

Editorial

Who Controls Our Lives?

This week's forum on "Why am I pissed off with Varsity?" comes as a climax to the year's activities on the education front.

In last week's Salient the Head of the Teaching and Research Centre, Professor Clift, agreed that 1976 has seen an increase in the number of students analysing and criticising the content, assessment methods and teaching practices adopted in their respective courses.

Every issue of Salient has had at least one article from students commenting on particular courses or departments in which they are studying. Some articles have been systematic and detailed while others have been shallow and emotional. But all of them have pointed to an increasing willingness of students' to speak out and act to combat their frustration.

During the year the Sociology debate has led to the formation of a Sociology Action Group, the grievances in English have resulted in the English Club, and this week Political Science students will get together to reform the Political Science society.

Students in these department are discontented for a number of different reasons, whether they be workload or assessment problems, disagreement over course content, or frustration with the lecturer's teaching methods.

However, one things stands out clearly. We must get together and analyse what the key problems really are. Why is it that students feel powerless in the face of overpowering workloads, unfair methods of assessment and course content which in many cases is irrelevant to gaining any understanding of the world we live in?

The "Why am I pissed off with Varsity?" forum in 1973 highlighted the workload problems which had been brought on by in-term final assessment. It did its job of forcing the university to think about the effects of unrestrained internal assessment. But very little was done in developing student analysis of the wider problems of student control over the areas of workload, assessment and course content.

These questions can only be answered if we all leave our perches in the library for a couple of hours, and get down to discussing the way ahead. It's time to move!

—John Ryall.

The President Speaks

—Gyles Beckford

Agrarian images including wheat and bee hive

Image of a man wearing a boat hat

This week sees a concerted effort by many students to highlight the effects of in term assessment and to press for greater students control and participation in the structuring of their courses.

Why are people pissed off with varsity? There is no single reason but one thing is certain, the present tertiary education system in New Zealand rarely serves the interests of students. The old ethic that students come to university to get a meal or credibility ticket is true. Accordingly many are happy to take what is served up to them in their courses without bothering to question the basic relevance to their future lives or society. Even if people do realise that they are being fed a load of crap in their courses they are happy to go along with it since to question it will only cause "problems".

That the university reinforces the present structure of society and thus the controlling interests of society can be seen by looking at the courses taught (the method and content) and the workings of some of the university's bodies. The course critiques and the examination of the assessment procedures being used will give the opportunity for people to clearly focus on the basic issues. This week people must start to ask themselves are they part of the learning process or are they merely products of it.

Don't sit in lectures or tutorials any longer and blandly accept what is being taught. Analyse, question and contribute so that in classes lecturers and students are working with each other - not against each other.

Notices

Young Socialists Seminar on China
August 7th, Lounge and Smoking Room.
Admission: \$1.00 or 50c per session.

The seminar will be followed by a dinner at 76 Dixon Street and a social function where informal discussion can continue. Watch for details on noticeboards!

Everyone Welcome

Notice to all Sports Clubs

Sports Committee would like an estimation from all clubs of the amount they will be asking for in 1977.

This does not mean a lot of form-filling. Let someone on Sports Committee know how much the club will be probably be requesting by August 10th.

Leave a note for me at Stud Ass office or ring me 757-800 (home). If you don't let Sports Committee know by August 10, it will be assumed you won't be asking for a grant this year.

Chris Hardie
Secretary, Sports Committee.

Drama Studies

1976

The Measures Taken

by Bert Brecht

Valhalla

by James Belich

Poems of Brecht.

Performances of the above will be presented by Drama Studies.

As seating is limited in Drama House please arrange bookings by telephoning Judy Russell Ext 693. She will arrange tickets and confirm bookings. No admission without booking.

Admission is free. (However, a collection will be taken at the end of the performance to help defray costs.)

Coffee will be available (10c) during the interval.

Salient Staff Budget

Karl Marx is to be devalued by 93% from 5.45pm on Friday, and the expected result to the office economy is John Ryall. Rachel Scott imports from China are deemed to be excessively inflationary and to be cut forthwith. Funds for regional development are to be limited to certain parts of Gyles Beckford, and cut entirely to Peter Thrush. Much concern has been raised over structural blockages in the economy and Mac (of Rangatira fame), is to be removed during the next quarter, and a gradual replacement with Martin Doyle, Gerard Couper and Louis Althusser.

Efforts presently being made by Pat Bartle and other interests to seek equality for half the population, are considered superfluous in this present state of recession and are to be legislated against to ensure indefinite postponement. Bruce Robinson will have a levy of Nicos Poulantzas and Emmanuel Kant, as this will achieve considerable cut back in this sector. Although it has been encouraging to see Lindy Cassidy move to a level of David Murray, some action will possibly have to be taken against rising Leonie Morris.

Tony Ward, economics reporter, notes several reactions by those affected by the budget. "Kevin Swann has been seen painting iridescent red nuclear protest signs, Lionel Klee has notably taken many less photos this week, and Ben Smith was last seen on the Kelburn Viaduct. Lynn Peck was seen to tear herself away from a tight workload to spend many hours labouring over a hot light table. Anne Dwyer is rumoured to have had delivered three truck loads of wholesale cigarettes, and swears that the nicotine will get her before the cost increases do."

Ralph Miliband, the empiricist, takes a different view of the general reaction to the budget, citing John McBride and Brian Taylor. He exemplified this with Mike Stevens rather Victorian approach, last seen trying to box himself in.

P.S. Due to cutbacks, Rose Desmond is not going to get her name in Salient this week.

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WANTED TO BUY 10 speed 21½" - 22" Touring Cycle. Phone Lyn MacPherson 696-019 after hours.

EMPLOYMENT If you are seeking long-term employment, particularly after qualifying, our experience in recruitment is at your disposal. We are in constant touch with employers, and for Law students this means firms in Wellington and throughout the country. Please telephone beforehand. EXECUTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF BUREAU Kelvin Chambers, Wellington. Telephone 725.242

Campaign Against Nuclear Warships

Canwar Policy

The Campaign Against Nuclear Warships declares its total opposition to the entry of nuclear powered and nuclear armed warships to any New Zealand port.

Believing that such visits

- pose an unacceptable environmental and health threat to the people of New Zealand;
 - will inescapably entangle us in the nuclear consequences of world power rivalry;
- and Affirms that the interests of New Zealand would be best served by the creation of a nuclear free zone in the South Pacific.

Canwar Activities

These are activities organised by Canwar. We invite your participation in them to keep nuclear warships out of our harbour.

- Vigil: Cenotaph. Thursday August 5. All night as a prelude to the march.
- Forum: VUW Union Hall 12-2pm Thursday 5 August. Assorted prominent speakers.
- March: Assemble 7.00pm Bunny Street Friday August 6 - Horoshima Day. The march will move through Wellington to the Town Hall. A demand to the city elders will be affixed to the doors of the Town Hall calling on them to prevent the visit of nuclear warships.
- Seminar: 1.30 - 5.30pm Sunday August 8 - Nagasaki Day. Victoria University Students Union Building.

Dave Morgan. President New Zealand Seamens' Union. The history of opposition that New Zealand maritime workers have had against nuclear warships and how that struggle will continue.

John Seddon. Lower Hutt City Council. John Seddon has been vociferous in his attempts to stop the possible visit of nuclear warships to Wellington harbour.

Terry Auld. Lecturer Wellington Polytechnic. On world power rivalry and its consequences for New Zealand.

Dr George Serralach. Biotechnology Department Massey University. Safety and danger aspects of nuclear power and armaments.

Dr Ken Hulls. Organiser Peace Squadron. Nuclear Free Zones.

Chris Wheeler. Values Party. Values Party policy against the nuclear warships.

Peace Squadron: Ring Ken Hulls (SV-6058) and join the peace squadron with your boat or as a crew member.

When The Ships Arrive: Rumours are rife about when the ships will come. When they do arrive a vigil picket will be held at Queens Wharf for the duration of the visit. Remember this and bring a friend.

Your help is distributing pamphlets and posters, painting placards etc is sought.

Ring Don Carson or David Tripe. Phone: 856:669

No to Nuclear Warships

Canwar—Campaign Against Nuclear Warships

by Raewyn Tate and Christine Bogle

1)

Why this group formed

The present anti-nuclear groups are based on ecological factors. Canwar, as a Wellington based group opposes an ecological threat which exists for political reasons.

Its aims are broad in that they are concerned with the political implications of growing U.S. control over N.Z. foreign policy and narrow in that they are concerned solely with warships rather than land based reactors.

The warships are regarded as a greater threat both because of the dangers of an accident resulting from their mobility and because they carry nuclear weaponry.

Image of a boat

Canwar believes that the Anzus alliance with the U.S. and Australia does not oblige us to have foreign ships in our country. The treaty signed in 1951 states that all parties "will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack". In 1971 a Liberal Australian government banned visits by all nuclear ships. It was only on the 4th June 1976 that they agreed to have them back.

Canwar also questions the government's new safety code for nuclear ships. Firstly this code makes no mention of the presence of nuclear weapons on the ships, secondly although a nuclear warship is quite safe if there is no accident, the chances of such an accident are greater than with a land reactor. There is a greater possibility of leakages of radioactivity into the air and water.

The original code of 1971 drawn up by the N.Z. Atomic energy commission, despite a lack of clarity on some points did detail potential risks - for example contamination of food and milk - and recommended certain safety precautions - e.g. first aid stations with iodine tablets. It also declared that a nuclear accident could happen at any time. The compilers of the code felt it would be unwise for the recommended safety procedures to be made public. The new code seems little more than a political gimmick to allay the quite just fears arising out of the 1971 code.

Any morning now, Wellingtonians may wake up to an American nuclear powered, nuclear-armed warship bobbing gently in the early morning tide. The scene will be peaceful enough - the underlying political realities are not.

If this happened New Zealand will have been drawn one step deeper into the American alliance. The present Government's reversal of New Zealand support of a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific will have become reality. New Zealand will be a target for Soviet nuclear missiles. And this will happen unless we, the ordinary people of New Zealand, do not put a stop to this political madness.

Why should we oppose such visits?

The danger of a new world war is increasing. Despite their paper agreements, the rivalry between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union is intensifying. Since the strategic arms limitation agreements were signed, [unclear: both he] Soviet-Union and the United States have developed very large numbers of missiles which carry multiple warheads which can be targeted independently. The Soviet Union has increased its land-based and sea based missile launchers.

Their rivalry extends into every corner of the world. Even small countries are affected. The Soviet Union is trying to penetrate Samoa and Tonga. The United States has sent a stream of politicians and military men to New Zealand since the beginning of the year. N.Z. has been involved in numerous large-scale military exercises since January.

There is considerable danger from accidents. If ships nuclear reactors are involved in an accident, there are major threats to present and future generations. The nuclear physicist Dr William Thompson pointed out: "The real danger would be the long-term biological and genetic effects from the dispersal of radioactive dust" (The Press, July 15/9/76).

Radiation causes all types of cancer, from bone through thyroid to skin and lung cancers. Inhalation of a microscopic speck of plutonium 239 (an element used extensively in nuclear weapons) for example, can be fatal. Other nuclear elements are equally deadly. Our meat exports would also be threatened—contaminated meat is now allowed in foreign markets.

What Can we do?

We should demand that the N.Z. Government work to turn the Pacific into a nuclear free peace zone.

Write to the Prime Minister, your local M.P. and city council and demand that nuclear warships be refused entry to N.Z. waters and that N.Z. sponsor a nuclear free Pacific peace zone.

Get your church, trade union or professional organisation, local progressive associations active on this issue.

Support Canwar's demonstration and seminar against nuclear warship visits.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" Burke.

The Nuclear Powers have stockpiled the equivalent of 2 million Hiroshima sized nuclear weapons (according to a U.N. report).

U. Thant said the world spends more on armaments in one day than on aid and development in one year.
"The game is senseless - because both sides loose by 'winning' and neither side can win except by stopping the 'game'"
U.S. Congressman Robert Drinan.
"We are sliding towards nuclear war"
Rear Admiral La Rocque (USN)
The total amount of bombs dropped on Europe and in the Far East during the entire WW He was but 1/25 of 1% of the strength of our current nuclear stockpile"
U.S. Senator Symington
"Indeed I think people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of their way and let them have it".
President Eisenhower.
"I can go into my office and pick up the telephone and in 25 minutes 70 million people will be dead"
President Nixon.
"The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us".
President Kennedy.

Nuclear Sub Seadragon at Sasebo

The People versus The Council

Some time ago, back in the days when the motorcar was praised as King, the Wellington City Council conceived of the Victoria Street Extension plan. A road was to run from Victoria Street to Abel Smith Street and beyond, via Farish, Herbert and Sturdee Sts and Cumberland Place.

Opposition to the crazy idea of inviting more cars and vehicles to pound through the central city, was raised in 1975. The "Victoria St. Action Group" organised public meetings and a petition. There was clear public opposition to the plan but Council decided to go ahead anyway.

Recently a new group called the "Herbert St. Mall Committee" joined the opposition, and proposed a viable alternative: the Herbert Street Mall. Plans were drawn up, sketches published by the Post and Dominion, submissions made to the Council's Town Planning Committee.

A public meeting conveyed a resolution against the plan and favouring the alternative development of the entire Herbert St - Edward St- Wellington Settlement area as a pedestrian-dominated cultural and social centre.

A Radio Windy talkback revealed powerful public opposition to the plan: of all the callers only Mayor Fowler spoke in favour! And the switchboards were jammed.

All this to no avail. Council decided by 10 votes to 6 to proceed with the road. The following is not a detailed story of what has happened, but describes a few of the problems we, the action groups, struck, and which mystified us at the time. Hope they'll be useful to other groups, and also hope any students interested in opposing the plan will leave their names and phone numbers at Salient.

1. Fowler defined the issue in such terms as made his argument appear reasonable. Defining the issue is an important but often overlooked way of exercising power. One of Fowler's methods was to say "We as a Council have done much to help the pedestrian in Wellington", then shoot of a list of things Council hadn't done. The aim to draw us into a bargaining game: we'd concede some areas to the cars and he'd concede some to the people. Unfortunately for us, he'd already made his concessions—some years ago - so we'd already lost! That is, on his terms we'd lost. But why should Fowler be able to attack the merits of our proposal, a Herbert St Mall, on the basis of Councils negative "achievements" in other areas. His whole task was to ignore the merits of our argument, to define the issue so as he did define the issue so as he didn't have to answer us on the merits.

2. The Council's principles are quite different from its actions. For example, Fowler's memo on the Victoria St Extension says (try to follow the logic!):

(1) "The overriding concern which Council had and still has is to lessen the throughput of traffic in the inner City area, i.e. the traversing of the established street pattern by North/ South traffic".

This is our thought exactly. But, lower down:

(2) "...it is quite apparent that the main generator of traffic from the Hutt Valley is the desire to get into the central business district for business purposes and servicing".

This is exactly the opposite of our argument. Fowler agrees with our principles but will concede them away to "business" and "servicing" interests at the slightest hesitation.

3. Fowler - motivated by political interest, not logic.

Arguing with Fowler is like arguing with (you guessed it!) a brick wall. He constantly praises and agrees with your argument, then reaches the precisely wrong conclusion. This is frustrating - it seems inexplicable. But it becomes explicable as soon as you stop assuming that he's arguing logically, and start suspecting that he's serving political interests. Fowler wants the road because Cuba Mall businessmen want it. They fear that, unless the Victoria St Extension goes through, Cuba Mall will have to be opened to North/South traffic. The Mall has been a boomer for business, and these businessmen support the Citizens Party (remember those blue and white Fowler posters in the Mall during the 1974 local body election campaign - the Mall supports Citizens). They obviously expect Fowler to support them. Now, we don't think there's sufficient need for any new north/south road, not Cuba St and not Victoria St. But you can't convince the wary Mall businessmen of that. So Fowler has to support the Extension, and he has to think up some plausible justifications. His 'reasons' are not reasons but justifications for the unjustifiable, and that's why he's consistently changing his grounds, and why his grounds are illogical.

4. The Citizens Party can be embarrassed.

A most puzzling (to the unfamiliar) aspect of Council Meetings is the "musical chairs" phenomenon. During a single evening, numerous "Citizens" will remove their arses from their chairs and walk out the door vaguely muttering about "my peripheral interest" in this matter. They have many property interests in town, for example. Cr Spry owns the Spry Building in Farish St. Its value will be considerably enhanced if the Victoria Street Extension succeeds (the Spry Building will be by-passed-not demolished). Cr Spry is a firm supporter of the Extension, and interestingly he didn't abstain from the vote about that very same Extension at the Council meeting of July 14. There is nothing corrupt or scandalous about this. It's just an aspect of our free-enterprise democracy. But it's interesting.

5. We had trouble finding "experts" to speak on our behalf-not because they disagreed with us - they agreed, but worked for local and central government departments thus considered they couldn't safely speak out. It is necessary to have expert, e.g. architect and town planning people to speak on your behalf against the Council, because basically the Council has far better resources than the citizen group. So it's frustrating, when you find a "free expert (i.e. one whom you don't pay), to find that he's prevented from having his name mentioned in the press.

These are just a few of the problems we were mystified by. The use of the word "mystified" is deliberate. For example, the Council's argument really could sound convincing when the Council framed the issue. And the fact that its "reasons" were illogical was baffling - until we perceived that logic was not their motive. It was only the justification, the afterthought. If nothing else, we discovered for ourselves some of the subtle ways in which power is exercised in our community.

John McBride,
"Herbert St. Mall Committee"

THE SALE IS OVER but there are still half price bargains New titles just arrived in stock include - Letters Home - Sylvia Plath \$18.25 Fellini on Fellini - paperback \$7.45 Collected Works of Samuel Beckett - Poems in English - \$5.30 The Oxford Classical Dictionary - \$23.10 and a beautiful children's book - The Tyger Voyage by Richard Adams, illustrated by Nicola Bagley-\$5.25 VICTORIA BOOK CENTRE 15 MOUNT ST. PHONE 729-585

Nothing from Nothing

by Salient economics reporter Anthony Ward, who went down to Parliament for the Budget.

The Muldoon Government, recently arrived from Nauru, gave its first multi-budget last Thursday. Unless you're going overseas, are buying a stereo or an outboard motor, you probably didn't notice it much.

In retrospect, the worries we had about the Budget were at bit extreme. The rumour about a 10% increase in taxation for example. Or about the massive increases in sales taxes. Sure, 7 cents on fags and 70 cents on imported whiskey might hit you hard, but other things coulda bin far worse.

The rumours hadn't been helped by Muldoon. His warnings of 'stern measures' and 'complete package' got us a bit Worried. The most complex thing was the wrapping, and the sternest measure his approach to the whole affair.

Economy in a Mess

The reason why we feared the Budget, and one reason Muldoon was elected last November, is a simple

one. The economy is in a mess. Mess with a capital M. There are five major aspects of the Mess (Muldoon identified on Thursday night):

- record and growing rates of inflation
- a massive and increasing Government deficit of expenses over income
- a massive external deficit (we buy more goods overseas than we can sell there)
- the highest level of unemployment since 1940.
- A crisis in capital accumulation.

To my mind, the last of these is the most important. Capitalism can easily survive with any of the others, but if not enough money is put into new machines and equipment, then the system starts shaking a bit. And that is precisely what is happening in New Zealand.

In agriculture, stock numbers and output have not risen significantly over their 1965 levels. The investment funds available have not gone into machinery for local industry either. Much has gone into superfluous export-orientated industries, who import their machinery and materials and export their products. One could be forgiven for thinking that this has little to do with the development of this country.

The other avenue for firms profits has been in nonproductive uses. Into expensive beach speculations for example. Or, as Lincoln Laidlaw, the President of the Manufacturers' Federation, said into takeaway food bars and massage parlors. Whatever the quality of such services, they don't have much influence on the future productivity of this country.

This is not to deny that the other issues are important (tho' I see them slightly differently to Muldoon) but, as can be seen from the Budget measures, this is the central question. The crisis in capital accumulation.

The high unemployment figures are directly related to this - obviously if you're not building new machines then there are no jobs to make these machines, nor jobs to work with them. The other three are more independent, but all five combine to agree. The economy is in a Mess.

Interest in the Budget

As Muldoon was elected last year on belt-tightening living-within-our-means platform, so people began to expect harsh measures. In one respect, this was disastrous - importers, expecting imminent controls, started importing even more.

Many of the measures the Nats have taken have been tough - especially on low-income earners. The lifting of subsidies on milk, transport, bread. Yet the savings (and Walker's 1984 snooping on unmarried mothers is a classic example) have been small. As the problems didn't go away, in fact worsened, we awaited more action.

As I argued in Salient 2, the March financial minibudget achieved little in resolving the problems. In referring to that 'package' in Parliament, Muldoon said it was taking effect, although us citizens had no concrete evidence for it the later tried to manufacture some, but it hadn't set. I tell you its working! Like I tell you inflation's getting smaller when the latest figure is the highest ever?

It came to budget time, so we expected the heavy hand (and got the soft cushion?). And I bravely went into the lion's den to watch the unfolding spectacle. Meeting a rep from the Soviet Novosti Press, Tom Scott introduced us as both from revisionist newspapers the Russian disagreed slightly!

Budget night

The fun and games started when everyone filed in at 7.30. They're an impressive lot, our Parliamentarians (and don't ask me to prove that). The Labour Party went nutty and forced a silly division to waste ten minutes valuable drinking time right at the start. They got their deserts at the end.

We'll fight the CRISIS! ME3

Muldoon started by describing the mess the economy is in, concentrating on the first four points above. However, [*unclear*: e] wisely said, the remedy for any one would exacerbate one or more of the others. So you sit tight and hold on? Surprisingly, he didn't get as stuck into 'three years of mismanagement' as much as I expected. Possibly his invective was suffering from jet-lag.

The description of NZ's situation, and world happenings stemming from his last tour (leaving out Paris strip-clubs), went on for some time. I had some gems, like the contradiction between our supporting Pacific nations independence but not allowing them independence to do something we don't like. Between the image and the reality and all that.

People were beginning to lose interest. So we turned to agriculture and started the analysis of no new capital accumulation. The question why? Wasn't answered very well it appears to have something to do with individual's motivations. If every farmer in Godzone wakes up one morning and says "Stuff the fertiliser" agriculture bombs.

More sensibly, the reason is that finance can find higher returns for its investment in non-productive areas. If the analysis was not there, the answer certainly came from it - giving more generous depreciation allowances, incentives and investment to encourage investment.

Similar depreciation favours were dispensed to fishing and the export industries. Unfortunately, the policies draw no distinction between the rich and poor in an industry. Consequently, as with the sheep retention scheme of 1967, the wrong people will benefit the most.

Some restraints are to be placed on local industries as increased sales tax. However, it is likely that Muldoon's wish to increase sales taxes, or even income taxes, were vetoed by Treasury, pointing to the effect this would have on retailers. As can be seen from the larger number of sales at the moment to give ready cash, many retailers are close to the wall. A little extra nudge.....

Revival

Everyone was getting thoroughly put to sleep by this stage, so something had to happen. A very quiet National Party suddenly had a flurry of notes passing around. And then: Last year Government expenditure increased by 28.6%.....[0-0L] I Said: Last year Government expenditure increased by 28.6%

- shocking! said the chorus

And Government spending grew to 42% of the Gross National Product

LINEEMPLOYMENT

- Terrible! said the chorus

We will ensure that the Government deficit will be only \$850 million this year.

- Hear! Hear! said the chorus.

[last year National viciously attacked Labour for budgetting a fantastic deficit of \$700 millions. Funny that].

It got quiet again, and the chorus tipped its head and ducked off to the loo.

So we moved off into a general survey of Government spending, with very little mention of works and development, and huge apparent increases in Health and Education (actually small real declines). After education the rot started in the public gallery, and the masses dragged their weary ways to the door.

Not much new stuff back on the floor. A leaving tax to discourage NZers going overseas. More incentives for exporters, and some to regional development.

The start of National Superannuation in February 1977, but still no idea how it'll be funded. Substantial increases in pensions in the meantime. But little more.

Contradictions

So we have the interesting spectacle of a Government on one hand proud of the reliance it places on private enterprise. On the other, doling out tax dollars fast to bolster firms' profits in agriculture and export manufacturing. A Government that cannot raise taxes much for fear of bankrupting retailers but has to pay out more to help others from bankruptcy.

It's quite clear that with such a situation, there's no way the Government deficit can be heavily reduced. It was a return to comparative sanity that there were no new hare-brained schemes to hit Government expenditure. Yet the effects of the cuts so far, especially in works deferred, will be with us for a long time.

The only policy to reduce inflation was the already announced wage-freeze. Apart from the travellers tax, nothing to better the balance of payments. But the Government has taken severe measures to reduce unemployment figures. It has made it harder to register as unemployed. Watch those figures drop (Labour did the same thing last year.....lies, damned lies and unemployment statistics).

So most of the problems of the capitalist economy remain unchanged. The complete failure of the Labour Government to take firm action (e.g. with import controls) is continued by National. You'd think laissez-faire overseas action would at least be questioned by now. And in the major part of the budget the economy pushes the Government into a corner and a major contradiction.

Muldoon sat down, a sustained National Party applause. I can't work out whether because of the Budget or the fact he'd finally sat down. Probably the latter. A bubble of relief settled into the Chamber.

Labour Bombs Out

Then the bubble burst. The Leader of the Opposition is supposed to give some pithy and sarcastic comments. Perhaps he was also asleep, or else waiting for the cheese to come around again. He finally mumbled something about calling the thing the "blunder budget".

From across the hushed chamber came the sardonic "What would You have done?" Good question on sir,

I'm glad you asked that question. What would the dynamic Social Democratic leadership have concocted? Mr Rowling was obviously not at all pleased the question had been asked. He muttered sleepily about the procedure of the House, and moved an adjournment.

The House showed what they thought of procedure by totally mucking up the adjournment. Confusion. Noting it was 9.30 and the budget hadn't changed closing time I made for the door. Waving breezily to the Movosti Press man, one revisionist to another and leaving the party games behind.

Doing the old Les Moyniton down the front steps, and eventually to a bus stop, where a boy with a transistor is telling the driver all about the Budget.

- What's Muldoon put the price up of now?
- Oh, lots of things, cigarettes, air travel (more hesitantly] and beer
- Beer? The bastard. And I bet the bastard's put up the price of petrol again
- (very hesitantly, thinking "Well I could always say I misheard"] Yeah.
- The bastard.

The bus coughs into life and into the rain-sodden night mourning the increase in whiskey prices. And perhaps realising the small impact of any Government's measures on an essentially unsound and anarchic economic system.

In Whose Interest!

by John Ryall

Next week's elections for the Students' Association Executive will force students to decide what sort of leadership they want during 1977. But, more importantly, it will also give them the chance to reflect on the performance of the executive students have suffered in 1976.

This year's executive has been split wide open on a number of issues, but none so fundamental as to what sort of leadership its individual members should be providing in the Students' Association.

This was reflected in the recent march of 1500 students down to Parliament as a protest against the general education cuts and the falling bursary levels. Only half of the executive thought the struggle for student bursary increases significant enough to join the march.

Man Vice-president Steve Underwood. Treasurer Mike Curtis, Accomodation Officer Scott Wilson, and Sports Officer Peter Thrush made no effort to aid the organisation of the most important student campaign this year, and Messrs Underwood and Thrush implied to campaign organisers that most bursary recipients were bludgers who didn't know how to organise their money efficiently.

Of course, efficiency has been of key importance in the association this year. One of Steve Underwood's reasons for seconding the motion to dismiss the Officer Manager (Mrs Goodall) was her "lack of efficiency" (see Salient No.1, 1976) and the general attitude of the majority of executive members has been to sacrifice student involvement in the Students' Association activities for increased efficiency.

In an assessment of the executive at the end of the first term I mentioned the split between those who placed high priority on working with students, and those who saw top priority in working for students. Unfortunately the trend has continued.

This is not to say that people such as Steve Underwood and Mike Curtis are not putting time into their jobs, but their prime responsibility must be to involve others in association activities and to encourage students to run activities for students rather than executive members doing it all themselves.

A case in point was the Food Co-operative, a student club which was a high financial turnover and consequently can make a loss very fast. At most meetings executive members have called for more stringent control over the club, too often losing sight of the fact that the food co-op should be run by students for students and not run by executive members for students.

If everything was brought in under the administrative wing of the executive, and SRC officers were left to run the "political" side of the association (such as education campaigns, forums, arranging for visiting speakers etc), then there would be really no need for executive members to actually be stationed on campus. Last year's presidential candidate Stephen Hay wanted to run the Association from a downtown lawyer's office and was defeated. Mike Curtis, Scott Wilson and Steve Underwood (to a lesser extent) are doing this, and they're surviving quiet nicely.

Mark Sainsbury

Peter Thrush

Mike Curtis has been working downtown all year, Steve Underwood is paid to work 30 hours a week by Victoria Book Centre (of which he is also a director), and Scott Wilson appears on campus two lunchtimes a week from downtown to carry out his duties as Accomodation Officer.

The real work of getting student involved in the Association this year has been done by four very competent SRC officers - Lindy Cassidy (Education), Leonie Morris (International), Jackie Blackman (Environment) and Kevin Swann (National)'. They have been aided by executive members Anthony Ward (SRC Co-ordinator), Gyles Beckford (President), Anne Dwyer (Cultural Affairs) and in the later stages by Mark Sainsbury (Publications). Rae Mazengarb, who was Women's Vice-president before she resigned two weeks ago, was involved at the beginning of the year in the education co-ordination meetings but was torn between the two executive factions and eventually bowed out of everything.

So, the road ahead looks long and dusty. While the Students' Association must be aware of the tremendous amount of administrative work that is being thrust upon some of its executive members, the choice is still one of the priorities of student involvement or of Association efficiency. The two are not incompatible, but if you let an individual build up very heavy financial power in his or her hands, then the populist nature of the association is in danger.

This year's elections are significant for the Students' Association. All but three of the people standing for positions have not served on the executive before. It is a chance to install a new leadership the choice is up to you.

Candidates for the 1977 executive are:

- President - Lindy Cassidy and Gillian Goodger.
- Man V.P. - Neil Gray and Patrick Mulrennan
- Woman V.P. - Leonie Morris, Lynne McGimpsey and Catherine Pattinson
- Secretary - Kevin Swann
- Treasurer - Steve Underwood
- Cultural Affairs Officer - John Bowden and Gerard Sharrock
- Accomodation Officer - Chris Newman and Peter Gilkison.
- Publications Officer - Gerard Couper
- Sports Officer - Peter Thrush

Any person who is standing unopposed has to get 50% of the votes cast to be elected (you can vote no-confidence) Polling days are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10-11 August

Trouble Brewing?

by John Ryall

The Trade Union Movement is preparing for a confrontation with the National Government when they attempt to introduce a rash of repressive industrial legislation later this month.

Pressure is being put on the Federation of Labour National Executive to find out the details of the Government's legislation and to start a campaign informing workers of its implications for the continued existence of their union.

Over the past few weeks the National Party's caucus committee on industrial relations has had a number of long meetings to discuss the problems of how, when and what they will introduce. One of the difficult points has been over whether they will incorporate their plans for voluntary unionism in the same bill as their other amendments (see Salient No. 14 1976).

Indications are that they will split the two areas so that they are introduced in two separate bills. Government's immediate concern is to leg-iron the trade union movement before they start any real action against the extremely restrictive wage bargaining regulations, and at the same time prevent them from stopping nuclear warships from coming into New Zealand ports.

Meanwhile, more information has leaked out on details of the legislation to be introduced

..... All strikes will be illegal, except those during annual award negotiations. Each day of an illegal strike will be defined as a new breach of the law which will incur a fine of \$500 per worker and \$1500 per union per day.

..... Every union official, management committee member, organiser or job delegate who calls for, helps, or does not attempt to prevent an "illegal" strike will be fined heavily and may be prevented by a magistrate from

holding union office for an unlimited period. This means that the only way a union leader could keep within the law would be by scab-herding.

..... The Labour Department will hold ballots of workers on the compulsory/ voluntary unionism issue on the unqualified preference clause, under the proposed new system, a vote of 50% plus one against unqualified preference would establish voluntary unionism. There is to be no qualified preference. These and other provisions are aimed at making it as difficult as possible to preserve the current system of preference for unionists.

..... Anyone who attempts to control, coerce or influence these ballots will be liable to be fined. This provision is aimed at making it illegal for a union to direct its members how to vote.

..... There will have to be a majority vote before any union money can be used to put forward the union's point of view or to publicise the ballot. This provision is aimed at keeping union members uninformed before they vote in the ballot and at preventing the union from telling members what it thinks.

The general inaction from the trade unions seems to be tied up with the present negotiations by the Federation of Labour for a new Drivers' Union award. If the drivers break through the regulations, many more unions will follow in their wake. But meanwhile the others are sitting around doing nothing.

THE UNIONS ARE RUINNING US! BOSSES

But unions don't expect to have an easy win in either the wage struggle or the struggle against the industrial legislation. They are painfully aware that the Government is not neutral in fights between the interests of labour and capital. It backs capital every time.

So, while they don't expect to make any real changes to the Government's wage plans or its legislative plans, they have enough united power, if it comes to the showdown, to put up quite a fight. At the moment there is a lull before the storm but the signs are that it will break fairly soon.

Politics of the Pol Sci Dept

Pol Sci

by Neil Gray

The response to last week's Salient mostly verbal so far, augurs well for a more meaningful teacher-student discussion on why the department is failing to satisfy the demands of its students.

The reaction from the staff, though at present restrained, is a start, which hopefully will be followed by a more positive and open contact.

On the student side, comment has led to some concrete criticism and proposals.

1. Marxism and Pol Sci - By far the most talked about issue has been the department's ridiculous position on Marx. How can anyone who openly admits to disliking Marxism and its concepts, teach or even fully understand its theoretical complexities and limitations?

This comment is not directed solely at Professor Murphy, although he is the main culprit. Last year a considerable amount of discussion centered around his course, and course assessment showed the majority of students deeply dissatisfied by his approach. Yet this year the course bumbles on, and no doubt will still be in existence in 1977.

Both Pols 213 and 214, which set out to cover Marx in depth, fail to come to grips with what should be main issue, its relevance today. Prof Murphy's arbitrary distinction between Marxian theory and Marxian economics is totally unrealistic

One cannot possibly consider Marxist thought unless his notion of Capital is considered a live rather than a dead issue. Consideration of Marx in other Pols courses leaves a lot to be desired - I refer especially to stage one, where it is all but forgotten.

The teaching of Marx in the department is aptly summed up by a comment in Prof. Murphy's course outline: "It is not a study of Marxism and its various political manifestations". I wonder; how can you remove politics from politics?

Two interesting suggestions to remedy the 'Marx dilemma' have come to the surface.

- Re-advertisement of the open lectureship position for a person whose special interests - and sympathies lie with relating Marxist thought to modern society
- Organisation of a course of seminars, at stage two level, given by Marxists from off campus, and from other disciplines. It has the makings of a very rewarding 6 credits. Anyway the students have nothing to lose by a new departmental attitude to Marx.

Escher-type image of someone running down stairs

2. In Class Course Criticism - Many students have interests in particular fields which are simply not covered by the course structure, often simply because the lecturer fails to take account of student preferences until after his structured sessions have begun. The fault may lie partly with the student for not voicing opinions clearly, or at an early enough stage. Some chance to reorganise the course at its inception, to cater for student perspectives is thus important. Perhaps this could be best achieved by intense dialogue by the teacher and students individually and reduction of set texts, assignments and the like.

3. Assessment: While the majority of students were far from happy about extending, assessment into other areas, they were far from happy with the status quo. Why is there such rigorous assessment anyway? The department must make up its mind whether it simply exists to fulfil degree requirements - or whether they have, somewhere, a deep interest in developing an understanding of the phenomenon, 'polities'. The students deserve a more responsible attitude from their teachers as to the reasons behind their participation in the course.

Which brings us to;

4. Student Participation: in departmental affairs and course organisation is a must, and soon! There are the necessary channels already in existence which allow students to attend and vote at departmental meetings. What is needed is an open relationship between staff and students in all levels of departmental interaction. One criticism is that students are too fragmented to be reliable and coherent.

However the student body: the Political Science Society was formed to cater for just this. While it has for the main lain dormant this year, its first social gathering will be held on Thursday the 5th of August in the Smoking room, Union building. The affair will be in the form of a Wine and Cheese, to which all departmental (staff and students), and their friends are invited. The evening will have two purposes, to eat, drink and be merry, and to recruit ideas for a complete Pol Sci course assessment programme, hopefully from both sides (any enquiries tel 759-893). So bring your gripes, boquets and unquenched thirsts along at 7.30.

p.s. Vocal Public Admin, members welcome too.

Tenants' Union

by Chris Newman

In keeping with Tenant's Union policy of political action as a follow up to cases wherever possible, a picket was arranged on Tuesday outside Sutton and Stevens Land Agents.

The advance party of 3 complete with placards, the Tenant's Union flag and leaflets struggled to Sutton and Stevens Farish St office. By a most cunning reactionary manoeuvre this outfit had shifted new premises in the World Trade Centre in Sturdee St so we had to re-direct our march (a lesson to all revolutionaries here!)

Once established outside the offices we set up placards and started leafletting. The gist of Tenant's Union stand is that Sutton and Steven's as agents were helping an anonymous new landlord to get rid of his tenants at 44 Queen St Mt Victoria.

There were five flats in this property, the worst case being an elderly couple who have occupied their house for over 12 years. They are well known and respected in their community and don't want to leave and have nowhere else to live. It is time that people like this were supported and Tenant's Union is doing its best, often against overwhelming odds.

At the World Trade Centre, a focus of capitalist yearnings and hopes, the land of T.U. workers happily dispersed their leaflets, to a sympathetic public. It was amazing to watch the comings and goings of suited types busy serving Mammon; although many were interested in our issue and quite approachable.

However this was too good to last and an unpleasant lacky-cum-janitor and dyspeptic R.S.A. type indicated in his very limited fashion (with a kick) that cardboard placards were not to touch the sacred walls of the W.T. Centre and the police (plural) were going to come and sort us out.

Ten minutes later the lackey's boss arrived. He was the Representative of the Board of Management, and having taken 1 x 10mg tablet of 'legal advice' told us to move, since we were on his private parts. After a minor alteration it was agreed that he was an autocrat and he decided that we must be - wait for it commies!

Meanwhile no member of the public was offended, two representatives of the media turned up and all the cars in the area were leafletted. The puffed up autocratic self-confessed landlord started to show displacement behaviour and was obviously in a state of tension (which lasted for half an hour until a noncholant solitary plod turned up).

I'VE FOUND MY NICHE IN LIFE!

He was quite friendly and explained how the W.T. Centre management had the discretion to open their doors to all those spenders but, since T.U. was not there to shop, the W.T. Centre could define their temporary yet final 'public property' privately.

By now we had nearly run out of leaflets so it was off to the Cuba Mall to finish the job! In fact overall it was an excellent exercise in public relations and dissemination of information and we can only hope that this and further demonstrations coupled with T.U.'s footslogging casework can help give tenants the necessary energy and enthusiasm to act against the present unjust Tenancy Laws.

This was exemplified when one gentleman insisted that there must be two points of view to the situation and it's time that the tenants voices were heard loud and determined for we all know the cash-register sound of most landlords 'point of view'.

Broadcasting... Who Pulls the Strings?

This is the second of John McBride's articles on National's changes to broadcasting. The first looked at the finances of the 'news fuse'. The following is based around four propositions:

- *Broadcasting will not be freed of "political interference" unless it's freed from "Parliamentary accountability". National Party arguments have applied both these terms incorrectly and inappropriately.*
- *Broadcasting need not be financially accountable because it does not use taxpayers' money (except for capital expenditure, in respect of which it is already accountable to Parliament via the BCNA).*
- *"Parliamentary Accountability" contradicts the more important principle of "professionalism in broadcasting". Bureaucrats must be "accountable", but professionals require to be independent.*
- *The National Party is really just scared of independent broadcasting.*

"Political Interference"

Broadcasting staff fear it, and wait legislative safeguards. Templeton says there'll be no political interference and personally guarantees that he won't interfere - but refuses to promise the safeguards broadcasters want.

They're really talking about different things. In National Party terms "political interference in broadcasting" means the Minister of Broadcasting phoning TV-1 and secretly making a directive. Or the Prime Minister phoning a TV production team to say "I didn't appreciate that programme about me". Their narrow conception of the problem leads them to a narrow answer: a law that Ministerial directives on broadcasting must be written, and tabled in Parliament so they can be publically scrutinized.

This was the effect of an amendment National proposed to Douglas' Broadcasting bill on 31 July 1974. Prime Minister Rowling had just made the phone call mentioned above, and upset a TV producer. National speakers called this "intimidation". They took it very seriously because the amendment provided imprisonment for up to a year and a fine up to \$500 for any person convicted of "wilfully interfering with....the independence or impartiality of broadcasting." Walker said "broadcasting should be completely independent of and divorced from any political interference at all." [1974 Hansard pp 3376-7].

He meant it should be responsible to Parliament, not to one political party. The Wellington division of the National Party raised exactly the same problem and same solution. It's May Conference stated firm opposition to "political interference in broadcasting" - thus any direction to broadcasting should be in writing and tabled in Parliament [Post 29/5/76]. And Templeton had exactly the same, restricted meaning in mind when he said "any minister would be a fool to try to interfere politically with broadcasting" (parliamentary accountability does not mean political interference, because the Minister is under close scrutiny) [Sunday Times 27/6/76].

Templeton's guarantee that there'll be no secret directives or threats to broadcasters is comforting, I guess. But "bully boys" are not the real issue to broadcasting staff, who have their own professional standards and will not be influenced by "what the PM thinks" (Doug Ekhooff of TV-1 current affairs was insulted and the suggestion that Simon Walker might have been intimidated by Muldoon's comments after the famous Russian ships interview). Anyway, directives and threats are crude methods of interference - bound to back-fire when the intended victims broadcast them nation-wide, immediately!

So National is being either naive or deceptive, when it assumes political power is only exercised when the minister makes a directive or indirect threat to broadcasting staff. To both broadcasting staff and political theory "political interference" has a far wider meaning, and more subtle methods. American political scientists Bachrach and Baratz correctly claim that we must always recognise "the second face of power." The first fact involves decision making - power is the ability to make the decisions. But, they continue, "power is also exercised when A devotes his energies to creating institutional practices that limit the scope of the political process to public consideration of only those issues which are comparatively innocuous to A" ("Two Faces of Power" American Political Science Review, 949). A long winded definition! but well worth understanding because it has many applications. It illustrates why a restructuring of broadcasting, such as creates an institution

that's less able and less willing to probe, criticise and expose politicians and issues, clearly constitutes political interference in broadcasting.

Image of a tv opening a person's head

Scrapping the independent TV news services and generally returning to the bad old NZBC days is a clear example of political interference in broadcasting, and it's the prospect of returning to the NZBC that broadcasting staff are concerned about. Thus at the same time as Avalon staff voted unanimously for a four-day shut-down ("to alert the people of NZ to the Government's political intervention in media services") they proposed a scheme that would constitutionally entrench the current independence of broadcasting.

An NZBC charter, like the BBC charter, would freeze the institutional structure of broadcasting for two government spans (i.e. six years). That's a logical proposal: the politicians "interfere" by constantly legislating changes in the broadcasting institutions, thus the only solution to the problem of political interference is to make broadcasting independent of Parliament and to constitutionally entrench that independence using the "NZBC charter" device.

Parliamentary Accountability

The present broadcasting structure, established by Labour, is substantially independent of Parliament. The NZBC charter would tend to entrench that independence (i.e. make it more difficult for a Government to alter the current structure). National says this is a bad thing because it derogates from the principle of parliamentary accountability. Their spokesmen say:

- that the people have a \$50m a year stake in broadcasting operating costs, thus there must be financial accountability to parliament.
- the individual should have a right to complain or seek information about broadcasting, thus there must be a Minister accountable for broadcasting, who will answer questions in the House.

The first argument is fallacious. That \$50m is not taxpayers' money. It's made up of advertising revenue and license fees. The license fee is not a tax - it's a contract between individual viewers and the BCNZ - like the purchase price of a newspaper or any other product. Taxpayer's money is used only for capital works, and for this the BCNZ is already accountable.

Ron Jarden argues that we need a central broad-casting body to order the competing interests of TV, radio, and other services. TV-1 made a profit, but broadcasting overall made a loss. TV-1 doesn't care about TV-2 transmission, neither cares about Radio, and no-one cares about FM radio - we need more overall control [phone interview, 30 June]. But this does not require accountability to Parliament. The BCNZ Board was perfectly aware of its financial obligations and was already making cutbacks. It realised that Radio needed more support than TV, thus gave RNZ a greater share of licensing fee resources.

The second argument is more inappropriate than fallacious. Why should broadcasters be accountable to Parliament? Newspapers aren't, and we would not want them to be. NZ has a tradition of Parliamentary surveillance of broadcasting, but this is not common in democratic countries. We should rethink our attitude to Parliamentary accountability of broadcasting.

There are good arguments against account ability. The concept applies to the public service - which should be responsible to its various Ministers who in turn are responsible for its actions.

But broadcasters are professional people, not public servants. Any profession requires independence, to determine its own ethics and standards of practice. Television under the 1973 structure was (is) developing the necessary professional independence. The TV producer whom Rowling "intimidated" in 1974 had become a creature of a past era when Muldoon tried to intimidate Simon Walker in 1976. One member of the Tonight team said "Muldoon just shoots his mouth off-but that makes no difference to our programme."

A return to the NZBC style chain of command - producer responsible to director general, to NZBC, to Minister, to Parliament, to mother-of-ten - must detract from the independence of broadcasting staff. Parliamentary accountability, virtuous and democratic as it sounds, essentially contradicts the more important principle of professionalism in broadcasting.

As stated above, parliamentary accountability is a principle applicable to the public service, to bureaucrats. One big problem with the NZBC was, it was too like the public service - too much bureaucracy and deadwood. Labour's reshuffle preserved much of this, in the BCNZ, because it could not decently be sacked or re-located. But the TV corporations themselves became more like professional TV companies (i.e. promoting values of artistry and talent rather than jobs for the boys).

Avalon staff are still frustrated by remnants of the civil service promotion mentality, but the situation is improving. Talent is being rewarded. Return to the NZBC chain of command, i.e. "Parliamentary accountability" means return to the civil service mentality.

By freeing broadcasters from Parliamentary accountability. NZers are not handing power from their elected

representatives to the bureaucrats. A broadcasting service should be akin to a newspaper company plus a top professional theatre company - i.e. not at all like a Government Department! Broadcasting always has been bureaucratic in structure, but under the 1973 independent structure it has progressed far, and NZers attitudes would do well to progress with it.

What National is Really Scared of

Politicians stand to be criticised and exposed by mass media, especially TV news and current affairs. Any politician who would fragment the NZBC and give broadcasting independence, more resources, plus give TV news and current affairs more air time, is either brave or crazy!

Roger Douglas was a brave politician to make broadcasting independent of political control. In fact, when Douglas originated his new broadcasting structure he never envisaged the competitive news services. It is little known that the 1973 Broadcasting bill provided for a single news gatherer, Radio NZ. It would distribute items to TV-1 and TV-2 via the BCNZ. [of clause 11(i) of the bill]. The absence of competitive news gathering services was severely criticised by National MPs, especially Gair and Walker, during the introduction debates. Largely on account of their efforts, the bill emerged from committee with a modification allowing the corporations and BCNZ to work out between themselves how to organise the news. The modified bill still did not provide separate news services. These only developed on the initiative of the corporations and with the support of a progressive BCNZ Board.

In short, Labour was not so brave as it makes out, but to its credit it did let the separate news services emerge, and did make broadcasting far more independent of Parliament. Muldoon is more the politician - it is in any politician's interests to have a single news service plus political control of broadcasting.

Two news items, with two sets of resources, more staff etc, are more likely to latch onto a politician's mistake than is one. (this quite apart from the fact that the teams are more probing when competitive TV-2's news service became so good because that corporation had few resources, and the one thing it could afford to do well was news). Then, with separate presentation there's two hours of news and current affairs programmes per night. Muldoon must watch two hours TV per night, just to check what they are saying about him. It was far less tiring for him to watch one hour only, under the single NZBC service.

Separate and competitive news gathering plus presentation, and broadcasting independent of Parliamentary (i.e. political) surveillance, is potential murder for politicians. Muldoon realises that. Maybe he had a talk with Rockefeller about Watergate (scurrilous rumour only!). When Nixon was being exposed during 1974, CBS, ABC, and the Washing Post used to watch him 24 hours a day. They split into easy eight-hour shifts and could report any fresh development to all three services immediately - but poor Nixon could not keep awake 24 hours per day, every day. He didn't stand a chance.

It's only commonsense for Muldoon to want a single news service, and a less zealous broadcasting institution - an "Aunty NZBC". He has openly stated what sort of broadcasting service he likes: addressing the Wellington division of the National Party "I believe I have never seen.....news media more responsible than NZs - not in Australia, the United States or United Kingdom" [Post 31/5/75]. Walker recommended the NZBC as "the envy of the world" [1973 Hansard Vol 387 p 4852].

Party members agree; Mrs N Ludbrook at the Wellington division conference "All journalists, to be credible, must be seen to be impartial....there has been a decline in standards of courtesy,, respect and good taste in many news and current affairs interviews.

Templeton promises us "a distinctively NZ style of broadcasting....to meet the needs of a changing society". But look at the adjectives National politicians and members use to describe their ideal broadcasting service: "responsible", "courteous", "respectful". That sounds fine for politicians, but it's not the brand of journalism that exposed Watergate!. We citizens, always eager to be informed, are better served by a competitive, probing and not so courteous style such as the American news media's.

Summary

This article has moved from the issues of "political interference", to "Parliamentary accountability", to consideration of the conflicting interests of politicians as opposed to people, in broadcasting. These issues are all related, i.e. political interference cannot be ended without full and constitutionally protected independence of broadcasting from political control.

Parliamentary accountability means political control. National politicians fear the prospect of independent and competitive broadcasting being allowed to continue developing in this country, because they are the most likely victims. But it is in our interests as 'the people' to allow Labour's broadcasting structure to continue as is.

Drawing of a character from Aterix

after finals Australia Calls CHRISTCHURCH TO/FROM MELBOURNE \$103.00 TO/FROM BRISBANE \$105.00 TO/FROM SYDNEY \$94.00 WELLINGTON TO/FROM MELBOURNE \$108.00 TO/FROM SYDNEY \$94.00 STUDENT TRAVEL Student Trowel Bureau

Odds and Ends

The adventures of 'Gym' Cassidy and the 'Dance-room' Kid.

Adventures of our intrepid duo in the free time of the University.

'Gym' and 'Dance-room' fresh from their trip to Montreal report that neither of them won medals, in fact neither of them got anywhere at the games because in the true tradition of Gym-users they were only doing it for fun, which doesn't get you anywhere at the Olympics. However they have lots of new skills picked up from watching some of the Games events. After watching both the volleyball and basketball they are anxious to impart their new-found knowledge in the social atmosphere of intra-mural volleyball (Tuesday 12-1) and basketball (Thursday 12-1.30). So if you would like to just enjoy a lighthearted game of either of these then come to the Gym.

After it's first couple of months the weight-room exercise has done 1500km and demand is growing. 'Dance-room' managed to ride at 24mph from the Gym to Auckland and still didn't get up the Gym stairs.

So what's new at Gym? Well absolutely nothing...it's the same old boring Badminton for beginners (Tuesday 10-11 Friday 10-11) and Badminton for intermediates (Friday 11-12—and Acrobatics for anyone who wants to have a go on Tuesday 2-3, oh yes; those women's fitness classes (Tuesday 1-2 and Thursday 12-1) and that Mixed Fitness class on Thursday from 5-6 getting fit in a social setting, Yoga (Tuesday 12-1 and Thursday 1-2) and those boring old 'learn to ski' classes well you'd better come to the Gym to find out about those. There's a few more things as well but it's all the same.

Until next term of course when the whole timetable changes so watch this space, and hear how 'Gym' and 'Dance-room' try to become NZ Junior weight-lifting champions.

Gympress.....Gympress.....

Willie Mae Reid at Varsity

by Gary Lewis

Because it's hard to predict who will be elected to the United States presidency, it's even more difficult to know who will be Vice-President. One thing is near certain, though, Willie Mae Reid won't be the new VP.

Nevertheless, she talked for around an hour at a forum on Monday last. Her talk and trip to New Zealand was organised by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Action League. As the Vice-Presidential candidate for the Socialist Workers Party, she came to the South Pacific spreading the word, appearing on the Brian Edwards Show. Initially justifying her presence in the Union hall by likening her visit to that of Nelson Rockefeller earlier this year, she said that Socialists have a world view, as well.

She soon came on the offensive, however in trying to win friends and influence students. If the audience was expecting a dynamic and forceful speaker, they weren't disappointed. Admittedly about the only person in the room eligible to vote, she didn't give us too many issues, but did point out the injustices felt by minority political parties in the past.

Her speech was mainly berating United States politics, a history of the oppression, harassment and intimidation suffered by her party members at the illegal hands of the FBI. She indicated the tide was turning in 1976 and that it was "clearly good to be a socialist in America today". Many Americans would disagree. In New Zealand the situation is obviously different as Mr Muldoon has noted, saying the day of the trendy lefty is over. Not so stateside.

She told a generally receptive audience of the successful efforts of the Socialist Workers Party in gaining court orders forcing US intelligence and security organisations to hand over untold (8,000,000) documents. She told already well known stories about CIA interference with democracy in Chile, Congo and Cuba.

A Black feminist and activist involved in the civil rights movement and one-time opponent, for the Chicago mayoralty, against Daley, she spoke of party expansion from 23 to 59 offices in recent years. No membership count.

Backtracking to her words about the American system, she described the primaries and elections as the "lull before the [unclear: lull]" and went on to severely denounce the CIA and FBI for spying on Americans.

With some degree of condescension she even complimented the New York Times for investigating these

activities. (Without condoning these things, not too many states would allow open challenges to intelligence agencies to get to Court and succeed.).

After her talk, a fundraising was held and the Taihape to Taumaranui portion of her Auckland to Wellington flight was paid for with donations coming from several pockets of enthusiasm.

Later questions were asked. One answer particularly well handled was on busing. A good point on low voter interest was spoiled by the fact that many of us don't realise primaries are purely internal party elections to choose candidates. Few New Zealanders choose their National or Labour party candidates. It's not often we see vice-presidential candidates here and Willie Mae Reid made an interesting speaker.

Her appearance was enhanced by the attractive plants around the stage and the fact that her talk has been reported in the Evening Post as well as in little 'ol radical Salient.

You should have been there.

Photo of Willie Mae Reid

Newsheet

Drawing of a person on a ladder with a brush

Assessment Week

PEACEFUL CHANGE THRU THE ESTABLISHMENT!

Assessment Webs

Society, through the University, demands that Students be assessed before they are eligible for that vital(?) qualification.

The purpose of an assessment week is to ask questions of the demands that the University makes.

Are these demands justified? Is assessment in the best interests of the students, or is it merely a tool to perpetuate stratification in society? How are staff being used in this process? Is assessment necessary to make students work? Should the student have any say in the course content and assessment? Should staff be seen as a resource-centre to initiate and share rather than totally control the learning process?

Throughout the University in Sociology, English, Commerce and countless other courses students are beginning to ask these questions, it's not easy challenging courses is painful and embarrassing. The student is often put down by a more experienced lecturer or Professor. So it's often more comfortable to assume an apathetic "I don't care attitude".

It's easy to be cynical, it's even easier to drop out, but what does it achieve? The system rambles on, Sosc 301 is still steeped in mystifying ideology.

It's only through challenging in lectures, in labs and on field trips that we'll find answers. It's only through collective demands that Students will achieve any control over course content and assessment.

This week we must step outside the traditional learning process and examine ourselves and our teaching environment.

The activities outlined below should be seen as just a focus for this challenge. It is important not to let it stop here but to constantly continue this questioning. Assessment or Stratification?

Lindy Cassidy,
VUWSA Education Officer.

Activities for Assessment Week.

Image of a fly

Victoria University of Wellington mid year Examinations [unclear: 1976]

Idio 101 Paper 4203

Time allowed: Three hours less than necessary

Instructions: Answer any Four questions. All carry equal marks. Do not attempt to write on more than two

sides of paper at once.

Note: Questions noted with

Drawing of a wizard at a cauldron

Why you [*unclear*: Are] pissed off

Drawing of people on a V.U.W. slide

A Report on Impact of In-Term Assessment at Victoria University

By Philip O'Donoghue

Why In-Term Assessment was Introduced.

Since, what is variously known as "continuous", "internal" and "in-term assessment" has been in widespread use at V.U.W. since 1972, its implementation and impact at Victoria forms a useful comparative test case for assessment in other universities.

In-term assessment was introduced at Victoria in 1972 largely in response to student demand over the previous few years. Firstly, some students wanted recognition of work done during courses so that rather than counting only for "terms" requirements, course work should contribute towards final marks and grades. Secondly, allied to this was considerable student feeling that the end-of-course pass or fail pressures leading to panicky "swot" before finals exams be spread out during the course.

How In-Term Assessment was Introduced

The introduction of in-term assessment (I.T.A.) was not imposed or universal but was rather left by the academic powers-that-be up to departments and staff. Because ITA was optional for faculty staff and because of the experimental uncertainty involved, generally little or no student choice or participation was involved. Consequently many students felt that they were simply being appeased by token ITA and presented with a "fiat accomple". This situation was not helped by a blanket regulation imposed by Registry that any finals exam under their administration would require that a student would still have to pass 40% in that exam. The end result of all this was that students found themselves saddled with a wide variety of assessment schemes between and within departments which juggled ITA and finals to arrive at some mixture usually comprising a ratio of percentage of the old and new.

An added complication to the introduction of ITA at Vic was that it was the same year (1972) that changes in the degree structure were introduced, namely the semester term system and the credit system all of which was designed to give greater flexibility in courses, e.g. 6 and 4 credit courses. Although administratively separate issues, these degree structure changes and ITA have tended to overlap in practical effects so that the whole question of ITA at VIC is modified by this.

As early as April 1972, J. Nicholls in "Salient" warned that at least under the old system students could do assignments in a more self-motivated way without preoccupation with external rewards, or punishments... without prejudicing final marks. "He also pointed out "one argument for the system (ITA) advanced in a faculty meeting was that it would keep the customers working all year round instead of just before finals". This echoed the English educationalist, Michael Bassey who had warned that unless students were self-motivated in assessed assignments "we would be replacing torture at the end of the course by three years of regular torture!".

Effects of I.T.A. on "The Whole Student"

By 1973 after the first year of I.T.A. at Vic, there was a definite impression that campus life had declined and socially and politically was stagnating.

In July 1973, the Professional Board showing some recognition at least of the situation asked the Faculties to consider student rep and SRC claims "that the work programmes being required of students by present courses and methods of assessment have become unduly onerous and destructive of both effective learning and joy [sic] in university life". During 1973 and 1974 various faculty committee and student welfare reports began to measure the effect on the whole student social and academic of ITA and the degree changes, in particular in workloads, pressure and extra curricular activities.

Workloads

In reply to student rep and SRC claims that workloads had increased, the Faculty committee reports tended to be equivocal. A science Faculty sub-committee on workloads and assessment, commenting that staff opinion on increased workloads varied, also stated it was "notable that nobody has ventured to suggest that it has decreased." The Commerce and Administration Faculty committee on workloads and assessment found 21% of students surveyed could not cope adequately with course workloads and 24% could not cope adequately with total workloads. The Law Faculty reported to Prof. Board in 1974 that in consultation with the University Teaching and Research Centre and Law Students executive it had, after examining workloads, reduced the number of assignments. In Salient July 31 1974 it was reported that the Arts, Language and Literature Faculty assessment committee cited "evidence to show that the amount of work expected of students has increased over the past few years and that this increase had had a detrimental effect on student life".

An interesting point of the Science and Commerce Faculty committee reports was that most staff had been of the opinion that workloads had not increased. Furthermore, the degree structure changes came in for their fair share of the blame for work load increased. In his 1973 memorandum to the Deans of Faculties Student Welfare Services Director Mr I. Boyd warned of the danger of some smaller courses being overloaded without increasing the credit rating. This in turn affects ITA because students have difficulty dividing time between reading and assignments assessed and not assessed. This is then, an example of the affects of ITS and degree changes compounding each other.

Workloads Vs "Pressure"

Part of the problem of the controversy over workloads is the confusion of "workloads" with "pressure". Prof J.C. Clift of the VUW Teaching and Research Centre makes the distinction that "workload" is where a student knows he has a lot of work to complete yet feels he can, even with difficulty, achieve the task. "Pressure" is where a student is not sure of what is required and therefore becomes anxious. The evidence at Vic has been that ITA has contributed towards an increase of pressure which is uneven and has "peaks".

Increase in Overall Pressure

The Commerce and Administration Faculty committee in commenting on the increase of pressure due to many assignments being assessed towards final grades stated "It seems likely therefore that even if the total number of assignments have not increased, the pressure involved in completing these assignments has risen. The result is that students felt under continuous trial in everything they do". The Student Welfare Services report of 1973 noted that some students were even under the impression that their performance in large tutorials was being assessed. Also Student Welfare Director I Boyd commented "Where in-term assessment is based on results of tests and exams, spread throughout the year, this method of assessment may still be unfair to the student who is not good at sitting exams".

Another aspect of the spread of pressure was, as both the Science and Commerce Faculty committee and the Student Welfare Services noted, that often finals exams were retained with an equal duration as formerly though for less marks.

Thus for many students an overall increase in pressure results from the continuous spread pressure on top of the very end of course pressure that ITA was supposed to alleviate. This seems to reflect the inability of departments to adjust to the changes in degree structure and reinforces the suspicion that often ITA was simply a token to students. Alternatively many staff and students had not yet adjusted to the new assessment form.

Pressure Uneven with Peaks

The other disturbing feature of the spread of pressure was that it was found to be uneven with peaks as the result of clashes of assignments due and tests. This problem has been mentioned in both the August 1972, February 1973 and August 1973 Student Welfare memoranda 50% of the students surveyed by the Commerce Faculty committee regarded their workload poorly or very poorly spread. These clashes and peaks reflect poor coordination between and even within departments which probably had not adjusted to the flexibility allowed students by the new degree changes. Even though, Student Welfare advice of better planning and coordination such as date of assignments has been attempted by Science, Law and Commerce and Administration Faculties, the workload remains and assignments and tests can still "cluster". .

Unassessed Assignments Neglected Leads to Courses Competing

Not surprisingly, students faced with a clash of assignments tend to devote more attention to those carrying the most assessment, weight as noted by Student Welfare Services and the Commerce and Science committees. Furthermore as the [*unclear*: Commerce] Faculty committee stated "If students are neglecting a particular paper for this reason, the natural tendency is to increase the number of assessed pieces of work in that paper." Such competition between courses to coerce students to do the work in a particular paper obviously leads to increased workload and pressure.

Fragmentation of Courses and Learning Skills

Another result of students neglecting unassessed work is that students are forced to 'hop' from one topic to the next before they have really fully covered it. According to the Student Welfare memorandum "The fragmentation of students academic studies, partly due to the new smaller credit value courses and partly due to interm assessment has created difficulties for some students. Here again the effects of ITA and the degree changes overlap. Yet another problem resulting from the shorter courses and ITA noted by Welfare Staff especially in first year courses was the application of assessment to assignments before students had adjusted to the course material or had acquired skills required in subsequent assignments.

The Teacher - Examiner and Feedback Problems

Other related complaints on marking include: some assignments are returned too late to help students in the next assignments, assignments are often returned with insufficient comment to be of use in later assignments. Students also complained to Welfare staff or inconsistency of marking between different tutors in the same subject. Clearly, ITA as the Science Faculty Committee reported "...has emphasised the role of teachers as examiners rather than teachers". According to the Welfare memorandum of 1973 "We have received many comments which suggest some staff are not very sure of what they are assessing and how to assess." Staff as well as students have been under increased workloads and pressure because of degree changes and ITA and where lecturers are uncertain of in term assessment, this is passed on to students in vague misleading and confused ITA schemes which in turn increases anxiety and pressure for students. ITA at VUW has shown that because this type of assessment emphasises the assessing role of the teacher the quality of teaching becomes more important especially in the shorter courses. It is unfortunate that the obvious difficulty some staff have had in adjusting to new degree changes and assessment forms has not been reflected in the number attending the Voluntary teaching courses at the Teaching and Research Centre.

Extra Curricular Activities

Probably the hardest aspect of the impact of ITA at Victoria to ascertain and quantify is that of extracurricular activities. Politically there were a number of other factors involved. The election of the Labour Government pulled the rug from under such issues as the Tour, the war and compulsory military training while the 'heavies' of the campus Left who previously had been an entertaining opposition, got onto the Studass executive so that issues and personalities which student politics rely on faded. SRC's and AGM's fell victim to student apathy. Yet the impression remained that workloads and ITA were somehow responsible. In responding to the Prof. Board July 1973 request on whether students had "less joy in their university life than formerly" the Science committee reported there is a stronger body of opinion that this is true and that it is related in some degree to the fact that students feel themselves continually under the pressure of being assessed."

In the Welfare Services memorandum 1973, Mr I, Boyd quoting a residence hall Warden's "a strange new malaise about the university this year" and the Studass Welfare Officer "students feel deadened by assessment and other academic requirements" went on to give the Welfare staff the impression that "students seem reluctant to commit themselves to any activities which take a substantial amount of time". In short, students can squeeze in an hour a week but such things as Drama Soc suffer. Boyd has also mentioned, however, other factors such as economic circumstances forcing full-time students to seek part-time employment and accomodation trends forcing students to spend more time in the Library as a place of study. Boyd further warned "If the effect of in-term assessment and/or the new degree structure is to reduce the interdisciplinary activities organised by students' clubs and societies and to reduce the attendance at special lectures and debates, then we are failing to provide a broadly-based education for our students".

While Studass reps' impression is that the use of Union facilities has declined, the latest survey by the Teaching and Research Centre among Commerce students failed to substantiate it. Furthermore, this year and last year, the VUWSA Cultural Affairs Officer reports a rise in the number of club memberships. This is qualified by the fact that some students join quite a few clubs at once while the question remains whether many students will find they have the time to keep up during the year.

Recent Research: The 1975 Commerce Report

At the risk of some repetition, there follows a close look at a survey of Commerce and Administration students conducted in 1975 by four staff, four students and Prof J.C. Clift of the VUW Teaching and Research Centre. The report is recent, comprehensive, elicited a high student response of 75% plus and an open-ended questions for student comment. The report found:

- that overloads were in particular courses but that this had an overflow effect on other courses and total workload.
- the majority of students still favoured ITA giving as its advantages
 - more effective learning
 - spreads work
 - gives a fairer indication of importance
 - provides feedback on the student's progress
 - provides motivation and incentive to work

Despite this, many students felt that

- there were staggered workloads and increased pressure because of practical problems of administration of ITA. Thus the complaints were
 - clashes of assignments leading to peaks
 - vague information of what was expected in assessed work
 - shorter courses were too crammed and superficial.
 - assessed assignments put the emphasis on completion thus lessening flexibility for learning
 - the quality of teaching was more vital especially in shorter courses
 - unnecessary retesting of interm assessed work in finals
 - delays in return of assignments with comments
 - inconsistency in tutors marking
 - less time for extra curricular activities
 - different weight for ITA in courses thus poor workload spread
 - less time for preparation for finals exams
 - more opportunity for cheating

From various students comments, came the view that ITA was something of a token gesture and a clear wish for the abolition of terms requirements. Also a strong demand for a mixture of ITA and finals was evident mainly on the grounds of preventing cheating which students defined as copying, co-operating (sic) and purchasing assignments. Students wanted forms of assessment which tested various skills. In short, most students favoured ITA but not as it had hitherto been implemented.

The Student Response

The first feature of the student reaction to ITA at Victoria is that among most students there has not (yet) been a reactionary demand to return to the "status quo ante-" ITA of terms and finals. ITA is seen as still good in principle but that problems have arisen from its faulty implementation. As the Director of Student Welfare Services concluded "The views I have expressed should not be taken to imply that the Welfare staff or large numbers of students are opposed to the principle of ITA....there is a considerable measure of support for the well thought out use of ITA". Prof J.C. Clift of the VUW Teaching and Research Centre and the Studass personnel involved are equally adamant that ITA still stands in principle but that its implementation as revealed by surveys has revealed practical problems.

This raises the question of how have students responded to what would seem to have been a largely student-sponsored scheme "backfiring" on the students? If we accept that ITA at VUW has contributed towards an increase in workloads and/or pressure then we clearly have a vicious circle whereby student apathy is reinforced by overworking and a sense of overwhelming futility which makes student action on assessment difficult to organise and sustain. On the other hand, on occasion, students can be pushed to breaking point on workloads as was the case in 1973 in August when a lively forum on "why I am pissed off with varsity" singled out workloads and assessment as the causes and petitioned the Prof. Board for an investigation which has contributed to the various faculty reports over the last few years.

Student Representation

Because of the traditional problem of sustaining student mobilised action, much of the spade work, at times disheartening, has been left to the student reps of different faculties. Due to sheer dogged persistence some

minor concessions and improvements have been won such as better co-ordination of assignment dates. One example has been the development of the "double chance" form of assessment in the Romance Language Department as a result of consultation and collaboration between student representatives and sympathetic staff in 1973. Under this system, a student, given a mark out of 100 for her terms's work would be given "second chance" to sit a finals exam. Again, the registry ruled that all students would have to sit the exam thus making it a "double" rather than "second chance" assessment system.

A related feature is that because of increased workload pressure partly due to ITA student reps not only find it more difficult to organise students but to represent them. Because of apathy at SRC's in electing them and the demands on their time divided between study and committee duties etc, the student reps credibility as representing students can be questioned by faculties. Furthermore, student reps are present on committees not of right but on concession by staff who always naturally have a majority.

Assessment Campaign

This year VUWSA's assessment campaign is concentrating on attacking the problems of ITA at a departmental level such as the Committee of Eight in the English Department. Apart from the standing targets of the abolition of terms and the 40% of any finals exam ruling, the main emphasis of this campaign is on the "double chance" form of assessment and greater student participation in the formulating of course workloads and methods of assessment. At a recent Arts, Languages and Literature Faculty meeting considering its Permanent Committee on assessment, workloads and Credit Ratings, a student rep moved (seconded by Prof. Nomsh of Romance Languages) a motion which included students 'right to decide (in conjunction with staff) on a reasonable course workload and a fair method of assessment'. Because of some staff disapproval of such student 'rights' the resolution has since been watered down to "opportunity" while still asking faculties to "encourage students to collaborate with lecturers in decisions affecting workloads, teaching practices and methods of assessment for their courses".

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study has attempted to show that the experience of in-term assessment at Victoria University has revealed defects and problems in ITA but more specifically in the manner it was introduced. The complicating registry regulation and staff appeasement of students meant that workloads and/or pressures on students were actually increased and tended to be uneven. Extra activities have arguably suffered. Also noted have been the other complicating factors at Vic the degree changes, economic circumstances and changes in issues and personalities on campus. Teaching and assessing abilities of staff have arisen as a related issue as has the need for more feedback between staff and students under in term assessment. [unclear: ne] message or the lessons from Victoria would seem to be:

- there should be no over reaction to practical problems of ITA i.e. reverting to terms and finals
- the majority of students wanted continued ITA but also some finals yet we must also cater for those students who are disadvantaged by ITA.
- alternative forms of assessment for a variety of learning skills should be looked at e.g. "double chance".
- it is up to students not administrative reformers to press for greater involvement and choice by consultation and collaboration with staff. More student control should be encouraged e.g. Student/Staff Committees as is in the process of being instituted by English Department.

Sources:

"Assessment - the least onerous form" Graeme Clarke and Peter Franks NZUSA (shortly available Studass)
"Assessment" Graeme Clark, NZUSA (from Studass Office)

No Justice in Malaysian Laws

International Commission of Jurists Severely Criticise/Malaysian Laws.

The International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva has severely criticised the restrictive nature of Malaysian laws.

In its annual report the ICJ takes issue with three Malaysian Government regulations passed last year. It

notes that the Essential (Security Cases) Regulations passed under the continuing State of Emergency in Malaysia permitted the detention of suspects up to 60 days (2months) without being brought before a magistrate. The assets and property of the suspect are confiscated if he fails to surrender.

A variety of measures prevent a suspect from having a fair trial. He is tried before a judge with no jury and evidence of identity can be very slack.

It is the opinion of the ICJ that such regulations may be considered more as protecting the might of the government in power than the security of the nation, a trend which regreably seen in other countries as well as in Malaysia.

Equally disturbing in the view of the ICJ are the provisions of the Malaysian Community Self Reliance Regulations which make every member of a household above the age of 14 responsible for the family's activities.

The review of the Commission published here (Geneva) comments: "This is either to be regarded as a form of guilt by association or as a kind of reprisal. In either case, it is a serious violation of basic principles of justice."

In addition and in response to widespread student demonstrations in support of striking Malaysian farm labourers, it noted that students in that country had been singled out for restrictions under the University and University Colleges Act 1975. This prohibits students from joining any or supporting any society, political party or trade union inside or outside Malaysia, even if lawfully established. In addition students charged with any criminal offence are automatically dismissed or suspended from their college or university.

The ICJ based here in Geneva comments that such measures are bound to drive underground a great deal of student activities and to create conditions for the spread of "subversion" which the State of Emergency in Malaysia is supposedly intended to avoid. One encouraging element is that Malaysian lawyers have spoken out against the harsh regulations.

Transcription of a Radio Australia broadcast monitored on 28/7/76 on 30 metre band wavelength (shortwave).

The criticism of the ICJ is significant in that for the first time, a body of international standing has been moved to draw to the attention of the world the harsh and terroristic nature of Malaysian security laws.

As if to affirm the comments of the ICJ, the Malaysian government recently announced new amendments to these laws. The amendments will allow the government to deny the arrested suspect access to legal representation and knowledge of the allegations against him. The meaning of these amendments is very plain, whatever the "Rule of Law" is, all the underlying principles of justice concerning the trial of an accused have been dispensed with.

It is important to see this as part of a whole scheme where-by the "Rule of Law" is used to safeguard the power of the ruling class under the guise of defending the country agianst "communism".

Now everybody is BOUND BY THE LAW LEGALITY MUST TAKE PRIORITY BEFORE ALL OTHER CONISERATION! YES BUT LAW CANNOT BE FORMULATED TO WORK AGAINST EQUATE LAW WITH JUSTICE AND EQUALITY? JUSTICE? EQUALITY? AH.... THOSE Are DIFFERENT MATTERS...

Since 1948, the Law in Malaysia has been systematically forged into a Weapon of Oppression to terrorise citizens, as a means of controlling them and to contain the progressive social development of the Malaysian people. If Malaysian lawyers have just begun to criticise the "harsh regulations", this move is over twenty years too late.

"[unclear: ferrorism]" as a technique of government was first developed and systematically used by the French from 1793 to 1798, a period which became known as the "Reign of Terror". Under the Law of Suspects during this period, the French authorities could arrest, detain and execute people without trial.

"Terror" as used by the Malaysian government is all embracing. Security laws cover every citizen; industrial and labour alws - inhibit workers and unions; and students are totally bound and gagged by the University and University Colleges Act 1975, whose effects are noted by the ICJ.

These and other fascist laws have created an atmosphere of insecurity and terror throughout the land and even among citizens abroad. It is felt most by people who have lost all their freedom and national independence at the hands of those who have betrayed the country to foreign interests and masters.

The most insidious thing about government terrorism is that it has the force of law, backed by armed might to enforce it.

The laws carry a two pronged penalty which directly and indirectly threatens all would-be law breakers or otherwise:

- Those who break these laws or are suspected of breaking them will be punished without due process (i.e. a fair and open trial) by imprisonment or death in the most arbitrary fashion.
- Any criticism of the validity of these laws is proscribed by the Malaysian Constitution in Secitons 4(2)(a)

and 10(2)(a) which is subtitled "Freedom of speech, assembly and association."

The ICJ made a very succinct observation that in general the more severe, repressive and terroristic the law, the more Malaysians will go underground to plan ways of changing the situation.

In fact, the Malaysian government is more dangerous than the communist and is the main danger to the freedom of the Malaysian people. As the Civil War between the CPM and the Malaysian Government intensifies, so will the government intensify its use of terror to keep down an increasingly rebellious population. It will be a dark period of Malaysian history which will be known as its Reign of Terror.

This is terrorism pure and simple. Alongside this form of terrorism, "communist terrorism" pales into insignificance. The Malaysian government has more control and power over the lives of citizens than the communist ever had or have in Malaya, by virtue of its ability to legalise its acts of repression. Further, "communist terrorism" is a myth founded on the fact that the communist revolutionaries did carry out reprisals against civilian waverers and informers between 1948 and 1950. This senseless period of destruction lasted for a short time in the 45 year old history of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) compared with the more thorough going terrorism of the government, which has continued without abating since 1948.

In the final analysis, Malaysians will have no choice but to follow the dictum in the preamble of the UN Charter of Human Rights, that if the laws are excessively repressive, the government a tyranny, the oppressed people have the right to rebel against their oppressors.

Arts Festival '77: Do you want it Here?

The following is an outline of a proposal drawn up by a subcommittee of the New Zealand students Arts Council which suggests that in August of 1977 there be a National Arts Festival held here at Victoria.

"The festival", the report says, "should be a consumer-type festival, with a basic function cultural exchange between student and non-student artists and cultural groups. The festival will also host international artists. The festival should be a large budget commercial proposition adequately financed rather than a shoestring attempt that would be bound to fail."

Why a Festival?

Without a doubt, Arts Council is a touring organism. The programme is organised centrally and from there spreads itself amongst the constituency. While the touring programme is of obvious merit, there is equal merit in the converse operation. Programmes can be devised amongst the constituency and subsequently come together at a central location with equal effect. This latter method is the Arts Festival, which necessarily complements the work of a touring organisation.

Photo of Flo and Eddie with The Turtles

At present there is no opportunity for campus cultural groups to meet and exchange ideas and experience. The national Arts Festival would provide this opportunity. At an Arts Festival, students can meet and take part in exhibitions, performances, workshops, jam sessions, etc in every conceivable cultural activity found on campuses throughout New Zealand. This can only act as a stimulus for further creativity as well as providing an opportunity for a good time for like-minded people.

The Concept

There [unclear: should] be three main elements or factors in the operation, i.e. to receive, contribute and exchange. Those who "receive" i.e. the passive element will as nonparticipants get a lot from the festival by "attending" functions. Other people will attend and contribute what they can to the success of the Festival. The exchange factor is the social factor. "Everyone will learn something or teach something, meet new people, stay in a strange place, swap information/partners/dope/skills etc"

The Content

There are five main categories of activities proposed:

- Performing Arts i.e. theatre, dance, multi-media, modern language/ethnic and poetry
- music i.e. rock (electric), folk (acoustic, jazz, classical, ethnic, recorded and experimental)
- Visual Arts i.e. painting, photography sculpture/outdoor/environmental, multimedia/kinetic and crafts
- Screen Arts i.e. screenings of commercial entertainment movies, political/art cinema, workshops in video/TV, film-[unclear: making] workshops/animation and lectures
- Fringe i.e. activities such as chess, debating, law moors, war games, politica wine rashing etc

There are a further 3 important areas:

- **Social**
Social events are construed separately from the artistic side of the Festival. Operations in this area would be nightly dances (with booze), a licensed club and a 24 hour bar.
- **Media**
This hopefully would include a campus radio station and daily newspaper as communication vehicles.
- **Outdoor**
The festival would begin with a large outdoor fair which could well include a circus cum showground, with stalls and exhibitions.

The Finance

The Festival would work on a registration system. The proposed budget is in the region of \$115,000 of which approximately one third hopefully would be derived from registration fees (suggested: \$10 for students, \$15 for public). Other sources of income would be door sales, grants/[unclear: sponsoship], product sales, franchises and socials/ booze.

Well....what do you think? The budget is clearly a large one - do you think it needs to be that big to achieve what the outline sets out? or is it Ok? Do you think we should even have an Arts Festival at all?

Have your say-

the above proposal will come up at SRC on Wednesday August 4th, 12-2pm Union Hall.....Be there if you have something to say!

Want to go and see Flo and Eddie and the Turtles?

Well here is a quick quiz. Answer the questions below and send in your entries marked:

"Flo and Eddie Quiz" to the Students Association office by Thursday August 5th: by 12 noon at the latest. Any entries after that date will not be accepted.

The winning prize will go the first correct answer opened. In the event of no person having all answers correct the winning prize will go the entrant with the most correct answers.

The judges decision will be final. Results and answers will be published in next week's Salient.

This contest is open to members of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association only.

Prizes:

- Two tickets to the Flo and Eddie concert at Town Hall, Wed, 11 August at 8.30pm. Plus a Students Arts Council Tee Shirt.
- Album plus Tee Shirt.

5 consolation prizes of Tee shirts and Arts Council towels.

Evans Gudinski and the New Zealand Students' Arts Council daringly present The most outrageous Rock & Roll act FLO & EDDIE with The Turtles The world's leading Rock Satirists, for years the Turtles, then the voices of Zappa and now the most outrageous stage act ever 'I haven't had so much fun since the war broke out' —Keith Moon 'My image hasn't been the same since I last saw you' —Ringo Starr TOWN HALL Wed. August 11. 8.30p.m. "Illegal, Immoral and Fattening"

1. What are the real names of Flo and Eddie? 2. Name three of the big hits which the Turtles had in the late sixties. 3. What group did Flo and Eddie go to after they left the Turtles? 4. Name two groups apart from the Turtles which Flo and Eddie have toured with? 5. While in Europe after a tour the two made a film that was later banned by most countries what was that film? 6. What was the name of the syndicated radio show which Flo and Eddie had? 7. What is the name of the recently released album of Flo and Eddie? 8. What is the name of the New Zealand based organisation bringing Flo and Eddie to this country? "Illegal, Immoral and Fattening" FLO & EDDIE with The Turtles The world's leading Rock Satirists, for years the Turtles, then Zappas voices now the most outrageous stage act ever Tickets available at Studass office.

Sport

Sport on Campus

Interdepartmental Rivalry

Traditional antagonisms between Botanists and Zoologists flowered on the muddy fields of Boyd Wilson recently, when staff and students from each Department met to contest the ancient Kirk Cup.

Playing in a good mud, a motley gaggle of about 30 tripped and slid their way around for nearly an hour.

Stars of the match were Vince Knight (a fiery Welsh physiologist), and Gary Welsh (a 3rd year Zoology student). Together this dynamic duo overwhelmed the Plant men, leading their team to an eventual 30-nil win.

The Zoo team had the advantage of greatly superior numbers however - in fact there were so many that the great Wayne (Luke) Benton of the Zoo Dept gallantly played for the Botany Team. Despite this however the Botany team never really got off the ground and spent most of the match defending their territory against the piercing thrusts of the Zoologists.

Much of the play originated from the good control of the loose ball by the Zoo team, who handled well despite the difficult and greasy conditions. The Knight-Welsh combinations then provided the brilliant finishing touches with probing runs on the flank and through the centre.

Vic Players in Touring Team

Six members of the Victoria University Volleyball Club are included in the 20strong New Zealand Universities squad to tour Australia in August. They are:

- Graeme Steele (Capt. NZU Men)
- Api Fiso
- Peter Thrush
- Robert Wilson
- Janice Hung
- Glenys McKenzie

Victoria has won the Men's cup at Tournament for the last three years, and two members of the Vic team also won Victoria University blues for 1975-1976.

The Club is organising a marathon in the Gym on Sunday to help raise funds for the Tour. The players are aiming to play for 10 hours between the hours of 9am and 7pm.

There will also be a Social in the Union Hall this Friday. All Welcome.

Three Zoologists pile into Herb Christopherson from the Botany Department during Kirk Cup, while at far right Gary Welsh looks ready for action.

New Zealand Universities Volleyball

Mens Team

- G. Steel
- A. Fiso
- R. Grimmer
- M. Osmond
- W. Nightsbridge
- P. Hookyas
- B. Ongley
- G. Anderson
- P. Thrush
- R. Wilson
- Coach: M. Harris

Womens Team

- B. Northey
- J. Herren
- F. Kemblewelch
- D. Walker
- P. Breek
- J. Hopley
- J. Daniels
- J. Caldwell

- J. Hunt
- G. McKenzies
- Coach: M. Cooper

Referee Bob Averitt (H.O.D.) looks on as Vince Knight (Sen. Lect. Physiol.) runs the ball around the pack composed of unknown Lloyd Davis, Dave Hannah, Dave Vurton, Unknown, Mike James, Unknown, Wayne Benton.

Winter Tournament - Christchurch

Today is the deadline for eligibility forms for Tournament. If you cannot get your forms in by 2.00 pm come and see me at the Studass office and I will try and work something out for you.

Peter Thrush
Sports Officer

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 Errol Hanna at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ. Errol 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 Errol Hanna or phone him direct at the BNZ Wellington Branch Cnr Lambton and Customhouse Quays. Phone 44-070 ext. 823. BANK OF NEW ZEALAND Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand.

books

Image of a face on paper

Red Papers on New Zealand.

Series One May 1976. Retailing at \$1.50

Reviewed by Anthony Ward

The publication of 'Red Papers on New Zealand' is a major event. The purpose, according to the Preface, is "to bring together Marxist papers representing the postwar developments in the analysis of New Zealand capitalism". The Marxist Publishing Group ends the Preface with a "broader objective of advancing the development of revolutionary Marxist theory and practice".

One can but applaud the aims. If the results, as I shall argue, fall short of these goals this underlines the need for more work in the area. The effort and enterprise are commendable.

The "Red Papers" cover a wide variety of topics, contributed by a variety of writers. The topics split loosely into three areas: alternative analyses of New Zealand history; contemporary analysis of New Zealand society; and notes with particular reference for the question of foreign control.

Alternative History

The alternative views of New Zealand history are a powerful attempt to return history to the people. Not here the concentration on the ambitions of individual politicians, with occasional bows to egalitarianism. There is a very heated engine driving the refrigerator, and we begin to get some idea of it here.

Many articles (including pieces by Owen Gager, Pat Hickey, Jwger Kuczyaski and Willis Airey) centre on labour history and the trade union movement in the turbulent times of 1890-1913. As Kuczynski puts it "Such was the state of working and living conditions at a time when New Zealand was being praised as the promised land of the workers not only by liberals and reformers, but also by responsible trade unionists all over the world".

Between the mystery and the reality lies a great gulf, a gulf enshackled by the famed IC & A Act, - the act whose avowed intention was to control the differences between labour and capital and whose reality reduced workers' wages considerably. The description is succinct and timely.

"Humph! needs proofreading!"

More contemporary notes on the working class movement are contributed by Bruce Jesson and an extract from "The Peoples' Voice". The inclusion of this last is a little hard to justify - it falls between the stools of analysis and polemic and gives neither a good account of the 1951 events nor a dear message to the people of the time. And why is the 1951 lockout referred to as the "Waterfront Dispute" (one later paper even calls it a 'strike')? Have we not yet exorcised the liberal demons?

Contemporary N.Z.

The contributions on the contemporary NZ situation are the highest standard in the collection. Particularly impressive are Stanton's work "Class Structure in New Zealand", Bruce Jesson's "The Family Affair: Wealth and Power in New Zealand" and David Bedggood's "Notes on the Political Economy of the Welfare State".

Cherished myths of egalitarianism and general social progress are exploded. Bedggood finds the welfare state has neither equalised income between groups, nor attacked the problems of inequality of opportunity or poverty. Ken Stanton produces some basic statistics on concentration and monopoly, and suggests implications for Communist Party practice. Jesson, in true style, shows the existence of a "limited circle" of company directors or major companies tying the companies together.

Image of a face on paper

The card houses of bourgeois 'social science' are tumbling. Yet there is little suggestion as to how or why they were built. Or why so many people believe in them. Analysis of this aspect of ideology is surely necessary to achieve the 'demystification' or 'role of the Marxist party as a scientific institution of learning' authors urge.

Colonial or Imperialist?

The third group of papers, and in my opinion the weakest, are those on the colonial question. There is considerable debate, at least amongst left-wingers, whether the struggle against foreign control is an important one. Is New Zealand essentially a colonial country, or an imperialist one?

Peter Rotherham provides an interesting outline of Samoan resistance to New Zealand colonialism, and Keith Locke backs him up by identifying relations with imperialist world. Wayne Robinson tends to take the alternative approach, arguing colonial status. Rob Campbell, whose notes could with value have been expanded, notes that N.Z. is a "kept woman of international finance", but we should still oppose foreign capital.

Theoretical Issues

Despite the general quality of the papers, and the range of material they have thrown up, there are still considerable qualms. Nevil Gibson, in "Labour's Post-Socialist Phase" notes 'There is very little Marxist writing on New Zealand that could stand up to much examination despite a history rich in radicalism.' I would suggest that, in terms of Marxist theory the same could be said of these contributions.

The theoretical issues posed here have been extensively discussed in the debate between Nicos Poulantzas and Ralph Miliband (for which the best summary is Ernest Lacia in 'Economy and Society' Vol 4 No 1 1975). I will not go much into them here, beyond emphasising the distinction between approaching bourgeois theory on its own terms, rather than in a separate Marxist problematic.

To illustrate, Ken Stanton describes, with statistics, the process of concentration in New Zealand. Concentration (like the statistics) is used very much in a descriptive way - there is no attempt to realise the differences in the Marxist definition of concentration. Further, David Bedggood's article on the Welfare State outlines four tests for 'welfarism' theory. When these all turn up failures, the Marxist theory is looked to as a "solution".

The alternative, although it is very abstract from, can be seen in Michael Dunn's outline of the "National Question" The more rigorous definition developed there - of separate modes of production and dominant class - suggest a Marxist problematic requires a different form of analysis.

The need for a correct theory is a vital one. As Lenin (who is cited) wrote: "Theory without practice is

sterile. Practice without theory is blind". Most of the articles here are important in developing a critique of accepted theories, but *on their own terms*. Thus bourgeois history is modified by the inclusion of aspects of class conflict (or the "secret history of World War Two"), but it is still bourgeois history - the underlying assumptions and implicit understandings have not been challenged.

The problems in developing a fundamental understanding are best illustrated by David Bedggood's definition of the core of Marxism: "This is the definition of human needs and their realisation which constitutes the concept of alienation". At the risk of appearing uncharitable, this is totally wrong. "Human needs" is an idealist concept - characteristic of the young Marx before 1845. The materialist Marx, and scientific Marxism, get away from such notions to the rigorous concept of surplus value. This, not alienation, is the core of Marxist theory.

Image of a face on paper

There are some aspects of production (eg bad typing, the absence of page numbers) which can be criticised but the tone is getting somewhat negative. "Red Papers on New Zealand" is an important advance in our understanding of the country we live in. If the epistemology is suspect, then it is at least good that such issues can be raised and hopefully discussed. "Red Papers" is an excellent context.

Marxist theory internationally in the postwar period, with some notable exceptions, advanced little. From the mid sixties, spurred on by Vietnam, May 1968 and increasing economic crises, interest and developments have been growing. "The Red Papers on New Zealand" collect and formalise some of that work, as well as earlier material, on our own situation.

Very highly recommended reading.

Image of a face on paper

Against the Softness of Woman:

Jan Kemp. Coweman Press, Dunedin. \$3.20 Pbk \$4.50 Hbk

This book is called "Against the Softness of Woman", the title of the first poem, and I presume that it was chosen because this poem is the keynote of the collection. If so, it seems an appropriate choice, because this poem says something about being a woman, and by extension a woman poet. That seems to me to be reflected in all her poetry.

The poem's message to women is: don't act like a woman: "don't let the quick spring flow/hide it behind." Women, she says, are prone to "vacillation", they are "vagrant".

A man, on the other hand, "has bared himself translucent/like the rings of honesty", "He has paved down his spare image." If a woman wants to be more like a man she should "let his singularity teach (her)", she should "become like him."

This is of course an anti-woman poem. Certainly many women, including women poets, whose talents are respected in the male world have chosen this path of survival; to deny their woman-ness, except, if they're "liberated" types, to fuck with men.

However the time has now come for many women - and women poets - when they now feel it is possible for them to "let the quick spring flow": to speak in their own voices.

However I rarely got the feeling from Jan Kemp's poems that she is speaking in her own voice. She gives the impression of posing, in each poem, for carefully taken, "artistic" photographs: the Poet and her Lover; the Poet talks to a Railway Guard; the Poet at the Poet's Funeral. Similarly, her technique often seems studied and "Poetic", without the guts of the experience described to give the forms and metaphors a kick.

An example is the poem "the Begonia House". In many ways the body of the poem seems merely a lead-up from the title to the somehow expected "unexpected" last two lines:

*"we forgot to look
at begonias."*

Her choice of words and punctuation too often seems unduly mannered; she favours, for no clear reason at all, the use of / as punctuation, for instance:

*"the shell on your ear
is the sea/cochlea beach
of the whorled elc horn fern..."*

She uses commas too so this does not replace it; why not just finish the dash comes? And why use the spelling "masque" in the title "Balloon Masque": the poem makes it clear that she does mean a mask, not a masque.

This is a frustrating book of poems. Every now and then there is a flash of real communication, a sense of a real live person behind. For instance she exuberantly expresses happiness in fucking that

*"makes us hustle
& lick the world
& our own
ice cream faces."*

Personally, I wouldn't buy this book. I might get it out of the library though. But what good is it to a woman, or a poet, and especially a woman poet if she won't "let the quick spring flow."

—Deborah Jones

downstage

It is ironic that on one hand I should with reservations be applauding Mervyn Thompson's production of Chekov's Three Sisters, while the other is forced into a rather silly argument about what constitutes that same audience that is turning out in droves to see this play.

Ironic also that my original comment about this audience, itself a rather heavy-handed piece of irony, should have been taken so literally. This was a throwaway line in a piece which examined two polar opposites of theatre ideology, Jonathon Elsom's "Sweet Mr Shakespeare" and Paul Maunder's Amamus Group. Not in his hare-brained first letter, nor in his slightly better reasoned second letter (printed here) does Mr Thompson take issue with any of the arguments I advanced in this review.

It is a truism that the only people who go to the theatre are theatregoers, and they are a very small percentage of the population. If, in the last year or so, he has fractionally increased this percentage by his entrepreneurial efforts, and I do not dispute his claims that he has, more power to his elbow. This does not, however, alter the fact that the percentage is still in the main a very small part of a particular social class. Mr Thompson knows this very well. A couple of years ago in Christchurch he was involved in a survey the results of which were published in *Canta*, which demonstrated precisely this.

In the year 1975-76 Downstage received over \$133,000 of Arts Council money. This year the grant has been cut to a meagre \$120,000. It is not unreasonable to question how, and on whom, this money is being spent. Nor is it necessarily fashionable radical posturing to do so.

Facts are not distasteful to me as Mr Thompson would have it, but misrepresentation of them certainly is. I did not call him a liar. I did however demonstrate the patent sophistry of claiming as typical an audience not yet played to. He seems determined to perpetuate this misrepresentation. It is now three months since his first letter (12 April) at which time many of the audiences he said were typical were entirely hypothetical, as they still are.

His community programme is laudable, if not particularly energetic. To date it consists of a performance of "Sweet Nothings" (the title does nothing to belie the content) to a captive audience at Witako and a performance of "Songs For Uncle Scrim" to a pensioner group. This with a group visiting secondary schools and a performance to the Labour Party Conference is the extent of the Community Programme Mr Thomspson so extravagantly boasts. He stresses that these performances have been without charge but omits the fact of the large Arts Council special projects grant provided specifically for this purpose.

I am looking Mr Thompson and what I have noticed to date is a pathetic token gesture.

However enough of this. This is supposed to be a review of the Chekhov. The play after all is the thing. Or is it? Politics can be kept out of theatre can't they? Just as Muldoon and his muddled ambassadors would have us believe they can be kept out of sport. Mr Thomspson aptly demonstrated that there is no place for radical politics certainly in his theatre, by his pusillanimous production of *Marat Sade* last year. Revolutionary Theatre as froth and bubble musical comedy.

What about the Chekhov? It is a political play, although Chekhov doesn't beat any drums, and if Mr Thompston's audience sheds a tear for a yesterday untrammelled by proletarian demands he does nothing to discourage them. His production is unashamedly romantic and glitteringly opulent.

Set in Pre-revolution Russia it is the story of the aristocratic Prozorov family on their uppers, whose life style is threatened and eventually destroyed by the grasping bourgeoisie, personified by Natasha, Audrey's wife, and her lover Protopopov. Protopopov is never seen on stage but his presence, symbolic of the forces about to convulse Russia, lurks prophetically in the wings.

Chekhov portrays humanity in all its weakness and foolishness. His characters are trapped by their dreams. There are some outstanding performances in this production. Sherril Cooper as the admirable Olga is superb. Christina Milligan's Natasha is a superlative suburban bitch. Deirdre O'Connor gives the part of Irina an enigmatic tranquillity, fragile and other worldly, contrasting with the passionate and histrionic Masha played by Alannah O'Sullivan.

Structurally the play has strong undertones of Greek tragedy with the sisters providing the chorus. Although it is not itself a tragedy, Thompson and his designer Raymond Boyce have developed and accentuated this element creating an amphitheatre by splitting the Hannah Playhouse auditorium in two and placing the audience on tiers on either side. This is an adventurous way of overcoming the problem of staginess inherent in a play of this nature, and it comes off.

There is no artifice on this set. Everything is for real and if the grandeur seems overdone in the first act it is balanced by a gradual austerity which develops through the play culminating in the autumnal garden scene in act four dominated by the shadow of a dead tree. Boyce's set design is beautifully realised and complements perfectly the action and Thompston's romantic conception of the play.

Praise also for Russell Duncan's Kulyghin, Masha's cuckolded schoolmaster husband, ever the buffoon because he didn't know how to be anything else. Although bordering on caricature, Duncan gave a real depth and sensitivity to this role. To Anthony Groser also, a consummate actor, for his Ferapont, the wise old idiot. Groser's impeccable technique unavoidable pointed up inadequacies in some of the less experienced actors.

On the other side of the coin I was less than happy with Ian Watkin's Chebutykin. Watkin is a good actor, but I feel he relaxed too much into this important part and the character lacked the nihilistic bite and cynicism the role demands. This approach would probably have been suitable for a television production but it lacked the timing and incisiveness necessary on the stage.

John Callen's Vershinen also left me cold. Perhaps I was expecting a more conventionally flamboyant Alexander Ignatyvich. However this soft-centred self-pitying soldier I could not take. There is a real optimism in Vershinen's half-baked philosophy which is essential to the play. The part demands a bravura that Mr Callen's "sensitive" characterisation totally lacked.

In spite of the general quality of the production ideological considerations cannot altogether be set aside. Mr Thompson is protesting over much (in the best theoretical tradition) that he is on the side of the angels with his mythical community programme, while continuing to cater for the same old audience.

Downstage used to be exciting - today it is flaccid with too much money and real theatre is happening elsewhere - in little outfits like Unity and Circa.

—Neil Rowe

Fanshen

—a play by David Hare

Opens at Unity Theatre Wed. Aug. 4 at 8pm.

Season ends Sat 21. Sunday Matinee performances.

8 & 15 August at 4pm. Students and workers \$2.00 (i.e. \$2.00)

The Editor, Drama Review, Salient, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington.

Dear Mr Rowe,

I don't know why I bother, but here goes. The reason that I wrote to you in the first place was to present you with a few facts about our operation. I know that facts are distasteful to you; they are distasteful to most student reviewers, whose sole mission in life seems to be to knock everything the established theatres ever present. If it's established, then it must be bad, effete, right-wing etc., etc. The typical student reviewer comes to a place like Downstage wearing his preconceptions like a badge. His first instinct is to look round for a fur stole. Once he finds it, he sighs with relief; for now he can write off the whole audience as unreal, insincere, uncommitted to theatre, and filthy rich. And settling back piously, he can now write off actors, production, choice of play and the rest. What then develops is the unfortunate tendency to score cheap points, to play arrogant little games with what in many cases has involved hundreds of hours of work and commitment from everybody involved in

a particular play. (When, as happens, in too many cases, the reviewer's own bourgeois roots show in everything he writes, one begins to doubt his radicalism. Still, it's an acceptable pose among his peers, and it gets him noticed.

But to state the facts. The vast majority of our customers (who pay an average of \$2.75 per seat to see our presentations) are there to see the play. If you doubt this, then why does the "fur-coat brigade" stay away in its thousands whenever we do anything that is radical, experimental or unfamiliar? Because, I assure you, Mr Rowe, that they do. At plays like "Songs to Uncle Scrim", "First Return", "Waste", and "Marat/Sade" for instance, they were conspicuous by their absence. Dinner sales dropped markedly; play only sales improved. And contrary to academic opinion we do not cater for the audience you hate unless, as maybe happens once or twice a year, we have to. It's all very well to throw up one's hands in disgust or piety; but the fact is that one of our priorities is to create employment for actors. And the more radical audience we would prefer to play to 52 weeks of the year is neither large enough nor reliable enough to sustain full employment for professional actors.

The truth is that every play attracts its own audience. And our audience moves along a very wide spectrum of humanity. Admittedly we have not yet realized the dream of attracting a working class audience in great numbers. Who has? However, a very high proportion of the 77,000 people who attended our plays last year were certainly not Mr Rowe's "typical Downstage audience". Apart from our own more experimental work, there was the fact that we left our doors open to many other groups, whose clientele would have warmed the heart even of Mr Rowe (if such an organ existed). The names of Amamus, Theatre Action and Blerta spring immediately to mind. One of these groups has received administrative assistance from Downstage in the past year another is now negotiating for similar assistance.

Finally, Mr Rowe, you must stop calling people liars when they claim not to fit your simplistic categories. Our theatre has been and is carrying out a community programme (at no charge) in prisons and pension houses. We have recently performed for a political conference. We are about to launch a factory programme. If you haven't noticed these things it is because you were not looking or did not wish to see.

Yours etc.,

Mervyn Thompson,
Artistic Director.

John Reid's SQUASH CENTRE SQUASH: 50c par half hour Normally \$1.00 RACKETS: 30c
STUDENTS 3EAR HIRE: 20c per item CONCESSIONS CONCESSION HOURS 9-12 and 2-5 WEEKDAYS
DOWNSTAGE William Shakespeare's OTHELLO From August4th. Directed by Richard Campion. All
reservations 849-689 Bookings Now Open Watch your local papers for details of lunchtime and late night
shows.

theatre

Preview, Unity Theatre Presents 'Fans hen' by David Hare. Directed by Richard Mays

When William Hinton returned to the United States from China in 1953, he had with him the record of a unique experience. The notes he made in Long Bow Village, some four hundred miles from Peking, became the foundation of a book, Fanshen - a documentary of revolution in a Chinese village.

Fanshen means 'to turn the body' or 'to turn over'. Hinton's insight into revolutionary Chinese peasant society is a valuable contribution to our understanding of socialist China. As Hinton says; The story revolves around the land question. Without understanding the land question, one cannot understand the revolution in China, and without understanding the revolution in China, one cannot understand today's world! 'What happened in China yesterday may well happen in Brazil, Nigeria, or India tomorrow.'.....And indeed has already occurred in Ethiopia, Cambodia and Vietnam.

'Land reform is on the agenda of mankind.'

While remaining completely faithful to the spirit of the book, English playwright David Hare has created an 'epic' drama of Brechtian dimensions. He has successfully preserved the important political points, emotional impact and humour of Hinton's book, translating them into terms appropriate to modern western society. Like Brecht, Hare uses his play to instruct. Not only does the play inform us about China, but also about ourselves.

The themes are complex. Hare has tried to make his play conceptual enough to give it universal reference, but direct enough to make it specifically relevant for its western audience. For example, women in feudal China were treated as chattels. They could be bought and sold, raped and beaten. When the peasants [unclear: overhrew] the landlords, women were able to overthrow their centuries-old roles as human animals but not without a struggle. It is the same struggle that is paralleled along similar lines in our own society.

The play puts the question: 'Who depends on whom for a living?' Do the peasants depend on their landlord, or is it the landlord who is dependant upon the peasants for a livelihood? Although the question is satisfactorily answered in its Chinese context, the implications for our society are bound to cause vehement argument. It is a question of property. Directly translated the question becomes: 'Do the workers depend upon their employer, or is it the employer who depends for his existence on the workers?' Hare provokes the question. It is up to his audience to conduct the argument.

Hare does not show the revolution in a rosey-red glow. The play is a chronicle of mistakes. The peasants are mean, selfish, greedy and superstitious. Power goes to their heads. Even the government-sponsored work-team is guilty of high-handed activities which cause strife and personal difficulty. None of the characters really understands what the revolution is all about; that the concept of Fanshen means more than winning land, houses, implements and food. The revolution was a struggle to change the character and consciousness of a whole continent; a struggle that is still going on in China today. In order for the peasants to understand their society, they must first learn to have faith in other people. This play shows in microcosm what revolution means in human terms to real people.

Fanshen opens at Unity Theatre on Wednesday August 4th. There will be 16 performances Tuesday to Saturday at 8pm, and two Sunday [unclear: fternoon] performances (8th and 15th Aug) at 4pm. The play closes on Saturday 21st August. Admission for students and to holders of a union card is \$2.00 - general public \$2.50.

Jennifer Compton as Hu Hsueh Chen, party cadre undergoing public examination in a way reserved for women only.

(Photo - Celia West)

Direct from the Auckland International Film Festival Commencing FRIDAY (4 DAYS ONLY) CLASSIC CRIME THRILLER LONDON and AUCKLAND FILM FESTIVALS! ANDRE GENDVRS (Present) ROMY SCHNEIDER • ROD STEIGER JEAN ROCHEFORT A FILM CLAUDE CHABROL Innocents with Dirty Hands English Dialogue (Persons under 18 not admitted)

To be followed by August 11-14 MARCELLO MASTROIANNI FRANCOISE FABIAN MARTHE KELLER in a MAURO BOLOGNINI film DOWN the Ancient Stairs English Dialogue (Persons Under 18 not admitted)

August 16-20 AN APOCALYPTIC ALICE IN WONDERLAND." Jack Korll NEWSWEEK BLACK MOON WRITTEN DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY LOUAS MALLE English Dialogue (Persons Under 18 not admitted)

films

The Balcony

Lido Cinema

This film is a free adaptation of Jean Genet's play of the same name. Mme Irma runs a "House of Illusion". Inside men may act out their fantasies: they provide the scenarios and Irma the costumes, sets and girls. They play opens with successive scenes of a Bishop, a Judge and a General indulging in gross ego-satisfying rites. They are of course three nobodies come to fantasize.

Outside the whole city is in revolt. Into the brothel comes the omnipotent (in his eyes) Chief of Police. As

the rebellion progresses he realises that if he is to retain his power the dead or missing nominal leaders of the country will have to be replaced So Irma becomes the Queen, and the three nobodies become in real-life what they have been in make-believe.

Naturally it is real-life with differences, not the least of which is the fact that the whole plan is on one level the Police Chief's own fantasy. Yet he still has a problem: no-one who comes to the brothel ever wants to play him. He cannot build an empire and a monument to himself if no-one knows who he is.

But eventually someone does come: it is Roger, the leader of the rebels. Through his enactment of the role the grossness of both his and the Police Chief's ambitions are exposed. That is a beguilingly simple synopsis of the play. The themes are complex and the plot progresses mainly by intimation, with the dialogue always functioning simultaneously on several levels.

Although it is not always appropriate to compare a film to the original written work, in this case the process does help illuminate the weaknesses of the former.

Genet does not make it at all clear in the first three scenes what we are watching. The Bishop, etc., are obviously grotesque parodies, but within the context of the play they could be real. But by establishing the brothel and Irma's role as Madame before these scenes, and by the use of shots of painted scenery. Director James Strick makes the whole situation patently obvious.

Theatrical elements dominate both film and play. But whereas in a stage production they would often be quite naturally present, their inclusion in the film makes their thematic importance too blatant. After having shown us real street fighting in the opening sequence (not present in the play) the use of a projected backdrop later on doesn't work. That fantasy and reality are mixed is quite clear in the text. In the name of clarity, uses physical representation to replace ambivalence with naivety, the play has no crowd scenes and works without them, yet the film gains nothing by including them in a theatrical manner.

Genet has the Bishop and Judge both wearing cothurni (actors' built-up shoes) to symbolise the false but menacing power of their roles, and also relate theatre to fantasy. Such details are structurally necessary to the complex nature of the play, but strick by and large dispenses with them to present what is little more than a garishly ornate but basically simple story of love and power. The motives of Genet's Irma for becoming Queen are complicated, but in the film she dresses for no other reason than to please her lover, the Police Chief.

This Hollywood approach becomes a little too much to take when Roger and the Chief of Police have their clothes stolen and are forced to prance around in a quite uncalled for bedroom comedy style. Genet is not a good model for half-pie slapstick. It is because the film is far less an allegory than a romance that it is significantly weaker than the play.

Acting in the film is generally of a high standard, although difficult to appreciate because it is so firmly entrenched in the American early '60s style. (Don't be put off by the advertisements: Leonard Nimoy's Dr Spock-like Roger is a small part). There is one remarkable scene, played in front of an enormous mirror which has a remarkable exposing effect on the characters; and the riot scenes at the beginning, though misplaced, do add a note of stark realism for anyone unwilling to accept the conventions of the play.

Overall, however, *The Balcony* is an unhappy marriage between intellectual complexity and badly worn commercial formulae.

Simon Wilson

Image of the back of a judge

VUWSA Films Coming: Memorial Theatre.

Kelly's Heroes: Tues 3 August 2.15pm

A World War II service comedy set during the allied advance across France. A group of noncoms and private soldiers, who learning that the Germans have stored gold bullion worth many millions in a town bank not far behind their own front lines, open up their own little attack in order to steal it. Burglary masquerading as fun bombs burst, buildings crumble, bridges collapse.

Starring: Clint Eastwood, Telly Savalas, Don Rickles.

Director: Brian Hutton

The Godfather: Wed 4 Aug. 2.15pm

"Coppola's expert direction, and outstanding performances from Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, lift this story about machinating Mafia men into the epic class, alternation violence and domestic sentiment to keep the ironies flowing."

Sight and Sound.

Covering about a decade from the end of World War II to the mid 1950s, the Mafia is used as a metaphor for America: it conducts business like any major American corporation, but exaggerating the separation of business and personal ethics. Coppola perceives that the same confusion of values is characteristic of a whole generation of Americans. Watch for the sub-theme of sexual bias built into American society - the film constantly emphasises the priority given to the men in the Corleone family.

One of the most brutal and moving chronicles of American life ever designed within the limits of popular entertainment.

Starring: Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan.

Director: Francis Ford Coppola.

Taking Off: THurs 5 Aug. 5.00pm

Milos Forman in America with an amused, quizzical, refreshingly tolerant look at the generation gap through the eyes of parents. The film depicts the children's attempts to throw off the parental chains, and a view of the defeated, the soft and silly and incapable middle-aged, trying to come to terms with their runaway children.

rock

Stingray: Joe Cocker

If Jamaica say you will wasn't quite as good as I can Stand a Little Rain it was because at times Cocker presented more polished versions of the successful formulae of the earlier record. Stingray suffers from the same complaint, and although there are changes (no musicians achieve solo status and apart from one sax break there is no brass) the music still falls roughly into Cocker's two main styles: simple haunting melodies and driving rock numbers.

There are no outstanding songs, and possibly because of the very smooth production none of the musicians every really stretch themselves. The usual build-up to an intense repetitive chorus/fade has been restrained in such a way as to rob Cocker of a lot of his power. He is always confidently on top of his music, but never has to strive very hard to get there. In only two tracks ('The Jealous Kind' and 'Moon Dew') does he approach top form. The occasional moments of excellence (eg Sam Rivers' soprano sax in 'The Jealous Kind' and Eric Gale's jazz guitar intro. to 'Catfish') barely even highlight the unassuming competency of the rest of the record.

There is female backing on only one track on Side One, and on all but one Side Two. But in spite of this they do not differ much. Richard Tee's organ, good as it is, contributes to this overall similarity by its continual presence. He has the grace, but lacks the flair.

The result is that there are no surprises, and nothing that even comes close to the beauty of The Moon is a Harsh Mistress' or the enrgy of 'Put Out the Light'.

Albert Lee plays an uncharacteristically restrained guitar on 'You Came Along', and Clapton is in his typically simple style for 'Worrier'. Dylan's The Man in Me' is pleasant reggae number. Even the playing of jazz-oriented session men Cornell Dupree, Eric Gale and Steve Gadd belies the very middling Cocker-rock style which prevails. It's not just easy listening because the music is there to get into, but unless [*unclear*: you] make a conscious effort Stingray reamins just that.

Cocker has done much better. This record does little more than evince that he can do so again.

—*Simon Wilson*

Drawing of heads

Fly Like an Eagle: Steve Miller Band

Steve Miller's a superior rip-off artist in that he only rips himself off; it's always been his style and it's beautiful. For example, notice similarities between the opening of the title track and "My Dark Hour", "Rock 'n me" and the "Joker's" "Mary Lou", and reflections of "Journey from Eden" and "Children of the Future" in "Blue Odyssey/Sweet Maree". One's always conscious of Miller's identity in the way he weaves his familiar licks into new shapes for the 'new age'. Miller fits into a niche of history along with Quicksilver, the Dead... and separately as the 'straightest' blues band of the lot. His is a wash of space music, his own blues, country humour (John Mcfee's dobro picking on "Dance, dance, dance" surely evokes a smile), and, above all, feel good music.

A space intro leads into "Fly like an eagle" with Miller's abstract lyrics: "Time keeps on slipping into the future....feed the babies...house the street people...oh, there's a solution". Cross rhythms and special effects are

strongly to his advantage as are the Miller-blues on "Mercury Blues" and the appealing vocal lines in "Wild Mountain Honey" and "Serenade": "We're lost in space, the time is gone and the earth is your home".

Side two opens with "Take the money and run" - 'this here's a story 'bout Billy Joe and Bobby Sue, two young lovers with nothing better to do' than re-enact Bonnie and Clyde's scene. Sam Cooke's "You Send Me" can't help but bring back memories to the days of Boz Scaggs/Miller teamwork as a fine pair of guitarists, each with a unique voice (i.e. "Sailor"). But nothing's lacking in either respect here; Miller can croon as well as Boz in Cooke's ode to a young modern maiden. "Blue Odyssey" and "Sweet Maree" bring out the Blues from the Steve Miller Band again with a blend of James Cotton's harp and Miller's acoustic guitar. This is feelgood music-soft licks floating above head level. "The Window" is peculiarly memorable for its mixing (guest stars in abundance) and vocals - "Ask my baby what she wants to be, she says a monkey swinging in a tree. Ask my baby what she's thinking of, says there's nothing stronger than love". Just look through the window for peace, harmony and love; sure, we've heard it before, but not like this.

"Fly Like An Eagle", Miller's ninth album, is as good a place to start as the first and notable "Children of the Future". He's one of the musicians it would be a great pity for anyone to miss. And he's a musician in every sense of the term artistically, critically, lyrically and hangtogetherly. If you've never heard of Steve Miller and his cohorts, listen to this album with a fresh mind as a well-deserved change from trends in music; and if you're lucky enough to know Miller well, then this is a Ninth Symphony.

- *Katy Corner*

A Night on the Town: Rod Stewart

This latest album from Rod Stewart is, like his previous releases, a collection of both artists material and his own original compositions. Side one is appropriately labelled the 'slow' side and comprises two love songs: "Tonight's the Night" and "Fool for You" an old Cat Stevens [*unclear: song;g;*] "The First Cut is the Deepest" and finishes with "The Killing of Georgie" a ballad describing the misfortunes a young gay encounters when he goes to New York city.

Side two opens with "The Ball Trap" which is fairly lewd in comparison with "Pretty Flamingo" which follows it. The next two tracks, "Big Bayou" and "The Wild Side of Life" are both new versions of old country-rock songs and the album ends with "Trade Winds", a slow moan about what are now fairly standard problems.

Competent backing is provided throughout by the Garage Band which makes good use of a strings and brass section to complement the vocals.

In general it is a good album, which although lacking the brilliance of some of his past successes provides good value all the same. If internally assessed it would get a B1.

Boris

wines

With the cold weather we have been having lately the newest addition to the list of wines should find a ready market.

Waihirere's Glowein (pronounced Glovine) is a medium red supplied with a mixed spice sachet enabling the mulled wine to be made quickly...about the same time as making a pot of tea.

The four quick-mix sachets provided with each \$2.40 bottle eliminate all the time required for preparing your own Gluhwein, thus making it an ideal night-cap. Each sachet carried full instructions, which can be followed with confidence, although I suggest that the wine is just simmered, rather than overheated and that an alloy pot is not used. Serve in earthenware mugs which have been warmed with hot water for best results...Rather potent!

McWilliams wines are now producing Martini Vermouth here in New Zealand, under licence. Two principals from the Italian company have been out here recently to check on the quality of the Hawkes Bay effort, and reports indicate that they are completely satisfied, even pleasantly surprised. We will not be seeing any reduction in the price as a result of the vermouth now being locally blended (the secret formula of herbs will still be imported) which will not please Martini lovers but the sales pitch strongly suggests that the price will remain constant for some time. Well, only the future will settle the doubts I have about that!

To keep a little more Italian flavour for this week's issue, I suggest you try a bottle of Robba Gentleman, a crisp, dry sparkling wine with a price tag of only \$3.10 per bottle. Whilst only a few cents more than some locally made wines in the same category, Robba has a completely different style which many find difficult to describe, myself included. Just why it is named Gentleman, is anybody's guess, could possibly be the shape of

the bottle?

At present we have a shortage of good quality red table wines on the market. Every new release is quickly snapped up, leaving the shelves of merchants with nothing but very ordinary, run of the mill reds. It obviously means that one has to be quick and swoop whenever these premium reds are available. This week should see a small amount of Babich Pinotage-Cabernet 1974 in Wellington and further south. This Silver Medal winning red is robust like any good Burgundy. Make sure you are not too late.

A friend of mine who recently addressed the University Club members at a tasting of White table wines was pleased with the well informed remarks made on each of the wines, and also the large percentage of those present who could accurately name the masked wines they had tasted. He says it confirms his belief that many in this country have good natural palates that just require a little coaching on how to detect slightly different flavours and their intensity.

If you like Crown Cow's, and how many Bull's don't? try Delegat's Delcafe Liqueur with your glass of milk. Costing somewhat less than Kahlua or any of the other liqueurs, Delcafe mixes very well, or has a pleasant mellow coffee taste on its own, At least one local merchant is endeavouring to buy Delcafe in bulk as he believes it will blend well with Port to make a strong, warming drink. (some concoction).

From the irrigation area around Kangaroo Lake in Northern Victoria, comes Brown Bros. - Mystic Park 1973 Dry Red. This well rounded, soft blend of Mataro and Carignane grapes is perfect for immediate drinking whilst waiting for some of your other wines to mature. Wrightson's in Adelaide Road have a few cases left at \$3.10 per bottle. Ask for Steve Bradley and he will be able to suggest a few other good bargains to make up a wholesale order.

Have just been talking to Mate Brajkovich of San Marino Vineyards. Kumeu on the phone; and he is thrilled with his 1976 Riesling which has retained its fruity character although has a refreshing, dry finish. As I believe too many vineyards have this year been backblending with unfermented grape juice to make a semisweet wine rather than dry, this comes as good news. Personally, I still prefer a dry white to have a crisp, clean finish.

Wishing you many pleasant bottles,—

Aloysius Slurp.

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THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF HAROLO HEOO WRITTEN AN DRAWN FER YEW BY....
Rand Holmes SYNOPSIS SINCE YOU'VE BEEN FAITHFULLY READING UP EVERY ISSUE OF SALIENT you ALREADY KNOW WHAT'S GOIN ON... EH?...YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GETING EVERY ISSUE !!? FROM NOW ON YOU WILL BUY EVERY ISSUE OF SALIENT...BUY...EVERY.. ISSUE...OF SALIENT....OR ELSE LIONEL HERE, 16 GOONA KICK YOUR ASS!! SOB.. CAN'T EVEN SKRNG A LOUSY PIG!! MY "DEPRAVED BIKER" IMAGE IS SHATTERED! AN I'M STILL HUNGRY!! ONKLE FLASH PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER ELMO!..... FOR GODSAKE MAN!!....AND HELP ME LOAD THIS BEAST INTO MY TRUCK! WHAT DO WE...GASP...DO WITH HIM ONCE HE'S IN THE TRUCK?? I KNOW SOME PEOPLE WITH A COMMUNAL PARM... PANT PANT JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY....WHO COULD RILLY DIG TO HAVE A FREE DIG TO HAVE A FREE PIG LAID ON EM! FURTHER MORE, BY THE TIME WE GET THERE IT'LL BE DAWN ... WHICH MEANS...WITH ANY HICK AT ALL, WE SHOULD BE JUST IN TIME TO THROW OUR LIPS AROUND A GENUINE-OLD-FASHIONED FARM BREAKFAST. WOW!!!...YEAH! FARM BREAKFAST ...DROOL R R R R R R R-VRUM RUMM ...AN SAUSAGES AN FRIED EGGS AN RASHERS OF BACON AN FLAPSACKS WITH SYRUP AN.... JOUNCE SQUEAK SQUEAK GREAK RATTLE SQUEE? SHIT WUZZAT?!...WUZZA MATIA? THERE'S A POLICE CAR BEHIND US! SO ... MEBBE HE WON'T STOP US ARE YOU KIDDING? IT'S A AM... WE'RE ONLE VEHICLE ON THE ROAD ON WOW!... IF THEY FIND THIS STOLEN PIG!... LISTEN.... THER'S A BOX OF MY OLD CLOTHES BACK THERE... GO DRESS THE PIG IN SOMETHING RESPECTABLE...IT'S DARK AN IF THEY DON'T LOOK TO CLOSE... THEY MIGHT TAKE HIM FOR ANOTHER PASSENGER I GUESS YER NOT SUPPOSED TO

MIX STRIPES AN PLAIDS HUNH HAROLD? GRUNT JEEZUZ KE-RUST! ELMO!... HURRY UP.. THEY'RE PULLING ME OVER! SQUEE ONK WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA BLINK BLINK FLASH GOOD EVENING.... JUST A ROUTINE CHECK SQUEEEEE... ONK ONK ONK ... SNORT GRUNK SQUEEL ... HONK ... SZNUK! !!? ALL RIGHT HIPPLE SCUM!... LIKE TO DO PIG IMITATIONS EH!... OUTA THE TRUCK!..MOVE!! KEEP EM COVERED ORVILLE WHILE GIVE THIS THING A CHECK FOR DOPE GROAN... HE'S GOT A FLASHLIGHT ... HE'LL FIND THE PIG FOR SURE AS THE CONSTABLE ENTERS THE CAMPER PORTON OF THE TRUCK HE RASESHIS EYES AND FLASHLIGHT SIMULTANEOUSLY AND SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF STARING INTO THE FACE ... OF... GAAAH!..RT. HON.R.MULDOON!..SIR...A THOUSAND PARDONS YOUR WORSHIP... I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE WITH THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ORINK SNUK HONK SNOT YES SIR!! ...WELL HAVE YOU MOVING AGAIN AT ONCE SIR! GEEFLE ..OINK...DROOL... NOW WUDDA YA SUPPOSE TH P.M. IS DOIN OUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS WITH THEM RAGGED HIPPERSS?? DAMNIFIND... DRUNK AS USUAL TOO...VOICE WAS SO SLURRED I COULDN'T EVEN MAKE OUT WHAT HE WUZ SAYIN LATER AT THE COMMUNE LITTLE MORE STREAMED SEAWEEED? BROTHER ELMO? OH NOPE! (GAGH) NO MORE FOR ME..HEH...HEH...FULL UP... WELL NOWZ I TO KNOW THEY'D SWITCHED TO A MACROBITIC DIET??

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Letters

Letters header showing a family standing around a table

The Malaysian Economic Situation

Dear Editor,

I quite agree that Malaysia has a class problem. The power it in the hand of the Malay ruling class and the rich Chinese businessmen. All the Prime Ministers of Malaysia have some royal blood in them. In fact Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Abdul Razak are the members of the royal family. As for the Chinese. Tun Tan Diew Sin, who is one of the most properous men in Malaysia, controls the Chinese Organisation, MCA. If one bothers to study the background of the Chinese Ministers, one will find out that they are all very rich. These people join politics not out of any desire to serve the people (Malays, Chinese, or Indiana) but to further their own aims. It is a well known fact that they can get easily obtain permission from the Govt to open out new land, to build shopping complexes, and to get timber concessions etc. And of course, the Malay ruling elite also gains from the deal. That is where corruption sets in.

In normal years, things would be all right in Malaysia. Be investing in the economy, these rich people at least give enough bread crumbs away to make the masses happy. But once the economy stops growing, social mobility is held in check. All the problems begin to surface. This a exactly what has happened in Malaysia during the last few years. The problem is aggravated by the Govt economic strategy which places a very heavy emphasis on helping the Malays. So, the poor Chinese are made to suffer because some of their 'cousins' are rich. And anyway, it is shown that the Govt strategy does not really help to uplift the Malay masses. This is manifested in the student riots and the Baling incident. The Malays are fighting among themselves (i.e. between the ruling elite and the poor Malays).

When I argue that Malaysia faces a class problem, I do not imply that we must encourage a revolution, whereby a working class takes over. The ordinary workers may be incompetent and so can't govern. What the Govt must do is to institutionalise class-struggle in Malaysia so that the workers and the peasants can bargain legally. Only then can the working people get a fair share.

But we all know, the Malaysian Govt does not tolerate any mass movement. It suppresses them legally (i.e. through the Internal Security Act which gives the Govt power to imprison the leaders of those organisations). The Govt is so successful in suppressing them that there are now no effective parties which can articulate the demands and aspirations of the poor masses. This latter problem comes to the notice of the Govt mainly because of the increasing Communist threat. Now, one of the Cabinet Ministers wants to invite some 'Western experts' to Malaysia to seek their advice as to what the poor people or poor Malaysians want. That is really ridiculous. They may be experts but what the hell do they know about what the masses want?

Now, let us return to the question raised earlier (i.e. why does not the Govt institutionalise class-struggle as is done in New Zealand?) The reason is that Malaysia is very dependent on foreign capital for the economic development of the country. And the foreigners are going to invest in Malaysia only if the labour costs (i.e. wages) are kept low, or else they will move their capital elsewhere. (Korea, Hong Kong etc). The Govt is caught in between. It cannot allow the workers to organise themselves to press for higher wages. It has to resort to force when the workers want more. Therefore, the Malaysian Govt is being perceived by the people as helping the foreigners to exploit our country. The fact is that our Govt is quite helpless and it has to play the rules dictated by the foreigners. They have the capital and we don't.

And also the fact that Malaysia is sited in an unstable zone makes the foreigners demand quick return for their capital investments. Thus, their main aim is to get as much money out of Malaysia as possible and within the shortest time possible. This will explain why the workers are still poor in spite of the fact that our economy is growing at the rate of 6% annually. That is really an impressive figure. I would argue that the rather selfish attitude of the foreigners help to push Malaysia into the Communist camp. It is ironic. They say they want to help us but actually they are pushing us to a corner. Foreigners, wake up now or else you will find one country after another falling under communism in Asia. Then, you will have no one to exploit.

Yours sincerely,

A Malaysian.

Back to the Farm

Dear Salient,

A couple of weeks ago I [*unclear*: reasted] Victoria University and walking through the Union building reminded me of the endless hours I spent discussing alternative life-styles. Looking back I realise that we only knew about communes, organic farming, soft technology from other peoples experiences or from trendy publications like 'Whole Earth Catalogues'. In reality we knew nothing, most of our friends weren't interested and we didn't know how to get involved in the alternative movement.

Now that a year's gone by we'd like to share some of what we've learnt with any other interested people. If people want to have a glimpse of some alternatives in the agricultural world (i.e. people not using artificial fertilizers/poisonous sprays and insect companion planting, mulching, planting according to cycles of the moon) then there's a scheme called W.W.O.O.F. This stands for 'working weekends on organic farms'. This scheme encompasses a wide range of farms - from straight, to biodepmanic, to communal type ventures. While some only can cope with weekend visitors, others are looking for permanent members. The address to find out more about W.W.O.O.F. from us: c/o Stephen Jacobs, 41 B Devon Street, Wellington.

He can supply you with the list of W.W. O.O.F. farmers in New Zealand. As far as visiting the farms, it pays to write first if you can. The nearest farm to Wellington is where we are now living, that is, c/o Peter Stanley, No. 5 R.D. Palmerston North (Ph: 894 Kairanga). Visitors are welcome anytime in fact we really want people to come and share ideas with us.

On the gardening side there are 10 acres of market garden, four of which are rotated as a green crop each year. There's also fruit and nut trees, chickens, a goat and 3 sheep. Other than that one of the [*unclear*: girl] is doing a welding course, another guy is learning a bit about carpentry through the local learning exchange as there are plans to build a bee hive, a solar dryer for fruits and grains, and a geoderic dome for a potting shed and everyones quite involved in things like conservation, the Soil Association and canvassing against nuclear reactors and riding bikes.

Contrary to popular belief there are quite a few 'communities' who desparately want people to come and live with them. So if you are planning to drop out, or have finished and don't know what to do except Honours or go teaching why not get a couple of back copies available c/o Post Office, Waitati Otago, at there are plenty

of communities writing in wanting people. These people would probably be very happy to have a few lawyers turn up as a big problem is fighting local councils over building permits, health regulations etc. I imagine even accountancy students would have some use!

So if you are sick of sitting in the cafeteria, and want to see a different N.Z., take advantage of these suggestions.

Best Wishes,
Paul Callister.

Reggae On Philip Hay

Dear Editor,

I'm sure Philip Hay can defend his own Rolling Stones review from the anonymous critique printed in last week's Salient, but I'd like to mention that Anonymous Critic is way off when he says that "the reggae tracks on 'Black and Blue' are blatant and poorly disguised Bob Marley". The only straight out reggae track is "Cherry O Baby", a song written and recorded by a man called Eric Donaldson, who has absolutely nothing to do with Bob Marley. Similarly, the jive talking Jagger lapses into at the end of 'Hot Stuff is in the West Indian 'deejay' style popularised by a disc jockey called U. Roy. and carried on by two other popular Jamaican recording stars called T. Roy (no relation) and Big Youth. Again, there is not a trace of Bob Marley here, either.

It seems that because Bob Marley is the only reggae musician that Anonymous Critic seems to have heard of then All reggae must be attributed to him. The real point is whether Jagger sings reggae well - I never minded him doing Robert Johnson's 'Love In Vain' for instance because he did it so well - and 'well' doesn't mean imitation, but what the white musician ADDS of his own experience to reggae or blues. Here, sadly Jagger adds very little at all.

Best wishes,
Ivan.

An Open and Shut Case

Dear Sir,

"E.K. Yap's" letter confirms my suspicions that Don CARson is a liberal Mr Yap's letter has 3 contradictions:

- D. Carson is not radical whereas MNR and MNS are.
- He mentioned the strict censorship of news in his country but reflected alternative news sources as too "radical".
- He identified with the "good-guy" Hussein Onn who has, by the sound of its singlehandedly 'restarted' on the road to a "corrupt-free" and "lets-closed" democracy", whereas he should have asked himself what are the root causes of his society's problems?

The first 2 contradictions go together there is strict censorship of reading material in Malaysia, then one should try to read the alternative news sources available, compare the views instead of rejecting it totally as "communist". Yap seem to be still very much tied to the governments way of thinking.

After going through Carson's article, one's conclusion is that he had interpreted the facts and information subjectively, with his liberal values. Is this not "ideologically manipulated"? In other words nothing can be value-free. Even Yap's opinion is of a liberal nature - on one hand cajoling for more "relatively objective" articles, on the other rejecting dreadful communist stuff. He is liberal enough to accept a less "closed democracy" whatever that is! There can either be a true democracy - government by the people for the people, or else there can't be any variations!

[This brings us to contradiction 3 "Hussein Onn is a good guy, he got rid of Harun" (my quote). We have forgotten Razak who was also a good guy because he started proceedings against Harun and Hussein Onn finished hanging out the dirty linen of the Malaysian upper-class - the seat of corruption!.

It is unrealistic to think that with one corrupted person out of the way society is any less corrupted.

Corruption is inherent in Malaysian society in which a parasitic feudal aristocracy survives in the guise of a modern "Parliamentary democratic" system. Hussein Onn must think about cleaning up the whole Aegean stable before he hopes to solve the problems of Malaysia. This means he should join the Communist good guys like him, who want to construct a new society.

Since liberals have a tendency to defend their bourgeois values, it is understandable why Yap considered 'communitistic' ideas unacceptable - for they challenge individualistic values, obscurantism, and capitalistic ideas.

If he has not realised by now, revolution is the trend today! Unfortunately many Malaysians here are being left so far behind in understanding what it is all about, that they should preferably stay put in Godzone with the people of the same ilk.

Lastly, the writer finds MNR and MNS very objective and affords her an alternative view and ideas about Malaysia. Sure they do not condemn the communists like the government, but it is a change from reading the government propaganda which deliberately obscures what communism is about. Why is this so?

If there is so much to fear about communism we should know the truth, and let us all examine the theory and practice. We might at least do this to be fair with ourselves. Shall we be blind or shall we see?

Anti-liberals and anti-obscurantists.

p.s. Hussein Onn's government is responsible for the Essential Regulations - Closed or open?

Piss Sinker Attacks Malaysians

Dear Sir,

What's all this crap I've been reading in the last few issues of Salient. That load of crap being written by a few of those arrogant third world intruders, Malaysians. The ones with nothing better to do than criticise us good piss consuming Kiwis.

If they don't like us or our country (the one they are so happy to come to, to be educated), they can take their inferior little brown arses and pits off back to where they came from.

Not that I mind them being critical, but why must they put all Kiwis in a category of dirty, drunkard fools, this tends to make me put Malaysians into their own category, that if I described in this letter, you would not publish it.

Proud Kiwi.

Evangelism Through Salient Pages

Dear Sir,

I was quite perplexed by the cartoon snipped in the 26 July Salient stating 'let's check this list of ideas that Karl Marx included in his plan' i.e. there is no God, there is no life after death etc.

Was it

- a mistake by the typesetter?
- a rip-off at communist propaganda?
- an attempt to re-assert vague humanistic philosophies through Salient?

In case it was the latter, why don't we check the list of truths God included in His plan?

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
- ...whoever believes in Him (Jesus Christ) shall not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16
- Jesus said 'everyone who loves truth recognises my voice' John 18:37

If Karl Marx had risen from the dead like Jesus Christ did, I would give more attention to his philosophies.

John Needham.

Philosophers have interpreted the world, the point is to change it - Ed.

Kathy Rose Replies to No Bludger

Dear John,

It seems necessary to explain myself to "No Bludger". I have just returned from overseas (broke as any traveller will tell you). Not knowing that there were prerequisites for varsity of being a genius or rational, but believing that education was my right, came to Wellington, got a part-time job and enrolled in March "with no help whatsoever from ray family". I did not apply for an MEF grant because I thought that with a part-time job I would be able to maintain myself - as it happened I was wrong.

The whole point of the interview in Salient and the bursaries campaign is that the bursaries scheme and NZ's education system is riddled with inconsistencies and injustices.

One being that you do have to work when doing a full time course at varsity, with or without a bursary (if you don't want to struggle and starve). Another is that women are discriminated against while trying to get their finances together for varsity, as No Bludger admits.

There are some very "needy" Maori people who use, or could use the MEF grant, if they survive the oppression and inequality of their primary and secondary schooling. (Only 1.5% of Maori people ever get to varsity).

I disagree with the whole tone of No Bludger's letter. His own story is one of hardship and 'hard luck' - does Bludger's letter. Her own story is one of hardship and 'hard luck' - does she want everyone to go through the same grind? If she does she is lined up with Muldoon and Gandar.

The demand for a full cost of living bursary for everybody establishes education as a right, not as something to be pursued in off-work hours.

The tragedy of it is that there are better hard luck stories than mine - perhaps even No Bludger's.

Yours,

Kathy Rose.

Letters

Letters can be handed in at the letterbox just inside the Salient office or handed in to the editor personally. However if you wish to pay 8c postage then send your letters to PO Box 1347, Wellington. Letters should be double spaced and on one side of the paper only.

Sports Officer Replies to Criticism

Dear John,

I would like to reply to your two correspondents who in last week's issue railed the point of refunds from Easter Tournament. Dealing with Mr Lawson's first point I should like to make several points:

- Several members of Mr Lawson's team were among the group who were told by the ticketing manager at Christchurch Railway Station, that a refund would be paid on presentation of an unused ticket. As Mr Lawson has said, it was in this understanding that several people purchased a ticket for an earlier train.
- Once on our train I counted, recorded the names of all those on board and presented the number to the guard. In accordance with the regulations he verified the number and signed the back of the ticket.
- I retained the ticket and presented it with a 2 page report (which is on file in the Stud. Ass. Office) to the ticketing office in Wellington. They thanked me
- After ten days of non-action, I contacted the Railways. I was referred to a Mr Morrison in the commercial department. He informed me statements were being collected from interested parties in Ch Ch, and promised to contact me shortly.
- Since that time I have made frequent phone calls to the Railways; in all I have made four trips down there personally. These have proved fruitless.
- On Wednesday 21 July, I received a phone call from a Mr Todd of the commercial department of the Railways, who was surprised to find that there had been no action, and again promised a speedy settlement.

- I would submit that there is nothing further I can do. The Railways have an obligation to pay us the money they owe. I have requested the Presidents of V.U.W. Sports Council Inc and V.U.W.S.A. to write to the Railways expressing their concern that students should be out of pocket for so long, and for reasons that are none of their own making.

In the light of this I would like to turn now to Mr Bargh's comments.

I have received an instruction from the President of Sports Council to with-hold refunds until the money from the Railways has been paid. This is because of the situation Mr Bargh alluded to: the payment of refunds last year.

In that case, the Sports Officer, Mr Kevin Wright declared a surplus of \$110.00. He decided an equitable division of this was \$11.00 to the first 10 people to front up. Accordingly a large sum of money was paid out. Unfortunately for the Association. Mr Wright had done his sums wrongly, and the actual surplus was only \$11.00. If Mr Bargh received his refund promptly, I suggest it was because he was lucky enough to get in quick, before the error was discovered.

To prevent the same sort of occurrence, the President has ordered that no refunds shall be paid until the Railways pay up.

I have also decided not to pay any refunds until Mr Wright supplies a list of those people who flew from Christchurch to Dunedin on an expired ticket which was in his possession. Mr Wright knows this but I have been waiting for over one and a half months without receiving any reply.

As a participant in Tournaments who has been out of pocket for the same reasons of bureaucratic inefficiency, I sympathise with all students waiting for their refund. However, there is little more I can do, save harass the commercial department of the Railways. Rather than blaming me, I suggest to all those people in this position, that they write to the Railways. This will naturally add weight to my own efforts, and is sure to guarantee a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Thrush,
Sports Officer.

Weir House Crumble Mumble

Dear John,

(Don't you ever get sick of these 'Dear John' letters?). Could you please let us extend a message to that awfully bothersome chappie Mr Applecrumble. He is making a frightful nuisance of himself. The pesty little blighter.

And someone else said that Applecrumb's poetry is so good it deserves a Cole's Notes edition of its own. Fancy that - here is an extract of the proposed edition: Biographical Notes

Applecrumb came from an orchard in Eketahuna and was the youngest of a bunch of nine. His father was chopped down before the young Applecrumb was ripe and this is reflected in Applecrumb's attempts to hide his insecurity in traditional poetic devices such as alliteration: "Belly, balls and bladder bulging" as well as immature neologisms: "Thugby".

Of course Applecrumble is a man of the world - this is probably attributable to the fact that there was always a lingering doubt in the young poet's mind that he was the result of an illicit cross-pollination. He is an eclectic poet - there are traces of Robbie Burns:

"....dinna fash yoursel, mon"

And Alexander Pope too!

"Eat more, root more, sink more piss"

Is the Weir House dream of bliss"

The classical influence is evident....

"Arise, ye jerkers from your fumble...."

But perhaps Martin Doyle has had the most noticeable affect on the poet:

*"They'll precisely place the touring All
Black team, but
Soweto is a town hut God knows where."*

On the whole we can only conclude that Applecrumb's pattern of reference is confused and lacks a consistent, coherent thread. The verse is contrived and cliché-ridden. For example he gives Wellington a brilliant new epithet when he describes it as "windy" or the sheer artificiality of such lines as "And at your James Cook window pause to stare".

It is unfortunate that Applecrumble was given such extensive coverage in that widely read Salient (audited net circulation of 6,000 Heylen Research Centre). In conclusion it can only be concluded that we must conclude that the only conclusion to draw is a conclusion which states that Applecrumble gives us all the pip. Not long after last week's Salient Applecrumble fell of the tree and was eaten by a stray cow. Eaten is the apple that could have grown full rotten "copyright Coles Notes edition entitled: 'Applecrumble Gets his Just Desserts' ".

Well, Mr Editor please print this letter. It took frightfully long to draft and now that it is an enlisted letter it needs promotion because the boys all try to get it drunk in the barracks (Barrett's?).

The Knights of Weir House.

Heavily abridged because of lack of space-Ed

Cannibals on Campus

Dear Sir,

I am appalled at the allegation that Victoria University is a haven for cannibals. It is well known that the Wellington Polytechnic have the most casualties in this area; and that the university has its problem relatively under control. You the Salient reader and/or student will certainly have noticed the decline in numbers of human feet and especially human hands lying around the university Only a matter of months ago one had to wade through human bodies (whole and segmented) just to get onto the campus. Several times I have had to prise a dismembered hand off my ankle on reaching a lecture.

I would personally like to thank all those people who have assisted in keeping cannibalism off the campus,

I remain.

Captain B.J. Smithy,

(in a white wine sauce, with carrots and potatoes).

Apathy League Slates Hypocrites

Dear Sir,

As an erudite 1st year student, with a modicum of sex appeal, I abhor the implication made by the "Impatient B.A. Hon Lasher", in last week's Salient. This archaic example of neanderthal man, is surely a contestant for the "Whining Hypocritical Toady Of the Year Award". This person alleged that first year students are time wasters, and he does not want us here. Speaking personally, I don't want you here either, so why don't you piss off and leave writing silly letters to Salient to those with a little more grey matter.

Yours etc,

Vice President,

Assistant-Sec Tres.,

Thorndon Apathy League.

p.s. I am, ask Cyril!

p.p s. I think John Ryall is very cute.

Come up and see me sometime-Ed

Life is One Long Dream Man!

Dear Sir,

I would like to write a nice letter in contrast to the many moans and bitches I have been reading in your column lately. I will try and give credit where I feel it is due.

I think Salient does a fairly good job although it is sometimes slightly biased or overweight with one particular issue (eg Hart).

The catering people do a great job. I love the food as I do the liquid selection. The people who serve always seem to be friendly.

In my opinion 99% of the people I have met at varsity are very friendly - the remaining 1% I have not had time to form a judgement on.

I do 42 credits and I am not overworked. I cannot complain about the set-up of any of my subjects or about any of my lecturers or tutors.

The people that complain about this varsity should either leave or reserve their opinions for the more moronic among us.

1 Last, but not least I would like to compliment Dominion Breweries on their brew, and "Tip Top" on their ice cream sundaes.

The Sun still shines on.

Yours,

Miss

C. Laneous.

p.s. While I wrote this letter I was neither stoned nor drunk.

p.p.s. I would like to hear from other people who are happy with life via this column.

Pornography or Pus?

Dear Johnny-boy,

Image of a fly

Giddy, how the fucking hell are you? On the point of some of the so-called [*unclear*: pornographic0intellectual]-socialist puke that is sprawled across the sheets of such an illustrious magazine, why the fuck don't you leave out all the other shit (i.e. editorials) and allow more depraved, degenerate, frustrated, insane, bastards to gel themselves in print (i.e. publish more letters to the editor). Please try and censor the letters better, we don't want any of the decent, bigotted, conservative pus that is presently clogging space, which would be better used for pornographic contributions or etchings.

Bill Bush

(Canterbury).

Hunter's Loose Tooth

Dear Sir,

I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms about the decrepid state of the roof at the Hunter Building, or more specifically, the lack of teeth in the upper region of the aforesaid roof.

I think it is a sad day when a building degenerates into a dilapidated state, and it should be pointed out that the aesthetic appearance of the once noble institution has suffered consequently.

It should be remedied at once.

Hubert H. Wanker.

Esq.

p.s. Anyone wishing to join the 'Save the Hunters Roof's Tooth' write P.O. Box 6972, Te Aro.

Re: Mad Rapists!

Dear Sir,

For some time I have been energetically involved in promoting apathy throughout this institution. The Thorndon Apathy League have endeavoured to fill the pages of Salient with literary gems, however, we that is, me and my vice pres. have seen the light.

Recently the brilliant illumination of intelligent activity has shone forcefully upon our own perfect example of the New Zealand education system.

We (i.e, the executives of the Tal) were participating in a game of "Beer Can Rugby" when much of our amazement several people stopped to watch and one personable individual joined in the game.

We now believe that to persue the cause of apathy is mundane in comparison to the great spiritual awakening we now experience.

Yours Religiously Unkind,

C. Bumtrinket and Neville H. Toad

Former Executives of the Tal.

p.s. As you failed to print our last two letters you had better print this one or else mate!

Agatha Misrepresented

Sir,

I found it extremely odious and revolting, as a liberated woman, that a person of such obvious literary talent as The Mug of Arloo should use the pages of your paper to spread such reactionary propaganda as that expresses in his letter in Salient (Vol 39 Issue 18).

His past epistles have indicated the presences of an intellect of great genius, unclouded by such petty interests as those concerning morality and the sacred qualities of life.

It is possible that we have been deprived (by editorial censorship) of following the development of his talents. Maybe I just didn't realise that until recently you've deliberately only printed the best of him contributions. If so, I apologise for thinking you're a fuck-wit, but I still wish to express concern that the Mug of Arloo could resort to the tactics of a common or garden pressure group, forsaking his unique wit to repeat cliches.

As my good friend Richard C said, a woman's place is in the sink and our Mug's letter tends to promote this sort of Bullshit. Besides, I have been misrepresented. Agatha.

Israeli Supporters On International Club

Dear Sir,

We do not condone Israel's treatment of its Palestinian Arab population, nor of its methods of gaining territory; but we deplore such narrow minded arguments as in the International Club's latest statement condemning the rescue of Jewish hostages from Palestinian Arab hijackers.

Damn it all, it must be remembered that the Jewish State of Israel has existed for a mere 30 years, after hundred of years' persecution of Jews, that their particular brand of nationalism is a natural reaction to this persecution, a determined effort to preserve their identity at all costs. In this light their action at Entebbe

Airport, if not justifiable in terms of violence (were the Palestinians?) is at least understandable far more so than the implicit approval of Uganda (the worst example of a present day Fascist state) that the International Club's statement carries.

The statement also seems to us indicative of an ill-hidden deep-rooted anti-Semitism, one of the oldest forms of racism, which renders void any supposedly objective criticism of Israel.

We suggest that those members of the International Club examine their "non-racist" stance, if indeed opposition to racism is the aim of an International Club.

R. Salas.

I. Hines