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News

Dirty Business

by John Ryall

The Students' Association executive has been split wide open over the unexpected dismissal of the office manager, Mrs Goodall.

A meeting of the executive on 10 February asked for her resignation after a long discussion in closed committee about the running of the association office.

The Key motion, moved by Vice President Steve Underwood and seconded by SRC Co-ordinator Anthony Ward, read:

"That the Executive is not satisfied with Mrs Goodall's performance as office manager and therefore resolves:

- to request Mrs Goodall to resign effective from 12 March, and to communicate her resignation to the executive by 4pm on 13 Feb.
- failing (a), to dismiss Mrs Goodall from 12 March, notice to be given from 4pm on 13 February.
- that with receipt of Mrs Goodall's resignation an extra month's salary be paid as severance pay.
- that Mrs Goodall be given the option of ceasing work at any date up to 5 March, with a weeks' prior notice without affecting salary payments to 12 March."

This motion was debated for over two hours and was finally passed 4-2 with one abstention. Those voting for the motion were Steve Underwood, Anthony Ward, Rae Mazengarb and Mike Curtis, those against were Gyles Beckford and John Henderson, with Anne Dwyer abstaining. Scott Wilson, Peter Aagaard and Peter Thrush were not present.

Rumour-Mongers

Although the matter was debated in closed committee, within 24 hours many people both on and off campus were aware of every detail of the discussion.

Rumours and counter-rumours spread far and wide and fairly soon the real issue was clouded by stories of personal vendettas and hatreds that located the association office in the midst of the 1920's Chicago gang wars, rather than on the edge of a dull university.

Fuelling the intrigue were all sorts of ideas on the reasons for Mrs Goodall's dismissal. I was informed of the 'facts' (which seemed to me more like a burst of rhetoric!) in a letter from Christchurch, which called upon me to 'expose this terrible injustice'. Other people, such as Publications Officer John Henderson, informed me that it was an ideological battle in which capitalist Underwood was imposing his will on the revolutionary masses (i.e. John Henderson and Gyles Beckford).

Accommodation Officer Scott Wilson summed it up at the last executive meeting when he commented on the 'cloak and dagger attitude that surrounded the whole affair' and he suggested that for the association's sake it would be better if it was brought out into the open.

Access to Facts

Even getting access to the motions passed at that executive meeting proved quite a task for there was no record of them in the minutes.

While the politics continued the real facts slipped further and further away. Why was Mrs Goodall asked to resign? Was the decision justified? Were there other alternatives open?

Salient interviewed Gyles Beckford, John Henderson, Steve Underwood and Anthony Ward, as well as seeking comments from other executive members.

According to Anthony Ward and Steve Underwood there had been 'problems' in the Association office for some time, both in the relationships between the office manager and other staff members, and between the office manager and particular executive members.

For the other side, Gyles Beckford and John Henderson both acknowledged that problems had occurred in the past, but Gyles said that he thought, on the whole, the office was running 'particularly smoothly' and that 'most people seemed to be happy in there'.

Reorganisation Needed

Steve emphasised his belief that 'the number of people in the office was in excess of that required to do the job' and because the association's wage and salary bills were too high, there would need to be some reorganisation. This could possibly have been done by maintaining the staff at three while at the same time reorganising the office duties and responsibilities so that efficiency was increased.

But unfortunately before any of these ideas could be implemented the matter came to a head when Mrs Goodall hired (without executive approval) a full-time telephonist at \$90 a week.

Although, in this matter, she had greatly exceeded both her financial and administrative responsibilities, this incident did not seem to be the main point at issue. The executive voted *unanimously* on a motion that read:

"As there is no need for a fourth fulltime staff member in the Studass Office, and as VUWSA cannot afford this expenditure, that no appointment be made"

Drawing of a scarecrow being eaten by birds

quickly clearing the matter up by employing the fourth staff member, the telephonist, only for the duration of the first term.

Why, if this matter was tidied up with everyone's consent, did they proceed on with the motion to dismiss Mrs Goodall? What were the options open to them in solving what they saw to be quite a serious problem?

Alternative Options

Anthony Ward said there were three alternatives. They could have left the office as it was, they could have given the office manager a month to improve things, or they could have taken the action they did.

"I had been aware of a good deal of unease in the office for some time, but it wasn't until a couple of days before the executive meeting that I became aware of how serious the situation was. At that stage I realised that something would have to be done. It was a very reluctant action."

Steve acknowledged that one of the alternatives would have been to approach the office manager and tell her that he was dissatisfied with certain aspects of her work.

"Given the nature of the office manager this would not have worked and in fact would probably have split the executive, because what was said to my face would probably be different to what would be said behind my back."

He said the factors that made him opt for this decision were financial considerations, plus the efficiency, and the general atmosphere in the Students' Association office.

"There was a feeling of urgency about it. It had to be sorted out and had to be done quickly. It was not a thing that could be allowed to drag on."

And so the act has been done, with minimal mess to clean up (or so it seems!). Mrs Goodall is packed off home with her month's severance pay and the executive is in tatters. John Henderson, always good for a look into the future, has predicted that now the line has been drawn, executive members "will be at each other hammer and tongs all year."

However, Gyles, Steve and Anthony, along with other executive members, are quite happy to let the matter rest so that they can get back to the efficient running of the Association. But with so many questions unanswered, will the issue linger on to haunt them?

Salient Comments

In the Students' Association policy books are hundreds of motions dealing with workers' rights. Yet when students start employing their own staff, they are conveniently forgotten about.

Salient was aware of the uneasy relationships existing within the Students' Association office and also of the tight financial budget to which the executive was attempting to adhere. But do these factors add up to a reason for dismissal?

Steve's comment that "it had to be sorted out and had to be done quickly" is a good indication of the reasoning used in this affair. His primary emphasis on the financial aspects of the case and "the efficiency of

the office", are other clues.

The Students' Association, (with increasing financial pressure) over the past six months, has consistently used the reasoning that if something is not making a profit, then it must be axed. When it comes to staff, it appears that this reasoning also applies.

We are worse than companies downtown in this respect, and perhaps indicative of a Muldoon-style of industrial relations. If a worker in a downtown office was fired (without warning), for the same reasons, would the union have a good case for her reinstatement? This is the standard that we must measure ourselves against.

A sound reason for reinstatement was that at no time did any dialogue take place with Mrs Goodall as to the state of the office and her general financial and administrative handling of Association affairs. Anthony Ward spoke to her after the event, but by then it was too late. For a person who had been on the staff for nearly three years, this is a sad way to go.

Salient has no wish to thrash those who dismissed Mrs Goodall to within an inch of their lives, although it does believe that many questions still need answering.

More important, however, is the future treatment of Students' Association staff.

We believe that executive officers must get away from the attitude that we must get value-for-money, or else the person goes.

We believe that the president should keep a closer eye on staff conditions (including any tension in the office).

We believe that staff should not be dragged into intra-executive political wrangles.

Editorial

"The university is a complex institution", seems to be the standard phrase rattled off for the first-year student when questions are raised during orientation week.

Although this comment is usually designed to avoid showing up the ignorance of both student and staff heavies, when explaining the intricacies of the university, it is basically true.

We can all see the role of the university in educating a class of people for the top positions in society. But we sometimes find it hard to pinpoint the most important aspect of this role - infusing students with an ideological approach that will help them best to carry out their assigned roles as managers of society.

Since I took up my job as editor of *Salient*, I have been amazed to find how far this ideology has penetrated. The commonest question asked of me by people wandering into the office is "What's *Salient's* political line?"

When I answer that it hasn't got one, a state of confusion exists. "Salient must have a political line. How am I going to know what to think?" is the lingering thought.

It seems that the Students' Association is very like the university. If you accept certain views you will succeed, and if you don't, you won't.

Salient's role has been to keep pushing the "correct line" until those who dare to rebel are so tired of fighting that they submit. There are no grey areas in analysing issues. Everything is black and white. You either accept the analysis and become a radical, or reject it and become a reactionary.

After three years of accepting the "correct line" you can then go into the world of business and accept the "correct line" as expounded by those who rule the roost in that area.

Salient in 1976 is opening up. It doesn't pretend to be objective because its reporters have political views (even if many of them remain at the subconscious level). But it does believe that all articles and opinions in the paper are open to discussion. The grey areas must be exposed and examined, and decisions, no matter by whom they were taken, must be questioned.

This sort of role can only be played if *Salient* stands in the middle of student life and not on the outside. The *Salient* office is not a hallowed precinct, but merely an extension of the gymnasium, the cafeteria and other areas that were built for student use. *Salient* must be used to further the interests of the mass of students - if it is not doing that, then the students must change it.

It all adds up an involvement, whether by writing articles or using *Salient* as a dormat for your flat. I hope a few people choose the former.

- John Ryall

The President Said Today

With the academic year now upon us there are many students who are still unsure whether or not they will

receive a Standard Tertiary Bursary. That this situation should have arisen is nothing short of disgusting and arrogant. The National Government has had since December to promulgate new regulations in line with its policies (?) but has only just got around to doing so.

Since the end of November, NZUSA has been in contact with the Minister of Education, Les Gandar, trying to get the regulations finalised and circulated to students in time for enrolment. At each turn they have been faced by brick walls, an indication of the way a National Government intends to deal with all potential embarrassments.

NZUSA has pressed Gandar for a chance to consult over any changes to the regulations and over the need to inform all students of what the new regulations would be. At best NZUSA received an acknowledgement of their communications, at worst they were ignored.

Mr Gandar has even gone so far as to deny that he has received certain letters from NZUSA (perhaps Gandar is also a stranger to the truth). What information on the new bursaries has been circulated has been full of inaccuracies and this has only served to confuse students and registry personnel alike.

This whole affair shows that despite the following the accepted means of communication that little or nothing has been achieved. Once again we are faced with a government that has regarded students as a source of electoral support but once the political victory has been won they are no longer important.

This last episode is only the beginning of a new campaign over bursaries. There is still the question of the boarding abatement to be resolved and the time has come for students once again to consider how they can effectively change government thinking. An acceptance of the Student Price Index, as the basis for future increases in the bursary, is one of the next important steps and the time will come when NZUSA and other tertiary student organisations will need to have a strong display of support in order to make government come to the table.

All students must remain aware of what is happening and must be ready to support any new campaign - it will affect you all and it can ultimately only be won with your participation.

- Gyles Beckford

Salient Notes

HEE HEE!! WHAT A PANIC!!!

All right now listen to me here mate these are the fucking (note trendy use of obscenity) *Salient* notes. Again. Yet again. And the same bloody person is doing them and I am not going to tell you who I am. I am the phantom of the () (insert own cliché). Believe it or not we have some new people in this place but basically the same old boring boys are back. Henderson (lie's now Publications Officer - how the fuck that maniac got there I'll never know). Ryall (now editor of this rag - same epithet applies). Beckford (our dearly unloved President - he is wheeled out in his geriatrics chair every time a student notices his existence and asks to see him). Klee (better not say anything about him. Puke marks do not come off typewriters easily). Peck (seems to have been lionelised somewhat but is still a nice girl at heart.) Derby (Sitting in the corner looking cool and trying desperately to look working class so he can be a real marxist instead of an intellectual wanker. He has failed - he's just stopped being intellectual). Dwyer (seems to have got all cultural in her old age and has got deep fenceshaped grooves in her arse). Newton (wish-washy as ever and now trendy to boot. Have you seen his haircut recently - better consult your handbook to find the nearest grot). Hales (After recently undergoing a vegetation session in the wops is now doing a fucking good job for Hart and only drops up occasionally to keep Henderson following the correct line). Carson (intimidatory as usual. Says that he can bowl as fast as Lillee and that he dropped a guy with a bouncer the other day. There were no witnesses to verify that fact and I can hook him for six any day and will do so when the cricket match comes around). Peter Pranks (is still recovering from a shock he received the other day when he found that for the first time in living memory he had had an article rejected). Swann (recently lost at the election of SRC coordinator to Tony Ward - polled no votes at all - no crap. Doing a good job though - at least he has principles). Ward (seems to be in the hot spot at the moment because of his disgusting scabbing in the Goodall affair. As competent as ever but his ethics must now be in considerable doubt). Newer people: Patrick Mulrennan, Rachel Scott, James Robb, David Murray, Lindy Cassidy (Fuck but she can write!), Leonie Morris (this girl has a great future in student politics - watch her rise). Judith Ting (token artie - one of the few arties I know who still remain interesting), Leigh Thomson (is now chief campus reporter so don't be surprised if he comes wandering up to you asking for your opinion on the state of the middle floor conveniences. Has glasses and looks vaguely Christian). Martin Doyle (recently turned 20 and went over the hill). Rod Prosser (has now come out of his closet and admitted the fact that he is a trot. Is now officially suspicious). Quentin Roper (cartooning as always and getting better). Harold Merriman (John Ryall says he lost your copy. I believe him but only just). Dave Stott (got ripped off). Tom Dwyer

(Anne's big brother - no more need be said), Warwyck Dewe (the fact that he is advertising manager has nothing to do with the fact that he is an accountant. Despite what python says he is not boring. Merely soporific). And last and probably best is Pat Bartle, our new typesetter, who has been working with us for two days and has already put us all to shame. "Good politics too", to quote Bernard Randall.

Well that appears to be all. And the only way to find out who wrote these notes (if you can't guess and it is pretty bloody obvious) is to rip along to the *Salient* office and sign up. Then we'll tell you. Because if you're not interested enough to find out you're nutty enough to join us, so, go to it. This is your newspaper. Your \$30.50 (Knew that would grab you) And don't forget to come to src on wed. 3rd at 12 in the Union Hall'

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Drawing of a person in a box holding their ear from a tube

Catering

'Message to All Students'

I just want to say hello to everyone of you, also to wish you all the best for the coming study year. My name is Gerry Berens and I am your new Catering Manager. My staff and I will do the very best we can to make the place and the food more attractive for all of you.

I will also do my best to keep the prices at a reasonable level, but with the continual increases in the prices of foodstuffs, there will, no doubt, have to be some changes before the year is through.

I can guarantee my co-operation and I will do everything possible to suit all your tastes and I hope that if and when difficulties do arise that I can count on your co-operation as well.

If there are any students who want to see the kitchen or the facilities, they can contact me, make an appointment and I will give them a conducted tour. However, I will not stand for students walking in and out of the catering premises without my knowledge or consent.

Hoping we will be friends for a long time.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Berens.

NZUSA National Exec

'Pies and Chips in the Union'

Students at Victoria have always been suspicious of the wheelings and dealings of their national officers, and largely as a result of this NZUSA president Alick Shaw was turned down when he ventured up here last year seeking a rise in the annual NZUSA levy. John Ryall ventured along to the first National Executive meeting for 1976 to see if anything had changed.

The first NZUSA National Executive meeting of the year is a chance for constituent presidents to give some indication of the direction, or lack of direction that their campuses want the national body to follow over the next 12 months.

The first meeting for 1975, held two weeks ago in the Students' Association boardroom, did not make any earth-shattering decisions, but certainly impressed the point that the constituents intend to control the National Office, and not vice-versa.

Several times national officers were held to account over comments they made, or in one case, over actions taken in the last few months. This could mean either that the presidents consider that every decision should be in accordance with the needs and desires of the individual student on each campus, or that there are many presidents trying to shift attention from their own undemocratic associations by using the national officers as whipping boys.

Constituent Representation

All the constituent presidents were present for the roll call with the exception of mystery-man Dougall Stewart (Massey), who was said to be living with the vice-chancellor's wife. When he appeared, he refused to comment on the charge, but confirmed the rumour that he was the vice-chancellor's son (more scandal!).

His appearance coincided with round one of the scrap between the presidents and the national officers, initiated when Alistair Broad (Otago) questioned the absence of an agenda item entitled Constituents' reports". John Blincoe replied that the National Executive was not a meeting of constituents' representatives, but was an independent management committee for organising the affairs of NZUSA. A co-ordinated hiss from Don Leonardo (Canterbury) and our own Gyles Beckford launched A1 Broad into a stinging attack on this concept arguing that NZUSA was merely its constituents and should be kept in line with their problems and their desires. He muttered that student affairs was really to do with 'pies and chips in the union', and NZUSA should not cut itself off from this.

At this stage Arts Council chairman and ex-Vic president Lisa Saksen put the problem in its historical context by explaining that last year the presidents had decided that not enough time was being given to discussion of constituents' problems and so had put a certain time aside for a discussion amongst themselves. However, after several abortive attempts, this procedure died a natural death.

This explanation seemed to appease both sides and so the meeting launched into constituents' reports.

Reports

A1 Broad (Otago) started the ball rolling by reporting that he was handling his presidential duties while looking after three other vacant executive portfolios. His education officer was trying to control a desperate accommodation situation by organising a mattress appeal for use in vacant halls handy to the university.

The other constituents' reported similar problems with Don Leonardo (Canterbury) commenting on the resignation of three executive members and John Fry (Waikato) trying to outdo him with a report that he was four short.

Massey, Lincoln, and Victoria had either no substantial accommodation problems, no accommodation officers to report on their substantial accommodation problems, or were involved in other issues, such as the Stapleton affair (see Truth for details), which is the latest concern of Mike Walker (Auckland).

Drawing of faceless people in suits

The meeting next considered John Blincoe's report on his visit to Melbourne to attend the Australian Union of Students' Annual Council. It appears that AUS is mounting a campaign to sell itself to its members, is considering pulling out of the Soviet-dominated International Union of Students, and has set up a committee to investigate the practices and policies of AUS Travel, which has been accused of behaving imperialistically in the Asian region.

NUS

John Blincoe was also at the centre of the discussion on the proposed New Zealand National Union of Students because of his position as chairman of the NUS working party. The working party bombed out when the Student Teachers' Association (STANZ) pulled out, which may have been a blessing in disguise, for it seems that this year's National Executive is not particularly interested in national working parties.

There was general agreement from all members of the executive about the need for an NUS because of the contradictions that NZUSA ran into with STB. its international contacts, and its bursary submission, when it found itself having to negotiate for all tertiary institutions.

Gyles Beckford emphasised that any moves towards an NUS must come from below and they would not make progress 'until an individual student at Vic understood what he had in common with one at training college'.

After further discussion it was decided to ask John Blincoe (the individual as compared with the NZUSA president) to write a discussion paper for members of National Executive on his personal views on the formation of an NUS.

Asian Stud Ass Conference

Apart from alterations of the new NZUSA office in Courtenay Place and reports on proposed orientation tours by national officers, the only remaining items of interest were reports from Don Carson and Petra Van den Munckhof on their trips to, and attendance at, the Asian Students Association Conference in Bangkok.

Don's trip involved visits to Australia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia (where he failed to get past the airport), while Petra visited Australia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Although two reports were presented, discussion centred around Petra's, which was highly critical of the preparation given her by NZUSA for effective participation in a conference on Women in the Third World, which was run in conjunction with the ASA Conference.

NZUSA accountant Peter McLeod was also very critical of what he termed a waste of NZUSA resources. He pointed out that it cost \$1,000 to send the two delegates to Bangkok, plus over a month's salary for the International Vice-president, and it was irresponsible if they were not fully prepared. This feeling was backed up by the presidents, who agreed with the emphasis placed on our Asian commitment, but thought that any future spending should be assessed in terms of value-for-money for both ourselves and the Asian students.

Don Carson was also questioned about his voting on two motions which effectively expelled Israel, and admitted three Arab nations to ASA. Many of the presidents were not happy with his support of the Arab admissions because NZUSA policy indicated that the ASA geographical boundaries should stop at Pakistan.

Both Petra and Don were asked to present more detailed papers for NZUSA May Council, to be held this year in Auckland.

SRC...

The first 1976 meeting of the Student Representative Council will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, 3 March in the Union Hall.

Any motions for discussion at this meeting should be handed in to the Students' Association office by 4.30pm Tuesday, 2 March. Any other matters may be brought up as General Business.

— Peter Aagaard. Secretary.

Anthony Ward; interim SRC
Co-ordinator.

What do the letters SRC mean? You've probably seen them floating around from time to time, or heard them as people speak in bated breath. Perhaps once, in a darkened corner, or written on a toilet wall, you discover the truth - SRC signifies the Student Representative Council.

What is SRC? Technically, SRC is the policy making body of the Association. All Students can (and very rarely do) attend meetings, discuss important issues and eat their lunches. Last year over 400 turned up at one meeting to debate policy on abortion. SRC meets once a fortnight at midday on Wednesdays for a couple of hours.

What is SRC? From reading letters to Salient last year (which is an occupational hazard of coming to Victoria) you'd see that it's regarded as a clique, a retirement home for left wingers, or even a Ward self-approved committee! With the exception of the last (which I assure you, is completely untrue), these are outdated as many of the "heavies" have left. So.... it's over to you, you great mass of unwashed students you.

And apart from an extensive advertising campaign, what's to attract you to the first SRC of this year? The lovely harbour views from the Union Hall as you drift far above the mood of debate... ..(violins screeching in background). More seriously there's a bit coming up. We've got to elect some people to various positions as SRC officers, and there's one position on Executive to be filled, as no one stood for it last election. We've also got to accept or reject the general policy report which tells everyone our stand on everything from Education through to Beech Forests to Indochina. Looks like we might need something on Southern Africa.....

je participe tu participes il participe nous participons vous participez

When policy gets passed, it's supposed to be carried out by reps and Exec members. Some of the best bits of last year's SRC's were pouring scorn and derision on silly things done by reps. It's necessary that reps and officer *do* represent Studass policy properly, so this is a very important function.

The other two things I've heard of so far are a motion which I've written a little piece on next to this verbiage scrapping reps on uni committees and a promise from John Henderson that he's going to be silly (which I suppose isn't too unusual, but I'd better not say tha.....)

So on to the positions we've got to fill:

Executive: SRC Co-ordinator.

The post of SRC Co-ordinator was not filled in the Exec, elections last year, so it's up for grabs. The position, in the wise words of Handbook:

"includes the co-ordination of student representatives, the circulation and publication of Students Association policy, and the calling and advertising of SRC. It is a vital position if the Association is to operate smoothly."

So there you are - any more budding bureaucrats around? The first Exec, meeting of this year elected me

(i.e. the dreaded Ward) into the position until SRC decided something (which may be one of the silly things to pour scorn and derision on). I'd better not say anything about what a nice guy I am unless it seems like advertising, so on to the SRC officers. (Just by the way, the position has a \$300 honorarium).

SRC Officers

These positions are not paid, and involve a fair amount of work. For someone keen on particular interests, and not wishing to get tied up in bureaucracy of attending Exec meetings etc., they're ideal. The fields are wide open for the officers to get students thinking about and mobilising around issues. There are four of the positions:

- Education Officer
- National Affairs Officer
- International Affairs Officer
- Welfare Officer

Each of the officers has a committee to assist them and get more people interested in running around madly in these fields. Some things they could get into this year include:

- education - assessment, workloads
- national - foreign control in N.Z. racism, environment issues.
- international - the Rugby tour, Southern Africa Liberation movements.
- welfare - workloads and stress problems, payment for welfare services.

Activities include organising fund-raising, forums, films and writing for Salient. It's very enjoyable and a lot of fun (notice how he ends on a positive note).

Another thing SRC does is to elect student reps. If I have my cunning way, that's something that will cut down a lot. But we'll still have the Union Management Committee, Catering Sub-Committee, and the Publications Board to deal with. For brief run-downs:

Professorial Board

The Prof Board is where the academic matters of the university are discussed. Or, if your feeling cynical, it's where decisions of various committees, especially the Vice Chancellor and Deans (which decides the money) get rubber-stamped. Prof Board has widely phrased (and very little used) disciplinary functions. There are three student reps on it, two serving two-year terms and one for 1976 only. Because Pat Martin, the 1975-76 rep, has resigned, all three positions are for grabs.

The Faculties

Victoria is blessed with six faculties of studies. These are: Arts; Languages and Literature (which is really a part of Arts but keeps trying to convince itself it's not); Commerce; Science; Law; and Architecture. The last two, the professional schools, elect student members from their own student bodies. The others leave it up to SRC. Reps have two roles on the Faculties, which essentially decide academic problems relating to one field of study. These are: to push Studass policy; and to help individual students fighting the bureaucracy.

There are between four and six reps on each Faculty.

Union Management

This Committee, which oversees the behaviour of the Union building and raps it over the Coffee Bar if its being naughty, is the most important one as far as students are concerned. The President of the Association is Chairman of the Committee and students have a tenuous (and largely irrelevant) majority of one. If you're getting annoyed with the way, the Union is running, or have ideas for change, this committee's the one to concentrate on. SRC elects six reps to this body.

Catering Sub-Committee

The major sub-committee of the Union Management Committee, this looks after catering in the Union. It's the place to go if you've gripes about the quality of the food, the type of service your getting, etc. (Judging from the first few weeks of Gerry Berens' reign as Catering Manager, it won't have much to do this year). There are several student reps on this, four being elected directly by SRC.

Publications Board

(\$2.25 of each student's \$30.50 fees goes direct to Publications Board which oversees the publication of

Salient, of Handbook and other occasional outbursts of creative effort. The Board's major function is financial, checking on advertising (or the lack of it) and planning future schemes (e.g. a printing press). It's a good introduction to another of the many-sided worlds of publications for the six student reps elected by SRC.

So there you have it. The major student rep positions for which we want keen dedicated people to make themselves available. They're not always exciting affairs, but do provide a valuable insight into the running of things and a worthwhile opportunity to serve students.

Think about them.

Expose the Abuses

by Rae Mazengarb who was one of Vic's representatives at the NZUSA education workshops.

How are you being assessed in your work?

- by internal grading of essays and other work, along with, of course, that inevitable 40% examination requirement at vuw?
- or by end of year/course examination?

Examinations (meaning graded assessment in either form) are at the moment a fact of university life, and yet for decades studies on the subject have showed that examination marking is a highly unreliable process.

In single essay papers on mathematical topics William in 1933 found that qualified markers gave marks ranging from 16 to 96 and 26 to 92 for the same papers. Such disgusting ranges are direct evidence that factors other than cognitive achievement are being measured.

Similarly, in a study on the marking of dentistry, examiners agreed to pass 3 and fail 12 but could not agree on 7. It was concluded that in such cases the decision of passing or failing is controlled by subjective elements having no bearing on the students learning ability at all.....

Kandel in 1936 concluded that handwriting ability at least was being assessed, and that examiners tended to give a greater number of extreme grades after marking a large number of scripts. Exam marks coincide also with the state of the examiner's liver, and other factors personally relevant to him.

For more detailed reading of abuses within the present system refer to Handbook article page 52 and the Assessment booklet published by NZUSA available in the Studass Office.

O.K.! But what are you going to do about it? Strip naked and dance around the examination room in order to expose the system? Wield an axe at both exam paper and desk? or maybe you'd like to take on the examiner him/herself? It is unhappily a fact, that such individual acts, though perhaps courageous - or mad - are unlikely to expose the viciousness of the system - believe me, they've been tried!

Wherefore Art Thou Solution?

The NZUSA Education workshop held mid February, though lacking at times any real direction, did manage to produce some definite policy on the subject. House of talking round the subject, reminiscing and commiserating lead on thankfully after a typical Vic House luncheon to some line of action to which all University Representatives agreed:-

Suggested Programme of Action

- Each education officer should establish a committee of each students association to organise action on assessment. If possible this committee should be representative of faculties and include student reps on relevant university committees.
- The first job of the committee should be to carry out an investigation into methods of assessment in each faculty and particular student grievances.
- After this investigation has been carried out it should be possible to identify common grievances across faculties, e.g. the 40% final examination requirement at VUW.
- The committee should then organise large meetings of students to debate the issues with senior staff. The purpose of the meetings is to educate people and to attempt to arrive at a consensus of student opinion on necessary reform.
- Criticisms and suggested reforms should then be taken back to individual classes for further discussion with other students and with staff.
- After the widest possible debate a programme of reforms should be put to the students association for amendment or adoption and should be taken up with the administration. It is important that any action to get the administration to adopt reforms should be combined with large debates to avoid student reps

becoming divorced from the students.
Drawing of a mouse with a screw through it
Assessment has been forced upon you! What say have you had in the past?
If you're not willing to accept the abuses that have noted, we want you on the Education Committee. Bring your grievances along to S.R.C. help us to get the university to listen.
Remember! Students of VUW Unite You have nothing to lose but your grades!

SRC Suicides

Student representation is a farce. It divides students one from the other, politically castrates the most active and reinforces the power system of the university. It is dangerous politically and insignificant practically. If we want any say in how this University is run, or in the sort of education we are receiving, student representation in its present form must be scrapped.

Tough words. But tough words and tough action are absolutely vital. To justify any action we must look at what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how successful we are. No one has done this yet for student reps. If it is done, as here, the picture is dismal.

At present, if some student stands up with good ideas, if he/she wants to get something done, what does Studass do? We nod our silly head and throw them onto an inconsequential committee. What is remarkable is *not* that so few people are interested in this process. What is astounding is that anyone maintains interest.

Let's take it from the top. Let's not look at it in terms of dedicated individuals trying to win reforms (which is the way the University *wants* us to think). Let's go a little deeper, and look at the structure and our place within it. Most of those interested in student representation come from two areas. Either they are involved in outside issues (Hart, Ecology Action, the Church) or they get pissed off with something around the University, be it their courses or the cafe's food. Both ways they want to get the Students Assn, and particularly, the Student Rep. Council to do something for them, either to give a lead or to support their lead.

Dual Functions

There are two jobs those who want to lead students have to do. One is to do things effectively *for* students. The other is to do things well *with* students. There are considerable dangers in doing one without the other. In just the former, an elite bureaucracy is probable. In just the latter it's easy to get lost through spontaneity and lack of research. So the ideal is to link the *for* and *with* functions. What's the experience?

We first got student reps to do things through the University. We were promised that radical change was not necessary, that we could work through the system. Maybe it wasn't intentional, but we were cheated. Sure, some student reps can do small things *for* students, but normally only if the idea would have got through anyway. Worse than this is the reverse - when ideas we don't like get put into effect, the excuse is "You had reps on that committee - why didn't they do something?" Fat chance and we get blamed when the system screws up our ideas. Infernal assessment is a prime example.

So we don't do much *for* students. And the structure of student reps and university committees means we do absolutely nothing *with* students. Many committees go to some lengths to tell students that they are *not* representatives, only student members. In fact, student reps waste much time on commutes they could be spending on far more useful political activity.

Drawing of academics and a nude man

"What are we doing?" The trappings of student representation are there, but the substance is virtually nil. "Why are we doing it?" Presumably we have some idea of making life better for students, and of building student awareness. Again, the practice is far away from the reality, and there are more effective ways, as suggested below. "How successful are we?" That's been answered again and again - we're not. Student interest and involvement is falling, and we're wasting time.

Implication

Richard Rowe, sometime Auckland student "heavy", once said "we're not talking about student representation, but student implication". How do we stop implicating ourselves, and get into real and effective representation? Firstly, while the bulk of student rep positions are next to useless, there are some that are important, and do have some sway: Union Management Committee is one, the University Council another. You can possibly think of more - that's a good point to argue on.

Secondly, look at some of the academic things that happened last year.

- In Pols 213 there were justified complaints that the university's own regulations were not being followed. Studass officers followed the case up (see Salient 29/4/75 p7).
- A student wished to take a Geog course to which the lecturer involved agreed but the Department Chairman intervened. Reps took the matter up at Prof. Board.
- There is considerable evidence that the University's exam regulations are interpreted in a heavily biased way. Lecturers trying new techniques with the approval of their classes run foul of them while autocrats with more political 'clout' can ignore them. Educ, Pols and Hist courses show this clearly.
- After a lot of student complaint, the Arts Faculty set up a workloads committee. The first report of this committee was hatched and the second was impotent. The only tangible result was to quieten students.
- In SOSC 301 a group of students got together to reduce the workload, improve the course content and scrap the end of year exam. After direct discussions with staff involved the case was won. (See Salient 4/6/75 p3).
- In Hist 307 also a final exam that students didn't want was scrapped by effective student organisation within the course.

Conclusion

There are further examples, but the lesson is clear. In the four examples where the "correct channels" of student reps within the power structure were followed, the results were disastrous. In those where direct discussion and action were taken something happened. The conclusion: if students are pissed off with something, students must organise within the course, with leaders showing the best methods of working together. If students aren't sufficiently angry to do anything themselves, student reps really haven't any mandate to do anything either. In both cases, student reps are superfluous and misleading.

Thus, both from analysis of the structure and from experience we get the same answer. Let us remember: the University is a power system in a society based on power and the control of underlings. Any concessions that we might get *within* this framework do not at all *challenge* the framework. In fact, they strengthen it by creating the myth that real change is possible. Experience - in the impotence of the workloads committee, in the failure to abide by university assessment procedures - backs up the idea that concessions are minimal.

Alternative

So what's the alternative? We might say that nothing's better than the present, but that's taking anarchism too far. Some discussion between students on effective tactics would be valuable and help in leadership may be required.

Either SRC or Education Committee would be good forums for these. If we get rid of the boring reports from University committees and get into this more students would be interested and student leaders might learn something about real leadership.

An important point to realise in this is that students and teachers are not necessarily in opposition. The above criticisms are not primarily against the individuals involved (tho' a few could do with it) but against the institution of the University. As with other institutions in our society, there is an inherent bias toward the status quo and against change. This bias works through the people in it, but is effectively independent of individuals. The more effective means of proceeding is to avoid the institutions and work outside them.

If we students want an effective voice in running our own education, in improving our own conditions, we've got to work outside the system that manipulates us at present. To expect an institution that creates and recreates the problems to be able to solve them is just slightly naive. Student representation is not just a farce, it's a highly dangerous myth. It must be seen as such and done away with.

By Anthony Ward

let me help you make a little money go a whole lot further If you need a little help and advice on how to make your money go further while you're at varsity, see Richard Starke at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ Richard knows the sort of money problems you're going to be involved with as a student, and he'll be pleased to give you all the assistance and advice that s possible Apart from the BNZ services like cheque and savings accounts free automatic savings facility the Nationwide Account, travellers cheques and so on there are two particular BNZ services that a lot of students have found very useful. BNZ Educational Loans The great thing about these is their flexibility You can take one out for a few days, to tide you over a rough spot till the end of term, or you can borrow on the long term and plan things out over the years you're at varsity. BNZ Consulting Service Free, helpful advice on practically any financial matter, from people who understand money and how it works And just by the way, there's another good reason for banking with the Bank of New Zealand, it's the only trading bank wholly owned by the people of New Zealand Call at the BNZ on campus office and fix up a time

for a chat with Richard Starke or phone him direct at the BNZ Wellington Branch, Cnr. Lambton and Customhouse Quays Phone 725-099 ext. 702 BANK OF NEW ZEALAND Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand

CIA in New Zealand

A forum featuring:

Alister Taylor, publisher and a long-time investigator of investigators, and George Fyson, a member of the Socialist Action League and an object of CIA surveillance in New Zealand.

They will speak on the significance of the CIA files, released in New Zealand on February 19, the connection of the CIA and the SIS, and what can be done to stop institutionalized spying on people in New Zealand.

Tuesday, 2nd March, 12 o'clock in the Lounge/Smoking Room.

Matakite Defence: Forum

A forum in support of those arrested in the Maori Tent Embassy. The defendants will speak, and any person or organisation prepared to give the defendants their support. Thursday, 4th March, 1pm in the Union Hall.

Cheap Textbooks

Cheap texts and other useful books are still available at the SCM secondhand bookstall. We only stopped receiving last Friday so even if you've been before come again.

Only Two Days Selling Left - Monday 1ST and Tuesday 2ND March.

Hours: 10am to 5pm, Old Law Library (1st floor Hunter).

Sellers please note:-

Cheques and unsold books can be collected on Thursday 11th or Friday 12th March.

SCM

Doggie Roast!!

In the graveyard (lounge if wet)

5.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Dogs and other food provided.

Come!!

Executive Ugly Rumours

Last week's executive meeting was a typical dull boring affair only enlivened by the obvious plot over the dismissal of the office manager the week previous.

Everytime the matter was raised a hush fell over the room, several people stared uncomfortably at the ceiling and others pretended that they were deeply involved in reading minutes and reports.

Association secretary Peter Aagaard, who had been absent from the previous meeting, gave the impression of being very annoyed about the whole affair. He gave President Gyles Beckford a mild rebuke for not entering the relevant motions in the minutes and later in the meeting made a stinging attack on the obvious lack of secrecy which proceeded the in-committee section of the meeting

"If people do not respect closed committee, then I do not see any reason to have it. Executive members should be able to live up to the responsibilities imposed on them."

The tension remained during the reading of Mrs Goodall's letter of resignation and the subsequent discussion on the responsibilities and salary of the new office manager (whose position has been advertised). Vice President Steve Underwood presented a paper on this matter, recommending that the salary should be

\$5500, about \$1600 lower than the previous manager's.

At this recommendation, Peter Aagaard quipped: "If I applied for the job, I would lose some of my enthusiasm when I found that I was only getting paid \$16 a week more than a telephonist with half my age and experience."

Although Steve suggested that this was a reflection on the telephonist's high salary and not the office manager's low one, it was finally agreed to pay a salary of between \$5700 and \$6100. There would also be a draft contract prepared for the next executive meeting and work done by Accomodation Officer Scott Wilson on revamping the office systems for housing rental collection.

Seeing a chance to break away from a thoroughly thrashed-out subject. Gyles Beckford moved the meeting onto reports of the various executive members.

Unfortunately Sports Officer Peter Thrush was absent for his third consecutive meeting (there have only been three executive meetings this year!) and consequently couldn't give a report on his work in sports.

SRC Co-ordinator Anthony Ward, wearing the hat of films officer, said there was some concern about people counterfeiting film tickets or outside persons using student cards. He said films committee reserved the right to investigate any abuse of film arrangements.

Vice President Rae Manzengarb reported on the NZUSA Education Workshops where the question of assessment was discussed and, more importantly how to motivate students around this issue. Anthony Ward, who also attended the workshops, mentioned the other topics discussed were women's study courses, Maori and Polynesian education and the Student Price Index for bursaries.

Publications Officer John Henderson represented Vic at the NZUSA International workshop, which seemed to be dominated by discussion of the anti-'76 tour committee and its publicity campaign

Treasurer Mike Curtis brightened up the meeting with the news that for the last year we had a financial surplus of \$2500. Gyles Beckford had the last word with a report from a Teaching and Research Centre seminar he attended. He also mentioned that he was continuing investigations into the treatment that some of the overseas students have been receiving at Victoria House.

Gyles also read out the five applications for exemption from Students' Assn. fees. The meeting decided to grant one exemption and one partial exemption, two applicants were to be asked for more details, and one was turned down.

Apart from these highlights the meeting was mainly taken up with bureaucratic and administrative activities, such as the servicing of typewriters, the purchase of cash registers, the printing of constitutions and schedules and up-to-date news on how many bean bags had been sold.

IF ALL WE WANT THEM TO DO IS SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS OUR PROBLEMS WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT DYNAMITE? FIRST, YOU HAVE TO GET THEIR, ATTENTION!

A summary of the present position of the executive was provided by Accomodation Officer Scott Wilson when he objected to selling bean bags at enrolment because it meant that the students' Assn desk was left short-handed. While other executive members murmured their support for his comments, I wondered how many of them were concerned about the seemingly downhill slip of the association into the role of an investment society. When activities, such as the selling of bean bags, get in the way of working with students in their work environment, then they must stop.

From the Courts

Many lawyers in the Wellington Magistrates court are entering pleas and electing jurisdiction for their clients. This is contrary to the spirit of the Summary Proceedings Act and appears to be done for expediency. Defendants usually leave the court with no idea of the importance the questions put to them by the clerk of the court.

A defendant appearing on a charge which carries a penalty greater than 3 months is asked by the clerk of the court whether he wishes to be dealt in the Magistrates Court or Supreme Court. The defendant is then asked whether he wishes to plead guilty or not guilty.

Recently there has been a tendency for lawyers acting for the defendants to address the magistrate as such, "May it please your worship. Take the charge as read. My client elects Summary jurisdiction and a plea of guilty/not guilty be entered."

The charge is not read out in court and the lawyer is infringing the rights of the individual by making the plea.

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A private prosecution alleging assault was heard recently in the No. 2 Wellington Magistrates Court before Mr Kerr S.M.

A young married couple stated they were tenants in a flat owned by one of the defendants.

The wife stated the owner of the flat assaulted her. She said she was 3 months pregnant. The husband added that he landlord and his son assaulted him.

During the hearing the defendant landlord, Mr Ray Donaldson, Raroa Terrace, Linden, stated he had spoken to a Mr R. Steele of the Tenants Protection Assn.

Pointing to an unobtrusive bearded gentlemen at the rear of the court the defendant identified the gentlemen as Mr Steele and said he was a "stirrer". The tenant's counsel said that would be for the magistrate to decide.

The magistrate did not believe the evidence given by the landlord and his son. He convicted both defendants. Mr Ray Donaldson (the landlord) was fined \$75 for assaulting the wife. He was fined \$30 for assaulting the husband. Mr Ivan Donaldson was find \$30 for assaulting the husband.

.....

A young man recently appeared in the Magistrates Court in Lower Hutt charged with overstaying his permit. The accused had arrived from Tonga in 1973 and had overstayed his permit by 18 months. The Labour Department requested the accused be remanded in custody pending deportation. The magistrate asked the accused, who was unrepresented by counsel, whether he wished to say anything regarding being remanded in custody.

In a rare display the accused gave an impassioned plea why he should not be remanded in custody. He stated he had only stayed on in New Zealand in order to pass Post Office examinations to gain qualifications to use back in his own "poor little island". His plea failed and he was remanded in custody. Seldom will an accused say anything in court because of fear and the unfamiliar surroundings and when one does, the court usually goes out of its way to make a joke of the affair.

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Loud chanting from the holding room of the Wellington Magistrates Court marked the appearance of six men on charges relating to an incident at Government House recently.

The defendants appeared in the court separately before Mr Wicks S.M. As each defendant entered the courtroom a loud chant came from the holding room. The chant went something like, "What do we want? Justice! What do we get? Fuck All!"

Supporters at the rear of the courtroom gave further encouragement and showed solidarity with the defendants. Defendants asked for a remand on bail without plea. This technique is useful for infuriating the police as it means a defendant usually appears 3-4 times in Court before a sentence can be imposed if subsequently found guilty.

The defendants refused to enter the Jock, turned their backs on the magistrate and refused to recognise the court. These actions merely upset the conventions of the court. The time honoured procedure of possible contempt of court was invoked. Antiquated conventions of the courts should be questioned as to their value in todays society.

.....

In the Wellington Supreme Court recently a young man pleaded not guilty to a charge of rape. Conflicting evidence arose as to whether actual penetration by the accused had occurred. The jury, obviously believing no penetration had occurred, returned a lesser verdict of attempted rape. The prisoner was remanded for sentence.

"Truth" headlined the case as "Attackers pants' fell off - what the cops saw". Such sensationalised headlines which "Truth" thrives upon are not objective court reporting. "Truth" usually has a middle aged woman reporter covering criminal cases in the Supreme Court. Although many types of criminal cases are heard in the Supreme Court at the beginning of each month, the "Truth" reporter has a preponderance to appear at rape and sexual trials.

(These trials, when reported in "Truth" highlight the sensational parts of the case without objective reporting).

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Drawing of a judge

V.U.W. Music Society Orientation week Student Concert.

Wednesday, March 3rd, 1pm in the Music Room (H.332).

Music by Schumann, Scarlatti, Pleyel

Free! Free! Free! Also

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, March 10th, 1pm in the Music Room.

All Welcome

The Holidays

by David Murray

by Lindy Cassidy

A favourite topic for primary school essays was "What I did during the Holidays" Unfortunately, primary school has left us behind, but students still have very rewarding work experiences during the holidays. These two articles are reflections on work experience. We will attempt to bridge the gap between the worker and the student in future issues, through publishing a regular column on union news and views.

When so much public money is spent on the Social Welfare Dept, and in particular, in the field of 'social work', it is amazing that these activities do not come under closer scrutiny. Successive governments have always played down the social work activities of the Social Welfare Department, especially recently, as the myth of New Zealand's egalitarian society gradually disappears and the pathological side-effects of a more and more stratified society become increasingly apparent.

The existence of an extremely large social work bureaucracy admits fundamental problems, especially for the working classes, evidenced by their relative predominance on the books of the Social Welfare Dept., especially in the Children and Young Persons Courts. Since 1971, the number of Child Welfare officers have doubled - an indication of the increasing juvenile crime rate, especially around the Auckland metropolis.

Yet the functioning of this bureaucracy maintains a constant ethnocentric basis, that is, "bringing unfortunates back to some sort of normality". The training of social workers and the nature and limits of the social work itself inevitably shapes the social worker into comparing his 'clients' with his own situation and typically middle-class life style. The result of this is that the social worker too often is disappointed by failure of the 'recipient' to fulfil those middle class expectations.

The fault does not so much lie with the social workers themselves, but with the Department's lack of stated objectives and its need for some critical self appraisal in the ideological sphere. Instead, the Department sustains itself with a vague idea of what it should be going and justifies this by spending large sums of public monies to no apparent effect.

Lack of departmental directive can be blamed, in turn, on the highly bureaucratisation is not conducive to welfare work. According to a senior social work official the cost of dealing with one offense committed by a child or young person, i.e. under 17, is no less than 600 dollars. Not only are New Zealanders not getting their money's worth, but the present top heavy system also fails to deal adequately with offenders, as shown by staggering re-offending rates.

It's not that the offices of the Dept are full of mindless public servants (although this is sometimes not far from the truth). Rather that the highly differentiated nature of the Department means that the individual in the Department and the Department collectively, are discouraged from a critical appraisal of the tasks they perform, the results and implication of those tasks.

I would favour a large scale dismantling of the Department and a re-think on the role of the Social Welfare Department in New Zealand and its implications. We must bear in our minds these questions. Why is it needed? Whose standards it is based upon and whose interests does it serve?

The advert looked promising: "Wanted, one Petrol Pump Assistant, generous wage with possible increase for suitable applicant." (Note well singular of increase plus adjective of wage. Everything, I was to learn later, is relative thus and for a starving refugee \$55 per week is more than generous). "Pleasant working conditions". (Was that the four shining petrol pumps, the greasy garage or the lube bay?) "Apply Brown's Petrol Station." (Thus in a desperate attempt to join the ranks of the eight-to-fiveers I hurriedly buried my student past and disguised myself as a worker. Many people expressed envy at my newly acquired job; especially such unlikely subjects as fat middle-aged aged ladies languidly reclining in Jaguars and lazily throwing petrol-cap keys (often with inscrutable locks) at one inexperienced and increasingly flustered pump assistant.

Ah yes the myth of an outdoor job with plenty of stimulating contacts, (ie customers, for those a little slow), becomes the reality of a reluctant summer, an all too eager winter and the superficial brush with your typical car-driver.

Because of the physical nature of the contact with customers (both parties being in a hurry), the conversation tends to become limited to either enthusiastic discussions about the weather or the state of their respective dip sticks, radiators or petrol caps. Thus the most important relationships become those of fellow work mates which in my case were the other female pump attendant, the mechanic out the back and "the boss".

Needless to say my university experience did nothing to cushion the blow of meeting the idealized "proletariat" face to face. She voted National." I was going to vote Labour but changed my mind at the last moment, dun no why really, better super scheme, though Fred (husband) nearly killed me when I told him."

The mechanic out the back, young, newly married with baby, said he voted Labour not "cos I like Labour, but Jesus National's for the rich, eh ugly"(to the lady) "what have you got silly bitch? You don't even have a house." To this the lady retaliated "Yeah I haven't now, but when my mother dies, I mean, she's got two houses, and then I'll be rich You see you got to think ahead". Thus out of her meagre \$60 per week she regularly buys a Golden Lottery ticket.

Attitudes to non-conformists were equally entertaining and encouraging When pressed to explain her and Fred's blind prejudice towards Indians (perhaps a personal or a friend's bad experience) she reluctantly admitted she didn't know any "but Jesus you can tell they're unclean.... well they eat with their hands" and "its their fault they're starving they're just too lazy to find a job. Why should we help them when Fred and I can't afford a house?"

Why Indeed! The more liberal-minded mechanic knew a "few" and thought they were "Ok" but didn't like "wog" food much - i.e. anything too far removed from chops and vegies.

The "Bludger", the student, the butch Lesbian bus-driver (all women who drove buses came under this definition) were consistently denigrated.

And yet, paradoxically, they're basically so honest and gutsy that for all their prejudices you like them. At least there is no middle-class hypocrisy of calling a shit a faecae. None of this superfluity in manners and conversation; they're frank and crude but hell of a funny. Perhaps the advert should have read: "Wanted one petrol pump assistant, average static wage, occasional unpleasant working conditions, but workmates promise to provide entertainment and instruction and generally make the job worthwhile."

Student Travel Bureau Limited WHAT IS THE ISIC? 1. The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) of the International Student Travel Conference (ISTC) constitutes internationally accepted proof of the bona fide student status of its holder. Internationally, aviation, railway and related authorities accept the ISIC as the only official proof of the status of its holder. It is therefore obligatory for all students who want to use student flights and obtain the many Other concession facilities available only to students, to hold a valid ISIC. WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE ISIC? 2. The ISIC student card can be issued to a full-time student over the age of 16 undergoing a course of at least one academic year at a state recognised university, college, technical institute or other establishment of higher education. WHO CAN ISSUE THE ISIC IN NEW ZEALAND? 3. Only the Student Travel Bureau (STB) is authorised by the International Student Travel Conference (ISTC) to issue and renew the ISIC in New Zealand. HOW DO YOU OBTAIN THE ISIC IN NEW ZEALAND? 4. If eligible through enrolment at a state recognised university, college, technical institute or other establishment of higher education the ISIC is obtained by completing the standard application form and forwarding with two photographs and \$2.00 to: ISIC Scheme, Student Travel Bureau Ltd, P.O. Box 6649, Te Aro, Wellington. The ISIC application form can be obtained from and authorised by, any STB sales office or students association office on campus. If you are in doubt as to whether or not you qualify for an ISIC, write to ISIC scheme seeking clarification. Please note that ISIC cards can only be obtained by mail through the Student Travel Bureau. WHAT TRAVEL AND OTHER DISCOUNTS WITHIN NEW ZEALAND CAN THE ISIC HOLDER OBTAIN? 5. A valid ISIC is necessary if you wish to obtain the NAC/Mt Cook Student Standby fare which entitles you to a 50% concession on domestic flights on a standby basis. An ISIC holder whose Students Association is a member of the New Zealand Students Arts Council is eligible for the wide range of discounts negotiated under that body's National Discount Scheme. Discounts are available on a range of cultural and entertainment performances such as Downstage and Unity Theatres in Wellington, Mercury Theatre in Auckland and the Court Theatre in Christchurch. Also included are promotions by Coburn Artists, Impact Talent, Prestige Promotions and Amalgamated, Williams and Kerridge Odeon Corporation theatres. A full list is available from your students association office if it is a member of the Students Arts Council or by writing to:- The Director, New Zealand Students Arts Council, P.O. Box 6368, Te Aro, Wellington. FOR HOW LONG IS THE ISIC VALID? 6. The ISIC is valid for a one-year period, i.e. up to 31st December, and must be renewed annually. ISIC's can be renewed from 1st October in any year but full proof of the applicant's current student status must be submitted for renewal to occur. If you have any problems obtaining, renewing or using an ISIC just write to: ISIC Scheme, Student Travel Bureau Ltd., P.O. Box 6649, Te Aro, Wellington.

Where are you Sleeping?

At 25 February the Accomodation Service had 230 people registered seeking shelter. Even these figures understate the situation. In many cases one person registers on behalf of a group looking for a flat. The above figure doesn't include the large number of overseas students who arrive throughout March. Of course, Mr Muldoon could have them charged with being of no fixed abode and deport them, but they really don't look at all like Polynesians.....

Average rents are up but not the standard of accomodation generally being offered. Consequently, those at the beginning of the varsity year seeking accomodation don't have much choice. There has emerged a definite trend now that Students are looking for flats at the end of the varsity year and consequently have more to choose from.

The accomodation crisis emerged yet again into the fading sunlight of a pseudo-Wellington summer. It had been sheltering from the cold but yawned briefly and sprang forth when someone remembered he'd need a place to sleep in for 1976 apart from the academic glasshouse called Rankine Brown.

Attempted humour aside, it is true that places in flats are extremely scarce for students and the general public alike who want a roof over their stereo.

Hostels are all full except for a number of vacancies at Weir House. Earlier in February a large number of Weir vacancies was causing an embarrassment to the University because of a new student flat complex (Trinity-Newman - see later) proposed soon to come before the University's Accomodation Committee. (This "embarrassment" seemed to assume the hostel accomodation was acceptable to all students, whether or not they like hostels and/or had the financial resources to enable to live in one).).

The effects of the accomodation shortage on homeless students is a little depressing. It is an unsettling feeling which usually affects their studies. As a homeless student at present I can tell you it feels like being adrift in a dinghy on Wellington Harbour on Wahine Day!

Is the University Playing Musical Houses?

It now seems clear that there are a large number of houses within the Kelburn area which could potentially be used to house a substantial number of students. At present these houses are either being used for purposes other than residential or are being let to the general public.

At least 60 houses within the Kelburn area are at present being used by the University, mainly for teaching purposes, which have priority over other types of use since the building program is way behind schedule. They are owned by the Crown but are designated for use by the University and as such could provide a blessed relief for students wanting accomodation.

However, not all of these houses can be used for student flats. Houses on Kelburn Parade will definitely make way for Von Zedlitz's playmates. As the completed building program makes new space for departments occupying houses, elsewhere, conversion to flats for student occupation could take place. When is anyone's guess, and even Dr Culliford declined to guess for me.

The Public Trust Affair

About 30 houses in the Kelburn area are being administered by the Public Trust and are leased to the general public. Some houses have ridiculously low rents but it seems that as long as the Public Trust obtains an income from each which satisfies the Education Department then they don't need to raise the rent. The crunch lies in the fact that these houses should have been given to the Studass ages ago but for various reasons this hasn't been done. Mainly because the Studass isn't capable at present of administering a reasonable number of flats. But it can be, and would even like to.

Another sticky problem is that if a transfer is to be effected, whereby the Studass takes over the flats from the Public Trust, then the decision will have to be a political one. And as some of us know, politicians don't like making decisions which may smell "discriminatory". The issue would probably be this: should one section of the community (namely students) have preference over the rest of the public, assuming both groups have a similar right to accomodation?

If the Government wants a university in Wgtn and for the purposes of this argument we will assume they do, then surely it is in their interests to assist in seeing that students have enough accomodation. The practicalities of booting nonstudents out of the flats would have to be carefully considered. That relates to the above point covering basic human rights which belong to all of us. It would need thoughtful consideration and discussion.

Studass is prepared to become a landlord and assuming they investigate thoroughly what is needed to administer a large number of flats and act accordingly then theoretically the idea could work. The University and Government should seriously consider Studass as an alternative landlord of properties presently administered by the Public Trust.

Present Studass flats

Studass administers 5 flats in total, catering for approximately 34 people. Four are owned by the Ministry of Works, leased to Studass and sublet to students. These are in Kensington St 2), McDonald Crescent and

Glenbervie Terrace. The other flat is owned by Presbyterian Church and is an ex-hostel, situated on The Terrace. This flat plus the one in Kensington St were secured by Studass only last year.

SRC policy is that priority be given to students if vacancies arise. An Exec, decision late last year stated that people in the flats have the right to decide who goes into their flat - this recognises the practicalities of the flatting situation.

Attempt to Join Landlord's Assn.

Studass tried to join the Landlord's Assn. last year. This if successful, would have enabled Studass to take flats off landlords, guaranteeing the place against damage etc and sublet them to students. However, they had no reply concerning their application. A wax impression of the letter may be seen, at your convenience in Madame Tussaud's in London alongside Jack the Ripper etc.

Building of Student flats

At the moment it's pie in the sky ideas. We haven't enough money in the trust account at present to even think about it, let alone begin preparation. A substantial amount of the money from the trust account was paid out last year in purchasing the bookshop on Mount Street; once this is recouped (this process will be speeded up by students supporting their bookshop!), then thinking about student flats will be considered, that is if by then those propie still around haven't forgotten the idea.

Trinity Flats Scheme

The situation is not completely hopeless. Some encouragement can be taken from the proposed Student flat complex to be built on Clermont Tee. Anthony Ward, the student rep on the Accomodation Committee, outlined briefly for me the history behind the proposal and some recent developments.

Originally, it was planned that two new Halls of Residence should be built, one by the Anglican Church called Newman (in the area where the Sociology Department now lives in Clermont Terrace); and the other by the Catholic Church (Trinity - in the Graveyard next to the Union building). With the costs of Halls rising rapidly, the two organisations decided to pool their resources and concentrate on the Clermont Terrace site. Architets' drawings for a new Hall were commissioned.

In the meantime, attitudes towards Halts changed. The new Helen Lowry Hostel in Karori found itself in severe financial problems with large debts to service. The Presbyterian Trust, in planning Everton Hall, decided in favour of a flatting complex, which has since been built. The Trinity/Newman complex was still intended to go ahead, when the finance could be found. However, in view of the financial difficulties many Halls were going through, and the heavy costs of new Halls compared with flats, the University Grants Committee (which controls the money for new accomodation) decided in favour of flats.

This decision, and the opposition of people involved with accomodation, including the Victoria Students' Association, eventually changed the Trinity/Newman mind in the middle of 1975. At that stage flats were decided upon, and architects drawings were called for. After a bit of discussion over the form the flats should take, basic design was nuted out. This involves about 130 students in 30 flats of four and five.

The flatting complex design is at present being costed, to be presented for the University's Accomodation Committee before going to the University Grants Committee. Anthony was confident this proposal would get the nod and thought building would start as soon as the Sociology Department was moved to VON Zedlitz, their new home. The first students should move in for the 1978 year.

Conclusion

It is difficult to see there being enough suitable accomodation for students being available in the next couple of years. The potentiality of the university houses seems to be years away and meanwhile price and rents continue to rise. The only encouraging thing is the Trinity/Newman scheme, but one suspects it will only provide a brief respite.

What Students Can Do to Help

The Accomodation Officer has a lack of time in his lap, and consequently cannot spend it trying to find accomodation for people. He can only advise people in how to look. He does ask people to keep an eye out for vacant houses around the 'hui', since they may be owned by the Crown or University (virtually the same thing in this case) and could possibly be used. Students could contact Exec, members at Studass office, especially the

Accommodation Officer, who could take the matter from there.

by Leigh Thomson

Map of Kelburn Campus

Tenants' Rights

by Mark Derby

[unclear: enants] don't have many rights in New Zealand, and we aren't informed about few that do exist. Here are some you would use:-

[unclear: you] Move Into a House -

[unclear: landlord] may not demand a total [unclear: amount] of rent and bond which is more [unclear: a] one months rent altogether. "Key [unclear: they]", administration fees or any other [unclear: ments] except rent, bond and land [unclear: its] commission are illegal.

[unclear: landlord] may not refuse to let you [unclear: use] because of your race or because have children.

[unclear: en] You are Living in a House -

[unclear: if] you think the rent is too high, or landlord puts the rent up, you can [unclear: eal] to the Rent Appeal Board. You get appeal forms from a Post Office, Labour Department or the Tenants [unclear: on].

- An appeal to the Board costs you nothing.
- The landlord cannot evict you or you for appealing, whether or not you are successful.
- If the appeal is successful and back-dated, you can deduct the extra money you have paid from the rent.

The landlord or his agent must [unclear: now:] you at least 24 hours notice before [unclear: sing] on to your property, he must [unclear: ae] at a reasonable time, and then *only [unclear: nspect] the condition of the property.* [unclear: prt] from that he has no more rights a any other person who is not [unclear: invi] and you can tell him to leave.

If the landlord will not do repairs the house, or fix the stove or washing chine, you should give him a month's [unclear: tten] notice to carry out the specif-repairs, if he doesn't fix them with-[unclear: in] month, *you can deduct money from [unclear: their] rent to pay for the repairs yourself,* [unclear: The] landlord can appeal against your [unclear: decision] to deduct from the rent, but cannot evict you *for* doing so. The [unclear: aants] Union has blank forms giving [unclear: al] notice for repairs to be carried [unclear: it].

[unclear: Then] You Leave, or the Landlord [unclear: mts] You to Leave -

Your landlord can evict you for any [unclear: reason] or none at all, but he can't tell [unclear: a] to get out just any time.

An excitingly large percentage of approx. 90 houses within the above area could be used as student flats. Only time will tell.

Map of Kelburn Campus

If you have a written agreement with the landlord, it will usually state how much notice he must give if he wants you to leave. If he does not give you the correct notice, you do not have to leave.

If you do not have a written agreement, the landlord must give you one *full month's written notice* to leave. If he does not give sufficient notice, or if it is not in writing, the notice is invalid and you should ignore it.

If the notice to quit is *valid* and you have not left when the time is up, the landlord cannot throw you out on the street; cannot seize any of your property, *or* call the police or anyone else to help him evict you. He must apply to the Courts for an order to evict you. This is the only legal action he can take, and it will take him some months to get a decision - *sit tight and fight.*

The landlord cannot turn off your electricity, gas, water, phone or anything else, nor can he change the locks on your doors while you are out.

If you want to leave, the same rules apply to you as to your landlord - you must give him the correct amount of notice.

If the landlord holds a *bond*, he must return it to you when you leave, unless you have done some damage to the flat, or you are behind in the rent by the amount of the bond. When you took the flat, he should have given you a written set of conditions on which he could keep the bond. If you have not broken any of the

conditions, he may not keep the bond.

If you believe the landlord will not return the bond you have paid, then simply do not pay rent for the last few weeks you are there. If he then does pay the bond, you can use it to pay him your back-rent, and will lose nothing.

The Wellington Tenants Union operates a free legal advice service for all tenants. Ring them anytime at 842-606 or write to P.O. Box 11-160, Wellington. You can also call in at 48 Aro Street between 10am and 4pm.

Photo of a two storey weatherboard house

Join the Tenants Union - you've got nothing to lose but your landlord.

The Tenants Protection Association is proud to announce it is now the Wellington Tenant's Union. The idea of a "Protection" Association was felt to be both patronising and untrue - in many cases there was nothing TPA could do to stop landlords ripping tenants off.

The Union will carry on TPA's work of giving free legal advice and support for just tenancy struggles, while pressing for changes to tenancy laws. We'll also be working to build a strong organisation within the Wellington Community, enabling tenants to co-operate in battling their landlords.

At the moment the office is receiving between 50 and 60 cases and enquiries a week. This is likely to grow to 100 a week in winter. There is an urgent need for people to help in dealing with this volume of political work. In return for the time and talent you can provide the Tenant's Union offers students of law, social science, public administration, commerce, economics, political science, reform, radicalism and revolution a unique opportunity to see how the law operates on people's day-to-day troubles, direct contact with the subjects of a "social problem" and the exhilarating experience of encountering State bureaucracy at rest.

If you want to help for 2-3 hours a week please phone us at 842-606 or call in at 48 Aro Street, between 10am and 4pm.

One young Brooklyn family arranged a meeting with their agent,, to discuss the eviction notice had sent them.

agreed to turn up at their flat at 4p.m. on an arranged date, but a few days before he rang and said he couldn't be there after all - "would 11am on the same day be all right?" The tenants replied that this time was not satisfactory as no one would be home and a new date was set.

However, one of the tenants changed her mind after this, decided to stay home after all, and watched as on the dot of 11am her land agent and 4 helpers arrived. They then asked to be shown around, and left about 2 minutes later.

This astonishingly sly and callous eviction attempt came after the tenants had lived 17 months in the flat and paid over \$2500 in rent. Yet they received nothing but excuses from in response to constant requests to carry out repairs to their shabby house.

In December last year, the tenants gave up asking and withheld their rent, telling that it would be repaid when all the long-promised repairs were carried out, response was in the form of an eviction notice, telling them to be out by January 31.

The tenants then tried to meet with their land agent to explain why they stopped paying rent, but weren't interested in dealing directly with people who stood up for their rights. If and his hatchet-men had found no-one home at the flat as they planned, it's very unlikely that the tenants could have regained entry.

In an accustomed flurry of publicity, the Tenants Union held a picket outside Offices in early February to draw attention to their twisted ethics. A number of other tenants from the "flats in St. took part in the picket, to protest against their recent 96% rent increase.

Nathan's had taken over the flats 6 weeks earlier and as usual made no improvements in that time. Just four days after Nationals 3.2% wage order, the tenants heard of their 96% rent hike.

The only reason given was that valuers had been through the property (unbeknown to the tenants) and they had advised that much higher rents were appropriate.

The tenants at Flats didn't agree with the justice of this decision, and felt that a picket was the only way to get through to sharks like

Orientation

Drawing of three dancing people

What? Why? How? When?

In my humble opinion, orientation week is the week that sets things rolling for the rest of the year. It's a time to get out and enjoy yourself have a good time, meet people, and to see just what's offering on campus.

Life at university does not mean work work work all the time - I know and so do many others who have found a balance between work and the lighter side of life. It's not hard to enjoy varsity and there are plenty of

opportunities to have a good time - just look at the programme - there's music - and good music too (if you missed Waves on Friday - don't miss the folk concert, Split Enz or Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee), wine and cheese evening, a hop, and lots more - interesting as well as lighthearted forums etc., etc

So get out and have a good time
— if you do there'll be far greater
things to come
See ya!

— Anne Dwyer
Image of a fly

Monday 1 March:

All day Displays by the Women's Choice Club, the Gym, Hart, the Young Socialists and others in the Main Foyer and on the middle floor, Union Building.

12-2 pm Debate — that the University is an anachronism. Should universities have been buried with the middle ages? Why come to university at all? Express your views from the floor and hear the two teams! Union Hall.

12 - 2 pm Drama Soc present: two hours of surprise — or something! Lounge and smoking room.

4 - 7 pm SASRAC - in the Caf. Ever wondered what Sasrac is, was or might be? Find out today! Tickets at Studass.

7.30 pm The amazing inaugural Folk Concert should not be missed by anyone who appreciates good music. Hear Jade. Paul Metsers and Colin Spiers, Chris Prowse and Gilbert Egdell, Jean McAllister, Marg Leighton and many others. Union Hall.

8.00pm Motorcycle Club night. Smoking Room. Introductory meeting featuring slides from Manfield race day and moto-cross. Refreshments available afterward: All Welcome.

Tuesday 2 March:

All day Displays by the Tramping Club, the Gym, Hart, the Young Socialists, Womens Choice Club and others. Main Foyer (ground floor) and middle floor.

12 - 2 pm Forum: the SIS and the CIA. Hear speakers rubbish these nasty and horrible organisations, organised by the Young Socialists. Lounge and Smoking Room.

12 - 2 pm Debate: 'that this house has confidence in the Government'. Watch the Young Nats battle it out with the Labour Club. Union Hall.

Image of a plane

2 pm "Airport" This high-adventure film stars Burt Lancaster, Dean Martin and others. Be in early: admission by season/term/day ticket only. See Studass.

4 - 7 pm SASRAC in the Caf. Did you find out what this mysterious event is yesterday? If so — see you again; if not find out today. You can have your tea at Sasrac, relax with friends at Sasrac "in typical Kiwi style".

7.30 pm Young Socialists Social, Lounge and Smoking Room.

8 pm Visual Arts and Photo Soc get

together in an unlikely combination for a Wine and Cheese cum Exhibition. Explore their examples of concrete and clay!

Photo of Split Enz
MUST BE GOOD

Wednesday 3 March

All day Displays by the Car Club, Young Socialists, Women's Choice Club, Hart and others.

12 noon Watch the amazing Tramping Club jump out of potholes and slither down Easterfield.

12-2 pm SRC — Student Representative Council. Come and watch the heavies spend all your money and make all the decisions for you. Debate the motion to scrap all student reps on all university committees.

1 - 2 pm Music Soc present a lunchtime concert in the Music Room, Hunter. Just follow the arrows or the music!

2 pm Yes, folks — another Film! This time it's "The Adventures of Barry McKenzie" the first real dinkum Aussie comedy. See Studass for the great money-saving tickets.

4 - 7 pm SASRAC: once again this mysterious form of Kiwi enjoyment appears in the Caf. What can it be?

4.30 - 8 pm SCM Bar-b-que. Outside if fine, Lounge and Smoking Room if wet, if Wellington's weather continues its merry way.

7 - 11pm Car Club 'nite' in the Tennis Pavilion.
7.30pm Law Faculty Welcome, Union Hall.
8 pm Free Barefoot Dance in the Gym. Music (disco) and lighting and who knows what else?
8 pm Don't miss Split Enz in the Town Hall for their one and only concert in Wellington, thanks to NZSAC. Incredibly popular in Australia and now on their way to Britain, this'll be your last chance to see Jeremy and the boys. Be in quick — it's sure to sell out! Bookings at the DIC — students \$3.

Thursday 4 March

Drawing of a man in academic regalia with a beer and cigarette
All day Displays in the Main Foyer and Second Floor by Hart, Women's Choice Club, the Young Socialists Athletics-Harriers and others.
12 - 2 pm Double bill Forum 12 Soapbox: the laugh of the week! Hear well known political commentators expounding their views on N Z society.
1 "In defence of Matakite and those arrested at Parliament". Think for a moment - is it a crime to live in a tent?
12 - 2 pm Yet another Drama Soc surprise ... or something. Lounge and Smoking Room.
1 pm VUW Nurses Society meeting. Theatre Foyer.
2 pm From the Beatles era, another magnificent film: Let it Be. Admission by one of the many tickets available from Studass. Memorial Theatre.
3 pm German students weekly Kaffee-stunde — for those who can't speak German (*like the typist*) this means lovely German cakes and coffee. German Dept. - 83 Fairlie Terrace
4 - 6 pm SASRAC lets its mystery flow and helps you relax yet again.
5 pm Weight training lecture in the Gym.
6 - 7 pm Rembuden Martial Arts Club display — includes karate and other martial arts. Union Hall.
7 pm Drama Soc AGM; Union Hall
7.30 pm Film "Pioneers" in LB1 from the China Society. In English, with shorts. Admission free, but if you're feeling generous Everyone welcome.
8 pm Inaugral Hop in the Caf. Good music. Admission \$2, which gives you 5 nips or 5 cans. Non drinkers \$1. Reckon Derek's cousin might be there, eh Trev'?

Friday 5 March

Sonny Terry & Brownie McGee - Masters of the Blues
Photo of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee
Drawing of a man wearing glasses
All day Displays by Hart, Harrier/Athletic Club, the Young Socialists, the Women's Choice Club and others.
12 - 2 pm Te Reo Maori Concert in the Union Hall. Last year this had everyone joining in — see if it happens again!
12 noon, "Last Grave at Dimbaza" the 1 pm film shot secretly in South Africa that everyone should see. In the Memorial Theatre, admission free but if you want to donate, or to join Hart, we'll welcome you. Two screenings.
4 - 6 pm SASRAC in the Caf strikes yet again. Have you been hit by it yet? Tickets from Studass.
5 pm Christian Union Tea, in the Lounge and Smoking Room.
7.30 pm MSA Social in the Union Hall. Admission free! First years especially welcome.

Saturday 6 March

Drawing of a man playing guitar
8 pm in the Union Hall, NZSAC presents Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee' "two of the greatest performers and musicians, Blues or otherwise, around today"
Don't miss seeing these masters of the blues who rocked capacity audiences throughout New Zealand in August '74. Tickets from Studass Students \$2.50, public \$3.50 (both plus booking fee).

Sunday 7 March

7 pm Inaugral Service in the Theatre Foyer.
8.00pm Sonny Terry & Brownie McGee appear again, this time in the Opera House (and not the Town Hall)

as is written on the orientation programme). If you missed them on Saturday, this is a Must. Bookings at the DIC - students \$3.00, public \$3.50 (both plus booking fee).

And the Next Week.....

Monday 8th March

7.15pm "International Women's Day" celebration! Films on women plus wine and cheese.

All women welcome. Lounge.

7.30pm Squash Club AGM. Lounge and Smoking Room.

Tues March 9.

12-2pm Women's Choice Club Forum. Lounge and Smoking Room.

730 pm. Visual Arts AGM in the Lounge and Smoking Room. Come along if you want to learn a few things about pottery this year.

8 pm. Mad Folk Dancing in the Gym.

Wednesday 10th March

12 noon Calling all Chess fanatics and others - come and watch

Checkmates, the human

Chess match, Rankine Brown

Courtyard if fine. Gym if wet

8.00pm Tramping Club Nite. Lounge.

Thursday 11th March

2.00pm Film - "The Sting" starring

Paul Newman and Robert

Redford. Memorial Theatre.

7.30pm Fiji Club Welcome and Social Evening.

Lounge and Smoking Room.

7.00pm Folk Club Nite. Theatre Foyer.

Saturday 13th March

7.30pm International Evening in the Union Hall. Includes international cultural items, music, dancing and supper.

Additions to the above programme are expected hourly, so watch the notice Boards and keep your eyes and ears open!

And remember: if you want to get student prices, or get into the films, you need your ID cards.

Any queries, drop into the friendly Studass office and they'll try to sort you out.

Drawing of two dancing figures

CAFL FOR RECORDS and Cassettes We will pay up to \$2.50 for POPULAR records and cassettes in NEW CONDITION SILVIO'S 4 RIDDIFORD ST NEWTOWN TEL 897 354 ENQUIRE ABOUT OUR POPULAR SWAPPING SYSTEM

Reviewed by Judith Ting

Poetry

Drawing of a clock looking at a watch

Jumping from a Crumbling Building.

If you saw me going down the street today
I would seem the picture of private innocence

but don't be fooled
When Wellington has switched off, black night,
I sneak with the skill of possums
out to your place
and stare through your bedroom window,
the heart wobbling as I watch
your heaving chest,
your darling lips closed to keep the dream warm, closed,
but not, I hope, like your heart,
which is like a small blanket
held at the corners by four brave strangers, since
when I fall
it must be open.

— Martin Doyle

Poem to Lins

— late at night — edging about with a torch —
and then climbing up the gravel track
under observation from the trees
leaving behind the sinister that-doesn't-belong-here scent of aniseed
rising in the warn air,

and the curious glint of tinfoil.
Me in bed,
you waiting for a steel pipe
and a broken skull,
not even the sublimity of unexpected death.
you were not murdered by opossum extremists
during an internal power struggle;
you were not transfixed by a spear as you and a friend
studied each other's eyes in the dark.
you were killed by a boy who wanted your skin.

'he was a simple person,
a freebooter interested in trees,
one who collected berries for their own
peculiar beauty,
a student of the night who tried to grasp
Tane's soul in his own small claws'
I remember the softness of your plump body
lying on the grass,
and a wet muzzle flashing in the morning sun.
There is only a skin nailed to my wall.

— Martin Doyle

The Occupying Forces. Jennifer Maiden.

Published by Makar Press. 1975.

Lament for Ariadne. Rachel McAlpine. Caveman Press. 1975

Reviewed by Judith Ting

Jennifer Maiden's new book, 'The Occupying Forces' is essentially a mosaic of poetry, each piece vibrant, complete, the whole capable of evoking a surprising variety of sympathetic response from the reader.

Illuminated by vivid and intense images, scene and relationship are caught and held suspended. In 'Atmosphere' alternation of description:

*"From the toby jug, cream
pocked thick, brims down
and silks our soup-strewn
cloth."*

with what appears to be the poetess's immediate personal insight:

*"You wait. Your eyes
stop pretending direction
and drug
themselves on hazy colour."*

infuses the reader with both physical and mental perceptions - one has the impression that the poetess is totally aware.

Yet moods evoked are not always extensive, universal. A poem like 'The Novelist' is able to pinpoint a particular feeling concisely, exactly, and 'Kriegspiel' is an outstanding poem, in that while it is controlled by a firm evocation of sensation, there is a separation of mood from consciousness - feeling is almost intellectualised, compacted until it becomes little more than just another form of colour, a part of the game itself.

Ultimately this is a vital book. Jennifer Maiden is able to maintain consistently the intense pulse of emotion necessary to valid lyrical poetry, and even more importantly to communicate this quality to her readers. The 'Occupying Forces' is a book which should be read.

Not so, however, with Rachel McAlpine's 'Lament for Ariadne.' Essential to this book's particular genre of poetry is the ability to contain impression by creating through a series of swift, vivid images the basis of a complete scene. Obviously these images should combine to present an harmonious whole, yet throughout much of the book connection between images is only tenuous. There is no sense of unity, and consequently an inability to evoke any responsive feeling of the type that makes poetry cogent.

In 'Incident at King Arthur's Court' particularly, words seem to be used as separate units, not as harmonious segments of the whole.

*"I'm happy for you both
feel free
he stays
and leaves
and comes again to say
it all again."*

The reader is not left with a communicated sensation of sparse barren reality, merely with an impression of empty verse. Even the initial off-hand mockery is not valid - to mock successfully one must mock more than cardboard characters, and the three protagonists are very flat and incomplete.

Technically also the poems are lacking. Without the veneer of efficacious imagery, the bare bones of the structure protrude to a form-marring degree.

*"we rise
from a wrinkled sea"*

to a wrinkled sky
ripped from a friend

I do not cry" - Phrases like these annoy, and do not succeed in performing their office. On the whole, the book appears to be merely pretentious.

Wanted —

20 people to act as chessman in Checkmates - the human chess match, contact Linda Ridler at the Gym. Some chess experience needed.

Accountancy undergraduate required for National electrical importing firm.

Liberal study leave.

Phone - 726-972 Mrs Carter

Interested Students

I would appreciate hearing from anyone interested in visiting 'Lomond Villa' at Porirua Hospital from 6.00 to 7.00 every Thursday evening. The group visiting this particular ward (female patients only) was for some years affiliated to the Red Cross but is now a completely independent group. Called the 'Nicholson Group', the only formal structure is that the two conveners have to vouch for the genuine concern of those in the group.

The purpose is to gradually establish friendships with the girls so as to offer them some support while they are in the ward and if/when they leave.

If you would like more information or would be keen to join the group please ring Peter at 723-160.

DOWNSTAGE THEATRE DOWNSTAGE THEATRE COME TOGETHER March 2-23 COURT THEATRES. CHRISTCHURCH SWEET MR: SHAKESPEARE Presented by Jonathan Elsom Directed by Ngaio Marsh March 2,3,4,5,6, at 8.15 p.m. Sun. March 7 and 8.15 p.m. (no dinner) A STATE OF SIEGE Adapted from Janet Frame's novel Presented by Sherril Cooper Wed. March 3, 12.30p.m. only AMAMUS THEATRE GALLIPOLI & THE HALF DANCE OF MARY M March 8,9,10. 8.15p.m. (no dinner) DOWNSTAGE SONGS TO UNCLE SCRIM A musical Montage of the Depression March 11, 12,13, 8.15p.m. MERCURY THEATRE. AUCKLAND A MARVELLOUS PARTY Noel Coward & his music Sunday March 14, 8.15p.m. (no dinner) Monday, March 15, 8.15 & 11p.m. FROM SOUTH PACIFIC ARTS FESTIVAL ABORIGINAL DANCERS March 16, 18, 8.15p.m. IMPULSE DANCE CO March 17, 8.15p.m. March 19,20, 11p.m. FORTUNE THEATRE, DUNEDIN AN EVENING WITH CHARLES DICKENS March 19,20, 8.15p.m. FROM AMERICA ROBERT CREELEY, POET Sunday, March 21, 8.15p.m. JAPANESE MIME ARTIST YASS HAKOSHIMA March 22,23 8.15p.m. BOOK NOW - Phone 849 639 STUDENT CONCESSIONS

—Films—

Drawing of a film projector

This year, to increasingly inform students of the culture and entertainment available to them, Salient will be pre-viewing the VUWSA film programme. Each week Salient will give its ideas, criticism, and summary of the films to be screened during that week. The programme for VUWSA films in 1976 is:

—VUWSA Films

"Airport"

(Screening Tuesday, 2nd March)

Many would say this marked the beginning of a new era for the film industry in America, where all the ingredients for massive popularity are included. This era has not finished yet. It is still booming with films such as "Towering Inferno", "Jaws" and "Earthquake".

"Airport" is a 'wild night at the international airport with the runways snowed up, a mad bomber loose on

the Rome flight, and a little old lady stowaway dodging security checks.

"Adventures of Barry McKenzie"

(screening Wednesday, 3rd March)

The film that started the successful Australian film industry. A very appealing comedy that is perhaps funnier to New Zealanders more than to anyone else because we have an understanding of Aussies without identifying with them. The language is incredible, the stunts are amazing. Bazza and his mates put out a fire by urinating on it after drinking dozens of "chubes" of Fosters. He "chunders" on the head of his psychoanalyst.

It is all about Barry's visit to London and his brief whack at the recording industry. He travels with his Aunt (female impersonator Barry Humphries who also plays other roles in the film). The film stars Barry Crocker as "Bazza", Barry Humphries, Peter Cook, Spike Milligan and William Rushton.

It is worth seeing again even if it is just to catch up on the hundreds of witty pieces of dialogue: Like "she bangs like a shit-house door in a southerly gale."

Let It Be"

(Screening Thursday, 4th March)

A straight documentary on the Beatles as they informally rehearse some of their best songs. "The songs are smashing" (Sight and Sound). Anyone who is at all interested in the development of modern song should see this film for its revelations about the personalities of the men who have made the greatest impact on music since the fifties. To what extent were there discords and harmonies within the group? - See it first hand. Director: Michael Lindsay Hogg.

"The Pioneers"

— a colour feature film in Chinese (with English translation) screening in LB1 at 7.30pm, Thursday 4th March.

This film depicts how, in the early 60 s, Chinese oil workers led by the Chinese Communist Party fought against imperialism and social-imperialism. The battle manifests itself in the struggle between two political lines - the revisionist line calling for dependence on foreign "aid" to help develop a big oilfield, the other revolutionary line advocating development independently through self-reliance.

The film portrays revolutionary heroism and will, and shows the drive and power of the Chinese oil workers with their clear understanding of the revolutionary ideology of the Communist Party ("Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought") who are acutely aware of the class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. It is interesting to see this film at a time when China is becoming increasingly recognised as a major potential oil-producing country in the world.

Last Grave at Dimbaza

(Screening 12 noon and 1p.m., Friday 5th March).

The film "Last Grave at Dimbaza" is one which many Wellingtonians will see over the next few months.

It is being shown in many of the city's suburbs by the local Hart groups and it is designed to make people aware of the situation in South Africa today.

The film was illegally shot by black Africans in South Africa, and it portrays the grim reality of life for the blacks under apartheid

Some time is devoted to describing the South African Government's policy of Separate Development. The inhumanity of these policies is shown in many ways:

- the mass removals of blacks from homes in which they have lived for decades.
- the breakup of families caused by the migratory labour policies of the government.
- the lack of educational political and economic opportunity for the black majority.

Perhaps the most graphic feature portrayed in the film is the sense of hopelessness and despair that Blacks feel when confronted by the inhumanity of the system of apartheid.

— Town Films

"Barry Lyndon"

It is not often on the commercial circuit that New Zealand audiences get to see a film of the calibre of "Barry Lyndon". While there may not be such a thing as a perfect film, Kubrick's latest offering excels in all departments of the film art.

This time around, Kubrick takes a fairly lacklustre 19th century Thackeray novel and gives it his 'treatment'. His previous films delved into the futuristic and surrealistic. Not so "Barry Lyndon" which highlights not only his consistency but also his diversity.

The plot of "Barry Lyndon" is not over-strong and consists basically of the adventures of Redmond Barry, an Irish village boy who leaves home after killing (supposedly) an English army officer in a duel. The film traces the small historical accidents that shape the course of Barry's life - his first love, recruitment into the army, his aborted attempt to enter high society. Kubrick highlights that our experiences form our life, and many of these experiences are outside our control and purely accidental.

The character of the film changes constantly. It is full of comical situation, pathetic scenes and ironic incidents. All are handled with the same crafts man like technique and the film rarely becomes boring, despite its great length.

Visually, the film is a marvel, Kubrick uses the beauty of the Irish countryside and the splendor of English and European architecture to build a superb photographic composition. All the tricks of camera art are employed without ever seeming overdone or gimmicky (in contrast to his earlier films). Each shot seemed meticulously planned. Good use of light effects and effective cutting make "Barry Lyndon" a cellulose tapestry.

The acting in the film was generally good. Ryan O'Neal as Barry turns in a competent performance (if you can overcome memories of "Peyton Place" and "Love Story"), even if his accent is suspect at times.

As always, Stanley Kubrick tops off his visuals with effective music. The standard of the music is such that I'm sure that it would be good enough to stand by itself. It not only fitted the film well, but accentuated the impact of the visuals.

One thing is certain. "Barry Lyndon" is Kubrick's trip. It is as if he wanted a weak plot to make the film seem more amazing. The film was too long - the first half alone lasting 105 minutes - taking much of the effect out of the later parts.

In total, one could forget the characters and the plot, but not the sheer sensory brilliance of this classic production.

David Murray

"JAWS" - Film Review.

Now in it's 3rd record month screening in Wellington and having the same incredible success elsewhere, one wonders just what sets JAWS apart from most other ceiling busters.

It is expensive (\$8 million), elaborate, and technically intricate, and yet though Peter Benchley's novel was in itself a proven commodity, the well-over budget and schedule screenplay might have just as easily flopped.

Part of a stream of high adventure films, like "Earthquake", JAWS is a fantasy relying on the immediacy of illusion, taking a panic-producing disaster and showing how a representative cross-section of humanity responds to it. On the screen the menace comes horrifyingly close putting everyone it seems, into imminent danger.

Yet the audience revels in its own terror, subconsciously aware that fear alone is what it's all about. There is security in the knowledge that, like the heroes, they will return alive.

Having previously enjoyed the novel the film-goer is immediately aware of a lack of similar padding in the way of sub-plots; the exploring around with age-old phenomena such as the uneasy marriage, the adulterous wife, the clever seducer, is eliminated.

Police Chief Brody (Roy Schieder) must still fight the town's mayor, who is fearful that closing the beaches after the first shark attacks will ruin his resort's economy. He still joins forces with Quint the professional shark killer (Robert Shaw, who tends to play the part of excess) and a youthful ichthyologist named Hooper. Richard Dreyfus in this part perfects a cheeky charm which humourizes the picture without altogether overshadowing the ever-essential symbol of evil.

At sea in Quint's leaky craft, the three are confident of destroying this great white horror which gradually shows itself to be far more cunning, far larger and stronger than even Quint could have believed. Throughout the whole film are the classic sequences of suspense; always present is the unknowable. Steven Spielberg as director works us up with false alarms, giving us the real thing with heart-stopping suddenness. The end is explosive.

The shark-attack scenes at the beginning were handled in the never-failing Hitchcock manner, sure to cause audience reaction; what's to be expected when an audience has knowledge of lurking danger and yet is unable to shout effective warning to obvious victims?

But realism at times tended to border on the ridiculous whereby, after initial horror the spell was inevitably broken. For instance, I found the appearance of a severed head through the bottom of a sunken craft, while being a grotesque reminder of the evil effectiveness of an as yet unknown quantity, too much to bear.

Finally the appearance of "Jaws", played by a 24foot mechanical monster, and ultimately Quint's fateful

end destroyed the illusions I had previously had. I found myself comparing the film rather unfavourably with the novel which was thankfully forced to leave much more to the imagination.

The soundtrack, on its own a success due to its appeal to the more morbid is indeed one of the film's great assets.

On the whole the film is over rated and yet as such will continue to attract audiences who are bound to be gripped, with only the more detached being critical enough to notice any short comings at the time.

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Desire

Reviewed by Anthony Ward

Bob Dylan; Desire CBS SBP234778

Bob Dylan album cover

Amidst the New England snowstorms, the Detroit fall, the handbills flutter around. Advertising the Rolling Thunder revue. Not a big commercial tour like the Dylan/Band or Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young tours of early 1974. Handbills issued only four-five days before the show - low key, relaxed, and is immensely popular. With Neil Young, Allen Ginsberg, Joan Baez, and Bob Dylan, who'd expect otherwise?

Singing through the old songs, the old paranoic Dylan fast disappearing. With the low-key approach and the singing around the halls, it's more a folk scene than a rock concert. Not that you can catagorise Dylan (or the others) anyway, but it seems like back to the early village days. The news that the latest single *Hurricane* is a "social commentary" or some other cliquish critic phrase) one's expecting the new album "Desire" to be more folk, more along the line of his early stuff.

Fools! You should know by now not to expect anything of Dylan. It's like predicting the results of New Zealand elections. Sure, some of the lyrics are stronger and more public than "Planet Waves" of much of "Blood on the Tracks". But, as with those two albums, the music has changed yet again. There's an entirely new backing group that lacks the enthusiam of the Band or the competence of the "Blood on the Tracks" people. The violin of Scarlet Rivera is allowed to dominate too much especially on *Isis* and *Joey*. Many of the songs were co-penned with dramatist Jacques Levy. The effort wasn't worth it - Dylan should have stuck to his own ability. The lyrics have changed - nothing in *Hurricane* could dovetail with the impassioned 1964 plea of *Hattie Carroll*.

"Bury the rag deep in your face
For now's the time for your tears."

So it's nowhere a return to the old Dylan. Yet "Desire" is possibly the better for that. It's an impressive account of the versatility of the greatest poet-musician around. The tracks vary from 'protest' (*Hurricane*, *Joey*) to personal (*One more Cup of C Coffee*, *Sara*), to the enigmatic Dylan so clear in *Jack of Hearts* (*Isis*, *Black*

Diamond Bay). The way the album is put together makes the contrasts the more obvious and leaves you wondering what's going to happen next. While there are these many contrasts in topic and style, there are two or three overall themes: a sense of justice; the personal suffering and joy of love; and the conflict between these two.

The sense of justice is clearest in the two longest songs, *Hurricane* and *Joey*. Both are about losers in rigged trials. *Hurricane* concerns Rubin Carter, a heavyweight convicted of a triple murder when there was precious little evidence, most of it pointing to his innocence. Joey Gallo, a small-time gangster 'hounded by the police' is the subject of the latter. The treatment is somewhat alarming - almost documentary.

That the subjects are dealt with at all is courageous, but anger is curiously missing. Even [unclear: lines] like, "Rubin Carter was falsely tried" and "makes me feel ashamed to live in a land where Justice is a game" are sung in a flat, matter-of-fact tone. This tone he later parodies very well in *Black Diamond Bay*. An involved description of character (in many ways like *Jack of Hearts*) ends in a Volcanic explosion fading into Walter Cronkite and the seven o'clock news and Dylan at home pouring himself another beer.

*"Seems like every time you turn around
There's another hard luck story that you gonna hear
And there's really nothing anyone can say."*

This matter-of-factness permeates *Joey* as well - cop harassment, mistreatment in Attica (where Gallo did a ten year stint) and a final arbitrary shooting gets a weak treatment and a pathetic finale:

*"I know that the men that shot him down
Will get what they deserve."*

The personal side of Dylan comes in particularly in *Sara* - a song to his wife since late 1965. Their marriage break-up occasioned two of Dylans most beautiful songs: *If you see her say Hello* and *You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome* in "Blood on the Tracks". *Sara* is less attractive musically but more honest:

*"Sara oh Sara
Sweet virgin angel, love of my life
Sara oh Sara
Radiant jewel and mystical wife"
and "Staying up for days in the Chelsea Hotel*

Writing Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands for you" Yet the principled acceptance of *Say Hello* is slipping a little: "What ever made you want to change your mind" and "Don't ever leave me, don't ever let go." A further guide to an inner part of Dylan - this time his Jewishness - comes in the magnificent *Oh Sister*:

*"And is our purpose not the same on this earth
To love and follow his direction?"*

Mozambique, an unusually rocking number, is on a similar personal, almost tourist level but with a *Black Diamond* twist at the end:

*"You turn around to take a final peek
And you see why you're so unique to be
Among the lovely people living free".*

Mozambique and *Oh Sister* are also similar in the impressive backing vocals of Emmy Lou Harris. These reappear in *Isis* and *Romance in Durango*, the two songs contrasting the above themes. They are also in the long stream of Dylan's enigmatic poem-songs Both deal with travelling imagery, the first on a trip away from and back to the earth mother, the second of a gunfighter "I think this time we should escape". With strong Mexican echoes of "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid", justice of a kind is meted "was that the thunder that I

heard? Oh can it be that I am slain?"

And, finally, *One More Cup of Coffee* with its rejection of the easy life because "your Daddy he's an outlaw" (closely related to the criminals in coats and tie of *Hurricane*) and of the ready relationship Dylan cannot stand. With the refrain:

*"One more cup of coffee 'fore I go
To the valley below*

one can see the determination to try, to work for the justice he is pleading for. The "valley below" is certainly tougher, but the struggle is a necessary one.

It would be facile in the extreme to treat any Dylan album as composed of just two themes and their conflict. There *is* much more, but these two do overshadow much of his recent work. As earlier, there are no easy solutions to the questions Dylan poses - the search is going on. Possible that searching is the reason for the changing patterns of his music?

Further, "Desire" is stronger in that while seeing good reasons for placing it behind "Blood on the Tracks" and "Planet Waves" - the standard of the backing music, Dylan's attitude to what he's saying - I find it more compelling than these two. For all its failing, if "Desire" is not among the best albums this year, it'll be a vintage year for rock. Bob Dylan's still up there at the top. Try it for yourself.

Photo of Bob Dylan

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