



SPSU

Orientation

Handbook 77/78

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MESSAGE

Dear fellow students,

Many of us came in so green, because we know nothing, but with full of expectations. We are here in yet another phase of our life. But let us not forget that our presence in Poly is made possible only through the contribution of many others. Every brick of the Poly is made through the sweat & labour of our people. Therefore we have a responsibility towards those that made this possible — Yes, our people.

We have an obligation to serve and strive for the betterment of our people. Our stay in Poly gives us the golden opportunity to equip ourselves better to serve later.

Challenges and obstacles are many and sometimes prove to be a stumbling block, but do not be disheartened. Let's sum up all our bitter experiences with courage and determination and brave through all difficulties towards a better tomorrow.

The students' Union is formed with this Objective and it is the responsibility of every of her members to contribute to enable our progress.

from SPSU FOC.
— Central. —

UNION AWARENESS THRU' MASS PARTICIPATION & INVOLVEMENT

In Poly, there is a students' union which was set up by the students. The students' union is completely a students' affair, that is the students elect their own leaders, plan and organise their own activities. Our students union which is the sole representative of the 7,000 odd student population in Poly, cares primarily for the students' welfare and fight for students' right. For the students' welfare, the union caters for the materialistic aspects, e.g. loaning of cyclo-styling machine; providing the cheapest photocopy service in Poly; loaning camping equipments and others. It also caters for the other aspects of education, that is the moral and the physical aspects which have been neglected by our educational system which only provides us with technical education.

For the students' rights, the union safeguard academic rights of the students and also fight for better service for the students, e.g. demand for lower prices in the canteen and to add more chairs and tables in the canteen. The union also serves as a means of communication between the policy makers, the Admin and the student body. Certain policies of the Admin are unjustified and impractical; the union will be responsible to safeguard the interests of her members.

ROLE of STUDENTS' UNION in SOCIETY

We must not forget that our successful admission is not mainly due to our academic performance. The fees we pay is barely enough to facilitate the expensive education we are receiving. Indeed the money used for our education is mainly subsidised by the tax payers; majority of which are workers. Since we are here at the expense of the majority, we must be aware of our surroundings and care for the welfare of these people. Hence the students' union should act as a channel where their aspirations can be voiced out and as a social watch dog so as to fight for a more just and equal society.

MASS PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

By mass participation, it is simply a large scale of people is required to play a part in an event organised such as major issues which concerned our union and also people around us. Only through mass participation, students can come together and be united and together we can see out strength as one. Simply participation in an event is not enough, instead we must be involved in the organising works in which we can discuss together and thus be more critical and learn even more. This can be achieved by being active in the various sub-committees.

Only through mass participation and involvement in the activities we can learn better and have a better awareness of the union and its importance both inside and outside the 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 the union, we work for students welfare, unite more students, arouse awareness in them to realities. Externally, we are a voice for the under-privileged majority. It is here that we as students have a chance to equip ourselves better to fulfil our responsibilities to serve our people.

In our ten years or more of education, what have we learned? Most of the things taught are so out of context that it is not practical to apply in everyday life. The result of having received "education" are people like us: questioning, uncaring for others-- the paper chase and the exams are such that we strive for our own benefits and glory. What is education for? It is certainly not for self-glorification but rather education is necessary for improvement, progress and betterment of mankind but this will not be achieved if we as students are not aware of the happenings around us. If we are not aware how can we be critical of the surroundings so as to change for the better?

With the aim of arousing union awareness and cultivate a critical mind in the new students, the theme chosen for this year 77/78 orientation is 'Union Awareness through Mass Participation and Involvement'.

UNION AWARENESS

By Union awareness we mean the consciousness of the values of a students' union within and without the campus as well as the role of a student in a students' union.

When we talk about union awareness, it depends on the type of union we are having, for only an autonomous students' union like ours can truly represent the interest of students. Whereas in controlled union, leaders are just like puppets carrying out orders and decision made by the authorities. Our union, S.P.S.U is now the only autonomous students' union left in Singapore that means the students themselves decide and organise the activities that they want.

The Students's Union

A students' union is a students' organisation which safeguards the interests of the whole student population.

In schools, we have organisations such as societies, clubs and uniform groups but all these organisations are not genuinely students' organisation instead it is just a means where the authorities could exercise strict surveillance and control our students' activities outside schooling hours.

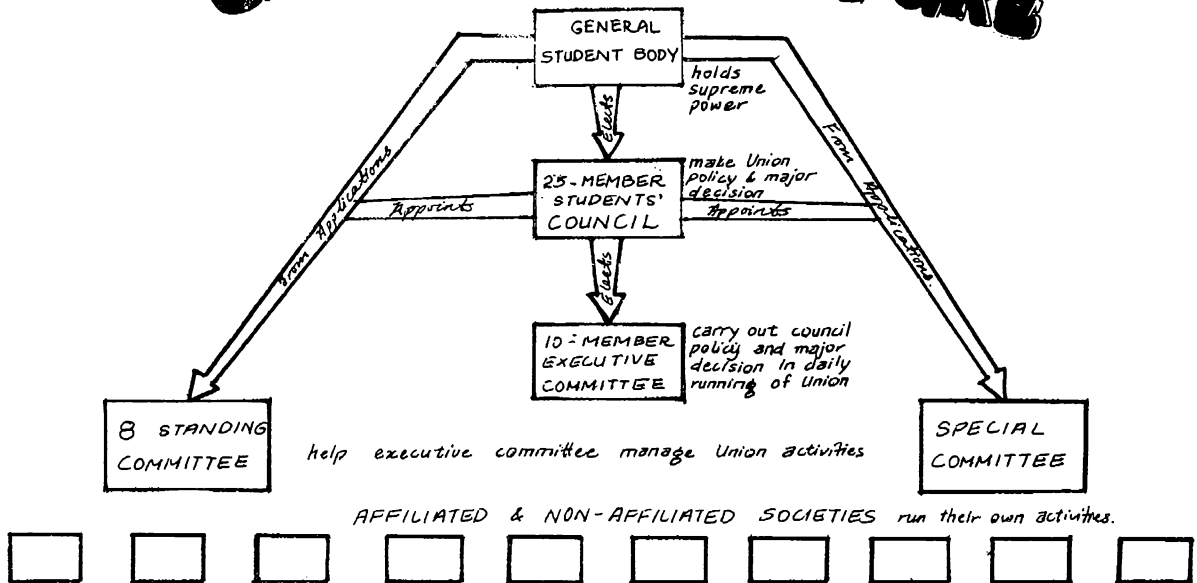
COME IN AWARENESS

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

UNION STRUCTURE



STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The ultimate power of the Union's administration lies with the whole students population. Elected annually in the ninth week of the academic year by the student body is the Students' Council.

The Students' Council is the supreme body of the Students' Union. The 25 councillors concerned make policy and all major decisions. The Council's decisions can be easily reversed by majority vote of the student body in General Meetings (AGMs and EOGMs). The Chairman of the Council will chair all council and general meetings of the Union.

Executive Committee

The 10 Executive officials are councillors, elected by the council to carry out the policies and decisions of the Council. Every Executive official except the President holds a Chairman post in the various Standing Committees.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committees carry out the policies and ideas proposed at Council level. They are of a permanent nature and their powers, duties are provided for in the Constitution. Members in these committees are selected by the Chairman from applications received from ordinary Union members. Central and sub-comm. are established if necessary.

Publication Committee

It handles all publications of the Union besides publishing Newsletters etc. of the Union. The Major publications produced are; The Singapore Technocrat and Campus Life.

These publications comprise of problems encountered by undergraduates and the Council, hence assisting the general students in understanding the situation and promoting unity.

Finance Committee

This committee is responsible for 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 required moment. The President is the 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. It also undertakes the responsibility of raising funds.

Welfare Committee

Attends to the well-being and interests of all Union members. Any complaints or grievances may be submitted to the committee, which will take the appropriate actions.

The students' welfare is considered prior to community welfare. Such activities with reference to community welfare are organised if time permits.

Freshmen Orientation Comm.

A new session begins annually with a portion of the student population who are new to the Polytechnic. As such, the Freshmen Orientation is organised to guide and help the new students to be accustomed to Polytechnic way of life.

The Freshmen Orientation Committee organised activities in which the Union is introduced and in the process, arouse awareness in the students and thus enable the new students to broaden their outlook.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

In addition there are affiliated societies which are autonomous having complete freedom over their own activities. Such bodies may apply to the Students' Council for affiliation after its constitution has been approved by the Council. Under present financial crisis the Union is unable to offer the annual grants as provided for in the Constitution.

AFFILIATES OF THE UNION

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

Reports from the various societies :



MUSIC SOCIETY

Singapore Polytechnic Music Society is one of the youngest societies in Polytechnic, totally there are forty-six members.

To cater for the musical interest of Poly students is our aim, so we conduct music class on every Saturday afternoon. The music class includes teaching of strumming and plucking the guitar, reading musical notes, sing along session and some games. Furthermore, some of her members are professional guitarist cum singer.

Having a concert is our annual affair, for the 75/77 session we had called the hottest rock band, The Heritage to perform, besides rock music, we had Hawaiian music by South Sea Islanders, pop music by The Roots Establishment, items by societies like Poly Band, P.C.F., W.S.C., SPEC and of course Music Society.

Like other societies, we do organise picnic and gathering for the members.

We wish you a fruitful stay at Singapore Polytechnic and looking forward to receiving all music lovers as our members.

Social Committee

This committee takes the sole task of organising all social functions as directed by the Students' Council. Eg. screening of Entertainment and Educational Documentary films and also outdoor activities like camps.

Union House

Management Committee

The Comm. undertakes the daily maintenance and efficient running of the Union Hse. and its facilities. Besides, all rules and regulations are also enforced as laid down by the council. Disciplinary actions will be brought upon any offenders.

The secretariat, where all officials conduct their work is also under this comm.

External Relation Committee

It serves as a communication between our Union and other external bodies internationally.

SPECIAL Committee.

They exist only when projects or activities not allotted to any Standing Comm. are to be organised. They cease to exist as soon as the tasks are completed.

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

THE SPORTS COUNCIL



The Singapore Polytechnic Sports Council, sporting body of our 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 our Students' Union and governed by an annually elected Council consisting of 5 executive members and captains of various games.

'Friendship first and Competition second' has always been the spirit established. Full participation is greatly encouraged and fairly achieved. Items organised are inter-class matches and the annual Poly 50 to stress on mass participation and also foster relations and activities among students.



ENGINEERING SOCIETY

We in the Singapore Polytechnic Engineering Society, on behalf of all our fellow members congratulate and welcome you on your successful admission to the Poly.

In this institute, besides attending lectures and trying out problems on tutorials, you will still need to live in a group, to do something worthwhile rather than spending your money and time in other unworthy means.

Years later on your graduation as a technician, you shall be meeting the working society and shouldering heavy responsibilities. You will be required to lead, to direct and to be respected by others.

Our Society hereby will assist you in building your potentials & providing you opportunities to shoulder responsibilities and develop your personalities. We also provide you with educational, social, recreational and sporting activities. Hobby clubs like Radio and Electronic Club, Motor Vehicle Maintenance Club, Projects Club & the Graphic and Design Club provide you with a theoretical and practical knowledge. The Radio and Electronic Club also runs a computer programming course.

Our Society's universally-reputed SPES Annual Journal contains informative technical articles and always proved to be an invaluable gift to all members.

Any member or student who has any enquiry to make are always welcome to the Society's room. Finally, we wish you a fruitful and successful stay in this Institute.



PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Our Society is affiliated to the Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union or any Photographic Society or both. Our Society is formed mainly to promote photographic interests to all its members, to be in communication with external bodies of similar nature.

Full membership is opened to all students of the Singapore Polytechnic. Associate membership is opened to all graduates of the Singapore Polytechnic.

All members have the privilege to:-

- a) Use the Society's darkroom, photographic equipment and literature.
- b) Participate in all activities of the Society.

The past activities of our Society are as follows:

- a) As Official Photographers on Graduation Day.
- b) Visit to Kodak Colour Laboratory.
- c) Course in Photography.
- d) Fund raising filmshow.
- e) Inter-tertiary institutions photographic outing cum competition.
- f) As official Photographers during Poly 50.
- g) Barbecue.
- h) Production of 3 issues of "EXPOSED" - Official magazine of our society.
- i) Printing of T-shirts of our Society.
- j) 4th International Salon.

A group of Ex-Cos. had also made a trip to West Malaysia. One of the main aims was to study the possibility of conducting educational tour to Malaysia for the benefits of our members.

CHINESE LANGUAGE



SOCIETY

The Chinese Language Society is one of the societies affiliated to the Students' Union. Through the enthusiasm and group effort of her members, the society grows throughout her sixteen years of existence and is at present one of the most active societies in Poly.

We have set our aim not only to introduce healthy culture, but also in the course of participation, foster closer tie amongst our members and instill in ourselves a spirit of co-operation and group living. Our activities also provide changes for members to spend their time meaningfully, gaining more knowledge which is not within the scope of our lectures.

The society comprises of cultural, recreational, publication, academic, social and co-ordinating sub-committees, of which the cultural and recreational sub-committees are the most active. Cultural activities include drama, harmonica, choir and chinese instrumental practices, all of which are held on Sundays. The Recreational sub-committee caters for the building up of physique of the members and emphasises on the importance of "Friendship First, Competition Second" in sports. Weekly practices include basketball, volleyball and swimming.

Apart from regular activities, we also organise group activities like holiday camps for our members to spend the otherwise long monotonous vacations. Hiking and picnic are also our favourites.

Many students may have the wrong idea that only Chinese educated students can join the society, but you will be surprised to find that a lot of our members come from the English stream.

So freshmen, do not hesitate to join us. Let us work and learn together as a whole!

POLYMER



SOCIETY

The Polymer Society of the Singapore Polytechnic extend her heartiest congratulation and warmest welcome to you on your successful admission to the Poly.

The Society is founded on the 14th July, '67 to look after the interests of her members. There are 4 categories of membership in the society.

- a) Full membership--compulsory for all full-time students of the C.P.T. Division.
- b) Associate membership--for all other students of the Poly.
- c) Graduate membership--for graduates of the Division.
- d) Honourary membership--conferred to any individual who has rendered outstanding service to the society.

The Society is administered by an Executive Committee of 12 members.

During the last session, an overnight trip to a kelong was organised. The annual C.P.T. league championship was again successful staged. A "satay nite" was then held to commemorate the prize-giving ceremony of the league Games.

On the academic side, a seminar entitled "The role of Chemical Technicians in Singapore" and a project exhibition was held. Factory visits and film shows, both entertaining and educational, were also part of the activities organised.

A music extravaganza, featuring top bands, held at the National Theatre, climaxed the second term.

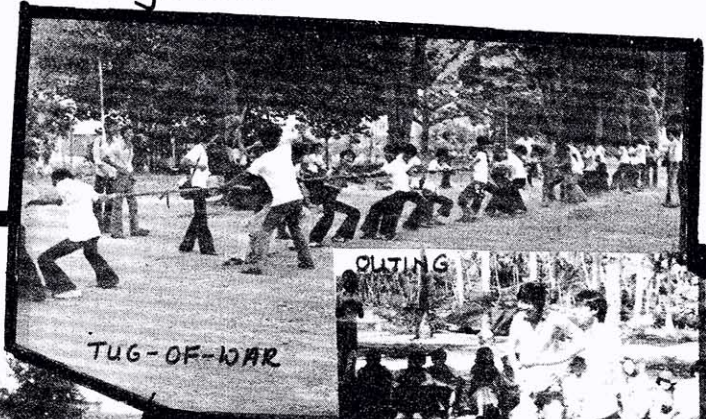
A prestigious, scholarly journal is published annually by the Society. Moreover, a termly magazine of general interest is distributed to all members.

In conclusion, the Society wishes all new students a happy stay in the Polytechnic.

Orientation Games



SOCCER



TUG-OF-WAR



OUTING



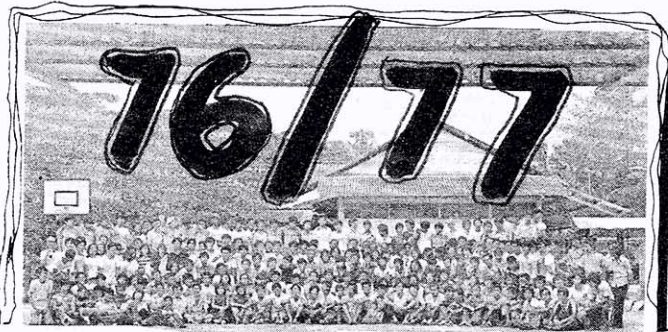
NETBALL



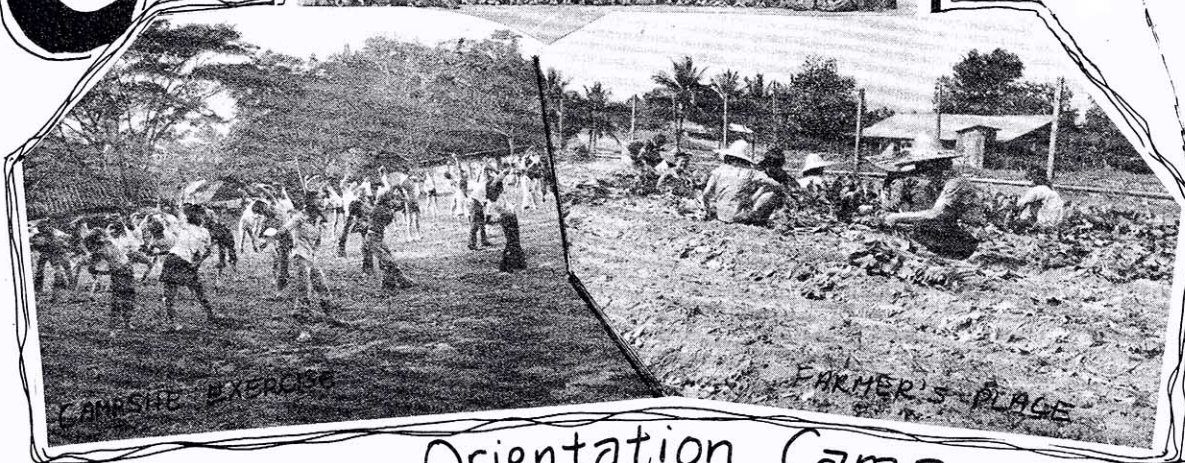
HIKE TO TEKONG

REVIEW:

FOC



76/77



CAMP SITE EXERCISE

FARMER'S PLACE

Orientation Camp

THE EDUCATOR

Why am I buried in my studies?
To the major majority the ultimate diploma,
The first preference to be an educated individual.
Education has its definition in society.

Are we educated?
A question which tantalizes our conscience.
Within a group of friends we learn the labyrinths of
their hearts.

Are we educated?
In isolation we seek to know ourselves.

Brooding disrupts serenity.
Jealousy kills you neighbour.
Fighting wanes love.
A multitude of degrees may blind the human senses.
A doctor who abuses his power, taking advantage of
the sick.

Is this an educated man?

Who permissioned you the right to judge others;
When another may exceed your abilities?
Subjugating the innocent.
Elevating the hypocrites.
Is this what education teaches you?

The man on the high horse.
The beggar wobbling under the walking cane.
In this world of cause and effect,
Does education cultivate social consciousness?

Do we care for the sick?
Do we care for the poor?
Do we care for the oppressed?
Do we care for the hungry?

Has education taught us to neglect the old
Who gave so much in their youth?
Think and ponder and think again.
Impediments towards civilization

Status in society is an empty shell.
It is the outer container its content.
Unlike the space in a jar.
People cry, 'Respect status
Respect cry, 'Don't sell yourselves'.
If you are a slave, act like a slave,
If you are a man, be a man
If you are educated, live to the expectations.

Let your eyes see without bias.
Let your ears hear the truth
Let your mouth speak from your heart.
Let your nose smell the perfume of dew.
Let your tongue taste the bitterness of life.

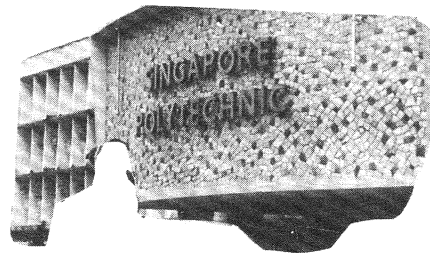
Educate yourself to enlightenment.

Georgie Porgie

One Year in POLY.

Before plunging into the rigours of Poly life it is only fair that Freshmen have an inkling of what awaits them.....

By 1st Year



First of all Poly life is vastly different from Secondary schools, where the majority of first year students come from. Being an institute of higher learning or college, the studies are conducted differently. Normal days begin at 8.00am. till 4.00 or 5.00 pm. with lunch and tea breaks in between. During these 7 hours of studies the lecturers will lecture and sometimes give out notes but more often students are expected to record the lectures and do additional research. Tutorials or homework are also given for students to practice what they have learnt. This is the primary aim of tutorials, but sometimes students find themselves beset by piles of tutorials from different subjects.

Emphasis is given to the courses of studies and there is no Extra Curricular Activities to supplement the diet of lectures. Though there are various societies and clubs, SCA points are no longer necessary so students are not compelled to join them. As a result students spent their time studying very hard but are still not getting a balanced education.

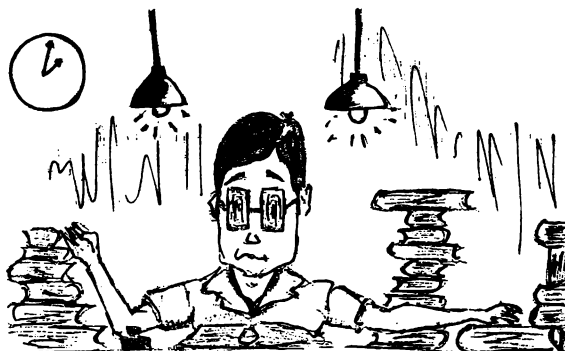
Other than academic work, there's the ECA side for some students. Various clubs cater for the hobbies of students. These clubs provide a channel for involvement and recreation outside lectures. Physical activities are provided and organised by the Sports Wing of the Students' Union. Students can organise themselves up for games at the Union House. Some societies also organise sporting activities for their members. Sporting activities organised by the Admin. are little and poorly responded to, due to their poor publicity and organisation.

Other students who are not interested in any clubs or societies usually spend their money and energy at skating rinks and bowling alleys. They are expensive but popularly known as an 'in' thing. Vacations come after every academic term and the third term's vacation stretches over two months, during which students can get temporary jobs outside for some extra pocket-money.

Before ending, I would try to sum up. So far the topics discussed are the education routine, recreation of some students and lastly we should touch on the Students' Union. As students of a tertiary institution, it is important that students be able to learn more things outside lectures so as to better equip themselves for the society around them. Therefore, the Students' Union is formed. Through its activities students can come together to help organise their own outings, projects like exhibitions, freshmen orientations, bookfairs and film shows. These involvements help make Poly life more interesting and meaningful. Valuable experience is gained morally through working together in a group. So life in Poly is very different, learning to stand firmly on both feet will help you now as well as in later life.



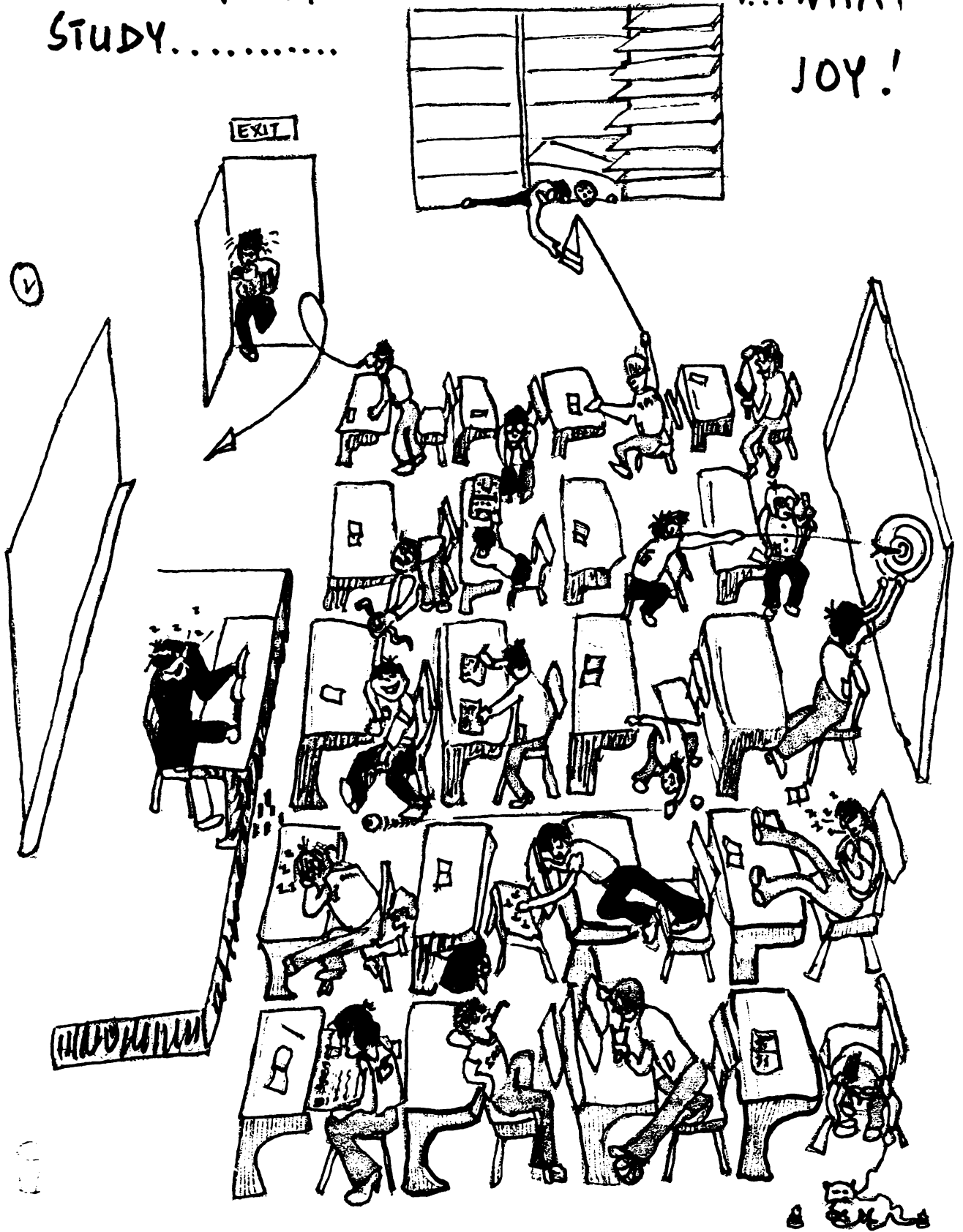
Attitudes during lectures vary. Some lap up every word from the lecturers' mouth eagerly, others who are bored stiff would joke or sleep through the lectures. Marking of attendance is still practiced here and lecturers omit calling certain names because those are such regular absentees! There are even others who are so engrossed in their game of billiard or table soccer that they spend their pocket money and lecture hours in the games room. Other extremists range from those who could take hours of lectures, continued with research in the library and going on till the small hours of the night (sometimes just to produce a meticulous set of laboratory or experiment report for the lecturers); and those who cursory glance through the day's lecture and with a yawn sent it for photostating at the Students' Union's Service machine. With such attitudes it is a small wonder that at examinations the atmosphere tends to be very tense. As studying in the Poly incurs a considerable expense in comparison to secondary schools, the desperate strive for the diploma is very intense. Selfishness, envy and desperation are bound to occur in such atmosphere. You will never know it till you experience it!



EDUCATION?

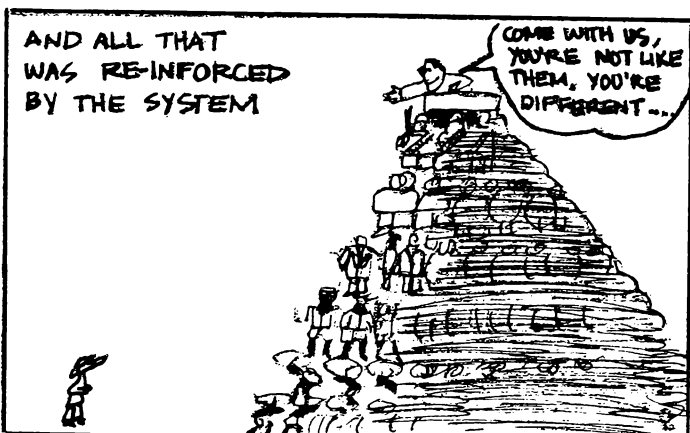
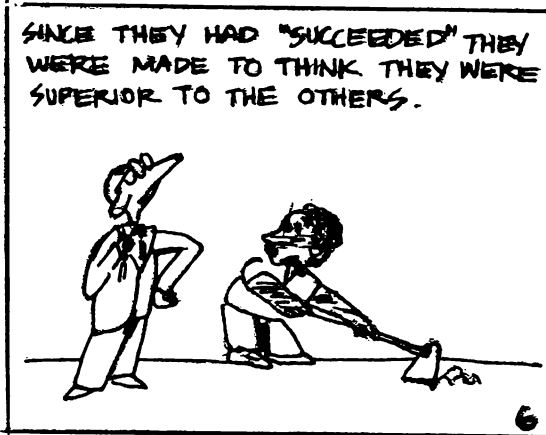
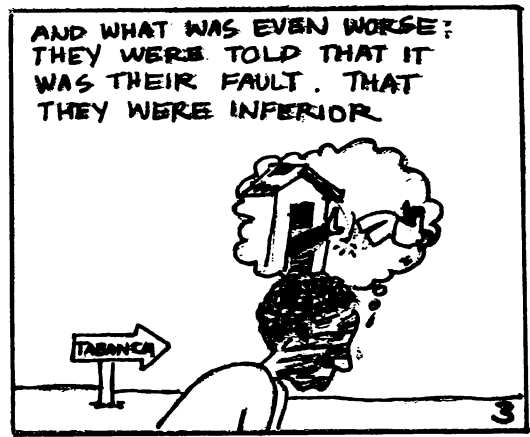
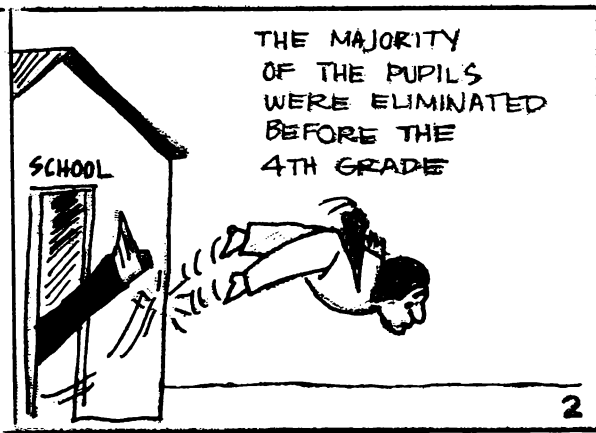
THE JOY OF
STUDY.....

....WHAT
JOY!



THE SCHOOL WAS A FUNNEL





THERE WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM: THIS SCHOOL WAS TOTALLY OUTSIDE REALITY,

UP IN THE CLOUDS



10

THE SAME WAS TRUE FOR THOSE WHO WERE TRAINED THERE



11

WHEN SCHOOL WAS OVER, SOME FELL BACK INTO REALITY



12

BUT MOST OF THEM STAYED UP THERE



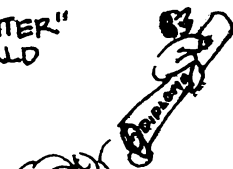
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"UP THERE" WAS THE CITY, SET APART AND CONSIDERED SUPERIOR TO THE RURAL WORLD

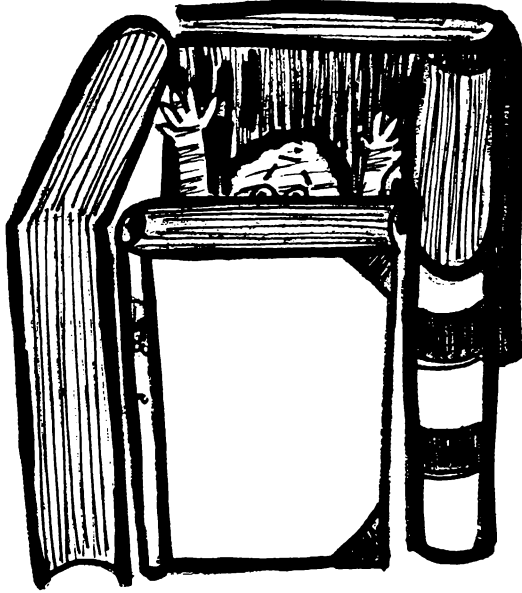


STUDY WAS A MEANS TO REACH THAT "BETTER" WORLD



15

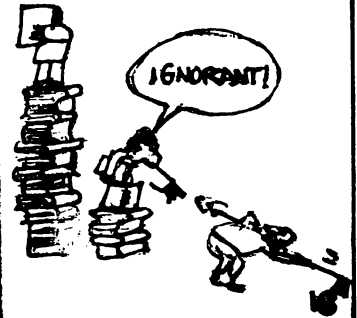
AND THEN THERE WAS THE CONTENT OF TEACHING IN THAT SORT OF SCHOOL. IT WAS TOTALLY ABSTRACT AND THE BOOKS WERE SEEN AS THE ONLY SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE



16



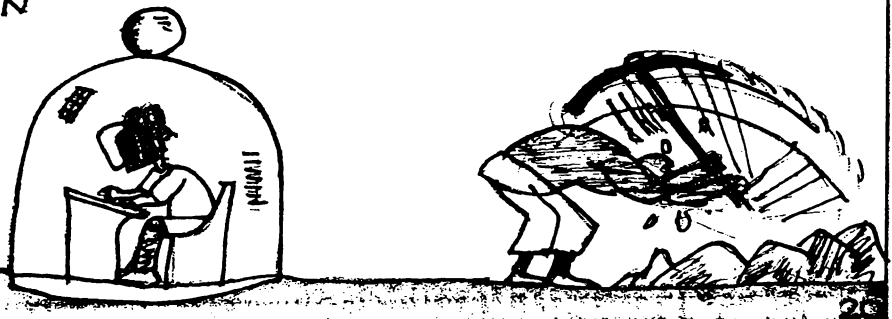
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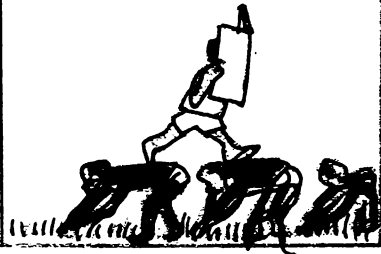
BECAUSE OF THAT THE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF PEASANTS AND OLD PEOPLE WAS LAUGHED AT



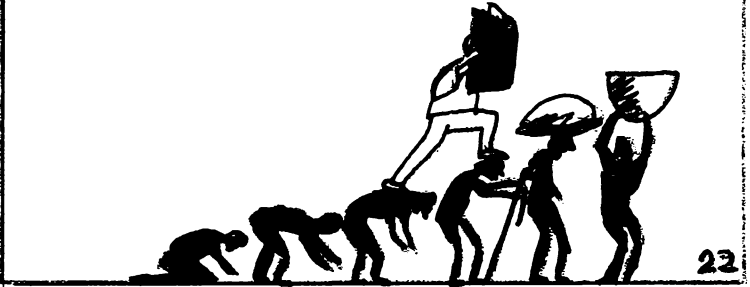
AND THAT'S NOT ALL - THERE WAS ANOTHER FACT: PUPILS OF THAT SCHOOL WERE TOTALLY SEPARATED FROM PRODUCTION



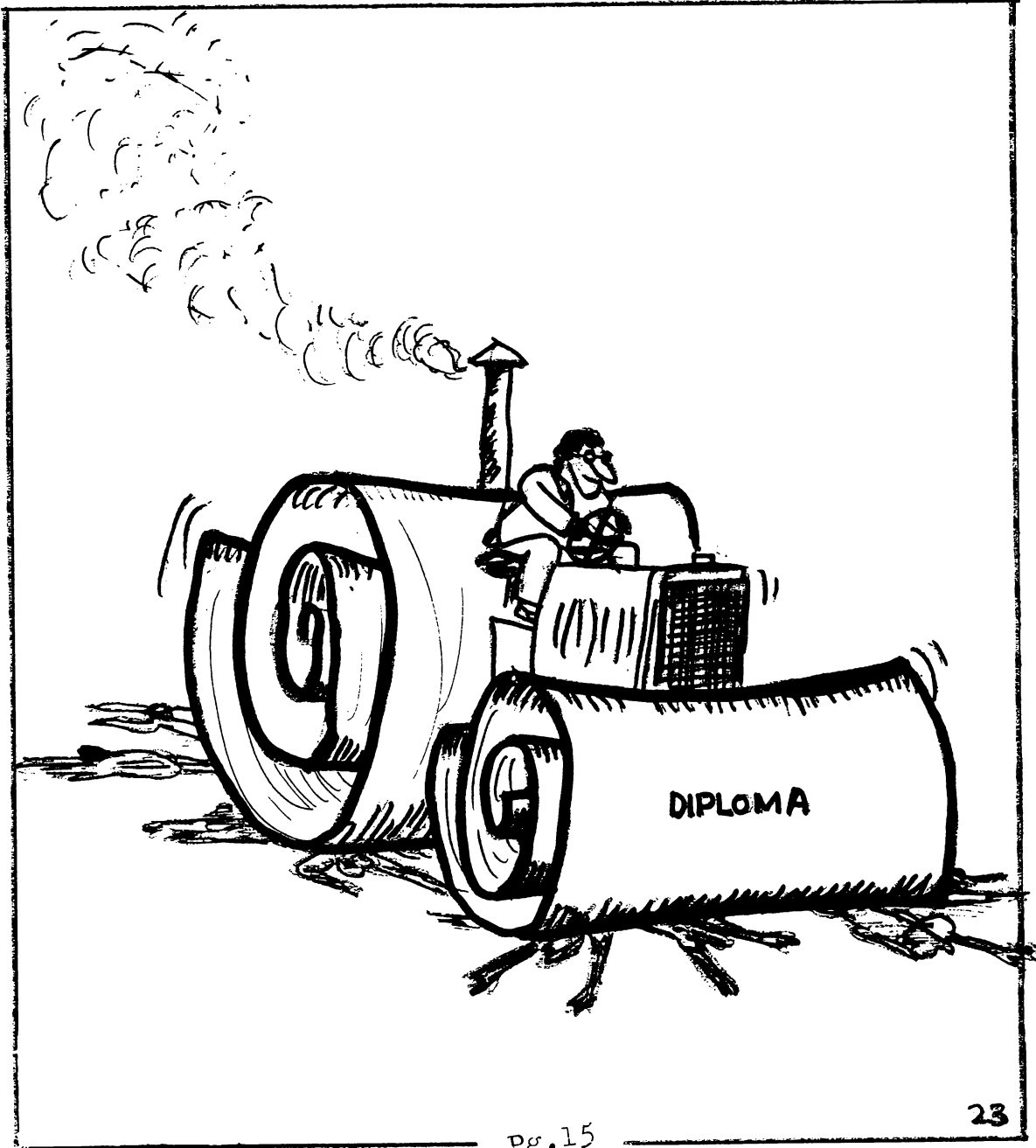
THEY DID NOTHING BUT
STUDY



THEY MOVED TOWARDS THEIR DEGREE ON THE
BACK OF THE WORKERS...



22



LOOKING BACK AT SPSU — 1976/77

* POLY 50 *

Poly 50 is an annual sports event organised by the SPSU Sports Council. The aims of this Poly 50 are firstly to encourage mass participation amongst the students and secondary and secondly to promote the spirit of 'Friendship first, Competition second.' It also provides a chance for about 1000 or so students from the various courses and years to get together.

Basically Poly 50 is a relay of 50 laps around the campus. Each team consists of 10 participants—7 men and 3 ladies. To make the race more interesting, certain laps are specified for the ladies to complete eg. start, 10th, 20th and so on. This is to encourage the ladies to participate in this sporting activity.

The spirit of the participants is unusually high during this event and as it is organised to enable students to take a break from the monotonous routine in Poly if lectures, lunch and library, all students are encouraged to take part and it is the part that you play that can make it a success.



FREE BUS SERVICE

The FBS with the aim of helping the ARC and DRC students to ease the transport problems of the ARC and DRC was started in October 1976. For each campus there are two trips daily arranged at peak hours.

From ARC, the times were 3.40 and 4.50 pm. From DRC, the times were at 4.15 and 4.40 pm. The first trip daily was from the campus to the Commonwealth Terminus and the last trip was from DRC, down to ARC then to Commonwealth Terminus then straight to PEC without stopping on the way.

Although the FBS was carried out successfully, in the sense of good response, there was a lack of cooperation amongst the students. Due to limitation of space in the bus (as the bus is licensed to carry passengers on seats only that is: no standing on the bus), the students had to stand and squeeze together, except those who are seated. Most of the students who are lucky to get a seat is unwilling to share their seats with the others.

It is hoped that a better relationship amongst the students can be seen, starting from next session.

STUDENTS' SERVICE CENTRE

The SSC is set up in November 1975 by the Financial committee after several complaints by the students regarding the Administration contracted book store. The main objective of setting up this service centre is to provide students with stationeries at relatively low prices. Items available are: foolscap pads, drawing papers etc. No profit is made from the sale.

There is one SSC in every campus. The SSC is totally run by students. Thus the items are on sale during lunch time only. The SSC is made successfully with the tremendous response from the students.

* REGULAR ACTIVITIES *

« VOLLEY BALL, BASKETBALL, SWIMMING, TABLE TENNIS »

Physical education has been promoted in an extreme deplorable in our secondary school days. ECA points served as baits to make more students to compete in the games. Sports and athletic meets are held to popularise only outstanding sportsmen and women, thus sports is not encouraged in a mass scale.

Being aware of this state of affairs, the Sports Wing of the Students' Union introduces regular practices for all Poly students. The main aim of regular practices is to promote a healthy body through this form of sporting activity and would certainly be a welcome change to the monotonous life in Poly. It is a time when students can come together and indulge themselves in activities that are healthy and meaningful. It is also a time to foster better understanding among each other.

Through activities like table-tennis, swimming, volleyball and basket-ball we will be able to advocate our aims and discourage competitiveness and professionalism. The present response is very encouraging but it is hoped that in the future when more students come to understand its aims, the response will increase.

UNDERSTANDING

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

..... VISITS TO HOME OF THE AGED, SANA HOUSE, WOODBRIDGE

Knowing that we as students are too confined in our campuses, the Union organised a Welfare Home Visiting during the 2nd term holidays, with the aims of broadening our outlook and to bring awareness to the social problems existing. Through discussions, we posed a few questions which are:

HOMES OF AGED: These questions were posed:

- 1) Why are there so many neglected old folks?
- 2) These old folks are the builders of our society and often they sweat and toil—exploited when young, neglected when old. What sort of society is this??

WOODBIDGE: These were the questions posed:

- 1) Why is the number of inmates ever increasing.
- 2) Why is it that the 20-30 years of age suffered this mental strain most?
- 3) What are causes of this phenomenon? Why are there so much family pressure and social pressure.

BOYS' HOME was for:

- 1) Boys discharged from approved homes or approved schools who have no proper homes or the home environment is considered unsatisfactory.
- 2) Boys placed on probation with a condition that they have a proper residence.
- 3) Boys beyond parental control, who need a more disciplined environment.
- 4) Destitute Boys.

Questions to probe:

- 1) Why is it that after leaving Boys' Home, they are again put back in it or into jails?
- 2) Why is there a lot of bad company and bad environment?



Sana House

Sana House, set up by a voluntary organisation with the objective of being a rehabilitation centre where drug addicts, after undergoing "cold turkey" treatment, are given to help them adjust themselves back into the society.

What have the authorities done, only attacking the symptoms and not really eradicating the root cause of drug abuse. By passing stringent death penalties on drug peddlars and by using the press to play up and perpetuate that drug peddlars are the one really responsible. In this way, the kingpins and the entire network would be saved except for losing a few pawns or stooges.

We pose an analogy. Drugs are used as a political tool to suppress the working class by the colonialist. Is this tool also being used by today's ruling class? We question: Can they really destroy the growing aspiration of the people with this ruthless and underhand tactic. History will prove them wrong.

BOOKFAIR

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM BOOKS

The Bookfair was organised, mainly to introduce and promote thought-provoking books to the people and as a communication between the public and Union. We also hope to raise fund for Union activities.

During the Bookfair, there was a display of varieties of books for sale. Some authors and books were also introduced. Following this, we had slide shows on 'Women in Asian development.'

Although this is the first Bookfair organised, everything went fairly smoothly. The response was overwhelming, over 3 thousand people turned up for the bookfair.



Book INTRODUCTION

<ONLY A WHILE THE MOUNTAIN SLEEPS>

"Only A While The Mountain Sleeps" focuses on the question of women and its significance. It is simplified with cartoons and is easy to understand.

It touches on the development of women from historical times and discusses on why women today accept their role as secondary to men without question and tells us the part played by the culture and the mass media to promote this concept.

In the Singapore context, interviews with local women ranging from housewives to professionals were made. This little booklet is presented with songs and poems to reflect their mentalities and it was found that the working women who faces the most exploitation (includes construction workers to factory workers) enjoys more equality at home than the professional women and education does not guarantee a ticket to liberty. Price: \$1.20



《BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE》

This is the real story or the setting of the West. It is a painful, shocking book which conveys not how the West was won, but how it was lost.

"They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but never kept one, they promised to take our land, and they took it."

"We fought battle after battle and signed treaty after treaty, ceding our virgin, rich lands until there was nothing to cede."

"News of European barbarities rarely overtook the rapid spread of the new conquest and religious missionary 'achievements'."

Reading this appalling indictment...will leave the fair minded reader with a sense of shame—plus a shock of recognition.

It's a damning case exposing the greed, perfidy, ignorance and malice against the national interest of Indians. The motive force for the theft of the land and identity of Indians was Manifest Destiny, a belief that white men were ordained to rule the Indians, a policy which lifted Indian extermination to a scandalous plane. They would buy or battle Indians off the land they wanted and a treaty would be signed giving the Indians new lands



in perpetuity. Ironically, the land was meant to be given forever, but when the settlers wanted it, and if the Indians refused, it meant they were "ignorant savages" we would then defeat them with our modern weapons and herd the survivors onto reservations, the majority of which were hardly fit for animals, without any plant life or water.

An American after having read this book said. "None of the books I've read has saddened and shame me-- not one, as this book has. Because the experience of reading it has made me realize for once and all that we really don't know who we are, or where we came from, or what we have done, or why".

《LEE KUAN YEW'S S'PORE》

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. While acknowledging Lee's achievements, the author makes an alarming good case for believing his rise and rule; his personality, aspirations and methods to weigh light against the disadvantages of a dictatorship. Arguing from well-marshalled facts, and without rhetoric, he demonstrated that if Lee Kuan Yew's political philosophy had happened to be leftist instead of favouring opportunistic capitalist, 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 thorough going suppression of freedom and indifference to human rights, and a cynical readiness to profess one thing and practice another.

《POLLUTION》

The fishing village of Kuala Juru was famous for the quality of its fish and the skill of its fishermen. Today, this same village is even more famous—but for a different reason. It is in this booklet which tells the tragic and true story of how silting and pollution hit this fishing village in the north of Peninsula Malaysia. With the naked eye, one will be shocked to see an accumulation of evil-looking, foul-smelling and multi-odoured solid materials floating on slimy and contaminated water flowing from the factories of Perai Industrial Estate (north of Kuala Juru's fishing village) to Sungai Juru. Faced with the death of Juru's fish life and the kampong's livelihood with it, the fishermen did not merely grumble or give up trying and resign themselves to their fate. Instead, they did their utmost to fight back for their very survival as a community.

The importance of this story goes far beyond the events that took place in just this one village. For there is not one but many Kuala Juru's in Malaysia. Several fishing communities are suffering a similar plight—the rapid loss of their livelihood due to the disastrous pollution of their rivers and seas. What will become of them all?

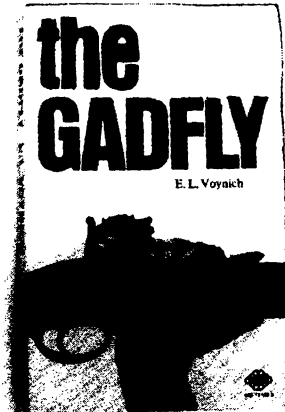
《GADFLY》

It is a deeply moving populist classic, with a great emotional climax. This is a famous novel of the Italian Risorgimento, an open-hearted, quick-witted, young rebel who risked his love and his life for the sake of freedom. Gemma, an English girl his lover, shared the same passionate desire of changing the world into a better one. They dared to question the old order, to pit love against despair and sacrifice for the struggle. Both of them confronted one of the strangest and most terrible destinies in all of romantic literature.

《GADFLY》 cont.....

This exciting and engrossing story, with a plot that fixes and holds the young, was written by E.L.Voynich, daughter of an adventurous mathematician father. The book was written in 1895, but was not published until 1897 for fear of adverse public reaction. When it was finally published in America, it proved to be an immediate success and was translated into over 30 languages with over five million copies sold.

Today, this book still never fails to be an inspiration for many peace-loving people. Several famous writers have made favourable comments and when Bertrand Russell re-read it a short while before his death, he commented "It is one of the most exciting novels I have read in the English Language." New York Times claimed that it is the "Masterpiece of Story-telling."



COME ALIVE!

I will,
For I am young and strong,
Where others may have failed -
Destroyed - I'll build
A world where all demand their rights,
Taking, by force if needs, what is theirs,
No world for weaklings, this,
But I am sure and unafraid,
Aren't I?

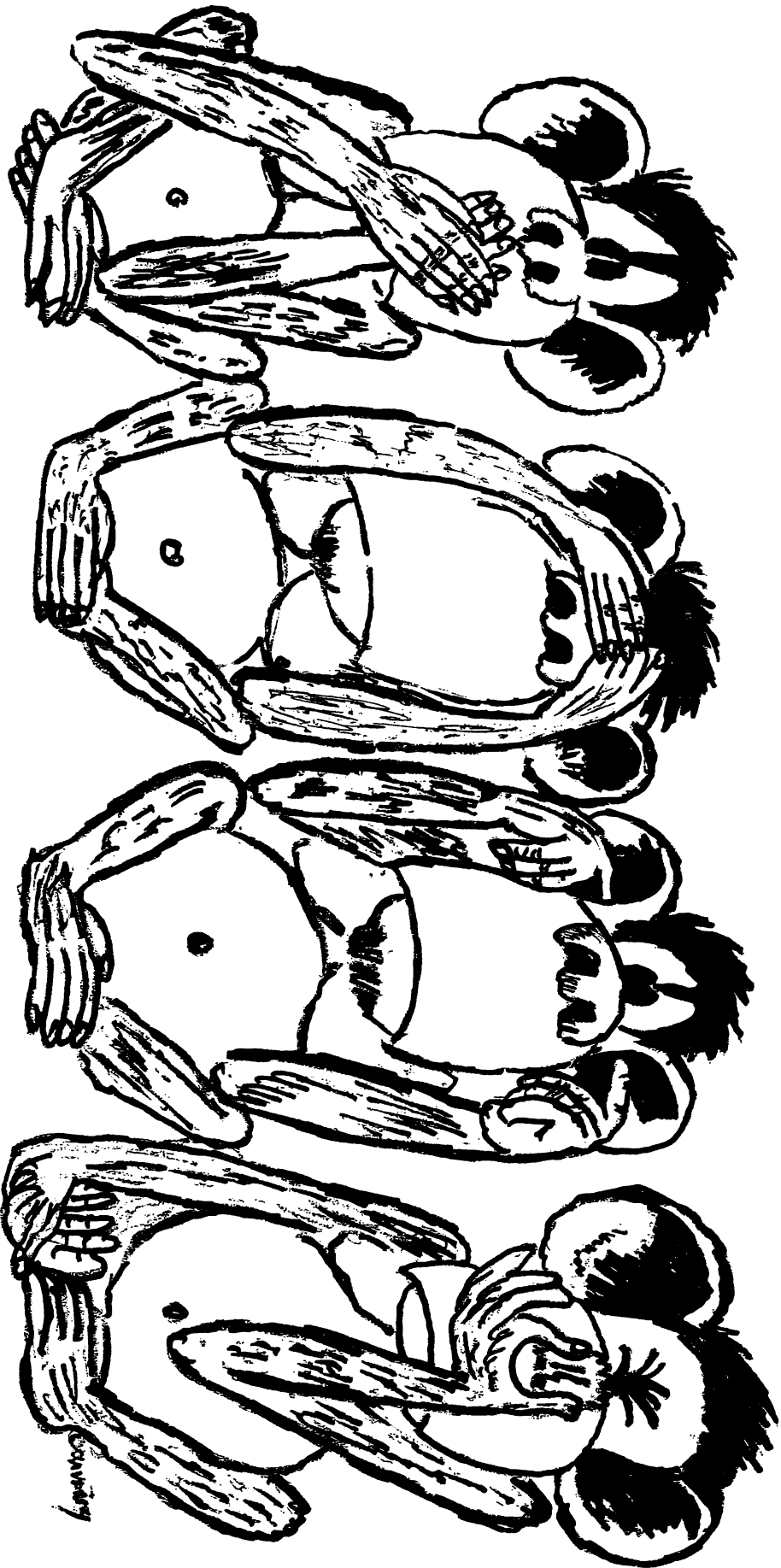
Come alive!
I am,
Life's mine - a gift,
And I will squeeze it dry
Of pleasure while I can.
The weak may fall, fools question
But not I.
I'll take all I can get,
And I'll be satisfied,
Won't I?

Come alive!
I try
But there's no magic key .
Producing answers, opening doors.
Just me, asking my questions,
Seeking a star to guide
As men have done for centuries,
and even now, afraid I may be,
Insecure, but surely not alone,
Am I?

BOOKS! BOOKS!

Below is a list of some books which are found to be very informative and thought-stimulating. Most are available in book-stores, National Library, as well as our SPSU Library.

TITLE	AUTHOR
1. Cultural Action for Freedom	Paulo Friere
2. A Celebration of Awareness	Ivan Illich
3. Deschooling Society	Ivan Illich
4. The Wretched of the Earth	Frantz Fanon
5. Revolutionary Priest	Camillo Torres
6. Japanese Imperialism Today	Jan Halliday Gavan McCormack
7. The Multi-nationals	Christ pher Tugendhat
8. Woman's Estate	Juliet Mitchell
9. Soledad Brothers--the prison letters of George Jackson	George Jackson
10. My War with the CIA	Norodom Sihanouk
11. S.E. Asia in an Historical Epoch	Felix Teo and Joan Han
12. Mother	Maxim Gorky
13. My Childhood	Maxim Gorky
14. My Universities	Maxim Gorky
15. Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore	T.J.S. George
16. The Enemy	Felix Greene
17. The Morning Deluge (Part 1 and 2)	Han Suyin
18. Angela Davis : An Autobiography	Angela Davis
19. Blood in My Eyes	George Jackson
20. Fanshen	William J Hinton
21. How The Other Half Dies	Susan George
22. The Fire Next Time	James Baldwin
23. Singapore in South East Asia	Iain Buchanan
24. The Long Revolution	Edgar Snow
25. Chariots of The God	Erich Von Daniken
26. The Rebel Church in Latin America	Alain Ghurbrant
27. Vietnam : Vietnam :	Felix Greene
28. The Wall Has Two Sides	Felix Greene
29. Chile's Road To Socialism	Salvador Allende
30. Freedom to Starve	Paul Gallet



SURVEY ON THE 3 'C's'

CALCULATOR



Viewing from the other higher tertiary institutions of learning, the 17th Council, representing the opinions of the majority of the students, presented the issue to the Poly Admin. to allow the use of calculators. A survey was conducted to gather the views of the students on the use of calculators. A major setback in the survey was the poor response from the students but the work continued. It was rather disheartening that the results were discarded as unimportant and that all we could get out of Admin. was a "We'll look into the matter" reply. To further undermine the Union's initiative and hardwork, the Admin. conducted their own survey. It can therefore be clearly seen what the Admin. is up to, to try to steal the credit of Union's initiative and hardwork.

Ultimately the Admin. give in, but once again with a trick up their sleeve, they allowed the use of calculators for all Poly students except first years. NO reasons were given.

This has resulted in complete despair and discrimination between the first years students and the seniors. Are we not in the same college and paying the same amount of fees? Students from the Ngee Ann and University have been allowed the use of calculators regardless of seniority. This has certainly proved how irrational the Admin. is. The wait and see attitude of many students also contribute to the success of segregation. Thus we must change our attitude, in order to achieve success.

After much consideration, survey forms were sent out to gather opinions from the students. The council had placed too high an expectation on the student body to respond well. However, work continued despite the poor response. The Admin. had discarded it as important. The usual "We'll look into the matter." reply was given when enforced. It is prominent that our Poly Admin. do not really cater for the Students' welfare as they shamelessly claimed. No decent reply was received.

After a meeting with the stall-holders, the price rates were reduced, with not much effort from the Admin. Although, some results and improvement we made seen, it is definitely not enough to cater for a student population of about 7000.

RESULT:

- In FEC—Food was much cheaper as a result. Rice was made cheaper by 10 cents. This move has certainly enabled us to fill our stomachs.
- In DRC—The only result was the addition of tables and chairs, the quantity of rice and vegetables were slightly increased. Before long, the conditions were back to its original state again. The price of drinks were reduced by 5 cents.
- In ARC—There was not much complaints except for non-tasty food.

The Council was told of the formation of a Canteen Advisory Committee, but it seems that hardly any results have been achieved. Maybe its only a false facade set up to pacify the growing bitterness amongst students.

CLINIC

Concurrently with the calculator and canteen issue, SPSU took up the Clinic issue. The Admin. as before did not give a satisfactory reply.

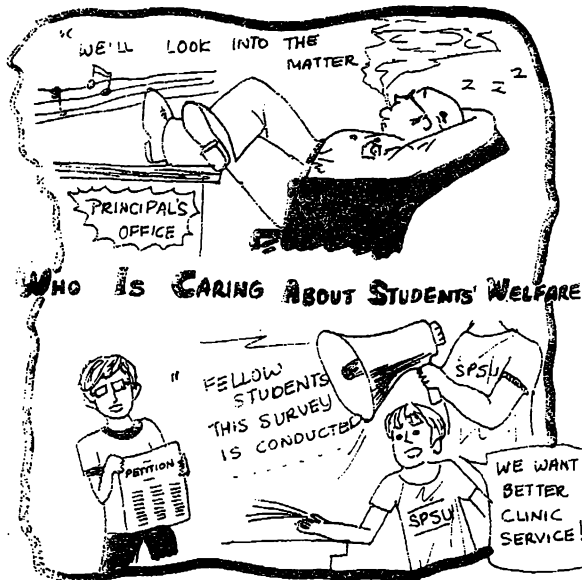
Institute	Amount Paid	Doc's Service
Polytechnic	\$ 12/-	2 hour
Ngee Ann	\$ 10/-	3 hour
University of Singapore	\$ 24/-	8 hour
Nantah	\$ 10/-	8 hour

Comparing with the figures above, it can be seen that although we are paying more than Ngee Ann and Nantah, we are receiving less hours of doctor's service.

The Admin. informed us that our fees are just enough to cover the medical expenses. But how come in Ngee Ann and Nantah, the fee is less and service is better. As in the case of Singapore University and us, we pay half of what they pay, but we are receiving less than half of the service they obtained.

In an attempt to ask for better service, like, addition of medical check-up and dental service. A "We'll look into the matter." was the reply again. One really wonders when these matters will be looked and achieved.

In hoping to achieve some concrete results it is not a matter of sitting back to wait for the results to pop in front of your eyes because without the students' support, the council itself will not be able to achieve their aims.



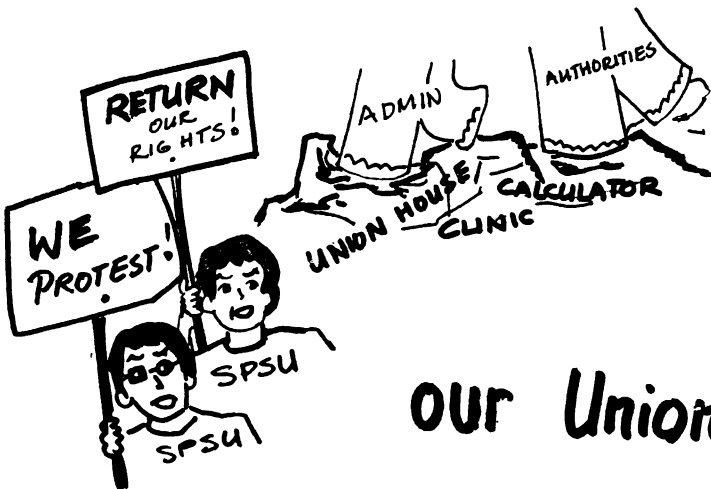
CANTEEN

SPSU took up the issue after receiving much complaint from the students body about the deplorable facilities and sky-high prices of our canteen.

The Admin.



and



our Union

AN IDEALIST SPEAKS...

(YOU OR ME?)

I have only one life
so I try to make the best of it—
not only for myself, not only for my family,
but for all my fellow sojourners of this world.
for I have seen and heard too much'
and I have read too much
about wars, about starvation and death.
therefore, I am concerned
for if I'm not, who else will be?
if I don't give, can others receive?

they say we are idealists
trying to attain the impossible
we agree we are idealists
for a man without ideals
is like a ship without a compass.
it is going somewhere - but where?

we know that perfect Justice is impossible.
we know that perfect Freedom is as elusive.
we know that perfect Equality is but a dream.
But we still strive towards Perfection,
Hoping that we will be there -
maybe not tomorrow;
maybe not next year;
maybe not next century.
But we will be there - someday!

For how can a man remain a man
if knowing there are injustice and inequality,
close his ears, close his eyes, close his mouth
and say, "I hear nothing,
I see nothing,
I say nothing?!"
how can a man remain a man if
if he can only care for himself, his family and his friends?
this, I do not know.

let us not be afraid to stand up for what we hold dear.
Let us not be afraid to speak up for what we believe.
Let us not be afraid to carry out what we know is right.
can anything stop us?
but let us not say, "because I can't do anything,
therefore I do nothing!"
for this marks the end of an idealist.

ORIENTATION AND AFTER.....

My first excitement came when I was informed to go for an interview in Ayer Rajah Campus at 9.00 am. Hardly slept at all during the night before the interview and woke up very early in the morning. I reached the campus an hour before the interview time. Luckily, it was a rather informal one and I was only asked to draw a circle and an ellipse. The tension was over as I stepped out of the Administration Block and I was guided by FOC personnels to pay the Tuition fees and Union fees. After having a nice chat with one of the FOC personnels distributing the Freshmen packet I was brought to an Exhibition entitled "Your Union and You". The narrators guided us through the Exhibition which touched on the Union structure, Union activities inside and outside the campus and also the Education we are receiving. It was a completely new outlook to me as I have not heard of a Students' Union before and can hardly imagine how the students elect their leaders and run their own activities. I return home after the exhibition with my mind set on the Orientation and knowing more about MY UNION.

The Orientation came and I participated in all the Orientation programmes. Not only were they interesting, through it I learnt a lot of things from the FOC personnels and got to know a lot of freshmen. It was indeed a most interesting and educational Orientation.

However, it was not until the SPSU cultural show that I really care about the Union. I came down to Union House almost every night as practices have to be carried out. I came closer with the Union Officials and found them to be a batch of nice, warm, jovial and friendly people. Their warm friendship in the Union House can never be explained in words. They care for you and always take care of each other. It is this warm friendship that I like and I went down to Union House everyday after lectures to play volley-ball and basket-ball. I became an active member in SPSU as time went by and I began to learn and ponder over many things which I never give a thought before. It is very true that when we came out fresh from secondary school, we are very submissive, selfish, materialistic and individualistic, but this should not be practised for the betterment of our society. And it is through this Union that we can solve the above problems together and practise criticism, live a collective life and unite as one body. Our Union is a rare organ and the only students' Union left in Singapore to voice out the aspirations of the majority. It is this crucial point that I really felt I am responsible and moreover, it is through this Union that Students' welfare and interests can be well taken care of.

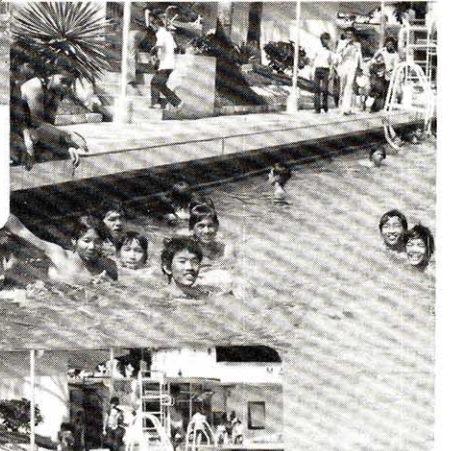
There are always conflicts and misunderstandings among ourselves, obstacles from authorities and suppression. But all these have to be solved. And it is again through the Union that all these problems can be solved. We can always have discussions to understand each other better to avoid conflicts and misunderstandings and unite as one whole body to fight for students' right.

Therefore, the Union as I see, can be a very effective and strong one only with the contribution of each and every member and together we work towards the betterment of mankind and society.

The Regular Practices



Basketball - one of the most popular games in Union House!
Regular practices Sun. 4.30 pm.



Swimming at Yan Kit Swimming pool
Sat. 4.00pm



Hornsea Sub-group practice - one of the cultural activities.



Volleyball
Sun. 3.00 pm



BEGINNERS ARE MOST WELCOME!

SPSU IS MEANT FOR US

Introduction :

This song was rephrased by a group of students participating in the SPSU show. The song urges Poly students to be more aware of the surroundings and of the Union's value through participation & involvement.

CHORUS :

SPSU IS MEANT FOR US
LET US SUPPORT IT,
AND BE WILLING TO WORK WITHIN IT.
FOR MEN'S BENEFIT.

OPEN YOUR EARS O POLY STUDENTS.

OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

OPEN YOUR HEARTS AND ACCEPT THE UNION
AS ONE THAT IS GOOD
AS ONE THAT IS STRONG.

(CHORUS)

BE ACTIVE IN THE UNION'S WORK
AND BE INVOLVED IN IT'S ACTIVITIES
FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY
IN THE CAMPUSES
IN THE SOCIETY.