

CRUCIAL

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'Law and Order' prevails again

CAROLE FERRIER

Major Masters of Papakura Camp did not behave in an offensive or disorderly manner when he led his artillery battery up Queen Street the day after their return from Vietnam. This was the verdict of the Magistrate Mr H.Y. Gilliland last Thursday. Major Masters was represented by Mr Morris the Crown Prosecutor who does all the murder cases. It did not emerge clearly who was paying for Mr Morris to represent Major Masters since Mr Littlewood, (representing the person bringing the case, Roger Fowler), said that he had been told that the cost was being met by the Army, but a mysterious Mr Huband the Army Legal Officer who spoke only at this point, maintained that this was not so.

RIGHT-THINKING PEOPLE

To prove offensive behaviour you have to show that ordinary people are offended by what somebody has done. Littlewood suggested in his opening submissions that one can only define "right-thinking" by one's own subjective or politically-based standards. If one accepts that people vary in their sensibility and reactions—and surely diversity is healthy—does this invalidate the "right-thinking" test, which is the only standard one can apply to judge if behaviour is offensive? If people carry a sign reading "New Zealand's answer to the Population Problem, Murder Incorporated" or chain themselves to Parliament buildings both these things will offend only some people, but have led in the past to the arrest of those involved. (In other words, does right-thinking mean right-thinking? What of those who are left? See Last Bastions, further on).

TO SIT TIGHT

Lance Bombardier Bell (beefy, 20 stone with crew cut) was called. He discussed the weapons carried in the parade—six 105 Howitzer guns were towed behind the vehicles, and each soldier in the jeeps carried a self-loading rifle. To Morris' "How did they carry their guns?", Bell replied: "Between the legs". He said that the majority of the men had got back from Vietnam only the previous night: they had been

given orders that they were "to sit tight and not get out unless they were removed from their jeeps by force or if people tried to interfere with their vehicle or guns". Major Masters had stood to attention all the way up Queen Street. Bell did not until Wellesley Street hear anything to indicate to him that the soldiers were not "being met with open arms by the citizens of Auckland"; though he did earlier hear someone say

"Don't take any notice of those Yahoos further up". Mostly however, they shouted "Well done!" he said. A photograph of approving citizens was passed round, but when it emerged that only one of the ten people in it appeared to be clapping the point was lost.

GUNS, FLAGS AND UNIFORMS

Morris then asked Bell if the guns paraded up Queen Street "were not in effect the colours of your regiment?" (When is a gun not a flag?) evidently a point he was asked to make. And Morris later commented "respect for army uniform is tantamount to respect for the flag of the country. Major Masters did nothing to offend decent people with respect for the flag, and army uniforms. The references made by Mr Roth in his testimony to his memories of the Blackshirts marching through the streets of London which the parade recalled for him, did not appear to make much impression on the Magistrate, though a question put to Roger Boshier by Littlewood about whether he would have been equally disturbed by such a parade in 1945 was disallowed by the Magistrate. Mild amusement was registered in certain quarters at Elizabeth Bowers' testimony that for her "the soldiers were bringing up Queen Street the blood of innocent people on their hands", and Morris wittily interjected at this point "Metaphorically speaking, of course". The Magistrate interrupted at several points with "How could you know" (that the army had been killing people, for example) and stressed that he was concerned only with facts; but his summing up required acquiescence in the unproven theory that the majority of New Zealanders still support the War, in which case the majority would not be offended by a triumphal homecoming for the troops.

There was laughter in the court on Mr Littlewood referring to the "imperialistic war" from which the troops had returned, when the Magistrate enquired "What is imperialism?" Mr Littlewood attempted a definition.

GOING TO THE WELL

Some 20 witnesses were called to support Roger Fowler's contention that the military parade in Queen Street offended against normal standards of behaviour. All maintained that they were disturbed, upset or angry when they saw the parade, in many cases especially at the sight of guns of the same type as those which had been used to kill Vietnamese. One question which Mr Morris seemed to think very significant for his case was to the effect that if the witnesses knew that a parade which would cause them "such dreadful distress" was scheduled why did they stay to see it? Anthony Brown, third year Arts Student, replied that it was for him morally indefensible to bury one's head in the sand when confronted with things which one believed to be wrong. Another point Morris tried to make was that Major Masters was not responsible for his men (shades of the Calley case) and that every soldier in the parade should be charged. Littlewood countered this with a Scottish case in which a Salvation Army Major was summoned for leading a band up the main street playing a concertina on a Sunday; he was the leader and therefore responsible for the 'disorderly' conduct of his group.

LAST BASTIONS

Summing up the Magistrate said he had found "emotive language and wide generalisation" in much of the testimony given by the witnesses—though he did not doubt their sincerity (of course not). He said: "I am not satisfied that they represent public opinion (ie. right-thinking opinion). There is the possibility of tyranny here—the tyranny of the minority—and the court has to protect all freedoms of expression. (The troops were just happily doing their own thing). It was not the Parade, but what it represented to the witnesses that was offensive. The courts are the last bastions of individual freedom, to be resorted to with a sense of due responsibility. The court must recognise an abuse of process, and I do not recognise the bona fides of the informant."



The battery commander, Major J. M. Masters.

PHOTOS

Costs of \$100 were awarded against Roger Fowler plus witnesses expenses, plus an unbelievable \$60 for five photographs. This photograph business was very interesting. Although Mr Morris did not know in advance who the witnesses were to be, he had no difficulty in at once picking out many of the witnesses on the various photographs of people watching the parade. He was even able to assert that Sean Pennycook could not have been upset because he was smiling, though it then

emerged it was well before the parade arrived that an apparently happy Mr Pennycook was immortalised on celluloid. Whether or not Morris had done any prior identification cannot be established but it was interesting that the well-known Inspector Cummings was sitting next to Mr Morris when the Court opened after lunch with a large file on the table between them marked in large letters "Confidential to Police Officers". It was good to see who was manning the bastions of our individual freedom.



lunchtime drive



PAUL'S

BOOK ARCADE

49 High St Auckland

SOUTH AFRICA FREEDOM DAY

tomorrow



The President-elect of the Auckland University Students' Association is John Woodroffe. When nominations closed last Friday, he was declared elected unopposed. Other rumoured candidates failed to materialize and Kathryn De Nave, who was considering a decision to stand, decided to support Woodroffe. "John is the most able person about" she said, "and his ideals are exemplary".

Whatever Woodroffe's ideals, capacity for hard work and political expertise, his position will be one of immense difficulty. Certain major steps have to be taken by this Association. To name a few: definite tactics on the implementation of its ideals; the definite ascendancy of student feeling over administrative convenience; full exploitation of opportunities for representation on University Government; better means of gauging student opinion and more elaborate machinery for student information. Woodroffe will have to decide almost immediately the estimated cost for the pursuance of ideals for 1972, and how such pursuance can be financed. It is important that he should be assisted by a more than competent Executive; he will be in especial need of a sympathetic, knowledgeable and hard working Vice President.

It might also help if other Executive members knew what their positions entailed.

Three immediate goals for the new President might be meeting the crisis of Cafeteria expenditure, opening up S.R.C. to all students and ensuring that present trends in University Government (tending to constrict present student representatives rather than widening both student representation and powers) are absolutely reversed.

Implicit in the first of these goals in the institution of clear parity in rates of pay for both male and female employees in the Catering Complex. The second goal might be accomplished by making S.R.C. into a weekly lunchtime meeting in which all students can participate and to which all Executive members are answerable. The third goal suggests a strong stand for work towards a University Government in which students could have access to the actual mechanisms of control; in which representation of students, staff and professors, would be decided wholly by the merits of candidates for positions in University Government.

Woodroffe has a difficult term ahead of him. It has been suggested that his Presidency could either be the salvation of this Association, or its final demise. A man to watch closely.



Woodroffeeither hope or damnation

STOP PRESS

As this Craccum goes to press, certain constitutional technicalities have arisen concerning nomination closure dates for the positions of President, MVP, LVP and Treasurer. It would seem that owing to these technicalities, the editorial above is invalid unless Mr Woodroffe is still the only Presidential candidate by 5pm tomorrow night, which is apparently the constitutional date for closure of applications. Anyone who wishes to stand against him or for any of the other positions mentioned are advised to hurry. Nominations must be accompanied by policy statements and photographs and handed to the Association Office.

INKSHED

scrivener's corner

one

Sir,

Once again, it seems, we have witnessed the breakdown and failure of the democratic process of administration, even in such an enlightened group as the Student's Association (and, apparently, elsewhere!)

In five years of (compulsory) Association membership, I cannot recall an Executive in which:

a) the President has not at some stage been accused of misuse of power

b) the Administrative Secretary has not been roundly abused

c) no Executive member has resigned, or threatened to resign

d) a motion of NO Confidence in the President, or Executive as a whole, has not at least been considered

and e) the Executive members have not resorted to petty quibbling, name-calling, and excessive emotional outbursts.

Each Executive, it seems, tries to outdo its predecessors in falling to the depths of inanity and incompetence. No wonder the rest of the community fails to take seriously student's criticism of Government's behaviour and administration.

Perhaps it would be to the advantage of the Association if one of its more consistently vocal and progressive members seized power in a bid to establish a benevolent dictatorship. On reflection, perhaps it would be better if there was no student administration at all, and the management of the Union was handed over to the University. Even that undesirable situation would be better than the present unproductive system, which successfully puts the majority of our finances down the drain.

As the best step of all, and the most democratic, abolition of compulsory membership of the Association might well be considered.

P.I.P. Evans

two

Sir,

I must add my mumbling to the growing mutter of protest about caf food prices. Coeval with this incredible inflation in prices, there has been a corresponding decline in the quality of great magnitude. At the beginning of this year I cherished hopes that some, at least, of this year's food, would be edible, and, for a time, the cook seemed to have reformed. But now alas, we are treated to fare such as fish scales in batter, rubber sausages, gravy mince (sans mince) and many other delicacies, which, presumably the local pig farms have refused to accept; this is all washed down with highly acid coffee. The only explanations I can think of for the astronomical monetary deficit the caf is incurring, is that those rock-hard potatoes are made of gold.

Rick O'Shay

three

Sir,

Just a word to let you know that in its present form and presentation and content I think Craccum an excellent topically interesting newspaper.

Congratulations on the permanent removal of the racing column, but I fear that Executive's imposing a reduction in the size of the paper will probably mean that we will not see the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, each week. Along with causing us to miss out on other interesting news and articles.

R. Den Harder

four

Dear Papa Steffano

Could you comment on the following traumatic icecream eating experience in Fiji?

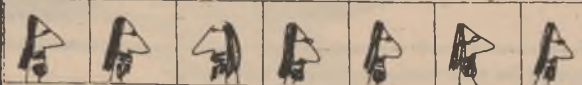
Pursued by the heat I ate icecream after icecream only to be consistently met with a watery, mainly crushed ice mixture, absolutely cream-less. What gives in Fijian confectionary factories!

While I'm on the subject of complaints I'd like to grouch about the exorbitant price of Tahitian icecreams—30 cents a lick—next time I'll have a supply of TipTop airmailed to me en route.

D.R. Dunningham

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WELFARE OF MINORS
A BILL INTITULED

An Act to safeguard the Welfare of Minors

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:
1. Short Title—This Act may be cited as the Welfare of Minors Act 1971.

2. Interpretation—In this Act unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Minor” means any person under the age of 18 years;

“Narcotic” means any substance, preparation, or mixture named or described in the First Schedule of the Narcotics Act 1965:

“Parent” means the person who has guardianship of a minor pursuant to the provisions of the Guardianship Act 1968.

3. Residence of a minor—A minor shall reside with his parents or in a place provided by his parents.

4. Alternative residence of a minor—Notwithstanding the foregoing provision a minor may reside at any other specific place provided that:

(a) His parents direct or consent to such alternative residence; or
(b) A Magistrate, on application by a parent or by a minor, directs or consents to such alternative residence.

5. Offences—Every person commits an offence who:

(a) Being a minor resides in any place other than provided for by the provisions of this Act:

(b) Being a minor associates with any known user of Narcotics or with any person convicted of any offence under section 5 or section 6 of the Narcotics Act 1965 except under the supervision of an educational welfare, or similar organisation:

(c) Aids or abets any minor in the commission of any offence against this Act.

6. Penalties—Every person who commits an offence against this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500 and to a term of periodic detention not exceeding 3 months.

7. Supplying narcotics to a minor—Any person who commits an offence against the Narcotics Act 1965 by supplying narcotics to a minor shall on conviction receive the maximum penalty provided by that Act.

careers week

Businesses don't want girls to become managers, or to 'get ahead', so it seems. It is the men they want—the men with initiative, intelligence, enthusiasm. Girls are better at nursing, teaching or commercial work. Leave the real work to the men. Or so the Careers Week Display at the Building Centre seems to imply.

Such attitudes come out in statements like 'Seeking Security, Opportunity, and Satisfaction' for nursing, and 'You will have responsibility, You will be instructed in the art of poise, grooming and personality because your job will be the front girl of our business, the checkout operator'. But the classic example comes from the Railways:

"It is not surprising that some of our office assistants even find husbands on the job."

So all the girls who read it leap joyfully out and get a job in the Railways, in anticipation of a sure place to catch her man.

Amazingly enough, however, the Public Service, the Ministry of Works, and the Department of Agriculture give girls the most equal opportunities. And women can even become architects now!

For leaflets that don't specify which sex they want in their firms, it is obviously orientated towards the male. The companies concerned would probably fall over backwards if a girl applied for a job there.

How can women be expected to break out of their chains and take up a career if all they are fed is teaching, nursing or secretarial work?

The Vocational Guidance Service needs to do a big rethink before its next Careers Week.

MERLE NICKLIN

Education

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NOTICE

At the last meeting of the Education Committee I proposed a motion that the committee should dissolve itself. I did this because I felt that the affairs conducted by the committee could be more efficiently dealt with if the Education Officer had complete control over deciding what should be done and appointing the most suitable persons to do it.

I felt that the present system whereby the committee decides for the Education Officer what he/she should be doing is unnecessary. The Ed. Officer is responsible to the students who elected her, and not merely to a committee whose only duty should be to assist the Ed. Officer in her work, not to decide and dictate what that work should be. Moreover, this year's committee appears to me to be suffering from a complete lack of interest in Education as a whole. The individual members each have their own pet interests and hobbyhorses, but they fail to see these in relation to the whole broad concept of university education. Consequently, the committee is not functioning as a committee. Thus, in effect, my motion was intended to ratify the status quo.

However, Wendy Adams, the Education Officer, said that she thought that the motion, if passed, would give her the status of a dictator with the power to make decisions and formulate policies without reference to other persons. She said that she wanted an atmosphere of cooperation and partnership, and then said that she would be forced to resign if the motion was passed. It was for this reason that I withdrew the motion although I still feel misgivings about the workings (or, rather, non-workings) of the Education Committee.

What this reveals to me is that Wendy wants as many persons as possible to be advising her of what she should be doing in her position as Education Officer. With this I agree. The members of Exec. should always be in a position to be able to explain what they have done and why they have done it. To be more realistic, perhaps, they should also be able to offer reasons or excuses why they have not done anything. Certainly, this is one of the functions of the S.R.C., but it should go further than that, it is the responsibility of every student to participate actively in the affairs of the Association and to offer constructive criticism of it. You can't expect people to do what you want unless you tell them what you want done.

RICHARD GYDE

members of Government see the raising of the fees as a way to reduce the power of students and their Associations. Weak student bodies will take a lot of the organisation out of the protest movement and reduce its punch. It could also lead for a move to reduce Studass fees and this too would mean that less money would be available to fight for the causes in which students believe. And the little pig will smile.

Equal pay

RODNEY LYON

Since the setting up of an SRC subcommittee on Wage Rates Policy, the topic of equal pay, and variations thereof, has again come to the fore of the student political scene. In the past, attempts made at the level of SRC and general meetings to institute equal pay have always been coolly ignored by the administration and the Executive; it is now time for the Association to decide once and for all whether this ideal should be implemented or not, in light of the full facts as to what the consequences and implications of any such move are.

You, Joe Bloggs, student, will be called upon to decide finally on the relative advantages and disadvantages of actioning equal pay at an SGM that the Executive has called to discuss the whole question of equal pay, and the implications thereof, to be held on Wednesday, June 30th, at 1pm in the Quad.

As I said earlier, various motions on the subject have been formulated in the past. These include:

1. At an AGM on June 9th, 1970: "That all employees of AUSA do be paid on the basis of the worth of their job, and regardless of sex."

2. At an SRC meeting on April 23rd, 1970: "That the Executive do ask the Catering Manager to ensure that all employees in the Association's catering facilities do receive equal pay for equal work."

3. At an SRC meeting April 8th, 1971: "That subject to the approval of the Stabilization of Remuneration Authority, the minimum wage rate for any employee of the Association shall be the male award rate for that job."

While noting that the Executive is in no way constitutionally bound to implement these policies, it would seem that the Executive is, at the very least, morally bound to do so since they are the elected representatives in theory, of the students. Since, also, the Executive can be removed by a vote of no confidence passed at a general meeting, it seems to me that if students as a whole feel sufficiently strongly on the subject of equal pay, such a policy must be implemented.

With that particular point out of the way, let us have a look at just what this particular principle is going to cost us and where the money to finance such implementation is going to come from. The answers to these two questions respectively, are 73c per student, and from you. In actual fact, an estimate of what this will cost the Association has been drawn up by the Administrative Secretary. This estimate, based on the wage bill of the catering facilities for an average week, gives the minimum increase for the annual wage bill as \$7,245. This estimate works on the assumption that the policy expressed at SRC on April 8 is to be effected: that is, that the present lowest-paid female employed in catering is to receive as a minimum the male award of, if there is no direct correlation between job tasks, which I might add seems to be the exception rather than the rule, a male general hand.

HOW RAISED

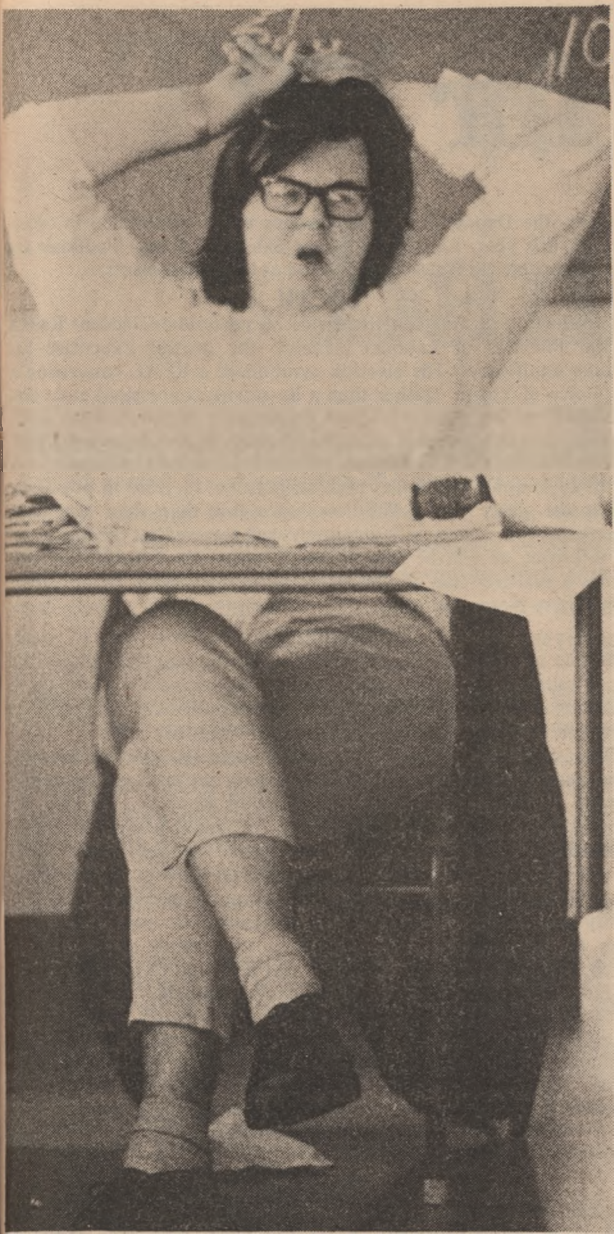
Given the fact that implementation of this policy is going to cost each student about 73c, we had better now look at just how this money can be acquired. One point that all informed people are in accordance on, is the fact that such an increase in expenditure cannot be met while maintaining income at the present level. I would suggest that the actual mode of financing the implementation of this policy would to a large extent depend on exactly when students wished the policy to be instituted. Should, for example, the SGM decide to action equal pay immediately, the only method of finance would be to increase food prices in the catering complex, since additional Students' Association fees cannot be collected immediately to cover the cost. Should students wish to postpone actual implementation until the beginning of next year however, two methods of finance then become available: you can either have an increase in fees or an increase in food prices. If students wish to implement equal pay without an increase in fees or prices, then they had better decide what they wish to do away with (do we really need Craccum??). Ultimately, the Treasurer points out, the Association in the long term should aim at making better use of money that it has collected from students, and increase income from other sources, such as travel schemes and insurance schemes. I would fully endorse this opinion; however these other sources of income are simply not going to give us enough money in the short-term to pay for equal pay. Thus, as I said earlier, we are left with increasing fees, increasing Caf prices, or finding something on which we are presently spending money which is less important or desirable than equal pay.

If I have concentrated on finance overly much in this article, I apologise to the few idealists around who believe that the policy should be implemented regardless of cost. But I fear that students think primarily in terms of their wallets, and the Executive really does need a mandate to institute this policy. I have tried to give you the basic facts in this article, and in conclusion I will state one very basic fact that I have left unsaid: if the Association is going to espouse policies and ideals such as equal pay and not bother to implement them itself, then we may as well all pack up and go home cos we're wasting our time trying to be a socio-political organization. If your ideals are bigger than your wallets you have to prove that they are. Tennis, anyone?

THE QUADRANT

Are you swotting at the weekend? Try the Quadrant for lunch at 16 Waterloo Quadrant just down from Hotel Intercontinental

TEA COFFEE SOUP
TOASTED SANDWICHES



Lawand who will finally pay?

Bursaries

MIKE LAW

So the miser of finance made an announcement about student bursaries during his budget speech last Thursday night.

That was the tip after listening to the rumours circulating through the "corridors of Impotence". But the lolly may yet be only a sugar covered aniseed ball. For the dicky lickers may get fat off the sweat of their fellow students. The increases the Government makes, are bound to be little more than a redistribution of student finances disguised as a handout to students. It will be a redistribution that will be consistent with the Government's policy of accelerating class stratification within New Zealand.

The handout announced on Thursday night, bears little or no resemblance to the comprehensive submission presented by NZUSA to the Grants Committee late last year. Sue Kedgley pointed this out in her Sunday News article.

The Lazarus student will get about \$50-\$100 a year in crumbs from the richman's table. This will apparently cost the Government \$1½ million. My bet is that the money will be found from within the universities. Only just over 20,000 of our 35,000 students are eligible for bursaries. 1100 New Zealand fulltimers are ineligible and about 1,000 fulltimers are private overseas students. The remaining 10,000 plus students are part timers taking somewhere near 15,000 units.

Government may raise its bursary payout as follows.

Fees will be increased to \$60.

Parttimers will thus contribute a total of \$900,000

Non bursary full timers will cough up \$540,000.

Bursary students will also throw in \$360,000 (1/10 of the fees).

By these means the minister will take \$1½ million back off the student body. Even given that students are already contributing a percentage of this, the extra will go a long way to compensating gov for their proposed handout.

EQUALITY

But Higher fees isn't the real rub. What needs to be considered is the effect of them on the 'equality of opportunity'. Higher fees will cut down the rate of growth of university rolls. Less people from working class families will be able to go to varsity if they don't get a bursary. Only the dicks with their bourgeois parents will be able to foot the bill.

Female students will be yet further disadvantaged. Unequal pay in the holidays coupled with crippling fees and uncontrolled increases in the cost of living will drive the 'average' female student 'down the road'. If rolls are slowed in their growth or even cut back, then the Government saves a further packet. Before the latest inflationary bout the cost of educating a university student was around \$800 per year. If a redistribution of student money excludes only a couple of thousand potential students, then the Gov will have ample money for 'Bursary increases' and also defer considering a few other embarrassing problems. And there is no need to then worry about the library delays or the 'invasion of Asiatic students'.

PROTEST

If what I predict is fairly close to the truth, then the tragedy will be that the student Associations will be unable to mount a united protest. University staff will tend to favour raising the fees. I saw enough of them during my years in 'authority'—the universities are full of 'academic scabs'. The majority of students will benefit by receiving higher bursaries, so they will be happy. And the rest will be 'down the road' looking for a job.

If there is any university Debate it won't be between the universities and the Talboys/Muldoon gang, but rather an intra-university fight between the haves and the havenots.

And that is what the Government wants more than anything else.

While the students snarl at each other, all the social abuses they concern themselves with will lessen in importance as issues. Some

Labour: electoral hopes for '72



SUSAN KEDGLEY

Basically it was all justified—the eulogising by the press of this years Labour Party Conference. For there WAS a tremendous feeling of optimism and confidence exuding the jaded walls of Wellington's ugly Town Hall. The Youth DID dominate conference by participation in debates, which were listened to attentively by all and sundry—from ageing unionists to a thinning Norman Kirk. Hostility to long haired Rads' (who might damage the Partys' Image) appeared a thing of the past, nor was there any of the acrimony or ad hominen attack which characterised almost all recent Conferences.

For the delegates themselves, all 377 of them, there was a refreshing new sense of actual enjoyment of the Conference. No longer listheartened by tepid debate and tired slogans, past cynicis. gave way to contagious enthusiasm, with even the most critical delegates admitting to a 'pleasant surprise'.

Euphoria aside, this conference even in retrospect was distinctive and significant for a number of reasons, according to veteran conference go-er Richard Northey, currently completing a thesis on the Role of Labour Party Conferences.

SIGNIFICANT

Partly its significance lies in that it was a Mid Term Conference. This means Conference is not preoccupied with Constitutional reforms as it usually is in the past-election Conferences. Nor is it obsessed with Vote Getting and its Image as it always is in Pre Election Conference. The Mid Term Conference is then typically the crucial one for introducing new policy and injecting new ideas into the Party.

But even by standards of 'mid term conferences', this years' was significant for the number of remits discussed (495-180 more than the last mid term conference) and for the number of new, fairly radical issues being accepted by delegates. Acceptance in principle of the 'Wolfendem Report on Homosexuality' and agreement to investigate the usage of marijuana and seek changes in the present laws, were notable examples of the way delegates were prepared to be swayed by arguments put forward on the Conference floor, even to the point of amending Committee recommendations. This contrasts with a previously marked cautious adherence to anything recommended by Policy Committees (which report on remits), which had meant that few policy changes had in the past resulted directly from the Conference floor. Unusual too was the fact that almost all delegates were included in the policy committees, a fact that increased the general feeling of delegate participation.

Mr Rowling, the ever controlled, ever impartial, ever humorous Conference Chairman, was a major innovatory force in this years Conference.

His opening speech, stressing particularly the urgency for racial harmony, greater emphasis on conservation, industrial participation in industry, and of course radical changes in foreign affairs, set the tone and trend of subsequent debate.

ORATION

Norman Kirk, after delivering a mighty, two and a half hour rhetorical and impressive oration (for which he received an equally impressive standing ovation), did not participate in subsequent debate, preferring this time to remain a silent, enigmatic tower of strength thoughtfully observing conference from the elevated ranks of the Party Leaders' rostrum. This for most delegates was an appreciated change from former personal attacks and interference in debate when things were not proceeding according to his personal taste.

His offsider, ageing Deputy Leader Hugh Watt, was similarly distant and taciturn, with one notable exception—when he delivered his apology—rationalisation to Conference for attending last years' All Black farewell (strongly criticised in the Youth Report).

His uncharacteristic noninvolvement has already set off succession



Northey a different trend

rumours—the Deputy Leadership comes up for re-election in caucus later on this year. Auckland's Super Salesman Arthur Faulkner and the unflappable Mr Rowling are tipped as likely heir-elects.

YOUTH

The election of Michael Hirshfield, 26 year old ex Student Radical to the Pinnacle of Labours Machine—the central Executive—had obvious significance. His election symbolised a REAL concession to the 'Voice of Youth' (rather than a lip service concession) and called into question the myth of Union domination of the Labour Party. Granted that Michael has established roots in the Seamens Union, granted that his election appears in retrospect more a consequence of a split in Union votes rather than an personal increase in popularity within the party (he polled less votes this time than last year), nevertheless his victory was extremely well received by the Party, and the influence he will be able to wield within the Central Executive will be a real test case of the theoretically democratic nature of the labour party hierarchy.

WOMEN

Women in the labour party, traditionally the sandwich makers and money raisers, for the first time actually challenged the Party for its paternalistic attitudes towards them, and announced a disinclination to continue in their exclusively supportive, "minority" role.

They showed that they intended, henceforth, to be a far more active and influential force within the party, active in policy making as well as decision making. The 'Womens Report' reflecting this determination. This move is significant, for labour women have been significantly less forthcoming than their national party peers. Considering that Labour Party urgently needs the vote of women if it is to win another election, their active support will presumably be greatly appreciated by the Party Leaders (almost all of them men).

As for the influence of Conference on Labour party Election Policy, Richard Northey is adamant that although Conference remits are not binding, Conference acts as the most important pressuring and educative force by labour rank and file on actual Policy Makers.

Labour Partys' ideal of 'democratic decision making' has elevated conference into a 'supreme body' representing the grass roots of the Labour Movement. As such, a general belief exists that conference decisions should not be overturned except for very valid reasons (hence the antipathy to Party MP's turning up at the All Black farewell).

CURRENTS

Debate on remits is extremely important, Mr Northey believes, since it is closely listened to by the Party hierarchy, who see Conference as the most representative organisation of the type of people who make up the Labour Party electorate, whom they rely upon for votes.

It is the crucial arena, therefore, for the Parliamentary Labour Party as well as Policy Makers, to gauge currents of thought and opinion amongst their voting public.

Most important of all, Conference is the major funnel through which much needed new ideas are fed into the Party hierarchy. The increasing number of well researched remits, the increasing acceptance of radical ideas, the increasing vigour with which sectional groups—Maori, Youth and Women are pushing forward their ideas, all these are auspicious trends for revitalising our Opposition Party, which could well tide it into power in 1972.

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The world watches while Bangla Desh bleeds

RAHMAN KHAN

On March 26 of this year Gen Yahya Khan, the Pakistani President, announced that he had ordered the Armed forces to re-establish the authority of the central government in East Pakistan. Since then over two million people have been killed. Of this over a million were killed within the first forty-eight hours following the President's announcement. And another five million have taken refuge in neighbouring India. Latest reports from the region suggests that refugees at the rate of 60,000 to 100,000 a day are pouring into India at thousands of points along the border of India and what till recently was East Pakistan and now claims to be Bangla Desh. Four million refugees in eight weeks by all accounts is the fastest exodus in recent history.

Eye-witness reports on what has taken place in Bangla Desh (E.Pak) since March 25 are few and far between. Yahya Khan had ordered out all foreign journalists shortly after the military operations had begun. Since then, a few of them have infiltrated back into the region via India. Their reports, however few in number, unmistakably tell of a calculated mass-murder of the sleeping population of Dacca city initially and later of the whole country by the Pakistan Army.

To this bloody massacre, the reaction of the international community has been one of shameless indifference. No country, save India, has shown the humanity to call what has taken place in Bangla Desh by its proper name—'Genocide'. That Yahya Khan has mercilessly stifled a peoples' democracy at birth is openly admitted in all quarters. Yet the champions of Democracy, the U.S.A. and Britain have refused to even protest against such blatant misuse of the weapons especially China, always first to support people's wars of liberation have to date made no gestures to the victims of oppression. On the contrary, China has openly supported Islamabad's measures 'to maintain territorial integrity' at all cost! (thus proving it has reached a great power status). But perhaps the most tragic is the reaction of the liberals in the west. First to condemn the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia, first also to condemn Nigeria's brutal attempt to crush the aspirations of the Biafran people and British duplicity in the issue, on this question act mute when the issue at stake is much clearer. Simply because the issue of Pakistan vis-a-vis Bangla Desh does not fit squarely into a cold war pattern, these perpetual lovers of mankind, have been caught with their pants down!

CLEAR MAJORITY

Last December in the country's first general election since independence on the rule of 'one man, one vote', the Awami League emerged with a clear majority. In all it won 167 seats of 169 seats allotted to E. Pak in the 313-member assembly and received over 80% of the popular vote. 80 of the 144 seats allotted to West Pakistan were won by Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (P.P.P.). The remaining seats were won by an assortment of parties and Independents. The election victory gave the Awami League the mandata to implement its election pledge—the following six-point programme.

1. A federal form of government would be established.
2. The Federal Government would control only defence and foreign policy, all other subjects being vested in the federating States.
3. Two separate, freely convertible currencies would be introduced for East and West Pakistan, or if a single currency was maintained constitutional provision would be made to stop the flight of capital from East to West Pakistan. There would be a separate banking reserve and a separate fiscal and monetary policy for East Pakistan.
4. The States would have exclusive authority to levy taxes, federal expenses being met from a uniform percentage of all State taxes.
5. Separate external trade accounts would be maintained for each of the States, and foreign exchange earned from external trade would be at their disposal. Federal foreign exchange requirements would be met by the States on the basis of an equal percentage rate. Indigenous commodities would move between the States free of taxation or tariffs. The States would be allowed to maintain trade representatives abroad and to negotiate trade agreements with other countries.
6. A militia or paramilitary force, an ordnance factory, a military academy and the Navy headquarters would be set up in East Pakistan.

The universal popularity of the League's programme reflected a radical change in mood in E. Pakistan and was in response to twenty-three years of political, economic and cultural exploitation and domination by West Pakistan.

At the time of independence the total regional income of West Pakistan (310,000 square miles) was slightly lower than that of East Pakistan (54,000 square miles) which was then producing 80% of the world's jute. By last year it was at least 25% higher. West Pakistan's growth rate in recent years has been 6%, East Pakistan's 4%. The West's share in GNP increase is 58.4%, the east's 30.6%.

TRANSFERRED

For many years East Pakistan's resources were transferred to West Pakistan at the rate of £20 million a year. Out of Pakistan's total bank deposits of Rs 15,000 million the Western wing keeps as much as Rs 12,500 million. The Eastern wing's jute and tea earns most of Pakistan's foreign exchange, but bulk of these earnings are used for the western wing's industrial development and imports. During the last 20 years West Pakistan imported goods worth more than Rs 30,000 million, three times as much as East Pakistan—and Rs 20,000 million in excess of its own export earnings.

The pattern extends to fund allocations also. In the second five year plan (1960-65) development expenditure per capita stood at Rs 521.05 for West Pakistan and Rs 240.00 for East Pakistan, revenue expenditure at 309.35 for West Pakistan and Rs 70.29 for East Pakistan. The disparities have grown since. Only 20% of the total foreign aid received had gone to East Pakistan. George, T.J.S. 'The Cross of Bengal'; Far Eastern Economic Review. No. 17. April 24, 1971.

The present population figures of the two wings are East Pakistan-75 million and West Pakistan 55 million. However, this population distribution is hardly reflected in either the country's Civil Service or the Army where the number of East Pakistanis hardly exceeds 15% and 10% respectively.

The election gave the people of East Pakistan the first opportunity to end this gross exploitation and discrimination through the ballot-box. The League's victory made the Bengalis hopeful that their aspirations would be fulfilled. But these hopes were soon to be dashed. On March 1, Bhutto announced that his Pak. People's Party (which had won 80 seats in the parliament) would boycott the first

meeting of the Constituent Assembly. This according to Yahya Khan constituted a "Constitutional Crisis" and he postponed the meeting of the Assembly, scheduled to meet on March 3, indefinitely.

CONSTITUTION

First on the agenda of the Constituent Assembly was to prepare a constitution for the country. The League with majority seats in the House was in a position to pass a Constitution in the spirit of the six-point programme. This the League would have done but for the intervention of two vital interests.

Economically West Pakistan had reached a crucial stage and years of exploitation had made her more and not less dependent on East Pakistan. Although West Pakistan's programme of industrialisation was well advanced, she would have required the present proportion of the national cake for at least another ten years to reach the 'take off point' economically. Secondly, and perhaps more important, East Pakistan had become a lucrative market absorbing as much as 60% of West Pakistan industrial produce. In short, West Pakistan's economic survival was inexorably linked with the continued exploitation of East Pakistan.

FAT ARMY

The other major interest group was the Army. Fattened and patronized by the military dictatorships of the last 12 years, the Army has emerged as a political force in its own right. Absorbing as much as 60% of the national budget, the Pakistani Army is equipped with some of the most sophisticated weapons in the world. A substantial portion of the foreign exchange earned by East Pakistan goes to pay for the American F104 Starfighter, Russian Migs and Chinese Tanks of the Army.

To the twin interests of West Pakistani capitalism and the Army, the League's plan for a federation of States was anathema. This—the conflict of interest between the masses of East Pakistan on one hand and the West Pakistani capitalism and the Army on the other—constituted the 'Constitutional Crisis'. If the Army had anticipated such a situation, they would certainly have sabotaged the election earlier. However, once the elections had taken place, the Army and West Pakistani capitalism were presented with a dilemma. Presently Bhutto kindly obliged by announcing his decision to boycott the meeting of the constituent assembly. This gave the Army the necessary pretext to intervene.

To the people of East Pakistan waiting in anticipation to see their verdict as the ballot-box triumph, Yahya Khan's decision to postpone the meeting of the Constituent Assembly was an undisguised provocation. Suspicious that when the crunch came, West Pakistanis would be no more democratic than any other colonial power, the people of East Pakistan demanded from the League's leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman an immediate declaration of independence. In anticipation of such a declaration, one by one, the Police, the civil administration, the government-controlled Radio and T.V. stations and even the civilian population of the Defence establishment, transferred their loyalty to the choice of the people—the Awami League. No judge of the High Court could be found to administer the oath of office to the newly appointed governor, a hawk, Lt.Gen. Tikka Khan. Rebuffed, Tikka Khan was later appointed the provincial Martial Law Administrator. Despite such gestures from the masses, Mujib refused make the declaration. Even at the risk of the movement passing out of his hand, Mujib maintained to the last that East Pakistan's future was linked with the future of Pakistan as a whole.

PREPARATION FOR TERROR

On March 15, Yahya came to Dacca to resolve the Constitutional Crisis. He was later joined by Bhutto. For ten days, while these three principal characters were engaged in secret discussion, the crowd outside became restless. On March 23, the official communique announced that a settlement was in sight. On March 25 afternoon both Yahya and Bhutto returned to Karachi. The newspapers of the day both in East and West Pakistan reported, without specifying, that a settlement had certainly been reached. Barely thirty hours after his return to Karachi, Yahya Khan went on the air to charge Mujib as 'a traitor to Pakistan'. He outlawed Awami League as a political party and announced that he had 'ordered' the Army to crush those who were trying to destroy Pakistan's unity.

Looking back one can see Yahya Khan's visit to Dacca in true light. He had come to personally supervise, to the last detail, the preparation for the reign of terror that was to be let loose in the early hours of March 26. While the eyes of all Pakistanis were on Dacca, the Army took up strategic position around the city and the province. Six ship loads of troops were brought from West Pakistan anchored off the shores of East Pakistan ready to land at moments notice. Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan, it is reported, asked for 72 hours to 'kill a million men and set things right'. Gen. Yahya Khan, fearing adverse world reaction gave him only 48 hours to accomplish the mission. Optimistic progress reports on the Yahya-Mujib talk were engineered to put Bengalis off guard and thereby achieve total surprise.

The zero hour for 'Operation Genocide' was put at 0100 hours March 26. Yahya went on the air twenty hours later to announce what was already in progress. Perhaps nobody will ever know the full details of this 'Operation Genocide'. But what is already known makes the events of those early hours one of the saddest and cruelest in human history. The bestiality of the Army was only matched by its cowardice, both on a scale that would have put any other Army to shame.

The Army launched their attacks on a civilian population—the sleeping population of all the bazaars of Dacca city, the students in their halls, teachers and intellectuals in their bungalows and flats, the poor people of Dacca either on the city footpaths or in the slums around the city, the Police force in their headquarters, shortly after mid-night. The teachers were individually sought out, brought out in front of their swellings and in presence of their families shot-down by

submachine gun fire. At Iqbal Hall (one of the University Halls of Residence) two hundred students were shot dead still in their beds. At another, students were made to dig a ditch. When finished, they were made to stand in a line along the edge of the ditch and were shot-down by machine gun fire. Those bodies that fell elsewhere were kicked into the ditch. Napalm bombs were thrown into a girl's hostel and when the girls came out, they were again shot down. At the Police hostel, all 600 inmates were shot down. One could go on and on. The massacre was performed between 1am and 4.30am of March 26. this year. According to one report between 80,000 and 120,000 people—men, women and children—were killed in that period of time.

POGROM OF FIRE

Later in the morning, the Army escorted the Hindu population of the city into a school building for protective custody. Once they were inside, the school was put to torch and those who tried to escape were shot-down by machine gun fire. The pogrom was repeated in other towns of the province.

It would seem that five categories of people had earned the special wrath of the Army—the students, University teachers, politicians, the Police and the professional people. However, in the final analysis, the Army respected neither the age nor the sex of their victims. Asked by a British woman why they were killing children, a Pakistani officer replied, 'so that they may not grow up to be anti-West Pakistanis'. Another British woman who left Dacca on March 27, on arrival at Singapore, said, 'A figure of 300,000 would be no exaggeration'. 'The road to Dacca airport is one long grave yard', she said.

Mujib was taken prisoner and is believed to be awaiting trial on charge of treason. A few of the leaders of Awami League managed to escape to the countryside. It is these remnants of the League who on April 10, read the declaration of independence of Bangla Desh. On the same occasion, they begged the peoples of the world for moral and material support and recognition of their just cause. It would seem that the cry of this afflicted humanity has yet to reach the ears of the freedom-loving peoples of the world. Or is it that they have chosen not to hear?

What has taken place in Bangla Desh since March 25 is a double tragedy. Firstly democracy has been brutally crushed and a people's aspiration to be freed of exploitation expressed peacefully has been violently and treacherously suppressed. Millions of innocent, unarmed folk have lost their lives and millions more await a similar fate through a much more tortuous process of famine and disease. The failure of the men of conscience to protest against this massacre is the second tragedy. The world community, by its silence against the continuing carnage in Bangla Desh or to help the victims of this violent oppression, has twice condemned itself. The latter of the two—the silence of the men of conscience—is indeed the greater tragedy.

GREATER INJUSTICE

The twice condemned world community is attempting to redeem its conscience by doing good to those who have taken refuge in India. That however will not do. The refugees are as much a victim of the greater injustice as those who died or those who stayed behind in that forlorn land because the border was too far away. The Bengalis believed perhaps too naively that their exploitation might be ended through peaceful means. That faith has now been violently destroyed, much against their nature, Bengalis have been forced to take up arms and fight to free their homeland from the exploitation and oppression of West Pakistan.

Gen. Yahya Khan, in attempting to hold on to a colony, however masked, by force of arms has destroyed Pakistan and created a new nation. The ambitious attempt of Lt. Gen. Tikka Khan to 'kill a million men in 48 hours and set things right' was bound to prove counter-productive. Things are far from right today. They will only be right when the people of Bangla Desh have rid themselves of their foreign oppressors and taken charge of their destiny.

Today a small band of Mukti Fouz (the Liberation Army) roam the countryside. Ill-equipped and ill-kept, poor and hungry the Sons of Bengal today are without a leader. All those who could have led the people of Bangla Desh in her darkest hour have been selectively and systematically killed off. Perhaps not in the next month or even the next year but one day Mukti Fouz will free Bangla Desh from the exploitation and oppression of West Pakistan. Whether the world community chooses to help or not, the people of Bangla Desh will one day gain their independence. When that day is reached, the people of Bangla Desh will no more be the wretched of the earth.

Victory to the people of Bangla Desh— Joi Bangla!
Rahman Khan



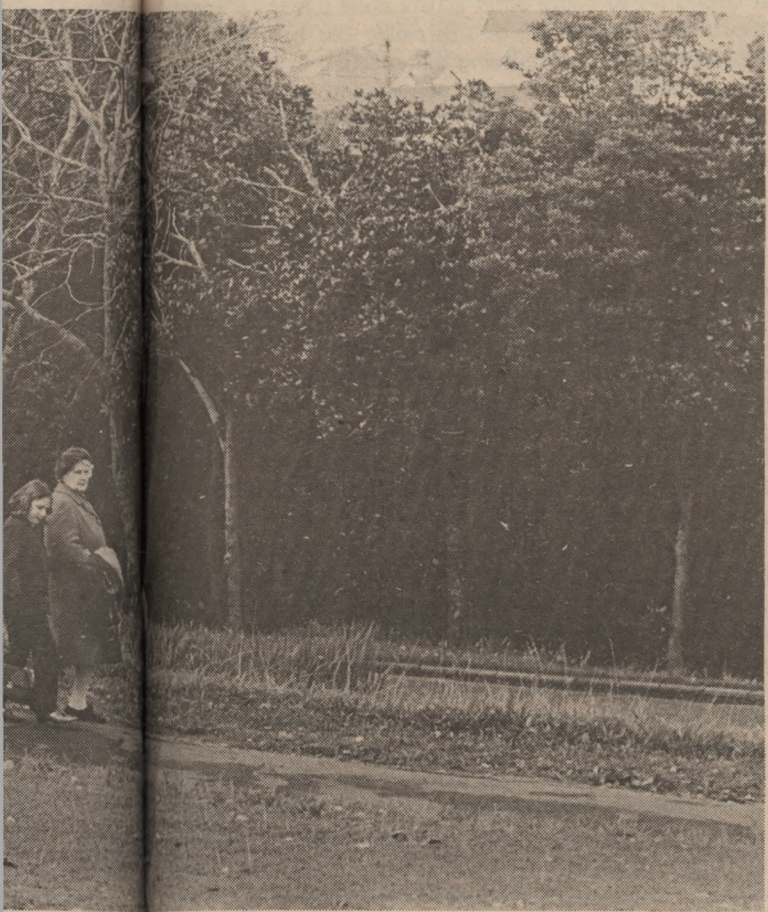
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Have you any ideas about the future trends in music?
It's very difficult to say isn't it. I mean how often does another group come along or another person that influences everyone else for the next five years. In sort of a contemporary country rock field the Band were a very big influence though a lot of people don't like to admit it; so many groups were influenced by them. And they emerged originally as a Dylan backing group who became enormous in their own right.

You know all the major influences in the past seem to come from groups. Do you think that individuals have got enough behind them to influence the world trends.

Yeah sure: with an abstract approach to lyrics in songs, Dylan definitely did it. Elton John and James Taylor have that lyrical approach to their songs. So I mean one person is quite capable of doing it. Usually when there's a group when you get a fusion of three or four people working together; it seems to me that their powerful influence stems from a synthesis of talents.

How about recording. Everything seems to be getting so complicated today.

It's getting complicated but its getting better. Even in Australia for instance, we're just starting to use 16 track recording, multi-track recording, and it was not long ago that we were only using mono and dual track recording. Five years ago. They're still using it in some studios. Well the advantages of course are mainly time saving factors. I mean you can record a whole orchestra now and put just about every section of it on a different channel and just record them, and you can have everyone in the one room at once, so there's time saving plus technical equipment is getting better all the time—the standard in the sound of records, is improving. You take a record that was made ten years ago and one today and just put the two on and you can actually gauge how far we've come.

You recorded your album on an eight track.

I did, yes I recorded the album. I had to do the whole thing myself.

You produced it.

Yeah, I played a lot of the instruments and I arranged it. Well mainly because it was a personal project I had. Because so many people today seem to be so busy, so preoccupied with making a living, you know, you say to somebody I'm doing this project and I'm going to try to finance the whole thing myself, will you help me. They say no I'm too busy. So I didn't rely on anyone. So next time I think probably I'll have a little more help than I did.

Do you have any set thing that you're trying to say or is it just an expression of yourself what you feel at the time.

A lot of people say to me my personality, you know for instance the way I'm talking to you, it might not come through the way it does through a song. Maybe there's a lot more romantic nature to my personality that I can express when I'm writing a song. And if you can move someone by something nice, you know that really tugs at the heart a bit, I'm more inclined to do that then to get into something that's really heavy and upsetting unless there's really something specific that I want to say that I think needs to be said. And I haven't done it in a song that I'm going to do on this concert—it's an ecological song and I'm not particularly prone to writing protest songs and the way this happened was completely spontaneous because I was in the studio and I had the tune written and I had no lyrics whatsoever and I had the musicians in there and when we put it down it came out so powerful to me that I wrote them in the studio when we did it.

You wrote the lyrics in the studio.

Yes I finished—In about half an hour and this is the song called *Save The Land*. I don't know how its going to be accepted by people, except its a genuine attempt to say something. I hope that when we do it in concert we can get everyone just screaming their heads off and just singing it too because it's one of those that if it happens on the night it'll be a very good experience. Cos we'll just keep doing it until people just rip it out of themselves.

Well how long is your concert going to last for.

Well I don't really know until I get in there. I've got a lot of material I've got at least 25 songs, and I really don't know know I would say at least an hour and a half.

Have you got any supporting acts.

Well in a couple of places we have but in the main I would really like to feel I can carry the whole thing by myself. It's a good thing to come out and just keep continuity going.

It's an unusual thing for an overseas artist to come here and carry an entire show.

Well it's not unusual overseas. In actual fact I've watched many of my friends do it. I've watched Simon and Garfunkel do it at the Albert Hall when a guy will come out playing nothing but a guitar to hold people and they only do about two parts of forty minutes. I saw Ritchie Havens do that. He's another great guy. Well, he can really liven up an audience with his musical ability.

Well I think most kids here didn't hear of Havens until



Manager Bob Raymond

the Woodstock movie.

He's so great live, you know he's not a great singer but as a contemporary writer he's great.

Someone like Paxton seems to be getting more angry in some of his lyrics lately.

Paxton? His change of direction seems to be followed or just copies by so many other artists these days. Very very difficult area. Something of this called the Iron Man. Of course now when you're doing that, getting in a very long narrative ballad, 15 minutes, you've got to be able to musically sustain it, otherwise you're going to bore people.

Do you think Paxton can sustain it sufficiently.

Tom's musical abilities are not nearly as great as he would like them to be and I think he probably knows that

What about your own musical backing. What kind of backing do you have in your concerts?

Well I have basically a rhythm group and I don't think I'd work with any more. Terry Walkers here with me from Australia is playing guitar with me a lot of lead guitar electric and acoustic. I would say at least half the show will be acoustic with the drums and bass—two really good people—really good drummer and good bass player. A lot of their stuff is built around rhythm. We've brought a record producer who is very familiar with the things we want to do. He'll be handling the sound and I think we're even going to get an overall acoustic balance. It's very important because we're going to a lot of trouble and a lot of effort to make sure that this is done right because if it's done right and it's successful we can come back here and do it again.

Well it seems as if the preparation for this particular concert tour is almost like a labour of love compared with all those commercial interests that are about.

It is. It is for me. For the simple reason that I haven't done it before in this way. I haven't had the opportunity for presenting my material in this way. I mean I've been waiting for the right opportunity to do this—been rehearsing the stuff—been very careful about whose material I'm going to do and to whom we are aiming this concert and to whom I want to talk to. If it was a case of



Guitarist Terry Walker

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Every major showbusiness controller in NZ tried to stop me coming

promoting the thing on past reputations and to the monopolistic entrepreneurs I would not come to this country.

Well why come here.

Because of **Bob Raymond's** interest and he's responsible for bringing the show here and directing it at the people that we wanted to direct it at. Which is basically students and that age group. And I'm not restricting it; I don't need to restrict it but this is where I think we can communicate best.

What about other countries after this?

I have no idea. I haven't any thought about it. I'm only concerned about what I'm doing here.

Have you met any of the more popular singers in the contemporary folk field these days.

Well probably most of the ones you've mentioned. I've worked a lot with Paul Simon.

Well what about a really morbid person who doesn't even so much sing as chant; I mean like Leonard Cohen?

Leonard Cohen's a poet. The terrible things a lot of people do to his songs. Some of them are very beautiful. But some people can interpret what he does—**July Collins** is particularly successful because I think she's got a very delicate and very sympathetic way of interpreting what he writes like **Suzanne** and **Sisters of Mercy**.

Well, how do you react to people interpreting your music—doing versions of your compositions.

Well the ones who have done mine. I would say have been in more of a commercial venture. After all that's what I'm in business for. As a writer I have to try to get my material over to as many people as possible. I'm not classing myself as a folk singer. I'm in a commercial bag. I'm getting into folk rock or country rock just contemporary songs in the hope that it will sell and be able to support me to make records. It's a very expensive business to make albums.

Just how far do you want to go in this scene.

My personality is not in show business. It never was. I was always there in the background doing what I was there to do—contributing material and ideas and occasionally stepping up front and doing something—singing the lead in a song. I'm very happy to be in the background most of the

time except now and then when I'm fired up and enthusiastic about what I'm doing. If it gets a great reception—you know every writer suffers from the greatest insecurity complex of all times—you don't know when you're going to dry up. This is the fear that most people have who are trying to do this sort of thing.

Well you write mainly by inspiration then, or do you toy with ideas.

I'm not a disciplined writer. Not like Paxton who will force himself to write everyday just to keep his hand in—whether its a satirical thing, you know he'll pick up a new item out of the paper and he'll just write something.

Yeah I read somewhere that he makes himself write for about four hours each day.

Yes he does. But then again that's his approach and that works for him. It doesn't work for me.



Everything is monopolised here

There's been an accusation made that a lot of people just have a basic idea and then go into a recording studio and spend hours and hours and hours just working over it.

Well I doubt it—I doubt that's true because not many people can afford to do that. Maybe a few can—it's a very expensive business—I mean with a 16 track recording you're talking about \$120-\$130 an hour and unless you're a giant you can't afford to do that. Now Paul Simon does this—I've seen him do it—he can afford it time and money is no object to him—because his last album sold 6 million copies. The album cost a minimum of 250,000 dollars to produce and some people put it as high as half a million dollars—most of that's in the studio.

POETRY READING AT THE ARTS CENTRE SATURDAY 5TH JUNE

This was the first major poetry reading in Auckland since the Festival Tournament last April when the inebriated young bashed up the sober old-guard in the Technical Institute. But what a difference —

The atmosphere at the Arts Centre was like that at Victoria University last August, warm, and rich, and even more relaxed — no strain between the readers and the audience. The poets for a start were not drunk and belligerent, or if drunk, were friendly. And they were seated all around the hall with the audience arranged in a circle inside, very close to them. (You could lean out and actually touch a real poet if you wanted). But most important, the poets really communicated more. I mean, they seemed more human, more earnest, more anxious to have their words understood. If there was any obscurity, it was not the fault of the poems, but of some of the readers. **Rhys Pasley**, for instance, has this falling inflection problem, and though his poems are good, his voice plods on and on, di di di daaaaa, di di di daaaaa. And you couldn't hear very much that **Stephen Chan** and **David Mitchell** read—from Chan, looking like Jack the Ripper in a blue light, came a gentle though sincere burrrrr, from Mitchell, a distant patter, which is a pity, because he, I think, read some good things.



Mitchellsome good poems

But then, the others really USE their voices. Probably the highlight of the evening was **Russell Haley's** 'Ballad of Harry Lurber'. Imagine a smooth, slightly sardonic voice with a grassy North Country accent saying 'Lurber'. Haley's voice is obscene and very sexy. But not only has he got his voice, but he also acts—I mean he actually became Harry Lurber, impaled on the spire of a pine tree, heart burning, plastering the crowd below with his flaming seed. Haley sort of rose higher and higher...

Opposite Haley, way over the other side of the room, was **Jan Kemp**. It's really good to hear a woman read, especially when she's not all sweet and gooey. Jan's voice is clear as clear, slightly nasal and sort of wistful, and her love poems seemed to reach ALL the people listening there. (No, not all, **Gordon Clifton** assures me).



Edmonda languid melancholia

Then there were **Arthur Bates** and **Murray Edmond**, who seemed to really enjoy reading. Arthur has this wry sense of humour. I remember vividly one poem in which he solemnly described the discovery of pubic hairs in his bath sponge. And another in which an actress gave birth on stage to a born actor. Murray, too, is really getting across to his audience. Reading from the 'Grafton Notebook', with his friends, and Mary, sitting near, he built up this intense, melancholy feeling of hot nights and dusty, languid bodies on a wooden verandah in Grafton gully.

For a while in Auckland poetry readings were really strained, with the poets trying to make themselves heard over a rock band, shouting into microphones, or getting drunk and raving at a slightly hostile audience. But that Saturday night some days ago showed how strong the vibrations can be between a poet and his listeners, and what a powerful, mellow, blue and orange atmosphere can be created at such an evening.



Most of your 'stars' are simply promotion jobs



jam factory concert and the shape of overcoats



Highwayto play at Jam Factory

JAM FACTORY

On the weekend of July 3-4 (that's the one after next) an event that is unique for Auckland will take place. A Festival of rock music—not way out in the country but right in the heart of the City, at the Maori Community Centre in Fanshawe Street.

Over the two days, you will be able to hear most of the best rock bands in the country, tempered with folk music, films, food and friends.

The project has been maturing for about six months, since it was first suggested by Universities Arts Council Chairman Jim Stevenson.

The organizers felt that since the commercial promoters were only interested in importing safe middle-of-the-road performers, the Jam Factory Weekend would be a vital chance to show what is going forward in New Zealand music.

Consequently they are getting the two Wellington Bands "Highway" and "Farmyard" up to join the good Auckland bands. They have invited some of the exceptionally fine blues and folk singers who work in Auckland and have tracked down some excellent films by New Zealanders. Together with the imported Underground and feature films they've obtained and the lightworks that Kier Volkerling, who lit the Warkworth Architect's Congress and Peter Frater who provides the "Highways" Light show, are going to turn on, these add up to an exciting weekend.

The project has had its share of near disasters. Close-minded people with highly suitable buildings, have refused to lend them, lest the rabble degrade them. One sympathetic company had made an old jam factory available (hence the name). But it contravened Auckland City Council Bylaw 2001 "For the Regulation of Public Dance Halls and the Castration of Tiny Minds".

So now with the help of the Orakei Marae Trust Board who have kindly made their Community Centre available, the great event is on the way. Tell your friends, buy a ticket or two, grab a blanket and come. Tickets will be selling all this week and next on the campus. If you want to know anything more ask Paul Carew (769-190) or Selwyn Jones (361-062). PS As you may know the Orakei Marae Trust board are trying to raise money for a new marae. They would appreciate any help, for example some of you might give some voluntary labour at the weekends. Please ring Mrs Margaret Boyce at 50-751 if you can help.

ALICE'S RESTAURANT / REGENT

Alice's Restaurant opens with Arlo at the local draft-board office. Something's wrong with the data sheet he's just filled in. 'Scorpio' is not sufficient for Date of Birth. And he cannot be exempt because of the possibility that he might inherit his father's illness. After all, he hasn't got it yet.

The scene is important, I think, because it sets a deliberate pattern for the film to come; it even foreshadows its conclusion. First, of course, it establishes Arlo's drop-out status, his self-conscious nonchalance in the face of the system. Most interesting is the link drawn between him and his father, a link that acts as a consistent metaphor throughout the film. He's like his father in some respects, though Woody's social awareness has been replaced by Arlo's disregard for the Establishment.

But we can't really make an absolute break from our inheritance—our past, in Arlo's case, his father's nervous disease. We may create a fictive world in order to survive, but here are realities we still must face, which we can neither predict nor control. At the end of the picture, Ray's idea to sell the church and set up a commune is indirectly an attempt to erase the past, particularly Shelly's death for which he and Alice feel in some way responsible. More than that, he won't face up to reality—Shelly's hard-drug habit would not have disappeared had they just retreated further and further from the society that helped bring it about. Real liberation comes not from mass flight to Alice and Ray's church or to a commune but from, as Arlo puts it, finding out what your thing really is and acting on it. Arlo realises that he's not going to find the truth any more in

Alice's world than in the 'real' world. And this, of course, can't ever be wholly denied—even Alice and Ray have to support themselves by conventional means.

At various times during *Alice's Restaurant*, Arlo returns to the hospital to visit the failing Woody. These sequences are brilliantly done—they have a sort of uncanny naturalism that approaches artificiality. Arlo's acceptance of death and even the fact that he might also die of the same complaint demonstrates that his escapism, unlike Shelly's, is not self-deluding. Thus Arlo emerges as a sort of hero in Alice's Restaurant; he knows what he doesn't want, but he realises that he will have to create his own world. But it won't be just another prison; though it will deny the sort of frightening logic whereby a convicted litterer is held morally unfit to serve in Vietnam, it will come to terms with human realities from which none of us can really escape. In the beginning of the film, Arlo has for a moment been beaten by a bureaucracy that is alarmed by his indifference. He accepts the defeat, but it doesn't alter his own moral assumptions. By the end of *Alice's Restaurant*, he is proved right. We may admit that society will inevitably affect our lives but it need not suffocate us. We don't have to go under, as Shelly did, in the face of a vast and grotesque system that no one can control.



Arlo Guthrie handcuffed

Alice's Restaurant only seems to be formless, it really manages to cohere very well. Form is almost inseparable from meaning; a straight narrative treatment would certainly have changed the total effect drastically. It reminds us at times of Penn's earlier work in its spontaneous feeling and concentration. It's an original film. When you consider the material on which it is based (mostly Arlo's recording and, presumably, extra background from Arlo, Ray and Alice), Penn's achievement is all the more impressive. If *Bonnie and Clyde* was a fine re-statement of an established genre, *Alice's Restaurant* has a mode all its own.

GRANT STITT

COAT ON A WALL/TOM KREISLER/ BARRY LETT GALLERIES

Tom Kriesler, trained at Canterbury School of Fine Arts and now living in New Plymouth, is best known in Auckland for his satirical series of paintings based partly on the reproduction of Michaelangelo's 'David' exhibited at Milne and Choyce in 1967. His is revealing of his ambivalent attitude to 'fine art' and 'good taste'. Michaelangelo's 'David' must be the most famous work of art apart from the Mona Lisa and to vast multitudes of half-educated culture vultures it is the pinnacle of both 'art' and 'taste'. The reverence given it on this account is probably revolting enough to any serious artist, whether he likes it as a sculpture or not. When a plaster reproduction was sent 13,000 miles to be displayed in a department store and this was considered something of a cultural event it was all too much for Kriesler, and he created a series of paintings in home-decorator pastel tints on unprimed canvas using the Michelangelo form sometimes full-length, sometimes in detail, and giving due emphasis to those over twice life size genitals which (who knows) may account for some of the statue's popularity with the housewives and office-girls of Auckland.

This series, entitled 'Murph', was shown for one day only, a Saturday, at the Barry Lett Galleries. Not many people can have seen it, but that sort of thing didn't matter. The artist had made a gesture, a rude gesture, one definitely in 'bad taste' to redress the balance after the self-congratulatory 'good-taste' gesture of Milne's. If this seems like double talk, all it means is that to most serious artist 'good taste' is to be avoided at all costs, because by the time a thing is accepted as tasteful it is necessarily academic, sterile, and dead, and therefore truly anti-art. 'Perfection is finality, and finality is death'. To combat this academic 'death' many artists have attempted what is apparently 'anti-art', like Marcel Duchamp. It may have been a good thing that Kreisler's exhibition lasted only a day or there might have been the public outcry against his version of David's genitals that Michelangelo's was spared. After all it would be silly to call Michelangelo pornographic. Yet in 1967 someone had made sure that two of Duchamp's works were deleted from an exhibition before they could offend Dunediners, and in the same year Don Driver suffered public rejection of a vaguely sexy sculpture not to mention an earlier scandal in which it was alleged he insulted the memory of Queen Victoria.

This anti-academic satirical attitude is one aspect of Kreisler's work. At its most outrageous it has been manifested in a 'beautiful' painting of dog-turds in lemon yellow and sky-blue, that at first sight looks like a late leaf-form collage of Matisse. (As far as I know this painting has not been exhibited). His other main aspect, a perfectionist obsession with form, is more obvious in the present exhibition, but the satirical ambivalence towards Fine Art with a capital F should not be forgotten. It is the explanation for the unconventional medium (acrylic and dyes on unprimed canvas) which gives a peculiarly uninviting surface texture, and the bourgeois colours, banal in our environment, but strange in a work of art. Any suggestion of meticulous application of traditional artist's techniques such as careful priming and the building up of glazes for a rich effect is specifically rejected, but the bare bones of the painter's craft are retained; areas of colour, and canvas on wooden stretchers. The medium is very much the message. If these works were on hardboard their statement would be quite different.

Kreisler's formal preoccupation links him with the post-impressionists. His black outlines are reminiscent of Gauguin and I think used for much the same effect, an emphasis on delineation of mass rather than surface-depiction. The connections with Matisse and Gauguin, together with the careful (even if anti-Fine) technique place these paintings nearer the European tradition than most New Zealand works. The artist was born in Argentina, but I don't think this is directly relevant. What is relevant is that he is obviously very aware of the great masters of form. His work is not therefore particularly a product of his New Zealand environment, but of the whole Western tradition. This is evident if it is compared with his English contemporary Patrick Caulfield's work, with which it is both unconnected and yet similar in form and content, though not in medium.

All the paintings in the exhibition are of an overcoat which if not the same one is at least similar. They are hung in an arrangement specified by the artist, so that there is a serial modification in viewpoint, colour, and detail. The viewpoint is distant in numbers 4 and 5, and so close in number 8 that it becomes a detail of the upper part only. Number 7 shows only the lower part, and comes close to post-painterly abstraction. Number 3 is the key picture or theme on which the others are variations. Individual pictures from the series should stand up well in isolation however, as they are each fully comprehensible without reference to the others. The advantage of the serial exposition is that the exhibition as a whole is given integrity and unity.

There is no sentimental treatment of the coats as subjects, they are simply excuses for form and colour, but are preferred to non-figurative shapes probably because they work with the technique to suggest something along the lines of: 'for real art, not the 'good-taste' kind, the rudest texture on the plainest canvas is enough if the forms are right, and for subject matter any old coat will do'. It is possible to see double meanings in the shapes, as for instance a female pudendum in number 8, but this is also true of the folds of a real coat. These paintings might make you look again at a hanging coat in the way that a Binney or a McCahon makes you reassess landscape, but their purpose is more to reassess the art of painting than the shape of overcoats.

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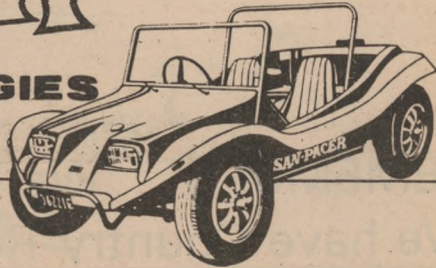
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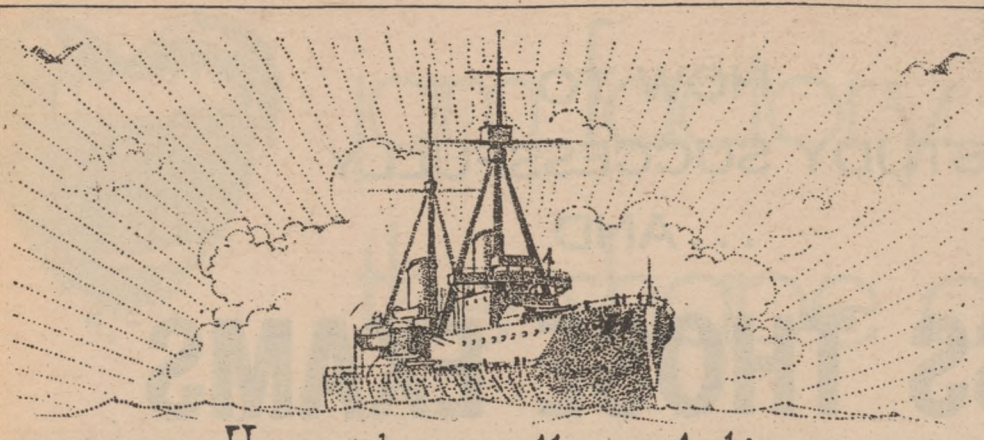
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