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EXAM AFTERMATH

The results of the last sessional examinations were released late. However, even if it were released earlier, it mattered little as far as those ill-fated students were concerned. The only difference was that they would probably have had more time to act before the new session began. Unprecedentedly, this year, a larger section of the student population were unhappy with the decision of the examinations board. Those involved were virtually plunged into a state of confusion as to their future. At the same time, they held the Admin. in utter contempt, this being so because of the delay by the Academic Section.

There were various sources of dissatisfaction in the campus. The newly advanced production engineering final students were in for a great shock during a meeting with their head of department. They were informed of the optional subjects that they have to study. This was all planned and thus left them with no choice of their own although the subjects were supposed to be optional. The reason for this new ruling was simple. If the students were left to choose their own subjects, it would probably result in an unequal distribution of students in different subjects. This is so because certain subjects like "work study" and "quality engineering" were considered essential and therefore popular. This would result in, among other things, the Department having got to get more lecturers — the staff-students ratio is still far from being satisfactory.

The Department should have known better not to try to force a pre-programmed schedule on the students. It might do well to streamline the student-subject distribution and hence enable them to stream students according to the convenience of the lecturers. In fact the reverse should always be the case. Needless to say, objections were raised by the students. The students have every right to do so. On the first instance, when they opted to do the PE course, they were well

aware of the final year syllabus. To try and make optional subjects 'compulsory' would be like to cheat them of their rights. One would imagine that if such a ruling was known before students opted for the course, many would not have been in the PE course today.

As a result of the protest, the Department reverted their decision and finally agreed to let the students have their choice. However it should be noted that only a small minority of the 90 odd PE students dared raise objections. The majority, sad to say, seemed submissive and were even prepared to accept the Department's decision. The usual attitude of "what to do?" prevailed. This is an unhealthy sign of apathy! The only reason for this sorry state of reaction was perhaps that they would eventually loose out as victims of unscrupulous lecturers. (It is an accepted fact among final year students that certain PE department lecturers are extremely dirty in the game of victimization). Whatever it is, final year students in PE should wake up from their dreams and know when to fight at least for their own rights. The second years should be aware of this case and be prepared to face the same situation next year.

4th Year Part-Time

A substantial number of fresh graduates

of the ITC course were admitted to do the 4th year P/T Diploma course. As it is understood, their entry is conditional. They either have to get a relevant job or have to be in the relevant vocation while serving their term in the army. Nevertheless, this sparked off some complaints among students, reportedly spear-headed by a group of final year electronics guys. They even sent a letter to the Principal protesting against the exodus of ITC graduates. This selfish action seemed to reflect again the human rat-race which is already so rampant in the campus. It was centered around the arbitrary argument of their being employable rather than the ITC graduates. A simple calculation shows that the ITC graduates doing National Service and at the same time doing their P/T Diploma conversion course would be able to seek employment on Diploma status one year earlier than the Diploma students.

Diploma students should come to their right senses. Why spend those precious hours thinking and trying to outrun our brothers and sisters who would one day be our partners in society? We would jolly well be throwing ourselves into the drain if we adopt such kind of attitude! Unless we want to sell ourselves like prostitutes to the industrialists, we should not be competing for such false superiority complex. Let us spend more time evaluating our own future as a whole — now that the industrial slump is biting hard on our fellow beings in the electronic industries.

Civil Department Victims

The Civil final year results were fairly bad this year. There were no failures last

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EDITORIAL BOARD

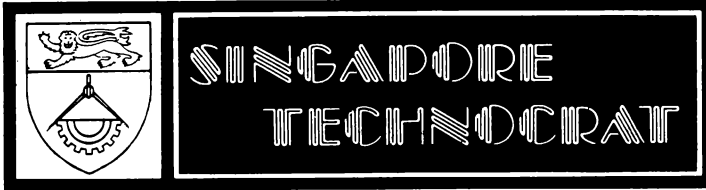
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CAMPUS POLITICS

Campus politics is a monstrous label for two simple justice, social awareness and responsibility. It is the medium through which the voice of students is projected. This voice speaks of care for fellow citizens and of want to see a justified play of power.

Social participation should be in our wake. Being students in a tertiary institution that is being heavily subsidised by the laboring proletariat's sweaty taxes, it is only moral that we instead of turning our backs on him should reciprocate with helping him out with problems in his social environment.

There is an enormous quantity of students who refuse to see things in this light. Whenever confronted with a chance to practise campus politics, they shy away from it with a what's-the-use or how-far-can-you-go. This hopeless attitude may have been born out of a weariness of being suppressed again and again. But we are not being youths if we allow ourselves to be stamped down in our fight for truths and rights. If there are any unreasoned rules, any foul balance of power we should not hesitate to correct it however large the resistance may be. Ridding an environment of pests and parasites is no wrong doing.

And so for those students who are strenuously sprinting in the rat race and who only have time to contribute their what's-the-use, it is time to take a breather and enjoy the scenery around him, for the scenery is life and the race, selfish. Campus politics as the name implies, refers to the whole campus and all true students should partake in it. We are only playing out our beneficiaries if we allow ourselves to indulge thoroughly in studies alone.

Need Extra Cash?

Then Sign Up As A

POLYGON CANVASSER

Submit your personal particulars to the clerk at the Union House Secretariat. Good allowances promised. Go sign up fast, the earlier you get into action, the more bread you'll pocket!

OF LEADERSHIP

In his speech at the annual Dinner and Dance, Dr. Lee Kum Tatt warned us of the two formidable classes of leaders. And now as the elections are here, it is an appropriate time for some serious reflection on his words.

According to him there are two forms of leadership, the begging and the grabbing form. The begging form is the type that bow down obediently to the 'powers' and the grabbing form, the exact opposite, is the type that do not hesitate to challenge the 'powers' above.

Clearly, the begging form is a detestable act. This object form makes a mockery out of its' leaders and suppresses the freedom of creative expression. Undoubtedly, there are ulterior motives behind such quiet obedience, the people who beg, beg for their own goodwill. Such motives mirrors filthy thinking and such acts are abuse of the leader's position.

The grabbing form is absurd, more so when there is nothing to challenge about. But if there are strong grounds and intolerable subversion by all means should the challenge be made, regardless of how superior the challenged authorities might be. Such battles are true and right, they depict a strong character and a firm, sincere belief in human freedom.

Perhaps to Dr. Lee's list we might add one more form, the self-centered form of leadership. Leaders in this category are unwilling to sacrifice too much time to their work as student leaders, they prefer to spend more time at their books, hence their capacity in the Union is docile and their leadership, stagnant. Their unwillingness to devote more time to the Union represents an insecurity and undedicated feeling. They could have been in the Union more for the name of councillor than anything else.

All three forms, more of the begging and self-centered form, have been found in our Union before. The begging form have been cursed by the students and the self-centered form rebuked. It is being prayed that these forms of leadership will not be repeated again and all present and future leaders will put heart and soul into their work in the Union.

The 15th Council will be moving in soon and so will also many new and unexpected problems that will seek to test the reliability and ability of our new leaders. Many faults will be uncovered and many harm will be done, but all these can be corrected and be served as a lesson in the art of leading. And as for us, let us not just sit back and watch the trial to see who will fail, instead let us help by lending them all the co-operation and support they need from us.

SWAN SONG

Dear readers,

This is the final issue of vol. 3. And now as we take leave of our well-worn pens, messy desks and spilled ink-wells, we would like to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude all the help and moral support that have been given to us in the past and thank all of you for somehow having managed to bear with all our little faults and errors.

We look forward to serving all of you again in the next volume of this paper, the Singapore Technocrat.

The Editorial Board.

THE YOUTH SCENE IN SINGAPORE

The youth scene in Singapore is a calamity; there is a deep lack of compactness linked with a dying (or may be dead) flame of group spirit. Each student struggles on his own road with a my-school-is-better-than-yours shrug of the shoulder and a I-am-better-than-you shuffle of the feet. They have become docile and self-centered; life for them is the successful completion of the paper chases but perhaps they are not to be blame.

The older generation has always view these leaders of tomorrow as immature brats who can sometimes come up with some ideas that can makes the older generation feel inadequate; hence the need to impose a stringent and despotic palm over these youngsters; the older citizens are also wise enough to dispose these young ones into the mould they brand as education, and all that is needed to flag off the paper chase is the guarantee of an easy life, and the young ones then become so occupied and obsessed with the chase as to forget the part they are supposed to play in developing a proud nation.

One classic example of the control of adults over 'kids' in the Youth Festival. The Youth Festival is supposed to be a chance for the Singaporean Youth to express their identity and individuality to the whole public. But then sadly each and every item put up during the Festival

are assiduously planned and meticulously set by full grown mature adults, way passes the prime of their youth. These masters control every limb of the performers. As such the Youth Festival has become an ironical and meaningless affair, it is too splattered with adult colour and extravagance to sincerely carry the message it is suppose to convey. The poor young innocents have nothing left to do but to keep in line as ordered and ensure his step is in time.

Unobjectively, the recent call for school principals to relax their grip on the youth (sadly for the Festival only). Was a plea called out in boredom at the meaningless colourful spectacles faithfully copied each year.

Our national leaders have come to use the Youth Festival as a launching pad for them to plunge into the rhetorics of nation building and the value of youth for tomorrow. This year was of no dif-

ference. Our most fluent Minister, Mr. Rajaratnam took to the rostrum and brilliantly coloured an otherwise stale subject. He noted that Singapore needed substitution for the natural resources that it lacked and the only available supplements are the human resources — intelligence, ability, discipline, deligence and so on. He concluded after a call to today's youth to gather the conglomeration of all the knowledge they had left behind and used it fruitfully to "guide Singapore" in the next 50 years.

Mr. Rajaratnam had also at first commented on a group of youth who he pointed are wasting their time and energy fighting against imaginary despotism. It is regretted that he did not detailed out those youths, so that in the interests of a better Singapore they could be corrected and the imaginary wrongs, which he also did not revealed, could be explained. These active youths could then be guided to channel their vibrant energy into fighting against real oppression. Or were they already doing it, creating a new youth scene which the higher (or older) authorities felt it necessary to curb?

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THE CONFLICT OF MAN, SCIENCE OR RELIGION?

Religion is man's spiritual pursuit of truth and a form of personal belief. Science, on the other hand is a way man discovers the basic laws governing, and the constitution of, all living matter.

But has man's own destructive power overtaken nature (or natural) power? No, this can be very clearly illustrated by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius which resulted in the burial of the city of Pompeii in A.D. 79, until the existence of a very powerful man-made destructive weapon which destroyed a quater of Japan..... the atomic bomb. Can religion show man how to live in peace? Yes, just as in Christianity, it teaches men to love everyone even their enemies. With love comes peace.

With the advancement of science we can see that the world had increased by the development of science and technology. As a result many 19th century thinkers became convinced that a day was bound to come when science would entirely take over religion. Certain aspects of science have already affected our concert of religion. Take for example the theory of evolution, a direct challenge to the literal truth of the Bible. And a even more advanced step, the landing on to our nearest neighbour.....Moon.

With this great scientific success we could see that religion is never more needed than today with the many great men who have suddenly took to the Bible.

Man today is not really wiser or intelligent but just ignorant about 'life'

and 'existence'. We could also sees that many people today sees science as a rival of religion. Why is this so? This is a matter that men had argued in the past, but had not offered any means of understanding everything but religion. Now in this world man has science. Science is no rival to religion as all Christains have their point of view that God expects everyone to have respect and justice to religions and scientific knowledge since he is the Giver of both.

Perhaps we can put it this way, Science spotlighted the features not known to us. To know where to shine this search light so as to search for unknown features, one must make a judgement. Science do not provide such a basic for judgement. Hence, the relevance of Religion which gives the hope of answering these questions.

If man realises this, may-be science will do only good to the welfare of the human race rather than providing possible means in the destruction of the human race. Every man will feel sad to be destroyed by what led them to the peak of success in science and technology.

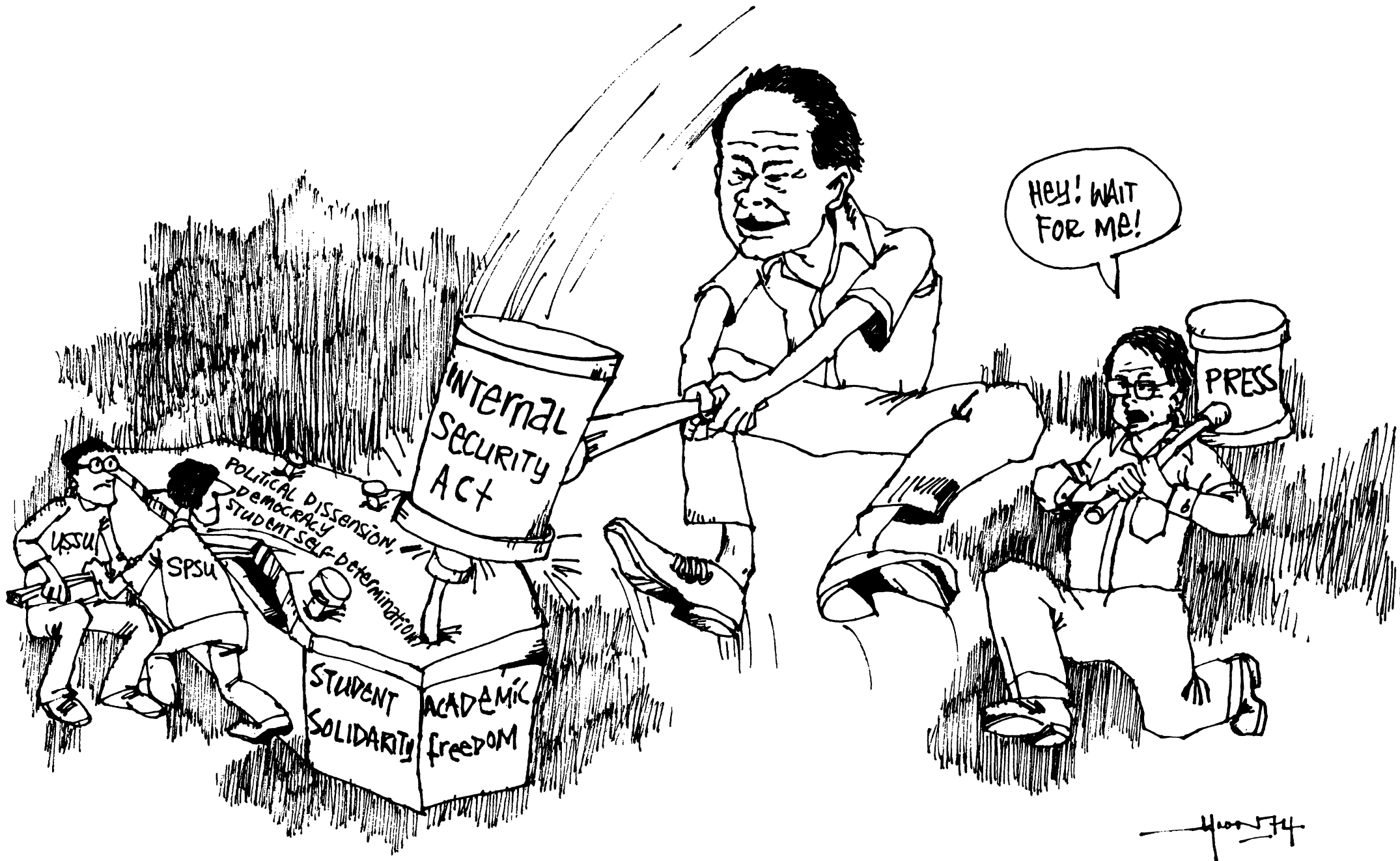
Violence, problems of suffering; has always been the subject of arguments. Majority of men believe if God really exists he would make what he had

created happy and if he is very powerful he would be able to do what he wished, then why are there sufferings? Do God enjoy watching all this sufferings? The answer would be this. That the suffering, though not good in itself, sometimes, but by the acceptance of it by a good person is the tool of transition. Christ's acceptance of the Cross showed his care for God and everyone. In this way, he brought man closer to God. The sufferings of Christ on the Cross gave any man who believed; new hope, new joy and new strength to tolerate inequality, injustice and corruption of the world you are now in.

Consolation with religion to man's grief is the hope of the approach to life's problem. Through religion man turns from disappointment of life, turning from culprits to holy men. Also, Religion teaches us the moral way of life and the way to happiness.

Sad to say, religion appeals strongly to a minority only. If only the world could see the great cultural and social values of religion, also that science could not be a menance to religion if man realised that both religion and science are running along parallel planes. Science is not a hindrance to religion if man possesses the wisdom to make use of science as a continual source of revelation of the work of the supernatural power which was only blindly worshipped before.

— By William Lee



Handwritten signature

Political Detention Without Trial

In the cold dead night of the second day of February, 1963, one hundred and thirteen men found themselves thrown into jail. That was Operation Cold Store and perhaps it was by mere coincidence but the operation was launched on the eve of the constituency elections. The powerful left-wing Barisan Socialis was then drastically crippled by the arrest of some of its most prominent leaders, one of whom was Lim Chin Siong, a man once described as influential and as sharp as our Prime Minister himself. The outcome of the elections which followed proved that that single move was a cruel blow to the opposition.

Today all that was left of Operation Cold Store was no more than little remnant of a bad dream; the public was convinced that they had seen the last of it. However, suddenly, the whole operation was resurrected last June when over 30 persons, labelled to be members of the Malayan National Liberation Front (MNLFF) were all arbitrarily arrested. Among them were T.T. Rajah the legal advisor to the Barisan Socialis some journalists and even students.

The actions of the Government were indeed strange when viewed in the context that only recently they had stated that the stability and progress in Singapore has made the Communist ideology irrelevant, thus there is little or no fear of disequilibrium in society caused by pro-communist elements. Furthermore, the existence of MNLFF was also unheard of. It is again mysterious why the authorities had chosen such secretive moves as to withhold information about the arrest by merely vaguely reporting it. Somehow, the 'black out' of information in the Press reports initiates one to question the justifiability of the government's actions and although, little public protest was aroused, SPSU and USSU reacted. A statement condemning the Government for their highland actions was jointly drafted and directed to the Press, but unfortunately was not released. As with the bus-fare-hike campaign, silent protest through words proved futile; the extent of 'freedom' our press receives rendered it imperative for us to shout in order to be heard.

This kind of imprisonment is by so far the most severe measures to be employed to repress and stifle political dissension. It now brings into light the question whether such repressive measures or even the kind of political harassment some of our active and out-spoken student leaders have undergone necessary or not.

Other vital repressive weapons employed by the government such as the mass media and the educational system has to an obnoxiously great extent been successful — successful in terms of achieving an uninquisitive population, capable of accepting policies which are not too pleasant.

It is true that with repression, a stable political climate can be attained, and it certainly can be argued that Singapore with its extreme vulnerability to external forces has more to gain from such authoritative rule than free play of politics. But authoritarianism must be seen from a less myopic perspective. Authoritarianism not only leaves little room for human considerations, its whole machinery functions in such a manner, that in order to attain and maintain power, there is a tendency of those in power to pin down and suppress all opposition in their way; the need to satisfy their overwhelming lust for power may override the importance of safeguarding free democracy in society. As for our autocratic one-party regime, their inability to tolerate criticisms which are too sharp or logical has already long been manifested. Counter measures to remove any 'thorn' in the back have to be taken before the pain really hurts or before instability occurs within the ruling circle.

Economic stability, better productivity or national integration are but fragile excuses to justify any such deliberate undermining of the basic democratic tenets and liberties we cherished so dearly. Furthermore,

human compassion, if overshadowed by increased GNPs or neglected when implementing policies only signify a system diseased. The need for rectification of this whole system cannot be over-emphasized.

But can this whole system be changed?

Students are about the only voice left to articulate the aspirations of the people; they are the only force left to uphold the wobbling pillars of democracy in our society. But already the general student bodies in Singapore had shown ugly signs of alienation from the masses; the student body today is fast sinking in apathy and political inertness. And can we be blamed when our whole educational system is designed such that social awareness is seldom if not never cultivated? We have been too well suppressed into oblivion. Then there remains to be questioned on how much we can do. Our endeavours to stand up against social injustices were a far cry from that of students yesterday. The government's action of eradicating any opposition, by high-handed and dehumanizing means has been too successful in frustrating any further opposition. Today the price of dissension, be they reasonable, intelligent, constructive or otherwork is getting very expensive — too expensive for most to pay.

Woon Kok Meng

The following was the Press Statement jointly drafted out by SPSU and USSU in protest of the mass arrest in June this year:—

PRESS STATEMENT

In a government statement on 21st June 1974, it was announced that 30 persons (now increased to 35) described as members of the Malayan National Liberation Front (MNLFF), a Communist Party of Malaya underground organisation, were arrested. The statement also warned that more arrests would be made. Those arrested included Mr. T.T. Rajah, a prominent left-wing lawyer, 2 journalists and 1 translator from Sin Chew Jit Poh, one accountant, students, and others whose identities are not disclosed.

It appeared that this recent campaign is a repetition of OPERATION COLD STORE conducted in 1963 on 2nd Feb., during which 113 people from the left-wing political opposition were arbitrarily arrested without trial, some of whom are still under detention after more than 11 years, Dr. Lim Hock Siew, Said Zahari, ex-editor of Utusan Melayu, Chia Thye Poh and Mr. Lee Tse Tong are among those still in prison.

Subscribing to the United Nation Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states in Article 2 that:—

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty."

and in Article 9 that:—

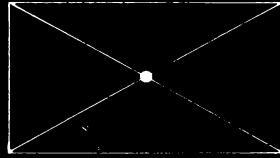
"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

SPSU and USSU stands for freedom of speech and expression and believe that all persons are entitled to his own political beliefs and condemns all forms of political suppression on the opposition.

Our Unions strongly opposed the Internal Security Act which enables the government to detain persons without trial for an indefinite period and therefore contradicts the above stated principles (especially Article 9). We have condemned the 1963 mass arrest and we condemned the government closure of the SINGAPORE HERALD, an English Newspaper.

We view the recent arrests as a part of the government strategy to eliminate political opposition and a blatant violation of basic democratic principles. We condemn the government action and demand that the government:

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter by Chang Pei Tuck (in Vol. 3 No. 3). Thanks for your interest and support for the Technocrat. On your suggestion of the proper selection of Disciplinary Officers, we must bear in mind that in a big organisation like our Union there are usually some black sheep who may be well behaved in front of Councillors but change their behaviour once the Councillors are away.

For the solution to this problem I suggest that should any student notice any Union's official misusing their power to inform the person in charge of them immediately.

Patrick Goh

Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter by S.A. Tan (in Vol. 3 No. 3). The letter you wrote seems to me that you have extracted every word from Dr. Toh who was commenting on Union 'luxurious' spending. As you know the intake of freshmen into the Polytechnic numbers to about 2 to 3 thousands every year. And in order to house the 2 to 3 thousands into one room for the Convention we had no choice but to find either the National Theatre, the Conference Hall or the Shangri-la Island Ballroom. But due to the renovations undergoing at National Theatre and the fully booking of the Conference Hall we had to take the Shangri-la Ballroom at a rent only \$20/- higher than that of National Theatre.

The above statement was released in the local press by our Union.

Concerning the F.O.C., how much power do you think the officials have? The exercise of authority over the students by the Student officials is not really practical unless the Administration staunchly stresses greater discipline effort on the students. What the disciplinary officers have to do during the Orientation period is to see that there is no ragging or any physical threats to anybody and that orientation is carried forth in the very best way possible.

Lastly I like to point out that it is illogical to say that we are being controlled by the Students' Union. As you know, the Council is elected by the students annually and any councillor who has proved himself incapable or irresponsible can be ousted by the students in a majority vote at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting which can be called for by a petition of at least 50 students' signatures.

C.D.O.
Patrick Goh.

Dear Editor,

It makes me feel kind of funny to think of being led by leaders who couldn't lead themselves. To become a Councillor of SPSU of 7000 strong, one has to devote much of his time to the Union work. And here there are students who couldn't work their way through the academic year yet willing to sacrifice their time again.

It really makes one doubtful. Are these people so devoted to the Union or are they just there to see to their own welfare?

I think as students, we should be placing our studies first in our pursuit for paper qualifications, and unless we fare well in our academic performance then are we capable of being student leaders.

Peter Lim

Dear Editor,

There are much unfairness, for example the streaming of students to the certificate and diploma courses. If the administration will do some statistic-work on the sessional examination results of the first year common engineering course (73/74), (I am sure that they can but will not because they are not paid for it) they will find a particular group may have an appalling high number of students with distinctions in a particular subject alone. It makes one wonder whether this group consisted of a special breed of geniuses or is it that they have the 'good' lecturers.

Furthermore, what is the use of allowing students to compete in the 1st year common when the examination cannot be conducted fairly? Even after the results were out, there were students (to be honest, only 5) who do not qualify to do the diploma courses but are now happily enjoying themselves in those classes. On the contrary, there are many ITC students who had better results (between 12-14 points), looking at their fellow colleagues at agony. They cannot speak out their grievances because the administration has shunned them each time they come forward with their problems. One asks the administration how do they select students to do the different courses?

The answer I had received are 'I don't know' and 'Well, by looking into you overall results ie. connecting the total number of points you score and choosing the best 600 students.

The second answer do sound satisfiable. But then when I went further to ask on how many points were required for a place in the diploma stream, I was told that it was too confidential to be revealed.

This kind of answer really surprises me. How could the admin. not disclose such simple issues which will affect our welfare so much?

Now the request I would like to put forward is that the Registrar writes into the next issue of the Technocrat and enlighten us, especially 1st year students, on how they go about selecting students to the various courses.

Doubtful.

Extra Cash at a Glance

Extra cash at a glance?..... This National Wage Councils' (1974) proposals to increase all wages by \$40 + 6% for those below the 4 figure pay mark and 10% for those above it, was designed to close the ever widening income gap between the lower earners and the higher ones.

As the Council boasts off, the recommendations will give an employee earning \$200 per month an effective 26% increment in contrast to 10% of one earning \$1000 per month. Just by taking a look at the chart, any uneducated person can easily realise that the more salary you earn, the more NWC increment you will get too!

But, however, if one were to go into the implications of the proposals, one will realise that the proposed \$40 + 6% will further widen than reducing the income gap. To substantiate this, let us take an example from the chart above:-

Taking the difference between an employee earning \$200 and another earning \$1000.....a difference of \$800. By imposing the \$40 + 6% increment, we have \$252 and by 10% increment the new pay is \$1100 respectively for both the employees. Now the new difference is \$1100-252 or \$848 which shows an unjustifiable increase in the difference.

Does this \$48 difference between the new and old differential close the income gap?

Joseph Tan

INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS ORIENTATION — AN APPRAISAL

The Industrial and Business, as pertinent to Polytechnic students, usually applies to 2nd year students of the diploma course and final year ITC students. Basically, this programme is a vacation training, whereby students are attached to industrial establishments relevant to their courses of study for a duration of 6 to 8 weeks. Industrial establishments in this instance embrace a wide spectrum of firms and they include the Polytechnic workshop itself, as in the academic session of 73/74. The name of the programme is pompous to the extent of awe-inspiring, as expected of designations from those 'high ups'. One wonders why a simpler name such as vacation training cannot be used instead of couching the programme behind high-strung jargons.

It is said that there are more applications to join the programme than there are places allocated by the industry. However, criteria of selection have never been made known. The training programme commences during the second week of the long vacation and talks are usually given by selected personnels from industry prior to the commencement. Participants are required to keep a log and a report of the training. An attendance sheet will have to be submitted after the training. Certificates of participation would be awarded to students, subjected to successful completion of the programme. Moreover, liaison officers and the establishments concerned have to submit reports pertaining to both the students trainees and the programme itself.

Students are advised and expected to learn as much as possible during their stints. Something unique about Polytechnic is that whenever students are "advised" to do something, they tend to end up doing it opposite to what the administration wants. The same thing applies to this vacation training and this tendency is manifested when aggravated by working environments not usually to the advantage of the trainees.

Most students tend to view this vacation training as a chance to earn money. The almighty dollar comes first, while the attainment of knowledge and experience, a very distant second. What most students want to know first is the amount of allowance paid and whether it is daily or monthly based. There will be grumbles when the allowance is a meagre \$4 or \$5 and smiles, when it is \$7 or \$10.

When students commit themselves to the programme they are reminded that they are putting both their's and Polytechnic's reputation at stake. Hence the importance of this programme besides the usual statement of where students put their theories into practice. Everything seems fine except for the fact that sometimes, these trainees are expected to put into practice what they have yet to acquire in theories. This paradoxical situation is illustrated by a case in point; a fellow trainee of mine was attached to a large publication firm and on the very first day was expected to design certain devices of which he had had no former training or experiences. It is true that

perhaps, the engineer in charge was merely trying to test the said trainee or perhaps he was ignorant of the training received from the Polytechnic by that student. If the latter case apply, then it would be for the general good if liaison officers could supply industrial establishments with relevant portions of our course curriculum so that the industries will not demand too much from trainees and also avoid casting rash aspersions on the value or worth of a Polytechnic education and hence prevent any tarnishing of the image of our Polytechnic. Furthermore if in the eyes of the receiving firms, a trainee's performance has not been as expected, they would record it down in a confidential report to be submitted to the Central Agency. A bad report can have a subsequent bearing on later employment as prospective employers may refer to it prior to employing a graduate. Hence liaison officers take pains to urge trainees to live up to the high expectations, especially receiving firms have also trainees from other tertiary institutions.

There was hardly a chance to go to the library during the duration of the training as working hours coincide with that of the library staff. There were therefore difficulties to look up references to doubtful points.

My personal opinion, arrived at after much contacts with workers in industries is that there is a lack of awareness as to what Poly students know or are capable of. Most felt incredulous and shocked when told that 2nd year Mechanical Engineering students do not have tangible knowledge of the theories of machines. Some bright sparks ventured to suggest that one could read up about diesel engineering (I was attached to a diesel engines firm) from the books and manuals on their own. When I showed some disagreement in my answer, he asked "why not?"

The answer to that question does not require the mind of a genius considering the fact that if one takes 7 or 8 subjects for one's 2nd year Mechanical Engineering course, one does not have much time to do side-line reading. Theories of diesel engines are not akin to fairy tales where you take the book in your hands and read until you arrive at

the words 'The End'. Besides thorough comprehension of the theories in the book, you require on-the-spot practice to obtain a clearer understanding. Machinists shook their heads when you compare your work with theirs. Perhaps they have the idea that what they know or are capable of, Polytechnic students should out do them. More often than not, the vices of Polytechnic students are of more familiar to them than virtues; Rowdiness and long hair issues are the main vices of Polytechnic students they would point out.

In the course of his training, a student will be most likely be thrown onto the lower rungs of industrial hierarchy ladder. These workers here are skilled with their hands but they do not have the relevant theories which the trainees usually have in possession. A worker adapted with his hands will know what a turbocharger or a supercharger is, where to instal it etc. But if one goes on to ask, why choose a turbocharger instead of a supercharger or why generator sets need Woodward governor they will be at a loss. Pressed on, he will recommend that you consult the engineer. However then most likely the engineer is not papers in an office marked "No entry for unauthorised personnel". In the same light, questions bothering trainees have also come to meet with the same fate.

In spite of all these adverse conditions, a diligent trainee can still gain a lot, if not money-wise, then knowledge-wise. He would have gained invaluable experience of what working life is like, Theories given to him in lectures on safety and other aspects are arrogantly dismissed as academic or amateurish stuffs, fit only for examination purposes. It leads him to view his lectures in a new perspective. Seeing at firsthand, the power of a 10,000 h.p. engine or a gigantic oildrilling platform may fill him with awe at the ingenuity of the human mind. He will know that his real engineering education begins when he graduates as he remembers the lathe that turns a 20 ft. propeller shaft and then compares it to the toys he finds in the Poly workshop.

Sia Buck Nun

JOINT SURVEY ON THE AGED - WHAT IT MEANS TO BE OLD IN SINGAPORE

Recently the Welfare Committees of SPSU and USSU held a survey on old folks in Singapore. The aim of the survey is three fold:—

- 1) to understand the present living conditions of the old folks in the aged homes and Chinatown, and the problems faced by them.
- 2) to inculcate in the students a sense of social awareness through an exhibition and
- 3) to foster closer links between students of both institutions.

During the survey a total of 108 males and 185 females from 8 welfare homes and Chinatown Kongsu Homes were interviewed. Questions asked during the interview were on families background, the past and present economic conditions, their health, the staff, food and recreation in the homes. Apart from interviewing the aged, the officials in homes were also interviewed.

From the survey, it was found that the relationship of the staff and inmates is good with the exception of a few homes, the average inmates/staff ratio is about 1:15. Not much individual attention is given to the inmates and the welfare of the Old Folks is partly neglected as a result of shortage of staff. Most of the staff complain that their pay is very low and yet they have to do so much work. Moreover, in Yew Tee and Dragon Lotus Homes, the salaries of the staff are donated by charitable organisations or churches.

It now brings into light the question of why there is a shortage of staff. Is it because of the heavy burden of work coupled with unattractive salaries, inconvenience in transport (most homes are far from town or the main roads) of that the homes are poorly funded? The authorities should certainly come to the realisation that understaffing is detrimental to the welfare of the inmates.

Although, the old folks spend time together in the home it was found that generally they lack the spirit of living and have little communication and co-operation with their counter-parts. Most of them are very depressed and lonely and have a very negative outlook of life even though they are provided with the basic requirements of life. The spirits of the old folks can be uplifted if there is initiative on the part of the home officials to organise activities for those aged and arouse their interest in these activities. Although recreation facilities such as TV, radio, or rediffusion are provided in certain homes, the aged spend most of the time sitting idly, doing nothing. The inmates must be motivated to perform creative work like gardening, basketry or needlework.

The environmental condition of the 9 homes surveyed varies from home to home. The conditions range from concrete building with modern facilities to dilapidated wooden buildings with poor sanitation and ventilation.

It was found that most of the old folks express satisfaction with the living environmental condition, although some of the

homes' conditions were terribly bad. Their feelings were mainly based on their 'too-used-to-the-place' attitudes. Most of the old folks interviewed are living in the 'dormitory-type' homes. Hot in the day, cold in the night, poor ventilation and no privacy are the common complaints from these old folks. Besides, it is quite congested and such living conditions are not conducive to those sick persons as diseases will spread to one another. Yew Tee Home, Buddhist Home and the Dragon Lotus Home serve as very good examples.

From the nine homes surveyed, 80% of the old folks have no savings and the rest who have saved a small sum spent it on medicine because of their prolong illness. Generally, most of the inmates interviewed came from a lower-income group and financially they are in bad shape. Their sources of income are:—

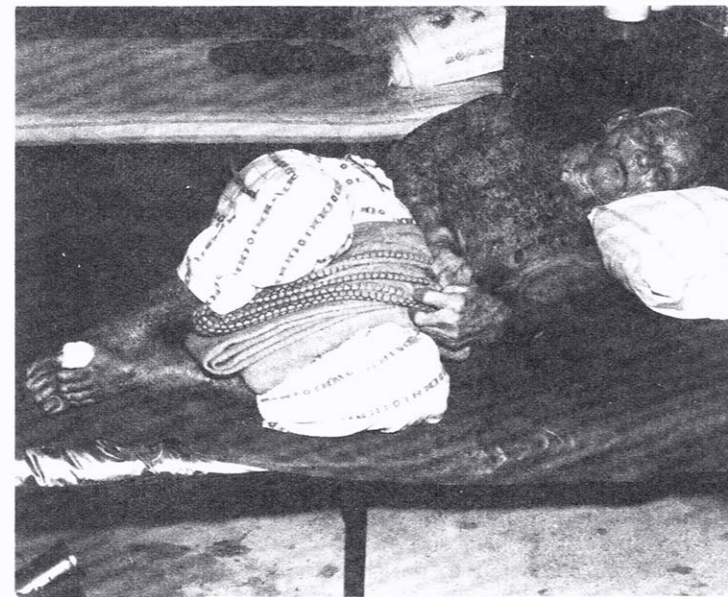
Public assistance	51.3%
Relatives and friends	20.9%
Income from doing lightwork ..	10.6%
Pension and CPF	30.4%

The public assistance they receive is only \$28 per month which is given to the home for food, household necessity. A meagre sum of \$2 is allowed to each old folk for personal expenditure like tobacco, haircuts, entertainment, recreation, etc. With the present spiralling inflationary trend, most of the inmates complain that the amount given by the Social Welfare Department is definitely insufficient. If the government could spend on things like colour television or the cable car to only name a few, there seems to be of little excuse why further provision of funds for the care of the aged citizens could not be made, from the humanitarian point of view.

Food is one of the most important aspect of the life of the aged staying in welfare homes. For aging people whose body resistances are low, it is imperative that they have food with the right kind of vitamins. It is indeed wrongful to merely feed them to fill their stomachs. The food usually served are, for breakfast — biscuits, plain bread and plain water or coffee (pending on



Home sweet home!



Still hoping for a better tomorrow!

different homes) for lunch — rice, vegetable, fish (ikan kuning), plain soup and occasionally meat, for tea — coffee and biscuits and for dinner — the food served is similar to the lunch.

From the above, the quality of the food certainly must be improved. Furthermore, there were complaints that the amount of food served per person is insufficient. This happens mainly because there is a lack of funds to cater for better food. In homes like Yew Tee and Dragon Lotus, which are recently taken over by the Council of Social Service, \$1.50 was allocated to every aged or for his or her daily meals.

The circumstances leading to aged landing in Homes are many-fold, one of which is due to the financial situations of the aged's children. Most of the aged's children belong to the lower income group (from the survey, the statistics are 64.3% of the aged's children are unskilled workers, 21.4% are unemployed). Hence restricted by economic resources, the elders will tend to be neglected in order to provide for the younger generation. Whose fault is it that the aged's children alienate the elders? Poverty? If so, why is there poverty in this society?

The prevailing generation gap also contributed greatly to this problem of the old being neglected. This obnoxious gap exists because of the different set of values different generations have. The ideals that our grandparents have now reflect the social thinking 40 to 50 years ago. Another factor which enhances the generation gap is the lack of communication between the young and the old due to the fact that each is pre-occupied with his or her own activities. For instance, with rapid industrialisation both husband and wife go out to work. When they return home, they are too tired with the day's work to communicate with their children. On the other hand, the children, so burdened by their heavy school work and activities, find little time to talk with their parents. Lack of communication between the young and the old.

Urban renewal and building of HDB flats fostered the isolated nuclear family and separate the older generation from their adult children because the limited space in HDB flats does not give the old folks privacy especially when the family is a large one. The old folks have to seek accommodation in old folks' Homes. What can be done? Advocate family planning? Stop at two or redesign the flats to allow more room for each family?

Many of the inmates in homes are of poor health which has been contracted as a result of hardwork in their younger days. Because of economic reasons these people delay or avoid altogether seeking medical care, leading to more serious consequences. When they become old and sick, family members are not available to care for them (because they have to work for a living) and they are sent to the aged homes which neither provide them adequate medical services.

From the survey, it was found that 33.7% of the inmates are single with no dependents. Most of these single aged were immigrants who had come to work here. In dockyards, construction sites they toiled under the sun and rain to help Singapore to become the 4th largest port and to speed our modern high rise buildings. These people who had contributed much in building up modern Singapore are now old, disable or in poor health as a result of industrial accidents or through strenuous work. What have they got in return for their hardship? Their meagre earnings has prevented them from setting up a family and hence leaving them without any dependents now.

Conclusion

In every home visited, there is a long waiting list of applicants showing that more and more aged are opting for the Aged Homes.

In the SCSS newsletter 'Rapport (April 1974 issue), it says:—

"The voluntary organisations affiliated to the council which have been set up to meet the needs of the aged sick have practically no vacancies.....

These voluntary organisations are also limited by the lack of resources and manpower and are therefore unable to expand their services in the light of this dilemma, perhaps *more govt. grants* and other support could be considered to enable them to expand."

This editorial was reported in the Straits Times but so far the Social Welfare Department has not make any response or any indications on what to do to this call for aid.

What has the government really done for the old folks? Besides setting up Woodlands Home providing grants to homes and giving monthly public assistance to these old folks who have proved themselves to be unable to work and have no dependents; have they thought of improving their conditions further? If the govt. are sincere to look after the aged, they should uplift the living conditions in Chinatown Kongsu room, allow the old folks living in the One-room flats free accommodation since most of them are in financial difficulty, they should increase the amount of social welfare aid to the poor old folks. What our govt. lack is initiative in welfare work — at present most of the welfare work is started by voluntary organisations. We are not advocating that government be solely responsible for solving the aged's problem. The government, the voluntary organisation and the public should work jointly to tackle these problems. After all, "old age is a question that concerns us all — most of today's young will be the aged of tomorrow." One fact we emphasize is that the aged are part of the society. They must not be dumped into the isolated homes but should be integrated in the community. What causes their negative attitude towards life is that they feel unwanted, segregated from society. If they were to live in the community and were helped to perform meaningful roles in the society, they should not feel so depressed. Hence old folks should be housed within the housing estates instead of the rural areas like Woodlands.

Viewing the inadequate health services in the homes, it is concluded that the setting up of a special institution with adequate medical facilities and staff to attend to the disabled and chronically sick old folks is highly necessary.



Is it labour shortage or welfare shortage?

From page 1 EXAM AFTERMATH

year and this year, about 10 students had to do supplementaries, out of which 8 failed, therefore having to repeat the session. As reported, there were some miscarriages in the sessional paper-certain questions for a certain paper were set wrongly and hence insolvable. What made it worse was that the lecturer in charge took no less than one hour (1/3 of the time allocated for the paper) to spot the mistakes. One can imagine how the poor students affected could feel during the 3 agonising hours, struggling and panicking for nothing. The time for the paper was subsequently extended to ½ an hour beyond the official time. Hence some students who have not attempted that particular question will have extra time while the others who were unfortunate were robbed of time as well as their confidence throughout the paper. It is certainly of little excuse that such mis-happenings could occur.

The referred paper of that particular subject was much tougher than that of the sessional exam, as some of our Civil students had claimed. It was a paper set to 'kill' rather than to truly test the students 'absorption power'. The killing was really apparent as the students affected had revealed. Some students who did no more than three questions managed to pass while others who were confident that their four complete questions were correct surprisingly failed. This was directly contradictory to what the Head of the Civil Department had earlier informed the students that to pass the paper, a candidate has to complete at least half of the total number of questions.

The students who have failed generally conclude that they have been 'marked' by the lecturer concerned throughout the year, in other words they have been victimized. This was the story revealed by the students, many of whom have to repeat the session with a pessimistic outlook that this sessional exam will just be a frightful repetition of the last examination.

When the quarantine gates opened

Many of those who have already gone through the 1st year common course find that they have been struggling like mad for the year. The first year common course is synonymous to a quarantine to stream out the fittest of the cows to be slaughtered. This year, when the quarantine gates opened, (which was remotely controlled by computer) many students found themselves unable to get out. Worst of all, they had to be removed, owing to the lack of cubicles in the quarantine!

Supplementaries failures removed too

Even those who failed in the referred papers were removed. This is wholly unjustified! Students taking supplementaries are actually those on the verge of passing the whole exams and can be promoted. As according to the Assistant Registrar, (Academic) there are four categories of results. Firstly, the clear passes; then the referred cases; thirdly, the failures but qualified for repeating and finally the outright failures (removed). From the above classification, it is quite clear that a referred student is 'better' than one who failed but

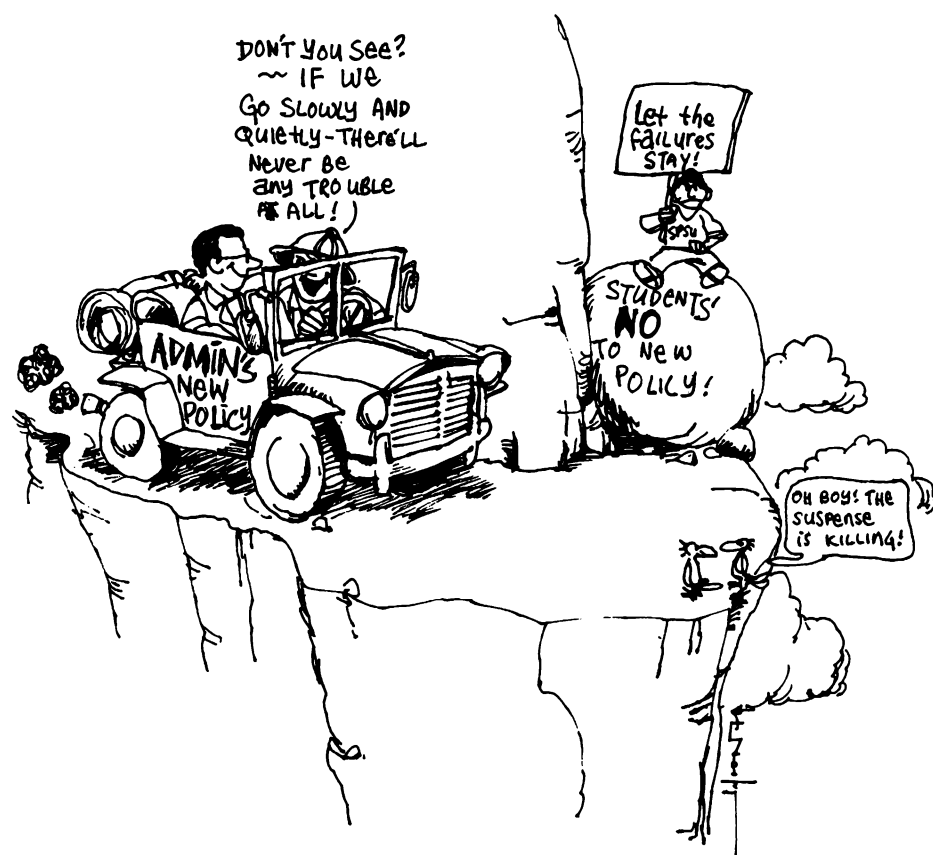
'qualified' for repeat. As such, a failure in the supplementaries would automatically have another chance to do the same course.

One wonders why the Admin. have chosen to hacked their axe this way. Many are of the opinion that this is the result of the exam leakage that have hurt the ego and pride of many a one academic in Poly. The Principal claimed that the decision was not unprecedented. The rule of the exams board is such that no first year student is allowed to repeat other than those classified as under "extenuating circumstances". This is only a rule known to none other than the rulers themselves. (Who knows how the rule is made and who makes it) It is not in any way stated in the prospectus of Poly which the students are well acquainted with. However, the Principal argued that it is the responsibility of students to find out what the rules are and to be familiar with them. In short, what he meant was that "ignorance of the rules is no excuse". Nevertheless, the question still remains: Why was there no prior 'warning', verbal or written?

It is particularly sad to note that a 'failure' in Poly today is the most highly held contemptuous fellow. He is branded and conceived as a potential 'exam criminal', most apt to do anything like stealing exams papers. So this is the impression we got from the Principal. He pointed out that some of the culprits, if indeed they were solely the culprits, of the exams leakage case were repeat students. It is so apparent that Poly does not entertain repeat students. Bright sparks perhaps are preferred. But are failures necessarily dark clouds? Even in a truly dark cloud, there is a silver lining. On the other hand, however high a tree may be, its leaves still fall to the ground.

The number of first year failures this year was about 100. 317 students sat for the supplementaries out of which 55 failed and were removed. The Union held rallies to discuss the case. The students voiced out their grievances. Sadly, they did not go a step further. Out of fear perhaps, none of those removed came up and revealed their case. On the other hand, the Admin. did not want to disclose the particulars of the removed students. The only thing they revealed was the figures quoted above. Thus, the Union is found wanting of facts. It cannot proceed further on with the case without facts. Today's Poly does not accept plain arguments no matter how true. Facts, were facts and facts is the only fact they are prepared to consider, even though they have all of them in their files.

How could the Union pursue this case further under such circumstances? Those affected have all the support of fellow students they ever need. They still have not come up and show themselves and perhaps the only reason bothering them



The Asian Students' Association held their 4th General Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, from the 16th-22nd of July 1974. 3 delegates represented the Singapore National Delegation S.N.D, a full member and also Chairman of the Association during the meeting. SPSU being a constituent member of S.N.D. was represented by Woon Kok Meng.

4th Asian Students Conference — a political exercise

The 4th General Meeting of the Asian Students' Association, (A.S.A.) held in Melbourne, was nothing more than a political drama, stage with the Middle East dilemma dominating the whole show.

The supercharged atmosphere in the conference room reached its climax when the Malaysian students moved that the National Union of Israelis Students, N.U.I.S. be expelled from the Asian Students' Association. This motion was the immediate follow up of the admission of 7 other countries into the association, namely, Malaysia, (the Malaysians had earlier walked out in the last conference when the N.U.I.S. was admitted) Palestine, Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Pakistan and Bangla Desh extending the A.S.A. membership to 12 countries. The heated debates over that motion were stirred with emotions but the main battle were not fought across the conference table, but in actual fact, behind the whole scene.

The pro-Palestinians spear-headed a rather blunt attack, denouncing zionism by shouting slogans and flooding the conference room with banners and posters. As for the pro-Israelis, their approach to the issue was somewhat more subtle and merit must be given to Perla Cohen, a representative from the World Organisation of Jewish Students who although was not permitted to speak during the conference, was dynamic and effectively influential behind the scene. She played a major role in changing the course of the whole conference.

The N.U.I.S. had appeared to be doomed from the very start. Their two delegates present were largely ineffective in defending their position. The subsequent admission of Palestine, Lebanon and Malaysia further spelt out their expulsion. However, the actual outcome was not quite as expected.

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EXAM AFTERMATH

is that even though they may succeed ultimately, they would eventually be "marked". This is the mentality that we have to shed. We have to wake up — after all, life is not always a bed of roses. A struggle leads on to another one and another one and one; its never ending. We must be daring enough to struggle and to win. Let's not forget that this is what our national leaders have been telling us time and again.

The votes casted were done through secret ballot and surprisingly, the results turned out to be a tie, 4-4 with 3 abstentions, 2 votes short of a majority for expelling the Israelis. As expected, the four votes affirmative for the motion were casted by Pakistan, Malaysia, Palestine and Lebanon and those four against were by Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Israel. Hong Kong and Singapore had abstained from the very beginning although Singapore had on several occasion expressed much concern for the Palestinian people. India had also indicated a strong stand for the Palestinians but had perhaps decided to abstain in the last minute. As for Bangla Desh, the two delegates did not even turn up during voting!

The intense lobbying outside the conference room paid off well for the pro-Israelis but it has taken its toll. The Papua New Guinea delegation pressurized by the intense doctrinaire and disgusted at the manner some countries had established their stand on that issue, walked out in the middle of the conference and even threatened to resign from A.S.A. (after been awarded membership for barely two days). In total despair over the situation, they went on further by appearing on television to condemn the whole conference and accuse the Australian Union of Students for deliberately manipulating the conference when in chair. Their allegations as one may gather were mainly based on mere assumptions. It will not be surprising if the Papua New Guinea delegation had submitted to the influence of some external forces trying to undermine the Australian students. However, the conference did later clarify the whole situation and asserted that the accusations made on the A.U.S. were in no way true.

It would certainly be wrong to conclude that solidarity and brotherhood were lost in this dilemma. Right from the very beginning of the Seminar on Poverty and Unemployment which preceded the conference to the end of the conference itself, the delegates had all unanimously denounced political repression of students and economic imperialism in Asia.

Political repression was clearly the theme of the Seminar and the Conference. The Malaysian government was condemned for their surveillance and suppression of students studying in Australia and New Zealand. The case of the arbitrary imprisonment of Khoo Ee Liam a student in New Zealand was brought up for discussion. Much was also discussed about the severe repression in South

Korea. The brutal oppressive actions employed by the Park Regime were strongly deplored at. It was also resolved that the Singapore Government must put a stop to depriving political detainees their right to defend themselves publicly.

As for follow up actions, the A.S.A. will establish an information centre in Hong Kong which was also chosen as the Secretariat site. This information centre will collect information of all repression of political activities of students so as to publicly expose the vicious manoeuvres and high-handed tactics employed by some reactionary ruling circles in Asia. James Chui, the General Secretary of A.S.A. is convinced that such actions are a vital tool to save people's lives. As for the repressive political situation in South Korea which the Conference felt is by far one of the most severe and brutal in the world today, the delegates staged in solidarity a demonstration at the South Korean Embassy in Canberra. It was also planned that each delegation will protest to the embassy of their respective countries after their return home.

Just Fancy That

Among the changes for the detention without trial of Dr. Poh Soo Kai in 1963 was that he was a founder-member of the Socialist Club of the University of Singapore (a club with strong leftist views). Mr. Ong Pang Boon, present Minister for Labours, was also a founder-member. What made it more amusing is that Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, our present Prime Minister was once the Club's legal adviser. Dr. Poh and other political detainees were released early this year (after a stay of 11 years in prison) because their capabilities to harm Singapore have been weakened by the prosperity and progress of Singapore, so said the Government. But recently we saw that they (the government) had to eat those words when they had to arbitrarily arrest 35 people which included lawyers, students and civil servants in the number, for being members of the Malayan People Liberation Front. These people are now behind bars without any chances of defending themselves legally.

Ho Lye Soon.

Of Imaginary Wrongs And Fabricated Oppression

DR evolution?

Who dare says Revolution?
For fear reigns,
In whoever dares to whisper,
Revolution.

And yet he says,
Our youth are revolutionary,
They speak with emotion,
Aflamed by imaginations,
Of 'imaginary wrongs and fabricate oppression'.

The rich few prospers,
The many poor suffers,
For the People, so says Democracy,
For the rich people,
Yet these are but 'imaginary wrongs'.

Internal Security Act,
Whose security? — National or PAP?
Political opponents are but now political
detainees,
Jailed indefinitely, no trial nor appeal,
'Fabricated oppression' so says he.

Think therefore, my friend,
Of what is 'imaginary wrongs and fabricated
oppression'.
For your rationale is now being questioned,
Either awaken your slumbering senses,
Or, hope for better dreams to come.

By Michael Wong

From page 3

THE YOUTH SCENE IN SINGAPORE

If, according to Mr. Rajaratnam, the youth today will be guiding Singapore's destiny in the next fifty years or so, that it is the ripe time now to take a more serious look into the way the young are being brought up today. At present there are many loopholes to be filled in youthful ideals to be strengthened and if the youth are really being considered such a vital asset, we sincerely feel that the following innovations are a must.

Firstly, a major reshuffle of the present educational system which makes competitors and rivals out of the students. One fine show of how education has degraded is the way in the Polytechnic Administration has come to regard it; education is measured in terms of a gamble to them, either you pass and win your chance or loose the gamble and face a cold dark outside world. We believe that education should be viewed with a more civilized pair of eyes, it should be a tool for sharpening more efficient leaders of tomorrow. The paper chase has to go and in its place, larger doses of social responsibility and sentiment should be fed to the student. Mr. Rajaratnam had said "Youth have entered a phase where they have a chance to build and create." All very well as now let it be.

Secondly it is a must for the government to sit up and listen to our every cry and whims which we took so much trouble to prepare. The president Mr. B.H. Sheares has said at a local scouts conference, "The young must be heard before policies are formulated". Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin ridiculously if not blatantly contradicted his statement in the bus-fare hike issue but despite this irony, life went on its merry way. The government's present concept of Singapore Students have to go, they have to stop viewing every movement of students as a threat to the political stability of our island. There is a thirst for a better understanding between the government and students that can't wait to be quenched. The dispute between Dr. Toh Chin Chye and the University students which generated so much heat magnified this thirst.

The students and the government must march together to build a greater nation; the condemnations, the mistrust and the dispute must be put to an end.

NEED ANY TEXT BOOKS?

During the minutes of a Student Liaison Committee meeting, it was noted that graduates seldom or never make any further use of their text and reference books after their graduation and it was proposed that such books could be sold to current students in need of them, S.P.S.U. warmed up to the idea and the co-operative bookshop was agreed to be formed whereby S.P.S.U. would collect the books from the graduates for re-sale to present students.

The shock removal of failures, the long agonising wait for the detailed results and the high ivory tower attitude of the administration has all led the students to see the admin. staff in a more sceptical light; and to substantiate their feeling is the below satire we have managed to obtain from them. We thought it made good reading.....

A MAN TO RESPECT

Fellow Undergrads;

Does it ever prompt you to wonder where the "Palace of Poly" is? Well, this "palace" by a "King" whom we will introduce shortly, is situated in the grand compound of "Prince Edward" which by the very name is 'a square peg in a round hole' in our oriental hemisphere.

The "King" who rules the "palace" certainly lives up to the fame which the "palace" compound's name implies. The "palace" by design is nowadays hardly accessible. For the door has completely been refitted such that even the thinnest feeler gauge can hardly feel any gap. The only wall that is spared of isolation is the open front that nevertheless still retains the steel barricade that only allows our little hands to penetrate. Fortunately, our eyes suffer no effect from the barricade and so we could still see the King's faithful servants at work in a somewhat mechanised manner.

This is the wonder of the "palace". The second wonder, which is more wonderful than the first, is the "King" himself. He is a man who although is near to us acts as though we are separated from him, in much the same way as America is separated from continental Asia by the Pacific Ocean. He is a peculiar being, even his name alone already sounds peculiar to our oriental ears. The ocean between him and us has been so highly polluted (industrialisation, you know) that its getting harder and harder to swim through. Ask the latest swimmer who manage to return safely, and he will reveal a tale of a horrible journey from start to finish.

The situation is so remarkable that it is widely proclaimed in Poly that the "King" is a man to respect.

Before you dispose off this paper into the nearest waste-paper basket, let us assure you that this article is written with all sincerity. You may have heard of American warplanes dropping leaflets to 'inform' Vietnamese of communism. Similarly, we are distributing this pamphlet to 'inform' you of the "King"a noble man indeed.

We strongly advise that all living creatures within the Poly, be it the cockroaches that crawl over the toilet walls or the half-breed homo-sapien that stands at the gate, to show due respect to this honourable gentlemen.

We believe that respect must be shown because of:

- a) his ability to investigate and subsequently 'solve' the examination leakage affair (which in the first place sprouted from his honourable office, the Exams Section).
- b) his originality of thoughts ...credit should be given to him for devising an incredible system of management and his ability to segregate his official duty from the personal problems of the students. His ingenuity (which surpasses perhaps the most efficient of business administrators) is in curbing 'unnecessary intruders' by screening them, firstly, through the counter-clerks who upon receiving satisfaction from the 'intruder', hands the latter a form to fill in his particulars comprehensively before proceeding to the next stage of scrutiny by his faithful administrative assistant, who then again upon receiving satisfaction from the 'intruder' concerned communicates with his honourable self before presenting the 'intruder' to him. Unfortunately, more often than not, the 'intruder' happens to be only a simple student.

Although we advocate a "family" concept within the Poly, we dare not dream of this man cherishing the ideal of treating all living creatures in Poly like brothers and sisters. For this man has already generated enough steam from his very own infantile-genius-created boiler to flush out even the most persistent 'intruder'. Nevertheless, we expect (we thought "demand" may be a more appropriate word) at least this unearthy genius to put more, much much more, personal touch into his official duty and cannot stand his treating us like bolts and nuts that can be screwed in and out of anything, anywhere, anytime, without knowing the 'tolerance' with which we all possess.

From page 5

PRESS STATEMENT

1. put all those detained immediately on an open fair trial before an independent judicial body. This body should comprise of neutral citizens from all walks of life.

2. release the names of those arrested and specify the charges against them in a detailed report with evidence of their activities that led to their arrests.

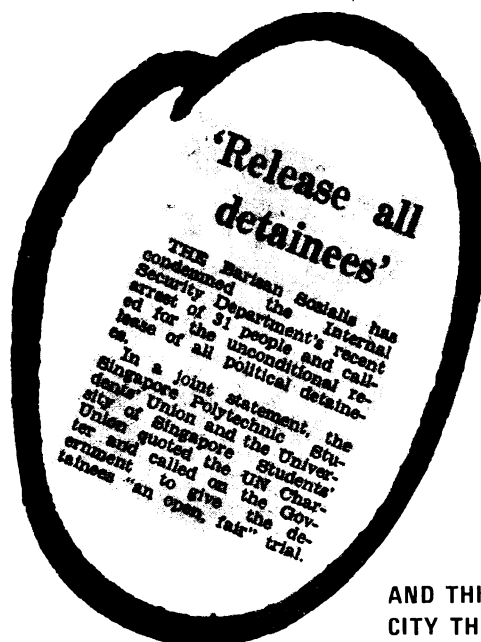
3. release all informations on the Malayan National Liberation Front as regards their objectives, strategy and their possible threat to Singapore.

4. explain why there is this sudden crisis when only a few months ago the government stated that the stability and progress in Singapore had made the communist ideology irrelevant and of no threat to the nation. (This statement was made when a number of political detainees were released, some after 11 years in detention without trial.)

5. allow those arrested to appear on T.V. and radio to make uncensored presentation of their defence. At the same time the Minister who directed the arrest should publicly justify the action further. This is necessary as the citizens are not aware of the full story of the crisis and thus unable to make fair judgement of the case.

Lastly, as a reminder to the government, we appeal to the Minister who directed the arrest and the Cabinet to honour the democratic principles of the U.N. Charter to which the Singapore government subscribes, and as laid down by our Prime Minister himself in 1955:

"If we are to survive as a free democracy, then we must be prepared, in principle, to concede to our enemies — even those who do not subscribe to our views — as much constitutional rights as you concede yourself."



AND THIS IS ALL THE PUBLICITY THAT THE PRESS GAVE TO THE STATEMENT!

Throwing Mud

I have never come to enjoy any conventions before. I should say I don't know much about conventions but I do know what I don't like. 2 months back there was a convention that broke all the rules and traditions of conventions, it didn't look like a convention, but they labelled it as a convention anyway. This unconventional occasion was the University's welcoming convention for their freshmen but it turn out to be so pack with colour and drama that most freshmen were left in utter astonishment.

Conventions used to be nothing more short of than exercises in the subtle art of day dreaming; all spoken words, on the average, end up as forgotten or hazily distorted. But this special convention shook everybody wide awake, the fiery words blazed through every mind present. What happened was that a certain student leader stated in his speech to the freshmen about \$100 hike in their fees, he sounded accusing. Then there was this man, some national leader, who at the rostrum suddenly shocked everybody with his spoken vocabulary. Any prominent national leaders who refers to people as 'birds' or go round labelling students as 'blatant liars' would never stand any chance of getting away with it.

The aftermath of this violent verbal outburst was just as exciting. The insulted university students demanded for an apology or the matter would be brought to the courts. This brought everyone to their feet in anticipation of a colossal act of surrender. But our national leader did not comply with the demand, instead it became an incentive for him to lash out stronger defamations.

All very charming, I thought, it was better than the movies, considering that it was a rare treat to see a national leader quarrelling with young students. But on serious reflection now; should all these be allowed to happen in public at all? What are the bearings this squabble will have on its participants?

Dramatic and rare as it may be, I personally think that the whole affair stinks like some cheap marijuana.....sorry. The people who were responsible did so mindlessly, throwing their respect and reputation to the wind. Perhaps the university people could afford to do it, but for a national leader, an academieian (he call himself that by the way) it was certainly a reckless choice of vocabulary. The conflict must have pitifully gone to his head and blinded him with total redness.

The whole conflict was centered on a matter of protest over an increase in fees. The students have drawn out the reasons of their protest together with a list of suggestions that seem reasonable enough. All that this leader (also not coincidentally the University's Vice Chancellor) could at least do on his part was to open his ears and then his mouth. Sadly he did not, he choose to open his mouth first. As a consequence, the years of painstakingly building up a reputation and prestige crumbled in a second. The respect that took all long to plant and water withered without warning. He would have saved all this by the simple solution of listening first, then draw on his conclusion after which sweetly explain his stand on the matter.

This certain leader (also the Chairman of Poly's Board of Governors) displayed unsystematic thinking. After having led us to all the

glory that can be got for 11 years, of hard work, his sudden show of irrational thinking is disappointing. Despite his deceiving looks, his violent temper showers rash words and action in total disregard of the environment. Now he has a problem on his hands, the tightening of the loosened respect around him. This is essential as this man is a prominent gladiator in the political arena.

THE WINNERS

On the 6th of July, on the occasion of the Students Union's Annual Dinner and Dance date at the Prince Room, the presentation of the prestigious S.P.S.U. awards to this year's winners took place. Among the gatherings were Mr. V.P.W. Ager, the principal, Mr. Woon Kok Meng, the Students' Union president and the guest-of-honour for the evening, Dr. Lee Kum Tatt.

Following the various speeches by the Students' Union's president and Dr. Lee Kum Tatt, the presentation ceremony was then carried forth. This year's much coveted Gold Award went to Mr. Chung Yet Yong, a final year student who had shone with exemplary light in his studies and extra-curricular activities. The Silver Award was presented to Mr. Abdul Matin and the ECA Statuette, for the person most prominent in the extra-curricular activities field, went to Miss Ler Lee Siang. Seven ECA medals and twenty Certificates of Recognition were also awarded this year. The recipients are listed below:—

ECA MEDALS:

- 1) Chen Chee Meng
- 2) Chong Kheng Joke
- 3) Tan Ngiap Long
- 4) Philip Chia Chee Seng
- 5) Teo Cheng Huat
- 6) Tung Chee Weng
- 7) Cheong Heng Lim

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION:

- 1) Lee How Son
- 2) Lim Puay Hong, Richard
- 3) Tan Hua Soon
- 4) Tan Hee Kok, Fred
- 5) Tan Eng Thong, Joseph
- 6) Mak Lap Fook
- 7) Tiong How Twan
- 8) Chia Kum Choong
- 9) Lee Khim Chye
- 10) Tan Lee Khiang
- 11) Mok Siew Meng
- 12) Tang Khai Cheong, Alan
- 13) Tan Nguan Teck
- 14) Chew Kok Kim
- 15) Goh Joo Teck, Patrick
- 16) Goh Hong Wah
- 17) Wu Chong Peng, Francis
- 18) Neo Tiang See, Nelson
- 19) Tan Ang Meng
- 20) Wong Wing Kwong

As for the challengers at the University, everything seems to be running smoothly again for them; no tarnished image, no crippled reputation. Surprisingly this action only brought them more support and morale. One wonders.

They say mud thrown is ground lost. At the recent confrontation between one highly educated man and some undergoing education people, a lot of mud was thrown and proportionally a lot of ground lost. After having faithfully trekked the whole affair, I have finally arrived at a personal conclusion. Slinging mud around at others can be quite a sticky business, chances are not only that you can miss far wide off your target but also that you can get yourself thoroughly bathed in mud when throwing it, and that was exactly what this national leader was covered with at the end of all the slinging.

The S.P.S.U. awards were first introduced by the 7th Council and since then has become a regular annual feature of the Union. The awards were instilled as an incentive for students to strive harder in both the academic and extra-curricular fields for ensuring an all-round personality development.

To qualify for the awards, students have first to be nominated by two fellow students; merit for the awards were then accounted for on a point-basis, apportioned as follows:—

Five (5) points for:

- 1) Ex-Cos of the Union
- 2) Representation at State level

Three (3) points for:

- 1) Councillors
- 2) Chairman of Societies
- 3) Representation at College level

Two (2) points for:

- 1) Officials of Societies
- 2) Chairman of sub-committees/standing committees of the union.

One (1) point for members of sub-committees/standing committees of the union.

FOC Activities:

One point and one half (1½) for CGLs and Chairman of working committees.

One (1) point for DIs, AGLs and members of working committees.

Half (½) point for ASC members

General:

Service to the community through the Union was taken into account, basing on the degree of involvement and length of service, at the discretion of the Selection Board.

Presentation of the awards have always been a celebrated occasion; both for the award winners and the crowd present. However, sadly, a set-back occurred in this year's event. Three students, unable to obtain what they sought, boycotted the ceremony. This despicable act brought them nothing but only reflected on their weak and unsporting characters and we are but only thankfully glad that they were not awarded the Gold or the Silver.

It is hoped that we have seen the last of such acts. As students it should be in our stride to take both success and failure, victory or defeat, with the same cheerful countenance. It has been said, 'A quitter never wins; and a winner never quits'.

OUR NEW LEADERS

The rallies were over, the candidates have spoken and the voters have casted their votes. At the end of polling day, on the 31st of July, as the votes were being counted by the elections committee, the tension reached new heights. By about 11 p.m. the returning officer, Lee Tow Kiat, named the following persons elected to the 15th Council of the Singapore Polytechnic Students' Union:

General Elections

	Votes obtained
Chia Chee Seng (Philip)	516
Soh Chee Keong	503
Lim Yew Whatt (Simon)	432
Goh Joo Teck (Patrick)	415
Lee Chiew Lang (James)	378
Wong Wing Kwong	373
Chan Chuen Fye (Philip)	359
Tan Ah Teck	337
Tan Eng Lock	334
Ng Koh Hee (Daniel)	325
Neo Tiang See (Nelson)	300
Chew Chin Seng	300
Wee Seng Chong	280
Tan Nguan Teck	279
Lee Siew Cheng (William)	272
Chang Khoi Chion (Dominic)	266
Teo Cheng Huat	264
Wu Chong Peng (Francis)	256

School Elections

Lim Cheng Hai	402
Lee Chin Hee (Jeff)	375
Ng Kheng Soon	298
Lim Boon Hua	259

A total of thirty-seven candidates fought for the eighteen seats in the general elections and five for the four seats in the school election. It was disappointing that there were no contestants for the School of Nautical Studies seat and the Associate School Elections seat.

And for the statistics-minded, turnout at the following polling stations were 28.8% of the total 4297 full-time students or 1236 students. In the last general elections, 26.8% of 4029 full-time students voted or 1096. The highest vote received for a single candidate was 516 and the lowest 109.

An annual general meeting will be held on the 17th of September whereby the new executive committee, containing the new president, the general secretary and others, will be elected into office to run the 15th Council for session 74/75.

Talking About The Elections

Students councillors, especially those in the executive committee must be bi-lingual. In this case bilingual means having a good command of the English and Chinese language. With a good command of Chinese then can our Union's leaders communicate better with the NUSU and NATSU as well as the masses. During a recent official opening of the metalling of a village road, the MP for that area and a citizen consultative member spoke in Chinese, but when one of our ex-co's turn came he spoke in English. We strongly feel that if he had spoken in Chinese our Union image will have been upheld because the audience were mainly village folks.

Phua Kim Chua

Basically, a student who wishes to be one of the selected few to represent a population of 7,000 students should be aware of the environment in the Polytechnic itself. He must be socially orientated and politically conscious of the events happening around us.

He should live to his words and his actions must be properly studied and must be willing to sacrifice at any cost of his expense towards his fight for the rights and welfare of the student body. Lastly it is important to note that it is better to join the student council and work *with* the students and not merely working *for* the students.

John.

Poly's image among local industries was greatly damaged recently due to the leakage, vandalism, long hairs.....etc. The selected few councillors should therefore try to restore it back to fruitful and healthy activities. They should encourage more students to participate in sports and other skilful competitions rather than unhealthy politics (being misled by SU Union).

Melvin Tan

A councillor should be a student with definitely no air of smugness about him, one who knows of students' problems and takes nothing for granted. He shouldn't care what others say or do in bad light but should feel responsible for each and every of his actions. He should feel that as he is holding the post he should be contributing, not sitting around.

Victor Yeow

A leader is one who believes in student rights and will be willing to do something about it and not those who also believe in student rights but feel that he cannot do anything about it.

Tay Teck Leong

The stumbling block about the whole nomination activity was that most of us, especially first year students, have absolutely no idea of who's who in the list of candidates. There were no photo-

graphs to clarify, no clues as to who has or has not talents and effectiveness in running a students' union. How then can one make the right choice? Those in the 14th Council who reappear as candidates this year stood a better chance of winning because their faces have appeared in the 'Singapore Technocrat' and most of them have been made known to us during orientation. But for those 'new' candidates, their chances are slim even if they are effective and capable. That is the consequence of insufficient publicity. The candidates list in the nomination form was a blank to us, all we could do was only to close our eyes and tick off. No doubt, there are others who take it seriously enough to do research into the candidates but for the rest it was just a sort of guessing game.

Common Engineering Students.

The majority of the student population was indifferent and apathetic towards the election of the 15th Council. Although one of the reasons was the poor performance of the elections committee, the main problem was the deeply rooted problem of apathy towards the Union.

For the past, students have strongly believe that the Union besides organising meaningless functions were also spending lavishly. It was disorganised and incapable of the work entrusted upon it. No doubt such was the superficial state of affairs but we should not jump to conclusions and let superficial phenomena blindfold our otherwise far and unrestricted outlook. We must admit the fact that most of us are pressed down by the heavy study load. Besides, instilled with the wrong idea not to participate activities unless marks would be awarded, students therefore developed an apathetic attitude towards the Union, unaware that this has created a great hindrance to the Union in trying to get things organised.

Unresponsive elections would result in a council unrepresentative of the seven thousand student population. Take the 14th Council as an example, the councillors were mainly first year students, lacking in experience and a clear understanding of our state of affairs.

However it should not be denied that the Union is gradually sorting problems out, distinguishing the just from the unjust. A strong proof is of course her participation in the anti-bus-fare hike and the administration's unjust decision to remove students who failed the supplementary examinations.

Hence we must support the Union to fight for a better lease of living for our fellow countrymen and never forget that as we stand united and on the side of truth, whatever unjustified repression would not be able to press us down.

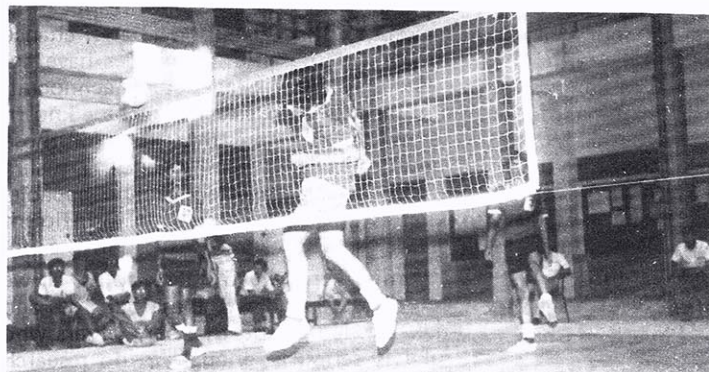
See Yee.

POLYSPORTS

By Tan Ah Teck

SEPAK TAKRAW –

Poly Retains Title



Poly retains the inter-varsity sepak takraw title when STI beats SU by 2-1. Poly had earlier beat STI 2-1 and lost 2-1 to SU. Poly won on countback.

Results

Poly beat STI Regu 1 – lost – 13–15, 15–10, 17–18
 Regu 2 – won – 15–8, 15–10
 Regu 3 – won – 15–9, 15–12
 Poly lost SU Regu 1 – lost – 12–15, 15–7, 15–18
 Regu 2 – won – 13–15, 12–15
 Regu 3 – won – 15–9, 15–12

In the countback, Poly won 5 and lost 2 (2 sets equal 1 game) and SU won 4 and lost 3 to finish runner-ups.

Here are the line-up of the players:

- Regu 1
 A) Ariffin Ali
 B) Amir Hamzah Yakim
 C) Rahim Mohd.
- Regu 2
 A) Ali Ahmad
 B) Mat Hamid
 C) Samsudin Abu Bakar (also team captain)
- Regu 3
 A) Zainurin Md. Shah
 B) Laftiff Othman
 C) Mohd. Rathi.

11th SPORTS COUNCIL OFFICIAL

At the 10 Sports Council AGM on 6th July 1974, the following persons were elected:

President	–	Mr. Liew Kim Fui
Vice-president	–	Mr. Sandy Quek
Hon. General Secretary	–	Miss Loo Yin Mei
Hon. Treasurer	–	Mr. Chong Yoo Nam
Organising Secretary	–	Mr. Phua Keng Hwee

RESIGN

Two weeks after being elected Mr. Liew Kim Fui resign from his post. In the meantime, vice-president Mr. Sandy Quek will be the Acting president until the next council meeting where a new president will be elected.

PESTA BRONZE

Poly's student Samuel Wee Chin Chye won a bronze medal in the Spring Board Event of the Pesta Sukan diving Championships



POLY'S STAR

Poon Kim Meng's water polo career started way back in 1968 when as a school boy in SJI he played for PSC and the Singapore Combined Schools team. Two years later in 1971, Poon was spotted by some national scouts and was admitted into the national squad. This water polo defender went on an Australia tour in preparation for the 6th Seap Games. The trip paid off, Poon took the gold.

In 1973, in preparation for the 7th Seap Games, Poon was again sent on a trip to West Germany; but unfortunately did not participate in the next Seap Games.

Recently in 1974, Poon was once again sent to Spain this time to prepare him for the coming Asian Games.

This aqua star has alot coming for him and we will all sincerely wish him the very best and hope he will keep the Poly flag flying high above the water.



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