

A photograph of a building entrance, likely a school or university. A large banner is stretched across the front of the building. The banner has text in English and Chinese. Below the banner, there is a smaller sign on the left side of the entrance. The building has a classical architectural style with columns and a pediment. There are some people visible near the entrance, and a person is walking on the path leading to the building. The overall tone of the photograph is sepia or aged yellow.

Fight For an Autonomous Students' Union
为学生会独立自主鬥爭!!

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS UNION
8 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD
SINGAPORE 2

SPSU 76/77
Orientation
Handbook

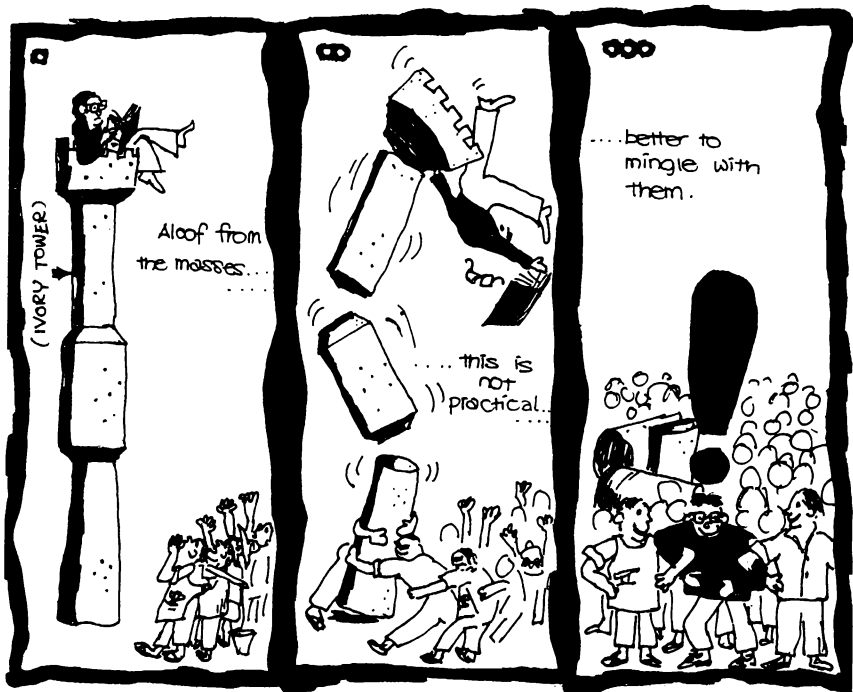
TO A STUDENT :

MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO STIR UP CHANGE, PROBE FOR WHAT IS THE HIGHEST FACTOR IN ANYTHING, HELP WHAT IS NEW TO BE BORN.

BE A STUDENT! DON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING (GOD, FAMILY, SCHOOL, SEX, LOVE, EDUCATION, MARRIAGE, GOVERNMENT) AT FACE VALUE.

ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT EVERYTHING. DIG. CUT THROUGH THE WEBS OF HYPOCRISY BY ALWAYS HAVING YET ANOTHER QUESTION TO ASK. IF YOU DON'T DO THIS, YOU ARE FAILING, NOT JUST YOURSELF, BUT ALL OF US.

----- MALCOLM BOYD



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GREEN

Many of you came in
 So green - because you
 know nothing.
 Then you became real GREEN
 because there is new life
 in you.
 The heat of oppression
 tries to dry you,

The rays of futuristic
 human liberation gives
 you strength and energy.
 Like the green shoot,
 we must defy the heat of
 oppression and strive to
 where life is.

MESSAGE

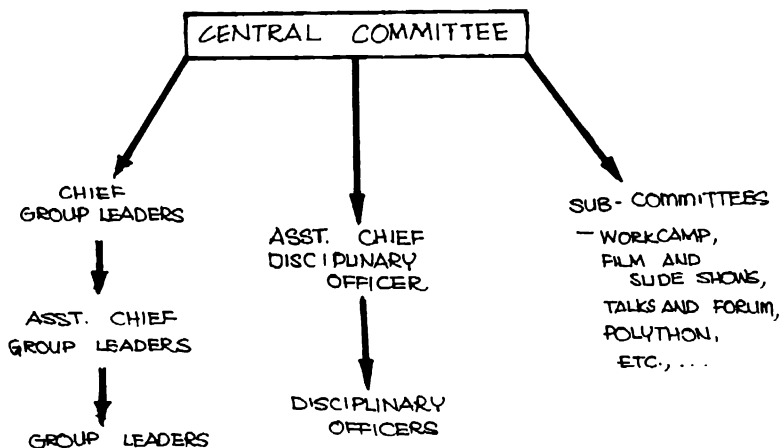
Every year a new batch of students enters the Poly, full of expectation and excitement, coupled with a slight fear of the new environment. The Poly is built up through the sweat and labour of our people and our entry into the ivory towers of Poly is at the expense of these people. As such, we should view our stay in Poly as a golden opportunity for us to better equip ourselves to serve the people later.

Do not be surprised when you discover that what you have learnt does not equip you with the ability and knowledge to serve the people. Do not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around with searching awareness. You will find around you a group of people -- though a minority, but growing day by day -- who is striving hard to cater for your insufficiency, to provide you an insight into social realities, and the problems of our people especially the working class. If we want to get ourselves fully prepared for our future role, we should participate actively in activities outside the confinement of our studies.

The F.O.C. programmes is a start for you to gain an in-depth knowledge of your society. The programmes aim at providing a chance for you to meet others, discuss your aspirations and ideals and a chance for you to acquire a smattering of the plight of the underprivileged and downtrodden people of our society.

FOC
O O O CENTRAL

F.O.C. STRUCTURE



AN OUTLINE OF F.O.C.

Preparation of the Freshmen Orientation commenced with the formation of the Central Committee which consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrative Assistant, Chief Disciplinary Officer and Handbook Editor. Application to serve in the Freshmen Orientation Committee (F.O.C.) was opened to all students whereupon all applicants were required to attend an interview. All successful applicants were confirmed F.O.C. personnels and attended a general meeting whereby they were briefed on their

duties and responsibilities. They also came to know more of the F.O.C. structure. During this general meeting the F.O.C. personnels were allocated to their respective subcommittees, be it workcamp, exhibition or talks and forum etc. A preparatory camp ensued. The main purpose of this camp was to provide all F.O.C. personnels an opportunity to come together, understand each other and discuss on how to organise the orientation programmes. Following the preparation camp was intense and extensive preparation work pending the orientation.

AIMS OF FOC

- 1) To inculcate in the freshmen a sense of Union awareness
- 2) To foster better relationship and unity among students
- 3) To instil in the freshmen a sense of social responsibility.

POLICIES

- a) Strongly against any act by students under whatever pretext which will hinder the smooth running of orientation programmes, may it be pre-orientation or orientation proper.
- b) To encourage active and mass participation among freshmen in all activities organised by the FOC.
- c) Any senior student who wishes to participate in any orientation programme must conform to the conditions laid down by the CGL.
- d) Disciplinary action will be taken on students acting in a manner derogatory to the Union or in any way violating any policy of the FOC.

FOG THEME :

union awareness thro'

mass participation

THE STUDENTS' UNION

One fundamental difference between Poly and school life is that in Poly there exists a students' union, the sole representative of students. In schools there are such organisations as societies and uniformed groups, but these are not genuinely students' organisations for these are in effect under the strict surveillance and control of teachers and students usually have little or no say in it. ECA is in fact a major means to exercise close control over students' activities outside class. In Poly the students' union is a totally students' affair; the students elect their own leaders and plan, organise their own activities. The Union, representing the 7,000 students in Poly, cares primarily for students' interests, students' welfare. It organises cultural, social and sporting activities, undertake the loan of equipments and facilities for students, fight for better service for students eg. in terms of canteen prices and stationeries. It also serve as a means of communication between the Poly Admin. and the student body, safeguarding the academic rights of students.

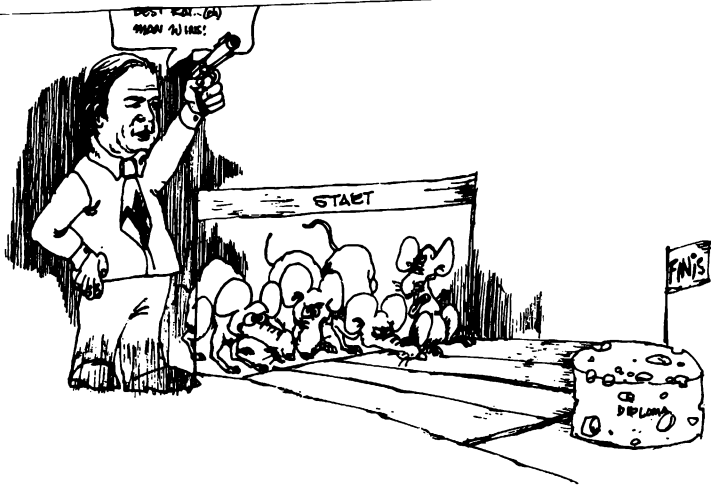
THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Our present educational system has done much to subvert us. We have been taught a set of wrong values and concepts and denied an exposure to social realities. We have been moulded to be selfish.

self-centred and materialistic, aloof of social injustices and inequalities. We have been rendered unthinking and intellectually sterile. But deep inside us, there is one desire - to strive hard, beat others in academic performance and to reach the top.

A NEW ROLE

We do not want our role as students to be defined and determined by others. We need to redefine our role. First and foremost we must understand that our successful admission into Poly is not solely due to our academic performance. The fees we pay each term is barely sufficient to facilitate



the expensive education we receive. The bulk of the money used for our education is subsidised by the tax-payers and these are the people at large - the workers, farmers, fisherman etc. These people are responsible for changing the landscape of our country, they are the builders, the creators of wealth, but they are exploited. The wealth they created flows into the pockets of the rich - the industrialists, the capitalists. The people await us with outstretched hands and our immediate role is to identify ourselves with the working people.

Students as a social unit has certain unique characteristics, different from other sectors of society. They are

unlike the working class, who by virtue of their marital burdens have more economic burdens to shoulder than students. As students, we also have better access to certain knowledge and technology, normally not known to the public. Hence students are in a better position to detect social injustice and hence should voice out for the people.

THE SOCIAL VALUE OF A STUDENTS' UNION

Hence, "we must admit that it (the students' union) is a very rare organ left in Singapore which can still express independent, critical ideas and can still attempt to organise public sentiments which express the aspirations of the majority

their resentment. Other effective organisations are either banned and non-existent or effectively crippled with their leaders thrown into prison.knowing the social value of our students' union, we must work harder to organise the union to serve the people whenever possible.....

....We are all in the University(or Poly in our case) at the expense of many others. Remember our responsibility to society, or responsibility to, justice, equality and freedom.

The programmes of this year FOC aim at introducing the union to the new students. Thorough mass participation and involvement in its activities we become aware of the existence of the Union, of its importance both within and without campus. The Union is at our disposal, it is the sole representative of all students, if we do not serve, who will serve? Internally, serving in the Union, we work for students welfare, unite more students, awaken them to realities. Externally. we are a voice for the underprivileged majority. We should also be a catalyst for social change.

QUOTE:-

Follow us to a new life,
Follow us on our struggle
Against the old order,
In the work for a new
form of Life,
For the Freedom and
Beauty of Life.

- M. GORKY -

VOICE OF

an AWAKENED



STUDENT

"My country is one of the richest"
You told me,
And I was proud
"My country is in rapid progress"
You said,
I was filled with joy
We can go on and on
You claimed,
For we have good leadership
I was overcome with gratitude
Obligation,
It flooded into me
To work and to serve
Was all I wanted to do

Then,
I came into contact with the
people
I was baffled
I was disillusioned
I saw
My people begging in the streets
My people toiling to fill their
stomach
My people die in the course of
work
My people selling themselves
My people retrenched when no
longer needed
My people thrown behind bars with-
out trial
In a word
I saw my people suffer
I cried,
For I felt lost
Knowing not what to do
Deep in me
Hatred takes root

Yet
Knowing not who to hate
And you said this is progress
If the price be this
Then
It is no progress
No,
Not for my people
All along,
You have blindfolded me,
That I followed where you lead
All along,
You have drilled praises into
my eyes
That I sang them for you
All along
You have conditioned my mind
That I conformed to your ways
A fine deceit it was
But no more
I shall be deceived no more

You said we are rich
When my homeland is penetrated
by foreign capitalistic
aggression
You said we progress
When my people are reduced to
enslaved working digits
You and your lies!

Yes,
There was once when I fear you
For you have your machineries
And they seemed so mighty
And I so small
But no more!
I fear you no more!

By your provocations
I have awakened
It is you who aroused me
And now
You cannot stop me
My heart can never be at rest
again
Yes
I shall not rest until my people
are free

So you have the machineries
It only proves your weakness
For only being weak
Do you have to resort to them
Such machineries too
Can never destroy the strength
of the people

In time to come
Your provocation shall arouse
the people
Then,
It shall be the people
The oppressed who will be mighty
Yes,
And those who oppress shall tremble
The enslaved,
They have nothing to lose
Nothing but their chains
In the long run,
Nothing can withstand the People's
Logic
Nothing can withstand the Logic of
History.



THE DAY WILL COME.....

THE DAY COMES,
WHEN THE PRICE OF RICE INCREASES FOR THE FIRST TIME,
HE ENCOURAGES "EAT MORE WHEAT CAMPAIGN".

THE DAY COMES,
WHEN THE PRICE OF RICE INCREASES FOR THE SECOND TIME,
HE ACCUSES THE UNSCRUPULOUS MERCHANTS.

THE DAY COMES,
WHEN THE PRICE OF RICE INCREASES FOR THE THIRD TIME,
HE CRIES PITIFULLY, "OH, IT'S A WORLD INFLATION!"

THE DAY COMES,
WHEN THE PRICE OF RICE INCREASES FOR THE FOURTH TIME,
HE PRAYS, "LET'S HOPE FOR THE SOONEST PRICE DROP"

THE DAY COMES,
WHEN THE PRICE OF RICE INCREASES FOR THE FIFTH TIME,
HE BLABS, "WE MUST TIGHTEN OUR BELTS AND WORK HARDER".

EACH TIME THE DAY COMES,
WHEN THE PRICE OF RICE INCREASES,
HIS SUBTLE WORDS SOUND CONVINCING,
SOMEONE HAS TO BE FOOLED,
BUT, FACTUALLY NONSENSICAL, DECEIVING AND MISLEADING.

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN,
OUR BELT IS BROKEN,
OUR ANGER IS INTOLERABLE,
OUR STRENGTH IS INVINCIBLE,
OUR SIGHT IS SHARPENED,
OUR FRIEND AND FOE ARE DISTINCT,
HAI IT'S A DOOMSDAY FOR HIM.

IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT AND NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR STUDENTS OF A TERTIARY INSTITUTION IN A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY TO ORGANISE THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO ADVANCE THEIR RIGHTS AND FULFIL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BOTH AS STUDENTS AND AS MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY. STUDENTS ARE AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF SOCIETY, AND AS A RULE, ARE MORE DYNAMIC AND HAVE LESS DEPENDENTS THAN OTHER SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY. THEREFORE THEY ARE IN A BETTER POSITION TO STRUGGLE AGAINST OPPRESSION AND INJUSTICE AND TO BE IN THE VANGUARD OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROGRESS OF THEIR COUNTRIES. SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS ARE NO EXCEPTION AND IT WAS WITH THE OBJECT OF FULFILLING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES THAT THE SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION WAS FOUNDED.

the UNION and YOU

BENEFITS!

Membership of the Students' Union is the compulsory privilege of all Polytechnic students enjoyed at a fee of \$18 per annum. The Students' Union is a body empowered to represent students in all matters affecting their interests and affords a recognised means of communication with the Polytechnic authorities. The most tangible evidence would seem to be the various publications, Union House facilities and sports facilities.

Besides this, the Union provides excellent opportunities for gaining experience and for developing one's character and personality. This refers to serving in an official capacity in the Union's administrative machinery. The experience gained is invaluable and stands in good stead in later life. When you are in the Executive Committee, you learn to be diplomatic, rational and objective in your approach to any problem and in your relations with members of the Union and your fellow Union officials. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that when you work in the Union, you are working in a miniature government.

Though, we are all students with definite course of study, we cannot divorce ourselves from our people; moreover because of our education we are in a better position to serve our country and people. The Union, therefore, organises social projects every year, eg. work camp. The successful

completion of these multifarious activities depends on your unflinching support. By participating in such projects you invoke in yourself a sense of belonging and at the same time contribute your share as a citizen towards the betterment of our people's welfare.

Finally what may also be termed as a benefit is the fact that the Students' Union makes representations to various bodies on behalf of its members. These representations (which take the form of resolutions, press-statements or memoranda) are usually made after a thorough and objective consideration by Council of the particular problem.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE!

You are bound to act in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Union's Constitution. The Disciplinary Commission has powers to take disciplinary action, and such action may take the form of fines not exceeding twice the Annual Subscriptions of an Ordinary Member or suspension from any or all the privileges of membership for a period not exceeding one calendar year or suspension from the Polytechnic subject to the approval of the Principal.



AND FINALLY

Every year, the Union spends a big sum of money on projects such as the F.O.C., publications, study tours and student's exchanges etc. This money belongs to you and therefore it is your fundamental privilege to exploit such projects by further participation and involvement.

YOUR RIGHTS & PRIVILEGES

Under the Constitution of Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union, membership entitles you to stand for election, to nominate or second a candidate for election, and to vote in the Union elections subject to the provision of article XIV.

You have the right to speak and vote at General Meetings of the Union. You have the right to use the reading rooms and sports facilities of the Union. You are also entitled (subjected to a small payment when necessary) to a copy of all publications of the Union.

YOUR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES!

A right is coupled with a responsibility. All members of the Union are, therefore, bound to abide by the Constitution and not act in any way inconsistent with its objectives.

Apart from duties imposed by the Constitution of the Union, it is your duty to attend and support all activities and functions organised by the Union to the best of your ability. Furthermore, it is your duty to see that office bearers and officials of the Union carry out their duties in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Constitution.



THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION

The administration of the Union is entirely in the hands of the students, except for staff members in connection with the Finance Committee. The administration is vested in the Students' Council, elected annually in the ninth week of the academic year, by the members of the Union. The Executive Committee is elected by the members of the Council from among themselves, and the Standing Committee members are appointed by the Council from applications received from students.



the Students' Council

This is the supreme body of the Students' Union and its twenty-five members are concerned with policy making. All major decisions of the Union are made at Council level. Its policies are executed by officials or other committees which will be described below.

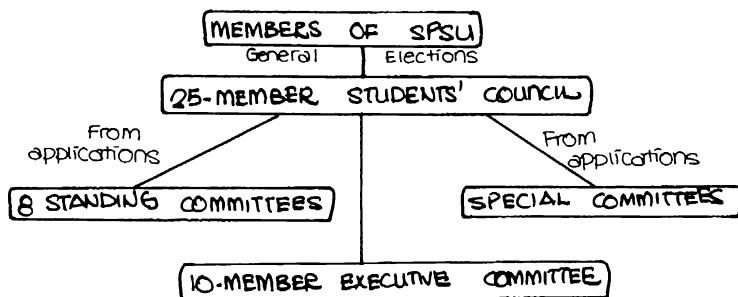
The Students' Council has a Chairman, whose duties are to chair all Council and General meetings of the Union. He cannot hold office in the Executive Committee. The Students' Council, at its first meeting will elect from among its members an Executive Committee whose tenure of office will last until the next Annual General Meeting which is convened in the second week of the second academic term.

the Executive Committee

This committee comprises the President, the Vice-President, the Honorary General Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Union House Secretary, the Assistant Financial Secretary, the Assistant Honorary Secretary, the Publication Secretary, the Social Secretary and the Welfare Secretary.

This committee is the livewire of the Students' Union and an efficient and hardworking Executive Committee is vital for a dynamic Students' Union. The Executive Committee is primarily concerned with the day-to-day administration of the Union. Excepting the President, every Executive official heads an important Standing Committee. It is the recognised means of communication between the Union on the one hand and the Principal, other Polytechnic authorities, the Government, or any other external body, on the other.

UNION STRUCTURE



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION

The Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union is governed by a written Constitution. The Constitution lays down fundamental principles which no Students' Council can violate or ignore. For example the Union cannot take a partisan stand in favour of any religion or any political ideology.

The Constitution itself contains nineteen articles, governing the proper management and conduct of the Union, the structure, powers, duties of the Students' Council, Executive Committee and other Committees, and every other

matter relating to the structure, function, and working of the Union and to the conduct, welfare etc of the Union members. Under the Constitution all students of the Polytechnic are automatically members of the Students' Union.

Without being acquainted with the Constitution it may be quite difficult for you to appreciate the workings of the Union; its aims and objectives; its success and failures; your privileges as members, where it can help you; your duties to the Union, and all other matters pertaining to the Union and your part in it.

The 16TH STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Foo Chin Yen	President	*	Aw Beng Lan (Ms)
Lee Chee Yuen.....	Vice-President	*	Choo Min Sooi, Jimmy
Soon Hoe Chuan.....	Hon. Gen-Sec.	*	Joseph Choo
Lee Nguan Hong.....	Financial Sec.	*	Dzulkaranian Bin Abdullah
Ng Hoon Hwee.....	Social Sec.	*	Kwan Kow Fatt, Philip
Lee Sing Chong....	Publication Sec.	*	Lim Tian San
Tieon Lay Hua (Ms)...	Welfare Sec.	*	Low Boon Hua
Lim Tiow Hui.....	Union House Sec.	*	Neo Wee Sim, Israel
Lim Lian Peng....	Asst Hon Gen-Sec.	*	Wong Sing Yuing
Hiah Peng Soon.	Asst Financial Sec.	*	Woon Kok Meng
Foo Weng Fatt.	Chairman of Council	*	



THE

STANDING

COMMITTEES

While policies and ideas are proposed at Council level it is these committees which carry out the proposals. They are of a permanent nature and their powers, duties and structures are provided for in the Constitution. All the Standing Committees are headed by the members of the Executive Committee, and the Council selects, from applications received, ordinary Union members to serve in these committees in different capacities. There are eight Standing Committees.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

The Publications Committee of the Union is set up to implement the Union's publications policies as laid down in the Constitution Article IX Section 3. It handles all publications of the Union besides publishing Newsletters etc. of the Union.

The importance of student journalism need not be emphasised. This committee greatly assists in promoting student unity and enables individuals to understand more fully the common problems encountered by undergraduates.

The major publications produced by the Union are: The Singapore Technocrat, The SrsU Handbook, and the Union Diary.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee takes sole responsibility over the Union's finance and accounts. It has to submit a financial report of the Union at the end of the term of office of each Council or at any other times when required. It also considers applications for supplementary grants of the affiliates as well as distributing the annual grants to them. The President is ex-officio member of this committee and there is a staff member who countersigns all cheques made out in the name of the Union by the Financial Secretary.

WELFARE COMMITTEE

The interests and well-being of all the members of the Union come under the care and responsibility of the Welfare Committee.

The Committee has been commended for its achievements in being able to negotiate with the Polytechnic authorities whenever any complaints or grievances from the students arise.

In addition, it has participated in numerous public welfare projects, thus earning the Union a name in the various Welfare Homes in Singapore.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee undertakes the task of organising all social functions as directed by the Students' Council.

This Committee also undertakes the screening of entertainment and Educational Documentary films.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The External Relations Committee serves as a liaison between our Union and other Students' Unions. It undertakes to maintain communication between our Union and other external bodies all over the world. The ERC has successfully carried out exchange schemes with overseas students. It has also played host to many visiting delegates to our campus.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is entrusted with the duty of maintaining the daily routine of the Union Office. Its duties include the conducting of correspondence, keeping of all Union's records and the despatching of mails addressed to undergraduates. The Secretariat is situated at the first floor of the Union House, within which functions the complex machinery of the Students' Union.

UNION HOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee besides undertaking the daily maintenance and efficient running of the Union House and its facilities also enforces all the rules and regulations as laid down by the Council.

It should be stressed here that the Committee holds a very serious view of students gambling within the premises of the Union House. All offenders will be brought before the Disciplinary Commission.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

While Standing Committees have specific tasks allotted to them, sometimes the Council may want to carry out a project or activity for which no standing committee exists. In this case, Special Committees are set up for those particular items, and they cease to exist as soon as their tasks are completed.

The Students' Council also appoints its own representatives to international gatherings or conferences or on any occasion when representatives of the Union are requested.



THE SPORTS COUNCIL

The Singapore Polytechnic Sports Council, sports-wing of the Students' Union, is an autonomous body with full jurisdiction over its own activities and consistent with the aims of the Union. It is financed by the Students' Union and governed by an annually elected council consisting of five executive members and captains of various games.

The more important thing in sports is not to win but to participate, however over the past years sports in Poly has been restricted to a selected few and little effort was made to encourage mass participation. This year, however the Sports Council has resolved to promote the spirit of "friendship first, competition second" and organised such items as inter-class matches and Poly 50 which encouraged not only mass participation but also foster friendship and unity among students.



AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

An affiliated society is an autonomous body with full jurisdiction over its own constitution, administration and activities. Such bodies may apply to the Student's Council for affiliation after its constitution has been approved by the council.

AFFILIATES OF THE UNION

- Building Society
- Chinese Language Society
- Civil Engineering Society
- Draughting Society
- Engineering Society
- Malay Language Society
- Marine Engineering Society
- Music Society
- Nautical Society
- Photographic Society
- Polymer Society



STUDENTS' SERVICE CENTRE

The Students Service Centre was set up in November 1975 by the Finance Committee. The main objective of setting up this service centre is to provide students with stationeries at relatively low prices. A permanent stall was set up in the Union House (P. E.C.). In addition, a mobile service (undertaken by the Students' Union) brought stationeries to students in the outlying campus (A.R.C.).

The idea of setting up the service centre came into mind of members of the Students' Council after several complaints by students regarding the Administration contracted book store (Ensign). Finally the Finance Committee contracted a company to set up the Students Service Centre.

Below is a list of some of the items sold by the S.S.C. :

80 sheets ruled foolscap pad	\$0.70
1 ream ruled foolscap paper	\$4.50
Jotter book	\$0.13
200 pg. soft cover ex. bk.	\$0.35
200 pg. hard cover ex. bk.	\$0.85
120 pg. soft cover ex. bk.	\$0.22
BIC ballpoint pen	\$0.15
Redleaf ballpt. pen	\$0.20
Pencil sharpener	\$0.07
Folder files	\$0.30
Plastic folder cover	\$0.30
SPSU crest stickers (12pcs)	\$0.20

COME in awareness

You who have come
 In quest of knowledge --
 Come with open minds
 Ready to explore new ideas
 To nurture your talents, if they
 Be for the betterment of mankind

Come with humility and gratitude
 For your coming has been possible
 At the expense of many others
 Know that you have a responsibility
 Not to betray that trust that
 Others have placed in you

The world out there needs you
 Let your coming be
 To make you a better person
 For the role destined for you
 And should you find
 Your ideals shattered
 The rosy picture you painted
 Smears --

Do not be disillusioned
 But from this dilemma
 Gain greater strength and wisdom
 To pursue your goals.

- Norsiah A Rahman



ASIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Asian Students' Association, ASA, was formed in July 1, '69.
The founder members are:-

National Union of Australian University Students
Ceylon United Students' Federation
Hong Kong Federation of Students
National Council of University Students of India
Team Pelaksana Munas Mahasiswa Indonesia
Persatuan Kebangsaan Pebajar Malaysia
New Zealand University Students' Association
National Union of Students of the Philippines

A National Delegation representing Singapore students

Among the aims of ASA are:-

1. to promote acceptance and practice of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Asian region
2. to promote close and effective co-operation between National Unions in the Asian Region
3. to promote active student involvement in the educational process, national development and the solving of the problems of the Asian region
4. to promote academic freedom and university autonomy in Asia

In order to further its aims, the Association undertake the following forms of activity:-

- a. to publish a regular bulletin for distribution among students of Asia
- b. to organise national, regional or international seminars and programmes
- c. to extend solidarity and support to member national unions wherever it is needed

Under the Constitution of ASA, Asia is defined as the area from Turkey eastwards, not including the Soviet Union to Japan in the north-east and to New Zealand in the South.

1974 - TURNING POINT in UNION HISTORY

Our educational system had long been attuned to academic excellence with students competing keenly in the climb towards the highest rung of the educational ladder. Students were orientated towards individual pursuits for higher paper qualifications which would lead to a "better", materialistic life.

Instilled with such mentality, life in Poly has been no more than lectures, lunch, library and SPSU has been organising Balls and Dances for the past years. It really saddened to see students engaging in such self-indulgent activities.

But in 1974, SPSU came out from its nut-shell and participated in several social issues. In Feb., 4 Students' Unions (USSU, NATCSU, NUSU & SPSU) came together for the first time to protest against a 10cts. bus-fare hike. SPSU knew that the hike would only add onto the hardship of the working people at the time of spiralling inflation. SPSU decided to take up the issue and joined the anti-bus fare hike campaign.



Bangladesh flood relief campaign

Around the month of August, SPSU & USSU jointly initiated a Bangladesh Flood Relief Campaign. Bangladesh was hit by floods resulting in 30million people homeless, starving and at the brim of death. The campaign was organised to collect clothings and money to help rescue the victims of the disaster.



The demolition squad

In Malaysia, more and more people are made landless and dispossessed as lands are concentrated in the hands of a minority. Evictions occurred frequently. In early Sept. '74, squatters in Tasek Utara, Johore were evicted. This eviction had something unique in that the squatters were granted permission to stay on the land during election period by the authority. Subsequently, after the election, their houses were demolished. On humanitarian ground, SPSU and USSU helped the squatters by giving full publicity to the eviction.

In late 1974, under the pretext of global economic recession, many workers were retrenched by several MNC's. Several malpractices were found committed by the MNC's with workers not given the appropriate treatment like prior notices and compensations. Knowing this, USSU and SPSU set up a retrenchment research centre to help the retrenched workers. However, the authority was unhappy with the existence of RRC and this resulted with the arrest of RRC chairman Tan Wah Piow and two workers.

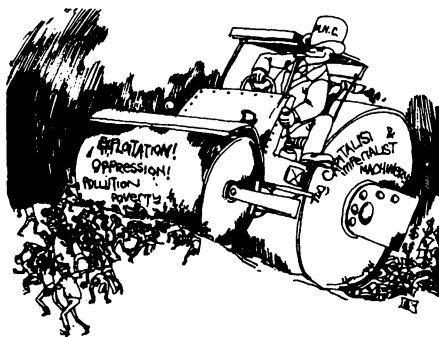
Only through the involvement in social issues that our responsibilities to society, justice, equality and freedom can be fulfilled. This responsibility is entrusted onto us because as students we are more dynamic and have less dependents than other segments of society and therefore in a better position to fight against oppression and injustices.

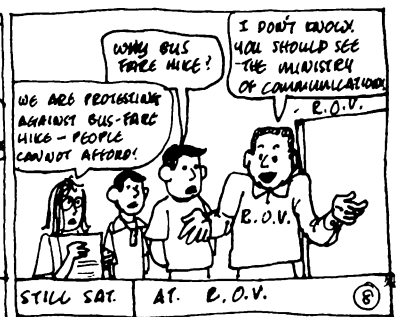
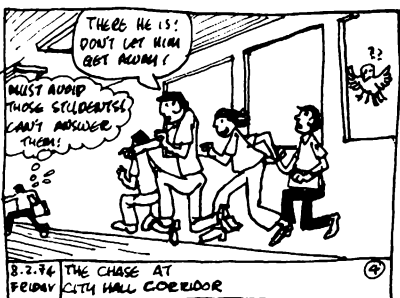
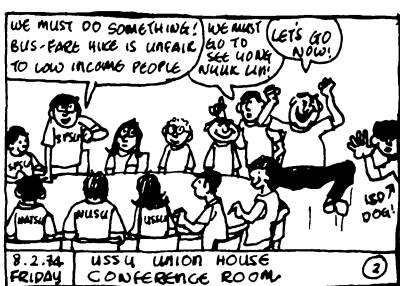
Our responsibility is to use our more privileged position, acquired at the expense of others, to help those who are deprived and oppressed. It is a sad reality in our society that the creators of wealth of our nation are deprived and oppressed. This social reality is a characteristic of our irrational social system.

In our pursuits for a just and fair society, we were warned of "meddling in politics". Let us remind them, politics in its most basic sense involves the manner in which we treat our fellow human beings. Politics should therefore be no monopoly of politicians and political parties.

There were also allegations saying that in the JB Squatters issue, we have violated the sovereignty of another country. To such people making this statement, the controversy would boil down finally to non interference in other body affairs, be it within or without our nation. Here, we must emphasise our belief that it is not only our right but also our responsibility to be concerned of those who are less fortunate and oppressed.

The object with which SPSU was founded can only be realised if and only if every student comes out of his/her nut-shells and shows concern in the well-being of his/her fellow human beings.





the BUS CONCESSION ISSUE

Since the anti-bus-fare hike campaign in 1974, students of tertiary institutions in S'pore has begun to be aware of the exploitative nature of SBS. This year, 1975, representatives from the students' council of the six tertiary institutions namely NUSU, NATCSU, USSU, SPSU, IESC and STISC met to discuss on a bus concession issue. The main reason behind such an issue is that the students in tertiary institutions are by no means in a dissimilar financial status as their counterparts in secondary schools and therefore it is most justified that our parents should be relieved of this extra burden. (our high tuition fees and expenses are already a headache to many parents) Also, a bus concession could mean a chance for more people to study in Poly. Moreover from the FIGURES shown it can be seen that SBS is reaping huge amount of profit annually and if they grant concession to students of tertiary institutions it would only cost them about \$2 million.

In the course of the bus concession issue some of the students Councils conducted surveys in their campuses. The response from the students was overwhelming. In Poly, 2,500 students were surveyed. Results showed that 53.5% of Poly students spend 80¢ - \$1.20 on their daily bus fare. This means that a large portion of their daily allowance is being spent on bus fare alone and therefore a bus concession is most imperative to students.

Subsequently, joint letters were sent to the SBS asking for a concession and presenting the grounds for making this request. In the second letter sent to SBS the representatives asked for a meeting with the SBS management to discuss on the issue. To the first letter, SBS replied briefly and claimed that they can't afford due to ever-increasing operational costs. There was no reply to the 2nd letter. These two letters were sent by student representatives of six tertiary institutions representing 15,000 students but SBS, which claims to run the service in the interest of the people, chose to give a short reply to one letter and totally disregarded the second letter. Also, letters were sent to the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Education. The former replied that it was in no position to help while the latter simply sent an acknowledgement card. Such non-chalant attitude of the authorities towards the plight of students is most disgusting. We could not help suspecting an intimacy between them and the SBS.

Though the fight for a bus concession does not materialise, it is far from being a failure. On the other side of the coin, this issue has brought about solidarity in student unity in fighting for a common, justifiable cause and created public awareness in student activities.

V.I. DEMO

On Feb 1st, 1976 the VI students were surprised by the sudden withdrawal of their bus passes. What followed was a massive demo by the VI students against the unjust action of the SBS.

The VI students were mostly from poor families and since the withdrawal of their bus passes, they had to spend a comparatively large sum of money on bus fare. Many had to skip lunch and others were forced to the verge of discontinuing their studies.

At first the students approached their principals, and sent letters to the SBS but there was no reply. In protest, many students boycotted class but to no avail. Left with no other alternative, the VI students were compelled to resort to their last channel of hope - to seek public support thru' demo.

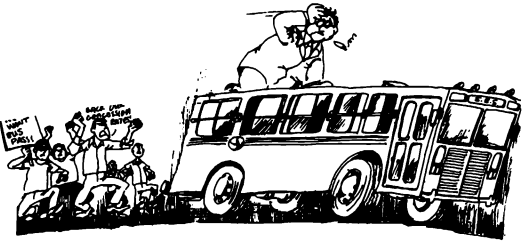
The demo started in the morning of Feb 9 with about 1,500 students massing at the padang. Later it was estimated that altogether about 3,000 took part in the demo. The action of the VI students received tremendous support -- parents gave encouragement, teachers dismissed them early, and remarks like "good", "you all are doing the right thing" "Don't worry, we'll support you" were heard from members of the public. A policeman was even heard saying "If I am not in uniform, I will join you all!"

Representatives of the student were sent to negotiate with the SBS authorities at its headquarters but the talk was fruitless. Nevertheless the demo was a great success for it exposed the students' plight to the attention of the public who would otherwise had been ignorant of the whole issue due to the tightly-controlled press.

Then on Feb 13th, just before the VI students were planning another demo, the SBS announced that it had decided to return the bus-passes after all. Why the SBS finally gave in is obvious. The announcement came so timely that the picture is crystal clear. The SBS could not face up to the repercussion of another demo. The severely-prescribed press, however, reported that the return of the bus-pass resulted from "talks among officials of the SBS, the ITB and the Educational Ministry".



Once again we have to question the silence of the government thru'out the whole issue. Not only are they indifferent, they even went to the extent of mobilising state machineries - the police, the ISD and riot squad to harrass the students even though it was a peaceful demonstration



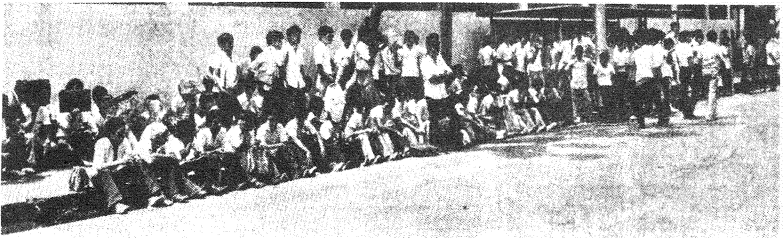
The Principals of all the VI were told to submit the names of students who participated in the demo and some of the students were even called up and met with rough treatment from ISD agents. During the demo, the police arbitrarily arrested " a 21 year old man" who is actually a Poly student who went along with SPSU officials to find out what was happening. The press grabbed this opportunity to hint that an "outsider" was behind the demo, and thus divert public's attention away from the root cause and significance of the demo itself. It is also obvious that the press reports tried to discredit the VI students as "blind sheep" who were misled into joining the protest 'just for the fun of it'.

The victory of the VI students speaks for itself. It is another issue which exposed the social in-

justice of our society and brings into light the plight and sufferings of the poor. It also proves that when there is oppression, there is resistance.



The riot squad



The VI students - a just cause

S.B.S. UNSCRUPULOUS TACTIC

The fight for a bus concession by the student unions of the 6 tertiary institutions was mentioned in the Straits Times Feb 10th along with the VI demo. The report included statements like "SBS might have to raise bus fares if it were asked to provide too many concessions". "Alternatively, the standard of the service could drop if this and other demands for concessions - such as from students from higher institutions of learning - were to be met."



The motive of the SBS in issuing such malicious statements can be conceived as follow: SBS is desperately clinging to this opportunity as their pretext for another bus fare hike should there be one, thereby students will be alienated from the public and made scapegoats to bear the blame for the burden imposed on the public.

Whatever the decision SBS is going to make, the students will definitely continue their fight for a bus fare concession. If the SBS is to further increase bus fare it will definitely be met with immense opposition from the students and people

FIGURES

In 1970 the lowest rate for bus fare is 5¢ and the distance was about the same as the present 20¢ distance.

In Feb '74 the 10¢ bus fare hike was implemented. At that time the man-trip per day was approx. 1.4 million. Estimating 10% of the commuters to be travelling on 50¢ trip and were not affected directly by 74 bus fare hike. (no increase for 50¢ trip) That means an increase of $(1.4 - 0.14) \times 0.1$ million dollars per day, ie. $(1.4 - 0.14) \times 0.1 \times 365$ million dollars per year = 46 million dollars per year.

According to a report submitted to the Minister of Communications, SBS is making an operating profit of 120 dollars per bus per day. According to Sin Chew Jit Poh Oct 8th '74 there were about 1450 buses operating per day. Therefore SBS net profit per year should be about $\$120 \times 1450 \times 365 = \62.51 million.

Source: Report of Government team of Officials printed by National Printer.

SBS in 1974 was making an income of 10 million per month (Sin Chew Jit Poh 22 Jan '75 ie. about 120 million per year as written in a SBS publication "The best way to secure a future".

SBS claim that the diesel hike has increased its running cost by \$180,000 per month which is only \$2.16 million per year.

CONTINUATION OF PERSECUTION ON TAN WAH PIOW

Tan Wah Piow was vice-president of the 28th Council of USSU and voted into the 29th Council with a 1800 strong mandate and was subsequently elected president. During his term of office, USSU embarked on projects to increase the social awareness of students. Some of these were the protest against increase in tuition fees, anti-bus fare hike, Bangla-desh Flood Relief Campaign, Tasek Utara Issue and the setting up of Retrenchment Research Centre. These projects led to the deportation of 6 student leaders and the frame-up and jailing of Wah Piow. Students from the University of S'pore and S'pore Poly protested and staged a boycott over the government's actions. Although the boycott failed to bring them back, it has further awakened the students to walk out of their ivory towers and join the people in the making of a better society.

Wah Piow's courage stemmed from his firm belief that people are beautiful, that people have the potential to change, to learn and to come alive. He saw in USSU an organisation which could still speak out and those people who are denied their own channels to voice out their plight.

Wah Piow was to be released on Oct. 24th. at 7a.m. (after being unreasonably imprisoned for 245 days on a trumped-up charge). Earlier, arrangement has been made for a few hundred students from SPSU & USSU to gather at the prison gates to welcome Wah Piow. The authorities, who has always feared students, released Wah Piow two hours ahead of schedule. Wah Piow refused to leave when the prison officers woke him up at 5.30am as he would be risking his life by going out of the prison alone at such a time. Finally an officer conceded to drive him right up to his house.

Wah Piow speaking to students after his release



Wah Piow later returned to the prison entrance at 7am and met the students. Later he went to S.U. & Poly and talked to the students. He told them that the authorities had only succeeded in immobilising him for 8mths.; they had failed to destroy him spiritually or his faith in truth and freedom. He expected further persecution because he was rebelling against what he had been programmed to do. He had been conditioned in school for 16yrs. to graduate to a comfortable middle-class life, be a member of the 3% of the working population drawing above \$1 000 a month and be contented.

Wah Piow said, "I was conditioned to have my eyes blinded so that I see no social evils; my ears plugged so that I heard no cries of the people; and in case I did see or hear some evil, my mouth was to be gagged so that I speak no protest. I broke the rules altogether. I ripped the blindfold and saw the pathetic living conditions of neglected old pioneers of Chinatown and the exploited workers of Jurong; I dug out the ear plugs and heard the voice of Said Zahari (a journalist under detention without trial for 13yrs.) coming from behind the prison walls. Finally I took the decisive step to liberate myself - I spoke up."

On 12th Sept., Wah Piow was served an enlistment notice for National Service while he was still in the Queenstown Remand Prison serving an unreasonable one-year sentence. The notice required him to report at the C.M.P.B. on Oct. 24 at the very hour of his release! So on 17th. Sept. Wah Piow's mother wrote to the C.M.P.B. requesting for a few days' deferment. It was only two weeks later that the reply came and it was a negative "No!". Learning of such repression, USSU made a stand and acted. An international press conference was called and USSU's anxieties resulting from government's irrational actions

with regard to Wah Piow's safety were made known. USSU then wrote a letter to the C.M.P.B. requesting for a consideration of Wah Piow's mother letter. Finally on 15th. Oct. the C.M.P.B. consented to give Wah Piow a deferment of 3-day.

The authorities decided to enlist Wah Piow on the very day he was released to serve full-time national service in the Armed Forces. Wah Piow was to report at the C.M.P.B. at the very hour of his release! There were a few points to note concerning this enlistment:

1) Wah Piow was given a medical check-up by a military doctor which was carried out in the prison which is not equipped for NS medical test. He was not given the basic chest X-ray or colour blindness test. Such handling of NS enlistment and sending Military Doctor to the prison was unprecedented.

2) Wah Piow's NS enlistment was special as there was no general call-up at that time. Why must the authorities set a special date for Wah Piow to be enlisted?

3) Wah Piow is severely myopic and short; but he is to serve in the toughest unit-- artillery, which usually absorbs only the most able-bodied of men.

Wah Piow was supposed to report at the C.M.P.B. at 8.30 am on Oct 27, '75 but he defied the NS enlistment notice. He based his judgement on circumstantial evidence to prove 3 cases:

A lot of students turned up at last year's court case hearing



1) The authority has not stopped and will not stop the persecution against him. Even though Wah Piow is no more a student and his individual voice is limited and have no organisation to back him up, the ultra-sensitive authority might view subjectively with fear Wah Piow's present image which was boosted up by the publicity generated by the 47-day trial and the moral support given to him by a large cross-section of the population and students. The authority has in the past clamped down on newspapers, intellectuals, political opponents who criticised them and they may not necessarily repress those whom they view as a necessity to silence, they even persecute those who are no more threats to their survival. Moreover it is not difficult for us to imagine how much Wah Piow has been hated by the authority. He and his colleagues succeeded to a certain extent in arousing social awareness within the elite English educated. Hence, Wah Piow concluded that the second phase of persecution is on.



2) The authority can and will use the military institution to execute this second phase of persecution. The authority may have the problem of slapping an Internal Security Act (ISA) on Wah Piow for they cannot use the usual pretext of "communist" or "manipulated by foreign forces", "black operation", etc. on Wah Piow. The more effective way is to employ the military institution. P.M. Lee K.Y. himself has said in the 1969 forum for freshmen that all who hold views against the PAP will be hauled into NS. Wah Piow's contention is that the authority are using the enlistment as a cover to persecution against him. This can be either in the form of physical destruction through engineered "accidents", "misadventure" or perpetual punishment leading to a mental breakdown or even another frame-up to prolong his stay in the army where it is easier to use the military court instead of a civilian one.

3) Not to pledge allegiance to a repressive government. All NS men must take an oath pledging, among other things, loyalty and allegiance to the Government, country and people. But Wah Piow will definitely not pledge allegiance to a government which has, through a long historical process of persecution, subject the people to fear and removed all the fundamental rights of people.



THE BANNING OF USSU

In S'pore, organisations that can effectively speak out for the underprivileged and disinherited majority are very few. USSU and SPSU are the only organisations that has managed to survive the numerous repressive measures of the authorities.

1974 saw an upsurge in student activism. There was an increase in social awareness in students; they actively participated in several speak-up campaigns. Throughout that period, USSU proved herself to be an outspoken organisation, one which dare voice out the people's aspirations. As such, the authorities which can't bear up to a slightest amount of criticism, resorted to several unscrupulous tactics to cripple USSU.

In the parliamentary session on 11th Nov 1975, the Minister for Home Affairs and Education, Mr. Chua Sian Chin, moved an amendment bill to dissolve the existing students' union and pave the way for a new union. The new union will be placed under the societies act and its constitution laid down by the government.

The existing students' union is an independent organisation constituted in the University of S'pore Act enacted by Parliament. It is an autonomous body, managing its own finances, activities and policies.



Police tear down posters from students' hands

With the application of the Societies Act to the Students' Union, the Union will be reduced to an ordinary registered society, whose fate is determined by the Minister of Home Affairs. Ironically, Mr. Chua, The Home Affairs Minister is the same person who moved the Bill. Thus, Mr. Chua has sole power to the fate of the Union.

With the new Bill being implemented the Union will be re-constituted by a statute of the University, which will define the constitution, membership, functions and other matters of the Union and its affiliates. Thus, the Union would lose its autonomy and comes to a state of being controlled like Nanyang University Students' Union.

Prior to the introduction of the Bill to the Parliament, the University Administration had collected a large sum of union fees on behalf of the Union. The Admin. withheld them and now with the new Bill being implemented, they are empowered to control the Union's money. Under such circumstances, the activities of the Union will be controlled as the finance is manipulated by the Admin.

In short, the Bill is aimed towards absolute control in all the aspects of the Students' Union, making it an ineffective organisation.

USSU had anticipated some move to be taken in the coming Parliamentary session against USSU, and started pamphleting to the public warning them to watch out for any such move.

After the introduction of the the Bill, USSU passed resolutions rejecting the immoral and undemocratic attempt of the government to dissolve the students' Union. USSU resolutions also called upon MP's to be aware of the repressive nature nature of the amendment Bill and appealed to them to exercise independent minds and not along party line. Arrangements were made to contact mp's regarding their views on the Bill. Many MP's were either "busy" or "not in". For those contacted, they hinted no objections to the Bill.

USSU determined to hold a forum inviting the Minister of Home Affairs and Education, Mr. Chua Sian Chin and the Vice-chancellor of Singapore University Dr. Kwan to give their views on the Bill. After much effort, the students managed to get the VC to the forum but Mr. Chua was not contactable. In the forum the VC told the students that he saw no difference to the status of the Union even if the Bill is passed. However, he could not answer when asked if there is any necessity for the Bill.

During the crisis, USSU came out with a special issue of the Undergrad, the official organ of the Union. This issue helped to publicise the implications of the Bill and the situation facing USSU.



SPSU's STAND

SPSU released a public statement denouncing the repressive and deceitful nature of the amendment bill. It also brought out the possibility of SPSU facing the same fate as its brother Union USSU. The statement called upon the public to show concern for USSU and SPSU and support the students' struggle against repression.

Within the campuses, SPSU urged its members to lend a helping hand to USSU to help in pamphleting and selling of the Undergrad. A number of students knowing the repercussive effects of the Bill responded to the call.

PEACEFUL DEMO

On the morning of 20 Nov'75, a solidarity rally was held in USSU. to express the students contempt for the Bill through sketches songs and poems. Students from SPSU also attended the rally.

At 12.30pm about 300 students left USSU for the Parliament House. Students carrying placards and banners assembled outside and at near vicinity of the Parliament



House. The placards displayed words like "We don't want a Puppet Union" "Repression is a sign of weakness" and "MP'S don't let us down". Many passer-bys were attracted by the students carrying placards.

At around 2.20pm the riot squad started to tear down placards from the hands of the students. The police and the riot squad then began to disperse the students. Some students were treated roughly by them. For that Parliamentary Session, students were barred from attending although all parliament sessions are supposed to be open to public.

FATE OF SPSU

With the banning of USSU, the only organisation left that can speak out for the people is SPSU. However, SPSU is facing a financial crisis at present caused by the calculated move of the admin/ not to collect Union fees along with tuition fees. It can be expected that in the near future moves will be taken by the authorities to render SPSU ineffective and helpless.

But SPSU is not going to sit back and count its days. She must in her best capacity carry on the task of awakening more and more people.

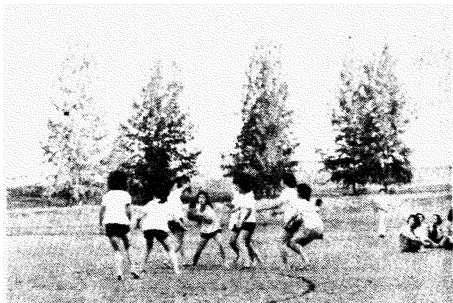
FUTURE OF S'PORE

The killing of USSU's voice will induce more people into questioning the rationality of the system. More would speak up against injustice, inequality and repression.

SPORTS IN POLY

INTER-CLASS MATCHES

The 1st inter-class 7-a-side soccer tournament organised attracted more than 40 teams from one campus, ARC. Instead of the usual knock-out system, the fixture was arranged so that each class has more chances of meeting at least two other classes. In this way, better friendship and sporting spirit were fostered. It took two whole weeks to complete with 12 classes entering the finals. The spirit of "Friendship first, competition second" was stressed and maintained thru' out the whole tournament. The finals proved to be very exciting with teams displaying good sportsmanship.



INTER-CLASS NETBALL MATCH.

The interclass netball was also organised to encourage participation from the ladies who had little significance in the sporting scene of Poly. It was open to all the three campuses which drew an encouraging number of entries. The tournament took 2 weeks to complete with teams displaying skilful ball passing in a friendship atmosphere.



POLY 50

Poly 50 is an annual sports event. It is one of mass participation. Teams of 7 men and 3 ladies are required to complete 50 laps round the campus. (PEC). The aims of this Poly 50 are firstly, to encourage mass participation amongst students and secondly to promote the spirit of "friendship first, competition second".

This year Poly 50 was attended by about 600 students. On the morning of the occasion, students were seen busily setting up running channels and getting the whole place ready for the afternoon event.

By 2.30 pm most of the participants were present and the race commenced after a final briefing on the rules and aims. Throughout the race, an atmosphere of sports



manship prevailed though it was marred by occasional breach of rules and disturbances from some unruly students. The race ended at around 5.30 pm after a brief souvenir giving ceremony.

What has education done to me?

13 years of 'education' 13 years and what has 'education' done to me? I have never asked myself this very fundamental question till now. I have never searched my soul so deeply till now, for here in the University, I suddenly confront **real** people, people who question, who think and most important of all, feel for other people . . . People who dare point out the irrationalities of our educational system and the social system as a whole.

There was great joy when I first stepped into my Primary 1 class. Yes, for then I was still a sweet, innocent little child, full of hopes and curiosity for this 'beautiful' world. There was great joy in learning how to read and write every new word. There was so much quest for knowledge . . . Yet all these joy, curiosity and quest seemed to be smouldered as the process of 'education' went on. In the place of all these, apathy, disinterest, worry, frustration and selfishness grew and they grew in magnitude as I crawled from 1 academic success to another.

I did not know why I was sent to school then. I only knew that I must study hard and do well or I would be penalised. I remembered some V.I.P.s said that what we learnt would be used to serve our country and people. 'What noble aim,' thought the gullible me. And as time went by the truth dawned on me. I studied hard and attempt to do well because then and only then would I be promised of a light and prestigious job, a job

whereby I could earned myself bigger and better cars and houses than my classmates. It was at first very embarrassing to discover this, for I the still pure one, thought that people ought not to be so selfish. Somehow through further 'education, my skin thickened. 'Education' as a means whereby one attain personal comfort and glory, becomes an open secret.

It was then that 'education' became a torturing nightmare. It was like sitting and waiting with throbbing heart the result of a big gamble you made with your life. There was so much pressure on me that at times I thought I might end up in Woodbridge hospital. Neighbours, relatives, parents and teachers were very concerned about me. But, what kind of concern? Teachers wanted their class to do well because they wanted to show off their teaching efficiency to their colleagues and most important of all, the principal. Neighbours were concerned because they wanted me to obtain worse results or in other words earned less than their own children. Relatives were concerned because they wanted a manager, a lawyer, a doctor or any highly-paid professional worker to be added to the glory of the family history. Parents, of course were the most concerned, for I represent their gamble or investment. They often nag to me about so and so's son or daughter earning thousands of dollars every month. All these concern gave me a thousand heartaches and headaches . . . Can human relationship be so false and so tainted with the odious smell of money?

Meanwhile I turned myself into a 'rat' to join the rat-race in school. With years of 'learning experience' I coined myself this motto: 'Don't ask what and why, but study and die.' To be frank I began to develop an intense hatred towards any blocking stones in my pathway towards personal achievement. I stood for myself. I struggled for myself only. Any thing that would not benefit me, I couldn't be bothered or at best I ridiculed them.

How many real friends did I have? None, honestly none. After so many years of 'education', I must have met at least half a thousand people and yet I have no friends. I had no time to talk to people. You see, I mobilised every minute and every minute and every second of my school life towards 'education'. In actual fact, I lost interest in people except perhaps those of the opposite sex

**DON'T BE A BOOK-
WORM**

EDUCATE
YOURSELF THROUGH
INVOLVEMENT
AND PARTICIPATION!



I didn't care what was going on in this world. As long as I could obtain myself a certificate I would be happy . . . Happy? No, it wasn't happiness. It was too short-lived and it left a sense of emptiness in my heart. Those people who were in control of our 'education' criticised us for being so nonchalant towards current events and so they set us a 'current affairs' test to show their 'concern'. Ironically, I, the apathetic and the selfish one did very well. My secret of success? Learn those facts in the newspapers like learning for your history exam. We were spurred on to participate in extra curricular activities by being rewarded with marks. Hence, I had to force myself to participate in extra curricular activities. In fact, I scored high marks for my E.C.A. My secret formula for success? Smile more, say 'hi' more, and be a little more thick-skinned. If this is still insufficient, buy yourself a book on: 'How to make people like you,' call me a hypocrite if You like, but who are the bigger hypocrites? Those hypocrites who subtly force other people to become hypocrites, or those people who are forced to become hypocrites.

In the University, one sees the process of education reaching its 'climax of success'. Entering the University reminds me of entering a jungle where the fittest survives. I thought we were very civilised but if the primitive law of 'survival of the fittest' still survives and fits into our so-called 'human' society when we are no better than beasts. This beastly behaviour manifests itself in the so-called 'orientation' programmes. (I don't mean those organised by U.S.S.U. for U.S.S.U. is against such kind of beastly behaviour too) I was 'orientated' by some gentlemen into believing that to be 'educated' means also to sacrifice one's dignity in the face of bullies. I even pledged to myself that it would 'educate' the next batch of freshmen who came in.

There were often times when I felt so tired, so sick of the 'paper-chase', that I wished I were dead or a hermit. I looked for alternative pathway where I could grab myself a few million dollars without going through the inhuman and torturing process of cramming my mind with 'knowledge' I gambled. I bought a lottery ticket every week. Those of you who still have some moral principle to abide would stare with disbelief . . . What, U-students gambling? Don't be shocked there are lots like me, only thing is, some do it secretly or through other ways. There are those who drank

many bottles of coke a day even though they are not thirsty because there is a bottle cap collecting contest going on. There are those who bought themselves loads of bandages as if they were sure that they would be knocked down by a car the very next day, simply because there was a related contest with attractive prizes going on.

How old was I then? Not more than twenty years old, yet I was so weary and tired of life. If education encourages one to develop one's potentiality to the fullest, what is ours? So many times, I wished I could join my friends who found much joy and meaning in living, but I suppressed this yearn for life in my heart in order that I might do better in my exam. If education is full of excitement and joy, what is ours? Every morning I dragged myself from bed and said to myself, 'God, another day of torture, wish the day will be over soon.' So I wished every day to be shorter and thus indirectly wished my life to be shorter. Yes, there were lots of time I wished to be dead.

Friends, if you see me, you would think I am a very educated person. I dress very neatly and put on a tie to distinguish myself from the 'uneducated' masses. I do not shout and curse like those 'coolies', I was but . . . superficially educated. Inwardly I was no better than those 'uneducated' ones, for friends, if you had talked and lived with those farmers or workers, you would be often touched by their sincerity, friendliness and warm-heartedness.

13 years of education has turned me from an innocent, pure and lively child to a corrupted, sadistic, apathetic, cynical, hypocritical and sinful adult. Not most important of all, it has turned me selfish. When a person is selfish he would do anything to attain his own happiness and glory. I stopped to believe that it is still possible for people to be altruistic, until I encountered real, altruistic people, people who even sacrifice their own liberty so that others may be happy. Then, and only then did I started liberating myself from my old 'evil' self.

Friends, have you ever asked yourself this very basic question: 'What has education done to me?' If you have not, then it is time you start thinking, and if you were like my old self, then it is time you really and truly re-educate yourself. We are still young and there is still time.

books introduction



LEE KUAN YEW'S SINGAPORE - by T.J.S. GEORGE

Lee Kuan Yew has been Prime Minister of Singapore for 17 years and has led it to "prosperity and order". The gross national product has soared; the city has become cleaner and greener. T.J.S. George chronicles the Prime Minister's rise and rule, and analyses his personality, aspirations and methods. While acknowledging Lee's achievements, he makes an alarmingly good case for believing them to weigh light against the disadvantages of a dictatorship. Arguing from well-marshalled facts, and without rhetoric, he demonstrates that if Lee Kuan Yew's political philosophy had happened to be leftist instead of favouring opportunistic capitalism, his performance would have been greeted by the West not with approval but with deep dismay. George goes further than proving, and protesting against, a thoroughgoing suppression of freedom and indifference to human rights, and a cynical readiness to profess one thing and practise another.

MY WAR WITH THE C.I.A. the memoirs of NORODOM SIHANOUK

These memoirs are an account of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's fight for Cambodian independence - fight against France and then, for over twenty years, against the United States. Sihanouk shows that Cambodia's freedom from the French was only the beginning of an even more arduous struggle. Exposing American efforts to sabotage his neutralist policies, he describes the ever-present Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) involvement with his domestic opponents, the corrupting influence of dollar aid, the assassination attempts against him, and the coup that finally toppled his government in March 1970. His book is thus a startling report on the tactics used by the world's strongest power to force smaller nations away from their chosen policies.

THE WALL HAS TWO SIDES

- by FELIX GREENE



Felix Greene visited China extensively in recent years. He spent several months there in 1957, 1960 and 1964 and travelled widely (unescorted) throughout the country. Visiting communes, factories, schools, hospitals, prisons and law courts, he talked to peasants, workers, intellectuals and civil servants without restraint. Felix Greene wrote: "No one can travel in China without feeling enchanted, angry, overwhelmed, frustrated, touched, saddened, optimistic, puzzled - everything but bored. There is prevailing opinion in the West that the Chinese are being threatened, brainwashed, or bludgeoned into work of national industrialisation; that a small group of power-hungry communist leaders have fastened themselves onto an unwilling and resentful population and are driving them fiercely forward against their will. I believe this picture is the very opposite of the truth."

SOUTH-EAST ASIA IN AN HISTORIC EPOCH

by T.S. TEO & S.W. HAN

This book provides an objective insight into recent events and developments in South-east Asia. The incidents and clashes between China and the Saigon administration over the sovereignty of the Paracels Islands are analysed from an objective angle with regard to the historical origins of the islands' sovereignty. The historic uprising of the Thai students on Oct. 14, 1973 is examined with an objective of understanding the root causes of the apparently surprising victory of the Thai students in toppling the Dictatorial Thanom Kittikarchorn clique. The so-called smiling "ping-pong diplomacy of China" is also reviewed and examined to provide readers with a rational understanding of China's recent diplomatic overtures to South-east Asian Countries, and the motives and objectives of the different responses of various South-east Asian ruling administrations. The consequences brought about by Japanese investments and the capturing of the consumer markets by Japanese products are discussed with objective of providing readers with a clearer picture of the true nature of Japanese economic inroads into South-east Asia.

SINGAPORE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

- by IAIN BUCHANAN

The territories of the Malay world, once the colonial domains of Britain and the Netherlands, have recently been drawn into the sphere of United States and Japanese interest in South-east Asia. And in this process - economic as well as political - Singapore has played the part of middle-man. Iain Buchanan explains how and why the city has varied its traditional policies since 1965. Central to his study is a detailed analysis of the republic's role in linking Western and Japanese industrialism with the markets, raw materials and labour of South-east Asia. As a 'Chinese' city with a peasant 'Malay' hinterland, Singapore is caught up with Malaysia and Indonesia in a neo-colonial situation of economic independence. This position, he believes, has aggravated Singapore's acute domestic problems (fully examined in the light of local resources) and has given rise to the official assumption that the city republic is by necessity a garrison state. Singapore in South-east Asia gives a comprehensive account of how the city republic has achieved its present status and of the formidable social, economic and political problems confronting its government at the start of the 1970's.

JAPANESE IMPERIALISM TODAY

- by JON HALLIDAY & GAVAN MCCORMACK

Jon Halliday and Gavan McCormack have written a lively and convincing study of Japan's new economic empire in Asia, detailing the new forms of dependency and control built into its relations with the region. They argue that Japan, having established during the 1960s a powerful grip on South-east Asia's market, is now tightening its fist on the supply of raw material exports. While concentrating on East and South-east Asia, the authors set their analysis firmly in the context of Japan's challenging relations with the US and China, adding appendices on the Soviet Union and Australasia. To complete the picture, they describe the internal restructuring of Japan's society and economy that has accompanied overseas expansion, and in particular they pinpoint the speed and extent of Japan's rearmament.

THE ENEMY - by FELIX GREENE

In this sharp polemic, Felix Greene sets out to tell what imperialism is, how it works, how we are all involved in it, how it distorts our thinking and why - unless we revolt against it - it will destroy all that is best in man and society. Moving beyond this lucid and well-documented critique of imperialism, he examines some of the problems of revolution today, particularly in the West, where the old dynamic of mass poverty is absent. Although he admires their courage and spirit, he is critical of some revolutionary movements, especially soem of those in the United States. He suggests that may who are anxious to change society have not yet realised that it is necessary to change themselves first by eradicating the self-centred modes of thought and patterns of behavior endemic to capitalist society.

Below is a list of other books which, like those above, are thought-provoking and informative and serve to stimulate our awareness to the historic epoch of our time.

<u>Title</u>	Author
1. Teaching as a subversive activity	Neil Postman and C. Weingarter
2. The wretched of the earth	Frantz Fanon
3. Deschooling society	Ivan Illich
4. Revolutionary Priest	Camillo Torres
5. Mother	Mamim Gorky
6. Cultural Action for freedom	Paulo Friere
7. Pedagogy of the oppressed	Paulo Friere
8. Women's estate	Juliet Mitchell
9. Vietnam! Vietnam!	Felix Greene
10. A curtain of ignorance	Felix Greene
11. Bury my heart at wounded knee	Dee Brown
12. How the steel was tempered	
13. The multi-nationals	Christopher Tungendhat
14. A Celebration of Awareness	Ivan Illich
15. Monopoly Capital	Raul A Baran & Paul M Sweezy
16. The rebel church in Latin America	Alain Ghurbrant
17. Student Power: Problems, Diagnosis, action	Alexander Cockburn and Robin Blackburn
18. Chariot of the Gods	
19. The long revolution	Edgar Snow
20. The Watergate	
21. The pentagon papers	
22. Inside the CIA diary	

Most of the books listed can be found in local bookstores (such as Popular Book Store, Methodist Bookroom, MPH, Vanguard bookroom), National Library (provided you reserve them) as well as SPSU's library.

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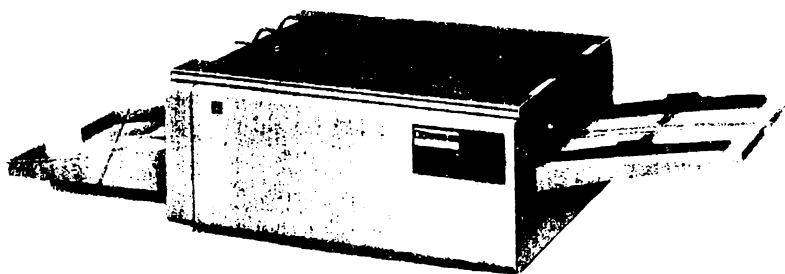
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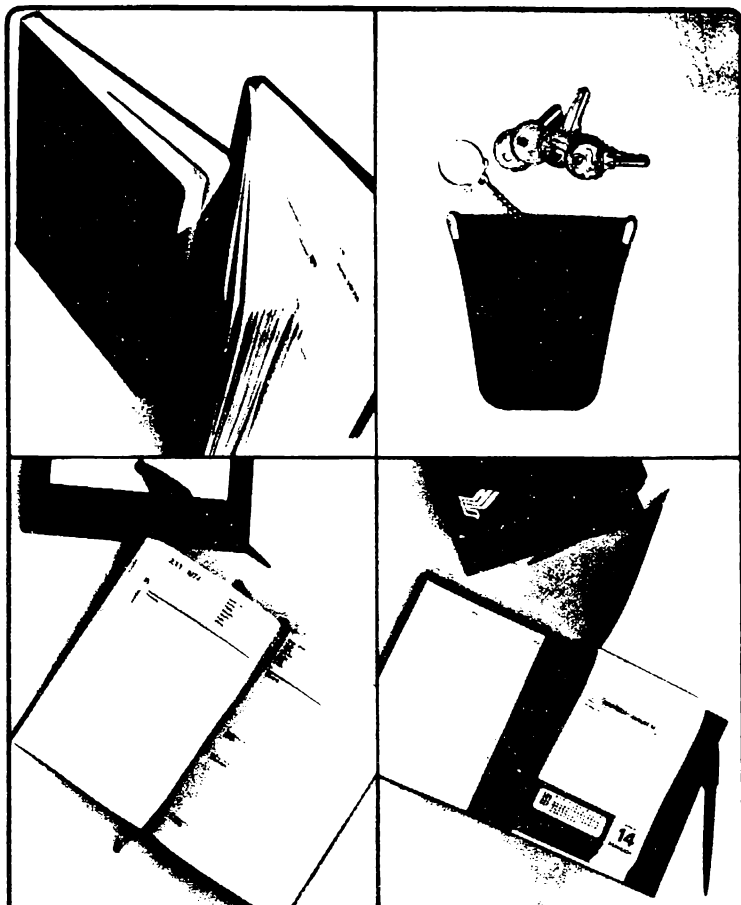
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Happiness we bring
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Forever we fight
Till we can gain
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