

Election Fiasco

On Tuesday last week nominations for the VUWSA executive elections closed. There are five positions to be filled and only three names had been received. At the student Representative Council (SRC) meeting on Wednesday it was resolved that the elections committee be asked to reopen nominations and set the date of the election back. The committee has refused to do this, and a full-scale constitutional wrangle could be in the making.

The election should have been held at the end of last year, but when no one came forward for the five positions people were co-opted onto the executive as interim officers. The five positions are: President, Secretary, SRC Coordinator, Cultural Affairs Officer and Sports Officer. At the moment interim President Lindy Cassidy, interim Secretary John Heberton and interim Cultural Affairs Officer Steve O'Connor are the only people standing.

This means that the important position of SRC Coordinator (responsible for the coordination of all SRC officer's work, advertising SRCs and preparing the SRC handbook) will go unfilled. Having no Sports Officer will also considerably hinder sporting activities on campus.

The election committee is composed of Gyles Beckford (chair), John Blincoe and Andy Moore-Jones. Moore-Jones is recently out of hospital so has not been significantly involved. It appears the committee feels that adequate publicity had been given to the election and thus no further candidates would be likely to emerge, and is also worried about setting a dangerous precedent. Several points need to be made. Firstly, the SRC at which all students can attend and vote is the most direct expression of student opinion catered for by the constitution. The election committee is not required to abide by its wishes but we have a right to expect that they will be taken notice of.

Bad Publicity

Publicity for the election has not been at all adequate. Salient was informed late on Friday 10 March that nominations were open.

As the paper is sent to the printers on Friday evening there was not enough time to place a proper notice, but we did manage to squeeze the information into a corner. It wasn't until the next issue that we could treat the matter properly. This gave people just one day to get their nominations in.

Returning Officer Andrew Tees did prepare a leaflet but it was a shoddy piece of work, done in scratchy handwriting with nothing on it to catch the eye. Furthermore the position of Sports Officer wasn't even mentioned.

More Candidates

Since nominations closed four more people have applied. None of these is for Sports Officer, but one is for the other position that would remain vacant, SRC Coordinator. If the nominations reopened there is no reason to expect that even more names would not be forthcoming.

There are technical ways of overcoming the problem. The new executive could resign en masse so new elections would have to be held. But an election costs \$400 of students' association money. It is farcical to spend that amount on just three people standing without any opposition, even more so to spend it twice.

"You Will Vote when I Say So."

A legal opinion given to VUWSA's lawyers states that if the election is to go ahead as the committee intends it could be declared invalid on grounds of inadequate publicity.

What Precedent?

The committee's fears about setting a precedent whereby nominations might on some future occasion be left open indefinitely, or until some jackpot could be arranged must be countered by the precedent they themselves are setting. Executive elections are not just a formality in student life but a cornerstone of the association's activities. The primary role of SRC is another cornerstone. The spirit of the constitution clearly underlines this. We are being asked to spend a lot of money on what has basically been an organisational fiasco.

There seems to be only one immediate course of action, and that is to try to overturn the committee's decision at the AGM on Thursday. It is not certain as yet whether this can be done. The constitution cannot be changed at this late stage, but a clear interpretation will have to be made. So if you want to get in on the action, come along to the Union Hall at high noon. Sparks should fly.

Simon Wilson

VUWSA Annual General Meeting Thursday 30th March, Union Hall, High Noon This time it's for real

Editorial

The war in the horn of Africa is said to be over. Following a massive offensive masterminded by the Soviets, and executed largely by Soviet and Cuban personnel and machinery, Somalia has been forced to concede defeat and withdraw from the Ogaden desert.

Somalia has asked that foreign powers now leave the horn. This is a request not likely to meet with much success, for a secure footing in northern Africa is extremely valuable to the Soviets. It gives them increased access to the rest of Africa, which means access to sizeable chunks of the world's raw materials, and further influence in the developing power of the third world.

It strengthens Soviet potential to dominate the vital sea routes from the Middle East to the west and it provides a base for striking at Europe.

The methods by which the war in the horn was won are not to be overlooked. Using a combination of conventional weaponry and space age technology the Soviets were able to demonstrate their ability to coordinate a powerful strike force far from home.

With protection from parts of the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean fleets three divisions were flown in to Ethiopia inside eight to 10 hours, helicopters were used to transport tanks right to the scene of battle and a new satellite was launched to coordinate the whole procedure. Prior to the actual exercise Ethiopia had been used as a training ground for conventional warfare manoeuvres.

The Soviets have reminded the world that a new world war, to be fought without the totally destructive use of nuclear arms, is very much on the cards. Is it too difficult to look at the true nature of detente as demonstrated recently in the Middle East, and recognise that the Israeli preparations for invasion of southern Lebanon have a close parallel in the activities of the superpowers?

For make no mistake about it, the United States and the Soviet Union may be talking to each other but they are both hard at work jockeying for dominance in the world and sooner or later their interest will conflict so directly that war must break out.

Where does New Zealand fit in? The new world war will be centred on industrially rich Europe. New Zealand is just about the last country in the world that can be expected to have anything to add to this war. We are therefore in an ideal position to develop and independent position. If we allow either superpower to use the country as a military base or gain significant control of the economy (which the United States is well in the way to doing) we will be drawn into the war. Even if you don't believe a world war is coming, is it worth the risk?

The Soviet Union is the rising imperialist power and often tends to brandish a more aggressive brand of Imperialism, but this does not mean we need to side with the States against it. We should concentrate on excluding both the superpowers from New Zealand, and because the States is far more dominant here it must become the major target of any activities to secure independence for the country.

Vice-President Walter Mondale is coming to this part of the world next week, to assure New Zealand and other Pacific and south-east Asian countries that we have not been forgotten.

We must show Mondale that we do not need his country's 'protection'. Demonstrations against his visit are being organised. If you believe in independence for this country, join in.

Simon Wilson

President

Have you ever wondered what happened to the \$37.00 you paid at the end of enrolment? This week you'll have two opportunities to see where the money goes. On Thursday at the AGM the 1977 statement of accounts and the reports of all 1977 Executive members will be presented. So if you're curious, or heaven forbid, say something nice, then come along.

Part of the \$37.00 (\$2.00 to be precise) goes to the National Students' Association — NZUSA (not another name for ANZUS but New Zealand University Students Association). There has been a great deal of debate recently over the advantages/disadvantages of a national union and its present structure. Add to this the

restructuring of the Student Travel Bureau and the shock resignation of Education Vice President Stephanie Dale and the picture looks anything but boring.

This Friday Lisa Saksen (President of NZUSA), Dave MacPherson and Peter Franks (Research officers), Dave Merrit (National Vice President) and James Movick (International Vice President) will be on campus to answer your questions.

Many of you will probably be wondering what has happened to the elections for the 5 interim Executive positions, one of which includes the President. At the closing date for nominations there were only three applications, all of whom are were occupying the interim positions. Even if one concluded that students are amazingly apathetic that doesn't really explain what happened.

After the SRC, where the election nomination response was announced, and the possibility of nominations being reopened, four further nominations were handed into the office. It seems to, me that there is a very real and very serious problem of communicating what the Association is doing to the bulk of students.

One Leaflet stating (not explaining) that there are positions vacant on Executive makes very little impact. If you are at all interested, especially in the position of Sports Officer, then come and see me — even if it's only to seek information. My office is on the middle floor of the Union Building. It's always open, and even if I'm not in, just make yourself comfortable.

Lindy Cassidy

Abortion: It's not over yet

Abortion a Woman's Democratic Right!

While the March 8 Demonstration against the new abortion laws was very successful it is essential that we continue to pressure Parliament until the abortion laws are repealed.

The most effective way of influencing M.P.s is to organise Public action involving the huge support that exists in the community for safe, legal abortion.

The abortion legislation followed a series of attacks on the New Zealand people and women in particular. Muldoon and his rich mates are hoping that New Zealanders will simply accept these tactics. We must show them that we will continue to fight.

Think of the 100 New Zealand women who fly to Aussie every week for abortions! Become active in the abortion campaign!

Organising Meeting

Wed. 29 March

7.30 PM.

Lounge, VUW Union Building

All Welcome

Organised by the March 8 Committee P.O. Box 9047 Wgt.

Protest Abortion Legislation!

After April 1st All Abortions are Illegal except those approved by the "certified consultants"
Friday 31st March — Black Friday

- Picket — Data Bank (where the supervisory committee will meet) 3.45 p.m. — 4.15 p.m.
- Rally Cenotaph 4.45 p.m. 6.00 p.m.
- Vigil - Pigeon Park 7.00 p.m. — midnight
- Wear Black! — we are mourning the enactment of this horrendous anti-woman legislation — Join us!

Salient Notes

The lights were dimmed, the make-up person applied the finishing touches and producer Simon Wilson yelled raucously "Cut". The first scenes of "Double" were about to begin. Specially imported star Peter Beach squinted blindly into the camera. "That fool David Murray has knocked my glasses off. "That's not in the script", moaned Jonathan Scott, homegrown scriptwriter.

David Murray simpered in the corner, - with an apologetic smile over his face until Lorraine Robinson wandered over to the the producer to say, "He's always knocking knocking things over". "Cut" yelled the producer. John Bailey hurriedly passed a script to the actor. Before he could peruse the copy, Doug Thompson rushed in with an amendment. "It's only been done three times before," he murmured in hushed tones. "Cabaret", "Solo" And "Bobby Deerfield" have all pulled it off successfully", he continued. Marie Rogers looked up at this remark and screamed "What?"

All was revealed and it was decided that Lamorna Rogers and Peter Beach should shout, in unison, at the waves beating against the beach. (Sorry about that Peter). Chris Norman and Debbie Finberg were speechless. What great significance, they thought. John Bailey argued that though this was a truly marvellous cliché it still lacked humour. "Perhaps", suggested Margot MacGillivray, we could ask Larf to perform in the background." Groans were heard from Rire Scotney and Andrew Dungan who were acting as the background scenery. Is there any any planned redundancy?

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Clubs and Notices

Drawing of a crowd of heads

Squash Club

Club Night every Monday: 7.30pm. at John Reid Squash Courts.

All standards catered for; from beginners through to competitive level. So bring yourself and friends along. Monday Night.

Photographic Society

Wednesday 5th April 7.00 pm.

Lecture theatre 1 (LB1)

The photographic society is having a tuition evening. Learn how to print black and white pictures. Bring your camera, some negatives to print and a few bucks if you want to buy discount black and white film.

Inquiries: Craig ph: 796—849.

University Gym

Saturday 1st April 2.00 pm.

First run — all ages and fitnesses and sexes catered for. Cups of tea afterwards - thence to the 'local' for a few ales.

Food Co-op

Smoking Room, 5th April 12-2 pm.

If you are interested in forming a food cooperative there will be a meeting.

Radio Active

Wed. 29th March, 7.30 pm. studio, Middle Floor, Union Building

For all those interested, our Announcer training course begins.

Sharpen Your Pencils

NZUSA Commission of Inquiry

Drawing of people talking about a bible

NZUSA has set up a Commission of Inquiry to look into the many problems besetting it. All students are invited to present submissions.

The inquiry has been divided into three areas: Role, fulfillment and deficiencies, structure.

What should NZUSA's function be in regard to students, constituent executives, constituent presidents, presidents, the student press, other national bodies and affiliated organisations? Should NZUSA be a political organisation and/or a service one, a pressure group or a trade union?

Does the priorities system work? What is the importance of Welfare, the role of standing committees, the effectiveness of National Office? Does the National Executive function as well as it should? What should the voting structure be? There are many such questions, and they all urgently need answers.

If you are interested come to the forum this Friday, We will be bringing you more information on how to make a submission as soon as they bring it to us, and you can contact VUWSA President Lindy Cassidy for further details. The studass has typing facilities which will be placed at students' disposal.

Remember, NZUSA is your national union. It needs your ideas.

Submissions close 27th April;

One Down

Education Vice President Resigns

Stephanie Dale, NZUSA's newly elected Education Vice President has resigned. In the midst of a continuing controversy (the story's on its way) over the role of NZUSA, the only South Island representative in National Office packed her bags last week and left Wellington. Down at her home campus Otago she informed the OUSA president Andrew Guest of her decision and a few days later sent a telegram back up to Wellington. Other national officers tried to get her to change her mind, but she remained adamant.

Dale's motives for this remain unclear. There is an old saying that if you can't stand the heat you should get out of the kitchen, but students have a right to expect that their representatives will do the job they were elected to. We don't elect people to resign.

Dale apparently claims that not enough importance is attached to her portfolio and hence she found it difficult to get the necessary cooperation. This is a bit hard to understand. Research officer Peter Franks has been working in the education field for many years now and provides all the backup an EVP can want.

Bursaries are one of the two top priorities of NZUSA. A ten point plan has been produced and has already met with a measure of success, and a national day of action is planned for April 19th. With Dale gone NZUSA will face serious short term problems in measuring up to its commitments.

She is also said to claim that she doesn't get on with the other National Officers. The blame may not be hers, but we should expect that personal conflicts will not hinder the professional relationships which must exist. All national officers must recognise this.

A final question remains: why did Dale hand in her resignation to Guest before she sent it to the appropriate body? Guest may be her home-town president but national officers are supposed to place themselves above local allegiances. Rumours of South Island plots have been flying around for some time now. Dale has not exactly laid any of them to rest.

Sharpen Your Tongues

NZUSA Forum

Are you confused by the above?

How much do you know about NZUSA?

How much do you want to know?

Before you say nothing, remember that NZUSA spends thousands of dollars of student money each year. It speaks on your behalf on a wide range of issues, from superpower contention to examination techniques, abortion to the damming of the Clutha. And it gets involved in internal power struggles that make Muldoon's cabinet wrangling look like a kindergarten picnic.

Is NZUSA barking up the wrong tree? What tree is it barking up?

Come along to the NZUSA forum, forum, noon Friday in the Union Hall, find out the answers, have your say. For action, suspense and blinding revelations this will be an occasion hard to beat.

This Time!

It's been put off twice, but now folks it's finally all happening: the VUWSA AGM. This is the gala event in the year, when all those budding young students we elected into office last year make their reports and we get a chance to see just what the hell's been going on. It's the opportunity to get stuck into the constitution, to find out where the money's going, and who knows, this year there may even be a stormy battle over election procedure. This is something not to be missed. So bring your lunches to the Union Hall at noon on Thursday 30th March (tomorrow). Darts are provided free.

Puzzle

In this puzzle the aim is to form one ten-letter word (the base word) from each set of letters. In addition, for each set try to find two words (the spares) which between them use all ten letters.

Note: you may not merely split up the base word to form the spares (i.e. Fore and Ground would not be spares for the base word Foreground). To help you the first letter of each base word is given.

Last Week's Crossword

Empty crossword

Letters, of course, can only be used more than once if they occur more than once in the set.

Plurals are allowed, but proper names, slang or foreign words are not.

Each correct base word scores 30 points, the spares 10 points each. Anyone who gets more than 300 points is doing well.

- D
SI
NPI
OSRE
Base____
Spares____
- L
SO
FDO
AHES
Base____
Spares____
- F
AE

- TTI
NRLI
Base____
Spares____
- C
TU
IIS
LOEN
Base____
Spares____
- G
LI
ATO
ONIB
Base____
Spares____
- Y
PI
CER
DSNE
Base____
Spares____
- G
RE
TNA
NEOI
Base____
Spares____
- K
ER
SAL
MHCA
Base____
Spares____
- P
LT
IOA
MNER
Base____
Spares____
- W
TE
HOE
SARV
Base____
Spares____

No Profits as Yet

It's the time of year when students start complaining about the services offered by the Victoria Book Centre, which is 100% owned by the students' association. Last week Salient sent reporter Cathy Randall to interview the VBC manager, Chris Else, to get his side of the story.

Salient: Salient has heard that the book centre is not stocking certain textbooks, particularly Polls 111, a course being done by about one in eight students in the university. Why is this?

Chris Else: The problem with Pals. 111 is that the roll increased from 500 to 800 and this was something that no one predicted. So we had 300 students we didn't know were going to be there and we just didn't have the books for them.

How much warning were you given that extra copies would be needed?

We heard nothing officially from the department. We heard from the students about the increase. The problem at that stage was supply. We got as many as we could from local suppliers, which amounted to about 50. After that the only source of supply was America and they would take three months to get here.

Does this often happen, that you are given insufficient information by the department?

I wouldn't like to lay too much blame at the feet of the department. They don't really know until enrolment, and they get the figures through the computer, what the numbers are going to be like. And by that stage it's probably too late.

The Book Centre is planning to diversify its range. What fields are you moving in to

We're not so much diversifying as changing our policy on the type of books we buy. In the past a lot of money has been spent on big glossy books. I would like to introduce a range of paperbacks, the type that students would be more likely to buy.

At the moment 80% of your business is done in the first five weeks of term one. This means that the Book Centre is not much more than a textbook dispensary. If you brought in a wider range of books the students would get more use out of it. Why haven't you done this before?

I can't speak for my predecessor, but this is the first opportunity I've had, and I don't know how it will work out. I hope to introduce a range of fiction, and after the end of the first term we'll start looking at other areas as well — something like politics. . . but I don't really want to dabble in lots of bits and pieces. I think it's better to build up a reputation...

If we say we stock science fiction and we have just three or four titles and a few cookery books, then no one will get much of what they really want. At the moment it is just a textbook dispensary, although we have got a lot more titles in terms of fiction than we've had before. But here of course space is a problem.

The Book Centre is 100% student owned. What is the actual advantage for students when they can sometimes get books cheaper from places like Whitcoulls — they give a discount too.

The question of discount is decided by the Booksellers' Association and as we belong to that we are bound by its policy, and Whitcoulls and any other shop that sells University textbooks will give a discount.

In terms of it being cheaper, the main reason is one of how much old stock is left. If there are books left at the end of the year they will be sold the following year for the old prices. But if there is nothing left at the end of the year and the book is to be used again all new stock will carry the new price.

Profits aren't going directly back to students. Where are they going?

At the moment there are no "profits". It's a question of establishing the business. We made a small profit last year, and hope to this year, but there are things that need to be done here like paying off loans. So for the next few years there won't be an enormous inflow of money into the students' association from the Book Centre.

What will happen to the profits when you have established the business?

The profits will go to the Trust Board which is organised as part of the students' association and it will be a Trust decision what happens to the profits.

Surely the most direct way for the students to benefit from a student owned Book Centre would be to have cheaper books?

Yes. . . but the only way that could be done would be to become involved in a political battle with the publishers and the Booksellers' Association. This could have serious implications — certain publishers might refuse to supply us for going against current trade practice. If this happens our service could well be worse instead of better.

Victoria Book Centre manager Chris Else.

So what do you see the Book Centre as at the moment?

Right at the moment we are trying to move our old stock at reduced prices. I'm hoping to try and get more students in here, not just looking for textbooks but for other things as well. That's one of our problems — not that we don't have the books — but that the students don't come in here, because it's not very convenient. It would be better if we were up in the Union Building.

How do you see the Book Centre competing with a place like Whitcoulls?

The competition's a bad thing because it means we have no precise way of estimating just how many books to order. Whitcoulls doesn't have a policy of stocking books for every course, as we do. They may order 50 or 100 or none for a course, according to whim, and we don't know what they do. So we have no way of getting our order to the level where we can provide the service we want.

You'd have the advantage of direct liaison with the departments.

Yes, but even if we know that here is a course where 300 books will be sold, that that doesn't mean that We will sell 300 books. So if we order 300 books and only sell half of them, we could be left with a pile of dead textbooks on our hands at the end of the year. You have to be very careful about the number of books you order.

The problem appears to be a lack of information. Can you do anything about this?

We can do something about the problem of communication. One of the things I want to do this year is go and talk to the lecturers about the problems and attitudes to books — what books they will be using frequently, and what ones they'll just be referring to — as these affect how much will be bought. If we can get this kind of information that will make ordering much easier.

SRC Should we Bomb Tonga?

Well, last Wednesday there was another SRC. No SRC. Student Representative Council, blockheads. Union Hall, 12 noon, Wednesdays. You weren't there were you? In fact only about a hundred people were. The other 5,900, having paid their \$37, apparently don't care how it's spent or just generally don't care about the policy of their Union. It's no good looking at your shoe laces like that. Rampant All-Consuming Apathy is what it is.

But I've got time on my hands so I'll tell you what happened anyway. If only to show you all the excitement you missed.

Lindy Cassidy opened the meeting with two important matters. Firstly, a brief background to the current crisis in NZUSA and a plea for All students to attend the crucial forum on this matter at 12 noon in the Union Hall on March 30th.

And secondly, news of the pathetic response to the approaching VUWSA Executive election resulting in only three nominations for the five vacant positions. Apathy strikes again. 1978 looks like a bad year. In view of this a motion was passed extending the deadline for nominations to March 30th. Want a job? Why don't you get into it?

Lindy then asked for ideas on publicity. How do we make students aware of the election? The only sensible idea came from David Murray who recommended hiring a skywriting plane. He also recommended pushing Andrew Tees out of said plane at an approximate height of 22,000 ft. but I wouldn't say that was terribly sensible.

Then came reports. Lamorna Rogers, Women's Rights officer just returned from the Women's Abortion Rights Conference in Auckland put two motions, the first reading: That VUWSA in conjunction with other abortion and civil liberties groups, organise action against the present repressive abortion legislation on April 1st, at the opening of Parliament, and on Sept. 15. This was duly passed.

The second was That VUWSA believes that full child-care facilities are necessary to guarantee a woman's right to go to University and that the cost of creche facilities should be met by the University administration. This was passed after the word "woman" was amended to "parent", following an objection that the original wording was sexist.

Bursaries Looking for a Place in the Sun

Education officer Sue Cairney reported on the approaching bursaries campaign and outlined the procedure whereby students can apply for the newly instituted hardship allowance (see separate story elsewhere in the paper). A fervent appeal was made for help in organising the campaign, which is centred on a march on April 19th.

Sue then made the surprise move of asking that the SRC officers/club activities room be handed over to her for the duration of the campaign. As one person said, the room is little better than a corridor and it is ridiculous to expect up to a dozen people to work in it, but it would be a dangerous move to allow one officer to gain its exclusive use. Sue is not the only one with a campaign to run and work to do. Clearly they need a larger room, not a downgrading of all the the other activities (which is what her proposal amounts to). Eventually it was decided that the room (along the corridor on the middle floor of the Student union building) would be restricted to use by SRC officers.

Interim secretary John Heberton reported that the association had been represented at the funeral of East Timor Independence campaigner Peter Hopkins who was killed recently in a hunting accident, as readers of Salient will know.

"\$100 a week all round and no assessment, how long will it take me? Oh, about six months I reckon . . ."
(Education officer Sue Cairney).

Photo of Sue Cairney

Drawing with 'Why not?' speech bubble

Next on the agenda: another chapter in the infamous 1978 SRC election story. And again student apathy soared to new and fantastic heights. In fact things were so bad that a motion was passed to set up a press gang consisting of Andrew Tees, Gerard Winter, and John Hebenton, whose job it is to go round bashing people over the head with monkey-wrenches if they refuse to stand for SRC positions. This seems a highly sensitive and functional piece of legislation, and should have a tremendous effect on this obvious problem area.

But until it gets working we are left with no reps on many committees (see list). In addition there is inadequate representation in the Arts. Languages and Literature faculty, and the Library positions. As was pointed out by Lindy Cassidy, both these positions are highly important, and the lack of enthusiasm is pretty shocking.

A motion was passed postponing the election of a representative to the Victoria Book Centre Board of Directors, in view of the importance of the position and the general mercenary and haphazard attitude of the three candidates. The elections were, all in all, a rather depressing commentary on the student energy level at this university. People are just too lazy or too busy to care, it seems.

And if you think I'm exaggerating, one one of the nominations for the Disciplinary Committee was a dog called Johnny Rotten, who would probably have been elected had he not been hamstrung on a technicality. Even then a collection was almost taken up for his fees.

Partial sanity was restored with a motion moved Morris/Cassidy That this Association endorses the proposal by the Association of Women Academics, that a full time day care centre for University staff be established. Leonie spoke to the motion briefly outlining the inadequate nature of existing child-care facilities for University staff, and the motion was passed.

The next two motions, both moved Gray/Tuohy were respectively, That this Association fully supports the work of the South Pacific Action Network (SPAN) and That this SRC recommend to Executive that a hundred dollars in printing services be made available to SPAN to assist publication of Spacific and other Span publications.

Neil Gray spoke to these and had very little trouble convincing the meeting that to pass them both; in fact it was one of the most willing handovers of a hundred dollars of association money that I have ever witnessed, (undoubtable conscience pangs — subed.) For those who have long long been concerned about the extent of foreign interference and control in this area, it was a refreshing display of attitudes.

Woman Vice-President Leonie Morris hell bent on gobbling up the association assets.

Photo of Leonie Morris

Another request for money passed was That this Association donates fifty dollars towards the cost of the Womans Abortion Rights Conference.

Anyone for Elections

The argument didn't really begin until John Hebenton put a motion suggesting that the association field two candidates in the coming general elections. This was the most effective possible way of winning public support for student issues he said. Reactions ranged from the "I find it difficult to believe you're really serious..." of David Murray, to more moderate expressions of doubt from others. "Who will pay?", Lindy asked. "The association", replied John. The motion was thrown out.

That was the last of the motions on the agenda but one more came up during General business and proved to be such an item of concern that the meeting time was extended to 2.15 to accomodate the argument. It was moved by David Murray That this Association condemn Israeli invasion of Southern Lebanon and the International Affairs Officer be instructed to send a telegram to the Minister of Foreign Affairs urging NZ to vote for an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops in the United Nations."

After a seconding speech by Mike Treen, speeches against the motion were made by John Hebenton and Andrew Tees, the latter attempting to move, somewhat spuriously, that VUWSA condemn the use of violence in the Middle But.

"It may be a shitty election poster but I'm only a lucky you know." (Returning officer and Welfare officer Andrew Tees, minutes secretary Anne Humphries, President Lindy Cassidy)Cassidy)___

Photo of Andrew Tees

As well as being totally unrealistic, his motion was ruled out of order by the chair as being contrary to the spirit of the motion on the floor.

Gill's Got Nothing on Me

The climax came however when long time pro-Zionist battler Gary Lewis took the floor. He began by asserting that the Israeli invasion was a natural reaction to the earlier PLO raid in which 37 people were killed. At this point, Lewis started getting carried away. The argument went something like this: "If some Tongans flew to Auckland and blew up an ARA bus, then what would we do about the situation?" Obviously, said Lewis we would go out and blow up Tonga! After the prolonged laughter had subsided, Gary concluded his address and resumed his place with the Radio Active boys down down the back of the hall.

At this stage a count was taken, and the quorum was found to be still there, despite a walkout by Mr. Lewis et all sensing that their chances to bowl over the motion on the floor had been lost.

With only just a quorum at the meeting it was decided to put the motion at the top of the agenda for the next SRC. If Gary Lewis shows the same sort of form as at this SRC, it should not only be a very grim battle, but a rather amusing occasion to boot.

So grab your "Time's" and "Evening Post's" to check out who are the real terrorists, and turn up in a fortnight's time with your newfound knowledge ready to solve the problems of the Middle East.

Jonathan Scott

Who's Who

Due to the great munificence of the university powers that be and the strenuous efforts of past members of the students' association, we are able to elect people onto a large number of committees in the university.

The SRC itself, as well as having an executive to keep everybody in line, elects seven people to do the hard slog in various fields. These elections have been taking place at the last two SRCs. The following people are now your representatives. If you have any issues you want them to take up, contact can be made through the studass office.

S.R.C. Officers

- International Affairs
- Mike Treen
- Environmental officer
- Paul Norman
- Education Officer
- Sue Cairney
- National Affairs
- Sean Tuohy
- Women's Rights
- Lamorna Rogers
- Welfare Officer
- Andrew Tees

Union Management Committee

- John Hebenton
- Kathryn Skinner
- Stephen Kos
- Peter Edwards
- R. Turner

Catering Sub-Committee

- Peter Callinicos
- Kevin Callinicos
- Steve O'Connor

Publications Board

- Lorraine Robinson
- Lamorna Rogers
- Rire Scotney
- Sue Cairney
- Paul McHue
- Sean Tuohy

Professoral Board

- Chris Chapman
- P.A. Sheat
- Simon Wilson

Bursaries Committee

- Sue Cairney

Arts Faculty

- Rire Scotney
- Jonathan-Scott
- Spiro Anastasiou
- Peter Gould

Commerce Faculty

- Stuart Perry
- T. Brown
- B. Pike

Science Faculty

- John Hebenton
- A. Swann

Library Rep (Main Library Committee)

- Marc Hayman

Library Usage Committee

- Arts: Michael Carr-Gregg
- Law: Peter Gale
- Science: John Hebenton
- Commerce: T. Brown

Disciplinary Committee

- Gerard Winter
- Chris Chapman (Prof. Board rep.)

Teaching Aids Committee

- B. Pike

Your Last Chance

The following positions are still available. If you want to stand come along to the next SRC and put your name forward.

Overseas Students Officer (The only remaining SRC officer position. Responsible for the welfare and organisation of overseas students)

Victoria Book Centre Board of Directors (1)

Environmental Studies Committee (1)

Committee of Exams at Entrance Level (1)

Pacific Studies Committee (1)

Parking Committee (1)

Teaching and Learning Committee (2)

Overseas Students Committee (1)

Languages and Literature Faculty (4:2 for 2 years, 2 for 1 year)

Library Usage Committee;

Languages and Literature (1)

Architecture — (1)

Graduate — (1).

Hard Up?

The Hardship Bursary Allowances

If you are having a hard time living on your bursary this year now is the time to try and do something about it. You may be eligible for an Increase.

If you received the abated rate of \$15 per week then you can apply to have this increased to the full \$26 on hardship grounds. Or, if you already receive the full \$26 rate then you can Now apply to have this increased by another \$7 per week. The new \$7 increase can be applied for any time but if you want it soon then get in quick. If you can show that your vacation earnings were impaired this year, either by circumstances beyond your control or by the current employment situation then you are eligible.

Application forms for both these allowances are available from the Bursaries officer (Robert Stout Building), the Liaison office (34 Kelburn Parade) or the Student Welfare Service office (6 Kelburn Parade) If you are unsure whether you are eligible then ask at the studass office or at Welfare Services. Both of these will also be able to give you advice in filling out the forms.

When you have completed the forms you should take them to Mrs. Brown, the Accommodation officer at 6 Kelburn Parade, who will go through them with you to ensure you have put forward the best possible case.

There are a lot of things wrong with the current application forms. Some of the questions are very badly phrased, others are rather prying in nature (especially those aimed at the parents or guardian of the applicant). So here are some things to remember if you want to apply.

- Answer all questions to the best of your ability.
- When they ask for your academic record they want your failures as well as your passes.
- Any answers that require more room than is provided should be done on another piece of paper then attached later.
- You will be judged on your performance as seen on the application form so take your time and present the best possible answers you can (try not to lie, you can be found out). Finally, Don't be put off by the pessimistic remarks of either the Registry or your friends. An increased bursary on hardship grounds is

your right.

Sue Cairney

VUWSA Education Officer

Pols

It's been nearly a month since the Pol Sci Department realised it would have to cater for 850 students instead of the 500 it was expecting. Now one must ask if there has been any real progress in overcoming the problems caused the massive overcrowding.

When we spoke to Mr. Cleveland on 14th March, he told us that as soon as he knew of the overcrowding, he realised there would be text-book problems and arranged to have all available copies of both prescribed books taken out of storage. This was the last stock in the country and of course it ran out.

Arrangements were made to photocopy the relevant chapters of the books, and while (except for a temporary gap of about a week) Chapters 4—9 of Mr. Cleveland's lecture notes were procurable, no part of Groth, Major Ideologies could be obtained. Students were advised to borrow copies of the book from friends or the library or Mr. Cleveland himself and photocopy it.

While textbooks posed a long term problem, there was still the question of where to put 400 extra students. By the second week of lectures another stream had been introduced at 4—5 pm., but this only takes about 80—100 of the overload. In a great many cases students are prohibited from joining this stream for the same reasons they chose the other two streams in the first place: timetable clashes and outside work.

Matter came to a head before the first class test when as the result of an inquiry (made, we felt, possibly a little sceptically) it emerged that maybe around 25% of students had no prescribed materials of any form. Clearly the only totally fair remedy was not to hold the test until every student had the texts. However we were told that it could not be put off because that would throw people's work schedules out. So, despite protests, the test was held, with a promise from Mr. Cleveland that he would make further inquiries about texts, and depending on the results of the inquiry the test might not be counted.

So much for promises. What will happen is this: "If your test one score is below five marks out of ten . . . when test two is marked, your test one score will be increased to the same level as your test two score." Sounds fair enough, but it's ally-hypothetical.

Why is it that only those who scored under half are deemed to be disadvantaged? More importantly, how fair is it to assume that the test two score will be an accurate gauge of a student's potential, ability, or whatever it is tests are supposed to measure? For reasons quite unrelated to texts a student may do badly the second time round.

When it was known that some students, no matter how few, did not have texts, the test should not have been held. The numbers disadvantaged and the degrees of disadvantage cannot be measured, but while they exist, the proposed compensation is little more than a placatory measure, not Based on the real issues.

Well, just how much better off are we than in the beginning? In the beginning, we had 850 students, We still have them. The third stream has done little to reduce the overload. We had unbelievable textbook problems. We still have them. We also have the bonus of an alarming precedent, where students can be forced to sit a test for which the prescribed materials are just not available and then be told they have no chance of re-assessment because they did not score a low enough mark.

Cleveland has placed the blame on cutbacks in the Commerce faculty, but they claim this would only have accounted for about 50—100 of the extra intake. Almost one in seven students in the whole university are doing this course. What is being done to assure that the same problem does not recur? After all, it is to avoid this sort of thing that the whole pre-enrolment system is used.

Rire Scotney

Maths

Another lecturer joins the discussion (one can't exactly say debate) on Maths teaching. Lindsay Johnson looks at the assessment procedures in the Keller Plan courses, and how the principles embodied in them could be incorporated into the "traditional"—type courses.

A consequence of adopting a Keller Plan system of teaching is that objectives for particular sections of the course are clearly spelled out so that students know what is required of them for a pass in the tests. The clarity of objectives combined with the modular structure of the course ensures that students know where they stand as far as grading is concerned at all times.

Students will recognise a great contrast between this situation and that in more traditional courses. In these, students are assessed against criteria which are never known to them, and are possibly never formulated clearly by teachers marking examination scripts. In fact, it must be recognised that grading in many courses in this university is norm referenced. This means that the grade gained by a particular student depends not only on that student's understanding of the course but on how many other students in the class understand it better.

I believe that we (the university teachers) should be moving towards a situation where objectives for all courses are clearly understood by both teachers and students. The criteria for gaining particular grades should be laid down at the beginning of courses so that examinations can be designed with these criteria in mind. There is no reason why such a development must be confined to new types of course — it is possible for traditional courses, but would require detailed design and planning.

The main difficulty with the development proposed above is that some of the higher order skills which may be required for A and B grade passes are difficult to describe unambiguously. The skills we have normally accepted for a pass level in mathematics courses are fairly easily described, but the skills involved in "understanding of concepts" and "ability to translate a physical problem into a mathematical one" are not so easily "pinned down."

Students should also recognise that clear objectives and grading criteria not only help the student to know when goals are reached, but also make it clear to teachers when they are not. I believe that the Keller Plan courses are a development towards this situation. Students are more highly motivated to do the work necessary to reach their goals because of the certainty that this will be reflected in the grade they are awarded for the course.

Lindsay Johnson Senior Lecturer in Mathematics.

The Obvious Takes Time

Some people may have noticed an article in a recent daily about the MacCahon painting in the Lecture theatre foyer coming out from under wraps. Some time ago the roof above it sprung a leak, so the university's ingenious solution was to hang a long sheet of plastic over the endangered part of the work. Beauty and efficiency working in quiet harmony, someone must have thought. You could still see the painting and it didn't get wet.

What a great pity it is that university thinking on the matter has now reduced itself to the level of the obvious. Anywhere else the leak might have been quickly fixed, but at least here at the university one could expect a degree of esoteric thought. What would happen if we all went around solving problems in the fastest, simplest way?

The Defensive' Invasion

Israel Invades the Lebanon

Israel has invaded the Lebanon. In response to a single misdirected al/Fatah operation, the Zionists have violated the territorial integrity of the Lebanese people.

Israel justifies its invasion of Southern Lebanon on the grounds that it is defending its own borders. It claims to be wiping out "guerrilla strongholds" and establishing a 10 kilometre-deep security zone from the Mediterranean to the foothills of Mount Herman.

But is Israel defending its borders (to which it has no legitimate right) or is it once again extending them by the use of force, at the cost of the Palestinian people?

Prime Minister Begin says Israel has acted in self-defence and has no territorial claims on Southern Lebanon. But this is not the first time Israel has attacked Southern Lebanon (under the guise of attacking Palestinian "guerrillas").

A few hours after just such an attack in April 1974, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dyan, said, "The operation was not revenge, it was more political in nature than military. If Lebanon remains lenient with the

terrorists, a large part of it will ultimately be destroyed and deserted".

At the same time the Minister of Information, Aharon Yariy, said, "the occupation of Southern Lebanon would be, from a purely military aspect, a step which would make our war against the terrorists much easier".

Israel claims to be attacking military targets only, but news reports have shown dying civilians crowding Lebanese hospitals. The attacks were not limited to the so-called "security zone" and 40 civilians died in bombing raids on the crowded Ouzai'i district of Beirut. Refugee camps in the south have been attacked. A 17 year old Palestinian girl injured in a raid on the Sabra camp said. "The Jews fell on our heads from the sky and spurted arrows of red-hot fire right into our homes".

Israeli forces have said they will stay in Southern Lebanon until they "clear out the Palestinian infestation once and for all". Does this mean until all Palestinians living in the area are killed or driven out to set up camps still further away from their homeland?

Last Saturday, al/Fatah, the largest Palestinian resistance group in the umbrella organisation, the PLO, staged what was intended to be a military operation near Tel Aviv. Tragically this operation went wrong. 34 civilians were killed in the shooting which ensued when an Israeli Police anti-terrorist squad attacked the bus in which Palestinians were holding hostages. In the resultant battle the bus exploded.

Such an operation cannot be condoned. Few supporters of the Palestinian cause would do so, but it can be understood. For years the Palestinians have been struggling for self-determination. Israel, recipient of the largest amount of US aid in the world, has been arming itself to the hilt, and encroaching on larger and larger areas of Arab land. Palestinians have been forced to leave their homes and their land has been confiscated. Many live in the squalor of refugee camps, surviving on the meagre rations supplied by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Recently the Egyptian President sold out the Palestinians by visiting Jerusalem — tantamount to recognition of the Zionist state. It is this atmosphere of political frustration that breeds violence and leads to operations like that of last Saturday.

The PLO is recognised by the U.N. as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Israel's threat to "cut off the evil arm" of the PLO is a direct threat to it and a violation of the U.N. charter. The Arab League has appealed to the UK to end the Israeli action.

Not only is this invasion a serious threat to the PLO, but it is also a violation of the rights of the Lebanese people. In retaliation for an error, Israel has attacked another country and justified it as "defence" of its "borders". This must be condemned.

International pressure must force Israel to withdraw. The Palestinians must be supported in their struggle for their right to self-determination.

Sarah Brown

The Lebanese Town of Uzai after Israeli Bombing Attack

Israeli Tanks in Southern Lebanon

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Council

The University Council met again last week, this time for a normal monthly meeting. Perhaps that's not quite the right expression, because one would expect at least one contentious issue to come up (Movick? Who's Movick?). But no, the public session took less than three quarters, of an hour and the private parts were even shorter.

Nevertheless, all loyal students will be pleased to learn that "God Save the Queen" has been chosen as the

official anthem of the university. Apparently the Music dept. and the Council's Ceremonial Committee don't think the other one has sufficient musical or literary merit and Chancellor O'Brien cast some nasturtiums on the propriety of some of its verses. Then there is the question of how many words people can actually recognise well enough to sing along with. So much for nasty nationalist independence.

Culture was obviously prominent in the hearts and minds of Council members, for to mark the official opening of all our lovely new buildings next year a work of art will be especially commissioned.

Of course there are more pressing matters. The Crown Law Office has still not seen fit to allow women into Weir House (there are complications with old William Weir's instructions) so an investigation into reaching some temporary arrangement is being made. With 35 odd vacancies there is some urgency, quite over and above any beneficial effect women would undoubtedly have on the present inmates.

The setting up of a Day Care Centre for staff kiddies is running into a few problems. Phrases like "Certain proposals" and a "Lot more work and information" were slipped into the discussion.

Degree conferment has now been size streamlined. You can now get your ticket in only one of two ways: parade in front of the photographers and great aunts as per usual, or have your name adorn a list on bits of paper lying on the Council tables. Previously you could choose to pretend to opt for the latter while the paperwork said you had done the former, that is have your degree conferred in absentia at the graduation ceremony. Now you've got to stand up and be counted, or leave it entirely to those who think such things matter. A jolly good thing to do.

Simon Wilson

Photo of a bombed Uzi in Lebanon

Inaugurally Blessed

One more tattered remnant of an outdated medieval monolithic ideal, refusing to face up to the realities of twentieth century society . . . Most of us didn't know it happened, didn't know it could happen! If we had known, we wouldn't have given it a second thought anyway. I'm referring to the University Inaugural Church Service held in a downtown Baptist Church on a dreary Sunday evening a week or so ago.

As it was, 90-100 academics and hangers on turned out to this ritualistic moment appended to the university year. But like the Chaplaincy and so-called christian clubs on campus, the irrelevancy of the whole exercise is only too apparent.

Attempt to assess the contribution "christians" make to student affairs, social, political and economic issues, let alone scholarship in the university! They only come out of their confined-closets for the abortion debate, it seems. Leftist critiques remain the refuge-outlet of the activist while the silent masses blindly follow each other from library to lecture to library ad nauseam.

Blissfully oblivious to the dialectical intricacies and nuances of the cut and thrust of Marxist-Leninist-Trotskyist-Maoist praxis as it is manifested in "student politics", these masses would never think of manifesting themselves in such a pre-determined set-scene. Unless, of course, a significant amount of that filthy capitalist lucre of theirs becomes the main debating point.

To get back to that anomaly from the Middle (Dark?) ages — one sifts in vain though the multitude of ecclesiastical trappings, theological dogma, pietistic-ascetic fossilisation and middle-class capitalistic ideological self-justification for the truth that sets men free.

This Inaugural service, picture it . . . dutifully singing centuries-old and dying hymns to a centuries-old (and dying?) God, combined with prayer-baptising the present political, economic and social order, morally idealised.

Then the "preacher" from, and I quote, "the evangelical alliance relief fund", proceeds to deny the value of his agency's aid by contexting it with a homily on a few paragraphs of Scripture, cleverly managing to turn the meaningful thrusts of such passages into a nice comfortable conscience-appeasing appeal for a bit of financial support.

Now, I shouldn't be so hard on such obviously warm and sincere people, but let's face it, all of this is just a bit irrelevant to the modern secular university, to students affairs and to university scholarship. The real depth-dynamic of the cultural critique of their prophets of old, not to mention Christ himself, is distorted beyond the recognition in its force-sitting through layers of Hellenistic mysticism, church-allegiance and cultural conservatism.

A genuine non-capitalistic ideological alternative to the Marxisms of the university radicals lies stillborn under the comfortable cushions of a church pew. For Christ was not a christian as Marx was no marxist. Kulture

Corrections

The following corrections must-be made to copy appearing in last week's Salient.

Joint Statement by Victoria Overseas Student Associations.

An article with the above title was signed by Anthony Pramualratana, described as the president of the Thai Students' Assn., and Lawrence Ngen, described as President of the Malasia and Singapore Students' Assn. Salient advises that these people are not the presidents of the above-mentioned associations, and that there is in fact no Thai Students' Assn. as yet. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

More Maths

The last sentence in the fourth paragraph of the article by Thora Blithe, appearing under the above title, should have read: "This may require more than 'minimum effort' for some, but then many students who try to get through courses with minimum effort fail." This was a typing error in the copy submitted to us by the Maths department.

BURKES MULTI SERVICES Service Station. Garage At present we have a full range of 10 speed touring cycles. Our current stocks include all parts and accessories including Touring bags. Drive down to Burkes in Kilburnie and cycle Your way towards health and economy. Buy a Bike from Burkes 16—22 Coutts St. Kilbirnie Wellington Phone: 873—039. PO Box 14001

who needs women anyway? STATUTORY BOARD IN SESSION

The Women's Electoral Lobby have provided Mr. Muldoon with a list, of women who would be suitable to sit on statutory bodies. Muldoon's [*unclear*: rep]. [*unclear*: he] doesn't want a lot of beady eyed females dancing on the tables and shrieking slogans. Men have a certain dignity to uphold after all.

Music

Jazz it up

Roger Fox Big Band

Musical direction by Roger Fox State Opera House

Jazz at its best is a uniquely exciting music. With improvisation as a vital element, it has a spontaneity, and excitement, that is sometimes lacking in the performance of other music. Jazz allows each musician a chance to speak to the audience directly, with a personal voice, creating their own music on the spot. The music can reach such heights that the performer, and ultimately the audience can feel a sense of exploration and creative energy.

In one sense the 1860 Band who opened the concert are blessed. They are five brilliant musicians: a trombonist, trumpeter, electric pianist, bassist and drummer, who have been playing together night after night at the 1860 pub for years. They know each other, they can anticipate and change direction, cadence and build together perfectly.

Yes, the 1860 Band is tight. But in the terms of improvised Jazz this tightness seems suffocating. Each number seemed to be too carefully moulded into the same predictable format. The trumpet, and trombone, and even the keyboard in octaves or unadventurous paralleled thirds would bang out the melodic in unison. Then each player was given a chance to improvise, always returning to the united melodic line. It's tried and true jazz method, but it needn't be a straight jacket. The brief improvised solos seemed tailor-made; they never gave the impression of breaking new ground, they didn't excite me or, apparently, the musicians. It was just another professional night at the pub with the 1860 combo.

The one exception was guest guitarist Malcolm Winch, who arrived that day from up north to join the group. He's a brilliant musician with a natural feel for the music, and because he hadn't rehearsed much with the group before the concert, his playing was fresh and daring. It's a pleasure to hear such good melodic improvisation, spiky, leaping, building, dying and building again, using the whole finger board, and getting colour out of the electric guitar without relying on a battery of foot peddles and fancy devices.

In fact the electronic special effects employed by the rest of the group, such as synthesiser, octavoice, and

tape loop only served to confuse and muddle the music. Partial blame must be levelled at the techniques of producing the sound. The Opera House has excellent natural acoustics. We don't need such excessive volume to excite us. At times definition was lost and the music was a deafening row.

I question the constant reliance and the cop out of using a driving rock rhythm under each number to make the music cook. Walking is a rest from running, and it doesn't mean walking can't take you somewhere, and even perhaps let you have a good look around along the way.

The second half of the concert featured the Roger Fox Big Band (formerly the Golden Horn Big Band) augmenting the original 1860 group with a wall of brass and reeds. "Time Piece", their opening number, was messy, but the second number, "Nemesis", was excellent. The arrangement was clean and varied, bouncy and well crafted. And we heard the Roger Fox Big Band at its best, rich and full. I felt myself bouncing in my seat, my feet tapping wildly.

Big Bands by nature cannot have too much improvisation, but slots are left in the notated arrangement for solos and some excellent solos were played.

At this point in the review I must apologise for not mentioning those musicians who deserve praise. People such as the bassist, the drummer and the sax soloists. But unfortunately no programme was supplied with their names.

The Roger Fox Big Band is worth hearing and Fox should be commended for his organisational skills, bringing together twenty or so fine musicians and moulding them into a precision group. The sound of brass, building full, rich and complex chords is, to begin with, thrilling. But after the first four or five numbers, even with the addition of a guest vocalist to add new colour, the texture of the arrangements hadn't sufficiently changed. My foot stopped tapping (it was exhausted) and my mind wandered towards home. It's up to Fox now to come up with some arrangement that can best exploit the full range of colourful possibilities that the big band offers, and to take a few more risks.

Jonathon Besser

Noh Reflection

Interview with a Japanese Composer

Recently Joji Yuasa, a Japanese composer in the contemporary style visited New Zealand on an exchange scheme with the Japanese government. He gave a series of lectures at the university, and Salient reporter Elton June was able to secure the following interview.

Salient: *One thing I think we can say about Japanese electronic music is that there's plenty of silence and space as a parallel to the Haiku, Noh drama and brush painting. Has NZ an emerging style?*

Yuasa: Yes, there's nature. You have a beautiful country.

S: *Asian countries are relatively crowded. Do people come to your music as a breather, to escape . . . ?*

Y: A consolation? It's not entertainment. It's more a reflection. It's not what you call getting away from it all. Music might change the people who are interested in listening to contemporary music and to find something new I think . . . rescue.

S: *Stockhausen talks about progress and development of the higher mind, e.g. through intuitive playing.*

Y: Yes, I'm in complete agreement with Karlheinz. And also John Cage. That openness.

S: *Was Cage the originator of noise in music?*

Y: Yes, he has had a great influence. Not only on me but on my friends also. But I think John Cage had a big influence from Zen and we have a common bond here.

S: *I find the long homogeneous sections of, for example, your very first piece with white noise are very similar to avantgarde jazz and rock. Have you heard of Tangerine Dream?*

Y: Yes, actually I heard them in Berlin. But they do it the easy way; The serious avantgarde is not the easy way.

S: *Do students listen much to yours or other contemporary music?*

Y: Young people do not compose electronic music. Almost no. Generally speaking, music education is quite conservative. Only Schoenberg. Not further. Ravel is quite highly estimated in the university. Teachers are very conservative but nowadays, students are not so content with that way. They have more curiosity than the teachers;

S: *Is there much symbolism involved in the gestures?*

Y: Yes. For myself the roots of culture are always very important and actually I have an interest in Noh theatre and some other

S: *Zen?* or me, yes. Not so much for others.

S: *Is this the result of your training or did you pursue it later on?*

Y: This is a very big question. I had to find what was my own way of thinking. For us, there is an equality of the old Japanese way and the European. We have to take the best of both.

S: *Is there a global music evolving?*

Y: Yes, But we have to keep our cultural ground.

Student Health

Surveys have shown that students entering university have a better physical development than others in their own age group.

The question discussed here is whether this advantage in physique and health is maintained over the coming three, four, or more decades.

The restrictions on university students made by long hours of study and classroom attendance challenge this advantage in two ways. The first is that their largely sedentary existence comes at a time when there is a final spurt of growth in the respiratory, circulatory and muscular systems — a growth which strengthens the efficiency of the body's energy production and ensures a greater physical tolerance and endurance for many years to come.

It is physical activity not inactivity which pushes this growth spurt to its limit, consolidating the advantage. With the pressure of first year university to cope with, all too many miss out on this consolidating phase of growth, and find it difficult to pick up again in subsequent years.

The second factor is a little more subtle but is the most important. The pattern of work, play, physical recreation, pleasure and rest that each person develops for himself, is referred to as lifestyle. It provides living habits which ensure adequate nutrition, the all important physical recreation mentioned above and the ability to cope with and reduce stress.

A well balanced lifestyle is attained by personal effort and is not provided by health, medical or social services. Unfortunately the ground roots determining the pattern of one's lifestyle are established at the same time as the student is limiting his activities to meet those which are appropriate at University.

The occupation and other responsibilities which graduates accept can again delay or divert him from these satisfying and rewarding patterns. It would seem that the timing of this development is an all important factor.

Mortality rates show that a significant number of those who have had a tertiary education suffer an early death. A careful scrutiny establishes that the main contributing factors to this early mortality are the lifestyle and living habits of the deceased.

Drawing of a man sitting on a couch

POLYROK rok hop theatre

Let me help you make a little money go a whole lot further If you need a little help and advice on how to make your money go further while you're at varsity, see Richard Starke at the Wellington Branch of the BNZ. Richard knows the sort of money problems you're going to be involved with as a student, and he'll be pleased to give you all the assistance and advice that's possible. Apart from the BNZ services like cheque and savings accounts, free automatic savings facility, the Nationwide Account, travellers' cheques. and so on, there are two particular BNZ services that a lot of students have found very useful. BNZ Educational Loans The great thing about these is their flexibility. You can take one out for a few days, to tide you over a rough spot till the end of term, or you can borrow on the long-term and, plan things out over the years you're at varsity. BNZ Consulting Service Free, helpful advice on practically any financial matter, from people who understand money and how it works And just by the way, there's another good reason for banking with the Bank of New Zealand, it's the only trading bank wholly owned by the people of New Zealand Call at the BNZ on-campus office and fix up a time for a chat with Richard Starke or phone him direct at the BNZ Wellington Branch. Cnr. Lambton and Customhouse Quays Phone 725-099 ext. 702. Bank of New Zealand Wholly owned by the people of New Zealand

Break Drums

Les Percussions de Strasbourg Stale Opera House

The six members of Percussions de Strasbourg are talented musicians. They really do play excellent music, but in terms of presentation they've got no style.

I entered the Opera House, walked down the aisle, looked for a seat . . . but I was suddenly stopped in my tracks gasping at the most magnificent collection of percussion equipment I've ever seen. That beautiful glittering chrome covered every available inch of the stage: truly impressive.

I sat near the front and looked forward to the onslaught. About 400 people had arrived when the house lights dimmed, and the Frenchmen entered dressed in black. Without introduction they began the John Cage piece "Construction in metal No. 1". Somewhere up there hung the famous 1934 Chevrolet brake drums. The piece was strange and exciting. Rhythmically it incorporated a number of tempos, superimposed, and alternated. The changing combinations of instruments shaping the sound into many textures . . . colours. It made use of metal percussion in the very broadest sense. Opening with large sheets of warbling tin, it continued with gongs, tubular bells, cowbells, even a tamtam struck as it was dipped into a bucket of water.

'Erewhon' by Hughes Dufort came after a reshuffle of equipment ... a fast rhythmic piece of constant tempo, fully utilising the woods, skin and various keyboard percussion. Though the piece soon seemed to lose its initial interest, it had already been trimmed from 1½ hours to 20 minutes.

On came the house lights as an improvised piece entitled "Interval" began. With the help of 10 local assistants the gear was reshuffled, producing a brilliant mosaic of falling gongs, iron dragging across the floor, the dropping of sticks and mallets, all punctuated with French chatter as people wandered about carrying drums, bumping into rows of crotales or tympani. The '34 Chevy brake drums thumped to the floor by way of climax and the serious stuff started again. Silence waited for the first sound . . . but no, an anxious Frenchman stamped back and forth looking for his drumsticks. The audience loved it.

I have a love for anything percussive, and can appreciate the awesome possibilities of the medium. I came along prepared to be swept away to the advertised "creation of earth" — ready to be riveted to the seat, and ended up watching a group of frantic technicians. During this piece we saw the snaredrum tip over causing a row of temple blocks to crash to the floor. They were swapping their sticks with furioso (regrettable in this style of music since any handling noises are clearly heard and count against our chances of hearing a true reproduction of the written music).

The final piece 'Continuum' composed by Kazimierz Seroki was conducted by the youngest member. The sound was beautiful and the arrangement admirable considering it was performed from memory, the conductor (who also played) having the only score. As a result it sounded vaguely spontaneous and consequently refreshing ... a well integrated sound.

During an informal discussion before the performance they assured us of their classical tradition saying "We play in front of very intellectual people and they like it", and in many ways that statement defines their style. Generally they seemed to adopt a confidence that assumed our unquestioned respect of their art. French pomp expects us to be naturally impressed before we arrive.

They explained earlier that none of their music is improvised — can't help wondering how much bullshit could have sneaked in. From backstage experience I've discovered that if the organisation is in chaos, the performance will suffer. The music was carried off with such seriousness who could tell, and what would it have mattered.

Although the music was excellent, generally I found the concert cold, intellectual and impersonal, though the elements used are undoubtedly exciting. The medium itself has perhaps been used by other musicians and composers with a lot more impact and simple appeal. Such people as Varese, Davidovsky's "Synchronisms for Tape & Percussion", Stomu Yamashta, Carl Palmer, Miles Davis, Airta, Josef Zawinul, Tom Rhimshot, Steve Gadd, and even the musicians of "Phenomenon of a Short Duration" have made a more tasteful contribution to the performance of percussion that I witnessed on Wednesday night.

After the show we spent an hour packing the equipment. Half way through and boggled we looked around to discover all the Frenchmen including the manager had gone home, leaving us to work out how to fit it all into one furniture truck. (French flippancy).

Les Percussions de Strasbourg will be performing at both the Auckland and Christchurch Festival of Arts.
Tony Richards

Listen y'all

Live Taking the Stage

Pure Prairie League RCA

Recorded in various locations around New York, Minnesota, Ohio and Missouri, this double live album reflects the hold that country rock still has in America. This is hardly surprising when you consider how the music is rooted in their American traditions and is part of their continuing way of life. For a non-American, rock can only be something exotic; but for an American, blues, country and rock are that country's musical heritage, and this gives American music its feeling of ongoing continuity.

Pure Prairie League are directly descended from the Allman Brothers Band and the many others who fused blues and country elements to produce what has come to be known as Southern Rock.

They play a formula made up of country melody over a rock base, mostly medium tempo, breaking things up with the occasional hard rocker or an interlude of frantic picking.

A lineup of two guitars, piano, steel guitar, bass and drums makes for a wide range of moods and sounds within the limitations of the genre.

There are no surprises with this kind of music. Either you like it or you don't.

Pure Prairie League play mainly original material — Buddy Holly's *That'll Be The Day* is an exception. Included is a humorous tribute to Merle Haggard, arch-redneck country star.

Throughout the album there is outstanding playing from lead guitarist Larry Goshorn and pedal steel guitarist John David Call, who plays banjo on *Pickin' to Beat The Devil* and dobro on *Kentucky Moonshine*.

Musically, Pure Prairie League are more successful than many at transferring the "high, lonesome sound" of country music to rock. As entertainers they are as fine a bunch of southern gentlemen as you could hope to hear on stage; answering the enthusiastic yells of the crowd with "Thanks y'all!, Mighty fine!"

Four sides may be a bit too much for all but the truly dedicated country rock fan, however the album includes some quality picking and singing.

Mighty fine, y'all.

A. Delahunty

Recreation Centre

It's after Easter and although the Recreation Centre is not exactly in full swing it does sway a bit. Parts swaying in the breeze, parts swaying in time to the steady hum of the exercycles in full flight. What are these legendary exercycles about which we have so much?

For those of you who don't particularly like running or are fine weather joggers or are too small or light in body weight to tackle Wellington's winds, then the exercycle could be for you. The recreation centre has at present four exercycles and there may well be more in the future. They are readily available and all that you need do is hop on and pedal.

For how long and at what speed is up to you, but in general a good working principle is to do at least three 20 minute steady rides per week. That means get on and pedal at a speed which you find comfortable for 20 minutes. You can easily read whilst riding and it has been known for people to take notes at the same time. Sweat

With the advent of the Winter sports season the seasonal rash of sports injuries is starting to appear. If you have not been to a Doctor with the injury come and see us and we might be able to offer you the right advice or give you a remedial programme to get you back to playing fitness.

"It's the putting right that counts." (We did not originate that expression.) Our putting right room is the new Clinic which is Based next to the Old Gym and will be the place for fitness testing, repairing, relaxation and so on.

As work builds up through this term don't forget that you do need a break, so get yourself down to the Centre for beginners Badminton Tuesday 10-11 am., Friday 10-11 am., or Fridays at 12 noon. Unfortunately until the building is complete the Yoga classes are held in the Smoking room in the Union. Beginners' Squash on Monday afternoons still has a couple of vacancies. If you want to know more then ask Jan at Reception.

The M.E.D. has finally got the main cable in, so our whole operation including the hire system can get itself going properly. We are sorry for the long delay but there was really very little we could do about it. Still no word on the lockers yet but they aren't more than about a couple of weeks away.

Ten sessions of Relaxation . . . Starting on Tuesday, 14th April, from 4 pm. to 5 pm. These ten sessions are designed as an introduction to using relaxation as a method of relieving tension. In conjunction with this course will be voluntary participation in a PhD. study on the effects of relaxation on physiological and psychological

response, Based on a series of tests before and after the course.

This aspect of the course is entirely voluntary and does not affect the structure of the course. If you are interested then give Diana Jones or David Thrall a ring at the Recreation Centre or 721—000 ext. 2824 for Diana and 845-599 for David.

Training Notes

Body weight. . . weigh what you weighed in your twenties!

Most Europeans tend to put weight on after the age of 25, if they have kept their weight steady till then. This, apart from being aesthetically undesirable, is also a health liability. There are no simple height/weight tables which can indicate with certainty if a person's weight is normal or if he/she is over or under weight. A person may be heavy without excess fat whilst a light person may be obese.

A good rule of thumb is that a person's weight should not increase after his/her twenties. Since muscular tissue declines in most of us, a loss of a few pounds is actually good proof that there is no increase in fatly tissue.

Drawing of a house

J r S c STUDENT CONCESSION PHONE 729—299 John Rod's SQUASH CENTRE SQUASH: 60 cents per half hour per person Normally \$1.25 GEAR HIRE: 30 cents per item RAQUETS: 40 cents CONCESSION HOURS 9—12 AND 2—5 WEEKDAYS

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Drama

Heroes and Butterflies

by Robert Lord directed by Tony Taylor Downstage Theatre

Who is Robert Lord? Well, between 1970 and 1974 he wrote several plays with some surface polish but very little underneath. An apprenticeship with the promise of better things to come perhaps. However, for the last four years Lord has lived in New York and if he's written anything new there it's yet to be seen here. Now for some reason Downstage has decided to resurrect the last play he wrote in New Zealand, which was premiered in Auckland four years ago.

Heroes and Butterflies claims to have something interesting to say about politics; it is advertised as, "a funny, exciting insight into the soft and sensuous cocoon of politics". The play operates with a pseudo-Reichiari correlation between sexuality and politics. It is the aim of Cynthia Gordon to elevate her husband (the minister of war) to the position of Prime Minister and thereby re-store his lost potency. She sets out to do this by undermining the morale of the current Prime Minister and by engineering a victory for her husband in the civil war which rages outside.

The first two acts are given over to the unfolding of this process. They take place in an unspecified country which has probably developed from a diet of 30's movies, Noel Coward's plays and sub-Evelyn Waugh novels. At no point did I feel any significant parallels to New Zealand society in any period of its history because its feet are planted firmly in fantasyland. The characters who occupy this land are all members of its ruling class or attached to this class.

Almost all of them are extreme caricatures. The women consist of: the war minister's pushy "ball-busting" wife, her friend the single-minded lesbian, the Prime Minister's neurotic daughter and his nubile granddaughter. The war minister is impotent, the Prime Minister has a mild taste for incest. And hovering round the edges of this decadent cast are a philosophical gardener, a witty butler and two American diplomats.

Now, this ruling class is under attack from a group of unspecified "rebels" whose only visible act is the capture of the Prime Minister's daughter, to no particular end. At no point do we learn anything of the society whose ruling class is shown declining into impotence. Instead we get some tedious variations on the "private vices, public virtues" theme laced together with disposable chatter about butterflies, flowers, weeds and gardens.

However the butterfly, motif had about as much symbolic power for me as the kind you see on the walls of houses and as for the heroes, well, you see them in public places set in cast iron. No doubt some Levi-Straussian could come forward with a convincing explanation of these motifs. But this would not alter the

basic failure of the play to make a meaningful political statement.

This failure occurs at a number of different levels. First, the play eschews history in favour of a generalised, abstract commentary on the nature of power and politics. But this is meaningless. There is really no such thing as politics in general but only specific political and historical situations which need to be examined on their own terms before general comparisons can be made. As with Red Mole's "Ghost Rite" we are left with a spectacle which makes no connections with the fabric of New Zealand society.

Secondly the Politicians in the play are reduced to the dimension of caricature: when he attains the Prime Ministership, William Gordon is exposed as a whimpering child playing a nightmarish game he can't understand; Sir Edward Graig, the previous Prime Minister is presented as a half-senile old man, chasing his granddaughter and prattling on about butterflies.

Heroes and Butterflies offers a very naive and adolescent view of the psychology of politicians rather than seeing them as part of an overall political situation. It's as if someone tried to reduce the changing course of the Vietnam war to the state of Nixon's sexual potency. Thirdly, although it's very hard to construct a whole picture of the social structure it's quite clear that it owes more to literature than anything else. No translation can be made to contemporary New Zealand society or any other for that matter.

I won't say anything about the production of the actors except that both were of an overall high standard. My quarrel is with the play.

Bob Dylan has warned us of the dangers of "too much of nothing". Heroes and Butterflies provides some funny lines, no effective satire, much cynicism and some very dull passages. It is a piece of sophisticated kitsch quite removed from anything going on outside the theatre.

Lawrence MacDonald

Dance

Impulse Dance Theatre Preview

Impulse Dance Theatre is one of the more interesting phenomena to have hit the dance world in New Zealand. It has completely broken away from the ballet tradition of presenting costly, large-scale productions that have little relevance to local conditions. It has rather concentrated on a small-scale company presenting works of their own creation to people who don't usually get to see dance in performance.

They started small, only touring to centres around the southern end of the North Island, building up their repertoire experience, technique and ensemble feeling. During the three years they have been working together they have developed from a local group to a national company. But despite this growth their basic aims have remained unchanged. As director Ms Jamie Bull says, "We are still primarily concerned with taking the art of dance to the people, and this is accomplished in each centre by teaching and presenting public performances and lecture demonstrations in schools." To help achieve this aim, they are receiving the support of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council and the Department of Education.

They will be performing soon in Wellington as part of this, their fifth major tour.

"We will be presenting ten works all of differing lengths, style and content. The variety the programmes contain is reflected in the music, where the composers range from the Beatles to Stravinsky; Joan Armatrading to Poulenc. Dance speaks for all the senses, but primarily the impact is visual, and it is a mistake for an audience to look for a verbal message all the time."

New works to be premiered on this tour include: "A Wedding Album (Thorndon, January 1978)" choreographed by Paul Jenden, which is a light hearted look at a familiar situation. Debbie Groves has choreographed "somebody", a gentle, lyrical piece in complete contrast to "Mobile," a fast, snappy jazz piece choreographed by Liz Davey to the Santana hit "She's not there."

Jamie Bull has choreographed "Credits" as a finale to the programme to a segment of Tubular Bells by Mike Oldfield. The credits mentioned in the music were the inspiration to present both the combined and individual talents of the dancers in a dynamic, high energy piece.

If you have never before thought of dance as an attractive form of indigenous entertainment go along and see their show. You might be pleasantly surprised.

They will be performing at the Memorial Theatre on 30th and 31st March and 1st April at 8 p.m.

Photo of two dancers

VUWSA Films

Drawing of people watching a film

The Graduate

Mike Nichols

First class entertainment comedy with serious overtones. Director Mike Nichols delves into incest, alienation, the generation gap, a déjà vu critique of suburban society. A virtuoso performance from Anne Bancroft with Dustin Hoffman in his debut role. Classic Simon and Garfunkel music makes The Graduate the trend-setter of many American social comedies. Despite its vintage, the ideas have never been more relevant. Wednesday 29 March 2.15 pm.

All the Presidents Men

Alan Pakula

An account of the events following the Watergate break-in as reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein track the burglars to the White House. A significant event in the rebirth of investigative reporting and the free press. Redford and Hoffman play the dynamic duo in a deliberate low-key manner for the sake of realism and faithfulness to the actual events.

Authentic to the Washington Post's waste paper, the film is a remarkable distillation of the original book. Director Allen J. Pakula transforms a drab series of events into a tense documentarylike drama. Thursday 30 March 5.00 pm.

K. J. Y.

Drawing of Richard Nixon

DOWNSTAGE direct from the Christchurch Arts Festival . . . HEROES AND BUTTERFULYS By Robert Lord A funny, exciting insight into the soft and sensuous cocoon of politics. Opening 22nd. March Dinner 6, 30; Show 8.15 pm. Bookings 849 —639 DOWNSTAGE DISCOUNT: Members. Students (with dinner) Monday to Thursday \$7.50. Friday, Saturday (with dinner) \$8.50 Show only on floor \$3.00 Monday to Thursday Friday and Saturday \$4.00 Show only (gallery) Monday to Thursday \$2.50 Friday Saturday \$3. 50

Burrowing On

Actors as Tohungas or Red Mole revisited

Last week David Murray raised the question of the social and political effectiveness of the Red Mole way of working. He cast doubt as to the validity of such entertainment in these politically turbulent times.

At about the same time a lecturer in Drama, Adrian Kiernander, verbally assaulted me in the corridor for giving the impression in my article a couple of weeks ago that Red Mole were leaving New Zealand because of a lack of financial support from the Q. E. II Arts Council. He pointed out that they did receive money from the Arts Council for their tour of Ghost Rite and that the reason they were leaving New Zealand was because they wanted new stimulus from overseas.

Both apparently different events but with a very important relationship. They both question the place theatre should fill in New Zealand society; the one arguing for its use as a weapon in the social development of this country, the other arguing that its major importance exists as an international art form, whereby its practitioners should go wherever they feel best able to develop their mysterious powers for the sake of Theatre. New Zealand is useful as a starting point but overseas is where it should all really happen.

What I would like to do is to explore these arguments further and in the process elaborate on my own ideals. This debate is important and I would welcome any further further discussion in the pages of Salient. If you would care to send in your thoughts I will attempt to get them printed.

Theatre should not be considered an Art Form. Rather, as Shakespeare would have it, it is an attempt to "hold a mirror up to nature." He considered his work in theatre as a socially valuable way of making a living but didn't think it merited taking pains to get his plays published. Other people did that for him.

And that is how it should be.

When theatre became a cultural thing to do it started to stagnate like the Japanese Noh drama, it became a means of diversion for the intellectual and social elite and lost all relevance for the rest of the population. How can you possibly hold a clear enough mirror to nature if it refuses to reflect 95% of the population. And the most important section at that.

This is where I can't accept the Red Mole argument that they must go overseas to gain new stimulus. New stimulus from where? Their community is here, their people are here. It is only from this community that any real and vital stimulus can come. As David Murray argues, technique basically doesn't matter at all. What is important is to perceive what really is happening here and now and to present that in such a way that it can be communicated to your audience.

A tohunga is a person of great wisdom and perception who has a finger on the pulse of the community and can, through the performance of rituals, placate the gods, exorcise demons, and direct the people towards more valuable goals. Actors should be the modern tohungas. For a tohunga to leave the tribe in order to gain new skills in performing the rites, and also to have an opportunity of looking at his people from a different viewpoint would be patently absurd. The magic would leave, the tribe would be endangered.

Looked at in this way, it becomes absurd to present plays merely for the sake of entertainment and to make a quick buck. It is a very difficult thing to come to any real perception of our community. It takes much exploration, a great deal of time, a lot of sensitivity and a strong feeling of being part of a community. To waste time working on pap entertainment weakens sensitivity and alienates one from the community.

At the present time, our community is going through a social crisis. We have a Prime Minister who is attempting to gain supreme control over the way New Zealand should move. In the process he is alienating huge sections of the population from one another, splintering people off so they feel isolated and afraid, chasing people overseas, subtly destroying opposition and basically creating immense confusion and anguish for his egotistical ends. He wants to be king. There is absolutely no reason for this to be allowed to happen. The solution is so simple.

If people refused to become alienated, but rather joined closer together as a community they would find that they could enjoy one another's company. They would then find that, in a situation of friendship and love, they could quite easily solve what are basically trivial financial and social problems with great ease. Muldoon's hopes of power would crumble.

Theatre can be a very valuable means of bringing this about. But if it aligned itself with any political ideology or party the result would be fatal. Ideologies fight one another and the aim of theatre should be to unite. If everyone in New Zealand could understand that no one is the same as anyone else, and enjoy that difference, rather than be angry or frightened of it, we would be getting somewhere.

All this is, of course, an idealistic dream. But dreams are the stuff of theatre. What better place from which to act.

John Bailey

Film Out on a Limb

Solo

Directed by Tony Williams Plaza

Solo is a very visual film. The colourful landscape and settings, in their composition and imagery, are moodily poetic. The aerial scenes convey a glorious sense of freedom, and the sequences throughout the film blend together in an easy lyrical fashion.

But besides the technical expertise in camera handling and editing, Solo fails as a film. The plot is the stuff clichés are made of. It is so trite, it could have taken place in the Mojave Desert with equal credibility. Solo Dad flying fire warden meets solo girl hitch-hiker, In an idyllic forest setting they fall in love. But before they commit themselves, the girl leaves. Certainly no awards for originality.

As the story progresses, the emotional level of the narrative does not follow. The girl is supposedly the centre of attention, yet the other characters intrude so strongly, our emotional link with her is frequently broken. Billy, the son, is the most at fault. He lives in a very imaginative solo world and provides humorous relief with his smart one-liners and accident proneness.

There are also the sequences with Davina Whitehouse as an eccentric farmer. Any god-forsaken casting agent ought to realise her mere presence obliterates any other character on screen. It is as if we require reminding of how poor the acting

Vincent Gil as the hero Paul, is nothing less than staid. Son Billy, played by Perry Armstrong can only be described as pathetic. The character of Billy is written as an integral part of the plot (banal as it is) yet surprisingly they cast someone of less than amateur acting ability. Armstrong plays Billy's introspection with a constant downward gaze and implies depth with his words, but it just isn't convincing. He certainly has all the funny lines ("Tie her down". "Tie her down?" says Billy looking at the girl, "Oh you mean the plane"), but they are only funny in idea, and not because of him.

Photo still from 'Solo'

The depth of his character is also inconsistent. We are lead to believe he is all knowledgeable about open sexuality and human relationships (He says to the girl after Paul is forced to land the Tiger Moth on a beach, "He's let you down just just like all the other men in your life.") But he carries a toy six-shooter and later with a bout of the sulks, attempts to fly the Tiger Moth alone in vengeance. Presumably this can all be dismissed as part of his imaginative mind. Unfortunately, Billy comes across merely as a convenient vehicle for humour and dramatic contrast.

Lisa Peers handles her part better. According to Williams, members of the cast contributed ideas on treatment and development of the screenplay, making the finished film a reflection of their feelings and their attitude. Lisa Peers alone accurately reflects the emotions of her character Judy, but sadly she suffers from poor direction. The camera flows fluid but the actors don't. Even her walk looks clumsy in places. (The direction may be explained by the fact that Tony Williams is an ex-cameraman)

Even more confusing is the strange esteem the scriptwriters (Williams and Martyn Sanderson, who has a bit part) have of the audience. We are expected to catch onto Billy's little puns, be mature enough to understand the loneliness and love felt by the characters, and yet simple courses of action in the film have to be blatantly underlined. There is the ridiculous line by Davina Whitehouse referring to Billy's flying of the Tiger Moth. "Of course, he might have felt left out and wanted to draw attention to himself." And again after Billy falls from his horse, "I know, I'm accident prone". By then anyway, the smart one-liners by-Billy have become quite wearisome.

The structure of the plot may be a worse fault. When Paul gives his dissertation on solo flight (" . . . when you go solo, it wouldn't matter if the world disappeared. . . ") and later to Billy (" . . . you've got to fly it with your feelings, instincts, build up your strength . . . "), the passages plug at underlying themes, they are crucial statements about their experiences, the rationale of their behaviour, and yet one cannot help feeling they were misplaced in the story. It is difficult to predict how much the script suffered from the improvisation process.

What Solo lacks in writing however, is made up by exquisite camera work, the moving incidental music from Red Hot Peppers, and Lisa Peers' perceptive performance.

New Zealand film still has a long way to go. One awaits the day products of the financial backers are not conspicuously (and embarrassingly) presented on screen and their place in the list of credits is no longer necessary.

Kevin John Young

News from Malaysia and Singapore

Salient has been printing News from Malaysia and Singapore for a number of years now in an effort to cater for the large student population from those countries, and to increase the awareness of New Zealand students of the internal situation of Malaysia and Singapore.

Because Malaysian politics are extremely complicated (contrary to what the Pols dept will tell you) Salient will be running more general articles later in the year giving an analysis of the parties and people involved so keep watching — especially if you are a New Zealand student.

Kelantan Elections

On March 11, an election was held in Kelantan state (a large Malaysian state on the north east coast of the mainland) following three months of rule under emergency law. Imposition of the law had led a majority party, Party Islam, to break away from the ruling national front headed by UMNO (United Malays National Organisation).

The election results were quite unexpected and resulted in a landslide victory to UMNO, which has previously been hampered by internal splits. In the election, UMNO and its ally Party Berjasa won 34 seats in the 36 seat state legislature.

It is now widely believed that UMNO will use this victory to call for a national election, not only to consolidate their own position, but to form a more consolidated national front.

The architect of the UMNO victory, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who is also the national finance minister, has used his success to play a more influential role in national politics, and has a key position if a general election is called.

Harun Defies Sentence

BBC World News in its 23 Feb broadcast reported that 150 supporters of Harun, the former Menteri Besar (chief minister) of Selangor, barricaded his house to prevent the police from taking Harun to jail.

According to the report, Harun was served with a court order requiring him to report at the main prison in Kuala Lumpur on 23rd Feb. to begin his 6-year sentence.

Harun had just returned from his London trip where he failed in his appeal to the Privy Council against the 6-year conviction passed by the Malaysian Federal Appeal Court.

In May 1976, the High Court sentenced Harun to 2 years jail for corruptly receiving M\$250,000 from the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. In another forgery and criminal breach of trust charge, the court on Jan 24, 1977 sentenced Harun to 6 months. However in December last year when Harun appealed against the 6-month sentence, it was increased to four years, thus bringing his prison terms to 6 years.

The supporters of Harun demanded a Royal Pardon and insisted that they meet the Prime Minister. The actions of Harun supporters caused a great deal of tension in the capital. According to the BBC report, people in Kuala Lumpur rushed home early from work and "the city centre was deserted."

Paramilitary force was employed in the city centre though none was in the vicinity of Harun's house.

The BBC special correspondent said that Hussein Onn wanted Harun to go to jail before any pardon could be considered. Hussein Onn has his own self-interest as Harun is one of the sources of conflict within the ruling UMNO party and Hussein would like to see Harun out of circulation during the election period.

Voices from Prison

FUEMSSO recently received information about the plight of two Malaysian detainees, Mr. Hon Yew Peng and Mr. Lee Yik Chin. Mr. Hon, aged 31, is from Johore and has been detained for more than 6 years, while Lee, aged 33, for more than 13½ years.

In an October 1977 letter to the Malaysian Medical Association, Malaysian Bar Council and M.P.s (Ahli-ahli Parlimen), the mother of Hon revealed that her son - who is currently being detained in the Batu Gajah Prison Camp was in good health until his detention. The letter said that her son participated in the 29th Nov. 1974 hunger strike which lasted 48 days.

During that struggle, Federal Reserve Unit men were sent into the prison to beat up the strikers. As in the case of 8 other prison comrades, Hon was denied medical attention.

In August, Hon sent a letter to his lawyer complaining, "My sickness which I had reflected to you before has been worsening." He wrote that according to the "Agreement of the KPN", "We should not be handcuffed when we are going for medical treatment. But since March 10th, the camp authority and the police here have refused to send us for medical treatment if we don't want to be handcuffed."

Hon is suffering from Thyrotoxicosis Cardromyopathy and back pains since the 1974 hunger strike. He was initially attended by a prison medical officer who told Hon that his sickness was beyond his ability.

After a long period of delay, a doctor was arranged. By then Hon's sickness had deteriorated. "I have diarrhoea and vomiting frequently, and difficulties to swallow and breathe, and feel head-ache and heart beating very fast."

On 26th August, the doctor suggested that he should go for an operation at the Ipoh Hospital. This, however, was not [*unclear*: possible] if the prison authorities on handcuffing him on his way to the hospital.

At the time of writing it is not possible to ascertain Hon's medical condition.

In the second case of Lee Yik Chin who was in good health at the time of his detention in 1964, he is now suffering from rheumatism and gastric. In an appeal, the mother of Lee, a widow, said that her son was detained during the period of Indonesian confrontation against Malaysia.

Although it was the confrontation issue which resulted in Lee's arrest, Lee spent 13½ of his best years in detention while the issue of Confrontation was long dead with the establishment of close diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia.

According to the mother, Lee had been shifted from one camp to another. The son was at times put under severe psychological and physical tortures. The mother appealed to the government to release her son unconditionally.

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DYLAN Last week we published a photo of Dylan at the concert at Western Springs. This photo was kindly made available to us by Terry Hobin. Salient would like to thank Terry for the use of his work, and apologises for accidentally leaving the credit off the photo.

Letters

Letters must be typed, double spaced on one side of the paper, and should not run on and on boring everybody to death. They can be dropped into the letters box just inside the Salient door (middle floor of the Union Building, graveyard end), left at the Studass office, or sent c/o VUWSA, Private Bag, Wellington

Drawing of a man being impaled by a pencil

Salient has an open door policy on letters. However some people will have noticed that their efforts are not receiving the attention they undoubtedly think is due them.

Sometimes this is because the letter is sexist, racist, or in some other way particularly offensive. But more often it simply cannot be read. If for this reason the typesetter refuses to set something I am not going to make him.

Contrary to what is obviously a small section of popular opinion, closely scrawled capitals with no space between lines are not easy to read. Correspondents are referred to the guidelines set out at the beginning of the letters pages.

The Right Wing Indulges

Dear Sir,

Allow me to indulge in a few random right-wing observations, some character assassination and a little foaming at the mouth. There is only one thing worse than a poor down-trodden self-pitying 'Red' and that is a boring, middle-class, self-pitying 'Red' of which your paper seems to abound.

It is time a new perspective was put on issues carried in this paper by clear, rational thinking people, rather than a bunch of self-centred dropouts, pushing their own ideas at the expense of student opinion as a whole.

However I realise you like to live in your dream-world, a world in which the oppressed students are waiting on every word from their radical saviours. So you can continue to dream away but please let us make up our own minds on things political, social etc.

Yours faithfully,

Jenny.

(A student newspaper is traditionally a medium for the expression of anything and everything students are thinking about and talking about and doing. Ain't nobody trying to make up your mind for you Jenny. Students - like yourself - are just writing about their ideas from their own point of view. Salient is comprised of those students willing to do the work, and if you dislike the content the surest way to influence that content is to come in and work on the paper Please don't think of us as some kind of closed, introspective, self-congratulatory revolutionary cell out to propagandise the masses. If we were, your letter would not appear and we would not be asking you to join the staff. - typstr)

We Wanna Crossword

Dear Sir,

We were considerably aggrieved this week to note the absence of a Crossword from your ongoing endeavour at journalistic eminence and the inclusion of a Puzzle as of like-what we can't do. The mental effort required to undertake completion of the Puzzle is considerably more than we are able to muster after a strenuous and stutifying Monday morning. The Crossword provided us with light mental stimulation and entertainment and besides which, we could do it!

Take Heed, we humbly beseech you, of this epistle informing you of our deprivation, and we wait expectantly the publication of your next issue with a Crossword in it.

Lovingly,

the 3 "A" 's

Bloody Aardvarks

Dear Psimon,

I am writing to protest the abysmal standard of the majority of the letters in your otherwise excellent newspaper. The only letters really worth reading in the last issue were one on aardvarks and one on the sexuality booklet. The more of these letters you get and print the better!

Love,

Willum Shaksper.

P.S. I hear someone is forming an Aardvark Society on campus, true?
(Couldn't tell you, mate — Ed.)

More on Abortion

Dear Editor,

Lindy Cassidy's letter in last week's Salient (20/3/78) just bears out what I wrote the previous week. If one says something often enough one starts to believe it (and believe it sincerely too! — a sort of self-hypnosis). She says that abortion is a woman's "democratic right" because it is a "democratic right" and giving no other reasons.

That abortion is "a woman's democratic right" is denied by a large section of the world's population and is

most certainly not universally recognised as such. It could possibly be argued (and may well have been argued) on the same grounds that Hitler had a democratic right to kill off over 6 million Jews, that certain "democratic states" have a "right" to exterminate thier opponents, etc., but that doesn't mean that such a right really exists. Rather in those cases it was a matter of their own invention, as I submit is the case with those who claim that abortion is "a woman's democratic right". It is using emotive terminology because there is no other justification for their stance.

Rights derive from the nature of human beings, and the killing of a foetus just because the mother was too lazy to use contraceptives and just can't be bothered accepting the consequences (which is the more common situation in which abortion is wanted, leaving aside the rarer difficult situations e.g. rape, for the moment) is to deny the right of the foetus to live! To wantonly kill a foetus seems to me to be not excercising a "fundamental democratic right," but rather denying one.

Yours etc.,

Vic Urwin.

(Our problem seems to be a scale of rights, and who is deemed to possess rights. The scale starts with the woman, who does have certain rights by virtue of being human, and goes down the line through the foetus, to the individual sperm and egg cells To claim a foetus should have rights over and above those of a fully grown adult is just as sensible as saying that every sperm, by virtue of the fact that it is a potential human being, if only allowed the chance to develop, should not be denied that chance, and that the use of contraceptives is murder. Suggesting that either a sperm cell or a foetus have rights over and above the parents is to me rather absurd. The motivation for these arguments would appear to be a form of prudery which delights in seeing people suffer unwanted children as a result of enjoying the forbidden fruit - their bodies. There is certainly no logic in it. Until it is born, or at least until it is viable outside the womb, there is no way that one can realistically consider a foetus to be a human any more than an ovum. — typstr)

It's a Dog's Life

Dear Simon,

This letter is to give formal notice of intention to stand for the position of President of VUWSA in the forthcoming elections; the name of the candidate being J. Rotten.

He is standing on the Aardvark ticket with a promise of equality for all, student and aardvark alike. He has been to as many SRC's as he could attend and is deeply committed to the concept of student politics, i.e. doing as much as possible for students and aardvarks, without thought of monetary gain.

Horace Gambolputty von
Baden-baden
(campaign manager)

A Good Question

Dear Sir,

"Oh mighty fungus-head, dost thou lie so low?" carpet

Nice

Agatha Bin

Nasty Cartoons

Dear Salient,

This letter is directed at the WANKER who constructed the cartoon concerning the boy and the saud Frisbee in March 20th edition of the students newspaper. I shudder to think what form of warped thought evolves in his or her twisted mind. It is said that perversion exists in many forms well it is sad to see this form of sickness creeping into our newspaper. Many of us would like to see an end to such pitiful drib-Mr. "How about it?" Don't destroy our interest in "Salient".

Avid Reader

(How about this one then, 'mate? — Ed.)

An Interlude

Dear Salient Boss,

Drawing of a man with his fingers up his nose, coming out of his forehead

The 8 barristers danced into the High Court of the Privy Council flinging their robes about, singing and dancing in gay abandon to the tune of "ging gang gooly gooly . . ." The Judge too — assuming the charisma of a bottomless go-go dancer in a gay bar in New Orleans — passed his wig under his armpit three or four times before switching on the lights. Aluminium powder flowed freely from valleys in the silk gowns and glinted in the ultra-violet light as it tumbled to the floor.

The expert witness, an accountant from Karori, busily stuffed raw mince and wet lettuce leaves down his trousers. And still the ageless oak panelling and scratched and ink stained desks, steeped in that musty dignity of the Legal Profession looked longingly for some small insect to crush.

Dormot, L. J., coughed and the registrar, an old man, shoulders stooped but still maintaining some youthful strength supported his sincere, weathered face in his hands and replied with an alarm clock. So the dialogue continued to the small hours of the morning.

Yours,

Agatha Bin

Another Question

Dear Sir,

Do you find many openings for this sort of thing?? I am a personal friend of a bulldozer.

Yours in Humble Obedience,

Agatha Bin.

Trot Trade-off

Dear Simon,

I wish to protest the unwarranted attack on me in the last issue of Salient Abusing your position as editor, you inserted some rather curious comments in a report of the SRC elections on my election to International Affairs Officer. You ask, "why did he risk a difficult election in a field not his own? To put it another way, was there a trade off?"

This comment inferred that:

- I wasn't experienced in the International Affairs area of student politics and
- I was party to some "trade off" — that is I participated in an unprincipled deal to ensure my election.

Both positions are absolutely false and it is a sorry comment on your own editorial approach that you should insert such unfounded opinions in another person's article.

I can only conclude that your support for the defeated candidate coloured your objectivity in considering what happened. For instance, you do not seem to have even listened to my election speech, where I explained that I was twice elected International Affairs Officer at Auckland University. In addition, while holding the positions of Welfare Vice-President and Resource Officer at Auckland, I was closely involved in International campaigns, particularly those concerned with Southern Africa and Overseas Students.

As to your accusation of a "trade off", this is no more than a rather shoddy innuendo. At no stage did I offer my support or otherwise to anyone if they supported me, nor did I ask for such a "trade off. In fact, your inference to that effect tells us more about your own approach to student politics than mine.

Yours,

Mike Treen

(If I can draw a distinction between "tradeoff and "jack-up", the fact remains that there was a convenient distribution of positions in which the three successful candidates (Sue Cairney in Education, Sean Tuohy in National and yourself in International) all supported each other. This surprised many people, and I take it no further than that. — Ed.)

Israeli Expansionism

Dear Salient,

Does Mr. Wilson know what Imperialism is? For that matter does David Murray? As we all know Israel has invaded S. Lebanon largely as a result of 30 odd Israeli unarmed civilians being roasted alive in a bus by Palestinian Gerrillas.

Israel clearly has a case in entering the Lebanon in the face of repeated attacks across the border. To call them Imperialists when one looks at the Middle East and the Jews in a historical perspective is going too far. Maybe Mr. Wilson and Mr. Murray should gain firsthand experience of being burned alive or losing a relative in such an incident.

However it is clear that neither the violent approach of the Palestinians or that of the Israelis is going to solve the problem. Israel should withdraw forthwith and hand administration of S. Lebanon over to an impartial peace-keeping force such as the U.N. troops which have been dispatched to the area. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Murray will probably call, that Imperialism on the part of the U.N. as it's probably O.K. by them if Palestinians butcher unarmed civilians but not O.K. if Israel makes an attempt to defend itself and prevent future attacks.

Lord Robert Clive

(Israel had been preparing itself for the invasion of southern Lebanon for some time before the actual event. Even the Israeli leadership has admitted that their actions are not the result of the PLO raid — Ed.)

Sir—

I am saddened to realise that you are still under misapprehensions about the "Palestine Question," still holding fast to rumours and half-truths spread by the last generation of military and political leaders in the Arab world.

In no way can a rational person condemn Israel's action of last week as Imperialist aggression when it is obvious that their intention is the protection of all within Israel's borders, Arab as well as Jew. Aggression implies no provocation, whereas Palestinian terrorists have been murdering civilians since 1948.

Also at no time has it been a policy of the Israeli Government to restrict citizenship to Jews, in fact Arabs are encouraged to remain, it was the Arab leadership who forced them to flee.

Israel cannot be condemned for taking self-defensive measures, the aim being to prevent terrorists from violating her territorial integrity, something lauded by all societies.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Morgan

Three Cheers for the Rules

Dear Simon

I feel it is about bloody time that someone reminds you of your provision on writing letters to Salient, one of which is that they don't run on and on, boring everyone to death . . .

yours disgustedly,

Michael Carr-Gregg

(You've got a point there. But I remind you of other provisions, namely that letters must be typed and double spaced. For all these reasons, yours included, I'm afraid we're not going to print the rest of your letter. — Ed.)

(C'mon Simon, no need to be vindictive! — typstr)

A Basic Problem

Dear Simon,

Basically — what I wanna say is this. Basically why doesn't everybody live for today, now. Instead of trying to be left wing pseudo-radical ponces.

I say — basically — that whats been throw it away — what's coming stick it!

Court Crapeater.

(Did you understand that? — typstr.)

The Wonderful Thing About Democracy

Dear Simon,

I am just amazed at the interesting snippets of information you pick up in classes at Vanity. For instance did you know that if you send a Prepaid Reply Telegram to a member of Parliament, say, Brian Talboys, he will reply personally rather than leaving it to one of his secretaries. Apparently, if you send enough of them you can get to the stage where you feel he knows you personally. It makes me proud of our country to know that such things do happen.

Impressed Student.

Laws Unfair to Dope Smokers

Dear Editor,

I believe the N.Z. Marijuana Party raises a valid point when it points out the irrationality of our present attitudes to drugs and drug abuse.

The breweries in this country make large profits supplying the drug alcohol to the community. They wince when sales drop, spend millions on advertising and breathe sighs of relief when sales go up. Major suppliers even receive knighthoods for their efforts.

We have 53,000 alcoholics and alcohol abuse is estimated to cost New Zealand between 400-500 million per year in health and social security expenditure and loss of production. Its use is also responsible for a large percentage of violent crime.

Marijuana is not addictive and no evidence has been produced indicating any threat or harm to society. Its use is not associated with disorderly or violent behaviour.

The Evening Post reported on 18/3/78 that a person on charges of causing death by careless use of a motor vehicle and driving with an excess blood alcohol count was sentenced to 4 months periodic detention.

The marijuana growers get 6 years in jail.

The alcohol producers get knighthoods.

Is that what they call justice?

Legalise Marijuana and full marks to the N.Z. Marijuana Party.

Dope smoker.

A Jolly Fine Letter

Dear Sir,

The excellent quality of your magazine in recent weeks has prompted my wife and I to write a letter of congratulation. Your quiet and informative paper is a model of fine journalism. Mrs. Swales was particularly impressed by your objective and restrained articles on the Movick affair. You are a credit to your generation.

Yours sincerely,

Major (retd.) Mrs. (retd.) Swales

(I wouldn't go that far major. — typstr)

Doyle put in His Place.

Dear Simon,

On reading Eugene Doyle's letter in last week's Salient I was appalled at the totally destructive attitude he took towards student life.

Students can well do without his pessimistic views on the state of the association, particularly as the year has just begun — such pessimism can perhaps be justified later on in the year as the slog for finals begins, etc.

I should like to ask him two questions —

- Why the hell did he come back to varsity if the thought of facing the mob of "Parasites" sickened him?
- How the hell does he expect student activity to increase in any area if people like himself write super-intellectual bullshit writing off such activity at the beginning of the bloody year?

Concerned student

What's Wrong with Labour?

Dear Simon,

Your political correspondent claimed only mass marches make governments act on contentious issues, s/he should have said only Labour governments respond to this method. It was Labour who acted on Monopouri, on compulsory compulsory military training, on the STB, on French nuclear tests, on racist white South Africa.

National have not acted on the SIS marches, the bursary marches, the East Timor marches, or the overseas student cutback demonstrations. Perhaps s/he should think again before saying Labour and National are the same

Penny McEwan

Dear Sir,

I read with interest and amusement the first effort of Salient's "Political Correspondent", who wisely wants to be anonymous. It was notable for its frequent factual errors and obvious lack of research and a pervasive cynicism.

The "Correspondent" dismissed the National Party on four basic grounds: price rises, disappearing rights (i.e. the SIS, snooping on solo mums, and a loss of economic security), "nuclear visitors", and Mr. Gill's immigration performance. These are hardly, I would think, sufficient grounds for dismissing the National Party, neither are they the best grounds. Presumably, the Government's overall economic performance has satisfied the "Correspondent". Otherwise a reasoned criticism of it would have appeared.

Does he like National's philosophy and its people? Probably he knows nothing about either. The "Correspondent" has a scapegoat: "this recession, depression, repression thing seems to come from the big powers dominating the economy with IMFs and multinationals . . ." As usual, this is exaggeration and unbelievably naive.

The "Correspondent" show his ignorance best in his attack on the Labour Party. He first says that Minogue and Waring "provided the only coherent debating force opposed to the Government in Parliament for the last two sessions." If he knew anything about Minogue, Waring or Parliament, he would know that Minogue has never yet had the courage to speak against a single Govt measure in Parliament (including the SIS Bill), and that Ms. Waring has only spoken against a single Govt measure, namely superannuation.

Mr. Lange's political future is apparently ruined because he supported the Birch Amendment. Rowling is dismissed merely because he is not very popular. Mick Connely is alleged to have said "National had joined with the Communists to destroy NZ." In fact he said nothing of the sort: he said that National is joining with the Communists to stop Labour returning to power.

Rowling is wrongly accused of defending Comalco against Muldoon. His criticism of the Govt's abortive approach to trade is twisted to be "defending Japanese imperialism against Muldoon." Labour, says the "Correspondent" wants to replace the SIS Act with its own bugging legislation. This is also wrong, since they have obviously no intention of reintroducing something which they so bitterly opposed.

He is also wrong in saying that Labour started dawn raids on overstayers. It has already been established that in 1975 the Immigration Dept authorized such raids, but that the Labour Minister of Immigration had the practice stopped the moment he heard of it.

The Black Budget is declared to be evidence that Labour was "no good" in the past. The "Correspondent" could not have chosen a worse example: the black budget of 1958 is regarded by today's economists as one of the most intelligent and successful responses by a New Zealand Govt to an economic recession.

The "Correspondent" supplies us (aren't we lucky?) with a solution to this terrible situation he so incompetently describes. The answer, he says, lies not in our party system of Government, but with "us". He says we should turn to strikes, mass marches, civil disobedience, etc. to "fight them". I suppose that in his way of thinking the way to Real change would be a revolution and then We would be in control. Big deal!

In conclusion I question whether it is worth publishing misinformation and unintelligent trash like the

"political correspondent's" effo since most students are not little children and are bored either by politics itself or by biased, poorly constructed, and wildly incorrect articles on politics.

Yours faithfully,

Dal I. Larma.

More Aardvarks

Dear Sir,

It has recently come to my attention that the chapter on "Sex with an Aardvark" was not given to you with the rest of the copy for the NZUSA Sexuality Handbook.

We acknowledge that the omission was entirely our own fault and that no blame can be attached to yourself as editor. Our society stands for the protection of all things decent and Aardvark.

We remain your most humble and devoted servants,
Arnold Zyphillus Webb
(DSO And Bar)

P.S. Who was that Aardvark that I saw you with last night?

That was no Aardvark, that was my wife in drag. (see the sort of filth that our society is fighting?)

Dear Sir,

Please can you use Salient to help students become mature balanced members of society. Instead of perpetuating our immaturity by the juvenile nature of most of Salient's features could you possibly put some worth while civil discussion in the articles. This petty unbalanced approach you are taking at present is distorting the real world. Lets see both sides of the things discussed in Salient so students can tackle problems in a balanced way not a prejudiced student trendy-lefty way.

Hans A. Grotz.

(It would be kind of you to be specific in this kind of criticism. I'm sure you are not writing about Clubs Notices or letters (I hope) but it remains unclear just what pieces in which issues you are calling trendy lefty. — typstr.)

Dear Sir,

As reported by the honourable Sean Tuohy in 'Salient' (p.5 Mar. 20) I was elected unopposed on a platform promising nothing, to the position of SRC Welfare officer. This puts me in a bit of a dilemma, as seeing I was elected to do nothing, being bound to follow SRC policy I can't do anything? . . .

The main areas of concern at the moment seem to centre on the insufficient hours being available at the creche for some students, the scarcity of part time employment for students and the perilous financial situation of some students sometimes, requiring their forced withdrawal from university.

I have met various people associated with the creche and attended a meeting of concerned people on the issue at the Union one evening. It was resolved to run a survey through 'Salient' to ascertain the exact need of students as far as day care of their children is concerned.

Although the Student Welfare Services at 6 Kelburn Parade and the Labour Dept. have a list of available part time jobs, an attempt will be made to compile a register of part time employment and put the details up on a board outside committee room no. 1 on the first floor of the union building (near Radio Active).

Unfoughtnately, part time jobs are very scarce and this measure will probably not alleviate the situation very much.

As far as financial difficulties are concerned, I shall be pushing for the students association to make some,

or more provision for emergency loans to students in financial hardship.

Finally, of you have any hassels whatsoever to do with money workload, employment, social problem etc... anything at all . . . don't hesitate to give us a call if you want to either ask for me at the studass office or else leave a note at committee room no. 1 on the first floor of the union. My phone no. is 851 759 . . . end of verbal diorhea.

Andy Tees

SRC Welfare Officer

(whatever the hell that is)

(I am a bit in the dark as to the purpose of this letter. On the one hand you seem entirely cynical about the job, which makes me ask why you stood, and on the other you do seem able to put your finger on some of the obvious ways in which you might operate. The creche survey is being organised, as I understand it, by the Women's Liberation club with which you are not involved. I hope we will see something initiated by yourself in the near future.

We have printed this letter pretty much the way it came into the office. Let it stand as a warning to all those who cannot be bothered proofreading their own material before they submit it to us — Ed.)

Yet even More Aardvarks

Dear Sir,

Let's face it, everyone loves to cuddle up to something nice and furry of an evening, especially now that it's starting to get a bit Chilly, or even Cold.

And what could be better than an aardvark!!! Not much I'm sure you'll agree. With that lovely 8-inch tongue the aardvark is rapidly becoming a firm favourite with satisfied aficionados the world over (but more where there are aardvarks in abundance). Admittedly, aardvarks are not for everyone but we all know that this sort of pervert will always be with us.

This letter is to offer encouragement to those lucky people with access to an aardvark, keep up the good work and enjoy yourself, and also to give notification that representatives of our society will be soon setting up branches of our society on as many Varsity campuses as possible. Our aim is to sponsor friendly relations between people and aardvarks, and to break down any sexual taboos that exist between aardvarks and those more sexually uptight of our race.

Arnold Zyphillus

(DSO and Bar, DFC)

All done with Mirrors

Dear Ed.,

Why is it that attention has now been taken off the fact that the new Town Hall will have a structure similar to that in Christchurch?

Is it that most of the citizens of Wellington wish to have a replicated Town Hall?

If there is enough interest for an original structure why shouldn't something be done about it, now, before physical manoeuvres become apparent

(There's one-man one-vote in this city, and Mike Fowler's the one man — Ed.)

(Your handwriting is ratshit sir, I understand why you didn't sign your name. I would be ashamed of it if I were you! — typstr)

Colin's Column

Drawing of two elephants mating

Dear Colin,

I have been going out with about half a dozen guys for some days now and have just found out I am pregnant. All of them want to make an honest woman of me but I cannot marry them, as I am still married to an Aardvark and have two Wonderful aardpeople (infant variety). We are going through divorce proceedings at the moment as although we are very fond of each other he has now discovered what I already knew — that aardvarks are better in bed.

However this is not the only problem. I also have three illegitimate children by a Hottentot, a West African pygmy and a Canadian snow-goose. Should I tell my half dozen lovers in the hope they will understand and forgive me or should I just run away to Katamandu, where I have a mosquito with a nipple fetish waiting for me?

Yours in dilemma

Patty Baardvark

Dear Patty,

Snow Goose indeed! That must have been a chilling experience. No, I wouldn't tell anyone about that - they might think you were frigid.

As for the rest of your problems I suggest an overnight stay in Sydney might help considerably. While you're there check out the local Platipus population, but be sure to take some miniature condoms with you, otherwise the Agriculture department might not let you back in.

Sincerely,

Colin