

Vote Exec

FORUM TUESDAY POLLING WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

Women Only

At last May Council there was a heated debate over whether the position of Coordinator of the NZUSA Women's Rights Action Committee (WRAC) should be restricted to women only. There, it was decided that the position could be held by either a woman or a man. Following August Council this policy was changed. Every campus, except Victoria, voted for the principle that the WRAC Co-ordinator should be a woman.

Victoria's position stems from a recent SRC where a motion restricting the position to women was only narrowly defeated.

The arguments for restricting the position to women only are essentially the same as the arguments for excluding men from women's rights organisations.

One of the arguments used at SRC was that men are able to appreciate women's oppression and that people who were in favour of excluding men were anti-male. This is not the logic of my argument. I believe the basis of women's oppression in New Zealand society is the present division of labour in the family where the man is breadwinner and the "little woman" is always mother and housewife.

[unclear: Why] does this institution exist? The nuclear family is an extension of the economic system. It provides labour for the workforce, and in the home women service the male worker (cook his meals, wash his clothes, keep the house clean etc.) and produce children, the future labour force.

From this sexual division of labour, women in the home and men in the labour force, springs the idea that women should only be concerned with things to do with the home; that they are irrational, dependent and unintelligent human beings.

Thus the movement for women's rights is fighting on two fronts; for the conditions which will enable women to take an equal part in society — childcare, maternity leave, free contraception, legalised abortion, and the unemployment benefit for married women — and also against the idea that women are inferior to men. The enemy of women's rights is not men but the economic structure that forces women to become second class citizens and the ideology that women are inferior to men.

Having said this, it is important to recognise the effects that thousands of years of sexism has had on women. All their lives women have been conditioned not to assert themselves. Experience has shown that even when men and women discuss the subject of women's oppression, men dominate. When meetings are restricted to women only the change is quite amazing. Women who had hardly spoken when men were present begin to take a lead in the discussions. The discussion on more personal aspects of women's oppression become much more open and honest, as many women are inhibited by the presence of men.

Through taking leadership roles women learn that they are capable of organising themselves. They gain confidence to hold public meetings and speak freely. This helps the movement grow. Furthermore the fact that some women are in leadership positions means that other women realise that they too have the ability to participate in political activities and this also acts as an impetus to the growth of the movement.

At the Victoria SRC the main argument advanced against restricting the position to women only was that this was discriminating against men. This totally ignores the reality that women and men are not equal. Excluding men from such a position is discrimination. It is positive discrimination. Positive discrimination recognises the imbalance that exists and is an attempt to rectify the imbalance. Many cases of positive discrimination are practised in New Zealand, for example state housing for lower income families, Education Scholarships for Maori students. To argue that it is "not fair!" to bar men from a women's rights leadership position is to try and apply egalitarian principles to an unequal situation.

Leonie Morris

Co-ordinator NZUSA
Women's Rights Action Committee

Clubs and Notices

VUW Films

Lady Sings The Blues

A melodramatic biography of Billie Holiday with Diana Ross in the title role. Ross handles the vocals fine but it was more likely Hollywood favouritism that earned her a Best Actress nomination for her performance.

Tues 5 Sept 2.15 pm

Odessa File

Film version of the Frederick Forsyth (of Day of the Jackal fame) bestseller. John Voigt plays a young journalist in Germany sometime early 60s and stumbles across a secret ex-Nazi network. He becomes obsessed with exposing it for reasons revealed in the surprise climax. Overall excellent thriller.

Thurs 7 Sept 2.15 pm

Malaysian Students Association

Please be reminded that the AGM cum Election will be held on 9th September, this coming Saturday in K 303 at 1 pm. If you are concerned about the well-being of the association, come along.

Tramping Club

15 to 17 September. Full moon. A trip to Tongariro National Park is in preparation. Two vans have been booked.

"Heels" — Photographs are wanted for inclusion in "Heels 78". Slides or black and white pictures are accepted for consideration and must be handed in by Wed 6th September. See Club notice board for details.

Blues Panel

Nominations from Winter sports clubs must be in the hands of the sports officer by 5 pm Wed 6th Sept. Forms are available from the Studass office. Blues will be awarded at blues dinner on 15th Sept.

VUW Chemistry Society

VUW Chemistry Society advises all interested students (especially Chem students) that there will be a meeting of the Victoria Dipsomania Society) (Pathological craving for alcoholic; beverages) on Thurs 7th Sept at 5.00 pm in the Union Hall Lounge and Smoking Room. Admission \$2.50 from any chem staff member. Supper will be provided in its usual form! Don't miss out on your last opportunity before finals to indulge in some good old staff abuse etc.

Abortion Forum

Peta Stewart from the Sydney Women's Abortion Action Campaign will be speaking in the Union Hall on Monday from 12-2. Come along and find out about the present situation in Australia. Organised by VUW Womens Rights.

There will be a meeting in the Lounge at 11 am on Monday to plan a campaign on womens rights, particularly abortion, leading up to Womens suffrage Day on September 15. Bring your ideas, enthusiasm or just yourself and help us in the fight for women's rights on campus.

Gagging Forum

Trevor Richards, Russell Marshall, Lisa Saksen and an East Timor speaker speak on the recent attacks on freedom of speech. Union Hall Wednesday 6 Sept, 12-2. Organised by the Progressive Students Alliance.

Salient Notes

The Great Salient Balloon Race. In which those of you who have always suspected Salient to be 75% hot air and Simon Wilson in particular nothing more than a bag of wind, find your fears largely verified. It's amazing actually, what some people will do to get into the news. No sooner had those two guys ditched their balloon in the English Channel last week (missing Meda McKenzie by inches) than Peter Beach decided it was time Salient had a bash at Porirua Harbour. To be quite honest, preparations were makeshift to say the least. Lorraine Robinson was sent down to NZUSA cellars where she spent a week stitching old Vietnam War calico banners together with orange thread from Woolies, and of course Jonathan Scott was sent down to blow the thing up.

David Murray got a phone call from Picton the next day to say the whole thing had been very successful but that northerly winds could perhaps present a problem. By the time they'd scraped them off the funnel of the Picton Ferry and sent them home, the press were getting very pissed off with waiting; they'd been at Porirua for three days and hadn't moved on principle because Cook Strait's decidedly old hat these days and they weren't prepared to make fools of themselves trying to swim over to the South Island to interview anyone.

Any way, eventually the situation was rectified, the appropriate apologies were made and the crowd cheered as the one-time housekeeper of the cousin of the guy who used to drive a bus on the route that went past the summer-house of the 1954 NZ ambassador to Tierra del Fuego, cut the ribbon. (You may think that rather obscure but she was a friend of Martha Coleman's as well.) Virginia Adams was asked exactly what Salient hoped to achieve with this daredevil and perhaps rather stupid attempt and replied with typical flippancy that helium balloons were one way of getting twice as high as TM at a fraction of the cost, with the added advantage that you don't have to keep your legs crossed all the time. A recent survey had shown, added Lisa Saksen, that in an average city with 1% of the population going up regularly in helium balloons, there was clear evidence of a dramatic drop in the incidence of tooth decay throughout the whole area. Linking this with recent trends in the fields of Venereal Disease, atheletes foot, and politician's mouth, and taking into consideration, the recent plunge in the number of abortions being performed in Canada it was quite dear that in fact many of these regular balloonists were never returning to earth. In the distance the tiny figures of Chris Norman and Margot MacGillivray could be dimly perceived maneuvering a power boat into the middle of Titahi Bay.

A fresh wind was blowing, almost a cheeky wind one could say, as it blew away pretty well everything among the crowd that wasn't chained down, including Lamoma Rogers. Lindy Cassidy's claim that they were just sending her on ahead to test wind direction convinced nobody and the general dismay felt at the incident was only increased by the screams for mercy of Helen Aikman being dragged by the ankle at increasing speed across the grass in the victorious wake of the rapidly climbing balloon.

"Cut the Rope, Cut the Rope!!!!!" yelled Caroline Massof wildly slashing at every rope in sight. The crowd gasped in awe as the machine gracefully parted into two pieces, the balloon climbed rapidly and the basket plunged at high speed into Titahi Bay where the rescue boat was waiting. "Come Back!" yelled Victoria Kennedy to the balloon. "Get fucked" said the balloon and soared gracefully ever higher, heading for Picton.

Salient is edited by Simon Wilson, printed by Wanganui New papers Ltd, Drews Lane, Wanganui, and published by the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association.

We wouldn't like people to think Salient was degenerating into a scandal sheet but I wonder how many people knew about the ex-exec member found layed out in the Women's toilets in the Union Building last Wednesday night. \$24,000 for a new typesetter please Mr..... or we publish the photos.

IMMIGRATION A FREE CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE SERVICE Amnesty Aroha has, since October 1976, been worried about New Zealand's immigration laws and bow people who do not understand them are treated. We have tried to persuade the Government to change those parts of the law that cause hardship. We have also tried to make the Government accept that New Zealand has a responsibility to those who still wish to live here. We will Continue to try, but we think that we can offer some help to people who think they are in trouble but do not fully understand the way the immigration law works. To do this we are setting up an office which will be open on: MONDAY NIGHTS FROM 7 PM to 9 PM at the NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE (Corner, Rintoul & Colombo Streets) Members of Amnesty Aroha will do their best to help with your problem. We may be able to give the advice you need or tell you where to go if you need further help. OUR HELP IS FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

CLAMP First HART, then the South African scholar, then Jose Hortas ... when will it end? Hear Trevor Richards, Russell Marshall, Lisa Saksen and others speak on the state of freedom of speech in this country. Union Hall Wed 12—2

Murray's Magic Bus

Well, we can explain the dismally low turnout at last week's SRC by the fact that the traditionally intense level of student interest in this regular event was obviously undermined by a misunderstanding about the length of Victoria University August holidays: they only last two weeks whereas most other campuses get three. An understandable error folks, all is forgiven so we'll see all 6,000 of you there next time.

It was really a meeting of reports. Everybody who is anybody round the place gave one — it was definitely the thing to do. The recent occurrence of NZUSA August Council could have had something to do with this.

Norman on the Skyline

The first of the list, given by the vivacious new third-term version of Paul Norman — Paul Norman Mach II, a shorter-haired, longer-winded version of the previous model was interesting. Negotiations are proceeding over the future of the old skyline restaurant site above the cable car. Students must take a stand. Our choice is clear cut. Either a New Zealand Breweries tavern, a Greek-owned restaurant, or a bus to ferry David Murray around late at night. It was obvious that Norman had made up his own mind, but frankly, it's obviously a rather difficult decision and his golden rhetoric left the meeting pretty split over the issue.

Journalists Definitely not Wanted

David Murray himself, admirably unruffled by such obviously divided enthusiasm on matters of his welfare, reported on behalf of the Publications Board, two current vacancies of some importance, for which nominations are invited. They are Editor of next year's Orientation Handbook (honorarium \$260), and 1979 Editor of the world-famous progressive newspaper Salient, a full-time position with a wage of about \$46 pw.

Simon Wilson, student representative on the Professorial Board, reported that this body had shown united opposition to the recent government gagging of Southern Africa Scholarship holders. Protests were progressing through the correct official channels, ie. slowly.

Next came the August Council delegates, their sun-bronzed faces visibly ravaged by alcohol, but nevertheless all still pretty talkative.

The hands down winner of the Talkativity Award was Sue Cairney, whose report on the Education Commission put the unruly audience firmly in it's place. The interjections faltered after 5 minutes, the talking faded after 10, the mumbles had died altogether at 15, and by the end a respectful silence prevailed utterly. By the time everyone had come back Lindy Cassidy had nearly finished hers.

Lapsed Albatross

Jim Brown's report was without a doubt the most exciting. What began as a casual, even blase account of the progress of the National Commission ended up for Jim as nothing less than a fight for his life as the vicious Paul Norman and some friends tried to add grilled Albatross to the SRC menu. Feathers filled the air as Jim lit 3 cigarettes simultaneously in a desperate effort to justify his failure to present a piece of VUWSA Environmental legislation to his commission, in actual fact it wasn't really his fault — the motion had been omitted from the Council policy handbooks, but do you think his assailants would listen? Anyway the situation was finally resolved when a motion of "regret" of at least three hundred words with at least half of them of seven letters or more was passed. This satisfied everybody.

Reports from the other commissions followed, which I shall not recount as Salient is doing a full report on August Council which will include all the information they gave.

After one election to the Languages and Literature faculty, and a plea for people to understand how important these faculty positions are, by Simon Wilson, it was time to consider the first of the four motions on the agenda.

This was a suggestion that "Gaudeamus Igitur" be sung before all SRCs. The mover, a Mr Sainsbury, assured the Association President, Lindy Cassidy, that the motion would in no way endanger either her life or her family. The meeting, no doubt responding to the warmth and openness of this promise, eventually passed it despite a foreshadowed motion raised in opposition by Jonathan Scott, that the two movers of the motion only be required to sing. We were then treated to a brief and very original rendition of the song itself, by those two people — quickly silenced by a hail of missiles.

The second motion asked for VUWSA to pay the hiring fees for an Abortion Rights Action Committee fund-raising concert, in view of the debt they are trying to erase. After some heated discussion concerning the

word "precedent" — which is, after all, one of the more interesting words available in the language for discussion, the motion was passed. Then it was lost. Then there was another motion put to re-put the motion. That was won. Then the original motion was won — again.

It's supporters were very pleased because it's not often that an SRC feels strongly enough in favour of a motion to bother passing it twice.

Protecting Privacy

Next "That VUWSA opposes the continued existence and concept of the Wanganui Computer Centre." Everyone really agreed on this, but of course some bloke down the back had to make trouble by talking about the semantic difference between "abuse" and existence Thereupon followed a discussion on the nature of "existence" and a very moving story about this chap who got picked up by the Police for being drunk and disorderly. Eventually the motion was remembered, and passed unanimously.

The last item on the agenda was a proposal that VUWSA donate \$50 to help finance a speaking tour in NZ of the lawyer who is representing eighteen students who have been rotting in a Thailand jail for two years awaiting trial for their involvement in resisting the 1976 fascist coup in that country. Someone asked how it would actually help the students, Mike Treen replied that they had asked for international support. Paul "Pessimism" Norman commented that even if he did come here the government probably wouldn't let him speak. The motion was carried.

Finally came a recommendation from Simon Wilson that the money received from the University Challenge competition be donated to a campaign against the restrictive conditions recently imposed by the New Zealand government on the Southern Africa Scholarship. After some discussion this was amended to a 50/50 division between the Campaign and the Poverty Fund, and passed unanimously.

Jonathan Scott

Vote Exec '79

President

Andrew Tees

Photo of Andrew Tees

I am standing for President because I consider Stud Ass needs to be reorientated positively towards welfare, social and sporting activities.

A handfull of so called political heavies shouldn't dictate the policy of 6000 students. The Middle East, Zaire and superpower rivalry do not affect the student body directly. It's about time "student politicians" realized that most students are only apathetic because they aren't fanatically interested in these issues.

If SRC was more directly concerned with the needs of students then a lot more interest would be generated. That's why I've been critical of the association during the year.

I will not forsake a definite role when Internal assessment, bursaries and overseas student's issues arise. Political involvement should concentrate in these areas relevant to students. The services the association provides are important. I'd like to see more attention given to Catering and Social functions as well as better union facilities being available to students More support should be given to social and sporting clubs as well as continued emphasis on bursaries, assessment etc. Priority should be given to these matters rather than purely political activities.

Mike Treeni

Photo of Mike Treeni

Biography: Executive member of the Auckland Students Association for three years including Welfare Vice-President. Employed AUSA Resource Officer 1977. VUWSA International Affairs Officer this year.

Students face a crisis situation that requires a strong response from the organisations that represent them, both VUW SA and NZUSA. We have to battle the government over the Standard Tertiary Bursary which is continually devalued by inflation. Unemployment threatens holiday income necessary for our survival — and even that faces increased tax. We must campaign for a cost-of-living bursary and the extension of the Student Work Schemes for holiday employment.

Overseas students who face restrictions, from cuts in entry quotas to the recent ban on the political rights of

the Southern African Scholar must be vigorously defended.

The Students Association should also be prepared to join other sectors of the community defending their rights. Supporting women's right to abortion; Maori land rights; opposing restrictions on civil liberties contained in the SIS and Drug legislation.

Democratic involvement in forming and actioning policy is necessary for the local and national associations, if their voice is to be effective on issues from assessment to East Timor. For a democratic, politically active Students Association.

Simon Wilson

Photo of Simon Wilson

Salient Editor 1978. Student rep on University Council and Professorial Board. A chief delegate to NZUSA August Council, delegate to May Council. Finishing English and Drama BA this year.

Our association is the only body dedicated to promoting student welfare both inside and outside the university. It also has an important role opposing the ever growing restrictions on all New Zealanders.

The President must be administratively competent, and must be able to front up for students — in campaigns, on committees, to the media and to the university authorities.

I have a good working knowledge and experience of both association and university. I have been active in all the association's campaigns this year. In Salient I was instrumental in initiating the first ever National issues. I have kept a close eye on New Zealand politics as well as student issues such as the Hunter developments.

If elected I would place special emphasis on assessment, bursaries and opposition to the continuing attacks on civil liberties; including abortion, the right to work, Maori land rights and the looming attacks on the rights of overseas students.

A strong association needs a full-time commitment from its President. I am prepared to make that commitment.

Jim Brown

Since applying for President, Jim Brown has been elected GVP of NZUSA. Because of this he no longer wishes to stand for President of VUWSA.

Woman Vice President

Caroline Massof

Photo of Caroline Massof

I am standing for WVP as I see the position as very important particularly in terms of representing women students' point of view on the executive, which has always been traditionally male dominated.

I am a first year law student, and I have been active in the Students Association since the beginning of the year. I was elected WVP in the by-elections held this year, and since then I have been involved in women's rights, particularly the July 14 abortion campaign and the women's issue of Salient, which was a valuable experience in terms of working with other women

I have attended both May and August Council this year, as a delegate on the Women's Commission, and feel I have represented Victoria's policies well, and have gained valuable experience

Whilst I have been primarily involved in women's rights I contributed to the Bastion Point march and the bursaries campaign.

One aspect of the Students Association that interests me is Student Health Services. I feel that this service should be extended to all students, and would like to see a campaign for this next year.

If re-elected, I will try to involve as many students as possible in the activities of the Students Association

Joan Shields

Photo of Joan Shields

318,000 people signed "Repeal" and Parliament ignored it. This is just one example of the powerful barriers women face in our fight for our rights.

Women students have a big stake in ending anti-woman discrimination. We are under-represented at university. We find it harder to get jobs in the holidays and earn less when we do. That means that the STB is even more inadequate for us than for male students. Furthermore, solo mothers with a bursary have their benefits reduced.

The government has declared war on women's right to abortion, and we have to take up the challenge. The

abortion campaign can unite women in fighting for our rights.

The Women's Vice-President should be a voice for women on the Executive and at SRC. She should play a leading role in the campaigns of the students association that concern women.

As well as the abortion campaign, I will make areas such as expanded creche facilities and more women's studies courses my concern.

Women students shouldn't have to fight discrimination on our own. The students association should help with resources and personnel.

Women's rights are a Students Association priority!

For a democratic, politically active Students Association!

Man Vice President

John Hebenton

Photo of John Hebenton

Over the years, this position has become one of social leader. Agreed, he should take an interest in the social life of the campus. But it shouldn't be his entire portfolio, organize all the hops and social occasions. This year there have been a few hops, so some organized by "ordinary" students. There should be more organiseary students, allowing MVP to spend more time in his political role. Executive positions are one of supervision, encouragement and administering the Association as a whole. Not organizing every damn thing as is happening more and more. They should be involved, but not doing it all. It's as someone interested in both social and political feilds I am standing, someone who will help others to put into action there ideas, as well as continuing the school visits started this year, and, if I am inspired, working on other ways to change the association's image from one of something to be avoided to an organization that helps people. But again, if you're not interested in getting involved yourselves, and you want someone to organize everything for you, then don't vote for me.

It's as one we'll achieve anything. Your people, not sheep. Do something for yourselves.

Kevin Ward

Photo of Kevin Ward

In the Age of Cosmic Consciousness, when Emotional Materialism and Cosmic Realism shall have caused to perish the yawning abyss of Psychic Senility, the politician will no longer exist. Instead, a vast remote sensing network, rolling back the veil of Maja between the voids, shall do away with the need for representative democracy. Until that time however we must rely on whatever Fortune and History throw up.

Lady Chance has not been kind. Our political chieftains today combine insensitivity, ineptitude and/or indolence more than ever. I believe that we as students should be reacting vigorously and publicly to this state of affairs, for if we who have access to information and the time to interpret it cannot do so, it is pointless and a little hypocritical to blame the 'ordinary bloke' for leaving it all to some populist enema.

True, we are being hampered by the present Age of Belt Tightening and Knuckling Down. Consequently I'd like to see Studass efforts on Bursaries and Internal Assessment maintained — possibly stepped up. However I'd also like to see issues receive wider attention on campus, with a greater student involvement.

Accomodation Officer

Ian McElwee

Photo of Ian McElwee

Status: Fourth Year Student, in the second year of a BA. Reason for Wanting the Job: Participation; To help people to learn.

Participation is an important part of human existence. Standing for accommodation officer is an attempt at participation in the political side of university life. Helping people to find flats may be a job in which limited time and ability could be of help to people in the hassles which inevitably crop up in changing houses. To achieve this in the students association involves trying to set up an efficient referral system for students, so that they don't waste time and money trying to get flats from unsympathetic landlords and callous letting agencies.

Cultural Affairs Officer

Michael Carr-Gregg

Photo of Michael Carr-Gregg

I am a third year Education student, who having spent last year at Sydney University hope to complete my degree this year. I believe that if the University is to be little more than a place to study, a conscientious Cultural Affairs Officer is needed. In the past year, as a student representative on the Arts Faculty and the Library Usage Committee I have gained necessary knowledge of the workings of the Association.

I would especially like to see the Drama Studies Department more actively involved on campus, bringing some of their splendid productions to places which are more readily accessible than Drama House

I would also like to see the continuation of evening rock concerts and hops, as well as SASRAC, which has become an essential part of the University's social life. I am told that many clubs hold their AGMs there nowadays. Finally, I'd like to see Christian and Overseas Students' Clubs participate more in campus activities.

To accomplish most of these aims, I am convinced we need energetic Cultural Clubs, and I would make their continued well-being my priority. I hope that by creating a more stimulating environment we can partly alleviate the student apathy which has become commonplace in the past few years.

Sports Officer

Exec '79

Philip Sowman

Photo of Philip Sowman

I was elected in the By-election of the first term and since then have been actively involved in Sports Committee Affairs. The major event on campus was the Sports Week which for a first time round was a success. This will become an annual event and one I would like to be associated with next year.

Presently I have been doing a survey of the sports clubs to see if there is anything that can be done to improve the standard and organisation of University Clubs on campus, the results of which I hope will be of assistance to clubs next year.

With Tournaments to be organised to Auckland and Otago next year, I feel it would be an advantage for the person to have had dealings with the club contacts, especially for Easter Tournament which is early into the first term and arrangements need to be made quickly. This understanding I have gained since my election as Sports Officer.

SRC Co~Ordinator

John Hebenton

Photo of John Hebenton

The main problem with this position, is you, the ordinary plebian type student. Over the years, the last two particularly, the average student has been very keen on anything to do with the association. This can be seen in SRC attendances and the rep roll. After years of fighting the university for representation on committees and faculties we now have a fight with the students to go to the meetings, or even be elected onto the committee. This year, as secretary, one of my main problems is trying to fill student representative placings of faculties and sub committees of proffesorial board. This is a suicidal attitude. I'm nog going to pretend I can solve these. My platform is, if you vote for me, your voting to be involved. This Association is a team, and only as such can it survive. Be part of that team, and I'm willing to encourage it, and administer this area without your involvement, the position is worthless.

Patrick Mulrennan

Photo of Patrick Mulrennan

SRC is the arena for debate and decision on our Students Association's policy. If the Students Association is to cope with the new challenges before it — such as the government's attacks on educational and human rights — then SRC must be strengthened. What is needed is a conscious effort to stimulate debate on the most important issues.

For example, NZUSA's August Council urged campuses to discuss the need for a Fourth National Officer.

As SRC Coordinator, I would ensure that the discussion took place, and that it was thorough Articles in Salient, leaflets, forums etc. can all help prepare such a discussion.

SRC Coordinator should also help to action policy, by assisting communication and cooperation among the SRC Officers. For a start, I would arrange thorough reports from Officers to SRC. I will also ensure that as far as is possible, SRC agendas are known before the meeting.

I believe that democratic policy-making is the foundation of a Students Association that Is an effective political leadership for students, around issues such as abortion rights, bursaries and overseas students rights. For a democratic, politically active students association!

Jonathan Scott

Photo of Jonathan Scott

Look at my picture. Is this the face that launched a thousand ships? Or is this the haggard face of a history student nursing secret ambition? Look into my eyes. Notice how reassuringly wide apart they are. That means I'm honest. Look at John Hebenton's sneaky little eyes. Say no more.

I swear to god I have never worked for NZR. I have worked on many student issues over the last three years, and I understand the function of VUWSA, and of SRC Co-ordinator in particular well. On the other hand I know almost nothing about aeroplane engines. In addition I'm afraid I don't represent the "average grass-roots student" - because such a being doesn't exist. He or she (presumably a cross between the two, poor thing, and a schizo-phrenic too) is an illusory political beast created and perpetuated as an ultimate vote catcher; a universal identity to which you are all invited to relate. I'm not "average" and neither are you. I represent my enthusiasm for the guts of this job; the promotion of SRC policy, and when I don't personally agree with that policy I must override my own opinions, no matter how grass-roots I might think I am.

Finally, I will never, ever lie to the American people.

Simon Wright

Photo of Simon Wright

Well, yes, here we are, back at elections again. Thrilled? Yes, I don't blame you. And yes, I am once again standing for SRC Coordinator. Why, you ask? Well, why not? I am, after all, trying to help y'all — by arranging Your SRCs, making sure Your representatives go to their meetings; in other words, looking after your interests on campus.

As I recall, I said all that last time, but then, you didn't vote me in last time. Now, with several more months of observing student politics as its usual humdrum level, I am once again prepared to brave storms of abuse and shouts of derisive laughter. A thankless task, to be sure. But then, I'm not after thanks (No, I'm after the honorarium).

I merely want to ensure that someone who can and Will do the job gets in - and therefore I humbly suggest myself. I don't claim to be Maoist, Trotskyite or even red — how many Anthropology students do? No, I just wanna do the job. And if you don't vote for me, it's your own silly fault. 'Nuff said.

Treasurer

Peter Edwards

Photo of Peter Edwards

I see the main function of Treasurer as ensuring that student resources are utilised in the most effective way for students.

I would like to see the needless waste of student resources in areas such as excessive pamphlet production and some areas of donations that are not wholly in the student interest, stopped.

I am a 4th year student and have 2½ years' accountancy experience, gained prior to coming to University. I was business director of this year's student Revue, in which a substantial profit was made for the Students' Association in an area that traditionally to "break-even" has been difficult.

At present I am a student representative on the Union Management Committee, the Catering Sub-Committee, and the Recreation Centre Staffing Sub-Committee.

As far as student politics go, I see the position of Treasurer as being apolitical. My personal political affiliations are neutral.

If elected, I will endeavour to maintain an efficient utilisation of the financial resources of VUWSA.

Secretary

John Hebenton

Photo of John Hebenton

Again! mad fool I screamed. Have you the time? No! But who has? The whole concept of the executive, its work for love, and work loads needs reviewing. The Secretary, if active and involved cannot be a full time student. Nor, if he is to do any studies at all, can he have any sort of job. The result is an active secretary for two terms, and a co-opted member for the last term, as happened the last two years, or one, as myself who is less involved, less active and severely criticized as a result It's time people realized the responsibility and the time involved, realized that no more can this position (as with the President and Treasurer) be one of love, but one which can be termed as a "part-time job". Over the past year or so we've seen drastic rises in some honorariums, and a total disregard for all the other positions. Until something is done, this position is going to be a thorn in the side of the association. Accordingly, no promises of brilliance, just an assurance that when time permits I will continue, as this year, to perform the duties required of me, and as in this year, work in other areas.

Andrew Tees

(No manifesto or photo supplied for this position.)

Pubs Officer

Helen Aikman

Photo of Helen Aikman

The job of Publications Officer is mostly administrative. It is the head of the Publications Board, which oversees the publication of Salient, the Orientation Handbook and anything else the ecec decides to put out. The Board coordinates between the various bodies concerned and appoints some of the staff required.

As I have worked on Salient and also have some administrative experience [*unclear*: w] while working before coming to Vic, I believe I can do this job competently. I will also take an active part in VUWSA affairs, particularly on policy issues directly affecting students and in a wider national and international field. I am at present studying Law and have a BA from University of the South Pacific.

VOTE WED & THURS VUWSA 1979 Executive Elections Polling will be over two days; Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 September between the hours of 8.30 am and 6 pm. The polling booths are situated in the Students Association and Library foyers. The Election Forum will be held on Tuesday 5 September from 12-2 pm in the Union Hall. This is YOUR chance to question the candidates on their stand in the elections. Take it! Election results will be posted on the Association Notice board on Friday 8 September.

[*unclear*: Revolutionary] [*unclear*: foreplay]

Forum on Socialism

At the forum organised by the Progressive Students Alliance three of the socialist movements in Wellington were represented. The Young Socialists were represented by Patrick Mulrennan, the Wellington Marxist-Leninist Organisation by Lindy Cassidy and the Struggle group by Jack Mansen.

The forum covered such a wide range of opinion and topics that it would be impossible to do justice to most of the issues raised in a short article. Therefore I will concentrate on the major points, and endeavour to analyse them.

The essence of a debate on socialism should surely be that, first and foremost, it be intelligible. Therefore I will make the basis of my own understanding clear. This may mark me off as being from one side or the other, but any other approach would lead only to a cliquish understanding of the debate, through which my views would [*unclear*: she] shine like a beacon to the initiated by would lead to confusion for the mass of students who are after all the ones who should be involved in this debate.

Premise number one: New Zealand is a capitalist society (best to forget all the overtones that can be

attached to the word "capitalist". In this sense it is a scientific term). This means that in New Zealand a minority of the people control the things that make money, like factories, finance companies, insurance companies and a majority of people have no control over these things. In fact they play no part in society other than to provide the necessary labour power to keep everything working. Because the minority control the things that make money they have the ability to exert control over the political framework of the country, and they make great use of this ability.

Premise number two: there are two groups in society (the Marxists call classes); the ruling class (the bourgeoisie) and the working class (the proletariat). Because of the financial and social inequality between them, these two classes are in direct opposition. What is to the benefit of one class is not to the benefit of the other class. Therefore there is class struggle.

Premise number three: no-one gives up wealth and power willingly, therefore to bring about a radical change in the situation of the two classes it is necessary for the working class to take up arms against the bourgeoisie to defeat them and to seize state power, and wrest control of the economy to serve the needs of all people.

Premise number four: this change-over of class power is inevitable. Inevitable because the needs of a capitalist society force the working class into the situation where they work together and not singly. They can therefore recognise the powers of their numbers and the strength of their unity and can develop a consciousness as a separate group. Once this has been achieved and the working class is given the leadership that is necessary (a genuine Marxist-Leninist Party) there is nothing that can stand in their path. The destruction of the bourgeoisie society will follow as does the day the night.

The first speaker Cassidy spoke on the question of the socialist revolution in New Zealand, stressing the fact that New Zealand is in the stage where it can achieve a socialist revolution. She added that this does not mean that the revolution was around the corner, or even down the road.

Cassidy said that the struggle for socialism in New Zealand would be a long protracted struggle and would require the strengthening of the people's organisations (trade unions, anti-imperialist organisations etc) and the development of a united Marxist-Leninist party (she noted that one did not exist at the moment). Cassidy commented that New Zealand's present social and political state was caused by the financial and economic crisis that New Zealand has been going through since 1974. She explained in some detail the nature of this crisis and the likely result of the crisis in political terms.

Third World War

Cassidy also spoke at some length about the nature of the world situation, and of the inevitability of a third world war. She said that the people had to be warned of this danger so that they could delay it and prepare themselves for it. Cassidy put forward the view that the contention between the Soviet Union and the United States for portions of the globe and the resources they contain must inevitably lead to a major confrontation.

Mulrennan began by describing the way in which the Young Socialists saw the socialist society when it finally occur This will be a society in which power has come into the hands of the working class, but it will be a democratic society above everything else. All peoples and groups who wish to form political parties and run in the elections will be permitted to do so.

Later Mulrennan explained how this halycon situation was to be brought about. The idea is that you go out and educate the working class, concentrating on those sectors of society which are the most oppressed such as women, Polynesians and Maoris, and then you establish a government parallel to the bourgeoisie state, and sooner or later, whoopee the workers have state power. This may involve fighting the bourgeoisie but not attacking them first.

Ideology or Theology

Those who have any interests in revolutionary politics and any common sense will quickly realise the absolute futility and abstractness of this approach. It is not based on an assessment of society, but rather on a belief as to how society should be The Young Socialists have fundamentally taken a tactic of parallel workers organisations, used by Lenin prior to the October Revolution and have turned it into an article of faith. This it seems to me is how they have approached all their ideology, which given this treatment quickly transforms itself from an ideology which is the tool of liberation into a theology which concretises only itself into stone.

Jack Manson speaking for the "Struggle" group, mainly emphasised the nature of socialism, saying that it was the period of dictatorship of the proletariat and nothing like a society where any group that feels like it can make a bid for political power. Manson stressed that while under socialism there would be freedom of action and assembly there would be distinct limits placed upon those people who felt that they wanted to change

society back to a bourgeoisie state. For example, he said, Muldoon, should he survive a revolution, would not be permitted to organise a political party. Manson, who appeared to have come along mainly to dispute with the Socialist Unity Party (who didn't turn up) confined his remarks to short comments on other speakers' statements. It is therefore very difficult to judge the overall position of the Struggle group.

"All they think about is money..."

Drawing of men surrounded by money bags looking out a window at a protest

Vote Labour?

During the debate over the position of the Young Socialists the question of the elections was raised. The Young Socialists and the Socialist Action League have an attitude to the Labour Party which can be summed up with the words "expose them in office". They believe that because Labour still has a great measure of support from the working class, it is impossible to educate the working class away from the Labour Party without having them going through the direct experience of how bad, rotten and decayed the Labour Party is. They base their appreciation of the Labour Party on the fact that the Labour Party was established by the working class to defend their interests. They do not appear to regard the question of what class the Labour Party supports as being at all important. Thus the often confusing and strange sounding slogan of "Vote Socialist Action - Elect a Labour Government".

It seems to me that the Labour Party is just as dangerous in many respects as the National Party. It has the cloak of 'socialism' so badly needed to cover the nakedness of the reactionary nature of bourgeoisie parties. By giving the Labour Party even tacit support, a true Marxist-Leninist becomes a traitor to the working class because the Labour Party cannot but be only for the ruling class, and therefore it is a powerful weapon against the working class.

This is not to say that at certain times sections of the Labour Party and the National Party cannot be united with peoples' organisations or the working class. There are contradictions among the bourgeoisie and these should be used to the advantage of the working class. However there is very little that distinguishes the Labour Party from the National Party.

The majority of the working class probably hold racist and sexist ideas. Does this then justify acceding to these, views? Of course not. Neither does the fact that the majority of workers vote for Labour mean that steps should not be taken to point out the essential class nature of the Labour Party. To talk of exposing them in office is like supporting a reactionary male for a position in the women's movement.

Post Script

At the end of the meeting a very important question was raised. It was realised by some of the audience that the Young Socialists had in fact been taping the whole of the meeting. The Young Socialists claimed that the tape was only being made to provide them with a clear idea of what was said at the meeting for publication at a later date. Words can only go so far in expressing ideas, sooner or later practical experience has to take over. The primacy of words, to me, is a prime example of the Young Socialists' view of the world.

We live in country where almost daily important civil liberties are being taken away from all people, we live at the moment under the shadow of fascism. At a time like this to record a meeting of people talking about socialism is worse than criminally negligent. It is not the point that meetings should be open to all, that the SIS should not exist, that the Government should not do nasty things. It is the case that these things are happening, and that if a progressive movement of any kind is to survive it must protect itself. To threaten this protection so that an article can appear in Socialist Action is like handing the hangman the rope.

Leonie Morris

Drawing of industrialisation

NZUSA: When the levy breaks

August Council at Waikato

Council is the twice yearly meeting of the New Zealand University Students' Association when policy is set, a budget established, and all sorts of other business of longstanding importance is conducted. It is the highest decision making body of the Association, and is attended by a delegation from each of the seven constituent students' associations around the country, as well as all National Officers and any other students who are interested.

A 50% increase on the levy to give NZUSA the first properly viable campaign budget it has had in years was the major decision taken by August Council. Other significant events and decisions included:

- the election of next year's National Officers
- the appointment of the long awaited second Research Officer
- the postponement of a decision of reintroducing a fourth National Officer
- the election of student reps on the Board of STB Ltd
- a decision not to mount a full scale bursaries campaign
- a 30 day ban on all tolls and telegrams out of National Office
- a complete ban on using the telex machine

The Elections

The elections for next year's National Office were not highly contested. In fact, only one person stood for each of the three positions. The Board elections, however, were a little more exciting, with five people seeking three positions. The results, for those who do not want to read on and discover the sordid truths of the conduct of the candidates and the sort of thing we can expect next year, are as follows:

- President: Chris Gosling (Auckland)
- General Vice President: Jim Brown (Victoria)
- Education and Welfare: Grant Liddell (Otago)
- 3 year term on the Board: Steve Underwood (Victoria)
- 2 year term on the Board: Nigel Petrie (Canterbury)
- 1 year term on the Board: John Judge (Otago)

Goodwill Gosling: The President

NZUSA's 1979 President is a populist from Auckland who threw himself into capping in 1976, cut his teeth on the Union Management Committee late the same year and subsequently became involved in a wide variety of activities. The biggest feather in his cap is a very successful 1978 bursaries campaign which he was instrumental in organising.

Gosling has long enjoyed respect from many sides on his home campus, and over the last year his leadership has stood out at NZUSA meetings. He has experience, an abiding interest in the affairs of NZUSA and students, and in his own words has been able to retain the goodwill of most people he has worked with.

Liddell (Education and Welfare VP) and Gosling (NZUSA President Elect).

Photo of Grant Liddell and Chris Gosling

On the other hand, he doesn't always see things as clearly as one might hope. For example, he was a major supporter of the Auckland offer in May to lend NZUSA \$6,000. NZUSA was facing a deficit budget and this was AUSA's way of solving it. The fact that a loan would not help matters at all as it would only add to the deficit did not seem to impress Gosling. Questioned on this, and on the "impulsive" way Gosling had promoted the idea without "proper consultation", he suggested it had been a red herring to get around people's aversion to the idea of a deficit budget.

Gosling had other things to say on the money question. He argued (in true Auckland fashion, for they have a 560,000 surplus when everyone else faces a deficit) that because "NZUSA will only be viable if it functions properly", the more money that is put in the more return we will get. It is true that NZUSA has always been underfinanced, but not so true that an exponential growth of income, which is what he seemed to be suggesting, will necessarily lead to better things.

Consolidation and expansion

There were two main themes of Gosling's election splurge which did not always appear to reconcile themselves. He argued that it was essential for NZUSA to consolidate, and he also argued for a fourth National Officer. By consolidation he meant that National Officers had to get out to students and prove the organisation's viability at the base level. More National Officers were needed to do this, he suggested.

However, the consolidation NZUSA needs has other aspects. NZUSA must be seen far more to be working on the core issues affecting students. There has been a clear feeling on many campuses that the old structure did not provide for this. That feeling cannot simply be ignored. NZUSA cannot afford to spread its resources thinly over too wide an area, nor can constituents afford financially to support an effective spreading of those resources.

August Council's solution to this problem, which was to solidly reinforce the campaign budgets of the three officers, will hopefully mean that consolidation in the campaign areas will boost confidence among students.

The increased fee needed for this purpose stretches many campuses to the limit and leaves no room for a fourth National Officer. Certainly we need more officers; but that doesn't mean we should just go straight out and get them.

Gosling's keyword was "communication". This meant more written information being sent out, more contact among the constituents, and most importantly it meant National Officers getting onto campus. A fine idea, and one most would agree with, but when asked about concrete ideas Gosling admitted he had none. To be fair, he also stated several times he had no real idea what the job would involve. Creditable honesty, it's often called.

Gosling has one big blemish on his record: he resigned as Auckland Education Vice President earlier this year. He gave three reasons for this: 1) there was a conflict with his studies, 2) he hadn't worked from Christmas and was completely without money (Gosling expected the job would become a paid one but SRC decided against it), 3) his work on bursaries had stuffed up everything for some time to come.

This is what is known as "caucusing". UCSA delegation in action.

Photo of UCSA delegation

He emphasised that being President was a different matter. It was a full time commitment, he said, adding, "I cannot for see any situation where I would resign." It is true that the EVP position was part time, and local associations cannot expect the same full time commitment.

Nevertheless, the sort of dedication to student association work NZUSA ideally needs in its President should manifest itself in the candidate's career before s/he actually assumes office.

Related to this is the question of NZUSA's own vacancy for the Education Vice President position earlier this year. Asked why he did not stand for it (he knew he had wide support for the job) he replied first that half a year was not enough time to build up the necessary relationships to do the job properly. That may be true too, but someone had to do it. Commitments in Auckland were also cited, and obviously all played an important role in his decision.

The budget session: Things start to look bad.

Phot of a man standing next to a Blackboard

But if this appraisal seems critical I do not mean to suggest he is not the best person for the job. Gosling has a sincere desire to develop NZUSA's credibility and effectiveness among students and the public generally, a track record revealing a large measure of competence and popular support, and displays no illusions about his own abilities. Council assessed all this and came up with a strong vote of confidence, 39 for, 2 against, one invalid.

Lackadaisical Liddell

"I've been in office two months, you've seen how I work and there's going to be more of the same," said Grant Liddell by way of an election speech.

"Do you consider yourself to be any good at the job?" shot back Waikato President Doug Drever. This forced Liddell to run over the things he had done in office, in particular his role in the reviews of bursaries and teacher training, and a serious candidature was established..

People were quite ready to accept that he was doing a good job, but there were other questions. Right up to morning tea on the first day of Council, with the elections due to begin straight after the last biscuit was swallowed Liddell had still not announced what he was going to do. Why? asked Otago President Phil Chronican.

Liddell explained that he had been considering five options, including the job of NZUSA President, but was now resolved where he could work best. Canterbury President Mike Lee said he wasn't satisfied with this and wanted to know how many other times Liddell had resigned A curious question, referring to May when Grant resigned from a Vice Presidency at Otago to take up the E & WVP job. Lee seemed to have forgotten that he had joined with all the other Presidents at the time in inviting Liddell to stand.

Liddell's record of pronouncements on the future of NZUSA was dragged into the open. Do you still believe that if one campus withdraws NZUSA will have to fold? asked Don Carson from Massey. We would have to give it serious thought, came the answer. Lincoln President Jan Atkinson reminded Liddell that he had claimed her campus was too small and insignificant to worry about. "I said you might not be missed," replied Liddell. It would be fair to say that Grant expected an easy reelection and was not going to any trouble to impress anyone.

He vaguely agreed that more welfare work would be done, denied he had a "wee tendency" towards bureaucracy, stated quite simply that it was difficult to say what would happen on bursaries next year because of the extensive review now being undertaken, and for all his pains received 33 votes in favour, seven against with two invalid.

Jim Brown: What do I say if they ask me if I'm a trendy leftie?

Photo of Jim Brown

Nobody Mention Monty Python

Jim Brown made his name in national student politics at May Council when he pushed through the Victoria policy: Albatross. Going back a little further, he appeared at Vic early this year on the bursaries campaign. As he explained it at Council, "It has been said that every man and his dog were involved in the bursaries campaign. I did the dog work."

He has also been a committee member of Wellington Tenants Union for some time and played a major role in the Bastion Point activities during June. His association with campaign work, his competence, ability to find his bearings without a lot of help, and his perseverance (all of which Victoria delegates Lindy Cassidy and David Murray assured Council he had) came through as his major positive aspects.

Things weren't all rosy though. Brown did have a tendency to make brilliantly astute comments the depth of which was usually lost on delegates (sample: "It is vital to negotiate because we have to let them know what our position is"). Upon describing the persecution of Pacific Island immigrants as "idiotic" he was questioned as to whether he thought the government had any reason for its actions. When asked eventually if he had an understanding of society he replied that he had dealt with the Housing Corporation and knew things weren't what they seemed at face value.

Some constituents seemed to think he was trying to hide a political affiliation, and to repeated questions about his allegiances [*unclear*: lances he] described himself as "a trendy lefty", "to the left of the National Party" and "a socialist". It must be explained that Council had latched onto the idea that candidates for the positions were all trendy lefties and many people weren't sure they wanted three identical people in National Office.

Brown was also criticised for viewing NZUSA as a synonym for National Office. He has some catching up to do on understanding the conditions on other campuses and the primary importance of campus work, but his experience working at that level here should stand him in good stead. Jim also shares with the other two officers the ability to get on with people.

After a lengthy discussion on whether National Office would provide any real leadership next year Brown was elected 34 in favour, seven against with one invalid vote. (These invalid votes which kept turning up were given to write-on candidates: in one instance to the Pope, in the others to a character called Beaven who masqueraded at Council under the more innocuous title of David Cuthbert. Canterbury delegates, it seems, have been reading their STB advertisements carefully).

Rescuing WRAC

Lamorna Rogers' election speech for the position of Women's Rights Action Committee Co-ordinator was far and away the best heard that day, and received just acknowledgement from the ever amiable Phil Chronican.

After Rogers impressed on delegates that she could speak in public, had initiative, was prepared to provide leadership and a strong line (and for the benefit of one or two people around the room, that she didn't hate men), delegations retired to caucus.

The vote, as announced, was 31 for, 7 against with 4 abstentions. One or two people from Auckland jumped up looking very worried, and called over their President Mervyn Prince. They knew as well as anybody that Auckland had eight votes, and they also knew they had persuaded caucus to vote no. An embarrassed Mery came back, announced he had made a mistake with the voting papers, but as the outcome wasn't affected there was no re-ballot.

Beefing up the Board

Elections for the Board of STB were in one sense the highlight: they were actually contested by more candidates than there were positions. Many people have not been happy with the Board's performance of late. There has been a lack of reporting back to National Executive and with all the financial problems that continue to beset the company, the Board has inevitably come in for its share of criticism.

Chairperson John Judge has however appeared to remain above much of this. His ever confident refusal to indulge in optimism (or pessimism, or any sort of prediction at all) continued to impress, and he received 42 votes to zero for a further one year term.

Steve Underwood was faced with questions about Underwood empire building, but was spoken for with sincerity and appreciation by the Victoria delegation. This meant he didn't need to use his letters of introduction from the VBC, the VUWSA Trust, Fourth Estate Publishing etc. and was elected 33 votes for, with nine No

Confidence.

The battle came over the three remaining contenders for the last position: Jim Guest (seeking re-election), John Murray (Waikato treasurer) and Nigel Petrie (long serving Canterbury student finance politico). Guest obviously had his eye on the Chair, but did not seem to grasp the assessment others had made of him. Judge was asked to comment, and after beating about the bush a bit he stated, "He hasn't made any contribution to date. Will he now?" came the decent response. "Do you want my honest opinion?" asked Judge. The meeting did, and the answer was: "No".

Waikato's Doug Drever spoke strongly for Murray, stressing the work he had done for the local association, but the vote finally went to Petrie, 27 For, with 10 votes for Murray, two for Guest and three invalid. Petrie is closer to students than any of the other Board members and can be expected to report back regularly. His understanding of the importance of political considerations will also be valuable. (A sideline on Petrie's contributions: at May Council it was he who came up with an all-new budget to counter the threat of a deficit. By the time August had come around, just about every Finance and Administration delegate had followed his lead.)

The Full Quid

To cap things off, August Council also saw the appointment of a new Research Officer to fill a long-standing vacancy. He is Ian Powell, an ex-Canta editor and currently President of Christchurch Secondary Teachers' College Students' Association. Power will take up office in December with special responsibility for research into the welfare and overseas students fields.

Highlights

If I have dwelt long on the elections it is partly because the rest of Council is far more difficult to assess. There was very little controversy, and much of what there was centred on ensuring that National Officers would not be able to waste their time pretending to work.

The overall priorities have been set as: 1) Unemployment, 2) Civil Liberties, 3) Bursaries, 4) Abortion, 5) Overseas students. The first was seen as relating fairly specifically to student employment, while no-one knew what to expect in the civil liberties field. Work will be done this year on the Wouthern African Scholarship, but it's anybody's guess what sort of crackdown might occur next year. Maori Land Rights features highly in the area.

Bursaries has been downgraded because it now seems unlikely the NZUSA would be able to effectively mobilise large numbers of students. The lower key approach will not, however, mean anyone is giving up. Abortion is another area which remains up in the air. Council had barely begun when news came through that the Government is about to initiate a review of overseas students in New Zealand. There is in all likelihood only one purpose for this review: to cut back further on the number of students here and their rights in the country. NZUSA will be doing all it can for this review. The issue of private students being allowed to stay for their graduation ceremonies, and the ongoing fight against cutbacks will also figure highly.

Victoria's Finance and Administration team [unclear: (g Beach) and Wilson

Photo of VUW Finance and Administration team

... and the man with all the answers — Steve [unclear: Underwood]

Photo of Steve Underwood

Drawing of sleeping and yawning people sitting around a table

Education Strategy

The major debates in Education came over the question of bursary strategy. Research Officer Peter Franks put up a short term proposal that the unabated bursary be extended to cover all students who: a) are 20 years or over, b) are parents, married, divorced, separated or widowed, or c) have been living away from home for more than one year. This would not compromise on the policy of removing the abatement totally. Victoria abstained on the vote because we have no policy at all which considers strategical moves. Other campuses did not feel this need to restrict themselves and the proposal was adopted.

Photo of Cuthbert, Judge and Saksen

Cuthbert, Judge and Saksen greeting news of the non-presence of the \$12,000 from the ISIC scheme.

General VP David Merritt hides from other National Commission delegates.

Photo of a man leaning against a wall

The question of taxing the bursary came up, but as so few details are available it did not receive much attention. It was also recognised that with assessment and lecturer training NZUSA's role is largely limited to

providing research support for individual campus work and liaising between campuses.

Election Fever

The National Commission had established for the sum of \$900 to be spent when and if the occasion arises, but came up with almost no action proposals. The General Election was debated at some length, and on at least three separate occasions. The Commission was in favour of a campaign to teach students how to vote. The two Vice-Presidents (Grant Liddell and Dave Merritt) held an informal session one night on combing bursaries and unemployment work in a campaign but nobody had any idea at all of what should be done or even why it should be. Not surprisingly, nothing much came of it.

At priorities plenary Victoria moved: That up until the General Election NZUSA co-ordinate its activities wherever possible in an electoral campaign. That this campaign be aimed at: a) raising student demands in the election arena, b) publishing the policies of political parties in regard to education and student matters. This meant quite simply that NZUSA should capitalise on the heightened political awareness of people during an election.

It did not mean, and this was clearly spelt out, that it was NZUSA's job to enroll people or encourage them to vote in any particular way. Neither of these follow in any way from the sort of involvement suggested by the motion. There is no reason to believe that students will, or should, vote as a block, and even less reason to think that any of the parties have politics and records in line with NZUSA's policy. Council agreed to this and passed the motion unanimously.

The Women's commission reintroduced motions restricting the WRAC co-ordinator to women and suggesting to constituents that the Womens Rights Officers all be women (these motions were hotly debated and thrown out in May, but this time they came back with hardly a murmur). Conversely, it threw out a motion identifying the root cause of women's oppression as economic. For more on this, see page 6.

Late night scene

Photo of three people standing around

"This isn't a Threat"

The biggest debate of all came over an International motion, That NZUSA distribute material publicising the cause of self determination for Palestinian people.

The motion did not mean support for the the Palestinian people. It merely recognised that there is a lack of information on the Palestinian cause available to students. The ongoing debates at every campus has proven it to be an issue of much concern; to distribute material on the Palestinian arguments would facilitate that debate and help raise it above the crude and emotional level to which it so often descends.

In the Commission the two representatives from Auckland argued against the motion. Peter Gleeson stressed that his own view (and that of the Young Socialists, to which he belongs) was to favour the Palestinian cause, but at the continued the motion undemocratic he could not go along with it. Auckland has pro-Zionist policy but Gleeson did not use this as a substantial argument. He thought the only fair thing to do was to distribute material from both sides.

Out with the old ... Mike Lee, UCSA President and Tony Stewart UCSA President elect.

Photo of Mike Lee and Tony Stewart

Mark Shenken from Auckland, who had taken over Phil Saxby's role as Zionist rep and member of the so-called Federation of Australasian Jewish Students, used the same argument, claiming that Palestinian propaganda was freely available in libraries and a number of other places.

Delegates from Massey, Otago and Victoria found this a little hard to accept. The Israeli Ambassador is second only to South Africa's Lindhorst in his propaganda outlay. Libraries throughout the country have been generously endowed with Zionist books, the press gives him wise coverage and he has an extensive history of speaking engagements. Official Zionist policy permeates most of the so-called impartial information on the Middle East was receive.

At the Commission Auckland joined with Lincoln to oppose the motion, but by the time final plenary rolled around things were a little different (final plenary is where all motions are ratified on lapsed). Gleeson had not been able to convince other Auckland delegates, and it was left to Sheaken to put the case against.

This he did with [*unclear: vebemence,*] speaking for about a quarter of an hour on the "plight" of Zionism in New Zealand and elsewhere. Perhaps [*unclear: seasing*] that he wasn't making much head way (and it would be a gross distortion to suggest that the assembled delegates were [*unclear: started to it down the line.*] "This isn't a threat" the started about it and there there will the a campaign..." He went on to that some people would have to answer for the This drew the angry reply form President Lisa Sacken that neither she not anyone else

NZUSA would [On that note the vote was put and Auckland changed its dissent to an abortion].

Mark [unclear: Shenken: Buy son to do a man's job]

Photo of Mark Shenken

The Future

[unclear: What came out of Council it's very hard to say. The budget means more action, but at least one campus may not buy it. Lincoln delegates were heard to say that they may have to pill out. Policy and action proposals are geared to what's hanging in the country, ie. it is organised in marches are not for the moment that attack on civil liberties come suddenly and these must be money allocated to come with this that consolation is needed. But against this it is clear that several campuses are unable to generate activity and interest, and National Office seems to lack any meal miasm].

[unclear: So much is going to depend on how well individual constituents can work to defend student interests against increasing government attacks, and organise themselves to campaign on campus for better unties opportunities].

[unclear: Victoria powered itself you again the best organised, best informed and must defalcated on these questions. Our mile is what so the communication of the national student badly. But it is not a that even that will continue].

Simon Wilson

Drifting Along the Sideline

This article appears in our series of contributions leading up to the General Elections. Its author is the Wellington Central candidate for the Values Party.

Values on NZ Politics

New Zealand is drifting politically. People are not thinking beyond the election. There is certainly no feeling that we would be better off with a Labour Government after November.

That is a result of disillusionment. Both recent governments have proved they cannot control inflation, reduce overseas borrowing or maintain full employment. Both have infringed civil liberties. Both have undermined the credibility of the parliamentary system of government. As a result, I expect this election will see the lowest poll in the country's history. Even the 'we must get rid of Muldoon' chorus is sounding much thinner this year than it did in 1977, because Labour is not a viable alternative government.

For some people, staying away from the polling booths will be a conscious decision — a deliberate rejection of a farce. This is alienation, not apathy. For others, it will represent a shrug of the shoulders, a demonstration that they feel parliament is irrelevant. They reflect the belief that this election will not make much difference to what happens next year. This must be seen in the context of the erosion of democracy in New Zealand.

There is a prevailing feeling that we had better take what we can when we can, because there is no certainty about the future. It is likely that many of those who do vote in November will do so in terms of what is given to them in October, or promised them for December. Tax cuts and wage rises could determine this election, regardless of the economic consequences.

A Dependent Economy

Every public opinion poll reinforces the point that the political situation cannot be divorced from the state of the economy. People are uneasy about inflation, overseas debt, unemployment. They are uneasily aware that tax cuts are not the answer.

There are no simple solutions, because most of our economic problems result from our economic dependence.

Resources: Despite all the warnings since 1972, we are still too reliant on non-renewable resources, especially oil. This makes us vulnerable to the whims of cartels and transnational companies which manipulate prices, and add to the inflationary effects of increasing world shortages.

Trade: New Zealand depends on high export prices and therefore on favourable international trading conditions. Yet we have a narrow and protectionist-prone range of markets for our goods. We are dependent on too few exports — primary products for which supply and demands fluctuate — products which only wealthy countries can afford, because they are the world's luxuries. Our hands are tied by our insistence on aligning

ourselves economically with the privileged capitalist world. Whereas we are, in fact, a dependent economy. We are a Third World nation.

Capital. In order to maintain our artificially-high material standard of living, our economy has become dependent on overseas loans and investment. Within New Zealand too, the suppliers of finance wield tremendous power. Decisions are made within a capitalist framework. The social value of an enterprise is not measured. When it no longer makes a profit, it is closed down, and workers lose their jobs. Even our chance to earn a wage depends on decisions made by those with the financial power — the owners of capital.

Inflation: Inflation is partly imported, partly speculative, partly a result of past growth. All of these are built into the state capitalist system which depends for its survival on indiscriminate expansion.

Williams, Gary: "Community Democracy" pp 99-122, published by the author, 1977.

A sustainable economy

To cut the economy free from its ever-narrowing oscillation between expansion and recession, a complete restructuring is needed. The economy has to become sustainable (able to function and provide for people's needs now, and in the long term).

Relying on Renewable Resources: A sustainable economy is based on renewable resources. It does not use them up faster than it can replace them. It reduces to a minimum the loss of non-renewable resources from the economic system. It limits its economic activities to those which do not damage the environment on which life depends. It maintains a population level which can be supported in the long-term at whatever rates of consumption are desired. In the absence on international co-ordination of the distribution of resources, it ensures local, regional and national self-reliance (each level is capable of self-sufficiency in an emergency).

Kunowski, Tony: speech to the Institute of Industrial Engineers, October 1977, published in Values Party Electoral Kit, June/July 1978 part 2.

Diversifying Trade: There are limits to the volume of exports New Zealand can produce and sell. We should diversify primary production with an eye to Third World requirements and our own need for new export markets. We should pursue long-term, bilateral trade agreements, and withdraw from GATT. We should process primary products before we export them.

In order to reduce our balance of payments deficit, and our dependence on international money-lenders, it is essential that we reduce our demand for imports. Conservation of resources would go a long way towards achieving this, as would alternative energy sources, and import controls giving preference to items which would directly reduce our future dependence on imports.

Controlling Capital: Until we live within our means as a nation, we will not be able to free ourselves from international financial controls, including those imposed by the IMF. It is possible, if we cease seeking satisfaction in terms of material goods.

To ensure direction of finance so that the New Zealand community benefits, the only permitted form of overseas investment in New Zealand enterprises should be by loans. Banks, finance and insurance companies, stock and station agencies should be publicly owned and controlled. Co-operative control of other enterprises by their staff, the community and consumers (with suppliers of loan finance having no place on the Board of Management) ensure that people employ capital instead of capitalists employing people. Decisions affecting workers' employment prospects are therefore made taking into account people's right to work as well as the profitability of an enterprise. Because the adversarial relationship between owners and workers disappears within co-operatives, further benefits are an improvement in industrial relations, and increased productivity.

Beating Inflation: As with New Zealand's other economic problems, "the elimination of inflation obviously requires fundamental changes in the structure of our economy, in the way international trade is organised and controlled. The way investment is controlled and the organisation of society into antagonistic self-interest groups must be altered. The standard remedy of monetary squeezes and wage and price controls is completely inadequate."

Williams: "Community Democracy" p 116

"Inflation will continue at high levels until we have considerably reduced our dependence on scarce resources; until we have reduced our rate of population growth and our demands on the economy to a level which the economy can provide; and until all sectors of society have come together in a co-operative [unclear: f] up the checks and balances which are necessary to ensure that no one sector of society profits at the expense of any other sector."

Values Party policy 1977/30

Structural Change: The structural changes required for the maintenance of a sustainable economy in New Zealand are explained in 'Community Democracy' — a study in alternative economics, by Gary Williams. Summarized, they are:

- the localisation of commercial activity to communities
- the decentralisation of governmental powers and functions
- the use of co-operative forms of control and decision-making
- a change in the taxation system and the way income is distributed.

"Community Democracy" p 8

Such is our current political situation that we do not get governments with the foresight and courage to initiate those long-term changes. National and Labour politicians are afraid to speak of realities. Their election-bribe, three-year-term mentality is a major barrier to economic change.

Drawing of a man with a beard reading a magazine

Sustainable Plus ...: A sustainable economy could, however, be established in an authoritarian political system. It is, therefore, essential that such an economy be based on other long-term objectives, apart from sustain ability. The Values Party has defined these objectives:

"a just society in which ... resources are distributed as equitably as possiblein which economic enterprises are controlled and organised in a way which best meets important ...social needs; in which each individual has the greatest possible opportunity to take part in the decisions which will affect their community..."

... in which small scale, community-based enterprises and services can flourish. ... where development takes the form of growth in the quality of life ..."

Values Party Policy 1977/25

People's rights

Not only does the current political system highlight the need for a fundamental restructuring of the economy, it also contains dangerous tendencies to undermine people's rights.

New Zealand's industrial legislation severely limits the rights of workers to withdraw their labour, and negotiate with their employers.

Industrial Relations Act 1973; State Services Conditions of Employment Act, 1977 Commerce Act, 1976 Amendment.

It is counter-productive; it creates more problems than it solves. The Police Offences Act is a mine of pointless repression, while the Crimes Act turns personal matters such as homosexuality and abortion into social crimes. Public servants are muzzled by the Official Secrets Act, and the Electoral Act makes it financially difficult for them to stand for Parliament. Prisoners cannot vote and are pointlessly denied many civil liberties.

Despite a frantic outburst of protest, the SIS Amendment Bill became law in 1977. We are learning to live with it, just as we have learned to live with the Public Safety Conservation Act (1932) which was used with devastating effect in 1951. The definition of 'emergency' in this and the Civil Defence Act is open-ended and subjective. There are inadequate democratic checks on the exercise of emergency power by a government. Sleeping Dogs is more than just Smith's Dream in New Zealand

C. K Stead: "Smith's Dream" Longman Paul, 1973 edition (novel).

. It is a real possibility. And after Bastion Point, who can say that Broken October is not just as p

Craig Harrison: "Broken October" Reed 1976, (novel).

New Zealand is wasting its most precious resource (the people who challenge the status quo) because it sees them as a threat. Dissenters are either driven out of the country, or they spend their lives in pressure groups protesting pointlessly about injustices and political mismanagement.

Alternatives: The government should withdraw from industrial relations, except to guarantee the rights of the parties involved, and to encourage co-operative enterprises as a means of breaking down the distinction between bosses and workers which is at the heart of most industrial disputes.

We need a Bill of Rights to guarantee individual liberties. Allowing people to nothing. A Freedom of information Act should replace the Official Secrets Act, with safeguards for confidentiality of personal files and specific other items.

There should be built into our social and political institutions, opportunities for experimentation. Labour's ohu scheme was a timid attempt to do this. We need much more flexible town planning and local body regulations so that people can develop communities and adopt alternative lifestyles.

A mature society would not feel threatened by the Maori Land Movement. There should be means by which the people of Bastion Point could have had their case heard by an independent authority with the power to consider their proposals for the use of the land at the Point, allocate a certain amount of money for the project, and leave it up to that community to put their plans into action. Only a few property developers would

have suffered. Instead of alienating a growing number of young Maoris, this would have enabled them to make a constructive contribution to the well-being of their people.

Democracy

Given our repressive attitudes towards dissenters, it is disturbing to contemplate that democracy in New Zealand means no more than a chance to vote every three years. In most electorates there is no possibility of changing the MP, let alone the government. Voters have no say in nominating party candidates.

Democracy involves responsible decision making, by as many people as possible. We are not a democracy. There is no real accountability by decision-makers. Unhealthy trends within the parliamentary system result from and contribute to this default of accountability. Government caucus has taken over the effective function of parliament. Public service (especially Treasury and Audit) influence over policy-making is growing. Because the parliamentary opposition is kept uninformed, it is unable to challenge or contribute constructively.

Aggressive leadership has heightened the atmosphere of confrontation in politics. Much legislation is poorly-drafted, railroaded through parliament, or amended clumsily in transit. Conscience votes allow MPs to usurp the rights of individuals to make their own personal decisions. Use of regulations in the place of legislation means that many of our de facto laws are made without even the shallow scrutiny of a parliamentary passage.

It is not just parliament that is undemocratic. So is local government. So is the public service. So are our schools and universities. So are most of our workplaces and families. Few New Zealanders have had experience of decision-making procedures. They learn to do as they are told. It will take a revolution in attitudes, and probably several failures, before New Zealanders learn how to use democracy effectively.

We need to aim for: "a decentralised society in which community councils are the basic unit of government; a society in which the authority and responsibility for public authority services rests as closely as possible with the people using them, a society in which each individual has the greatest possible opportunity to take part in the decisions which will affect their community's quality of life"

Values Party Policy 1977/25.

Our whole constitution needs to be reconsidered, and means found of restoring accountability, introducing proportional representation, and increasing constructive public involvement at all levels.

Prospects

The New Zealand political situation is not all bleak. A movement has begun. So far it is very divided, and its various components are at differing stages of political consciousness. So far they have not recognised each other as being part of the same movement. But that will come. A coalition for radical change will result.

The Values Party is only the most obvious wing of the movement in 1978. Who are the other components? They are the activists in the Maori land and Gay Rights movements; some are working in pressure groups, or trade unions, or churches; they include feminists and working farmers; some are still within the ranks of the National and Labour Parties.

In this context, it is the role of the Values Party to act as a catalyst for change. Values is certainly the only political party saying what must be said in 1978.

Karen Roper

Comic strip of a man and a little girl

Drawing of a woman with horns

A PLAY BY OSCAR WILDE Salome opens wed. 6

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Malaysia 21 years since "Merdeka"

Independence means far more than a change of 'flag', 'anthem', and 'emblem' with the local elites replacing the colonial administrators. Without an independent and self-reliant national economy, political independence is devoid of the fundamental requirement for orating a truly independent nation.

21 years of Independence: what has it brought to the people of M'sia?

On the 31st of August this year, M'sia will be entering into her 21st year of Independence. What has Independence brought to the people of Malaysia economically, politically and socially?

a) Economic

21 years after Merdeka, the Malaysian economy still bears the prominent features of foreign domination. Although the old colonial political domination does not exist to the same extent, the realities of colonialism not only exist but are aggravated by an additional 21 years of exploitation by the west.

The key word to describe the present economic state is dependency. We depend on the west to buy our Raw Material and sell to us [*unclear: s*] their manufactured goods, for technology, financial management, development planning etc. Malaysia's development is conditioned and initiated by the needs of the western economy and on the expansion of the west. At first, our tin and rubber were produced for the expanding western industries. Recently, they have become the production base of light consumer goods for western consumption.

While well-equipped to serve the west, it is sad to note that after 21 years of Merdeka, M'sia is still not self-sufficient in the provision of basic food stuffs.

We are now living in a stale of colonialism known as neo-colonialism. The present economic system sees the collaboration of the local elites with the foreign capitalists. The Malay aristocracy was bribed and groomed by the British before the latter's political retreat in 1957 and were transformed into the local administrators of the state. They depend on the western capitalists economically, politically and militarily.

By virtue of their officialdom, they accumulate their own wealth and pave the way for western economic gain. Their positions are strengthened by the New Economic Policy, which is creating a class of bureaucrat capitalists, drawn partly from the traditional aristocracy. The aristocrats and bureaucrat capitalists are therefore themselves the creation of neo-colonialism.

Neo-colonialism results in the concentration of wealth into the hands of a few while depriving the great majority of basic subsistence. This is the result of extraction of fantastic 'economic surplus' from the people and the country to fatten the foreign and local elites, producing great disparity of wealth within the country. This extraction of surplus is possible because the whole society is based on exploitation.

The division of economic surplus generates conflicts among the various types of local elites and the foreign capitalists. On the other hand, as the extraction of surplus also adversely affects the quality of life of the people, it also produces the principal conflict in the country; that between the people, and the foreign and local elites.

b) Political

The Alliance Government which consists mainly of the Malay aristocracy, UMNO, the right wing communal elite of some Chinese and Indians under the MCA and MIC, is faithful to the west and trails behind the British colonialists and foreign capitalists. Their status and position has been maintained and safeguarded through collusion and collaboration with the former. 21 years of Independence has only witnessed a transfer of power from foreigners to the local elites.

The National Front is characterized by a bunch of self-seeking elites who are out for personal power, status and wealth. This is reflected in the in-fighting and power struggle, both overt and covert.

To maintain the dictatorial rule, the government has engineered the State machinery through repressive laws and military operation under the cover of maintaining national security. 'Communist Insurgency' is labelled as a threat to National Security. Operations Big Star I and II and Operations Sacred Ray I and II

created much hardship for the people in the operation areas. The myth of national security is to maintain and secure investment. Common people demanding basic human rights, freedom and democracy, are suppressed, banned, arrested and jailed.

The regional collusion of reactionary regimes and infamous dictators in the Asean countries maintains the fascist rule of the Asean status quo. A zone of peace, freedom and neutrality is far from easy to achieve.

c) Social

The social consequences of Neo-Colonialism have resulted in human underdevelopment, both physical and mental.

1. Physical Deprivation

The government neglect of the land problem has Drought poverty, debt and landlessness to the rural people. An examination of the quality of life faced by the rural people reflects the reality of this exploitation. In Kelantan, there are 11,647 people to one doctor and 934 persons per hospital bed.

Poor health owing to the scarcity of sanitation, hygiene and health care, and low-calorie diets and malnutrition has resulted in a high disease rate, a high infant mortality rate of 38% in 1974 and limits the human potential of rural Malaysians.

Economic pressure results in unemployment and a high drop out from early school. Unemployment not only condemns a great number of people to abject poverty, serious demoralisation and destruction of confidence, but has forced many into petty crime, drugs and prostitution.

2. Mental Deprivation

Poverty and deprivation naturally lead to discontent and thus are controlled by the imperialists. The minds of the people must be drugged to keep them subservient and apathetic. The drugs of the mind are administered both subtly and blatantly.

The Subtle Way: Cultural Subversion

Healthy people's culture is suppressed both internally and externally to pave the way for yellow culture. Cultural values are propagated through a variety of media, literature, newspapers, 'pop' culture, etc. The neo-colonialist educational system undermines the potential of the students for analytical, scientific and critical thinking and leads them instead to absorb unquestioningly stated 'truths'. Minds are closed to any fresh, new and alternative views.

Racism is the most vicious cultural value propagated in Malaysia. The issues of 30% Malay ownership, Malay special rights and Malay Language are cheaply used to fan up chauvinism and intensify racial tension.

The Blatant Way: Political Repression

Freedom of speech, thinking, printing, assembly and association are outlawed in Malaysia. To prevent the spread of democratic ideas, trade unions and student organisations are prevented from carrying out genuine work for their members. Repressive laws like the Internal Security Act, the University and University College Act are used to suppress the people.

The combination of the subtle and the blatant way produces a prevailing fear of the system and apathy to the country's affairs because 'politics is dirty'. The majority of the people, in spite of all this, naturally recognize the disparity between rich and poor, the inequality and injustice of the system. As the laws are increasingly seen by the people as instruments depriving them of their liberties while at the same time granting the foreign and local elites the right to loot and plunder, more and more people are questioning the system. More and more people are searching for a way out of the economic stranglehold placed on the country and the slow death of the people.

21 years of Independence, what has it brought to the people of Malaysia economically, politically and socially?

Internally, Malaysia is torn by the deteriorating economic, political and social problems while externally it has become a neo-colony which serves the interests of the foreign capitalists and the minority local elites. Only through resuming control of our own economy can the road to Merdeka be achieved.

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Pardon me your Dictatorship is Showing

Wilkinson'S Willies: End of Heroin or end of Freedom?

"This Bill seems to be on lines similar to a measure that caused a great deal of discussion in the House last session, and it gives to the police powers which they are not entitled."

Is this a quote from an anticipated debate in the House on the fascist-like legislation that the public has been prepared for with such fanfare?

Well, actually it is from Hansard of the 15th July 1927 when the Dangerous Drugs Bill was read a second time. If police powers today were only those feared by Armstrong, the Member for Christchurch Fast fifty years ago, then our civil rights would be greatly improved. The dangerous drugs that required all those police powers were opium, heroin, cocaine and Indian hemp or marijuana: "drugs, the continued use of which result in pernicious habits and the utter physical and mental demoralisation of the individuals so addicted." (Hon. Mr Young, Min. of Health, same debate).

It is nearly all there: Indian hemp in the same breath as heroin and increased police powers. The picture is the same today, but escalated beyond all tolerable limits and with proposed penalties thrown in that far exceed those for murder.

Why should police need powers to tap telephones? When the SIS Amendment Bill was discussed amidst a demonstration of public revulsion and indignation such as the country had not seen before, Government speakers denied that this was the thin end of the wedge. Now they propose to hammer in another large slice of the same wedge as it bites into what is left of the tree of democracy. Why?

Anti-Heroin Leads to Heroin

Is it not true that the power of police to tap more phones, plant more bugs and open ever more people's mail will magically solve the use and spread of heroin and all its attendant misery? There is a lesson here from the past. The 1927 legislation did not affect New Zealand's then non-existing drug problem, but the powers granted the police at that time were never repealed. They never are.

What does happen is that every anti-heroin campaign catches little or no heroin, but plenty of marijuana. A marijuana shortage is created and dealers who do not want to fail their customers entirely look for alternatives. Heroin is passed down the chain and the wet paint syndrome ensures new recruits for big H. That means that some people with little else to do or to smoke will be in the mood for something that is new and available to them.

They know what regular use means but they will only try it once. On the next occasion they are likely to modify this decision slightly: they will do smack maybe just once a year and so on. The small dealer is no demon. He wants to be obliging and dealing is one of the few things open to people who are unemployed and yet refused the dole. Many cases come to mind and students are not exempt from such a bind.

Under these circumstances increased police powers are likely to have an adverse effect on the condition they are supposed to cure! By what magic do police acquire the fascist powers that are now demanded for them? How do politicians get away with all this anti-people legislation in the name of anti-heroin campaigning?

The magic is simple and very old. It is our old and most feared enemy; Public Ignorance No 1. Politicians

know nothing about drugs and less about marijuana (except Dr Wall and he is not saying much just now). The 1927 debate shows this as clearly as any later discussions in the House or out of it.

Public information has come from daily papers, magazines, broadcasting and pulpits. But why should anyone want to lie to the public about drugs?

Drugs and Social Resistance

At a time when the country's economy is going from bad to worse and unemployment is beginning to reach dangerous levels discontent is growing rapidly. State powers to spy on anyone who is likely to be effectively critical of the situation are required, but it is bad politics to say so. Thank God for heroin abuse! If it did not exist our politicians would have had to invent it.

Say "drugs" and anything goes. Panic can be whipped up about drugs as and when required to keep the rebels in line. Very obviously it is required now, so hey presto: phone tapping, bugging, mail interference and life sentences by courtesy of Muldoon, Wilkinson, Kirk, Brill, McCready, Rowling, Malcolm and Co.

What are the other likely results of the proposed police state measures? Obviously, as many people and organisations (including Dr Fraser McDonald of the Drug Treatment Centre in Parnell) have pointed out, heroin dealers will go for a shootout if cornered, because dealing carries a higher penalty than killing, so we are going to see more police-widows.

Meanwhile such "Mr Bigs" as do exist (if any) outside the legal trade in addictive drugs have been warned and will relay their communications by coded telephone messages, coded letters and by word of mouth via messengers. Of course, with increased penalties many small operators (typical for New Zealand) will lack the resources to provide for them and they will move into other fields.

For a while government supporters will crow that they have won but then there will be a dramatic increase in attacks on pharmacies and doctors. After this the slack will be taken up, never fear, but it will be taken up by criminals who can work with the new laws, at a higher price for the product of course. Inevitably this will let in Kuornintang tongs, Corsican syndicates or the Mafia, organisations who have some real Mr Bigs who can ensure that very few if any convictions against them will occur.

Of course with panic carefully contrived by press articles such as the "Insight" series and "Parents' guide to drugs" in the Dominion, most people have not been asking so far how "effective" the proposed laws are likely to be for their stated purpose. Wellington papers, for example, have made sure that little informed opposition has been heard at this crucial stage. They have done so by the simple expedient of suppressing every letter from the Cannabis Research Unit of the New Zealand Science Foundation and every press statement from the Marijuana Party on the subject.

More Consequences

Let us gaze some more into the crystal ball: drug squad cops will get killed and then, to and behold! they will need more police powers. Let's give them arms to carry on their person to supplement the ones they carry in their squad cars, as at present. Very soon too, the need will be felt for anti-Hart legislation and an anti-dissent Bill (what a laugh to hear the current Prime Minister protesting treason or dissent-trials by the Soviets). We shall have a regime that is indistinguishable from those of Singapore, Thailand or South Africa, all greatly admired by the present administration.

McCready, our Minister of Police, has assured us that no-warrant searches by drug squads have never been abused. This is a blatant lie. We can produce a large army of witnesses who have suffered under abuses of the no-warrant searches of the MOD Act (Misuse of Drugs). The most common abuse is misrepresentation of the precise meaning of the search powers and accompanying intimidation. In smaller centres this abuse has become especially prevalent.

The political nature of the "anti-drug" effort is illustrated by a case when a van driver was stopped at the instigation of two drug squad officers. The occupants of the van, two adults and two children (none ever convicted or charged with drug offences but politically active), were put up against the van and three police cars used in the armed raid. Police refused to identify themselves, gave no truthful account of the reason for their actions and ultimately claimed the power of search without warrant under an act which did not provide for it (Police Act!).

They separated the father from the children and tried to browbeat the children into coming to the police station to force the father to follow suit. Meanwhile the father was insulted and his clothes pulled about because he wore a Hart badge. As there was not a scrap of drugs or other contraband around, it was obvious that the motivation of the whole charade was political (the adult passenger was in the habit of identifying and remembering SIS personnel).

Perhaps it was coincidence that the victim of the raid had marched for liberalised abortion the night before? Possibly, but the officer who pulled the driver's Hart badge was real, as were his words: "I suppose this will mean another protest to halt all the police investigations" and similar observations in the course of duty...

Also interesting was the sentence that the drug squaddier in charge put at the end of his report: "X is a member of the Communist Party". This observation is particularly interesting in view of the fact that it was phony and the only ones who were known to have peddled it were the SIS mob!

A RISING NEW CAUSE OF SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE: NEW DRUG LAWS RCOBB

Stop Heroin Osmosis

In earlier days anti-drug campaigners made much of a notion that smoking the week led a person directly into an intolerable craving for heroin in a matter of months. This theory proved untenable and is no longer held except by Hubble Bubble Kirk and the like, who believe that hookahs are for smoking opium and that buddha sticks are injected.

What is real is the slight sales pressure that smokers can be under from time to time (as pointed out earlier). Every advertiser knows such pressure to be effective for a certain percentage of the market.

This points to one way of slowing down the spread of heroin. If marijuana is legalised (and few people with more than half a brain should doubt that it will be) the link of illegality, which is all that ties heroin to marijuana, will be broken and the osmosis by which smokers may pick up the wretched narcotic habit will be eliminated. That is one of the reasons why the people who know what they are talking about are saying: Legalise marijuana Now if you are really concerned about narcotics!

Heroin Maintainance

For a heroin addict the only drug that is really acceptable for maintainance is heroin. The failure of attempts to substitute methadone - the main method of treatment in New Zealand - bears this out. The whole reason for the existence of the illicit trade in narcotics is the high level of profit and the existence of a demand. When heroin is provided either free or at a relatively low price to registered addicts in the controlled clinical environment the incidence of addiction tends to be relatively low. Britain has tended to go some of the way along this road and the results bear out this contention.

The main thing is to have an adequate number of trained people who measure the level of addiction of a patient and prescribe the correct amount of heroin, to be followed up with carefully calculated decreasing amounts of the drug. While this may be against Muldoon's stated preference for the "cold turkey" treatment evolved during his visit to Thailand we believe that if someone is physically dependent on a drug then killing them does little to improve their quality of life.

It must not be forgotten that most of the misery that attends narcotic addiction in New Zealand and in other countries with similar attitudes towards the problem is directly due to legal repression. This creates the high prices of heroin and the consequent property crimes, prostitution, and other forms of hustling by addicts who must find large sums of money every day to buy their supplies. It is clear that patients have to leave any regular jobs they might have, because no jobs held by ordinary people are well enough paid to support an advanced heroin habit on the black market.

It is also obvious that the proposed legislation is 100% the wrong direction and it will result in a sharp rise of crime rates and suffering all round except by the "fat cats" that will rise up to the bait of higher prices and tighter organisation.

Is there a final solution?

It should be remembered that all measures to alleviate suffering of narcotic addicts and to reduce the prevalence of the disease are only palliatives. They do nothing to eliminate the causes that drive people into such a miserable habit.

We need full social reform in caring and accomodating for drug addiction using our health and psychological services, backed up by an informative, realistic drug education programme aimed at all sectors of society from school kids to pensioners. Government is playing into the hands of the "fat cats". The proposed legislation will only serve to compound the stresses of society thereby increasing the problem of drug abuse.

"Education for the people, not legislation for the police"

Research Officer
NZ Marijuana Party

Crossword

Across

Down

Empty crossword

Solutions to Last Week's Crossword

Across: 1. King 3. Fissure 8. Yoghurt 9. Order 10. Title 11. Element 12. Nylons 14. Tinsel 18. Several 20. Ionic 22. Cured 23. Notable 24. Setters 25. Very

Down: 1. Krypton 2. Night 3. Fetter 4. Spoke 5. Undress 6. Egret 7. Tureen 13. Leveret 15. Idiots 16. Lechery 17. Flanks 18. Socks 19. Ridge 21. Noble

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Now.....3rd term freebies:

Beginners squash: Monday 2-4 (enrol at the (Centre now).

Beginners badminton: As usual, Tues 10-11, Fri 10-11, Fri 11-12.

Yoga: Wed 12-1, Fri 12-1.

Mixed/Social/Comfortable fitness: Thurs 5.30-6.30.

Fitness Analysis: By appointment.

Massage — 'Aye, there's the rub'

Fact or fiction, myth or truth, legal or illegal: well there are some very useful facts worth knowing about massage and it's usefulness to sport. This week we look at the—

Mechanical Effects of Massage:

- To stretch the tissues
- To stimulate circulation
- To disperse fluid

Having in mind these effects, and with an understanding of the pathology of the conditions in question, it may be said that the mechanical effects of massage for sport are of value for the treatment of:

cramp, muscle spasm, muscle stiffness, scarring (deep or superficial), oedema (inflammatory swelling), deep bruising.

It must always be remembered that the borderline between mechanically effective massage for sport should never be given in the presence of infection or any other complication. In all cases of doubt a doctor's advice must be sought.

Recreation Centre Quiz No 3

- The Recreation Centre was built by —
a) Unit Construction
b) Blood Sweat & Tears
c) Blood & Tears
d) Any combination of the three e) Guess work
- The Old Gym is —
a) The Original Gymnasium
b) The man who locks up
c) 19th Century Swedish exercises
d) That place behind Cotton and above Wai-Te-Ata Road sub-station
- The most popular pastime in the Recreation Centre is —
a) Badminton
b) Trying to be first to the soap in the showers
c) Trying

- Spotting Physical Welfare Officers
- Cleaning spots off Physical Welfare Officers f) Trying to get to Porirua on the exercycles
- Badminton is the only game —
 - Played with a shuttle
 - In which there has never been a scrum
 - Used as a testing ground for NZ ground to air-missiles
 - Run at a loss by the Mafia
- A Physical Welfare Officer is —
 - A figment of someone's imagination
 - Nice
 - Horrible
 - Something to do with er, you know, er um
 - A very violent Welfare Officer
 - In the Recreation Centre
 - If you are lucky

Student Health

Hay Fever Sufferers

Are you an allergy sufferer? Spring is the time for desensitization if you suffer from hay-fever. The pollens from grasses, weeds, trees, bushes and flown cause what is called a seasonal allergic rhinitis. Sneezing, dripping nose and a nose that feels blocked; swollen or red itching eyes are symptoms you'll recognize. These are due to hypersensitivity to inhaled particles or allergens. They may or may not be associated with other allergic conditions such as asthma, food allergies or skin allergies. The tendency often runs in families.

The symptoms may be mild or severe. If (hey interfere with work, sleep, appetite and recreation then make an appointment with your doctor to help control it.

Antihistamines in the form of tablets or capsules are most commonly prescribed. Some brands can make you drowsy, so don't drive after taking them as your reaction will be slowed. They also don't mix with alcohol.

Alternatively you may be given a nasal decongestant spray or drops, or eye drops which help the eyes and nose troubles. These decongestants and antihistamines help the symptoms. To prevent them occurring, substances under the names of 'Intal' and 'Rynacrom' may be prescribed to block the allergic reaction.

In severe cases local steroids, which prevent the development of the allergic reaction, could be prescribed eg. 'Beconase' and 'Aldecin'.

Desensitization is a last resort and entails a 15 week course of injections. This causes stimulation of antibodies to protect you from the allergens. Treatment may be commenced 8-10 weeks before the patient's hay fever is due. This course follows a skin test to determine if you have any allergy. Individualized extracts will then be prepared by the laboratory. This method can give great relief but doesn't always work.

If you are a hayfever sufferer, make an appointment now. Now is the time for assessment.

Cooking

(Or Eating to Die Young)

To most NZers eating is like shitting, yet another bodily function to be satisfied. The ritual begins with preparation, usually by the female of the species. The sacred utensils are much prized power consumers: electric blenders, freezers, microwave ovens, etc. Three times a day the ritual is performed, the third and final time usually being dedicated to an electronic idol that demands sacrifice of the spoken word and all other communication except grunts of affirmation or the gurgling of pained stomachs.

Well, what causes your cooking columnist to wax eloquent? Turned crank you think? No, always been the same I'm afraid. So how about stuffing your preconceptions in a Big Mac wrapper, and if you still disagree with me at the end of the article deliver them to anywhere in Raroa Rd, Lower Hutt where they can join all the other

McDonald's over wrappings that continually litter the [unclear: stree].

Does Ronald McDonald drive you up the wall? My flatmates have had to restrain me from shoving one of his plastic umbrellas down his throat. I doubt that I am oversensitive but why does the government allow such ruthless exploitation of the most defenceless section of our community? Justice has gone by the breadboard as one government after another seeks to solve our economic problems. Perhaps Ronald and the children will provide those much needed cents?

NZers, along with the rest of the western world are obsessed with saving time. With the ever increasing "difficulties" of making ends meet family and other social ties are severed or strained to breaking point. Frankly I would rather spend 12-15 minutes in a queue at the local fish and chip shop once a week talking to neighbours than be fed by computer controlled automatons in plastic environments. Do we really need Ronald or did he just talk us into it?

Fast food evades the question of male and female stereotypes. It is little wonder that fast food becomes an attractive proposition to women frustrated with the routine and thank lessness often associated with meal preparation. Family sharing in preparation and planning of meals can make meals a focal point of the day.

The final defense of fast food is the line: "But of course it's good clean food". Sorry I don't agree. Already evidence from countries where fast food has been established for some 10-15 years suggests that frequent, deep fried food is a contributor to increased incidence of bowel cancer. One does not need to be an expert to notice the high incidence of both heart diseases and cancer in the so called developed countries in comparison to the under-developed countries.

Sceptical as I often am of scientific evidence, the drop of life expectancy from the highest in the world at the turn of the century to 14th demands an explanation. While I would not be prepared to locate the sole reason in diet (for exercise must play a major role as well), it seems that this is a major contributor.

Dieticians identify the major dietary changes as an increase in sugar intake, meat consumption and drop in high fibre foods such as wholemeal flour and grain products. Diabetes has been known for a long time to cause a predisposition to heart problems. Dietary fibre has been identified as a necessary factor in preventing bowel cancer and a likely reducer of blood cholesterol levels. Those leu anatically inclined will tell of the benefits of diets low in meat and fats and relatively high in whole grain products and vegetables (preferably raw).

Why is it that wholemeal flour is more expensive than refined flour, that other grain products can only be found in health stores, and that things like oatmeal porridge have all but been replaced by rolled oats and their ilk of fast prepackaged foods? We, the consumers have for too long accepted what has been dished up to us by producers more interested in profit margins than the effects of the products they market.

Finally, exercise and eating are closely related — at least 20% of NZers are overweight. Fed on the myth of the necessity of high protein diets to build muscle and the dogma of competitive sport in schools, most of us are reduced to inactive supporters by the time we reach twenty. It still amazes me how many people go through this university without ever using the gym for a regular exercise program.

With exams fast looming why not pop along to the gym and talk with the staff about a regular energetic relaxation — maybe there are others who could join you. There is no better way to beat insomnia and sharpen your mind than regular exercise and careful eating.

Alfred Harris

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

DOWNSTAGE THEATRE A FESTIVAL OF SHAKESPEARE FANCY'S CHILD ROMEO and JULIET
A Youth Theatre Production By Special Arrangement with Actors' Equity FOR ONE WEEK ONLY September
4-9 Dinner 6.30 Play 8. 15 BINGO by Edward Bond Opens September 13 BOOKINGS 849-639 WATCH
Daily Papers for LUNCH TIME and LATE E NIGHT Programmes

Editors Wanted

Drawing of French evolution fighters

Handbook 1979

The greater competition since the Commonwealth Games has started: the race to win the editorship of the 1979 Handbook. As editorial experience is not essential the shirkers who failed to work on Salient this year may enter the race, but the Selection Committee (the Publications Board) anticipate that the applicants would have reasonable competence in magazine layout and familiarity with university life.

The lucky winner is expected to produce a dramatic masterpiece which will contain information of inestimable value to both new and returning students. As these guidelines are fairly wide it is asked that applicants provide a written curriculum vitae detailing their proposals for the content and presentation of the handbook.

S/he who is granted permission to mount the victory dias will receive a gold medal, redeemable at the Students' Association Office to the value of \$250, and a blank cheque which will bounce if they attempt to draw more than \$300 from the account. The Board envisages that this latter sum will be sufficient for working expenses (typesetters wages, technical supplies, etc).

Applications close on Wednesday 6th September at 5.30 pm, at the meeting of the Publications Board where the appointment (and disappointments) will be made. It is expected that all applicants will attend this meeting.

Salient 1979

The Masochists' Association has pleasure in announcing that the high point of their year has arrived. Yes, applications are open for the editor of Salient 1979. While anyone may apply, the MA warns that only confirmed masochists who enjoy 26 weeks of solid abuse, look forward to working through Thursday nights without sleep, delight in seeing their names slandered in the letters column each week and their sexual deviations exposed in lurid details on the toilet walls, will be able to withstand the pressure.

The Publications Board invite all persons who don't mind starving on \$46 pw (from 2 weeks before the first issue to 1 week after the last) to put their left foot forward, before 13 September 1978, 12 noon when nominations close. At this time the applicants are required to present themselves for scrutiny and self-criticism to the Board, where the appointment will be made. Applicants are required to present a written curriculum vitae detailing their proposals for the paper.

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 Studaas office, or sent c/o VUWSA, Private Beg. Wellington

Drawing of a man being impaled by a giant pen

Paul Norman fan club grows to one

Dear Simon,

I was reading in the last Salient about the problems in the library, over the way the music facilities and the Environment books are set out.

As a research student at Victoria I must admit I was interested in this Environment centre when I first heard about it. I didn't really think that Undergraduate students could pull the thing off even with the help of some staff members and people from the Commission from the Environment. I skeptically offered my assistance to Paul Norman who suggested that I go up and have a look at the material they were working on and decide for

myself how I felt about the whole subject.

I can only say that I was most impressed, not only with the material which was being gathered together, but also with the depth of work that was being put into the effort, which has already produced some surprising results.

I would also state categorically that the "Main Library" has not got even a majority of the papers, books, commentaries, and other publications that the Environment Group is collecting on Campus. I also asked why the material was not being kept in the Library owing to its essential nature for any work to do with the Environment, and heard the all too often spoken reply in this University, that the main library was not in a position to take the books as one collection for the benefit of students and staff. I myself hope that the campus Environment Group will ensure that these so called "leaflets" that they have brought together and classified will never get into the clutches of Sage and Dotty Fred. While these librarians may be the best intentioned people in the world, their policy of centralising the past branch libraries that used to be in the University has led to a wholesale decline in the morale and effectiveness of especially the Science Departments.

In the course of my work I have visited many of the other NZ University libraries, and can only say that at best Victoria is but a shadow of these others I have worked in. Our Library needs major Reform. While Dotty Fred may well have found some 400 or so cards in the file under Environment headings, did she try to find those books, actually locate them on the shelves? If she had she would know that they were "strewn" between the six or so floors of the Rankine Brown. And that many were sadly well out of date. At least the Environment Resource Centre is trying and managing to remain in touch and up to date with the world around it!

Yours,

Post Graduate Student.

(Your typing has improved no end Paul — Subed)

Cooler at the pool

My Dear Mr Wilson,

With the cooler months upon us, I have noticed a slight drop in the level of headstrong activities at the swimming pool. This is to be commended, and I hope that students continue to hold their end up.

Yours

A relieved

(But are the neighbours still watching? Ed.)

The Women's Issue

Dear Simon,

Congratulations on your special issue on women. It was, perhaps, a little repetitive for anyone who had thought about the whole subject. Seemingly though, we have amongst us persons, who when it comes to discussing "the problem", haven't really thought at all. Mr Carr-Gregg's letter in last week's "Salient" is a superb literary specimen of such mentality.

A few questions, Michael, to clarify some points for a female mind, unable to leap to conclusions "with the speed of the Wanganui computer".

- Since when has Government legislation been able to institute "instant social change" — or any change at all? Pursuant to this, are you able to provide any examples of traditions, accumulated over thousands of years, being overthrown and/or eradicated in a generation — as you clearly expect women's repression to be?
- Had it occurred to you that perhaps, just perhaps, home science and needlework are just as "inherently useful as woodwork and metal work, and that in some societies they are considered "men's work"?"
- You probably don't consider it relevant, but how many of the "social scientists, psychologists and educationalists" you mentioned, are women?

In conclusion, I can only be grateful that "despite.....large-scale government legislation, I am still at

university; not in woman's "natural" place — the home.

Sincerely,

Nanette McDonald

PS. Keep up the good work folks!

"Fever" Praised

Sir,

Having recently seen Saturday Night Fever I am amazed at how misleading was Salient's review of the film (May 29). How your reviewer could so completely miss the point can only be explained by, perhaps too much pseudo analysis and not seeing what was before his eyes. The point he missed is that the film is about Working Class kids trapped in an environment with shackles — like medieval religious attitudes and unbreakable family and class loyalties. The struggles and suffering of the characters is genuinely moving.

Your reviewer says "the world presented in Fever must seem pretty alien to the majority of young people in New Zealand." No doubt it seems alien to university students, most of whom are from well off families. But for working class, unskilled Kiwi kids it would not be too unfamiliar. They know that when you've nothing much to feel proud of, you may well feel pride in a good physique or ability to dance pretty well (Not necessarily superbly as your reviewer demands).

What a pity that your paper, which does political issues so well, misses the message of this important film.

Yours etc,

J. Pickering.

Anger over Hunter

Dear Simon,,

Thank you for your objective reporting of the Friends of Hunter building submission to Council. At long last the University has before it proposals to preserve its history in a way that is aesthetically commendable and usually marries the old with the new.

The hotch potch of buildings that have sprouted on the campus do nothing for this prime building site. To destroy the only building which has character and grace shows an insensitivity which is hard to understand.

Anyway, who is the councillor who publicly slates highly competent professional consultants (I hope you publish Their qualifications and His in Salient). To have such aliens in judgement on Our history makes my blood boil.

It is to be hoped that some staff and students will stir themselves out of their lethargy (as the public of Wellington have done) in support of the Friends of Hunter proposal, otherwise their heritage will be sold for another mess of potage (? word illegible).

Yours,

M. L. Boyd.

(The councillor to whom you refer is Alan Nightingale. It is not quite relevant to set one person's qualifications against another. However, the Friends' consultants have all presented their credentials and

experience in their respective fields. To the best of my knowledge these have not been questioned except indirectly by Nightingale. Nightingale has at no stage made public any credentials or work experience of his own on which he might base his criticisms. Nor has he made those criticisms public -Ed.)

"Peace" Council Member Corrected

Dear Simon,

I was interested to read the letter in last week's "Salient" from Mr Edward Smith, a member of the Council for World Peace who asserts that there are "two people from the University Students Association" on the committee of this organisation.

Mr Smith has already been informed that the New Zealand University Students' Association has at no time been officially represented on the committee of the Council for World Peace and has, in fact, never been officially approached by this organisation to participate in its activities. This is in spite of the well known fact that NZUSA has a long history of involvement with democratic organisations in NZ which have been active in the quest for peace.

Your readers may be interested to learn that the formation of this Council for World Peace was first mooted by various individuals at the national Peace Action Congress held in Wellington in early 1977. At that time NZUSA's representatives were highly critical of the way in which the promoters of this venture attempted to railroad other delegates into agreeing to the formation of a NZ Peace Council and accepted its affiliation to the Soviet-aligned and controlled World Peace Council based in Helsinki.

This is not the only reason why we have been highly sceptical of the Council for World Peace and its parent body in Helsinki. NZUSA has also been able to benefit from the experience of other national student organisations in the Asian-Pacific region with the student equivalent of the World Peace Council — the International Union of Students based in Prague.

The Australian Union of Students was affiliated for a short period in recent years to the IUS. It found the latter body was nothing other than a vehicle for the promotion of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union. For that reason and because of the extremely undemocratic manner in which the leadership of the IUS conducted the business of the organisation the Australian Union of Students withdrew from the IUS at the 1976 Annual Council.

Later in 1976 a number of South East Asian student organisations received visits from a leading official of the IUS offering them free scholarships and trips and independently came to the conclusion that these blandishments were an attempt to make them more sympathetic to the IUS' pro-Soviet policies. This person was given short shift in every country he visited.

The above facts are documented in great detail in reports and articles by the AUS and other student organisations which are, with NZUSA, affiliated to the non-aligned Asian Students' Association based in Hong Kong. I am sure they would make very interesting reading to many students and perhaps you might consider this as the subject of a future article in "Salient".

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Saksen,
NZUSA President.

A question for Andrew

Dear Sir,

I am a first year science student. I have not been much involved in anything to do with the students' association, but I have noticed there is an election coming up. Of the three candidates standing, only one seems to me to have much hope of representing my views, and that is Andrew Tees. But I've got to say from what he has written in Salient I get a very low opinion of his ability to write letters.

Now what worries me is how can a person who can't even use basic English hope to run the students association?

BSc Stage I

Beach and Zionism

Sir,

Was Mr Beach at the Carson Hirschfeld debate? What I heard did not correspond at all with what he wrote in his report, I think that his apology for being biased was because he was in fact not there, and only heard about it second hand.

I thought that the best person who spoke was the little Israeli girl, who said that the Israel she knew was not at all like what Mr Carson spoke of, Jews and Arabs do live in Israel as friends and neighbours and work mates. I know because I stayed there for 6 months several years ago (I'm not a Jew nor a Zionist). I know that the PLC hate Israel, but I know from my own knowledge and experience differently. I do not believe avowed murderers and terrorists, so why do you believe the PLO propaganda? Come on, don't be so stupid, you are supposed to be intelligent university students aren't you?

I heard the debate, and what you wrote was fiction. What you wrote had no honesty, no (journalistic) professionalism and what surprised me was that you could not even subtly disguise your lies.

I could never accept the PLO position you espouse, because it is so blatantly and unsubtly propaganda, which can only appeal to those who are ignorant of the real situation. I know a little more about the situation than probably anyone here, I have also been to Beirut and to Egypt, so why don't you people give up trying to make judgements on a situation you only know through PLO or similar propaganda. Not only were many of the things you said either wrong or half truths but many are irrelevant to the situation as it is today, and the problems that need to be solved. If you want to judge then give up the arm chair revolutionary position and go see for yourself.

Yours,

L.B.

(Peter Beach did not apologise for being biased, he said he expected to be accused of bias. The comments in the rest of your letter explain why. Your own entrenched opinion about conditions in Israel and the political nature of the Israeli state make it quite clear why you are not going to agree with Don Carson's analysis. But it is unfortunate that you were not able to separate Carson's view from Beach's report.

Beach does not hold firm views on the subject, which was why he was asked to write the report. If you really think he assessed things wrongly, you should say why, and not simply rely on restating your own position and using such phrases as "the little Israeli girl" To the best of my knowledge there were no "little girls" at the debate, and certainly none made a speech -Ed.)

Simon,

Full marks to Mr Beach, he admitted to being "biased". Biased is perhaps the wrong word, I would call it Distortion. The writing is full of misquotes from both speakers; obviously he did not understand many of the points raised, as his lack of knowledge of the Middle East situation was rather obvious at some places, as a consequence he missed most of the points raised by Mike Hirschfeld.

It would have been to your advantage if he had listened to the tape recordings, instead of going off on some fictional account of the debate.

There is no need for me to counter any of the untruths you tell, (a) because it would take more than one letter, (b) because the lies are so unsubtle that any normal person can see them for what they are, and (c) because anyone who was at the debate would find your reporting laughable.

Yours,

La Heymann.

(This is the second letter accusing Mr Beach of admitting to bias, and the third to claim he did not understand the debate. The charges are difficult to answer because they are not substantiated. As with the others, simply to accuse a Salient writer of lies is to adopt a smear tactic which does no credit to anyone -Ed.)

Dear Mr Wilson,

Is it true that Peter Beach wrote the article on Zionism in this week's Salient after over-hearing someone talking in the cafe?

I heard the debate and it didn't sound like how he wrote it. I thought after past Middle East events it was a very rational, calm and controlled debate (congratulations to all concerned). Why didn't you say that, perhaps that you and your friends couldn't get in and beat up a few Jews oops I mean Zionists.

Your article was fanatical and looks like a fictional report. I saw a guy tape recording the whole thing; perhaps you could listen to it.

Mr editor wots wrong with salient that it has to publish such rubbish and lies (answer please)?

Yours,

'I heard it all'.

(I agree, the debate was calm, and to a certain extent rational. One of Beach's main arguments is that Mr Hirschfeld did not provide a logically coherent case for the Zionist cause. Obviously you disagree, but you do not explain why. To claim the report is fanatical is ridiculous; if you are going to accuse Salient of lies I would expect, again, that you might try to justify your claim. As for the suggestion that some people might have been disappointed at not getting the chance to "beat up a few Jews", I can only say that I am amazed you would stoop to such nonsense -Ed.)

Simon,

As Simon Wilson seems to have the opinion that anything favouring an anti PLO or Palestinian Arab stance is Zionist Propaganda, I'll try to keep my comments brief so that I will not be accused of using this paper to put across this so called "Zionist Propaganda".

In reply to the article by Peter Beach on the topic "Do the Palestinians have a right to a homeland?" the bias of the author comes across very strongly and I'm pleased to see Peter clear His guilty conscience and admit it. Well Simon, here we have an article where the writer admits that he is biased in his approach and in keeping with "your law" on biased articles (referring to when you denied an article on Zaitan Atashi to be published as you considered it biased to a Zionist point of view) I feel that this article should never have been printed.

The first point that needs clarification is when Don Carson starts off his speech by stating that "A Palestinian is a future concept". It refers to someone who will live in a free Palestinian State." He then concludes his opening remarks by quoting Yaakov Morris, the Israeli Ambassador in New Zealand as saying, "Israel has never been the homeland of the Palestinians". Remember Don Carson it is your definition.

On the point that "ultra-orthodox Jews don't support the return to Israel," Don Carson is just making wide sweeping generalisations. If he had his facts correct and stated that some of the ultra-orthodox Jews follow this opinion I would agree but to imply, which is what he is doing, that all ultra-orthodox Jews follow this opinion is just utter rubbish and I challenge Don Carson to prove to me otherwise.

Yours Yours,

T.L.

(This is one of the extraordinary examples of sophistry I have ever read of late. Many of the points are answered in replies to other letters on this page. I did think at one stage you were going to refute Peter Beach's main charge; that Carson put up a better argument than Hirschfeld. But no. I am still waiting Ed.)

Soviet style "peace"

Dear Simon,

Drawing of two heads with black eyes

I'd just like to answer some of the questions asked by Edward Smith who takes it upon himself to defend the Wellington Branch of the World "Peace" Council. First I'd like to remind Mr Smith that the inaugural meeting of the WPC Branch consisted mainly of a debate on whether the Wellington peace movement should

affiliate to the WPC. The motion just squeezed through in the end. A significant minority who attended the meeting left totally unsatisfied that the new organisation was anything other than an arm of the Moscow foreign office.

Why for example did the World Peace Council not condemn the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 when they were supposed to be engaging in "anti-imperialist" activities? The truth is that they oppose only one of the superpowers and hence are objectively pro-imperialist, ie. towards Soviet imperialism.

In answer to your questions. The first one can be answered by saying that Salient does support world peace, but peace with justice. There can never be peace while big nations dominate small ones. This goes for all aggressive powers — USA, USSR, Cuba, France, Vietnam and even New Zealand which economically oppresses nations in the Pacific. I think this is a pretty commonly held view.

What Hua Kuo Feng thinks is irrelevant, although it is my personal opinion that China has always held the view that world peace is impossible while superpowers are allowed to push smaller nations around. China is not a superpower. Unlike the USSR, USA or any of the secondary imperialist powers it has no troops occupying another's territory.

Your second question can be answered by saying that as far as I know, few of the students who attended the meeting have received invitations to the Chandra meeting. However, I do not feel that this is the important issue. To determine whether the WPC is a "peace" organisation or not we have to look at its history and activities. My contention is that it is not.

The last question concerned the two Students Assn members on the committee. In fact VU WSA has no representation on the committee. The two students you may have been referring to were David Tripe and David Macpherson. The latter has left the country and the former, as far as I know, attends committee meetings regularly.

I would like to say that I am very interested in promoting world peace and there is nothing I would like to see more. I am doing my bit by working on campus on issues like South Africa, East Timor and the world situation generally, to encourage students' knowledge of what is actually happening in these examples of oppression and injustice. As soon as a genuine peace organisation comes along, and not just a puppet organisation like the WPC, I'll be into it and guarantee to become active in it.

Although I have no bitter feelings towards Edward Smith, I'd just like to ask him to keep his eyes open because even in genuine organisations there are bound to be villains.

Yours etc,

David Murray

Dear Sir,

Photo of barbed wire

Freedom of speech is a democratic right which most New Zealanders take very much for granted. However in recent weeks the National Government has begun a policy of disallowing overseas nationals visiting New Zealand from speaking publicly if their views are contrary to the government's view. The government has also severely criticised New Zealand citizens sending information overseas if that information is not beneficial to the government's overseas image. These are arbitrary decisions made by an unthinking dictator-like government.

There have been three major examples of this policy at work in the past few weeks. These may only be the tip of the iceberg.

First Case: The minister of immigration announced that all students brought to New Zealand by the South Africa Trust Board may not speak publicly on South Africa. The reasons for this decision are;

- If the student spoke out about conditions in South Africa he may not be allowed to return to South Africa.

However all students so far selected have been refugees from South Africa and therefore were not expected to return to South Africa when they left here.

- The student should be protected from radical elements.

I suppose he means Hart, NZUSA etc. I do not think Hart's ideals are that much different from black South Africans, and I have not heard of anyone being forced by Hart or NZUSA to speak for them.

- Their studies may be interfered with. However Mr Isaacs had done well academically and also spoke

often about South Africa.

- That as Mr Isaacs had been an irritant to the government all further students will be banned. This is an argument of a dictator government.
- As NZUSA wished the students to speak publicly they will be banned. Strange.

Second Case: The minister of immigration announced that Mr Jose Ramos Horta, based in New York, may not speak on East Timor or the Fretilin movement while in New Zealand. The reason given: The New Zealand government recognizes the Indonesian government as being the ruler of East Timor, therefore it will not allow opposition to this view from the Fretilin movement. It would be closer to the truth to say that the government is giving way to Indonesian pressures.

Third Case: The PM accused Mr Trevor Richards of being a traitor and economic saboteur. He did this inside parliament, safe from legal action. He has not repeated this accusation outside of parliament. What did Mr Richards do? He sent details of New Zealand's sporting contacts with South Africa to African, leaders. The details have not been in question.

Chilean refugees now fear government bans. It is not altogether unlikely when you consider that the South African, Indonesian, Chilean and New Zealand governments are all right wing governments. The list of people condemning the government stand is growing daily because it is the rights of the individual which are the basis of a democratic society. The most important right is that of free speech.

Stephen Ruth.