

Women, Unions, Council

Drawing of an academic holding a female figurine

Watch out Unions!

by Salient Industrial Reporter

The National Government will this week introduce its promised Industrial Relations Amendment Bill which will make all strikes illegal except those during award negotiations.

The bill is the final saga in the Government's industrial plan. The first stage was contained in a bill introduced a couple of weeks ago in response to the Drivers' Union's rolling stoppages. It redefined strikes to include stop works, go-slows and overtime bans, and gave employers the power to lay off workers who were affected by a stoppage by a particular section of workers.

This week's legislation, promised by Labour Minister Peter Gordon during the port stoppage last week, is aimed at so-called "political" stoppages, but in fact includes a whole host of measures to thwart union action on any issue.

The main ingredient in the bill is provision for fines of \$500 per worker and \$1500 per union per day for participation in an illegal strike, which is further defined as anything which is not conducted during annual award negotiations.

Another clause states that 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 clauses on voluntary unionism are the same as those described in earlier Salients except Gordon and his advisers have now dropped any reference to a date for the voluntary unionism ballot. Obviously they will use the voluntary unionism clause as a sledge hammer to hold over the heads of the union leaders.

The Government/Harbour Unions confrontation, which touched the second round of legislation off, was a significant event in the short history of Government/ worker relations under the Muldoon Government. Peter Gordon admitted that he had "underestimated the determination of the Harbour Unions" and even though he refuses to admit that he backed down, his action was to avoid a deregistration conflict for which the Government was not ready.

In doing so he ran into staunch opposition from Muldoon and other hardliners in the Cabinet, who wanted a showdown in which the unions will be smashed for good.

The local press tried to spur the Government on with editorials attacking the unions' "misguided use of power" (Evening Post 30.8.76) and urging it not allow the unions to "rewirte our foreign policy" (Dominion 30.8.76), and the Dominion even launched into front page editorials - trying to build the strike up into a showdown.

But, as the Government realised last week, the unions are presently in a very strong position. The Federation of Labour is united and an increasing number of unions are taking action over the wage regulations and the new industrial legislation. Some employers are now beginning to ask whether the Government is actually acting in their interest by the new legislation.

In fact, Federation of Labour President, Sir Tom Skinner, has put the pressure on employers not to accept the Government's industrial legislation. He said last Wednesday that "employers who make use of recently enacted legislation to suspend non-striking workers will face organised retaliatory trade union action."

If the employers ignore the legislation they will be shaping Government policy. I wonder if they too will be abused and threatened with deregistration.

Drawing of an angry person slamming their fist

HANDBOOK 1977 Course Critique Section is under construction. If interested in helping compile these, contacts are: Laws Gerard Sharrick 769-753 Anth David Murray 735-765 Sosc David Murray 735-765 Ital Marie Russell 845-640 Engl Lindy Cassidy 846-737 Psyc Roger Palmer 879-176 Musi James Robb 793-304 Drama Simon Wilson 722-646 Zool Gerard Sharrick 769-753 Math Gary Henderson 695-076 Econ Robert Toothill 797-110 Accy Robert Toothill 797-110 Pols Neil Gray 728-138 Other departments ring David (735-765) or Lindy (846-737). We need co-ordinators for all departments.

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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.

Unions — what's Political ?

At the centre of last week's Government/Waterside action was George Goddard, the Waterside Workers representative on the Campaign against Nuclear Warships committee. John Ryall interviewed him for Salient.

Could you background for me just how the present confrontation with the Government came about?

The dispute which has affected the movement of shipping in the port of Wellington arises out of the introduction by the Government of a nuclear vessel into our harbour. It has done this with the knowledge of the concern expressed by the harbour unions and many other groups of the threat of nuclear warfare, the desire for a South Pacific nuclear peace zone, and the banning of the stockpiling and manufacture of nuclear weapons. The Government also knew of the proposed union action. The confrontation was engineered by the Government in the light of this knowledge.

Why did the Harbour unions take the particular action that they did?

We considered the action we took to be in the immediate health and safety interests of the port workers and more particularly the men, women and children in the Wellington area. We were concerned about the immediate health hazard from such a ship in the case of a breakdown or accident, but more importantly was our complete abhorrence of nuclear weapons warfare and the effect that this visit would have on drawing us deeper into the conflict between the world's great powers, with the consequent enhancement of the danger of our becoming a nuclear target, whether through deliberate policy or through accident.

You have been accused of ignoring the public in the action you have taken in closing down the Cook Strait ferries. Do you believe you have?

Let me say straight away that among our men there is the greatest compassion and concern for the hardships that the ferry travellers have been put to. However, we didn't ask the ship in. It was done by a cynical and deliberate act of Government policy aimed at possibly even whipping up hysteria against the harbour workers and diverting attention away from the life and death matters involved in the protest action.

We cannot feel responsible for the arrival time of the ship, but not to have taken action would have been to ignore the long-term interests of the people who were inconvenienced as well as the other people in Wellington and throughout New Zealand.

How much support have you actually had from the public? Is this possible to gauge?

The material gauge that we can employ is that up to nine o'clock last Tuesday (31 August) we had received at the office 367 telegrams and were told by the Post Office that our P.O. Box was full with more. Of those telegrams, two were definitely opposed to our action and urged us to go back to work. Of the rest, which all promised support, only about six urged us to get the ferries moving. Other gauges of support, I suppose, could be taken from the picket outside the inter-island ferry wharf where three-to-one of the people passing gave gestures of support, such as a wave, thumbs-up, or even stopping to give a donation to help defray expenses. We had a placard up saying "Honk if you support us!" and the cars going past honking were by far in the vast majority.

What role can groups such as student organisations play in supporting stands such as the one taken by the maritime unions?

On the perhaps not too valid assumption that this Government will respond in some positive way to expressed public opinion, the more groups and individuals who state their opinions on the basic issue, the better. The issue is whether or not New Zealand should be dragged into the nuclear consequences of the increasing rivalry between the super powers or whether we should positively strive to establish a nuclear-free peace zone in our part of the world as a first step in a return to sanity. The moral and political actions and decisions of anyone in this dividing out of opinion is of great importance. I know that the workers involved in this present dispute would be warmed and heartened by expressions of support, but more by the knowledge that other New Zealanders are deciding to take as active a part as they are able in determining their own future.

What has been the Government response to the union action? Was it predictable?

The Government's response to the union action was in fact planned and designed before the action took place, and includes a variety of threats of well-defined or undefined character. It's my belief that amendments will be made to industrial legislation to outlaw political strikes, sympathy strikes, and the striking of anything but matches. Whether or not the port unions had taken this stand of conscience, such legislation will be enacted under some pretext or another. This is in line with the previous National Party administration's policy. It dates back for many years and is a necessary and inescapable thing for them to do if they wish to preserve the profit margins of their supporters in the dominating position in this society. Whether or not we moved the ferries this type of response could have been anticipated, and in fact the present dispute has merely given them an excuse to pass legislation unworthy in itself, but covered up to a degree by public sympathy for inconvenienced travellers, the right of the government to govern or other irrelevant ideas.

Television interviewers have questioned L Labour Minister Peter Gordon over whether he has backed down. He denied it. What do you think?

I think that the Government greatly underestimated (and Mr Gordon has stated this) the degree of public opposition to the presence of the nuclear ship in our harbour. Government were also somewhat surprised that the unions acted as quickly and in such a unified fashion as they did. Government could be considered to have backed down tactically, in this present situation, but only in terms of organising a more fundamental and determined attack on trade union organisation. There appears to have been a temporary ease off by the Government. But taking into account their general policy, I think this is merely appearance rather than reality.

Do you think a union should have the right to take political action?

I believe a union has the right (not should have the right) to take political action if it is to carry out one of the basic reasons for its existence. Trade unions have evolved historically from mainly the British background because they were necessary to protect the living standards and the social dignity of the people who are in their ranks. Historically (see S. and B. Webb's, *The History of Trade Unionism*) they evolved in order to give the British working man some sort of self-regard and some ability to live as a person.

Political strikes cannot be defined. When does a strike become political? When is it not political? Any strike to amend industrial legislation or any action to take the relative proportion of wealth of the community out of the hands of one class and put it into another's is essentially political, and it is the intention of the National Party to destroy the ability to strike altogether. But they're pushing it uphill and the future will tell what the outcome will be.

George Goddard - confrontation engineered.

What effects will the proposed legislation have on the day-to-day activities of your union?

I can't say. It's foolish to offer hostages to the future, especially to try and be precise. But I feel the Government's action will clear away any cobwebs of illusion in the minds of many New Zealanders as to where Government stands and whom they represent and many New Zealanders who are not trade unionists appreciate the role of trade unions in not only organising for economic issues, but wider social issues. They have been distressed by such moves by the Government.

It is not the first political strike, as some members of the National Party have so wrongly classed it. The first was in 1938 over the shipping of scrap iron to Japan. There was also opposition by unions towards Dutch shipping to and from Indonesia, during the crisis over the struggles for national independence. And we must not forget the action that was taken against French shipping over the nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. These issues did affect the public interest at that time and the union members are also members of the public. The consensus of public opinion would now, many years after these events, probably be that the position of the unions then has been thoroughly vindicated. There is also the current ban against goods from Chile, which in the public mind is still a source of debate.

So, the idea that a political strike is a new thing is just rubbish and the Minister of Labour probably knows this better than I do, having had more experience with all aspects of it.

If this is true, then what is the Government's purpose in bringing down the new legislation?

I think the prime purpose of the Government is to seek to intimidate those trade unions who for the first time in a good number of years, have shown opposition to the drastic erosion of the living conditions of their members and have started organising to do something about it. The legislation has been introduced for universal application, but it will effect those who are not so well organised. Sir Francis Bacon said that laws likened to a cobweb in that the small flies get caught while the big ones break through. This is the same with industrial legislation. Those unions who can look after themselves tend to do so, those who are not so well organised will suffer the most. You can see that generally in society for example in the case of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who gets away with what you and I would be in the cooler for for many years to come.

If a nuclear ship comes into Wellington, will the Watersiders and other Harbour unions take the same action as they have now?

This will be determined by the members of the port unions. They will make their own decisions after a free and open discussion, as they did this one. I could not say precisely what will happen in the future, but I would guess that they will take appropriate forms of action. The present policy is opposition to the visit of any nuclear ships to the harbour. Until it's changed that policy will remain.

Editorial

Standing up to Muldoon's Attacks

Agrarian illustrations

Last Wednesday's Student Representative Council decision to support the Watersiders in their stand against the nuclear warship Truxton was a significant step forward for the Students' Assn.

Students have a less than perfect past to look back on. In the strikes earlier this century it was students who rode the horses to club the workers down, and in 1951 they helped to beat the Waterside strike by acting as scab labour.

It seems that some of the smears used by people like Muldoon against the unions are wearing a little thin. Even the usual claims about how the unions are ruining the country are failing to stir up the student conscience.

A typical example was the figures given last week for the loss of production at the Pulp and Paper Mill at Kinleith (\$50,000) and the loss of wages (\$20,000) during the continuing industrial action. Whereas most people would mutter how terrible it was, several discerning students asked where the \$30,000 difference between production and wages went to - obviously someone is getting a large slice of the cake!

At August Council the seven New Zealand university students' associations decided to give top priority to a campaign against the attack on civil liberties, especially as manifested in the proposed Industrial Relations Amendment Bill.

With this particular bill due to be introduced this week, we must be prepared to act in support of the particular group being attacked the unions. When they call for an active sign of this support, we must respond without hesitation, for the next target may be us.

— John Ryall

Open House — Study Techniques and Examination Worry

How can I manage all that is in front of me between now and the end of exam?

How can I prepare efficiently for exams?

What and how should I study?

Why bother?

How can I control my nervousness?

If these or other questions are bothering you as the pressures of third term mount, a group of academic staff members and counsellors will be available on an open house basis to help you out of your dilemmas. There are more avenues for help with your questions and worries than you realise.

Place — Counselling Service, 2 Wai-te-ata Road, behind the Rankine Brown Building, next door to the Health Service.

Time —12.30 - 2.00 pm each Wednesday through third term, starting Wednesday 8 September.

Staff Notes

The Notes

After a small balls up last week, Salient is back with a vengeance. As they say, you can't hold a good balls up down?

Leading the struggle this week (as with every other week) is John Ryall, phantom beret snatcher. The entire issue was typeset by the inponderable Pat Starkey who claims close consanguinial ties with Ringo. David Murray threw his weight about a little and now masquerades under the title of A1 Capone although this is thought to represent something completely different.

The women's supplement was conceived and delivered by Sue Jarvis. Barbara McElwee. Petra van den Munckhof, Gillian Goodger. Angela Belich, Lynn McGimpsey and Rachel Scott.

Gary Henderson completed his weekly real of SRC reporting and his namesake John honours us with his presense in taking a rare excursion from his busy life of commerce and business.

Ruthless Lindy Cassidy assaults MUSA as the Wellington frontperson for WUSA, Rae Ewart. makes her second appearance at Vic in recent times. Anthony Ward debates the value of Truth ably aided and abetted by his demon proof reader earlier mentioned.

Gerard Couper shows mild enthusiasm urged on by WVP and Secretary Leonie Morris. Nell Gray doesn't let inexperience hamper his part in revolutionary practice while Terry Auld debates the use of the term with mirth and Patrick Mulrennan. Kevin Swann (the bus driver) drives David Tripe away as Warwick Dewe (advertising) salutes Big Lenny.

Lionel 'Pentax' Klee and Lynn Peck provide grassroots support to an enraged Leigh Thompson, a man who now prefers cellulose to newsprint. Mike Stephens remains technical editor although his reluctance to lay out may jeopardise his chances.

Doubtless there are others who deserve mention but certain persons memories are not up to much at 12 midnight on Thursday. Hope you enjoy this bumper issue folks, and may the third term pass quickly.

P.S. The Salient Socialist Party is dismayed to note that their cult hero Rose Desmond has taken to certain decadent and bourgeois habits. The Central Committee urge her to return to the fold.

Notices

Image of 'Quarry Buildings' by Charles Tole

Painting Disappears from University Library

An oil painting valued at about \$290 has disappeared from Victoria University's collection of New Zealand Art in the University Library.

A small work, about 29 cm by 37 cm, the painting, "Quarry Buildings", is by New Zealand artist Charles Tole.

The work was removed from the Library's basement stockroom on Wednesday or Thursday during a re-hanging of a number of paintings.

It reflects the cubist style of the artist and the semi-industrial themes of much of his work, and is one of two of his works held by the University.

Both these paintings were originally part of the Common Room Collection owned by the University Staff Club, and were recently added to the University's collection on indefinite loan.

Anyone recognising this small oil painting is asked to report it to the University Librarian or to the police.

Lindsay Wright

Information Officer.

Need Money? Ask the National. If you need a loan, or simply a little financial advice, call at your nearest branch of the National Bank. We've helped hundreds of students complete their studies with a simple, flexible loan scheme which provides assistance when you need it most. If you're working to a tight budget, open a cheque account with the National. It'll make payments easier, and give you a record of your spending — for about 15 cents a week on average. We specialise in banking for undergraduates, so choose the bank that wants

SRC report

By Salient SRC reporter Gary "the Red" Henderson

Do you smoke? You do? Well bad news, my friend. You've just become an oppressed minority. Like stray dogs who crap on middle class lawns. It happened at the SRC meeting the other day. What do you mean. "never heard of it?". You'll hear of it soon enough if you and your habit ever get within coughing distance of anyone's sensitive nostrile. But that was just an appendix to a meeting that didn't quite live up to my lively expectations.

Some of the delegates from August Council gave brief accounts of what went on in their various commissions, and a couple of other reports contained, for a change, some good news. Anne Dwyer, Cultural Affairs Officer, said that at the Arts Council SGM the Arts Festival in 1977 received unanimous support, and Gyles Beckford reported that the University Council has decided to donate \$150 yearly to the Southern Africa Scholarship. Peter Aagaard also resigned from the position of Association Secretary, but in order to retain some meagre grain of objectivity, I won't comment on the goodness or badness of that.

Peter Aagaard (top and John Hanna (below)

Support for Watersiders

The first motion to arise stated that the Association support the Maritime workers in their principled stand against nuclear warships, and that we urge the Government to get rid of the Truxtun and forbid any others to come here. Lindy Cassidy, who moved the motion, said that we had to look at the implications of involving ourselves in US foreign policy, and that we should consider the possibility and the consequences of a nuclear confrontation, or a nuclear accident.

Mr George Goddard of the Waterside Workers Union then took up an invitation to speak to the meeting. He wasn't trying to pressure us into anything, and said it would be good, of course, if we supported the motion, but if we didn't he wouldn't be unduly distressed. Not unduly distressed! He obviously didn't realise he was talking to members of the second most powerful pressure group in the country!

He said that members of the unions were concerned for the safety of the citizens of Wellington, and to show the support being received he quoted the number of telegrams that had been sent. The score? 365 for, 2 against.

The unions had planned to strike if a nuclear-warship arrived - the presence of the Truxtun, he said, was not a matter for panic or irrational action. They were not going to let the Government make their minds up for them. At the risk of being labelled right wing, reactionary, fascist, and all those other words, I can't help wondering how many of the striking workers really do have their own strong feelings about the Truxtun's visit.

George Goddard: invited speaker

Mr Goddard then produced a supporting quotation from a book, about how fascist propaganda promotes the idea that the world's problems can be resolved without a struggle or confrontation. The idea was that because of our reverence for the written word, a quotation from a book would carry more weight than a speech. This, of course, is the whole philosophy behind SRC reports, If you read about it, you're more likely to believe it than if you actually see it happening.

A couple of other speakers supported the motion, but the most noticeable facet of the discussion was the lack of articulate opposition. Instead there was a succession of jeers and illogical interjections from the floor, dashing any hopes of a constructive debate. In the end the motion was passed.

Support for Trade Unions

The next motion, moved by Peter Aagaard, was one of support for workers rights. A boilersuited Aagaard, in a commendable impersonation of the Red Threat, explained that the purpose of the motion was to give the Association some general policy in this area, where it has previously been lacking. Several people spoke to the motion, and the usual arguments about Government interference and restrictions, and the possible extension of these to Students' Associations, were put forward. After a division, the motion was carried overwhelmingly.

Next came a motion about contributing to a Black Power defence fund. It seems that a Black Power gang went to Upper Hutt to fight a rival gang. Nothing happened, and they came back. One of their cars, a stolen one,

crashed on the way back and another car was stopped by the police shortly after. Weapons were found in the car. They were charged with unlawful assembly, and the motion, moved by Mr Hannan, said that we recommend a \$100 donation to a fund for their defence, and it was passed. Now why, I hear you asking, should we support a group of armed, violent thieves? On principle, of course, why do we do anything?

Putting all cynicism aside, though, (which I find harder to do the longer I stay at varsity) the 'unlawful assembly' these people were accused of resulted from their being stopped by the police. In order to make the charge stick, the prosecution must argue for a wide interpretation of 'unlawful assembly'. If the defendants are convicted, it will set a precedent, and the wide interpretation may include pickets and demonstration marches and other such gatherings. To stop this, the defendants must have a good defence counsel, which requires money, which is where we come in. So as well as aiding the aforementioned armed, violent thieves, we may also be saving our own skins at some future date. If you're still not convinced, then do something about it.

Lectures Imperialism and Smoke Free Zones

Another motion, which slipped through without a ripple, said that we recommend the cancellation of lectures between midday and 2pm when the annual election forum is on. This was to give every student a chance to question the candidates before voting. A very good idea. (You're not required to be objective if everyone agrees with you).

The last motion on the agenda was one of condemnation of the Governments of NZ and Australia for their attempts to stop the Soviet Union giving aid to the Pacific Islands, and of support for the Islands' right to be free of New Zealand and Australian imperialism.

Peter Franks: an old face at SRC

The only real opposition came from Chris Barker, who wanted to know why Russian money was aid while ours was imperialism.

Don Carson said the motion contradicted itself because it advocated free choice for the Islands, as long as the choice didn't include Australia and New Zealand. The motion was amended to refer to any imperialism, then passed.

Just when I thought I could go home, this smoking thing arrived. An executive meeting had voted against a smoking ban in meetings, and a motion was put that SRC doesn't support it either. It was lost, and Derek Fikkers, opportunist to the last, moved a motion in support of a smoking ban. After lots of funnies, it was amended to a 'no smoking' rule for the public parts of the Union Building (as opposed to its private parts - which aren't that hot anyway) and passed.

And so, to a chorus of addicts taking a long last drag, and enjoying a last wheezy hack, the meeting ended. (p.s. the group by the door was very well behaved!).

The Truxtun in Wellington.

The Waring Scandal

By Special Correspondent

Truth's billboard last week promised a sex scandal involving an MP. The weekly's story on the private life of Marilyn Waring proved highly controversial. It reached down below even Truth's standards of taste.

Reaction across the country was widespread and hostile. That Truth's got no place printing such articles. That even MPs do have rights to privacy. The Raglan electorate National Party strongly supported Ms Waring, although the support cracked a little under TV1 questioning.

Yet the furore that has resulted, has covered over an even more sinister situation. Truth's printing of the story was disgusting enough in itself, but Salient understands that the dirt goes much deeper than this. The article helps out the right wing of the National Party against its more liberal MPs. We believe that the story was checked out with high up members of the National Party and may even have been run on their encouragement.

On first hearing the rumour, sources around Parliament and the Party were put into action. They confirm the suspicious timing of the story's release and the involvement of the National Party with Truth.

Truth Protects Family Life

Truth's stated reasons for publishing the story are as facile as most of its reasoning. "Truth says: its your

right to know". The final paragraph goes:

"It is also of concern that any Parliamentarian can be connected with the breakdown of a marriage where laws are geared towards protecting the sanctity of the home".

It is not new to point out the hypocrisy of Truth's stand on the family. With its rabidly right wing editorial policy it has to mouth such concern. Yet its actions speak much louder than its words. Its actions printing photos of scantily clad models, or accepting a variety of ads for sex games and massage parlours. In this particular context the "sanctity of the home" idea doesn't even fit in well with the rest of the story. This provides some cover, but is more cover than a real reason.

Another, more plausible, reason for Truth's printing of the story is its present economic position. It used to rank with Women's Weekly as the top weekly. But the heady days of 300,000 sales each week are gone, Last September's Audit Bureau of Circulation figures gave Truth 195,000 and The Listener 220,000. Since then The Listener has grown to over 250,000 and Truth has fallen, possibly as far as 160,000 (Women's Weekly is around 210,000). Apparently the Sunday Times is now challenging Truth for readership and, more importantly, advertising.

Truth has certainly hit hard times. It seems that bashing communists doesn't sell as well as it used to. Certainly not when you run non-stories such as the SIS report being leaked to the Socialist Unity Party. Looks like we need more of the old tit and bum. Or a bit of real sensation.

One thing you can say for the Waring story. It may have been crass interference in private life, but it sure sold well. As the Truth desk clerk crowed to a Salient reporter. Yet Truth's economic decline has been pronounced for months now, and little has been done about it.

Drawing of a man holding a plug

There is another disturbing question. Marilyn Waring's private affairs have not exactly been the most closely guarded state secrets. If Salient had been sufficiently void of any principles, we would have 'broken' Truth's exclusive several weeks ago. And if we had the 'information', then surely Truth had it. Why, given Truth's concern for the family and economic straits, was the story not run earlier?

TRUTH MP'S ODD LOVE AFFAIR Heard on the grapevine MARILYN WARING, National Member of Parliament for Raglan is lesbian. Her layer is a former Hamilton housewife and mother of Three, who left her husband and children about three months ago is there's wellington love next. TURN TO PAGE FIVE GLENVALE

Links Between Truth and Nats

There are two questions that need answering. Why did Truth publish the story at all, and why did it publish it in the 24th August edition and not earlier? The first can possibly be answered as above (but only possibly), but the second needs more investigation. Especially looking at the links between Truth and the right wing of the National Party.

Links between Truth and the right wing of the National Party have been long established. Both are obsessively concerned with 'communists' and 'saboteurs and traitors' such as Care and Hart. Truth's strong attacks on the trade union movement have certainly helped the National cause.

But links require more than just similar interests and political lines. Evidence of these links came out in the controversy over the 'Think Tank' affair in August last year. The controversy centred around the Labour MP for Island Bay, Gerald O'Brien. Interestingly, National in July declared, to much surprise, that Island Bay was a marginal seat.

In August, along with the Truth expose, a police job sheet on the Think Tank was 'leaked' from the SIS, a leak that clearly discredited the Government. On TV2 News August 8th Muldoon said he knew of the job sheet before it was handed to the Prime Minister, and while he hadn't read it, he had been told it was "politically embarrassing". TV2 also reported that it had been informed of the document, before it hit the news, by "two significant National Party men".

It is clear from this case (and the claims of the sacked SIS agent Jays that he was set up) that the SIS, Truth and the National Party had joint access to the information. How else did all three surface at the same time, taking a similar stand?

Muldoon later attacked the Committee to oppose the SIS for "arranging" a letter linking his Party with the affair. Revealingly, after denials from the police, he refused to repeat this statement outside Parliament.

Such are the links between the Nats and Truth. Sources in the Party tell us that the links are very much alive. Especially over the 24 August issue.

A look at the present situation of the National Party reveals all is far from well. There have been many serious splits in the 55 MPs elected in the 'landslide' last year. Most serious have been the splits over sporting contacts with the South African racists and over abortion. Even over the recent waterfront dispute we

understand that Cabinet split the hard line right wing led by Muldoon being defeated by the softer (and more sensible) Gordon faction.

These splits have generally appeared as differences between the right wing and the more liberal sections of the Party. Splits that were obvious at the National Party Conference in Rotorua, where many delegates made no secret of their dislike of Muldoon. And their wish to see Brian Talboys as leader.

Muldoon Jumps On Shearer

On nuclear power, earlier this year, Ian Shearer from Hamilton East spoke for many National MPs when he was concerned over the nuclear policy Muldoon was following. The way he was jumped on quietened criticism for a while, but particularly from Rotorua last month the critics have started again. The Young Nats and the National Party women's group were outspoken.

So at the moment we're battering down the hatches for a major confrontation between the Government and the unions. Particularly over the wage freeze. Recently, over teachers demands and over broadcasting, the Government has abruptly backed down. It is clear that they have realised the isolated position they are in, and are trying to gain support, not only in the country in general, but also in the National Party caucus. Muldoon needs support, and he is trying to rally it.

Having deliberately caused confrontation with the waterfront workers with the planning of the nuclear ship visit in the school holidays, there is one thing Muldoon cannot afford now. This is a continuation of the splits in the Party caucus. The liberal and right wing elements are too far apart.

Salient understands that the story on Marilyn Waring was printed with this situation primarily in mind. We have no knowledge of whether the Prime Minister was involved, but certainly leading members of the Party were. The aim is quite simple. With the waterfront unions and particularly the abortion issue creating 'problems' a way of quietening the critics inside the Party had to be found.

The direct method of discipline was tried against Ian Shearer - it kept the troops in line for a while, but stronger measures were needed now. Most politicians have 'skeletons' in their dark cupboards which they would prefer to keep there.

Salient considers that the Waring story was published to remind MPs of their own weaknesses in this regard, and hence to shut them up. We have not yet discovered why Marilyn Waring was chosen. She has certainly been one of the more active new liberal MPs. It probably has much to do with her being a woman, and hence 'vulnerable' by some obscure sexist logic. Her attitude on the abortion issue may have entered into it.

But these considerations are secondary to the running of a story attacking the private life of a 'liberal' National MP. Given the volatile political climate and the tensions within the National Party, it is inconceivable that Truth would run a story such as this without checking it with their mates on the hill first. Such links as have been publicly disclosed alone would make discussion highly likely. We believe it goes much further than this.

The public reaction against Truth's prying into Marilyn Waring's private life has been strong and unequivocal. No. The reaction against what looks like a form of sophisticated political blackmail of National MPs must be equally strong. A party, a Government, that holds its potential rebels in line with ploys like this cannot have much better in store for the rest of us.

The struggle within the National Party is likely to intensify over the next few months. It is revealing that George Gair, long considered a right wing Muldoon man was criticised as politically expedient by Muldoon in the abortion debate. Many National MPs got really stuck into their leader in the same debate. That debate, as it should have, has its own position. But the Nats are clearly under stress. In view of others of their actions, it is not surprising that Truth should be used by the right wingers to further their aims.

If the National Government has got itself into a mess, and especially if the right wing cannot get out of it, that is cause for worry. The resulting actions do affect the rest of us. If it is going to resort in desperation to political blackmail then it is obviously time for action.

NZUSA Democratic Circus

By John Hyatt

"My position as senior chairperson of the executive committee of the special SRC Education sub-committee examining the extent of Student Association democracy entitles me to decide this delegation's international policy," I heard an anonymous student "heavie" slur out as he relaxed over a few beers at the end of the second day of NZUSA's August Council.

NZUSA is the national union of New Zealand university students. Its constituent members are the seven university students' associations at Auckland Waikato, Massey, Victoria, Canterbury and Otago Universities

and Lincoln College. Twice yearly during the May and August vacations delegates from NZUSA's seven constituent students' associations meet to decide NZUSA's policy and to review the work of its full-time officers.

August Council, held this year at Victoria, was not characterised by any assassinations (other than the usual ones of character), bloodletting, or commission-room violence - tales which always seem to filter back from over-dramatic delegates attending their first council.

August Council was characterised by poor chairing of plenaries, a number of administrative hold-ups, mediocre food (always the number one complaint), and most importantly, an appalling lack of any real campus democracy.

Most of the complaints about council meetings always seem to hinge around bureaucratic things such as "wasn't the agenda badly arranged" or personality attacks such as "Tripe is a bastard for rubbishing that motion forbidding delegates to wear redsocks to commission meetings". These are always carefully noted by successive NZUSA presidents and remembered for next council meeting.

And this year NZUSA president John Blincoe had his share of notebook jottings about the inordinate amount of time spent on repeating questions to candidates for national officer's positions, the ridiculous procedure taken to conduct the priorities plenary (at which national priorities for 1977 are set) and the Finance and Administration Commission meetings which finished at four o'clock in the morning.

Getting back to Campuses

But very few people are usually concerned about how well NZUSA policy reflects the ideas held by students on constituent campuses and consequently how NZUSA Council's should work to make national policy.

Unionist Pat Kelly addressing Council

A major argument against the Women's Commission was over precisely this point. Whereas nearly all the delegates to the Women's Commission saw it as a body which would construct new women's policy, Victoria saw it merely as a body which would tie together the policy which was hopefully being constructed on the constituent campuses.

It may be a circular argument but it has important implications for a diagnosis of the women's policy "problem" in NZUSA. The reason put forward at May Council for the formation of the women's commission was that NZUSA policy was not up to date and that there had been no attempt made to action it. Therefore a commission of women that focussed on women's policy would make women's issues a going concern in NZUSA. The argument against the women's commission was that the fault of NZUSA women's policy was that campuses had very little of their own women's policy and there had been no emphasis on it on the constituent campuses (or if there had the previous council delegates had not mirrored that concern). So, the fault lay in the lack of campus action and the undemocratic nature of the constituent associations, whose delegates were not doing their job in putting forward student priorities to the national, education and international commissions.

Dougal Stewart (Massey), Gyles Beckford & Anthony Ward (Vic.), Bruce Kirkland (NZSAC).

Photo of a group of students sitting at a table covered with paper

Hence, while the women's commission was seen as a solution by one group of council delegates, it was seen as merely a red herring by the other group.

The divisions which existed on this issue between Victoria's stand (that while the women's commission's work should be supported, the continuance of the commission should not be) and the stands of campuses such as Otago and Auckland (permanent continuance of the women's commission) continued on to other areas - divisions which I believe stemmed to a large extent from the position Victoria took up on the need for democratic associations and the challenge that this presented.

Victoria Under Attack

At council, if any rumours came around about a knifing incident, the first things most people did was to check the backs of the Victoria delegates. And it seemed to be a general feeling among most delegations that Victoria delegates were a "pack of fuckwits" or "far too serious". These criticisms were never publicly aired, but instead surfaced in the form of snide comments and jokes, or behind-the-back discussions.

On two separate occasions I approached a table where people were engaged in a free-flowing discussion, only to find conversation stop in mid-stream and change to a "have you heard the joke about Victoria SRC...".

Victoria delegations have for many years believed in NZUSA Councils as makers of policy which a majority of the New Zealand university students supported. This can only be done if each campus has a

democratic decision-making structure and it faithfully represents those decisions when national policy is being decided.

So, at August Council, the Victoria delegation (and any other Victoria students who were interested) had many long caucus meetings discussing SRC policy and its application to motions put forward by other campuses. The guideline was that if specific SRC policy was on the books then it would be formally moved by Victoria (e.g. the motion dealing with Israel), if general SRC policy was on the books then specific motions could be voted on but not moved or seconded, and if there was no policy or policy was contradictory, or unclear, then Victoria would abstain.

As can be imagined, this sort of process meant that on some motions considerable caucus discussion was necessary. But, although a couple of meetings went on for two or three hours, they were invaluable in unifying the delegation, in understanding precisely what our policy was, and in highlighting areas of policy in which work still and to be done.

To other delegations this process was an anathema. None had a clear body of policy (such as was contained in the much talked about Victoria SRC policy booklet) and most were not interested in examining their policy even if they had some. So, when it came to constituent caucussing most delegates headed for the pub.

Democracy at Massey

Massey was an interesting example of a totally undemocratic student union. Its four-member delegation was never together in one place at any one time, and its president Dougall Stewart was Massey delegate to four of the six commissions, as well as being chief delegate at plenaries.

At the women's commission, Massey's delegate voted for a new policy on abortion. When asked whether Massey policy (supporting SPUC) contradicted the new policy, she replied that it did "but all the people I know around campus all agree that the old policy is rubbish". Surely a good way of deciding campus policy.

When a resolution looked as though it would be close vote, Dougall Stewart would suddenly find himself showered with free beers and cigarettes (and other favours that would make Nixon blush) because delegations knew that he personally held enough votes to get most motions through.

Otago and Auckland were very similar to this except they were a little more tactical in shooting their mouths off about "useless democracy".

Otago's executive decides policy on its campus as in practice does Auckland's (although they make reference to a SRC which has met two or three times this year).

But the motions put forward for discussion depend on the individuals who come to council from those particular campuses. For instance, at May Council Otago National Delegate Ross Denton made up about a dozen motions about the environment which had obviously neither been discussed on campus, or were intended to be discussed.

Canterbury is in a similar position to Auckland and Otago in its abhorrence of campus democracy (they, like Auckland, have an elected SRC which usually lapses for want of a quorum) although at council one or two principled delegates at least sought to discuss out their stands on issues in terms of existing policy. The Canterbury delegate to the Women's Commission managed to side-step policy by chairing the commissions meetings and hence not having to vote on issues.

Lincoln and Waikato are the smallest campuses, and even though decision-making structures such as SRCs are absent, they have both attempted, or in the case of Waikato, are attempting to make their associations as democratic as possible.

Both are small enough to avoid a very large gap between those who are elected to lead the association and the electors (there was a 50 percent turnout for elections on both campuses), and on both campuses there are a number of staff-student departmental committees which function as a basis for student action in the education area.

Where's the Support?

So while August Council concerned itself with Assessment and Civil Liberties campaigns, and passed motions about superpower hegemony and nuclear power, it failed to look over its shoulder to see how many students actually gave two stuffs about the whole thing - and if they gave two stuffs how they could get involved.

During the questioning of the presidential aspirants, many constituent associations put forward the view that in 1977 NZUSA would need a strong leader to ward off Muldoon and his fascist mates. But none of them realised that the only way to counter fascist threats is through having a strong base of involved members, so that when students' associations come under attack they can take it head on rather than having to worry about

the amount of support they will actually receive from their own members.

Regional Round—Up

Victoria students very rarely hear much about events on other campuses. So, while at August Council Salient tried to get around as many delegations as possible to fill this gap. Hope you like it - Ed.

Auckland University Students Association (Impressions of August Council)

— David Miliband

Contrary to popular opinion around Vic, NZUSA is not a puppet of the National Officers and VUWSA. It was obvious at August Council of NZUSA that Auckland wields crucial power through their 9 votes (Vic gets 6) and has much influence on other campuses in more subtle ways.

With such power, it would be reasonable to expect to have a highly developed student democracy. Without indulging in the merits of our own unique SRC system, it seems that Auckland lags far behind in the implementation of a scheme that attempts to act in the interests of their students and gets SRC policy into an actionable direction.

Auckland students give supreme power to their executive which is made up of 16 persons ranging from President down to Capping Controller and Societies Rep. Their SRC is relatively powerless and spends most of its time debating domestic matters and giving away money. It is made up of the Exec, faculty reps and other odd bods. All are appointed and it is held in closed session - students don't get a vote. The set up means that the exec makes the policy anyway and SRC ends up as a swollen appendage which neither achieves student representation or has any power.

Changes are underway to give more power to SRC and prune the exec down to 11. This still does not seem radical enough to give students the muscle to dictate policy to the exec.

Despite these failures, AUSA seems capable of carrying off large and successful campaigns. 7,000 students went on the bursaries march and a similar number marched on Hiroshima day against nuclear warships. Their formula is big money \$5,000 spent on these two campaigns alone. Muster mind behind these is Michael Treen - effectively the political leader of the exec and looking forward to presidential control in 1977. His political initiative is very much by default - AUSA exec's not having a particularly radical tradition.

Mike Walker, Auckland's president has the problem of administering a huge campus of students and an unwieldy exec. So far he has handled this competently a bit of thrashing about on the cafe problem in the first term - but his image as an administrator is respected by the other campuses. His most notable achievement this year has been to tell the university that he would dissolve the Studass if they loaded too much admin work on the Association. Although achieving harmony on the Exec and bringing good people in to SRC, politically he is conservative with the exception of racial issues on which he is clear and progressive.

Politically, Mike Treen has the monopoly although his Trotskyist line doesn't always rub up the right way - especially at council. Auckland students seem reasonably tolerant of the Trotskyists compared with the 'strained' relationships at Vic.

One excellent feature of AUSA 'democracy' is the no-confidence provision in exec elections which has meant that the presidential and 4 exec positions were left unfilled at this year's elections. Vic is soon (with the ratification of a SGM) to adopt this provision.

For such a big campus to fail to come to grips with its students problems is a disturbing situation - especially as they spend so much student money in campaigns based on policy made mainly on the exec. Their line at August council seemed inconsistent and confused at times, and at a time where the importance of a cohesive NZUSA is primary, this is not a good situation.

The Unholy, Alliance-Auckland's Mike Treen and Otago's A1 Broad Brian Glimour
Photo of students

Otago University

Otago university is made up of seven specialised faculties. Consequently most students at Otago are completing a qualification for a chosen career and have little interest in other areas of knowledge or activity. This explains the low level of political activity at Otago.

A good percentage of the students come from out of town so most of the energy of student politicians is spent on giving the boys from Gore a good time.

The extent of student participation at Otago University is obvious by a glance at their student council. This is an elaborate network of reps from each course, various committees and the exec, totalling 240 people in all.

This body hasn't met for several years. Several attempts have been made to have a meeting - always thwarted by lack of a quorum! Likewise all attempts to dissolve this anachronism or reduce the quorum has failed - again for lack of a quorum!

All this means that the responsibility of spending the association fees and making policy is left to the exec.

The exec is headed by the infamous AI Broad - infamous for his wit, arrogance and good humour. Knowing the campus well, he reflects its parochial attitude (often against his personal stance) while at times asserting his own ideas when he is certain he can get away with it.

Most of the 14 strong executive are concerned solely with social, administrative and welfare activities. The notable exceptions are Bruce Meder, Jane Chesney, and Marianne Quinn.

These three work with a limited amount of student support in the areas of feminism (a reaction to the male stronghold on student life at Otago) and the environment, concentrating recently on Comalco and opposing the entry of nuclear warships into New Zealand harbours.

— Leonie Morris

Waikato University Students Association

- Gerard Couper.

As it presently stands the Waikato University Students' Association provides little encouragement for student involvement in their students' association. Perhaps this has been due to the lack of interest shown by the present President, John Fry, who incidentally wasn't present at August Council.

The tone of this comes across to me in an ad for vacant exec position that appears in Nexus. It offhandedly mentions that anybody who cares to apply for the following positions.....

Certainly students are classified with the present operation of WUSA for Duncan Stuart was elected next years President on a "bring back WUSA" campaign in what was a remarkably high poll; 750 out of 2200.

The association also occasionally uses a rather strange method of student democracy - referenda. The latest was over the question of the sectarian chapel. It seems to me that such methods only sample student opinion rather than encouraging its expression and development.

However, there are progressive changes proposed that centre round plans for an effective SRC. WUSA has student-staff committees for each subject (something Vic could well do with) and further up the hierarchy faculty committees.

Earlier this year representatives from these and "anybody else who wanted to attend" gathered together to form an SRC. Little interest was shown and two of the three meetings failed to gain a quorum.

I think one of the main reasons for this is the inverted basis of the SRC. It works from committees to SRC and therefore stifles mass participation at the SRC level. However it is still possible that a more democratic form based on Vic's much vaunted SRC may be adopted.

The University of Canterbury Students' Association is undergoing a leadership crisis. The students have passed a motion of no-confidence in the executive and yet the executive sees no reason for it to resign.

Canterbury is the second largest New Zealand university with about 6500 students, and over the last few years has become known as the commercial and administrative centre in the student world.

It is the only university which has full control over its own union facilities, but in gaining this control it has tied itself to the enormous administration that this entails.

Consequently Canterbury executive members have spent much of their time in making sure the facilities are up to standard and that everything is running efficiently, leaving them little time to actually organise amongst students on education, international and national issues. In fact, Canterbury's president is largely a business manager for the association.

Presently the Canterbury executive is negotiating with the university (who actually own the student union building) to extend the Deed of Management, which is the lease for the building. There is some debate as to whether they should let the university reclaim complete financial control of the building or not. There is a strong feeling that the association should get rid of the responsibility so as to get back to its primary function - involving students in political, educational and welfare activities around campus.

The executive crisis arose out of the administrative morass when three executive members had private talks with an association employee about staffing cutbacks in the union building. The president, Don Leonardo, resigned because he was not informed of the meeting.

At a subsequent Student Representative Council Meeting a motion of no confidence was moved in the executive. At the next executive meeting four members resigned, but a motion that the whole of the executive resign was lost (most thinking that they were not going to resign and watch all the work that they had done for

students go down the drain.)

The arrogant attitude shown by the executive may be challenged at a Special General Meeting if there is enough enthusiasm around to do that. Unfortunately, the Students' Association has become so distinct from students, that it may be difficult to find a quorum to do that.

— John Ryall.

Massey University

Student politics at Massey University is very much of a one-man band. Through lack of any clear political direction, and general student apathy, the president, Dougal Stewart has become something of a benign autocrat. Dougal sees his role as that of "helping" students, providing them with services such as "piss-ups", concerts etc rather than initiating any decisive or progressive political leadership.

MUSA does not experience the administrative hassles of Auckland as their union building is effectively under the control of the Board of Hostels. The association's executive meetings mainly concern themselves with housing schemes and minor administrative matters. Consequently, attendance is often sporadic and effective control lies in a few members.

In terms of administration and the provision of student services MUSA's operations could probably be judged as competent. However, in terms of providing progressive leadership MUSA must be found sadly wanting. There are no traditional structures for involving students in any political policies.

Though MUSA has AGMs and SGMs there are no SRCs or international or education committees, which means that effectively the decision-making is left in the hands of the Exec. A clear example of how this operates can be seen over the Bursaries Issue where the Exec (or was it?) decided there would be a referendum, a petition, but no Bursaries March. The decision was from the top and because there was no effective vehicle for student opinion the decision was not over-ruled.

It is ironical that in Dougal's "Message from the President" in the Massey Handbook he says, "As part of the student body you can accept or change MUSA policies and through your MUSA representatives you can endorse or oppose NZUSA policy".

He displayed an amazing amount of autonomy from his constituent policy e.g. voting to affiliate WONAAC to NZUSA when MUSA has SPUC policy on its books. Massey's influential 6 votes went according to the personal discretion of the MUSA caucus i.e. Dougal rather than according to any policy decided by Massey students. The traditional low level of interest on campus was reflected in the Massey Caucus which consisted of mainly Dougal and the occasional presence of three others.

This tack of any well-thought out political line in August Council is only a symptom of the traditional stance of Massey students. There are reasons for such classic quotes from Dougal as "Yeah, that sounds all right, I'll vote for that."

Council Reports

Women's Commission

Women's Commissions' first priority was a Women's Rights Action Committee to implement the rather vague and hitherto unactioned NZUSA policy on women's rights and to coordinate the activity of women's rights groups. W.R.A.C. has been set up with a budget of \$1,000 from NZUSA, The budget is likely to be used mainly on travel, if it's going to have five meetings a year, unless constituents fund some of them.

Women's Commission recommended that all students associations provide maternity leave and day care for staff. We made policy on rape, support for 'lesbian liberation', against anomalies in the Equal Pay Act and revamped the birth control policy (including abortion). NZUSA now fully supports WONAAC.

The establishment of a Women's Commission as a permanent feature of NZUSA councils provoked friction. Not to mention acrimony. Which is not to mention outright hostility. We passed it back to constituents for further blood letting. When the results are known they are to be taken to an SGM of NZUSA for a decision before next council - expect a motion on this at SRC soon.

The Victoria delegation found itself voting on a liberal interpretation of the general SRC policy opposing discrimination on the basis of race, culture sex or sexuality. Most other campus' were in a similar position. This is a rotten position for a delegation to be in. We are supposed to be putting the policy of our association. Our association has however felt so strongly about women's position in society that it has policy only on abortion, women's studies courses and dexist terminology in meetings. We found ourselves sitting at council, in a joyous

clique working out what SRC would say if it ever bothered with the issue. Maybe the setting up of a Women's Rights Officer would cause a vast new rash of student feeling. We have a W.R.O. on our books but the position is unfilled. We have no policy on rape, on women in employment and none on child care. Unless there is a sudden upsurge of interest, a permanent Women's Commission at Council is likely to find itself drafting policies in smoked filled rooms for an uncaring student mass. It might be appropriate to call that paternalism.

Report of F & A Commission August Council, NZUSA

The main item of business was the presentation of the Budget for the year ending 31/3/78, The exercise was particularly difficult as Priorities Plenary failed to list it's Priorities which meant the interpretation of Priorities was left up to the finance delegates. Victoria decided on its Priorities and allocated money accordingly to those.

Each commission fought for its share of the financial cake but inflation made sure that the cake was smaller and peoples portions grew bigger. As a result a deficit budget was approved and also a free increase to \$1.60 per student.

Reports were presented on numerous matters including a report on the new building and financial accounts for Student Travel Bureau Ltd. Other discussion centred around the two proposals of a Promotions Company for Cultural and Rock tours and the proposal to set up a printing company. Bot items were approved in principle and more detailed reports called for.

The Victoria delegation set the printing company as a more urgent proposal.

Before the final decisions are made on the two proposals people should give serious thought to the speed at which NZUSA is entering into the commerical field. One of, the poitns raised by the student directors of STB Ltd is the lack of timely financial data. Another company or two will mean that the accountant's time will become even mor eprecious so this problem will not improve.

The F & A Commission was an endurance test to say the least with one session finishing at 4am in the morning. Lack of planning meant that discussion on the 2 business proposals was done with out any national officers or accountant present, (they were busy hearing a pay claim by the elected officers of NZUSA). While I agree that the right to direct bargaining between employee/employer is worth preserving, the hearing should not have been planned during such an important discussion.

Finally if constituents are going to demand the services from the national office that they do then they must be prepared to pay for them and preferably not on a shoe string budget like at present.

- Mike Curtis

Lisa Saksen, the NZUSA President for next year, is the first woman president in 30 years. She was elected with one vote more than was necessary after a long discussion at August council involving much devious politicking among the delegations.

Photo of Lisa Saksen

Odds and Ends

China Trippers Report Back

Five of the Victoria delegates to this year's NZUSA China trip held an informal forum last Thursday to report on their experiences and impressions of Chinese society. The delegates answered questions from the floor for two hours.

Those attending the forum seemed keen to understand the nature of the present Chinese system, and the way in which it was developing to achieve its socialist goals.

Discussion ranged over most areas of life in China. The delegates seemed particularly impressed by the contrast between the competitivness and social inequality of Hong-Kong, and the order and cooperation apparent in China.

China's emphasis on independence and self-sufficiency has led it to build replica underground cities, in preparation for what they consider is a inevitable war with Russia.

The delegates were questioned as to how representative their 3 week guided tour of China really was. There is of course no way of knowing the answer to this. But the trippers pointed out that their movements in China were virtually unrestricted at any time, they could leave the group, and venture off to explore the area for themselves. At no time did the Chinese seem to have anything to hide - though, of course, the itinary was pre-determined.

The China delegates did not always answer with unanimity - all had different expectations, and related to

Chinese society in different ways. Some tended to explain away the existing tension within China as part of the "continuing class struggle", while others were more skeptical.

It must be difficult to describe one's impressions of a society foreign to ours it is even harder for me to amalgamate five descriptions of these impressions. But one of the most consistent impressions conveyed by the delegates was of the tremendous enthusiasm and energy of the Chinese people. As one delegate commented:

"If anyone will survive, the Chinese will."

— Barbara McElwee

Vuw Music Society Concert Preview. Wed, Sept 8 1.10pm in the Music Room (H332).

On Wednesday the Music Society is presenting a programme of music by students in the music department. The works of three young composers, all honours students at Vic will be performed by other music students. This concert should be of particular interest as the music department is in the enviable position of having 4 of its 6 full-time staff at the forefront of composition in N.Z. today (Douglas Lilburn, David Farquhar, Jenny McLeod and Ross Harris). This means that the standard of teaching is high and the opportunities for young composers to develop their talents are boundless - for example, one of Victoria's composition students, John Elmsly, is currently studying composition on a scholarship in Brussels.

Wednesday's concert, then, will include music by Tara Werner, Paul Emsley, and Graeme Moir.

Tara has a BA/B.Mus-(composition major) and is currently studying for B.A. Hons in anthropology, as well as doing some teaching of non-western music in the music department. There will be four of her pieces in the concert: Prelude for Violin Clarinet and Cello, variations on a theme by Roderigo (for cello and flute), and short pieces for solo cello, postscript for solo clarinet. All of these pieces have been composed over an interval of two years.

Paul Emsley is currently studying for his B.Mus Hons in composition. Earlier this year the Music Society included another of his works, Pionorama (for 2 pianos and taperecorder) in an evening concert. In Wednesday's concert we will hear "Bits for flute" and "Duct for 3" (voice, flute and guitar).

Graeme Moir has already gained a reputation in Wellington for his work with Sum music and his involvement in the Sonic Circuses and Wellington Festivals. He is probably best known for his "Fog Horn Piece" which has been performed twice by ships in port, and is being prepared by the national film unit, combining film footage of the last performance with the music itself. This Wednesday, there will be his pieces for guitar, and a piece for guitar and oboe, as well as a recent electronic piece. These pieces have been written as a part of his composition Hons work for his B. Mus.

Performers in this concern include Kathy Corner, Mike Rose, Katherine Harris, Robyn Stapleton, Pam Gram, Janet Elepens, and Kathy Culliford. It is, as usual; free, and all are welcome to witness Victoria's contribution to the next generation of New Zealand composers.

Michael Green

Visiting evangelist, Canon Michael Green, delivered a provocative if not telling broadside to a large audience in the Union Hall last Thursday, telling them that, if "sold on social and economic security", they should keep clear of Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus Christ, he said, came not to support the Establishment but to rock it (it was the Establishment that crucified him), and Canon Green was markedly critical of the Church's support down through the centuries for the Establishment. He said that many people in the Church had sought power and glory for themselves.

He also said that the revolutionary claims made by Christ indicate that either he was who he said he was or else that he was mad. Canon Green stated that the New Testament disproved the latter and so it was open to assume that he really was... the son of God, that then he really could forgive sins and accept the worship of men.

Canon Green outlined that Christ's revolutionary programme was to bring men and women into harmony with God by a truly radical approach - a change in human nature, to the extent of being "born again" (John 3).

Revolution came through a change in a person's heart, not through ideas.

Canon Green claimed that a failure to recognise this need is the chief intellectual weakness of socialism. The socialist program he said dominates society by muzzling its freedom whilst the hippie (one would have thought he died at the 1971 Altamont Rock Festival) or dropout withdraws from the world with indifference.

Readings from Mao's works were taken, each one being replied to with words of Jesus as recorded by the New Testament writers.

Canon Green explained how radically different was the message of Jesus Christ; for, whereas Mao spoke of violence, continual turmoil and class struggle Jesus Christ told of his love and spirit which would dissolve the bitterness of hate. This love would be actioned in the lives of those who accepted Jesus Christ into their lives. Society then would only be revolutionised after peoples hearts had turned towards God.

For revolution to succeed, four ingredients were needed claimed Canon Green. Firstly, a vision - a concern for God's love and justice to be in the world, as opposed to the violence of socialism, and the indifference of the hippie/dropout.

Secondly realism - a realisation that imperfect people cannot make a perfect society. Thirdly, leadership - that Christ came down from heaven to not only sacrifice his life for all men (black and white, rich and poor) so as to unite them to God, but to be raised from the dead enabling him to dwell in person in the lives of his followers - a claim no other revolutionary could hope to make (Though Che Guevara's ideals live on the man himself hasn't).

GLORY GLORY HAILELUJAH ! THE GREAT THING ABOUT JESUS IS THAT HE IS ALIVE TODAY ! THEY TRIED TO KIL THE LORD... BUT HE CONQUERED DEATH AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD ! GULP HE'S GONE PRAVSE GOD WE SERVE A RISEN SAVIOUR WAHTS THE MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY ?

Lastly, committment - Christ offers a new birth whereby the seeds of God' spirit came into a person's heart.

Questions were few and concentrated almost wholly on the oppression in Southern Africa. Canon Green believes that the only means of overcoming of overcoming oppression is the love of Jesus Christ, which unites people by dissolving hate and prejudice. He said that violence creates more violence. (The writer asks whether the hate will 'leave' when and if the whites leave?).

What was the evidence for all that Canon Green was claiming? He said that Christians did not simply rely on the Bible but on the changes effected in peoples lives by the love of Jesus Christ.

Gregory Minor

Mr Harry H. Hendon, Manager, C & I Engineering, General Electric Company, 175 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, California.

Dear Harry,

This is to inform you that I am resigning from the General Electric Company effective today.

My reason for leaving is a deep conviction that nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons now present a serious danger to the future of all life on this planet.

I am convinced that the reactors, the nuclear fuel cycle, and waste storage systems are not safe. We cannot prevent major accidents or acts of sabotage. I fear that continued nuclear proliferation will quickly consume the limited uranium supply and force us into a plutonium-based fuel economy with even greater dangers of genetic damage and terrorist or weapons activity.

From my earliest days at Hanford, I have been deeply concerned about the dangers of radioactivity. I can still remember my wife's shock at having a container for urine sampling placed on our front doorstep for the use of our family. I wonder now if that police-state atmosphere at Hanford wasn't an omen for all people for the future.

I cannot be a part of an industry that promotes a policy that would lead our generation to consume 30 years of nuclear power for our own selfish purposes and leave behind radioactive wastes that will be a health hazard for thousands of generations to come.

In recent months I have become increasingly dismayed at the industry's opposition to the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative. I have seen the attempts to confuse and whitewash the issues by claiming that there are no unsolvable problems and appealing to individual's fears for their jobs. The public must be told that there are many problems. I am confident that an informed public - given the truth - will decide against continued nuclear proliferation.

I am also sure that there are others in the industry who share my concerns and I hope my decision will cause them to stop and consider the enormous implications and dangers of the nuclear legacy we are creating.

Greg Minor - Opposed to nuclear energy.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Minor
Manager. Advanced Control & Instrumentation

cc:

A. Rubio

S. Levy

R. H. Beaton

minor speaks ~

V.U.W., Thurs. 9th in the Union Hall, 12 noon.

Teachers' College, Mon. 13th, 12 noon

Y.W.C.A., Ewen Hall, 355 Willis St., Thurs 9th Sept. at 8p.m.

Why a Women's Issue ?

Editorial

The following eight pages are the work of members of the Women's Study Group' We decided to write in Salient for several reasons: The virtual neglect of women's issues in Salient this year; the sexist bias of some articles and comics, and to promote awareness of sexism on campus.

A newspaper is both a source of information and a reflection of attitudes. Salient's neglect of sexism and issues relating to women mirrors the lack of recognition on campus of the ways in which women are discriminated against. We hope that these articles will generate more discussion amongst students of how sexism affects them.

The Women's Study Group was formed to provide a women's group on campus that was concerned with broader issues than was the Women's Choice Club. There are divergent opinions within the Study Group as to the role of a separate women's movement in effecting social change, the means of overcoming sexism in society and on campus, the meaning of feminism etc. We welcome your opinions, views or arguments at the next meeting at 5 p.m. in the Smoking Room on Monday, September 6.

Drawing of a woman as a tv screen

Womens Studies Lack Status

In 1974 Phillida Bunkle, feminist, and history lecturer at Victoria University, aired the possibility of there being a women's studies course at this university. She met with an enthusiastic response from the university administration - but there was a hitch. They had no money to pay her for organising and co-ordinating the course, or for tutoring; nor was there any to pay any member of another department who might lecture or tutor in the course. As well as this it was conditional that the course go under the wing of the history department. (Many people in this department were encouraging and willing to help, fortunately). This agreement meant of course that the secretaries of that department would be coping with one extra paper, and that finance for photocopying and so on would necessarily come from that departments coffers.

The department released Phillida from one course - but gave it to her husband with whom she is sharing one job. In effect then, what has happened is that their total workload has increased by one course.

From this year Phillida has been paid for her work, but still the many other lecturers from other departments who contribute give their services free, without having their own workloads reduced.

The pattern that is emerging, quite clearly, is that being a women's issues course, it is not being taken seriously not seriously enough to pay the people who contribute (mainly women) to pay the secretaries extra for their increased workload, or to accredit the six credits it earns to a history major. The course was allotted \$150 for books which, relatively speaking, is not particularly generous.

What seems to be lacking is some structure to cope with interdisciplinary innovation. There are not financial provisions for this, nor any provisions for coping with the associated secretarial work involved. At the moment there are only disincentives to attempt anything new within the present structure.

Had Phillida not been paid this year she would not have continued organising Women in Society (and she is

the only person who has the time) because, as usual, women would have been working out of the kindness of their hearts, something men seem to think they are happy to do. She is not happy with the present situation the secretaries are not, and nor are the other women and men who are at present working for nix.

The course has more than proved its value to students and it has endured a test that no other course has ever had to. It is about time the University realised this and cleared up the anomalies involved. It is quite incredible that at a supposedly liberal and progressive (?) institution such as a university, a course involving women's issues should be facing such an uphill battle to gain any of the recognition that is the unquestioned right of other courses.

—Sue Jarvis

Drawing of a woman looking at a book with the venus symbol

The Trials Of Student Parents

Being a Student Parent

by lyn Giles

Drawing of a girl sitting on books holding a bottle

For many people the lack of time available when one is a parent, precludes access to higher education. The university creche offers to parents the opportunity to involve themselves at this level. The main point of this article is to share with others on campus some of the difficulties students face if they are also parents.

Firstly there is a maximum of 4 hours per day for parents to spend at lectures, tutorials and in the library. This is the time limit set by the creche for the care of a child. You can't pick and choose work hours and social life - cups of coffee in the cafe are few and far between. Most work on reading and assignments has to be done at night after the children have finished their 12 hours day and gone to bed. Also there is an energy/adjustment factor which other students do not have to handle. Parents (and here we mean mainly women) must wash, dress, feed and arm their children with spare nappies, clothing, toys and food, transport them to the creche and then make the switch to Yeats, Marx or test tubes.

There is a double load of outside pressure for studying parents. They have often been alone and completely involved in a child's world for so long that they lose confidence in relating to other adults. Family, neighbours and even friends often comment about children being neglected while their mothers are at varsity or say (which many other students will be familiar with) "what are you going to do with it?" Parents generally are studying because they really want to but part of the reason for their generally high pass rates and grades is the feeling that as a parent you have to prove yourself.

The Students' Association believes that allocation of money is the responsibility of the university (i.e. the government) but until this body is forthcoming someone has to support the creche. This year the Students Association granted \$200. This was not as much as requested owing to the fact that the Association felt that money spent in the past should have been [unclear: allocated] to specific high-priority objectives. Our Cultural Affairs officer appreciates the fact that lack of financial backing from the university limits parents in exercising their right to education. The Cultural Affairs Committee granted the Creche Parents Association \$300. This includes extra money over and above the administrative and capital expenditure for which the club is entitled to be covered.

The university creche in fact offers A grade facilities and parents are aware of how great the child care problem in Wellington generally must be if they themselves can only leave a child for 4 hours per day.

If other students are interested in making use of a "captured" children's audience the creche offers a good opportunity for research from a variety of angles and for entertainment from people such as those with a musical bent. It might be worth a thought. If you have any ideas or contributions to make, the creche phone number is 758-145.

COME TO THE WOMEN'S DANCE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10th. 8pm UNION HALL \$2

Introduction to Feminism "INTRODUCTION TO FEMINISM" Discussions every Wednesday at 7.30pm at the Wellington Women's Centre, upstairs at 144 Willis St (Resistance Bookshop).

Where Are We Going?

by Petra Van den Munckhof.

Three art students from the Women in Society course at Victoria University last year combined to carry out the research which this article is based on.[1] It is an introductory survey only, which we hope will provide the starting point for much more detailed investigations into the women's movement in New Zealand. We feel that this area is a very important one as there tends to be much confusion as to exactly what the women's movement is; what are its aspirations, and exactly to what extent can it be called a united movement. We believe that in order for any movement to be effective it must constantly question its direction, and also examine the extent to which unity there is within it.

With these questions in mind, we decided to direct our research to discover firstly, who were the effective, power holders within the women's movement? What was the class position of these leaders? Who were they trying to influence and why?

Secondly we wanted to find out to what extent a radical feminist (as opposed to purely pro-women) [2] consciousness existed amongst its members.

In line with these aims we included in our study only organisations set up primarily by women with our explicit concern for female roles and status.

It is important to stress that we did not only look at feminist women's groups, but also at other groups whose orientation was towards helping women, though not with feminist aims in mind. Within those which qualified we chose seventeen (national bodies, where possible) but a few locally-based groups as well [4]. We then attempted to divide them into three categories - conservative, liberal and radical. Conservative groups we defined as those who saw their primary functions being to help women cope with home and family life, and to carry out voluntary welfare work. Liberal groups were those whose efforts were concentrated on reformist activities which they believed were able to be realised in society as it is now. Radical groups we defined as those who had either socialist/feminist aims. i.e. those who believe that women's liberation is an important part of a socialist revolution, and that one cannot occur without the other. Also there were the purely feminist radical groups who saw that the patriarchal nature of our society was the main enemy - i.e. men were the main problem, and that patriarchy needs to be overthrown before true women's liberation can be achieved.

Our views, at the time of writing, were that feminism must be radical in order to work for major changes in traditional female stereotyping, in order to bring about the equal opportunity and participation of women in every area of life. More specifically that this must involve such things as women's self control over their reproductive system (though there was disagreement that this should include abortion), the availability of comprehensive child care facilities, the breakdown of the current sexual division of labour [5], and significant modifications to the isolated nuclear family unit of today. We also believed that the vision the radical feminist must reject capitalism itself for the true liberation of all women involves much more than their equal participation with men in an economic system which would continue to oppress them. Even though we obviously had our own interpretation of what the women's movement ought to be, we attempted to be as objective as possible in asking our questions of the various women's groups.

Drawing of a woman in an apron reading a news paper

The Organisations

In 1966 Betty Friedan's book 'The Feminine Mystique' was published. Its appeal to discontented middle-class housewives was enormous and immediately a number of new women's organisations sprung up, beginning with the Society for Research on Women. Today, there appears to be a definite split in aims and outlook between these post-1966 groups and those established earlier. Significantly, however, the pre-1966 groups still include all those we interviewed with memberships of over 1000 [5]. In other words, involvement in the current movement continues to be largely in organisations dating from the 1920s and 1930s. Their function was most often to complement (and certainly not challenge) existing male organisations [6]. The National Council of Women itself, the 'official voice' of New Zealand women, has its origins in the late 19th century.

In order to define the nature of the movement more clearly, we attempted to get details of the age, marital status, education and occupation of all those on the governing bodies of the organisations we interviewed. Our findings showed that power lies overwhelmingly in the hands of middle-class, high-educated married women in the 45-60 age group. The vast majority have families, are supported by professional husbands, and are either full-time housewives or work themselves in business and the professions.

Several important conclusions emerge from this: The leaders of the largest and most influential organisations tend to be housewives with no other paid employment. Orientation towards the family is thus inevitable, producing an outlook which tends to perpetuate existing female roles. The young, the single and the employed - these sectors most capable of challenging the traditional 'wife and motherhood' stereotype - play very little part in the movement overall. Even radical groups are led primarily by 'housewives only', finding it

extremely difficult in practice to break out of a role they see to be oppressive and limiting. Indeed, only such groups as Sisters for Homophile Equality which have rejected heterosexual relationships and the family set-up altogether have completely overcome this particular problem.

Equally significant is the absence of working-class women in the New Zealand movement, at least in leadership positions [7]. This stems partly from the fact that only housewives supported by professional husbands have time for the amount of voluntary work implicit in active involvement. Regular governmental grants to groups are exceptional and usually cover categories not specifically concerned with women [8]. N.C.W. itself is forced to depend totally on voluntary labour apart from 12 hours paid secretarial work per week. In other words, the "cause" of women is considered unimportant and goes largely unrecognised by the bodies which hold power in society at present.

But the problem runs deeper still. With almost no exceptions, the current groups unquestioningly accept middleclass structures, aspirations and activities. These have little relevance at all for working class women and the Working Women's Alliance alone is involved with them. In this situation, the vision of the movement is tragically limited to the equal participation of middle-class women in the present economic system. The fact that working class women (and men) would continue to be 'exploited' by such a system goes largely unrecognised. The right of some women to participate, equally with men in injustice has been substituted for the total liberation of the female sex in every sphere of life.

Aims/Activities and Attitudes

Drawing of a venus symbol chained to a ball

Within this limited framework, there is nevertheless considerable diversity of outlook amongst the groups we interviewed. Seven of the seventeen, and all the largest, have openly conservative aims. Their primary functions are to help women cope with home and family life, [9] and to carry out voluntary welfare work.[10]. In no way do they threaten current norms and values, since their activities stem from the view that women are mothers by nature and the health of society depends on the strength of the family unit. Some admit to being 'madly anti-lib.' [11] and all, in fact are working to preserve traditional female roles, their efforts can only damage the feminist cause.

Another seven groups came under our liberal classification.

Many are completely issue-oriented, without any long-term goals around which to organise their activities. The specific call for the suffrage diverted female discontent in the 19th century and prevented the development of a generalised feminist ideology. In the same way today, exclusive concentration on equal pay, abortion law reform or the politisation of women is masking the need for an all-embracing change in structures and attitudes to facilitate the total liberation of women.

Lacking an overall theoretical framework liberal groups adopt short-term solutions to women's problems too, without considering their full implications. The widespread support initially given the proposed housewives' wage is one notable example. Only now is there growing realisation that its main effect would be to reinforce women's role in the home, diverting attention from needs like childcare. Such vacillation completely undermines the development of a united womanhood held together by a central ideology.

The inconsistency between the aims and activities of the groups acts as a further impediment to the feminist cause. Most glaring perhaps is the contradiction between their theoretical stand for equality of the sexes on the one hand and their practical support for the family unit in its present form on the other [12].

Attempts to extend women's position in society without challenging the basic structures of her oppression can only fail. Women may win a few concessions, but they will still be seen primarily as wives and mothers and all other activities as secondary to that role.

3 groups only remain to fulfil most of our criteria for radical feminism, the three with the smallest memberships. [13]. Unlike the [*unclear*: conservative] and liberal organisations, they see the true liberation of women as impossible under capitalist society.

W.F. and She, however, emphasize the patriarchal nature of capitalism, defining men as the primary enemy and problem to be overcome. In line with this, She at least is working for a "woman-created, woman-defined, woman-dominated society" as the alternative.

W.W.A., on the other hand, emphasises (more correctly we believe) the economic foundation of capitalism which exploits both men and women, as well as the sexist discrimination which occurs at all levels. Raising women's consciousness and fighting for equality remain important objectives of the group. But since society itself, and not man, is the root of women's oppression, their long-term vision is socialism rather than matriarchy.

Both groups find it difficult to translate their ideals into effective radical activity. They are forced to operate within a system which they oppose, and thus realistically support reform measures introduced by liberal groups.

But the tension "between desiring short term practical changes and having an overall long-term ideology" [14] is not easily resolved.

Conclusion

There seems to be no doubt that women in New Zealand are stirring. Preoccupation with women's rights and "women's lib", even if only expressed as opposition, is intense. 'International Women's Year' has been the cry of every "threatened" male for the last twelve months. Two and a half thousand women attended the United Women's Convention in June, and hundred of others were turned away. Most encouraging of all has been the emergence of a few radical groups, radical in either a purely feminist way (defining men as the primary problem) or in a socialist feminist way

In spite of these signs of hope, however, the outlook is pessimistic. The official women's movement excludes large sections of women, notably those of the working class. Their particular problems and contributions therefore go unnoticed. Those groups which are organized get very little in the way of practical support by government and the rest of society they are forever struggling for funds and recognition.

Even more important, the large and powerful groups in the current movement, and the overwhelming majority, do not have 'feminist' aims and attitudes. Consciously or unconsciously they are working against the liberation of women in our society. The conservative organisations are in open support of traditional female roles, [*unclear: set ng*] women primarily in terms of wives and mothers. The liberal groups, by their issue-orientation, lack of vision and inconsistency, condemn women to a similar role with perhaps a few minor concessions. As yet the appeal of the radical element is limited, and its membership small. As a result, its ideology and idea's is swamped by the general views of the movement.

We feel strongly that there is:

"an urgent need for the New Zealand feminist movement to see itself as distinct and separate from the reforming zeal of the women who desire to better the lot of other women while maintaining them in the same basic role structure." [15]

The possibility of a new movement guided by feminist and socialist principles and working for the widest liberation of the female sex seems unlikely under the present set-up. Indeed, until the separation of pro-woman and feminist groups occurs, piece-meal, short-term and minor reforms can be the only expectations of the women's movement.

Groups we Approached:

- Working Women's Alliance
- Wellington Feminists
- Sisters for Homophile equality
- Country Women's Institute
- Women's Division of Federated Farmers
- Catholic Women's League
- Association of Anglican Women
- Abortion Law Reform Association
- Business and Professional Women's Org.
- Equal Pay and Opportunity
- Labour Women's Council
- Maori Women's Welfare League
- National Council of Women
- National Organisation of Women
- Society for Research on Women
- Women's Electoral Lobby
- Young Women's Christian Association

Gay Women

Joan Shields

When the word "homosexual" is used it is generally automatically assumed that it refers to a male. Lesbians are seen as less discriminated against and, therefore, of less "importance". This is simply not so. It is true that the lesbian is not directly legislated against but she faces more oppression - as a woman and as a homosexual.

Discrimination

This oppression takes many forms. Revelation of one's gayness can lead to loss of employment, housing, children and friends and leaves one vulnerable to expressions of open hostility. In housing, for example, section 146 of the present law, which provides penalties of up to ten years imprisonment for keeping a place of resort for homosexual acts, can be used by landlords to refuse accommodation to known or suspected homosexuals.

In employment, too, lesbians face very real problems. Because we cannot fall back on husbands for financial support, we are very dependent on our jobs. The lesbian in the workforce lives in constant fear of being fired or refused promotion simply because of her lesbianism. Many attempt to live a double life - but the fear of exposure is always present.

This fear is particularly present if the lesbian's work involves contact with children. Most people still think that homosexuals should be kept away from children, despite the fact that criminal statistics clearly show that young girls who are seduced or raped are invariably victimised by men. This fear was clearly illustrated on a Radio Windy talkback show during Wellington's Gay Pride Week. The most hostile callers rang in reply to the information that Gay Liberation members had spoken to several sixth form liberal studies groups.

This leads us to another major area of discrimination - custody of children. Some lesbians would like to have children but are debarred by the adoption laws and the refusal of artificial insemination. Many others marry because of societal pressure and/or fear or because they only discover their lesbianism after marriage. These lesbians automatically lose custody of their children if their gayness is revealed in the divorce court. The assumption is that if a woman is a lesbian, she is automatically a bad mother who will have a corrupting influence on her children. Some lesbians voluntarily give up their children because they themselves have been brainwashed by this myth.

Lesbian couples are also deprived of the benefits (tax concessions, mortgage finance etc) available to heterosexual couples. They are only treated differently when it is to their disadvantage, however. This year the National Government deprived many solo mothers of the Domestic Purposes Benefit because they were living in de facto relationships. For this purpose alone, lesbian couples are treated on an "equal" basis with heterosexual couples and many lesbian mothers have been deprived of their source of income.

Societal Pressure

Lesbians are constantly exposed to the pressures of society. If we keep our gayness hidden we are oppressed by the psychic damage caused by our fear and guilt and our lives become controlled by the fear that others will find out. If we decide to be openly gay we are labelled as sick and run very real risks of losing our jobs, accommodation, friends etc. We also face the danger of physical attack from men who cannot accept the idea that a group of women are not dependent on them.

Much of the prejudice against us is based on ignorance and fear, and is a rational response to a fundamental attack on the patriarchal power structure. We are the ultimate insult to the sexist male world - women without men. This leads to the inevitable conclusion that lesbianism and feminism are interdependent and must be recognized as such by both sides.

Drawing of a person hammering two women

Lesbianism and Feminism

Too often in the past, feminists have gone to great lengths to avoid discussion and confrontation with the issue of lesbianism. In America, for example, the National Organisation of Women purged itself of what Betty Friedan described as "the lavender menace" in the winter of 1970-71.

The accusation of lesbianism has been used to keep women "in their place" and isolated from each other. Straight feminists have generally reacted very defensively to being called lesbians because of their political activities. This has been used by the men to counter all accusations of injustice towards women. But by allowing the label "dyke" to frighten them into taking a less militant stand and to isolating themselves from their sisters, feminists are allowing themselves to be controlled by the male culture.

Lesbians have a great deal to offer the feminist movement. Ti-Grace Atkinson, for example, considers lesbians the "frontline troops" of the women's movement the women most harassed because they are by definition a threat to a system that subjugates women. Lesbians were the first to question the basic heterosexual structure that binds women in a one-to-one relationship with our own oppressors. Furthermore, lesbianism is the one issue that deals with women reacting positively to other women rather than with men and the society they have built to contain us.

For lesbians too, women's liberation is a personal imperative - living without the approval and support of

men, we are in desperate need of women's rights. Hopefully, this reciprocal relationship will lead to the destruction of the oppression of all women.

CAN WE DO WOOD WORK? DEFINITELY NOT !! I'm NOT HAVING ANY PERVERSIONS IN MY SCHOOL

Situations Vacant WANTED: AN EDITOR OF SALIENT Applications are invited for the editorship of Salient for 1977. The duties are numerous and onerous in attempting to put out a 'readable and popular' (sic) weekly newspaper. No previous experience is necessary although reading and writing skills would be an advantage. A scholarship is available for the editor, who is a member of and responsible to the Publications Board. All applications should be sent to the Publications Officer c/- Students Association Building. Applications close on Wednesday 22 September and applicants will be invited to a meeting of the Publications Board that night to speak to their applications. All people are welcome to apply and anyone wanting more information should see either the present editor, John Ryall, or Mark Sainsbury the Publications Officer.

The Second Sex

It's now about twenty-five years since *The Second Sex* was published. Many people, especially in America, consider it the beginning of the contemporary feminist movement. Would you.....

I don't think so. The current feminist movement, which really started about five or six years ago, did not really know the book. Then, as the movement grew, some of the leaders took from it some of their theoretical basis. But *The Second Sex* in no way launched the feminist movement. Most of the women who became very active in the movement were much too young in 1949-50, when the book came out, to be influenced by it. What pleases me, of course, is that they did discover it later. Sure, some of the older women - Betty Friedan, for example, who dedicated *The Feminine Mystique* to me - had read it and were perhaps influenced by it somewhat, But others, not at all. Kate Millet, for example, does not cite me a single time in her work. They may have become feminists for the reasons I explain in *The Second Sex*; but they discovered those reasons in their life experiences, not in my book.

You have said that your own feminist consciousness grew out of the experience of writing *The Second Sex*. In what way, and how do you see the development of the movement after it was published.

In writing *The Second Sex* I became aware, for the first time, that I myself was leading a false life, or rather, that I was profiting from this male-oriented society without even knowing it. What had happened is that quite early in my life I had accepted the male values, and was living accordingly. Of course, I was quite successful, and that reinforced in me the belief that man and woman could be equal if the woman wanted such equality. In other words, I was an intellectual. I had the luck to come from a sector of society, the bourgeoisie, which could afford not only to send me to the best schools but also to allow me to play leisurely with ideas. Because of that I managed to enter the man's world without too much difficulty. I showed that I could discuss philosophy, art, literature, etc. on "man's level." I kept whatever was particular to womanhood to myself. I was then reinforced by my success to continue. As I did, I saw I could earn as good a living as any male intellectual and that I was taken as seriously as any of my male peers. Being who I was, I then found that I could travel by myself if I wanted to, that I could sit in cafes and write and be as respected as any male writer, and so on. Each stage fortified my sense of independence and equality. It became, therefore, very easy for me to forget that a secretary could in no way enjoy the same privileges. She could not sit in a cafe and read a book without being molested. She was rarely invited to parties for "her mind". She could not establish credit or own property. I could. More importantly still, I tended to scorn the kind of woman who felt incapable, financially or spiritually, to show her independence from men. In effect, I was thinking, without even saying it to myself, "if I can, so can they."

In researching and writing *The Second Sex* I did come to realize that my privileges were the result of my having abdicated, in some crucial respects at least, my womanhood. If we put it in class economic terms, you would understand it easily: I had become a class collaborationist. Well, I was sort of the equivalent in terms of the sex struggle. Through *The Second Sex* I became aware of the struggle needed. I understood that the vast majority of women simply did not have the choices that I had had, that women are, in fact, defined and treated as a second sex by a male-oriented society whose structure would totally collapse if that orientation was genuinely destroyed.

But like economically and politically dominated peoples anywhere, it is very hard and very slow for rebellion to develop. First, such peoples have to become aware of that domination. Then they have to believe in their own strength to change it. Those who profit from their "collaboration" have to understand the nature of their betrayal. And finally, those who have the most to lose from taking a stand, that is, women like me who have carved out a successful sinecure or career, have to be willing to risk insecurity - be it merely ridicule - in

order to gain self-respect. And they have to understand that those of their sisters who are most exploited will be the last to join them. A worker's wife, for example, is least free to join the movement. She knows that her husband is more exploited than most feminist leaders and that he depends on her role as the housewife-mother to survive himself.

Simone de Beauvoir

Anyway, for all these reasons, women did not move. Oh yes, there were some very nice, very wise little movements which struggled for political promotions, for women's participation in politics, in government. I could not relate to such groups. Then came 1968, and everything changed. I know that some important events happened before that. Betty Friedan's book, for one, was published before '68. In fact, the American women were well on the move by then. They, more than any other women, and for obvious reasons, were most aware of the contradictions between the new technology and the conservative role of keeping women in the kitchen. As technology expands - technology being the power of the brain and not of the brawn - the male rationale that women are the weaker sex and hence must play a secondary role can no longer be logically maintained. Since technological innovations were so widespread in America, American women could not escape the contradictions. It was thus normal that the feminist movement got its biggest impetus in the very heartland of imperial capitalism, even if that impetus was strictly one of economics, that is, the demand for equal pay for equal work.

But it was within the antiimperialist movement itself that real feminist consciousness developed. Whether in the anti-Vietnam War movement in America or in the aftermath of the 1968 rebellion in France and other European countries, women began to feel their power. Having understood that capitalism leads necessarily to domination of poor peoples all over the world, masses of women began to join the class struggle - even if they did not accept the term "class struggle." They became activists. They joined the marches, the demonstrations, the campaigns, the underground groups, the militant left. They fought, as much as any man, for a non-exploiting, nonalienating future.

But what happened? In the groups or organizations they joined, they discovered that they were just as much a second sex as in the society they wanted to overturn. Here in France, and I dare say in America just as much, they found that the leaders were always the men. Women became the typists, the coffee-makers of these pseudorevolutionary groups. Well, I shouldn't say pseudo. Many of the movement's male "heavies" were genuine revolutionaries. But trained, raised, moulded in a male-oriented society, these revolutionaries brought that orientation to the movement as well. Understandably, such men were not voluntarily going to relinquish that orientation, just as the bourgeois class isn't going to voluntarily relinquish its power. So, just as it is up to the poor to take away the power of the rich, so it is up to women to take away power from the men. And that doesn't mean dominate men in turn. It means establish equality. As socialism, true socialism, establishes economic equality among all peoples, the feminist movement learned it had to establish equality between the sexes by taking power away from the ruling class within the movement, that is, from men. . Put another way: on inside the class struggle, women understood that the class struggle did not eliminate the sex struggle.

It's at that point that I myself became aware of what I have just said. Before that I was convinced that equality of the sexes can only be possible once capitalism is destroyed and therefore - and it's this "therefore" which is the fallacy - we must first fight the class struggle. It is true that equality of the sexes is impossible under capitalism. If all women work as much as men, what will happen to those institutions on which capitalism depends, such institutions as churches, marriage, armies, and the millions of factories, shops, stores, etc which are dependent on piece work, part-time work, and cheap labour? But is it not true that a socialist revolution necessarily establishes sexual equality. Just took at Soviet Russia or Czechoslovakia, where (even if we are willing to call those countries "socialist", which I am not) there is a profound confusion between emancipation of the proletariat and emancipation of women. Somehow, the proletariat always end up being made up of men. The patriarchal values have remained intact there as well as here. And that this consciousness among women that the class struggle does not embody the sex struggle - is what is new. Yet most women in the struggle know that now. That's the greatest achievement of the feminist movement. It's one which will alter history in the years to come.

But such a consciousness is limited to the women who are in the left, that is, women who are committed to the restructuring of the whole society.

Well, of course, since the rest are conservative, meaning they want to conserve what has been or what is. Women on the right do not want revolution. They are mothers, wives, devoted to their men. Or, if they are agitators at all, they want a bigger piece of the pie. They want to earn more, elect more women to parliaments, see a woman become president. They fundamentally believe in inequality, except they want to be on top rather

than on the bottom. But they will fit fine into the system as it is or as it will change a bit to accommodate such demands. Capitalism can certainly afford to allow women to join an army, allow women to join a police force. Capitalism is certainly intelligent enough to let more women join the government. Pseudosocialism can certainly allow a woman to become secretary-general of its party. Those are just reforms, like social security or paid vacations. Did the institutionalisation of paid vacations change the inequality of capitalism? Did the right of women to work in factories at equal pay to the men change the male orientation of the Czech society? But to change the whole value system of either society, to destroy the concept of motherhood: that is revolutionary.

A feminist, whether she calls herself leftist or not, is a leftist by definition. She is struggling for total equality, for the right to be as important, as relevant, as any man. Therefore, embodied in her revolt for sexual equality is the demand for class equality. In a society where the male can be the mother, where, say, to push the argument on values so it becomes clear, the so-called "female intuition" is as important as the "male's knowledge" - to use today's absurd language - where to be gentle or soft is better than to be hard and tough, in other words, in a society where each person's experiences are equivalent to any other, you have automatically set up equality, which means economic and political equality and much more. Thus, the sex struggle embodies the class struggle, but the class struggle does not embody the sex struggle. Feminists are, therefore, genuine leftists. In fact, they are to the left of what we now traditionally call the political left.

25 Years Later

But in the meantime, by waging the sex struggle [unclear: r] within the left - since, as you've said, the sex [unclear: ggle] is, temporarily at least, irrelevant within [unclear: er] political sectors - aren't feminists weakening [unclear: left], hence fortifying those who exploit both [unclear: is] women and the poor everywhere?

[unclear: No], and in the long run it can only fortify the For one thing, by being confronted as leftists, [unclear: is], as opponents of exploitation, leftist men [unclear: forced] to start watering their wine. More and [unclear: re] groups feel compelled to keep their macho male [unclear: ders] in check. That's progress. Here in our [unclear: paper], Liberation, the male-oriented majority [unclear: obliged] to let a woman become its director, [unclear: t's] progress. Leftist men are beginning to watch [unclear: r] language, are.....

But is it real? I mean, I've learned, for example, [unclear: er] to use the word "chick", to pay attention [unclear: women] in any group discussion, to wash dishes, [unclear: n] the house, do the shopping. But am I any [unclear: sexist] in my thoughts? Have I rejected the male [unclear: nes?]

[unclear: You] mean inside you? To be blunt, who cares? [unclear: nk] for a minute. You know a racist Southerner, [unclear: a] know he's racist because you've known him all [unclear: life]. But now he never says "nigger". He listens [unclear: ill] black men's complaints and tries to do his best [unclear: leal] with them. He goes out of his way to put [unclear: n] other racists. He insists that black children [unclear: given] a better-than-average education to offset [unclear: years] of no education. He gives references for [unclear: k] men's loan applications. He backs the black [unclear: didates] in his district both with money and his [unclear: Do] you think the blacks give a damn that he's [unclear: as] much a racist now as before "in his soul"? [unclear: t] of the objective exploitation is habit. If you [unclear: check] your habits, make it so that its "natural" [unclear: ave] counterhabits, that's a big step. If you wash [unclear: es], clean house, and take the attitude that you [unclear: t] feel any less "a man" for doing it, you're [unclear: ling] to set up new habits. A couple of generations [unclear: ing] that they have to appear nonracist at all [unclear: s,] and the third generation will grow up nonracist [unclear: act]. So play at being nonsexist, and keep playing, [unclear: ok] of it as a game. In your private thoughts, go [unclear: d] and think of yourself as superior to women. [unclear: as] long as you play convincingly - that you keep [unclear: hing] dishes, shopping, cleaning the house, taking [unclear: of] children - you're setting precedents, especially [unclear: like] you who have a certain macho "pose". The [unclear: ble] is, I don't believe it. I don't think you really [unclear: doing] what you say. It's one thing to wash [unclear: es], it's another to change diapers day in, day out.

[unclear: Well], I don't have any children.....

[unclear: Why] not? You chose not to. Do you think the [unclear: hers] you know chose to have children? Or were [unclear: intimidated] into having them? Or, more subtly, [unclear: they] raised into thinking that it's natural and [unclear: nal] and womanly to have children and therefore [unclear: e] to have them? But who made that choice [unclear: table]? Those are the values that have to be [unclear: ged].

[unclear: ne]. And that's why, and I understand it, that [unclear: feminists] have insisted on being separatists. [unclear: n] terms of the revolution, theirs as well as mine, [unclear: re] win if we break up into totally separate [unclear: s?] Can the feminist movement achieve its ends [unclear: cluding] men from its struggle? Yet the dominant [unclear: f] the women's movement today, here in [unclear: es] at least, and it's also

quite true for America, [unclear: aratist].

[unclear: st] a minute, We have to investigate why they're [unclear: atist]. I can't speak for America, but here in [unclear: ee] there are many groups, consciousness groups, [unclear: h] do exclude men because they find it very [unclear: rtant] to rediscover their identity as women, to [unclear: rstand] themselves as women. They can only do [unclear: y] speaking among themselves, telling each other [unclear: s] they would never dare in front of husbands, [unclear: t], brothers, fathers, or any other masculine [unclear: r]. Their need to speak with the intensity and hon[unclear: required] can only be fulfilled this way. And [unclear: have] managed to communicate with a profun[unclear: hat] I never thought possible or

[unclear: nable] when I was 25. When I was among even [unclear: lost] intimate of my women friends then truly [unclear: line] problems were never discussed. So now, for [unclear: rst] time, because of these consciousness groups [unclear: ecause] of the toughness of the desire to genuinely [unclear: ont] women's problems within these groups, real [unclear: lahyps] among women have developed. I mean, in the [unclear: ast], in my youth, until very recently, women [unclear: d] never to become genuine friends with other women. They saw each other as rivals, enemies even, or at least competitors. Now, mostly as a result of these consciousness groups, not only are women capable of being true friends, they have learned to be warm, open, deeply tender with each other, they are turning sisterhood and fraternity into realities - and without making that relationship dependent on lesbian sexuality.

Of course, there are many battles, even strictly feminist battles with social impact, in which the women do expect men to join, and many have. I'm thinking, for example, of the struggle here to legalize abortion. When we staged the first massive demonstration on that issue, three or four years ago, I remember well the great quantity of men present. This doesn't mean that they were not sexist; to uproot what has been anchored in one's behaviour pattern and value system from the earliest days of childhood takes years, decades. But these were men who were, at least, conscious of that sexism in society and took a political stand against it. On such occasions men are welcome, indeed encouraged, to join the struggle.

Images of women moving

But there are also a great many groups, at least here in France, which proudly proclim their separatism and define their struggle as strictly lesbian.

Let's be precise. Within the MLF [Women's Liberation Movement] there are many groups, yes, which call themselves lesbians. Many of these women, thanks to the MLF and the consciousness groups, are now capable of saying openly that they are lesbian, and that's great. It didn't used to be that way at all. There are other women who have become lesbian out of a sort of political commitment; that is, they feel that it is a political act to be lesbian, the equivalent somewhat within the sex struggle of the black power advocates within the racial struggle. And, true, these women tend to be more dogmatic about the exclusion of men from their struggle.

But that does not mean that they ignore the numerous struggles being waged everywhere against oppression. For example, when Pierre Overney, the young Maoist organizer, was killed in cold blood during a demonstration, and the whole left staged a protest march across Paris, all of these so-called radical lesbian separatists joined the demonstration and carried flowers to his grave. This, on the other hand, did not mean they expressed their solidarity with Overney the male, but that they identified with the protest against the state which exploits and abuses the people - women and men.

One of the consequences of women's liberation, according to recent surveys carried out on American campuses, is that male impotence has vastly increased, especially among those young men trying to confront their sexism.....

It's their own fault. They try to play roles....

But precisely, it is that they have become aware that they used to play roles, that it was easy to be macho and make believe that they were selfish, virile types when in fact, they now realize, they often felt they had to make love or had to make an attempt to seduce the woman because that was what was expected, while now....

Having become aware of the role they played, which, nevertheless satisfied them - in both respects, that is, it was easy and it satisfied them sexually while now they must worry about satisfying the woman, they can't satisfy themselves. Too bad. I mean that. If they felt genuine affection for the women they were with, if they are honest with themselves and with their partners, they would automatically think of satisfying both. Now they're worried about being judged sexist if they don't satisfy the woman, so they can't perform at all. But it's still a performance, isn't it? Such men are impotent because of the contradiction they live. It is too bad that it is this group of men, who are at least conscious of sexism, which suffers most from the women's movement, while the vast majority of men profit from it, making life more intolerable for women....

This talk about women being freer puzzles me. In our society, freedom is achieved with money and power, Do women have any more power today, after almost a decade of the women's movement?

In the sense in which you ask, no, Intellectual women, young women who are willing to risk marginalization, the daughters of the rich when they are willing and capable to discard their parents' value

system: these women, yes, are freer. That is, because of their education, life-style, or financial resources, such women can withdraw from the harsh competitive society, live in communes or on the fringes, and develop relations with other similar women or men sensitive to their problems and feel freer. In other words, as individuals, women who can afford it for whatever reason can feel freer. But as a class women certainly are not freer, precisely because, as you say, they do not have economic power. There are all sorts of statistics these days to prove that the number of women lawyers, politicians, doctors, advertising executives, etc., is increasing. But such statistics are misleading. The number of powerful women lawyers and executives is not. How many women lawyers can pick up a phone and call a judge or government official to fix anything or demand special favours? Such women must always operate through established male equivalents. Women doctors? How many are surgeons, hospital directors? Women in government? Yes, a few, tokens. In France we have two. One, serious, hardworking Simone Weil, is Minister of Health. The other, Francoise Giroud, who is the Minister in charge of women, is strictly a showpiece, meant to placate bourgeois women's needs for integration into the system. But how many women control Senate appropriations? How many women control the editorial policy of newspapers? How many are judges? How many are bank presidents, capable of financing enterprises? Just because there are many more women in middle-level positions, as journalists say, in no way means they have power. And even those women must play the male game to succeed.

Now, that doesn't mean that I do not believe that women have not made progress in the struggle. But the progress is the result of mass action. Take the new abortion law proposed by Simone Veil. Despite the fact that abortions will not be covered by the national health program and hence will be more available to the wealthy than to the poor, the law is certainly a great step forward. But for all the seriousness with which Simone Veil fought for such a law, the reason she could present it is because thousands of women have been agitating all over France for such a law, because thousands of women have publicly claimed that they have had abortions (thus forcing the government to either prosecute them or change the law), because hundreds of doctors and midwives, have risked prosecution by admitting they have performed them, because some were tried and fought the issue in the courts, etc. What I'm saying is that, in mass actions, women can have power. The more women become conscious of the need for such mass action, the more progress will be achieved. And, to return to the woman who can afford to seek individual liberation, the more she can influence her friends and sisters, the more that consciousness will spread, which in turn, when frustrated by the system, will stimulate mass action.

Of course, the more that consciousness spreads, the more men will be aggressive and violent. But then, the more men are aggressive, the more women will need other women to fight back, that is, the more the need for mass action will be clear. Most workers of the capitalist world today are aware of the class struggle, whether they call themselves Marxists or not, in fact, whether they even heard of Marx or not. And so it must become in the sex struggle. And it will.

Are you optimistic? Do you think the changes you have been struggling for will take place?

I don't know. Not in my lifetime anyway. Maybe in four generations. I don't know about the revolution. But the changes that women are struggling for, yes, that I am certain of, in the long run women will win.

What they don't Tell you

Contraception

Intra-Uterine Device (I.U.D.)

This is a plastic or copper coil inserted in the uterus to set up a low-grade inflammation of the uterine lining that kills sperm prevents implantation or it may cause the ovum to reach the uterus before it is ready to receive it. The two safest ones, Lippes Loop and Saf-T-Coil, are large and therefore, unsuitable for women who've not had children. They have a failure rate of 3% and must be checked weekly. 2-20% are expelled in the first year and most trouble occurs in the first three months e.g. painful insertion, painful intercourse, painful to sit down, heavy periods which may cause anaemia. Women have taken aminocaproic acid to lessen the extensive menstrual flow and this has side effects e.g. nausea, headache, dizziness.

The smaller, bioactive devices, Copper T and Copper 7 were produced for nulliparous (childless) women and were tested on poor, young, working class women. The long-term effects of copper on the body are not known

They cause greater inflammation than the plastic ones and alter the metabolism of the endometrium (uterine lining). Experiments show that toxicity effects sperm motility and therefore, may also be unsafe for the uterus.

Women are being exploited by the manufacturers and used in experiments for profit. Information on side

effects are kept from them so that those who fear the Pill's side effects will turn to I.U.D.s. The information should be made known and weighed against the very similar effects of the Pill.

Complications and Symptoms:

- Perforation of the Uterus - this usually occurs on insertion, therefore it should be inserted by a Family Planning Clinic doctor or gynaecologist. It may migrate into the abdominal cavity and require an operation to be removed. The symptoms are pain and loss of the string.
- Pelvic infection - a) Pelvic Inflammatory Disease occurs in 5% of users and the I. U.D. has to be removed. Symptoms are:- Pain - long heavy periods, cramping between periods, fever, b) Progressive Endometritis symptoms are:-persistent vaginal discharge, spotting
- Pregnancy a) Ectopic (outside uterus) pregnancy is more likely since intrauterine pregnancies are prevented.
b) Spontaneous abortion and miscarriage 50% of pregnancies end in septic abortion in the second trimester. 35/39 deaths in the U.S. from I.U.D.s since 1965 were caused by septic abortions.
c) The duration of pregnancy may be misleading since non-period bleeding may occur and one may be 10-14 weeks pregnant without knowing it.

Major Advantages over the Pill:

- Hormonal levels and general metabolism undisturbed.
- No pill-taking.
- No danger of loss of cover through illness.
- No headache, depression or lethargy.
- No impairment of sexual response if working properly.

The Pill

This has been in use for about 15 years and long-term side effects are now coming to light. There are four types:-

- Combined - This is the most effective and contains oestrogen and progesterone.
- Sequential - This is a high oestrogen pill. There is oestrogen only at the beginning, followed by combination pills and then dummy pills. These are good for women suffering from progesterone side effects.
- Continuous - This is a progesterone only pill. It is not so effective and is still experimental. (Mini pill).
- Tailor-made - These are made to individual prescriptions. The last two are not in general use in N.Z. Sequential, mini and tailor-made pills cannot be missed.

It functions by : 1. Inhibiting ovulation, and 2. Altering cervical mucus which inhibits sperm movement, 3. Somehow preventing ovum, if present, from being transported down the fallopian tubes. 4. Affecting the endometrium thus preventing implantation.

Disadvantages and Side-effects include:

Thrombosis, hypertension, weight-gain, depression, tiredness, loss of interest in sex. Spotting, missing periods, nausea, sickness and stomach ache may indicate the need for a different type of pill.

Advantages:

It is reliable and convenient with small periods less premenstrual symptoms, less pain, improved muscle tone, delayed menopause, generally reversible, improved periods with less pain even after stopping.

Before getting a prescription the doctor should be given a medical history and he/she should do an internal examination, breast examination, pap smear, blood pressure and test and weight test.

The Morning-After-Pill

DES (diethylstilbestrol) is a high dose of oestrogen given over a period of about five days starting within 72 hours of intercourse. It has severe side effects such as nausea and vomiting and may cause cancer in 25% of female offspring if it does not prevent pregnancy. It should only be used for emergencies.

Depo-Provera (depot medroxyprogesterone acetate)

This is a three-monthly 150 mg injection that is as effective as the Pill and has been a commercial success. Research is still in the experimental stages and in some countries has been taken off the market because of side effects.

Diaphragm

The diaphragm or cap is made of soft rubber with a flexible metal spring rim. It fits over the cervix and prevents entry of sperm. It is used with spermicidal cream or jelly. They vary in size and must be fitted by a well-trained doctor. Failure may be due to:

- Improper fit.
- Improper care.
- Inconsistent use.
- Slipping during intercourse due to:
 - Expansion of the vagina.
 - Cream on the rim,
 - Frequent, deep insertion of the penis.
 - Certain positions in which the penis may get in behind it.

The pregnancy rate with proper use is 2 - 4 %. Abstaining during about four days over ovulation increases its effectiveness.

Advantages:

- No side effects if used properly.
- No other effect than preventing pregnancy.
- Non-disruptive to sexual activity.
- Good for women who cannot or will not use the Pill or an I.U.D.

Disadvantages:

- May find it hard to insert.
- May be allergic to rubber or spermicides.
- Cannot be used by:
 - women with a prolapsed uterus.
 - Women with a severely displaced uterus.
 - Virgins because the vagina is small.

Spermicides

Spermicidal jellies, creams or pessaries are used to kill sperm. Some contain mercury e.g. Lorophyn and Koromex and should be avoided. Delfen, Ortho Gynol Jelly and Ortho Cream, and Ramses jelly do not have mercury but Delfen may be ineffective. They should be used in conjunction with other forms of contraception.

Coitus Interruptus

This involves withdrawal of the penis before ejaculation. This is very unreliable because sperm can enter before the main ejaculate and also it requires a degree of control by the male.

Condom (sheath)

This has a 10 - 15% failure rate and may impair sexual satisfaction.

Sterilization

Vasectomy, tubal ligation and hysterectomy are permanent operations and therefore restricted to older women and men with completed families.

Rhythm Method

This depends on the accurate pinpointing of the time of ovulation and abstaining for enough time on either side of this point so that sperm do not come in contact with the ovum. The life of both sperm and ovum is taken into account. If periods are irregular, even if a temperature chart is kept, this exact time is hard to determine and consequently the failure rate is very high.

— *Sue Aitchison-Windeler*

Drawing of a snake

The Battle Won But Not The War

The deferral of Mr Gill's Health Amendment Bill for one year does not mean women have made any real

progress in gaining the right to choose abortion. The findings of the Royal Commission on Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion will almost certainly not guarantee that right either, and their findings will still be subject to a "conscience vote" by individual MPs!

They hope by deferring this Bill we will all go away and be thankful! Thankful that they didn't send 5,000 more women each year into the hands of back-street abortionists. What about the other women who don't find a sympathetic doctor to give them a referral to the Auckland clinic? What about the women in the South Island or poor women who can't afford to go to Auckland and then pay \$80 for an abortion? What about the women who are too frightened to ask their doctor for a referral and resort to dangerous self-induced abortions?

It must be every woman's right to have a safe, legal abortion. While restrictive and unjust abortion laws remain on the law books to force women to comply with certain criteria, decided upon by male politicians, before being "allowed" an abortion, thousands of women will cruelly suffer from unwanted pregnancies. And it's not just a matter of being affected for nine months, women pay the price with the rest of their lives.

Only the repealing of all abortion laws and the setting up of abortion clinics in every major centre will guarantee all women the right to choose.

On September 19, 1893 women won the right to vote. The right to abortion is long overdue.

To commemorate Women's Suffrage Day and to demand the right of every woman to choose abortion, the Women's National Abortion Action Campaign (WONAAC) is organising a march through the streets of Wellington on Friday night, September 17. The march will assemble 7pm at the Cenotaph.

Visible public pressure stopped the Bill from becoming law, visible public action is the only means we have of forcing our parliamentarians to give every individual woman her "conscience vote".

March Friday Night September 17

Why Women Only

By Lynn McGimpsey

It might seem stupidly obvious to say that blacks suffer most from racism, and yet to make a parallel with sexism many people continue to assert that both sexes suffer equally from sexual discrimination, so therefore a movement to overcome such oppression must be open to both males and females. Certainly both sexes are forced into specific and often cruelly restrictive roles and yet it is women who are regarded as inferior in this society, sanctified by the church, and legalised by the state.

Recognising that we are in such a position the problem is then to work out how we can best fight to overcome it. We have all our Lives been taught to follow men, to be weak, passive and submissive, and it is only till we work out ourselves how to overcome this, to build up our confidence and to be ready to assert ourselves that we can even start to make headway.

From my own experience in Christchurch, it became clear that this could only be done in an independent women's movement. When we started a group in 1971. we included men in it, believing that because men also suffered from role stereotyping they had a part to play in building the movement. However, we found ourselves either continually defending our very existence from men who felt quite threatened by us, or we encountered men who because of their own dominant role in society perpetually telling us what to do, or being very patronising in our attempts to organise; ourselves.

OF COURSE, Y'KNOW WHAT WOMEN'S LIB OUGHT TO BE DOINF ...

Finally we decided that since our basic aim was to fight against women's inferior position, and it was only women who could fully understand what it is like to be in such a position, we had to start by working out what to do ourselves.

After the meetings were restricted to women only the change was quite amazing. Women who had hardly spoken when the men were present began to take a lead in organising the movement. The discussion on more personal aspects of our oppression became much more open and honest, as most of us had been quite inhibited in the presence of men. I mean, after all, if women were liberated there wouldn't be a need for a women's liberation movement would there!

Through taking over leadership roles, learning we were capable of organising ourselves, we gained the confidence to hold regular public forums, speak up at meetings etc., and because of this the movement grew rapidly drawing in more and more women and getting our ideas out to countless numbers of groups and individuals.

It has been a trend lately to label such a movement as separatist. Yet there is a clear distinction between the two. Separatists basically see men as the primary enemy in a patriarchal society and therefore isolate themselves and their struggle from males. An independent women's movement simply sees the necessity for [unclear: wo] women to lead their own movement, while recognising that many men and other minority groups

are also discriminated against in different ways by this society, The support of men in campaigns affecting women's rights is welcomed, i.e. the abortion campaign.

It seems easier for many to relate to the reasons the Maori movement sees the need to work independently in leading the fight against their oppression, and yet the parallel is very valid to the women's movement.

It amazed me recently when I heard individuals who argued and fought against women discussing and going over women's policy on the Women's Commission within NZUSA, adamantly supporting the formation of an autonomous overseas students association to be controlled and run independently by overseas students themselves.

Such a contradiction is hard to understand, I can only dare to suggest that the individuals concerned believe it is much harder for them to influence women when they start working things out for themselves, and simply can't handle the proposition.

On the one hand many student politicians remain perplexed as to how to encourage more women into the male dominated student political scene, and yet women gaining enough confidence to do just that, by joining with other women to work out what they can contribute most positively, is hotly opposed as the wrong sort of channel to have come through.

Since students recognise that women should have an equal part to play with men, they expect them to step up and take positions of leadership immediately.

While it is appreciated that women have been stereotyped all their lives not to assert themselves, they seem to think if women don't get over that without male assistance, its not a positive development.

Take SRC meetings as an example. It is very rare for a woman to say anything. The times women have forced themselves to play a part has invariably been over issues most affecting their rights. And this has almost always been achieved by a group of women joining together giving each other the confidence needed to get up in front of what must be the worst possible audience there is. Surely this is a positive step.

It is argued that the feminist movement splits overall movements for social change. Yet far from feminism dividing sections of society it is sexism itself that performs this function, the very thing that feminists seek to break down.

Society is already split, women have already been slotted into a special and oppressive position. That reality has to be taken account of, and from there the best way to overcome it worked out.

Women can themselves work out how best to develop as leaders in the movement that effects them most, and from there also gain the confidence to take a more active role in general politics.

Those who genuinely support the fight for women's liberation should not feel its necessary to tell women what to do, but allow them the right to work it out for themselves.

Rape

One of the men on the jury, when asked after the trial if a woman could claim self-defense is she killed a man while he was raping her, answered: *"No. Because the guy's not trying to kill her, he's just trying to screw her and give her a good time. To get off [a self-defense] a guy would have to do bodily harm, and giving a girl a screw isn't doing bodily harm."*

Myths About Rape

- It is impossible to rape a woman - statistics and our experiences as women teach us differently. Any woman can be forced into a sexual encounter with a man any time.
- Women enjoy being raped - women are severely damaged emotionally and often physically for a long time after - often unable to relate sexually and emotionally for a long while (or forever).
- Men can't help themselves - they reach a point of sexual excitement from which they can't return - most rapes are deliberately planned beforehand.
- Rapists are psychopaths - every rapist is someone's father, brother, son, husband Every man is a potential rapist just as every woman is a potential rape victim.
- Women ask for it by the way they dress and act - this indicates that women do not have the right to dress and act as free human beings because they might excite a man sexually who then feels that he has the right to rape them. It also ignores the fact that it is men who issue these decrees of fashion to be kept up with.
- Rapists are strangers - most rapists are known to their victim as an acquaintance, relative or a close friend.
- Having intercourse with your wife or girl-friend when she doesn't want to isn't rape - It is Rape. Rape is sexual intercourse without consent. This is domestic rape. Wife raping is sanctioned by the law.

- Some women are safe - men only rape young attractive women - No Woman escapes the threat of attack regardless of age, marital status, life style. Rapists attack children, wives, grandmothers women.
- Submission is consent - if you're not bashed you haven't resisted - submission is not consent. Sometimes resistance equals certain death. Sometimes the shock is too great. Sometimes resistance is useless.

Recently, Harper's Weekly carried an item from the American Bar Association Journal declaring that few rapists are punished for their crime: only one in five rapes is reported and only one out of eight reported rapes ends in conviction. In a dialogue to demonstrate why most rape victims prefer not to press charges, the article asks us to imagine a robbery victim undergoing the same sort of cross-examination that a rape victim does:

Mr Smith, you were held up at gunpoint on the corner of First and Main?"

Yes.

Did you struggle with the robber?

No.

Why not?

He was armed.

Then you made a conscious decision to comply with his demands rather than resist?

Yes.

Did you scream? Cry out?

No. I was afraid.

I see. Have you ever been held up before?

No.

Have you ever given money away?

Yes, of course.

And you did so willingly?

What are you getting at?

Well, let's put it like this, Mr Smith. You've given money away in the past. In fact you have quite a reputation for philanthropy. How can we be sure you weren't contriving to have your money taken by force?

Listen, if I wanted -

Never mind. What time did this holdup take place?

About 11pm

You were out on the street at 11 pm? Doing what?

Just walking.

Just walking? You 'now that it's dangerous being out on the street that late at night. Weren't you aware that you could have been held up?

I hadn't thought about it.

What were you wearing?

Let's see - a suit. Yes, a suit.

An expensive suit?

Well - yes. I'm a successful lawyer, you know.

In other words, Mr Smith, you were walking around the streets late at night in a suit that practically advertised the fact that you might be a good target for some easy money, isn't that so? I mean, if we didn't know better, Mr Smith, we might even think that you were asking for this to happen, mightn't we?

Avoid Rape Dress Sensibly

A Critique of Feminism

by *Lindy and Leonie*

For the last 5 years I've experienced many different types of feminist organisations. I always sign up with enthusiasm; here are people talking about my problems, things I've directly experienced and felt personally affronted by. Yet inevitably three weeks later I become disillusioned and leave. For while I find it inspiring to meet with twenty like-minded women to discuss shared experiences, sooner or later I would begin to feel frustrated because we always seemed to be attacking issues that didn't really concern the so-called "average" women.

Men - the enemy?

Some entrenched feminist groups seemed to be suggesting that the solution lay in getting rid of what they see as being the main cause of all our problems i.e. men. However, this appeared a very superficial approach to the problems women experience because it is obviously not men themselves but rather society which is the basis for discrimination. It would be stupid to go up to a female factory worker and tell her she should protest against her husband/boyfriend when she'll tell you quickly that her main enemy is not her husband but her boss. However that does not mean there is no relationship between the two different forms of discrimination i.e. between the boss and husband/boyfriend. However to eradicate both these forms of oppression it is necessary to change the basis from which they spring i.e. society.

Trotskyism - a middle class ideology

Some feminists movements claim that they are in fact doing this, e.g. those associated with Socialist Action. However the demands they raise as the basis for their feminist movements appeal in the main and are in the interests of middle class women. "Abortion on Demand" does not have much support among working class women because it does not attack the real problems they face or even why they face them. Will working class women be discussing the 2nd reading of the Gill bill on Monday, or higher rents, lower wages and rising prices?

Drawing of a woman mending clothes

The two aspects of women's oppression

There are 2 aspects to female [unclear: oppression] The main aspect is that the vast majority of women and men are oppressed because they hold no financial power e.g. a female factory worker is oppressed because, like a male factory worker she is dependent on a wage over which she has no control. The second aspect is that women are discriminated against by a society whose dominant ideology is that women are less intelligent, more sympathetic, more irrational and more emotional than men.

One of the splits in the women's movement at varsity is between the feminist socialist and the socialists. The feminist socialist movement has an intellectual middle-class base and raises middle class demands and yet at the same time claims to be reaching the "average" New Zealand woman. The reason for this ambiguity is that feminists do not see it important to ensure that working class ideas lead the women's movement. Middle-class women are discriminated against because of their enforced roles, due to the second aspect of female oppression. Thus they can unite with working class women against the ideology of male supremacy. But this potential unity will be threatened if middle-class ideas predominate because working-class women will not join a movement which does not recognise or represent their demands which reflect both aspects of female oppression.

Working class women doubly oppressed

For example, feminist-socialists concentrate their attack on the family as the principal institution perpetuating the oppression of women. Kay Goodger asserts that "with its thrust against the family institution, the women's movement is profoundly revolutionary." But abolition of the family is not a working class demand, for there is no mass alternative to the nuclear family in capitalist society or even in the first stages of socialist construction. Without the family unit, working women with children would have to abandon even the minimal protection it affords. Rather than attacking the family, organisations such as the Vietnam Women's Union stress the importance of encouraging women to continue the movement for building the family so that it safeguards the rights of women and children.

Thus a women's movement led by the interests of working class women in the course of the struggle for socialism, aims to win jobs for women, emphasizes the daycare struggle and raises the fight for equality within the family, for husbands to share equally in the responsibilities of the home.

Feminists/socialists claim they are building a women's movement amongst the masses. Yet at a time when the rising trend in the women's movement is developing among the working women, particularly in the daycare battles being led by third world working women, feminists focus their attention on women students.

A middle class movement

This means the women's movement becomes middle-class in character and in outlook. For most women students are in a totally different position to working class women; they do not have children, family responsibilities or jobs.

The main reflection of this emphasis on women students is the feminists approach to the struggle to repeal antiabortion laws. Here many feminists have focused on the abortion question as the most important issue of

the women's movement, raised it in isolation rather than in conjunction with demands such as child care and job equality.

This single issue approach increases the divisions in the women's movement. The refusal to unite the abortion struggle with the movement for day care, for instance, has the consequence of failing to combat prejudice among some sections of New Zealand society that the women's struggle is against children and aimed at destroying the family.

In the words of Lenin: "The inseparable connection between the social and human position of the woman, and private ownership of the means of production must be strongly brought out. That will draw a clear distinction between our policy and feminism. And it will also supply the basis for regarding the woman question, as apart of the social question, of the workers' problem, and so bind it firmly to the working class struggle and the revolution."

Women in China

by Rachel Scott

The study of women in China is often a source of frustration to those involved in Women's Rights groups in New Zealand. The different historical backgrounds and political evolution of the two countries have brought about different responses to the problem of the oppression of women.

Women's "Liberation" in advanced western capitalist countries exists mainly in the form of lobby groups striving to remove overt discrimination and signs of oppression. There is a tendency for the focus of their attacks to be the males of the society who become identified as the oppressors and therefore the enemy.

To the Chinese this shows a very superficial analysis of the problem. Their task, since the beginning of Liberation, has been to rid their society of all oppression from feudal and imperialist forces. They recognise that women under the old system were "doubly oppressed", both as peasant Chinese and as women, but recognise also that the cause of both these forms of oppression was the economic system itself.

Now the enemy is no longer feudalism but capitalism, so that the women's struggle is seen as an element of the class struggle. Women in China seek with men, emancipation from capitalism and thereby an end to all oppression. Thus from a Chinese viewpoint, many western radical Women's groups may seem largely misdirected in their concentration on fighting the symptoms of oppression rather than the cause.

At the risk of having laboured a point, it was necessary for me to outline this basis of Chinese thinking and I hope it provides some sort of answer to two predominant attitudes I encounter on the part of many women. The first is the assumption that Chinese women have reached their present state of "emancipation" through the successful lobbyings of organised groups of women much along the lines of our own; and the second is the criticism, made in the knowledge of women's lobby groups in China, that the Chinese stifle the natural feminist tendencies of some of their *[unclear: womens]*.

It was constantly emphasised to us in China that although Chinese women had not achieved total emancipation, we should never forget how far they have come since Liberation. In other words, rather than comparing the present status of Chinese women to that of New Zealand women, or examining it in terms of our expectations of a socialist state, the only meaningful analysis for the Chinese is in terms of how far they have come in so short a time. In these terms their progress is immeasurable. Every Chinese has indelibly imprinted in his/her mind exactly what women were forced to undergo prior to Liberation. Not only were the vast majority of them slaves to merciless landlords, but under the guidance of Confucius, women were slaves of the men of their family as well.

But it is in the nature of Chinese socialism that this consciousness be equally aroused in men as in women. The myth of male supremacy was shattered early as it was realised that it was an *[unclear: inseparable]* element of class supremacy, and served only to perpetuate the feudal system, so that it was in everybody's interest to work against it.

Now, since the Cultural Revolution in the mid-sixties, almost every Chinese is conversant with Marxism and Mao Tse Tung thought, so that the Revolution has gained tremendous momentum. Every factory work team, commune production team, residential area, and in fact every work unit in the country has regular "criticism and self-criticism" meetings so that every individual in China is encouraged to criticise what he or she sees as incorrect thinking. For example in a village if a man is accused of *[unclear: maltreatment]* of his wife he will be severely criticised at one of these meetings by men and women alike, and will be encouraged to recognise the counter-revolutionary nature of his actions. Mao Tse Tung has taught "women hold up half the sky," and anyone deterring from this objective will be openly criticised and encouraged to reform.

Drawing of a woman and palm trees

For the Chinese know and always emphasise that the class struggle is continuing, and thus the women's

struggle also as an integral part. They have not yet got to where they are going, and the future rests solely in the hands of the people.

Chinese women have achieved much of what we would recognise as steps towards liberation. In the vast majority of households men share cooking and cleaning equally with women, and [unclear: child-i-iren] also are encouraged to participate. All people work and there are creches in every single work unit. Women have 56 days maternity leave, then time off to visit and feed the child in the creche when they return to work. Contraception and abortion are freely available and encouraged. One sees women along-side men in factories fields, and on building sites. Very often it was women; who as leading members of Revolutionary Committees addressed us on our visits.

But most important is the extent to which the whole Chinese population is politicised to recognise and fight oppression of all descriptions. This is the women's greatest tool.

But there are still enemy ideas to be fought. Women are still considered by some to be more patient and meticulous, and consequently better with children, while men are more equipped for heavier physical work. In one village we saw an old woman with her feet bound in traditional repressive style.

This is part of the [unclear: atinuing] process in China of phasing [unclear: the] old ideas; no Chinese will eve [unclear: ell] you that the class struggle is [unclear: o]. But men and women alike have the class struggle firmly in hand and one cannot leave China without an overwhelming feeling of optimism inspired by their achievement, their energy, and their conviction of success.

Odds and Ends

Joynt Scroll

The inter-university debating competition was held at Victoria during the August holidays with teams from Auckland. Canterbury and Otago competing against us for the misshapen wooden shield affectionately known as the Joynt Scroll. The absence of student bodies from campus diminished the audience somewhat in quantity, although the quality of the Auckalnd contingent's interjections - "Get yer pants down yer fairy" - were never in doubt.

The first round was judged by a well-known teacher, Jack Shallcrass who was deeply impressed by the versatile Auckland team, given to tequila drinking and tap-dancing on the chairman (who thoroughly deserved it).

When the tequila had worn off, the A Auckland team decided that these tactics would not necessarily win them the competition; their second debate, against Otago, was conducted with unnecessary decorum. Highlight of this round was the debate between Canterbury and Victoria on the subject "That N.Z. should be a rest centre for U.S. troops". Victoria won this debate by outlining a brilliant plan to turn N.Z. into a giant whorehouse and cesspool designed to effect a cultural if not military conquest of the U.S. army. Canterbury was secretly so pleased with this idea that their morale was sapped although their third speaker pointed out that any plan of concerted action by N.Z. women would be sure to fail given their tendency to 'bake it rather than make it'.

The final saw the long anticipated confrontation between Victoria and Auckland, debating that "That the first duty in life is to be as artificial as possible". Victoria prepared by reading Hegel, Plato (The Laws not The Republic), Rousseau and Oscar Wilde; Auckalnd's method, Victoria looking haggard and unwashed swept to victory. Best speaker of the evening was the darling of the V.U.W. debating society, Virginia Goldblatt, followed by well-known intellectual Crawford Falconer, with the still youthful David Linney coming home third.

The adjudicator was heard to mutter as he went out the door that this was the best Joynt Scroll debate he had evern seen with the exception of a few. We welcome the shield back to Victoria, its natural home from which it was ruthlessly torn by Canterbury a number of years ago.

On the Beat

by Chris Wilson

While walking up Wadestown Road on my way to work on Tuesday, a police car cruised past me, did a U turn and stopped.

As I walked past, the cop wound down the window and asked me to come over. He then asked my my name and address. I was very surprised -I had done nothing wrong and wasn't even loitering.

I asked if I had to answer the questions and the cop said no. But he added that if I didn't they might think I

had something to hide. I asked them why they wanted to know. One of them answered that if a robbery was to take place in the next hour or so they'd be able to ask me if I had seen anything suspicious, and that they liked to know what was happening in their area.

I told them that I thought it was in their line of duty to find information after a robbery, but it definitely wasn't in their line of duty to keep tabs on everyone before they have breached the law.

The situation was ominous indeed. The policeman then made explicit what he had already implied. He said, as if trying to talk common sense with me, that I had long hair and looked scruffy and that for all they knew I could be unemployed, without money, and about to commit a robbery. He said they interviewed certain types of people because they knew they were more likely to commit crimes than others, and as though he was being completely frank about his prejudices, he mentioned Maoris and Islanders.

I was perturbed in the utmost by this admission, and battered his head with various "But you can't" and "what happened to impartiality", and "You have no right to impose your prejudices", and "the social consequences" and "this type of thing causes"..etc etc.

"All we want to know is your name and address and where you're going", said the policeman, and I said I refused to answer on principle. As I was leaving, one said that if I ever had any trouble, then not to come to the police.

This confrontation was a case of pure harrassment by the police. I had done nothing wrong at all and was only questioned because the policemen had prejudices which they acted upon; and these prejudices are large because I considered myself to be tidy and business like, not in the least suspicious, striding off to my job like I was.

We are not quite a police state yet and this sort of behaviour needs to be publicised. If the police admit that they are "keeping tabs" on any and every person who they think could possibly commit a crime at some time, then perhaps the police state isn't far away.

Election Results

Just in case anyone missed the results of the Executive elections, you might be interested to know that the following people are your chosen leaders for next year.

- President: Lindy Cassidy
- Man Vice-president: Neil Gray
- Woman Vice-president: Catherine Patterson
- Secretary: Kevin Swann
- Treasurer: Stephen Underwood
- Cultural Affairs: Gerard Sharrock
- Publications: Gerard Couper
- Accomodation: Peter Gilkinson
- SRC Coordinator: Mark Sainsbury
- Sports: Peter Thrush

The election was noted for the all-time low turnout of 1433 voters.

NEWSHEET MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 12noon Mass is being celebrated. All Welcome. 50 Kelburn Parade. 5pm WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP. Discussion on - Salient and Women's Rights Action Committee. All welcome, Lounge and Smoking Room WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 12-1.30pm David Exel speaks. Absolutely everyone welcome to hear him and, ask questions. Union Hall. 1.00pm Celebration of Mass. K 718 1.15pm Christian Science Uni. Organisation meeting. All welcome. Committee Room. 7.30pm International Club. Don Carson speaks on the 5 power defence agreement in Malaysia and Singapore. Coffee Bar. THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 5.05pm All welcome to mass and followed by tea. Maybe a speaker this week. Ramsey House Lounge. 5pm POLS SCI SOC. meeting/workshop Smoking Room.

Student Travel Bureau Ltd. STUDENT TRAVEL BUREAU IS SITUATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE UNION BUILDING, HOURS OF OPERATION ARE 11 am -4.30 pm This office offers a full travel service — not just the full range of STB student charter flight tours, cruises and accommodation arrangements, but normal commercial travel arrangements as well. This office can also issue application forms for ISIC cards, Associate memberships, ISIS and other travel insurance and offer student travel information booklets for sale. Please note that to complete an ISIC application, the application must be authorised by the appropriate official on your campus and mailed to: ISIC Scheme, Student Travel Bureau Limited, PO Box 9744 Te Aro, WELLINGTON for processing So if you want to travel, see your STB Sales office - NOW. TO GET SOMEWHERE FAST SEE STUDENT TRAVEL BUREAU Travel is an ideal way to learn, to meet new people, places and ideas, but the cost of commercial flights and tours are often prohibitive to most students. That's why the Student Travel Bureau was established. It's a unique organisation allowing you to travel with

owner students the student way at student fares. The Student Travel Bureau has student flights this summer to — Australia — Sydney from \$94ow Melbourne \$103 Brisbane \$101.50 Asia — Jakarta \$422ow Singapore \$394 Kuala Lumpur \$369 Manila \$432 Bangkok \$425 Hong Kong \$492 Tokyo \$573 North America — Los Angeles \$670 rt San Francisco \$670 Vancouver \$670 The above fares do not include Foreign Travel Tax. Please note that a valid ISIC is required to book, collect tickets and board a student flight. Also eligibility conditions are attached to the North America Group flights and a return booking is required for Trans Tasman and connecting flights. The Student Travel Bureau has student tours arranged in. New Zealand Australia Malaysia Thailand Philippines Himalaya Area Europe as well as special accommodation deals throughout Australasia, Asia and Europe. Finally, Student Travel Bureau has three student cruises operating over the summer in the South Pacific and exchange programmes in the USA, Canada and Japan. So see your STB sales office now as on some programmes seats are limited.

People Against Pollution

The landscape lies silent except for the sluggish rolling of waves. Every so often, black oil bills wash onto the shore. Except for a few twisted balding trees, no sign of life stirs on the beach. Further up the road at Changi Point — "Business as usual" at the shops along the main road. Outside a provision shop, a mother sits in a low ratan chair feeding her 12 year old child. The child gurgled appreciatively as mother spoons porridge into her mouth. Her twisted, deformed underdeveloped body jerks convulsively as she makes random grabs for the spoon. Neighbours walk by without second glances. A 'polluted child' — such sights are slowly becoming familiar. Inside the shop, a nervous doctor on TV being interviewed for newsreels reluctantly admits the possibility of yet another new disease due to industrial pollution.....

A nightmare?

No, A possible reality in Singapore.

A reality that already existed 20 years in Japan.

A reality that now exists in Canada.

In 1955, the rude shock of manmade diseases awakened the industrialised society in Japan....It started with the horrified scene of cats beginning to commit suicide in the small fishing village in Minamata. In a 1973 report for 'Kogai', a newsletter from Japan, Anthony Carter wrote:

The cats who were fed a very heavy diet of fish caught in the bay, would go into fits of uncontrolability, frothing at the mouth and showing signs of impaired motor coordination. During the final stages of the anguish before death the cats would loose all touch with the reality about them and end it all by throwing themselves into the sea.

In the beginning, the local population paid no more than passing attention to this phenomena although they found it to be most curious. It was thought that the cats had contracted some disease perculiar only to cats. But the day of reckoning was finally at hand — about 17 years ago, the first human victims of the methyl mercury poisoning began to appear in ill-fated Minamata City, Japan.

The mercury poison was found to be coming from the waste of a chemical fertiliser factory known Chisso Corporation operating in the same city. Although it did not seem like a large amount of mercury in the waste dumped into the bay, this chemical manufacturing outfit had been for years prior to the advent of the dying cats, using mercury compounds as a catalyst in certain manufacturing processes. Furthermore, what was not taken into account was the way in which natural food chains such as those existing in the ocean have a great ability to concentrate compounds, including mercury. So as a result, the fish that the local fishermen were catching was tainted with great concentration of mercury much higher than the concentration to be found in the water of the bay.

Mercury as a compound, damages the brain and spinal cord so that there is a loss of the ability to walk, speak, write and feel. In the worst cases, heavy mercury poisoning results in death of a very agonising sort. But perhaps much worse than death is to be left alive and reduced to the status of a living vegetable with only a small part of the original mental and physical capacity left functioning. Many of the victims of the Minamata disease, as mercury poisoning in Japan has come to be known, was born diseased because the poison passed the lamental barrier and destroyed their nervous system while they were yet in their mother's womb.

Today, mercury poisoning is spreading in Japan and a second set of victims was discovered and then very recently, a third set of victims has been discovered. Daily in the Japanese Press, one can find again and again articles on the alarmingly widespread extend of mercury poisoning in the Japanese natural environment; The Minamata Disease is on the march and spreading to many other parts of Japan.

Outside Japan

It has come to light that the disease has spread to other parts of the world. At a conference in 1973 in Nashville, Tennessee, organic mercury pollution in Canada was reported. Eileen Smith, an experienced photographer of Minamata Disease in Japan made investigations on the situation in Ontario and was shocked to discover patients with symptoms, closely resembling Minamata victims. These Canadian victims are the Ojibways (a native Canadian tribe) living on two reservations. Grassy Narrows and White Dog. The factory which discharges mercury-laden waste into the river along these reservations is the Dryden Paper pulp mill. (The inorganic mercury is a byproduct of an electrolytic process used to produce pulp bleaching agents.)

Inorganic and metal mercuries enter the rivers and, especially, settle in the mud of the riverbeds. Concerning how much mercury poisoning has taken place, a level of over 10 ppm was discovered in some fish which correlates exactly with that found in Minamata. As in Minamata, cats in Grassy Narrows and White Dog have gone mad with the disease. When hair of Ojibways consuming this fish was checked for mercury, the highest content was 100 ppm, a level which coincides with the symptoms in Minamata.

Obviously, pollution is not a problem of small and highly industrialised Japan alone. However, it is in Japan where the people have long experience in the struggle with pollution. It is an experience from which the Ojibways are trying to learn and which we ourselves will find useful to understand.

Photo of a person with mercury poisoning

People vs Pollution

For about 20 years, the Japanese people, beginning with Minamata have fought against pollutants. Their initial efforts were met with obstacles from the companies and the government. However, through the years, they learnt to organise themselves. They demonstrated, talked at street corners, raised funds, and brought their case to court. They were finally awarded compensation. In the case of Minamata, Chisso Company (the guilty firm) is still paying out compensations. To the victims, maimed and mentally impaired for life, the compensations are scant consolation but their struggle and victory in court serve as an encouragement to other pollution victims and have succeeded in exposing the callousness and profit-mindedness of the men who own the big industries and the Japanese Government.

In South East Asia

The action of organised anti-pollution movements in Japan have forced many Japanese companies to stop operation in Japan. However, these companies do not give up. They move to other parts of the world, especially S.E. Asia, where the people are less organised.

The March 1973 issue of AMPO reported:

"In Malaysia, Japan Agriculture Chemical, one of the largest in the industry in Japan, is operating on a joint venture. Agricultural Chemical Malaysia (ACM) in the Pulai Industrial District in the suburbs of Penang. It has recently confirmed that ACM's products include poisonous BHC insecticide, production and usage of which have already been outlawed in Japan because of strong public criticism.

The Straits Times reported on August 6, 1972 that a 16 year old girl suddenly became sick while sprinkling insecticide on a farm and later died.

On August 14, 1972, Sin Chew Jit Poh carried an article on the dispersion of Japanese "kogai" (pollution) into S.E. Asia. After referring to the Minamata Disease, the newspaper wounded the following alarm! "Environmental pollution in Japan has made its appearance side by side with her high economic growth. It is apparent that as Japanese industry rapidly invades the market of S.E. Asia, the area may be subjugated by large-scale environmental destruction. Such pollution must be stopped by all means possible. Or the damage will increase endlessly."

Singapore

In Singapore, we see the recent introduction of petrochemical industry in the form of Sumitomo. Building operations have already begun and the factory is expected to start functioning in 1979.

Uni Jun, 41, assistant at the faculty of Urban Engineering at the University of Tokyo, is a spokesman and leading activist in the anti-pollution movement in Japan. In an interview with AMPO published in late 1974, he gave the following information on pollution from petrochemical complexes.....

From Oil Refineries:

shipping yards or piers occasionally and sometimes continuously leak oil into the water. This discharge or waste oil from ships is not negligible.

Storage tanks: there is always some continuous lead-age or vaporization into the air. About 0.5% of the yearly through-put is lost into the air through evaporation.

Refinery plant consisting of topping tower, vacuum distillation tower, with many joints, pumps, valves etc. These are all small sources of leakage, whose total quantity of leakage is significant.

From leakages and accidents:

There is continuous leakages from the plants itself. Oil spills from ships and piers in cases of accidents is very serious. In any case almost the whole Japanese coast is now polluted by oil balls. One student spent 4 years walking around the sea-shore of Japan. He covered 95% of the Japanese coast and found oil balls everywhere. No area was left unpolluted.

From Petrochemical plants:

There are accidental discharges from storehouses or those occurring in the process of transportation as well as continuous discharge from the plant into the air and water. Accidental fires and explosions are another type of discharge which have been alarmingly frequent.

From related industries:

Related to petrochemical industries are those operating on raw materials which are by-products of the oil refining process, such as plastics, and chemical fertilisers. Many of the waste products from the manufacturing processes of these related industries are poisonous, e.g. Mercury compounds from chemical fertiliser factories (the most famous example being the Chisso Company.)

Serious Thought

The call made by Sin Chew Jit Poh back in 1972 appears to have gone unheeded. As more and more Japanese companies run away from the wrath of the Japanese people, to S.E. Asia, the health of people in this region will be more and more endangered. In the case of Sumitomo in Singapore, by 1979 this multi-national Company should gradually control about 40% of our foreign investments. Under such circumstances, it will be somewhat chancy to leave the question of pollution to the authorities, since they will be naturally, anxious to please this transnational giant. As can be seen from Japan, the protection of the people's health must be by the common people themselves.

It will be years before the effects of environmental pollution can be seen. By the time we see our next generation physically and mentally maimed and deformed, it will be too late. So, at all cost, we must speak out and stop the pollution on our environment before it destroys our people!

This article has been reprinted from the "Singapore Undergrad" Mar-April 1976

Sosc Report...

In order to discuss meaningful ways in which change could be brought about in the Sociology Department, the student representatives wrote the following report for the staff, on suggestions that had been made in the Salient Sociology debate. The reply from Chairman of Department, Michael Hill, is typical of the attitude that was taken at the meeting.

Summary of Salient Debate on Sociology Department.

Introduction:

This paper is being presented in order to facilitate discussion in a formal staff environment on various issues which have arisen in the debate conducted in Salient and S.A.G. meetings. It is important to point out that though, with people involved, it is often easy to move into personality conflicts, at no stage do we wish to have the discussion degenerate into this sphere. The general structure of the paper is an attempt to present the various arguments and issues raised in a coherent, rational manner, rather than simply a summary of what was said and when.

There are several major criticism being made though often these are not obvious. Most however emanate from one point —

The direction of the Department

Starting with the initial letter to Salient several contributors have remarked on a lack of direction or orientation within the Department. Though some break this up into a radical vs conservative ideology, other argue that this division itself misses the point. The general argument seems to be that if the Department would formalise a policy for development, an orientation, then problems would locate themselves, gaps would appear in the reasoning and courses could be fitted into a pattern. At the present no such direction exists (or it is the students certainly don't know about it and cannot discern it). Therefore the real problems and gaps affecting the performance of the Department do not surface.

Several suggestions are made as to what this direction, or orientation, should be. The majority tend to argue for a sociology which provides a critical assessment of sociology, explanatory sociology, not descriptive. Further to that the society analysed should, where-ever possible, be New Zealand. All societies differ and many contributors expressed the view that they were fed up with American and British sociology or examples for sociological phenomena and wanted to look at New Zealand.

The key factors, then, become critical assessment and New Zealand society. It then becomes a discipline which the students can identify with. In some small way this becomes a mixing of theory and practice.

In terms of courses several demands arise out of such an approach.

(a) An overall critique of New Zealand society. It is here that one could utilise the 'grand theorists' as they are called. Rather than being given a 'shopping list' of theorists as at present, one could expect an analysis of New Zealand society as these theorists would have approached it. In order to do this one would take a model of New Zealand society or a relevant theme within the society. The questions then become —

How would Weber view New Zealand society? How would Simmel, Durkheim, Marx etc view it? In this way the primary purpose served is an analysis of New Zealand society using theories as the tool - which after all is their purpose. It is also an approach which would allow a greater understanding of the theories, their strengths and deficiencies.

A problem arises, however, indicative of a lack of direction —

There is a distinct lack of personnel who could approach the subject in such a manner because:

- There is a lack of New Zealanders on the staff;
- According to students taking the theory courses there is a lack of personnel competent of such an analysis even if they were New Zealanders.

(b) More sub-units of the society will emerge for more detailed analysis and will give rise to courses.

Up for study come the traditional names - community studies, race relations, deviance, population, religion, organisation etc. But now they have an orientation related both to each other and to the overriding direction and concern of the Department.

Secondly, such an approach would give rise to new courses, e.g, the role of the state in New Zealand, the role of ideology in New Zealand, a possible course in political sociology, possibly one on the development of knowledge in New Zealand, inequality in New Zealand.

It is up to the Department, obviously with student consultation, to sort out its courses as those which will best give results, given the directions of the Department.

We have a united approach to sociology.

It is this basic fault which gives rise to constant criticism on the following points —

- Staff - who have been called incompetent in certain areas they are delegated to teach, and lacking enthusiasm in their courses. In turn this leads to a high staff turnover. The source of this could probably be laid, according to the contribution, at the staff appointments. Without a coherent policy or orientation for the Department true problems and gaps do not isolate themselves, therefore staffing appointments are made in a vacuum.
- The lack of any debate of major sociological issues. Given this schema, it is hoped that the Department can give people the opportunity to engage themselves in a knowledge of these areas.
- SOSC 208 — a topic already covered in a previous staff meeting.
- SOSC 301 — covered both by intensive discussion in class and the first part of this paper.

It is hoped that this paper will receive full, free and honest discussion.

— SOSC Class Reps.

Department of Sociology and Social Work

13 August, 1976

Mr John Ryall, Editor, Salient, Victoria University of Wellington.
Dear John,

Thanks for your letter of 12th August.

While the Department is keen to discuss matters with elected student representatives - and has in fact taken steps to ensure that the consultative process will be more effective next year - we do not wish to short-circuit this process by using Salient, which is (and should be) essentially a student sounding-board, as a means of Departmental communication.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

M. Hill,

Professor of Sociology, and Chairman, Department of Sociology & Social Work

Pols Pulls

At last, things are going somewhere. The POLS department, which has for many years been the subject of severe criticism from Students and staff, is lowering its defenses. As a result of the wine and cheese held just before August, the POLS SCI Society has been reformed and a basic programme of activities suggested. The society, as the officially recognised student rep body has 2 basic purposes.

1. Student Representation and voting rights at departmental meetings. The department is at present run on two levels full departmental meetings - where all decisions are supposedly ratified; and an executive committee - which seems to run the show.

Students have voting rights at departmental meetings, although their status and number of allotted votes is unclear. The point has been made however, that if students are to be effectively involved in the department's affairs, there should be at least one, preferably two, student members on the executive committee.

As it stands, Dr Vasil (Chairman of Dept) has offered the services of the department to the society, so with proper access to the decision-making process students should be able to be kept well informed.

2. Course Assessment - in order to change course content, press for a better system of assessment, or press for new, more relevant courses, it becomes necessary to know exactly where the gripes are, and what possible solutions are available. What has been proposed is the organisation of a course assessment programme where all courses - individually and collectively are placed under scrutiny.

This type of exercise will hopefully create some interest from staff and serve as a valuable pointer for students next year. A course assessment program, to be effective, must be well organised and comprehensive, so to get the thing off the ground, a meeting/workshop will take place this Thursday, the 9th Sept. at 5pm in the smoking room.

The meeting will discuss the setting up of an organising committee, hopefully consisting of students from all stages, and what sort of structure should be used for the assessment program.

Obviously it is important that all courses are represented, so talk it over before lectures or tutorials. Bring up a beer from SASRAC on Thursday and help POLS SCI help itself.

— Neil Gray

Dear Editor,

With the advent of ultra modern technology, specialisation has been on the increase, in this already highly specialised world we've been destined to live in today, so that we, Homo Sapiens or Homo Potens may be broadly classified into 2 distinct groups, - a) the fuckers and b) the suckers.

Pols 112 is a course designed (very successfully to, if I may add) to meet the demands of both categories; with the course organisers as erudite f.....and the students as uninitiated downtrodden suckers.

Allow me to amplify on this seemingly "frigid" or more correctly extortionate point of view.

Following the commencement of the course in early July, we were informed of the organisers benevolent

decision, to eliminate the conventional term assignments of 2 essays. But alas, there is a "But" in everything, as you'll soon see the consequences of the course organisers' benevolence:-

- In the course of a month, we have been "dished out" the lives of no less than 8 political theorists, philosophers, what-have-you, from Plato to Marx. To regurgitate "intellectual stimulation" we have had to sit for a weekly-once-in-class written test, on one of these great bastards, (needless to say the knowledge being based "on the already compressed-superficially-lectured-notes")
- We have, in addition been "requested" (mandatory) to prepare 4 '500' line mini-essays for the forth-coming tutorials.
- To crown it all, we have been presently informed of the requirement of an essay to be submitted in the midst of spring (I think!).

For 6 credits in Pols 112, a man has to Work hard, in fact, he had better under the present bureaucratic pathologies; but surely it's not intended he should die!!!

I cannot but feel that I may have exceeded the limits of courteous protest on this occasion by joining 3 complaints in one letter, but it seems more straightforward to state my whole case at once.

Sincerely yours,

'Dejected Sucker'

Does Your Flat Have

Central heating?

Colour T.V.?

A Billiards Table?

A Table Tennis Table?

Weir House has

Are you Fed Up

With your own cooking?

With your flatmate's cooking?

With washing dishes?

With making a fortune for the Colonel?

Let Weir House Feed you Up

Give Yourself Time to Work and Enjoy Life — Try Weir House

Apply to the Warden or the Matron now.

Kulture

Drawing of a face

The World Acclaimed

Canadian Mime Theatre

On Tour in NZ

Photo of Canadian Mime Theatre group

"The Canadian Mime Theatre is an experiment on the premise that theatre is a popular art form, and mat mime is a special theatre art form.

We experiment in all mimetically based theatrical experience, traditional, mask, abstract, vignettes or full plays.

We are not purists, and will add props and costume pieces, music and light effects to the extent that they enhance the theatre of the piece.

From this liberal approach we aspire to eventually evolve a form which will be our own style, economical, meaningful and dynamic.....our contribution to the continuing evolution of contemporary mime."

The New Zealand Students Arts Council happily announces a limited season of the Canadian Mime Theatre. The group will conduct a world tour under the sponsorship of the Canada Council. The tour will take them to Australia for an extensive tour with the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. After negotiations through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wellington, The Canadian Mime Theatre have agreed to visit New Zealand for one week only.

The Canadian Mime Theatre is Canada's national mime company, situated at Niagara on-the-Lake, Ontario. The obvious French influence within Canada makes the C.M.T. one of the more prestigious theatre companies in North America. Their touring schedule take sthem many miles both within and outside Canada. In 1974 the company toured Europe to the critics accalim. This tour will take in New Zealand, Australia, parts of

South-East Asia, and a return to Europe early in 1977.

The tour will be led by company founder Adrian Pecknold, commencing in Auckland Saturday September 11. Performances will cater to both younger people and adults alike. Mime is the art form that best exposes, yet expresses, human emotions and movement; more so than any other art form. The Canadian Mime Theatre offers New Zealand audiences the opportunity to witness some of the finest practitioners of this popular art form.

Presented by the New Zealand Arts Council, in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wellington, the Canada Council, and with the support of the Bank of New Zealand.

"No one who has a sense of seeing mankind reflected in the revealing and humorous light of comedy and mime should miss the opportunity of experiencing the pleasure given us by the Canadian mime artists during the coming week."

Svend Kragh-Jacobsen, Berlingske Tidende, Copenhagen, Denmark. October 10, 1974

The New Zealand Students Arts Council presents a limited NZ season of the world acclaimed CANADIAN MIME THEATRE "Sheer Poetry in Mime ... It is Superb." STUDENT DISCOUNT CANADIAN MIME IN WELLINGTON. Where: Grand Opera House. When: Friday Sept 17 at 2pm & 8.15pm Student Discount: Matinees* -adults \$2.50. students \$1.50 group concessions available. Evening Performances* - adults \$5, 50, \$4.20, \$3.50. students: \$4.50, \$3.20, \$2.50. * booking fees included Supported by the Bank of New Zealand

Poem

Me and my Smelly Shoes

I have watched the houses
(strolling purposefully past)
blink,
The new town houses
with internal heating
And batts in the attic

My smelly shoe-clad smelly feet recline
on someone else's chair,
And when the houses hit the dense swarming air
Warmly disgusting, fetid, "oh God",
They close their windows and look around,
Unsure if they're still in the upper part of town.

Between PJ20
and PN 56 R7
No longer exclusive,
I sit like old guts chunder in a bourgeoisie tea cups.
Me and my smelly shoes

— Bill Direen

The Vessel, the Pieces, the Angel Assembler Picking up the Scatterings of Self.

you lie violently dead.
in black attire i open an oak wardrobe
to a bizzare world of surrealist time
where your silent clothes hang on driftwood hangers
i choose a funeral robe, dress it with white flowers
awake from this derge
there are minstrels in the courtyard
and wild dancers.
i will join them and play the song of your death.

you pushed a pram through
an opera with soft Jane at your side
you paraded in an attempt to prove you were not sterile
and that the being in this fragile pram
had parasitically fed off your flesh,
but you were still smiling and open to laughter
and a demented variety of love.
then a D took you by the arm,
charged with sodomy
your lover squatted on the steps
of the opera house begging for sanity,
and the cop with his egotistical male governing fuck
sees your woman and you with painted faces,
watches your silicon breasts flicker,
you turn and bow your eyelashes to the east
the wombless woman wilt not talk to men
of how she is vaginaless.
the Queen of smudging hearts and broken lips.
she showed me a Chinese phrase upon her tongue
the lost sincerety, the lost sincerity.

then this crazy letter "i'm going to kill myself"
filled with frustration and sorrow and love
i wanted to tear it up and laugh it away
what have they done to you?
in that dark room where otherswere silent and dead
your black magic laughter, Diana in the forest
and the Golden Bough breaking,
Ramakrsihna painted an eye on my shoulder
as you filled my being with foreign sounds
and dreamed of acceptance with those of your own kind.
instead you found the gutter with your lover
in some transvestites body,
you were beaten, your money gone, the opera crowd
gone home, the D's run off in fear of discovery.
they pumped your stomach and jabbed at your drugged body
with electronic sounds.
"Lock Him Away" they call "He will Fester with our Children"
"Lock him Away" so you sat aione in a white room
while they tried to change your genes, your eyes skywards
they tied you to a hard bed and beat you til you screamed

"i will be me not what you want me to be" they tie you to a cross of conformity but your body cannot change, nor your soul even tho you are tortured, i think of others like you, crushed and vulnerable the lost sincerity the lost sincerity

— Sandra Bell

Drawing of a shooting star

Sun Shone Through my Window Today

the sun shone through my window today
it took my soul
and we debouched
to a place of tranquility
love unremmitting
untouchable by satan.

the sun shone through my window today
the man tried to buy my soul
but I looked the other way.

— Mazhar Kefali

FEAR NO MAN FAVOUR NONE

I'd Rather be

I'd rather be banished
with the insane men
roaming free,
than stay in captivity
with the sadmen
walking all over me.

—Mazhar Kefali.

Well-you know that THAT means...

Poem Demanding that Cats Tighten their Belts like Students

There's a yellow plastic saucer down on the floor
- The cat licked it clean, and now it wants more.
What do I do? Fill up its Feline tummy. With rip-off
meat that costs good money? I'll be bugged
if a cat's going to live, like a Turk
And not lift a paw to do any work!
I've read all my books, and I've climbed the tree,
And no unshaven bludger's going to live off me.

— Martin Doyle

A Death Alone

The lonely man who lives below has died.
The stench mugged me as I walked into the building
and lingered like a bailiff for three days.
The ambulance drivers, with their stretcher in the hall,
leave the offal's door ajar for all
the Pandora smells to seep.
For the first time I dreaded my apartment,
the dirty taste of ignominy
and death's olfactory assault
giving me new respect for the maggots' meal
and rot.

— Greg Gatenby

E006 : March 1 to April 30

Wheels spinning, cogs turning,
Beard twitching and fault creeping;
Splinter and drags, grabens and flags
Were flying high up on the fourth floor
Above the basement was weathering and fossils
Not to forget the loess from the north west.
The corridor so open, but vague,
Where did it start, I ask, anyway?
The buses were boring, three hours in all
Who's calling - no darts or I'll stop
You thick headed lot from passing.

I'll show you the city.....city.....city",
Oh what a pity
His voice was so dead,
But squeaking and smiling, he never cared.
Lambton and Te Aro rubbed noses together,
But the terrace and suburbs depended on whether
The classes would move away from the centre.
And they did.
They climbed and spread, or reclamation instead,
Took place, as land was sparse.
The feature, he told us, was the petty bourgeoisie,
The oligopolistic capitalism, the high rise and all that you could see.
He was impressive, there's no doubting his ability,
And to replace him with the Mister
Was not in the right tree
For even though the Mister knew his stuff
It was out of the book and notes were rough.
His speed caused our hands to go beaming red,
A reminder of the 100 yards in ten seconds dead.
Eyles was most impressive,

The best one I'd say;
Yet we never saw much of him
And we won't from May
Tuts were slow and dreary at times,
And everything said was usually out of line.

Yet each of the chaps had a pet love:
Wheels had his slides and his faultlines to hug;
And Frank and the city and the petty bourgeoisie, so snug;
Rich and the Prof, and how proud he was, was he;
And Eyles and the catchment, did always believe,
that if there's a flood disaster, thirst would we.

Enjoyable to learn, but from now on
The work will be tough, as the books we will turn
To will essentially be closed,
And Watters and co. most obtrusively imposed.

— Kevin Marshall

Reviews

The Missouri Breaks

A rich Montana rancher is concerned at the 7% pa losses he incurs through horse rustlers, and hangs one without trial as an example. His daughter is revolted. The rustlers, led by Jack Nicholson, decide they need a relay ranch, and after robbing a train buy one next to the rancher. They then head off to Canada to rustle some more horses, leaving Nicholson to grow cabbages and be seduced by the daughter. Meanwhile, the rancher engages the services of a Regulator (Marlon Brando), an assassin to whom fair play is a non-concept - who amuses himself for a while as only men with peace in their hearts know how, and then does his job.

Brando is possibly the greatest living film actor, and this is the film in which he is allowed to do just as he likes. The result is inevitably interesting, but not much besides. There is more to any film than the experimentation with pet ideas of one actor. Director Arthur Penn only half recognizes this. He is clearly trying to make something of the rest of the film, but just what, would be hard to say. Perhaps because Penn was hesitant to create too strong an effect outside the Brando scenes, he ends up with a rather shallow combination of the traditional western and an enlarged idiosyncratic character role.

This combination is not strained, but then one gets the impression no one has bothered of strain themselves anyway. Brando is having fun, Nicholson is Nicholson sleezing his way around an atrocious script, and Penn seems to be dabbling in the same approach Brando uses (we'll try this here and we'll try that there), with considerably less success. There is slapstick, some of it quite funny and other parts entirely gratuitous. There's a new perspective on the courting ritual, some half-hearted attempts to breathe individual life into the rustlers, an abundance of people going to the toilet, long sections of tedious development broken by sudden splashes of violence, and so on. Although the bodily functions bits create a motif without any thematic significance, the violence is handled well. Unfortunately Penn appears to be suffering from a Peckinpah backlash, and his hesitancy to explore this aspect means principally that Brando cannot create any depth to his character.

Nicholson has his moments of excellence despite being given almost nothing to work with. But even though he does more than anyone else to hold this film together he ends up being entirely forgettable. He's been playing this role for some years now, each time a little more smoothly, and a little less impressively.

The editing is atrocious, cross-cutting being reduced to a random interspersion of scenes with little value; and the camerawork ranges from the superb to the downright clumsy. The music, the old harmonicas and

guitars with bass notes for suspense thing, is good.

Penn's conglomeration appears unified because it is so low-keyed, but golden sunlight and homely dialogues are thin disguises. On the other hand Brando's experimentation works, because the role allows it and he does it so well. Brando pretending to be an Irishman, a Scotsman, and Indian a mystic, a lonesome cowboy, a birdwatcher, and even Marilyn Monroe, is delightful to watch but it's pretty thin stuff.

The film starts to work towards the end, as the tension mounts and people start to get killed in fine Western style. However, that everyone gets their just desserts cannot sanctify what has gone before.

— Simon Wilson

Monty Python and the Holy Grail

In case you are wondering, this film is just what it claims to be the Python team in search of the Holy Grail. For an hour-and-a-half King Arthur, Lancelot and some of the other knights engage in an assortment of totally ludicrous adventures (I'm not giving anything away.). Even Garwain gets a mention, when he is killed by the most vicious rabbit in Christendom.

For those who find the half-hour TV show cruelly short this should be heaven on earth. It isn't. To watch Monty Python on TV is to be flagellated with humour: this film clearly reveals that it is a process in which brevity plays a vital role.

Parts of Monty Python and the Holy Grail are incredibly funny, and nearly all of it is very well filmed. The result is a combination of endearing silliness and unbelievable audacity, and engrossing cinematography which would have created a first-rate film were it not that the predominant mode of humour precludes any sort of intellectual progression. This missing element is quite rightly anathema to Python humour, yet there is nothing else in its place. The TV show leaves one crying out for more, but halfway through the film one comes to the sad realisation that there is nothing more.

It seems sacrilegious to attempt a definition of the Python style of humour, but Holy Grail is an invitation to do just that. There are the wildly extravagant claims which are hesitantly pared down, the 'reasonable' man reduced to impotence by his opponent's ridiculous verbal diatribe (remembering that 'ridiculous' is no condemnation), the violence which is so stupid it becomes funny, the sublime importance of the most mundane objects and words, and of course the continual irreverence towards all forms of political, social and religious mores. Terry Gilliam's animation too, offers the same articulated jaws, popping eyes and fantastic chase sequences we are becoming quite accustomed to. And mercifully, the Python team do not hesitate to break the story if the occasion arises, often laughing at us for laughing at them. In this last respect, the sticky problem of winding up a gradually declining tale is solved with marvellous abruptness.

John Cheese and Terry Jones are at times almost brilliant, Michael Palin consistent and Eric Idle and Graham Chapman a little disappointing. The film is worth seeing, but while it never bores, neither does it astonish.

—Simon Wilson.

HOW TO DODGE THE CAT IN SIX EASY LESSONS ILLUSTRATED FINE CRACKERS

Vuwsa Films Coming : Memorial Theatre.

Blow up Tu 7 Sept 2.15

Another snatch of brilliance from Michelangelo Antonionio. Made in 1967 the film captures the late sixties period excellently - the first film to do so. A new era in explicit portrayal of society by the commercial cinema was born with this film. It combines all the ingredients for a great thriller but at the same time it is of what might be called considerable social value, and of high artistic quality. Must be seen by anyone interested in the history of film because it is one of the most significant films to come out of the sixties.

The plot concerns a photographer who blows up a photograph to enormous magnification in order to solve a mysterious crime.

The theme: alienation in a plastic society a theme well suited to the emotions of your garden variety students who is soon to face nonsensical examinations.

Family Life W 8 Sept 5.00pm

Family Life is about well-meaning parents who drive thier children to mental hospitals, and mental hospitals which have no treatment other than to tranquillize and deaden the kids' bright and sensitive minds.

It's based on Laing and Cooper's Sanity, Madness and the Family, and is a required movie for psychology

students, anyone interested in "mental illness", anyone who saw Cuckoo's Nest, and all members of families. Janice (Sandy Ratcliffe) is 19. She is withdrawn, and given to acting strangely. Her nagging parents fail to see that it's their refusal to let her be what she wants, that makes her this way. She is an intelligent and particularly sensitive young woman, responding logically to an intolerable family situation, but the parents assume she has some inherent mental defect and commit her to a mental institution. After receiving the usual shock and drug treatment, and yo-yong from hospital to family, to factory job, to hospital (from one intolerable situation to another) she ends up a virtual vegetable.

This is an important movie, but a tragic one that will upset people who identify with Janice. She was the girl who was too sensitive to survive the brutal attacks of our society's institutions of family, factory and mental hospital. The only way to make her "fit in" was to tranquillise her mind, and when even that failed, to kill her mind altogether. This movie is a must!

The Exorcist Th 9 Sept 2.15

Now that the fuss over the film has died down it will be interesting to see how many students walk out of the theatre with green faces.

This film is worth seeing even if only to see the brilliant make-up artistry, or to prepare your nerves for the exam season.

Drawing of a man wearing a hat with his hands in his pants pockets

The Man who Shot Rob Muldoon

by Jason Calder. \$3.95 The Dunmore Press.

The idea that Muldoon's death would in any way better the system that has ended up with him for its leader, is politically as naive as trying to heal a wound by tearing the scab off the top. The title is there to make publicity and to make money. When you read the book, all you find is a dull journal of events leading up to Muldoon not being shot. You learn nothing about anything, let alone the structure of New Zealand society.

The protagonist is a piece of cardboard called George Tulloch who is brought out from California to do the job. He has a decoy named Charlie Vitelli who spends most of his time walking up and down Willis Street, and playing with himself in the carpark behind the St. George Hotel.

At one stage, the action even moves into Rankine Brown and the Student Union Building, in order to follow an overseas student whom Vitelli has taken a liking to. It is pleasing to see a student included in the book, less pleasing to see the same student battered to death in a paddock just over the Rimutakas. You begin to wonder just whose fantasies are being acted out.

The panther - like Wellington police smell a rat in the grass almost before the book is underway. Chief Inspector Carmichael is no cutie: he has an unpleasant habit of thumping students in the neck, and saying 'poof' in a loud voice right in your ear.

Although just about everyone has a ride in the ambulance, it is never finalised whether Muldoon gets killed, winged, or just missed, by a bullet that Tulloch sends him from across the Terrace one day. Poor old Tulloch makes a further balls-up when he has a head-on collision with a milk-tanker on his way to Auckland.

The opus concludes on this stark note, and the reader is left imbued with the scary knowledge that it could happen here.

I can't help thinking that the book will engender in its readers a sympathetic back-lash in favour of Muldoon (i.e. it will make people think - "He does not deserve that. He is victimised by vicious people who aren't true New Zealanders, and he isn't all that bad.") which is the kind of lash-back Muldoon always needs.

I wouldn't be surprised if he wrote it himself, or some sympathetic hack in the National Party. Who sponsors the assassination? It is implied in the book that the sponsor is a disgruntled Labour M.P. who has fallen victim to Muldoon's caustic tongue during a Parliamentary debate.

Not only does the book fail as a political sketch, it less forgivably craps out as a "thriller". In 50 years, a witty Political Science lecturer will quote the title of this book in order to show the morbid dependence New Zealand once had on one man's personality, but no one will remember the book.

What the book does have in its favour is an amusing familiarity. You read about Wellington streets, buildings, people, attitudes. It's as interesting as reading your own horoscope. The same arousing closeness is also to be felt in "Smith's Dream" and "Sons for the Return Home."

No one knows who the real author is. My list of preferences: C.K. Stead, Warwick Roger, Gabriel David, Muldoon, Brigadier Gilbert, Gyles Beckford, or Barry Crump. Strange bedfellows admittedly, but all likely lads.

— Martin Doyle

Review copy supplied by Victoria Book Centre, Mount Street.

Drawing of a face and an owl

YOU SAW THE SHOW... NOW READ THE BOOK! UNITED WOMEN'S CONVENTION, 1975 - now in paperback \$3.00 Passionate Pilgrimage Katherine Mansfield: a love affair in letters In an edition by Helen McNeish Published 26th August - now in stock : Helen McNeish's "Passionate Pilgrimage - Katherine Mansfield 'a love affair in letters'" \$9.95 This book contains Mansfield's letters to John Middleton Murray from the South of France during the years 1915 - 1920 when she was "exiled" because of her poor health. It is beautifully illustrated with photographs taken by Helen McNeish of Menton and the Villa Isola Bella. Helen McNeish is the wife of writer James McNeish and co-founder of the 'Bridge in New Zealand' scheme. 1976 is WINNIE THE POOH'S 50th birthday! — To help him celebrate the Publishers are running a HUM WITH POOH COMPETITION for kids from 5 - 95 years. 1st prize is a selection of books to the value of \$100, a set of Pooh Posters, a Pooh Calendar for 1977, a Pooh T-shirt and a pot of New Zealand honey! We have Pooh Posters in stock now - \$1.00 each. And Pooh isn't the only one celebrating a birthday. Victoria Book Centre Limited was ONE on Wednesday 1st September. VICTORIA BOOK CENTRE 15 MOUNT ST. PHONE 729-585

Letters

Letters header

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 P O Box 1347, Wellington. Letters should be double spaced and on one side of the paper only.

Shakespeare Proud of Peter Hallwright

Dear Sir,

My congratulations to Peter Hallwright on his letter of August 9. Not only has he proved to English students that there are still some among us who can differentiate between pure learning and the conditions in which learning occurs, but also that by such dedication a measure of ingenuity may be instilled. Such high-mindedness is an example to us all. Don, and even Shakespeare himself, would be proud of him I'm sure.

Yours in admiration,

Simon Wilson.

Comment on Bursaries

Dear John,

I'd like to comment on Charles Crothers' letter on bursaries last Salient. He raises very important questions about the nature of bursaries and of universities, questions which as he suggests, should have had greater emphasis in the bursaries campaign. If I can briefly summarise them, his criticisms are:

- Education is paid for by all members of the community, and as most (actually, nearly all) students are middle class, therefore the working class kids are getting a raw deal.
- We should be investigating ways of making the entry to and the benefits from university study spread more equitably.

These points seem to stem especially from comments I made on the Radio Windy talkback show on bursaries. The context was a suggestion that student loans (which would have to be paid back in later life) should be introduced. I am opposed to this, basically because overseas experience suggests that this reinforces class divisions in education, rather than reducing them. The argument I used was that as graduates get higher incomes and hence pay higher taxes, they do in fact repay society for the 'investment' in them. I think that

attempts to look at education purely in money terms are very short-sighted - I used the argument only because I thought it would get through to the caller better. I can in fact bamboozle people with stats on this point if they really want me to.

Beyond this explanation, I quite agree with Charles' points on the inequalities of the education system. I also wholly agree that much more work needs to be done on them. However, in the interim I think one realistic thing that can be done is to have cost-of-living increases and an end to various anomalies in the bursary system to allow more students to come to these hallowed halls. Lastly, I think the base cause of discrimination in education comes from the capitalist nature of society - unless that is corrected, then true equality, in education or anywhere else, is impossible in my view. A view I tried to raise in a recent article in Salient - which had had unfortunately no response.

Yours,

Anthony Ward.

Further Criticism of Malaysian Students

Dear Mr Editor,

This is it - I've had enough - I'm fed up - right up to here, I've just read the latest letters in Salient concerning the Malaysian. High Commission and its associated debate.

Worried Kiwi and Worried Students - you're all wee rippers. Malaysian students are here not because it is their right, but because it is their privilege - we New Zealanders have allowed them to further their education at our expense - and what thanks do we get for this? Not a thing, not a sausage, bugger all!! What, I repeat what do the Malaysian contribute to this Uni? I have noticed a lack of Malaysians in, for example, VUWSA etc etc. They are more than prepared to reap the benefits of such association, but are not prepared to do the dirty work - all take, but no give (It's not a bloody cliché either - so don't say it is - typesetter or similar wanker).

If the Malaysians weren't here, who would give a stuff? Not I for one. Perhaps some of my tutorials would be smaller (good thing too), there would be less hold-ups in the queue due to language difficulties and ignorance (of NZ ways). And, finally, there wouldn't be screeds of good letter writing space taken up by shitty letters about Malaysian moans and groans (no letters such as this one).

Some say I am a bigot and a racist - others tell the truth. Malaysians - an order from a ture born and bred Kiwi - pipe down or piss off.

Jordan K. Mangrove - Muncher.

p.s. worried students - I live in Khandallah and I am fully sympathetic.

Defenders of the Realm

Dear Ed,

It is encouraging to see that the workers of this country will take action to defend this city and surrounds in the event of an invasion from afar (one of those "nuc" subs or whatever) entering Port Nicholson.

I refer of course to the four "Long Tom" type cannon (vertically) awaiting installation in the emplacement generously, or perhaps unknowingly, provided by the university, authorities (under the guise of a [*unclear*: Von] something-or-other building on Glasgow Street).

No doubt a few students (or perhaps just Bones Couper) will find enough energy to throw a dart or two in the general direction of the waterfront in such an event.

Have no fear,

The revolution will not reach here!

Heads down,
back to work,

PACO
Massey

Life in the English Department

Dear Salient,

What is life in the English Dept.? It is like an actor who has to concentrate on so many trivial directions from a niggly director that he can hardly scratch his bum with conviction any more.

Why do us arts students even come to university in the first place? Why don't we just read our books at home, and never come here? We come to university for one major reason - to talk with others, to exchange ideas and opinions that we wouldn't get on our own. I think the end of all learning is to be able to express our ideas in words, to be able to apply our ideas to living. Learning is a very social activity. I have a hunch that the person who first started up the whole idea of having universities wanted something like that. Of course, no-one's going to be able to express their ideas just slap bang off like that, so what you do is try to marshall your thoughts on paper first (essays), or get yourself artificially inseminated by someone else's ideas to get started (books and lectures), but these are never ends in themselves. The end is to have your own ideas, to engage in discussion. Discussion is our kiln. That's what they mean by university. Otherwise they would call it disuniversity. Or just bugger off.

Some Greek conversationalist before 'Christ, said. 'People's minds aren't buckets waiting to be filled - they're fires waiting to be ignited.' Lectures are like big cement trucks that empty themselves all over you. If you know what's good for you, you'll gel to hell out of it. You learn more off your own bat, and talking to people. This is the way its always been.

Stuart Johnston once referred to some committee as 'just one more part of a machine that grinds to Nowhere.' When thousands of students are marched through identical English degrees, year after year, we've got to stop and ask how authentic and valuable the whole rigmarole is. Are we sheep going up a race into the truck? Is that assessment barking? I think we have become sheep when we spend hours being talked at, when the cat has got our tongue during a tutorial, when we nervously string together sausage cliches in the exam room. But the most damning 'achievement' of the present system is the way no ones knows each other. Will we be able to point at our friends, as a French scientist once did, and say 'These are my books'? We have wasted what was of the most value.

Peter Hallwright, that keen youth who killed Shakespeare last week, claims we're just "quibbling about assessment". He's the sort of person who thinks people sit on the lavatory just to hear the plops.
Martin Doyle.

Progressive MSA Leaders Needed

Dear Sir,

Since the last MSA ACM quite a number of progressive elements have made their presence felt. However, mere words are insufficient. It's time for Action.

The MSA will be holding its AGM on Saturday, 11 Sept. We sincerely hope that these progressive people will stand for election so that they can get elected and guide MSA towards a more progressive path.

We strongly feel that a team comprising of Messrs Loo Kim Hoe, David Yeap and Angelus Tay, will give MSA the most progressive leadership it could ever hope for.

Please do not disappoint us and those who desire progress.

Sincerely,

Hussein Wong,
Tua Lam Pah,
Salley Kam Lan.

Letter to Aloysius Slurp

Dear Slurp,

I recently obtained four bottles of Chateau Livran 1967 (Grand - Appellation Controlee): do you know much about it. The colour is good and clear in the bottle.

Sincerely,

Echezcang.

(Impossible to read your scrawl - typesetter).

Film Festival Review Comment

Dear Sir,

I read your reviewer Simon Wilson's recent review of two films

I am unable to comment on the reviewer's treatment of Elektria as I did not see that film.

in the Wellington Film Festival. I feel I should congratulate him on his intellect and ability to be "zapped out" (if you'll excuse the expression) by the cinema. However, while I praise him for this. I also feel he should realise that the job of a reviewer is to make some sense of a film to his readers.

Gratuitous comments about films being "at the centre of twentieth [*unclear*: century] art" are really rather superfluous to the review and tend to say more about the intellectual response of the reviewer than the film's themselves.

I happened to see Chabrol's "Une Partie de Plaisir" and so I was rather surprised to see what your reviewer had to offer for that film - a wooden spoon indeed! No doubt Chabrol would be delighted to have evoked this response. I found the film - one of the best I've seen - it was direct, subtle as a sledgehammer, and it had the ability to move the audience. On leaving the cinema we fell wrung out. Chabrol had played with our emotions - what was marriage all about anyway? The "crunching" of wives?

Well, Mr Wilson I'm sorry you couldn't appreciate a masterpiece. One didn't have to look at technique, colour, sound etc. One knew the film was effective from its impact in total, rather than component parts.

For the "The Son of AMR is Dead" was self-indulgence to the core. Yes, you're right I didn't understand [*unclear*: it]. No, you're wrong I did try. But I do wonder why one should have to spend the duration of a film trying to unravel the intellectual knot it has tied around it before one can see the light. Subtle montages aside, I loved the colour of the Tunisian costumes against the desert quite beautiful that!

I see your other reviewer for the festival. Rod Prosser also missed the bus with "Une Partie de Plaisir". He must have a submerged concrete walled subconscious if the film failed to reach it (in reference to his 'aside' on the subconscious).

Philistine (Christchurch).

jrsc John Reid's SQUASH CENTRE SQUASH :50c per half hour Normally \$1.00 STUDENTS CONCESSIONS RACKETS: 30c GEAR HIRE: 20e per item CONCESSION HOURS 9-12 and 2-5 WEEKDAYS

DOWNSTAGE OTHELLO moves to the Opera House. Five performances only. September 8-12 at 8pm (Sept 12 at 2pm also). Next production THE ROBBIE HORROR SHOW and SONGS FOR THE FOURTH REICH. Two weeks only September 6-14. [Bookings 847639 Hannah Playhouse]

Letters

Photo of a family standing around a table

Thrush On the Mat Again!

Dear John,

I read with great interest the article concerning us (Salient vol 39 no 18), and I must say that once I got over the glory of having my photo in Salient. I was disappointed that you should have printed the article there is nothing as boring and less informing than a set of potted biographies. I am afraid that I must also point out that there were factual errors in the article, the most important being: we are not Sports Council; we are members of Sports Committee, the elected, representative body of Sports Council Incorporated - which consists of all members of all sports clubs on campus. Not that anyone is going to be wildly misled, but I can't help thinking that if a person can't get the small facts right, how reliable is he/she when it comes to more important things? (Also I must point out in all fairness that I was more piqued than the other members of Sports Committee because, firstly, a report I submitted for the article about the functions of the committee was completely ignored, and secondly, the piece referring to me in the article was totally fabricated by the author and I object to having words put in my mouth).

I'm sure it would have been far more useful for you to have "commissioned" a well written expose of the committee along with a group photo of the people concerned (showing how unified we are - compared to other Stud Ass committees!!). Doesn't anyone realise what a bunch of ruthless, megalomaniacal capitalists we are? (Any groups of individuals prepared to spend \$500 on a booze-up for 15 people must automatically be the subject of scrutiny and closed committee discussion!!) I am disappointed, John, that you should have consented to print such a misleading and mediocre piece of writing (although on second thoughts, maybe that is in keeping with Salient 1976 so far).

But to more important things: the committee has asked me to make known some important points regarding our relations with the Sports Officer. Firstly, we on Sports Committee are concerned that he is not treating his position as it was intended. He is supposed to be the mouthpiece of the Executive on Sports Committee; the committee is not intended as a vehicle for the Sports Officer's dreams of expansion and elitist sports competition (if only because neither the committee nor the Association can afford it).

I do not mean that Sports Committee is not appreciative of the tremendous amount of time and effort the Sports Officer has put into his portfolio (as indeed I did when I was Sports Officer), but we are concerned that some of his enthusiasm has been a trifle misdirected.

Regarding the Batter Tournament Travel Fiasco (1976 model not 1975); Sports Committee is very concerned about it, as an SGM of Sports Council Inc. held on March 24th decided that a travel subsidy would be paid to all competitors. In view of this, a complete cost account of the total expenditure has been requested from the Sports Officer at the past three meetings we have held, without success, despite repeated promises to do so on his part. Therefore at the last meeting of Sports Committee held on August 12th, a motion was passed (unanimously) censuring the Sports Officer for failing to provide the required accounts as requested.

The Sports Officer has recently been in Australia on an NZU volleyball tour *without* the blessing of Sports Committee - in fact some members are actively opposed to his having gone. The committee felt that if he was able to devote so much time organising this tour, he had enough time to draw up a simple set of accounts.

The motion of censure is not meant to reflect on the Sports Officer's industrious efforts concerned with sports tournaments, nor is it an attempt to add to the negative aspect of his relations with VUWSA members, as indicated by the no-confidence votes he received in the last Exec elections, but it must serve to remind him to get his priorities in the right order and to whom the Sports Officer is responsible after all.

With love to all the Salient workers,

Chris Hardie,
Secretary,
Sports Committee Inc.

p.s. Even more scandal has reached my ears regarding the Sports Officer!! When I was in Christchurch recently as delegate to NZUSU (in the S.O.'s place), the group of people controlling the Winter Tournament told me of their amazement at S.O.'s latest effort: when he informed Chch people that VUW's competitors would be arriving on early morning flights, they offered to arrange a bus from the airport to the university at a nominal charge to each person. Peter Thrush's reaction on being told this was, "No don't do that, charge it to VUW Sports Council."

Fortunately the Christchurch Tournament Controller had enough sense to ignore the statement and save us at VUW further embarrassment. But he was puzzled to discover that Mr Thrush apparently is able to go around the country operating a charge account in Sports Council.

Alex Veysey or Salient

Dear Sir,

Over the past few weeks I have noted an abysmal lack of comment in 'Salient', on the All Black games in South Africa. An article by Alex Veysey on the failure in the 1st test or a comment on the Eastern Transvaal game would be appreciated by many students.

However I feel Isaacs, Freeman, Ordia, and all their merry little band have got you by the balls, and you are too weak to do a fucking thing about it.

All I want is a bit of balanced journalism in Salient, as I've had a gutsful of aspiring trendies trying to outdo each other in seeing who can be the most bigoted each week. "Bigoted", you might say, "that's them not us". But, my friends you are wrong. You and your ilk are as bigoted one way as Vorster is the other way, if not more so.

So instead of praising the Supreme Council of Sport for picking on New Zealand out of 25 countries that sent sports teams to South Africa in the last year. Wake Up. Present a balanced view, and explain why New Zealand should be picked out and jumped on, with the support of backstabbing bastards like Newman and Freeman, who turn on their own country.

Yours,

Disgusted.

Drawing of thumbs down

SRC Reporter Debunked

Dear John,

As the seconder of the motion passed at the last SRC to send a telegram of support to the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa congratulating them on their boycott, I'd like to complain about the non-journalist you employ as an SRC reporter. The mover and seconder spoke briefly - true so far. Then he goes on to say that others tried to speak but were shouted down (or words to that effect).

The truth behind this story is that after the mover and seconder had spoken to the motion, certain people tried to urge a certain student in the balcony (who I believe to have connections with both the National Party and Fart) to decry the Hart people that had spoken. This he did in a tongue in cheek manner just to show that he wasn't going to let such a motion pass without giving it a hard time. What he said was waffley bullshit which bore no relation to the motion.

He was shouted down - merely heckled with pertinent remarks which he was plainly unable to answer. Gyles Beckford was not "pissed off" but did call for order.

This article is a thinly disguised smear on a group of people that he obviously can't tolerate although he gives no evidence for such prejudice. His writing gives an air of liberalism and pomposity unequalled in Salient this year. Gary Henderson has little to contribute to Salient if he keeps up this standard of writing.

David Murray.

p.s. Note to Syd Byrd - Japanese guitarist Charles Tumahi actually comes from Te Kuiti.

Objection to Guest Lecturer

Dear Sir,

I would like the Sociology Department to justify its position in spending my money (I am a private student); the government's money, and my time, to provide a certain lady with a pedestal, in order that she may subject an unexpecting audience to her particular political beliefs.

Have all people a ready access to university students or is the education, free of political influences?
A concerned Sosc 101 Student.

Incoherent English Disliked

Dear Sir,

May I ask you to request your contributors to avoid using incoherent English. I refer to Mr A. Ward's review of "Red Papers on New Zealand" and Mr N. Rowe's article "Downstage", both in Salient of last week.

Whilst Mr Rowe becomes ironic about the nature of "this audience" (line 9, p 18) Mr Ward tends to write in an abrupt shorthand that leaves the reader confused, e.g. "To illustrate, (what) Ken Stanton describes with statistics, the process of concentration (of what?) in New Zealand". Col.3 line 8, p 17).

Presumably Ken Stanton is illustrating

- the "bourgeois theory"
- the "separate Marxist problematic" which "such issues can be raised and hopefully discussed". Discussed "in hope", or, "in hope", discussed?

Let it rest
all the best,
Bob Findlay.

I'm Satisfied with Sosc

Dear Sir,

Thank you for printing my last letter. In past issues of Salient, many derogatory statements have arisen. I am a 1st year Student in Sociology 101, and I am somewhat perturbed by the one-sided argument which is usually presented.

Many students on Sociology 101 are, on the whole, quite satisfied with the course, content and structure. No course is perfect and it is surely unreasonable to expect it to be?

Many of the troubles plaguing the Sociology department, come from a small minority of very unintelligent shit stirrers. These cretins voice their personal grievances at tutorial representative meetings, in a deliberate attempt to cause more trouble.

This may sound like a cliché, but I propose that I, and many students like me, came to Vic to gain a higher education, not to be hindered by arrogant little queers, who rejoice in farting around, making trouble.

Yours etc,

not so apathetically.
Vice President,
Assistant-Sec Tres.,
Thorndon Apathy League
N.H. Toad

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

Open Letter to Venn Young M.P.

Dear Mr Young,

On Saturday July 24, 1976, nine members, myself included, of Gay Liberation Wellington were picketing the National Party Conference at the Sportsdrome, Rotorua, At 7.45 pm we were circulating our petition which states:

"We, the undersigned members and delegates of the National Party, support the repeal of all anti-homosexual laws, and the passing of a law banning discrimination against gays."

When I approached you for your signature, you disregarded the petition and said:

"You people are doing more harm than good to the cause. Why don't you just go away?"

No Mr Young we will not just go away, back into our closets to lead an oppressed existence. We refuse to put up with the humiliation of the pallid tokens of liberal tolerance any longer.

We demand acceptance, to be allowed to live our lives the way we choose, to be allowed to fulfil ourselves as human beings. We demand our full civil, social and legal rights. Rights accorded to all people but denied to gays by the oppressive, uneducated, patriarchal legal and social structure of our society.

We exist, Mr Young, an undeniable fact. An estimated 100,000 women and men in New Zealand alone. We will not be just a nagging doubt in the back of your mind. We will protest. We will not let you ignore or forget us any longer.

It has been four years since your reform Bill was introduced. That mediocre concession to appease your conscience for which you seem to feel we should be so grateful.

This was only a small step towards full human equality. During the four years of consistent evasion, gays continued to suffer blackmail, muggings, deportation, prison and the other smaller oppressions and agonies finally forcing many to take their own lives as the only way of escape. A situation comparable to that of those undergoing other forms of torture (e.g. captured resistance workers).

With growing anger we resignedly forced ourselves to watch a small glimmer of candle light in a far-away window burn itself out by being neglected in the "agonizing soul-searching that accompanied this moral question". It is not a moral question. It never has been and never will be. It is a question of basic human rights as demanded in the Geneva Convention.

If for a moment, Mr Young, you could force yourself to climb from your lofty position of benevolent benefactor, down to the position society imposes upon us and ponder your reactions to such an unjust ignorant of our only too real survival. To understand our anger, Mr Young, you must first experience our oppression and suffering, for experience is knowledge.

You question our need to protest in an effort to educate the general public and the lawmakers of our country in an attempt to right the unnumberable wrongs and seek an enlightened viewpoint. When attempts at law repeal through the proper channels fail due to acute reaction from our lawmakers, history has shown that direct confrontation is the next step in our fight for full equality and human rights.

We refuse to hide any longer. We are proud of our gayness. But we are discontented at the failure of the government and the people to recognise our reasonable and just demands, i.e. repeal of all anti-homosexual laws, full parity with heterosexuals before the law and an end to discrimination in areas of citizenship, employment and housing, etc.

Polls have shown overwhelming public support for law change; why do our lawmakers lag behind the wishes of the people they represent?

Yours,

Alan Seymour.

Wahine, Whitcoulls and Red Balloons

Dear John,

I would like to bring the following important points to the attention of my fellow 'Salient' readers:

- With reference to the Wahine picture and slogan shown on the cover of a recent Salient: Attached is a busted balloon. If this had been the Hindenburg, dozens would have died (Different maybe to the Wahine disaster but the 'logic' behind the implications if the same).
- Part-time students who are honest (there are some!) are being ripped off by Whitcoulls Ltd. When buying a text book there recently I was not allowed a discount because I admitted that I was only a part-time student. I suggest Whitcoulls should be avoided by all students, especially part-timers.

Yours,

Fred Ranunga.

