

# This Week: Exec Gets the Once Over

"Now are you going to resign"?

## Editorial

### The Fruit Cake Solution

There are now five months to the election. The outcome is not such a foregone conclusion as many thought at the beginning of the year, and many people are finding the issues becoming more and more complex. The government is proving less capable by the day of preserving its image of saviour from economic ills and protector of the national integrity.

In Auckland Bastion Point protestors have carried their demands into the courtroom, many refusing to recognise the authority of a system which so blatantly ignores their own. In Parliament, MPs have again refused to take even a "middle of the road" stance on the abortion question, while their personal bickering is on the upswing in an attempt to divert public attention from the real issues.

The 1978 budget, analysed on page 7, has proved a belated attempt to assure New Zealanders that their needs are being catered for, the new tax structure not only gives no relief to those on the lower income scale, but actively works against their interests. The people catered for are in the middle range: Muldoon is not trying to "narrow the gap" between poor and rich or any other such nonsense, he is effectively isolating low income groups from the rest of the public, thus hoping to lessen public support for their credibility. By making it even harder for people to take up part-time jobs he is penalising those who most need them, the families who cannot sustain themselves at a reasonable level on a single wage.

Right on cue, anti-union feeling has reared its ugly head in the Clerical Workers Union. The leaders of this movement claim they know what they are doing, that although their demands would mean the disbandment of the union, they feel sure they could come to some amicable agreement with employers.

The latter, backed by many sections of the daily press, are only too willing to oblige. They know that workers' rights have only ever been won by organised union action. With unemployment still rapidly rising and redundancy being the standard course of action for any business which cannot maintain profit levels, it is becoming increasingly obvious that business interests serve noone but themselves. Trade negotiations have reopened with Japan, with Muldoon struggling hard to promote the image of a leader who will not give in to foreign pressure. Incredibly, the argument is still over what terms the Japanese will have to drain New Zealand of one of its vital resources, fishing. The government may be holding back on an overt sell-out of our fishing interests, but it is nowhere near initiating moves to develop fishing into a strong national industry.

This year is "Export year", the idea being that New Zealand will try to trade its way out of the crisis. But what happens? Our natural resources are depleted by overseas interests, the myth that the country is incapable of developing a heavy industrial base is given wider currency even as Japan strips us of our ironsands, and businesses involved in the light industry sector make great play of their little successes.

A good example of this was given recently by John Lithgow, MP for Palmerston North, when he displayed in Parliament the wares of a Palmerston exporter. Glass samurai swords destined for Japan and fruit cakes for Australia, the USA and Dubai, using Australian raisins! With this sort of thinking New Zealand won't be able to trade its way out of a wet paper bag. And of course, so long as we remain dependent on the whims of a world economic order which is scarcely aware of our existence we are never going to be economically secure.

Meanwhile, the election draws closer. Are Labour promising anything different? No. Statements by Rowling and his cronies have espoused exactly the same philosophy underlying Muldoon's budget. They too would adopt the same tactic for disguising the hardship faced by so many people in this country, selling our resources to overseas interests, attacking people's civil liberties whenever they felt threatened.

So how important does this make the election? The election does have one important function. It awakens people's interest in political matters, and with the political and economic status quo deteriorating so rapidly, it provides an excellent opportunity for us to question the basis on which that status quo exists. Whose interests are the parties serving? The Bastion Point protestors, the women being forced back into the home, the families

struggling to make ends meet on one income all have first hand experience of the answer.

Simon Wilson

## Salient Notes

The door of the Salient office stands ajar, a thin arrow of blue moonlight hovers artistically across the paper-strewn floor. Inside it is dark but two eyes glow like white-hot coals betraying the eerie subhuman presence of Peter Beach trying to tune in to the mental wavelength of Heraclitus, "the dark one" of antiquity, in time for his Phil 121 exam tomorrow. Incense burns and the tentative twanging of a sitar is heard. No, my mistake, closer inspection reveals it to be Simon Wilson using the typesetter. Ten thousand dollars worth of equipment and it commands less respect than Jonathan Scott. As my eyes adjust to the light it becomes evident that there is more going on here than meets the unadjusted eye. An owl hoots indignantly from its perch on top of Lorraine Robinson's head. Sorry to disturb you owl, I was just wondering why the walls are all covered with Persian carpets. The owl does a triple loop-the-loop, zig-zags up, dive-bombs down and flies upside down out the door. In a flash I realise myself to be one of the few surviving observers of the Pythagoras owl. Tripping over Helen Aikman's body on the floor confirms this theory.

Outside in the graveyard a wolf howls. Another wolf howls. Andrew Casey screams. Silence falls again. The ground staff are going to have to do something about those wolves. That idea of introducing Grizzly Bears to kill them off didn't go down very well with the Student Health Service. Oblivious to the danger Martha Coleman sits on a grassy bank pulling the heads off social democrats. Up in the trees above her an owl hoots.

Odder and odder. A rhythmic tapping noise downstairs calls the Sherlock Holmes in me to investigate. David Kent hurries past with a dripping bucket of cement. Turning the corner of the stairs at the entrance of the Union Building I find all trace of the cafeteria totally obscured by David Murray's 35ft long scale replica of the Great Wall of China nearing completion. It's his way of saying thank you to the China Delegation selection committee and goodbye to his friends here at Varsity. The caretaker's frenzied protests fall on deaf ears as Victoria Kennedy paces it's uncertain surface with a cardboard gun. Clo Taylor adds finishing touches to the base as the sound of rushing Water signifies that the filling of the fiord has commenced. Like talking to a brick wall he mumbles and leaves them to it. With a rush of wings an owl flies down the stairs, executes a perfect isosceles triangle in mid-air and settles on the wall. One eye closes, then the other. The lights fade and die.

I can't see Salient getting done this week. We might have to doctor up last week's Craccum again. But if "it is" it will be edited by Simon Wilson, printed by Wanganui Newspapers Drews Lane, Wanganui, and published by the courageous Victoria University of Wellington Students Association.

## SRC goes to Africa

Yes folks, last Wednesday saw the unprecedented event of an SRC, which spoke almost entirely for itself. Why, then, you may ask, did it take every bit of two hours to do so? (The first time is always the hardest -Sub-ed.) Well gird your loins, polish your glasses and read on: the answer lies within.

Beginning as usual with reports, President Lindy Cassidy announced the unanimous election of Grant Liddell to the post of Education and Welfare Vice-President of NZUSA. She also announced that Canterbury students had voted in a referendum (by about 700 to 400) in favour of withdrawing from NZUSA (See later story p.9.)

After brief reports from two SRC Officers - Welfare and International and another from one of the Science Faculty Reps, SRC Prof. Board rep Simon Wilson reported at some length on progress with Victoria's Quinquennial Submissions to the University Grant Committee (UGC). These submissions are the five-yearly applications for the funds to run the university.

He described the university's approach as "trying to impress with sincerity" and outlined three areas of direct concern to students. In the faculties of Law, Commerce and Architecture student/staff ratios have become so critical that something must be done. The university is not making a case for improving the situation in the light of existing and potential enrolments, but advocating cuts, in the number of enrolments.

Those parts of the submission dealing with the Union and Welfare are ambiguously worded so that although it appears the university is expressing its support for these areas they could also be seen as having a low priority. Attempts to change this failed at the Prof. Board (and have subsequently also failed in the Standing Committee of Council -Ed.).

Next up were elections, a generally quick affair except for the one contested position of Pubs Board Rep. The three hopefuls were Steve Watson, Andrew Tees, and Peter Beach. Steve Watson wanted to answer the call

of the surrounding masses for him to get involved in student politics. Andrew Tees made the pertinent comment "perhaps if I got involved I'd know what was going on".

Peter Beach mumbled something about Salient, revealing a wealth of experience, qualifications, youthful enthusiasm tempered with maturity, a sense of justice, equality, objectivity and literary knowledge..... all the things which come automatically to members of the Salient staff. Reaffirming its confidence in the paper, SRC elected Beach to the position by a four vote margin.

Other election results were: Arts Faculty, Michael Carr-Gregg and Jim "Albatross" Brown; Library Usage Committee, Margaret McDonald; University Extension Committee, Paul Noramn.

Elections over, it was time to consider the first of a list of ten motions on the agenda. An attempt to bring the Zaire issue (listed as No. 10) forward to No. 1 was defeated, so first up was a proposal, moved by Heberton/Carr-Greg calling for the extension of the library hours, particularly around exam time and on Friday nights. It was passed unanimously.

The second motion, moved Heymann/Heberton, called on the University to replace the break-down plagued lifts in the library. La Heymann informed the meeting that they were originally installed as the cheapest type available, and against the architect's advice. Parts are no longer available and this exacerbates the problem of getting repairs done quickly and properly. Another unanimous motion.

About now confusion began to reign supreme as Andrew Tees tried to withdraw, re-put, withdraw etc etc a motion regarding the sale of beer at SRCs. In the end it remained on the agenda, having been seconded by a gentleman on the balcony. Lindy Cassidy spoke strongly against the motion pointing out that such blatant sale of liquor on campus could endanger the survival of SASRAC.

Those present gave this aspect of the motion careful consideration and then passed the motion overwhelmingly. This debacle is a classic example of what happens when people insist on moving irresponsible motions and the consequences of an issue are considered less important than seemingly frivolous spirit.

But Tees had sighted up the lie of the land and there was no stopping him. Five times in a row he jumped up to claim "the motion speaks for itself and five times in a row he explained it. What should have been simple, quick and straightforward matters thus became long and drawn out.

Two motions concerned the need for increased parking facilities for the University, and urged some action in this area. Another motion urged the University to include a Student Representative on the Timetable Committee of the Professorial Board, and was dealt with in like fashion. (The university agreed -Ed.)

Luckily (for some eyes were beginning to droop) we were moving onto more important matters at last. There were two motions authorising the transfer of money from the Welfare Officer's fund to the Poverty fund and the July 14 Mobilisation fund Both were passed and we moved onto fresh ground.

## Zaire

By the end of the meeting it had been considerably trampled underfoot. Treen/ Siulepa moved: That this association condemns the invasion of Zaire by French and Belgian troops and calls for their immediate withdrawal and affirms the rights of the peoples of Zaire to self-determination.

Treen spoke to the motion laying particular emphasis on the corrupt and oppressive nature of the Mobutu regime and the real nature of western interests in Zaire and motives for the French/Belgian invasion. The massacres in Kolwezi were substantially contributed to by both Mobutu's own troops and the French, he said, and people should not be fooled by western claims to humanitarian concerns in invading Shaba province - their motivation was purely economic.

Gary Lewis voiced the first objection, that the western powers had not only a right but an obligation to protect their foreign nationals. Treen's was a "Marxist argument I suppose". David Murray disagreed. "Treen's argument wasn't a Marxist argument, it was a bloody bankrupt argument." Murray's speech, supported by a voluminous bundle of documents suggesting extensive research, dwelt mainly on the need to be clear about just who the rebels were in Kolwezi.

It was plain he said, that Zaire was the USSR's next African military target, after the use of Cuban troops and Russian equipment and military advisors in Angola, and more recently in Eritrea (on the Ethiopian border). "I agree with Mike (Treen) about the nature of the Zairean Government," he said, it would be the finest thing in the world if the people of Zaire put a bullet through Mobutu's head," but western imperialism was not the only variety operating in Zaire and indeed in Africa.

In the light of this Murray foreshadowed an alternative motion which condemned "the interference of the two superpowers and their allies in the affairs of Zaire and other Third World countries". (By foreshadowing a motion it means that should be the substantive motion, in this case Treen's, be lost Murray's would be considered immediately; if Treen's went through the foreshadowed motion would be ignored.)

After some intensive debate Treen's original motion was lost and Murray's carried with a substantial

majority.

In the little time left, two further motions were considered, before a quorum was lost at 2 o'clock, thwarting efforts to extend the meeting.

The first moved Norman/Brown [*unclear: recom-ne*] mending that the Association establish an Environmental Research Centre on campus was quickly passed, but such was not the case for the following motion moved Perry/Pike that all departments be required to post examination marks, rather than just grades. "Why?" was the question, "Why not not" the reply, the motion was lost and the meeting ground to a close.  
Jonathan Scott

# The Girls and Boys in the Backroom

## The Executive

Have you ever met a member of the Students' Association executive? Could you name them? You probably know they exist, somewhere. If you frequent the cafe you might even have seen some of them slipping down beside one of the tables, or from out in the foyer you might have spied one hiding behind the curtained doors of the studass office.

What do they do, these exec members? Well, they sell SASRAC tickets, and they spend your \$37 (keeping the association more or less out of the red); they help or organise campaigns on major aspects of policy, and they decide who can be a club and who cannot.

There are lots of other things, of course. Ever since 1969 the work of the association has been divided into administrative work done by the executive and political work done by SRC Officers. The reason for this separation was simply that exec members were finding so much of their time being taken up with the necessary but routine affairs of state that they had little to spend on anything else. More on the SRC Officers later.

Exec positions can be divided into three main groups. Firstly, there are the Sports, Accommodation, Cultural Affairs and Publications officers. The incumbents (except the Accommodation officer) all chair a council or board which in turn is responsible for all activities within its area. These exec members are thus supposed to liaise between the exec and the administrative bodies which work under them, organise and/or carry out that work, perform general administrative duties and implement association policy where appropriate.

The second group consists of Secretary, Treasurer and SRC Co-ordinator. The first two do what most secretaries and treasurers do: gather a great store of knowledge unto themselves and at the right time initiate others into the secrets of how to make incorporated societies function smoothly; or else get buried under a load of paperwork. The SRC Co-ordinator, in addition to the general activities which all exec members are supposed to participate in, is responsible for promoting SRCs and co-ordinating the work of all SRC representatives (who sit on some of the many committees of the university).

The third group involves the grand triumvirate of President, Man Vice President and Woman Vice President. None have specific tasks, except that the President is of course responsible for everything. The Vice Presidents are presumably meant to act as lieutenants to whom the President can delegate work at her/his pleasure. These positions have usually proved to be either a method for some populist to take the association for a \$300 ride, or for an enthusiast to become thoroughly conversant with and involved in a wide range of association activities: a hiding place or a stepping stone.

Exec members all get \$300 per year, except the Secretary who gets \$500, the Treasurer who gets \$1,000 and the President whose dedication is rewarded with the magnificent sum of \$3,000. While the President is the only one who is expected to be fulltime, the work involved in the other positions makes it exceedingly difficult for exec members to hold down a full-time varsity course and do their association work properly. Exec members can be contacted through the studass office in the cafe foyer.

## Src Officers

SRC Officers are elected directly by the SRC, which is open to any student who cares to attend (most Wednesday lunchtimes in the Union Hall). As I said earlier, they are responsible for much of the political work of the association. This doesn't mean just South Africa and East Timor, as some people like to think. There are 7 positions: Education, Welfare, Women's Rights, Environmental Affairs, National Affairs, International Affairs and Overseas Students. Each Officer is expected to take charge of actioning the policy within his/her area, to mount such campaigns as appear necessary, to cooperate with the SRC Co-ordinator in making sure that SRC reps on the committees say the right thing at the right time, to take up student grievances (exec

members will also do this if you ask them nicely) and generally work in with the President who should try to co-ordinate the levels of activity in each area.

SRC Officers are responsible to SRC and are supposed to make periodic reports on what they have been up to. Earlier in the year one or two officers insisted on giving a report every week even though the work done didn't always warrant it. That seems to have stopped now, although some officers go to the other extreme and don't give any reports at all. Others have adopted the practice of winding up their reports with a motion or two. Because reports come early in the meeting this means they are using their privileged position to jump the agenda, and also can (and sometimes do) introduce new or controversial business which really should be advertised beforehand.

A budget of \$100 is allotted to each officer to spend as s/he wishes. SRC is technically in control of these monies but experience has shown it is difficult for this control to be exercised. One officer (who has since resigned and left university) had the cheek not so long ago to request \$30 from the association to fund a speaking tour. When it was discovered that he hadn't spent a single cent of his own budget SRC directed him to cough up from that source. However a hat was passed around when the speaker came and more than enough was collected. Passing the hat was a good idea, but SRC Officers must recognise their responsibility within their own areas to ensure proper publicity, etc.

In contrast to exec members SRC Officers are paid \$50 per year, which says something about their general status. If activity in any of these fields is to increase the time will have to come when more appropriate recompense is made for the services expected. SRC Officers are supposed to be contactable in Committee Room 1, Middle floor of the Union building next to Radio Active. No luck there, try studass.

## **Vuwsa [Inc.] First Semester Report Cards**

Mike Treen, Kevin Callinicos (before shaving) and Lindy Cassidy

IN LINE WITH OUR NEW POLICY WE SHALL NOT BE GIVING GRADES THIS YEAR. NOTE: THESE REPORT CARDS ARE NOT TO BE USED AS TESTIMONIALS.

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Jenny Greg, Lamorna Rogers, Philip Sowman and John Hebenton

Photos of Jenny Greg, Lamorna Rogers, Philip Sowman and John Hebenton

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Sue Cairney, Andrew Tees, Steve Understood and Peta Siulepa

Photos of Sue Cairney, Andrew Tees, Steve Understood and Peta Siulepa

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# Tumbling Dice

## Pass/Fail Ratios - the Arguments

Let me by way of two examples, try to show you what sort of phemonena prompted the Law Faculty to consider the introduction of a pass/fail ratio.

Imagine that Road Traffic Law is a compulsory subject for an LLB and that it is taught in the third year. For some time it has been taught by Academic A who has set a standard which returns pass rates of 70 to 75%, which correspond closely to pass rates in other third year compulsory subjects. Academic A resigns at the end of 1978 to lead a top level government team which has been commissioned to report on pedestrian crossing legislation. Academic B, who is a distinguished practitioner in the Traffic Court, is appointed to the vacancy. Academic B demands a very much higher standard of his class than did Academic A and at the end of the year only 55% of his students achieve this standard.

Take the second example: Academic C, who was a distinguished tailor before he got the call, has been teaching the Law of Wigs and Gowns for several years. Academic C, in common with some of his colleagues, has difficulty in setting examinations which demand of the candidates the same standards from year to year. As a result his pass rates have fluctuated from 68% to 85%. Academic C knows that the minor variations in student quality do not account for the rather larger fluctuations in his pass rates.

The points that must be taken are: First, that it is not acceptable for Academic B to refuse to apply a standard which the Faculty considers appropriate to the Degree structure Secondly, that it is not acceptable for students near to the pass/fail line to be at the mercy of the vagaries of the teaching or examining of Academic C however blameless or otherwise they may be. Lastly, both of these examples deny that the respective subjects have any defined role to play in the Law Degree.

Over the past few weeks at a succession of meetings the Law Faculty has tried to find an acceptable method of solving these problems. The first attempt came from Professor McKay who submitted a report which proposed a fixed pass/fail ratio for each subject taught by the Faculty. The percentage of students passing each course was fixed by looking at the history of the pass ratio for that course and then guessing what is "about right". Similarly the margin of 2½% either way, which purported to accomodate unpredictable fluctuations in student quality, was fixed on the basis of what was "about right". The scheme provided that the margins could not be violated without the approval of the Dean of the Faculty. In essence this proposal recognises the need for

a constant standard, argues that perfect objectivity is an unattainable ideal and offers a relative stand which is as easy to apply as counting heads.

Clearly this proposal had the appeal of simplicity and certainty but as a consequence lacked flexibility. Could it, therefore, really be said to be fair? Several points may be made against the proposal in this form.

First, while no one denies that the fluctuations experienced by the Faculty are unacceptable, it seems to run contrary to the whole spirit of university teaching to fetter a teacher whose objective should be to improve the teaching in his course, with a fixed pass/fail ratio.

Secondly any scheme such as the one proposed requires a better statistical foundation than guessing at what is "about right" This argument applies not only to the establishment of the pass/fail ratio and the 2½% margin but also, and more strongly, to the subsequent adjustments of the ratios to accommodate course regulation changes (eg. Legal System as a prerequisite). Furthermore, while relative standards may approximate objective standards in large classes, the optional courses in the degree have small classes and the ability of students attracted to those courses may fluctuate unpredictably from year to year. Clearly the pass/fail ratio derives any validity that it has from its power to approximate the objective standard and in order to operate assumes that class ability does not vary greatly. I have demonstrated that this basic assumption cannot stand for the optional courses and accordingly the pass/fail ratio has no validity here.

Thirdly the effect on student morale is often cited, a marginal student who wishes to pass must not only bring himself up to some objective standard but must also overtake one or more of his marginal fellows who may also be trying to improve. In such a situation marginal students are unlikely to want to share their knowledge or their materials for fear that it may prejudice their own chances.

When the McKay proposal was put to the vote it failed to get a majority.' A second meeting of the Faculty failed to provide any solution. The third meeting passed the Dean's compromise proposal without a dissenting voice. The Dean's proposal only applies to the compulsory subjects in the degree (including Company and Family) and the Law Professional courses. The remaining optional courses are to be the subject of study over the next few months to determine whether fixed pass/fail ratios are appropriate for these subjects and if so what they should be.

The important principle in the Dean's proposal is that the examiner has to inform the Dean and the Examiners meeting if he exceeds the 2½% margin but neither can compel him to keep his pass rate within the guidelines.

This does seem to answer some of the objections that I have raised while still being effective enough to persuade Academic B (remember him?) that he has to take cognisance of a Faculty standard.

well student's, I understand that you are Concerned about the relevance and personal satisfaction of your education here ..... what exactly do you want? WE WANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTROL OUR OWN WEDUCATION — TO WORK CO-OPERATIVELY WITH OTHER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN THE PURSUIT OF THOSE AREAS OF LEARNING WHICH EXTENDOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD WE LINE IN ! That doesn't seem so impossible. We'll let you know Rat bag should be expelled... (mutter mutter) ... bad publicity...(mutter mutter) ... progressive leadership our resposibilty We'll meet them halfway. paint the toilets yellow and give pong room ..... no sense in taking any risk.

One thing that I want to emphasise is that there is a danger that this device will promote complacency among the examiners (assuming that they are ordinary mortals). Even the Dean's scheme is not the complete answer to the vexing question of examining in the Faculty but should, I suggest, be seen as a last resort to be relied on as little as possible. There are other ways of drawing towards an objective standard (eg. a broader basis of assessment, double chance assessment, greater moderation of the question papers before they are confirmed). They may not be the whole answer but they will very likely decrease reliance on the fixed pass/fail ratio and the Faculty should be encouraged to demonstrate their good faith by trying them.

Students have expressed a desire for another opportunity to discuss the fixed pass/ fail ratio. The Law Faculty Club will arrange for a meeting to be held some time in the first week after study-break. As well as providing a forum for suggestions, motions, etc. on the fixed pass/fail ratios, the meeting will also be the time when the bloody-minded can roast their representatives.

Christopher Chapman.

Meeting Wed. 5th July, 12-2 pm., LB 1.

## How NOSAC Works

I wish to clarify a few of the misconceptions regarding that organisation known as NOSAC (National Overseas Students Action Committee). There are some students who think that NOSAC is a Malaysian students' affair. NOSAC is definitely not so. It is a national body of all overseas students in each campus.

It cannot be so if only a few overseas students' clubs are interested, and willing to commit themselves to it. Since NZUSA's International VP post, the only full-time post that looked after the interests of overseas students, has been dissolved, it is of importance that we should try to strengthen NOSAC.

Should NOSAC die, who else will represent you at a national level? Would your isolated, individual voice be effective? What price is your lone opinion, then?

Secondly, NOSAC is not a puppet of NZUSA. Though we are a standing Committee of NZUSA, the campaigns, the general running of the organisation is run by local NOSAC. In view of the fact that our range of activities are limited by

- rules and regulations imposed on all standing committees,
- amount of finance NOSAC can muster, due to its status as a standing committee, it was decided that NOSAC should attempt to put forward a plan to become a fraternal body, not just a standing committee of NZUSA. To ensure that such a plan is successful, all overseas' students' support is needed.

Thirdly, NOSAC is not a political body, nor is it a political platform. However, we will not hesitate to deal with any matter that can arise due to the policies of the local/home concerning the welfare of Overseas students.

For any action to reach the national level, it must pass through the channels as drawn (see diagram): from local body to the national body to the NZUSA Executive body (for those who do not know, the Standing Committee Coordinators are made members of the NZUSA Executive).

NOSAC Coordinators are bound by the policies, as passed at the ISC. We are also bound by the general policies regarding overseas students of NZUSA.

The running of the local NOSAC should be in the form of a sub-committee structure consisting of representatives of various local overseas students organisations. The local clubs should bring forward any grievances that their club is facing which concerns the general overseas students community as a whole. They should also inform the other clubs of the happenings of their club. No SAC will need the cooperation and enthusiasm of all the clubs to make it work.

Finally, the May NOSAC meeting has decided to carry out several campaigns:---

- To attempt to persuade the government to allow overseas students to work during the May and August holidays, not just the summer vacation.
- To carry the Cut-back Campaign further, attempting to get the number of overseas students increased up to the level it was prior to the cut-back policy of the present government.
- To carry out a Solidarity Week Campaign. The details will be released in a later issue of Salient.
- To attempt to publish a few magazines and newsletters during the year. If anyone is interested in writing articles for NOSAC, do contact me. There are several other campaigns which will be looked after as they crop up.

That then, is the first report of the year from me. I'll write more as soon as I have news from here or other campuses.

NOSAC structure: NZUSA-NOSAC National Coordinator (Choong Tet Siew) Khor Ming King (Otago U.) Tech Boon Leong (Lincoln Col.) Teh Tiew Kin (Canterbury U.) Choong Tet Siew (Auckland U.) Jeffrey Yeo (Waikato U.) F. Yap (Massey U.) Victor Chang (Victoria U.) MSA MSSA FC ISC S/TC Etc. Arrows denote links, not control.

Victor Chang

Overseas Students' Officer

# The Wrong Things for the Wrong Reason

## The Budget

Although it is over one month since the budget was announced to the public the effects on students warrant another look. At present NZUSA is negotiating with the government to revise some of the more pernicious proposals and it is important if these negotiations are to be successful that students know exactly what the government has done and why.

Before discussing these moves, let's just see what the budget did for students. Consider the financial situation of four students earning \$1000, \$1200, \$1500 and \$2000 under the new budget proposals compared

with their position under the old tax system (see Table One).

It requires no great financial ability to see the effects of the tax structure on students. It seems that the government has adopted the policy of taking from the poor and giving to the rich.

## The Reality

Those who earn \$2000 over the holidays (effectively excluding all female students and all but a few males) are able to receive one half of the nominal increase in the bursary, while those who earn only about \$1000 (a common figure) end up losing money. For the mythical "average student" earning around \$1200 in the holidays the benefit is negligible. So much for the "increased assistance....to be provided for tertiary students" (Budget 1978).

The government rationale for the new tax structure makes interesting reading.... "The effect of the (now abolished) rebate has been that no individual pays tax on his or her first \$816 of annual income. The taxpayers who benefit most from this are part-time workers and those who...derive income for part of the year only...Typically these low-income earners are supplementing another primary source of income, either a husband's income, a social security benefit, or a student bursary, and there is no reason why they should pay substantially lower rates of tax than low-income full-time workers." Muldoon states that on \$5000 p.a. present tax is 20%, but on \$2000 it is only 11%. Under the new scheme the tax rates will be 16.5% and 14.2% respectively.

## Wouldn't it be Lovely

The biggest cut comes if you are on \$10,000 p.a. (see Table Two).

Just who is Muldoon worried about? According to the Labour Department Survey in October 1977, the average gross wage without overtime of a full-time male worker was \$135.81 pw. This is an artificially inflated figure as the recession has caused the eradication of many of the lower paying jobs, producing unrepresentative data. Those who benefit most from these tax cuts are the "better off" earning about \$200 pw. Even with overtime, not many of those on the "average" wage would reach this income

(Figures from 1978 Budget)

## Anyone for Overtime?

Muldoon claims the new scales encourage workers to do, overtime. He seems to think that the reason overtime is not worked at present is that employees shy at heavy tax. The real reason is that with the recession overtime is just not available. The tax reductions will benefit those who are on high wages and salaries, rather than those who are trying to supplement their inadequate wage by working overtime. If Muldoon had really wanted to remedy the anomaly of increased tax on overtime he could have done so by increasing the overtime rebate from the nominal 10c per hour to something more realistic.

Muldoon's reasoning is bankrupt. In these times of worker poverty, high inflation and increasing unemployment those who are taking part-time jobs are not, in general, doing so to get extra money for a colour TV, a trip to Tahiti or a new car, but rather just to get enough money to provide them with the basic necessities of life.

As wages continue to lag well behind prices, those on marginal wages find it progressively more difficult to make ends meet.

*National's John Elliot speaking at Vic last term.*

Photo of John Elliot

For a man on \$100 pw the tax cut of \$3.31 will be offset by the \$1.50 increase in tax that his wife (working for about \$30 pw) will pay. Who's kidding whom?

With the present job situation many of those taking part-time jobs are not doing so from choice but rather because the fulltime jobs are not available. Under the new system these people will not only suffer because they are not able to get the better paying full-time jobs, now they will be paying an increased tax on their poorly paying part-time jobs.

## "Narrowing the Gap"

Muldoon says that he feels that these low-income workers are not paying a fair amount of tax (he talks of the new system "narrowing the gap" between the low and the very-low income groups). Muldoon seems to not understand the principle of the graduated tax scale. The idea is that people pay tax according to their ability to pay it. Consequently those on low incomes should pay proportionally less of their income in tax than those in

higher income groups. If I earn \$20 pw I am likely to need every penny of it to survive, but if I earn \$100 pw I would be able to afford to pay a small amount in tax. On \$200 pw, an even greater proportion could be fairly exacted.

Instead, the new rates move even further away from a graduated tax scale. Muldoon has simply improved our existing flat tax rate.

Muldoon's main thrust in the budget is that those on incomes of less than \$4000 are typically supplementing their other incomes, or in the case of a married couple, that of the husband. The evidence from the budget is that he wants to hit the two income family, ie. a family where the wife is working. Instead of placing a secondary and higher tax rate on women (which would provoke a justifiable public outcry) he has achieved the same through the higher tax rates for the lower earner, ie. the women. He thus continues the National Party tradition of discouraging participation of women in the economy and sending them back to the home.

Muldoon has managed to clobber those least able to fight his measures (few part-time workers belong to unions, there is no union of social-security recipients), while few of his voters will suffer from it as the approach is more subtle than increasing tax rates for married couples.

## Where do Students Fit in?

John Elliot, Chairman of the Government Caucus Education Committee spoke at a forum at Vic straight after the budget was released. Asked about the apparent anomalies for students he claimed they were an oversight and that he would make strong representations to the Minister to have them removed. Elliot clearly didn't know what was in the budget, as students are named as one group who "pay substantially lower rates of tax than low-income full-time workers". Yet government does seem to appreciate that many students are having big problems. At Gander's request NZUSA has made a submission on the effects on students.

## A Student Tax Rebate

But what are the Government's proposals for removing these anomalies? NZUSA has been arguing for a special student tax rebate, the Government prefers a further increase to the bursary. The Government's objection to a special rebate for students is easy to see. If they make a special exemption (which would no doubt be well publicised no matter how they tried to play it down) other people might expect the same treatment. Attempts might start to broaden the criterion for this rebate. The Government could quickly end up looking rather stupid.

For all this, NZUSA's objections have even more substance. Taking Victoria as a typical campus, let's look at the proportions of people who receive the STB.

## Present Bursary Ineffective

So an increase in the bursary would only alleviate the strain that the 70% of the fulltime students would feel, while the others would get no relief. Neither would the 40% of students who are part-time (although this proportion is higher for Vic than for the other universities) get any assistance.

As part-time students typically only hold part-time jobs, they will be adversely affected by the new proposals, yet would receive none of the relief that the Government would be giving to other students.

## Conclusion

Muldoon's reasoning in this budget can be exposed at many levels. He has reduced the sales tax on motorbikes "to encourage" their greater use; yet the registration fee has shot up!

The budget is a tactical device, and any alterations to it which favour students, although needed, must also be recognised as such. Muldoon is attempting to isolate the low income earners from the rest of the public, by increasing the gulf between them and the next wage brackets. His solution to the problems of the economy which he has helped cause, taking money from those least able to afford it, must be denounced.

Peter Beach

'taken as a whole ... this budget ... face, up to the to little of economic life ...'

## Creative Work Supplement Coming Soon

Do you think there's not enough original creative work in Salient? Well so do we. But we can't print what we don't have. So if you have poems or short stories which you would like to see in print, send them in. We'll

be running a supplement of creative work just as soon as we get the stuff. Also a short story competition is coming. Watch out for details.

## NZUSA Wins Bursary Dispute

Interview with Research Officer Peter Franks

Debate about the future of the national student body, NZUSA, is hotting up on campuses throughout the country. "Truth" joined in the attack on NZUSA recently with an article that claimed the moves on some campuses to withdraw from the national body were based on dissatisfaction over NZUSA apathy on campus issues.

"Truth" charged: "Students feel that it is too concerned with international causes such as East Timor and other leftwing movements. Students want the national association to be more active as a pressure group on their behalf on issues such as bursaries and student employment."

"Many feel", the article continued, "that as a lobbying group NZUSA is weak and ineffectual". It was interesting that the "Truth" story failed to refer at all to a recent and well publicised dispute at Massey University where a group of senior social work students had their winter term bursary cheques docked by the Department of Education.

The Department's action, based on a claim that the students had received bursary money they weren't entitled to last long holidays because they also received wages, was challenged by NZUSA. Arguing that the department's action was illegal, NZUSA threatened court action against the department unless the students were paid back the money that had been deducted.

Two days after this threat was made public NZUSA announced that the department had agreed to pay the students their full bursary cheques. Thus an estimated \$5000 of student money was recovered.

In an interview recorded during study break, Salient's Peter Beach talked to NZUSA Research Officer Peter Franks about the Massey dispute and put some general questions to him about the criticisms of NZUSA's effectiveness.

*How important was NZUSA's victory in the dispute over social work students' bursaries at Massey and why was it achieved?*

I believe that the very satisfactory settlement we reached with the Education Department over the social work students' dispute is a good example of the effectiveness of NZUSA in action.

One of the reasons why we were successful was that the students concerned were dedicated and persistent and were determined to see the thing through to the end.

Other reasons were that we were able to raise their grievances immediately with the department, work out what we believed were major flaws in the department's approach and then successfully persuade the department to our point of view without having to go through the time-consuming and costly business of taking legal action. In short, the successful outcome achieved was due to the students' firmness in standing together on principle and our ability to negotiate the correct result - it was a combination of those two things.

*Can you explain in more detail the background to this dispute?*

The Massey social work students are one of a number of groups of students who have to work as part of their courses during the summer vacation.

Traditionally they've received only bursaries for this work and there's no way that students can last the whole year on \$26 a week, let alone on \$15. Last vacation the introduction of the Student Community Service Programme changed this situation to a degree. Some of the students' employing bodies received SCSP grants and were thereby able to pay the students some wages.

It's important to understand that the students didn't anticipate that this would happen when they received some bursary assistance in advance at the start of the 1977/78 vacation.

At the start of the year, when the students returned to Massey they were told that they weren't entitled to the bursary money because they'd received wages as well. They were told the bursaries would have to be paid back.

At the students' request, we took the matter up with the department in Wellington. The department gave us an assurance that if the money had to be refunded it could be paid back by instalment, to lessen the impact of the repayment on each student involved. Then at the start of the second term the department unilaterally broke off negotiations with us and instructed the university to get the money back. It was decided to do this by deducting the full amounts "owed" from the winter term bursary cheques - in some cases this meant deductions of \$288 and not much left for the students!

*Don't you think it is wrong that this group of students got both bursaries and wages during the last holidays when other students, in similar positions, received only bursaries?*

I don't think so at all. We fought this case on the fundamental principle that this group of students, who'd

had a rough deal financially for a long time, should not suffer further financial penalty because of what might be politely described as administrative confusion, not of their making.

These students are doing a demanding course in training to be social workers who will spend their working lives helping other people in need. Because their course is based on a combination of theory and practice, they have to spend a lot of their four years of study working out in the field. But they've never gained in money terms because of this. I talked to them about their vacation savings - generally these were very low and in some cases were negative ie the students were in debt. Apart from the moral justice of their case, which was in my opinion considerable, the thing was that the department was, in our opinion, acting outside the bursaries regulations in asking for the money to be returned.

*If that's right then wasn't your victory over the Education Department due simply to a loophole in the regulations and not to any action on NZUSA's or the social work students' part?*

You're arguing with the benefit of hindsight and the thing just wasn't that simple.

For a start the social work students could have simply accepted the demand to repay their money, laid down and got trodden on. But they didn't. They thought it was unjust and fought it and asked for and received NZUSA's help.

Another point is that interpretations of regulations and statutes are just as important, if not more important, than the actual words written down on the regulations or in the law books. The bursaries regulations are open to conflicting interpretations in a number of areas.

Also interpretations of laws and regulations are based on practical problems that arise in their administration or application. It needed the social work students' case to really highlight the problem with the employment restriction regulation being abolished. As soon as we heard of the social work students' problem, we studied the regulations very carefully to see how they would apply. We came to the conclusion that the students were legally in the right which our lawyers confirmed on the basis of their own, independent study.

*Turning to wider questions that are related to this dispute. Truth claimed recently that NZUSA is weak and ineffectual as a lobbying group.*

I read that. I believe that statement is a fantasy, but after all *Truth* makes a habit of that. Still, this claim's worth examining because *Truth* isn't the first to have made it and it's been said before by a number of NZUSA's critics.

If we were as weak and ineffectual as it is claimed we are, NZUSA would not be taken at all seriously by the people in Government and government departments with whom we deal on a variety of issues and on a very regular basis.

If we were such a weak, useless lot that the Department of Education could afford to laugh at us, there'd have been no way in which we'd have settled that dispute. It was, after all, a settlement which was reached - we didn't have to go to court, although we would have if forced to, because we successfully persuaded the department to accept our recommendations.

Personally I'd like the critics who say we're ineffective to actually study the record and base their arguments on facts. I believe that NZUSA's record as a "lobbying group", the term used by *Truth*, is a good one. For over thirty years we have been the only group that has persistently put forward constructive plans for improving student bursaries in this country.

It's been a long, hard slog - no one would deny that. But I don't believe anyone could make an argument out of the claim that NZUSA has not played a major role in the reforms that have been made. I recall that when the present bursaries scheme was introduced two years ago the *Dominion* ran an article on bursaries headed "student marches return a dividend" which outlined the major gains that had been made. I think that headline sums up pretty well the importance and necessity of constant student action on bursaries, organised and led nationally by NZUSA.

At present NZUSA is very closely involved in discussions on reforming the present bursaries system and on examining alternatives. We asked for a working party to be set up to do this and finally got it. We are now spending a lot of time talking, on a regular basis with the Department, Treasury, the University Grants Committee, universities and a number of other interested groups about ways of making the present, inadequate system better.

*You've talked a lot about bursaries, can you give some other examples of NZUSA's work on issues relating to student welfare?*

Since 1974 we've argued that the deepening economic crisis New Zealand has faced has made it harder for students to get the decently-paying holiday jobs they need, due to growing unemployment. In 1974 we got some of the restrictions applying to the granting of emergency unemployment benefits to students relaxed. In 1975 the Government agreed to our request that students should be eligible for special work. And I believe that our pressure on this issue helped bring about the Student Community Service Programme last long vacation.

This year sees the start of negotiations between the University Grants Committee and the universities on

the block grants which the Government will pay to universities over the next five years. We will be preparing a major submission to the UGC and we've already had discussions with them on the areas we're going to cover. I think it would be fair to say that the UGC have welcomed this approach from NZUSA.

A further area concerns overseas students' welfare. Most of the improvements in this area in recent years - for example the establishment of the Overseas Students Admissions Committee and an independent academic appeals committee for overseas students, have resulted from NZUSA proposals or initiatives in which NZUSA was involved from the outset.

I would be the last to claim that NZUSA can work any miracles. The successes we've had have been based on hard, concentrated work and on the support of students. Students need a national organisation which maintains regular contact with the powers that be, which can develop expertise in areas of policy and administration which affect students and, most important of all, which can take up students' individual or collective grievances and organise student action.

There will always be arguments about NZUSA's policies within NZUSA's ranks. In my opinion that's a good thing and if students don't like particular policies they should fight to change them. That's a completely different matter however from the actions of a few people who want to destroy NZUSA or cut it off at the knees, the minority which I believe *Truth* is trying to encourage. I don't believe they will succeed, but if they do their actions will cause very serious harm in the long-term and future generations of students will have nothing to thank them for whatsoever.

## ***Peter Franks***

# **Lee Caught with Pants Down**

## **Canterbury's Big Decision: How it Happened**

In many ways at Canterbury, NZUSA was the scapegoat for dissatisfaction with local student politics. Within two years there had been four presidents (two having 'resigned' or been 'purged') of whom only two could be considered competent. The overall quality of Canterbury student leadership was at a particularly low ebb. Within the internal administration there had been a distasteful 'jobs-for-the-boys' network running; prominent student politicians just happened to be employed in the best paid jobs around the Union Building.

Last year the Bursary Campaign at Canterbury was shockingly organised. Meanwhile Association fees had since 1974 risen dramatically, largely due to an unfortunate Deed of Management signed with the university which while giving the Association some autonomy in the control of the Union Building, considerably lessened the university's financial contribution to the costs of the building.

Why then was it that NZUSA became the scapegoat for Canterbury's internal problems? To a large extent this was because it was easier to express dissatisfaction towards those who were further away - the national officers in Wellington - because of the lack of direct personal contact. Certainly local student politicians encouraged this trend. As well as this, National Office itself was unimpressive in communicating to students the sort of things it was involved in. It failed to make proper use of student newspapers as a means of communication. Canterbury students simply had no idea of the nature, life and workings of their national association.

## **Canterbury in 1978**

The most central figure in Canterbury this year has been President Mike Lee. Although claiming to be apolitical, in reality he has proved to be extremely conservative and sometimes without ethical judgement. He has been determined to ensure that Canterbury sticks to its decision to leave NZUSA. Ironically he has claimed that NZUSA is too bureaucratic while lobbying behind the scenes for a regional bureaucracy with Lincoln, the Teachers College and the Technical Institute. However, lack of enthusiasm and fear of Lee's domination has prevented this from happening.

The Canterbury Executive has been divided on the issue. Against the national association is the loosely termed 'business section' of Exec: those members who are mainly involved in administrative and organisational work. Members who are mainly involved in educational and welfare matters (the 'student section') are largely in favour of staying in. The former is led by Lee and the latter by Education Officer Greg Waite.

One interesting individual is the immediate past-president and present Finance Officer Nigel Petrie. While

critical of NZUSA last year Petrie holds the view that a national association is essential for the well being of students, especially in the area of bursaries, and that the organisational changes to NZUSA at its May Council largely resolved his criticisms.

A disturbing feature has been the involvement of adherents of the National Front. A small but vocal hard-core have attended SRC meetings and campaigned for withdraw] from NZUSA, indulging in red-baiting similar to that of Muldoon at Bastion Point. More disturbing has been their apparent link-up with some of those in the 'business section'.

## **Build up to the SGM**

Early this term a group of students led s by waite called for a Special General Meeting to vote on whether to remain in NZUSA. Many of them had been actively involved in the reasonably successful bursary campaign the previous term. Meanwhile the SRC had passed a motion supporting in principle the idea of a national association. However, it required an SGM to reverse the 1977 decision to withdraw.

The 'business section' countered this by successfully calling for a referendum, the reason being that in the absence of debate the anti-NZUSA feelings would predominate. And it did. About 700 students voted for withdraw while 400 supported national unity. A key factor in the vote was a leaflet produced the day before the vote, opposing NZUSA, making personal slanders and attacks on its supporters, and making the racist (and untrue) suggestion that Malaysian students were dominating the Students Association in order to support NZUSA. The tone was very similar to that of the National Front although it was written by some members of the 'business section'.

## **The SGM itself**

However, a referendum is not constitutionally binding on the association and it was left to the SGM to make the final decision. Prior to the meeting there had been an incredible mass of publicity both for and against the national association, some of which was similar to the referendum publicity.

Attended by between 6-700 students it was one of the most remarkable meetings in the history of student politics in Canterbury. Lee gave up the chair to a former student politician who made no attempt to maintain any semblance of order or give the speakers a fair go. The meeting was especially intolerant at the beginning, voting to not allow NZUSA national officers to speak.

The key motion was moved by Waite and seconded by Petrie calling for Canterbury to remain in NZUSA. Waite and subsequent speakers stressed the role of NZUSA in educational and welfare issues (bursaries, overseas students, assessment, lecturer evaluation, etc.) while Petrie emphasised the changes to the structure at the May Council. It was clear that these speakers had a solid but minority basis of support.

A rough estimate suggested that out of every seven students present two supported them, three opposed and another two were uncommitted. An unfortunate aspect of the meeting was the disruptive activities of those opposing the motion who actually prevented Petrie from completing his address.

Drawing of a two headed person at a microphone

## **A Miracle?**

By the time the meeting was three quarters through it appeared that Waite's motion would be defeated despite substantial support. Clearly a miracle was needed. And it came. Present at the meeting was Otago President Andrew Guest, known both at Canterbury and Victoria as a vocal critic of the present national officers. The anti-group thought that he would support withdrawl so did not attempt to disrupt him.

However his line turned out to be very similar to that of Petrie's, although expressed in a different way. In many respects, like the suits he wears, the situation was tailor-made for Guest. Using the scapegoat idea he blasted the national office for incompetency but claimed that changes had already been made and improvements evident.

To a large extent it was a conservative address. Many of his accusations were opportunist and would not stand up to close scrutiny. But in amongst that were perceptive and pertinent observations about the need for a national association. Because of his reputation only he could have got away with an address like that. He knew the mood of the masses and spoke accordingly.

And the meeting accepted his logic despite a demogogic appeal by Lee who was obviously surprised and frustrated by the role of Guest. The meeting voted by about 370 to 260 to remain in NZUSA. Had it not been for Guest the vote would have probably been reversed by a similar margin. His speech was brilliant although not that accurate.

## The Future?

The vote at the SGM was a surprise to many. Lee and the 'business section' suffered a hard slap in the face and were demoralised by their rejection. Nevertheless they are recouping their forces and have already arranged for some National Front adherents to stand in an Executive by-election. Their election would give Lee a clear majority on the Executive. Although the principle of national unity has won an important victory the issue is by no means over and the debate will continue.

Meanwhile students must look to the rest of the country. Lincoln has elected a new president who is reportedly in favour of a national association (especially as NZUSA is involved in work over compulsory farm employment schemes for Lincoln students). At Massey NZUSA has a much better reputation now with its success in supporting the Social Welfare students.

This coupled with the Canterbury reversal suggests that the national association may be saved. Certainly the situation has immensely improved in the last couple of months. It is to be hoped, however, that the positive lessons of this debate and that NZUSA will not in future be isolated from grass-roots student opinion.

Ian Powell

## NZUSA Research Officer

Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Research Officer at the New Zealand University Students' Association's office in Wellington.

The Assistant Research Officer will assist the Association's full-time elected Officers and Research Officer in carrying out NZUSA's policies in welfare, including the welfare of overseas students.

Duties will include preparation of submissions and reports, assisting with research projects and dealing with Departmental and University officials.

Applicants should have a sound educational background and previous experience in research work, preferably including an understanding of statistical methods. They should be able to write lucidly and concisely and should be generally sympathetic with NZUSA's policies.

Conditions of employment will be according to the NZUSA Employees' Registered Collective Agreement and the salary will be on a scale commencing at \$6,869 per annum + \$365 cost of living allowance. This agreement is currently being renegotiated.

Written applications, including details of qualifications, relevant experience and the names of two referees, should be sent to: The President, NZUSA, P.O. Box 9047, Courtenay Place, Wellington, and will close on 14 June 1978 at 5 p.m.

## The "Boys in the Bush"

Interview with Garfield Todd

This interview with the New Zealand born former Rhodesian Prime Minister Garfield Todd is reprinted from the English paper "Anti-Apartheid News". Todd spent four years (1972-1976) under house arrest and now lives at his farm in the Shabani area in south central Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). In the interview he talks about the guerilla war in Zimbabwe and reactions to the "internal settlement".

*What are the prospects for a referendum or elections to test the internal Rhodesian settlement?*

I think there are now very poor prospects for any sort of referendum or elections, because the great majority of African people, that is, 80 per cent or more, live in the rural areas. Now the rural areas are largely under the control of the guerillas of either ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) or ZIPRA (Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army) and in our area, for example, people are not paying their personal taxes. This is resistance. They are not likely while the guerillas say that they are against the internal settlement to register for an election or a referendum.

*You say the rural areas are largely under control of the guerillas. Does that mean the guerillas have established their own organisations?*

No, they haven't established organisations as far as I know and it is quite true that the soldiers can mount a sortie at any moment into any area. They can come in with their helicopters and with the paratroopers and their armoured cars and their big steel-bodied lorries. But what they have been quite unable to do is to halt the spread of the guerillas right through the rural areas.

*What have Zimbabwe African reactions been to the internal settlement?*

This is a very complex question because obviously the people who are concerned and those who are working with them think it's wonderful. Others that I know of course think it's terrible. And where the guerillas are, one gathers that the people are as much against the internal settlement as the guerillas themselves are.

*What about middle-class Africans, businessmen and so on?*

A number of those, I think, would be so keen on a settlement that they would go along with it. As far as many professional Africans are concerned, in education and so on, they have lost their jobs, schools are closed and so on, quite obviously they want to have a settlement.

I attended a meeting of whites and blacks in Gwelo recently, and at that meeting one black man almost surprised me by his clear statement that where Bishop Muzorewa, for example, had had a very wide support amongst the blacks, this was now in doubt because, he said, "Who was it who made Mr Smith ready to make these concessions? Was it Bishop Muzorewa? Or was it Revd Sithole? No," he said, "it was the boys in the bush."

*Is there anything South Africa can do to resolve the situation ?*

Oh yes! But does South Africa want to do it? This is the point. South Africa could simply turn off the oil as the Americans and the British have been hoping she would do for months past. There would be no war if there was no oil.

I wouldn't know how much support South Africa is giving, but by the number of helicopters that flew over Umtali on the sortie into Mozambique there must be considerable assistance being given from South Africa.

The Security Forces can't sit back and say: well, now there's an internal agreement we're not sure who is pro-government and who is anti-government, and therefore we won't react to incidents.

We are going to continue to shoot people who appear to be enemies of the state ...So the sooner they sort it out the better.

*Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, Rhodesian Commander of Combined Operations, April 19 1978.*

But financially and with petrol, every other way, South Africa keeps the Smith regime going and supports, apparently, the new interim settlement. So it's largely in South Africa's hands.

*Are there many whites in Rhodesia who would look with equanimity to a Patriotic Front Government?*

People just don't know what it would be like. All the propaganda is that it is going to be Marxist and destructive. I myself do not believe that. I don't want such a government. I look on the Patriotic Front as having agreed, as having taken on its shoulders the responsibility of clearing the way for a democratic state within Zimbabwe.

I would have hoped that Muzorewa would have worked for the same thing, but he stopped far too short. He stopped at a place where he himself has joined forces with Mr Smith, in a legal situation which does not allow him the power to make the changes which I am sure Bishop Muzorewa would like to make.

He may let out some detainees but he is not being able to stop the war. He is not being able, as far as I know, to really get into the prisons and release the people who are there on political sentences. So that he has gone into this situation bound almost hand and foot.

It is an ongoing situation set up by the Rhodesian Front under Mr Smith. It cannot be changed unless Mr Smith does not put in his veto, unless he agrees. I just think that they have landed themselves in an unfortunate mess from which none of us are easily going to extricate ourselves.

*We hear that Bishop Muzorewa had a very large reception recently by 200,000 people. Does this indicate massive support for him?*

If there were 200,000 people there, I would say this indicates massive support. I would say the figure was nearer 20,000. The *Rhodesia Herald* had a photographer in an aeroplane and they published that picture. It can almost be counted.

But I think the significant thing is not whether he had a large turnout to welcome him but whether he will have a large turnout to congratulate him at the end of three months of this government. That's going to be the testing time, the next three months.

## Abortion and the Jewish Law

A great deal of discussion on the abortion issue has centred around the question of religious attitudes and interpretations. In this respect. New Zealanders are familiar with the stands taken by the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches, but little acquainted with Orthodox Judaism's view. To appreciate the latter it is necessary to turn to the Bible, to Rabbinical interpretation and to the Halacha (the entire body of Jewish law). This article draws heavily on David Feldman's book "Marital Relations, Birth Control and Abortion in Jewish Law" which uses the above-listed sources in order to explicate and clarify for Jews and non-Jews Judaism's stand on abortion.

As there is no direct injunction in the Bible against abortion, its biblical status must be inferred from the following question: is foeticide (ie. abortion) equal to homicide? The first consideration is whether the foetus is a human being. The Talmud (the Jewish oral law) clearly states that a foetus, prior to birth, is regarded as being like the "thigh of his mother (

The use of masculine pronouns in biblical and rabbinical texts is not indicative of any Judaic chauvinism but rather it was a common linguistic feature in patriarchal societies.

) and is therefore not considered viable until 30 days after its birth. However this does not negate the chance for the foetus to attain viability.

The foetus's status is more definitely established in Exodus (21:22) "If men strive and wound a pregnant woman so that her fruit be expelled, but no harm befall (her) then he shall be fined as her husband shall assess....but if harm befall (her) then you shall give life for life". This passage clearly indicates that foeticide is not sufficient grounds for capital punishment.

In contrast to Exodus the Septuagint (the oldest Greek version of the Old Testament), either as the result of a variant text or mistranslation makes a distinction between the foetus unformed and formed when it states: "If men strive.....if there is no form to it he shall be fined,...but if there is form to it you shall give life for life".

The Christian translation is based upon this version and thus maintains that there was a Biblical argument for equating foeticide with homicide, at least when the foetus is formed. From this point on however, Christianity and Judaism take separate paths. Judaism looks to the Halacha for further interpretation.

## A Moral Question

Although the above-quoted passage distinguishes between foeticide and homicide, Rabbi Ishmael's (2nd century CE) interpretation of one of the commandments to the sons of Noah puts the issue in a different frame of reference. Ishmael understands the injunction in Genesis 9:6: "He who spills the blood of man, by man, his blood shall be spilt" to mean that, "he who spills the blood of a man within a man (ie the foetus within the woman), his blood shall be spilt".

Thus Ishmael believed that for the sons of Noah (the nation of the world), foeticide is homicide. However it must be made clear that Ishmael's interpretation is not legal, because it plainly contradicts the passage in Exodus; it is a moral interpretation. For both Jews and non-Jews the question of equating foeticide with homicide is a moral one.

Further evidence of this non-legal equation of foeticide with murder can be found in the Talmudic maxim: "Violate for him this Shabbat that he may keep many Shabbats", which is applied to the foetus. Since Shabbats may only be violated for Pikuah Nefesh (saving a life), the violation of Shabbat for a foetus constitutes Pikuah Nefesh. Thus the foetus is considered to be a nefesh, a living person.

We therefore find a distinction in Talmudic sources between the legal status of abortion (not a legal crime) and its moral status (morally forbidden). Hence in the Middle Ages some rabbis ruled abortion as not punishable but forbidden.

Having determined the legal and moral status of foeticide we must ask if there are any circumstances which may alter it. Does a threat to the life of the mother justify abortion? The Mishna (the section of the Talmud consisting of the edited oral laws) states unequivocally: "If a woman has (life threatening) difficulty in childbirth, one dismembers the embryo within her ...because the life takes precedence over its life. Once its head has emerged it may not be touched for we do not set aside one life for another".

## The "Pursuer" Theory

Moses ben Maimonides (a major Jewish scholar, theologian and rabbi) expanded the Mishna's interpretation by adding that the foetus endangering a mother's life should be considered a "pursuer", and in the case of a man pursuing another in order to kill him, the pursuer may be killed first to defend the victim. This argument advanced by Maimonides produced numerous controversies because it could either complement the Mishnaic principle that the mother's life has precedence or reject it by maintaining that except when it is a "pursuer" the life of the foetus has equal status.

Consequently two positions emerged out of this complication. The first position upheld the strict interpretation which requires the foetus to pursue (endanger life) the mother for abortion to be permissible. The rabbis who so ruled developed the idea of pursuer to include suicidal tendencies in a pregnant woman or when it might endanger an existing child (due for instance to a change in the pregnant mother's milk). In all of these cases the foetus is considered a "pursuer" and may be aborted.

The second position upheld the Mishna's injunction that, "her life takes precedence over its life". These rabbis held without compromise that foeticide is not homicide, but sought to determine what circumstances

other than danger to life and health constituted just grounds for an abortion. In other words, they were prepared to grant abortion in some cases where the foetus is not actually a "pursuer".

These liberal rabbis take their precedent from a rather brutal case cited in the Mishna: "A woman who goes forth to be executed, we do not wait for her to give birth". This ruling refers to a woman executed for a capital crime who is found to be pregnant after the judgement. In the Talmudic discussion Rabbi Shmuel argues that if the woman is going to be executed while pregnant, an abortion should be performed beforehand so that the execution does not cause extrusion of the foetus to the disgrace of the woman. Thus, abortions are permitted in order to save the woman from shame - certainly a much lesser severity than suicidal tendencies.

The rabbis in the Middle Ages further explain that the reason for executing the woman immediately, which seems additionally cruel, is to prevent her from the suffering of awaiting her own execution. Even though she is to be executed, her human feelings are paramount. In no case is there an argument that the foetus has a right to life.

This brings us back to the claim made at the beginning that the foetus is not regarded as an independent being. One might object that the foetus is, in effect, executed with the mother and is being judged guilty. However just as the woman's hand or foot has no judicial character and cannot be deemed to be guilty, so the foetus has no share in the woman's guilt. Rather it has no existence at all independent of its mother. Only the mother's feelings are taken into consideration.

## Flexibility

The Halacha, then, does not consider foeticide as homicide although it considers it a grave, moral transgression against potential life. There can be extenuating factors which permit abortion, which is not the case with homicide (eg if a man is ordered to kill another, he may not obey). In the definitions of these circumstances, opinions vary from only danger to the mother's life to the more lenient consideration of the mother's feelings, even if unrelated to the likelihood of her death.

From the brief examination of Judaic legal material it becomes apparent that the attitude of the rabbis towards the question of abortion was much more flexible, and as such, more complex than one associates with modern-day orthodoxy, either Jewish or Christian. While not all the rabbis of the Middle Ages were necessarily liberal, the legal precedent for abortion already existed in the Bible and the Mishna.

Consequently, rather than taking a rigid uncompromising position Judaism presents a whole spectrum of views on abortion, ranging from ultra-conservative to ultra-liberal. However within Judaic law we find a continuous "liberal" stand which provides the basis for a contemporary position that favours abortion.

Dianne Davis

# Which Way Vietnam?

## Vietnam in 1978

Following protracted armed struggles by the Vietnamese, Kampuchean and Laotian peoples US imperialism was finally expelled from Indochina several years ago. It was a development of far-reaching effects.

## The Decline of US Imperialism

First the massive American war machine had been openly and decisively defeated by people's war. It provided immense encouragement to third world peoples struggling against imperialist domination. It also marked the start of US imperialism's strategic decline.

In the early years following World War 2 US imperialism acted as the capitalist world's gendarme, intervening at will around the world. But with its debacle in Indochina the growing strength and unity of the third world and US inability to arrive at a united foreign policy, US imperialism has been forced into a strategically passive role in a world situation which is rapidly eroding its power.

The relative weakness of US imperialism has been brought home by the aggressive rise of the Soviet Union as a contending superpower. In Angola and Ethiopia it has freely intervened with thousands of Cuban ghurkhas while the US remained paralysed by endless debates in Washington.

It is now the Soviet Union which is trying the role of international gendarme. It threatens US imperialism's world empire on all fronts and its offensive can only end in war between the two rival superpowers. The world situation today is a far cry from that which preceded the US/Indochina war.

## Vietnam's Regional Hegemonism

Second, the disappearance of the US interventionist forces and the emergence of new tasks following liberation have seen considerable differences arise between the war-time allies of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

Here the key factor has been the attempt by the Vietnamese Communist Party Leadership to use the unity between the peoples of the three countries during the Indochina war as the basis for a Vietnamese dominated "Indochina Federation". This has been a consistent aspect of Vietnamese policy since the foundation of the "Indochinese Communist Party" in 1930. In essence it means a single state, with one party, one people, one army and one country within a Vietnamese "Indochina".

Although the Vietnamese now prefer the phrase "special relationship" their objectives are clearly the same. Consider the operation of Vietnam's "special relationship" with Laos:

## Laos: Sovereign State or Soviet/Vietnamese Dependency?

Laos's significant economic dependence on the Soviet Union and growing military dependence on Vietnam (which has over 30,000 troops stationed in Laos) has seen those two countries come to dominate many aspects of Lao internal affairs. Major national decisions are now made by a Council that is one-third Soviet, one-third Vietnamese and one-third Laotian in composition.

The Vietnamese especially care little for the desire of ordinary Laotians to make their own decisions independently of a Vietnamese-dominated "special relationship". Recently a Lao Communist Party member complained that numerous blueprints for re-organising Laotian society were "simply Vietnamese documents translated into Lao and implemented without regard for our feelings".

Vietnamese arrogance is increasingly finding its counter in the anger of Lao peasants and Pathet Lao troops. "There have been persistent reports of clashes between Vietnamese troops and Pathet Lao soldiers. In Sayaboury province, a Pathet Lao army unit opened fire last month on a Vietnamese detachment that had camped nearby when the Vietnamese refused to hoist the Laotian flag alongside their own." (Newsweek, May 22, 1978)

Alongside the Vietnamese a contingent of Soviets has arrived in Vientiane. They are hated even more than the Vietnamese. They have behaved contemptuously of the Lao Government, openly hoarding scarce food supplies and black marketeering. They act just like the old western imperialists. One Pathet Lao official denounced them strongly: "The Russians are fat and ugly, running around madly trying to buy up American throwaways. They're just like second-rate Americans."

*Pathet Lao troops on review*

Photo of Pathet Lao soldiers

Vietnam's "special relationship" in practice has meant lessened independence and increased foreign domination for Lao tians. Having kicked out US imperialism Laos now faces a new threat to its independence and sovereignty - from Vietnamese hegemonism.

## Kampuchea

Vietnam has tried to hoist the same sort of special relationship on Kampuchea (Cambodia) and has failed significantly. The history of Vietnamese attempts to dominate Kampuchea is especially sordid.

## Two Revolutions - Two Lines

Since its formation in 1960 the Communist Party of Kampuchea has maintained that the line of the Kampuchean revolution must be decided by the Kampuchean people without outside interference. This has consistently brought them into conflict with the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party which has used its greater size and the fact that it was the focal point of imperialist domination of Indochina to try to dominate the Kampuchean communists and force them into subservience to the needs of Vietnam "for the greater good of Indochina".

During the anti-communist reign of Norodom Sihanouk (which started in 1954 following the signing of the Geneva agreements) the Vietnamese pressured the Kampuchean communists to abandon their guerilla struggle. For a number of years no marxist party existed and the revolutionary forces were dispersed and weak. Only a Vietnamese instigated and dominated grouping was present. This accepted the Vietnamese line of no struggle against Sihanouk. It was not until 1960 that a genuine marxist party could be formed. Thus from the beginning of the genuine Kampuchean communist movement the Vietnamese openly interfered and divided the

Kampuchean.

In a recent interview Kampuchean Prime Minister Pol Pot described the continuing interference and sabotage of the Vietnamese in Kampuchea. "From 1965 to 1975, when they asked for and obtained refuge in Kampuchea's territory, they took advantage of the friendship of Kampuchea's people to carry out subversive activities, create a separate party, set up a separate power, create a separate army in Kampuchea's territory already under the control of Kampuchea's revolution and in which Kampuchea generously gave them refuge.

"Concerning the party particularly, from 1970 to 1975, Vietnam carried out all the most criminal procedures aiming at annihilating the correct and clear-sighted Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea."

In March/April last year a group of Vietnamese agents within the Kampuchean leadership attempted a coup which failed miserably.

Kampuchean soldiers and rightist refugees from Kampuchea are being placed in special "re-education camps" by the Vietnamese where they are taught the 'errors' of the Kampuchean communists and encouraged to struggle against the sovereign government of Kampuchea. In one camp former member of the Kampuchean Communist Party was reported as leading discussions on mounting armed struggle against the Phnom Penh leadership. In front of Vietnamese officials one person in the Ben San camp (Tay Ninh province) declared he would be returning to Kampuchea "when the whole of the country is liberated ... by the Vietnamese army".

Yet the Vietnamese continue to deny interference in the affairs of Kampuchea! Obviously attempts to overthrow the legitimate Government and Communist Party leadership which they continue to directly aid and abet don't count as interference. Such is the benevolent logic of the Vietnamese's "special relationship". The Kampuchean are paying a heavy price for insisting on a purely "normal relationship" as one Kampuchean official put it.

*(A second part of this article further describes the Vietnamese / Kampuchean conflict, deteriorating Sino-Vietnamese relations and Soviet expansionism in Asia.)*

James Morgan

## The Miners' Fight

Earlier this year the United States experienced its longest ever strike in the coal industry. For over four months 166,000 workers in the United Mine Workers Union struggled against the mine owners and the government, bringing President Carter to the verge of proclaiming an "energy emergency". The strike was marked by violent battles between strikers (including 800 women workers) and mine security guards and police.

### Anti-Strike Clause

It began when the mine bosses failed to get the union to agree to the terms of a new contract. This would have included financial penalties against miners who went on "unofficial" strikes in local areas. The local union branches were determined not to give up the right to strike over conditions in particular mines.

The coal bosses also aimed to replace the previous industry-wide health and retirement funds with separate schemes for each company - with the result that lower benefits would be paid.

### Up-Hill Battle

The strikers had to fight an up-hill battle because only about half of American miners are organised in the union. In the key state of Kentucky, only about one-third are organised.

An important part of the struggle during the strike was to stop coal from non-union mines.

Against the strikers the mine owners called in hired thugs and gun-men to break the pickets. In January, violence erupted at Prestonburg, Kentucky, when a 65-year-old striker was shot dead by a pit security guard as he was taking coffee to four pickets.

### Flying Pickets

Then the strikers organised flying pickets to tour areas where the union is weak. They travelled in groups several hundred strong, armed with guns, pick-axe handles and explosives. The workers saw this strike as a life-or-death struggle for their union.

At Rochdale Wharf, Indiana, where nonunion coal was being handled, 500 strikers firing guns and setting off dynamite charges stormed the loading pier and clashed with riot police. In West Virginia, FBI agents

arrested senior union officials, including a branch president, on charges of dynamiting a railway line which brought coal from nonunion mines.

## **No Strike-Pay**

The workers received no strike-pay from the union, and had to survive on their savings and government food stamps (which were eventually cut off). Relief committees were set up to give aid to desperate cases.

The strike took place in the middle of a bitter winter freeze-up and snow storms. The mine bosses withdrew the card entitling the miners to free medical care - a serious threat to workers in a country where medical treatment has to be paid for and costs enormous sums.

## **Pension Payments Stopped**

On 1st February the pension fund, which had been making payments to 82,000 retired miners, "ran out of funds". This only angered the workers further, as some of their statements (quoted in the Detroit News) show.

"If they don't take care of the retired miners, the river will run red again," said one. "I put in 37 years in the coal mines. I've got silicosis and I've had two heart attacks, I don't have that much to lose. I can still shoot, and I'm willing to give my life if I have to."

The workers began organising the pensioners and disabled miners. "We figure two-thirds of that 82,000 are still able to picket the mines and fight if they have to. Hell, some of them have told me they'll be out there on crutches or in wheelchairs."

## **"Nobody Going Back"**

"There ain't nobody going back to work if we get cut out. We'll be at the drift mouth. We'll have our guns with us and there ain't nobody going to get in that mine. My wife can shoot too, and she'll be out there with me."

In the face of such defiance, the bosses and the government looked about frantically for some means of ending the strike without capitulating to the workers. In February, they tried to bribe the workers with an offer of a one-third wage increase - in return for a limit to the right to strike. The union's negotiating team, under firm pressure from the rank and file, rejected this.

## **Backed Down**

Eventually, under anxious pressure from President Carter, the mine bosses partially backed down and offered the miners a new contract without any penalty clauses against "unofficial" strikes.

While this in itself was an important victory, the miners decided to reject the offer and press on with other demands.

## **Class Struggle**

The London Times said: "The miners are among the last groups of American workers to view labour relations in the classic terms of class struggle." This newspaper has got it completely the wrong way round!

These miners are among the first groups of American workers to once again move into decisive action in the new period of the world capitalist economic crisis. They will be followed by more and more workers mobilising to defend their living standards and to build their fighting organisations against mounting attacks by the employers and the governments.

These are early signs of the strong winds of mass struggle that are beginning to blow through the capitalist countries, rich and poor alike.

*This article is taken from the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) paper "Workers Unity". The film festival which opened last week at the Paramount is screening a film tonight (Monday July 3) on a 1974 strike in the Kentucky minefields. This strike had many similarities with the one discussed above. The film has been hailed as one of the best films on a strike ever made, and should be well worth viewing.*

## **Racist Myths in Malaysia**

# Some Myths and Realities

## Myth of the Lazy Malay

The view is widely held in Malaysia that the Malays are born lazy. This view has been expressed even by some Malays themselves, eg. Dr Mahatir in his book "The Malay Dilemma" in 1970. This view is highly distorted. Even those who hold the view above would agree that not All Malays are lazy. More importantly, this view is totally lacking in historical perspective.

Malay values and attitudes towards economic activity have been shaped by historical and social factors. Traditional Malay society was made up of large self-sufficient communities, consequently there was not much trading and the use of money was limited. Within each community, the rulers and the feudal chiefs lived in relative comfort by exploiting the peasants. Under that oppressive feudal system, thrift, industry and enterprise were thus discouraged.

The myth of the lazy Malay originated during the next phase of colonialism - imperialism with the British annexation of Malaya in the late 19th century. The British found it difficult to recruit Malays in sufficient numbers to work in the mines, rubber plantations, and the construction of roads and railways. To the capitalist-minded colonialists, the only reason they can think of to explain such Malay behaviour was the inborn "laziness" of the Malays. The real reason was very different. Working and living conditions in the mines and plantations were appallingly bad and dangerous. The Malay peasants could see it was relatively better to farm the land or fish than to be a wage slave.

On the other hand, the immigrant labourers from India and China had to put up with those inhuman conditions partly because most of them were contractually bonded to work and partly because their homelands were facing wars and famine. The British also encouraged merchants, traders and money lenders to immigrate as they required these classes to service the retail network of the colonial economy. These societies valued money-making, industry and competitiveness which were largely absent in Malay society. Although the cultural gap between the three main races has now narrowed, there are still considerable differences in cultural values between different racial groups.

## Myth of Chinese Domination of the Economy

Another widely held racist view is that the Chinese dominate the Malaysian economy. Closely related to this view are other views like; that most Chinese are businessmen, that the Chinese as a racial group exploit the Malays, resulting in the poverty and backwardness of the Malays. But such racial comparison is highly misleading because there is such a wide gap between rich and poor Chinese, and so much overlap in Malay and Chinese income distribution. Thus despite the existence of relatively larger middle and upper classes among the Chinese (and Indian), the great majority of the Chinese (71.2%) are poor like the great majority of Malays (92.4%).

## Comparison of Household Income

Distribution by race, West Malaysia, 1970

Calculated from Mid-Term Review, 2nd Malaysia Plan, 1971-1975.

It's the foreign capitalists by continuing to own large chunks of the plantation, manufacturing and commercial sectors, can truly be said to dominate the Malaysian economy. However, to most Malays, who do not have access to these basic facts, their personal experiences appears to confirm the myth of Chinese economic domination. The towns, inhabited mainly by Chinese, are like islands of prosperity surrounded by a sea of rural poverty, where most of the Malays live. While in countryside, many shopkeepers are Chinese, whose standard of material living is often higher than the Malay customers.

This distorted picture of the real world (in which the vast majority of Chinese are workers not businessmen) is a reflection of the distorted development of the Malayan economy under British rule. Being primarily interested in the tin, rubber and straits of Malacca, the British "developed" that part of Malaya, and imported migrant labour there.

To extract the primary produce and to sell their manufactured goods, the British needed a network of collection and distribution stretching into every town and village in the country. Very soon, Chinese traders whose capital was too small to compete successfully in the towns because shopkeepers in the Malay villages, performing a middleman's role between the Malay peasants at the one end and the giant British agency house at

the other. The middle man is able to manipulate prices (though only around levels set by the agency houses), and to his Malay customers he is seen as an exploiter, buying cheap and selling dear.

The distortion in the Malay's perception of the Chinese as exploiters and businessmen was worsened by colonial policies which effectively segregated the races along the races were separated by an invisible wall, with inter-racial interaction taking place only at a limited and superficial level. In such circumstances distorted racial stereotypes inevitably abounded.

## Malay "Special Rights"

The origin of the "special rights" of the Malays is also due to the British colonialists who ruled Malaya through the Malay aristocracy. To secure the support of the Sultans and feudal chiefs, the British awarded them huge tracts of land and handsome salaries to replace the "tax" which they had brutally coerced from their subjects.

The policy of Malay "special rights" was incorporated into the Malayan constitution at the time of political independence in 1957, and is carried through to this day. However the reality is rather different. The policy has benefitted mainly the rich Malays constituting only a tiny fraction of the Malay population. This is because the nature of Malay "special rights" is such that only those Malays with some surplus money to invest i.e. the middle and upper classes can take full advantages of them. Many peasants, fishermen and workers have no benefit at all, though the few of their children who manage to pass their Secondary school examinations can obtain scholarships, university places and posts in the civil service.

In the commercial field, only the rich Malay will want to apply for business licences and public companies that require Malays on its board of directors, will not select Malay workers or peasants but influential (and very probably wealthy) Malays.

In the Malay reservations, the prohibition of non-Malay ownership of land has actually benefited the Malay landlords and money lenders at the expense of the Malay peasants. Because non-Malay are excluded from buying reservation land, the price of land is effectively reduced because of reduced demand, thereby enabling Malay landlords to buy and accumulate land from the impoverished peasants.

The most striking evidence of the bankruptcy of the "special rights" policy in improving the economic position of the majority of the Malays was the government admission that in the 13 years from 1957-1970, the poorest 40% of the population (most of whom are Malays) had actually become poorer. The incomes of the poorest 20% had fallen by 14% while those of the next poorest 20% had fallen by 3% (

About 10-20% of the Chinese labourers in Larut, Perak, in the 1970s died from fever when clearing new jungles. When the mines were first opened about 50% died. S. H. Alatas, "The Myth of the Lazy Native", 1977, page 88.

Economic Report 1973-74, Ministry for Finance, Malaysia.

). The policy of "special rights" cannot help to end this exploitation and poverty of Malay peasants (or workers). In fact, in some cases (as we have seen) the "special rights" policy has intensified the exploitation of the Malay poor by the Malay rich.

*(This article has been summarized from a Fuemssso Special Supplement, 10 May 1978.)*

## The Green Revolution

Like other countries of S.E. Asia, Malaysia embarked on this programme in the second half of the '60s, laying heavy emphasis on use of high agricultural technology to raise rural productivity and income. The government hoped the resulting prosperity would stave off communist led revolution and reduce peasant discontent without having to undertake land reform at the expense of the landowning classes' interests.

'Green Revolution', essentially, is the introduction of high-yield varieties (HYV) of rice plants (known as miracle rice) to enable double or triple cropping annually with the considerable input of pesticide fertilizer and optimum irrigation.

The introduction of HYV rice meant government assistance was necessary in

- construction of irrigation works
- providing subsidies to farmers to buy fertilizers and pesticides
- providing credit to farmers, and
- stabilisation of prices of rice.

Under the heavy subsidies of government, rice production increased by 170% between 1957 and 1972 with only a 28% increase in acreage or land under padi cultivation. But the Green Revolution made little effect on rural poverty. Chemical inputs and uses of machinery are beyond the means of the poor farmer. Government

credit is insignificant and biased against them, turning farmers to the traditional money-lenders who always charge a higher rate of interest.

The Green Revolution's double cropping helped to improve the livelihoods of padi farmers as shown by the incidence of poverty in the five main rice producing states of peninsula Malaysia, as in the table below:

After the introduction of double-cropping, incidence of poverty among owner-farmers fell by about 25% and 15% only among tenant-farmers.

In the rural population, the rice peasants benefited most because they were able to afford the input necessary for high yields. This prosperity trend led some landlords to go into padi cultivation with high technological agricultural inputs and, at the same time, expand their padi lands and take in hired labour. A trend to gradual capitalist development in the countryside is now emerging.

Likewise the same trend is appearing in the cash crop (rubber small-holding) sector with the poor small-holders getting poorer and the rich ones becoming richer.

The introduction of high agricultural technique has undoubtedly benefited the multi-national corporations. They supply all the materials except cheap labour, which makes Malaysia almost self-sufficient in rice but, ironically, more economically dependent on the west and therefore less self-reliant.

## General Comment

The Green Revolution and both the FELDA and MUDA schemes (analysed in previous issues) have shown that there is no way within the existing economic system for the great majority of peasants to achieve substantial and permanent improvement in their livelihood.

## Peasants' Reaction

Throughout Malaysia peasant groups have resorted to opening up 'state land', directly defying government laws, because they have been left with no choice. It is estimated that there are 10,000 families squatting on 40,000 acres of 'state land' in Pahang. In areas with less peasant squatters, the government has acted ruthlessly by putting peasant leaders into jail, for example Hamid Tuah.

He was charged and detained under the Internal Security Act for taking a group of 200 peasants to clear 100 acres of jungle land. In 1974 thousands of peasants organised themselves for a hunger demonstration in Baling.

It is likely that governmental action could suppress peasants appropriating land, but there is a force which unites the peasants to open up land in defiance of official edicts in order to satisfy the need of themselves and their families for a minimum level of subsistence.

This is the end of the general background of the structure of the Malaysian economy.

TELL ME EEK, WHY WOULD A PERSON WANT TO BE A POLITICIAN THSES DAYS? BECAUSE BEING A POLOTICIAN IS TH BEST WAY FOR A MAN TO MAKE ANY REAL CHANGERS IN THE WORLD! WHAT KIND OF CHANGES? MORE SPEDING MONEY BETTER HOUSING IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS! YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET ALL THOSE THING FORTHE PROPLE? WHO'S TALKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE? I'M GETTING EM FOR MY ELF! 1969 ny NZA, Inc T.M. Ras W S.B.

## Thinking Ahead?

## #78 Employer Interviews 10 July-11 August

Since the initial announcement of the 1978 Employer Interview Programme (The Milkround') in Salient June 12, we have received a variety of queries about the purpose and modus operandi of the programme. I will set out here some of the main points, but please feel free to 'phone - 728-150 (or 721-000 ext. 856) - or call in to 6 K. P. if you have further queries.

Why do Employers Come to the Campus to Recruit?

Because they recognize that it is more convenient both for students and for themselves, if they spend a day or two at the university, rather than having hundreds of students scurrying around the Wellington basin trying to locate employers' offices. Also, it gives the employers a chance to develop liason with the varsity and to meet staff members over lunch.

Who Chooses the Employers who Come?

Basically I do, though some employers ask if they may come, and we have an 'open door' policy - provided there are likely to be jobs available. There is a hard core of some seventy-to-eighty recruiters of graduates (including different divisions of State Services) who traditionally visit here, Auckland University and other centres each year. There are of course many other employers who take the occasional graduate, but who would not contemplate a campus visit. (The Careers Advisory Service is concerned with recruitment to all employers, not just the Milkroundsmen). We are trying to maintain a balance in the programme, but the most consistent recruiters tend to be the big financial institutions. Newcomers this year include Feltex, NZ Motor Corporation and Television One.

How does the Programme Work?

Until I have had a chance to assess how the timing works, we are sticking to the period between Study Break and the August Holiday. Employers would often prefer the third term, but we feel this may be disruptive during the exam period. This means that many employers do not have definite jobs, but at least some idea of their requirements for late '78 - early '79. They come to offer information and even advice to job-hunters, and welcome enquiries from both the highly committed and the very uncertain. In other words, it is an informal exchange of views about possible jobs, and provides the opportunity for students to test out a range of ideas without having to make formal applications, at this stage.

The exception is the C. A. Week, which could be regarded as the slightly more formal first stage of an interview process, since both the academic input and the jobs available are more 'known quantities' than in the case of the other recruiters. Interviews are scheduled at half-hourly intervals from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (lunch 1.00-2.00 pm) and all take place at 6 Kelburn Parade. In one or two cases information sessions will be held during the lunch break.

What about Publicity?

Apart from Salient items, we will produce a detailed programme for each of the five weeks and distribute them around the University, including the Library exit. We will (try to) maintain a noticeboard in the entrance lobby of the Union building, to display the posters provided by the employers and will use other noticeboards around the campus. However, information is always available at 6 K. P.

How do Students Organize Interviews for themselves?

First, I'll make it clear that not only undergraduate finalists, but postgraduates and graduates may participate. If first and second-year students are interested (and in some cases part-time work/study schemes are available) we will try to fit them into the programme, though others will generally have priority.

If you have no idea whom you wish to see, arrange a chat with the Careers Adviser. Having decided on your personal list, call in to see Barbara Burgess (6 K. P.) who will make provisional bookings and give you a one-page personal data sheet to give to each employer. You may either complete one for each employer, or photocopy them. We ask for a reference copy for the careers office too; the reason for this is that we cannot back up students' 'applications' (if 'employers wish to discuss individual applicants) unless we have at least basic information about the students concerned. When the forms are completed and returned to the careers office, the bookings are confirmed. Four interviews may be booked initially, though additional employers may be seen on a 'reserve list' basis.

We are not trying to restrict the number of interviews any student has, but to give each student a fair chance to see the people he/she wants to see. If you have strong preferences - book early!

How should One Prepare for the Interviews?

The employers will be on your territory, and it is understood that the tone of the meeting is one of informality. However, it makes sense (if you are half-interested in getting a job) and is a courtesy to the employer to:

- Turn up - on Time
- be reasonably presentable (no one expects suits or twin-set-and pearls, but there are limits)
- have read whatever literature has been provided by the employer - available in the careers library
- have at least some idea in your mind of your preferences in occupational terms, and of your interest generally.

What Happens after the Interview?

In some cases, nothing. It depends on the policy of the employer. In other cases, a letter is sent to all enquirers outlining whether a second interview is to be offered at the employers' premises; certainly this is the approach we encourage. However in the case (for instance) of Chris Rowe of State Services Commission - he is coming on three successive Mondays to talk in broad terms about civil service careers rather than to offer specific posts - there may be no direct follow-up. In many cases the onus is on the student to follow up the interview if he/she so wishes. Don't hesitate to ask the employer what you should do next.

Over to you!

Roger Bartley, Careers Adviser

Drawing of a woman with an axe and a man reading a newspaper

Drawing of a man with a teapot for a head

## Careers Supplement Liftout

Careers supplement liftout

Programme subject to minor amendments.

**MATHS/STATISTICS ECONOMICS/ACCOUNTING** Put your degree to work in insurance: accounting; actuarial; administration; investments; sales. Find out first from NATIONAL MUTUAL. Career interviews - Wednesday 26 July. (Arrange through the Careers Advisory Office.) OR Contact: Miss Zara Larsen Personnel Dept. National Mutual PO Box 1692 WELLINGTON Phone 738-670

**COMMERCE GRADUATES** We will have vacancies at the close of the Varsity year for persons who intend to pursue careers in the accountancy profession. Our practice is one of the larger national ones and is actively engaged in all aspects of Accounting, including Management Accounting, Secretarial, Taxation and some Auditing and is, therefore, able to offer a wide range of work of an interesting and challenging nature. Generous salaries are offered and time off is granted for lectures and examination study, in cases where a successful applicant still has some subjects left to complete. Our firm has overseas associations and we have our own IBM System 3 computer installation. Applications are invited at any time before the end of 1978 from students who are partly qualified or who expect to graduate this year. Apply in writing, stating age and giving details of academic achievements to date, and if possible, supply a telephone number to: — Hogg Young Cathie & Co Chartered Accountants Auckland Hamilton Wellington Christchurch Contact: Mr Forgie, PO Box 3699, telephone 795-285, Auckland Mr Richardson, PO Box 518, telephone 85-391, Hamilton Mr Domett, PO Box 10-340, telephone 725-850, Wellington Mr Rundle, PO Box 443, telephone 65-282, Christchurch

**VSA THE NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE ABROAD (INC.) HAVE YOU A SPECIAL SKILL?** You could help a developing country while gaining a whole new world experience. The Volunteer Service Abroad organisation is a wholly New Zealand independent aid agency which has an increasing number of requests from the Pacific for volunteers. Some are for graduates: accountants, architects, economists, engineers and surveyors. Others are for technical people like draughtsmen, marine and auto electricians, civil and agricultural engineers. Talk to VSA Assistant Selection Coordinator Sue Wilson on the VUW campus, Tuesday 25 July, or write to her at: Box 12-246, Wellington. Phone 725-759.

**IBM CAREERS WITH A FUTURE** Ian Simpson, Personnel Manager of IBM New Zealand Limited will be available to discuss professional careers in IBM on Tuesday, 1 August. Careers include Marketing, Systems Consulting, Accountancy, Field Engineering, Administration. Students from all faculties are welcome. Arrange an interview through the Careers Advisory Service.

**COMMERCE STUDENTS AN INVITATION WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 1978** Peter Schumacher from the Wellington Office is available to discuss with commerce students, career prospects with our firm. Opportunities, technical training, practical experience, job responsibilities and overseas transfers are some of the points that can be covered in detail at this interview. Make an appointment now for Wednesday 12 July 1978, as part of the Employers Visits Programme, to discuss prospects with our firm: Clarke Menzies & Co, Chartered Accountants 175 The Terrace Wellington. Telephone: 739-313

**THE AUDIT OFFICE "Parliament's Watchdog"** is looking for accountancy graduates interested in: \* financial auditing, and \* efficiency evaluations of organisations as diverse as the:- NZ Apple & Pear Board, Accident Compensation Commission, Hutt Valley Electric Power and Gas Board, Department of Social Welfare. If you would like to discuss your prospects and a career with a dynamic organisation performing an important public function which offers: \* varied experience \* rapid professional development \* early responsibility \* competitive remuneration then contact the Careers Advisory Office for an appointment with Audit Office representatives when they visit the University on Thursday 20 July 1978. Alternatively, phone Ross Blaikie or Phil Kennerly at Wellington 724-979.

commerce graduates Price Waterhouse & Co exemplifies the total service concept of today's accounting firms, offering to its clients auditing, accounting, tax and management consulting services as well as working extensively in receiverships, liquidations, estate planning and other areas of specialisation. A career with Price Waterhouse gives the widest possible experience through varied and interesting assignments, attention to your personal development, and the opportunity to travel. We will welcome a discussion with you about your plans and expectations in the accounting profession. If you prefer, you may direct a written enquiry to the staff partner: Price Waterhouse & Co Chartered Accountants 8th Floor IBM Building The Terrace PO Box 766 WELLINGTON

**COMMERCE STUDENTS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANCY BARR BURGESS & STEWART** are currently seeking students who are considering a career in chartered accountancy, commencing either in 1978 or 1979. We are interested in meeting you if you: \* graduate from university this year or next; \* are interested in the broader aspects of accounting, management and taxation; \* have the desire and ability to learn to handle difficult and varied assignments that will challenge your skills and judgement; \* are of an independent cast of mind and character; \* exercise common sense; \* have the ability to develop the respect of others; \* have an active interest in your community; \* believe you have the capacity to grow to high professional stature. We can offer you: \* Dynamic short or long term career prospects; \* Topline staff training programme; \* The choice of work specialisation; \* Overseas experience; \* Stimulating work environment, \* Top level salary and benefits, (including time off for completion of studies), We are conducting interviews with interested students on Wednesday 12 July at 6 Kelburn Parade. Further details and a copy of our firm brochure can be obtained from the Careers Advisory Board. Alternatively if you are unable to attend on this date an interview can be arranged in our office by calling either Robin Hill or John McDougall at 727-787. Barr Burgess & Stewart, Chartered Accountants, PO Box 243, Wellington.

**GRADUATING THIS YEAR? WHATS YOUR DEGREE WORTH?** If you're seeking a career Wareham can help. With a finger on the pulse of the entire commercial and industrial sectors we are in a position to cover the market for you, to seek out a special opportunity to match your skills. Clients know that we place only people of calibre. We restrict ourselves to executives and those with executive potential. Accountants, Marketing staff, the gamut of EOP people. Engineers and those with ambition and potential. Naturally you'll consider job seeking a confidential matter. Which it is if you deal with Wareham, our long tested security procedures allow you to hear of many advertised vacancies in complete confidence. For the record we fill approximately two out of every three vacancies from people on file. To arrange for your name to be entered on our file call 735-695. Wareham Associates (N.Z.) Ltd Management Consultants Brandon House Cnr Brandon & Featherston Streets. PO Box 3072, Wellington

**Finance & Management.** What jobs Straining are available to graduates? Right now the Bank of New Zealand is looking for well qualified people with management potential and ambition. We are keen to talk to graduates from any faculty who are interested in business and who see a future for themselves in management. On your way to management On joining the BNZ you will be trained as quickly as possible in a general background of banking to prepare you for more permanent positions. The emphasis is on a general career in banking and management. But as part of this programme there is also opportunity to work in areas of special interest to you. Your own career path More importantly, the BNZ is dedicated to a policy that enables you to express your own career objectives so your career development is matched as closely as possible to your own wishes. Nationwide — worldwide As the country's largest bank, the BNZ has branch offices and district offices throughout New Zealand. It also has brandies, representative offices and working associations throughout the world — providing you with the opportunity for overseas experience. The business of banking The business of banking is the business of finance — the taking of deposits, the lending of money and the handling of a wide range of financial transactions. This range of activities, plus the essential supporting skills (marketing, accounting, funds management, personnel, training, methods, economics) allows for a great variety of experiences in the course of a career. Why the BNZ The BNZ handles 40% of the nation's trading bank business, giving it a greater depth of resources to call on and an organisation big enough to give you a wide range of training and promotional opportunity. It is also the only totally New Zealand owned trading bank, giving it a deep commitment to New Zealand and New Zealanders. Now why not talk it over face to face. We will be happy to discuss your opportunities, give you more detail about the BNZ, introduce you to people who already work here. Just call: Bank of New Zealand

**BCA GRADUATES & COMMERCE STUDENTS** We are visiting the University on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 July and would like to meet students who have reached an advanced stage of their BCA course and who would like to discuss a challenging professional career. Our firm can offer practical experience in all fields of accountancy using up-to-date and sophisticated techniques and this is supplemented by extensive personal development and professional training programmes. If you would like to discuss your future career plans with us at the University please contact: Barbara Burgess Careers Advisory Service 6 Kelburn Parade Wellington Telephone 728-150 Alternatively you can contact our Staff Partner, Mr George Verry direct to arrange a discussion on career opportunities. **WILKINSON WILBERFOSS, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. HUME HOUSE, 152 THE TERRACE, PO BOX 490, WELLINGTON TELEPHONE 725-840.**

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANCY** Do you have the academic attainments and the personal initiative necessary to meet the challenge of an accounting career? If you are a BCA graduate, or a near graduate, in accounting subjects your next step is to select a position which will further your training, broaden your experience and offer interesting on-the-job challenge and responsibility. We are a national firm of chartered accountants with international associates and offer all the above to suitable graduates, together with an

extensive staff training programme and regular, generous salary reviews. Our modern techniques in auditing, accounting services, taxation and EDP are acknowledged as excellent preparation for a future career in chartered accountancy or the commercial world. We sponsor suitable employees for experience with our overseas associates. Interviews may be arranged with our representatives Tom Hardy and Warren Allen at the Careers Advisory Service offices, 6 Kelburn Parade on THURSDAY 13 JULY. Please contact the Careers Advisor's office. HUNT DUTHIE & CO Chartered Accountants BP House, Customhouse Quay Wellington PO Box 2194 Telephone 725-339

COMMERCE STUDENTS Spare a few moments to think about your career. If you hope to graduate in July or are contemplating part-time study in the second semester, this could be an opportune moment for us to give you a few facts. As a large national firm of chartered accountants we offer wide experience, early responsibility, rapid promotion, good salary, training facilities, opportunities for specialisation and gaining experience overseas. We suggest that you arrange a meeting with our staff partner in order to discuss the facts and your personal prospects. Please write or telephone — David Macdonald, Hutchison Hull+Co Chartered Accountants, Challenge House, Wellington P.O. Box 1990 Telephone: 721 677

ARMY OFFICER A NATURAL ALL-ROUNDER The Army has never been regarded as a refuge for intellectuals or academics. And we hope it never will be. But as the Army has become more sophisticated, more is being demanded of its Officers. This is why we need intelligent young people who have demonstrated academic and practical abilities at university, or in commercial and technical spheres. The Army isn't an easy option. Far from it. You will have to prove to a Regular Officers Selection Board that you have leadership potential, common sense, an ability to get on with people and that you're as agile physically as you are mentally. Yes, an all-rounder. If you're up to our standards we could offer you: a. Sponsorship through university or other appropriate educational institutions. b. An intensive twelve months' training course at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Australia, or the Officer Cadet Training Company, Waiouru. If you are between 18-26 years of age, believe you have the qualities to be an Army Officer then write to the: Director of Recruiting, Defence Headquarters, Private Bag, ARMY OFFICER giving details of your age and educational qualifications.

## "Well, Baby, What can I do for You?"

### Women Models

*This article first appeared in Broadwheet.*

It all began when my mother pushed an advertisement 'Models Wanted' in front of me and said that if I didn't get a job soon there would be trouble. Mother had the idea that after disgracing the family by dropping out of Teachers College I should do something respectable like office work, etc. instead of bumming around in hospital kitchens and dishwashing in restaurants. After a lot of pushing from Mother, who had always hoped that someday I would do something glamorous and fulfil her dreams. I decided to take the plunge. After all it could be a laugh, even glamorous, and plenty of men had said that I was alright to look at.

So off I went to enrol myself at a modelling school for charm, elegance, deportment, poise, posture, makeup, hairdos, fingerpaint, eyelashes, dollybird techniques and modelling. Of course there was the small investment of \$50, which Mother paid eagerly, thinking how nice it would be to see her daughter in Women's Weekly, and how it would impress all the relatives and show them that I was not a hopeless dropout after all.

By now I was quite eager and looking forward to hitting the Big Time and money. After about two weeks of applying makeup and learning how to catwalk (rolling down the stage like a dummy on wheels) and how to smile - sexy smile, cheeky smile outrageous smile etc. in preparation for whatever mood the advertising agent plus the photographer thought would sell his product - one received a diploma and some nice photographs of oneself doing all these things and the promise of success.

I had now entered the Golden Gates of Dolly Bird Land. You even had to practise being filmed in case you ever managed to get television advertisements, and they had some man there to give us a "screen test". This of course impressed us all so much that we laid on our best performances for him. Afterwards I found out that the guy had no film in his camera and they never do for such "screen tests".

### Competition Reigns Supreme

Of course not all the girls are accepted, so this made the course very competitive, competition being the

most vicious element in the world of Plastic Woman. The big orgasm for these girls would be to Win the Model of the Year award and the one that wins is usually the one who is the most skilful at the art of Dolly Birdism, or she knows the photographer who is the key judge.

Inside the modelling house that I was in a system of hierarchy existed between the girls who had made it as top models and the others. They were held in awe by the rest. Whenever one of these super models came through the door all the girls would oooh! and aaah! with admiration and envy for her brilliant makeup, artistry and gliding catwalk. Yes she had mastered it. It seemed that the bigger the lashes the more attention she could attract. That was the eyelash era of '68. Often girls like this would have years of experience in makeup trickery behind them and they would dedicate their entire life to obeying the commands of King Advertising.

## Precious Dolls

Women have this idea that if men make a fuss of you, they must like and respect you. In the modelling and advertising world the men that one associates with make a great deal of fuss over you, and at first you think it is great and you feel like a precious doll. In fact most of them despise you as a master despises his submissive role-playing wife.

For instance, I heard this conversation between a photographer and an advertising man when the models were changing:

*Photographer: "Bit of a mole that one with the fat arse."*

*Adman: "Yeah, "what about that one with the boobs eh! Wouldn't mind laying her."*

*Photographer: "Yeah, nice bit of crutch. Ah Christ, what's the bloody time? Hurry up you broads!"*

And it is the model's role to obey. Once I and two other models were doing a feature for one of Auckland's leading fashion photographers and I suggested changing our position when he didn't seem to be having much success with the lighting, and he yelled back at me: "Just shut up and stand there. You models are supposed to do as you are told and leave the organising to me." My idea was actually superior to his, but because I was a model I had to be beautiful, dumb and obedient to this prick.

So you can see how women are exploited not only because of sexist advertising, but also while they are involved in it, and we will never be free from this oppression until we smash sexist advertising and the stereotype roles that it supports.

## Getting a Job

The interview I had with a certain photographer went like this: I stood waiting by desk for 10 minutes while he shuffled his papers and chewed gum like a GI, then he looked up and said in a mock American accent:

"Well, baby, what can I do for you?"

Collage of women models

"I'd like to do modelling."

"So you want to be a model, well baby, I'll tell you straight, it's not all glamour, it's hard work, let's have a look at you," chewing all the time.

"Well baby, not bad, not bad. Turn around, your hips are too big - make them smaller. Turn around. Your eyes are too small, make them bigger. But I'll give you some test shots anyway. How's that eh? I don't have to, mind you." (Kiss my toes).

"Wear a denim shirt open down the front and be here at 8.00 tonight, see you, see you."

These test shots are to see if you are photogenic and any good at putting on an act for the camera.

Then came the phone call from the photographer. "The shots were great baby, great." (Always this endearing term, Baby). "We'll do your first shot tomorrow. Big ad this, big job. You will be wearing \$2000 worth of fur, only you will have to make those boobs stick out more - pad them up with something. Okay? And I want that makeup to be perfect - big eyes. Okay?"

After standing for about two hours concentrating on a smouldering smile in a \$2000 fur next to a \$1000 dog and eskimo artifact, the job was done and we all went to dinner in a fast car to a smooth restaurant. This all sounds very glamorous, but it's all part of the business scene and the model doesn't mean a thing to these people except that she has to sell their product. The model is the underdog - for example I was paid \$30 for that particular advertisement (four months later), which sounds a lot for two hours work, but the photographer would have received about \$400 and the agent about \$800.

The amount of money which a firm will spend on advertising a product is endless, for example hiring ten people to stand around blowing bubbles over you in a bath tub for three hours, or getting ten models organised by five in the morning at Bethells Beach to catch the right light which will sell see-through lingerie to all the young sophisticates of Remuera.

## Models Don't...

Being a model means being part of the media and this means being accepted and respected by society. They are the ultimate in dolly birds and they perpetuate stereotype role playing and sexism. They are not real women. They don't fart or burp, have underarm hair or vaginal odour, have babies or breasts with milk in them, and they don't feel or think very much about the negro children in the USA who are dying from malnutrition and lead poisoning, or the young Maori girls in homes with nowhere to go and no one to father their babies, and the solo mothers in Glen Innes struggling on \$30 a week because their husbands could not face the responsibility of children and breadwinner neurosis. Or the middle-aged women in Oakley suffering from suburban neurosis and the young girls who gaze at glossy pictures of them and get inferiority complex, s because their legs aren't the same shape, and the boys who see these pictures and think that is how women are supposed to look.

For prostituting myself to the capitalist system I got a write up in the local paper "Local girl makes good" style. For protesting against the war in Vietnam when I was 15 I got a write up in the paper "Schoolgirls shame school in scuffle with police at demonstration" style.

## The Big Capitalist Brainwash

The model is the consumer goddess of the industrial world. She sells anything from an eggbeater in a miniskirt to petroleum in a bikini, holding the almighty penis of pollution as if she was about to seduce. Advertising is the big brainwash in our society. The advertising kingdom has invented new ways of getting their message across using the subconscious - by flashing images [*unclear*: across] the screen at high speed. For example:

- Flash: opening of aftershave bottle top.
- Flash: woman's navel.
- Flash: man's eyes.
- Flash: liquid pouring from bottle in slow motion.

Yes, advertising will cash in on anything from sex to sell cars to parenthood to sell life insurance. Capitalism means exploit ation, consumerism and pollution.. Capitalism exploits the factory workers who make the products that sexist advertising promotes. Through their greed, fat capitalists pollute our earth, for example by using mercury in a paper bleaching process because it is cheaper. Through their greed thousands of people are slaughtered on the roads because the breweries won't admit that drunken driving causes 90% of road deaths, and I turned on a sexist smile for them in an advertisement for vodka.

If beauty is the earth and the life it gives, the sea when it is not polluted; the seasons, the sun, motherhood; fatherhood, sisterhood; brotherhood and the unity of people, then surely something as anti-life as capitalism and all its advertising must be ugly.

Miriam Cameron

## In Defense of Romantic Love

Image of a Victorian woman sitting in a chair

Having crashed like a moth through a jungle of legs leaving them all weeping willows, I, grew pale under her meaningless winter sun smile and made sightless anger my trembling wall, until, the sheer size of it's shadow turned my ears to the tune of the moist warm red tounge and lips whose bitter owners say

there is no love  
at  
all.

— Yet  
this pen has an aura  
I cannot deny that  
the tension, the sex, and the huge tears you cried

in defense; were like dirt  
that you threw in my eyes:  
It was to save my sight  
that I kissed you goodbye.

— But

I'll not share ambition with the children who plan candied empires from cots while they take what they can, in the meantime; this dream, this Romantic Love, that flows like a rose past green river banks and explodes like sparks from the dripping pens of bachelor poets (like me) to bitter laughter from you — loud enough to kill the cries of your fourteen whining children for a while —

for me  
is still  
the only  
kind  
that will do.

— Because  
I'm aware of the risk  
of destroying the view  
of the cake  
by eating it  
too.

Jonathan Scott

## Film Sentimental Fluff Plus

### The Goodbye Girl

directed by Herbert Ross Regent

"It was like falling off a log" says Richard Dreyfuss. "The Goodbye Girl is the type of movie I'd seen as a kid and said I want to be in that kind of picture when I get to be an actor."

Well now he is an actor, and he has an Oscar to prove it. Emerging in the early '70s, Dreyfuss has had a number of interesting film roles: he looked ridiculously young in *American Graffiti*; he gagged at severed limbs in *Jaws*; and in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* he played with his potato salad and tried to look suitably awestruck.

Dreyfuss shines throughout *The Goodbye Girl* in what is by far his most engaging characterisation. Neil Simon wrote the script specifically for Dreyfuss and his own wife, Marsha Mason. It is an actor's film and both the stars make the most of it. The dialogue is really so good that it would raise a laugh even if delivered by a pair of stuttering amputees; here the combination of talents makes the film almost embarrassingly successful.

The plot, as is usual with Simon's stories, is insubstantial but quite irresistible. Dreyfuss, as Elliot Garfield, is a quirky egocentric actor, newly arrived in New York to play the lead in an off-Broadway production of *Richard III*. Mason plays Paula, a dancer two years out of training, and Quinn Cummings is her ten year old daughter Lucy. They have just been deserted by. Paula's lover left for Bertolucci and Italy, but not before he has sneakily sublet their apartment to Dreyfuss. On a wet New York night Dreyfuss finds himself locked out of his new apartment by the pair who, with nowhere to go, refuse to leave. Elliot eventually comes to a strained agreement with Paula and despite their initial incompatibility, the two find themselves becoming attracted to one another. Paula has twice been jilted by actors and is deadly scared of falling in love with yet another one. Elliot eventually succeeds in winning her over, however, in what has to be one of the screen's funniest and most

unusual seduction scenes.

Cummings, the precocious Lucy, offers welcome relief from the tiresome succession of well scrubbed brats featured on American TV and films (hands up all those who think the "Brady Bunch" sucks). She even gets to say some dirty words which, in the days of Lolita would have condemned this film to an R 21 certificate.

In addition to looking at Elliot and Paula's relationship, *The Goodbye Girl* pokes some fun at New York's theatre scene. Elliot Garfield's high hopes for his Richard III are ruined by an ambitious director who sets about modifying Shakespeare's play somewhat. Elliot is forced to play Richard as an effeminate, "Renaissance fruitfly". His pleas with the director to let him retain his hump and limp are particularly moving.

On another level the film offers a rather chilling view of the city. Woody Allen's *Annie Hall* took an affectionate look at New York. In *The Goodbye Girl* director Herbert Ross is seemingly less enthusiastic. The characters lead secure comfortable lives - behind triple locked doors. Streets are littered with garbage. In one scene Paula is mugged in broad daylight on a busy street. Greys and browns predominate; we never see any grass throughout the whole movie.

These features, however, are only a subtle underpinning to what is an otherwise thoroughly optimistic film. In one scene we see Elliot and Paula dancing, in longshot, on their tenement roof. The two are surrounded by buildings on either side. Far below them the wet streets glisten with the frantic lights of motorcars. Symbolically Paula and Elliot represent a triumph for love over the Ratrace. Thrown together in a huge, impassive city they have helped each other to survive and learn to love one another, in spite of New York. Paula, the 'Goodbye Girl', is finally third-time-lucky with Elliot. The theme song by David Gates sums things up in the lines:

*"Goodbye doesn't mean forever... Goodbye doesn't mean we'll never be together again"*

It really is more than just sentimental fluff. Skip John Travolta - he can afford it. Go and see 'The Goodbye Girl' instead.

Costa Botes.

## They don't Make 'Em Like they Used to (Phew)

I skipped a Political Science lecture racing downtown to the Paramount (50% discount to students) to see *The Secret of Dorian Gray*, a modern allegory inspired by Oscar Wilde, but was first subjected to *Nathalie After Love*. It began with a short written comment on prostitutes linked with venereal disease (was this a public spirited message or part of the movie?) and then on to the sordid much (always a popular description). At R. 18 the flick was grossly over-restricted; TV produces more titty and bum stuff these days (perhaps as a consequence this showing had an audience of 10-19), it probably received its label of indecency over its shamefulness.

It was disguised as a biology film for the advanced student: ten minutes from the end the usual screams of half naked men and women (tightly squeezed together, grunting and groaning) was interrupted (advert fashion) by an illustrated guide to what nasty spots occur when syphilis and gonorrhoea are contracted, all done tastefully with biology style cross section drawings, and then back to the movie. Girl recovers, breaks off with seducer and returns to waiting celebrate boyfriend, skirt three inches longer etc etc.

*The Secret of Dorian Gray* was almost as ridiculous (unfortunately it was twice as long: two hours of boredom); but at least the painting didn't look as though it had come from Woolworths. Any feeling the original had was lost in a direct transplant into 1969 or thereabouts; oddly neither movie or poster had the usual mcmlxx (whatever) blurb.

My grouch is not so much with the movies which were shown as over the ones which were missed out. Auckland now has a classics theatre, and even we occasionally get a showing of some elderly flick from the Penthouse or Paramount. But why not more? In the Listener a couple of weeks ago, the film review was of the Science Fiction classic *Forbidden Planet*; are we to get it in Wellington? The movie business has been buzzing for 80 years now, almost 50 in sound; probably millions of flicks have been made and a very large number of these have been excellent and would be worth seeing again.

This years bunch of re-runs up here have also been a pretty seedy lot. No doubt there are problems acquiring old movies but if they can do it in Auckland why not Wellington? The Film Society is constantly bragging its longevity and skill at acquiring odd arty overseas prints. It brings back *I Am Curious Yellow*, why not *Citizen Kane*?

The sordid drivel movie houses can get hold of could be replaced by more worthwhile products, especially if they feel the demand is there. The movies are an art form. Books, paintings, even records are relatively accessible over time, but films seem to be allowed to fade away. A shame it is that only TV brings them out from the archives, because as anybody knows, the box is no replacement for the big screen. Anyhow, often a

classic gets its one showing at the time of a previous appointment..... shucks.

Tim Brown

## Real—istically Speaking

Reel to Real have now played at two Sasracs and even to those who have not had the chance to hear them at least the name will mean something. Reel to Real was formed at the beginning of this year, and with the exception of a few students concerts have been confined to suburban hotels. The scant publicity they have received (often due to financial reasons) and the few opportunities that they have had have all been influencing factors in prompting me to write this article.

*What has been the musical background that has brought you together as a group?*

Geoff: Well, we all played together in a group called 'Maranatha' for about three years where we tried to do original music; trying to be a distinctive type of band on a part-time basis. Then at the end of '77 Chris Norton our keyboards player and Marayan Street our lead vocals both left. The rest of us then decided to re-form the next year as a professional band. So, at the beginning of this year we got together and began practising. We've been going ever since.

Graham: There was a real change from being a keyboard based band to a guitar based band, so things have changed quite radically in style. In [*unclear*: terms] of numbers, we play a lot more unoriginal material, though we are still working at playing our own stuff...

Geoff: We initially had to get a big repertoire together, so we've had to learn a lot of commercial type music. But it has been encouraging as we're finding a lot more time now to do work on our own compositions and select out a more distinctive set of songs.

*Let's return to your personal histories, Ash?*

Initially I started off with folk-style guitar (you know, doing rag-time and sort of strumming styles). Then I did a couple of years of classical guitar with a private tutor and another at Vic doing Music Performance. In '74 I picked up bass and travelled around schools with old Maranatha, and in '75 I started to play 6-string guitar with the new Maranatha which had changed a good deal by then. We played a lot of our own compositions then, more so than we are doing now...so anyway...I found it quite hard picking up an electric guitar and doing original stuff, it is harder than simply copying in a lot of ways.

*Question - Dave?*

Dave: Well, basically I'm a folk singer.

*(laughter...He's changed a bit... he used to be...)*

I concentrate more on vocals now, though I do play rhythm guitar. I played with the old Maranatha, mainly sax and occasionally keyboards.

*Graham, didn't you try the academic musical life for a while?*

Graham: Yes, I did for two years in a percussion course at Polytech. I started playing when I was about 16 in various school bands....nothing very substantial in terms of any group staying together for any length of time. It was only when I joined Mananatha in '73 that I began to play seriously. I have been played in various combinations of that group up until the beginning of this year, that's when I joined Reel to Real.

*Geoff, what about you? I can remember you playing in groups around Nelson when you were at school.*

Geoff: I guess I have always been a bit of a doodler; doodled on piano and acoustic guitar, played a little bit of bass at school (but not much), and when I first went to University I mucked around on electric guitars. It really wasn't until 1975 that I began to play in any disciplined kind of way, that was when I joined Maranatha as a bass player. Since then I have concentrated on bass playing and now backing vocals. So really I'm an untrained rock 'n' roll barbarian.

*Reel to Real: Ashley Lienert, Graham Potter, Dave Bates and Geoff Keith.*

Photo of Ashley Lienert, Graham Potter, Dave Bates and Geoff Keith

*Where's the group been playing mostly this year?*

Graham: Definitely pubs, though mostly in the suburbs. In fact, this job at Varsity will be the first in town for nearly...how long have we been playing...well, since the last time we played at Polytech 3 or 4 months ago. We hope to do more concert work in the future.

*Why the name Reel to Real?*

Graham: I guess one of the things we are trying to do as a band is to play music that is realistic in the sense of being true to life as we see it. In other words, we're trying to bring our songs to bear on the real situation around us in the world.

Geoff: You could read into the first 'Reel' the things of music like tape reels etc., and the second 'Real' the things of life as we see them - which for us does have some distinctive features. We want to bring our music

and composition in some way to bear on our Christian way of looking at life, and that for all of us represents the base line from where we begin. We've found ourselves out on a limb really.

*So, in your music you are not wanting to take people into a fantasy world but rather you wish to present life as you see it, contrasted with the purely commercial group caught up in chasing the elusive dollar bill?*

(At that point the Economist of the group quickly leapt to his feet.)

Ashley: There's more to our basic purpose than just to entertain people, though we want to do that as well. We don't want to take people away from their real situation which involves real joy and pain.

Dave: We enjoy music that is good to listen to and fun to play. We want to entertain people and maybe say something more.

*What style of music do you play?*

Dave: We've all had different backgrounds and influences - Potter, Ash and Geoff are all dregs from the #60s. I'm still trying to convince them that James Taylor and Dave Loggins are good musicians; they're still trying to get past the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. But mainly the music we do best is stuff like Johnny Winter, Boxer', and Lynard Skynnard - music with simple basic backing.

Graham: We do play a large variety of styles and some of our own material. It's hard to compare ourselves to any other band around really. Obviously with our line up - two guitars, bass, drums and Dave doubling on sax and blues harp - we are quite limited as we have no keyboards player (though Dave can double on that in the studio).

*Any possibility of a keyboards player coming into the group?*

Geoff: We're open to that possibility, though we aren't looking.

Dave: They would have to have all their own gear, a Bedford truck and enough money to support us all.

*As for the problems you are facing, are they a product purely of the NZ situation or just the hard road of professionalism ?*

Graham: Making it in NZ means different things to making it overseas. Even if you did get a record to the number one slot in NZ, it would only mean a national tour and then you would be back playing in pubs - maybe a higher class pub which pays more. Basically that's all the venues there are. That is why so many artists and bands go to Australia. But it depends on what you mean by 'success' or 'making it'.

*What about future plans?*

Dave: Lunch.

Graham: Three weeks at the Royal Tiger starting the 14th of June which will be our first central city pub and we have concerts at Sasrac and Polytech. We also hope to get out of Wellington later in the year. There is the possibility of some TV work in the future.

Geoff: We hope to go to some place like Nelson or Gisbourne during the summer, and next year we will be touring on a limited basis. Till then we are available for gigs in Wellington.

This year has seen the group develop a much tighter sound, higher energy output and a far smoother stage performance. Their traditional rock'n'roll line up has expanded greatly over the weeks, moving from a fairly limited repertoire to one of reasonable variety. At times they seem to suffer from the lack of some intergrating and co-ordinating influence, perhaps being the absence of a keyboards player. Their vocals have improved vastly over the year as the group has grown in confidence, though at times it is still difficult to pick up lyrics. Individually they are all excellent musicians with the capacity of playing a number of styles well. Their own [unclear: material] is distinctive and easy to listen to, they have a single that may be released, [unclear: inance] permitting, in the near future).

Considering the experience of the group [unclear: nd] their improvement during the year, I [unclear: eel] sure that they are a name and sound [unclear: hich] we will hear a lot more of.

## Campus Music

### Drunk with Music

Drinking began even before the curtain rose on Gluck's comic opera, The Reformed Drunkard, presented last month by the VUM Music Society. Entering the foyer, members of the audience were plied with mulled wine. No wonder few listened quietly to the Baroque Players, bowing busily amongst the potted plants.

If anyone was still in doubt as to the nature of the forthcoming entertainment, the sight of the conductor in jeans surely set the seal on an evening of informal gaeity. No-one was disappointed.

As the two drunkards. Michael Riddiford and Tim Barnes made the most of the buffoonery, contrasting effectively with the earnest sobriety of the Romania lead Cleon-played by Murray Lawrence. The principal

female role, Mathuruine, was taken by Nicola Waite whose singing was a joy to hear, as was the lighter but equally charming voice of Janet Elefans as Colette,

Gluck's music, with the exception of the buffo roles, lends itself to bright, less mature voices, and taken overall, singing of principles and chorus was clear and tuneful.

Musical Director, Ross Harris should be congratulated for the high standard of the music throughout - in particular the playing of the orchestra and continuo. As well as inspiring the players, he also arranged and adapted parts of the score. Another welcome addition to the music was the interpolation of a piece by composition student, Michael Vinton.

Musically well-rehearsed and vigorous, visually the opera was carefree and joyous. Producer Adrian Kiemander evidently decided to emphasise comic aspects - to play for laughs - at the expense of professional polish. He deserves credit for the handling of the Underworld scene, dramatically it was most effective. Costumes, though adequate, could have been improved at little COS) with a more imaginative use of colour. But these are minor quibbles. If the audience wasn't drunk with the wine beforehand, it was drunk with music by the time the curtain fell.

## Lilburn in Concert

Besides the opera, the week before study break brought forth an abundance of concerts. After the excitement of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis on June 10th, the following Wednesday the Poly-Vic orchestra performed Shostakovich Symphony no. 1 at one end of town, while at the other, Rae de [unclear: Lisl] played Beethoven's hardy perennial - the Appassionata. Even after so many hearings, Beethoven has the unmatched ability to surprise and delight.

The lunchtime concert on Thursday 15th June also featured Shostakovich. The String Quartet no. 8 is his fierce comment on the fire storms after the bombing of Dresden - a powerful work, professionally and sincerely performed. But for me the most memorable work of the concert, of many concerts, was the final item - Douglas Lilburn's Sonatina for clarinet and piano, performed by June Brain (clarinet) and Margaret Nielsen (piano). Written in 1948, the work is fairly typical of the period in having a strongly tonal basis, yet has a poignant charm of its own. The [unclear: by composition] was delightful - pity it [unclear: wasn't] recorded.

## Pleasing Prospects

Coming lunchtime concerts promise to be exciting. This week the ensemble includes Roy Tankersley (harpsichord), Geoffrey Coker (counter tenor) and Marion Olsen (mezzo soprano) presenting a programme of music by French composers. Included are works by Debussy and Ravel and a piece by the seventeenth-century composer, Andre Campra. Most famous now for his operas, Campra was for many years musical director at the cathedrals of Toulon, Aries and Notre Dame in Paris. For this reason his operas were originally produced under his brother's name, but even so he lost his job with the church, though he was finally reinstated.

On 13th July, visiting Australian pianist, David Lockett will give a solo recital. His programme includes Haydn and Liszt plus two contemporary works by Australian composers. Sydney composer, Richard Meale became greatly influenced by Spanish music when he visited Spain in the 1960s. Two works, Las Alboradas (1963) and Homage to Garcia Lorca (1964) put him in the forefront of the Australian avant garde. Pianist and composer, Meale's work is notable for its complex technical prowess. Larry Sitsky was born in North China in 1934, of Russian Jewish parentage. He came to Australia in 1951 and studied piano in Sydney. Though he has now withdrawn all his early works - those written before 1959 - his opus now numbers 25, and includes two operas, music for films and ballet plus a variety of instrumental works. Don't miss David Lockett's performance.

Julia Millen

## Drama Playing Around

### State of the Play

by Roger Hall

directed by Anthony Taylor, Downstage

Peter Dingwall is an established play wright come to a small town to give a weekend playwriting seminar. Five people turn up, the minimum required number for such events. Dingwall's stated intention is to earn an

easy \$10 per hour; his students hope that through him they will discover some key within themselves. A key to what? All would welcome a little fame, beyond that none are too sure. For all, the concept of "creativity" is invested with considerable mystique, with the power to free them from their surroundings, to save them, perhaps, from themselves.

Dingwall is cynical and disillusioned. He has not been able to finish a play for years, and is about to give up writing in favour of advertising. He sees it as his duty to strip his students of their romantic notions, yet is envious of their ability (however naive it is) to believe in something. Cynicism takes the upper hand as he systematically attempts to knock their ideas and efforts to pieces.

He has structured the weekend as an examination of the "well made play", using a series of exercises based on the theme of fathers. From these exercises we gradually learn about the characters' past lives, their present fears and aspirations. Dingwall stays removed from this process, revealing little of himself except loneliness and a desire not to be put down.

The students' responses to his attacks are generally creative; when he is attacked he withdraws into himself, letting a "creative anguish" rise to the surface. This reaches its peak near the end, when a collectively written sequence is performed which spoofs all Dingwall's theories. He explodes, accusing the students of insensitivity and downright stupidity, and in turn has all his faults of the weekend thrown at him.

*State of the Play: Ann Budd, Penny Downes, Ray Henwood, Michael McGrath and Peter Vere-Jones vying for creativity.*

Photo of Ann Budd, Penny Downes, Ray Henwood, Michael McGrath and Peter Vere-Jones

Dingwall then makes his great speech, revealing the enormous and twisted influence his own father has had on him, and developing a "truly creative image" of a monster which crouches in the corner of his study waiting to destroy his creativity. It is because he can no longer withstand this monster, he claims, that he is giving up.

It is unfortunate that this and every subsequent Roger Hall play will be treated as The Next Roger Hall Play, prodded and probed to see if it measures up, speculated on to see where Hall is heading, how he is developing, etc, etc. While all this goes on the actual production can get overlooked, yet in a sense this is made inevitable by the plays themselves.

State of the Play is relatively straightforward, both structurally and in the demands made on the actors, director and designer. Tony Taylor's production at Downstage conforms to that straightforwardness, making largely unobtrusive use of all the well made play requirements which have been sewn in. Paul Shirriff's design is in the same mode, containing little which might facilitate a deeper level of drama or theme than the printed word affords, yet still having some excellent aspects. The floor of the set (the interior of an old schoolroom), with an irregular pattern caused by differently coloured boards is strikingly realistic.

The acting varies. Ray Henwood as Dingwall's teacher friend Dave who is sitting in to make up the numbers, is quite the best I have seen him in a long time. He relaxes into the role, enjoys his lines and displays first class timing. He has a good part (that is, it seems to capture the elements of farce with more imagination than others) but that doesn't make it any easier. In fact, it is quite possible Henwood's ability to play the laughs fully without undermining the more serious aspects which does the most to keep the play on an even keel.

Peter Vere-Jones as Dingwall has a harder time, sometimes allowing the character's confusion and tiredness to affect his own performance. The major speech succeeds to the extent that it draws a lot of thematic and structural threads together, yet for some reason it is not quite believable. Perhaps because it is The Major Speech, but also because Vere-Jones is not entirely successful in creating a character who really was a top flight writer.

State of the Play is well made in all the senses that Dingwall preaches (plot, character, climax, etc). Its patterned use of a three act structure extends these principles: each act begins with the characters entering one by one (the first using the time to reveal something of him/herself), the pace develops quickly then slows for a gradual buildup to the climax, and again it is quiet as the characters leave, one by one. The play as a whole also follows this pattern.

There is an enormous amount which adopts and/or comments on the precepts of the well made play. Dingwall's reasons for sticking to them are not made explicit ("You should learn the rules before you break them," is little more than a stock response). However the impression is given that they provide for him the easiest way of ordering his imagination, a means whereby he can exercise control over the thing he fears.

Is this Hall's reason also? The well made play is most commonly used in two dramatic fields: serious drama and farce. State of the Play's weakness is that it does not commit itself to either. Ideas and thematic considerations abound, yet although they are not restricted by the farcical elements neither are they developed in a coherent way. Farce is also much in evidence, but acts neither as relief from the anguish nor pure fun in its own right.

It has been claimed that the strength of Hall's plays lies in their compassion. Certainly it is true that there are always characters we can feel for, but not all the characters, not consistently, nor in any great depth. One

might discover a personal identification with a particular character, yet compassion, if it is to be properly evoked, must extend beyond this narrow orbit.

State of the Play, in opting to toy with ideas and involve itself in a myriad of comments on the well made play, limits the scope of compassion. We can recognise the predicament of each character (largely because it is deliberately formulaic) but we cannot develop very much knowledge of it or its place in a broader social context. Without this knowledge we cannot view the play as tragedy, much as many elements might tempt us to.

One major theme is the nature of creativity, which receives its completest expression and most value as the ability to use the real world to make something containing its own truths. The choreographer of Neil's major dance is a good example, Dingwall's monster represents an attempt. Ironically, it is Hall's reliance on the prosaic and superficial to carry his play along which underscores his failure to measure up to the creative terms he himself had set.

This concept of creativity is presented as a paradox, being both the motivating force in the artist's existence and the weapon to destroy him, his tool to grasp the world even as it allows him to hide from it. The concept is common enough, and lies at the heart of the belief that art is somehow separate from everything else, special, mystical. Those who adhere to it can do much to interpret the world, little to change it. Those who recognise this and still accept it (as Hall clearly does) can so easily develop a profound conservatism.

Hall's examination of his own craft is painstakingly complex yet never questions the stultifying thematic framework in which it is cast. For all the play's witticisms, simple pleasures and academic enticements, this acceptance of the thematic idea of creativity is its major characteristic and, I suggest, its fundamental failure. Simon Wilson

## Playing it Safe

## Standard Safety

by Julie Bovasso

The New Zealand Drama School directed by George Webby Halfway-up Downstage

The New Zealand Drama School is the only government sponsored drama school in the country. The dozen or so students accepted each year for the two year course do not graduate as fully fledged actors, but they have had the opportunity to engage in consistent training and study of the various aspects of their craft without the pressures and obligations a production oriented theatre would force upon them.

They do not often perform in public; in fact Standard Safety, which ran late nights and lunchtimes at Downstage's Half-way-up through early June, is only the second time the current second year students have been seen at all. Last year they presented a show of comedy, song and mime, and have yet to do a major production.

Standard Safety examines employer/employee relationships in a large insurance company, where each member of the staff is allotted a five minute toilet break and no-one but no-one is allowed to eat outside the staff cafeteria.

The play is basically a series of cameo characterisations which allow each actor in turn to hold the spotlight and demonstrate his/her skills in creating a character capable of making the audience laugh. There is a long sequence at the beginning, where two women (later joined by a third) have the chance to develop a degree of interaction, but even this is qualified by the very nature of the play, for no character is interested in establishing genuine communication with another.

The theme concerns the way in which the employees are treated as an amorphous mass and view themselves as such, yet feel completely isolated from each other. Presumably we are supposed to consider this is wrong, yet the structure, with its series of cameos, does exactly the same thing.

Near the end the boss asks the staff what he should do with an employee who has been caught going out to lunch, crying that it is a terrible thing for any of their number to "break the heart that bleeds for them". The employees, who up until that time have commiserated on the plight of the hapless miscreant, break out with the instinctive chant, "Kill him". The boss, on cue to prove his munificence, rejects the idea.

Later, this same instinctive urge appears again when one employee suddenly breaks down and attacks the inhumanity which forces itself on her own little world. This time the response is a chorus of, "She's right", as everyone else joins the melee.

The play comes close to treating people as blind animals capable only of timidity and gut impulse while

satirising their surface lives. For this reason, and for its great dollops of simple verbal humour and character business it is a lightweight piece, an "exercise" and little more.

Director George Webbey called it this in his programme notes, and the fact that the actors drew their parts out of a hat underscores it. As such it is valuable to the actors: the development of character is an important part of actor training, and here yields many Fine moments.

Perhaps Webbey intentionally chose a play which does no more, preferring to let us see something of the sort of work the drama school does, placed for form's sake within the conventional framework a play affords. Considering that the school is a training ground and not a haven for experienced actors one can see his point, but there are objections.

The lack of fully fledged characters within the play means that it is limited even as an exercise, for there are no real depths to explore. The lack of potential for interaction also imposes its limits, communication onstage between actors being fundamental to most theatre.

These actor-trainees have now done two comedies. It is unfortunate (for the public as well as themselves) that they have not had their skills expanded into a serious production before the final meat market show at the end of this year. The general quality of the performances in Standard Safety left little doubt about their ability; if we are to pay to see them surely we have the right to expect that ability will be properly utilised.

Simon Wilson

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# Cooking

## Bread Making Part II

### When you Knead to....

End of exams, cold winter nights, no jobs... what better time to have a go at breadmaking. As with most human activities there is no substitute to learning from someone who knows how. No doubt you will have failures; be of good cheer, All good breadmakers do, but the successes make it worthwhile. (I am one of the few who has managed to turn bread into stones!) Bread-making is not economical unless you have a deep freeze and can bulk buy and bake. Finally, bread-making need not be time-consuming. If you juggle quantities of yeast you can leave dough to rise overnight or throughout the day.

There are two major difficulties that I encountered with breadmaking. The first of these, dough consistency, can be overcome by following this recipe exactly. Once you know the right consistency you can play around with a variety of flours and quantities of liquid. The second difficulty is kneading. This is basically a controlled assault on the dough which mixes ingredients and helps develop gluten which binds the bread together. Most experienced breadmakers use the palm of one hand to push the dough down while turning the bulk of the dough in one direction with the other hand. The key to kneading is time - white flour dough must be kneaded for at least 15 minutes; brown flour dough for longer.

## Basic White Bread Recipe - Makes 2 Large Loaves

You will need:

- 2 large greased tins (or more smaller ones)
- 1¼ kg (2½ lb) white flour
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon dry yeast (or 1 oz fresh yeast)
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 600 ml (¾ pint) milk (or ½ milk/½ water)
- 110 gm (4 oz) melted margarine
- 1 cup blood temperature water (30°C)

Dissolve sugar in 1 cup blood temperature water and sprinkle dry yeast on surface and leave for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile melt margarine in milk and cool to blood temperature. Make well in centre of flour, add butter,

melted margarine and reactivated yeast. Mix with hands until a coherent dough is formed. Knead for at least 15 minutes - dough will become shiny but not sticky. Put dough back in bowl, cover with damp cloth and leave in warm place. Dough should double in bulk in one hour. Once risen knead back down, divide into two (or more) loaves and leave to double in bulk in pans. (Always cover with damp cloth).

Bake in an oven at 220°C (Gas 7) for 20 minutes. Brush crust with milk, then return to oven at 190°C (Gas 5) for another 30 minutes.

If you are in a hurry, use 1 tablespoon of yeast and warm flour. However, if you have to go out use less yeast (1 teaspoon will double 1¼ kg flour if left overnight), or you can use 1 tablespoon of yeast, keep dough in a cool place and knead down each time it rises. Best to try recipe first and then your variations.

Have you tried the restaurant yet? It is well worthwhile for cheap wholesome meals and makes a pleasant change from cooking yourself.

Alfred Harris

## Chess

The annual Wellington Interclub Tournament began recently and will continue for several weeks. Regretably Vic is not fielding a team but several students are playing under the auspices of other Wellington clubs. Mark Evans, a member of the Vic team which toured Auckland recently, and one of the wild men of Wellington chess, reached an interesting position against Tim Spiller while playing for Civic 1 against Civic 2. In the diagrammed position, disdaining to retreat the threatened knight, Mark instead played the speculative 1...h5!? 2. hg4, hg4; 3. Nh2 (the knight has difficulty getting out of the corner so perhaps 3. Nel was better). Bc3; 4. Qc3, e5; 5. de5, de5; 6. Be2, Qg5; 7. g3, Qh5; 8. Kg2? White had difficulty neutralizing the slow, powerful attack based on the cramping effect of the advanced f and g pawns which Black has developed. Now, in an attempt to return some of his material advantage in order to ease the pressure on his game, he blunders. 8...f3 ch.; 9. Nf3, gf3 ch.; 10. Bf3, Rf3! Black had overlooked this possibility. 11. Qf3, Bh3 ch. and White resigned since he must lose his queen.

## Curious Continuations Sponsored by Paramount and Penthouse Cinemas

In this week's problem White is to play and force a quick mate. Solutions should be handed in at the Salient office by mid-day Wednesday. The first correct solution drawn out of a hat wins the prize of a double pass to either the Paramount or Penthouse cinemas. Last week's problem caused some difficulty and there was only one correct solution sent in. The solution runs 1.g4 ch.; fg3; If 1...Kh4, 2. kh2, h5; 3. Rh6 and mate follows. 2. Rh4 ch.; gh4; (2...Kh4; 3. Rh6 mate) 3. Rb5 ch. and wins.

Last week's winner was Peter Hawkes. Tickets can be picked up at the Salient office.

Chess board

Chess board

David Beach

**NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS ARTS COUNCIL (INC)** The NZ Students Arts Council is seeking applications from interested persons for the newly created "part-time" position of EXHIBITION OFFICER. The position involves: (a) the initial establishment of an exhibition circuit through campuses and selected public venues, and (b) the subsequent selection, preparation, and supervision of the touring of exhibitions through the circuit. The position would be ideally suited to a student with a good understanding of the visual arts in New Zealand, experience with exhibitions, and a sound organisational ability. Applicants need not live in Wellington. An annual honorarium of \$1500 will be paid. For details, please write to: The Director, NZ Students Arts Council, PO Box 9266, WELLINGTON. Applications close July 14, 1978.

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## Clubs and Notices

## **Ananda Marga — What's it all About?**

Hear the full Story about this movement at a talk given by the New Zealand leader of Ananda Marga in the Union Hall, Monday 3 July, 7.30 pm.

## **Scottish Country Dancing**

All welcome. Tuesday, 4th July, 5-7 pm, Union Hall.

## **Malaysian Food Fair and Jumble Sale**

Place: Varsity Cafe

Date and Time: Sunday 9th July, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Get a taste of delicious Malaysian food! Your favourite delicacies including lobak, dim sum, char siew pow, yam pudding, chee cheong fun, boh-boh char-char and lots more Malaysian goodies will be on sale at this food fair.

Contributions and donations most welcome.

Contact WMSA.

## **Yoga and Meditation Course**

Continues this Thursday in the Boardroom from 6.30 to 7.30 pm. Newcomers welcome at this stage. Enquiries: ph 897-722 (evenings).

## **Marijuana Party Club**

A Special General Meeting of the Marijuana Party Club will be held in the Lounge on Wednesday July 5 at 8.00 pm. At this meeting the present Committee will be disbanded and a new committee elected. All members are therefore urged to attend.

## **Catholic Society**

The Society's Annual Retreat will be held at the Cenacle, Lower Hutt over the weekend 7-9 July.

Because of late notice, please contact Fr. Lynch at the Chaplaincy, 36 Kelburn Parade, or Anne 797-389, or Tim 729-391.

Deadline for names is Wednesday, 5 July.

## **French Week 10-15 July**

Numerous activities - all welcome.

## **Crossword**

Empty crossword puzzle

### **Across**

### **Down**

## **Solutions to Last Week's Crossword**

Across: 1. Windscreen 8. Waipa 9. Indiscreet 10. Ruins 11. Dissents 12. Makes 14. Sty 15. Ail 16. Vexes 19. Rekindle 21. Anvil 23. Navigators 24. Muzak 25. Repentance

Down: 1. Weird 2. Nudist 3. Suspects 4. Rarity 5. Ewer 6. Natural 7. Spanner 12. Militant 13. Heinous 14. Seminar 17. Deride 18. Adjoin 20. Ensue 22. Lake

Roger Phillips

# Student health

## "I've Got the Flu"

This is a common expression around this time of the year and it can mean just about anything.

True influenza is caused by the Influenza virus. Different strains keep occurring and they are given popular names, such as this season's Russian or Texan, depending on where they were first isolated. So far this year none of the expected new strains have yet appeared, and previous strains have not been isolated so in fact there hasn't been an Influenza epidemic, yet. Whatever you've got or have had it probably wasn't Influenza in the strict medical sense.

At Student Health we assist the National Health Institute's Virus Laboratory in monitoring the incidence of viruses in the community. Throat swabs and blood samples from sufferer are sent to the special laboratory. The co-operation of students in donating samples is always gratifying. Your contributions really are appreciated.

If you haven't had the flu, what was it? There are about fifty different viruses that cause colds and respiratory infections and they are particularly prevalent in the winter. How can you tell the difference between an ordinary cold and influenza?

Colds are more common. They may start with a sore throat, a running nose, stuffiness, sneezing, coughing and sometimes a hoarse voice. With influenza the throat and nose are less affected but the chest may be painful. There is a high fever, and you feel much worse with severe headache and generalised aching in the back and limbs. The onset is usually rapid, and after the fever subsides you are left feeling weak for some days after.

With uncomplicated cases of cold, flu or any other respiratory virus you don't need to see a doctor unless your illness has to be documented for examination or assessment purposes.

What to Do?

- Keep to yourself as much as possible. Your friends and colleagues won't thank you for spreading whatever you've got.
- Rest in bed until the fever has settled.
- Drink copious fluids and keep a jug by the bedside. Cool drinks of water, fruit juice, lemonade or cordial are the best.
- Take soluble aspirin or paracetamol, two tablets 4 hourly with a glass of water for the headache and pain. It won't work miracles but it helps.
- Take a cough mixture if the cough is troublesome.
- Have a box of tissues by the bed and a paper bag for the used ones. If your case seems complicated in any way then see a doctor. Antibiotics are useless in combating viruses but they are used to treat secondary infection.

## "I've Got the Mumps"

This could be so. Mumps is another virus which is doing the rounds, and there have been recent cases in the student population. The mumps virus causes a fever with painful swelling of the salivary glands. The incubation period is about 18 days ie. the time taken for symptoms to appear after you've been infected.

It is transmitted mainly by saliva droplets and sufferers should be isolated for 9 days from the onset, less if the swelling has subsided. Particular care must be taken in handling articles soiled with secretions of nose and throat and eating utensils should be kept separate. The virus can affect the testicles and orchitis occurs in about a quarter of adult males. If you haven't had mumps stay well away from known cases.

# Recreation Centre

If you have been able to drag yourself away from exam study to read this column...good. Better still why not take advantage of some of the free offers available through this column. Remember 24 hours per day and 7 days per week — 168 hours. Can you afford 1-2 hours per week out of 168 for a little light relief?

Old Gym Fever — learn to Disco Dance. Tues, 5.30-6.30

Thursday Night Fever — the mixed social fitness class with a difference — 5.30-6.30 (Group encounters were never like this).

All Day and Every Day — cycle your heart out (or in) with 20 minutes a day on the exercycles. Three in

the Clinic, one in the weights room.

Home Remedies — Recreation Centre Staff can tailor an in-study activity routine. 20 minutes taken daily or as prescribed after study.

Badminton Beginning Again — Tues 10-11, Fri 10-11, Fri 11-12.

Thursday Morning's Gentle Gyration — A general fitness class 10-11.

If you have difficulty choosing one of these free offers, better take these all or come and talk to the Centre Staff about it.

Fitness Analysis Week. July 17th-21st.

"Blessed are the pure in heart...but the flesh is weak."

A means to determining your level of fitness. Measure your progress. Are you fit enough not to be active? Your means to checking your programme's effectiveness. Follow this column for fitness analysis.

Training Notes — New sensational findings in respect to dieting turn up at regular intervals. Sometimes, fats are to be avoided, sometimes carbohydrates get the blame, etc. The actual truth is rather simple. If the number of calories ingested corresponds to the number consumed in the metabolism, body weight does not change except for small variations of up to a couple of pounds (1kg) a day which may occur, mainly due to fluctuations in the body's water content. All excess calories are converted into fat. It matters little if the calories are in the form of fat, carbohydrates, protein or alcohol. (Astrand 1971).

Recreation Centre Quiz no. 2

If El Cordobes said of Bull-fighting "he who hesitates is tossed", who said of golf: "It's like driving yourself to drink"?

- Arnold Palmer
- Johnny Walker
- Jack Daniels
- T. Off

Answer to URC Quiz no. 1 - Fred Ping (of course).

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## Sports Week

Sports Week has been designed to publicise sports in general and specifically the clubs which administer sports here at Victoria. Originally it was hoped that this would coincide with the opening of the Recreation Centre; however this will not now be completed until the third term.

Twenty-five sports clubs are participating and many of them are inviting nonmembers to become involved. Sports Council have co-ordinated the Clubs programme and in addition are holding a tug-of-war, a 'Super Stars' competition and a hop to conclude the week's events.

## Sports Week Needs you

Sports Week is your chance to break out of study boredom and widen your interest on campus - sports clubs have taken the initiative to advertise the activities and if it is to be successful we need You - Joe and Josephine Student - to honor your offers and support the clubs. If something interests you and you've got a lecture, skip it - it won't make any difference and you may well discover something worthwhile. Sports Committee has felt in the past that sports clubs have found it difficult to sell their sports - sports week gives them this opportunity. They're keen — show New Zealand students are not apathetic. Involvement is your choice, make a positive response before University puts you in a rut!

## Programme

## Films - All Shows Free

Drawing of people skiing

## Super Stars

Super stars is a series of events ranging from up-hill sprints to social drinking races, testing skill and fitness while creating an opportunity for clubs to compete against one another to find an overall sports person.

Already competition exists between the Volleyball, Soccer and Squash clubs, but with a possible favourite coming from the Fencing club. If anyone or any club is interested, enter at the Students Union office during Sports Week.

Prizes of sports equipment will be made to the clubs represented, with T-shirts to the individuals in both the mens and womens sections. Events start from the VUW Rugby club rooms, Boyd Wilson field, at 2 pm with a wet or fine programme arranged.

Refreshments will be available during and after the events from the Rugby club rooms.

## Programme

The programme below outlines the events which will be finalized Wednesday 6th on the notice board in the Union Building foyer.

Two Contestants Compete Against each other Through all Events, but Winners Decided on Times and Points Obtained Once all Events are Completed.

## Letters

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

Drawing of a man being impaled by a giant pen

## For Your Convenience

Dear Simon/Mr Wilson/the person we all love to hate/Sir,

I like abusing you. I feel/think that the muck /left-wing bullshit/biased bullshit/inaccurate bullshit/bullshit bullshit you pass off as journalism/propaganda/objective comment should cease at once/continue (it livens up lunch at the cafe) be printed on softer paper. I am writing on behalf of all sensible/right-thinking/mature/bone-idle students who are disappointed/disgusted/unsurprised by the turn that Salient has taken this year. Salient is paid for by students/hard-working students/real people and we think that it should represent these students/An drew Tees/ me/nobody at all/everybody except pinkos.

You and your lackeys/female friends on the executive/petty bourgeois closet revolutionaries/crap merchants/bureaucrats/trendy lefties should stop all this puerile nonsense/Tees bashing/barrow pushing.

If you cannot/will not/do not then you should resign/not resign (it keeps us amused)/ get run over by a truck.

Yours faithlessly,

S. SepardR. BradhurstB. AbbettL. Tellot  
other.....

All persons wishing to abuse Salient and/or the editor should use this form letter. If you have any constructive comments to make we would be glad to hear from you in your own words, (copies to be distributed in all Men's toilets).

## De Aardvark Defended

Dear Sir,

In a recent Salient, Colonel Chomondeley refers to the Aardvark as a "Native beast of South Africa ...a country that practises unacceptable racial policies". In the interests of balanced journalism I forward a reply from the local Consulate.

"Die Aardvark is niet een naatíf beest van Suid-Afrika, als U haaf zuigeested! Ouure ethnol- oogists haaf vound dat de Aardvark Kam inte de staat van Suid-Afrika [*unclear: skarslij*] twaalf yeers bevoor de inkomming van de uit maan. Die voortrekken van de uitlander op nordwaarts en die trekken van de Aardvarken suidwaarts met wid een verschrik- kelijk klaasje in de Transvaal. Deer was een groot baatel in uitj de twee ziedes foert veerjje braafljje but de uitmaan oveerkam dc Aardvarken in feer fijht zo dat die volk nu haaf de rijht te de land.

"U kan niet toerk van de Aardvark als iif dit weer oone beest! Dit mijht been vram die Aardvarken van de nord, oor die Aardvarken van de suid, oor De Aardvarken van de westen, oor de Aardvarken van de eesten. Eetj van dees Aardvarken haaf de distinktiif kuilteure en de waay ov liif dat de Government in Suid Afrika waante te keep zaam voor eever en eever en eever. En waat abuit de waaj de Aardvarken been trieted in de odeer landen dat de kritiken van ouure land teend te ooverluik?"

"Dit is bekaas wij haaf moer Aardvarken dan aanie-oon cels dat die naatioons van de woerld been imposing die zelektijf moeraality in de misgijded zimpaathjie voor de Aardvark."  
Zurdo.

(Salient apologises to Zurdo, the local Consulate and the interests of balanced journalism for not printing this letter earlier but we lost it and have had to hunt very high and low and roundabout to find it again -Ed.)

## **Pryor Pleased**

Dear Editor,

Through your letters to the editor I would like to congratulate Caroline Massof and Mary Berber for one of the most objective pieces of reporting I have seen on the abortion issue for a long time.

It is encouraging to know that among those people who are writing for the Salient, there are people who have the ability to do what I regard as professional and objective journalism, on what to many people is a very controversial issue.

It is not always easy for people to put their own personal views to one side and write on this issue in a way which does not favour one side or the other. In the articles in the Salient June 12th, I believe that Caroline Massof and Mary Barber did just this. They are to be congratulated.

There is one point that I would like to make. The article contained comments by Doctor Wainer on my visit to the fertility control clinic in Melbourne. I was asked if I had gone to the clinic under the guise of being a world (sic - Ed) member and asked if this was true to which I replied 'Yes, this is quite true'. I would like to add the comment that I said when I went to the Wainer clinic that I had been involved with Women's Electoral Lobby. In fact this was quite true. I had been involved with Women's Electoral Lobby more especially in the Porirua area. I had even written an article for the Wel newsletter in Porirua on the widows' issue. This explanation did not come through in the Salient. However, Caroline and Mary had gathered so much information from me when I was interviewed that I feel they had difficulty deciding which material to include and which to exclude.

However, I really would like to take the opportunity to say that I feel they did a first class job presenting both sides of this very controversial issue.

Yours sincerely,  
Marilyn Pryor,  
National President,  
SPUC.

## **Saved by Biros**

My dear Simon,

Did you know that one gallon of BIC Speed-line ball-point pen ink would service the writing needs of the 6000 ODD students at this establishment for approximately 170 years? Never underestimate ball-point ink.

Yours,

Blotto.

PS. Where have all the Brontosauri gone?

## **The Whole Person Philosophy**

The Editor,

I was interested to read Simon Wilson's comments on Dr Anna Holmes' presentation of sexuality and marriage printed in the latest Salient.

I should like to state quite simply that, even as reported, her attitudes show a greater depth of understanding on the subject than the reporter was prepared to admit. Furthermore I agree with them, and although attitudes of self-control may be old-fashioned they are still right.

Yours,

Patricia Neyland

Polytec Student

(Perhaps you can help me then. Dr Holmes claimed that men's vision is "acute and mathematical" while women's is "diffuse" (from being aware of lots of children in caves). Now the problem is: which sex should make the best chess players? -Ed.)

Dear Sir,

Among the many positive statements made by Dr Anna Holmes at the forum on 'Sexuality and Marriage', I was delighted to hear one on Women's Liberation. Dr Holmes made it clear that many women's libbers in their quest for liberation have merely sought and taken over masculine ideals and roles. She likened this to the Paulo Freire notion of 'internalising the oppressor', liberation through becoming like the one who oppresses you.

When women go about this internalising the male ideal there arises an equality and similarity between women and men that implies they can interchange at any time, it also implies a loss of individuality for women. (The direct inverse of liberation). Perhaps this kind of internalisation of man is symbolised by women now wearing men's three piece pin-striped suits? Whatever, the conclusion seems to be that woman becomes fully liberated when she acts in accord with what she most fully Is — specifically woman not a male impersonator.

Yours,

Peter Healy.

## **Who's an Honest Student?**

Dear Phallus Face,

I would just like to ask you a few questions, to which I would very much appreciate some straight answers.

Why are you and your left wing cronies so terrified of Andy Tees and his mob of middle of the road student politicians? You have the ability to defame them in your wonderful newspaper, an opportunity seldom goes by, when you don't actively criticise and slander them at your pleasure. If it wasn't for Andy Tees, and co, student politics at this varsity would be a very one-sided affair.

Despite your pathetic attempts at trying to down grade them as often as possible, I am one student who appreciates the effort these blokes make especially at SRCs where they have the guts to get up and express an alternative opinion. I abhor you and your staff's attempts to make these honest, conscientious students look foolish, simply because you don't agree with them.

I respect the freedom of the press, and I respect your opinions, however, you seem to think that you have the right to censor their opinions especially when they come into conflict with your own. I urge you firstly to apologize to the people concerned and to either resign or wake up to yourself, and give both sides of the argument. We students are getting sick and tired of picking up Salient and having to read socialist propaganda, and Marxist perspectives on every issue under the sun.

After three years in this wonderful institution I have had enough, I urge all students to come along to the SRCs and support these wonderful guys in their constant battle against the leftwing extremism that propports to "represent" the students.

Yours respectfully,

Average Student.

(You claim Tees and his mob are middle of the road student politicians, that they are honest, conscientious and wonderful. The reason Salient critically attacks them is that we do not agree with you. Tees' destructive attacks on NZUSA, his almost total lack of work relating to his elected position of Welfare Officer and within VUWSA generally - where there is much work to be done - are not the marks of anyone properly fitting the description you give. You may find a fuller answer in the assessment we give all exec members and SRC officers elsewhere in this issue -Ed.)

## **Not a Trendy Lefty, but...**

Dear Editor,

I am sick of people like Andrew Tees getting up at SRCs and writing letters claiming to represent the average student. I don't consider myself a trendy lefty but I do occasionally go along to the odd forum or SRC. I spend most of my time in the library because I'm at university to get a degree but I'm also interested in hearing alternative points of view which you don't get from the Dominion. Though I think Salient is too onesided it still gives an opinion which you don't hear elsewhere. Finally I'm sick of people saying students can manage on \$15 a week. I'm flating and don't want to bludge on my parents. That's why I can't manage on \$15 a week.

Yours,

Michael Hayward.

Dear Sir,

We have been motivated to address your, readers by the sudden and unexpected appearance of this new publication, The Black Glump. We feel we have a moral duty to brine this right- wing rag to students' attention. We don't know who the perpetrators of this literary gem are, but it is our opinion that they should confine their journalistic efforts to the latrine walls, along with the rest of the shit written there.

Could you please tell us why Salient have remained silent about this contemptible, puerile, wretched organ of right-wing extremism? Surely, it is your bounded duty as editor, to openly condemn such affronts to the intellect of Victoria's students. What is more I couldn't do the bloody crossword!! I shall await your reply with eager anticipation,

Yours lovingly,

Amanda Clawford.Hart President (Halt All Radical Publications)

(Why make a storm in a tee (sic) cup? -Ed.)

## An NZUSA Referendum

Dear Salient,

In Principle, a referendum to gain some indication of what students think about NZUSA IS necessary, despite the objections of our honourable President. A referendum is a very democratic way of doing things as it Can bring issues directly before students. This is accomplished by an informative 'debate' being conducted in the weeks before the referendum through student newspapers, posters, and the holding of discussions etc. All this done in moderation, could help bring about more student Involvement in the future of NZUSA. The referendum need not be binding - the results could simply be reported to an SRC or SGM to consider if further action is necessary. As far as cost is concerned, it could be considerably reduced by holding it at the next elections.

An SRC or SGM only, would not be a completely democratic way of doing things or of gauging a Representative student opinion on NZUSA as only the 'usuals' a very small selection of students and student opinion turns up to such meetings. Simon Wilson is correct in saying that there is no agitation for withdrawal from NZUSA. However, There is in Existence a Body of Opinion which Favours Further Substantial Reform of the Structure of Nzusa, principally to make more provision for the expression of Individual participation, and to make available more provision for Individual student views.

One can't write a book about possible reform in this letter; but NZUSA must reform or else it will crash physically as well as morally which it has done already by losing the support and interest of Victoria's and other students throughout Nz. the Ostrich's Heads Must be Pulled out of the Sand! it's Time a Spade was Called a Spade!

Andy Tees.

P.S. Lets have some comment from a few other people seeing the referendum was not my idea in the first place.

## Last Week's Crossword

Dear Sir,

I wish to complain about the crossword in last week's Salient. It was Too Hard! This was complicated by the fact that the clue for 22 down should have read "Body of water" and not "Be conscientious". I hope your standards improve.

Yours,

Ross Quird.

Dear Sir,

I wish to complain about the crossword in last week's Salient. It was Too Easy! This was not helped by the ploy of ommitting the label from square 13, and spelling "contiguous" wrongly. I hope your standards improve.

Yours,

Anna Gramme.

## Another Piece of Spite

Dear Editor,

It's me again. Another Malaysian-less SRC has gone by. Why doesn't A. Tees, the "terror of the SRC" move the motion as I suggested last issue? I'd have done it but like the rest in my genre, I just "couldn't be bothered".

There's some rumours around, that I am a MSSA agent, I thought I'd better clarify the thing, not that I wanted to defend MSSA, but rather because I wanted to keep my good name away from being associated with such an association as MSSA, Ha, what a joke, tho' the name includes Singapore, how many Singaporeans do they have as members? MSA, MSSA what's the difference? They're both faces of the same coin.

Some friends of mine commented that it is a quiet year, not much mud-slinging as last. Of course! Sleeping people don't quarrel! Both Assns don't quarrel because there isn't anything to quarrel about. What have both Assns done so far? NOSAC organised the ISC. NZMSST organised the sports tournament. Where does that leave the two so-called representative Organisations?

I also got the information that the OCF (Holy of Holy Organisation) has elected mostly girls in their "fellowship". Well done! The Women's Lib will be happy. So will I be as it shows an improvement in the mentality of the "fellows" Amen! (Any change is bound to be an improvement at any rate.)

The new batch of students (esp. girls) were no better than their elders, sometimes I think Gill has the right attitudes after all. Why waste our energy in fighting for a bunch of nitwits who couldn't be bothered whether they come or not? When the first thing they did was to criticise Movick, the very person to have fought for them. James, you are a sucker, if you think these "kids" are grateful for what you did. They think that you should have stuck to your books, than for you to fight for their rights to come!

In conclusion, MSA, MSSA, OCF, go and wank yourselves (of course, the last category won't do it here, they'll do it only in heaven in eternal bliss!)

Happy balling,

Tiaw Ngee  
Pu Kee Mak.

## Keeping up the Averages

Dear S.,

Who says you don't get any letters?

Affectionately,

L.

P.S. I like your new dress (and jeans)!

## Abortion in 1975

Dear Sir,

In Salient 12-6-78 Leonie Morris gave an answer to WONAAC in which she referred to an SGM meeting

in 1976 as a justification for voting against support for WONAAC. While on the subject of background information it is instructive to examine an event at Victoria University in the previous year because it shows how Catholic Action works both in student politics and in the former NZBC, now Radio New Zealand (alias "Radio Vatican").

Briefly, an SRC meeting was held on the campus in mid September at which a motion was passed rescinding the original students association policy allowing abortion and substituting a Catholic policy opposing abortion. Taken at face value this seems fair enough, but let us look more closely.

It so happened that less than two hours notice was given of the meeting, so that many students did not find out about the meeting until it was over, and what is more significant, the meeting was "stacked" with known Catholic students. In other words a pressure group, which was by no means a representative selection of student opinion, cunningly pushed through a motion that became official students association policy.

The meeting was barely over (about one o'clock) when an NZBC reporter was found mingling with the students to find their reactions and of course to bring the good news to people in the Wellington TV viewing area (about 7 o'clock). A pro-Catholic policy is "news" as we would expect.

However, during the next few days the implications filtered through to the student community at large and another meeting was called, with more advance notice, and at which a more representative selection of students were present, and the original students association policy of allowing abortion was reaffirmed. It is significant that the reversal of decision - again official policy - was not included in the NZBC news.

In other words the news and current affairs staff propagated the pro-Catholic motion as official students association policy while concealing both the circumstances and the official reversal of policy a few days later, so that a few hundred thousand people in the Wellington TV viewing area will mistakenly think that the Victoria University Students Association is officially opposed to abortion. This deception is part of the gentle art of brainwashing which I have discussed elsewhere. Please yourself if you want to think that the Catholics in the NZBC did not know about the second meeting - it is not the Catholic way of working.

Coming back to 1978; the recent plans of certain members of the students executive to delete from students association records information which they don't like (support for those favouring abortion) is a calculated and deliberate attempt to deceive future generations of students at this university. The spirit of 1975 remains: it is only the methods that have changed.

Donald J. Beswick.

## What about Movick?

Dear Ed.,

During the final plenary of the International Students Congress, held in Canterbury, May 1978, a number of resolutions were passed. One of the areas covered by these resolutions concerned the continued struggle by overseas students to gain equal rights with local students as regards student politics ie. elected positions in Student Unions and NZUSA.

In view of this struggle Congress passed a resolution of acknowledgment (R.16)

"That this Congress loudly acclaims the selfless dedication and contributions of James Movick in advocating the rights of overseas students while in his capacity as NOSAC co-ordinator and International Vice President of NZUSA."

James Movick had been in many ways the active centre for the vocalization of overseas students interests. But a lack of foresight by NZUSA and the discriminatory policies of the Immigration Dept, had made sure that the position of Movick was untenable whereby he was subsequently ordered to leave the country voluntarily or face the threat of deportation.

A previous letter from us (Salient April 24) had pointed out that it was NZUSA's bureaucratic mentality and lack of any real interests in the overseas students movement which allowed a situation to exist whereby although overseas students pay the same amount of union fees as the local students they have not been getting the obligatory equal rights in the union and NZUSA affairs. James Movick's ordeal had objectified this position sufficiently enough for overseas students to recognise the fact that the plight of James Movick was reflective of the general position of all overseas students.

The ISC thus passed two other specific resolutions in view of the need to continue the fight for equal rights,

Resolution 19 (b): "That this Congress urges NZUSA to continue the struggle to win equal rights for overseas students to take up NZUSA positions. We recommend that NZUSA tries all possible means to bring James Movick back to New Zealand to continue the job he was elected to do."

Resolution 12: "That this Congress believes that the work done for overseas students and on international campaigns are a vital part of NZUSA's activities and thus strongly supports the retention of the International Vice President position." (Carried unanimously with acclamation).

These wishes and interests of the overseas students had been expressed with the hope that NZUSA would continue its publicly stated campaign to fight for the James Movick case. But what subsequently happened at the NZUSA May Council,.. held shortly after the International Students Congress, has dealt a serious blow to the continuation of this struggle. The position of International Vice-President of NZUSA was scraped.

In their attempts to hold the bureaucratic status-quo intact by means of a series of compromises they found it convenient to sacrifice the interests of the overseas students. Thus the struggle to get James Movick back into the country and thus possibly win equal rights for all overseas students can no longer be continued, for the elected position left vacant by Movick's departure no longer exists.

You know WHAT I HATE ABOUT YOU...? IT'S YOUR UGLY ELEPHANT TRUNK I HATE....

In the light of the above, we believe that we have a right to ask of NZUSA and it's representatives in the different campuses two questions;

- What has happened to the continued struggle to win equal rights for overseas students?
- What has happened to the campaign to get James Movick back to his elected position of International Vice-President of NZUSA?

And to Lindy Cassidy, President VUWSA we have two quotes from her reply to our last letter, in which she defended NZUSA, followed by two questions,

Quote 1; "A great deal of time and money was put into trying to appeal against the Minister of Immigration's decision through the courts! Now that James has left that battle continues."

Question; Could you please give us an outline as to how this battle is being continued, what headway has been made and whether the abrogation of the elected position of James Movick could have in any way an adverse effect on the appeals to get Movick back to NZ.

Quote 2: "Though we have lost the first stage of this campaign NZUSA is obliged to continue to win equal rights for overseas students. It is an important principle, and one which I personally am prepared to continue to fight for."

Question: Could Lindy Cassidy inform us of the position she and other members of the VUWSA delegation to the May Council took as regards the NZUSA position of International Vice-President?

Drawing of two figures on a couch, one of whom has a trunk

We the undersigned believe that the above questions be adequately answered and the situation be clarified if NZUSA hopes to continue being seen by overseas students as a politically dependable organisation reflecting the interests and demands of the general overseas student body.

Signed by Gurunathan K. and 39 others.

## **WONAAC Supported**

Dear Editor,

I find Leonie Morris' letter on WONAAC less than sincere. Once more it is a Maoist or Stalinist attack on the Trotskyists and as usual it is underhand and lacking in integrity.

The 'Women's National Abortion Action Committee' otherwise known as WONAAC was set up by Trotskyist feminists and it was the first abortion action group to recognise "abortion as a woman's right".

As a feminist in 1973 I was drawn to this group by its uncompromising stand on woman's rights and the dedication and effectiveness of WONAAC women in the feminist movement as a whole. (It is only very recently that the Maoists have taken any positive interest in the feminist movement and the abortion issue with the setting up of Arc. Even now I am doubtful whether this is the expression of a sincere interest in women's rights - rather I think it is in the interests of Maoist or Stalinist political expediency; for example the constant attack by Maoist students on WONAAC.)

Let me state categorically that WONAAC is not anti-male, as Leonie Morris well knows. The constant support and morale boosting that men gave WONAAC in 1973 decided me then and there against feminist separatism. However these men (unlike many Maoist or Stalinist men, I suspect) have the maturity and integrity to realise that because abortion is a feminist issue women should lead and organise the struggle for abortion as a woman's right. Not only are men sympathetic to WONAAC content to play a supportive role but they actively encourage women to be more assertive in taking organisational and leadership roles.

As far as I am concerned Leonie Morris and her fellow Maoist/Stalinists, by seeking to discredit WONAAC and split the pro-abortion movement, are not truly interested in women's rights at all.

Like many other liberal students (not only in Wellington: note the Canterbury University and Lincoln College discontent with NZUSA) I am heartily sick of the part a small group of Maoists play in student politics. Their tactics are too often anti-democratic, dishonest and slanderous.  
Yours etc.,

Female Post-graduate Student.

## **WONAAC Defends itself**

Dear Simon,

Leonie Morris's letter in the June 12 issue of Salient which sets out to justify the VUWSA delegation's attack on WONAAC at May Council, merely echoes right-wing attacks on the women's liberation movement. Opponents of women's rights have always raised the bogey of "anti-male" and "men haters" in an attempt to smear the justice of women's demands and to undermine support for our struggles. By taking up these slanders and lending credence to them, Leonie is doing a service to the right-wing.

WONAAC is not anti-men nor does it label men as the enemy. Our fire has always been directed at the government and its right-wing allies such as SPUC. A fact Leonie is well aware of since she participated in a debate at the Women's Abortion Rights Conference in Auckland where WONAAC members forcefully opposed a proposal for a campaign against men.

WONAAC's stand is pro-woman. Our decision-making meetings are open to women only, but we have always welcomed male support and assistance to implement our decisions. Men distribute leaflets, provide financial assistance and swell numbers on public protest actions.

At times WONAAC has initiated coalitions which included men, to campaign against specific attacks on abortion rights - the Wall Bill, the charges against Dr Woolnough, the Gill Bill, the Royal Commission Report, and the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion legislation.

On a long-term basis we actively seek support for WONAAC's aims and objectives from groups and individuals, whether they be female or male.

However, we maintain that no section of society which has been subjected to oppression, whether they be national minorities, workers, gays, or women, can delegate the leadership and promotion of their fight for freedom to other forces - even though those forces can act as allies.

WONAAC is a component of the women's liberation movement organised around the key demand for a woman's right to choose abortion. As women we claim the right to lead and organise our own fight for that right.

Leonie is right when she states: "Only by mobilising the greatest number of New Zealanders for women's democratic right to abortion will the fight be won." WONAAC has always sought to do this.

But that doesn't imply that women must abdicate leadership of the struggle to achieve this. In fact it is absolutely crucial that they don't. The fight must be seen to be led and won by women.

A victory on this issue will strengthen the women's liberation movement and give it added confidence to continue the struggle to end all forms of women's oppression. And it will deal a mighty blow to the ruling ideology of this society which portrays women as naturally inferior because of their biological differences to men.

While we remain vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies, we remain chained to this sexist society's concept of women being defined and limited by their biology - destined first and foremost to produce and care for children, and thereby denied the right to choose how we will live our own lives.

That is why women are demanding the control of their bodies. It is not only because they can't afford any more children, or a child might be born deformed, or because it is dangerous for them to have children. These are added reasons which serve to highlight the degraded position women are in.

Men can only act as real allies of the abortion rights campaign when they understand this and are prepared to fight on this basis. Without a total commitment to women's rights on this issue, including our right to organise, you are only conceding to the arguments of right-wing forces who assert that women are inferior, incapable of acting responsibly or of making decisions about their own lives without men to protect and guide them.

Kay McVey,

Gill Denford.  
Fern Hickson,  
WONAAC National Co-ordinators.

Dear Simon,

I have been asked to write to Salient on behalf of W'ONAAC (Wellington). We were surprised to read an interview in your June 12 issue in which Geraldine Whiteford promoted the Abortion Rights Campaign as an on-going organisation. Perhaps the editing of the interview was at fault but to our knowledge Arc was intended as a short-term coalition.

Our understanding of the situation is that Arc was established at a public meeting on April 22 as a coalition of abortion rights groups and individuals. WONAAC Wellington is one of the groups involved.

The purpose of the coalition was to organise a public meeting and march to protest the abortion laws. These are to be held on July 10 and 14 respectively. Yet no mention is even made of these activities in the interview.

The organisation of these events was to be handled by a committee open to anyone interested in helping. As well monthly public organising meetings were to be called where the committee would report back and the abortion rights groups in Wellington would also report on their own activities. In this way it was hoped to provide a point of liaison between groups to avoid duplication of activities and obtain wider support for these.

The question of whether Arc was to be continued as an on-going body was also discussed. It was decided that this matter would be taken up after the July actions.

As far as we are aware, this is still the situation.

Margaret Weston  
Coordinator WONAAC  
(Wellington)

(I am not sure what you are complaining about. As far as I can make out the interview explains Arc in the same way as you do. Perhaps you would care to be more explicit -Ed.)

## **Jewish Nationalism**

Dear Sir,

It is obvious from your writings and those of some of your contributors that you and they have no idea as to what Zionism is. At least not outside of what it is depicted to be in anti-Israeli propaganda, which must be treated with a great deal of suspicion (would anyone believe a nazi's description of a Jew?) In fact the view expressed, especially by you, is even less sophisticated than that which suggests that anyone who questions you or anti-Israel statements must be therefore Zionist, the same sort of equation that Senator MacCarthy used in the 1950's quest of "communists".

Let's consider the Jewish people's connection with Palestine and Israel. That land has been an essential part of his religious beliefs for the past 4000 years. The "roots" of the Jewish people are seen to lie in Israel (which is a part of historic Palestine). This idea plays a major role in their holy scripture - the Torah (or pentateuch) - the mosaic law, as well as the rest of the Bible and other works of theology (Talmud etc).

Since the time of his dispersion (the Diaspora) after the destruction of his most holy shrine the Temple at Jerusalem, the Jewish people have longed to return to the Holy Land. The longing to return to Israel is signified in all parts of his life, and is re-emphasised both in his daily and Sabbath Synagogue services.

For those of you, as yourself, who have been brought up and socialized in a Christian society where such an emphasis does not exist may find the idea difficult to accept and comprehend, but it is central to Judaism. It became especially prominent in Europe during the 19th century with the emergence of a lot of anti semitism, which culminated in progroms in Russia, and the Dreyfus trial in France and other such events. This was also the height of European nationalism.

It was against this background that in 1897 Theodor Herzl convened a conference which founded what is recognized as modern political Zionism, which is essentially Jewish nationalism. It is no less valid than French nationalism or Slavic nationalism etc. The Jewish people may be scattered geographically, but they are linked not only by religion and language but also by an essentially common culture. Anyone who knows anything about Judaism (ie. "that it is not just a religion but a way of life") will understand what I mean by the validity of Jewish nationalism. Apart from these factors it becomes more valid if one considers the fact that wherever

they have lived it has been (often forced) in cohesive communities outside the host community.

The main resurgence of Zionism in modern times came as a result of the Jewish holocaust after the Nazis - the shocked energy from which set up the State of Israel in 1948.

Essentially Zionism is a political movement which as Jewish nationalism advocates the ingathering of all Jewish people to Israel (it being the only place that Jews can live a whole and normal people rather than as an outcast minority).

But after 1948 a new factor came into being in Jewish life - Israel. No Jew, if he accepts his religion, can avoid being pro-Israel. Not to be pro-Israel would be to deny his religion. But that does not mean he is necessarily Zionist, ie. supports the precepts of Jewish nationalism. There is a valid difference!

To those of you who call yourselves Marxist, let me point out that Marx was not against Zionism (see his writings on the Jewish question) because it was Jewish or because it advocated the taking back of the land of Palestine, but because it was nationalism. Marx said that Jews ought to assimilate into the population and work for the ultimate struggle - freeing the proletariat from the oppression of bourgeoisie capitalist owners of the means of production. Nationalism worked against that ultimate goal, as such marxists ought to condemn Palestinian nationalism, that is the PLO.

Israel has been a state for thirty years, as such it is now an historical fact, to suggest its destruction, to try and turn back the dock thirty years, is simplistic idealism and is not compatible with any acceptable ideology. Yours,

A pro-Israeli Jew.

## On Judging the "Facts"

Dear Sir,

You continually talk of Israel as expansionist, yet it returned the Sinai in 1956, and today it withdrew from the South of Lebanon. As well as this it has continually stated that it is willing to negotiate on all other territories that it occupies for a guarantee of peace (which seems fair enough). Is this expansionism? Come on you don't have to accept propaganda, you can judge facts as they are, can't you?

Its funny how all we get from you about Israel is how bad it is, and how good the PLO are, you complain about Israel in Lebanon but don't talk of the demonstrations against the PLO by the Lebanese of the South Lebanon, (oh no) or the reconstruction of roading or housing by the Israelis in South Lebanon (these are reported in the Economist, and Time, etc.)

Perhaps that would weaken your case, I mean balance and objectivity are not your style.  
A. R. K Smith.

## When is a Zionist not a Zionist?

Dear Sir,

In Salient June 16, page 15 there is a letter you put under the heading "Zionist tactics Criticised". Nowhere in the letter was there a criticism of Zionists by name (in fact the writer suggested that he was pro-Israel - as he said he found being anti-Israel, like anti-semitism or Nazism, abhorrent).

It seems Simon that you suppose that any one who criticises your editorial policy or your reporting must be Zionist - your statements certainly reflect that. I am not a Zionist and I criticise your editorial policy and your reporting (not only of the Atashi forum but also of other things too). Are you going to call me a Zionist?

Fortunately there are a large number of students who are dissatisfied with your Salient, there are even rumours that there is going to be an alternative paper. It seems that I may be in a majority and you and your supporters in a minority.

Drawing of a man reading off a long scroll of paper

Come on Simon, lets see some journalistic professionalism, give up your name calling. MacCarthy used to look under his bed for "Reds" perhaps you should for Zionists.

A. Student.

(The writer of the letter to which you refer, R. Tokoriro, might like to make his/her own reply to your

allegations, but I would be very surprised indeed if it transpired I had misunderstood his/ her intentions. The letter quite plainly states that the people who have been writing "irrational, intolerant, and sometimes incoherent" letters, and those who behaved in an "intolerant" way at the Atashi forum are displaying "fascist" tendencies. The letter goes on to say, "However, Simon, it appears that Israel can do no wrong, and just because we question that, you and I will probably be accused, in many people's minds at least, of everything from 'being anti-Israel' to perhaps anti-semitism or Nazism, concepts which I find abhorrent."

It is beyond me how you can infer from this that the writer is pro-Israel. S/he admits to criticising Israel, and openly attacks Israel's defenders in the first paragraph. Zionism, in its strictist sense, is aggressive Israeli nationalism. Is it not therefore correct to infer that M. Tokoriro's letter is directed against Zionists? -Ed.)

## Workers Interrupt Student Pleasures

Dear Salient,

As a law student I am pissed off with work but I am also much more pissed off with the fool who hammers away above and below the law library on successive mornings. Kindly Stop or else I will come and shag your..... off. I am also hosed off with the insufficient library hours at weekends Somebody do Something about it.....

Perhaps you might even consider publishing this instead of the usual irrelevant rubbish you print about South Africa and Zaire etc.

yours for ever fucked Off,  
D.M.J. Hoogstradt.

## The Last Round on Christianity

Dear Sir,

Sorry to drag out the "Christian" debate, but neither do I like letting the opposition have the last word. In fairness I should have clarified my stance, in my first letter. I don't claim to be rational, especially as regards matters of common-sense, nor do I aspire to be so. At present I am perfecting a philosophy of irrationalism - or better - arationalism (cf immoral, amoral), which takes a warm and tolerant but strictly realistic view of rationalism. I believe in God, and the Bible because it is the only thing that makes nonsense of life, the most bizarre philosophies after this, are, by comparison homely and earth-bound. So! In the happy mental anarchy of my Irish extraction, I continue. Seriously tho', I may write irrationally but it doesn't mean I am stupid.

So, to your letter, Gary. You said: Christians do not use common sense - right? Therefore you would abandon commonsense on the same ground, exams or Christianity; the same test should apply - right? And I said that there might be a case for using commonsense when the practice was consequential (exams) and a time for abandoning common-sense in such cases where this was inconsequential, or, at least, had outlived its usefulness.

"Isaiah" if you must know, was used as metonymy, like if I said "have you got wheels?" You don't need to go checking my autonomy, you know I'm referring to the whole car. I also referred to Isaiah for his direct, unsentimental approach, another correspondent referred to Isaiah's regard for frank, rational discussion. He also has the utmost scorn for the overprivileged and powerful, and of course would abhor any religion tending the least bit towards polytheism and worship of images - God knows whose side he'd take in this debate. But that's another issue...

And why refer to the prophets instead of the Christians on campus, about whom we are really talking? Only in that the one in their writings, the others in their sayings, have a bit in common ...tho' I won't go into detail now. (Actually the 'you' in the last sentence of my letter was metronomic too, referring not just to you Gary, but to everyone writing exams. Sorry not to clarify that).

Next week I shall discuss the paradox 'God is not religious', a central axiom of my philosophy (deeper than you think), and YHWH, or 'did God invent the meaningless acronym?' I also think I might stop sheltering behind pseudonyms, seeing as Herrington has never done so.

Yours,

G. Milburn

In reply to a criticism of a letter by Zurdo.

Dear Sir,

Mr Rebel G. Herrington is lobbing dialectic grenades again.

I suggest he was too hasty to draw his knife. Rebel is constrictive to equate therapeutic abortion with Direct intervention of life. May I quote: "...the saving of the life of the mother-to-be, independently of her pregnant condition, should have as an accessory consequence, in no way desired or intended, but inevitable, the death of the foetus, such an act could no longer be called a direct attempt .... the operation can be lawful, like other similar medical interventions, granted always that another good of high worth is concerned...." (Pope Pius XII, Address to the Family Associations, November 26, 1951). Care to read p. 28, vol. 1, New Catholic Encyclopedia, and also consult p. 1021, vol. 4, for the exposition of the principle of double effect?

Rebel misconstrued my challenge to him. I didn't suggest he become a Christian to help the cause of humanity (excuses, eh?) He couldn't discern the authentic Protestant spirit either. A Catholic or Protestant sees God, not man, as the author of Charity !

Rebel insists to perpetuate the fallacy that materialism automatically entowed happiness and goodness. Alas! Sickness, disappointments and cruelty of this world, would mar our whole existence. What guarantee is there to assure the dying man that his life had a purpose?

Time is short, eternity is long.

Yours faithfully,

K. Francisco.

PS: I am off to Uganda. Want to come with me, Rebel?

Dear Sir,

M. Morgan (12 June) says "To continue the boring G. Herrington correspondence..." and then asks me two questions:

- Where was I when the Christian Clubs were discussing Christian Life on 30 May? and
- How much effort have I put into finding out what the Christian Clubs are up to?

I agree that if you aren't interested in the problem of religion letters about it can be boring but M. Morgan was apparently interested enough to devote part of his letter to it. He should also remember there is a lot of truth in Marx's statement that "The criticism of religion is the beginning of all criticism." In any case the Christians can end the correspondence whenever they like simply by confessing their errors and promising to reform.

In answer to Q (1) I had to do an assignment but anyway who would go to a Christian discussion when they could be doing an accountancy assignment. I have not been to any Christian discussions and I don't intend to go to any, provided, of course, that's alright with M. Morgan. I would feel like Daniel in the lions' den and just feeling like Daniel is bad enough for a devout atheist. Also I doubt I would learn anything I couldn't learn from other sources.

In answer to Q (2) I haven't made an effort to find out what the Christian Clubs are doing because I naturally assumed they were promoting Christianity.

Yours etc.,

G. Herrington.

(This correspondence is now dosed -Ed.)

## **A Julian Heyes Lackey Complains**

Dear Simon,

This letter is in protest at the authoritarian manner with which Lindy Cassidy, President of VUWSA, struck the name of J. Heyes from the apologies at the last meeting of SRC. The reason we are told, is that all people who apologise must make a personal appearance to Lindy, so that she may believe he/she/they exist. Does he exist? Indeed he does. The man has spoken at SRCs, amended motions. What more must he do?

Why must he personally vindicate himself to Lindy in order to be recognized as existing? Who is Lindy? God, man or mouse (sorry, got carried away)? I appeal in the name of justice, in the name of peace, and in the name of Julian Heyes to reinstate his name in its proper place, its rightful place (in the case of this meeting), the list of names under apologies.

Rise students, rise and fight for your rights, and Julian Heyes' rights to apologise.

Yours in indignation,

J. Heberton (III)

Secretary - VUWSA.

Have you bought a July 14 mobilisation sticker? On sale at the Students Association Office Bumper stickers 25c each Small stickers 10 for 25c. ALL WOMEN AND MEN! If you're concerned about abortion, now is the time to become involved in the fight for safe legal abortion. The Abortion Rights Committee is organising a March on July 14 and a Public Meeting on July 10 for a woman's democratic right to abortion. These activities are now less than two weeks away. There will be a meeting on Tuesday July 4 to organise on-campus activities publicising these. The organising meeting will be preceeded by a videotape on Abortion Clinics in Australia and the procedures used there. There will also be a discussion on the tape. Come along and bring a friend. TUESDAY JULY 4, 12 NOON, LOUNGE AND SMOKING ROOM. JULY 14 : March for Legal Abortion Abortion Right Committee PP Box 12076 North Wgtn

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

ACADEMIC DEADLINE 14 July: No enrolments for second half year courses are accepted after this date.

LEGAL REFERRAL From the second term the Law Faculty Club will be operating a legal referral scheme, staffed by volunteer senior law students. This service will be provided free and will operate on Wednesday between 12 and 2 pm in the Board Room on the first floor of the Student Union Building. Students may avail themselves of the service simply by calling in to discuss any problems where they feel we may be able to help with advice.

CHELSEA RECORDS MANNERS PLAZA (MANNERS ST.) and opposite CABLE CAR LANE, LAMBTON QUAY Student Offer Only ANY \$7.99 RETAIL ALBUM OF YOUR CHOICE FOR ONLY \$6.50 Offer ONLY applies Wednesdays throughout the year. Students Only Cut out this advert and receive any \$7.99 album of your choice for only \$6.50 WEDNESDAYS ONLY Keep this and use it repeatedly