

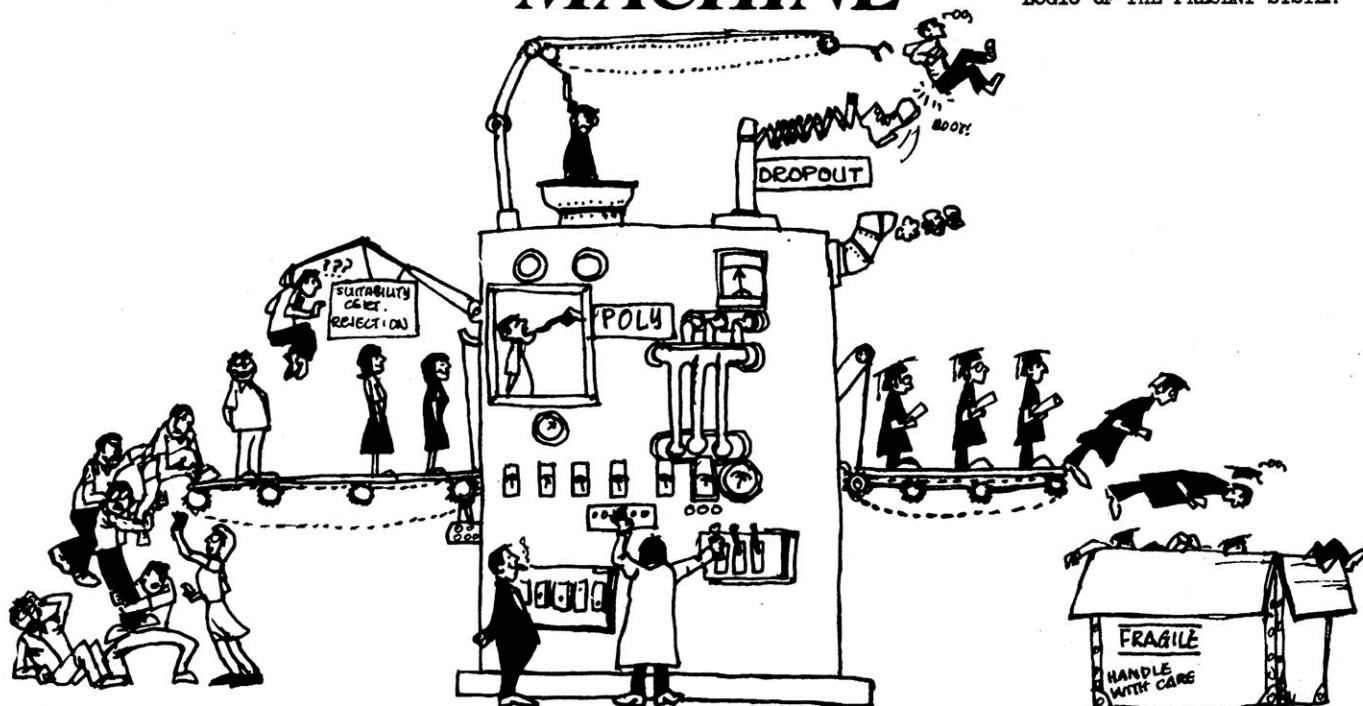


SINGAPORE TECHNOCRAT

VOL. 5 NO. 1. SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION DEC '75 20 CENTS M.C.(P) 1547/75

THE EDUCATIONAL MACHINE

IT FUNCTIONS AS AN INSTRUMENT WHICH IS USED TO FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION INTO THE LOGIC OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM



INSIDE

Outcome of Razak's visit to Australasia	--pg 3
ASA Conference - SND Position Paper	--pg 4
Bus Concession Issue	--pg 6
Struggle of the Thai Farmers	--pg 8
New Trends in Poly Sports	--pg 12

WHATEVER NAME IS GIVEN TO SUFFERING
ITS ENTIRE MEANING IS MISERY
WHATEVER THE RACE OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS
ALL GRASP THE HAMMER AND WIELD THE CHANGKUL
WHEREVER ON EARTH THEY BE
THEY ARE OF ONE RACE, ONE NAME
HOW POWERFUL THIS GIANT FORCE
THE HEIGHT OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION
TO MANKIND OF THE WHOLE WORLD

Said Zahari



Editorial

REPRESSION IS

A SIGN OF ~~WEAKNESS~~

Whether we like it or not, whether we feel it or not, repression has become part of everyday life in Singapore. Everyday when reading the Straits Times the image of a controlled press comes into our mind. We would wonder if there are some important things happening in the outside world which are not reported and the days when we have our more liberal Singapore Herald and Utusan Melayu are but sweet memories. Our indignation grows as we recall Said Zahari who is now after 13 years still a political detainee and other press reporters who were thrown out of Singapore.

The riot squad is mainly used against gangster and criminals but that will not make us forget those days when they rushed into the Yunnan Garden of Nanyang University and beat up student leaders until their whole shirts were covered with blood. Those students are not criminals or gangsters; they are people who dared to speak out for the people and even up till now they still have a very high prestige among the older generations.

During the internal security exercise a blanket of fear was spread over this small island. The streets were covered with army boys carrying deadly weapons, and "mock demonstrations" could be seen everywhere on the island. (Incidentally, a mock riot was staged right in front of our Union House for more than two hours causing a terrible jam all along Shenton Way) This year during one of these "mock riots" in Jurong, ISD men went to two blocks of flats, searched every house and arrested more than 10 workers.

These are the concrete facts of repression on those who spoke out for the genuine interest of the people. Let us look back at the awakening of the English educated students over the past one year.

Beginning from early 1974, the English-educated students begin to break through the silence that has been maintained for a number of years (through repression of course) The anti-bus fare hike campaign was launched and it immediately gathered support from the students and the public because it is a campaign that is FOR THE PEOPLE. From then onwards the

govt. has taken a number of high handed repressive measure against our Union and USSU. First the Union officials were invited to "Drink-coffee" by ISD agents. They were tempted on one hand with 'bright future' if they co-operate (or at least give up) and on the other hand they were threatened with serious consequences if they carry on. When we wanted to organise the Bangladesh Flood Relief Campaign, we tried our best to get a permit but the permit was not granted. Later Tan Wah Piow was framed up and 5 student leaders were deported after a raid at the SPSU and USSU Union House on the 11.12.74 at 4.00am. On the first day of Wah Piow's trial, the principal of our college (Poly) and the heads of department went around the campus to take down the names of those who were not present. This was never done in the past years. Furthermore many articles were published in the press with the aim of smearing the good image of the two students' unions and their leaders. However, failing in all their other attempts, they decided to ban USSU.

For all repression committed in Singapore, our Prime Minister Mr. Lee Kuan Yew has always put up the 'popular' and 'pragmatic' argument that "A stable govt is a prerequisite for economic progress". We must question: What has "10 years of economic progress" brought to our people? Has the life of our people improved very much? No. 75% of our workers are obtaining an income of less than \$400 and about 50% are receiving less than \$200 per month. If there is no poverty, then why are there 50,000 children who are supposed to be in school working in coffee shops, on roadside selling newspaper, in factories, at construction sites? If repression is not for the interest of the people, then what is it for?

Before going to the question, let us first look at the present Singapore Economy. In the past the economy of Singapore was largely dependent on the trade with Malaysia, Indonesia, England, Netherland. S'pore acts as a tool used by the British Imperialists and others to exploit the raw materials of Malaya and Indonesia and also acts as a centre for the distribution of the finished product to them. Since their independence', many neighbouring countries have developed their ports thus reducing the volume of trade handled by Singapore. In order to solve the serious unemployment problem and to improve the stagnant economy, the government have decided to take on to industrialisation. The government immediate policy was then to attract foreign investment and thus many things were done to protect their interest.

THE OUTCOME OF THE "RAZAK OUT!" CAMPAIGN

— extracted from MALAYA NEWS SERVICE

The recent student demonstrations against Razak's regime during his visit to New Zealand and Australia mark a qualitative leap forward of the student and youth movements in Australasia. The students and youth organised actively amongst themselves and took concerted actions against the repressive policies of the Razak's regime. Such actions have developed the students and youth movements to a higher level of struggle.

For the first time, students and youth studying or working in Australasia publicly, directly challenged the Malaysian Government, face to face, and the demonstration certainly have laid down solid foundation for future struggle to materialise a new, democratic and egalitarian society in Malaysia.

The present hysteria of the Malaysian Government and their desire to retaliate and take up revenge by imposing restrictions and control over the students abroad, by threatening arrest of students upon their return home and even by exercising extra territorial jurisdiction against students abroad will only further worsen the image of the Malaysian government. All these new repressive measures will also force the students to take the only alternative i.e. to be more determined to strive against the present Razak regime. The students abroad can substantially gain the sympathy and support from the people of the host countries in which will strengthen the student forces in their struggle.

The Malaysian Union of Students in Australia has played a significant role in mobilising students to oppose the repression in Malaysia during Razak's visit. MUSA begins to show its potential to gradually develop to be

the leadership of the overseas student movement in Australia. Whether MUSU will play a leading role in future depends upon the determination and practice of the present leadership and the support it can gain from the students. MUSA has already taken a strong and firm stand in the campaign against the Razak's repressive policies during the visit of the Prime Minister Razak. Under the present situation, MUSA will certainly advance if the present leadership decides to continue the struggle. The MUSA leadership has a great responsibility in developing the student movement.

With the real success of the whole "Razak out" campaign the attacks and sabotages on students overtly and covertly from Malaysian and Australian and New Zealand governments will be intensified. The students will have to mobilise themselves in future

more actively to counterattack on such sabotages and threats.

Secret agents from both Malaysian and Australian governments have been very active in trying to smash the student movement. Before Razak's visit, the overseas students have concentrated their effort against the surveillance and intimidation from the governments of the home countries. However, the campaign now begins to widen its scope to fight against the surveillance carried out by the Australian authorities. The Australian government must publicly apologise to all the overseas students for carrying out surveillance of overseas students and must give assurance to the overseas students that such dirty and ugly activities must immediately stop. Until the Australian govt genuinely gives assurance and publicly apologises for its mistakes and ugly activities, which pose a great threat to the democratic rights and social and academic life of the overseas students, the campaign against the surveillance of overseas students by the Australian government will continue for a long period in order to defend the freedom and democratic rights of all overseas students studying here.

The significance of the unity of the Australia/New Zealand and overseas students is shown from the successes of the Razak protest
contd pg 13

Rally in Chifley Square, Sydney, opposite Razak's hotel



5th Asian Students Conference — *The SND Position Paper*

The 5th general Conference of the Asian Students Association was held at Chiangmai, Thailand, from 21 - 25 Nov '75. Below is an extract of the Singapore Students National Delegation (comprising NUSU, USSU, NATCSU, SPSU) Position Paper, which is a bi-annual report of each member union's activities and its stand towards the current happenings of its country.

The unique position of Singapore is that there is a one-party government - the People's Action Party, headed by Lee Kuan Yew. This is due to the simple fact that many opposition parties' leaders were detained under the notorious Internal Security Act (ISA).

Anyone or any organisation which speaks up or criticises or whose activities are said to be a threat to Singapore's stability (in the eyes of the authority) will be stopped, crippled or thrown behind bars. The ISA was said to be for national security and stability but is it true or is it actually for PAP's security?

1974 marks the beginning of students awakening in Singapore. Realising the social problems, injustice, many campaigns were initiated paying much attention to the welfare of the people. Much time and energy were spent on taking issues of public concern and thus at the same time arousing social awareness of students.

In the same year, students were supporting their Malaysian counterparts who were demanding food relief for the starving peasants in Baling, Malaysia. Throughout the whole stretch of the above issues we students did not get the necessary cooperation from the authority but were instead hampered by them. Our open letters of protest were not answered and it can be clearly seen that the people had no voice in this system and the only organisation left to speak for them is the students' union.

Following this was a series of persecution by the authorities through utilising the whole of the state machineries:

- 1) Intimidation of students by ISD men and professional students
- 2) Arrests and deportation of students by the Immigration Department
- 3) Students Affair Department of the University Admin. to control and keep tight surveillance on student movement such as in NUSU where every single piece of letter or activity has to be passed by the SAD
- 4) The sending of masked man into USSU campus to distribute "revolutionary" pamphlets to cause fear and confusion amongst students
- 5) Employing campus police in NUSU and USSU
- 6) Trying to cripple the students' union by not collecting Union fees as in USSU in the past and now SPSU, which is unconstitutional and immoral.
- 7) Control of Union house in NUSU where students has to book the Union house beforehand
- 8) Suppression of free publication as in NUSU where all printed materials has to be submitted for approval to the SAD 3 weeks ahead before printing
- 9) Using the mass media to control any press release from students.

The latest of all the moves to cripple student movement permanently in Singapore is now in the making in Parliament. A bill to amend the University Act to bring USSU under direct control of the Admin. is now before Parliament (or it could have already been passed). The bill seeks to bring USSU under the jurisdiction of both the Societies Act and the University Act. The aims, constitution, subscription, allocation of funds of USSU will come under the direct control of the University Admin.. Hence it is expected that future USSU will be run by puppet council of the Admin. (similar to the situation in Malaysia). It is also expected that SPSU will face the same fate very soon.

In the face of persecution and threat of deportation and detention, the students' Union will continue to fight against injustice and suppression of the people. Although we students do not make the law, we have a voice and as long as we can, we will speak up the plight and feeling of our people. Being students in a tertiary institution we are here at the expense of the people and must be aware of our role and responsibility towards society.

JUSTICE NOW !

Yours in Student Solidarity,
Singapore National Delegation.

What has education done to me?

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

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

I did not know why I was sent to school then. I only knew that I must study hard and do well or I would be penalised. I remembered some V.I.P.s said that what we learnt would be used to serve our country and people. 'What noble aim,' thought the gullible me. And as time went by the truth dawned on me. I studied hard and attempt to do well because then and only then would I be promised of a light and prestigious job, a job whereby I could earned myself bigger and better cars and houses than my classmates. It was at first very embarrassing to discover this, for I the still pure one, thought that people ought not to be so selfish. Somehow through further 'education, my skin thickened. 'Education' as a means whereby one attain personal comfort and glory, becomes an open secret.

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

sands of dollars every month. All these concern gave me a thousand heartaches and headaches . . . Can human relationship be so false and so tainted with the odious smell of money?

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

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

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

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

BUS CONCESSION

- AN IMPERATIVE

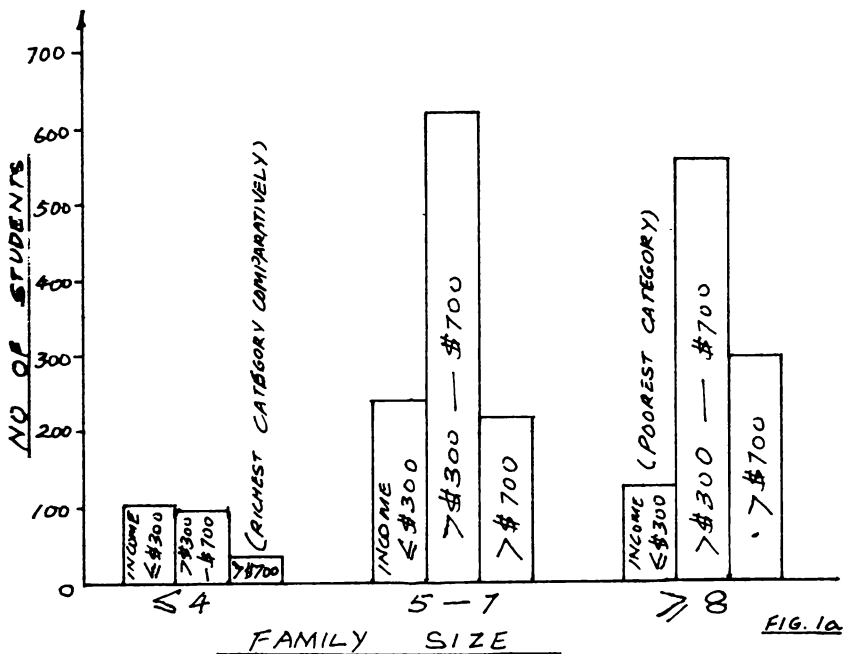
The anti-bus fare hike campaign organised during Feb '74 marked the beginning of another awakening of students in Singapore after more than ten years. For those who viewed this campaign a failure, they have definitely overlooked the significance of this campaign. Through this campaign, students attempted to organise public sentiments. Another notable point is that it was a joint effort by four students unions viz. NUSU, NATCSU, USSU and SPSU. Viewed in these angles, we cannot deny the certain degree of success of this campaign.

Students of tertiary institutions who are a portion of the public are very much affected. For the past year, there have been individual council's effort in fighting a bus concession for tertiary institutions but to no avail. As it is imperative and there is such an imperative need, students' councils of the various institutions of higher learning viz. NUSU, STISC, IESC, SPSU, NATCSU & USSU have met to discuss on bus concession for students. This issue is taken up with another aim; it is hoped

that through this issue students will get to understand the transport system in Singapore.

Some of the students councils have done a bus concession survey in their campuses. Response of students was overwhelming and encouraging. The majority of them expressed their discontentment over the high rate of bus fare, and agreed that students should be concerned for any further increase in bus fare in future.

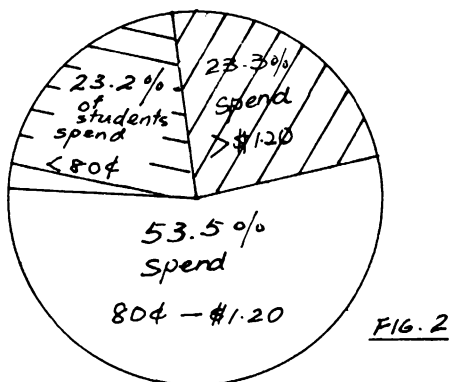
For SPSU, the results of the bus concession survey are as follows:-



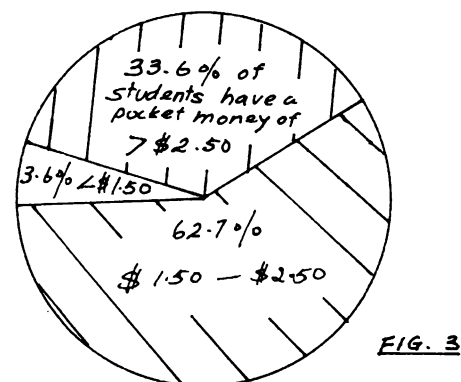
INCOME FAMILY SIZE	≤ \$300	> \$300 - \$700	> \$700
≤ 4	104	101	36
5-7	239	619	220
≥ 8	127	558	301

NO OF STUDENTS SURVEYED = 2,500

FIG. 1b



DAILY BUS FARE



DAILY POCKET MONEY

From Fig. 1:

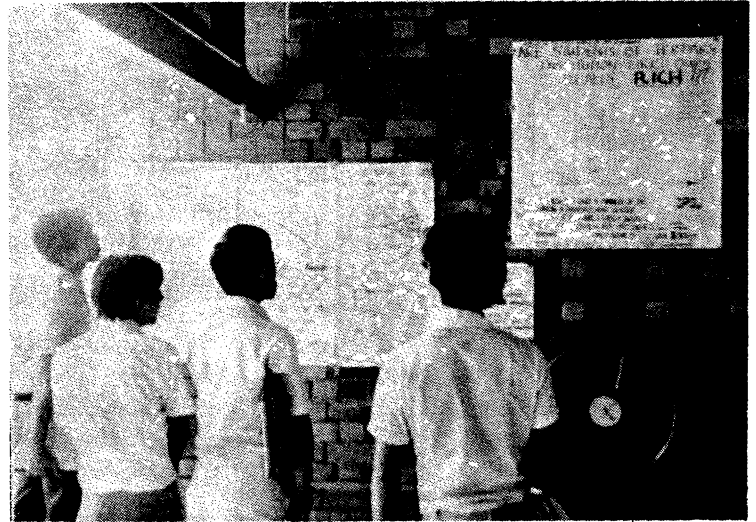
1. It can be seen that only a MINORITY of the students are from families whose incomes are above average.
2. Although many students have families incomes of \$300 to \$700 their family size is also large.
3. 570 students have family incomes of below \$300.

From Fig. 2:

The majority of our students (53.5%) pay 80¢ to \$1.20 for their daily bus fare. About 23% of our students pay more than \$1.20 daily, ie. spend more than \$200 on bus fare alone in one year and this sum alone would have deprived many students of a chance to enter a tertiary institution.

From Fig. 2 and 3:

A large portion of the daily pocket money was spent on bus fare.



Students reading cautiously the results of the bus concession survey.



It is not out of selfish means that this issue is taken up. The most justifiable reasons for this bus concession issue are:

1. Students from tertiary institutions are in a similar financial status as secondary schools students, ie. they are heavily dependant on their families for their expenses. In fact their families have to spend more money on their educational requirements and therefore a concession would greatly reduce their families of this burden laid unjustifiably on them.
2. The tertiary institutions are usually situated very far away from students' homes and therefore money incurred in bus-fare is generally higher. Also, due to the nature of the institutions, expenses incurred are also greater.
3. The huge sums of expenses incurred in transport alone could have deprived many people of their chance to study in the tertiary institutions.

Recently there was a so-called 'bus concession' offered to Polytechnic and other tertiary institutions by S.B.S. through the Admin. This so-called concession was rejected by the students at once. A simple calculation would show that this "concession" is meant for profiteering.

The existing rates for travelling on S.B.S. buses are 20¢, 30¢, 40¢ and 50¢ for journeys up to 4, 8, 16 and over 16 fare stages respectively. On the average, students go to campus for 24 days per month. A comparison of the two sets of figures is shown below:-

<u>stages</u>	<u>'concession' offered</u>	<u>actual amount incurred</u>
up to 4 fare stages	\$12	\$9.60
up to 8 fare stages	\$16	\$14.40
up to 16 fare stages	\$20	\$19.20
over 16 fare stages	\$24	\$24.00

It is therefore clear that the S.B.S. is trying to squeeze out money from students. Moreover, this concession is only for fixed journey. Most of the students have lectures in more than one campus, and in such cases, they will not be able to use the concession cards. Students who purchase such monthly tickets potentially stand to pay for nothing in cases of holidays, medical leave, etc when they do not go to campus.

Editorial Note

The Bus Concession Issue is still on its way. Already two joint-letters by the six tertiary institutions have been sent to the S.B.S. and we have yet to receive a reply from them. We urge readers to follow this issue closely.

Some Views on Women's Lib.

— Richard Tan —

Since time immemorial, women have been discussed and written mainly as a decorative object. But the logic and tide of history no one can deny or stop, and society is destined to progress. As the axiom states: Social progress can be measured precisely by the social position of the fair sex, and it is undeniable that the inauguration of 1975 as International Women's Year symbolises a social progress in a sense that it rendered an impact to most women.

We should not, however, overlook the other side of the picture. It is not a matter of one or ten International Women's Year which can accomplish the complete liberation of women, just like women liberation does not simply come around after someone has been shouting all the while "We want women's liberation, we want women's liberation!" Take for instance no one can deny that women are entitled to equal or higher education than men today, but in practice more males are being sent to school than females. The similarity also applies in standing for elections and participation in other socio-economic fields.

During the primitive age, due to the division of work, men went to hunt for wild food while women stayed at home and reared poultry and grew padi etc. Comparatively, rearing and growing were usually more productive than hunting, so that women's position was well above men's then. When primitive people later grouped themselves into tribes and fought frequently among themselves, the position of men rose steadily above that of women for they were the ones who led and fought in battles. As society progressed into another age, the slavery age, the dominance of women by men persisted and then during the feudal age, due to a lot of restrictions and rules imposed unjustifiably on women, the dominance was further consolidated and strengthened. Yet throughout history, whether men or women, the majority of them were oppressed, only that among all oppressed people, the females are unfairly treated by the males. Let's take an example. During the feudal age, a family of working people, i.e. the farmers, were exploited by the landlords. Inside the family itself, the males were the dominating figures. But is this born? Definitely not. The landlords who constituted part of the ruling class, in order to preserve and maintain the status quo, had to resort to all means of tactics and one of them is to disintegrate the unity of the tenants by causing one sex to be bullied by the other.

However, throughout the hundred years of women's lib, several misconceptions evolve. For example:

"Where women's lib is concerned, I'm sitting on the fence. I believe in equality but I also like to be treated like a lady...you know, having doors opened for me and all"

Yes, the system which oppresses women conceal their inferiority status by an elaborate "respect" such as "ladies first" and others as fashion shows, beauty contests. Such and other subtle effects of oppression are not easily felt by most women. On the one hand the system tries to disintegrate them by breeding male chauvinism and egoism

contd pg 12

THAI SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION

Since the 1973 October Uprising there were great changes in Thailand. Thai students have integrated their struggle for a truly independent and democratic Thailand with the peasants and the workers. Although apparently Thailand is still a peaceful and harmonious country, internally it is undergoing a rapid Socio-economic change.

FARMERS IN THAILAND --- A HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

Like all other countries with considerable civilisation, Thailand has gone through a slavery and feudal age. During the feudal age the Thai peasants spent their free time clearing up forest to obtain land and by 1932, 50% of the Thai peasants have land of their own. However, later the landlords and government officials shamelessly conspired and robbed the farmers of their precious land. They took advantage of the fact that the farmers were illiterate to deceive them in signing unfair contracts which is in fact equivalent to giving their land away. Also many farmers were forced to sell away their land at a very low price after being unable to return the borrowed money to the landlord on time. At present, only 34% of the Thai farmers have their own land and most of them are very small. Owing to this landless problem and exploitation by the landlords, middlemen, etc the farmers of Thailand are now living in extreme poverty. They have at many times appealed to the govt to solve their problems but nothing much was done for them. Even just before the Oct Uprising, they were still appealing to the Thanom regime for effective land reform.

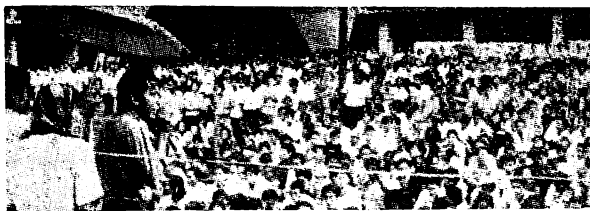
THE STRUGGLE BEGINS.

After the 1973 Oct. Revolution, the farmers realised

IS CHANGING : the struggle of the farmers

that in order to achieve what they want they must organise themselves and transform their words into actions; they cannot rely on others to do it for them. In May '74 more than 1000 farmers gathered together at Sanam Lung and threatened to burn away their I. C., quitting their Thai citizenships. The Govt. then promised to compel the landlords and userers to settle the peasants' problems but nothing was done. In June '74, representatives from 11 provinces met the Deputy Prime Minister and he agreed with them on 6 points. The essential ones are:

1. the Govt would send its committee to investigate into disputes arising from the landlords and the userers.
2. the Govt would allot land for the troubled peasants in time of ploughing seasons of 1974.



A RALLY IN THAILAND

Again the gov't did not keep its promises. So in Nov '74, peasants organised rallies in Sanam Lung, Chiangmai, Khon Khen and other places in Thailand. The rallies were protracted to 11 days till 30 Nov and they asked the Bangkokians for help in terms of contributions and others. Eventually more than 50,000 sympathisers including monks, novices, students, workers and other common people joined the rally. During this rally, the first apparent organisation of the peasantry - the Farmers Federation of Thailand (FFT) was organised. Mr. Shai Wungstragoon, a peasant from Pitsanuloke province was elected the first president. During the rally the Govt also made 9 promises and some of the important ones are:

1. the Govt. would allot land for peasants who had no land within 1975.
2. the Govt. would instruct the provincial official to reveal the results of the investigations of the committees set up by Prakob.
3. the Govt. would allot the land in form of co-operative.
4. the Govt. would provide some money to redeem peasants' debts.
5. the Govt. would enact a law to regulate the rents of the rice field.

But soon afterwards, the gov't was reluctant to carry out anything. On the contrary, it maligned and destroyed peasants unity with communist charge and isolated peasants leaders from peasants by indulging

them and solving their problems only. However not only did these tactics failed miserably but they also show the insincerity of the gov't. Eventually the gov't. was forced to take some measures against the landlords but all of them soon proved to be ineffective.

On the last week of May '75, the FFT lead a demonstration to Bangkok, demanding among other things, that the land reform legislation drafted by the Thai gov't during Sanya's administration be scrapped as the gov't. is ineffective in carrying it out. PM Kukrit Pramoj listened for a while, grew angry and walked out saying that law could only be changed by the Parliament. This is equivalent to saying that he is powerless to improve their conditions as his cabinet is dominated by big business-orientated interest. THIS IS THE FINAL BREAK BETWEEN THE FFT AND THE GOVT. FFT finally realised that they cannot rely on the gov't. to improve their life so they returned to their village to do their best to implement the reform land law. They also organised the peasants to stand up against the landlords, corrupt gov't. officials, kenman, headman etc.

From Feb to Aug '75, over 20 farmers leaders were murdered and most of them are FFT leaders. (including the vice-president of FFT, Mr Intha Sribunran who is also the president of the northern farmers federation) Besides, many others were shot or threatened for their parts in fighting for justice. The Thai police, for over 6 months was unable to arrest any of the murderers. Later a man was arrested and his man was receiving US \$10 for allowance while still in custody. All the assurance "happened" to be given by one of the police "big-shots"!! All the assurance by the Thai gov't proved to be nothing but lies to mislead the farmers.

On the 1st Aug 1975 NSCT and allies staged a rally at Sanam Lung to protest the gov't's inaction on the murdering of the farmers leaders. On the 3 Aug '75 Chiangmai police arrested 8 farmer leaders and 1 student leader but all of the gov't. "big shots" denied that they are the ones who gave the order to arrest. Later, the rally was moved into the Tharmasat University and it spread over to other provinces of Thailand. In the mean time, the 9 were charged and prosecuted in court and this angered many of the Thai people. The result is the stoppage of classes in many University indefinitely and FFT vowed to fight in all section of the country using all possible ways. Also more and more people joined in the rally

contd pg 11

CHANGING TREND IN POLY SPORTS

"S'pore all out to seek revenge!"
 "Game ended in ugly brawl"
 "XYZ, hero of the night"
 "Mistakes by goalie cost crucial match"

Such are the headlines seen under the sports column of our local newspapers. Such are the attitude which our ministers, sports organisers, players and even the spectators hold and thus reflect on their misunderstanding of the true meaning of sports. The sports arena should not be a place where one acquires fame, worldwide publicity etc at the expense of stretching one's personal endurance to the very limits and also to create rivalry among fellow competitors.

"The most important thing in the olympic games is not to win but to take part.. as the most important thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well" A pledge taken by all participants but not followed well by most. Why do we participate in sports? The above olympic pledge only answers part of it. Sports is an organised form of physical exercise where one can, in the process, build and maintain a strong and healthy body so as to serve the people better. Other purposes are to meet new friends, foster better relationship and understanding and to exchange new ideas.

In the past decades, SPSC has never, it seems, come to understand the true aim of sports. It caters only for a selected few and encouraged stiff competition among them. Every year, a budget of more than \$20,000 was allocated to the Sports Council. With this money, they bought a lot of new equipment, outfits, etc not for the use of the general student body but rather only for the selected few. Equipment for loan to students are usually worn or torn and are considered not suitable for use by Poly players.

Rivalry among students from different department was created due to the nature of the games organised which does not encourage friendly interaction among students during the game. A large sum of the money was also spent on games tours and annual dinners. Games tours to Malaysia were an annual affair until it was finally put to end last year although there was much protest from members of the sports council. A lot of unhealthy incidents happened during the past games tours such as fighting, students visiting brothels and even conflict between players and officials though they claimed that the aim of the games tours was to promote friendship. Obviously the games tour and annual dinners were only attended by the "privileged" few.



INTER-CLASS NETBALL MATCH.

There it can be seen that most of the activities were only confined to a small group while no effort was being made to reach out to the larger student body. The nature of the competition organised was also derogatory and only serves to disintegrate students' unity.

However, everything is not lost. The present sports council had come to realise the mistakes in the past and are taking step to remedy them. Although with only a small budget of less than \$2,000 the sports council has organised many mass-participated games aimed at fostering better relationship among students. Better facilities and equipment which were once only available to the selected few are open to use by all students.

The first inter-class 7-a-side soccer organised attracted more than 40 teams from only one campus. The inter-class netball was also organised to encourage participation from the ladies who had little significance in the sporting scene of Poly.

Due to the shortage of time, the inter-class 7-a-side was only open to one campus, ARC, which houses the majority of the first year students. Instead of the usual past habit of a knock-out system, the fixture was arranged that each class has more chances of meeting at least two other classes and also that each day at least 7 classes are playing. This would enable better fostering of friendship and exchange of opinion during rest. It took 2 whole weeks to complete with 12 classes entering the finals. The spirit of "Friendship first, competition second" was stressed and maintained throughout the whole tournament. The finals proved to be very exciting with teams displaying good sportsmanship. The ladies inter-class netball was open to all the 3 campuses which drew an encouraging number of entries. The tournament also took two weeks to complete

from pg. 5
came in.

There were often times when I felt so tired, so sick of the 'paper-chase', that I wished I were dead or a hermit. I looked for alternative pathway where I could grab myself a few million dollars without going through the inhuman and torturing process of cramming my mind with 'knowledge' I gambled. I bought a lottery ticket every week. Those of you who still have some moral principle to abide would stare with disbelief What, U-students gambling? Don't be shocked there are lots like me, only thing is, some do it secretly or through other ways. There are those who drank many bottles of coke a day even though they are not thirsty because there is a bottle cap collecting contest going on. There are those who bought themselves loads of bandages as if they were sure that they would be knocked down by a car the very next day, simply because there was a related contest with attractive prizes going on.

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

from pg. 10

with teams displaying skillful ball passing in a friendly atmosphere. Great number of spectators were always around to support their classes throughout the whole of the soccer and netball tournament. Besides the customary prizes, souvenirs were given to all participants to mark the end of a successful, sporting activities.

The next on the list of activities planned to attract maximum participation from our students is the Poly 50. The Poly 50 is a form of a road relay, with teams comprising 7 men and 3 ladies being allowed to change runners at 3 different change-point. This is scheduled to be held on 14 Jan'76 and about 70 entries had already been received with an expected 1,000 over students turn-out. Souvenirs will be presented to all participants whose teams have completed all the 50 laps irrespective of position and the return. This particular event attracts the most participants

from pg. 9

and the protest spread like wild fire throughout the whole of Thailand. A 2-point demand was put up by NSCT: 1. unconditional release of the persecuted, 2. capture of the killers within one month.

Seeing the momentum of this protest might soon be unstoppable, the Thai Govt finally conceded to their demand and the 9 were immediately released. By then the struggle have already spread all over Thailand to people of every class. From this struggle of the farmers we can see that the level of awareness among the people is very high and this ever growing awareness among the people is the undercurrent that is causing the socio-economic change in Thailand. We can be sure that this change is a change for the better as it is the will of the Thai people.

soon.' So I wished every day to be shorter and thus indirectly wished my life to be shorter. Yes, there were lots of time I wished to be dead.

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

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

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

reproduced from the Pelandok.

because it does not encourage competition among participants but rather the will and determination to finish 50 gruelling laps.

Facilities for general students used were improved such as painting a badminton court, repair of the board of the basketball court, to name a few. Furthermore, equipment were made easily available to all students. Ever since the improvements, groups of students are now usually seen playing badminton, volleyball, sepak takraw, etc. But there is still a large portion of students still drowned in their sea of books to whom we must reach out to.

It has been a pleasant sight to see that the students' money is used to cater for the majority and not only confined to the selected few. The sports council, being part of the students' union, should work towards uniting the students and to portray the true meaning of sports.

**STOP
PRESS**

The NSCT (National Students Centre of Thailand) is planning an anti-Razak Campaign on Razak's coming visit to Thailand.

from pg 2

The implementation of the Pioneer Industry Act allows a 5 year tax-holiday to investors and later it was even extended to 10 years. The Child Labour Act passed recently provides industries with a pool of cheap labour to the already overflowing pool of cheap labour found in Singapore. Also very recently, the Singapore Government have amended the Employment Act and forbidden the employers from giving bonus. If we were to probe more deeply into Labour Act, more of this examples can be found.

Institutions such as the DBS (Development Bank of Singapore) and the EDB (Economic Development Board) were set up using the people's money to serve the foreign capitalists.

Institutions to train skilled labour for the industries are opened one after another. There are now 9 vocational institutions and Industrial Training Board in S'pore and many more would be set up. Furthermore, to ensure that investments come in, the govt. uses all kinds of repressive measures to maintain a stable industrial relationship. From the case of the American Marine Layoff we can see how the govt. uses the Trade Union to suppress workers. We can even see it clearer from the arrest of the workers at Jurong during the Internal Security Exercise.

Many of us feel satisfied when we see the numerous factories in Jurong and would easily accept that repression has brought us progress. However we did not know that 71% of the wealth created by the working people in the manufacturing section goes to the capitalists, that is to say that for every \$100 a worker receives the capitalist takes away \$245. Do we know that many workers are suffering from

from pg 8

and hence rendered formation of such women societies such as SCUM (Society for Cutting up Men) and further deny all possibilities of a unity between all oppressed people. However, such fight and acquisition of basic rights as equal pay for equal work with men are essential.

Women constitute half of mankind and are definitely a vital force for the progress of any society. History has shown that no society could ever progress without the full participation of women. Glorious examples of women's contribution to social progress abound in Indonesia, Palestine, India and in many other parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Heroines like Nguyen Thi Binh in Vietnam, Shadia Abu Ghazaleh and Amina Dahbour in Palestine have come forward and fully participated in the struggle for liberation.

Women's lib is unattainable without people's lib. They are inseparable. Women's immediate role should be to perceive their actual state of condition in such an unjust and repressive society and to fight for a just one shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

industrial diseases like deafness, short-sightedness, gastric trouble? Do we know that in the ship-building and repairing sector alone there are 870 industrial accidents and 39 out of these are death cases? Do we know that during the period from 1974 to mid 1975 there are over 16000 workers retrenched? The hardworking Singaporeans who are faced with all these problems are only receiving \$200 - \$300 dollars a month while the average wealth they have created is \$1075 in 1973 and \$1308 in 1974 per month.

Perhaps after examining the above facts we can now give a better answer to what is repression for. We can see that the whole economic system provides for the foreign capitalists to exploit the workers. The authorities cannot stand any criticism by a body like a students' union as this would expose their anti-people nature. They cannot tolerate people asking "Why are our workers retrenched without giving a proper explanation and often without any retrenchment benefit?" "Why the 10 cent bus fare hike is allowed?" They cannot allow the Retrenchment Research Centre to expose the true cause of retrenchment to the people. because that will expose them nakedly also. However anything that is for the people is strong and anything that is against the people is weak. Repression is only a mere sign of weakness. The necessity to repress reveals the fear that is hidden inside. When one voice is repressed, it is only hidden below the surface where it cannot be heard; the voice is not killed. The students' union may be banned, its leaders arrested and a white paper published to deceive the people but this cannot last long. Truth will never be covered by fabrication made by the authority. We hope that more people will think seriously over this question.



Views expressed in signed articles do not necessarily represent that of the Editorial Board

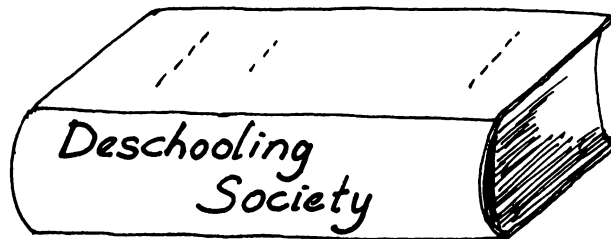


from pg 3 campaign. Amongst overseas students, Thai and Vietnamese students have also made contributions to the student movement. Without the help, knowledge and information of the Australian and New Zealand students, the campaign would not have been such a success. The common actions of Australian, New Zealand, Malaysian students and youth during Razak tour have greatly strengthened the unity of students and youth and promoted the militant and genuine friendship and better understanding amongst the students. This is a great achievement of the student movement and the unity of students and youth must be consolidated and further encouraged.

Despite the great achievement in the recent campaign against the repressive policies of Razak's regime, the development of overseas student movement has always gone through complicated and hard struggle. The birth of a genuine leadership will be a painful and complex process. The struggles or movements of the Malaysian students are increasingly more complicated and relatively more difficult due to the facts that

- the Malaysian govt is starting a warfare to exterminate and destroy the student movement. Such move is further supported by the S'pore, New Zealand and Australian authorities
- that the people's struggle within Malaysia is sharpening. During the course of work and movement, contradictions, misunderstanding, confusion, misinterpretation, doubts, pessimism, frustration, loss of confidence, mistrust, illusion and backlash can easily find its ground amongst students. The student movement not only has to deal with the infiltration and sabotages from the Australian, New Zealand, and S'pore authorities but more critically and complex it also has to

— Book Introduction —



Is schooling the same thing as education? Obviously not. We all learn day by day, and most of us, to be honest, can find little in our lives which schooling has directly and profoundly influenced.

Two questions emerge. What is it that has given schooling such enormous and widespread prestige in almost all societies throughout the world? And what is that is that schooling actually does if its educational function is in doubt?

The book DESCHOOLING SOCIETY by Ivan Illich is a thought-provoking and eloquent one. It puts forth a new and disturbing view of the school as an institution. It centres on the argument that "THE SCHOOL HAS THE PRESTIGE BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF THE MAJOR MEANS BY WHICH THE STATUS-QUO IS PRESERVED". To achieve this, the school is an institution where thought-control is being exercised. The creature whom school needs as a client has neither the autonomy nor the motivation to grow on his own. He is being schooled to confuse process with substance, teaching with grade achievement, achievement with education and fluency with the ability to say something new. Police protection is mistaken for

safety, military poise for national security and the rat-race for productive work.

Ivan Illich contends that "the school is inefficient in skill instruction especially because it is curricular and that neither learning nor practice is promoted by schooling because educators insist on packaging instruction with certification.

"THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE HAS BEEN SCHOOLED FOR SELECTIVE SCHOOLED FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE AMONG THE RICH OF THE WORLD...WITH VERY RARE EXCEPTIONS, THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE FROM A POOR COUNTRY FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE WITH HIS NORTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES THAN WITH HIS NON-SCHOOLED COMPATRIOTS AND ALL STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY PROCESSED TO BE HAPPY ONLY IN THE COMPANY OF FELLOW CONSUMERS OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL MACHINE

PS:No attempt has been made to review the book. The above merely serves as an introduction, as a guide to it. We hope that fellow students, after reading through the book, can forward their impressions, opinions, views to the Technocrat. The book is available at SPSU Library (PEC), Popular Book Store, Methodist Book Room.

face and solve the possible sabotages from within the organisation. The emphasis on unity, discipline and patience will be the key points to solve the internal contradiction and possible confusion and misunderstanding within the movement. The task to strengthen unity and

discipline will assure the consolidation of our achievements and work. Unity amongst students is the key point to the success of the student movement and its support for people's struggle for the realisation of an egalitarian society free from exploitation, poverty and hunger.

At Last... It's Out!

The Editorial Board of the Singapore Technocrat begs to be pardoned for the late publication of the first issue of the official organ of our Students' Union. The delay can be attributed to:

- 1) late issue of printing permit
- 2) the impact of the venomous amendment bill imposed most unjustifiably on USSU, our brother union
- 3) the inexperience of the new members of the publication committee.

From this issue onwards, the Technocrat shall be on sale to the public. This switch in policy has a twofold significance. On the one hand it was realised that there is an alarming and glaring absence of an essential contact between the public and SPSU and hence we resolve that our publication can serve as a means by which the public know more of our Students' Union and understand our cause. On the other hand, the sale of Technocrat would in some way relieve our financial situation which has been tremendously undermined by the unconstitutional refusal of the Poly Admin to collect Union fees along with tuition fees.

We humbly call upon all Poly students to introduce the Technocrat to their families, relatives, friends etc and clear their doubts in case there is any.

Last but not least, we hope fellow students can contribute articles to the Technocrat and we are most willing to listen and accept any criticism, comment, opinion that you may have. Also, we need students to assist in canvassing for advertisements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Dear Editor,

I have such an experience and would like to share it with other students.

During the long vacation, I went to work in a factory as an ordinary worker. The factory has a canteen but there were specific places to eat during lunch time. On my first day, I did not know that there was such a regulation and, seeing an empty seat, lost no time to make myself at ease to take my lunch. But my joy was transient, for I soon found that some of my table-mates were staring at me, some showing signs of contempt. These people were attired in clean, nice shirts with ties on. Me? Merely a dirty T-shirt. Instinctively, I realised I was in the wrong place.

The following day, I went to another table to take my lunch. I could now eat undisturbed and chat comfortably with the rest.

Is this a man-made segregation? Then I began to think: how about Poly? There is a staff canteen and a students' canteen. Why then is there such a man-created barrier here as well.

PUZZLED

LETTERS TO THE

Dear Editor,

The New Nation has published an article on 15th Dec '75, concerning the clamping down of students' activities outside campus.

I would like to give my opinions on the views expressed by the writer Mr. Ismail Kassim on the above issue.

Mr. Kassim wrote: "The reconstituted USSU will be depoliticised just like the student bodies in Nanyang University and Ngee Ann Technical College. Its role will be limited to looking after 'the welfare of the entire student body within the confines of the University...."

Mr. Kassim's version of depoliticisation is the reducing of student bodies to function only within the campus. Members of the public who have directly or indirectly engaged themselves in the social projects organised by USSU and SPSU would agree that the students have not stepped into the political arena. Issues like anti-bus fare hike campaign, Bangladesh Flood Relief Campaign and the setting up of Retrenchment Research Centre cannot be simply classified as political manoeuvres to fight against the Establishment. However, such activities have successfully brought about a closer relationship between the public and students. It is a significant move by students to integrate themselves with the people to work and live with them.

The reducing of students to activities within the campus is a sheer move to keep students within the dehumanised ivory tower, thereby cutting off any companionship between the students and the people. This is what Mr. Kassim meant by depoliticisation.

CONCERNED STUDENT