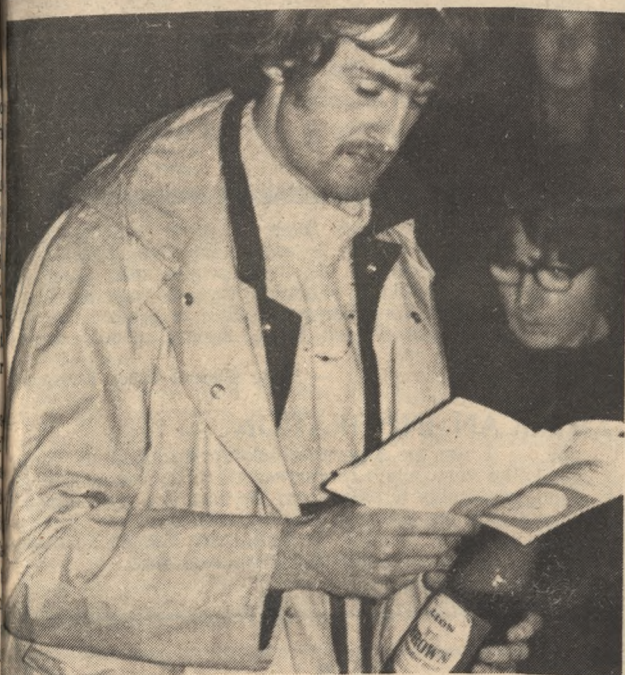
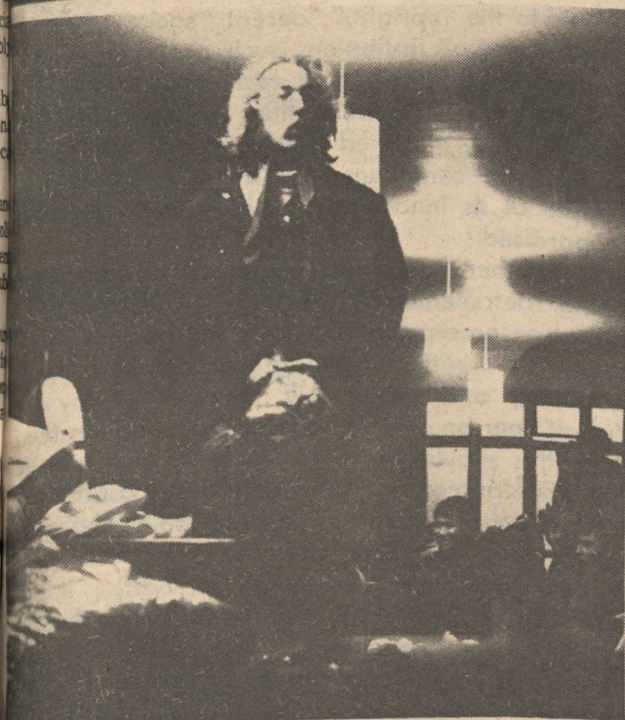


SEPTEMBER 11, 1969

VOLUME 43, No. 11

CRACCUM



dunedin

*Arts Festival &
Tournament*



between the covers
CAREERS
Supplement p11.15

MIKE LAW ASKS PM TO ACT ON MALAYSIAN INTERFERENCE

CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN FORWARDED

The President of the Auckland University Students' Association, Mike Law, would like the Prime Minister, Mr Holyoake, to send a formal note of protest to the Malaysian Government over Malaysian governmental interference with Malaysian students in Auckland.

Mr Law revealed this to Craccum this week, when confirming a report that he had written to Mr Holyoake urging definite action.

"The Prime Minister has been misinformed if he believes nothing has happened since the matter of Malaysian interference was raised in the House last September," said Mr Law.

Evasion by PM

Mr Law said that an earlier letter sent to the PM on behalf of the New Zealand Universities Students' Association had been evaded by Mr Holyoake. He said that conclusive evidence of the interference has been included in the present letter.

"Over the past year, we have tried to handle this affair without public exposure," said Mr Law. "but if the government does not act now, we will forward the evidence to the daily press. Mr Holyoake says there have been informal discussions at ministerial level with the Malaysian Government, but the evidence we have proves that these discussions have had no effect."

The Interference

Craccum sources believe that Mr Law's letter outlines how the Malaysian Government through its High Commission in Sydney is attempting to force Malaysian students to join a Malaysian Students' Association (MSA), which would be strongly under the influence of the Malaysian Government. At present in Auckland, the Malaysian-Singapore Students' Association (MSSA) runs student affairs, and is financed by the Auckland University Students' Association.

The MSSA is a social and cultural organisation which has helped students with lodging, travel, language problems, and assistance with other difficulties. It has in the past maintained a liaison with the High Commission in Sydney.

Last November, the MSSA received a letter from Sydney advising them to set up a separate MSA, with associate membership for non-Malaysians. But at the Annual General Meeting of the MSSA, it was resolved 224-14 not to split.

However, these 14 dissenting students set up an MSA, and asked the Sydney High Commission for recognition. This was granted, meaning in effect that there would be strong pressure on other Malaysian students to join.

When Mr Holyoake opened International House last term, the director of Malaysian student affairs in Sydney, Mr Rahim Jalal, spoke to Malaysian students reiterating his government's desire to have an exclusively Malaysian society set up.

Lecturers Worried

Mr Law said that discussions on the affair had been held with the university administration in Auckland. Some lecturers were also concerned about the way this affair was affecting the studies of some Malaysian students. One lecturer has complained to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr Maidment.

Mr Law said that at Victoria University there were separate MSA and MSSA organisations which pull each other's signs down, and raid each other's clubhouses.

"We are determined to stop it here," he said.

(A brief report of NZUSA policy on this matter, as formulated at Winter Council, appears on page 3.)

378481

• Viewpoint

The questions involved in the marijuana debate are simple ones: Is marijuana a drug with severely harmful effects to individuals, or society as a whole? If marijuana is not greatly harmful, do we have a moral right to punish those who use it? It is unfortunate that these questions have been so widely clouded with prejudice and emotionalism that the answers should be in dispute.

The main argument against marijuana consists of the conjecture that we do not know enough about it, or its harmful effects, to make a judgement. Another one is that marijuana leads the user to harder drugs. It is clear that this last argument is illogical. It is true that most users of hard drugs smoked marijuana, but this hardly means that marijuana users inevitably turn to hard drugs. In fact, if we concede that some marijuana smokers do turn to hard drugs, this is an argument for the legalisation of marijuana: because it is from the clandestine contacts that must be made to obtain marijuana, that pressure to try hard drugs arises. With legalisation, the peddling of hard drugs and marijuana would be divorced.

The first argument is negative in its approach. Its real implication is that as long as the effects of marijuana have been observed, nothing distinctly harmful has been seen. Unfortunately, many people who have undertaken scientific studies into the properties of marijuana have started with the purpose of proving that it is

harmful, and have often magnified innocuous effects of the drug into something sinister. The best they have to offer in terms of fact is the assertion that there might be long-term effects which are not yet known. Marijuana has been around long enough, and its use even in this country is more widespread than most officials would care to admit. If there were definite long-term effects, one would expect that they would have been seized on and exploited before now.

Emotionalism, in fact, is the most successful weapon of reactionaries against marijuana. It is inevitably the weapon of last resort when reasoned argument is not possible.

The real battle for these people is not the drug marijuana. Marijuana is only one of the symbols of cultural change — and we may include here concepts such as the "new morality," anti-materialism, etc., which are seen as a threat to the sacrosanct way of thinking and life, in which success, duty, conformity, and "decency" are the icons. Hence, frank discussion of marijuana is "indecent" — a threat to society, and "right-thinking" people.

Throughout its history of use in the Western world, marijuana has been associated with "sinister Orientals" and criminal elements, and their modern threat-heirs, the "hippies." The connection between these has been made so strong, that marijuana has largely become a symbolic

replacement for all people subversive, and antagonistic to the "upright," "decent," society. It is not surprising that institutions such as police, press, and public figures should capitalise on the flow of emotionalism to build their own prestige and power. Any reasoned evaluation of marijuana under these conditions, and attempts to convince people of its innocuousness, have been seriously jeopardised.

Another less direct argument of marijuana being detrimental to society is also strongly based on presupposition. Users will become "anti-social" (i.e. not conform to "acceptable" social patterns), and usage will become a way for "weak" personalities to escape from reality. (Perhaps this should be taken up as a challenge to the popular concept of reality.) The conformists have their tranquilisers, sleeping pills, diet pills, alcohol, etc. to escape from the pressure of their existence (a blatant hypocrisy in itself). It has not been proved, after a considerable amount of time, that marijuana will produce effects as bad or worse (including the psychosis argument) than any of these common drugs and stimulants now available.

Legalisation of marijuana is a moral issue. A recognition of the rights of the individual, provided that no harm is done to others, demands that a person be free to use it without punishment.

— J. S. Laird

letters to the editor

THE MALAYSIAN DISPUTE

Sir, — The article on Page 3 of the last issue of *Craccum* serves to prove my point of misrepresentation and of reporting without proper perspective by foreign journalists in Malaysia. This time the crime is done within your midst, by one Franklin-Browne. I would like to ask Mr Franklin-Browne some questions. Does he know the total number of Malaysians at Auckland University? Does he know the number of Malays against the total of other Malaysians at A.U.? Does he know the number of Malays in Auckland (or NZ for that matter) holding scholarships against total of other Malaysians with scholarships? Did he even bother to investigate?

In Auckland University there are 16 Malay students compared with more than 200 Chinese. Quote "Some non-Malays fear that a Malaysian Students Association will become Malay-extremists dominated." In other words you are saying that 16 Malays can dominate over 200 Chinese (how proud I am). Surely even you can see that such a statement is not only ridiculous, it is also naive and stupid!

Those MSSA members were originally against the MSA because it had political overtones. Now it appears that the same people are advocating the politicising of MSSA. Are Malaysian students without principles?

If ever there is a need for an MSA in Auckland, it is now, when the country is having problems. Malaysians should realise that a new realism is enveloping over Malaysia. "The Govt would welcome responsible opinion, ideas and reforms from students." — Mr Soon, Director of Information. But responsible opinion must come from Malaysians or a Malaysian Students' Assoc. The Govt will have nothing to do with any other people or associations. That should be fair enough!

You published a letter by one Muktaruddin Dazin (his existence has not been established) which was banned by the Malaysian Govt. I do not know how it got to *Craccum*, or why it was published; unless it was *Craccum's* aim to create mistrust and fear amongst Malaysians and to discriminate against the 16 Malays, a small minority, but evidently not a weak one.

— Mokhtar Ahmad
(You seem to have distorted the central point of the *Craccum* article. The problem is not so much domination by Malays in Auckland, it is a question of who will have control over a students' association. The MSSA now is affiliated to Studass; an MSA would be under Malaysian governmental supervision. Also, the Malaysian Government has asked for names of students opposing the setting up of an MSA. Non-Malays are now frightened enough of being reported on. Is this not cause for concern? It is invalid to suggest that the MSSA is not concerned about Malaysian problems. — Ed.)

Sir, — I am glad to see that at long last some Malaysians have decided to make a definite stand to expose the racist government at present in control of the riot-torn Malaysia. By some I mean those who have taken the opportunity to write to *Craccum* and also those who are urging the representative body of Malaysian students in New Zealand to make its position clear.

CRACCUM

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REPS REPLY

Sir, — We, the undersigned members of the Education staff-student committee, in reply to your allegations in *Craccum* issue 9, suggest that the veracity of your information be checked.

The meeting was harmonious rather than 'heated'; there was no question of any 'retractions' and there was not the slightest suggestion of 'academic penalties being applied to dissenting students'.

Because we consider that irresponsible journalism reflects upon the integrity of committee members, an unqualified withdrawal and apology should be published forthwith.

— Yours faithfully, T. S. Duff, A. Gavin, A. E. Howley, W. J. D. Minogue, V. Ringer, K. W. Wilson, R. Winterbourn.

MOTHERS FOR MIKE

Dear Sir, — With regard to the article on the new Creche in Issue 9 *Craccum*, there are a couple of points which I think should be cleared up. Firstly, the Creche Club itself is still responsible for payment of cleaning, staff, etc. The Students' Association has not undertaken to do this as implied but has agreed, so that Council would give us this building, to underwrite our losses (which should not come to more than the \$100 grant we already receive).

We would like to thank Mike Law for giving Council his agreement to do this. However, as we have always found Bill Rudman to be only unhelpful in discussions and we are sure that he has only put our case, if ever, in order to get us off his back, (he has stated that the instituting of a Creche on Campus is contrary to her personal opinions) we would instead like to express our gratitude to Mrs Winstone who is almost solely responsible for our obtaining this new building and also to Tim Shadbolt and Michael Law.

— Sharleen D. Forbes, President, AU Creche

RESTAURANT REVOLUTIONARIES UNITE!

Sir, — It is time something was done about the restaurant. I refer to those insidious groups of non-students who have been turning up at the restaurant in increasing numbers since about the second term, presumably to take advantage of its atmosphere and to profit from a cheap meal. I resent their presence in our restaurant. They positively pollute the place with their inane conversation and their boorish behaviour. The sight of some of them is enough to turn your stomach. Apart from that there are practical considerations too — every night of term the restaurant is overcrowded, and Friday night is a mediaeval dinner scene. If you go there with friends it is often impossible to find enough empty seats at one table. After 6 p.m. there is always a queue and a considerable wait. By 7 p.m., there often are no rolls, no cream left for coffee, and a diminished menu.

Clearly something must be done urgently. Because of these people students are suffering — wasted study time waiting for meals, orders often confused, staff overworked, inadequate meals.

AMERICAN INFILTRATION

Sir, — I am an American soldier stationed in Taiwan. I would like very much to correspond with someone in New Zealand, preferably female. I am 25 years old. Any assistance you can give to me will be greatly appreciated.

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CRACCUM IS BEST

Craccum has been judged the best student newspaper for the second year running, in the press contest run by the New Zealand Student Press Association. Last year Craccum shared the award with Canta.

NZSPA nominates three independent judges to make the awards. This year's were David Barber, duty editor of the New Zealand Press Association, Noel Harrison, from the Polytechnic School of Journalism in Wel-

lington, and Jack Burleigh, the layout sub-editor of the Evening Post, Wellington.

The judges commented: "Overall, Craccum was, we thought, more readable and brighter than the other entries.

There was more material, a greater variety of stories and features, and it was generally better written than its rivals. Layout was consistent, but still left much to be desired. A few more, and larger, cross-heads in full page textual spreads would be an easy and immediate improvement."

The award for the best news story went to Canta's "U.S. Bombs 'Made in NZ'" of April 1.

"The judges had great difficulty in making an award in this category because of the shortage of 'news' stories in the papers entered. . . . There was very little evidence of investigative reporting, and much of the news reporting was marred by its lack of objectivity. While there is obviously a need for comment, we believe it should be separated from items posing as news reports."

The best feature story was judged "Conscription and Conscience", by John Muirhead of Chaff (Massey).

"A topic of direct interest to all young people and a well written feature. This was well-researched and provided a history of conscription in New Zealand and attitudes towards it and conscientious objection. Though it shared the failing of most features in the entered newspapers — overlong — it was well laid out and justified the front page picture devoted to it."

Lincoln College's paper Caelin won the prize for the most improved newspaper. The judges felt that special mention should be made of Canta's brilliant covers and its layout and contents of the arts page."

The editor of Victoria's newspaper, Roger Wilde, did not enter Salient in the competition. He strongly disagreed with the criteria of "standard journalism" used by the judges. Salient is the only student newspaper in New Zealand appearing weekly, and is thought to be excellent by many student journalists.

— J.S.L.

— J.S.L.



These were the three issues — numbers 4, 5 and 7 — that won Craccum the best student newspaper award for 1969.

TUESDAY
SEPT 16

SGM

POT

BODY SET UP TO OPPOSE S.A. TOUR

A national organisation has been formed to co-ordinate the efforts of all those organisations and individuals who are opposed to the proposed 1970 All Black Tour of South Africa.

Taking the name HART (Halt All Racist Tours), it has enlisted the support of church, student and Trade Union organisations.

It is hoped that in co-ordinating all anti-tour activities on both a regional and national level, HART will be in a good position to direct a well planned tactical campaign which will have maximum impact on the New Zealand public.

Mr Trevor Richards, National Chairman of HART, announced at a press conference in Auckland last week that at the present time maximum attention is being given to nation-wide deputations to all aspiring

MPs. Any student who would like to organise a deputation to their local candidates on the Rugby Tour issue should either see Mr Richards or write to HART c/o P.O. Box 2843, Auckland.

Mr Richards said that HART is also organising a nation wide

petition which will be sent to both the New Zealand Rugby Union, and Parliament. An appeal will be made to students later in the term to collect copies of these two petitions, and circulate them in their home area when they go home for the Christmas vacation.

NZUSA Winter Council

Over the past year, NZUSA has shown that it can do more than muck around, as has been the case in past years. Valuable work is now progressing in many areas, especially education. Some decisions from Dunedin were:—

● NZUSA will call on the Government to permit all expenses in continuing university study to be claimed as exemptions from taxable income.

● NZUSA in collaboration with its constituents will contact employers and Trade Unions in order to ensure that all sections of industry are fully informed about students' needs for obtaining work during the Christmas vacation.

● An Overseas Students' Seminar will be held next year at Victoria University. A report on its arrangements will be made at Easter Council in Auckland.

● NZUSA has voted to become a member of the New Zealand Homosexual Law Reform Society (Inc.), and will urge the Government to reform the law relating to homosexual offences so that homosexual acts between consenting adult males in private will no longer be a criminal offence.

● All universities have agreed to circulate certain information among themselves on the subjects of Student Union management, policies, finance responsibility, and sources of finance for Student Unions.

● NZUSA's Educational Research Officer, Lindsay Wright has been given the research topic "The Quality of University Teaching" for extensive study next year. This year he is working on the Survey on Student Incomes and Expenditure, which will be completed for Easter Council next year.

● The Education Seminar that Auckland wanted to hold on Queen's Birthday weekend next year, has been shifted to Victoria. Otago protested against the cost of travel to Auckland, and carried the vote, with Auckland and Canterbury dissenting.

● NZUSA has endorsed the Schools of Studies system of Waikato University, and will urge that this be fully developed to cater for increasing student enrolment in New Zealand. Auckland and Lincoln abstained on the vote.

● The NZUSA Accommodation Officer has been instructed to receive reports on the nature and suitability of student accommodation, from each university, and to collate them with the possibility of making representations to the Government.

Woman President for Vic

Victoria University, Wellington, will have its first woman president in history next year — law student Margaret Bryson. She sees her presidential role as one of working in co-operation with Exec rather than one of leadership. She is strong on student welfare as opposed to politics, and on an improved university image in the community.

Margaret thinks that her sex will not cause any particular problems in the position of president. She believes she will be in a better position to do things for female students, but says she will not neglect the men.

"I view myself as rather middle-of-the-road, although I have been told I am right-wing," she said.

Margaret will take office on January 1.

Victoria publications to go computerised

Victoria students have taken a big leap forward in publications by deciding to acquire computer typesetting facilities for the publication of their newspaper Salient, and other Association publications.

It is understood that the Victoria University Administration will review their publishing plans, and will probably cancel orders for other typesetting equipment, in view of the students' decision.

The Vic Exec took the decision on August 25, after hearing arguments put forward by Bill Logan, last year's editor of Salient, Simon Arnold, and Brian Thornton.

The Association will hire an Input unit, which is used to programme a tape. The tape is fed through an output machine which produces columns of justified type, on glossy paper, for use in the offset printing process. The Vic Exec has made an agreement with a Wellington commercial printer for the use of an output machine and operator.

Actual figures used by the Exec for comparison of costs are confidential, but it is understood that by renting the input machine, Salient will save a substantial amount on typesetting, which is the costliest part of a student newspaper.

With the printing contract of Focus, the magazine of NZUSA, and work from the university, a total saving next year of

\$2000 has been predicted on Victoria University Association publications.

Ultimately, it seems that a growing university must become increasingly self-reliant in its publications. The advent of offset printing means that a wider range of things can be done in publications, and by investing in equipment, universities and students' associations can drastically cut the costs — much of which now goes as profit to commercial printers.

Canterbury University has taken a lead here among universities by ordering two Input units and one Output unit.

Initial expense inevitably means investing in other complementary machinery — photo headlining machines, waxing machines, and light tables — for use in the offset process, and preferably staff to assist in the technical aspects of production.

But the tremendous savings to be made on typesetting and production will be enough to cover these initial costs in a few years, and with the huge growth of varsity and studass publications, there is a compelling need for publication facilities on campus.

— J.S.L.

— J.S.L.

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Geiringer on Marijuana:

"PUBLIC IGNORANT AND GULLIBLE"

Dr Erich Geiringer, Secretary of the New Zealand Medical Association was interviewed in Wellington last week on the Marijuana Issue by roving Craccum correspondent DICK SISLEY (who hitch-hiked down for the interview).

Do you regard Marijuana as a dangerous drug?

It has certain dangers, but it is no more dangerous than hundreds of other drugs. Of course, it affects the mind, but, taking physical, mental, and other aspects into consideration, it is less dangerous than alcohol. That people have a hangup about the mental effects of drugs doesn't necessarily make the objective assessment of the dangers of a drug any easier. If we had a way of measuring the adverse cost to society of a drug we might well conclude that nicotine, although less mentally dangerous than alcohol or marijuana, is a more dangerous drug.

There is another question which no-one has faced up to:— if a drug has its dangers does it also have its advantages? Doctors use many drugs for treating illness, and each has its side-effects, but we know its usefulness and say that on the whole it is better to have it than not to have it.

The same question must be asked of mood-changing drugs, in a slightly different context. The first argument people use when confronted with the fact that marijuana is less dangerous than alcohol is that we are already saddled with alcohol and we don't want to be saddled with marijuana as well. This tacitly assumes that alcohol if it could be weighed in the scales would be found an absolute evil. This assumption is based on the known ill effects of alcohol — death on the roads, physiological damage, and the possibility of addiction for some types of mentally ill people. These ill effects are known and can be measured.

But why then have all societies throughout history persisted in using alcohol? Is there perhaps another side to alcohol? Why have poets praised it? Why does everyone, even the most respected members of society use it? This includes churchmen, lawyers, doctors, Members of Parliament and so on. Is there some compensatory good to society in the use of alcohol? Obviously yes! The very fact that we go on using it indicates that it supplies a human need.

What is this want? A tension exists between the aspirations of the individual and those of society. The more civilised a society is — the more co-operation needed to achieve its ends — the more the individual must give up his own primitive aims and aspirations; inevitably this creates tension. This is not abnormal, and it is not abnormal to use alcohol to satisfy the normal need of any civilised individual to get occasional relief from his tensions and inhibitions. It is so necessary that through the centuries it has proved quite impossible to wean mankind of mood-relaxing drugs.

Is alcohol evil? It can't be — it is obvious that there is a tremendous value to be derived from it and hence we have made the decision to accept the evils of alcohol because of the good we get. On balance it gives more than it takes away from us. When society has been misguided enough to try and stamp out alcohol this has produced only more trouble than previously. We have only to look in a recent issue of "Time" to confirm that the only positive effect of prohibition was to bring into being organised crime, which then had the chance of exploiting a human need — of becoming respectable in the eyes of many people. In the United States they have never been able to shake off the hold gained by criminals during prohibition. This is an example of what happens when we try to suppress something just because we personally don't like it, even if others do.

There is no doubt that the one group that has the greatest interest of all in keeping marijuana illegal is organised crime. It provides a source of income and power and provides a contact with respectable citizens who only want a mood-relaxing drug. HENCE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SO EAGER TO PROSECUTE AND PERSECUTE ARE ALLIES OF ORGANISED CRIME, AND ARE ENEMIES OF ORDINARY NORMAL PEOPLE WHO SEEK RELIEF FROM NORMAL TENSION BY THE TIME-HONOURED USE OF RELATIVELY HARMLESS DRUGS.

I have strayed somewhat away from the question. These drugs — mood-relaxers — that people want because they give a temporary escape from a reality full of tensions, are producing a good as well as an evil. It is up to us to weigh the results — no one has done this. The attitude to alcohol should give us the clue — by and large alcohol does more good than harm. Marijuana is less harmful pharmacologically than alcohol, and hence probably at least as beneficial as alcohol if not moreso — marijuana does not produce true addiction as does alcohol.

Do you think the action of students in asking that marijuana be legalised is "responsible"?

It is a far-sighted and responsible action. It may perhaps be that students have merely grasped at an issue, that they have taken the right step for the wrong reasons, but I think not. This move grows out of their own experience as many have used Cannabis — they have a knowledge not shared by the law-makers.

The law commits grave injustices against marijuana smokers when it makes perfectly respectable people into criminals. At worst Cannabis could do harm only to the users own body, if that, and this is no concern of the law. Students know all this and their action comes of experience, it is not just a fad.

It is the action of the law-givers which is irresponsible as it is based entirely on the recommendations of others. New Zealand has blindly followed the international trend without looking at the New Zealand situation.

To understand the marijuana scare you have to know where it came from. It originated in the poor countries of the Far and Middle East where hashish users are very numerous and its abuse a great social problem. The governments of these countries are so concerned and disturbed by the opting out of gainful employment, etc, etc, of many of their citizens

that they have asked for international action to stamp out marijuana. The Western nations ought to have resisted this pressure because even a little study shows what has brought about this situation.

The hashish problem in the East is the same as that of alcohol in the West during the Industrial Revolution. When you have a depressed population, underfed, jobless, unable to control the size of their families leading a sordid and hopeless life, it is not surprising that they have a great need to escape reality. These people will take to drugs. In the West it was alcohol — the worker would blow his wages on gin.

The West overcame this not by the banishment of alcohol, but by removing the situation responsible for the hopelessness. When the standard of living and level of education etc. rose the consumption of alcohol fell, leaving only those abusers who were mentally ill — an irreducible minimum who are always hopeless, for whom life is always unacceptable however much it changes.

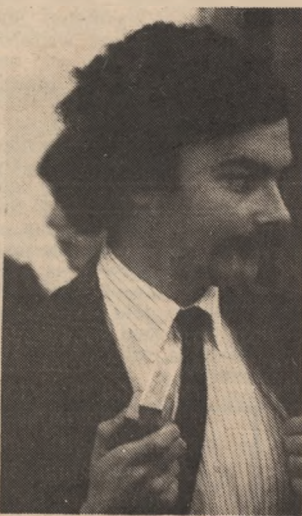
In some Western countries they restricted the sale of alcohol, in some they did not. The same thing happened in both cases — as living standards rose alcohol consumption fell. When people lost their hopelessness the problem licked itself.

For the Egyptian or Pakistani on hashish the drug is food, drink, entertainment and hope — he can't afford anything else. It is hopelessness of life the Eastern governments must get rid of, and there is therefore no more call for the West to interfere with hashish than with alcohol — in fact less as it does not produce true addiction.

Some people say legalise it. Others say we must take no active step to bring in evil. But the wrong step has already been taken in illegalising it. A free society should not have to wait for what is not harmful to be legalised — we must repeal the laws against Cannabis.

What do you think of the public reaction to the students' suggestion?

The public is ignorant and gullible, and the biggest boozers will be the biggest persecutors of students and liberals who dare to say anything against their favourite superstition



Auckland's International Affairs Officer, Trevor Richards

Action on Malaysian Interference

NZUSA has unanimously decided to take action over the interference of the Malaysian Government with students enrolled at Auckland University.

After prolonged discussion in committee, a motion was made by Bill Rudman (NZUSA Vice-President), seconded by Auckland (Mike Law). The motion reads: "that NZUSA inform the Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition, the Vice Chancellors' Committee, and the Chairman of the UGC, of our deep concern over the evidence presented, showing the interference of the Malaysian Government in the activities of Malaysian students enrolled at the University of Auckland, and ask the Government to take all necessary action to have this practice stopped".

When at final Plenary Lincoln disassociated themselves once again from International

International Commission faces difficult future

Auckland students next Easter will be able to watch what may very well prove to be the final death throws of NZUSA's International Commission. This is the gloomy picture AUSA's International Officer Trevor Richards brought back from Winter Council.

At Easter Council, held in Christchurch in April, Lincoln College Students' Association refused to have anything to do with NZUSA's International policy. They claimed that, among other things, international policy was not based on true student feeling, and was not concerning itself with the right issues.

At Winter Council, held in Dunedin during the first week-end of the August Vacation, Lincoln, Otago and Auckland all put forward a set of proposals to reform the areas of contention within International Commission. It became quite clear that there was general agreement amongst all constituents as to what needed to be done, with the exception of Lincoln.

If there was a spirit of conciliation present at these talks, it was fairly heavily disguised, and manifest itself very rarely. In fact no really worthwhile dialogue was established between Lincoln and the other universities. To most International Officers, according to Richards, Lincoln's reforms were either based on false premises or were self-defeating.

"As International Officers, tired of hearing over and over again Lincoln's standard address, they made their feelings towards Lincoln's reforms uncompromisingly clear" he said. "This in turn caused Lincoln to think that they were not getting a fair hearing, and as this feeling increased, they became correspondingly more recalcitrant."

When at final Plenary Lincoln disassociated themselves once again from International

of the moment. To any right-thinking person it must be disgusting to see a magistrate who has been grogging it up all night before making a criminal of a young person for smoking a reefer. There is an obvious double standard and you people know it — they cannot therefore accept the exhibit of horror with which their action is received when they take something milder than alcohol.

The population is not to judge the issue — it is a matter for experts, and the experts have given their answer without doubt:— marijuana is relatively harmless and it is the law against it which produce harm, not the marijuana itself.

Goddard, head of the Federal Drug Administration came to this conclusion as have many others, but we have people like Dr Savage going into the papers with statements that Cannabis is the key to "instant Sex". In so far as this phrase can be said to have any meaning at all, it merely serves to show that he is in for a very great disappointment if anyone ever persuades him to try it. Also he claims it is the key to "instant intoxication" — has he never had a double whisky on an empty stomach? But such assertions as these are given prominence.

New Zealand has no real opinion in these matters. Its acts are derived from international authorities. When the big nations finally move towards sanity (of course it will be too late, as it was with prohibition) then New Zealand will follow.

Is it responsible to publish details of how to grow and use Cannabis, and how to have a trip on LSD, as for instance the May issue of 'Salient'?

LSD is in a different category — it is much more dangerous and should probably be on the list of prescription poisons, like many other drugs. There is no need of special LSD laws.

As regards publication, knowledge is always good, but provocatively invite people to use something dangerous is not very wise. On the other hand students may feel the matter has to be given a push in order to create a public reaction so that valid reforms may be achieved.

Is the treatment given to, and attitude towards marijuana users in our hospitals adequate?

There are two types of marijuana users as there are two types of alcohol user:— the normal users who take it from time to time as a relaxer— these need no treatment and to give treatment is wrong. The vast majority who use these drugs in the ordinary way do not need to be put in a mental hospital. The other group of alcohol, marijuana, and opium users are suffering from personality disorders and use these drugs to stay out of reality. They are unable to face life and need some treatment whatever the drug. Unfortunately this treatment is not available — it is unknown.

However, we are justified in trying treatment where drug taking is a symptom of personality defects, where severe psychoneurosis makes the person unable to face ordinary life. Large numbers of such people are alcoholics, and would be marijuana or opium abusers where they had access to these drugs. They need treatment, although at present this is usually ineffective — a lot of unnecessary cruelty is committed against the psychoneurotic. Where we can't treat them it is often kindest to leave them alone, even to supply them with cheap alcohol or Cannabis so that at least they don't ruin themselves financially or take to crime to pay for their drugs they need.

Anybody who could, while we are waiting for better treatment, change an alcoholic into a Cannabis user would be a benefactor; but the law would probably regard him as an evil-doer. Two hundred years ago a person in Egypt could be thrown into gaol for drinking wine but was allowed to smoke hashish. Today in New Zealand we let him drink his wine and throw him in gaol for smoking marijuana. This is supposed to be progress. Students realise that there is no rhyme or reason behind this law and one would be ashamed of them and of our universities if they accepted this dangerous nonsense without protest.

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policy, both Auckland and Otago gave notice that unless International Commission functions more smoothly in future, they would seriously consider withdrawing from International Commission.

Richards claims that this is bad for two reasons. "Firstly", he said, "it would be unfortunate if other Universities decided to disassociate themselves from the policies emanating from other commissions, and this could happen if Lincoln's attitude towards International is allowed to continue unchecked."

"Secondly, it would be bad for International Commission.

STUDENTS DISPUTE NZ FOREIGN POLICY

New Zealand universities took a foreign policy stand completely opposed to that of the Government, at Winter Council in Dunedin.

The main resolution passed on this subject was "that NZUSA support a foreign policy of non-alignment for NZ as a means of fostering an independent and positive approach towards international affairs by this country."

A growing international outlook among NZ students was also apparent in several of the motions. One called for NZUSA to recommend that the Asian Students' Association (which has recently been formed, with NZUSA as a member) invite the All China Students' Union, and other groups to join.

The desire to bring together countries of other ideologies, through students was also im-

plicit in the resolution "that NZUSA maintain membership and association only with those internal institutions that are able to satisfy the following considerations: they include representatives of all major student blocs; they do not exclude students' organisations, either constitutionally or in practice" on the basis of the political ideology of their home governments".

NZUSA gave a grant of \$200 to HART, the body recently set up to oppose the NZ Rugby tour of South Africa. NZUSA voted to become a member of HART (Halt All Racial Tours), and Bill Rudman was appointed the NZUSA representative.

PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES! THE GRASS IS GREENER CRACCUM INVESTIGATES MARIJUANA

THE SCIENTIFIC FACTS

Marijuana is not a Narcotic: though it is often defined as such by law, it is pharmacologically distinct from the family of opium derivatives. (References 1, 2, 3) Marijuana or Cannabis Sativa is one of the oldest known hallucinogens (i.e. it gives rise to hallucinations).

It is a member of a monotypic moraceous genus. Recent study has established that the euphoric activity of Cannabis Sativa is due primarily to tetrahydrocannabinol. However while much is known about the effects in man of crude Cannabis preparations, little is yet understood of the biochemical activity of pure Tetrahydrocannabinol. However Tetrahydrocannabinol has not been established as the sole determinant of Marijuana's activity. (References 12,13)

Marijuana is not addicting: the use does not develop any physical dependence (references 2, 3, 5-11, N.Z. National Health and Medical Research Council)

Murphy 1963 (UN Bulletin on Narcotics) reviewing 58 articles in the literature concludes "Most individual users intensively studied could accept or abandon the habit without withdrawal symptoms: none of them showed true physical dependency; none showed a tendency to increase dosage and most, when given what they asked for, tended to be moderate in their demands or to reduce dosage."

Marijuana does not "lead to" or promote the use of addicting drugs. (La Guardia Committee, 7, 9, 14, 22) Dr James Goddard head of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated (Time Magazine: 1969) "It is true that most Heroin users have smoked Marijuana, it is also true that most Heroin users have drunk milk. I have seen no proof that there is any connection." The La Guardia report notes 98% of Heroin users started by smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol first."

Earlier this year Doctor Cameron of the W.H.O. Drug Dependence United States said that it was incorrect to say that Cannabis lead to harder drugs. Some authorities often make correlations based on committed addicts, of those who started on Marijuana and who ended up addicted to opiates. Then however they try to assert (wrongly) some casual relation. Such arguments as these can also be criticised on account of sampling bias.

The number of committed drug addicts is only a very small part of the total Marijuana smoking population and is hardly representative of it.

Marijuana has not been shown to be detrimental to the user's health. Many investigators including the La Guardia report conclude that even when used over long periods of time, it does not appear to cause physical (or psychological) impairment (4, 6-10, 13, 20) This does not mean to say that very high concentrations will have no effect, after all high concentrations of ethyl alcohol or aspirin will kill or cause damage and there is no reason to suppose that high concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol will not do the same thing.

Present evidence however tends to confirm Murphy's 1963 review that concluded that users when given the dosage they asked for tended to be moderate in their demands.

Weil and Zinberg 1968 conclude that "Marijuana appears to be a relatively minor intoxicant in our studies . . . it must be noted that other experimenters have given doses much higher than those commonly smoked by users."

Marijuana is not a releaser "opening the way to violence and free sexual behaviour." The social consequences of the use of Marijuana have been argued from divergent points of view for many years. This divergence can also be seen in stories handed down from antiquity. In 13th Century Asia Minor, political assassins (Hashishins) were said to inject Hashish to incite themselves to their nefarious task of murder for pay.

Yet from the "Arabian Nights" we are told the tale of "three good fellows", who . . . spent an equal sum each day on food for the body, and hashish for the soul. When they sat at night before the lighted candles to take the drug, its course was to expand and elevate their humour; and they never fell to brawling or bad words. Their intelligence mounted as the Hashish diminished and it was in these delightful moments that they hit upon the most inspired of their drolleries . . ."

Many contemporary reports indicate that effects do not involve aggressive behaviour (La Guardia 7-9, 14) The fact that as the local police chief noted, there was a noticeable absence of disturbances among the 300,000 youths at the recent groove-in in the U.S., the majority of whom were openly smoking Marijuana, seems to support such a conclusion.

Many investigators would agree that there is a reduction of inhibitions present in normal social behaviour. For example, while high on Marijuana a person may not feel pressure to participate in conversational games and may exhibit playful behaviour (strictly taboo in our society) or be in uninhibited dancing. However it is doubtful if such behaviour could be called antisocial. Though to a person with an extreme moral hang up something like jumping over a fire plug might be called anti-social.

The social effects of Marijuana have recently been explained in the following way . . . "This reduction in the strength of social inhibitions are usually considered the bulwark against committing crimes, aggressing against others, raping women etc. But we do not have cases of contemporary users of Marijuana burglarizing or attacking others though such effects are evident in the use of alcohol, where users are much more likely to express violent or aggressive behaviour."

The writer goes on to suggest that the reason why users don't become violent and aggressive is that aggression is specific to situations and the use of Marijuana is rarely in a conflict situation. "Beyond this one of the psychological effects of Marijuana is euphoria, thus anger and aggressive impulses are less strong and do not draw much support from the rest of the personality."

It has been argued by a leading psychiatrist in a recent radio interview that "it has been found overseas that people who want to smoke Marijuana usually have psychopathic personalities." This is not surprising. Lindsmith 1965 in a review of some of the literature on this question found that the following personality patterns have been said to characterize drug users: "paranoid", "hysterical", "introspective", "extroverted", "sociopathic", "neurotic", "hedonistic", "alienated", "overattached to mother", "passive psychopathic", "aggressive psychopathic", "pseudo psychopathic" and finally "essentially normal".

The whole question of psychological effects of Marijuana is difficult. Investigators may claim that Marijuana users are characterised by some defect but this involves the question of whether they have this defect because they use Marijuana or whether they would have still had the defect if they had never used it. The present writer believes that the "pot-smoking" population is extensive and very heterogeneous so that it would be questionable if it differed significantly from the population at large and thus it would be difficult to characterize them at all.

The difficulty with many studies is that they are often based on biased samples - hospitalised psychiatric patients. Psychiatric categories are often very loosely defined and notoriously unreliable (this is especially true in the case of psychopathy) thus they can often be "used" to further the biases of the clinician and as such are meaningless. The syndrome of psychopathy has been called a "waste-basket category for cases that are difficult to diagnose."

Symptoms said to be indicative of this category include:

- * thrill seeking behaviour and disregard of conventions
- * rejection of authority and discipline
- * poor judgement about behaviour
- * failure to alter punished behaviour
- * asocial and antisocial behaviour

In this case a danger exists that the determination of whether or not a person has such conditions could readily be a function of the particular moral standpoint and value judgements held by the clinician. The point is that if the psychiatrist were to hold strict moral views then he could easily conclude that a person was a psychopath if he were to hold values different from the psychiatrist.

In an age where young people are questioning the moral values held by society, any definition of what constitutes these symptoms as detailed above would be open to question one might well suggest that all young people are "psychopaths" - university students particularly.

Similarly too the argument that Marijuana gives rise to a psychic dependency" is also questionable (though some medical authorities such as the Auckland Star and N.Z. Herald might disagree). Some sort of "psychic dependence" could be supposed to exist among eaters of chocolate or yoghurt or anything at all. The term is so vague and indeterminable as to be meaningless.

Finally it has been argued that Marijuana provides a "means of escape" and as such its use should not be condoned. While this may indeed be so in a specific case, it could also be argued that it is also a social or personal stimulant. It would be very hard to determine in a specific instance whether it was being used in a negative manner (as a means of escape) or in a positive sense (as a social stimulant.)

This is not so much a criticism of the drug but rather a criticism of some people who use it. People who are a result of the conflict inherent in modern society and who, we might suppose would find some other "means of escape" if marijuana were unavailable.

So much for the issues associated with Marijuana, many of which are open to question. Meanwhile the Marijuana smoking population

continues to exist and to increase rapidly irrespective of the legal constraints in operation. One may wonder, noting this increasing flouting of the law, whether society will come to face this issue, whether the law will change to meet the change in the mores of a large section of the community, or whether on the American model, it will continue a strict unyielding policy of legal restriction.

A complete list of the references used can be obtained from the Craccum office.)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TAKE THE STUFF

In general, for Marijuana to have effects the user must cooperate with it and facilitate the effects. He must learn to allow himself to respond. There are some persons whose response to Marijuana is almost unnoticeable; their consciousness seems not to change. These may be persons who have fears about and strong defenses against losing control, and elements of their feeling, thoughts or action which threaten their control are strongly rejected.

Such personality systems are endangered by Marijuana effects and often maintain their structure against these effects. Sometimes they will respond, but what effects are occurring will be blocked from their conscious awareness. The most noticeable effect is often time distortion, indicated by long silences and broken often by a comment that nothing is happening.

The effect of the physical and interpersonal setting on the response to Marijuana is strong and usually controls the tone of the experience. (Refer Weil and Zinberg). The basic fact seems to be that the individual creates the reaction, not the drug. If the person feels under pressure, then the drug will enhance his feeling of stress, and the effect will depend on how the person can deal with the situation.

If he feels energetic the drug will enhance his willingness to be active. Some persons become less self conscious, others more so. Some move, others sit quietly. Some talk, others stay silent. There is thus a wide range of individual differences.

One must also expect different effects to occur from different times and varying physical and interpersonal surroundings. For some the effect is quite different when smoked alone than with other persons, probably because social situations bring out different personality elements and present various pressures.

One could probably say that the plant does everything anybody has claimed for it, but only in a situation which enables it to do whatever is claimed for it.

Given facilitating conditions, the following effects will develop. Sensations are enhanced and clarified: sight, hearing, taste and touch. Time perception changes. Attention becomes more unified, and moves more into preconscious material and the state of pure awareness. Many broad processes of association such as expectations and plans are reduced in number and relevance.

Inhibitions and suppressions relax, allowing emotions, thoughts, fantasies and memories to flow more freely. The development and strength of these effects will depend on the individual, the times he has used Marijuana, how he has used it, and the environment.

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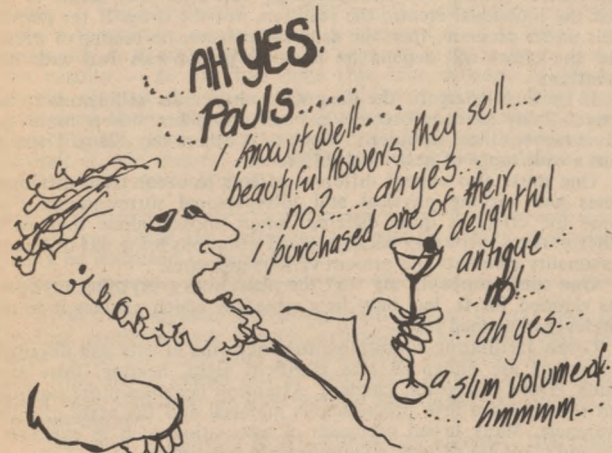
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THE LAW & POT

The prohibition of Marijuana is not only a phenomenon of the Western world but is apparent also in Latin America, and many countries of Africa and Asia. This legal prohibition has often been imposed where social customs associated with the use of Marijuana have existed prior to legislation and the use continues in the face of legal penalties, for example India and Egypt.

In some Western countries e.g. U.S.A. a considerable sub-culture has emerged in the last few decades whose norms include Marijuana smoking. This practice continues even in the face of existing heavy penalties for its use.

It might well be claimed that society has gone off its head over Marijuana and indeed considerable evidence could be gathered to support such a claim. Why for example, has the simple distinction between Marijuana and the opiates on the basis of physical addiction not been recognised in legislation?

There are some states in the U.S.A. where Marijuana smoking is defined as addiction and where addiction in itself is a punishable offence. Penalties for possession (first offence) can be as severe as 40 years gaol. The principal law enforcement agency, the Federal Bureau of Narcotics under Harry J. Anslinger until recently pursued a policy of harassment and intimidation of experts who disagreed with its official policy.

For decades it perpetuated claims that there was a strong connection between Marijuana and crime. This claim has never been substantiated by research.

In 1954 the FBN circulated an anonymous undated document attacking what they called "self-appointed experts" in what could best be described as a vituperous and irresponsible fashion. There have been instances where FBN officials have attempted to have critics of official policy dismissed from their positions and their research funds cut off. The Bureau is also reported to have attempted to discredit the findings of the American Bar Association - American Medical Association report in 1961. Commissioner Anslinger went so far as to suggest that members were trying to cover up addiction in their own ranks.

The Bureau also attempted to discredit the well-known 1944 La Guardia report. Professor Benjamin De Mort stated in 1962 "The Bureau's dismissal of its critics is often accompanied by an appeal to everything that is mean, ignorant, and illiberal in the American consciousness."

It is of interest to note that in 1965 the now national head of the CIB studied anti-drug law enforcement with the FBN in the U.S.A. However it has been suggested that the "repressive tactics" of the FBN may have been discontinued to some extent since Anslinger's retirement in 1962.

Special duty police in this country noted in 1965 that Marijuana was being brought into the country and peddled here. Special Vice Squads were formed in 1965 with their work based primarily on combating drug peddling (and taking).

In 1965 official concern of increasing drug trafficking was such that a new Narcotics Act (Marijuana is defined as a narcotic) was passed, doubling existing maximum penalties from 7 to 14 years and increasing maximum fines from \$400 to \$2000.

It appears that arguments against Marijuana in this country are the same as those offered many years ago in the U.S.A. and Britain and which are now rejected even by officials. The "stepping stone" thesis has been frequently put forward by both medical and enforcement authorities and this is reflected in the country's newspaper editorials.

Arguments connecting Marijuana to crime have also been put forward. There seems also to be a tendency to attack anyone who questions the "official line". Thus the Minister of Police earlier this year attacked what he called "... irresponsible statements by people with little or no understanding of the overall situation." The Minister of Health Mr McKay recently stated "Up to the present time the evidence was clear that the drug was unsafe, harmful and indeed socially disruptive."

Another phenomenon particular to the N.Z. scene is the naive reasoning on the part of officials. Thus recently the Head of the CIB argued that "A decline in illicit drug taking is indicated by the recent drop in the number of arrests..." This argument that arrests reflect drug taking is also frequently put forward by a prominent local psychiatrist. The fallacy should be obvious: a drop in the number of arrests can be explained by numerous factors, for example vice squad members being on holiday or drug takers changing their usual haunts or being more careful etc. and does not necessarily indicate that drug taking has lessened.

An impartial observer, noting the reaction of official authorities both here and overseas to Marijuana might ask why such polarization has occurred when there has been very little research carried out

in its social and physiological effects. Such research as has been carried has been described recently as "a collection of rumour, anecdote and second hand accounts ... very little is reliably known about the effects of Marijuana". This is incredible!

We live in what is termed a scientific age and yet almost every day we see quoted the opinions of some "expert" psychiatrist or law enforcement agent about Marijuana; opinions that are not based on scientific research but which rather reflect the moral judgements and prejudices of the people concerned.

This polarization on the part of authorities has been extended even to oppose attempts to carry out research. Weil and Zinberg and Nelson 1968 whose recent experimentation represents one of the few attempts at a strictly controlled psychological experiment on Marijuana refer to "the opposition we encountered from governmental agents and agencies and from University bureaucracies. Their study proceeded only with the permission of the Massachusetts Attorney General."

It is of interest to note that in their study a party of observers from the FBN and other law enforcement agencies were in attendance, most of whom had never seen anyone smoke Marijuana before. "Their universal reaction was extreme disappointment - disappointment that nothing had happened. It was not clear what they had expected to happen but they had expected something." Perhaps on this basis a nation-wide "turning on" session should be initiated for our legislators, politicians and police.

There have even been cases where applications to authorities to allow experimentation have been refused. While the need for research is apparent one wonders to what extent research needs to be carried out before a case for Marijuana could be presented. Drugs such as aspirin have been released for domestic consumption after what has essentially been pragmatic investigation into their effects.

In the case of aspirin the analgesic effects were noted, the drug did not seem to produce deleterious internal effects when given in moderate dose and the drug was released onto the market. Only recently have investigators examined its intricate biochemical effects. On the basis of this approach the case for Marijuana legislation would be clear. A visit to India would serve as the pragmatic experiment.

It is also of interest to note that in many arguments used to support "official" views concerning Marijuana, appeals to authority are common. Apart from the logical difficulties of such arguments, it is apparent that even from a pragmatic point of view such an appeal can often be questioned. The views, for example, of the United Nations Committee on Narcotic Drugs (an ostensibly authoritative body) are often officially quoted.

The U.S. official representative on this body is the ex-head of the FBN, Harry J. Anslinger the man responsible for the Bureau's extremely irrational policy from 1935-1962. Some have even considered Anslinger personally responsible by his rigidity for a good deal of America's present drug "problem". With this in mind, one might doubt any hope for a balanced appraisal of the Marijuana situation from such a body.

The AMA likewise enjoys a position of "responsibility", yet this body has its critics too. Some observers would reject almost anything that this body reported concerning Marijuana on account of its proven conservative if not reactionary views in the past. As recently as 1967, Weil et al. report a statement in the editorial of the AMA journal, warning physicians that one of the hazards of prolonged use of Marijuana was hypoglycemia (chronic low blood sugar levels). This unsubstantiated claim was subsequently undercut by their research.

One might note that it is officials from such bodies as these and law enforcement officials who are chosen as representatives for such organisations as the World Health Organisation etc. (Anslinger was also U.S. representative on WHO for many years.)

The point that can be made is that, as Weil and Zinberg note, since investigations into Marijuana have been scientifically deficient, even claims and opinions presented by the most august official bodies must not be accepted on face value (as our newspapers do), but rather must be critically examined to determine their scientific status (if any).

How long will the rigid and blind attitude to Marijuana continue? Must we continue to be subjected to the unsubstantiated biases of officials and medical authorities, and to the appeals of the mass media to these people? Must we continue to witness what represents a retreat from reason to emotion? While such a situation exists who is to say that the opinion of even eminent psychiatrists, politicians or law enforcement officials is of any more worth than that of the village dustman?

JOE RITCHEY(Law School)

The present laws dealing with marijuana were based on assumptions of years ago. I write this article, not to show that the use of marijuana should be legalized, but to show that past assumptions are being disproved by more recent scientific findings. I am concerned with respect for the rule of law. This respect will only be gained if the makers of laws base their laws on valid premises or at least on premises that appear to be valid. I point out though that in a democracy, it is for the people's representatives to draw the lines as to permissible conduct. So long as the legislature outlaws marijuana, its use, even in moderation, is fraught with the gravest personal risks. While the risks may not be mental or physical deterioration, they may be social and legal. Therefore, under the present laws, marijuana use is, and must be, disapproved.

But, could the present laws be changed? Mr McKay, Minister of Health, was stated in the Wellington Evening Post, August 20 1969, as saying "The New Zealand Government for a long time has taken the position that it was up to those who wanted marijuana decontrolled to prove that the drug was safe to individuals and to society ... Up to the present time the evidence was clear that the drug was unsafe, harmful and indeed, socially disruptive". As to this quote, I hope I may assume that few advocates of the legalization of marijuana would want complete decontrol. The question is not should 5 or 6 year olds be able to buy it at their local candy store, but should adults be able to choose for themselves what they shall do with their lives. Also, I hope I can assume that Mr McKay did not mean that those who wanted some decontrol had to prove that marijuana was absolutely safe in all instances to all individuals and society. This cannot be the test since such a requirement would require that even the use of sugar be banned. The Minister also claimed that "marijuana distorted perception of time and clouded understanding of the real world." It is assumed that these factors alone do not make the case for complete prohibition. If they did, one questions the use of novels, the watching of movies, and the use of TV. They are all important means of escape from the dullness of life, help distort the passage of time, relieve boredom with time, and too often cause a distorted perception of life as it really was, is, and will be.

Thus, we are left with the statement that if people want marijuana legalized in some instances, they must prove the use of the drug is relatively safe. I regret that I must disqualify myself from commenting on the evidence available to the New Zealand authorities. I can only comment on the American experience. In 1967 the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice reported "with the possible exception of the 1944 La Guardia report (a study which present investigators question - see Weil et al), no careful and detailed analysis of the American experience seems to have been attempted. Basic research has almost been nonexistent".

(The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1967). The Commission recommended "The National Institute of Mental Health should devise and execute a plan of research, to be carried on, on both an intramural and extramural basis, covering all aspects of marijuana use."

England also has reviewed the evidence upon which marijuana control is based. The Wootton Committee reported last year "It can clearly be argued on the world picture that cannabis (marijuana) use does not lead to heroin addiction ... We have concluded that a risk of progression to heroin from cannabis is not a reason for retaining control over the drug".

However they spoke of the risk of progression and the lack of evidence to show that there was in fact a casual progression. At this point I wish to take up the discussion of the more recent scientific evidence that is undermining respect for the present marijuana laws. The laws are based upon two premises: 1. Marijuana leads on to hard drugs. 2. Marijuana itself is a very dangerous drug. 1. The President's Commission in 1967 reported that scientific evidence on this assumption was deficient and recommended "The charge that marijuana leads to the use of addicting drugs needs to be critically examined (id 225). On August 7 of this year the Commissioner of New York City's Addiction Services Agency told Congress, "It is equally true that many young people throughout the United States, particularly on college campuses, know from personal experience that marijuana use does not lead inevitably to heroin addiction or crime. If we continue to insist that it does, we lose our credibility with this group". (N.Z. Herald, 8.8.69). The Wootton Report has been criticised by Wade (New Society 1969). The article drew upon a report by Paton, Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford. Paton did not perform any experiments but based his conclusions on statistics of incidence of heroin consumption and of marijuana smoking. Paton concluded that the progression to hard drugs may seem more attractive to someone who has run into personal trouble and wants to escape. This is especially true, he says, if that person has tried marijuana and found escape through drugs one solution to his problems.

It must be admitted that people who because of personal problems find they must escape, and who have tried marijuana might well try it again. That is, of course, if they found marijuana an escape. But that does not mean that he will move on to hard drugs. He will move on only if he finds marijuana does not provide the needed escape. If this is so, marijuana is no way at fault for the progression; the mind of the user is at the base of the set up. In fact, on these grounds society might be better off to have marijuana around. If you have X number of people who have made up their minds to escape through drugs, be it alcohol, marijuana, or heroin, it is arguably wiser to allow them to use a soft drug instead of forcing them onto a

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hard drug. This is, of course, assuming that marijuana is a soft drug. Anyway, this argument of escape fits only a small segment of marijuana users. Statistics indicate about 10% progress to hard drugs. (Wade, id. 118).

Related to this discussion is the argument that the smoking of marijuana lets down the barrier to drugs. But it would seem that this argument is based on a misunderstanding of the drug taker. The decision to let the barriers down precedes the smoking of marijuana. The barriers have already fallen before marijuana comes into the picture. The question seems more to be, 'Once the barriers have fallen, how is escape going to be achieved?' That being the question, then one should ask, 'Is it better to allow escape with marijuana than to escape with opium, or heroin?' If the answer is yes, then one must still ask 'Are we going to allow any sort of escape?' Society already has said yes. It allows alcohol, TV, books, and many other forms of escape. It draws the line at marijuana. Why? Because marijuana by itself is a dangerous drug. Is it? But again, it is noted that escape is only one of the reasons given for the use of marijuana. It is the reason usually given by inmates of institutions, or by the psychiatrist, who were seeking escape by one means or another and usually combine marijuana with hard drugs. Some people claim to smoke marijuana simply to increase the enjoyment of listening to music, watching a movie, making love, or just for relaxing and easing tensions.

2. So far we have been speaking as if marijuana smoking were not in itself as harmful as hard drugs. That it is not as physically or mentally harmful as opium, heroin, or morphine is fairly conceded on the basis of present evidence. That marijuana smoking is not as bad physically as alcohol seems indicated. It does not cause deterioration of the liver or kidneys, does not seem to effect the heart except for transitory increase in the pulse rate, and is not known to effect the arteries. Extremely few users have reported handovers. It is not physically addicting and tolerance is not built up to the drug. While most need to learn to hold their alcohol and some slowly find more drink is needed to get high, users of marijuana report a reverse tolerance. Weil and Zinberg, speculate that users learn how to let marijuana effect them and that users can easily suppress the effects. (p. 1241).

Weil, Zinberg and Nelson studied the effects of smoking marijuana on persons who had never smoked it before and on regular users. The studies were undertaken after legislative restrictions and "public reaction sometimes verging on hysteria" were overcome. After smoking two marijuana cigarettes the naive (prior non-users) experienced few subjective changes. "Non-users reported little euphoria, no distortion of visual or auditory perception, and no confusion". But, in a simple test of cognitive function, performance of the naive subjects was "grossly impaired". New Society, January 1969). Regular users "started from good baselines and improved slightly after smoking marijuana". In a specialized test of muscular co-ordination and attention, naive subjects lowered performance after smoking. All regular users "started from good baselines and improved". On time perception slightly less than half of the naive users increased estimates of a 5 minute interval from 5 minutes \pm 2 to 10 minutes \pm 2. No report for the regular users was given. Weil et al concluded with the comment that "marijuana appears to be a relatively mild intoxicant (and) users have consistently reported that the effects of marijuana are easily suppressed - much more so than

those of alcohol". They called for much further experimentation on the fact of suppressability, which has many social and legal implications. (New Society, page 86).

Recently, researchers at Washington University determined the effect of a "normal social marijuana high" on simulated driving performance. Experienced users of marijuana were used as subjects. The performances were compared with performance rendered under the influence of alcohol. The alcohol level was set at the U.S. legally defined line of intoxication, 10% alcohol in the blood. The findings were 84.5 errors with no drug administered, 97.5 errors with the drug alcohol, and 84.5 errors with the drug marijuana. The study could not determine if marijuana smoking would alter the speed at which subjects normally drive. But it was speculated that if the speed was effected, it would be in a downward direction. Tests were also conducted to see if increasing greatly the marijuana does would alter the results. The intake was increased by a factor of three, but "none of the subjects showed a significant change". The researchers also decided to test persons who had never used marijuana. After smoking two cigarettes of marijuana "all subjects showed either no change or negligible improvements". (Science, May 1969).

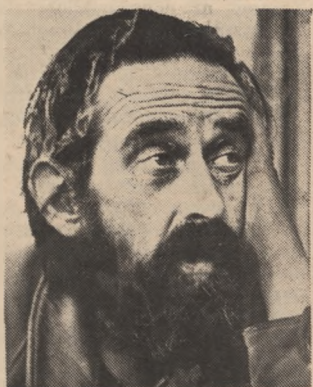
The above findings seem inconsistent with the report of the American Medical Association. In June of 1968 the A.M.A. issued a report condemning the use of marijuana. The report was based on the work of Isbell at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. (Psychopharmacologia 11:184 1967). Isbell administered what is thought to be the basic active chemical component of marijuana. A synthetic of trans-tetrahydrocannabinol was orally administered to imprisoned opiate addicts. The oral preparations induced mood and mental changes. Injection of the chemical into cigarettes and the smoking of cigarettes produced "marked distortion in visual and auditory perception, depersonalization, derealization and hallucinations", (id. at 186). No tests were conducted with natural marijuana, nor were any tests performed on persons other than the inmates. For these reasons the A.M.A. remarks are not accurate in attributing psychotic reactions to marijuana. Also, no attempt seems to have been made to correlate a synthetic 'high' to a 'high' with natural marijuana.

In conclusion, the laws on marijuana are based on assumptions that current scientific evidence questions. This is not to say the use of marijuana should be legalized, at least certainly not without some restrictions. It simply means that present assumptions should be replaced by theories consistent with the evidence, or that present assumptions should be proven by further research. If present assumptions upon which marijuana laws are based are simply blindly retained, respect for the rule of law will be lessened. Thus, in the light of the present evidence, only one thing is clear. It is, that until the use of marijuana is legalized, anyone contemplating its use should seriously consider if the ruined life that may result from charge and conviction is worth the moment's high. The answer is plain and marijuana use is not advised.

Joe Ritchey
Visiting Lecturer
Psychology '65, Law '68
Stanford University

Viewpoint

JAMES K. BAXTER poet and social worker



From long and intensive observation I have come to the conclusion that Marijuana is less harmful in its physical and mental effects than alcohol. There are many people in our mental hospitals with wet brains as a result of alcoholism. There are not, to my knowledge any there on account of the use of Marijuana.

Most legislators recognise this. But they argue that the use of Marijuana may lead to the use of addictive and potentially lethal drugs. The argument is circular. If people get Marijuana, like other drugs, from illegal sources, then they may use other drugs. But if they were able to buy Marijuana from the local tobacconist, it might lead to cigarette addiction, but not, say, to an addiction to morphine.

The behaviour of the police in enforcing the law regarding the possession and use of Marijuana is highly aggressive and unintelligent. Frequently a user of hard or soft drugs may shift on to Marijuana for a cure. It will hurt less than whisky. But the police will arrest such a person without discrimination and harry and bully in an effort to acquire information about Marijuana sources, treating Marijuana (which is non-addictive) as if it were an addictive drug.

I think the use and possession of Marijuana should be legalised immediately, to relieve us of domination by the subconscious prejudices of policeman, MPs and dictatorial doctors. It is absurd when a teenager can be arrested for smoking a joint, while his father drinks a pint of whisky daily and his mother is steadily going mad on legally prescribed amphetamines.

CECIL LEWIS dean, auckland medical school



There are two fundamental background issues. First, society must continuously look at its various institutions in order that they may be repeatedly renewed and evolve to meet the demands of a changing social and physical environment. If institutions are not subjected to repeated re-appraisal and criticism they soon become obsolescent and incorporate dangerous inequities. Some would say that this is the most potent cause of disharmony within society, and of volatile relationships between different countries. Secondly, society must accept its obligation to face the great moral issues and dilemmas which now face it in increasing proportions. In attempting to provide solutions and to determine its viewpoint it should take into account the opinion of available experts. But the ultimate

decision must be society's and it is again dangerous for society to use an expert as the arbiter of morality within the field of his expertise.

With this background I welcome an expression of opinion by University students for this represents a viewpoint by one of our most important social determinants. On the issue of Marijuana I would ask whether the opinion expressed was representative and whether available evidence had been reviewed. If the answer is positive in each instance, then I accept fully the opinion which emerged - not necessarily as authoritative or correct but as a valuable contribution to thought and possible solution of one of the many problems which society has an obligation to face.

Three years ago I was chairman of a meeting organised by the University Students' Society to which members of the public were invited. This was one of three sessions devoted to the drug problem. At that time my evidence was that from the pharmacological viewpoint there was little evidence to condemn pure Marijuana as a toxic product. It is fair to say that there was no more evidence to show that it was not a toxic product - the question was wide open. The opinion I expressed did not refer to the social implications of Marijuana and did not concern any drug other than Marijuana. Since then there has been considerable world-wide interest in the subject and the evidence would lead me to be rather more cautious. Even so, the evidence is still inconclusive and it is with regard to the long-term toxic properties which may follow the long term use of Marijuana.

Indulgence in this drug is, of course, a form of escape and this is something for which society is always seeking to provide new and acceptable means. Changing one's name and going to another country is one method - so is suicide, alcohol and the use of many other drugs. Escape may be a self-induced mental change in the form of ecstasies, hallucinations, and so on.

This raises the issue of whether escape is something socially commendable since presumably if large numbers escaped our social system would represent a beehive with workers and an equally large number of drones. Presumably a vigorous society is one in which nearly all its members are actively and vigorously concerned in the problems which confront it and do not seek to evasion and apathetic non-committal. The argument that society accepts alcohol and should therefore accept Marijuana is a specious one. The fact that society condones, or at least cannot easily rid itself of - a number of evils makes no case for the admission of another. Abuse of alcohol may lead to known cerebral abnormalities, disease of the stomach, of the liver, and of many other organs. It may lead to the outlet of aggressive tendencies and must be designated blameworthy for the catastrophic incidence of death and mutilation on the highways. For all its social pleasures and acceptance, it is an evil and can hardly be defended.

Finally, I understand that New Zealand is a signatory to international agreement banning the use of Marijuana and hence any lifting of the ban as the result of a change of opinion by society is a matter with international implications, rather than an internal and national issue.

PROF TIMMS sociology

"By making anything illegal you give it an extra thrill value. It automatically cuts the person who behaves in the prescribed way off from conventional society, and sets up, as it were, a self-amplification system. As soon as you're doing X that is illegal, there is no reason why you shouldn't do Y and Z that are also illegal.

By bracketing Marijuana with other drugs, making it illegal, you abolish a barrier to progression to harder drugs.

The other thing, a corollary to this, since there will be risks in distributing Marijuana, the distribution is likely to be handled by professional traffickers who will also be handling harder drugs and its in their interests of course to get people hooked onto something which is more profitable. This is of course similar to the argument against prohibition."

Professor D.W. Timms Professor of Sociology

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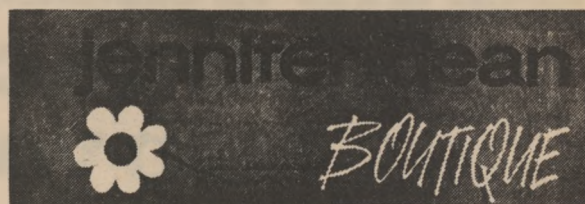
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Records

"David's Album": Joan Baez
Caedmon PC 1002

Joan Baez has never been particularly good at reflecting trends within popular music possibly because her records always seem to be recorded about the time a particular style begins to wane, or at least when it has reached bandwagon proportions, and so, despite the high technical quality of her latest record it's just another country music record and is therefore simply dull.

Though Joan Baez often achieved brilliance within the narrowly circumscribed folk idiom, her ventures into other styles have been only moderately successful because of the lack of flexibility in her voice, and because of her inability to project real emotion. Her choice of material is often unfortunate also and on this record she attempts to rework such clapped out musical clichés as "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" and "The Green Green Grass of Home".

The session group on the record is Nashville Skyline and includes country music stalwart Grady Martin and Dyland back-up men Pete Drake and Kenneth Buttrey. There's some fine steel guitar and mandolin work and vocal assistance is provided by the Jordanaires in the traditional "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" and by Joan Baez' sister, Mimi (Farina) Melvin on "Poor Wayfaring Stranger". Fortunately no great attempt has been made to seek out the ethnic roots of country and western music and in fact the record is more "cityfied" than the Byrds "Sweetheart of the Rodeo".

By comparison with several other folk oriented singers, Joan Baez' recent records including "David's Album" have been at best, ordinary. Joni Mitchell has shown much greater sensitivity in her music, as well as writing her own material; Judy Collins has consistently chosen better songs and sung them more competently; and two new singers Elyse Weinberg and Lotti Golden are each writing and singing impressive folk-based music.

Happily, despite the fact that the lyrics on the LP are straight country, Joan Baez is able to continue her uncompromising stand on matters of conscience by dedicating the record to her activist husband who is currently serving three years imprisonment for refusing to be drafted.

— Rene Wilson

"A Child's Christmas in Wales":
Dylan Thomas
VSO 79308

First recorded in 1952, this L.P. remains the only L.P. featuring Dylan Thomas' voice exclusively.

A first for both Caedmon studios and Thomas, excellent production has saved it from being amateurish. Instead there is an easy, informal nature to the whole recording.

Consisting largely of Thomas' better poetic works the first release sold because of the prose title "A Child's Christmas in Wales". It will also be the selling feature of this new re-release.

Such poems on the L.P. as "Fern Hill", "Do not go gently into that goodnight", "Ceremony after a fire raid", are poems probably selected as Thomas' favourites. Thus his personality is projected into each. Attempts to emulate Thomas reading his own works by such Shakespearian actors as Richard Burton have fallen far short of Thomas himself for this reason.

This L.P. is Thomas at his best, a much welcome re-release.

Rave Marat-Sade

The one-night performance of "Marat/Sade" by Peter Weiss opened Arts Festival drama with an impact that the rest of the week struggled in vain to live up to.

The Brechtian device of distancing an action so that it can be judged objectively was extended by having Mervyn Thompson, the actual producer playing Sade — the madman who in turn is the producer of the play within the play. Such distancing combined with Art-audian immediacy and violence puts the whole question of revolution under dynamic investigation. Weiss forces us to face contradictions taking the responsibility for finding answers

off the dramatist and putting it on to the audience.

The final climax made this horrifically clear — the patients of the asylum leapt into the audience in a delirious theatrical orgasm which excited the audience to a near standing ovation. The violent finale was felt by some to mar the performance by "going too far" but surely the point of the play is that having madmen play historical figures the rationality of history is brought into question. At all times violence was controlled in ritualistic patterns and herein lay the success of the production.

The one main fault of the production was Marat's nightmare scene. The change of visual media — from realistic to luminous painted masks merely gave discontinuity.

Sometimes volume took precedence over word clarity, especially in the case of Roux, the mad priest. But mostly the speech was clear and rode the supporting music and sound-effects well. Jane Thompson, playing the singer Rossignol was superb in this respect.

Every member of the cast coped with the dual task of playing madman and historical figure. Corday, played by Catherine Wilkin delivered her lines compellingly and achieved a startling synthesis of sonambulist and fanatic virgin murderess. Bill Stalkers' intensely staring Marat was likewise excellent.

How much the enormous success of the play was due to the producer and actors and how much the playwright is hard to ascertain, but Mervyn Thompson must take substantial credit for the production. However, this question of play versus player becomes more sharply relevant when we consider the other production Canterbury had at the Festival — John Bowen's "After the Rain", which was a failure in both respects.

Lesley Kauser.



Over the last few years young poets writing in New Zealand have moved away from the attempt to create a "New Zealand Literature" through landscape and history and have begun writing in a more international vein — urban poetry and love poetry unrelated to its normal surroundings. The individual vision has become more important than the conscious creation of a tradition.

Now the change in young New Zealand writing has gone a step further with the publication of "Freed" which demands not merely poetry with universal significance but the abandonment of poetic form as such. "Freed" is not an other dreary little yearbook/anthology — it is a revolutionary manifesto of anti-art. And if the Dada revolution has been half a century in reaching these shores — at least it is here now.

"Freed" is probably the first New Zealand literary magazine to utilise the theories of the new media. Word and graphic image are blended and juxtaposed, the poems unfold not only on a verbal but on a visual level, the placement of words and the interpolation of space becomes a significant part of the total effect. The poem is presented as an experience in itself, no merely as a record of some past insight. It is there for you to make what you will of it.

"The poet does not manipulate words he explores the emotive and descriptive potentialities of language"

— Alan Brunton

Words but extend
the darkness & bend
the light

— David Mitchell in "The Visitors"

Throughout there is a dissatisfaction with words as a means of communication with poetry as a stylisation of emotion and not a direct experience. It is most extreme in Alan Brunton's vicious butchering of poetic form. Russell Haley holds it up to ridicule by cutting up his words and joining them together quite arbitrarily so that while their meaning is still present their form has been utterly destroyed.

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Technically "Freed" is splendid (layout by David Kisler). If it is compared with the Arts Festival Yearbook or any New Zealand literary publication for that matter it is obvious how much more advanced it is in conception. It is backed throughout by a consistent anti-poetic which with the new ground it breaks makes it more a manifesto than a magazine.

— Sam the Orc.

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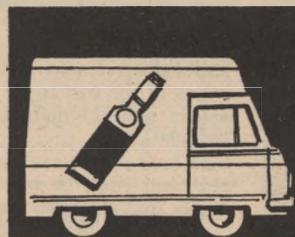
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THE ARTS



ELAM WIN AT DUNEDIN

That Alexis Hunter's was the prize-winning entry in this exhibition indicates both the superiority of the Elam work over that of Ilam's random expressionism and a motley of amateur art-work from the other universities. Her self-portrait was an elegantly constructed and cohesive whole and showed a careful definition of the spaces which she had taken to investigate. This consideration for the geometry of painting was obvious also in David Brady's perspective studies while Norm Bilbrough's portrait of Greer Twiss revealed the economy of technique that distinguishes this group.

Ted Spring's contributions were not substantial, but, within the small area of vision that he chooses to work, there was a detail of colour despite an unlikely selection of objects. Geoff Tune's Mt Eden landscape was purchased but is an uninteresting, one-dimensional work; one would have thought that purchasing awards would have gone to more investigative works such as Darien Takle's penetrating, psychological study of a domestic couple or Phil Butler's self portrait with its integration of theme and colour.

Of the other universities, Canterbury exposed a lack of intellectual involvement in a series of aimless colours; Otago, academic realism, but unexpectedly sensitive brushwork. Massey's few entries can be quickly dismissed as inferior, a couple of pointless pictorial paintings.

The guest painters — Smithers and Hutson — did not add in depth to the exhibition. Smithers' family groupings were real occasions but his caricature figures were positioned in a distraction of poses with an unpleasant conflict of colours. Hutson, from Dunedin, lacked any rapprochement with his chosen influences and revealed little thematic feeling in blowing-up random details from Francis Bacon. Hotere's works were outstanding in their pure abstraction and professional qualities. Unfortunately, his three contributions were disconcertingly superior to the rest of the exhibition and tended to abort all the viewer's attention.

— Alan Brunton

The availability of cheap art works in the form of engravings, prints etc is not a new phenomenon. For over 300 years artists have made money and increased their reputation through the sale of mass produced works. At the same time the mass produced art form has enabled the spread of artistic thought to a greater extent than the larger oil, watercolour or fresco. However, the 1970's will see a dramatic change in the mass produced work of art and in the whole concept of art.

The concept of the single original will fade. Science and technology will permit the reproduction of even oil paintings. Other examples can be seen locally, Epstein's "Rock Drill" in the Auckland Art Gallery is one of three. Greer Twiss has been working on the multiple formed by vacuum pump forming.

This will result in the wide distribution of original works, the artist will not lose his integrity because he will be financially independent. Only

one large problem will loom up; while the multi-millionaire will no longer have complete control of the art market, industry and commerce will.

The Barry Lett Gallery is soon to have available a set of 12 prints for \$40. A person will then be in possession of 12 "original" prints. The artists represented are all prominent New Zealand artists: Hanly, Ellis, McCahon, Wollaston Smithers, Binney, Williams, Illingworth, Hotere, Mrkusich, Walters and Ritchie.

The Pat Hanly "Inside the Garden" is the most impressive of all partly because the style and content are new to the artist and partly the method of production. The print is produced by block and stencils and finished by the artist dripping paint onto each print. Hanly in this work as in his "Inside the Garden" watercolour series is investigating a personal approach to light, colour and form. The basis of vision becomes light and colour. Form is emphasised, distorted or in some way

affected by light and colour — these are presented (and applied) separately from the form.

Just as in his "Tamarillo" print and his "Love Scene — Molecular Aspect" we are to be given a form, a distinct form but light and colour are applied randomly. Within the gardens figuration there is a constant interplay in the visual appearance due to light and colour. The form remains but the aspect changes (this is further emphasised by the fact that each print will be different because the artist intervenes, like some God giving a new appearance to the same form). It is the expression of idea and his style which makes this print a worthwhile possession on its own.

The McCahon "North Otago Landscape" is one of his best examples of the landscape as symbol. McCahon produces land forms which express much of his feeling for the relationship of earth and sky as well as producing an abstract form which expresses the very nature of the relationship. This print has a greater degree of expression, with its firm line and strong colour than many of his previous landscapes.

Most of his works can be clearly identified for they are well known examples of the artist's style. The Mrkusich "Passive Element" still displays in its own curious way a link between science, religion and art. With the circle contained by a rectangle but at the same time kept aloft by its own energy. The Ellis displays an excellent control of the subject the city area slowly thrust from its position and the dynamic motorway taking over — the motorway as a symbol of destruction and dynamism which destroys but at the same time is a beautiful object itself.

These prints are not merely the chance to obtain 'cheap' art, rather they enable every one to enjoy and live with the part of our social life — art, which so many have been unable to purchase.

— J.D.P.



Robert Ellis / MOTORWAYS / 22" x 18"

THE AUCKLAND ADELAIDE FILM FESTIVAL

Big money and big film usually mean big profit. In New Zealand especially, distributors shy away from the "little" film because they frequently lose money. Even films by such eminent directors as Godard and Truffaut are being turned down as possible box-office flops. The Auckland/Adelaide International Film Festival is New Zealand's first real Film Festival. It will give film fiends an opportunity to see important films which would not otherwise come, even through film societies.

Most of the films are characterised by their "smallness"; that is, low budget. This means small cost, few or no "big stars", and no heated swimming pools with underwater stereo sound systems. Exploding Ferraris, helicopters and jets are out of the question. No Big Action. (Exceptions to this are "The Column", and probably "The Red and White").

The "small" film has its advantages, though. The director may actually know his cameraman! In fact, he probably wrote the screenplay and is good friends with the actors. His film has a greater chance of being stamped by an individual style, a necessary ingredient for a work of art and something the Hollywood machine is at pains to produce merely because it is too big.

The two Czechoslovakian entries, "Capricious Summer" and "Report on the Party and the Guests", are good examples of the "small" film by writer-director Jiri Menzel, set in a provincial Czech village 70 years ago. It is a colour print of remarkable clarity. Three desolate characters who form the elite of their village soak up the last rays of the summer sun, and swim and fish in the river.

Menzel leads us into the film by a series of quick shots which establish location, season and mood without resorting to dialogue — rain on the river, sunshine, the priest sampling wine, the swimming master lowering his bulk gingerly into the water, still puffing his pipe.

Like his characters, Menzel is leisurely, witty, but not incapable of violence. The portly priest has his ear half torn off (accidentally) by drunken villagers while trying to seduce the visiting trapeze artist's mistress, and afterwards the camera observes the swimming master philosophically sewing it back on with some used fishing line. The tightrope artist is shaken off his wire only to be beaten up later by the retired major, who has just found himself incapable of seducing the artist's mistress. In fact, none of the three heroes succeeds through no fault of the poor girl, who seems destined to be disappointed.

Some of the most beautiful sequences in the film are reminiscent of Fellini, and are even accompanied by a recurring Felliniesque circus-music motif: the little gypsy caravan appearing as if by magic along the riverbank followed by a bespectacled magician who walks over the river on a pole and conjures a meal out of our sedentary heroes. It is a delightful film, although it drags a little in places. It is a result of fine rapport, an intimacy between actors, camera and director which "big" film usually lacks, and no amount of money can create.

This quality, the delight in partaking in creation, is evinced by the characters who are capable of conveying subtle changes in thought by slightly altering expression or posture. Instead of the alternative — cut to camera close-up of Man Grinning Wickedly. Thus, continuity in style which adds to the film's effect. A neat, witty, ending with its implication that life goes on, sadly, rounds off a fine little film.

"Report on the Party and the Guests" in black and white is directed by Jan Nemec ("Diamonds of the Night"). This film is no joke. Anticipating the Russian Invasion of Czechoslovakia, (it was released during the Dubcek regime) while being an effective study of the bully. Unlike a film with the same subject, "The Incident", it is overtly allegorical. However, Nemec's style is also different. He "addresses" his camera to the individual character — that is, square on facial close-up. Each character is very close, and is addressing you. The acting is effective enough so you actually experience each character. As a result the film has an immediacy or sense of urgency which is quite disturbing. Unfortunately, the message is just a little too clear, and the ending tends to triteness. The film falls short because of this, but the technique — getting to know each character by facial close up instead of showing the person-talked-to as well — totally cinematic and unusual. The bully, all piggy eyes and grinning mouth in a tremendous performance of coy sadism, plays havoc with one's self-esteem.

The Roumanian entry, "The Column", is really distinguished only by its proportions. A cast of 25,000 plays havoc with intimacy, and the effect is of a bad Cecil B. De Mille. Nevertheless, there are some interesting shots, especially at the beginning where the cameras are frequently hand-held. It is, however (in the words of another) "good family fare" and appropriately screens on Saturday.

I haven't seen the rest of the films, but I have some interesting material on them. "The Red and the White", directed by Miklos Jancso, is a Russo-Hungarian production shot in only three weeks. Set in the Civil War of 1918 its theme is the deadening futility of conflict.

Reputedly an excellent film, it shows the Red revolutionary forces and White government troops moving back and forth across the screen like pawns in a chess game, and the political tables are turned so frequently that the audience becomes detached from the carnage.

"The Bofors Gun", directed by Jack Gold, screenplay by John McGrath (who wrote the play) and starring Nicol Williamson (Inadmissible Evidence) and David Warner (Morgan). Most of the action takes place in the barracks of a British Army camp in Germany, 1954. Warner is a commander who dislikes army life and wants to be liked. Williamson is under him, a drunken, violent man who cannot adjust to army life.

It is said to be well-acted, absorbing, and highly emotional, but a rather uncinematic rendering of the play.

Information is scarce on the other films, but two in particular will be worth seeing — "The Adventure of Goopy and Baghi", and "Au Hazard, Balthazar". Both films are sure to be magnificent, created as they are by two of the world's most brilliant directors, Satyajit Ray and Bresson.

— S.P.

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A scene from "Capricious Summer"

'the FALL & REDEMPTION of MAN'



We saw, perhaps, the best night's entertainment by the theatre company this year in Roy Hope's production of "The Fall and Redemption of Man" by John Bowen. Yet it is questionable whether we can call what we saw a play, for it consisted of a string of fragments from a large number of Mediaeval guild plays loosely tied together in an attempt to illustrate the theme of the play.

The period from which the different plays are drawn would stretch over two centuries which saw a considerable variation both in the style of writing and dramatic achievement. Bowen's occasional interpolations and bridge passages between some of the plays introduced yet another and rather stilted style of language.

Even so something was of the occasionally very exciting scenes in the material and the episodes judged individually were often very successful. In many ways the opening section was the most exciting, showing man's fall from Paradise according to the Chester miracle play. Farrell Cleary had the size and dignity required of him as God, and his characterisation had just the right hint of harshness to make him more than human. As in all the episodes the humour of the situation was intelligently exploited particularly in Adam and Eve's embarrassing fig leaf episode.

In each of the subsequent episodes one or more of the group of a dozen actors took a leading role with others as extras, and this required rather more flexibility than the less experienced members of the cast could handle. So Stephen Smithyman for example was delightfully in his element as the ageing Joseph outraged to find his wife (Darien Takle) pregnant.

But subsequently as Judas he lacked this confidence. Alan Brunton's rave as Herod made up in beauty and noise what it lacked in dramatic credibility, but he was rather clumsy and unsatisfactory as Peter. Three of the men stand out as being really able to meet the different characters they portrayed — Farrell Cleary, Stephen Gordon and Murray Edmond in their more and less rewarding roles.

The play's second half was largely concerned with the passion of Christ, and it was here that the weaknesses of Bowen's text became most apparent. Suffering was often portrayed in the middle ages by a dramatic form of great subtlety bordering on farce and concentrating heavily on minor figures such as torturers, corrupt judges and soldiers. This sort of farce is very difficult to bring off, particularly in a closed theatre where audience reaction and participation are limited by hundreds of years or pre-conditioning — and apart from this we suffer from the handicap of not living most of our lives by the Bible any more, as the townspeople for whom the plays were written to a great extent did.

The text gave the minor characters with one or two exceptions little chance to inflict much of the very necessary pain and anguish which underlies their macabre joking and often they were simply not up to it. Christ played by Don Colebrook failed to move me as he might have. However, I don't know where Bowen dug his crucifixion play out, but even the greatest actor would have been able to make nothing out of moving out of the empty sterile little couplets Jesus was asked to mouth for almost the entire second act.

Occasionally as the words moved closer to their scriptural basis one's sympathy was engaged for a moment, only to be quickly lost moments later. Finally a word about the set — simply consisting of a platform raised on trestles, under which actors sat, sucking lozenges, waiting to go on, with three different levels on it, supplemented by the ground level used for bigger scenes. Once or twice the brilliant white-pine structure tended to dominate the actors a little, particularly in the domestic scenes, but it did represent a good compromise between the traditional source and the modern rendering of it.

— neds.

CHESS



Auckland, with a travel weary and understrength team lost the universities chess title by half a point at Otago, after holding it for two years.

The traditional inter-varsity

tournament was a small affair with only three teams entered.

Results of the teams tournament were: Canterbury 8, Auckland 7, Otago 2. Combined universities also had a clear win over the Otago Chess Club.

The Universities Chess Council made recommendations to the New Zealand Chess Federation voicing displeasure in the way Bruce Anderson, a Canterbury student, and joint New Zealand champion, had been treated in regard to this year's triennial Zone 10 Tournament in Singapore.

It asked that the New Zealand champion should be given first preference, regardless of monetary considerations, to compete in the Zone 10 Tournament, and that long term financial planning be undertaken to provide adequate finance to reduce the importance of monetary considerations.

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ARTS FESTIVAL



Stephenson comments

Has the concept of Arts Festival become outmoded? The primary impression which most spectators and participants noted about this year's festival was its lack of imagination and the over-pricing of admission to functions. Where does the fault lie for this?

The fault for this does not lie with the host controllers but with the NZU Arts Council. Overall control of Arts Festival needs to be re-examined particularly in its financial and administrative aspects. At present, too much attention is focused on the financial feasibility of such an undertaking by the host university, thus detracting from the original concept of promoting cultural activities within the universities. Arts Festival must be taken from the individual university setting and placed in the hands of Arts Council.

The major source of income should be commercial firms, and government grants, which have been obtained with such successful results in the Australian Universities Arts Festival. Another source should be the constituent universities. This would allow continuous liaison between constituent cultural affairs officers and regular meetings to decide on the format and administration of each Festival. Too often Arts Festival Controller leaves without informing future Controllers of the difficulties in administration. At present the criteria of financial success or cultural success alternate in emphasis depending on the tenor of the host university.

Otago, unfortunately, chose the former with the result that the unplanned fringe activities remained the most enjoyable. One of the ideals of Arts Festival is that it produces spontaneous activities because of its very nature of collecting a large group of talented people together. At present every activity is predetermined and finite which automatically excludes the underlying ideal of Arts Festival. This was evidenced by the lack of representation of contemporary trends in the arts, especially in music, literature, fine arts and photography.

If New Zealand Universities Arts Council retained overall control including the appointment of controllers, this would allow for continuity in administration and more importantly allow for improvement in the overall quality of the Arts represented. More discussion groups and seminars chaired by prominent artists could only better irrelevant cocktail parties, ostensibly arranged to promote cultural discussion.

The alternative is a social extravaganza. Just what were they trying to promote in Dunedin? The situation is fast becoming perilous, for talented groups of people, especially on the experimental side, do not bother to participate in such an organisation. Thus the standard is necessarily lowered. Secondly the financial organisation as such distinguishes the audience and the performer — the former is bearing the increasing financial burden, prohibitive to the majority of students.

— JRAS



Although frustrated by the bureaucracy of the Otago library authorities, Auckland Architectural students eventually managed to mount a display of prominent New Zealand architects' work. Unfortunately the display was mounted in such an obscure corner of the Common room that few people even knew it existed.

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Jazz

This year's Arts Festival jazz concert drew a crowd of 600 into a small and stuffy museum auditorium. Many jazz purists may have been horrified with the selection of groups, but with a variety, boredom was kept at a medium.

Take for example, the opening group, a Vaudeville band. Old tunes like "Who's your lady friend" and "Side by Side" have been bastardized by the world's best and worst vocalists, but the "Frank E. Evans Lunchtime Entertainment Band" (Auck) showed how they may have sounded in their original forms. Dave Neumegan proved himself to be a first rate ragtime pianist in an uptempo version of "Baby Face".

A quickly thrown together Dixie Band (Otago and Canterbury) scored minus points for their efforts. Clarinetist Robin Mohi may sound like Benny Goodman, but surely doesn't solo like him. "Muskat Ramble", sounded more like a muskrat rumble with all the lead instruments vying for solos at the same time. Only Eddie Mees exceptional trumpet work saved the selection from ultimate monotony.

The "Windy City Strugglers" from Wellington, on the other hand, are an exceptional group of musicians. Representatives of the 1930 spasm band period, they presented a form of jazz rarely heard at any concerts, other than folk. Interesting to note this slow merger of folk and jazz. The "Strugglers" most important asset is a gifted woman violinist, Judy Needham (who they say never makes a mistake). A very full and satisfying sound.

Electric blues may be an interesting form of music, but Dave Burgess, Steve Hunter and others bored me to tears. It seemed to be a form of self-exhibition rather than self-expression. This group was obviously doing their thing, but spent quite a lot of time fighting between themselves as to who would do it, and when. "Dust My Broom" does have a nack of getting into most blues concerts.

Watching the development of Christchurch's Tim Hazeldine since the 1968 Festival, we see he has progressed into the Mingus medium. His group "T.H. and His Rhythm Men" after a very disjointed "Ode to Billy Joe", did some interesting things to a Mingus composition "Eat that Chicken", a blues riff-type tune. Two basses and a peculiar talking vocalist kept it interesting enough to allow all 10 members (save one or two) to solo, two of which worked sufficiently well enough to warrant applause.

In Auckland's "Hotch Potch Kitchen Sink and Scone Makers Combo" Hazeldine fared better but showed himself to be a little timid for avant-garde jazz. Tenor Saxophonist and Flutist David Goldblatt fared well in "Hello Charlie, Goodbye George", a hypnotic modal tune; but proved in "Here We Are", that musicianship is of greater importance than is rehearsal none of which was done before the concert. John Woods, on mouth harp, using jazz blues as a vehicle for an electric blues-styled work, showed how well this instrument can be oriented around to forms of music other than folk.

It is a strange observation to note how the controversial styles went across much better than the more conservative jazz. The dixie and progressive pieces were boring, unimaginative, badly presented, and unoriginal. Although perhaps not true jazz, the Vaudeville, spasm and avant-garde forms gave this concert variety and contributed to the success of it. Even though crowded and stuffy, a pleasant time was had by all.

— Mike Colonna.



Aucklander Dave Neumegan and friends, sometimes known as the Frank E. Evans Lunchtime Entertainment Band, jamming the Union Common Room at Dunedin.

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letters to the editor

NEO-COLONIALISM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Sir, — Recently I attended a meeting at which Mr J. Hunt, Labour MP for New Lynn, spoke about New Zealand's foreign aid and the prospects of increasing that aid. He emphasised firstly that New Zealand's major sphere of future influence should be in the South Pacific, e.g., in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, etc., and secondly that we should also be interested in providing assistance to the countries of South East Asia, specifically Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. However in so doing he seemed to advocate a policy of neo-colonialism, in that he approved that New Zealand and Australia, either separately or in combination, should expand their financial interests in the two areas, specifically in the South Pacific countries, all of which will ultimately become independent countries.

Nkrumah, in the Introduction to his book, *Neo-Colonialism: the Last Stage of Imperialism*, has this to say: "the essence of neo-colonialism is that the State which is subject to it, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside. The methods and form of this direction can take various shapes... more often, however, neo-colonialist control is exercised through economic or monetary means. The neo-colonial State may be obliged to take the manufactured products of the imperialist power to the exclusion of competing products from elsewhere. Control over government in the neo-colonialist State may be secured by payments towards the cost of running the state, by the provision of civil servants in positions where they can dictate policy, and by monetary control over foreign exchange through the imposition of a banking system controlled by the imperial power."

"Profit-motive" Aid

Mr Hunt spoke in favour of setting up a South Pacific Council, dominated by Australia and New Zealand, and including other countries such as Tonga, Cook Islands, Samoa, etc. The purpose of this council would be to "develop" all the member states, but specifically the less developed ones, to provide a field of investment for Australian and New Zealand controlled capital (and hence gain profits), to permit Australia and New Zealand to gain access to new markets and to monopolise them, and perhaps to have a dumping ground for over-production in New Zealand and Australia, and so on. The council would co-ordinate development, naturally ensuring that investment would be made only in viable enterprises, and the profits would be exported, and not invested in the country of origin. The council would create a small but profitable financial and economic empire for Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Hunt spoke glowingly of the new Cook Islands airport, the potential for tourism there, the fruit salad potential (now that a New Zealand concern grows paw-paws there), and the fact that dozens of New Zealand businessmen were flocking to the Cook Islands to make their profit. His concern is that the Cook Islanders get jobs; my queries are who controls the enterprises, who manages the enterprises and who gets the profits? In all cases the answer is expatriates.

Are we going to have the South American, African and Melanesian situations repeated here in the South Pacific?

Mr Hunt, an ex-teacher, praised the New Zealand education system and said that it was highly successful in the Cook Islands. It seems quite clear from what he said that the Cook Islands are not gaining from it; as there are so few job opportunities in the Cook Islands the "educated" people leave, flocking to New Zealand. The education system is thus out of harmony with the country's needs. Perhaps the government of the Cook Islands (and other South Pacific governments) needs to develop an education system suited to the agricultural, administrative and industrial realities of the economy, thus following the excellent lead given recently by President Nyerere of Tanzania. If the education system is not restructured then the brain-drain will continue and the managerial and administrative positions will continue to be occupied by expatriates.

Consequences of Exploitation

Neo-colonialism, in using capital for exploitation rather than for development of the country, has several conse-



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quences; firstly the exploiters are not accountable for their actions; secondly the exploited do not have the power to obtain redress; thirdly the situation is set up where nationalisation will ultimately take place (with or without compensation); fourthly development invariably takes place in one or two highly profitable sectors, the others being ignored; and finally, neo-colonialism postpones all the social issues which must be solved either before or during development for the harmonious development of the country and its resources to take place.

In short, the issue is who controls the capital? Obviously capital, in money terms, equipment and skilled humans, is needed for development. Not so obvious why this capital should be under external control as with external control the interests of those outside are paramount, while the local people are ignored. The principle should be recognised now, before it is too late, that all the enterprises in the countries of the South Pacific should be controlled by the governments, the people, or individuals, in those countries. New Zealand's role in development should be to lend money for capital development and to train people (preferably in their own countries) for the occupations available in those countries, not to assist in pouring in capital for individuals in our country to make and take their profits.

Neo-colonialism, as advocated by anyone in New Zealand, Australia or elsewhere, should not be allowed to develop further, and in the countries of the South Pacific, as elsewhere, the interests of the local people should be paramount in all spheres.

— "Concerned"

SOCIOLOGY OF STUDENT ACTIVISM

Sir, — At last I understand why it is Mr Muldoon is not keen to promote the development of the social sciences in our country: he would prefer them not to destroy the prejudiced impression which many members of the New Zealand public seem to have of our universities. There seems to be a number of people who prefer to make their ill-founded generalisations about students without making any attempt to test these with the evidence, admittedly limited, which we do have available. Mr Firth it seems is one such person.

It is with relief that I am able to inform you that an increasing number of systematic and scientific studies of student attitudes and activities are in fact being conducted at Universities in this country. One of the more recent surveys was carried out at the University of Canterbury in September last year, under the auspices of the Department of Political Science. The findings of that survey are clear evidence that a number of the assumptions made by Mr Firth in his Craccum article are quite incorrect and without any foundation. Although this survey applies directly only to students at the University of Canterbury last year, it does seem

reasonable to expect that many of its findings would also be applicable to Auckland students in 1970.

In lieu of a more complete analysis of the survey's findings I would like to record just one or two of these for the benefit of yourselves and (I hope) Mr Firth. His basic argument seems to rest almost entirely on the assumption that student rebels are in a minority in our Universities. He is right of course — but not as right as he seems to imply. His suggestion that "possibly 99 out of 100 students have never been in a protest march" does not stand up to the evidence we discovered. Asked "have you ever taken part in protest marches or public demonstrations other than those associated with the Omega protest," 22% or one-fifth of the representative sample answered "yes." As you know the Omega demonstration attracted many more students — at Canterbury an incredible 50% of the entire student body joined the protest on June 28th. Moreover these were no left-wing fanatics (I almost wish there were 3000 of them around). On the contrary a survey conducted by our Sociology Department showed a cross-section of political opinions was represented: these included 40% of students claiming allegiance to the National Party, 54% of Labour allies; and 55% of those who denied affiliation to any political party.

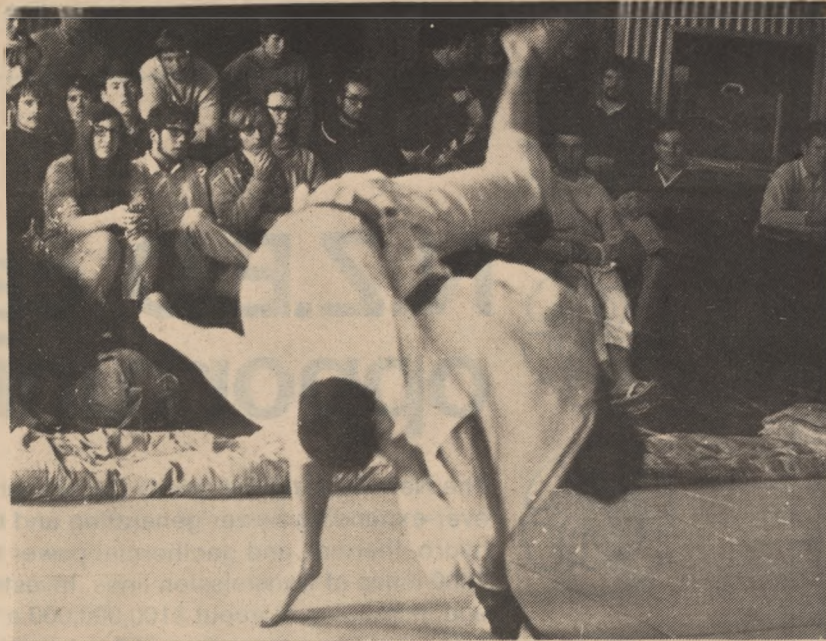
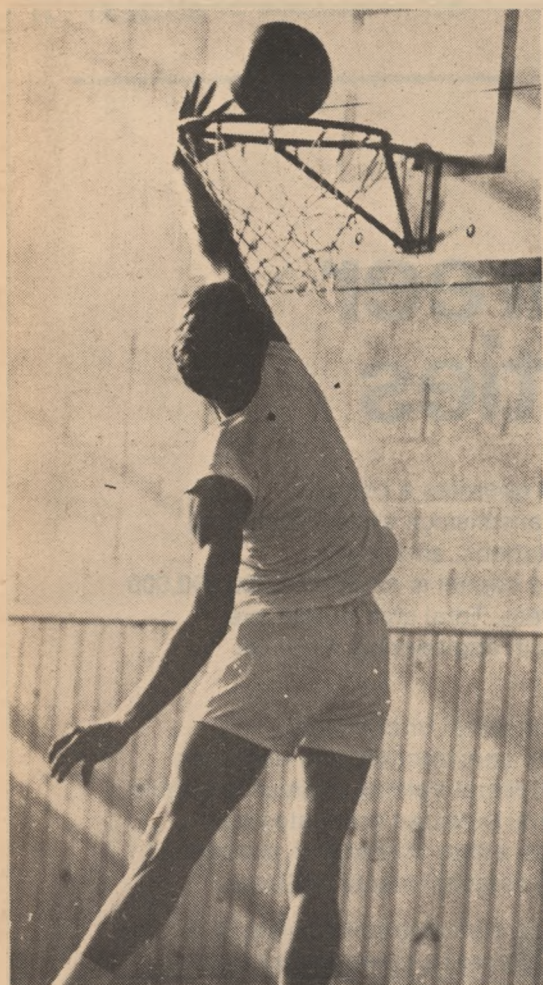
These are the sort of facts which are becoming available which our home-grown university commentators should know. Most of Mr Firth's points were quite without foundation. Rather than a revolt of radical extremists, it is clear the student movement of 1968-9 is a protest by the moderate middle class, liberal intelligensia. Rather than a rebellion of the depressed masses, it is an outbreak caused by the rising expectations of an emergent, affluent post-war generation. Contrary to generalisations often made students are very image conscious — which I might suggest is not always a good thing.

At Canterbury last year, an incredible and unexpected 91% of the student sample in the Political Science survey thought it was important for students to have "good public relations, and reasonable public respect."

Well, a few facts for Mr Firth and your readers to chew on perhaps. One thing at least is certain: until our administration in the University, the city, and the country begin to check fact from fiction, there is little chance that the storm of protest will diminish. The crisis of student power is not the cause of public conservatism, but its consequence.

Paul H. Groot,
Dept of Political Science,
University of Canterbury.

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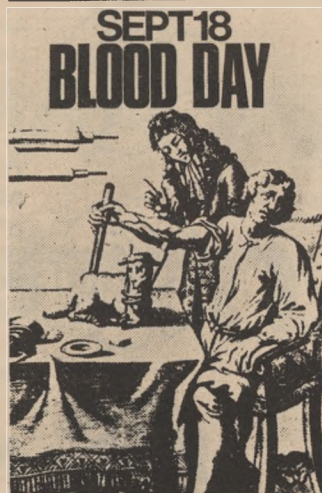
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