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THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE UNION - A VIEWPOINT

By Ho Lye Soon

In an E.O.G.M. convened on the 21st Nov. 1973, the 13th Students' Council of our Union was ousted. The charges brought against the ousted were trivial and it was amusing that the debates preceding the ousting can be so heated up. The 13th Council was accused of over spending money on the renovation of the Conference Room and reserving all the tickets to an SIA demonstration flight to the Councillors themselves. It seems that one free flight has change the fate of a student council. The purpose of this article is not to conduct a post-mortem on the E.O.G.M., what I am interested in is the aftermaths and students' response after this sad incident.

As usual, an extra-ordinary election was carried out to elect a new council (that is, the 14th Council). Incidentally, the nomination for candidates took place at the time when students are busily preparing for their sessional examinations and many of the students, drowned in their sea of books and notes and lost in their strive for their diplomas and certificates, overlooked the formation of this new council. As a result, only a few turned up to stand for election and all the candidates, even the ousted President of the last council, returned unopposed. Surprisingly, the majority of the councillors turned out to be first-year students. Even the President, elected by the Council, is a freshman. As this is a peculiar situation, I carried out a little 'opinion poll' among my friends on how they felt about the domination of the council by freshmen. The results: '... what can you expect from the first-year students, they were fresh from their secondary school lives ...', '... they are inexperienced', 'They are sort of 'green'

and I feel insulted to be lead by them.' '... They do not have enough knowledge about the student's union. .'

The above remarks all carry a similar message. The conclusions drawn from this brief survey is that senior

students doubt the capabilities of these freshmen as student leaders, for by virtue of their status, they had been in the Polytechnic for hardly a year and it is only 'logical' that they are inexperienced and naive when dealing with Union affairs. Hence the remarks made implies that the senior students are the only group that are fit to be council members.

But a moment of intelligent pondering reveals the hollowness of these remarks. The senior students have only themselves to blame if the domination of the council by freshmen ends up to be a mistake. When a freshmen, who came

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First Asian Students' Seminar on Higher Education

The 1st Asian Students' Seminar on Higher Education, organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Students' and sponsored by the Asian Students' Association (ASA) was held in Hong Kong from March 21st to 25th 1974.

This Seminar included delegates and observers from Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Laos, Pakistan, Papua & New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union's representative in the Singapore National Delegation to this Seminar was Mr. Simon Lim Yew Whatt, a 2nd year Production Engineering student.

The Seminar aims at providing an opportunity for students from different countries in Asia to study, share experiences and exchange opinions on matters concerning the problems of higher education.

The objectives of this Seminar were:-

1) Examine our present educational system so that we can have some know-

ledge of how we are being educated under such a framework.

2) Understanding the present position of education in our society and in particular, the role she is playing in the economic and socio-cultural development.

It is hope that through discussions, the various national students' bodies in Asia could arrive at a better understanding and suggest possible ways of co-operation among themselves.

The four main issues discussed during the seminar were:-

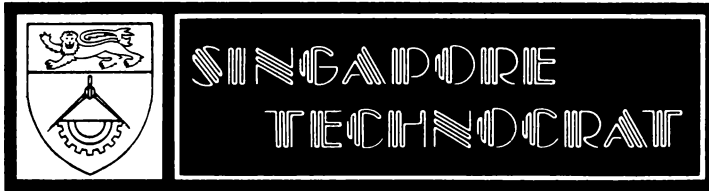
1) Rôle of Higher Education in Contemporary Asia.

This issue included the discussion of the following:-

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UNION AWARENESS

The past few years marked a dark chapter in the history of our Union. Student apathy is not only unrestrained – it is at its peak. With the vast majority of its members steeped in apathy, a declining union with leaders of fragile mandate will surely result.

The freshmen orientation period each year does not merely consist of three weeks of fun and frolic or eats and treats. Its main purpose is to act as powerful catalyst for union awareness among freshmen to whom the union is a complete novelty. It is also aimed to secure as an agent to adjust the new students who are mostly fresh from secondary school life into college life. The most disheartening fact is that these purposes were far from being achieved – today our students are more indifferent and ignorant to Union issues than ever.

Freshmen, during their orientation programmes learnt how college life is not confined only to lecture-theatres and libraries; that each of them is obligated to their Union and their society. The months that ensued witnessed the same students mugging away – hellbent on obtaining their diplomas and certificates, slipping blindly into oblivion. Each year, this cycle sadly repeats itself, and the themes for the preceding freshmen orientation programme with their heavy emphasis on Union awareness proved merely hollow.

Union awareness among its members is the only remedy for a static union. And the only means to achieve this is to inculcate effectively a greater sense of involvement in union affairs in each student. The theme for this coming Freshmen Orientation Period is hence, "UNION AWARENESS THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION" Whether this will end up as just another fanciful juggle of words or not will depend not only on our leaders but also on each freshman.

Faulty Generalisation

The Hon. Gen. Secretary, Mr. Wong Wing Kwong's open letter to all members (pg.11) mentioned that our Union is too

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Wanted: Senior guardian angels to guide timid souls.

Minimum Qualifications: Jokes, tricks and plenty of stories to tell.

Application forms obtainable at P.E.C. Secretariat.

dependent on the Press to condemn them for any allegations (be they justified or not) made about us. This may be a fact that we students have to face.

The reputation of the Polytechnic students have already been badly tarnished by the examination leakage. Any further attempts to adhere this shameful incident to our students will only create unprecedented harm to all of them. But to generalise our 7000 strong student body by the actions of only three students is both ridiculous and illogical. It is undoubtedly a clear example of faulty reasoning. Any of the Sunday Times readers, be they obtuse or intelligent, will sense the falsity of the generalisation. Hence it is unnecessary for the Polytechnic to insist that the Sunday Times rectify or withdraw those statements made.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD
WELCOMES ALL
FRESHMEN
TO THE POLY!



HAPPY ORIENTATION!

Apologies

RE: REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH MR. AGER ON EXAMINATION LEAKAGE

The Editorial Board apologises for the misinterpretation and misrepresentation in the report of the interview with the Principal, Mr. Ager, which was published in the last issue. We, the Editorial Board, sincerely hope that Mr. Ager and our readers will forgive us in this mistake.

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Asian Students' Seminar on Higher Education

- a) Role of higher education in respect to economic and socio-cultural development.
- b) Significance of academic freedom.
- c) The political role of higher education.

2) The University as an Educational Institution.

This issue included discussion on:—

- a) The structure of University establishment.
 - b) University curriculum
 - c) Student self-government and welfare.
- 3) The role of Students.

4) Ways to achieve co-operation among national student bodies in Asia.

The Seminar which concluded on March 25th, made various outstanding resolutions and has decided (by decision of the Conference) to send all resolutions to the Governments in Asia. Below is the communique of the Seminar.

COMMUNIQUE

The Seminar provided an opportunity for students from different Asian countries to share experiences and to exchange opinions on matters concerning higher education. Through discussion, a better understanding of mutual problems and methods of co-operation between the national student bodies of Asia has been reached.

The Seminar recognised that reform of the educational system cannot be separated from the economic, social, cultural and political structure of society. The present Asian educational systems are highly selective and elitist, and, in the cases of Hong Kong and Singapore among others, colonialist. We demand the democratisation of education so that there is equality of opportunity for all.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

At present, institutions of higher education are controlled by the government and the university establishment acts as a mechanism to produce an elite group which helps to maintain the status quo in society.

Recognising the effect of university and colleges on the society as a whole, the students agree that:

1. Institutions should be independent of the control of government and big enterprises.
2. There should be academic free-

dom to acquire and express various ideas without suppression.

3. While workers should have a voice because of the expenditure of public finance, students have a legitimate role in institutional government and all the decision-making processes. Further, there should be an ultimate veto by student bodies on all decisions within their institutions.

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM

We, the Seminar, recognize that:

1. Curriculum in most institutions is outdated and over-specialised or over-generalised.

2. Most material taught is at best irrelevant and at worst positively harmful to the needs of the majority of the people.

3. Most student time is spent on these irrelevancies rather than on involvements in social, political and economic issues.

4. Students are encouraged to compete with their fellows rather than to be partners in their service of their society.

5. Existing systems have inbuilt mechanisms for failure and for creating unjustified feelings of superiority and inferiority. However, we believe that the aim of education should be to make an individual a full participant in the society and that the following changes should be made:

- a. Education should be made relevant to social problems and humanised.
- b. Introduction of inter-disciplinary studies and special training under a flexible curriculum.
- c. Abolition of existing examination systems and thus guaranteeing success for all participants.
- d. Removal of much of the western bias in curriculum irrelevant to Asian social needs and its replacement by studies of culture, language and development of Asia, Africa and Central & South America.
- e. Using, in general, the major language(s) acceptable to the people as the main teaching medium.

ROLE IN SOCIETY

Being a particular social group, students should be united to look at the needs of the people through their own perspective starting with a concrete understanding of social reality rather than a vague sense of justice or morality characteristic of literary elites.

Students should learn from pro-

gressive groups, particularly the workers and the peasants. Students should learn from them and together with them help in fighting capitalist exploitation, political suppression and all injustices and work to promote social consciousness.

Students should strive for reform in secondary and primary schooling which is the foundation of higher education.

INTERNATIONAL ROLE

As an extension of their role within their own societies, student should work internationally to:

1. Alleviate all problems of world humanity
2. Support all struggles against imperialism, racism, economic and political domination throughout the world.

In particular, students of the Asian region support the struggles of:

1. Black Australians.

2. Liberation movements in Southern Africa such as those in Mozambique (FRELIMO — Mozambique Liberation Front), Zimbabwe (ZANU — Zimbabwe African National Union), Namibia (SWAPO — South-west Africa Peoples Organisation), Guinea Bissau (PIAGC — African Party for the Independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde Islands), South Africa (ANC — African National Congress) and Angola (MPLA — Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola).

3. The people of the French Territories of New Hebrides, New Caledonia and French Polynesia.

4. Movements against the American military in the Trust Territory of Micronesia.

5. The people of the Pacific against the testing and storage of nuclear weapons in their area.

The students of Asia also condemn the Singapore Government for its political repression of student activities.

STUDENT SELF-GOVERNMENT

We realise that to succeed in solving national and international injustices and that to ensure a democratic educational system, it is essential that students should have autonomous self-government. Therefore, the students of Asia:

1. Support a mass campaign of the Asian Students' Association to establish proper student governments in all Asian Countries.

2. See the establishment of a national union in every country of the region in co-operation with the Asian

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polytechnic and the union

To know about the seniors' feelings about the election, he immediately asked, 'where were the second and third year students when election was held?' Senior students will certainly find difficulty answering this question.

It had been taken for granted that because a student has spent more than two or three years in this college, he will have more knowledge about the Union and will hence be a more capable leader than his counterpart in the first year. This belief is not only unsound, but illogical. To many, an hour spent at a Union meeting or a minute spent at the Union notice-board seems longer than 10 hours spent at the Union-house 'carrom corner' or at the billiard tables or even at the sarabat stalls.

The fact that freshmen can dominate the council and the fact that they can seize office with no opposition at all is generally due to the students' apathetic attitude towards their Union and its well-being. Student apathy is frightfully real in our college. It is reflected from the number of letters or contributions, the publications committee received from the students. The amount is practically nil, considering the fact that the Polytechnic has a population of about 7000 students. The publications committee has, on several occasions resort to publishing excerpts from other magazines and journals in order to fill the otherwise blank pages of our newsletter. Student apathy, again reveals its ugliness when only 300 students cared attend the 21st, Nov. E.O.G.M. — a major meeting determining the very survival of a students' council. Meanwhile, a film-show organised by the Union attracted a much larger crowd. It is certainly a tragic fact.

What are the aims of the Students' Union besides looking after and preserving the interests of her members? Our Union Constitution has the answers. It said that the Union seeks to advance social, cultural, educational and sporting activities of all its members; to foster college spirit; to act as an official go-between for the Polytechnic Administration and the general student body and to instill a spirit of unity, citizenship and patriotism in her members.

The responsibility of carrying out all these tasks belong to non other than the members themselves. All the aims of the Union would be meaningless if students are ignorant of and have neglected their duties. It is very unfair to student leaders and councillors if students only come to the Union with their problems. All members should take part in Union activities and contribute their part however small and insignificant. Voting in each election is also a form of participation and it is the duty of each member to

indonesian students tour singapore

A group of students from Universitas Indonesia flew in from Jakarta on the 7th of April for a week long study tour. The 42 member delegation, comprising of 1 lecturer and 41 students of which all were from the Faculty of Engineering was lead by Gunawan Hs., a final year Civil Engineering student. Our Union had the honour of being their host.

The main purpose of the tour was to foster better relationship with our Union and also to make a general study of the various industries in Singapore. It was their aim to compare the housing development and the sewerage, drainage and traffic systems between our country and Indonesia. Our External Relations Committee had duly arranged extensive tours in order to fulfil their objectives and also to give the delegation a cross-sectional view of our country.

The places visited were the Seletar Reservoir, Jurong Town, the Housing



Development Board, the satellite station at Sentosa and the Bukit Timah Canal. Our guests also enjoyed cable car rides and sight-seeing tours to Jurong Bird Park, Mt. Faber and other places were conducted. They also visited the University of Singapore.

On the whole the tour was a success. The students studied the set up of S.P.S.U., and much ideas and opinion were exchanged. The students departed for Jakarta on the 13th of April.

ensure efficient leadership for their Union. Many who have casted their votes did so unintelligently and they are those who voted just to see their friends as councillors.

What does one learn to be in the Polytechnic? The curriculum is such that we are all to be trained as competent technicians (that is, if we are lucky that the three years' of intense studying will not turn us into mechanical robots or digits instead). Take a glance through the first year Common Engineering syllabus: Civil Engineering Science, Electrical Engineering Science, Mechanical Engineering Science, Engineering Materials, Mathematics and Engineering Drawing. If you opt for Electronic and Communications, as I did, you will study Electric Circuit Theory, Semiconductors, Electronics Engineering, Communication Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and the newly introduced Environmental Engineering.

As in the syllabus of each course conducted in our institution, the primary and even the secondary emphasis are on science and technology. The fact that students are human beings each with a uniqueness of his own, is neglected. It is deplorable that our institution would resort to a mass-production of technicians even at the expense of churning stereotyped personalities, so as to fulfil the needs of our developing nation. No doubt about it, engineering can contribute greatly towards the improvement of society, but then society is an integration of individuals and therefore, how much can we contribute to its betterment when we hardly understand social problems?

In an interview with our former principal, Mr. Robert Edis, an Engineering

Society official asked for liberal studies to be reintroduced into the Polytechnic curriculum. Mr. Edis replied that the term 'liberal studies' is very misleading. Taking Geography as an example, he argued that it is a subject in its own right. He added that the Polytechnic does not have the time or staff to cater for these subjects and teaching superficially will serve no purpose. One's conclusion from these remarks is that liberal subjects are important but the Polytechnic is in no position to cater such a curriculum and hence has to neglect it.

In the same interview, it was learnt that the first responsibility of the Polytechnic is to prepare and teach the students to 'earn a living!'. Mr. Edis mentioned that it is necessary to concentrate on the necessities for one 'to earn a living'. Mr. Edis seemed to have the opinion that just because one has knowledge of his trade, one will naturally know how to live with society.

Our curriculum also does not help us much in thinking analytically and creatively. We solve problems, prepared by our lecturers, with sets of formulae, theorems, laws, etc., all neatly laid out for us. One must know that those same formulae would be of little use when faced with problems in life. Equations and technical problems may be complicated but problems concerning humanity are more complex. Our curriculum hardly helps us to develop our individualism nor does it equip us with any relevant knowledge when we emerge into society to face its problems.

As earlier stated, our present system only teaches one to be a competent technician and not a more matured and

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AYER RAJAH CAMPUS

- no pride only prejudice

By: Lim Yak Kiang

When you first step into ARC, the first impression that you conceive is one of awe and pride. Awe because of her spaciousness, the many impressive machines that she houses and the pleasant and cheerful outlook of the people. The atmosphere becomes reminiscent of a new morning, fresh and bright. And pride because you have become an integral part of this new world.

But this first impression, like most other first impressions, proves to be very misleading and even ironical. It does not take you long to discover this.

The name of ARC is synonymous with frustration of the local bus system. Frustration is an hour of patient waiting for a bus to the campus, only to be rewarded with the sight of the bus speeding gleefully away on the other side of the road. Patience turns to fury, and this fury becomes directed towards ARC, making her a focal point of discontent and utter detest.

The trip home doubles the disenchantment, for trying to catch a bus home from either of ARC's bus stops is sheer physical and mental exhaustion. For at here, the buses are already packed to full capacity and the two stops are viewed with little or no significance. Every evening at ARC saw the bus stop overcrowded with wearied homeward bound students, while others filled with despair at the situation, loiter about in the stifling heat. Many more others resorted to hitch-hiking to circumvent the situation and multitudes of hikers are found 'thumbing' incessantly, every evening.

The Union finally saw the plight of the students and stepped in to lend a hand, however the services of the two chartered buses that it had engaged were viewed in a half hearted light, for the blow had been struck and students have come to regard ARC as a condemned place; beyond any amount of help.

When the canteen was first opened in 1972, it was a subject of strong dissatisfaction. The food provided was extortion itself; it was over-priced and under-nourishing. The students protested, naturally. Life at ARC was already near unbearable without the canteen having to contribute it's share of problems.

Fortunately, the situation improved. The quality and choice of food took on a good turn and the price fell to within the range of students' pockets. However one disheartening note was the lunchtime exodus by a fraction of the staff, who steal away from the school compound in their automobiles towards much greater culinary skill. The sight was enough to make a stomach churn and obviously it wasn't contributing much to the students' image of ARC.



The canteen is a distinguishing feature in the landmark of ARC and as such should serve food appropriate to it's name. But sadly, the present situation is only satisfactory and still has a long way more to go.

Life at ARC is at the Secretariat when there is nothing more to do and a lot of time to kill; and the library is out of the question for you have just returned from it a couple of months ago. Here the Engineering Society has kindly provided several forms of recreation, you have a choice of table tennis, but minus a ball (it has been missing for some time now) or carrom, but the two existing boards are fully booked and you are advised to make a booking in advance for the board. Or perhaps you like to take on a quiet game of checkers, but it will take some time to locate the soft drinks bottle caps before play can commence. The Union seems to have forgotten the urgent need for recreational facilities at ARC. There is no billard tables, not a single sign of a Union carrom board unlike the scene at the PEC Union house. Again, there is a fallacy here. ARC has the largest rest room of the three campuses, but is almost devoid of any healthy games for students. It is no wonder that ARC has degraded to such a level of repulsion to students.

There is a gap of communication in ARC. It exists between the Chinese

educated and the English educated (as usual), and also between the three courses of study at ARC, namely the Common, ITC and the Aero boys. This is in total contradiction to the strenuous FOC programmes staged each year. The theme for the 72/73 and 73/74 FOC programme were, "Towards a more integrated society" and "Better communication through co-operation, tolerance and understanding", respectively.

The FOC, (Freshmen Orientation Committee, for the privilege of those who have forgotten what FOC stands for) have been made a laughing stock, their efforts have all been in vain. Can anything be done? Who is to do it? Will the FOC this year, succeed in its primary function? Or will it's theme be just another meaningless juggle of fancy words? We can only leave it for time to tell.

Life at ARC has become an awesome thing. Passing exams is the prime motivation and students strive exactly for that. There is no longer any pride of being a student in ARC; she has become another obstacle in the rat race that must be surmounted with another bridge to be cross. There is no feeling for ARC; self-achievement and self-ambition has taken its place. For only a short span of two years and ARC has lost its soul. Her pride is eroding rapidly with each passing academic year and something must be done quickly about it.

ORIENTATION

"UNION AWARENESS THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION"

Work on this year's Orientation Programme began slightly later than usual owing to some unforeseen circumstances. The dedicated and hardworking central committee undertook the prodigious task of planning and co-ordinating the various projects.

The Union Secretariat is a beehive of activity as plans are finalised and new ideas discussed.

The traditional Orientation Convention to be held at the Shangri-la Hotel on the 22nd May marks the official opening of the Orientation Programme, with the Orientation Ball on the 8th June, ending it.

The line-up of the central committee is:-

- Chairman - Mr. Chia Kum Choong
- Vice-President - Mr. Goh Eng Kiat
- Secretary - Miss Amy Sam
- Treasurer - Mr. Nelson Neo
- Hand-book Editor - Mr. Frederick Tan
- Chief Disciplinary Officer - Mr. Gan Kok Beng
- Administrative Assistant - Mr. Chew Chin Seng

F.O.C. Adoption Scheme

The F.O.C. Adoption Scheme is to foster a closer relationship between freshmen and seniors. Every senior, under this scheme is assigned to a few freshmen and will be a friend, guide and even a 'brother' to them. Being so, the freshmen will find a smooth path into college life during this sudden transition and induction and also to maintain a rapport between seniors and freshmen.

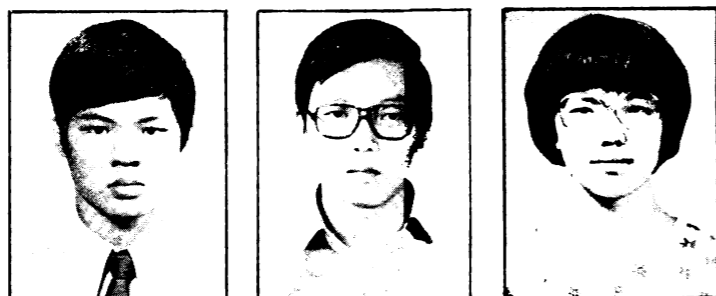
This year there will be 8 chief group leaders with 16 assistant group leaders and about 200 leaders in the Adoption Scheme Committee.

The prestigious role of a leader in the Adoption Scheme requires a responsible and mature outlook. Certain privileges will also be accredited to these leaders.

S.P.S.U. Flag Day, 1st June 1973

This year's Flag Day will be a difference from the other years'. For the first time, S.P.S.U. will not be the Organisers but the participants. The Freshmen will be helping the organiser of the Flag Day - the Association for the Deaf - to make the project a success.

Central Committee

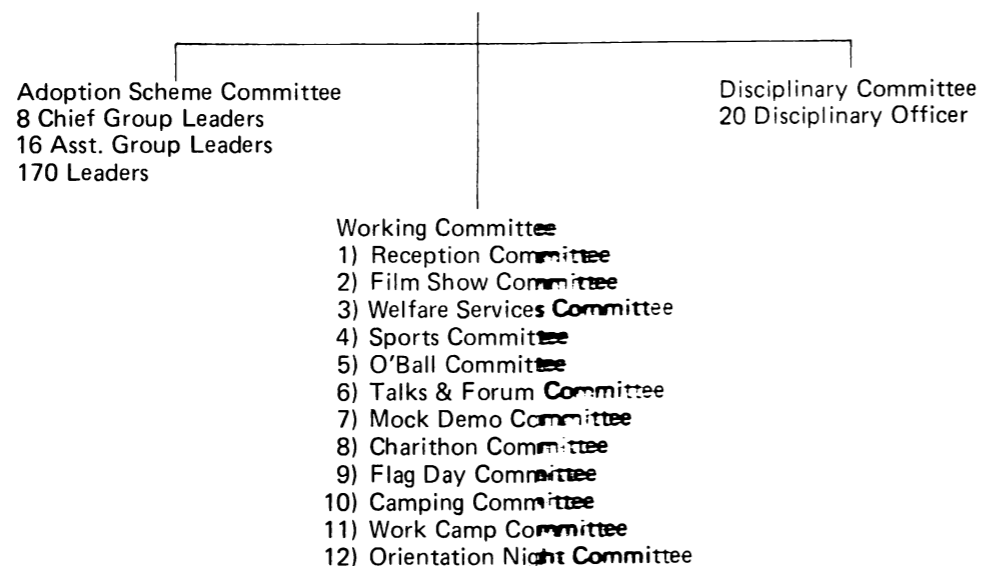


Chairman: Chia Kum Choong
Vice Chairman: Goh Eng Kiat
Secretary: Amy Sam



Treasurer: Nelson Neo
Admin. Asst.: Chew Chin Seng
Handbook Editor: Frederick Tan
Chief Disciplinary Officer: Gan Kok Beng

CENTRAL COMMITTEE



Although S.P.S.U. is not the organiser, two committee members of the Flag Day Committee will be sitting in the main Organising Committee to note the happenings. The target of this Flag Day is \$16,000 (tentatively). All proceeds shall go into the maintenance of the equipments and hearing aids and also the Vocational Institute of the Association.

ATTENTION

CHARITON '74

Chariton 1974 consists of 3 main events namely walking, cycling and trishaw riding. Proceeds will go to the Singapore Council of Social Services - for the aged, sick and destitute. The two homes that will be the main beneficiaries are the Yew Tee Old Folks' Home and the Dragon Lotus Old Folks' Home.

Decorations will be made on the trishaws and will be ridden by the Freshmen from Prince Edward Campus to Ayer Rajah Campus. The same route will also be covered by the walkers and bicyclists.

Prizes will be given to Freshmen with the most sponsors and the first few cyclists and walkers.

ADVENTURES NIGHT

The 'Adventures Night' will be on for two nights. About 100 Freshmen will be attending the camp each night.

The aims of the Adventures' Night, organised by the Camping Committee are:-

- a) To encourage the Freshmen to participate in outdoor activities.
- b) To encourage the Freshmen to be self-reliant.
- c) To foster the Freshmen's group spirit. Highlights of the nights include a hike, campfire and a barbeque.

SPORTS DAY AND WATER CARNIVAL

The 28th of May, will be the Orientation Sports' Day, which is to be held at the Princess Mary Campus Grounds. Games will be played between the colour groups, including one group of seniors.

Highlights of the day include a 'tug of war', road relay, and other team games.

The Water Carnival, to be held on the 31st of May, in the Dover Road Swimming Pool, will have many special events.

Highlights of the Carnival includes

a 'Wedding Swim', 'Dragon Dance' and even a 'Strip-tease Swim'.

Well, do you want to know what all these events are? Come and join us on these two days and win all the prizes. Souvenirs will be awarded to all participants.

ORIENTATION BALL

The Grand finale of this year's Orientation Programme will be held at Hotel Royal Ramada on the 8th June 1974. Highlights of the Orientation Ball includes the crowning of Mr. and Miss Freshie and a lucky draw. The charge per couple will be \$10/- with a choice of any 2 drinks except cocktails.

So come along and have a swinging time with some of our local bands before setting down to hard work for the new academic session.

Tickets will be available at the Union Secretariat during the Orientation Period.

The O'Ball organising committee comprises of:-

- Chairman : Mr. Colin Khong
- Vice-Chairman : Mr. Philip Chan
- Secretary : Miss Sandra Chang
- Treasurer : Miss Casandra Lim
- Committee Members : Mr. Wong Tuck Seng, Mr. Wong Khi Chong

9TH ANNUAL WORKCAMP

'Co-operation through Tolerance and Understanding.' is the theme for the 9th Annual Workcamp which will be held on the 29th and 30th May 1974. This involves the construction of a road - Jalan Ulu Sembawang, off Mandai Road - to facilitate the transportation requirements of the villagers living there.

The Workcamp committee believes that such a project will instill into the freshmen a sense of community awareness and a spirit of co-operation, two qualities which we believe will be invaluable in their future working lives.

The road to be metalled is a bumpy dirt track, one and a half mile long, located in an isolated area in Sembawang. When completed, it will serve a total of

130 houses, a school and a community centre.

All the necessary tools and materials will be provided by the P.W.D. The freshmen will assemble at the poly quad at 7.45 a.m. on both mornings, after which they will be transported down to the site. Work will commence at 9 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m.

Lunch and transportation down to the site will be provided by the F.O.C.

WELFARE SERVICES FOC 74/75

Welfare Services will be held on the 25th and 26th of May 1974, under the code name 'Welshine' - to shine the path towards better understanding of humanity.

Students when admitted to college life have an inclination towards self-centeredness and examination-consciousness which results in their apathetic attitudes. As such, it is our sincere hope that this programme will eradicate such tendency and expose them to the problems of the less privileged and to cultivate in them a more responsive and involved attitude towards community work - to serve the unfortunates.

The two-day programme will involve more than 1,000 freshmen performing odd jobs at various Homes and Centres, campaigning for the Henderson Road Home for the Aged in the nearby residence and bringing out the children for excursion, picnic and party.

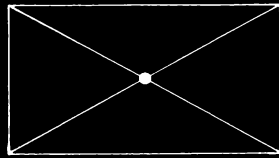
Besides, to further achieve the objectives of this programme, slide show of the types of work and condition of various Welfare Organisations and inmates will be shown before the function to give them a deeper insight into the problems that the Homes are encountering.

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION NIGHT '74

The Freshmen Orientation Night '74 will be held at the Union House on the 1st of June at 7.30 p.m. It is a night of entertainment and music to provide relaxation for the freshmen after a hard day of flag-selling.

Two bands will be performing on that night. In addition, it is hoped that there will be contributions from the Music Society and a comic sketch performed by Mr. Hamid Bond.

Letters to the Editor



POLYGON 72/73 – What's happen to it?

Dear Ed,

On behalf of my friends, I congratulate you for bringing us the long-awaited newsletter, 'Singapore Technocrat'.

Since the Board is inviting queries and opinions from its readers, I take this opportunity to enquire why the 'Polygon 72/73' is not published yet. It should have been published sometime back in December 1973, if I am not mistaken.

– L.S.C.

Ed – Your congratulation is well received. If you have been waiting patiently for the Polygon 72/73 then your waiting is over. The Polygon 72/73 is scheduled to appear in June.

Dear Ed,

The problems at ARC canteen are not new. Eversince the canteen became operational in 1972, students have to face up with the usual ordeal from day to day – expensive and non-tasty food, unclean conditions, rude caterers and what have you?

Every student council in office eversince were in constant 'battle' with the Administration during the Canteen Advisory Committee meetings. The 12th Council conducted a survey on the ARC canteen and even held a forum in the canteen itself. The 13th Council, Interim as well as 14th Council have not been and are not adamant to those problems. Nevertheless, the issue seems to be unresolved and looks like it will never be settled, the way the affairs are going on.

The Admin. has taken over the management of the side stalls. The caterers pay less rental under the new scheme. Although they have promised to be more reasonable if the rent was reduced, have they broken their promises? Do the students find the food cheaper? Or perhaps the caterers are going to tell us that they are besieged by the inflationary trend in the market?

It is easy to believe and conclude that the Union is not doing her job and it seems evident too. It would be unfair to just draw such a conclusion while oblivious of what 'battle' used to go on during the canteen meetings.

"We could terminate the contract of all the side stalls since they are no good", so said the Registrar. But "can the students union find a substitute?". "The caterers are taking advantage of the location of ARC. There's no other food stall outside. How ridiculous it is to pay 25 cts for an egg and ten cts for a slice of bread." said a councillor.

The SPASA representative also agreed bread and egg is too expensive.

This kind of dialogue can go on forever if no concrete action is taken. Suggestions seem to end up nowhere. Perhaps "viable proposals" would be more welcomed by the Admin. It seems so; the Admin. takes a long time to consider a change in any stall. Remember the incident when three army boys were beaten up by the Yong-tau-foo seller? When approached, the Assistant Registrar (ARC) expressed surprise over the incident. "Nobody even had the guts to tell me", he said. "I believe some staff could have witnessed the scene, but I could have called the police if only I was informed", he continued.

Up till now no action has been taken on this case, presumably because it's too late and there's no need to think of

future incidents of this nature. This is not just an example of bad discipline of canteen caterers. Gambling is common. I happened to find some of the canteen boys gambling openly with cards and brought the matter up to the Assistant Registrar immediately. He didn't seem moved or surprised at all. I presume he even had witnessed such a scene before because he seemed to believe what I told him and unlike normal procedure, he did not even make a surprise 'spot-check', as one would normally expect.

– Simon Lim

Ed – We believe it's high time concrete action is taken by the union and Admin. Perhaps an advertisement in the newspapers calling for caterers to run the canteen.

And if ever such a move is made, it's high time we demand for at least a seat in the decision making committee. It is most disturbing to hear fellow students say that the present main caterer has got "connections" with the Board of Governors.



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Wars — Dian and Martin Sheen.
WEDNESDAY:
POLYTECHNIC students may find special interest in this episode of Barnaby Jones entitled "The Murdering Class" on Ch. 5 at 8.30 p.m. as it is all about stealing examination papers.
A student rifling the Enright School safe is surprised by the owner of the school and kills him in panic.
The student ring-leader who masterminds the plan to steal the papers engineers a deception to make it appear as though the victim has slipped to his death while being drunk and trying to steal money from the safe.
The victim's sister, who is co-owner of the school, is sure, however, that her ex-alcoholic brother had stayed off the bottle. She asks for Barnaby's help.
THURSDAY:
IN "SHAFT" Cop Kline at 8.10

To Condemn or Not ?

Dear Honourable Members,

I am deeply shocked by this TV Highlights published by the Sunday Times on 7th April, 1974 and I am sure that most members would be having the same feeling. For the whole week-end, students were depressed by this statement which reads: 'POLYTECHNIC Students may find special interest in this episode . . .'

No doubt, this TV programme may have similarity to the Polytechnic Examination leakage, but why should the Press cause us all this embarrassment? What is the Union's stand? Is the Union not to do anything and hibernate in the Union House, or is the Union, a strong representation of 7,000 students, going to condemn the Press?

I, personally, feel that it is out of the question to ask the Press to apologise to all students of the Polytechnic, as they have the free right to publish anything. But on the whole, students and the

Union would definitely condemn the Press for heating up the whole case, and 'burning' the reputation of the Polytechnic again. But if we condemn the Press, what will the consequences be?

Will the Press, the most influential mass media in our Republic, be helping us in publicising our functions? Will they be publishing what is to be released in the Press with regards to our official functions in the future? The sure possibility is a sure 'NO' and to condemn the Press will only sink us deeper into the slump.

Therefore, I hope that the general student body will understand us, in this statement released by my humble self, rather than saying that the Union is not doing anything to uphold the reputation of the Polytechnic.

Expressed personally by:

Wong Wing Kwong,
Hon. Gen. Sec.,
S.P.S.U.

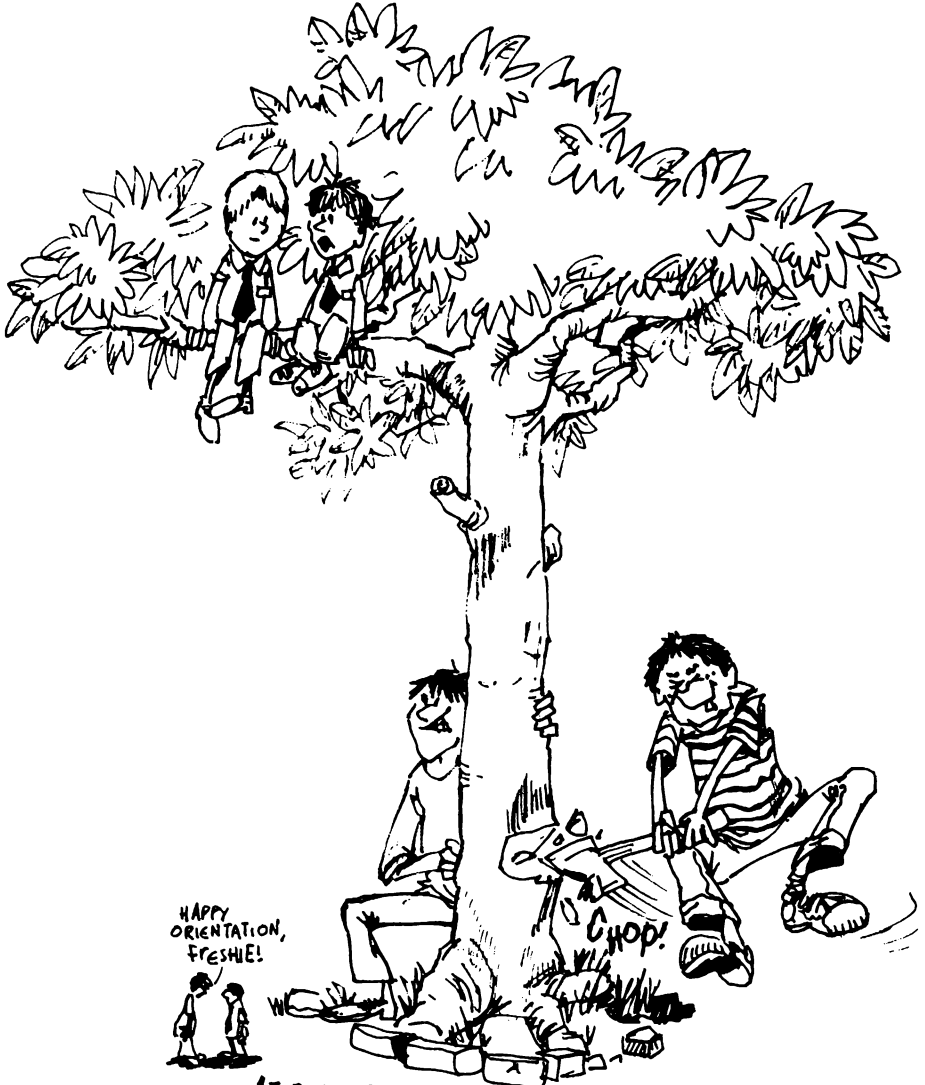
Stop Press S.P.S.U.'s NEW PRESIDENT



Mr. Woon Kok Meng, was unanimously voted in as the 14th Council's new President at the 5th OCM on the 8th of May 1974. Mr. Woon, who is a very active Councillor, thanked the Council for having so much faith in him, and at the same time, he assured the Council that they had made the right choice.

The Editorial Board would like to take this opportunity in extending our warmest regards and best wishes to Mr. Woon as the new President of S.P.S.U.

The 5th OCM also saw the resignation of the Publication Secretary, Mr. Goh Hong Wah, Mr. Goh's resignation, as stated in his letter, was due to heavy family commitments and parental objections. In his resignation letter, Mr. Goh recommended two capable councillors to take the post as the Publication Secretary, namely Mr. William Lee and Mr. Ng Kheng Soon. The Council accepted Mr. Goh's resignation but made no immediate actions to fill the vacant Publication Secretary post.



"THE MOST REMARKABLE THING ABOUT OUR SENIORS - IS THEIR DETERMINATION TO GET THEIR PAWS ON US!"

The Philosophy of Voluntary Welfare Work and Its Responsibilities

TALK GIVEN BY MISS LIM KIM LAM
NARRATED BY THE WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Why voluntary welfare services organisation arrive out of a felt mean: A consensus that something must be done to help the unfortunate of society. In the early days, this kind of service is a source of charity, usually by religious, philanthropist and so forth.

Such services usually based more in the concept on image system instead of regard for the self respect and dignity of the client.

It must be remembered that 'welfare work centre the needs of community and persons we want to help and not ourselves.' Although in a sense we do help ourselves in helping others. Our work, as volunteers, aim on helping the clients to develop themselves and to lead a normal life in society. A Chinese saying goes — 'Give a man a fish, he will eat for a day, teach the man to fish, he will eat it for his whole life.'

Persons volunteering their services to do voluntary work, must firstly be capable of doing 'voluntary' work at home before being really able to contribute towards community welfare.

Volunteers (e.g. those going to organisation catering for children or aged) rendering their services to give extra tuition to children or visiting the aged, seems to be inconsistent with their work. They come and they go as they please.

This is not the kind of attitude that volunteers should take, being able to do whatever they like because they are volunteers, giving their services 'FREE'.

From page 4

polytechnic and the union

rational social creature. In his speech at the Freshman Convention 72/73, Mr. Lim Eng Chuan, President of the 11th Council questioned himself on what he had learnt during his stay in the Polytechnic. He answered his own question, 'I feel quite embarrassed of myself, I know I have learnt Sc. I, Sc. II, Sc. III, Applied Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics, Drawing, etc., but my neighbours, Tom, Dick and Harry seem to have done better than I. Besides, the knowledge I have accumulated every year has been generously returned to the lecturers in the final examinations — so I am left a blank and may be a nincompoop. But the Students' Union came to my rescue. I took an active part in the Union and became a Councillor in my third year. Now at least, I feel that I have learnt something — I learn about people and their problems and I learn to understand life more fully'.

Life contains too many variables. One way to understand and learn to tackle these variables is through our union. The Students' Union provides the missing-link in our present educational system. By taking an active part in

Furthermore, this will have an adverse effect on those we are trying to help, especially the children. The main task of the volunteers, especially in helping the children, concern not mainly with giving tuition but in gaining their trust. Once you achieve that they will tell you without any inhibition things which they normally keep to themselves. Such informations will be very useful to you and the social workers concerned in their endeavours. In addition, we are trying to bridge the gap of society and this unfortunate people. It is only through consistent hard work that we are able to achieve these things.

Remember, the effects is not on us but the clients involved. For example, if a client comes into a welfare agency, he or she may feel strange. The volunteer now step in. His job is to befriend the client and bridge the gap of strangeness between the agency and the client. In this way the volunteer will be helping the client to adjust to the new environment.

Another important duty of volunteers is to educate the public in whatever ways they can on the works of these agencies. For example, the retarded child-

Union affairs whether as a councillor or just as an ordinary member, one will not only understand people better but will also benefit in several ways.

Have you ever organized or chaired any meetings before? Have you ever written any letters to or correspond with senior executives from the Government or other departments, not merely to seek jobs, but to, perhaps, invite them to be a patron or speaker at a forum you are organising? Did you have the experience or even the opportunity of negotiating with people on important issues? Have you ever hosted foreign students and delegates visiting our country?

The Polytechnic could not provide these invaluable experiences. Only the Students' Union can and it can even provide much more and you have every opportunity to take part in the many activities conducted. Only you yourself can make your membership meaningful and your annual subscription of eighteen dollars worthwhile. Besides this, you may discover your talents and develop them further.

True, we enrol in the Polytechnic primarily to study on how to earn a living' but can we ignore the injustices and problems in our society, pretending that they do not exist and study conscientiously?

ren have never been accepted by the public because of the social stigma attached to them.

Finally, to conclude, we should volunteer out of a desire to do so, not simply with an attitude of 'doing a bit of charity work will do me good.'

From page 3

asian students' seminar on Higher Education

Students' Association as extremely important to promote joint action.

Further, we state that all student unions of Asia and the Third World should be free to take part in all political, cultural and economic meetings and we condemn all government authorities who suppress this freedom. Also, we strongly demand that all political activists imprisoned in the countries of Asia and other parts of the world be freed immediately.

ACTION PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CO-OPERATION RESULTING FROM THE CONFERENCE

1. In order to carry on the aims and achievements of the Conference, the Student Education Commission of Asia (SECA) was set up and will be initially run by the Australian Union of Students under the sponsorship of Asian Students' Association. Each national student union will establish its own education commission to communicate and co-operate with SECA.

2. Asian student unions will be encouraged to establish student exchange programs so that students can learn from each other as well as exchanging ideas on local political, cultural and economic issues and taking part in ASA initiated political campaigns.

3. A special committee is being set up to draw up criteria for student selection for scholarships and financial assistance to Australian institutions of higher education. The conference affirms that the only legitimate ground for student exchange is for cultural interaction and for promotion of international understanding.

4. Student unions will be approaching their respective governments to fund cultural exchange programmes for the students of Asia. Such programmes would not incorporate course work for certificates.

5. Students will work to achieve mutual recognition among institutions of higher education, both within and between the Asian countries.

SPORTS

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Asean University Students' Games

HISTORY

At the ASEAN University Preparatory Conference held at Bali in February 1973, the 5 ASEAN member countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore (Polytechnic's representative in the Singapore delegate was Mr. Lim Eng Seng, then the Sports' Councils President) met to discuss the future of the ASEAN University Student Sports Federation. Among the objects of the Conference was the agreement to authorise the Federation to hold its ASEAN University Student's Games once every two years and to make the games a project of the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Social-Cultural Activities.

THE FIRST ASEAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' GAMES

As a result of the agreement, the coming Games will be held in Indonesia

during July 1974. "Scholars" from the ASEAN countries will compete in the five popular sports in this region. The sports are Soccer, Badminton, Table-tennis Volleyball and Hockey.

SINGAPORE'S REPRESENTATIVES

The joint Varsity College Sports Council had arranged trails to select student representatives to the games. Each of the five Institutions will send a limited number of athletes to the trails which starts on the 1st of May. The trails will convene as follows:—

GAMES	CONVENER
Soccer	Institute of Education

Badminton	Singapore Polytechnic
Table-tennis	Institute of Education
Volleyball	Singapore University
Hockey	Singapore University

For Badminton and Table-tennis the selections will be held on a knockout basis while the remaining three sports' selections will be considered on the training performances. The Council had also stated that only those who had represented their Institution in the Inter-Varsity-College Games will be allowed to attend the trails.

The main aim of the Games is to promote friendship and co-operation within the ASEAN students.

10th SPORTS COUNCIL'S

1st. BOARD OF INQUIRY MEETING

The 10th Sports Council's Board of Inquiry meeting was held on the 10th of April at the Union House Conference room. Among those present were Sports Council's committee members, advisors and the Board of Inquiry. At the meeting, the Board Chairman, Mr. Wilbert Wong (President of the Sports Council) was informed of the suspected malpractices by Mr. Ding Diong Hung, the Council's men athletics convenor.

The suspected malpractices were:—

a) The loss of 4 singlets and ten shorts during the 11th Inter Varsity/ College Athletics meet, late last year.

b) Ordering of the souvenirs for the Poly 50 from the United Sports Industries with an agreement that the Council will pay 40% of the total cost, without the approval, consent and consolation of the Executive Committee of the Sports Council.

c) Using fictitious names to claim transport allowances for athletes training at Raffles Institution.

During the hearing, Mr. Major Singh, team manager of the Singapore Polytechnics contingent, in his statement, clarifies that he only issued singlets and shorts to athletes, up to the 16th name on the requisition form, and the remaining of the stock are to be issued by Mr. Tham Wing Kwong or Mr. Ding Diong

Hung. Mr. Singh further clarifies that he handed the stock to Mr. Tham and Mr. Ding as he has to perform other duties. Mr. Tham and Mr. Ding were said to have no objections in taking charge of the stocks. It is also said that the 4 staff members who ran in the Staff relay race were only provided with singlets. On the souvenirs for the Poly 50 Race, Mr. Lawrence Ho clarifies that he issued only 98 key chains to runners and officials, leaving 38 in the store. Mr. Ding had ordered 150 key chains and also collected some for distribution. This results that 14 of the 150 key chains (150-98-38=14) were unaccounted for. 11 badges were also missing from the 400 badges that were ordered of which 166 badges were issued to participants and another 223 left in the store. The unaccounted key chains and badges were either with Mr. Ding or he had issued them without providing the names of the recipients to the Council. The Organising Secretary, Mr. Wu Sze Yang then informed the meeting that no one (including the convenors) is allowed to enter into any agreement with any suppliers without his or the Council's approval.

During the meeting, the Council's treasurer Mr. Eric Fong also clarifies that the allowance was not properly claimed and that Mr. Ding had to re-submit the names of the recipients.

The Chairman then inform the Board that Mr. Ding did not present any files or information to him at the appointed place as Mr. Ding did not present himself. As Mr. Ding did not present himself during the Inquiry, the Board decided to call a second meeting and also to take the necessary actions without further inquiries if Mr. Ding is again not present for the second meeting.

Coming: Graduation Dinner and Dance

This year's graduation dinner and dance will be held on the 24th of August 1974 at the Royal Palace Restaurant in Hotel Royal Ramada (tentatively). Highlights of this function will include a fashion show by Robina Departmental store. Tickets at \$12/- per person will be available by the end of June.

Orientation Programme 74/75

DAY	TIME	PROGRAMME	DAY	TIME	PROGRAMME
18th May SATURDAY	8.30 am	Pre-Orientation briefing.		1.30-4.30 pm	Flag Day briefing, Chariton briefing, Work Camp briefing, Welfare Services briefing
		PRE-ORIENTATION		4.30-5.30 pm	Slide Show on Welfare Homes
20th May MONDAY	8.30 am	Assembly and attendance.		7.30 pm	Film Show (Adios Subada)/ Camping (Adventurous Night)
	9.00 am	Meet the Ex-Co and F.O.C. personals.	24th May FRIDAY	8.30 am	Assembly and attendance
	11.00 am	Societies' Campaign.		9.00 am	Tour of A.R.C.
	12.00 noon	Lunch	At Ayer Rajah Campus	10.30 am	Societies' Campaign
	1.00 pm	Assembly and attendance		12.00 noon	Lunch
	1.30 pm	Meet your seniors (Adoption scheme).		1.00 pm	Assembly and Attendance
	4.00-5.00 pm	Sports and Chariton briefing.		1.30 pm	Martial Art Demonstration
	7.30 pm	Film Show at Union House (Class of '44)		3.30 pm	Principal's Tea Party
				8.00 pm	Film Show at Union House (Secret Invasion)/Camping (Adventurous Night)
21st TUESDAY	8.30 am	Assembly and attendance			
	9.00 am	Talks by Heads of Depart- ments	27th May MONDAY	8.30 am	Assembly and attendance
	11.00 am	Societies' Campaign		9.00 am	Mock Demonstration
	12.00 noon	Lunch (Afternoon concert by Union Brass Band)		12.00 noon	Lunch.
	1.00 pm	Assembly and attendance		1.00 pm	Assembly and attendance
	1.30 pm	Union Orientation		1.30 pm	Societies' Campaign
	4.00-5.00 pm	Sports Committee briefing		4.30 pm	Briefing feedback
	7.30 pm	Film Show at Union House (Kelly Heroes).		7.30 pm	Film Show at Union House (The Corrupt Ones)
			28th May TUESDAY		Sports Day
22nd May WEDNESDAY	8.30 am	Convention (Shangri-La- Island Ballroom)			Work Camp
	1.00 pm	Assembly and attendance	29-30th May (WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY)		
	1.30 pm	Talks by Heads of Depart- ments			
	3.30-5.00 pm	Societies' Campaign	31st May FRIDAY		Water Carnival
	7.30 pm	Film Show at Union House (The Chastity Belt)			
		ORIENTATION	1st June SATURDAY	7.30 pm	Flag Selling Day F.O.C. Night
23rd May THURSDAY	8.30 am	Assembly and attendance			
	9.00 am	Societies' Campaign	2nd June SUNDAY		Chariton
	10.00 am	Talks and Forum			
	12.00 noon	Lunch	6th June THURSDAY	9.00 am	Blood donation
	1.00 pm	Assembly and attendance			
			8th June (SATURDAY)	10.00 am	F.O.C. Tea Party



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