From under the light table Bryony Hales shouts out "sexists" as Christine Haggart unsuccessfully tries to have them advertise in Salient. Derek Fickers hastily slithers out through the door, screaming something about controlling the car park. Jules Maher shouts "assault, I'll have you up in court" as the heavies begin interrogating him as to the whereabouts of one Henderson, while photographer Ross Abernathy succeeds in getting camera shakes as he tries to catch the incident for posterity. In the face of such adversity, Lloyd Weber takes the 5 pronged Salient pitchfork and proceeds to poke Quentin Roper in the backside, mistaking him for a stack of Hay.

The situation was getting desperate — something had to be done. Robert Pui rose to the occasion and leapt onto a table to give a rousing speech on individual liberties. Salient's token madman Lionel Klee (suspected of having right-wing tendencies) put a stop to Pui's



antics by playing a hasty tune of 'God Save NZ' on a typewriter. Meanwhile, back in the typesetting room, Peter Franks was blissfully unaware of the impending revolution as he pondered over whether egg was spelt with 2 'ees' or 2 'ggs'. Next door in the editors' room Bruce Robinson and Lisa Sacksen were putting their heads together as they prepared a blazing expose of the Federated Farmers' rag "Straight Furrow". It was Pat O'Dea who came to his senses first. "What do you want him for" he asked the heavies. Henderson who has been swinging from a chandelier for nigh on half an hour pricks up his ears.

The heavies' leader steps forward puts his right hand on his left heart: "For bringing the image of the farmer to the precincts of the university by the wearing of a towelling hat. We want to give him a scholarship to our training farm." Henderson promptly falls to the floor and, voice filled with emotion, says, "Yes", and arm-in-arm they all troop out to the strains of 'Auld Lange Syne' rendered by the Salient chorus.



# Tribunal on Crimes Against Women

by Ann Elborn

The tribunal on Crimes against women was held in the Union Hall on Saturday 20th September. It was presided over by eight women, who were all involved in the Women's movement. They were to decide after hearing evidence from speakers, whether the laws regarding contraception, sterilization and abortion resulted in Crimes against women. The speakers were arranged in a manner so the expert's views were juxtaposed with the laywomen who revealed their personal experiences of trying to obtain abortions. Thus one heard the emotional personal aspect of the argument, supported by legal and medical opinions

The key witness in the tribunal, Dr Rex Hunton from the Auckland medical aid centre, was prevented from attending because Wellington airport was closed. Thus the programme was rearranged and Jean Lennane, a psychiatrist, was the first expert witness to address the tribunal. She dealt with the psychological effects of abortion and child birth on a woman, emphasizing that disorders were far more likely to occur from the latter.

The second expert witness was Dr Erich Geiringer, who had just returned from overseas the day before. He spoke about abortion in general terms and condemned the policy of the Victoria University Students Association. Their claim that liberalizing the abortion law would mean a neglect of social welfare for solo mothers was a fallacy, he told the tribunal. For abortion has for a long time been effectively illegal in New

Zealand yet creches, adequate benefits free contraceptives, sterilization and sex education were still not fully available. Moreover, he argued, those countries with the most progressive policies in these areas had liberalized abortion laws.

However contrary to the mood of the tribunal Geiringer claimed the government was not fully responsible for not liberalizing the law regarding abortion. He charged women with not being politically active enough to force change and the

medical profession with timidity in not insisting on their right to practise medicine as they saw fit. The former claim prompted a small degree of heckling, which was the only time during the tribunal, opposition to the speakers was voiced.

Other expert witnesses included a counsellor from the Remuera Clinic, a barrister, a member of the Family Planning Clinic and a speaker on the sex education programme in schools.



The women who told their case histories to the tribunal presented the emotional side of the abortion debate which is often overlooked by the pro-life groups. Some of these women genuinely did not want and/or could not cope with having a child. Thus they risked their lives at back street abortionists, and three of these women nearly died as a result. The rare experience of hearing first hand the results of a law which forces women to carry to term an unwanted pregnancy, reinforces strongly the argument for law reform.

However the value of the tribunal naturally limited by the numbers attending and the fact that the great majority if not all, support law reform or repeal. This prevailing attitude was crystallised when one of the tribunal members, Fern Hickson, announced the tribunal's decision. It was a foregone conclusion that the tribunal found successive governments guilty of ignoring a woman's right to control her own reproductive life. This, coupled with the fact that there was virtually no controversy throughout the tribunal, leads one to question the value of merely reconfirming what everyone present already felt. However in its educative capacity the tribunal was fully justified. The contribution of both the expert witnesses and case histories provided information and inspiration to those women who already support the cause. It is most unfortunate that anti-abortionists could not be presented with the experts opinions and case histories.

## BOOKS

**New Zealand and the Global Ecological Crisis** ed M.R. Stenson  
Price Milburn for the NZ Institute of Foreign Affairs 1975 \$3.90  
Review copy kindly supplied by Whitcoulls Ltd, Lambton Quay.  
Reviewed by Anthony Ward.

It wasn't so long ago that half of New Zealand was up in arms about the Manapouri schemes. Since then we've had the Aromoana smelter, the Huntly Thermal

Power Station and the Clutha flooding plot. The economic worth of projects is increasingly being questioned against their environmental effects, even if the Commission for the Environment is ignored half the time. When I first saw this volume I hoped for something along these lines. Unfortunately it was not to be.

The articles come from papers presented at a Continuing Education/International Affairs seminar in Auckland November 1973. The papers are, by and large, admirably non-technical and are of considerable value in explaining the concepts of ecology to us laypeople (though there are slips in this - one wonders how many students will remember the 1967 Santa Barbara blow-out referred to on page 68). Professor Knox's paper *Introduction to Global Ecology* and Prof. Kibblewhite's *World Energy Resources* paper are particularly interesting and thought provoking, if slightly abstracted from the New Zealand situation. The ecologists have clearly shown the importance of seeing nature as an interacting whole and not a field of resources purely for profit-maximising economic ventures. However, the remedy is a lot harder to come to than the diagnosis. Knox talks vaguely about the need to get the "commitment of the decision makers" and the "will of the people." Kibblewhite proposes a new "Department of National Development" and mutters obliquely about a "threat to the establishment. M.R. Stenson, in the introduction, informs us that a Dr Mann presented a paper to the conference arguing for an end to military alliances, French colonialism and a 'real redistribution of resources.' One feels that this paper could well have been included in the collection - certainly, it seems to offer some definite steps towards a solution.

If Knox's and Kibblewhite's papers were good however, the remainder are less so, as they fall into the classic traps of environmentalist thinking. The old arguments on Malthus are trotted out again (by Prof. Young).

The root cause of poverty and starvation does not lie in the numbers of population as many population people feel but in the social organisation of production. Noone would deny China's success in alleviating famine yet the basic procedure here is not population control but effective organisation. Its about time Malthus had a stake driven through his heart.

A further interesting point comes out in Dr Whittlestone's discussion of the arms race. He decides armaments are bad, then proceeds to blast countries such as China and North Vietnam for having high military expenditure. Surely it is necessary to distinguish between arms used for aggressive purposes and those truly used for national defence? Again we have ideas which ignore uncomfortable political realities

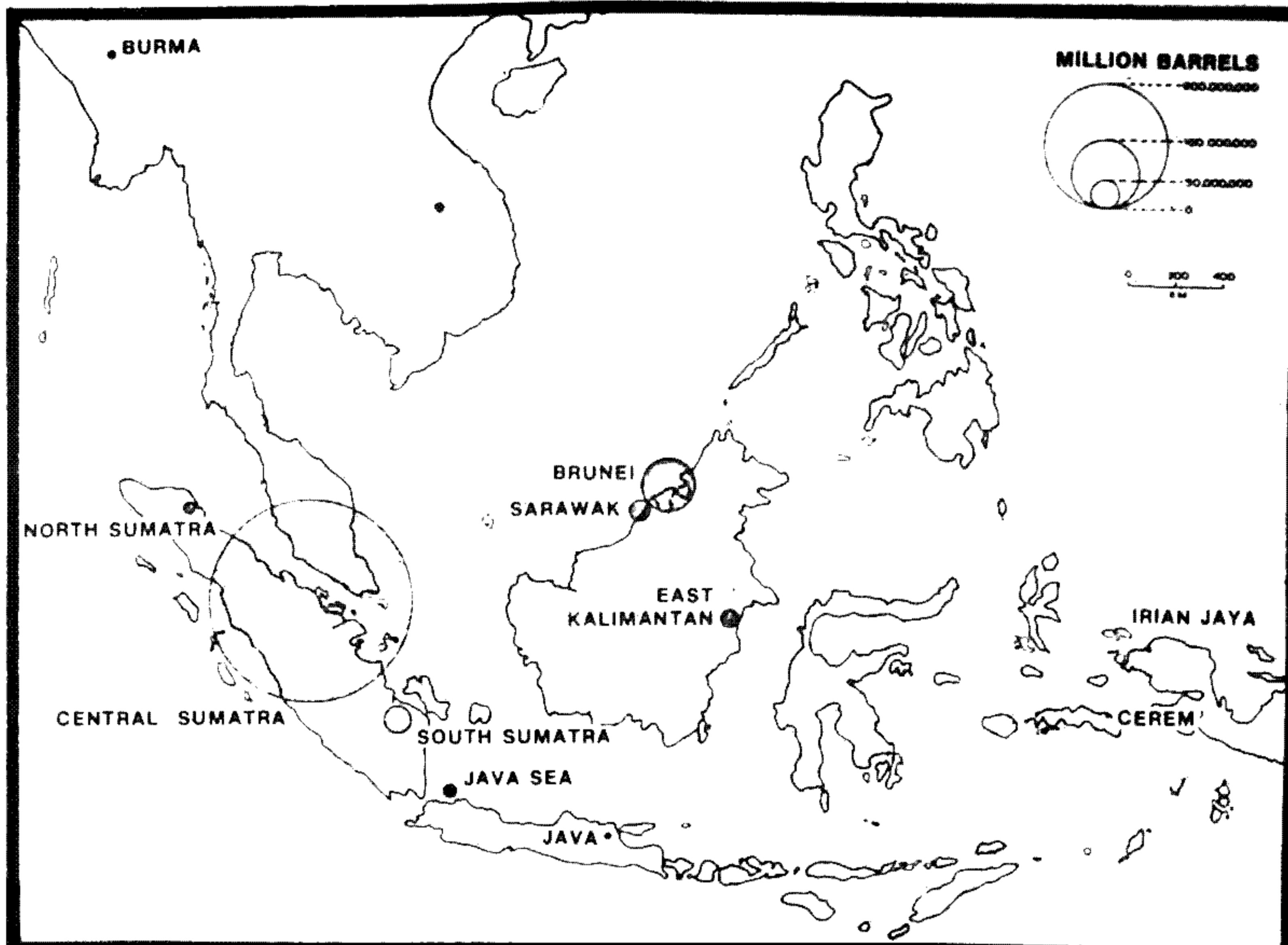
And the remedies proposed in these articles are little better than those earlier. Brian Murphy, the economist of the group, like most of the others sees a need for increased Government activity. He also proposes 'A playing down of the Protestant Work Ethic' and 'Firms must exhibit a social conscience in their activities and be content with satisfactory profits, not necessarily maximum profits.' I would suggest that the Protestant Ethic and the desire for maximum profits are both part of a major social and economic framework which needs careful looking at. Similarly with Government - an institution at the moment so proudly pushing economic growth and encouraging private enterprise is not going to be easily changed.

These are issues which at least deserve to be raised, and it is unfortunate they are not done. In what it does cover though the book is often sound and informative, and the examples drawn from New Zealand experience are welcome. Perhaps more of these could be encouraged - *New Zealand and the World Ecological Crisis* is a forward, if small, step in environmental thinking in this country.





# The Politics of Oil in S.E. Asia



(The following is a brief summary from a two part series by Ho Min Fong printed in the Strait Times in August 14 and 16, 1975.)

Oil is big business in South-east Asia. It is dominated by the giant multinationals whose web of facilities crisscrosses national boundaries. There are 94 oil companies operating in the region with 373 concessions occupying more than 3 million square kilometres.

However signs of growing nationalism and self-assertiveness have recently been seen in certain key countries. South Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia are sending signals, indicating oil companies may now have to settle for contracts on less favourable terms than before.

In South Vietnam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government, which officially announced its readiness to enter into negotiations with 'all foreign governments and oil companies' to take part in the search for oil, has cautioned that this must be based on respect for her independence and national integrity with mutual benefits to both parties.

Thailand is the only country in the region without a national oil company and retaining a very 'pro-oil company' Petroleum Act. It seems likely that she will follow her neighbours and set up a national oil company soon to enter its production-sharing contracts with eight foreign oil companies and groups already

there

In Malaysia, the nine-month old oil company, Petronas, amended the Petroleum Development Bill in April, to provide for the creation of the now-controversial 'management shares.' It would ensure that the processing or refining, manufacturing, marketing and distributing of petroleum and petrochemical products would enter directly into Petronas' domain. This has prompted Exxon to suspend its drilling operations in a 14 000 square-mile block indefinitely.

There were other changes clouding the horizon for oil companies in this region.

Among them, the oil price hikes had translated itself into sharply inflationary costs in the offshore exploration of oil. Costs for drilling a well had almost doubled in the past year to reach US 3-4 million.

In addition, a tax bill was passed in the US Congress in March, which cancelled the generous 'depletion allowance' - a provision allowing 22% of any American oil company's gross income to be tax deductible.

With the political swing towards a more radical nationalism in South-

east Asia being complemented by a financial tug at the reins of foreign investment in America, the oil industry seems headed for a slow-down this year compared with the spurt of growth in 1974.

Three major foreign oil companies, however, remain quite immune to the rising nationalism of regional countries towards their national resources. P.T. Caltex and P.T. Stanvac in Central Sumatra, and Shell in Brunei, operate snugly under the umbrella of old-time concessionary agreements. (Together, they produce about three-quarters of the total crude oil coming out of South-east Asia.)

Caltex went into production in the Minas field in Central Sumatra as early as 1950 under the conventional concessionary agreement - in which Government receives payment only in rent, royalties and tax rather than an amount proportionate to the actual oil produced. The company produces over one million barrels of oil a day in this field or about 58% of the region's whole oil production.

American owned P.T. Stanvac operating under an amended concessionary

agreement with Indonesia originally signed decades ago, produces 4% of the area's crude, about 65,000 barrels of oil a day.

Similarly, Brunei Shell Petroleum has a free hand in the Sultanate of Brunei, where about 12% of South-east Asian oil is produced.

Under the newer production sharing contract the oil, after deducting operating costs, is split between the foreign company and national oil company, normally on a ratio of 65:35 in favour of the host country.

However, despite all the emphasis on production sharing contracts, the amount of oil produced under such contracts is still marginal.

But with the exploration and development programmes in Malaysia and South Vietnam at least temporarily suspended, hopes of finding new offshore oilfields are now limited to Burma and the Philippines. 20 on-shore and 45 offshore rigs are presently drilling in these two countries.

Exploration activities is picking up in Burma and the Philippines and growing steadily in Brunei and Indonesia. This more than offsets the slow-down in activity elsewhere in the region.

## NEWS

### FROM MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

9-8-75

#### Zero Growth in Singapore

Singapore has been the victim of the fiercest and longest recession to have hit the world since World War Two.

For the first half of this year, the Singapore economy recorded practically no growth. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices grew a mere 0.2% in January - June 1975 against 1974's already low 6.8%. The present forecast is for the year to end with a GDP growth rate of 2 to 3 percent - provided the slow 'recovery' now seen in the West and Japan picks up pace from now till the year's-end.

In his National Day broadcast, the Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew admitted that 'recession had caught up with us, and the way he was to curb this is 'to call a halt to young men shying away from heavy jobs in search of "soft" occupations.' He also called on private employers in Singapore to follow the Govt's practice of allocating more of the "soft" jobs to girls, whose ranks have suffered 70% of retrenchments in the past 18 months.

(NB: The reader may be aware that most of the Singapore's economy is in the hands of foreign investors. This is the main factor which decides the dependency of Singapore's economy on Western World economy. As we can see in many other Third World countries,

*foreign investment tends to do more harm than benefit to the domestic economic development as a whole. In order to obtain real and steady economic growth, the country must be economically independent and rely on the creative power of its own people.)*

21-8-75

#### KL Bid for World Bank 'Soft Loans'

Malaysia will press for more 'soft loans' from the World Bank to finance projects under the Third Malaysian Plan, Deputy Finance Minister, Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan said today.

He will put Malaysia's case at the meeting of the board of governors of the World Bank in Washington opening on September 1 and at meetings with high level officials of the bank.

At a press conference in KL, Tan Sri Chong said the present \$150 million loan by the bank to Malaysia was too low.

He added that although Malaysia has a per capita income of more than US\$375 (s\$916) which was above the bank's loan criteria, "We will need assistance from the bank."

(NB: Malaysia at present has a national debt of more than M\$850 per person. How much more do we want to owe to the foreigners?)

# RAZAK IS COMING !!

Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, is visiting New Zealand from 11 - 15 October.

WE WILL BE THERE TO GREET HIM

We demand:

- 1) Release of Juliet Chin, Khoo Ee Liam, Syed Hussein Ali and all other political prisoners.
- 2) End to political surveillance of Malaysian students studying in New Zealand.
- 3) Repeal of the Internal Security Act, University and University Colleges Act and other repressive legislation.

FORUM TO DISCUSS RAZAK'S VISIT

TUESDAY 30 SEPT. 12 NOON

UNION HALL

We need your active support.



# REVEIWS



Above: Wayne Finch plays contemporary

## FOLK CONCERT

Owing to unforeseen circumstances there will be no review of the folk concert.  
The staff

Below: Jade, a popular local group, they've made it big playing traditional



'Live from Deep in the Heart of Texas' L-35477 - Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen  
'One of these nights The Eagles Asylum 7E-1039  
(Review Copy Courtesy of Colin Morris Records)

Objectively, a comparative analysis of these 2 albums could be justified by alluding to the shared 'country-music' influences of the artists involved and the subsequent divergence of their musical personas.

Subjectively it affords a fine opportunity for name-dropping, as I've been fortunate enough to witness both groups in live flight. The Eagles helped me emerge from the shell-shock of King Crimson's blitzkrieg - '21st Century Schizoid Man' et al - And Commander Cody and his crew achieved the worthy feat of dragging a few thousand Dutch dope-fiends - and me - to their feet.

For the uninitiated, the Eagles are the major exponents of the sweet California country-rock sound. (The Beach Boys of the trail?) Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen have an earthier country/rock 'n' roll sound. 'Truck-stop rock,' something like that the Country Fliers do so well. On this their 4th (?) album released here, they're recorded live, 'deep in the heart of Texas.' Obviously they're at their best in a live setting, and where better than truck-drivers' territory. With some eight members Commander Cody give a full, deep sound to all their material. And they're nothing if not versatile. Songs here range from the schmaltz of 'Crying Time' to the high speed rock 'n' roll of 'Little Sally Walker' and 'Get It.' In between is the Cajun funk of 'Diggy Diggy Lo' (great fiddle), the pure country of 'Sunset on the Sage' and again in their tear-jerking smoker's lament 'Down to Seeds and Stems Again Blues.' A pity they excluded 'Hot Rod Lincoln' though. Their vocal harmonies at times resemble Sha Na Na (and that has to be good) and Bobby Black's prominent steel guitar work is delightful. One of their songs claims 'There's Good Rockin Tonight.' From the crowd response that would sum it up. A nice album.

'One of these Nights' is the Eagles 4th album release, and apparently their most popular yet; the single of the same name reaching the top of the U.S. charts. The Big Question: can the Cosmic Cowboys survive popular acclaim and keep bringing home the bacon? On this showing the future is overcast.

The album begins strongly with 'One of These Nights.' A minute longer than the single version, the compelling intro is a bonus. One of the best singles of a lean year; impeccable guitar and vocal work, lyrics in their typical vein of searching for the elusive perfect woman:

'I've been searching for the daughter of the devil himself,  
I've been searching for an angel in white,  
I've been searching for a woman who's a little of both.'

Its followed by another fine rocker. 'Too Many Hands,' and then the pace slows for 'Hollywood Waltz.' Nice steel from Bernie Leadon, who contributed the next piece, 'Journey of the Sorcerer.' A truly atmospheric instrumental with definite potential as a movie soundtrack.

A varied vital Side I. Side II kicks off well with the tasty acoustic sound of 'Lynin Eyes.' Once again on a universal theme, the faithless women. But now we strike trouble. 'Take it to the Limit' has a rather tedious, thin melody, and the lavish strings don't help. Credibility is restored somewhat with 'Visions,' which shows Don Felder to be their best rock guitarist. 'After the Thrill is Gone' is quiet and reflective; 'You're not quite lovers and not quite friends, after the thrill is gone.' Perhaps they should have closed the album there, for the final track 'I Wish you Peace' would be the Eagles worst moment on vinyl. The vocalist sounds like Graham Nash at his wimpiest, and there are chokingly syrupy strings and lines like:

'I wish you peace, warm by the fire's glow  
When the cold winds blow'

In retrospect, some of the Eagles best songs have been written or co-written by outsiders - eg 'Already Gone,' 'David Blue's 'Outlaw Man' and the amazing Jackson Browne on 'Take it Easy.' A lesson for the future here?

'One of these nights' is a worthwhile, but mildly disappointing album.

Kerry Doole  
'Ragnarok' - Ragnarok  
(Revolution Records)

As the cover painting suggests, the name 'Ragnarok' comes from Norse mythology; 'ragna ruk' is an Icelandic term meaning 'the Fatal destiny, the end of the gods.' Ragnarok themselves hail from Auckland.

This is their first excursion onto vinyl. And a very fine first excursion it is too. It has been described as "cosmic rock," which is a fairly nebulous term, but the music does bear some comparisons with parts of the Floyd, and certain elements of German rock, particularly Amon Duul's "Carnival in Babylon".

Nearly all the tracks rely heavily on the lush, expansive keyboard work of Andre Jayet, which smacks strongly of Tangerine Dream in places. Like Dream, it is mood music, relying heavily on building up tones and textures through the instrumental work, particularly on "Rainbow Bridge," "Raga," and "Dream."

Vocal chores are handled mainly by Lea Maalfrid (or Wyber, as the "Cavie Queen" single would have it), and she is a mighty fine singer, with a strong voice. Ramon York the other singer is no great shakes as a vocalist, though I like what he does on "Butterfly Sky." As a guitarist however, he's not bad: the solos on "Fenris" and "Cavie Queen" are spot on.

"Ragnarok" is an album to turn up very loud and really groove to. Anyone into 'head' music (for want of a better term) would be well advised to latch onto Ragnarok pronto. There may not be anything startlingly original in what they do, but they do maintain a high standard and deserve the support of the average NZ rock fan.

- David McLennan

Atlantic Crossing - Rod Stewart  
Warner Brothers BS 2875

Rodney Stewart, esquire, the Scottish gentleman with the sandpapered larynx (when he wasn't coating its textures with a viscous layer of alcohol) is one of a handful of definitive English rock vocalists. Lately, he's also involving himself with Britt Ekland and his Excalibur Phaeton SS. All wonderful, you might think, except that since "Never a Dull Moment", he hasn't really produced all that much to validate his pole position.

All of which makes "Atlantic Crossing" the most stunning upheaval in a career that was apparently on the downwards slide.

For "Atlantic Crossing", Stewart has given the Faces and the majority of English sessionmen the boot - the only other recognisable Britisher being Elton John's drummer, Nigel Olsson. The other musicians are mainly American and comprise goodly portions of the Muscle Shoals Team and Bobby Womack's backing group, the Meters. As well, Stewart also bought THE premier States house band, that of the Stax-Volt studio - minus Booker T - but still a combination that would leave most similar units biting dust. They're spearheaded here by Steve Cropper who subtly whorls his soft, staccato chords in colourful spirals around Stewart's rasping throat. Together, they sound as if they're climbing Mt. Egmont, straight up.

"Atlantic Crossing" is split equally into fast and slow sides. The weakest tracks are 'Three Time Loser' (sample lyric: 'Go Away, Go Away, All you Girls - I don't think I need you anymore'), 'It's Not the Spotlight', and the one that seems to be hogging most of the airplay at the moment: 'Sailing'. Stewart's restructuring of the Sutherland Brothers' Song. That last one, in particular, seems to me to lack the necessary tensility to make it as a truly great single; big, sure, about that there can be no argument, but 'I Don't Want to Talk About It' has a lot more punch.

His interpretation of 'Drift Away' is saved by the quality of the original lyric, but again it's not one of his archetypal vocal performances. The real meat is contained in the other three hard rock songs on the first side: the reggae-styled 'Alright (sic) for an hour', 'All in the name of Rock and Roll' and 'Stone Cold Sober', and the remainder of the slow side: 'I Still Love you', 'I Don't Want to Talk About It' and Holland-Dozier-Holland's 'This Old Heart of Mine'. The vocal line of the latter swoops and soars above a rhythm-section needle sharp in its precision, while the plaintive voice tenderly treating 'I Don't Want to Talk About It', delivers, firm and sure, atop David Lindley's mandolin underscoring. Tough, Certainly, but with a hint of hidden tears.

So, six out of ten, which makes it as consistent as "Every Picture Tells A Story", and there are times - during the harder rock pieces - when I think that parts of it are coeval with the astounding "Truth" which is certainly enough to make it the third of the 10 for the year. It's a shame, however, that the band is so far superior that they outstrip the supposed star of this album. Perhaps if Stewart had taken a little more time and learned to sing properly with them, rather than over them, then they could have produced the monster he's been promising for so long now.

Pat O'Dea



# ROCK



SARATOGA

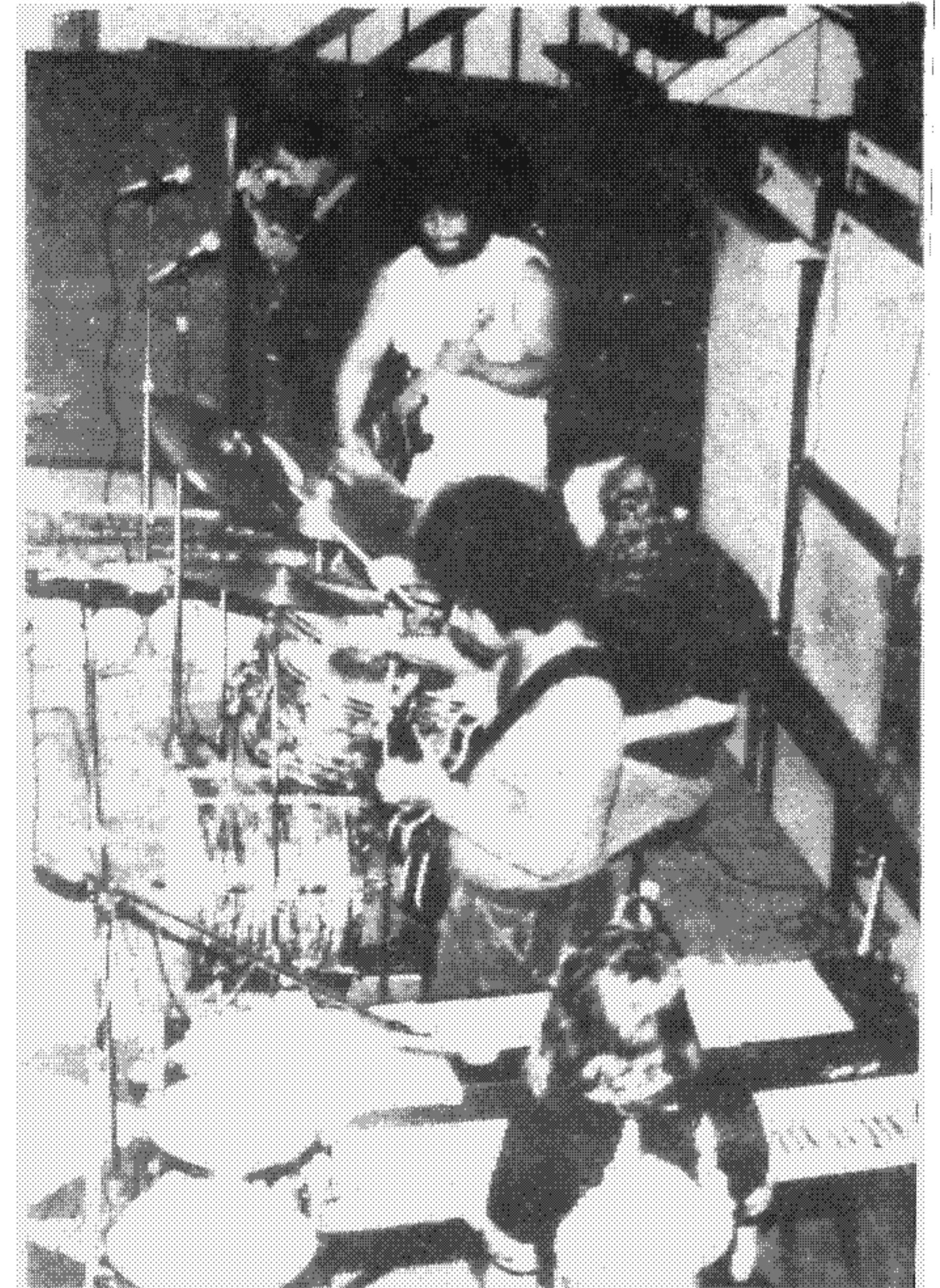
This is a short review on the Saratoga/Country Fliers concert held a few weeks ago in the Union Hall. The first band, Saratoga (formerly Storm) a seven-member rock band, had a warmup period of about an hour, in which the crowd built up from about 40 to over 200, eventually peaking at about 270-280. Saratoga's music was as varied as their presentation, although they tended to play mostly heavy rock, with a very strong bass line and some tight acoustic work. Their vocals, although competent, never shone, and they gave the impression of being a band of competent, although by no means brilliant players. Their main strength seemed to be in their close-knit unity. Never was a cue missed, and very seldom a note played off-key. I remember thinking at the concert that they were a very good band. And they deserved more than the paltry audience they attracted.

They were followed onto the stand by the Country Fliers, playing their rather less than distinctive style of country rock. They were not good. Sure, they hit out a good rhythm, but they lacked the tightness and depth that could have made them really good. It may just have been a bad day (they had just come from playing at the Tiger, always a demanding job) but they seem to me to have gone downhill over the past few months and to have lost the enthusiasm they once had. But as I said before, I'm probably judging them too harshly on this one performance.

— John G. Henderson



COUNTRY FLIERS



SARATOGA

## MSA AGM Avoids Issues

At its annual general meeting on 20 September, the MSA passed a motion censuring "some members" of VUWSA for "interfering with the independence of this association". The debate on this motion and those over the amendments to the MSA constitution were the more lively events of an otherwise uninteresting and futile afternoon spent cooped up in E006.

At the same meeting the MSA executive committee was rebuked for having "degenerated" the association into a social blurb which was dead, sterile and filled with corruption. However a new committee led by Leo Ann Puat was elected on the promise of "more emphasis on social and cultural activities" in preference to a more progressive group of students led by Loo Kim Hoe whose manifesto said: "No student with conscience can ignore and avoid political issues that are of direct concern to us."

The motion censuring "some members" of VUWSA arose out of several allegations that VUWSA had acted in an "oppressive" manner against MSA. One concerned the banning of the Malaysian High Commissioner from entering the Union Building by SRC and John Henderson was reprimanded because he had gone to the MSA dance on 30 August to find out who belonged to the flash car with diplomatic number plates parked outside the Union. For performing his duties as an elected officer of the association, John Henderson has been summarily condemned by MSA.

More acrimonious debate was centred around the VUWSA Executive ban on the sale of Malaysia Day ball tickets in August. The reason behind this banning was clearly stated to MSA Treasurer Daniel Tan on the occasion he approached the Executive for permission to sell the tickets. But the report Daniel Tan gave to his committee turned into a general attack on the integrity of Executive members and a debate on the "freedom" of Malaysians here. It is a strange comment on a group of supposedly moral and responsible people to demonstrate their concern (they admit that they are aware of the social and political injustices) by holding dances and making donations to charity here while there are thousands of underprivileged people at home asking for attention.

Much criticism was levelled at the unseemingly improper way in which the association was being run. For example proposed amendments to the Constitution were sprung on members at the last minute. There had been no effort to inform members about the activities of the executive during the year and there was at no stage any attempt to consult members on how the committee should use the funds of the association when it made a donation to "charity".

The reaction of the committee was typically weak and unconvincing. They claimed that it was impossible to inform members every time they had to make decisions concerning the welfare of the association. This seems to cover rare

occasions when funds of the association could be given away without consulting the members, when moves are made to change the Constitution without giving the members notice as is proper.

The dilemma of MSA politics is exposed in that while some members attempt to democratise the running of such a relatively small body, the people in power are often at pains to keep the power in their hands by not informing and consulting members over association matters. Executive members cannot be excused for lack of experience; Steven Oh has now served two terms as President having won both with promises to fight for political freedom.

The question is why are they afraid to consult members? MSA was originally conceived by the Malaysian Government in 1971 in a move to exercise more control over students. Since 1972 there has been some show of independence on the part of MSA leaders, notably led by Steven Oh who in 1973 dared to challenge the Special Branch people of the Malaysian Student Department along Wakefield St. for their "shabby window dressing". (*Salient*)

After the Khoo Ee Liam issue, MSA leaders have felt that it is dangerous to engage in any radical politics and have withdrawn into a shell claiming that they are now "non-political".

This is a clever illusion which they have created. They have engaged in their richmen's club politics while carefully sitting on the fence on issues concerning the

Malaysian Government's policies. The MSA leadership's fence-sitting has served to dull the level of political awareness among association members (and one wonders if this isn't precisely their aim in doing so). This may be shown by the poor support for the various motions passed at the AGM. These motions called on the Malaysian Government to carry out policies it had set out such as the principles of anti-colonialism and anti-racism, and the principles of building up a united Malaysia where the wealth of the country would be more equitably distributed. A further motion expressing support for the Government's efforts to return control of the country's wealth to Malaysia was not well received. A motion expressing support for HART was amended to simply opposing racism. John Chin brazenly argued that he did not support the violent methods of HART — without telling his largely uninformed audience what they were.

While they tell their members that they are "non-political", the MSA leadership have already made a political choice of the society they want. By sitting on the fence and discouraging political debate they are imposing their essentially pro-government politics on their unsuspecting members. Members are steered away from questioning their society to worthless activities described as "social and cultural". These apolitical activities simply create more apathy among members. While the MSA leaders cry over VUWSA "infringements" in their "freedom", they are actively denying members the freedom and opportunity to explore and discover alternatives to the existing system at home.

— ex-Executive member