

Student Says

Drawing of a man whose teeth spell out 'You know what I think'

To find out what students actually knew and cared about the executive of their association, reporter Lorraine Robinson and photographer Stephen Benbrook pounced on an unfortunate few.....

The questions asked were:

- Do you know a Students Association executive election is being held this week?
- Will you be going along to the forum this coming Tuesday to hear the candidates?
- Do you think the executive should be administration oriented or action oriented?
- What issues would you like to see the exec tackling?

Martin Vink

- Yes.
- No.
- Well, a bit of both.
- Things that affect students, especially bursaries and overseas students' cutbacks.

Photo of Martin Vink

Ian Reid

- Yes.
- No.
- Action.
- I'd like to see them sort out the food. Also I'd like to see new members asserting themselves and not just the same people again.

Photo of Ian Reid

Tony Pramualratana

- Yes
- Yes.
- Action of course.
- Firstly the food—and not just another forum or committee. Secondly bursaries—students should reflect on their own situation compared with overseas students.

Photo of Tony Pramualratana

Cathy Moore

- Yes.
- Maybe.
- Definitely action.
- Definitely bursaries.

Photo of Cathy Moore

Elections

Since our front page story on the forthcoming executive by-election three weeks ago several things have happened. At that time there were only three applicants for the five vacant positions and none were being contested. Now, after the applications have been reopened for a week, 13 people are standing and we actually

have a real election.

To recap, when it was discovered that so few people had put their names forward the SRC recommended to the Election Committee that applications be reopened. The Committee was asked to note that in the opinion of the SRC publicity had not been sufficient, and in fact could have involved constitutional irregularities. The point was made that with two of the positions unfilled, including the administratively important SRC Coordinator, the executive and thus the association would be considerably hampered in its work. It was also known that several other people had indicated their intention to stand if applications were reopened.

SRC was aware that the committee has no explicit authority vested in it by the constitution to do this, but not does the constitution forbid such an action. The problem is, the constitution makes no mention at all of postponement of elections for the reasons given.

The committee noted the SRC recommendation but decided it would not allow the election to be postponed. The three candidates responded by withdrawing their applications. Under the constitution they had no power to do this, withdrawals not being allowed after the closing date for acceptance of applications.

However the Committee recognised that effectively they had little choice but to accept the withdrawals. In the minutes of a meeting held to discuss this it is noted "If the committee were to decline to accept the withdrawals and insist on the by-election going ahead with all three candidates being unwilling, the result would clearly be a farce." So applications were called for anew and new dates set for the election.

The election for President, Secretary, SRC Coordinator, Cultural Affairs Officer and Sports Officer will now be held this Wednesday and Thursday, 19 and 20 April. Polling booths will be placed in the foyer outside the library and at the grave-yard entrance to the cafe. Polling will take place between the hours of 8.30 am. and 6 pm.

The Candidates...

President

Lindy Cassidy

I am standing for re-election as president because I want to continue working for students. Many people berate students for being apathetic but why are they not involved? Most students are here to get a degree so that they can get a decent job when they leave university.

With the worsening economic situation and the increased academic workloads, students think twice about anything that involves their time. This adversely affects the social, cultural, political and sporting life of the campus. I think it is vital that the students association helps reverse this trend.

Last year and this year I have been active in organising campaigns to reduce workloads and to review the present level of bursary allowances. I have also been active in organising social activities which I see as a vital part of university life. In particular I was one of the controllers of this year's successful orientation. Last year I helped lead activity against the SIS legislation and the repressive legislation on contraception, sterilisation and abortion.

If re-elected I will be able to build on the administrative, social and political experience I gained last year to work more effectively for students.

Photo of Lindy Cassidy

Allan Littlejohn

One of the most often asked questions I encounter is "Are you serious?" When answered "Yes", the invariable reply is "But you are not a 'Trot', 'Maoist' or 'Marxist'!"

Why? For how long will Student Politics be synonymous with such Leftist creeds?

For about five more days!!

My name is Allan Littlejohn; people call me "Littlejohn": that is the people who talk to me.

I want You to talk to me, You to tell me what you think on these three topics.

- Student Welfare
- Executive responsibility to Students
- Overseas Students

Do you have anything that you want to say? Anything that you would like to see done?; then talk to me!!!

And what do I think? Well, there are four points that I consider important, these being, the rights of the Individual, the alienation of the majority of students from our Executive, the encouragement of active

participation of all students in the making, keeping and changing of all these associations policies and finally, the reiteration of the Executive's responsibility towards the individual student.

On 19/20 April help me give the old guard a well deserved rest and put a Student voice back into the Student Vocal Body!!

Photo of Allan Littlejohn

Cultural Affairs Officer

Steve O'Connor

Having been Cultural Affairs Officer since the end of last year I have decided to restand for this position.

In Club administration I organised one of the biggest AGM's of the Council; 33 out of 36 Clubs were represented. I wish to continue the good relationships built up, continuing the solid administrative work; building up a resources file with the aim of making it available to interested people, coordinating this Campus with other groups.

As a liaison between Victoria Arts Council and other Campuses I have attended a training seminar; meeting C.A.O.'s from other Universities gaining valuable knowledge, relevant to Cultural Affairs at Victoria.

As an Exec. member and as a member of the Catering Sub-Committee, I will continue being concerned with Student Welfare now and for the future.

If you want an effective link between students and the Association, vote for me.

Photo of Steve O'Connor

Peta Siuiepa

Campus life is a real bore!!!—especially if one is not affiliated to any particular cultural group or club! Even so, being affiliated to a club does not necessarily alleviate the boredom, especially when:-

- Clubs have no incentives to do anything constructive for the benefit of their members.
- There is minimal communication among clubs.
- There is a general feeling of apathy amongst students about getting involved.
- Clubs do not have adequate funds to finance their activities.

There is a definite need to improve relations among clubs and between clubs and the administration.

Therefore I propose to encourage the efforts of clubs by not only providing the necessary facilities for activities, but also to encourage activities through assisted finance. I would also like to encourage and promote the activities of the various cultural/ethnic groups.

I feel that I am best suited to the position of cultural affairs officer because I am affiliated to several cultural clubs on campus and would know where the needs and interests of students lie. And because of this coupled with my own multi-cultural experiences I feel that I would be a valuable liaison between clubs and the administration.

Photo of Peta Siuiepa

Secretary

John Hebenton

Hello, I'm John Hebenton and I am standing for secretary. Impressed? Oh! Never mind. The purpose for this spiel is to inform you. "The Student" of why I wish to be Secretary, and what as a candidate I hope to do as Secretary.

Last year I stood for Man's Vice-president on the Thorndon Anarchy League ticket, and aahh..... lost. Not to be discouraged we returned triumphantly, and I was elected interim Secretary. All was fine until suddenly, with no warning, T.A.L. dissolved into a blob of total anarchy. I was left alone, no party, no philosophy, no leader. For 6 days I beat my chest and pulled my hair, totally and utterly besot in grief. On the seventh day I rested, and on the eighth I took up my position as secretary. Shaking off the ice in which I had submerged my head in a moment of stupidity, I grappled with the problem that I really had no idea what my job as secretary involved. To solve this lack I put nose to work and learnt the ways and means of being secretary, Your Secretary. I now would like you "The Student" to allow me the honour and privilege to be secretary for the rest of the year.

If you have any questions come and see me, come to the election forum, go to any polling booth and read part two.

Photo of John Hebenton

DON'T JUST STAND THREE KID.....THERE'S A MEETING OVER AT THE MAIN BUILDING!
EVERYTHING ALWAYS HAPPENS SO FAST AT CAMP... I NEVER KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
WHAT'S THIS MEETING ALL ABOUT? WE HAVE TO ELECT A CAMP PRESIDENT I'VE GOT A
GREAT IDEALET'S NOMINATE THE KID HERE WITH THE SACK OVER HIS HEAD!

Polling on Wednesday and Thursday

Polling booths in the Library and Cafe foyers

SRC Coordinator

Jenny Greig

The invitation to candidates for the position of SRC Coordinator to submit their election manifesto left me a little baffled. What Manifesto???

I considered plagiarising the major political parties but abandoned that after page one too boring.

Essentially the coordinating position does not call for a hard line but rather an ability to draw things together and report back. This I believe I could do extremely well, because of my natural curiosity and a real desire to know what the hell is going on. . . Reporting back? That's no sweat. I've never kept a secret yet.

I can assure my voters that they will be well represented. On this campus there are some workers, I am not one of them, but I'm bossy enough to oversee those you have already elected. A vote for Jenny Greig is a vote for honest SRC or is that too pretentious???

Photo of Jenny Greig

David Sommerville

How are you? I am well.

Well, down to the manifesto. I know I will be a fine S.R.C. Coordinator because I have done bugger-all for the students of Vic so far this year and am planning on doing less in the coming months. I saw this post as being ideal as it would provide me with \$300 a year, also as the elections are very late I would not be working long.

I have always admired the politics of the Right Honourable R.D. Muldoon, and will be attempting to emulate his policy stands in respect to the students of Victoria University. At this moment I can't think of any, but I am sure he has some.

Well, that's about it so you see why I am the best person for the job. I will be looking forward to collecting my \$300 this year.

Photo of David Sommerville

Andrew Swann

SRC Coordinator; that's a bit of a mouthful to say, yet an impressive enough title to excite me into running for the honour of being that person. Possessing a sound sound mind and good all-round athletic ability I feel that I'm not too physically defective for the role.

However, getting into the guts of this semi-stylistic prose, I see the SRC Coordinator's position as dual-purposed. Firstly, someone has to be delegated the responsibility of running around admonishing the naughty little SRC Reps who fail to attend their meetings.

More importantly, to encourage students to come and participate in SRC, thereby developing policies representative of the general thinking of the majority of the blank-minded mass. (What does "blank" mean? A tricky question dummies. Go to SRC and find out.)

Incidentally, I have no political affiliations and am not a Pom or a subversive.

Photo of Andrew Swann

Simon Wright

You have no doubt seen my name and ravishing photo by now, standing for the position of SRC coordinator. Those of you who are even slightly involved in student politics are no doubt asking, when does this guy speak at SRC? What is his stand? Why does he want to get involved and who is this guy anyway?

Well, I very seldom speak at SRC's unless I'm really annoyed. My stand is not a politically aligned one; it is just this - "give students a fair go. Support Studass policy". I want to get involved because I believe that with a dedicated team of people as the exec, VUWSA has a better chance of implementing its policy and making itself heard.

I want to be thought of on voting day as someone who will do his job, not get side-tracked on some half-assed pseudo-political ego-trip. I am a humble 2nd year student who was disgusted with the results of last year's elections—namely this year's elections. These elections should not happen if people who were willing to do a good job had stood last year. I am willing to have a damn good try at making students heard where it counts—at meetings such as the library committee. Support someone who cares for You.

Photo of Simon Wright

Sports Officer

Richard Broad

This university is more than just a place to pick up a degree and I feel it is the responsibility of the Student's Union to provide more for the students in the way of social amenities and general welfare services. I make no promises of great change or revolution but I assure you that I will do my job with integrity, sincerity and honesty, with the students' well-being, not my own, as the basis of my actions.

Eventually I would like to see the student representative system evolve so that the students do not feel so alienated, suspicious and discontent with the system. The position of Sports Officer is one which holds great potential in getting students involved with the university and providing social events. I intend to use this potential to give the students a better informal relationship with the university.

I follow no political ideology and therefore will not have pre-conceived ideas on matters. I will evaluate each item on its merits keeping in mind fairness and the welfare of the students in general.

Photo of Richard Broad

Andrew Mcnicol

I stand to represent all sportsmen and women of this University and to make sure your grievances and wants are heard on the Students Association over and above the deluge of political crap which appears to inundate the place.

The duty of Sports Officer is to work with the Sports Council for the good of the Sports players, the position is not to be used as a stepping stone for political empire building. It is imperative for this reason that a bonafide sportsman with the interests of sport ahead of political ambition is elected to the position.

I represented Victoria at the Varsities Easter Tournament. I am a member of the Nth Wellington Lawn Tennis Association and I wish to become the Sports Council's voice on the Students Association, not the Students Association stooge on the Sports Council.

Finally I stand for healthy young New Zealanders through involvement in Sport not through waving protest banners on street corners.

It is in your interest as a sportsplayer to have a Sports Officer interested in you..

Photo of Andrew Mcnicol

Phillip Sowman

I'm in my 4th year at Victoria, I have drifted through 3 yrs of University like so many students leaving organisation to someone else. I now feel able to contribute something to the student body. I have a background in sport organisation and am presently enrolled in a Ma (Applied) Recreation Administration, a degree which will give me the professional background to take a positive approach to the position of Sports Officer.

I will be able to combine the position of Sports Officer with that required for the the practical side of my course and so will be able to devote more time to the position. As I will be required to present a report to the Recreation Dept. I would feel this could be a useful help for any future Sports Officer or what the Sports Officer's job entails.

Policy.

- Increase Participation/ opportunity for Recreation Participation
- Develop new clubs where there is a need.
- Coordination of diff Sports Clubs.
- Efficient organisation of Sports and Recreation Affair
- Increase student awareness of Sports & Recreation available
- Utilisation of facilities ie. in the new extensions to the Recreation Centre.
- Attempt to have monies allotted to Sport and Recreation activities increased.
- Help students to develop a balance between Study and Recreation.

Photo of Phillip Sowman

President

Photo of Lindy Cassidy

Last week 5 students approached me to obtain urgent loans to tide them over until they could get part-time employment. One of these students had reached the stage where she was going to leave university at the end of the week if part-time work was unavailable. Three of the students were not receiving any bursary assistance, while the other two were flatting and receiving the generous sum of \$15.00 per week.

When handing out bursary leaflets I have occasionally come across the comment that any person who wants to can attend University if s/he works and saves hard enough. Two years ago! would have agreed with this comment. But, as the economic situation continues to deteriorate it is no longer possible to supplement an inadequate bursary allowance. Though the real value of the bursary has been eroded by inflation the Government has not correspondingly increased the level of allowances. Many of the glaring anomalies have not been removed and a large proportion of students do not receive any bursary assistance.

Most students manage to financially struggle through University but a proportion give up and drop out. This proportion is growing significantly as unemployment increases and the real value of the bursary decreases. As most of you are aware, this year is the annual party bun-fight, that is, general elections. It is up to us to put a convincing case for student allowances before the public and to pressurize the parties into election promises that they cannot back out of.

However, we can only do this if students put a lot of time and energy behind the bursary activities arranged by the Students Association.

If you think University education should be available to those that want it, not just to those that can afford it, then join in the bursary activities coming up this week.

Lindy Cassidy

ISC

The international Student's Congress is to be held in Christchurch from 6th—10th May and students who are interested in going should contact the Victoria Students' Association or the NOSAC Coordinator as soon as possible.

Below is a rough guide as to what to expect during the 4—5 days.

1: Forums and Discussions

Topics will include:

- The Overseas Womens Movement.
- Education in Society—Learning for what? for whom?
- The Overseas Student Movement in New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong.
- Modernisation.

These wide ranging topics will offer you opportunities to discuss and exchange your ideas with students of other nationalities from other centres.

2. Cultural Concert

The highlight of the whole congress. This is a great chance to enjoy an evening of culture-sharing—sketches, choir, action songs and dances will be presented. If you are interested in participating do contact us.

3. Overseas Speakers

It seems likely that we will be able to get Juliet Chin, former Vice-President of USSU and political detainee in Singapore to speak during the week.

4. Two Get-Togethers

To enable you to mix with students from other centres and get to know each other better. Learn

folk-dancing, join in sing-alongs, and watch other centres present their informal performances. Should be a great evening.

The last one held at last year's ISC in Wellington was so good that nobody felt like going home.

5. Other Attractions

Sightseeing and touring around Christchurch, so if you haven't been there before this will be a great chance to have a look around. There will be a friendly afternoon of sports, so you can relax after the discussion sessions with friendly matches.

There are many things to be learnt and to experience during the ISC, so don't miss this chance. As this is an International Students Congress, all nationalities plus New Zealanders are welcome to join in.

The 4—5 days in Christchurch (lodging and food included) will cost around \$13. Travel arrangements are being made now. We will endeavour to make things as cheap as possible and hopefully we can arrange travel subsidies from the Students' Association to assist you.

So make an attempt to come to Christchurch. Make these May holidays a memorable occasion.

Once upon the time Father christmas was very very such. His slide was all covered with all could with silk and Diamonds. He was chief commander of five-hundred that send chinese that the reach father children in them should not got dirty. and he should get dirty either when he was to pass down the children. Masons and frack players had to take management of his wait to full chimney opinion big enough, so that he will got though flows and chinless were built in read that it did not when he bubbled it against them. He was very very kind too kind giving tourist to all the time he was felt adding he had to out up all his 85752 and is new very poor.

SGM Do We Don'T We ...?

Although last on the agenda, first motion up was the Thrush/O'Connor offering; "That the Association believes that the paying for Reps to NZUSA Policy Workshops presents an unjustifiable drain on its finances, and recommends instead that efforts be concentrated on effectively actioning the existing policies of NZUSA as promulgated at May and August Councils." The re-ordering was necessary as first item was the election of delegates to the said workshops.

The supporters of this motion had two main arguments. Peter Thrush proposed that the workshops were solely devoted to the teaching of rudimentary technical skills, laying out leaflets being the example he used. Steve Underwood complained that the association's finances could not stand the strain of sending people to these "inessential" meetings.

Numerous speakers attacked Thrush's argument, none more impressively than President Lindy Cassidy. In the best SRC speech of the year she tore into Thrush's view of these gatherings. The aim of these meetings, she said, is to coordinate activities on a nation-wide basis. Examples she gave were campaigns on the bursaries issue and overseas students cutbacks.

Moving on to general issues she criticised the inconsistent attitude Thrush portrayed. Victoria should support NZUSA, in which case it should involve itself as fully as possible with the various activities of the association. It was pointed out by various speakers that these workshops, as methods for implementing NZUSA policy (as determined at the August and May Councils) on a national basis, were an essential part of NZUSA. If VUWSA was not prepared to do this, then it should move for withdrawal from NZUSA altogether.

Other speakers amplified some of Lindy's points. Sue Cairney pointed out that NZUSA needed a positive change, and that this motion, if passed would considerably undermine our national union at a time when it could least afford it. The Thrush position faltered under this withering attack.

This was Steve Underwood and the money men's cue to enter the fray. He and his ally, Peter Callicinos thought that in these times of economic strife the Union should conserve its funds for those things that really mattered (almost as though they had missed the first part of the meeting isn't it). Anyway the feeling of the meeting was that workshops were essential and the money argument also faltered, although Lindy pointed out that there would have to be policy decisions on cuts.

Although there was in fact about 45 min minutes of discussion on the motion, reproducing it all would be tedious. If you want to hear it all verbatim, come along yourselves. The vote was eventually taken and the motion defeated by 60—42.

Having now established that we should send delegates, the next step was to select the lucky four. After all the intense discussion it was perhaps surprising that the first two positions were uncontested as Education Officer Sue Cairney and National affairs Officer Sean Tuohy were selected. Caroline Mass of defeated Joan Shields to get the privilege to go to the Workshop on Women's Rights.

Lastly came International Affairs Officer Mike Treen, who, as he was unopposed, might have expected to be the fourth member of the group. But no! For reasons best not discussed in a family magazine like this, Treen was defeated by No Confidence. This was embarrassing! After all the trouble to get Thrush's motion thrown out, we were now faced with the prospect of having no one representing us in the International Affairs Workshop. First move was to re-open nominations. Treen was renominated, and also Michael Carr-Gregg. Then came an interesting little interlude. The proposal to nominate Overseas Officer Victor Chang was mooted. There was only one drawback—he wasn't present at the meeting, and no one knew whether he would be available to go to Christchurch for the weekend. After much discussion about how to get around this detail, it was decided that people couldn't be nominated in absentia, without their written permission, so Chang's name was dropped.

Second time around Treen was more successful, and he won by 38 votes to 22 with 30 no-confidence votes.

The one thing that struck your humble correspondent was that those who had fought hardest to defeat the Thrush motion seemed to be those who voted no-confidence. Strange.

Next up was Steve Underwood who presented the 1978 budget. Well if you're into accountancy I'm sorry for you because I'm not and couldn't bring myself to take any notes. I'm sure it was very interesting and it certainly was necessary. Unfortunately it doesn't read too well in print. Shortly afterwards a count revealed that there was no longer a quorum present, so the meeting closed, with much business still left unfinished.
Peter Beach

Salient Notes

Simon Wilson likes yaks. David Murray is fond of lizards. Lorraine Robinson is basically right up fish but not kahawai and why is none of your business. The giant South Pacific turtle has always held a peculiar fascination for Jonathan Scott and Peter Beach has spent a good deal of time lately studying the antics of the brightly-coloured tropical Max-bird whose mating habits include doing amusing things with two pieces of chalk and never stepping in rivers twice.

Apparently Marie Rodgers has a bit of a soft spot for anacondas and everyone knows about Sean Tuohy's running battle with a colony of Panamanian Dope-weevils trying to short circuit his part-time job. Doug Thompson is not a sperm. I quite like horses actually but I'm not allowed to tell you who I am.

As for goats, well, Don Wright, you know, say no more. Shouldn't even have said that much really. For similar reason to those which prohibit my mentioning anything about Rire Scotney's fetish about being set adrift with a Michael Hamblyn and a moray eel in a flimsy reed canoe deep in the Saragasso Sea. Lamoma Rogers is in love with a cloth frog. President of the Mexican Desert Squirrel department is Margot MacGillivray with the Pretensions Towards Whales subsection under the determined leadership of Cathy Randall. Allan Highet is heavily into tree spiders, Sally Redman likes thrushes and no one here gives a damn about Aardvarks.

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Puzzle

- Cleaning lady
- Shirt for penitents
- Better position
- Echo
- Make less tight
- Extend beyond known data
- Formal account of facts
- Maxwell Smart's boss
- Preoccupied (with)
- Neither hot nor cold
- C to D say in a scale
- One who does wrong
- Undue favouring of one's family

65 33 56 18 82 10 71 43 101 76 89 5 40 86 80 20 54 50 22 46 97 68 11 38 77 53 1 73 15 27 96 99 23 41
105 66 57 25 64 48 31 12 55 6 26 2 75 44 100 39 63 94 7 79 34 102 32 13 87 28 19 98 67 60 91 51 83 58 16 72
35 69 104 59 84 74 21 24 93 70 81 103 3 49 88 8 62 29 36 17 47 61 45 90 95 52 14 78 85 42 92 30 9 37 4

Movick

Probably the last chapter of a tragic story for the students of New Zealand came last Thursday, April 13, when James Movick flew out of Auckland on his way back to Fiji.

James was expelled from New Zealand on a decree issued by the Minister of Immigration. The series of incidents in the carrying out of his decree were characterised by a number of legal irregularities and bureaucratic bungles. Salient has covered these in detail throughout the proceedings. (see the first four issues of this year)

Two important points have emerged over this expulsion of a national student leader. The first is the lengths to which a Minister of the Crown is prepared to go to carry out a selective case against an elected official of a representative body. It is no secret that Gill was embarrassed by the work done by NZUSA on the overseas student cutbacks which he had engineered. James Movick was the main driving force in this campaign.

The Minister of Immigration in New Zealand has supreme power and is not subject to appeal if he decides to throw a particular person or group of persons out of the country. NZUSA has resolved to take the case to the Court of Appeal, as an attempt to test the powers of the Minister of and how far these can extend. James Movick is not the first overseas student to be caught by these extra-legal provisions. Many overseas students are asked to leave the country every year, many of whom are half way through their courses.

The second major aspect of the incident is the effect that the loss of James Movick will have on NZUSA and the New Zealand student movement in general. James was a particularly effective worker in the organisation both as an administrator and a dynamic political leader. Overseas students will lose most as a result of the loss of James. In him they had an exemplary spokesperson. Because of the internal situations in their home countries, overseas students are restricted in what they say and do. To have James in NZUSA National Office, they had a voice to express their problems in this country and at home.

In a more general sense, NZUSA as organisation will suffer greatly from the loss. At a time when the organisation is coming under [unclear: feice] attack from within and without, James was one of its stoutest and most respected defenders of its policy and work.

Hopefully, the situation will help prompt student leaders to sit up, look at the realities of NZUSA, and resolve to build the organisation up once again.

It is now unlikely that James will take up the position he was elected for. He has left before being prosecuted as an overstayer to allow him the right to re-enter the country at some later time. A court case this week will ratify the fact that he has left the country so that legal proceedings will go no further. There should be no problems.

Putting James himself aside, the whole case has been a sorry affair for New Zealand justice. It reflects on the state of the country itself—the [unclear: flagrat] denial of the traditional liberties of New Zealanders and temporary residents. It would be trite to call for Gill to resign as Minister. It would also place the problem at the feet of one man and not at the present system of government where it belongs.

David Murray

Hunter

There is a great deal of uncertainty at the moment over just what is happening to the Hunter building. Since John Marshall and others graced the save the building campaign with their support, and a report on "retrofitting" showed that there was a financially viable alternative which really did need serious consideration, the Council seem to have moved into a position of being seen as the major supporters of Hunter's salvation. This was not the case last year, but they will no doubt argue that with their financial estimates it would have been irresponsible to keep the building however much they might have privately wanted to.

This article is written by a member of "Friends of Hunter", a group of beneficent citizens who have the athletics of the university dear to their hearts. In it there is mention of two motions to go before SRC this week to get money from VUWSA for the campaign. In view of the amount of money we have already spent on this cause the financial association between Friends of Hunter and VUWSA needs to be carefully looked at.

Work on the conservation feasibility study for the brief provided by the University Council is progressing well.

The University Council is planning facilities for an expected roll of 10,000 students and now sees the Hunter site as a continuing focal point for the campus. It will house the presently displaced Music and Law

Faculties, Administration, the Staff Club and University Extension. Detailed space planning is now being done.

The Kelburn Parade side of the area is to be made more functional and attractive with reorganised and land-scaped entries and parking. In future this is likely to be the main entrance and thoroughfare.

The building must comply with current earthquake, fire resistance and egress codes as well as the newly introduced Handicapped Persons' code. There is strong confidence that these spatial and structural requirements can be satisfactorily met in a "retrofitted" Hunter building, at a cost comparable to that of an entirely new building.

Close inspection of the exterior of the building by architects and engineers confirm that these external parts of the building, to be preserved in the conservation plan, are in surprisingly sound condition. The central and oldest section of the building (1904 Arts block designed by Penty & Blake) was built to the highest standards of workmanship and materials (Welsh slates, local bricks and Oamaru stone) and is in excellent condition. The later additions of the Library (completed in 1922) and the Physics block (completed 1932) designed by Swan and Lawrence, were built on tighter budgets and have deteriorated more, although the Library wing is of almost the same quality as the Arts Block.

There have been discussions with New Zealand experts who have applied their skills in Venice and Angkor Wat on restoration and structural details. The City Council's surveyors have completed their detailed survey and architectural drafts are well past initial stages. Everyday, structural engineers, construction experts, architects and surveyors contribute more to the conservation study. At present there are over 780 "friends" of Hunter and \$11,000 has been raised.

Continuing support from students is still very necessary.

At the SRC Wednesday 19th April in affirmation of Student Association policy to support all efforts to conserve the Hunter building there will be voting on two motions:

- Friends of Hunter (Inc) be allowed use of Students' Association printing facilities to a maximum value of \$120.
- That the Student's Association donates the sum of \$100 cash towards funding the conservation feasibility study at present being undertaken by Friends of Hunter (Inc).

The most important way individual students can show their support is in relation to a "Victoriana Bazaar" being held at Turnbull House Bowen Street, 2 p.m. Saturday 29th April next. There will be a focus on old objects of all descriptions (a periscope, hookah, Edwardian chairs and cartwheels have already been given). So bric-a-brac, pictures etc. are highly appreciated. However anything saleable is wanted, (therefore you can give your old books, clothes, records, etc).

The success of the Bazaar will depend on each student who cares contributing one object (and there are 350+ paid-up student "Friends" so please hand in your object at 109 Salamanca Road as soon as possible or phone 793—616 re collection. Do not Forget.

Student membership cards should be picked up from the Students' Association office (They're very pretty so worth getting!)

Julia Buchanan

The architects Penty & Blake's 1904 drawing for the Victoria College Building. This is a modification (notably the addition of another storey at the suggestion of Premier Seddon) of their 1903 competition-winning design. Due to the government's grant of only 31,000 towards buildings, the central section only was built. After the the First World War the present Library and Physics wings were erected to the designs designs of Swan & Lawrence (the firm Penty & Blake had evolved into). Shortage of funds meant the clock-tower was never built. The "ornamental contraptions" on the roof were mechanical ventilators designed by Sir Truby King.

Drawing of Hunter building

NZUSA: The Towering Inferno

Simon Wilson

Everybody loves a scandal. Especially when it concerns politicians. Right now universities throughout the country are buzzing with rumours about NZUSA—the New Zealand University Students Association. Victoria has, so far, remained relatively untouched by the gossip and intrigue: no one has suggested that we should pull out, as three other campuses have resolved to do, no one is screaming for blood, no one even seems particularly worried.

The articles on the following pages attempt to pinpoint the main areas of controversy, to analyse what is happening on other campuses and to outline the stand of some of the protagonists.

Some things are deliberately not covered here. The state of the Student Travel Bureau (which has recently

announced a scaling down of operations), the position at Massey (the third campus to opt for withdrawal after Canterbury and Lincoln), and the criticism of Research Officer Dave MacPherson (who has been a little too active, and quite a bit too blunt for some people's taste) are all hanging in limbo at the present moment and very little information is available. We will be running stories on them as soon as possible.

NZUSA is facing a crisis. Constituents have threatened withdrawal before, but not to such an extent and in concert with such fierce attack on the national leadership.

NZUSA President Lisa Saksen pointing the stick, flanked by John Judge, Chairman of the Board of Student Service Holdings (left), and Peter MacLeod, NZUSA secretary/accountant.

Photo of Lisa Saksen

In spite of this, things don't look as bad as they did a few months ago. At a meeting of the National Executive on April 1st there were clear indications that the tide was turning.

Canterbury President Mike Lee, once the leader of the breakaway faction in NZUSA, has gradually acquired a more neutral position. Both he and Lincoln President Guy Macindoe now seem to be seeking the formula by which their associations will stay in the organisation; but not without some fairly major changes. These will undoubtedly involve policy, but their exact nature has not yet been discussed. This must occur at the following May Council.

At the same time Otago President Andrew Guest has pushed his barrow right to the front. Guest has become the belligerent provocateur at a time when everyone else seemed to have moderated their stance and adopted a more positive outlook. On the National Executive support for his tactics has gradually diminished, although many constituent presidents still identify the same points to query.

Right now little in the way of extreme action or significant change can be attempted. May council is still three weeks away. This year it will be held at Lincoln College and could well reveal the wide ranging changes that have been in the offing for so long.

Structure

There are seven universities in New Zealand: Auckland, Waikato, Massey, Victoria, Canterbury, Lincoln College and Otago. All have compulsory membership students associations which are constituents (member bodies) of NZUSA. This means every student is a member of NZUSA.

Policy is decided by May and August Councils to which every constituent sends a delegation. Voting is done on a rough pro rata basis, that is according to the student population of each campus.

Policy is administered by National Office, made up of elected and appointed officials. The elected positions are President, National Vice President, Education Vice President and International Vice President. Voting is not done directly by students, but on the pro rata basis, usually at Councils. Two Research Officers, a Secretary/accountant and the Managing Director of the Student Travel Bureau are appointed.

All the constituent presidents (or their nominees) and all the national officers together form the National Executive, which oversees the work of National Office. On administrative matters every member of National Exec has one vote, but when it comes to matters of policy, finance, or elections to National Office positions (all of which can arise outside of Council) the pro-rata voting system applies.

NZUSA Research Officer, Dave Macpherson Pretending to Scheme.

Council is therefore the highest body, National Exec its method of guiding the association through the year, and National Office the group with immediate control.

Sexuality Booklet

Photo of two naked people hugging

"NZUSA has proved beyond all shadow of doubt that it is a collection of fuckwits and fools who haven't a shred of integrity amongst them"—a member of the Dunedin Sexuality Group in a letter to the Auckland student paper, Craccum.

In August 1976 a group of Dunedin students took on the job of updating the NZUSA's booklet on sex. They called themselves the Otago Human Sexuality Group (later changed to the Dunedin Sexuality Group) and in the next five months they devoted over 1,000 hours to discussing and writing the contents. It was a dedicated effort.

After NZUSA had made its comments on the first draft, and the group had done the appropriate rewriting, the booklet came to me for the job of doing the layout.

As I understood it from a discussion with group member Jane McChesney, the thing had to be ready for

university enrolment and I was free to substitute graphics for some of the photos, which we both agreed were not particularly interesting or relevant. And there the trouble began.

McChesney denies she gave me this permission, I claim that she did.

Unfortunately the group objected to the nature of the graphics I chose and brought down on the heads of National Office the twofold charge of breaking the copyright agreement and "reducing the book from something intended to be moderately serious on the subject of sexuality to no more than titillating capping book material." They asked that an apology be published and distribution stopped until a disclaimer from the group could be inserted in every copy.

None of the campuses (to the best of my knowledge) except Otago, or National Office was prepared to do this. The booklet was proving popular with students and people professionally involved in the field throughout the country, there was no contractual obligation in the first place, and the taste of the graphics was an open matter of interpretation. For my part it surprised me that the group could not see the place for humour when they themselves had allowed such phrases as, "Masturbation is. . . the easiest way of coming to grips with yourself" to get in.

When the booklet was published just before enrolment a number of rumours over just what the group found objectionable were bandied about, and they even threatened to sue NZUSA, but by April 1st the main argument had been concentrated on the communication breakdown between National Office and the group. Although there was general agreement that there was no point in debating the merits of the changes, things were not made any easier and a long, stormy and at times quite nasty wrangle over what should be done was held.

Part of the problem was that there had been an ill-defined change in personnel making up the editorial committee. Last year's Education Vice President Mike Shaskey and National Vice President David Tripe handed over responsibility to this year's incumbents Stephanie Dale and David Merritt in a somewhat haphazard way, and with the only constant member of the committee (President Lisa Saksen, who is serving her second term) out of the country for most of the time the layout was being done, no one was too clear about who was supposed to be in charge at the NZUSA end. Dale approved the changes, while Merritt, who had seen the booklet in varying stages of layout completion, declined to have a final look through it when it was finished.

There was agreement that for the sake of integrity all round and because some of the group's objections were valid (regarding the cover for instance) changes would be made before the rerun. A compromise was eventually arrived at, including this last point and an apology for the fact that changes had been made without the group's approval.

However, although the group itself appeared content with this Guest was not happy and even now remains unsatisfied. In view of his own personal opinion, (expressed before the whole matter blew up) that there was nothing wrong with the booklet, it is interesting that he has stuck to his guns so long after everybody else has stopped shooting. Not surprisingly, he blames Saksen.

One thing the Sexuality debacle has shown up is the general tendency whenever anything goes wrong for people to jump in and scream blue murder at National Office. Underneath all the recriminations and viciousness (as expressed for example in the quote at the beginning of this section) was a genuine communications misunderstanding. That was where the real problem lay and that is what NZUSA needs to look at most carefully if it is to retain its credibility. But it took a long time for people to gather together enough sense to see the problem in this way.

NZUS'A Handbook

"If National Office can't see how offensive this is to Lincoln students then it just shows how far removed they are"—Lincoln President Guy Macindoe at the National Executive meeting, March 12. "The book has failed. It split us. We handed it out as a joke"—Andrew Guest, March 12.

The debate over the NZUSA Handbook is one of the clearest indications of all of the kind of problems NZUSA is trying to cope with. On the one hand the handbook is an uncompromising account of policy and that has not enamoured it to many, on the other the constituents were given ample opportunity to supervise its content, did not take sufficient advantage of this and rushed to blame National Office.

Lincoln's Guy Macindoe turns to face an unseen protagonist, while Auckland's Mervyn Prince, SSH director Bob Lack and Vic's Lindy Cassidy keep a watchful eye.

Photo of people sitting at desks

I doubt if anyone will now deny that the Handbook does go too far in certain areas. For example, NZUSA has a lot of policy opposing various pieces of legislation brought in by both parties in recent years. But there is nothing which specifically aligns the organisation against one particular party. Thus the adjoining photographs of Muldoon and South American troops in full battle dress, with the caption "Many students think the joker on the right and his mates are planning to use these types below," have been singled out by many constituents as

indicative of the sort of thing which is guaranteed to drive a lot of students away from NZUSA. There are eight pages of songs which are widely considered a waste of space.

However, as Victoria President Lindy Cassidy has said, the Handbook "can't be apolitical because NZUSA is a political organisation." Constituents accepted last year that a main aim in bringing it out was to spread information on NZUSA's policy. The point has been made several times that if constituents now object to the content the proper thing to do is change policy. Arguing against its presentation has often been merely a smokescreen for policy complaints.

Nevertheless, there are many things the Handbook does not do. These have been best expressed, not by the South Island Presidents who are in the forefront of the opposition to it, but in the Auckland student paper Craccum. There is no diagram to explain the structural workings of the organisation, and no budget. There is little in the way of practical advice on getting activities underway, from social events to political lobbying. There are no lists of organisations which can help students with landlord hassles, childcare facilities, etc. Assuming that students do accept the policies of NZUSA (and there must be something for everybody in there somewhere) there is nothing which can help them get in touch with like minded people.

Given these criticisms, we must turn back to National Office's explanation of how the Handbook came to assume its present form. Firstly, a page plan was distributed to all constituent presidents. No one made any comment. The copy was available and presidents were invited to inspect it. They didn't. Photos like the one of the South American soldiers are there because campuses were asked to provide National Office with photographic, and graphic material and by and large they didn't. It was a National Exec, decision to include songs. Again, copies were circulated; again there was no comment.

Nevertheless complaints abound. Some are misdirected some are petty, some are merely an excuse to attack NZUSA, but many are valid. The style in which policy is presented has alienated a lot of students.

It is not a valuable exercise to rush in and point the finger. Constituent presidents did not fully appreciate their own overseeing responsibilities National Officers were out of touch with the probable reaction and possibly out of touch with each other, and no one had enough foresight to ensure that proper communication channels were kept open and USED. Everyone will be wary of making the same mistakes again.

EVP Resignation

"I have no wish to be a member of an organisation where senior members of National Office mislead National Executive in order to save their own necks"—Education Vice President Stephanie Dale in her letter of resignation.

"Some people might think I'm irresponsible but quite frankly I'm past caring"—Dale on April 1st.

On the evening of April 1st the meeting turned to the question of Stephanie Dale's resignation. She had been unhappy in National Office, and felt "torn between two loyalties": Otago from where she originates, and NZUSA. As she explained it, she expected a rather different kind of role for herself when she stood for the job at the end of last year; not the hard working and largely unthanked officer which everybody expects from those in National Office but, "a more decorative function chatting up Gandar". Dale owed her selection, not to her potential competence, but to the fact that her opponent (Lindy Cassidy) was from Victoria.

She described herself as the "token non-Maoist" in National Office, and quoted National Vice President David Merritt's assertion that everyone on National Executive (sic) is a member of a Wellington Marx-Marxist-Leninist organisation. She said she was "not a political person"

Events leading up to Dale's resignation throw light on her attitude to NZUSA. During the preceding week she went to Auckland on NZUSA business. While there she decided she needed a break, so without telling National Office she left for Hawkes Bay. During that time an important bursaries meeting, which she was supposed to chair, was held. Without returning to Wellington Dale then flew to Dunedin. She enrolled at Otago, was elected as a student rep onto the university Council the same day, and on the next day handed in her resignation to Otago President Andrew Guest. It was not for 3 days that the NZUSA President was even informed.

At the April 1st meeting, most members took strong exception to the unsubstantiated nature of the accusations made in the letter, to Dale's offhand attitude to NZUSA procedure, to the timing of her departure, and to her generally flippant attitude to the very serious problems that face the organisation.

Right now NZUSA is in the middle of its biggest [*unclear: caaign*] of the year so far: bursaries. Even though bursaries is the number one priority, Dale did not feel any qualms about leaving everyone in the lurch. She had not been able to get the campaign rolling and it is doubtful whether she really tried.

Dale's "Maoist" accusations in concert with Merritt were nothing short of "redbaiting". Political beliefs are no grounds for prejudice if the accused is doing his/ her job.

At this point Dale announced that she was not going to stay and be criticised, and was leaving for a prior

engagement anyway. NZUSA President Lisa Saksen was in the midst of telling her that she was still a National Officer until midnight when Massey President Mike Pratt jumped angrily to his feet. "You're a servant, paid by us, and you must stay while we sort this out," he boomed. There was no doubt that he spoke for others. No matter how people saw the present leadership no one was prepared to tolerate a casual approach to the very problems they were trying to solve.

Time and again the meeting returned to the question of a National Officer's responsibilities. Dale said that she was unwilling to explain to students NZUSA policy which she did not believe in. Said Pratt; "What have you been asked to do that you're against?" Dale had no answer.

"Why did you stand?" he continued. She had an answer to that one: Last year year's EVP and Otago President had both pushed her into it, and when she found that Lindy Cassidy was standing she made the final decision. An Otago person in National Office would have kept Otago in NZUSA, she claimed.

However it was Saksen who hit the nail on the head. When one is elected to represent a body of people, she stated, one must do just that. Those people have the absolute right to control you, and the only virtue in what you do is when you are efficient and involve the largest possible number of people in your work. It is not a special favour to your constituents when you actually do something as instructed; likewise it is not a matter of personal choice when you do not act as you are told.

Canterbury ex and current Presidents Nigel Petrie (left) and Mike Lee trying to smile.

Photo of Nigel Petrie and Mike Lee

We are not elected to resign, she remind ed the meeting. There are only two ways to get out of an elected responsibility: to be sacked or not to be re-elected. Matters of policy and personality do not come into it.

And what of the accusations in Dale's Letter (see box)? She could not or would not support any of them. Some displayed an extraordinary lack of knowledge on just how NZUSA is run. "Lack of any real work on the creche report," for example, was an attempted slight on Research Officer Dave MacPherson. But it [unclear: hver] been given to him as a priority, and certainly wasn't one of hers. The list goes on and on.

National Office is now working very hard making up for lost time on the bursaries campaign. With James Movick out of the country its effectiveness is severely depleted. In the long term Dale is right; she didn't have her heart in working for NZUSA, but right now she has done her best to precipitate an organisational crisis which is proving hard to cope with.

Canterbury

Canterbury was the first to indicate it was pulling out of NZUSA, making the formal announcement at August Council last year. Anti-NZUSA feeling was running very high at Canterbury at the time and it was probably a significant factor in current President Mike Lee's electoral success. Lee stood on a platform of secession (among other things) and began his term in office this year apparently fully intending to carry through the proposal.

He has taken very little part in debates at National Exec, and in fact until recently would only be drawn into discussion if directly addressed or if the subject directly concerned his campus. Quite simply, he has seemed to be not interested.

The actual reasons why Canterbury should feel so strongly have not been clear. There are long standing doubts about the commercial direction NZUSA has been heading, differences of policy and methods of auctioning them (Canterbury, like Lincoln, tends to be opposed to demonstrations as a means of political expression) but these are probably not the significant factors.

There is also the feeling that the needs of the South Island are largely ignored. But this again is hard to pin down to specifics, apart from an obvious dissatisfaction with Victoria's present monopoly on National Office positions. Yet there was a time when Cantabrians used to run NZUSA and there is no reason to believe it might not happen again.

Distrust of the leadership is a big factor, possibly the biggest. Lee was quoted on radio earlier in the year saying that "National Office is dominated by trendy Maoist lefties" and it often seems as if a fear that NZUSA has been taken over by secret forces bent on manipulating the organisation to serve their own ends is the guiding inspiration behind Canterbury's position.

However of late Lee seems to be shifting his ground, or having it shifted under him. Last year's Canterbury President Nigel Petrie, a major advocate of secession when he was in office, is reported to have changed his mind and now favours staying in. Petrie still has a lot of influence at Canterbury, especially over Lee, and he is by no means alone in holding this view, both on the exec and among students generally.

Lee continues to make strong statements when it suits him, and no one will criticise that, but he is becoming prepared to listen to answers. He took as much offence as anyone else over the unprincipled nature of Stephanie Dale's resignation letter and even led the demand for an explanation. That in itself shows a

significant turnaround.

Most importantly, when Guest put his motion of no confidence in Saksen on April 1st it was Lee who seconded it proforma (the technical way of allowing the mover to speak without necessarily showing support from the seconder). He listened to Guest's argument, which was basically that Saksen is responsible for NZUSA's "lack of success everywhere" and displays a style of leadership which NZUSA cannot afford in the present crisis, and promptly withdrew his seconding. Three months ago he would probably have been in like a shot.

Waikato's Doug Drever offers the match of civility to Otago's Andrew Guest.

Photo of Doug Drever lighting the cigarette of Andrew Guest

Saksen's approach to the whole matter of secession has been the subject of considerable debate at National Exec. She has consistently argued that National Office cannot go down and coerce Canterbury and Lincoln to stay in the organisation, that in effect it must be a decision taken independently on each campus. This meant very little was actually done about the problem. It looked for a while as if the two constituents would just drift out with nobody saying anything from within NZUSA and they themselves not being quite aware of what was happening.

It is partly in reaction to this that Andrew Guest has been so vociferous in his condemnation of Saksen.

Now, with Canterbury and Lincoln both showing signs of looking for ways themselves to stay in it is difficult to say whose attitude has been the more fruitful; Saksen has been correct in recognising Canterbury's displeasure with National Office and herself in particular as a good reason why she must keep a low profile, but if Guest has succeeded it is almost by default: everybody, it appears, has reacted against the extremity of his criticisms and the narrowness of his approach.

To date Lee's actual proposals for change have not always originated at Canterbury and display a degree of confusion. On a suggestion from Otago President Andrew Guest he moved recently that National Exec meet every month, instead of the usual six weeks. There is a widespread fear which Lee shares that National Office is not being held accountable enough to National Exec and because of this tends to go its own way. More frequent meetings are seen as a way of overcoming this.

Victoria opposed the motion, President Lindy Cassidy saying that it will make NZUSA even more bureaucratic while there is no guarantee that accountability will improve at all. Lee remained adamant yet commented on another issue in the same meeting., "I don't think I should have to come up to National Exec to supervise".

Canterbury shares with Otago the idea that major structural changes are needed in NZUSA. Its proposals, which have not yet been clearly formulated, will go before May Council and should be widely debated there.

Lincoln

"I suppose it is government interference in student affairs, but we aren't keen to make a statement on it one way or another another"—Lincoln President Guy Macindoe at National Exec, 18 February.

Of all the threatened withdrawals, Lincoln's is the easiest to understand. The Lincoln College Students Association has never wanted NZUSA to be a political organisation. In its opinion work should be centred exclusively on education and welfare. How even these areas are approached without getting into the political arena has never been adequately explained, but it is clear that international issues and those of a direct political nature (like the SIS act and abortion) Lincoln thinks NZUSA should have no part.

This has meant that the current President Guy Macindoe consistently abstains in voting on such issues. Lincoln does not necessarily oppose NZUSA policy on, say, superpower contention, it just does not think there should be any at all. No other campus takes such an extreme view, and some (particularly Victoria) argue very strongly that NZUSA must play a strong role in placing student requirements in their broader context, must work to make students aware of the wider community around them, and must fight political attacks on student welfare and education in a political way.

If the organisation is working for better bursaries it is immediately dealing with government. If it is campaigning against racism it is doing no more than saying that we have a responsibility to combat injustice because not to do so is, in effect, to condone it. It is probably fair to say that from NZUSA's point of view, adopting an apolitical role would be tantamount to admitting that universities are ivory tower institutions which owe nothing to the community around them and have no effect on that community. Lincoln, as far as can be ascertained, argue that universities are educational institutions and should function within an educational ambit. In the end it gets down to the question of how one defines education.

I say all this because the most significant thing about Lincoln's position is their request for a qualitative difference to NZUSA's makeup. How this might come about so that NZUSA remains even potentially worthwhile is not at all clear,

It is interesting to look at Lincoln's attitude to bursaries. Last year when every other campus was campaigning vigorously for significant increase in the STB Lincoln's stand was opposed to any increase at all. While the other student papers carried stories and graphics summarising the student plight Lincoln's Caclin ran a cartoon of a student sitting in his study surrounded by expensive toys: stereo, skis, etc., writing a letter to the Minister of Education demanding a bursary increase.

Yet this year, after Lincoln students have faced probably their hardest holiday employment situation ever, a large number of them are reported to have applied for the hardship allowance. Therein lies the clue to Lincoln's position. Most of its students do not see the relevance of most of what NZUSA does, and possibly to not know how it works in those fields where they do accept its presence. NZUSA leaders had to do some hard political lobbying to get that hardship allowance.

Lincoln is committed to the principle of a national student organisation, but does not feel it is being adequately served at the moment., either by policy or by the present setup.

It wants the positions of NVP and IVP scrapped and a Welfare Vice President created in their place. It wants one of the Research positions eliminated, and commercial operations scaled down even further than is at present happening.

Otago

"Otago demands that I move this motion"—Otago President Andrew Guest on April 1st, speaking to his motion of no confidence in Lisa Saksen, President of NZUSA.

In fact Otago has never demanded it. The executive and the Student Council have given Guest permission to support such a motion but that is a very different thing from moving it. There is certainly a large body of anti-Saksen feeling but Guest seems some way ahead of the rest in thinking that getting rid of the top dog will bring NZUSA closer to Otago's way of thinking.

"You realise this could mean Otago will also withdraw"—Guest at the same meeting after his motion had lapsed for want of a seconder.

Otago has not withdrawn. Guest took the news back to his campus after the April 1st meeting and two forums were held. At the first he, the members of his exec who had been at the meeting (chosen by the exec as being the ones least likely to be swayed by National Office rhetoric), and ex-EVP Stephanie Dale outlined their version of what happened. The next day Saksen and IVP James Movick went down to field the questions of Guest's "angry masses." By all accounts both sides took as good as they got, yet no motion to withdraw came up or looked like coming up. In fact, Otago has never officially discussed this course of action.

However three resolutions were passed. 1) Otago reiterate its dissatisfaction with NZUSA. 2) Guest was again authorised to vote no confidence in Saksen should the matter come up. 3) A general meeting would be held with all interested students to discuss the matter.

Otago does not have an open SRC like Victoria. Each faculty elects reps onto the Students Council and the general student body must channel any requests or opinions through them. The general meeting might seem calculated to get over this problem of inadequate understanding of student attitudes and knowledge on NZUSA, except it was scheduled for seven o'clock at night. Not exactly the prime time for a large meeting.

Guest fancies himself as the enfant terrible of NZUSA. He has a severe tendency to pursue his aims with a vendettalike obstinacy and displays a singular unwillingness to accept explanations for what he sees as unpardonable offences. He says he wouldn't touch National Office with a bargepole but one has the feeling he'd be in there like a shot if he had the chance.

Apart from wanting to roll the leadership he is also keen on some form of major structural changes. So far those suggested have been of a superficial nature, mainly made in conjunction with the other South Island constituents. For example, he thinks that constituents should get two votes on National Exec to the National Officers' one, instead of the present one apiece. Guest sees, from this, that the panacea to the organisation's present problems is to "relieve" National Office of their decision making power.

Given that this power resides in making everyday decisions (something which cannot be altered) the suggestion seems rather pointless. The only way to really change NZUSA is to change its policies. NZUSA would be doing the same work and be in much the same predicament whatever the leadership or structure.

Guest appears to be incensed at a lot of things. The Sexuality booklet and the NZUSA Handbook are two matters he has spoken particularly strongly about. He gets very annoyed at the lack of lengthy presence of NZUSA National Officers on campus and the way he thinks head office is run. He shares with all the other presidents the conviction that they were not properly informed about the Student Travel Bureau's scaling down. All those things any many more as he sees it, should be laid at Saksen's door.

One of Guest's favourite claims is that however well specific complaints may be answered the overall problem remains. At the March 12th meeting he even went so far as to preface his "Otago has no confidence in

everything that is happening" remarks with the line, "regardless of the answers, which I don't accept. . ."

However it seems evident from the fall-off in support that in trying to keep NZUSA viable the other constituents are taking a more reasoned approach to the whole situation. If Guest shares this aim it is difficult to understand why he has placed himself so much out on a limb.

Guest claims that for him not to take the attitude he does would result in no confidence motions being brought against him back at Otago. He has in fact survived two such motions this year, both aimed at quite different matters concerning his somewhat petulant approach to the running of OUSA.

What is Guest actually trying to do? Alter the "power base" of NZUSA in his favour is perhaps a good way to describe it. It seems doubtful in the long run that he wants NZUSA to fold and so is bent on creating such a split that the present leadership will just have to go, not through any misbehaviour of its own but simply because that would be the only form of compromise which might keep everybody together. It's a spurious idea to say the least.

To do this he must gain the support of others. Constituent presidents are not prepared to back him at the moment, but he has managed to form an interesting alliance with National Vice President David Merritt.

Merritt has come in for some stern criticism from many sources for his inefficiency. (One of his most recent [*unclear*: Iunders] was to give the Evening Post the idea that James Movick was about to leave the country. Merritt claims that the reporter deliberately misinterpreted his remarks, but he wasn't authorised to make a press release on the matter, didn't know all the facts and should have known that the daily press will always misinterpret if it can).

Yet Guest has said that Merritt is the National Officer most welcome at Otago. Why? Possibly because of some of the things he says about NZUSA while he is down there.

A recent Critic (the Otago student paper) claims he told the OUSA exec that everyone in National Office except Stephanie Dale and partly himself is heavily involved in international issues, with the [*unclear*: co]ference that not enough is done on education, welfare and other local priorities. This is blatantly untrue and could in the case of Research Officer Peter Franks be almost described as malicious. Franks works almost entirely on bread and butter issues and Merritt knows it well. But his claims are just what Guest wants to hear.

A few weeks ago Guest canvassed the presidents on Merritt's suitability for temporarily taking over if Saksen was given the push. Needless to say he found no support.

HEY HEY!" -it's Andy! "We Might have Guest!"

Even if Guest does succeed in initiating personnel reforms in National Office he may well not find a place for himself in any new "power structure" which evolves. One thing he overlooks is that there is no real block voting in National Exec anyway. His attempts at creating factionalism are therefore resented by many.

Supposing for a moment that Otago does decide to pull out over the leadership question. It will still be eligible to vote in August this year for next year's officers. Supposing the candidates it supports win. Presumably Otago would then decide to stay in. In when you like people, out when you don't: Is this a responsible way to develop a national organisation?

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Bursaries....

A Student Living Allowance?

NOVEMBER 1972: The Labour Party becomes the Government promising a Standard Tertiary Bursary that would be an adequate living allowance.* NOVEMBER 1975; A National Party election advertisement promises that "All students will receive the Standard Tertiary Bursary." At each point National's proposals will be as good as, and may be better than the labour proposals These, and other, broken and late coming promises are a fair representation of the frustrations University and Technical Institute students have had to put up with for years. Both major political parties have caused these in their cynical chase for votes, in this case at the expense of students. Students are looking for a major improvement in their performance in the near future. *Standard Tertiary Bursary not introduced until February 1976. ** April 1978, and National's promises still not implemented.

Throughout the last 6 and more years, the New Zealand Zealand University Students Association (NZUSA)

and the New Zealand Technical Institute Students Association (NZTISA) have made submissions, attended meetings and conferences, protested, and made every other reasonable effort to communicate to the Governments the concern students have felt about the Bursaries system.

The total time given to the National Government's promised consultation on Bursary reforms does not exceed 40 hours over a period of 2½ years.

Since its proposal in 1972, subsequent implementation in 1976, and to the present time, the level of the Bursary has only been increased by \$2.00—hardly the 'substantial, across-the-board increase' recommended at the two government-organised Bursary Conferences, and bearing no relationship whatsoever to the increase in the cost-of-living over this period.

The National Government has undoubtedly moved as slowly as its Labour predecessor

With the provision last Xmas of the Student Community Service Programme (employment for unemployed students over their holidays) and subsequent \$7 a week hardship provision, the Government has acknowledged the inadequacy of holiday employment opportunities and of the basic bursary. Further acknowledgment is the provision of the unemployment benefit to young persons on the full-time pre-unemployment programmes in Technical Institutes. Surely, if the Bursary was an adequate living allowance, it would be more expedient for them to have given the STB, rather than the more expensive (but of course, more realistic) unemployment benefit

The Minister of Education, Les Gandar, has said repeatedly that there will be no piecemeal changes in the Bursary system.

Clearly the government is not ready to implement the Reformed Bursary it promised in 1975,... We have yet to see the establishment of working parties as recommended in the 1976 and 1977 Bursaries Conferences. Obviously, the 1978 election promises are going to include the fabled New Reformed Bursary—how much longer will students have to wait for these?

Published by The New Zealand University Students Association (NZUSA), Box 9047, Wellington; & The New Zealand Technical Institute Students Association, C/. Wellington Polytechnic in the Interests of Informing Students and the Public about the Case For a Living Bursary Level.

The Standard Tertiary Bursary

A Short History of Sweeping Statements & Broken Promises.....

Photo of people marching with banners

November 1972: Labour's STB Promise.

July 1973: Education Minister Amos promises a White Paper in the Standard Tertiary Bursary (STB) for August 1973.

August 1974: One year after the promised white paper was due, Assistant Director-General Renwick outlined a 'statement of principles' which included a weekly Bursary based on unemployment benefits (then \$26.85). Full-time students only would be eligible for assistance, there would be no boarding allowance and no bonding.

October 1974: Student Organisations were informed by Mr. Amos that, because of the current economic crisis, 'the Standard Tertiary Bursary would not be introduced in 1975.'

February 1975' Mr. Amos, in a meeting with NZUSA, disavowed the Education Department's 1974 Bursaries white paper.

March 1975: Technical Institute Bursaries were increased by \$100 a year, and an extra \$150 hardship allowance was provided for University students.

March 1975: In the Budget, Finance Minister Tizard announced the STB for implementation in 1976. This included:-

- Weekly allowances of \$24 or \$27, abated for those students who do not have to live away from home;
- Teacher Trainees were offered the STB or a bonded allowance, with preference to those on the STB;
- Provision for costly courses using grants to Tertiary institutions;
- A special allowance of up to \$48 weekly for married students;

And promising discussion with student organisations on some form of indexation to compensate for cost-of-living increases.

August 1975: Mr. Amos dropped extra bonding for Trainee Teachers and reinstated equal selection.

September 1975: The National Party promised to return existing teacher trainee allowances, reinstate the A & B supplementary allowances and to replace the Standard Tertiary Bursary with a new Reformed Bursary to be adjusted annually with increased costs. More consultation on this promised.

November 1975: National Party election advertisement (see front page).

January 1976: Mr. Gandar, new Education Minister, reinstates A & B supplementary allowances and announces assistance for University students transferring to paramedical courses at Technical Institutes.

March 1976: Govt., Education Dept, NZUSA & NZTISA meet. Govt, states that its review of Bursaries would be completed by the end of 1976 and included in 1977 Budget.

October 1976: 8 months after the Bursaries introduction, regulations gazetted for them.

December 1976: Representatives of student and teacher organisations, tertiary institutions and Government Departments hold Conference to discuss changes to the Bursaries system, It agreed that:-

- The Bursary should be a living allowance, fully indexed for cost-of-living increases;
- The Abatement should be abolished;
- A working party should be established to discuss further changes. It recommended some immediate changes:-
- Increase in the Bursary;
- abolition of employment restrictions;
- some provision for an appeals procedure
- full transferability between Techs and Community Colleges
- a second course entitlement for Tech. students.

May 1977: Mr. Gandar announces that employment restrictions would be removed.

July 1977: Prime Minister Muldoon announces in the Budget:-

- a \$2 a week increase in the Bursary;
- full transferability between University and Techs;
- 2nd course entitlement for Tech students;
- some assistance for Tech students on costly courses;
- Bursaries for students undertaking full-time tertiary education programmes in secondary schools.

August 1977: Education Dept paper floats idea of student loans, the possibility of a reduced student entitlement and means testing.

October 1977: The 2nd Bursaries Conference convened. Discusses Education Dept. Paper. Conference basically recommends along similar lines to 1976 Conference. There was little support for Education Dept floated idea.

October 1977: In a mini-budget, the Prime Minister announced the provision of a 'Student Community Service Programme to provide vacation employment for unemployed students.

March 1978: Mr. Gandar announces the provision for up to \$7 a week hardship allowance for students who had experienced employment problems over the vacation.

April 1978: First Bursaries Working Party meeting set up—16 months after it was proposed.

Bill & Jenny

Bill is a student at a large New Zealand university [unclear: h] be 21 in May and hopes to finish off his science degree this year. Coping with varsity work isn't too much [unclear: blem] for Bill; his biggest worry is knowing where the money's coming from to pay the landlord, buy food [unclear: n] flat and get some of the textbooks he couldn't afford earlier in the year.

At the end of last year Bill was flat broke. He [unclear: n] save about \$1,000 over the summer holidays to supplement his bursary and cover his living and study [unclear: coit][unclear: rar]. But jobs were hard to get over the holidays. Bill end-ed up working for a local body under the government [unclear: idised] students community service programme and his total savings amounted to only \$400. Now he's [unclear: loot], part-time employment to keep himself going.

It's not much consolation to Bill that he's a lot [unclear: be if] than his friend Jenny. She ended up registered as [unclear: unem] ployed for most of the holidays after the department that employed her in November suddenly gave her the sack right after Christmas. Jenny's got a [unclear: diffic] on in front of her now: to drop out of varsity and try and earn money working full-time or to go into debt and finish the law degree she started last year.

Not all students are in the same boat as Bill and Jenny. But their situation typifies that of thousands of university and technical institute students who have been caught up in the vicious spiral of inflation and

unemployment.

In New Zealand it has always been accepted that students should work during their long summer holiday holidays and use their savings to supplement their bursaries. Students have liked this principle because it has meant that they've had the chance to get out of the universities and technical institutes and get to meet other people from different backgrounds, doing different types of jobs.

This system would work well if students' bursaries were adequate and if there were enough jobs to go round. At present the plain fact of the matter is that there's neither.

The Labour Government announced a new, standard tertiary bursary scheme for students at the end of May 1975, and set the level of the bursary at \$24 a week (or \$13 a week for students who did not have to live away from home to attend a university or a technical institute).

The Declining the Standard Tertiary Bursary

These rates were not increased until the beginning of this year when a \$2 a week increase (announced in last year's budget) was applied. But between June 1975 and the end of 1977 inflation had eaten away at the purchasing power of the bursary and its real value had declined by 30.5% or almost one-third. The graph on this page shows how the bursary has steadily declined in value because of inflation.

The decline in the real value of the bursary by the end of 1977 meant that students would have to save more money over the summer to keep themselves going this year. But jobs were hard to come by for many students and unemployment was growing steadily. Despite the creation of over 2,500 jobs for students through the government-funded Student Community Service Programme, hundreds of students were unemployed. At the beginning of December last year, 1497 students were registered as unemployed or 4½ times the number of students registered at the same time in 1976.

Unless there is a real improvement in students' bursary rates a large number of students are either going to have to find part-time work (which will distract from their real job—studying), go substantially into debt or leave university or technical institutes. Any of these 'choices' will mean personal hardship for the students concerned and the risk that the investment that has been made in their education will be wasted

For the sake of our country's future. New Zealand cannot afford to waste the talents of its young people. That fact and the concern that most people feel for others who are hard-up are the reasons why the student case for better bursaries must be supported.

The Hidden Problems

Quite apart from the low level of Bursaries, Tech and Varsity students are very concerned about the many serious anomalies that both reduce the availability of Bursaries to students and also lower their value. These anomalies cause great hardship for a large number of students and, as well, stop other people even considering going to Polytech or Varsity because of the expense involved.

Abatement

The major anomaly in the Bursaries system is the 'abatement'—which reduces a student's allowance by \$11 a week if he or she does not have to live away from home to attend Tech or Varsity.

The abatement causes many problems for students and is quite unfair. These problems are listed below:

- There is no age limit on the abatement, unlike the the unemployment benefit which pays a higher allowance to people over twenty.
- Married students receive abated bursaries on the grounds that they are living "at home". The exception is that two full time students, married or married de-facto to each other, get the full bursary.
- But students who are separated, divorced or widowed are not so lucky. They are treated as though married and get abated bursaries.
- Orphans are abated when they reach the age of majority. While a minor the orphan gets the unabated bursary, unless his or her guardians live in the town where he or she is studying. But once the orphan reaches the age of majority, he or she is treated as independent and, having no home other than where he or she lives, is automatically abated.
- In some cases a student's home is so far away from from a tertiary institution that it is impracticable to expect the student to live at home.

If, for example, the distance between the home and and the institution exceeds 48 km; the home is

situated more than 2.4 km from the nearest public transport; or the travelling time for a one way journey between the home and the institution exceeds 1½ hours; the student can live away from home and get the full bursary.

But these rules are arbitrary and it is just bad luck for those students who fall outside them.

- Students may attend a tertiary institution outside their home town and receive unabated bursaries if their chosen course of study or their major is not available in their home town.

The philosophy behind the abatement is out of tune with the realities of today's society. The only way to solve these problems is to abolish the abatement completely.

Other Anomalies

Although the abatement is the most unfair of the anomalies, there are many others whose effect is just as detrimental to some students:

- Bursaries are only paid to students on full-time, full-year courses. Students on block courses (e.g. 8 or 12 weeks at a technical institute) and 'sandwich' courses (e.g. a period of study followed by practical work experience followed by more study) do not get the bursaries.
- Technical institute students doing full-year courses part-time are not eligible for fees bursaries. University students are with the exception of Ph.D. students who receive no assistance with fees and pay a total of \$300 in fees over a three year period.
- Ph.D. students are not eligible for the standard tertiary bursary. Although two-thirds of them receive competitive scholarships, grants or wages, one third get nothing.
- Some students have to work as part of their courses and receive only bursaries. Examples are student nurses who have to work "on section" at hospitals as part of their technical institute courses, and social work students at Massey University who have to work on supervised field placements as part of their course.
- Students at technical institutes are paid their bursaries fortnightly by direct credit. University students are paid three times a year by cheque (four times a year at Victoria University). More frequent payments would help university students with budgeting.
- The Education Department is often placed in the position of being judge, jury and executioner in cases where students appeal against decisions on their entitlements to bursary assistance.

Costly Courses

Some students take courses which are far more expensive than normal. Although the actual government Bursary regulations don't themselves cause problems for students in these cases, the fact is that this additional financial burden (with little or no aid from the government) causes many students even greater hardship than normal. These extra costs are for expensive course materials and books, or for travel on 'field trips' or work 'on section' in hospitals.

a). Technical Institutes

Student nurses have to travel from the Institutes to work at hospitals. This is a compulsory requirement of their courses. They also have to provide their own protective clothing for clinical work, unlike Hospital Board Student Nurses.

A survey at Auckland Technical Institute last year found that it would cost \$60,000 to pay public transport fares (and taxis after 11 p.m. and before 7 a.m.) for the travel costs at that institute alone.

Yet the Government has provided this year only \$85,000 to reimburse students on 10 paramedical courses and 15 design courses for the extra costs they face. Welcome though this money is, it will simply not cover more than a fraction of the costs involved. Design students face particularly heavy expenses for materials which are an essential part of their courses. They can pay up to \$500 per annum for these materials.

b). Agricultural Courses

Many students at Lincoln College and Massey University have to undertake compulsory field trips as part of their courses. These trips involve students in expensive travel and accommodation costs.

In 1975 the Government agreed to subsidise student Field Trips. Lincoln College received \$30,000 to subsidise its Field Trips in 1976 and 32,000 in 1977.

But increases in Field Trip costs have reduced the value of the subsidy to Lincoln students to 36% in 1977 (from 51% in 1976), and even lower this year.

This year students on some courses at Lincoln will pay \$215 for a compulsory Field Trip—this will take up

more than eight weeks of their Bursary allowances (if they are on the unabated rate) or over 14 weeks (if they are on the abated rate).

Wellington Student

I am eligible for an STB as I have UE and Higher School Cert. However, during my first year of varsity my parents went overseas to live. I am not eligible for a boarding allowance because I cannot prove to the authorities that my parents are going to return to New Zealand, either in the near or distant future. As my parents are not in a position to give unconditional promise that they will be returning, I have been forced to apply for a boarding allowance on grounds of hardship. Although my case is confidential, it is a degrading process to have to prove how hard up you are.

I applied through the liaison office. They take a statement of your income and assets (in detail) and forward it to a committee which considers your case. The results come through fairly quickly, which is a good thing.

\$15 is simply not enough when you are flatting and cannot rely on parents for loans and/or gifts. The bursary must be raised to a level which meets people's basic living needs.

Photo of people sitting in a lecture theatre

Dunedin Student

In 1975 I left varsity owing to severe psychological stress late in the year. On leaving, I was asked to refund my entire bursary for that year to ensure that I would get one when I re-enrolled. I could only repay a small amount of this as I had other outstanding debts, no money and no job.

I re-enrolled in 1977 to do a full-time course and was ineligible for any bursary assistance at all. As a result I had to borrow substantial sums of money from my parents to pay fees, buy books and stationery etc. All those judge sums one has to fork out at the beginning of the year. I had to live off borrowed money until I could find a part-time job (difficult in this day and age, especially when you're a woman) waitressing for 20-plus hours a week, in poor conditions at below-award wages.

I was literally on the breadline—such things as meat and toilet paper were unheard-of luxuries. Pubs, movies, concerts—any such form of social life was above my means.

Working as well as a full-time course was a strain to say the least—at times I wanted to throw the whole lot in. I had no time for non-academic activity on campus which alienated me from people I had previously known through clubs and sports—varsity was for study and lectures—no joy at all to be there. As a direct consequence of the strain, which was particularly great near the end of the year, I failed one of my units. I'm positive it wouldn't have happened if my situation had been different.

This year I have a bursary (abated—\$15 per week) and feel like I'm living in the lap of luxury. This is something of a fool's paradise however. Owing to difficulties in getting a job last summer I was unable to save very much money. To return this year, I was forced to borrow a further \$500 from my mother and I have another part-time job, which is necessary to make ends meet. I now owe my parents \$1500 which I can't see being paid back for some years.

This is something which I feel very bad about. I loathed asking them for money in the first place, feeling that as a twenty year old adult I should be financially independent. However the present bursary structure doesn't allow me or anyone else to relieve parents of the burden of giving financial support.

Auckland Student

The 1978 Auckland University School of Architecture Handbook states that "students should be prepared to spend about \$300 during the year on draughting equipment, books, stationery, photographic expenses, site visits and incidental expenses".

The figure of \$300 represents over 30% of the total of the Standard Tertiary Bursary paid annually to people forced to live away from home, and 55% of the total for those living at home, or choosing to live away from home;.

A typical 1st year Architecture student staying in a hostel at a minimum of \$28 a week rent plus an additional \$9.00 a week for fees and course costs has already (on absolutely) basic costs alone) incurred a weekly deficit of \$11.00 on his/her STB of \$26 a week. If clothing, occasional entertainment, etc., is added, the absolute inadequacy of the STB is shown.

High course costs are not isolated to Architecture students either. All professional courses, such as Engineering, Law and Medicine, face very high extra costs, even Arts students average between \$100 and \$200 per year in texts and stationery.

Students academic performance will suffer dramatically if the STB remains at a level where it cannot cater

for basic living costs and essential study costs.

Photo of students on a march

Chaplains Support Student Case

The following statement was prepared by the three counsellors at Auckland University's Counselling Service, Mrs. Lorna McLay, Mr. Brian Lythe and Mr. David Simpson, and by the University's chaplains Rev. John Hinchcliff and Wendy Cranston.

While the overall roll numbers at Auckland University are up marginally this year, we are left with the gnawing impression that some academically capable students did not even contemplate returning to University because of financial circumstances.

The roll numbers remain up marginally, we suspect, because of part-timers who can afford to enrol realizing more than ever the necessity for that "bit of paper" to survive.

The absence of those that should be back for studies camouflages the hardship being encountered. What we most deplore is the wastage of human potential.

Our observations on 1977 were that many students were hit by increasing costs. Book prices sky-rocketed. Living costs were often far beyond what a student could earn in the holidays and bursary allowances. As a consequence, many students were having to work part-time during the year, which frustrated their devotion to studies and cut down their efficiency. It meant also that those from wealthy families had a clearer and therefore often more successful run at their studies.

Some of the chaplains affirmed that our society was becoming divided along the lines of the haves and the have-nots and that this was particularly evident in the University.

We worry about the widespread unfounded criticisms of students. Probably this has always been the case but it is important that we try and correct the misinformation. A common prejudice is that students are committed to a life of drunkenness, motorbike racing, indiscriminate sexuality and high living of one sort and another. However, it is clear that the student population reflects very closely the moral values of society at large. As well as their poor image students do have to put up with a sense of powerlessness. When they feel unjustly treated they cannot, for example, take "industrial action" by withdrawing their labour, since no one except themselves is affected by their action. Also they have to be what might be considered selfish because they must lock themselves away and bury themselves in books for large periods of time. Some people do not consider reading a book is work. But these periods of intense concentration sometimes struggling with complex thoughts require considerable effort which can be unrewarding and frustrating.

A most persistent myth is that the University and the people in it constitute an Ivory Tower, out of touch with the real world.

Our experience in having the privilege to work with students explodes this myth absolutely. For a start ideas and beliefs are subject to critical assessment in the University environment. Much of the half-truth prejudice and hunch acceptable in the community is not tolerated at a University.

The University is not a cocoon from the cold wind of unemployment and shortage of cash. Students by and large are well aware of what it feels like to earn daily bread and live in humble condition—and be uncertain about both the immediate and long-term future.

Loss of casual work and the tedium of chasing a few hours work here and there is a real experience. Planning the future becomes more hazardous and even a small luxury like playing sport is carefully weighed up.

The need is to retain optimism that amongst all of this there are developing processes and trends unforeseen at present which will in the long run make a significant positive impact on our communities and way of life.

Take This Broadsheet home and Show it to Your Family And Friends..... Support Students' Right to a Decent Bursary

Bursaries at Vic

Next Week is Bursaries Week

For all those students who are fascinated by, or interested in Bursaries, VUWSA proudly presents Bursaries Week.....

IT'S RIDICULOUS GIVING A DECENT EDUCATION TO ALL THOSE INDECENT PEOPLE.

Remember Bursaries Demonstration April 26th

Wednesday, 12.00—2.00

Sign the Petition

Have you signed the bursaries petition yet? Only 36% of Victoria students have signed so far: a total of 2,100.

The petition will be presented to Russell Marshall, Labour spokesperson on Education on Friday. So why not get down to the studass office and add your name. Decent bursaries are our right!

After Vic... What Next!

Why do people undertake university degrees? Doubtless there are one-hundred-and-one reasons . . . but, cynical though this may seem to be, for the majority of students "getting a decent job" or perhaps "improving career prospects" would feature somewhere near the top of the list. And yet what proportion of the three, four or more years of a degree course do most students devote to active exploration of career ideas—discussions with the University's Careers Adviser (or other staff members), reading careers literature, visiting potential employers, attending campus employer interviews?

In the case of the more "vocational" subjects, and of course for part-time students, the facilities of the Careers Advisory Service at 6 Kelburn Parade may not appear to be needed to any great extent. However, there are plenty of students of law and accountancy (for example) who are far from certain that they can envisage themselves as lawyers or accountants for a life-time. Similarly, not all students of English or of Economics wish to teach or work in a bank. But in many students' minds, there exist some pretty rigid—and limited—stereotypes of the job outlets there may be for their particular degrees.

So what does the Careers Advisory Service do?

- First, we offer sympathetic, individual discussions to any student, graduate,—or small group for that matter. We don't mind whether you have just started your degree (in fact we encourage early contact) or have completed it . . . whether you are thinking of leaving, or of changing tack . . . whether you have no ideas at all, or want specific information about a particular employer or type of work. We won't push you into a mould, or make decisions for you—but hopefully we can ease the path to decision-making.
- Second, we offer a range of free facilities which can be used even if you do not wish to make an appointment to see the Careers Advisor: A careers Library with information on employers and types of work; a fortnightly "Current Vacancies" jobs-sheet (and mailing list); notices of part-time and vacation jobs; and a wide range of employers (50 plus) visiting the campus to hold informal interviews, in July. If you do choose to make an appointment, we are usually able to arrange informal 'exploratory' contacts with employers and hope soon to be offering individual and group occupational interest tests.

See you!

why not be a canary?

1978 NZUSA China Delegation

The 1978 NZUSA-China Delegation will tour the Peoples' Republic of China from July 2nd—23rd COST (All inclusive): \$1500 (approx.) Loans may be arranged. WHO CAN GO? All currently enrolled University students may apply. Others may apply in special circumstances. Contact your local Students' Association, STB office, or NZUSA, Box 9047, Wellington. APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON MAY 12TH

The 1978 China Delegation to the People's Republic of China will be from July 2 to 23. The delegation will consist of not more than 24 members and is open to all currently enrolled university students and those people who have been members of NZUSA in the past two years.

Itinerary:

At the moment the planned itinerary includes visits of from 2 to 4 days to Kwangchow, Changchow, Anyang, Shihchiachuang, Peking and Hong Kong. Delegates will be given sight-seeing tours as well as visits to institutions and work places in these cities.

The Total Cost:

The cost will be approximately NZ\$1,500. This will be confirmed at the end of April. The total cost includes air fares from Auckland/Hong Kong return, foreign travel tax, internal travel in China,

accommodation, food, translation and guide services. This means almost all expenses are covered in the overall cost.

Loans

NZUSA has negotiated the provision of loans for those who need them. These will be for up to \$750 but can in special circumstances be approved up to \$1,000. The interest rate will be 9%. They will not be granted as of right.

Selection of Candidates:

Candidates will be selected by an interviewing process by a selection committee comprised on a returnee from a previous delegation, and two other members nominated by National Executive. No NZUSA National Officers are involved. The cost of interviewing applicants is met by adding to the fares of delegates selected to travel to China. This is NZUSA policy.

Selection Criteria:

The criteria laid down for the selection of candidates are:

- Candidates need not be highly informed about nor in ideological sympathy with Chinese society but they must be keen to learn about Chinese society and take an open-minded and honest approach towards China.
- Candidates should be willing and able to freely converse about the nature of New Zealand society, or, in the case of overseas students, about their own society.
- The Selection Committee will be looking for people who can co-operate with other members of the group and who are capable of making group decisions.
- Candidates should take up an active interest in student life.
- Candidates should be willing and able to speak, write and generally share their impressions of the People's Republic of China on their return to New Zealand.
- Candidates must be able to attend an orientation seminar in Wellington during during the Queen's Birthday weekend, June 3—5.

Group Organisation:

A tour leader is in charge of the delegation but as much as possible group decisions will be made and followed. Thus the importance of the delegate's ability to participate in group decision making and discipline.

Orientation Seminar:

The Orientation Seminar planned for the weekend June 7-9 in Wellington will be compulsory for all successful applicants. The aim of the seminar is to familiarise them with the current political situation in China. This is not an indoctrination session but an attempt to provide delegates with a basic understanding of the sociopolitical forces which motivate China so that they can better appreciate and understand the experience. The seminar also enables all the members of the Delegation to meet each other before the actual trip.

Immigration Requirements:

All applicants should ensure that they have a current, valid passport. All successful applicants will receive the appropriate documentation for visas and other immigration requirements including inoculations. Any person who requires special arrangements with regard to the issuing of a visa and the stamping of their passport should indicate this to the International Vice President of NZUSA.

Why Go to China?

The NZUSA China Delegation tour is not a trip designed especially for the ideologically sympathetic. Nor is it a trip designed like a "Cook's Tour". It is a tour designed to enable ordinary students from New Zealand (and overseas students here) to see, and hopefully learn, for themselves what is happening in one of the most economically, socially and politically interesting, but least understood, societies in the modern world. It is a tour which combines the normal touristy sight-seeing with visits and discussions which seek to explain the very fabric of China today.

You won't learn about and understand everything that is happening in China but you will at least have a better opportunity than most others to begin to understand the country, the people and the forces which motivate their socio-economic system.

It is an experience of a society based on almost entirely different premises from that of New Zealand society. Straight comparisons between the two societies cannot be made for the historical variables are too great and diverse. The comparisons to be made are between the Myth of China which exists in the western world today, and the Reality'

Applications:

Applications should deal with the selection criteria and should be sent to:

The Chairperson,
China Selection Committee,
P.O. Box 9047,
Courtenay Place,

Wellington.

All applicants should be post-marked May 12 at the latest. All applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Note:

- Applicants who have any problems relating to visas and passports etc. should contact the International Vice President or President of NZUSA as soon as possible if any special arrangements need to be made.
- Every effort will be made to enable candidates with special interests, e.g. Education, Medicine, Agriculture etc. to visit areas relevant to them.

Further enquiries should be made to The International Vice-President, NZUSA, P.O. Box 9047. Courtenay Place, Wellington.

Drama

Offending the Audience and Self Accusation Review

by Peter Handke

VUW Drama Society Memorial Theatre

Offending the Audience was not, as the name suggests, an attempt to offend the audience for any egocentric reason. It was not Peter Handke, the playwright, using the theatre to get certain personal hang-ups about people who go to the "theatre" off his chest. Rather he wanted to stimulate the audience to think about themselves, be aware of themselves as individuals. The act of getting people to come to a theatre and become an audience makes them a receptive subject for this experience. The act of offending them was simply a means of breaking through the personal barriers people throw up to isolate themselves from such events.

The method Handke uses is words and only words. Gesture, props and set are eschewed. The sentences are made up as simply as possible. Subject, verb and object. The words chosen are those that express only one meaning. Ambiguity and image is not wanted. They must be concrete terms. Since no words fulfil these aims totally, as soon as one is used it is contradicted. This works effectively in the the context.

The desired aim of opening the audi-nceence to an immediate experience unconnected with any past experience or future expectation is also achieved. It is done by subjecting the audience to an analysis of the environment surrounding us all, both actors and performers. The stage is explored, the expectations it elicits and limitations it creates. The arrangement of the audience and the posture they assume is exposed. The established role of the actor and the audience is presented and destroyed. Hopefully by the end of the piece what remains in the theatre is a collection of individuals who are no longer an audience, a group of speakers who are no longer actors. And the memory of the author many miles away who, from this great distance, has

manipulated all of us into ourselves.

Above I stated that gestures and by implication stage business and groupings were undesirable. Such an attitude is plainly stated in the play. Why then did director Jeremy Jay arrange the speakers in strict groupings and why did the actors indulge in theatrical gestures? Obviously it was wither a lack of total commitment to the piece or a lack of courage.

For the presentation to be in total accord with the intentions of the author there should have been no director. The speakers should have spent the rehearsal process in attempting to come to an understanding of their new roles and what that meant in relation to the words. They should have memorised the words after working out who was to say what in isolation. The presentation should have then been totally improvised. The way they moved, the positions on stage they assumed should have been a result of spontaneous inspiration of the moment. The speakers would have been and seen to be self-aware individuals.

We would not then have seen John Newton's obviously planned and worked out groping of Jo Mildenhall. We would not have been subjected to the contemptuous sneerings of Paul Hagen and to a lesser extent those of Rhondda Patterson. And above all we would not have been subject to speakers who slowly rise in pitch until they end up shrieking.

The role of the speakers was to be a vehicle for the words of the author. They should not have been intruded to the extent they did in this reading. The audience was the most important group in the theatre this night. And to show a [*unclear: vuoso*] display of the skills of the director or the actors was not wanted.

However if you pardon the rudeness, the way the piece was written made it actor proof. Despite the failings of the presenters the piece worked. But how I longed for them to break away from the dictatorship of the direction.

The second part of the show was a reading of Self-Accusation. This is an attempt by Handke to explore the way society impinges and forces duties, responsibilities and rules of action onto individuals. This socialisation of people begins from birth, and Self-Accusation is a howl of pain at the implications and difficulties it elicits. Obviously he does not like it. The technique he uses is to have two speakers on stage reciting the words through microphones, the sound coming from the back of the auditorium. Every sentence begins with the noun "I". This physical isolation of the sound from the readers one of either sex, was a very successful means of establishing the I-ness under discussion. It was the I of everyone in attendance.

The production of this piece suffered the same ailments as the first but to a lesser extent. Bruce Reid intruded far too much. Every now and then he moved the microphone away from him and yelled, defeating the whole purpose of the microphones. Again director Jeremy Jay, made the readers move around the stage in specified ways, but it did not matter so much this time. This was basically because Louise Dunne retained the integrity of the piece. She allowed herself to completely disappear from the stage. She refused to interact with the other reader. She refused to yell. Rather she remained open and let the words flow through her. She was merely a speaker and it worked.

But I cannot let this review pass without a mention of the Drama Society. This marks the first production of Drama Soc. this year. If the attendance (8 people) is anything to go by, the society is obviously not catering for the needs of the student body. There is such a dearth of theatrical entertainment on campus the place should have been packed, particularly for such thought provoking pieces. The fault lies not with the student body but with Drama Soc. itself. They must explore more deeply the needs of the students and present pieces that meet those needs.

Those involved are doing the best they can, but obviously it is not enough. The solution is for more people to be involved. And from what I have seen new people would be welcome. So if you find it a challenge make your presence felt.

John Bailey.

Rebirth Health Food Shop Best prices in town for honey, wholemeal products, nuts, dried fruits, etc. 157 Cuba St. and Churchill Drive Shopping Centre

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

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 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

Film Close Encounters of a Fourth Kind

In a move to increase interest in Salient, the editorial staff decided to enter into an exchange of articles with the well known American Student Newspaper, Crum. Our first exchange consisted of us sending them our latest SRC report, and in return they sent us this interview with Steven Spielberg, of Jaws and Close Encounters of the Third Kind fame.

The first thing that struck us was the security arrangements. When Spielberg bought the island late last year he introduced 30 White Pointer sharks into the surrounding waters, and a 10 foot high concrete wall around the entire beach. When asked about the necessity for these precautions Spielberg replied that they had kidnapped Elvis's body and he wasn't about to take any chances. This however was only one of the sparkling pieces of repartee that Steve treated us to during the interview.

Crum: Why did you make "Close Encounters"?

Speilberg: Basically I'm interested in technical sophistication. UFOs are something which I am particularly interested in. I've read a lot about them.

Do you believe they exist?

Yes I do...

Have you ever seen one?

No I haven't actually this might be why I made the movie.

Basically the film was trying to throw the viewer back on their own resources. . . . it was intended to be something the viewer couldn't understand?

No, I recognise that most people have not seen a UFO, therefore to say that it throws the viewer back on their own resources is fallacious.

So you're appealing to people's imagination?

Yes, that's exactly it.

Then why was the technical work done so explicitly?

People's imagination needs a bit of prodding. Did you notice the lovely way we handled the subtitles, quite in keeping with the tone of the whole thing.

Do you think that there is a threat of some sort, or a message to be held in UFO's?

Well I think that the threat of UFOs is the same threat as that of sharks there is always a threat.

There have been so many movies about UFOs, one expected to go along to this one and be subtly induced into a feeling of awe. . . .

You mean it should have been different from all the others?

Yes

It would have cost more money.

Didn't this one cost more money?

This one cost more money, yes.

Certainly cost me a lot of money. Who does get the money Mr. Speilberg?

Well you see, I don't get as much as you think I'll only get about 10 or 20 million out of it, but other people make more than that.. . This is something you don't quite realise.

You must be disappointed that your academy awards didn't come to fruition.

Well I must admit that the film was based around the technical work and we did clean up a couple of awards in that area.

You cleaned up one actually.

Yes, but Richard Dreyfus got one too. He just got it for the wrong film.

You seem to use him a lot;

Yes I do. I feel that he sums up something in the American character—the boyish enthusiasm, the engagement in unusual quests.

But he went mad Mr. Speilberg, what does that say for the typical American?

It wasn't a psychological movie...

Then why did he throw half his garden through his Kitchen window?

To show the strength of his convictions and because it gave us some good mileage with the neighbours. Very cheap to make.

Yes there were only about 20 or 25 actors to pay off in that scene compared with about 20 million bucks worth of UFO in the last one.

Well, you've got to admit it was impressive.

For about 30 solid minutes?

Well, that's hardly fair. There was a lot of action packed into those thirty minutes. The theme music was repeated untold times so that the audience would recognise the tune, which in turn allowed the composer to make his 10 million dollars. There is a lot of give and take in the film business. Also of course it contained that famous cloud sequence.

You feel you are bringing new meaning to the word cloud?

Well quite frankly yes. I do feel though, that there are some parts of this movie you have overlooked, for instance the use of Francois Truffaut.

Why did you feel that you needed a European film director of some note who has been quite 'avante-garde' in his time to be in your film?

The presence of Truffaut turned what would have been quite straight forward and rather boring scenes into rather interesting flavoursome pieces. . . something exotic. And then there's the presence of the translator, continually backing away from the screen . . . You will have noticed the way he held his briefcase.

"What was the Seventh One Again, Lord?"

Stephen Spielberg Putting his Best Ear Forward.

But I felt that frankly, Truffaut was wasted.

Truffaut is a very wooden actor. With character though.

Mr. Spielberg, how much do you feel that the appeal of the film was based on mystifying the audience, because basically the film mystified me. The first half was boring and the second half unintelligible.

Well what did you find difficulty in understanding?

The plot

I must say that I'm glad you asked me about that. The plot was really very simple, there was the visual sighting of the UFO, there was physical evidence of the UFO and lastly there was actual contact. All we did was to pad it out a little.

Don't you think that the music in the film tended to appeal to the more basic instincts in the audience?

When you have a theatre packed full of people, you've got to treat them as a theatre packed full of people;

How much is the packed theatres dependent on the heavy selling of this movie? I was amazed that so many people are coming to see it bearing in mind the quality of the film. Just where does the power in the film industry lie?

I'm not going to deny that the people who control the film industry control it. But I am getting a lot of money and I can do basically what I want. That's basically what I'm after. They can take the film away and put high powered sell on it . . . a lot of people are going to enjoy what I've done.

So you're making purely entertainment movies . . . back to the Hollywood of the 30's

You're right, yes, and they're well made I think.

You don't feel that coping with a subject as intangeable as UFOs, a very questionable subject in many people's minds, is perhaps undermining rather than reinforcing?

Oh no. . . it plays on their imaginative devices to believe in UFOs. Basically everyone wants to believe in UFOs;

I don't want to believe in UFOs.

Everyone but critics wants to believe in UFOs, and face it, critics don't want to believe in anything you do. Basically that is your problem.

But don't you feel that you are playing on the fears and intrigues of an alienated society? Sharks for example. Sharks to me present a very physical threat in a sheltered type of society, a threat where people are thrown out into a situation where they're fully exposed, where reality becomes nothing. UFOs and sharks would be the two best examples of this. .

You don't know what I'm doing next. You've got to realise that in any film, reality is nothing. Reality is entirely on the screen. With sharks; people's experience with monster sharks is pretty minimal, as it is with UFOs.

People's experience with UFOs is non-existant.

Well people's experience of UFOs is pretty non-existant in the main, but you are making it very difficult for

me when you keep interrupting me. If you're not careful, I'll toss you into the harbour and you can become a film clip for Jaws Part 2. Now as I was saying, while documented cases are rare, people know that these things could happen, some people think that they do happen. And that's enough . . . we'll leave it at that.

Most people think they do happen, and most people have a fear of them happening, and most people are gullible enough to go along to a movie that says it does happen? Now take for example the Towering Inferno.

I didn't make the Towering Inferno.

I know, you were well off the mark there weren't you? What I am citing is a trend in modern Hollywood cinema to play on the fears and the weaknesses of an alienated mass of people.

Well, I'm not a communist you know..... people need entertainment, people need good entertainment.

Well if your aim is to provide good entertainment then you should be taking people out of their sordid miserable little lives and showing them something that will free them from that. You are showing them something they fear monster sharks on one hand and alien creatures on the other.

But these alien creatures were friendly.....

So you are presenting yet another unreal aspect. You are not only playing on people's intrigues, you're deluding them into a false sense of security.

Of course. You've got to recognise the very strong threat in that film—the main protagonist is proven right in the end, despite his apparent madness in the first part of the film. He does find, as you put it, nice aliens.

If I could put it to you Mr. Spielberg, that character wasn't ever found totally sane. You might have noticed that in the end he was packed off in that loony machine.

Now I've just warned you about smart-aleck interruptions. The character Truffaut plays, the humanist scientist, an admirable person in every respect, says to Dreyfuss, "I envy you". A very significant moment.

I notice there was no sex in it....

It's a popular movie, there's no need for dirt and sex in movies these days. You don't think I could make 20 million if only people over 16 could look at it do you? We were aiming for a broader audience—family entertainment.

You want to take in as many people as you can?

Guards! Take this man out and feed him to the Loch Ness monster in the swimming pool, but don't forget to film it. So sorry, where were we?

I notice also that your treatment of women in the film was slightly backward.

It was completely realistic. When you are making a movie which, as you put it, is playing on people's imaginations, and its about something that's outside their normal experience, then you've got to have a relatively easily identifiable base to work on—society as we know it—where women are played down. Who knows, one day I I might make a movie about women—women taking over, another fear of society.

I was interested Mr Spielberg in the role of the phallus, in both Jaws and Third Encounters.

Very subtly done though.

Yes I'd certainly have to agree with you there. A forty foot white shark cutting upwards, underneath a woman swimming, was slightly subtle.

You wanna take a long walk on a short pier? The reason we used that particular symbol was that it was one which half of society could identify with, and the other half could easily recognise. Also it got around the problem of no sex.

Why are your films so heavily concentrated on technical gimmickry?

Because it's there. The great American democracy, Mama's apple pie and ITT have given us all this wonderful gadgetry, and I feel we have a responsibility to use it.

Mr. Spielberg, you 're about 27, 28 yet Hollywood gives you all the money you need. Why do they do this and what is it in your films that makes them successful?

Where it's at in the film world at the moment is America. It's the only place where one is absolutely free to make a film about

Nothing at all. . . .

Exactly. The reason for that is free enterprise. I'm free to make a movie in my own time and my own way. The people just hand over their two dollars.

This doesn't worry you at all?

Worry me? Listen my friend, this is the pinnacle of human culture. Why should it worry me? I'm delighted... and rich.

What was the function of the little boy?

He represented a longing to run away, to be carried away from the world. You'll notice that the boy didn't fear the UFOs in any way.

One thing that puzzled me in the film was during the scene when the aliens were trying to break into the woman's house. They undid the screws in the heater grill. Why didn't they just break down the door?

Very simple answer. It would have made too much noise. As I said earlier there is a lot of give and take and take and take in this business. The musical director thought that it would have masked the music, which you may have noticed was particularly dramatic at that point.

Another thing Mr. Spielberg. When the UFOs came the first time they blacked out half the countryside, yet when they appeared in the final showdown nothing was disturbed, why was this?

Very simple really. Blacking out cities, scaring poor truckies half to death and other such behaviour is just the way aliens say hello. Also it made a more dramatic start to the film.

Parts of the film were obviously intended to give the impression of a very fast moving drama: the car chase, the boy almost getting run over, tension at the airport control centre. Yet other parts of the film were dreadfully slow, like the last 2½ hours, why the inconsistency?

This was because of the requirement of rhythm. Now if the whole film was really fast, the audience wouldn't realise just how fast the film really was.

As a rounding off comment, do you really think you can justify charging ordinary people \$2 to see 2½ hours of incomprehensible glamour?

People love to be ripped off. It's a very small sacrifice for someone to make in order to see one of my masterpieces.

So in regard to all the other comments tonight, you are hooked up to a bias commercial empire that you cannot alter, and it is milking you, and yet you're happy with it?

People are certainly out to rip me off. I'm just keeping one step ahead of them, that's all. It's the law of the jungle—the strong survive.

VUWSA Films

Murder on the Orient Express

Albert Finney as Poirot in yet another Agatha Christie whodunnit classic. There is an all-star line-up of suspects as Poirot investigates (you guessed it!) the murder on the Orient Express. Naturally, all the passengers have a motive. The plot is very intricate, so your powers of observation are tested to the maximum.

No points for recognising the following among the cast: Tony Perkins, Sean Connery, Martin Balsam, Vanessa Redgrave, Michael York, Sir John Gielgud.

Tuesday 18 April 2, 15 pm.

Islands in the Stream

George C. Scott in a Hemingway classic.

Thursday 20 April 2.15 pm.

Drawing of someone using a video camera

Additions to the advertised programme:

Don't Forget your Yearly Ticket—\$10 only from the Studass Office.

VICTORIA BOOK CENTRE LTD 15 MOUNT STREET KELBURN WELLINGTON, 5 NEW ZEALAND Two Books on New Zealand HARVEY FRANKLIN—TRADE, GROWTH AND ANXIETY A MAJOR CRITIQUE of planning and developments. STEVEN LEVINE (Ed): NEW ZEALAND POLITICS—A WIDE RANGE OF ARTICLES ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECT. From Victoria Book Centre Politics in New Zealand Stephen Levine

Chess

The Civic Chess Club ran a tournament over the long Easter weekend which drew entries from as far afield as Auckland and Christchurch. Murray Chandler, Wellington's youthful International Master was expected to be difficult to beat and he proved the pundits right by conceding only one draw to finish 1½ points clear of the rest of the field. Hamiltonian Kai Tensen who represented New Zealand at the World Junior tournament in Austria last year looked as if he could be a largeish stumbling block in Murray's path but had a disappointing tournament. He did however have a good win in the first round.

A small combination with the aim of securing an advantage in the centre.

8... f5; maintaining a presence in the centre was better.

The alternative to this weakening move was the commital 10... Kf8;

More weak squares.

Black can only watch enviously.

"Curious Continuation" ([unclear: Spo] Ed by Paramount and Penthouse Cinemas)

I am indebted to Milan Melnicenko for this week's problem which is a composed end game as opposed to a position which arose in an actual game as all the other problems have been. White is to play and win. Solutions should be handed in at the Salient offices by mid-day Wednesday.

The solution to last week's problem was 1. Re6, Re6; 2. Qg6! Rg6; 3. hg6ch. Kh8; 4. Nf7 mate.

Last week's winner was Peter Hawkes. The prize of a double pass to either the Paramount or Penthouse cinemas can be picked up at the Salient offices.

Drawing of a chess board

Recreation Centre

University Union Recreation Centre

Personalised exercise/fitness/activity or in a euphemistic fashion, leisure programmes are yours for the asking from Recreation Centre staff in particular Hugh or Diana. What do they involve? The idea is that you come along and talk to us and we will provide you with a (your own term) programme which we will attempt to tailor to your requirements. Then you are free to go away and to try out the programme and again we will supervise you if you feel you need it. After the initial try-out period during which the body and the timetable adjust themselves to this new trauma we will reshape the programme a little more specifically according to how you have reacted.

A few hints on starting our programmes. . . . They will not work if you do not commit yourselves to them. The programme must be just as important as getting up in the morning, a 9 o'clock lecture, lunch and so on. If it isn't then you will find it very easy to let it slip and as a result after three weeks the programme will be just another has been. A good starter programme is not difficult, in fact the emphasis is not on the quality or the quantity but on the Doing. Once you have got used to the routine of a balanced programme then increased quality may be introduced if you so desire.

The lunchtime social sports programme is starting to gather momentum and already the soccer is full and overflowing whilst the basketball, hockey and volleyball are all filling up. There is room for more and if you want that guaranteed game then get your name or team to Jan at Reception. Beginners' classes for Badminton and squash are still going strong.

Report on the Inaugural Recreation Centre Expedition to the Northern Walkway.

Over the Easter weekend an intrepid band of 32 Walkwayteers entered the foothills of the Wellington Northern Walkway. Almost immediately the party were assailed by rampant blackberries and gorse which impeded progress to first basecamp at the top of Mount Kau Kau. None of this easy Himalayan foothills for starters. The advance party of climbers aged 6, 8, and 7 and all women reached the summit well ahead of the main party and led the way down to second base camp on the back lawn of Physical Welfare Officer Allan Laidler's home in Ngaio. This proved to be the Waterloo of most walkers, (yes Ngaio does have the flush toilet) and a very small party made the remaining journey through to the Botanic Garden. All in all a successful attempt on the Walkway. Next year Kanchenjunga or Mount Victoria. Problems with Sherpas and all that.

Student Health

The Latest (or earliest) in Pregnancy Tests

A new blood test for the early detection of pregnancy is now available in Wellington.

This test becomes positive at the time of a missed period or even earlier; compared to the conventional urine test which becomes positive about 14 days after a missed period.

The principal advantage is that a reliable diagnosis can be given 14 days sooner than previously. This can reduce the period of anxiety especially when there are fears of an unwanted pregnancy, but there are many other situations where an early diagnosis is important. With the new abortion procedures requiring decisions by

two certifying consultants there are bound to be delays in assessment of cases. All the more reason for early diagnosis.

One drawback is the cost, \$8.00 compared to \$3.00 for a standard urine test and free urine tests for students at the Health Service. However we've come a long way since the first pregnancy tests in 1928 when mice were injected with urine from the pregnant woman. And we've still got a long way to go. In many areas of New Zealand the new pregnancy test is not available.

The basis for most pregnancy tests is the detection of human chorionic gonadotrophin or H. C.G; a hormone produced by the placenta during pregnancy. It can be detected in blood or urine. The new test is technically known as a [*unclear*: radioimmuno]-assay or A.I.A. It uses H.C.G. labelled with radio isotopes of iodine.

Late Period? Report early!

Take a Walk on a Horse

Did you walk the Northern Walkway? Maybe you would rather ride the hills of Makara.

On Sunday 23rd April there will be a three hour conducted ride on hired horses.

Time: 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 Bring lunch for after.

Where: The Country Club Riding Academy, Ohariu Valley

Price: \$9.00

No experience is necessary. If you are interested ring Jan Brown 738-566/77 or call in at the recreation centre.

Eating at VIC

You don't care for our new taste sensation, Farswick?'

Drawing of people sitting at a table with food

Have you heard about the Restaurant?

On the middle floor of the Student Union Building there's an eating place as yet not frequented by many. Why? Probably because not many people know about it.

But just think. You can go along any lunchtime or dinnertime and get a good cheap meal. No longer do you need to waste time going down town or home when all you really want to do is take a half hour eating break.

No longer will it cost you prices you can't afford just to eat. Or perhaps it's even worse for you! But don't worry, now you won't need to eat any more old books.

At the restaurant they've got salads, omelettes, weiner schnitzel, lamb chops, steak, and a variety of other offerings.

So why not give it a try?

Opening hours:

- 11.30 a.m.—2 p.m.
- 4.30 pm.—7 pm.

And of course there's the cafeteria (open 9 am.—6 pm.) and the upstairs coffee bar (10 am.—3 pm.).

Clubs and Notices

A Dirty Club or Perhaps Just a Down to Earth Hobby?

The student-run Visual Arts Club provides instruction in various aspects of art, depending on demand—last year pottery, screenprinting and life-drawing, so far this year only pottery. We try, for a modest fee (and with financial aid from the Students' Association), to provide a more "basic" form of constructive relaxation as a relief from University work—a chance to exercise the hands as well as the brain?

Experienced tutors are employed, materials provided and facilities made available (thanks to the University Extension Department) so that students can explore a new dimension from any starting point. Our aim is not to train "production" potters or commercial screenprinters (indeed this is not our job) but rather to foster an interest in design in general or in the case of pottery, an interest in things ceramic.

Although the pressure of work, etc. may seem to preclude an indulgence in such "hobby" activities, even a

short time spent in this club appears to broaden one's outlook on design and may even produce more discerning patrons of the arts in years to come.

For any of you interested in joining this type of club our pottery class times are:—

We should be able to start up some other types of activities if you support us.

To find out more about us either drop a line c/o Students' Association or call me (Pippa—ph. 888—285 in the evenings)

Calling all Table Tennis Players

Winter's on the way and that's the season for table tennis.

Club night this year will be on Thursdays at 8.30 in the Gym, commencing 13 April. We'd like to see lots of you there, whether you're top grade interclub players or beginners who want to learn the game.

Entries for this year's interclub have to go in soon, and we'd like to enter teams in as many grades as possible—from 'A' grade, where all the top dogs play, to 'H' grade, where raw beginners get a lot of fun.

If you can get to club night on the 13th please do so that we can arrange a committee (volunteers would be very welcome) and also sort out the interclub teams.

If you're interested, but can't come along on the 13th, please phone me at work on 720-030, or at home in the evenings on 849-334.

Brian Read
Secretary
University Table Tennis Club

Tramping Club

Club members are asked to look at the notice-board where they will find details of the following following coming events:-

- Social Evening, Wed. 19 April
- Bushcraft Course, 21 to 23 April, There will be a film on bushcraft shown at the start of the Social Evening. All bods wishing to go on Bushcraft should attend.
- May Meet '78. This will be held, by AUCT. at Ruapehu from the 7th to the 10th of May. Accommodation and food \$12.00 approx. If you wish to go and want transport arranged, get in by the end of this week.

Members are reminded that, if they wish to attend the Alpine Instruction Course, Preference will be given to those who attend Bushcraft and Rockcraft courses beforehand. The Rockcraft Course will be held about two weeks into the second term. Details will be announced by the end of the first term.

Attention!!!!!!!!!!!!

Is this the chance you've been waiting for?? Are you looking for thrills?! excitement?!! Instant Alcoholism?!!!!

Then join.....

The Snooker Club!!!

(this club caters for the "not-so-good" as well as the "good", so don't worry about the standard)

If you're interested in playing some snooker for two or three hours on a Wednesday night, ring Stu Lang at 796—205, or give your name.

Games will commence this week.

Play Snooker—Join Now!!!

Any students who are interested in meeting to discuss the formation of a group, on campus, supporting the retention of the South African Consulate in New Zealand, write to the Box-holder, P.O. Box 9089, Wellington.

We need at least 20 people to become affiliated, and if enough students show their support a meeting will be called to elect officers and to discuss policies.

Remember—"Give them a fair go."

(fair?????????—typstr)

Women and Mental Health

A discussion lead by Janice Bums from the psych, dept. Wgtn. hospital

Women and Bursaries

Most women students are even poorer than male students. A brief discussion on women and bursaries will follow the discussion on women and mental health.

Wed. 19 April 7.30 p.m. Foyer memorial theatre. All Women Welcome!

Organised by VUWSA Women's Liberation

Avant—Garde Music

Performance in the Union Hall, Monday, 12—2 pm.

The Music Club

The newly formed music club will be holding its first social meeting. The date will be Tues., 18th April in the Lounge/Smoking Room at 7.30 p.m.

Everyone is expected to bring their instruments or whatever they have to offer. The music club is for blues, rock, folk, or any sort of modern music.

If information is required phone 795—800 and ask for Tony.

Victoriana Bazaar

Saturday 29th April 2.00 pm.

Turnbull House, Bowen St.

Victoriana Bazaar to raise funds for Hunter Building Conservation feasibility study.

Saleable objects are Wanted from every student who cares about Hunter. Please drop things off at 109 Salamanca Road or phone 793—616 re collection

Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish Country Dancing

Tuesday April 18th 5—7 p.m.

Union Hall

All Welcome to join us.

Drama Club

Wednesday 19th April, 7.30 p.m.

Coffee Room

A social for those interested in actively participating in the drama club this year.

Biolsoc

Trip to Kapiti Island April 25th. See Biolsoc Notice Board for details

Kirk Cup

Wednesday 26 April

Kirk Cup is coming. Annual Botany vs. Zoology competition. For details see Biological Society Notice Board, Floor 1, Kirk Building.

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 Beg, Wellington

Drawing of a man impaled by a large pen

Dear Simon,

Last week Vic Urwin in the Salient letter pages wrote "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"

Leaving aside the matter of "rights" and what constitutes a right, for the moment, let us examine Vic's statements about contraception.

First of all he makes the assumption that women want to use abortion as a means of—rather than a back-up to—contraception that has failed. Women get pregnant because no contraceptive is 100% safe, not even the Pill. Not convinced Vic? Then look at the failure rates:

If a woman diligently takes the Pill every day at the same hour throughout her cycle but happens to vomit one day, she could get pregnant. The chances are fairly slim but it could and does happen.

And what then Mr. Urwin? If the woman is fortunate enough and can afford the trip to Australia, she can have a safe legal abortion, but if she is poor then she is condemned either to a backstreet abortion or a life of hardship;

On the question of "rights", Vic Urwin has again misunderstood the application of the phrase "a woman's democratic right". He says it could have been argued that Hitler had a "democratic right" to kill 6 million Jews. A "democratic right" is not a "right" to do whatever you like, that's anarchism, but it is a right to control your own life without state interference. Examples of this, as I said before, are the right to criticise the government, the right to withdraw your labour and finally the right to control your own reproduction. Abortion is a civil liberty which is, at present, being denied to New Zealand women.

Why are people (especially SPUC people) so afraid of the slogan "abortion—a woman's democratic right"? It is because this slogan emphasises that denying women abortions is not only a fundamental attack on women's rights but also part of the other attacks on the rights of all New Zealanders.

With the introduction of the Commerce Act and the Industrial Relations Act amendments workers no longer have the right to strike. With the passing of the SIS Act, New Zealanders no longer have the right to criticise the government without fear of being spied upon.

Finally, with the passing of the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act, women no longer have the right to control their own reproductive lives. All these rights that are being eroded are "democratic" rights.

SPUC people would like to see the abortion issue treated on a purely "moral" level, i.e. their morality will dictate who has (or rather does not have) abortions. But we are not dictating to women who do not wish to have abortions, that they must have them. Conversely we are asking for the democratic right of women to decide whether or not they want an abortion.

Lindy Cassidy
President
VUWSA

China and Nuclear Weapons

Dear Simon,

I don't believe that the interview you carried in the Salient of April 3, under the headline "China's Foreign Policy: 'Minor reasons should obey big reasons'" was an accurate expression of the current Chinese government's views on important questions like nuclear disarmament.

For instance the interviewee, Wang Bingnan, claims that China favours all countries signing a pledge not to use nuclear weapons first. This in fact had been China's position for a number of years. But the frenetic anti-Sovietism of current Chinese foreign policy has changed that. China advises the West not to sign a no first-strike-pledge because it would supposedly disarm them against a Soviet strike,

Peking Review, an official government newspaper, wrote in a recent issue that the Soviet Union "attempted to render ineffective the Western defence based on nuclear deterrence by proposing that all participating countries in the European Security Conference undertake 'not to be the first to use nuclear weapons'. This proposal has been denounced by many farsighted French people."

The most recent Chinese statement along these lines is also the most disturbing. China has denounced the USA for its statements that it might cancel production of the neutron bomb!

The followers of China's policies in New Zealand are taking a similar approach. One of these Maoists, under the title of "Political Correspondent" expressed that in an article on the French elections.

"Political Correspondent" writes that "the FCP—FSP (French Communist Party—French Socialist Party—M.T.) alliance would only have disarmed the French people against the military threat posed by the Soviet Union Given the choice of a black cat and a white cat the French people have chosen one with a better attitude to hegemonism." Thus a right-wing victory is presented in a positive light simply because it might mean a greater hostility to the Soviet Union!

Another striking inaccuracy in the interview is in Wang Bingnan's attitude to the Israeli government. Wang states that "We support the Palestinians and Arabs, so we resolutely refuse to establish diplomatic relations with Israel or have any intercourse with it".

Recently, in contradiction to this statement, China has sung the praises of the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, in his so-called peace initiative. Sadat had "sold out the Palestinians by visiting Jerusalem—tantamount to recognition of the Zionist state", as Sarah Brown pointed out in Salient March 27. This visit paved the way for the Israeli invasion of Southern Lebanon, since it emboldened the Zionist state.

China used to believe that "no one has the right to engage in political deals behind their (the Palestinians—M.T.) backs, bartering away their right to existence" (Peking Review, 1971). Now it supports precisely such deals. China supports Egypt because Egypt broke its relations with the Soviet Union. Peking Review writes that "President Sadat held direct negotiations with Israel in an effort to make a comparatively thorough break with Soviet control over Middle East peace talks".

Palestinian interest, like the blatant Western escalation of the nuclear arms race, are secondary to China in its anti-Soviet paranoia.

Yours,

Mike Treen.

Letters Unintellectual

Dear Ed,

In a newspaper that supposedly caters for people of a higher intellectual level than normal, one would expect to find letters on more controversial topics, however this is not so. Constantly there are immature letters appearing in your column that could have been written by 8 year old Tartan Terror or Andy Gibb fans.

Hail Sex Pistols and the like. Bands that get banned are good, they do at least stir up this turgid mess of music one must put up with. It is ironic that songs similar to Anarchy and Bodies are banned in New Zealand, which all goes to Bob Jones' theory that only money can buy verbal freedom (all \$32,000) worth).

Come on you new wave mongooses, lets have an almighty punky reggae party and get the the Reptiles to Victoria.

Sid and John

(I quite agree with you about the trivial nature of a lot of our letters, but I can't help feeling they're all part of punk—Ed.)

What are Rights?

I would like to thank the typstr for the comments made in reply to my letter published in Salient 27/3/78. I agree that the problem is over a scale of rights, and who is deemed to possess rights. There is a conflict between those who say that abortion is a woman's democratic right and those who say that abortion is not a right at all. The whole problem comes back to the question of how it can be determined what rights exist, and even, are there such things as rights?

It seems to me that the whole matter of rights derives from the nature of human beings. For example, the fact that most adults can think independently and form their own opinions indicates a right of freedom of thought, and following from this freedom of expression. But even so, there are limits on these rights, because if one person's rights are exercised in a certain manner, they may cut across the rights of others.

But is abortion a 'right' like this? Sure, women have the 'right' to do as the please with their bodies, but is

this an unlimited 'right'? Obviously not—one doesn't have the right to use one's body to murder other human beings, or wilfully injure them, for instance. Do rights have no responsibilities attached to them? Does the human foetus have some rights? The foetus's rights may be less than that of the mother, but are its rights such that its existence should not be terminated unless the mother's life is in danger? To suggest that a foetus is not human at all is to deny fact, for it does have a number of human characteristics; though obviously it does not possess every human characteristic.

The answer to the questions I have mentioned above varies according to which side of the abortion issue one places oneself on. However, I submit that it is most certainly not obvious that a woman has a right to an abortion per se, and it is disputed by many that such a right exists. To go around shouting that abortion is a woman's democratic right is to state something which is not accepted by many, and is rather doubtful that exists at all.

Yours etc.

Vic Urwin.

Identification

Dear Simon,

"You in there! If you don't stop playing that bloody piano. I'll go mad!"

I think that it is pretty stink that in order to gain usage of the rental equipment in the gymnasium you must first produce either an ISIC card or your driver's licence. Producing a library card does not seem to be sufficient proof of one's one's integrity. This classification of students as potential criminals appalls me.

It must be obvious to even the most meagre-brained idiot that this regulation blatantly discriminates against those of us who through no fault of our own have had our licenses revoked and do not possess the funds to purchase an ISIC card. Is this just another of the many stupid regulations on campus? Or could it be a plot to regain some of the \$80,000 that N.Z. Truth alleges the N.Z. University Students Travel Bureau owes its Australian counterpart?

Regretfully yours,
Disqualified driver

Cryptic

Dear Simon,

My firends say that all your letters are made up by the people who write your paper. If that is so then is this letter also written by the people who write your paper?

Yours,

Simon

(Alright, who's the scab?—Ed.)

Heard about the Restaurant?

Dear Simon,

BANG BANG BANG ALL RIGHT, WHO'S OUT THERE MAKING ALL THAT NOISE? IT'S THE GARAGE BANG BANG BANG BANG HE KEEPS HITTING 'EM BACK!

It has come to my attention that there are plans afoot to close the restaurant in the Student Union. Apparently the place is losing money.

I would be very disappointed if this were to happen as the restaurant provides the only decent full-meal service in the immediate vicinity of campus. And the prices are reasonable too. The lack of customers is probably more attributable to inadequate publicity than anything else.

Surely the Union management could do better than that wee sign over the door. After all how many students venture to the middle floor of the Union building in an average day?

So here is a blow for Restaurant PR. It is there people, and the food is generally quite good, and the prices are decent—and the staff are very friendly to boot!

And as for the people responsible for management, let's see some proper advertising and a proper sign out front. I strongly suspect that if people knew it were there, it would have many more customers.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Thompson

Hello Sailor Goodbye

This letter pertains to our disappointment at having missed the Hello Sailor concert in the lounge last Friday. Why was the concert not advertised more thoroughly, as then we might have had a chance to know about it.

Disappointed,
John NormanMatt Fyfe
Everlie Hall

Simple Pleasures

Dear Sir,

I have been appalled and disgusted by the letters on the subject of "Sex with an Aardvark" which have appeared in the Salient recently.

The very idea of a physical union between human and animal sickens me. Right thinking people do not want to hear about bestiality, fornication with a helpless beast, it's honey coloured fur glowing in the soft light, naked loins pulsing. And then the sensations, the whip biting into your helpless body, blood gushing (not forgetting the oral sex). Then as you grasp the oh dear I'm dreadfully sorry but these things affect me sometimes.

Yours,

Hugh Scrotum.

President of the Society for the Prevention of Depravity and Debauchery, and all that sex and necrophillia and aardvarks (but only twice a week), and not forgetting throbbing members and rape and.....

(Who said aardvarks were helpless?—typstr.)

Book Cons and other Grouches

Dear Sir,

I would like to expedite a few inquiries through your hallowed columns if I may. Firstly I must congratulate the Political Science Dept. for advertising the book "The New Zealand Voter in their prospectus, and then

telling all us sucker students in the first lecture that it was not required! Was this Dept, in collusion with the Victoria Book Centre to get rid of old stock or was it just a practical joke? Either way it was bloody sickening as it cost me the best part of ten bucks.

Secondly, I must congratulate the Accountancy Dept. for a similar feat. That time, after reading their prospectus, I purchased their textbook as quoted at Whitcoulls for a mere twenty bucks or so. And what happens my dearly beloved? Some turd of a lecturer tells us First time out that this isn't the required text but we can purchase the current one from a stall outside K303 or from the Vic. Book Centre. Once again I am forced to conclude that a major plot had been arranged to suck in idiots like myself so that certain businesses could dispose of old stock.

This of course leads me to question, wh, didn't the personnel at Victoria Book Centre, i. e. Underwood and friends check to see that the books quoted were actually required? After all, as a business supposedly working in the students' interests should they not see this as a reasonable step to take? Are Mr. Underwood and friends reasonable people?

As a snivel servant I just loved the way the Library was open for my purposes on Easter Monday. As this was one of my rare moments to do some study I was most disappointed to see the library was closed. Is that bloody edifice there to serve the students study requirements or or just a place to keep a few more people employed? I consider it piss poor when a man can't get access to the background reading he needs to do when he wants to do it. I consider the Library a service, but it would appear to be a bloody useless service at that.

I must offer my humble thanks and grovelling platitudes of merciful benefices to my beloved Lindy Cassidy and Co. for allowing me the honour of a barely recognisable sacrifice to myself which I should really regard as an investment in my own interests, i.e. that \$37.00 contribution I had to make to some shit for brains organisation at the beginning of the year. How thankful I was when I realised that someone somewhere just oozed satisfaction at the thought good old Gundtfartin's wallet being opened and 37 tinsy winsy little itty bitty arsehole dollars we went into paying the equivalent of a full time student's Studass fees when yours truly is crawling up that bloody hill to do a pitiful one unit this nineteen hundred and seventy eighth year of Christ.

Why the hell should I pay the same as a full time student when I am only doing one third his workload. Pisspoor yer hear, if I catch who made me pay that lot I kick the buggar. I hope whoever it was gets a dose of the clap. I hope all their brain cells turn cancerous, their grandmothers recompose themselves as Uncle Remus, their pet rabbits turn into llamas.

Really Gundtfartin please control yourself, what will all your readers think. Don't worry folks, I've got a piece of paper to say I'm sane. I bet you haven't got one hahahahaha no no please don't take me away my mummy loves me. Go on piss off you little bit of a wombats do. Yer awlright.

Yours expecting (in 9 months)

Gundtfartin Arseholes

P.S. I just love having to type my letters out these days. Well done Mr. Editor, sir.

(Arghhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!—typstr)

(Thank you. Your students association fee doesn't subsidise your academic work so the size of your workload is irrelevant. It does however help to pay for all the association facilities which you are free to benefit from. These include the recreation centre, everything in the Student Union Building—if you belong to a club you can use the rooms free of charge and get money to finance your activities—and the vast amount of education, welfare, political, cultural, and social work the association undertakes.

The fee also includes a levy to NZUSA so they can work on your behalf at a national level, and a levy to the Students Arts Council which enables them to tour artists and their work and gain discounts at concerts etc for students.—Ed)

Cryptic Criticism ...?

Dear Simon,

I am indeed sorry to have missed Sun, Moon and Earth's latest performance "The Total Eclipse of the Moon", especially since I gather that their newly refurbished premises The Sky have none of Downstage's problems with airconditioning nor of Circa's difficulties with sightliness. I am grateful to have had my attention drawn to this production by your drama critic John Bailey—whose review of Red Mole, I might add, I much preferred to your own. I am impressed with your critic's ideological position concerning the function of theatre in New Zealand today and I appreciate the irony in the headline given to his review—"Stumbling in the Dark".

In these benighted times we should be grateful for such lucidity and enlightenment as he offers.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Dale

What about a Pome?

Dear Simon,

On behalf of the lovers of literary art in this university I would like to give you a Gentle hint, can't you include a little more good proletarian art in the form of poetry in your otherwise superb student 'newspaper'.

I have heard on very good authority that even the Salient workers may boast a few poetical geniuses, so why not take advantage of the situation?

PS This letter was not written by a Salient worker, especially not J—— S——

PPS could we have an aardvark appreciation corner?

Yours in all honesty

Ann Onymous.

(Mary had a little———,
Whose fleece was white as———,
And everywhere that Mary———,
The lamb was sure to too.
How's that Ann? — typstr)

Druids in Trouble

Sir,

I would like to express the disappointment our group has felt at the lack of interest shown in our society's advertisement. In the near future a rather important event in our calendar will be coming up for which it is vital to sacrifice at least [*unclear: threv*] virgins (preferably more), but as yet only one application has been made. Is this disinterest due to general student apathy, or is it that there are no longer any virginal students at this institute of higher learning? If so could it have something to do with some of the behaviour at the swimming pool?

Yrs Igor XIV for The New Zealand Society of Druidic Practices and Satanism

Stimulus in the Cafe

To Whom it may concern,
Dear Whom,

Last week while sitting in the Cafe I heard a question asked that set my brain, which was in an advanced state of atrophy, into action. Alas even with such metaphysical thinking I could not grasp the answer, and so I must ask this perplexing question to the populace in general and mad scientists in particular namely:

"Why is a mouse when it spins?::

I wonder if there is an answer or is it a Government plot?

Yours questioningly

Ima Pseudonym

(If you read Salient enough you would know it is always a Government plot.—Ed.)

Mamby - Crambies

Dear Sir Simon (KBE?)

Neil Gray at the AGM called many students mamby-cramby cretins of which I suppose I would be a typical example. What would Neil's model student look like?.

Would s/he be a non honourable person as Neil suggested in the case of the secretary and treasurer?

Would s/he rush to meetings to nominate themselves the cleverest person as we saw Neil doing?

Neil does flap his redwinged fins a lot but is a good fish.

A Mamby-Cramby
Yachtie Cretin

Drivel

Dear Simon, (tit)

I was disgusted and appalled to hear that you (you horrible little toady) had decided in your infinite wisdom, that the occasional silly letter that happens to appear in your damned rag (and even that's a compliment) is drivel, (not unlike certain editorials and Salient notes) and that in your esteemed position as head tit in Salient you have decided to stop the printing of these letters. Well sir, you may not like these letters and their content but there are students on this campus that feel that they are the high point of your magazine (which doesn't say a hell of a lot for it.) Granted that there are equally students who like Salient in its present form (God help them,) but they are already catered for by the rest of your magazine.

This magazine is supposedly a paper for all students, not just the students you feel like catering for, so cater for them idiot. And guess how you can? Yes Simon, by pandering to the wishes of those who waste their time reading it, them, whatever, by sir, printing those letters. Salient is not your personal little empire, written and printed for your own desires, it's written and printed by students for students. Do you get the gist of my meaning sir, . . . print those letters you smutty little son's of another person's donkey biting wiper of other people's rear-ends. (I would like to thank Michael Pallin and his associates for the inspiration behind that last tirade against you.)

Well I've got a Maths lecture now, so I'M going to finish now. I hope that you don't class this letter as drivel as it is written with extremely serious intentions, to awaken you to the fact that you and your little bunch of workers are not alone in this world, and that some other students do sometimes come here and do have actually some ideas, thoughts desires and wishes.

tata young man.

Zachariah A.R.S. Licker

(Of course I call this drivel. If you claim to speak for the students who have "ideas, thoughts, desires and wishes" then god help them. I agree with you that I am not in a position to rule on what people are going to find funny but I suspect you are overestimating your own popularity. There is a further reason why I have not printed many of these letters: they are unnecessarily abusive. I am telling you right now that unless you can contain your nasty little mind I won't be printing any more—Ed)

(How dare you insult Simon's Mother!—typstr)

Cooperative Baby-Sitting

Dear Editor,

Drawing of women being turned into food

I am trying to contact other solo parents on campus, regarding forming a cooperative babysitting service, mainly for weekend and weekday evenings. As a newcomer to this state, I'm feeling incredibly deprived of entertainment and cannot afford babysitter's fees. I'm sure there must be others unfamiliar with Wellington also having this problem.

I can be contacted at 12 Oriental Terrace, or telephone 843—472.

Ta,
Frances O'Sullivan

On not Taking Sides

To Everybody,

How anyone can take sides as regards the Middle East situation is beyond me. There is no justification for war.

Both sides are guilty of Murder.

The justifications given reflect the type of thinking that led previous generations to war, and nearly destruction.

Come on, Let us not make the same mistake.

Here's hoping,
G.N.

Next Time You Don't See A Sensible Letter . . .

Dear Aard-up,

The other day I walked into the Cafe (at Sasrac Time) only to be jumped on by two/ three/six/ten friends who implored me to join the AGM of Aardsoc. Being a gullible fool and unable to see anyone else to sit with, I went along to see what was happening. I must confess that never before had I thought about the special difficulties that Aardvarks face and the ensuing conversation was most enlightening.

Sitting at the third table along, two from the window, my heart became filled with sorrow and pity as I learnt of the great oppression which the common aardvark faces in western society. Not many people realise this but in New Zealand [*unclear*: ill] surviving aardvarks are kept behind bars and there are some rumours that aardvarks are even extinct in New Zealand.

The relationships between students and aardvarks have been much distorted by the popular press with commercial media maintaining a pretence that there are no relationships between aardvarks and students. We know that students are not so narrow minded and thus deliver an impassioned plea for all good people to take a look around them and see what our society really is doing to aardvarks—next time you don't see an aardvark, stop a minute and think why!

Yours in heartfelt Sincerity,

Me
(short for me)

On Being a Potential MP

Dear Typesetter,

Your counter-example of being a "potential MP" (3 Apr., 1978) could be used against you. If it is applied to the debate in question in a strict fashion the result would be:

- I am a "potential Mp"
- A present MP has the right to prevent me from becoming an MP.
Some may consider the second assertion as 'dangerous'.

Hope to Helpful,
'The Philosopher'

- I am a sperm, a "potential Human Being"
- A present human being has the right to prevent me from becoming a human being.
The Pope definitely thinks that the second assertion is dangerous,—typstr

Long Live Bureaucrats

Dear High Panjandrum,

I am writing to declare that this will be the last letter I will write to the Salient until you or a successor of yours quit refusing to print handwritten letters. The fact that you acting on your own miniscule authority, are restricting letters to those written only by people with time and typing ability to type their letters, is almost as great an infringement of individual rights as restricting abortions to those who can afford to fly to Australia.

I graduated from the railways Dept before coming to this establishment. Your action is worse than the greatest manifestations of bureaucracy I witnessed there. In your petty attempt to to make things easier for your own operation, at the cost of making things difficult for those you are supposed to serve, you are out bureaucrating the bureaucrats!

P.S. If my one man boycott has no effect or if this (hand-written) letter is not printed, expect to find me below the Salient Window throwing typewriters up at it, to continue my protest.

(Make sure they've got new ribbons in them—Ed.)

Aardvarks as Social Revolutionaries?

Dear Simon,

My Press Secretary informs me that you are not Simon Walker so it seems fairly safe to write to you. Let me congratulate you on your wonderfully perceptive and pertinent criticism of the Labour Party. It is a job to behold such wisdom in one so young—it makes me proud to be a New Zealander.

However one of my wonderfully clean cut guardians of democracy happened to be on campus and he collected a copy of Salient to read during the long lonely hours of surveillance on dangerous radicals, potential lefties and other citizens of our wonderful country. When this paper found its way into my hands I was appalled at what I read.

Firstly criticisms of the S.I.S.—this patriotic group of young people preserves democracy from mis-guided elements within our society.

The effectiveness and integrity of such organisations which are above the law has been proven countless times in countries such as Chile and South Africa.

Secondly Aardvark sex. This is not only unnatural, but it also relegates women to the workforce as their place in the bedroom is taken by lust crazed Aardvarks. As these women are forced into the workforce they become unemployed and we do not have sufficient money to pay them all the dole so cut out encouraging Aardvark sex.

As the law now stands Aardvark abortions are legal however this will soon change and all Aardpeople will be dealt with accordingly.

Be warned.
Love,
Rod Muldoon

Wishy-Washy Politics

Dear Simon,

I was deeply disturbed by the irresponsible attitude taken by the Wed., 5th, SRC meeting. It was a blatant victory for all you middle-of-the-roaders, who probably don't bother to come, since Mr. Tees managed to get a motion passed which effectively said that we'll just condemn both sides in the Israel/Lebanon conflict rather than formulate some definite policy.

The arguments used by Mr. Tees were sickeningly patronising toward both sides of the debate, and reminded me of the "Fair and Reasonable Party" manifesto (which promises fair and reasonable treatment towards everybody in all situations at all times).

Students have got an important role to play in in the politics of NZ, and this is being hindered greatly by students' willingness to give in easily to this wishy-washy sort of policy making. It was a disgusting turn-around, particularly by the pro-Israeli students, who after having blamed all the present troubles on the Palestinians, voted for this motion which really said no one was more to blame than the other.

Also could somebody tell me how come a procedural motion can halt the discussion of another motion, and call for it to be put to the vote, without any debate occurring as to whether or not further discussion of that motion would change the outcome of a vote on it? Majority rules, but let's give the (narrow) minority a chance to put forward their views at least.

N.A. Livick

The Real Christianity

Dear Sir,

It's doubtful Salient's editorial policy has changed but it was unusual to see a report (on the University Inaugural Church Service) which openly followed a Christian line. It put forward the view that what is generally called Christianity is actually a distortion of "true" Christianity, and therefore it really isn't the reactionary superstition it appears to be.

Like most Christian apologetics this appeals to those who want to believe, and though it isn't strictly invalid because of the ambiguity and inconsistency of the sources of Christian "teaching", it is improbable because it means the vast majority of those who have called themselves Christians in the last two thousand years have misunderstood what J.C. and the other prophets were about, while a select few, such as the report's writer, know the truth. Pull the other one, mate. Individuals who criticise the Christians for not being "real" Christians generally see Christianity as bourgeois humanism plus a bit of mysticism, which may be the impression given by Christian propaganda, but it isn't correct.

However I don't think many students would disagree with the point the report makes that the Chaplaincy and Christian clubs are irrelevant, though it doesn't draw the obvious conclusion that they should be abolished, if only as a concession to the Twentieth Century.

Yours etc.,

G. Herrington

NZUSA Leaders Attacked

Dear Salient,

I am pissed off. . . . , people wonder why NZUSA is apparently collapsing in ruins, well I'm going to fucking tell you why. For years, leaders have seen NZUSA only as a federation of constituent students association presidents and officers. This has Meant the Final Alienation of the Ordinary Student from NZUSA in that Damn Hole Wellington.

All the presidents and officers and other wankers have kept things this way because they are only interested in preserving their own selfish, bourgoise, elitist, power preserving capitalist cliques at the top, at the expense of the ordinary student at large. Many of the present incumbants, both of NZUSA national office, present presidents, and their immediate predecessors are guilty of this.

The ordinary student has lost his effective 'say' in NZUSA 'goings on' because of this long standing elitist plot. Presidents have in the past (and recently) failed to report back the goings on on the national exec of NZUSA in a sufficiently frank, comprehensive and honest fashion.

Now . . we have people like Lisa Saksen and Lindy Cassidy trying unsuccessfully to smooth things over, whitewash, and cover up facts revealing the full seriousness of the situation facing NZUSA, while people like Mike Lee (pres of Canterbury) are busy pulling NZUSA to bits clearly it's easier to destruct than try to start again. (Talk sense to fools and they call you foolish)

So, the present leaders are incapable. What is to be done? it is clear that it's going to be up to the ordinary students to register their displeasure at the ballot box and various meetings and also to get off their rears and do something to make the useless and often not entirely honest leaders realize that a fundamental change is needed not only in their attitudes but also in the whole working of NZUSA.

Given the necessary change NZUSA could emerge as a strong, worthwhile representative organisation.

Signed,
HRH Viscount Vulture
DSO KBE DFC

PS More on obscene activities in Wai-te-ata Rd.! Next week!

2) The Marijuana Party are a pack of non-descriptturd!

Colin's Column

Dear Colin,

Drawing of two animals mating

I have a couple of terrible problems, the first of which is anal warts. This problem has been with me since the time I was doing a B.Sc. and now that I'm doing Torts this has suddenly become of paramount importance, as you can no doubt appreciate!

The second problem is that although I am an Exec, member no-one seems to like me or talk to me.

What could be causing these problems, could it be premature menopause?

Please answer this letter soon as I am quite desperate!

Pierre Starling.

Dear Pierre,

Do not be ashamed! Your problem is more common than you think. In fact the Colsey Report estimated that 70% of adults are affected by this at one time or another. Warts are an infection that are best cured by lots of fresh air. Remember bums are beautiful!

With regard you your second enquiry, may I suggest you try Lifeperson soap.

Yours in perversion,

Colin.

Gotta Stunt!

Drawing of an ogre wearing clothes
Pre-Capping Week
Hop
on Friday Night April 21st, with
Raz
in the varsity cafe 8 pm.—1 am.
Photo of a man on a beach with a union jack

Abortion Meeting

How can we all work together to defeat undemocratic and restrictive abortion laws?
Put aside Saturday April 22 as a day to discuss issues of the abortion struggle, and to decide our plan of action.

What should our immediate demands be?

To what extent should men be drawn into the struggle?

How can we involve masses of people in the fight for the legal right to abortion?

How do we achieve united action?

Most importantly, how best can we go about the fight for women's right to abortion? What do we do next?

We don't have all the answers to these questions. Some of us have one view, others see things differently. The important thing is to find the common ground from which to launch our attack on the undemocratic and restrictive abortion laws. Do come and share your ideas.

We would like to see as many people as possible at this meeting, and extend a special invitation to those not already involved in organisations working in the abortion struggle. Our task is find the way to best work together for our common goals.

Tell your neighbours and friends about the meeting, and urge them to come. Bring all your ideas for action—practical and dramatic.

when: April 22, 1 to 5 pm.

where: Rata and Rimu Rooms, YWCA.

creche provided

Meeting organised by March 8 Committee, P.O. Box 9047, Courtenay Place.