

Assessment

At last, Vic has an assessment policy, Now, hopefully the ground-work for change in the learning process at this university can begin. All student reps now have the onus on them to pursue this policy at all levels of the university bureaucracy. The change must also come from students in their classes. The Students' Association can give you support over injustices in assessment. If something is wrong in the way you are currently being assessed, then talk it over with your fellow students and act.

The Education Officer, members of the Executive and Salient will give you backing in your fight for less onerous assessment. Also consult the free booklet on the subject — available at the Studass Office.

- that the minimum mark restrictions and terms requirements imposed on Registry examined work be abolished.
- that all courses institute a double chance assessment system whereby the year's work can count for 100% of the total mark and if a student wishes to improve or change their mark, he/she either sit an end of year exam or resubmit his/her year's work (altered and unaltered) at the time the end of year exam is scheduled both for up to 100% of the total mark.
- that group work be made assessable and the current restrictions both formal and informal be abolished, and that as a principle the university encourage more co-operation among students rather than competition between students in the learning process.
- that in courses where it is relevant, high priority be given to the inclusion of New Zealand material at all levels.
- that, in the first week of lectures each year, each course controller should present it's planned assessment programme and allow discussion of the programme and the modification of the programme by the students.
 - and, that student reps put forward these demands at all relevant committees and forums.
 - and, that a forum be held soon, to discuss these demands and the on-going campaign.
 - that we set ourselves the objective of achieving these demands this academic year.
- that there be two student reps on the committee of Vice-Chancellor and Deans.

VUWSA received this telegram on the 13th April requesting people to travel to Auckland to support the 100 or so people who are camped on Bastion Point. It is likely that the Government will attempt to shift the protestors in the very near future.

The eviction threat was made on the 12th April by the Minister of Lands, Mr V.S. Young, on the grounds that Bastion Point occupants were erecting "illegal buildings." Mr Young went on to say that the protestors were "in danger of undermining the requests from the Ngati Whatua elders that he was prepared to put to the Government for consideration."

The Government is trying every trick in the book to split the united front by land protestors to expropriate the prime land for the development of a high class housing area.

So far the Government has got nowhere in its bid to smash the Bastion Point organisation and to avoid embarrassment. Even the Mayor of Auckland has refused to enforce building codes on the point.

The Bastion Point protestors have to have buildings, especially now as winter is setting in. If the Government decides to step in now, people will be required to physically support the legitimate right of the protestors to occupy the land.

If you feel that you can help, please get in touch with the Students Association Office, Bastion Point still needs food and money to help them in their struggle.

Bastion Point

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SGM

Drawing of a thin man wearing black glasses

The first of this year's Special General Meetings of the Association will be held this Wednesday, 12-2 in the Union Hall.

Topics to be discussed:

- Honorarium rise for Exec?
- Delegate elections for NZUSA May Council.
- Young Socialists' bid to regain lost prestige.
- Elections for student reps on faculties.
- Attempted takeover of Association by Sports Council.

Assessment Forum

I feel it is necessary to te[unclear: m]per the generally critical (and rightfully so) opinions on assessment with the feelings of the few students who already have fairly assessed courses and are happy with them.

Although there is much pressure in the assessment forum for double-chance assessment, some people do not realise that it has in fact been operating successfully in a first year QA maths course for several years.

The system includes (a) a weighted average of a terms test mark (30%) and the final exam mark (70%) or (b) the final exam mark, whichever is the higher. In borderline cases tutorial work and assignments are taken into account if they are to the students advantage. The only condition (apparently a Registry regulation) is that the exam mark must be 40% or above.

An explanation of the course's assessment was given out in writing and the lecturer took some time to explain it and made sure everyone understood it.

The course is run by a fairly small department. We realise that large departments face greater difficulties but we are sure that with some effort they would be able to adapt the principles of this method of assessment to the particular needs of this subject.

We hope other departments will be encouraged to follow suit.

— Anne Scrivener.

Drawing of VUW as a maze

Next week: Robert More-Jone's enthralling epic on assessment (Part 2).

Newsheet

MONDAY APRIL 18.1 1a.m.-2p.m. Display of equipment by photo-graphic society. Main foyer. 5-7p.m.

Young Socialists Meeting — discussion on The Fight Against Women's Oppression. Everyone welcome.

TUESDAY APRIL 19.12-2p.m. Young Socialists literature table. Main foyer. 2.15p.m. Union films: 'Play it again Sam' starring Woody Allen. Memorial Theatre. 6-7p.m. Scottish country dancing. All welcome, especially beginners. Committee members please remember the meeting. 5.30p.m.-8p.m. Lounge, International Club meeting, Topic: New Zealand now, and whereit's going. WEDNESDAY APRIL 20.12-2p.m. Table tennis club information table. Enquiries welcome. 12-2p.m. Special General Meeting of VUWSA Union Hall.

12-4p.m. Learn a new skill, or share an oldone. Anything from hang-gliding to basket making Contact RELAX this time every Wednesday. Gym Store 1p.m. Mass each week at this time. RB819. 1p.m. Labour Club discussion with Pat Kelly, Chairman of the Wellington Trades Council, All welcome. 5p.m. Union Films "Easy Rider. "Memorial Theatre. 5-7p.m. Lounge Students against imperialism meeting. All welcome 5.30 p.m. Publications Board Meeting Boardroom 7.30-9p.m. Photographic society tuition evening. Come along and find out how to print your own B & W film All welcome. 8p.m. Psychology Society wine and stein, Lounge.

THURSDAY APRIL 21.12 noon Students against Apartheid. Smok in groom. 12-2p.m. Forum — Allen Pinjen, a Malaysian student from Australia speaks on 'China in Turmoil' Union Hall. Organised by the Young Socialists. 1-2p.m. Jesus Christ is the answer for every person, Jesus is alive today. Find out how to get in touch with him. Pastor Pearson will teach on how to establish a loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Lounge. 2.15p.m. Union Films' Paper Moon 'Memorial Theatre. 7.30p.m. VUW Table Tennis Club A.G.M. All welcome, Gymnasium. FRIDAY APRIL 22.12-2p.m. Forum — Dave Deutschmann from Australia speaks on the struggle of Australian students to get a living allowance. Union Hall. Organised by the Young Socialists.

1-2p.m. Women's Choice Club meeting to discuss the report of the Royal Commission on Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion, Smoking Room. Any club can put notices of meetings in this news-sheet. Deadline is midday Thursday in the Students Association Office. No late entries will be accepted.

Peace Convention two line struggle continues...

NZUSA delegate

Dear David,

TORUBLE WITH THIS GODDAM WAR IS THAT ALL THE TRENCHS ARE JOINED.

As the anonymous NZUSA delegate to the International Convention for Peace Action who is criticised by John Hinchcliff, I would like to make a few comments on his reply to you.

Under the heading "The New Liason Committee" (or perhaps it should have been the Proposed New Liaison Committee) Hinchcliff performs several literary somersaults which attest to his mental agility rather than to logic.

He says that the fear "that some new organisation has been undemocratically forced upon peace organisations has no basis." He then informs us that this idea was "merely stated" in the convention's action proposals and goes on to claim that it was debated "at length" in small groups and received "favourable support."

Somewhat to my surprise Hinchcliff then omits a key point: the fact that this proposal, like all the rest, was never put to the convention as a whole for proper debate and deliberation.

Is that the end of the story? Not a bit, for Hinchcliff proceeds to explain to us that "Delegates from each centre will be asked to meet to discuss further its format, its policy and its representation on the basis of the ideas suggested at the Convention." And he concludes with a jibe at me for allegedly not understanding the meaning of the word "proposal."

Unfortunately I do understand the exact meaning of this word and I am not so stupid that I can't distinguish between a "proposal" and a fait accompli. What's more I think that the only conclusion that can be drawn from Hinchcliff's comments is that it's been agreed to set up "the new liaison committee" and now it's just a case of working out "its format, its policy and its representation On the Basis of the Ideas Suggested at the Convent Ion," and, knowing Hinchcliff's past track record, on no other basis.

Hinchcliff's criticism of my contribution conveniently ignored the essence of my remarks in "Salient" and my contribution at the convention itself. I said that Any Proposal to establish a centralised NZ peace organisation must of necessity be debated as widely and thoroughly as possible before any firm decisions are arrived at about setting up such a body. I thought that such an approach was a fairly reasonable basis on which to proceed but Hinchcliff is obviously in too much of a hurry to bother about it.

Hinchcliff thinks it is "sad" that I am upset by the idea that this new Liaison committee (which rapidly turned from a "mere statement" to a going concern) should get affiliated to the World Peace Council.

The fact is that the "World Peace Council" is no more than a branch of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, as its craven following of shopworn ideas like 'detente' shows. It's like the "International Union of Students" which has become notorious in Asian and Pacific student circles for its parroting of the Kremlin and its farcically undemocratic style of operating. After the Australian students walked out of the IUS over a year ago they published a fully documented report on their reasons for doing so. Perhaps it could be used as the basis for a future "Salient" article — it certainly makes interesting reading.

New Zealand students have listened to others who've had direct experience of trying to work with Soviet Imperialism and have learned the lesson and stayed well clear of the Soviets. I suggest that Hinchcliff think a bit more about that for the point is that, whatever their intentions, he and those who back him up have been used by the Soviets as a smokescreen for expansionist policies that threaten world peace.

Peter Franks.

Tripe replies

Dear David,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on John Hinchcliff's defence of his peace convention. May I say from the outset that I am sadly disappointed with its content.

The first point that I would like to pick up is Rev Hinchcliff's suggestion that the idea of the liaison committee received favourable support after it was debated in small groups. He should have remembered that I was among those who helped to sort through the reports of the discussion groups, and that I stayed to discuss these reports with him and others later on the Saturday evening. The Rev Hinchcliff should have further remembered that there was not agreement from the discussion groups on the question of the liaison committee, because every group talked about something different. He might then understand my amazement when he stood up at the final session the following day and claimed that there was strong support for his idea of a liaison committee.

This particular incident was a major factor in causing me to lose confidence in the convention organisers, and led me to suspect their motives.

I am also astonished by the Rev Hinchcliff's claim that there were only three sup delegates and about eight other members. Perhaps the Rev Hinchcliff should have familiarised himself with the plans expressed by the sup well prior to the conference to use to further their own ends (in the journal Socialist Politics.)

I now wish to try and elucidate for the Rev Hinchcliff's benefit the many questions he asked about the Stockholm Appeal. My concern was simply that if the convention organisers could concoct a decision from the convention that the liaison committee was a good idea, they might well also concoct an endorsement of the Stockholm Appeal. I am glad that they have not done so.

But the question of the Stockholm appeal has further reaching implications. Endorsement of the Stockholm appeal came in the midst of a list of action proposals which people were supposed to discuss and agree to or otherwise, and I know that in a number of discussion groups where the sup played a significant role, the discussion group as a whole was regarded as having supported the Stockholm appeal. And I would like to further ask the Rev Hinchcliff how people were supposed to be able to discuss the desirability or otherwise of the Stockholm appeal when they had only been able to listen to speakers who advanced the political lines advanced by the two supporters.

There are many other points on which I could criticise the Rev Hinchcliff's comments, but this task has been, and no doubt will further be performed by other people. I also hope that these comments will earn a further reply from the Rev Hinchcliff, so as to further the debate, hopefully in a constructive direction.

Regards,

David Tripe.

Splits among Maoists?

Dear Salient,

This is to add a note of protest to your newspaper about the article which you carried about the International Convention for Peace Action — as an effort to bring peace in our time, to safeguard and deepen detente and as a great movement of unity the I.C.P.A. Conference has had no equal in New Zealand, or indeed the whole Southern hemisphere for many a year. Mankind is steadily advancing from one milestone to another towards the humane goals of peace and social justice. And this conference was just such a milestone. Trade Unions, Church people and all the peace loving and democratic forces turned up to struggle against reaction and for detente. Why then was this conference condemned by your paper. Could it be that you are aping the mindless disruptive Maoists, hell bent on provoking a war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union?

You should think again, comrades. Even among this camp there are some who are beginning to see the true road to peace in the world.

Why, the Chairman of the N.Z. China Society, Mr Ron Howell is apparently able to see through the blind folly of anti-Sovietism which prevails in some quarters. His comments, "Permit me to offer congratulations on

the obvious success of the Convention for Peace Action" in his unsolicited letter to the Rev John Hinchcliff is indeed a note of sanity in the midst of the dark forces of reaction. What nonsense this attitude makes of the wild charges of "Soviet Imperialism" and "Superpower Rivalry."

Salient would do well to learn from such positive thinking people.

So, comrades, I say think again. The most urgent task today is to further detente and make it irreversible. Detente should be extended to the whole of our planet. And it is not too late for Salient to lend a hand to this endeavour, so that we may truly say "Peace is Possible." Yours in Peace and Progress,

John Burley.

Geol library

Yet again the long arm of the Library has reached out to wreak havoc amongst the students of this varsity. The fight is on between the Geology Department other Departments and the Library. The Library is attempting to take the Department's reference material into the labyrinth [*unclear: chass*] it maintains in the Rank and Browne.

For years now the staff and students of the Geology Department have been using the source material stored and displayed in the present Easter-field rooms of the Geology Department. With the current shift out of the Easterfield to the new Cotton complex some enterprising groups have seen fit to move against the Earth Sciences in an attempt to wrest the space intended for the Geol Library.

If they are successful the effect on student students will be felt further afield than just the Geol Department, for Zoology has already had their books stolen, and Chemistry, Biology, and psychology among others stand [*unclear: vet*] to lose their reference materials.

In fact, there are innumerable cases where libraries have been only too quick to replace the books they have removed back in the department once the sheer number of texts and papers has been realised.

President of the VUW Geology Society, (student Sue Robertson) told Salient that the importance to the hundreds of students she represents of retaining the Geol. Library is great, and that the damage that would be done to present research projects and those yet to come would be inestimable.

Although the staff in the departments affected obviously feel strongly about the topic, none of them are willing to make any public statements until after the Library Committee meeting. We can all therefore only wait to hear the results of this meeting, and watch the reaction of staff and students to any decisions or recommendations formalised. (Continuing.)

Salient

Official Newspaper of Victoria University of Wellington Students Assn.

Industrial disputes a-comin'

This year we can expect to see an unprecedented number of disputes on the industrial scene. Already, many Unions have taken and have threatened to take strike action if their voice is not heard in the struggle for wages and conditions. The question is — will the Government use the Industrial legislation which it rushed through Parliament last year despite outcries from workers and bosses alike.

In Salient's opinion, the enforcement of these laws would be a disasterous step to take in New Zealand. The immediate consequences would be devastating. The disputes of 1932 and 1951 would look mild beside the consequences of jailing union leaders today or endeavouring to force workers to accept tiny wage orders while denying them the right to strike.

In the long term, the laws mean an offensive step of the Government in it's path toward fascism. If the Government does smash free trade unions, which is obviously the intention of the legislation, then there will be no barrier left in the country to the onslaught of fascism. It was the same in Germany and Italy — the first step of the fascist parties in those countries was to smash the organised workers' movements and establish state (i.e. fascist) unions in their place.

What people who do not belong to trade unions do not realise is that the only way that workers have in their struggle for wages and on political matters is through trade unions. Certainly the Government does not represent the working class in any shape or form. In order to serve their masters — the companies — the National Government has had to put the boot into working people. The result — a new poor; and getting poorer all the time.

Even if wages were at a reasonable level, the need for compulsory unions would still be indisputable. The place of work is the focus of people's social existence. The right for workers to organise in the workplace to discuss collectively their problems is the basic democratic right. With the unions crushed, that voice disappears. This is not, perhaps, something that students can fully appreciate, until, that is, they go out to work.

In reality, it affects the lives of the hundreds of thousands of working people. No-one has the right to dismiss the problem as a thorn in the side of a peaceful society as is sometimes done. The enforcement of those laws deprives the majority of New Zealand's economically active population of their basic democratic rights.

For that reason, we should oppose any move to enforce the legislation and join with the Trade Unions in getting it wiped from the books.

NZUSA is soon to put out a booklet on the subject of Industrial Relations and civil liberties. It is imperative that students familiarise themselves with the subject.

Judging from the stories and rumours that we heard the Easter frolics had taken their fair toll of the workers. First in was David Murray, the Editor, looking more than a bit shagged after his mammoth 12 page squawk last week. He was closely followed by Gyles Beckford, technical editor, shouting "we are the champions," still dressed up in his regalia after the first match of the season. Lamorna Rogers, Rose Collins, and Rise Scotney all kept talking about uncovering taster Eggs at Waikanae. Allan Smith the Drama arty fart, had apparently been caught drunk in charge of a telephone but got pissed off when Margaret Lovell-Smith, the typesetter, told him to pull up his trousers and stop acting like some Downstage degenerate. It was about this time that Lynette Shum was carried in by Gerard Couper and Helen Corrigan (part-time red cross bandages) after a severe bout of Sue Cairney. As for the Advertising Manager. Mike Stephens, nobody knew what happened to him over Easter, come to think of it, noone knows what has happened to him all year. It was lucky that Craig Mabon arrived a wargaming type, he claimed to have fought both World Wars, the Boer War and the Crusades all weekend and been undefeated in all fixtures. Bruce Robinson kept muttering about Maths assignments that he had meant to do and then suddenly disappeared up his quadratic inverse vector only to meet Geoffrey Churchman falling quicker than a British found note. Of course the issue would not have been complete without the scrounging antics of Pal O'Dea who claims to have never had it so good during Easter, and don't forget Simon (Mohawk) Wilson who claims never to have had it during Easter. The only person to claim any work achieved was Peter Gibbs who had rewritten King Lear as a satire upon the Students' Association. Tom Duggan, dressed up as the Easter Bunny but nearly got shot twice as a noxious animal, which is more thrilling than Chris Norman or Rod James both of whom were too weak to leave the Salient office.

Salient is published by Victoria University of Wellington Students Association and printed by Wanganui Newspapers, Drews Ave, Wanganui.

President

— Lindy Cassidy.

Drawing of an angel with wings and armour

Last week's SRC donated \$200 to the International Students' Conference to be held at Victoria from May 7-10. The contribution towards the Conference was to help cover costs of speakers, food and travel.

It is important to explain why SRC and the Association place such an emphasis on this conference. The last conference in 1975, held at Knock-na-Gree helped to stimulate activity on overseas students' issues and problems. Such meetings provide the only opportunity for overseas students and others interested to come together on a national basis in large numbers.

This year's programme includes discussion on welfare problems, immigration, the role of overseas students while in New Zealand, women's oppression, Southern Africa, a Nuclear Free Zone in the Pacific and a general discussion on student movements throughout the world. Other activities include a cultural display, recreational and sporting activities, films — both commercial and documentary, a Hangi, and of course the inevitable party.

This conference is not only for overseas students — hence the name "International." It is in fact hoped that New Zealand students will participate in the conference and thus gain a greater appreciation of the problems and issues that concern overseas students.

If you have any suggestions for the programme, please don't hesitate to approach either me or the International Affairs Officer or the Overseas Students' Officer.

See you there

ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING Want to get the Real Facts on the Destruction of your NATIVE FORESTS NATIVE FOREST ACTION COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 21st, 7.15. COMMITTEE ROOM 1. THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB invites everyone to a Discussion on New Zealand Lounge 5.30p.m. Tuesday 19th April. FOLK SINGER Alex James to perform in the Union Hall Monday, Tuesday 12.30 — 1.30.

LOST PROPERTY Have you lost anything lately? Lost property has a number of items such as clothing, key rings, I.D. Cards, wallets etc. The office is located in the main foyer and is open Monday to Friday, 1.15 to 2.15p.m. Solution to last week's Crossword Across. 1. bread 4. improve 8. avarice 9. elect 10. dreadful 11. tier 13 idden 15. played 18. tank 19. an author 22. cobol 23. Tripoli 24. Tatiana 25. teeth Down. 1. boarder 2. evade 3. dwindles 4. I get up 5. pier 6. obesity 7. eater 12. flautist 14. don't bet 16. dervish 17. anatta 18. tacit 20. hoove 21. Elba 2XA Radio Active 2XA Your student radio station is selling T shirts. Pay your money and order at the Studass Office. Delivery now. ACROSS 1.600FS OFF 5. VIOLENCE PEACE 10. MISGUIDED 11. TWO PERSONAL— 15. MEANINGLESS 18. NICE GUY BUT., 19. TEMPER DOWN 2. POLINCS/PEACE 3. THERE BUT NOT THERE 5. No vote 8. us 11. PANDORAS BoX 12. WHO ARE YOU? 13. DISSUSSION? 15. BACK HAND 16. LOVABLE

The Crisis, 2

The 'liberal' alternative

Economic Uncertainty and Nervous Politics

by Colin Gillion, Economics Department.

Drawing of a man with a top hat

1977 is not a good year to be in the forecasting business. Anyone trying now to predict what New Zealand will be like ten, five or even two years ahead must be more than disconcerted by the economic, social and political upheavals that have taken place over the last few years. Many of the predictions of the early 1970s have turned out to be wrong. The 1969 National Development Conference, confidently planning on growth around 4% for the next decade, became manifestly irrelevant after two or three years. The Labour Government elected with a large majority in 1972 was expected to last two, maybe three terms. Instead it was overthrown by an equally large National majority after only one. And the picture of New Zealand society as a relatively sluggish one, adapting slowly but smoothly to change, turned out to underrate completely the vigour of the minority groups, the speed with which they emerged and their willingness to tackle established positions head on. In public life confrontation has now replaced consensus politics. In commercial life coping with economic uncertainty is now a larger problem than the search for efficiency. For the moment the only sensible prediction seems to be that where-ever we are going, we are not going to get there in a straight line.

The present uncertainties need to be seen against the more stable background of the 1950s and 1960s. Not that they were regarded as particularly stable at the time. The economy had its ups and downs, arising mainly from fluctuations in export prices and a recurrent tendency to over-import. But by the mid 1960s a fairly standard prescription had emerged for dealing with temporary balance of payments problems. "Steady does it" was Holyoake's phrase for it. Monetary policy and import licensing were both tightened and linked with a limited amount of fiscal deflation. Funds were borrowed overseas (on a scale which now seems very small) and there was a large element of just waiting around until the storm had blown over and export prices picked up again.

In addition to the relatively modest scale of the fluctuations and the moderate response of Government policy, there were a number of constant stars which provided a reference point for individual plans and expectations. Between 1948 and 1967 the exchange rate remained fixed, import prices rose by less than 1½% a year, consumer prices rose by about 4% and there was relatively little variation about these annual averages. Unemployment was measured in hundreds rather than thousands and increases in wage-rates were tempered both by the general price stability and a fairly wide acceptance, on both sides, of the rulings handed down by the Court of Arbitration. Internal class conflict appeared minimal and the brunt of the external fluctuations was borne by the farming community where the role of capitalist and worker were combined in one entrepreneur. Except for the three years 1957-1960 the National Party held power throughout the 1950s and 60s, but more because its personalities suited the conservative temperament of the times than because of any ideological gap between National and Labour. Socially the domestic issues which now appear pressing — regionalism, women's role, conservation, immigration, Maori land rights — had yet to emerge and the force of protest was directed at essentially external issues — Nuclear Disarmament and later, Vietnam. In economic, political and social terms New Zealand appeared to have achieved the stability and security it had been searching for in the

1930s and 1940s. If economic growth was slow, if some of the accumulating social problems were ignored, or if the tone of the community appeared smug, people at least knew where they stood, held firm expectations about their future life style, and were confident that economic and social change would not take them unawares.

The turbulence of the last seven years has wiped some of this self-assurance from the collective New Zealand profile. In economic terms the outside world has been neither consistent nor kind to us. The turning point probably occurred at the the end of the 1960s: after decades of very small increases the import price index rose by 10% in 1968 and 12% in 1969. (The reference throughout is to years ending June 1968, June 1969 and so on.)

We were then just emerging from the 1968 recession and it took a while for what was happening to sink in. When it did, wage rates rose by 16% in 1970 and during 1971 the Consumer Price Index for the first time increased by more than 10%. From that point uncertainty became a major factor in the life of all the main economic groupings in the community, not just the farmers, and a number of the fixed assumptions — full employment, price stability, fixed exchange rates — no longer appeared a plausible basis for future expectations. There followed, in the first half of the new Labour Government, two years of unequalled boom. In 1972 and 1973 export prices rose first by 16% then 27% against only minor increases in import prices. Export receipts accumulated until overseas assets reached an absurd \$1000 million. But New Zealanders quickly proved equal to the task of spending it. Consumption rose 36% in two years, Government expenditure rose 50% and imports doubled. But by the time the spending spree was more than a year or so old the pattern reversed: export prices slipped whilst import prices drove rapidly ahead — 12% in 1974, 32% in 1975 followed by a further 30%. Last year, the year ending June 1976, the terms of trade were at their lowest level since 1933 having fallen by 35% in three years.

Economic fluctuations of this order are bound to have a substantial effect on the relationships between different groups in society. In the first place, New Zealand is unable to isolate itself from the high and vacillating rate of world inflation, and this in itself is a major source of internal conflict. Even if import and export prices rise by the same amount (so that our international trading position remains unaltered) the necessary adjustment of internal prices requires every group to renegotiate its position. The rewards go to the strong and the quick. Those without much economic power (pensioners, students), who are not well organised, or who are traditionally at the end of the queue (public servants, lecturers) lose out. Normally quiescent groups (social workers, prison officers) fear not just the erosion of living standards but a loss of relative position and status. In consequence they adopt a more aggressive, less flexible stance in order to protect themselves, frequently overstating their real claims in what they see as an issue of justice and equity as well as compensation for past and future price increases.

The true position is of course worse than a simple variation in price levels. Underneath the shifting value of money. New Zealand's real trading position and consequent standard of living have undergone changes of unprecedented speed and magnitude. Such fluctuations add to uncertainty and defensive behaviour. During a boom — such as we experienced in 1972 and 1973 — it is possible for even exaggerated claims for wage and price increases to be met, simply because the economic situation will genuinely support an increase in living standards. In a recession, such as the present one, the standard of living must be held back and even a simple compensation for past increases in the cost-of-living is too much for the economy to support. One moment anything goes, the next nothing. It is scarcely surprising that in such a changeable economic climate large numbers of people will feel (often with some justification) that they have been treated unfairly and will learn to express their frustration in loud and angry terms.

The atmosphere of conflict spills over from purely economic issues into social ones as well. One of the penalties we are now paying for our past insensitivity to minority issues is that grievances which have accumulated over the years are now being expressed by those who have learnt the new art of public confrontation. A Maori land march would have been unthinkable in the 1950s. In the 1970s it appears a natural and respectable way of demanding recognition from both the Government and the public. A magistrate last week who made prejudiced (and privileged) comments about the role of men and women in the family, was promptly and publicly rebuked by a women's leader more articulate and sensible than he. At a local level, action groups in both Thorndon and Aro Street have successfully preserved neighbourhoods and communities. At a national level, the last election saw an effective but unsuccessful protest group, the 'Citizens for Rowling', publicly direct their attack against a single individual politician.

Politically there seem to be two kinds of response to an increased level of economic and social disturbance. The one favoured by the present Government seems to be to meet force with force. Claimants, whether on economic or social grounds, are met by a Government posture which is immediately aggressive and threatening and which attempts to escalate the argument to the point at which the opposition retreats. The alternative and one which the Labour Government under Rowling appeared to be adopting, particularly towards union affairs, is to attempt to talk down protesters towards a compromise position after allowing them time for a full

expression of their grievances. The danger with the first approach is that it exacerbates the original root cause of the protest. Even if the Government can win a particular issue, the losers are left with a sense of injustice and the lack of a fair hearing, which may simply cause them to grow stronger and more closely united: Muldoon has probably done more for the anti-apartheid movement in recent months than either Hart or Care. The virtues of a quieter, more moderate approach are that the situation becomes defused of any unproductive emotional heat, compromise becomes possible and individuals are left with a sense of having been reasonably treated.

The economic experience of the last few years should have taught us a number of lessons. One is that in periods of high inflation fairness and equity are issues as important as the inflation itself. Another is that a greater degree of economic control will be required if the outside world is going to behave the way it has done. And a third is that the conventional policies of the 1950s and 1960s are inadequate to handle the situation. To do so is going to require the reasonable and responsible cooperation of most of the main economic groups in society. If we are going to cope with what happens next year, let alone the next decade, the last thing we need is a Government with a nervous twitch.

Drawing of three giant men pointing at a group of small people

What your NZUSA reps are saying

Speech given by David Tripe, General Vice President of NZUSA. to the Canwar Easter Seminar on Peace and the Environment.

Speech given by Lisa Sacksen, President of NZUSA. to the Canwar Easter Seminar on Superpower rivalry in the Pacific.

Whenever I get asked to look at something from an environmental viewpoint, I always strike the problem of knowing exactly what an environmental viewpoint is supposed to be. And this confusion is added to by trying to also relate this environmental viewpoint to the struggle for disarmament.

But, as a starting point, I will look back to the International Convention for Peace Action, held in Wellington in February, and to a special interest group at that convention, which considered the question of "Peace and the Environment." To protect my reputation, I feel obliged to say that a reference to that convention should not be construed as implying approval of it; but rather I use it as a basis for criticism and comment, from which to develop further ideas.

I remember two points being made by way of introduction: the first of these related to the environmental degradation that ensued from nuclear warfare, while the second approach questioned the extent to which New Zealand's military forces harmed our environment in the course of their normal activities. The way in which these ideas were treated, however, did not take things very far. We had to agree that New Zealand's military forces did not do a great deal of damage to the environment, beyond the odd fire started by artillery practice at Waiouru. The damage wrought by nuclear warfare is rather graver in its consequences (to put it mildly), but, in this case, people were not really prepared to give serious consideration to the conditions which cause nuclear war. I will put some ideas forward on this question later.

The special interest group on "Peace and the Environment" did, however extend its scope beyond these two topics. It started to consider questions relating to resources, and I believe that there was some recognition that peace was not possible while the world's resources were so patently unevenly distributed amongst the world's people. There was a recognition of what, in my view, is a very proper attitude: that peace requires justice.

Various people see environmental movements as having various different social objectives, and these social objectives can vary widely from the reactionary to the radical. One recent survey, by a sociologist, which was reported to the Environment '77 Conference in Christchurch earlier this year, suggested that New Zealand's current crop of environmentalists tended towards the former category — that is, that the environmentalists tended to be conservative in their social and political viewpoints — but it was further recognised that there was no necessity for this to be always true.

My personal viewpoint is more towards the radical end of the environmental spectrum, however. To take one example, I don't get quite so concerned about subdivisions on hills up to the west of Brooklyn. The goals of the environmental movement that I support are rather, to establish a social order where man's relationship to his environment is non-exploitative, where the word exploitative is used in a political sense. This means that I look to a society where resources are used according to our social needs for them, and where it will be possible for us to continue to use them for as long as possible, and where we do not seek to exploit resources, in the minimum possible time for the maximum of profit.

Criteria that are something similar must be applied to the struggle for disarmament, or the movement for peace. The sources of conflict in the modern world are the struggles between rival imperialisms, and the struggle against imperialism. The struggles between rival imperialisms are the conflicts that develop between

the big powers as they jockey against one another for influence: the struggle against imperialism is the attempt by peoples in different parts of the world to fight off their foreign masters, and to free themselves from the system which oppressed and exploits them. Thus the struggle for disarmament must entail a struggle against imperialism.

Furthermore, imperialism is a system with an insatiable appetite for the world's resources. Thus the struggle against imperialism is not only a struggle for disarmament: it is also a struggle to defend resources, and protect the environment. And it is further a struggle to establish a system which is non-exploitative between different sections of the population.

I can now go back to the issue of nuclear warfare and nuclear weaponry, the concentrated development of which is undoubtedly environmentally damaging. And again, we can see that the major imperialist nations of the world, the superpowers, are the ones that are primarily responsible at the present time for the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear warfare. And while these two nations are busily pretending to be talking about peace, they are, in fact, just as busily preparing for war.

The question is then one of what we can do about it, once the problem is recognised. I believe that we should support the call made by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to the opening meeting of the committee which is preparing for next year's UN special session on disarmament — that the scrapping of existing stocks of nuclear weapons was the only way to avoid a nuclear holocaust. And I would remind people of the call made by the late Chinese Premier Chou enLai for the Chinese Government, "for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons."

However, we have another example of the relationships between the struggles for disarmament and the struggle to protect our environment taking place rather closer to home. We have a particular instance where we are striving to protect our resources from excessive exploitation, with regard to fishing.

Many fishermen, and a number of other people besides, are raising the cry that the operations of foreign fishing fleets in our waters are upsetting fish supplies, with the result that we are having to pay even higher prices for fish in our local shops. There has recently been controversy over the mesh sizes of the nets used by Japanese and Russian trawlers operating in our waters and only last Wednesday we saw in the Evening Post something of net sizes being used by South Korean trawlers. We find foreign fishing vessels interfering with the operations of New Zealand trawlers, and there have recently been reports from Tauranga of shots being fired between New Zealand and United States owned trawlers.

By a number of processes, then, a serious depletion of our fishing stocks is taking place. The answer is commonly talked about the only way to properly protect the resources and environment in the seas around us is for us to declare a 200 mile zone of economic management around us, and we must urge the government to go ahead with this at once.

But it is here that we strike the problem in relation to the struggle for disarmament, for if we are to achieve our environmental goals in this respect, we cannot have disarmament. If the Ministry of Defence's assessment of New Zealand's capabilities are anything like correct, we must have the exact opposite of disarmament, and in this respect I refer to the Minister of Defence's speech to the Upper Mutt Rotary Club on March 28, where he said that: "New Zealand would be hard-pressed to establish and maintain a surveillance and policing effort on the scale needed to ensure that persistent infringements could be detected, and sufficient violators arrested, to constitute a deterrent."

Plainly, for such purposes, a substantial increase in our defence commitment to our navy and air force would be required, and here again, I must disagree with the general attitudes shown at the International Convention for Peace Action. Although the situation may appear to be contradictory, so long as the present world system exists, we cannot protect our environment and struggle in all spheres for disarmament. The goals of the environmental movement and of the movement for disarmament must then be the same: for as long as their goals cannot be satisfied within this system, the system must be changed.

N.Z.U.S.A. is the National Student Organisation which represents the country's 39,000 University Students.

Our policy on the matter of Nuclear Warship visits to New Zealand is quite clear. It says:

"That NZUSA actively campaigns against the visits of nuclear armed warships and to this end calls for the immediate withdrawal of New Zealand from ANZUS and the establishment of a Nuclear Free Zone in the South Pacific."

This policy is linked to our most important and controversial piece of International Policy which states:

That NZUSA condemns the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. military, political and economic domination and competition as being contrary to the independence and development of all other nations and their peoples.

We oppose the visits of Nuclear Warships not only because of the danger they bring in themselves; the risk of accident and contamination, but also because of the danger they represent. They indicate for New Zealand a future which we do not wish to see. They represent the growing threat of confrontation between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

Many people believe that the U.S.S.R. is still a socialist country, that its arms build-up has been in response to the threats of the United States in this area, that its recent forays into Africa, its commercial interests in Europe, India, Singapore and Australia are only signs of the USSR asserting its right to a "legitimate sphere of influence."

We wish we could share this view of the world. Nothing would give us more comfort than to consider the U.S.S.R. as a bulwark on the side of the world's people, standing in defence of their rights against the aggression and imperialism of the United States.

But to believe this, to take this comfort we would have to be blind, wilfully blind. We would be neglecting our responsibilities and obligations as the youth of this country.

For us, it is clear that the world is coming closer and closer to a third world war, We believe detente to be a smokescreen set up to disguise the realities of the world. Do we then give up all hope for Peace. Most certainly we do not.

There is a path away from this awful danger.

First N.Z. must withdraw from the American Alliance, particularly the Arms pact and, couple this with greater unity with the Third World countries and an independent, non-aligned foreign policy. As long as New Zealand bases its security on great powers it will inevitably be drawn into the adventures of the great power — IndoChina shows that. And independent, non-aligned foreign policy, based, on unity with the Third World serves the best interests of New Zealanders and the people of countries by placing us with those who bear the brunt of superpower contention.

Second New Zealand must strive for greater economic independence, particularly by pushing out foreign capital. New Zealand's main economic ties with foreign imperialism — its main markets in the developed capitalist world, foreign investment by transnational corporations and heavy borrowing in the world's money markets — all these strengthen the grip of imperialism in New Zealand and draws us into greater political ties with it. Without greater economic independence New Zealand will not be able to defend its political independence.

New Zealand must promote a nuclear weapon-free peace zone in the South Pacific. Such a peace zone excludes great power rivalries from the South Pacific. It will force the two superpowers to dismantle their military bases, including U.S. military bases in New Zealand, to remove all their nuclear weapons and their armed forces from the South Pacific. In particular, the South Pacific will be closed to the surface military ships and submarines of the two superpowers, they will no longer be able to use it for their fleets, particularly their nuclear-powered, strategic missile-carrying submarines.

N.Z.U.S.A. can and does play a part in this.

Through our fraternal relationships with the universities in the Pacific— the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, the University of Papua New Guinea, and the Australian Union of Students, we promote and foster the idea of a Nuclear Free Peace Zone in the Pacific. Our struggle is made that much easier because each of these Students' Associations has positive policy on this matter.

Through the Asian Students Association we have contact with many Third World Students Unions ranging from Student unions in the Middle East to Japan. The A.S.A. has strong and militant policy on the question of the Superpowers. In this framework we lay down the basis for the united front against war.

Here in New Zealand we lend our support to the Campaign Against Nuclear Warships, and propagate the idea of an independent and non-aligned foreign policy for New Zealand.

Socialism Betrayed

Tirana (ATA) — The restoration of capitalism in the revisionist countries has brought, and is bringing catastrophic consequences to their economies. Chaos and constant decreases in agricultural and industrial production are amongst the characteristics of the grave and ever deepening [*unclear*: crisis] their economies are undergoing.

All the revisionist countries are suffering failures in agriculture, a fall in grain production, fruit and vegetables, livestock products, etc. Between 1971 and 1975, agriculture in the capitalist Soviet Union registered a 34 billion rouble deficit. Production failed to meet the plan by 68 million-tons in the area of grain alone. Potato production fell by 26% between 1975 and 1976. The revisionist Georgian newspaper "Zarya Vasto Vastoka," was compelled to admit that the "plan of agricultural production is in a catastrophic situation." The capitalist Soviet state can only ensure that two-fifths of the population's potato requirements will be met. This has led to a growth in black-market activities.

Nor is the situation any better in Czechoslovakia, East Germany or Bulgaria. Within a year, agricultural production in Czechoslovakia fell by 20% and in East Germany by 30%.

Under these conditions, the level of agricultural imports is increasing greatly. Russian, Polish, East German, Hungarian, Bulgarian and businessmen are constantly signing agreements with U.S., Canadian, Australian and other firms purchasing from them not only considerable quantities of wheat, but also meat, edible fats, etc. In 1976 alone, the Soviet Union brought 6 million tons of wheat from the U.S.A., and over the next five years it plans to import 5-8 million tons annually.

The Gierek clique in Poland imported 7 million tons of grain, 700,000 tons of meat and 30,000 tons of edible fats from the U.S.A. within a year.

Naturally, it is the broad working masses who suffer the consequences of the restoration of capitalism and who are forced to pay more for their bread, meat, edible oils, various manufactured and farm products, and so on. They also have to pay the bill for the big deficits and debts which the regimes in power owe to the Western countries.

This anti-popular and reactionary policy, the policy of oppressing and unscrupulously exploiting the working people, has further aggravated class conflict and provoked the indignation and protest of the working people against the revisionist regimes in power.

Control of Malaysia?

Who Controls Our Economy?

The Poverty Of The Malays—phenomena of Colonialism.

This is the question concerning everyone. The following article. 'The Poverty of the Malays' is to illustrate just this point. If readers want a better understanding about the poverty of the Malaysian society sources of information from elsewhere have to be sought. This article concentrates on the Poverty of the Malays, one of the phenomenons of colonialism.

(Sources from Sarina and Straits Times Newspaper.)

—by J. Mill.

Why the western countries carry out the policy of Capitalism? People put forward few theories. Malaysia has been governed by not less than three western countries. India, Indonesia and the [unclear: Phillipit] are also countries that have been through the colonial stage like Malaysia. There definitely must be a reason behind it. The prime reason is Economic.

Although Dr C.D. Cowan can argue strongly that the British interfered in Malayan politics because of the concerns that other foreign powers would enter Malaya, it is still the Economic factors. There may be others who feel the factor of unrest and uncertain, y had forced the British colonial power to interfere in Malaya, but its principal rote is still manifested with economics. However, it is a fact that the state of unrest had very much interfered and obstructed alt the capitalists from exploiting more resources from our country.

Therefore when we use the criticising point of view to analyse the British colonial rule in Malaya, (in fact it was an invasion) one of the most general and most factual views of the invasion of capitalism is based upon the political favour and economic interest of the western countries.

As the imperialists are armed with economic factors as their motive force, therefore the task that follows is how to accelerate their actions in order to make imperialism a reality. One of the most popular formulae in order to achieve the above economic ends is to invest in the colonies. In these economical fields of agriculture and mineral resources, is included rubber, tin mines oil palms, etc.

At last the colonialists have successfully and completely monopolised the rich resources of this colony — Malaysia. Dr Khoo Kay Kim has clearly stated: "In this stage, the economic development of the Malay federations relies upon overseas especially the capital from England. Although at the beginning stage, the Chinese capitalists from the various states of the colony controlled about ¾ of tin productions, since 1912 the British companies have steadily replaced the Chinese companies Besides, the revelation of the above sources, we also know 62.1% of the share capitals (Saham Modal) is controlled by foreign interests, while only about 25.2% is under the national capitalists. For example, about 11% of the land in Sembilan is owned by the XXX private companies Ltd groups. (Names translated.) According to Dr V. Kanabade (translated) in his UMBC

economic report, as much as 60% of the country rubber industries, banks and many giant agencies are owned by the foreign capitalists. Among the States throughout the country, out of 961 tin mines only 50 of them are owned by the Malays.

If 1% foreign owned land in Sembilan is a sad thing, then a more astonishing thing is that in Malacca, even up to the present, the Malays do not own a single plantation. The Prime Minister of the Malacca State said "Even though our country has been 'independent' for 18 years, the map does not show a single-plantation owned by the Malays." All the plantations in the state are controlled by the non-Malay, including Chinese and foreigners.

There are Chinese capitalists. But further argument on this phenomenon is not important. Like the Western powers, the coming of the Chinese into Malaya, was one of the motivating factors in the economy. Dr Khoo Kay Kim pointed out: "it is unnecessary to continuously repeat the social relationships of the foreign immigrants. Their comings and their existence are solely due to the economic problems," Many came as cheap labourers. It was the shortage of labourers in the developing tin mines, pepper and rubber industries which brought about the influx of the Chinese into Malaya.

See the chart below. Then we can clearly see better who controls our country's economy!

Due to the continuous effort made to investigate and analyse, details about the poverty of the Malays have been gradually known. For example the director of the Centre of the Farmers Institutes (Pertubonan Peladang Pusat) has once revealed the serious economic backwardness of the Malays. In Perak alone, more than 250,000 Malays belong to the poor class.

Among them, 95,000 are farmers. Their monthly income is only \$25. They are part of the 43% of the poor people in Perak. The poor class is of 69% in Kelantan, 61% in Selangor, 59% in Perak and 53% in Kedah. Based on these circumstances, Prof. Ongu Aziz therefore concluded: "Evidently, our farmers are, like in the past, still poor." Everyone knows this and this includes the Government itself!

According to the '75-'76 country's economic report, 86.7% of the families in the countryside villages are poor. Their one person monthly income is only \$25. Up to 85% of the village population are Malays.

In reality, before the report was out Razak had revealed that at least more than 40% of the city and village population are living on the poverty line. Their total income is only about 11% of the country's income. Their livings are on the boundary of starvation.

Such is the state of poverty which has been in existence right from the time of colonialism. (The situation is not changing. It is actually getting worse.)

The 'independence' of Malaya is a historical fact. But the meaning of this sort of 'independence' will definitely lead people to suspect. Our country's economy is still heavily dependent on overseas countries. The major part of the wealth of our country is still controlled by the foreign capitalists. These are the facts as clear as crystal. Yet the Malays are still backward and are being oppressed.

Malaysia owns rich resources and natural materials. But the people are still poor. This is why when talking about reasons of poverty in the third world countries, (including Malaysia) as Pierre Jalee points out in his book 'The Pillage of the Third World,' "The third world countries are poor. The main reason for it is that the rich resources in these countries have been exploited by the developed countries. Moreover, the export trade is geared towards the necessity of the developed nations, and even then the commercial trading is only beneficial to a small number of capitalist groups."

News from Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore Suicide

A 43 year old woman committed suicide after she and her husband were resettled at Ang Moh Kio, a new housing estate in Singapore.

According to her husband. Mr Ang, a former farmer, he and his wife had been running a pig and poultry farm in Yio Chu Kang since their marriage 20 years ago. Some time last year, the farm was acquired by the government and they were resettled in Ang Moh Kio.

Experiencing the same fate as many other evicted farm families, the couple not only lost their sole means of livelihood, but also had to bear the higher cost of living in the housing estate flats. While previously they could be self-sufficient in eggs, chickens, vegetables and fruits collected from their farm, they now have to buy everything they consume. Added to this financial problem is their inability to get employment, for what can a farmer with 20 years farming experience do in an assembly plant in Singapore?

Factories are also reluctant to employ people of Mr Ang's age as unskilled workers. Thus the only job

option opened to them would be road sweepers and gardeners (if they are available) which are at the same time extremely low paid.

Mr Ang revealed that because of their plight, his wife became worried and fell ill. She suffered from insomnia and though she sought medical help, her condition did not improve. Eventually poverty forced her to take her own life.

Ref: Straits Times. 5 March, 1977.

Uni fees rise

Agreement has been reached between the Education Ministry and the Vice-Chancellors of five Malaysian universities to increase the tuition fees as from next session.

The universities include the University of Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia Institute of Technology and Universiti Petaling.

The increase varies from 13% to 22% depending on the subject. For Arts subjects, the fee will increase by \$60 to \$510 a year, while Science and Engineering subjects increase by \$90 a year and dentistry and medicine increase by \$120.

Ref: Nanyang 11 February 1977.

K.L. Black Operation

A Malaysian politician. Yap Chin Kwee, former political secretary to the ex Finance Minister. Tan Siew Sin, and two Malaysian Special Branch personnel. William Tan and Tham, were alleged to have plotted to overthrow the Singapore PAP government.

The Singapore Government statement published on the 25 February issue of Straits Times also mentioned that these three worked through opposition party leader. Leong Mun Kwai.

To reinforce the allegation, the government brought Leong Mun Kwai over the state-run television to 'confess' about the 'conspiracy.' Leong was then serving sentence for criminal defamation allegedly made at the last election when he spoke at a Workers' Party rally.

In Leong's cloak and dagger story, he said that his party, the People's Front and he himself were in financial crisis after the 1972 election. In order to seek financial redress, Leong willingly made himself a stooge to further the aims of Yap and the two Malaysian Special Branch men.

Neither the Singapore Government statement nor Leong's confession threw any light on the motive behind Yap. Tan and Tham. In mentioning the two Special Branch officials, the Singapore Government was careful to qualify that the present regime in Kuala Lumpur was not involved in the plot.

The Malaysian Inspector General of Police, Haniff Omar immediately denied any such involvement by any of their Special Branch men at any time. Similarly Yap too issued a statement denying, Leong's allegation.

For whatever reasons the Singapore Government has in 'exposing' or 'ing' the so-called conspiracy, what remained clear was the so-called conspiracy was too childish and naive to be true. It was said that the strategy of the conspirators was to defame Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister so as to topple the PAP government eventually. If such a strategy can hold any water, then overthrowing a government becomes an amateurish game.

What was not mentioned in the government statement was that Leong, before forming, his opposition party, the People's Front, was a member of the PAP. and one of the model 'leaders' of the government indoctrination youth institution, the National Youth Leadership Training Institute.

Ref: Straits Times 25, 26 Feb. 1977.

Playboy Club in Singapore

According to March 12 report of the Straits Times. American businessman Rezman was about to finalise the plan to establish a Play Boy Club in the city centre in Singapore. The Club would be known as "Penthouse in the Sky". It would be completed with 30 bunny girls" both local and foreign.

The capital investment was initially set at S \$100,000 but the management had applied to increase it to a S\$1m.

For those in New Zealand, there is little need to describe what a Playboy Club is. This new venture is a further proof of an insult, exploitation and commercialisation of the female sex for the pleasure of the leisurely class and the tourists. Among those who patronise such places are businessmen, local professionals, rich hooligans as well as the Ministers.

Ironical it might be, while it is necessary for university and polytechnic students to get "entertainment permit" for film shows and for talks and forums within the campus, this private club which peddles in women

and wines "need not apply for a public entertainment licence" said a Ministry of Culture spokesman. The Liquor Licencing Board has granted a licence to the Club.

½ population under poverty line.

About 49% of the households in Peninsular Malaya have an income below the poverty line, according to Prof Timothy Lam Thim Fook.

Out of 1.6 million households, some 792,000 are poor. Of these, 86% are in the rural areas and the rest in urban areas.

Prof Lam also said that in 1970, of about 439,000 poor households, in the urban areas, at least 108,000 households (25%) were in absolute poverty.

Prof Lam further mentioned that in urban areas, poverty stricken households had insufficient access to basic services necessary for an adequate quality of life such as piped water, electricity, sanitation besides a lack of security of tenure.

He estimated that 25% of all the people in Kuala Lumpur are squatters.

Ref: Straits Times 18.3.77

No ID — no treatment

The Health Minister Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew, warned the public that treatment might be refused if one could not produce his/her identity card "because the government's denial' scheme to prevent food and drugs reaching communist terrorists." This policy, he said, would apply to both government and private hospitals or clinics.

Many rules and regulations have been put forward by the government to control the population. The University and University Colleges Act (UUCA) and its Amendment to control the students in the higher institutes of education; the Essential Regulations and Rukun Tenggara to control families and communities; and now even patients are not excluded from political control.

(Ref. New Straits Times 11.3.77)

Selling Housing Forms

Though 50,000 low-cost housing forms were issued in Penang, it does appear that there are more people chasing the available forms giving rise to a racket which queued for the forms only to sell them at a high price to others.

Apparently it was not only black-marketeers who are preying on the people, the State Housing Committee itself is charging a M\$5 levy as "processing fee" for the forms.

Said a State Executive Councillor, "If the people expected it to maintain its efficiency, it needed some funds.'

Ref: New Straits Times 17.3.77

Professorial Board Committee on the Admission of Overseas Students'

This committee was established in November 1976. At its first meeting the committee decided to invite members of the university, as individuals or in groups, to offer comment and recommendations on the range of matters included in the scope of its enquiry. All submissions will be treated as confidential by the committee. They should be sent to the Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the Robert Stout building, No Later than April 29.

The matters on which comment is invited are: —

- The basis and Formulation of government policy on the admission of overseas students (i.e. its purpose within New Zealand's external and objectives; the countries from which sponsored and private students are admitted; the processes of consultation by which government policy is modified and the role of the universities therein; changes which this university should consider supporting; etc.)
- The basis of, and procedures for, selection of individual students by OSAC (i.e. the academic standards set; the English language proficiency requirement; administrative procedures for selection; etc.)
- The policy and procedures of this university in:—
 - determining the overall percentage of overseas students admitted to this university and the balance within it of undergraduate and graduate students.

- deciding quotas for admission of first-year undergraduates through OSAC.
- admitting individual students with credit towards a first degree or as graduates.
- approving individual courses and transfers from one course to another, after arrival.
- recording statistical information on the academic performance of overseas students.
- appraising the overall academic progress of individual students and in dealing with sponsors, immigration authorities and others on academic questions.
- The administration of government policy Concerning entry permits, renewals etc. (i.e. the adequacy of information made available to students in New Zealand and at overseas posts; the nature and timing of official communications to students; the arrangements for consideration of individual cases, etc.)
- The welfare of overseas Students within this university (i.e. academic and other counselling arrangements; the needs and circumstances of sponsored and private students — special tuition, accommodation, etc.)

Interested students are urged to present submissions. Before presenting them, see Gyles Beckford (student rep on committee) through the Studass office.

Marshall on New Zealand

Russell Marshall, Labour MP for Wanganui has had a reputation for being one of the more progressive politicians around at the moment. Salient went along to find out how much truth there was in this. We were sadly disappointed to find that he approached the interview as a member of the Labour Party and nothing much else. The feeling that we got was one that is often gained from Labour Party members. We sat inside having a nice chat feeling that it would not have mattered what was going on outside — riots in Lambton Quay or anything the answers would have been the same.

David Murray asked the questions, Gyles Reckford took the photos.

Photo of Labour MP Russell Marshall

Salient: What do you see as the state of New Zealand at the present time?

Marshall: I think I should identify the problems of the present day and what the Labour Party should be doing about them.

The first is the gap in incomes and inequalities in lots of different areas. That gap has grown noticeably in the last 15 months. Wage levels at the bottom end of the scale have been held, but people at the top have their fringe benefits and so on — and so inflation has not really been felt by them. The effects have been felt by those on the low and middle incomes.

There are small but important spin-offs to this. For example in education. The difference between high income and low income areas is noticeable. The low income areas are usually the areas with the special needs — remedial reading, large Polynesian populations etc. Those areas need extra assistance — but these things are being delayed and the existing facilities are being eroded.

The Health system which we set up in the late 30s and early 40s has been steadily eroded. Access to primary medical care is more difficult with the passage of time. And it's the lower income people who have the most difficulty in getting access to this system. Often it's just not knowing how to work the system, or not having enough money to work the system.

The public transport system has been run down the Rangitira has been taken off, rail-fares, air-fares are going up, other services have been reduced. So a growing number of people in this country won't be able to travel anywhere much, let alone travel across to the other island.

These areas are where the growth of inequality is quite noticeable.

The second area would be the whole democratic system and its erosion. The parliamentary System is due for a complete overhaul — it's out of date. I'd like to see the Labour Party make a priority early in 1979, of radical parliamentary reform, which would involve bringing in people from outside who have a knowledge of alternative systems, for example in Denmark and Norway. We've got to say to ourselves a Government is elected. How best can a government then govern the country. I'm sure you wouldn't get the kind of system that we have now. Members of Parliament increasingly have no power in decision making at all. I'd like to see people in the community feeling that they had some rights to make their representations known and comment on what the Government is doing now.

While this situation has been getting progressively worse, and we did a little to rectify it when we were in power, Muldoon and company have made it still worse — the delaying of Parliament, the creation of a Prime Minister's office which fundamentally is a good thing, but the way they operate it has more power than the Cabinet they're not elected and not answerable to anybody; the concentration of power into one man's hands has not happened before in our history since Seddon. This is pretty alarming. The haste with which legislation is

pushed through without time for submissions to be collected or draughted in major select committees, the slow-down in the decentralisation process which we had begun, the erosion of regional development in a broad sense, the right to have community councils, the dropping of the Health White Paper — they've all been taken away. In a sense, we're further behind now than we were in the days of the third Labour Government, because of Muldoon's determination firstly to undo a lot of the things that Labour did, and secondly to concentrate power at much as possible.

The third thing that disturbs me is the polarisation of society. . . the way in which Muldoon has made prejudice respectable. Someone said to me recently that if you bang the table hard enough, you'll be surprised at what comes out of the woodwork. Real right-wing prejudice has come out with a vengeance. There is an element of bitterness in politics and public controversy that hasn't been there for a long time, So the whole nature of the way society is being divided is disturbing — people are set against each other. We've picked on Polynesians, bikies, solo parants, Hart and Care. Individual groups are picked upon systematically, and the community, some of whom would have things in common with the individual groups, are set against them.

The fourth area that bothers me is our international reputation. It could not have ever been as low as it is today. Muldoon's trip around the world has made New Zealand even more of a laughingstock than we were before. This is unfortunate because some of his colleagues are much more able to represent the country — Brian Talboys did a lot of fence mending last year and Muldoon has just gone around and ripped them all down again.

The major issue where we call foul with the rest of the world is on the sport issue — where, whether we like it or not, the Government was saying to the people in 75 "you elect us and you can play rugby with the Springboks." This is seen to be supportive of the Apartheid system no matter what they say in their statements. It is what you do that is important and we are seen as an enemy of Africa by some people. We're seen as siding with the racist South African regime.

The Prime Minister has got to make up his mind whether he stands on the side of the Liberation Movements, or on the side of the last bastion of slavery. We've gone back to the worst of the bad old days of being the right wing, white superior people in the eyes of the world.

Even our vacillation over the Common Fund and the New World Economic Order is an indication that we have gone back from where we were. Our reduction in the proportion of our overseas aid — the fact that to keep level pegging with our aid in the South Pacific, we had to take away more than \$14m from the rest of the world.

So those are the things that bother me as much as anything.

Salient: Taking these things, and particularly the economic thread, what direction do you think the National Party is taking New Zealand?

Marshall: We are moving in politics away from from the simple telling of truth as it is. Propaganda means that whatever the Government does, the best possible gloss it put on H. But. in tact, their economic performance is no better than Labour's and in the distribution of wealth, they are much worse than we were. The effects of their policies are going to be widening the inequalities in our society. They are putting a wrong side on major world issues — on the small white minority side; and they are now taking us to the right of the Hofyoake days in o day when right wing solutions have had their term.

Salient: Do you think common New Zealanders have the power to prevent a right wing solution?

Marshall: The people of Mangere quietly but strongly realised before the election this right wing trend. They revolted against what the Government is doing — the objection to the National Party was very strong.

Although there are not many signs of it, I think there may be a simmering strong reaction against what Muldoon is doing.

If anything like the swing at Mangere is repeated at Pahiatua, I think the Government will have grounds for concern. Translate that across the country and Labour would be in stronger than they were in 1972. There was a strong warning given to the Government at Mangere and it will be interesting to see how they react to that. Hopefully the National Party after Mangere will temper their policies accordingly. But how you temper Muldoon's way of operating, I don't know.

Salient: What are your comments on the long-term prospects for New Zealand?

Marshall: The people with the biggest job in this area are the people in the Labour Party — we've just got to work out what our goals are for New Zealand.

The biggest area is that of inequality. We should be working towards making New Zealand more of an equal society. The ones on the lower incomes are the ones affected when the subsidies come off — like milk and bread etc. The burden of economic distribution must be done much more evenly.

We've got to look at the education system and ask ourselves what is it on about. We've got to worry about the growth in illiteracy in the country and how we should combat it. The education system has to change to fit the changing circumstances — the increasing number of Polynesian people, the drift to the cities, the electronic

age.

There are enormous problems in the health field which the white paper tried to deal with — perhaps not in the right way. We've got to sell to people how badly they are being ripped off by the present health system and to create a climate whereby people can talk about their difficulties in getting primary health care. For a long time the doctors have had this field to themselves — they have called the tune on the subject of health services. If they haven't liked what the Government has been doing, then it doesn't happen. It's the strongest Trade Union in the country.

"... Propaganda means that whatever the Government does, the best possible gloss is put on it.. "

"... Real right wing prejudice has come out with a vengeance."

In the Social Welfare system, you can't solve 'law and order' problems until you have investigated what causes them. We spend too much time in this country bashing the guy over the head when he's reached the bottom of the cliff, and I think we should be spending some time putting fences at the top.

I'd like to see a foreign policy which takes much greater interest in the whole of the South Pacific. Government and MP's spend too little time in the islands and have not seen themselves as a South Pacific Nation or a South East Asian nation.

Salient: Do you think that these are realistic goals, given that New Zealand copes very badly in times of world recession?

Marshall: Even when things are bad, and there is a time of inflation which we have no control over, why shouldn't the load be distributed evenly. But we must also ask the question whether the traditional attitudes of our economic advisors, the Reserve Bank, Treasury have been the best or only way we can do things or whether we must look for more radical economic solutions. I don't know enough about economics to say where we should be going. The 'financial experts' have had it all to themselves in recent years whether Labour or National be in power. It is time to question the advice that we receive.

Salient: When you talk of radical economic changes, what exactly do you mean?

Marshall: I was hoping you wouldn't talk me that.

There's a large area of thinking that we need to be looking at. At a simple off-the-cuff response to that, one of the arguments that the Labour Party people have been inclined to follow recently is the question of the diversification of New Zealand's economy, the diversification of markets and Our own processing. We have made some small progress on that.

Another question which we have to raise is the degree to which New Zealand is master over its own economic matters. We should question our economic dependence as far as external influences in the international system it concerned — you know — the IMF the whole banking system and so on.

How much of New Zealand industry is owned by New Zealanders? Those arguments have been floating around from time to time but given the recent anti-communist propaganda we have had — to even raise questions of New Zealand being controlled by New Zealanders is turned into a communist bogey.

"... I'm not sure that if we were the Government, that we would do much more for you than the present Government is doing.. "

Salient: Do you think that the Labour Party is capable of leading common people on these issues? Do you think that it is capable of identifying the root causes of the country's problems? Pat Kelly in an interview with us recently said that the reason that we had so few Labour Governments was exactly this failure of the Labour Party.

Marshall: I think his analysis is correct. It seems to me that the Labour Party's two-fold responsibility is to identify the problems, and once you've identified the problems you are half way to curing them, and secondly, to communicate what you are doing simply. One of the problems of former Governments is the ability to take people with you. Take the Health field for example. You have to explain simply to people what there is wrong with the system — and with their help to draw out of them what is wrong with the system — before you go imposing on them your idea of what ought to be done. I think that it all we did last time. We produced a white paper and said "Thus said the Lord — this it what will be the health services for New Zealand" rather than asking the community as we did with the Educational Development Conference.

What we've got to do is, having identified what is wrong and how we are going to rectify it, to communicate simply and to hit three or four major issues which affect poor people and hammer those repeatedly.

Salient: As the Labour spokesman on Education, could you tell us what your philosophy is on tertiary education?

Marshall: There have been moves around the world to move toward an education entitlement. Everyone is entitled to four or five years post-secondary education, when and how they want to. We've got to work out what it is that we are trying to do in continuing education. You've got a tension on the one hand of carrying on a basic education such as English and History etc. and on the other hand you've got the occupational training.

Even at Polytechnic we are ending up with something like the University with some courses where you have to have UE to actually get in.

It is now time for a rethink of what options are available to those leaving secondary school, when those options are available, how easy is it to get into them and what we will do with them when they have finished. But having said that, I wouldn't in any way diminish the whole education field beyond secondary school. There are some countries around the world in surprisingly poor areas which attach great importance to the opportunity that adults ought to have to come back and do some ongoing type of education — like North Vietnam and Tanzania, one of the 15 poorest countries in the world that places great priority on adult education.

What I am saying is that we have a lot of work to do on this.

" . . . We should be working towards making New Zealand more of an equal society. . "

Salient: Do you support a realistic allowance to tertiary students or do you think it should be in the form of a grant or loan to supplement students?

Marshall: At present what we would do to index it to the cost of living. It may be, like the pensioners, that you don't automatically get the cost of living. We may have to have a student price index. It's ridiculous to carry on with a level that was set in June of 75. In April 77 when there was 15.7% increase in the CPI in 75 and 15.6% in 76. When you are on lower incomes and down to the essential goods and services — and those things have risen more than most other things — so the chances of making do with the basic STB are getting less and less all the time, and unless we get an increase before the end of the year, people will have to leave because they can't afford to stay.

Salient: That's happening now.

Marshall: When I was at Canterbury they were saying that part-time jobs are harder to get than they were. We need to iron out some of the wrinkles. There are anomalies in the system. I would let those run a while to see how it was working out and after, say, five years, we would review the thing again to see whether we should carry on the system or scrap it and start another one. But it's too early in the life of STB to expect it to work properly.

Salient: How do you feel about the boarding abatement?

Marshall: What you are up against is the whole economic argument of looking at the limited amount of money and spreading it evenly around. It's easy for me to sit here and say that there should be no abatement, but given the fact that a Minister of Education has got to fight for his priorities with the Minister of Finance, I'm not sure that if we were the Government, that we would do much more for you than the present Government is doing. The best that could be expected in the present circumstances is to reduce the level of the abatement or to free a number of people that are now caught up in it.

Salient: Would you make any other changes to the existing STB scheme?

Marshall: I was closely associated with the working of the Bursaries Conference late last year. I would like to see those five proposals implemented — those things needing urgent attention. The abatement was one of these. They do need some attention.

Salient: It seems to me that the university is falling down in the role it plays in society, especially considering the amount of money which is spent on it. It seems to be doing more of a disservice — because with all the graduates coming out, society does not seem to have improved any.

Marshall: I have a couple of tentative thoughts on this. I'd like to see a greater relationship between the University staff and the Community as a whole. There is a lot of research which goes on in the Universities. In the field of Social Services there is research being done that should be available and used by Governments. It is stupid for Governments to draft policy on incomes for pensioners without considering the research and skills that are available in those fields at University.

There is quite a lot of work being done on the social conditions of New Zealand which was unknown to my colleagues or was ignored by them. I belong to the outfit that plans for the Wanganui region and we have been using material from the Massey University Department of Geography to identify the Available resources. I think that's a good thing although I was disturbed to find that the same departments were under pressure from private enterprise for one or two of their skills. Too often it's the private people that are moving in to take advantage because none else is.

Photo of Labour MP Russell Marshall

In Foreign Affairs I'd like to see the experts that there is in the history and political science departments put to use. There are people around the country that are experts — but we don't use them.

These are some of the things that would bring the university closer to the community and let the community use the facilities. It may also make the university staff a bit more involved in the community. You always run the risk of universities being the home of a small elite separate from the community.

Salient: Do you think the Universities should come under public control rather than as they are at present as institutions in their own right?

Marshall: I hope that in the future, the University Grants Committee produce a balance sheet which they have not been doing in the past. We've got no way of knowing how the money has been spent. It's time something was done about that. Ultimately the tax-payer pays for it.

I am not sure that I would want the situation very much different from what it is now, but a bit of healthy questioning of things that have always been done a certain way mightn't be a bad idea.

Salient: So you favour a greater amount of public say on the University?

Marshall: One of the things that is going to have to happen soon is for MPs on parliamentary committees to be able to ask questions and look at University spending. That is something that we don't have at the moment.

Labour on Campus

The Mangere by-election has revealed the depth of discontent with the present Government. The glaring failure of our self-styled economic wizard to 'rebuild New Zealand's shattered economy' (as National claimed in the 1975 election) is probably the main source of disenchantment. However Their dismal record to date goes beyond rising prices and falling wage levels. Many groups of New Zealanders have been alienated from the Government by such events as visits by nuclear ships, our increasing isolation in the world of sport, extreme industrial disharmony, callous harrassment of overstayers, education cuts, snooping on welfare beneficiaries — to name only some of the more odious features of the National Party's stay in office. Perhaps people are realising that catch-all phrase like 'New Zealand the way you want it,' which is all things to all men, is meaningless should everyone turn to it at once. Muldoon's high-handed style, and the timid acquiescence of those faceless men, with whom he has stacked his cabinet, are clearly no substitute for an effective programme of government.

For those of us who see the Labour Party as the only viable means of socio-economic change in New Zealand, the task ahead is to ensure that those promising initiatives which have been made are further developed. We cannot allow the Labour Party to think it can ride to victory on a wave of anti-Government sentiment but must ensure that it builds up the positive body of support which a party of change requires to sustain it. Here on campus the VUW Labour Club seeks to fulfil this role.

Food Abuse

Food abuse drawing

Aubergines

Aubergines, also called eggplants, look like purple Zeppelin airships. They too have a distinctive, if subtle flavour.

Aubergines must be prepared in the following way before use, to extract their bitter juices:

Wash aubergine: trim off prickly stalk end. Cut in half lengthways, then into chunks, (leaving skins on.) Place on dish.

Sprinkle chunks (white sides only) with salt. Cover dish with a heavy weight such as a cast iron saucepan. The weight should press right on the aubergines.

Leave for 30 minutes. Rinse salt off. Shake pieces dry.

Aubergine, Zuchinni, Tomato Sauce Casserole, "A Beaut"

- *1 Aubergine 1 diced onion.*
- *2-4 medium sized zuchinni*
- *2-4 medium sized green peppers*
- *2 cups Tomato Sauce (see below)*

Mushrooms can be added to Tomato Sauce Mixture.

or, replace Zuchinni with carrots, peen beans, cabbage. . .

- *Crated cheese oil for frying*
- *garlic Black Pepper.*

Prepare Aubergine as above. Then make Sauce: Lightly fry onion and green pepper (sliced into strips) with onion (sliced into strips) until onion is soft. Mix two tablespoons of tomato puree with 1 cup of water and add to onion and pepper.

Add crushed garlic and black pepper.

Slice Zucchini into large chunks and add also.

Rinse Aubergines; in a separate fry pan lightly fry in oil. Place Aubergines in well buttered casserole dish. Top with tomato sauce mixture, then a layer of grated cheese.

Bake 1 hour, covered 350 degrees, Gas 6.

Serve hot or cold.

— *Helen Corrigan.*

Let me help you make a little money 30 a whole lot further If you need a little help and advice on how to make your money go FURTHER while you're at varsity see Richard Starke at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ Richard knows the sort of money problems you're going to be involved with as a student and he'll be pleased to give you all the assistance and advice that's possible Apart from the BNZ services like cheque and savings accounts free automatic savings facility the Nationwide Account travellers cheques and so on there are two particular BNZ services that a lot of students have found very useful. BNZ Educational Loans The great thing about these is their flexibility. You can take one out for a few days to tide you over a rough spot till the end of term or you can borrow on the long terms 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 to up a time for a chat with Richard Starke or phone him direct at the BNZ Wellington Branch. Cnr. Lamblon and Customhouse Quays, Phone 725 099 ext. 702 BANK OF NEW ZEALAND Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand

Kelburn Wines and The Hostess For all your food and wine needs, consult us: we can cater for parties at prices to please all pockets. We also offer a student discount on Bulk orders of wine: 10% or more on orders over two gallons. Telephone 759-116. 86A Upland Road

More Drama at the Old Vic

Drawing of checkered hands

Wednesday's feature showing in the Union Hall was yet another re-hash of that well-known piece "SRC" this time around starring the angelic trio Angela Casselberg, Lindy Cassidy and Catherine Paterson, and introducing a new starlet — J. Middlemiss.

This work disappointed from the start. Despite changes in leading players and alterations to several acts, the play was basically unchanged both in plot and in theme to that which has now been shown for many years. One could not help feeling one had seen it all before. How it managed to go ahead with an audience of only 100, and no firm bookings for future seasons, is a wonder.

The shock resignation of producer Mark Sainsbury some weeks before had started rumours that the show would fold completely before completing its one-year season; however it lurched on.

Curtains rose at 12.10p.m. though some in the crowd took a little time to realise this. It was some Minutes, and several loud, and not so loud, Reports later before some degree of attentiveness came over those present. Cassidy, in the main speaking role was adequate — but once again there was a feeling of 'DEJAVU.' The same could not be said of Ms Paterson who was making her first appearance of the year — however her speaking part was brief and she seemed at times unsure of herself. Casselberg continued in her non-speaking role as in past showings.

Surprise of the day was the debut of J. Middlemiss. Rejecting the tyrannical Marching up and down style of her fellow players, she seems to indicate a break with the tradition of VUW players. In Assessing her performance one can only refer to the old school methods of acting. As one member of the audience was heard saying afterwards: "She was just so Right!" However even her efforts were unable to lift the show to the heights it achieved in the past.

The only real entertainment came with some clever ad-libbing at the end of the production, but by then many spectators had slipped away.

One can only speculate as to the future of SRC productions. Apparently the cast is pulling out all the stops for an extravaganza production in the near future with an appropriate new name SGM. Whether this will appease the critics and draw the crowds remains to be seen.

(There was also a Student Representative Council Meeting on Wednesday.) Details:

Elections:—

- A. Moore Jones — SRC Co-ordinator.
 - G. Beckford and G. Winter — student reps on Examination and Disciplinary appeals committee.
- Bursaries Motions:— calling on the Government to implement its election promise of a reformed bursary, with cost-of-living adjustments; inviting the Minister of Education to address students; failing any satisfactory action from Government giving VUWSA's support to a "National day of Action." All were carried with opposition from J. Middlemiss who said students should not always be asking for more.

Assessment:— demands of education campaign:

- that minimum mark restrictions and terms requirements imposed on Registry examined work be abolished.
- that all courses institute a double chance assessment system.
- that group work be made assessable.
- that high priority be given to inclusion of N.Z. material in courses where this is relevant.
- that assessment methods for each course be decided at the beginning of each year by staff and students.

Bruce Robinson — the importance of fair assessment.

Photo of Bruce Robinson

These demands were supported by the meeting. Ms Middlemiss objected, claiming that such procedures would make students lazy and cynical, and degrees too easy to obtain.

\$200 was donated towards the 1977 International Students' Conference to help cover costs of accommodation, food and speakers.

A motion moved by Leonie Morris asserting that "the eradication of sexual discrimination is an integral part of the struggle for the liberation of all oppressed people" was carried.

The meeting closed at 2p.m.

— *Peter Gibbs.*

AND HERE IS THE NEWS... RHODESIAN AND WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE STARTED IMMIGRATING TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA.. AN.. YES.. BUT FIRST YOU MUST FILL OUT THESE FORMS IN TRIPPLICATE . . WHEN YOU'VE DONE THAT, COME BACK AND RE-APPLY... BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR JOB WILL.. AH... MAY BE UNAVAILABLE... SO.. THERES NO REAL REASON FOR YOU TO COME HERE.. SO THE NEXT FLIGHT TO TONGA IS AT 12.55... IF YOU DELIDE TO STAY, THE BUS TO PAREMOREMO IS AT 3.15.... THANKYOU GOOD MORNING... IMMIGRATION AH! WELCOME TO NEW-ZEALAND FOLKS! THERE ARE NO HOLD-UPS SO JEST GO ON THRU! ADOLPH! LOOK THERE! CAWN'T YOU DO ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE BLACK PEOPLE? DON'T JUST STAND THERE... SEGREGATE THEM! MR MULDOON.... LATELY THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS LASES OF UNRESTRICTED IMMIGRATION OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS AND RHODESIANS INTO THE COUNTRY! WHY DO YOU ALLON THIS, AND YET... ACTIVELY PREVENT IMMIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM PACIFIC ISLANDS? .. THAT IS... BLACKS? HMMM? HMM... HE'S STILL GINKIN' TH I SEE GENSORED EEAAAAAHMMMMPHHHHHH... AAHHHHMMMMM... WELLL. THAT ISS NO QUITE CORRECT! IT IS EVIDENT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO THESE COMMUNIST ORIENTED MINORITY GROUPS!.. THE FACT OF THE MATTER ISS.. THAT WE WELCOME THESE HARMLESS AND, INDEED.. UNDER PRIVILEGED, INTIMIDATED REFUGEES AS A... AH... HUMANITARIAN GESTURE!.. KNOWING, OF COURSE THAT THEY WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY ASSIMILATING THEMSELVES WELL INTO THIS COUNTRYS SOCIAL AND.. AN.. POLITICAL CLIMATE (WHICH MEANS THEY'RE VOTE FOR ME)... AND OF COURSE THEY WON'T URINATE IN OUR STREETS AS THE AVERAGE NEW-ZEALANDER CAN UNDERSTAND! (WHERE'S MY BOTNE?) ... AHMHHMMMH!... ANYWAY THESE GROUPS WHO HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE PUBLIC ARE BEING INVESTIGATED! WELL AH... WHAT HAVE YOU ER... DISCOVERED ABOUT THESE 'GROUPS' WHO MAINTAIN YOU ARE ACTIVELY PRACTISING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION? WHITE GODDAWN UNTALT! I'LL GOT RED OF YOU BOY! WEEEEELL'LL I HAPPE TO BE COLLECTING INFORMATION ON CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHICH I INTEND TO RELEASE SOON! BUT THATS' ANOTHER... .. HEH.. HEH... STORY! WHO WAS THAT? ON ITS OK, HE'S FROM THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE... CHECKING SECURITY AND FILES AND PLUMBING AND STUFF! ... NOTHIN' SINISTER... Y' DON'T SAY! WHEN'S LUNCH? WANGANUI COMPUTER CENTRE RECEPTION

The Mount St saga

Key: The dotted lines show the proposed The Terrace as it will be after widening.
Map of The Terrace and Salamanca Road

Once upon a time when all the students were away on their Christmas holidays, the City Council decided to advertise a proposed scheme for the closing of Mount Street, ostensibly to facilitate the widening of The Terrace and Salamanca Road. They also decided to direct their notices to 10 foot giants; the public notices were nailed high up the lamp post in Mount Street.

Then they heard the objections but following outraged protests by a few proponents of democracy such as the students association, the Council agreed to re-open objections and hold another hearing.

As you can see from the map, the proposed widenings are part of a long-term plan of widening The Terrace 'as development allows,' in the words of one of the City Council employees. The map also shows that the changes do not appear to warrant the closure of Mount Street at all. In fact there are several immediately apparent reasons for keeping Mount Street open. It will still provide valuable parking space, even when some of it is chopped off. It provides access from Waiteata Road that is safer than a direct exit on to the Terrace. It provides emergency access when the mouth of Salamanca Road is blocked, as it often is. It also provides pedestrian access.

There appear to be no reasons in favour of the closure to balance against these, so one can only conclude that the Council seems to be taking advantage of the road widening in order to close Mount Street. And I must add here that the road is not destined to become a pedestrian mall when it is closed, but will most likely be sold to neighbouring property owners, as one City Council employee again told Salient.

Why would the Council want to close Mount Street under such a smoke screen? Well it so happens that the 'neighbouring property owners' are Phoenix Holdings Ltd. who own 252,254, 256 The Terrace and I Mount Street. The closure of Mount Street is very convenient for Phoenix Holdings because it means that Mount St will be available for sale and if Phoenix Holdings were to acquire the land occupied by Mount Street they would have a sizable block of land ripe for development into a high-rise apartment block. And as 'The Evening Post' reported, "The company had already discussed proposals for a block of flats on the site."

Nor are Phoenix Holdings just an ordinary property developer. They are a 94% owned subsidiary of Brierley Investments Ltd, one of whose directors is R. Brierley, the well known corporate raider on both sides of the Tasman. Brierley Investments has interests in a large number of companies in NZ and Australia, including NZ Pulping Mills Ltd (84%), Finance Corporation of New Zealand Ltd (96%), the Northern Steamship Company Ltd (91%), Wellington Gas Co Ltd (21%) and NZ Coffee and Spice Co Ltd (100%).

One can only speculate about the kind of housing such a company would erect on the site, but one would think it would be luxury rather than low-cost housing. So far, events have shown an example of property-developers' interests coming before those of local residents, and must be strenuously opposed.

The Students' Association will be presenting submissions to the hearing, but it needs the support of as many individual objectors as possible. Students are a body of people who are affected by the proposal plans, and therefore entitled to object. We ask you to support the Students' Association in its struggle against the corporate monsters, by objecting in writing to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 2199, Wellington. You may support your objections by speaking at the hearing, but need not do so. (The date is still to be decided, but objections will be accepted immediately.)

— Gerard Couper.

Health Service

Drawing of faces in profile

Saving Lives

Imagine yourself first on the scene of an accident, — car, electric shock, choking or having pulled somebody from the water. The victim has flopped breaching — do you know what to do?

Mouth to mouth resuscitation may save this person; you have heard of it, do you know how it's done?

Don't Panic, Here are 10 points to follow—

- Place victim on his back.
- Clear the mouth and throat with your finger.
- Put your thumb between the teeth.
- Tilt his head back.
- Pinch his nostrils with your free hand.
- Take a deep breath.
- Breathe in through his mouth.
- When the cheat rises, Stop.

- Repeat steps 6-8 until spontaneous breathing resumes.
- Stay with him, do not leave to find help.

There's nothing like a bit of practical learning to reinforce the theory. Vivienne and Stephanie have arranged a 15 minute colour film called "The Breath of Life" on Wednesday 20th April at the University Theatre (Union Building) at 1.15p.m.

We invite you all to come and see it and then practice mouth to mouth on the mannequins we have obtained for your use.

We look forward to seeing you — don't forget to bring your lunch.

Drawing of a cowboy holding a gun

Optometry

The question of students general optometric health was discussed briefly last year. On that occasion I pointed to the results of the survey [*unclear: the*] had been done at Canterbury, which had shown that, instead of the estimated 10% who were in need of immediate attention, the actual figure was in the region of 30%, I have, since then discussed the situation at some length with Mr E.B. Curtis, the Christchurch optometrist who originally carried out the survey and I am now in a position to comment at greater length.

One of the most significant things about my discussions with Mr Curtis, was the way in which he described Optometric health. Typically a person will think that, if they can read the bottom line on the chart in the doctor's surgery, they are all right, but it is not nearly as simple as that. A thorough Optometric examination will allow for a look at the condition of the eyes; for short or long-sightedness in either eye, or for any other refractive problems; for tests of distant and near vision with and without visual aids; and for tests of colour vision co-ordination of eyes, and depth perception. Such a comprehensive examination can pick up problems in many aspects of the eye and the process of seeing.

was brought home to me in a couple of cases that were cited to me. One was of a student who believed that he was constitutionally capable of spending a set number of hours a day at his books, and that he had to finish his work at 8.30 every evening. Given a pair of suitable glasses, his hours of work were able to be considerably extended.

An example such as that tends very much to give across an impression of an advertisement for optometry; such an impression it not intended. However, I believe that, despite any policy backup, we have a responsibility to seriously investigate this question, and I will try to assemble a more detailed report, with some proposals for action, for discussion at May Council.

Dentistry

Towards the end of last year, I was able to arrange a meeting with a sub-committee of the executive of the New Zealand Dental Association, and the minutes of this meeting were circulated in early December. People may recall that one of the more important things to come from that meeting was the agreement that there would have to be more solid data on standards of students' dental health before the Dental Association could come in behind NZUSA on the question.

Dr Finlayson, Director of Student Health at Auckland University, and I agreed to look into the matter of a survey of students dental health, and therefore Dr Finlayson approached Peter Davis of the Department of Community Health at Auckland University (Mr Davis was the sociologist involved in the survey on Adult Oral Health.) Following this approach I also met with Peter Davis when I was in Auckland in mid-February.

His attitude has been that an oral survey of students (i.e. looking inside their mouths) would be unnecessary, as well as being both difficult to carry out and expensive. His suggestion was that it would be more valuable to carry out a proper questionnaire survey, with questions similar to those used in the survey conducted at Auckland University in 1975. A random sample of approximately 600 on a nationwide basis would be sufficient, but if we wish to avoid distortions occurring on small campuses we might have to take larger samples.

The big problem with such a survey, in practice, will be to mobilise the organisational resources. Further discussions will be necessary before we can see what we can do.

— *David Tripe, NZUSA General Vice President.*

NZEI representative?

Drawing of stranded people in the ocean

Of recent weeks interested parties have been making submissions to the Committee of the Registration of Teachers headed by Sir John Marshall. It has been interesting to note the difference of opinions between the New Zealand Educational Institute (the Primary Teachers Body) and some individual teachers who have in effect said that the Institute's National Executive has done the dirty on its members.

The Committee was set up last year by the Minister of Education, to advise him on the current support and proposals for the annual registration of all teachers and the setting up of internal disciplinary procedures that would in most cases be administered by the NZEI. Many of the NZEI's top dogs have been strong supporters of registration because they believe that it is the final step in putting teachers in the "professional" class. As a recent NZEI circular said "Registration will be the capstone to the structure of professionalism which has been the goal of the Institute since 1951."

However, somewhere along the line the leadership has got out of step with the membership to the extent that at the Committee's hearings on the registration of teachers, the NZEI was claiming that its members supported one thing while rank and file members were saying that the NZEI leadership was misleading the Committee and misrepresenting its members.

The argument centres on two matters. The annual registration of teachers and the setting up of disciplinary procedures and a code of ethics.

The registration of teachers is a touchy issue. The proposals are that every teacher will have to apply annually for a licence to teach and that on the gaining of the licence the teacher's name will be entered upon a register. All applications for registration would be vetted by a Teachers' Registration Council that would be made up of NZEI Counsellors, and National Executive members. The crunch is that when looking at the composition of the National Executive and the Institute counsellors, the vast majority of them are Principals or their equivalents. The basic scale teachers who comprise the bulk of the membership are very poorly represented. The question being asked is, just who does the NZEI represent.? It would seem that the controlling interests in the organisation are the Principals, a group that has more in common with the employers than with the teacher in the class room. The fear being expressed by many teachers is whether the teachers are going to be judged by their peers in any disciplinary cases or whether they will be judged by their bosses made up to look like their peers.

One of the pernicious side effects of the Teacher Registration scheme is that it would also enable the Teacher Registration Council to refuse the registration of teachers whom it thought were unfit to teach. However, there are already procedures in existence that cater for that eventuality. It can only be concluded that the Registration business would also be used as a weapon against dissenting and disaffected minorities within the teaching ranks. In the past the NZEI National Executive has come under as much criticism for its spineless representation of members' views, and the sell-out of its members on a variety of issues as have the Education Boards and Minister of Education.

A further twist is when the NZEI 'also recommended that teachers be deregistered for breaches of the Code of Ethics of the teacher organisation concerned. Past history shows that NZEI is not averse to holding good replicas of kangaroo courts. Last year a teacher was charged with having breached the Code of Ethics, and was called to answer charges laid by an Institute Counsellor. However without the teacher concerned being able to defend himself against the charges, nor in fact even being told what the charges were. What fun the new Star chamber could have.

Other measures supported by the NZEI Executive included a neat supply and demand technique — the lapsing of registration. The proposal would have the effect of debarring any teachers that have not had a permanent teaching position for three years from re-entering teaching. Any teachers so affected wishing to return to teaching would be required to undergo a retraining scheme. Thus teachers who had left to have or look after families, or even who had been relief teaching for three years would automatically be stopped from rejoining the profession.

The net effect of all these measures is of course to bring about a more structured and authoritarian bureaucracy over basic scale teachers. Their 'union' the NZEI, an organisation controlled by foremen and managers (Principals) has shown that it is only too happy to fall into line with these measures and has shown that it is in fact one of the most ardent proponents of the various measures. All this and more; and not once has it been seen necessary to fully discuss the matters with the rank and file members. Many have asked whether the NZEI National Executive would sell its members down the river. The reply appears to be that it already has done so. Having concocted a policy, the National Executive would appear to have fronted up to the Committee on Teacher Registration and said that it was the members' views.

Even those teachers who had a vague inkling of what was going on were stalled when the Executive said, ". . . the submissions presented to the Committee can not be made public until they have been formally received and heard by the Committee." It seems that the members will be the last to find out what has been going on. By that time it may well be too late.

There is little hope that the Committee itself will see that it has been led up the creek. The chairman is Sir John Marshall, who as Deputy Prime Minister in 1969 said that a film showing insanitary toilets, decaying buildings, cramped classrooms was mere propaganda. Also sitting on the Committee is Mr Bruce Kelly, a long standing member of the National Executive.

All the same individual teachers have made submissions to the Committee. In essence they said, firstly there was no need to change the present system of registration and disciplinary procedures as embodied in the 1976 Education Act, since these were adequate. Secondly, there was no great demand from classroom teachers for any such changes to be made, thirdly the NZEI National Executive did not have the mandate to make submissions and the views that were expressed had never been fully debated and decided by members.

The actions of the NZEI National Executive do not bode well for the operation of the Teacher Registration Council which the NZEI hope to dominate. This episode is not isolated in showing the dubious loyalty and service that NZEI leaders have given to their members. In their search for the professional tag, the NZEI Executive has given little thought to the effect on teaching standards and the children attending schools. As one submission put it, "the children, people, teachers of New Zealand are best served by the present provisions and alteration of those provisions is too great a price to pay for the satisfaction of some teachers craving after status."

— Education Correspondent

NZEI & S Africa

During last year's Soweto uprising against the repressive system in South Africa, many Government buildings and institutions were attacked by the people. Originally non-violent, the uprising was the result of the long vented anger against oppression, by Soweto's citizens.

Following this, the WCOTP (World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession) mounted a campaign to raise money to aid an organisation called African Teachers' Association of South Africa (ATASA.) This is supposedly a union of black teachers, but grave doubts are held about its nature. One NZer who taught in South Africa for some time, said he had never heard of ATASA. Further to this, if the laws of South Africa are examined it is found that black unions cannot be registered and thus have no rights as a union.

The President of WCOTP recently visited South Africa with money collected from the Australian Teachers' Union, and presented it to ATASA, in a state supported tour of Soweto. The money is to go to the rebuilding of ATASA's headquarters at Soweto, which were burnt down during the uprising.

NZEI (the primary teachers union) is affiliated to WCOTP and received a call for monetary support early this year. The national office sent a circular to all branches asking that they contribute to a national fund which will be forwarded to WCOTP for distribution. At the meeting at which this circular was put forward, the Wellington branch fully supported the call and decided to levy each of its members (approx \$500) \$1 each for the purposes of the fund.

But later, after some thought and discussion, Wellington Teachers College representatives decided to oppose this motion, on the grounds outlined above. They felt an investigation into

ATASA, its relationship with the South African Government, and the reasons for the selective destruction in Soweto was needed.

Black Africans in NZ are also very critical of the source which has been chosen to receive financial support, and suggest its relationship to the government be examined very closely.

It would appear from several statements made in a report received from the President of WCOTP, Wilhelm Ebert, that the South African Government, through the WCOTP, has manipulated the campaign to support ATASA for their own ends and are pulling a fast one on the teachers of Australia and NZ. They are deliberately deceiving these organisations into believing that this ATASA is a legal black union, and using the funds to perpetuate their apartheid policies, as a part of the overall campaign to maintain power.

The policy of supporting South Africa's Black majority in their fight against Apartheid is to be supported whole-heartedly. But it is important that any money go to the right source, where it will be used by those organisations which aren't attached to the ruling class and are working in the interests of the majority.

At a meeting of the Wellington branch held on April 14, it was decided to continue to hold the money collected so far. In support of this a letter will be sent to National Office, informing them of the reasons and suggesting that donations received from other branches are also held.

A copy of the report from the President of WCOTP will be circulated to the Wellington branches, accompanied by a report of the background to the queries raised by the meetings. The white regime in South Africa is ruthless in its measures to maintain Apartheid, and efforts such as this could possibly be, have to be watched for carefully, and attacked wherever possible.

— Glenda McCallum,

Wellington Teachers College.

Poetry

Drawing of body parts on a conveyor belt

*I always get embarrassed eating grapes walking down Glasgow Tee
In case my Marxist friends should see me
If they did — I'd run and hide in Rawhiti Tee
Having lived there for three years
Writing a book of amazing intensity and political significance
I'd run screaming down Glasgow Tee*

*Only to see my Marxist friends eating grapes
Not having slept for three years
I take my flatmate whom I've never met
And sleep with her in Karehana Bay
In my sister's spare room*

*Walking we'd eat grapes and oysters
Walking arm in arm with Jungle Jim
We'd walk to Varsity watch a film
And walk back to Rawhiti Tee*

*We always go to Sasrac and SRC
I got some Bourbon forget the tea
Back home we'd sink the piss
Think of study but give it a miss*

*Political and social thought
Never has a teacher taught
They teach you facts
Which are like craps
And ask you to study maps*

*But I must say I enjoy the Gym
I often go with Jungle Jim
Who's always been a mate of mine
Has a preference for whisky — hates wine*

Factory Factory Factory Factory

*On the clock
all is the same after twenty-four hours, years
in the factory
all is the same.
The men
must also be immortal.
They stand in machine sweat
and make signs at each other,
work hard
to hang themselves in a permanence.
The women
down the other end of the factory
don't even have that.
They pack biscuits
and in the canteen
sit at separate tables from the men.
Are paid less for their life
because they are more used
to it.*

— G.C.
Eggs Ackley comic strip

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Law Students' Submissions to the Royal Commission on the Courts.

The New Zealand Law Students Association in conjunction with students of the V.U.W. Law Faculty Club, is arranging to co-ordinate Law Student submissions to the Royal Commission on the Courts, which is presently sitting. There is a detailed notice on the Law Faculty notice board in the Law Library, which outlines how to arrange preparing the submissions, and sets out the Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission.

Because of the very strict time limit we have been given to present the submissions, your submissions should be sent to Gerald Sharrock, N.Z.L.S.A. Submissions Co-ordinator, V.U.W. Law Faculty Club, Faculty of Law, Victoria, University of Wellington, to reach here no later than the 25th April 1977.

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THOSE HIPPIES ARE HOLED UP IN THAT THERE CHURCH! YOU GO AND BRING THEM OUT HERE SO THAT I CAN ASK THEM SOME QUESTIONS, MANWELL! QUICK! OUT THE BACK GATE! WE'LL HEAD FOR THE HILLS! UP THIS PATH! JEEZ, IT'S STEEP! THEY'RE STILL BACK THERE! I CAN'T CARRY ALL OF THIS STUFF ANY FURTHER! I'M GONNA HAFTA DITCH SOME OF IT! ME TOO! YEAH! PUFF PUFF GASP PUFF PUFF GASP! OH, GOD, I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER! I THINK I'M HAVING A HEART ATTACK! YOU GUYS CAN GO ON WITHOUT ME! WE CAN STOP AND REST FOR A FEW MINUTES, FAT FREDDY! GASP! WHEEZE! AN AMYL NITRITE! I'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR AN AMYL! QUICK! HIDE BEHIND THESE ROCKS! THERE'S SOMEONE COMING UP FAST BEHIND US ON FOOT! STOP BREATHING SO HARD! THEY'LL HEAR US! I CAN SEE HIM COMING THROUGH THIS CRACK... IT... IT'S A LITTLE OLD INDIAN MAN! ...AND HE'S CARRYING ALL OUR CRAP! LITTLE DO THE FRENK BROTHERS REALIZE THEY ARE ABOUT TO ENCOUNTER THE NOTORIOUS YOUR INDIAN WITH-DOCTOR DON LONG JUAN!! the adventures of FAT FREDDY'S CAT THAT'S THE FIRST FAT CAT I'VE SEEN SINCE I'VE BEEN IN THIS TOWN! I'LL JUST FOLLOW HIM AND SEE WHERE HE GOES FOR DINNER! LOOK! A FIESTA CAT! WHAT GOOD LUCK! HOOP! HOOP! GET ME ONIONS AND THE CARROTS! I THINK I'LL STAY TRUN!

Drama

Review: 'Vatslav'

By Slawomir Mrozek

Directed at Unity

By Phil Mann.

Slawomir Mrozek's 'Vatslav' is a play that must be seen to be believed. Polish theatre is renowned for its experimental and innovative nature, and Mrozek's play is a gem. 'Vatslav' appears as an amalgam of theatrical forms and styles, embracing Shakespeare (Python?) Brecht with touches of 'Peer Gynt,' 'Ubu Roi' and strains of the modern Polish Theatre Tradition. What is undoubtedly intended as an historical and political reflection of Polish society becomes a reflection of all societies. With its tautological dissertations on the nature of providence, law and social behaviour, this allegorical farce announces clearly that the age of miracles is over. We are here on our own standing on the shores of the Red Sea without without a Moses, or a providence to 'shape our ends.'

All through this witty play, Mrozek's leaders are either blind, morally bankrupt or self-seeking, and as far as 'the people' (an obvious cliché) are concerned — useless. In fact the self-styled 'leaders' are not even people, but personified animals. Mr Bat (Brian Jewitt) the capitalist literally sucks the blood of 'the people.' represented in this play by Sassafras and Quil (who is not a bird, but a man), a couple of yokels and idiots into the bargain. But in the tradition of the fools and mad, their view of society is perhaps the clearest. They will always be on the bottom, come what may.

Photo of two actors

Vatslay himself (Terence Nonweiler) is an opportunist, like the rest of us, determined to reap as many material benefits from life as he can. He is an escaped slave at the beginning of the play, hires himself out as a bear, and eventually becomes an entrepreneur and property owner. The Genius (Malcolm George) has a great many noble sounding ideas, but is completely without practical intelligence. He ends the play as an embalmed (Lenin?) standard carried by the invading army of General Barbaro (Jeff Thomas.) This invasion is an enforced 'liberation,' but of course the military solution leaves every one no better off than before. Historically the play is tied to Europe. Thematically the situation could have universal application.

This production had a great deal of promise, but unfortunately its quality was marred by some unexpectedly loose direction and uneven acting. Scenes that were disciplined . . . the interrogation of Oedipus Rex by General Barbaro for instance, contrasted noticeably with lesser scenes that had gone before. This tended to break up the play into scenes as scripted, rather than preserve flowing unity. The set was flimsy, and with 77 odd scenes to handle in Unity's restrictive space, something far more substantial was needed for its staging. However, what the production lacked in staging effects was compensated for by Rod McKenzie's original electronic and sound effects core.

Terence Nonweiler was a competent Vatslay bringing to the part energy and a certain charm, but marked by fussiness which gave the impression that he was not at ease in his role, In places he resorted to a declamatory style out of keeping with the rest of the production. Shona McLean's Mrs Bat was a gallant attempt at a difficult part. It's not easy to engage in monological conversation with a pet wooden dog, but she did not immerse herself deeply enough in the character to appear convincing. The Mrs Bat we saw was only skin deep; Brian Jewitt was a stiff, wooden Mr Bat lacking poise and preferring to act from the larynx up.

The actors who did stand out were those who had instilled conviction, a sense of reality and purpose into their characterisations. Bruce Tidswell was a delightful little boy with hoop, moustache and sailor suit, making a creditable transformation from little boy to bear. Thomas Main waring's Quail, a distinctly in-bred looking yokel, was an example of how effective a characterisation can be if sustained by physical and mental conviction. Andrew Dungan showed up up well in small but technically demanding roles. One of the startling characterisations was provided by Jeff (the Voice) Thomas as General Barbaro, who nearly stole the rear end of the show with his mastery of deadpan understatement.

Phil Mann's production cannot be described as exciting theatre. There were a few too many flaws for that, but it is competent and provides a good evening's theatre. On opening night, the cast looked as if they were enjoying themselves too much, dissipating the level of concentration necessary to make the play work successfully. It was a pity that everything wasn't right for the opening, but the production should tighten and mature as it moves through its season. Mrozek's work is not well known in this country and hopefully people will take the opportunity to acquaint themselves with his unique brand of theatre. The season ends on May 1.
— Richard Mays.

Photo of an actor

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Music

Photo of Jean-Luc Ponty

Jean~Luc Ponty

"It's growing. In time. I feel that. It's developing at just a thing by on its own. And I don't feel I belong to a movement of music any more. I'm just myself."

"No It's just no. or yes. I mean there is no answer to that. It's on an individual basis. That's all. It doesn't mean that all rock musicians are going to listen to jazz. I mean incorporate more of jazz rhythms or chord structures into their music. It just means there are musicians. Period. Just musicians who might start in one field, and realise they can learn a lot from another field. And that's it. So the thing is it was a few musicians who did that type of music. Contemporary music. Using the most modern instruments — electric and electronic. And having some knowledge and experience in improvisation, as well as getting into the energy and funk of rock and roll. And it seemed they are more and more getting into it, because it appears so hard to a lot of very young people who start playing an instrument."

As an example, the French-born jazz violinist, Jean-Luc Ponty cites his band's guitarist, Daryl Stuermer, who started as a rock and roller, when he was 14 or 15. What he was listening to was the Who, Jeff Beck and so forth. And one day he heard jazz . . . some jazz on the guitar, and that's how he opened his ears to jazz. And he's not a jazzman, but then again he's not a pure rock and roller, either. His sound would be close to rock and roll, but he has much more chops and more ideas to improvise with than the average guitar player. So that's where. One example of a person who doesn't put himself in one category. He just plays music, and music which uses a lot of knowledge of chord structures, of different rhythms, Speed, you know.

Eyeball to eyeball confrontation over glasses of orange juice. Heady stuff. Ponty rolls strands of his beard between his thumb and index finger, smiling. Beneath tangled hair, a scrollwork of embroidered leaves uncurls itself around his shoulders, tapering to a point midway down the spine of the pale yellow shirt. A neat touch, that, reinforced by quilted jean pockets.

The words come. Slowly at first, then gathering momentum. The Gallic intonations in his speech belie the fact that since 1969 he has spent most of his time in the United States.

Ponty played extensively on the European jazz scene for five years prior to that. His first gigs, with the Jef Gibson Band, developed and refined his style, both as a sideman and as a band leader. His performing grew from a musical domestic background — the foundations were laid as early as six, becoming serious at thirteen. His mother was a piano teacher, and his father a professor of music specialising on the violin. "It's not however because you're born into a musical family that you have talent for music. It's something different. But the fact that I was probably gifted for music, and that my parents were musicians. I was directed in the right way . . . very early. It happens that sometimes people are very talented for music and they don't even know and they're never given a chance. So let's say that it helped — since I had a vocation — to become a musician."

Devotion. The whole six hours a day practice routine. A complete classical training at the Paris Conservatoire, and time spent playing in a symphony orchestra.

Upon migration to Los Angeles, his record producer made a connection between Ponty and Frank Zappa, leader of the Mothers of Invention, and sometime musical iconoclast. Ponty enjoyed the resultant product at the time, but now he can't listen to it. With the perspective of seven years wedged between himself and the early recordings, their quality appears poor by comparison with his later efforts with Zappa and his present material. He warmed more to playing with Mahavishnu John MacLaughlin. As opposed to Zappa, who persistently confounded Ponty's expectations. The Mahavishnu stint blew up when Ponty discovered he couldn't live with the band on the road any more. Because of the religious attitudes which were, at least, overwhelming. Really. . . too much. He was living alone on the road while other members of the band were involved in Sri Chimoy's discipline. And it made things impossible. No communication at all. Besides music on stage.

As soon as he left Zappa, he started rehearsing his own band. Ndu Gu from Santana, drummed. A svelte black lady, Patrice Rushen, joined on keyboards. She stays home while Ponty is touring, studying music at university, with the aim of graduating before going on the road. Ponty added Stuermer, and Tom Fowler on bass. Alan Zavod on bass and Mark Craney, drums, complete the touring group. Jean-Luc put a tape together himself, and sent it to a record company before joining the Mahavishnu. "Like Jesse Colin Young, the guy

would do it." And that's how he received a recording contract with Atlantic.

The initial offering, *Upon the Wings of Music*, was a commercial failure. It was just fair. Aurora, its successor, radically altered the situation, and it was posited as a reason for extensive touring in the United States. It is much more a band album, and seems so to members of the band. So it made music better, too.

One of the leading lights among the battalions of modern jazz pianists. Chick Corea, and Ponty have previously amalgamated their bands for a joint concert. And that's a union that should produce some original musical concepts in the future, with plans in the air for penning a jazz concerto. 'I really like what Corea is doing with his band a lot.'

Ponty plays both electric and acoustic violins. One does not, in his view, replace the other. Nor does he want to limit his music to jazz or rock, a notion he considers ridiculous. Four violins accompany Ponty on tour — an acoustic model dating from the early nineteenth century, supplemented by two electrics and a violectra. — Patrick O'Dea.

Utopia:Ra (featuring Todd Rundgren) Bearsville

This album is by Utopia i.e. Todd Rundgren and his band Utopia — with Rundgren now preferring to be considered an integral member of the group and omitting the usual Todd Rundgren prefix.

In more ways than the title is this a group album, with Rundgren co-writing all the tracks except one, with the members of Utopia. Rundgren also steps down from the lead singer spot on two songs and drummer John Wilcox and bassist Kasim Sulton fill the position most admirably.

Rundgren has rightfully earned the reputation as one of rock's more esoteric and philosophical artists and in some ways this has become more of a recognised Rundgren trait than his music which is a decided shame because Rundgren has been and is, making some of the best music that is around today.

Ra is a fire album and it features some of the finest guitar that Rundgren has played — guitar of skill, dexterity and emotion. Rundgren on this album plays the "guitar-hero" image more than on his other albums and the results are startling. However he does not overshadow other members of Utopia with Roger Powell, the keyboard and synthesiser exponent outstanding and Kasim Sulton and John Wilcox a very inventive and versatile rhythm section.

The vocals, as usual, for Rundgren are based on harmony more than strength and provide a perfect foil for both the hard rocking numbers and the slower tracks.

The most lyrically aggressive track is Hiroshima featuring a very cynical slight at this unfortunate man-made disaster. The longest track is called Singring and the Glass Guitar featuring solos by the four members of the band interwoven with a loose idealistic concept about finding harmony — slightly pretentious but still an interesting and well developed idea.

Other notable tracks are Communion with the Sun, Jealousy and Magic Dragon Theatre, but all tracks are up to the standard set by previous Rundgren albums including the excellent Something-Anything album.

Production of this album is excellent throughout — another of Rundgren's talents as can clearly be seen on Steve Hillage's album L which features the members of Utopia, combining with Hillage to cut one of 1976's best albums — an album criminally ignored in this country. I would encourage people to listen to Ra and try and make sure this excellent album is not ignored just as cruelly.

— Colin Williams.

Fleetwood Mac: Rumour

Van Morrison: A Period of Transition Warner Brothers

A delightful treat here: like receiving an early Christmas present. Problems with the sound distort the vinyl surface on Morrison — the Mac predictably flawless, occasionally bland, never banal. I suppose it boils down to professionalism — 22 years of cumulative experience and as many albums again. Rumours notable for an 80 per cent single content and on the 20 per cent that isn't it approximates — embraces tunes more mournful than 'I'd rather go blind,' to which particular ditty I must admit a certain fondness for ever since it was transliterated by a one certain Rod Stewart. Christine Perfect, I must again admit, has got this business sewn up. Nailed down tight.

As a group they've been through a whole bunch of changes — Peter Green turning in his axe for a sexton's shovel, the initial resentment from the blues purists as they refined a more commercial approach: 'Albatross' into a slew of acoustic-tinged platters sometimes audacious in their brilliance; the abrupt departure of Jeremy Spencer on a religious bent followed by a whole raft of amazingly consistent guitarists. Interminable management hassles. Then triple platinum status with their last record for which the group's nucleus recouped

some of the past decade's sweat.

The break might, to the more cynical, seem to have arrived with the addition of Stephanie "call me Stevie" Nicks, the personification of the foxy English (Welsh?) witch, on vocals. The more rational might see it as stemming from those years of back-breaking groundwork.

The opening tracks are, peculiarly enough, both nominees for "The Worst Title of the Year" award. The first, 'Second Hand News,' is rescued with a zippy Queen opening, supported by founder member Mick Fleetwood's marvellously zany approach to the rock and roll backbeat and stunning harmonies centred between walls of carefully layered sound; drives home the point that the best music in this genre stays under 180 seconds. 'Dreams' is another contender in the downer stakes, again pretty nice, but naggingly reminiscent of too much of the preceding album.

Track three, and Lyndsey Buckingham's no [*unclear*: louch] with a pen either. Indisputedly, there are no fleas on this boy's fingers pastel notes spray from beneath the nails up and down the frets — his contribution to the group is as mercurial as his illustrious forebears. The side continues with a brace of singles 'Don't Stop' and 'Go Your Own Way' — the latter you'll recognise as "that song" — the one that has been repeatedly thrashed across the airwaves and still remains worthwhile; and closes with 'Songbird' — Christine Perfect's vocal silhouetted against a rumbling piano line. Incredible.

"I'm so weak, but you're so strong."

Side two and 'The Chain'. The funny thing about chains is that if you freeze them and apply a hard enough tap with a large enough hammer, they shatter, Nuff said. 'You make loving fun' — infectiously catchy, and the other track receiving a lot of airplay. The real surprise of the side is 'I don't want to know' breathlessly delivered by Ms Nicks as she approaches at 30kmh and exits in XKE Jaguar overdrive. 'Oh Daddy' has an all-pervasive air of ennui and, as such, stacks up as the album's weakest cut. 'Gold Dust Woman' impresses in much the same way — a couplet such as

*"Is it over now — do you know how
Pick up the pieces and go home"*

has it's last two syllables imbued with an oddly abrasive energy that never fails to break me up.

Van Morrison, and a deep, deep breath, please, ladies and gentlemen. There's something here I can't quite put my finger on. Perhaps it's the fact that this here album sounds as if it needs to be played on \$2500 worth of tastefully-designed stereo as an inbuilt prerequisite, and my battered deck can't handle it. As usual Van's stratagems are not so sly when it comes down to merchandising. Three years in the construction and enough here to convince hardened sceptics that the Belfast catarrh is again fit and well, after convincing many that he was ready for the rockpile after his last shot. "Genius" is a word I've hated from when Joni Mitchell used it to destroy the near perfection of Court and Spark, but there's a pan of me begging to apply it here. Thrill to such exotic irregularities as the man playing an electric guitar — and making a good fist out of it, too. The lyrics, of course, not so important; it's what he's doing to them with his throat that matters — and a minor quibble about length. It seems that We A, now that their Sellotape machine is functioning effectively again, have decided to economise on the vinyl side. Thirty-three minutes or thereabouts is not nearly sufficient, but it's been so long I'm sure we can forgive him that minor transgression.

— Horatio Axeman.

American Flyer: American Flyer United Artists

American Flyer consists of some remnants from a couple of long-standing American groups and a couple of cats quite well-known in their own right: viz, Doug Yule from the Velvet Underground, Steve Katz from one of the earlier incarnations of Blood, Sweat and Tears as well as Eric Kaz and Craig Fuller.

On first listening, to be sure, this album was nice 'n easy, with several tracks meriting a second go round. Unfortunately, on proceeding with this experiment, these tracks had been transformed into a sound not unlike Andy Williams, complete with strings.

For example, if one recalls that the Stones' "Hot Stuff" goes on "ad nauseam," try listening to "Back in '57." Or "Queen of all My Days," the pseudo-reggae effort — highly unconvincing after even two playings. "Lady Blue Eyes" is one track not written by Eric Kaz and could therefore be promising. In fact, it proves itself slightly different from what surrounds it, but is ultimately unmemorable: "You play the game and hope you'll be a winner..."

Luckily, the last track on side two bears a duration of under one minute; had this not been so, the contrived 'classical' allusions might stimulate dedicated "American music" listeners to a violent bout of frisbee throwing.

Although no electronic (i.e. synthesized) devices are used, one can apply the same principles here, in that these sounds could have been punched out on a music computer, right down to the timbre of each voice and the solos of the individual instruments.

It can be safely granted that Eric Kaz does possess rather a lovely voice for the market he is aiming to reach and that the strings are 'tastefully' applied, as are the guitar and sax solos. But the point is whether this disceipitomises the present American musical 'scene,' or whether American Flyer is just another band fortunate enough to have the right connections within the record industry.

If American 'roots' are what this band is striving to build on, then it's rather a laugh. The album has been processed, put through sieves, sieves, grinders, test tubes and music laboratories so that the end result is a non-descript regurgitation of studio mixers' "expertise" across the USA.

— Katy Corner.

Colin Morris Records 54 the terrace

Film

[unclear: oetry ropaganda]

Dziga Vertov, from Documentary: "I am cinema eye — I am mechanical eye. I, am a machine, show you a world such as only I can see."

Photo of a man looking through a camera

Documentary: A History of the Non-Fiction Film

By Erik Barnouw.

332 pages, OUP, \$5.15

Book Review by Simon Wilson

I have always had something of a prejudice against documentaries. First-class examples have tended to be exceptions; I suffer and am not, I think, alone, from over-exposure to trivia served up at school and before cinema features. However after reading Barnouw's book I am inclined to seriously reconsider the importance I had attached to a great number of fiction films. How, for example, would Costa-Gravas' *State of Siege* compare with the Uruguayan *Tupamaros*, made by the underground itself? How would *The Battleship Potemkin* stand up to the work of Dziga Vertov and others who did so much to unify the USSR after the revolution? How will Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* look beside the scores of films made in Vietnam during the war by nearly every country in the business except the USA?

We're not going to find out, of course. Somewhere back along the line, distributors throughout the world decided people should see, or wanted to see, fiction, the more fanciful the better. This despite the fact that when documentaries have been deemed necessary viewing (eg during war) they have proved more popular, this despite the popularity of the genre on television. Encouragement of imagination plays a part in such reasoning, but it's not that simple. The overwhelming feeling emerging from the book is the depths to which documentarists have probed this very faculty. "The documentarist" says Barnouw, "has a passion for what he finds in images and sounds — which always seem to him more meaningful than anything he can invent". Commonwealth pioneer John Grierson called the process "the creative treatment of actuality." Vertov proclaimed, "My mission is the creation of a new perception of the world. Thus I decipher in a new way the world unknown to you you."

Barnouw has divided his subject into genres, thirteen in all, which follow a rough chronological sequence. This system enables him to analyse in several veins at once: individual contributions, development within and between countries, the effect of technology, and above all the relationship of non-fiction film to the social and political history of its time.

The book begins with the 'prophets' (the Lumiere brothers, Edison) who invented film as a means of documenting activity, of showing people to themselves. They were scientists, caring little for aesthetics but greatly committed to communication. Their inventions astounded audiences throughout the world and very quickly led to a new industry. With the injection of vast commercial interest came the first set-backs. Imperialism was well served by films of quaint, loyal 'natives'. Fidelity to actual events became subject to interest value: if a cameraman could not get to the action it was simulated. In the name of 'enterprise', audiences saw the Boer War shot on a golf-course, the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius on a table-top, and even 'footage' of the

Dreyfuss case which had preceded the arrival of film. Concurrently, editing in fiction films was producing works of greater merit and captivating power, and the documentary went into decline.

This was to be the pattern. Technical advance, or a new mode of approach, would swing nonfiction into the limelight. Cheap imitation would follow, and then fiction, usurping techniques and roles, embellishing at will, and flooding the screens. Distributors, and later on governments, would show no interest, or take an active negative stand, and documentary would subside again.

Thus Robert Flaherty's brilliant *Nanook of the North* was refused by five major companies but upon its eventual release and enormous success they flocked to sign him up. 'Explorer' documentarists were sent to all parts of the globe, often extending Flaherty's romanticism into fully-fledged patronisation. His next film was not so exciting and he was gradually dropped. Similarly, attempts under Roosevelt to popularise the New Deal were thwarted by Congress who withdrew funds. This even though the films being made argued for conservation not against administration policies. Fiction, with *The Grapes of Wrath* and others, took over.

In Europe during the 1920s many painters adopted film. Hans Richter and Fernand Leger were among those who formed the 'painter' genre, aiming to create a visual correlative to music. City-symphonies, made all over the continent, used subject matter as a tool for rhythm and pattern. The genre never enjoyed wide support and was overrun by the introduction of sound and the world economic collapse. After 1945 a 'port' genre emerged in a similar world, producing some masterpieces of visual aural collusion made possible by magnetic recording.

Documentary has not been without social impact. During the 1950s and early 60s 'black films' came into prominence in Soviet satellite countries. Often very witty, the aim was generally exposure of bureaucratic inadequacy. Dusan Mekavejev's *Parade* was supposed to be a coverage of the May Day parade, but became a satire on the pomposity and ridiculous protocol which surrounded the event. May Day in Yugoslavia was never the same again. The Canadian Film Board has sponsored many films made by communities about themselves, resulting in a high degree of participant interaction and the formation of productive links with government.

I cannot hope to encompass all of Barnouw's material. From the Boxer Rebellion to Vietnam the role of non-fiction in war alone is a fascinating study running through the book. Perhaps the two films which reveal the greatest range of documentary functions are the olympiads: Leni Riefenstahl's *Olympia*, made under Hitler at Munich in 1936, and Kon Ichikawa's *Tokyo Olympiad*, of 1964. Riefenstahl's film is a monument to superhuman power; balletic, almost mythic, a work perfectly composed within the ideology which spawned it. Ichikawa has adopted a more human approach. Concentrating less on the competition and spectacle, more on the individual place in the whole, he includes the losers, the injured, the people in the crowd. His testament achieves its grace and pride through quite different means. The Japanese Olympic Committee had hoped for another Munich-type film and ordered re-editing.

Barnouw sometimes loses his threads, failing to investigate similarities of pattern, approach or theme. A lack of value-judgement often prompts over-enthusiastic response. Comments on Basil Wright's *Song of Ceylon*, for example, do not reveal the film's restrictive colonial frame work. The chronological sequence can be misleading. But these are small faults.

Not until the end does anything like a definition of 'documentary' emerge. Instead, the reader is left to build up an impression of passionate involvement, of dedication, of a belief in the role of non-fiction film. Barnouw shares all these things and brings them vividly to life. It's difficult not to make this sound like a simple publicity blurb, for the book really is one of the most enjoyable and informative on film available.

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Letters

Letters can be handed into the Salient mailbox just inside the door or in the Studass office, or sent to Salient, Victoria University of Wellington Students Assn., Private Bag, Wellington.

Letters must be double-spaced and written on one side of the paper only. Please keep them concise and short.

"World view of the ruling class" less nauseous than Salient's distortions.

Dear Sir,

I am a graduate of Victoria University and occasionally read Salient to clue up on political trends on campus.

The April 4 issue of Salient caused me great concern. On page four there was an article titled 'Press in Chains' based on a feature published by The Dominion where, incidentally. I am currently working as an subeditor.

The author of your article, Robert Collins, pointed out that Independent Newspapers Ltd owns the 'free press' of Wellington with the exception of Salient and the Karori News. Collins also correctly pointed out that privately controlled papers such as The Dominion generally perpetuate the world view of the ruling class even without state censorship.

However, the implication was that Salient and the Karon News are unfettered by partisan considerations. How wrong!

After reading the unashamedly bigoted article on the Socialist Action League campaign in Mangere and about the letter fraudulently published under the name of Patrick Mulrennan of Young Socialists, in addition to previous

anti-Tortskyite smears in earlier issues, it appears that Salient too is committed to subbing democracy in the back.

I consider it an unenjoyable compromise of ray own political ideals to work for INL. But as far as selective distortion is concerned, the recent Salient material is far more nauseating and far less excusable than the Dominion's.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Robb.

P.S. I am a member of neither YS or SAL.

A trout rises in a clear pool and is caught on the barbed hook of Evan Leslie's wit.

Dear Editor,

Evan Leslie's article in Salient no 6 points out that "There are serious lessons to be drawn from the Socialist

Action campaign in Mangere.'

Certainly this is true, and it is true that the Mangere by-election brought into the spotlight many of the issues of importance. But those serious lessons, and those issues are nowhere to be found in Evan Leslie's article.

It is all the more damning that this is Salient's only direct comment on the Mangere by-election. That election brought into focus many important issues. Brigid Mulrennan's campaign highlighted these; the four main demands of the Socialist Action campaign were: "Return Bastion Point to the Ngati Whatua; End the Wage Freeze — Full Cost-of-Living Rises; No Deportations: Let Pacific Migrants Stay; Repeal the Abortion Laws."

Those issues and many others that the Socialist Action campaign took into the Mangere by-election are of the most pressing concern to the people of that electorate. Yet they are apparently regarded by Evan Leslie as of interest only to "nutters."

Unlike the campaign, the article can find nothing to say of the National and Labour policies. It can find nothing to say of the lack of housing in Mangere, the lack of health services, social welfare, and child care facilities, and the complete default of the two main parties on those issues.

But if the article is short on political content, it is long on contempt for the Socialist Action campaign. In fact from the sexist title "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" till the concluding sentence, it is concerned only with ridicule. In this, its approach is identical to the approach of the establishment media, which seeks to distort or ignore altogether the "minor parties" — especially if they present socialist policies.

Evan Leslie's attempted ridicule is based on one aspect of the Socialist Action campaign; the very low vote that it recorded. In this too, the article resembles nothing so much as the establishment press, which counts political impact by votes, and votes alone.

Unlike Evan Leslie, the Socialist Action League and the Young Socialists see election campaigns as an ideal opportunity to publicise the socialist cause, and to front up to the Labour Party to demand that it stand up for working people, Maoris, Pacific Islanders and women, as those people expect it to. If the likes of Evan Leslie had it their way there would be no challenge to the Labour Party's pose as the representatives of working people. And that's just what National and Labour want; they know that campaigns like Brigid Mulrennan's which take a clear stand on the side of the oppressed, have an impact far beyond what is recorded on the ballot.

That is the reason that the Socialist Action campaign faced a virtual ban by the establishment media. If the campaign won the socialists many friends, it proved once again that we face powerful enemies. And articles like the one in Salient do not help.

But Evan Leslie's complete ignorance of the real issues raised in the Mangere by-election, and complete preoccupation with smearing the Socialist Action campaign, is not out of place in Salient. Like the forged letter which appeared under my name in issue no. 5. like the slanders against the Young Socialists which have been the major part of Bruce Robinson's contribution to the debate in the anti-apartheid movement, like the ridiculous cartoon on page 8 of Salient no. 6, the article seeks to poison students against a legitimate student club which seeks only to have the same chance as everyone else to present its ideas to students.

As I pointed out in my letter to Salient no. 5, such an attack sets a precedent for attacks on the democratic rights of any individual or club that holds views that are counter to those of some of the elected leaders of the Students' Association.

The campaign of vilification against the Young Socialists shows a complete absence of understanding of the principle of freedom of speech, and a refusal to allow us to present our point of view on an equal basis with the editor of Salient and his co thinkers.

This refusal is the same as the refusal of the daily papers to publicize the Socialist Action campaign in Mangere. It stems from a fear of opposing opinions. It is a fear shared by the National Party, by the Labour Party, and by all the forces that support the status quo. Salient is doing students a disservice by lining up with the status quo on this matter.

— Unsigned but submitted by Patrick Mulrennan.

I like Trotskyites.

Dear Editor,

As an ex-'kid' of working-class origins (brought up in a railway village and my Dad a truck driver), a feminist and a post-graduate student (who has had to struggle through university with its middle-class and

academic male-dominated environment), I feel obliged to come out and (in these times of purge) state that Trotskyist politics are the politics for me.

I do not belong to the 'Young Socialists' but I am seriously considering joining the Socialist Action League when I have the time and the money to do my membership justice.

As far as I am concerned the political theory and strategy of this political movement is the best that is offering. It is a political movement adhering without compromise to social justice and committed to the struggle of the oppressed for justice — The senior members of the Socialist Action League are active, erudite and have integrity. In my opinion it is the political movement and the party of the future — not only in New Zealand.

Student politics? Well?! — I would urge any thinking students not to be put off by what they read in 'Salient' but to investigate the matter independently for themselves.

Yours etc,

'Student.'

Drawing of a duck wearing a hat

The Film Reviewer Who Fell on His Head.

Reading David Beresford's review last week was a real science fiction treat. His far-out musing on metaphorical mutations of modern man and the multitudinous levels on which the movie "moved" were truly revealing to those of us whose feet fell to earth some time ago.

Really Mr Beresford the whole thing was quite simple. Ziggy was actually sent to earth not, as you mistakenly claim, to get some gas for their spare buggy, but was sent out to get some burgers for his Buddies. This explains much of the "unexplained" in the movie including Ziggy's preoccupation with housemaid Mary-Lou, who he understandably mistakes for a hamburger wrapped to go. Also explained is the need for the \$333million 'cos with extraterrestrial inflation who knows what the fuck Ziggy thought hamburgers cost.

I wonder what the star suckers woulda thought of this movie without David Bowie's "well hung snow white tan" being touted at the box office. As for being a sociological stew, this movie more closely resembles a fetid stew of spew.

Besides it was boring and silly. (Why didn't I think of that in the first place?)

A.T.Webb.

NZer rips into hawker debate.

Dear Editor,

I am utterly shocked at the attitude adopted by a number of Malaysian students who have been writing in these columns, week after week, on the sketch by M.S.A.

Putting the sketch in the context of my viewpoint as a New Zealander, I saw it not as a condescending and snide attack on low-income workers in Malaysia nor as a regular rip-off of tourists as specific to Malaysia but as a light-hearted look at a fact-of-life situation in Malaysia.

Also, in New Zealand, education is not analogous to "intellectualism" as it may be in Malaysia where there seems to be a distinct upper class. In New Zealand nobody seems to be offended by the daily 'Andy Capp' take-off of the typical bread-line working class bloke.

I put down the petty, 'nit picking' comments of the Malaysian students (writing to Salient and wasting column space) as a demonstration of their own personal guilt feelings about their opportunity of a university education.

For these students worried about giving New Zealand the wrong Impression about tourist rip-offs in Malaysia well — give us some credit for not taking a humorous five-minute sketch as an authority on public relations in Malaysia. After all, that type of event will occur in any country where bargaining of the price and language barriers occur in trading situations.

A New Zealander.

Getting to know you.....

Dear David,

This is not another letter written in defence nor in criticism of WMSA. but rather to highlight some points which should be given fair consideration. For a start, allow me to say that it's becoming quite sick and rather monotonous to read about all those countless criticisms against WMSA. O.K., if WMSA has really done something wrong by merely promoting the "sketch," surely they are aware of their mistakes by now and a sincere apology should suffice to settle the whole controversy once and for all. To err is human, to forgive is divine? But frankly, why are we all so obsessed in criticising MSA and never in congratulating it on its fine performance in the Malay and chopstick dances? Indeed, why are there some students who are ever so critical about WMSA?

Let's face it, probably the major underlying cause for those against MSA revolves around the fact that this association is not prepared to take up any political issues whatsoever. The committee has made its stand pretty loud and clear to all of us students that it is not going to shoulder itself with political controversies. Fair enough. But if some of the students are unhappy about this, there are many alternatives open to them, some of which are: — 1) to form a committee of their own and stand for election in the next AGM, or 2) to organise a brand new student association of their own altogether.

The latter would only result in competition duplication of efforts and potential for conflicts in the future. So, probably the best possible alternative is to obtain sufficient support to be successfully elected into office by next election. If there are students who feel strongly convinced that MSA is not heading in the right direction, then they should whole-heartedly be prepared to do something about it, and not just passively criticise MSA year in, year out.

WMSA is not and can not please everybody, for there will always be people who will disagree with the policies of MSA. Those of us who are here long enough must have acquainted themselves, in one way or the other, with such staunch critics like Robert Pui. who while he was here, launched many remarkable attacks against MSA and its non-political commitments. A few years back, he stood for election and lost. Is there anyone else fully prepared to take up the footsteps of what our legendary hero once did? I am not suggesting that you should follow his political style, but rather to take a positive stand, be legitimately elected into office and to steer the course of MSA into what you think ought to be the right track. Until then, please refrain from passing garbage comments and unjustified criticism.

The question remains:— are you willing to commit yourself in doing some constructively active thing about this or are you more contented to just sit back, criticise with words and no action? The decision is yours. Think about it.

Since much has been said on MSA already, it should only be fair that a quick comment on the revival of WMSSA be made as well. Probably the first thought that crosses anyone's mind is whatever happened to members of the interim committee that was set up last year? I shall refrain from embarrassing them by mentioning their names here, but they are certainly a bunch of disappointments. However, a fresh group of students has sort of taken over what was left behind undone by the interim committee. Maybe WMSSA will be prepared to undertake the tasks that MSA is unable or not willing to perform.

Let's face it, if WMSSA is going to "come alive" again merely to carry out activities already done by MSA, then there will be too many unwarranted duplications. But in looking at the recent activities of WMSSA, it is quite commendable in the sense that this is not going to be another "disco-dancing" association. Rather, WMSSA seems to be heading in a direction somewhat like its sister association in Auckland, in organising informal gatherings and get-togethers. This is largely on a basis of "get-to-know-you-better" rather than a "couple-no-trespassing" basis.

The recent Easter picnic at Otari Reserve is a sample of such casual gathering, which was a tremendous success indeed. I would truly like to thank the organisers for all they have done to make that afternoon out an extremely refreshing and enjoyable break from the humdrum of books. As this is only the beginning, I really do not expect too much from WMSSA. No doubt, this association still has a very long way to go, but if we students are willing to give it the support it requires. I am sure it will make the whole journey a lot more pleasant and enriching.

I sincerely hope that by the time I leave New Zealand for good, WMSSA will be as active as any other association on campus and will progressively move forward, both in co-operation and understanding with

WMSA, to promote and protect the interests of overseas students here.
Thank you.

A Malaysian Observer.

Widen the Hawkers debate.

Dear Editor,

Letter from Malaysians have been flooding into Salient for the past few weeks regarding the WMSA's sketch on hawkers.

The significance of the letters are:

- Malaysian students are not apathetic. It is the surveillance and repressive laws of their home government that prevents them from publicly participating in politics and speaking out. But that does not mean you will not hear from them — their message came out loud and clear in Salient and other publications.
- It is encouraging to know that so many of the students are aware of the real economic and socio-political situation at home despite the mass of cheap propaganda churned out by the Malaysian Government every day. How true it is to say you can cheat some people for some of the time, but not all the people all the time.
- It indicates how the present WMSA committee is isolating itself from the majority of the association's members.

Students' social awareness and concern for the working masses is a healthy sign. The debate on the sketch should be continued and extended to a general debate on "what is culture?" "The role of Malaysian Students in NZ:" and "what we expect of a Malaysian student Association."

Malaysian Commentator.

Dear Editor,

For the past few weeks, criticisms on "hawker sketch" have reached a crescendo which is of no surprise, because Malaysians overseas are awakening and closely linking themselves with people at home.

As an observer, I found it a very healthy sign that Malaysians are fully using Salient columns, expressing and exchanging their views so as to explore new ideas to make ourselves and betterment of mankind, I think MSA should face the objective reality to answer factually and sensibly by the sporadic discontent and furious reactions on the "hawker sketch" felt by most Malaysians. It's a coward's tactic to turn oneself away from a "steaming up" controversial topic and further-more by isolating yourself in the nutshell would not stop majority of the Malaysians pouring in more criticisms.

Finally I urge all Malaysians to be educated by getting to know ourselves, to be equipped with knowledge and understanding of our immediate concern and to identify ourselves with the people we are responsible to. Social awareness and a critical re-appraisal of the social economic situation back home becomes a paramount concern for us.

Mee Hoon.

Thinking and acting on Politics.

Dear Editor,

It seems to me that a lot of people are confused about what the term "politics" means. As a Political Science student I could tell you that you will never get a definition of "politics" from the Pol Sei department, perhaps with good reason. Lecturers will refuse to define it for you. However I will risk the disapproval of my lecturers

(and others) and present My Conception of what politics is hopefully without seeming to be too much of a smart arse or offend.

It seems to me that politics is concerned with human relationships in general, be it economic, social values, power, culture, administrative structures etc. More specifically it is concerned with the ability to impose or influence other peoples' ideas, values, way of life, norms, etc by ones own conceptions of these, and also the expression of one's own values, ideas etc. Politics is not restricted to government functions. Thus the relationship between the father and the son is very political (you do what he tells you [*unclear: se*]. . .)

Thus you and I are speaking politically when we say that "this movie is better than that

In terming something as "political" or not, must inevitably involve many other things which have any effect at all on the subject. Sport is in itself not political but when a team represents a country, wear track suits with flags or national symbols on, win medals not for themselves but for the country, and stand on the winning platform when their national anthem is played and their flag raised, then it inevitably becomes "political."

A social sketch is political especially when it conflicts with other peoples' views or respect or sympathy for the subject of the sketch. (i.e. Hawkers sketch) Thus no-one can hide themselves from being political. Your existence in a society or culture or country is always inevitably "political." Thus the very existence of MSA for the purpose of serving Malaysian students and its members (if it is their aim that is!!!) is inevitably "political" especially if you claim to represent a body for the Interests and Welfare of your members. These interests and welfare are inevitably what goes on at home.

If you have taken up executive positions in MSA you should be prepared to do those unthinkable, dirty, stupid, useless acts termed "political" or else either resign or change your title from "Association" to "Social Club" as others previously suggested. I can understand the insecurity you must feel, as I myself come from Thailand, and have been involved with protest activities before (though not in Thailand itself.) You don't have to become martyrs as a result of your actions. Careful and skillful wording and planning of your programmes, letters of petition, activities etc will not put you to too great a risk and it's probably not fair for people to ask you to do so. This is why it is important to have an active mass of students to support your functions. If we ourselves are not prepared to risk our own comfortable positions to help change things, who else should risk their asset?

(Your northern neighbour from "Land of the "fading' smiles.")

Drawing of the top half of a head, wearing glasses

Maybe I'm amazed?

Dear Sir,

I read with some amarement your article about Whitcoulls on the Salient of 4th April. If some students had been wronged this sort of reporting does little to help them.

A few points —

- Wilbur Manins was given little chance to defend himself. The paragraph that does refer to his reasons for his action is couched in such sarcasm it is obvious the writer started out assuming his actions were "no doubt. . . unjustifiable."
- It is also stated that Whitcoulls is "in the business of making money out of students." and "have no real interest in the affairs of students." A few other emotional appeals thrown in to raise our hackles about their ability to extract a "guaranteed profit" from a "captive audience."

In evidence we are told they "stash away" some \$54,000 a year. Which could mean anything from a cash balance to a net profit figure. One would think the size of the operation would also be of some relevance. In short, the \$54,835 as stated is meaningless.

Further, faced with this power, students have no choice but to pay up. One would think they had contemplated paying for the books in the first place.

One begins to wonder if Whitcoulls must by definition be like this since they are capitalists. No evidence is needed.

- Of course staff are in on this too but we are not told the commission they are paid by Whitcoulls to "act as salesmen."

One gets the feeling one is being asked to believe something without really being told the evidence. It may be fruitful to contemplate why. If these students have been wronged a clear statement of the truth of the situation will be most helpful to them

Norman Hopkins.

Drawing of a gun being loaded

Salient Pro-National?

Dear David,

Sue Cairncy's nonsense article about Tizard's speech is yet another example of Salient's peculiar political stance — pro-Communist, pro-National, and anti-Labour. It's clear from the article that Sue didn't even go to hear Tizard — she probably wrote it before he came. No one would claim that his speech was "adequate", but he did show a reasonable grasp of the economic situation. Contrary to Cairney's preposterous lies, Tizard supported moves for increases to the S.T.B. He outlined specific differences in the major parties' housing policies and achievements, and (again contrary to Sue) considered it a problem affecting students. Also, had she gone to hear Tizard, Sue would have heard him spell out a lot of Labour's new policies on the economy involving taxation.

Yours faithfully,

Fed Up.

In defence of Tizard.

Dear David,

I am concerned that those students who failed to hear Mr Tizard's talk on the economy, but who read the review by Sue Cairney (Salient, April 13), will think that those present indeed "saw Tizard intult hecklers, avoid questions and say nothing."

Mr Tizard covered three main points; taxation, regional development and housing. On taxation, Mr Tizard said that Labour would reduce the level of tax paid by low-income workers. This could be achieved simply by a review of the tax scales or by extending to single-income families the taxation benefits enjoyed by two-income families. The advantage to students seeking employment of a strong regional development programme was also stressed by Mr Tizard. Of the three main points covered, only housing is mentioned in the review.

I disagree with the statement that "when faced with hecklers determined to have their (reasonable!) questions answered, he degenerated instantly into rudeness." It is true that many reasonable and polite questions were asked, and these were answered in like manner. However, there were numerous childishly rude questions and interjections which were responsible for lowering the tone of the proceedings and which precluded a constructive discussion.

Yours sincerely,

P.Gilberd.

Drawing of a clown and chicken

Birds of a feather?

The Editor,

After the forged letter under Patrick Mulrennan's name, when it was promised that Bruce Robinson would take up the criticisms of Patrick, James Robb and the Overseas Students of his article opposing the demand

"Black Majority Rule." I expected a letter dealing with the issues they raised. Instead we read a letter devoted to miserable grizzles which claims that the demand wasn't correct because a large number of Blacks didn't turn up on the demonstration, and that I wrote an article for Craccurn that didn't have "Black Majority Rule" as a demand for the demonstration. In fact, the letter didn't take up a single argument as to why 'Majority Rule' is preferable to "Black Majority Rule."

As Bruce Robinson is well aware, the demands decided on for the Auckland demonstration were those he agrees with. I supported "Black Majority Rule", but could not impose this demand on the demonstration in an article for Craccurn, urging students to join the march. It would have been undemocratic in relation to the committee and would have falsely portrayed the demands of the demonstration to students. Bruce might not understand such democratic methods, but I certainly do.

This does not mean that my own view, that the demand was insufficient, has changed and I hope to take the question up in a later issue of Craccurn. But unlike Bruce Robinson. I felt the urgent task prior to the march was not the writing of factional articles, but the guaranteeing of maximum participation.

I ask again: why didn't Robinson answer the arguments of the Overseas Students and James Robb? Was it because he has no reply? I believe the best confirmation of the need to include Black in the demand was given by a pro-apartheid letter in Salient, signed Lowe. Lowe writes:

"Their (the anti-apartheid groups') primary aim. It is said is to get majority rule which entails the blacks ruling themselves . . . The rule of the jungle which states that the strongest tribe rules, prevails to the exclusion and often extermination of other tribes."

"Also there is no guarantee for the safety of people other than blacks, who remain after the blacks take over." Further, Lowe states that:

"Yes it is certainly high time that Mr Trevor Richards and Mr Tom Newnham took a close look at our black brethren. If they open their eyes wide enough they will see just what a bunch of hypocrites they are. So lay off South Africa and Rhodesia because they could be a lot worse off under black rule."

The racism contained in that letter is self-evident: Black politics is the 'Rule of the jungle:' the assumption is that Black rule automatically means oppression of non-Blacks.

As James Robb pointed out, it is this white racism that Robinson gives ground to. Privately the supporters of Robinson's point of view say that "of course majority rule means Black rule." The logic of the demography of South Africa tells people that! But if that's so, why not include the word "Black," unless you're scared of the racists who try to make out every Black leader to be an Idi Amin, and that "majority rule" can mean continued white influence over South Africa's destiny.

Moreover, Robinson's position places him in opposition to the real struggle in South Africa — that of the oppressed Black majority for national liberation through self-determination. It is this oppressed nationality that has the right to decide the future of their country. The fight against apartheid is a Black struggle against racism in all its forms and for recognition of Blacks as Black human beings, that takes the racists head on and supports the real struggle in South Africa.

Robinson's only real "argument" in his letter is that Blacks didn't participate in large numbers in the Wellington demonstration. That point has no meaning to the issues raised, except that it reflects the inability of the anti-apartheid movement to relate to the concerns of Maoris and Pacific Islanders, or to take the message into their communities.

(This is incorrect. A pamphlet was produced in Maori and various Polynesian languages and distributed widely — Ed.)

This reflects the continuing white middle class bias in the movement.

It also reflects the inability of the movement to relate the racism that pervades our society, to the support of the NZ Government for our "kith and kin" in South Africa and Rhodesia. The attempt to bring in the Maori Pacific Island and overseas student communities should not be derided for its not being successful, than hoped for, but intensified to ensure greater participation in the future.

At least in Wellington you had a degree of participation not present in Auckland, where no such beginnings were made.

Yours,

Mike Treen.(Auckland University Students Assn.

Resource Officer and member of the Socialist Action League).

(All the points in this letter have been covered earlier in the debate. This correspondence is now closed. — Ed.)

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Against a NZUSA Women's Commission.

Dear David,

I was pleased to see the letter in last week's Salient referring to the Women's Rights Action Committee for there needs to be a lot of discussion on this committee, the NZUSA Women's Commission and Women's issues generally on campus.

However I would like to comment on some aspects of Virginia's letter.

The Women's Commission did not, as Virginia claims meet in May '76. It was established in May to meet for the first time in August and its establishment was met with substantial opposition from people who felt

- that sexual discrimination is an issue which concerns all students and as such should be discussed by all students rather than confined to a 'women's only' commission.
- that sexual discrimination is an integral part of other social problems and should be seen in a social context and not as an isolated problem. For example the issue of higher bursaries for women to compensate for their lower holiday earnings should be discussed in the context of the whole bursary campaign and not decided on by a women's only group in isolation from the bursary campaign.
- Virginia's statement that the Women's Commission in August rationalised NZUSA's existing policy on women is nonsense. NZUSA is a policy making body. Each delegate must vote according to their Constituent policy. Therefore NZUSA's policy can only be changed if Constituent policy has changed (by both men and women students) otherwise the delegates are representing only themselves and not students.)

For all the above reasons a Women's Commission is not necessary. Policy concerning women's oppression should be made in which ever of the other Commissions, (Welfare and Accommodation, National, International or Education) is relevant.

The Women's Rights Action Committee on the other hand is a committee which plans action on the basis of policy made at NZUSA councils. Although it is difficult to be sure at this stage, I feel this committee is far more worthwhile than the Women's Commission. With the help and support of this committee the Students' Association will be able to run effective campaigns on women's issues, (e.g. equal pay, crech, abortion, law reform, Domestic Purposes Benefit etc.)

At the moment I am involved in the Women's Study Group and also organising with other Studass Officers forums on Rising Prices, Women in Unions, the Domestic Purposes Benefit and on Gill's anti-abortion Bill.

If people have any ideas on these or other women's issues please contact me at the Students' Students Association.

Leonie Morns,

Women's Rights Officer.

DARKNESS FINALLY SETTLES OVER THE CRY

Thoughts from Rankine-Brown

Dear Sir,

As a first year student I have been deeply disturbed by a certain Fascist facet of the library. Every time you leave the place you're subjected to a degrading check by a border guard. (I see all the librarians "get a turn" at it, and are often to be seen grinning about their power.) What of the poor, forgetful student who leaves his "identification card" (another Fascist invention) at home, but has to take a book out for the night? What can he do? And from the long line that had to go through the border inspection during the recent bomb scare, it's obvious that the fanatical librarians are more concerned to stop one unissued book getting out than to stop a crowd of students getting blown to bits.

After careful research. I have drawn up five courses of action, which, if followed closely by the student body will lead to the end of these Fascist checks. They are as follows:

- Lower books out of windows by rope.
- Flush pages down the toilets, collecting them from the sewer outside.
- Smuggle carrier pigeons into the library in large coats, and thus have pages sent out one by one.

- Attach books to small parachutes to get them down.
 - Train giraffes and/or elephants to collect books from the windows.
- Clearly, as these measures are carried out over the next few weeks, the frustration they cause to library staff will ensure the return of democracy to the library exit.
- Bloe Joggs.

Paying our debtors.

Dear David,

I was interested to read in last week's Salient about the Victoria Book Centre's lack of money when the Executive dished out \$20,000 to this august institution.

Apparently \$10,000 is going to a call on the capital of the company as mentioned in Salient. The other \$10,000 "to pay debtors and compensate for the flow of money." If my accounting 1 is correct, one receives money from your debtors and you pay your creditors. How come we pay our debtors? What is going on? Is the book centre having cash problems immediately after its most busy period in the financial year? What money flows are there, as hasn't the Bookcentre heard of using your creditors as a source of funds? What is this \$10,000 being used for?

Hopefully every Executive member who was present at that Exec, meeting will be able to answer these questions. If not, then:

- True blue Steve U. hasn't done his homework in informing his fellow Exec members of the Bookcentre's finances, or
- Are our Exec totally hopeless and susceptible to potential funny money ideas from our Treasurer, tired after a hard day's work at the Bookcentre and his newly increased honorarium from VUWSA.

Hope this raises some eyebrows.

Yours etc.

Wondering Aloud.

THE TREES IN THE PARK STOP & LISTEN

Objecting to Apathy.

Dear David,

Every alternative Wednesday this term at two o'clock, I have been highly motivated to write about SRC meetings. But this afternoon I am not even highly motivated. I am furious. The meetings are a farce. We have comedy time to finish, and a few red herrings are generously applauded, but — if participation means listening, deciding and voting objectively (silly word anyway) — Participation is basically nil. Approximately 20% of the students present voted verbally, we are noticeably more enthusiastic about raising our hands. Few of us have any reasons more coherent than the theory that motions which appear in print (though we haven't bothered to get an agenda) must be sensible (if incomprehensible.) Consequently everything is passed — unless it is supported by an unpopular speaker — a young socialist for example.

However, decisions of great moment are taken; recommendations and complaints are lodged. Highly informed about Malaysian politics, the status of women in pre-class societies, we will formulate policy on any issue you care to name. We elect people whose names we've forgotten to positions, the significance of which we never discover.

Today we passed a really neat assessment policy: "if a student wishes to improve or change their mark he/she may either sit an end of year exam or re-submit his/her year's work (altered or unaltered) at the time the end of year exam is scheduled." First try and ignore the grammar. Now read on. "Group work (should) be made assessable and the current restrictions both formal and informal be abolished."

We are incredibly naive to think that group work is assessable — however valuable it may be as a teaching aid. (If it were assessable, it would be a less valuable teaching aid anyway spontaneity and creativity having been automatically removed.)

We have practically guaranteed ourselves a "degree" that no external institution in its night mind would recognise.

Most of the two hours is spent in constitutional quibbling; democracy now consists in the majority removing a guy's right to speak through various constitutional pathways — quite democratically of course.

There was little enthusiastic discussion on action to be taken on the bursary issue. We are told that people don't organise marches just for fun, so we should support them. Maybe we just shouldn't have a march; maybe we should take no action at all; maybe we accept that it's unrealistic and irresponsible to squeeze money out of a stone; maybe we are satisfied with, and even grateful for, our STB.

We'll probably pass another motion about it at the next SRC, anyway. Democracy and Apathy Do Not Mix.

Unsigned.

(I would agree that last week's SRC was notable for its dull nature. However, do not despair some SRC's, especially those with contentious issues, have attracted up to 300 students with mass participation in speaking and voting. There will be, I hope, at least one or two of such SRC's this year. — Ed;)

THE MAN-HOLE COVERS REMAIN QUITE & DESERTED

The frustrations of student life.

Dear Sir,

Salient stinks. It's dedicated to perpetuating the prestige of the incestuous little clique that runs it. What are their responsibilities to the peer group that gives them their prestige and the honorariums that aren't big enough to keep them in dope anymore. It's time Salient was involved in presenting critical comment on subjects that interest us clean-cut, all-pakeha, smalltime students.

Where was our programme of the Easter Tournament? When is Paul Wookey's album hitting the NZ folk-scene? Why did that nasty capitalist propaganda shitsheet Dominion get Prof Q. Baxter's views on Holyoake's appointment before Salient? (albeit a month after everyone knew.)

What is the psychological motivation behind John Dorraot's association between sex-problems and gloomy cavices? Is Lindy Cassidy always incompetent or was she under the influence? Whose illustration Whose illustrious Leader has paid \$40,000 for a second hand wife?

Stuff MSA and East Timor. If another Anonymous Wog's friends don't like Fijian Indians where were they when elections were being held? For the answers to these questions (and more) consult the doors of latrines in the Law Library (6th Floor, North End.)

Alternative amusement may be achieved by studying aerodynamic behaviour of paper darts thrown from the windows of discussion rooms on the said same floor. Fascinating but not quite cricket.

(in my opinion.)

Bert.

DOORWAYS STAND EMPTY OF VEHICLES

'Joe the Junkie.'

Down in the alley where the cold wind blows,
Along the backstreets where the alkies go.
Joe, the dying junkie lies,
No more friends or family ties.

Just a skeleton of the man he used to be
Such a waste —why can't he see.
Now cold and starving and very ill

All he wants is one more pill
To finish what was started by a friend
I ask—
Will he be there, at his end.

He only started by smoking pot. .
Now near death, and he's used the lot.
Needle holes in his arms and legs
When he's broke, he has to beg.

Passing people only stop and stare,
I ask
Does any of you really care
For Joe and all the others too.
Are they just —
'the forgotten few.'

D.M.A.

RAFFIC LAUTERNS ARE AVED IN SUSPENSION 5

President replies.

Dear David,

I was very gratified to learn from "Sick of Marxists" that the president's honorarium is \$3,000 and that the treasurer manages to rake in \$1,000. The real facts are, however, that the President's honorarium is \$2,000, the treasurer's, \$600, the Secretary's \$450 and the rest of the Executive receives the princely sum of \$300.

What happened at the AGM was that the meeting passed a motion changing the President's honorarium to \$3,000, the treasurer's honorarium to \$1,000 and the secretary's to \$500.

We hardly had to scream down the opposition as no-one spoke against the motion. It was then suggested that the Publications, Sports and Cultural Affairs Officers also receive an increase of \$150.

This motion was subsequently referred to the SGM (not by a member of the Executive.) for greater discussion. It was also decided to rescind the previous motion concerning the President, Treasurer and Secretary's honorarium and refer it to the SGM for the same reason. To say that the Executive "cunningly" decided to refer this matter to an SGM is inaccurate.

"Sick of Marxists" also noted that during the first 5 years of the Student Association the President and Treasurer received small token payments. This is, accurate. However the President was not expected to be full-time — she/he could work part-time, could study part-time, and be president part-time.

Now the situation is completely different. With the financial, social and political activities of the association expanding rapidly, the President, Treasurer and Secretary's responsibilities are also increasing. Hence the need for a full-time president.

As for the honorarium for the rest of the Executive, my personal opinion is that if they work hard then payment is only a token gesture and if they don't work at all then it's a waste of money.

On one point I will agree with "Sick of Marxists" — it is important that you come and vote on these motions. You are paying — come and get your money's worth.

The SGM is to be held on Wednesday April 20 from 12-2 in the Union Hall. Dress is informal
Lindy Cassidy,
President VUWSA.

SUDDENLY

God is dead! Long live God!

Dear Sir,

Those who have watched the film "Network will have been confronted with Howard Beale's prophetic insight that 'Kojak always gets the killer and nobody ever gets cancer in Archie Bunker's house!' However, it is also true that Archie Bunker is very unlikely to gain an active faith in Jesus Christ, but will remain an irreligious cynic to his deathbed. With the media largely portraying a 'dead' God, or 'mystical' truth, is there no longer any truth to be found?

Howard Beale was martyred for his inconvenience to 'the system', similar to Jesus Christ. However, Beale was aware of his humanity did not claim to be God or to have power over death. He also did not claim to be The truth (John 14:6,) and rose from the dead three days after his death. This was witnessed by over 500 people, and there are thousands of present day Christians who have experienced the validity of his claims.

The Bible states that "the fool has said in his heart 'there is no God.'" The media largely ignores the claims of Jesus Christ, or the existence of a sovereign God who will eventually judge all mankind. Who is being fooled?

Yours sincerely,

John Needham.

Poetess reviled, rewritten, rent, racked, ribalded, risqued, rummage and ripped into.

Dear David,

A verse reaction to Rire Scotney's poetry—
private poems for a public
fuck, is not on.

god, I know it stinks to write shit
about the ostracism of students
Mother-Earth figures
and concepts of intellectuals
playing cute word-games
lyric for a lost soul
mine.

chritt, you know that's enough
to hell

with all the bloody crap,
poetry isn't just big words.

guilt,
or psychic alientation
see, I can do that too.

Randy,
the mad poet.

20 21 22 9 1 4 15 16 17 18 2 7 19 23 6 7