



**SINGAPORE
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學生報

VOL. 6 NO. 1. SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION OCTOBER '76 20 cents MC(P)809/76

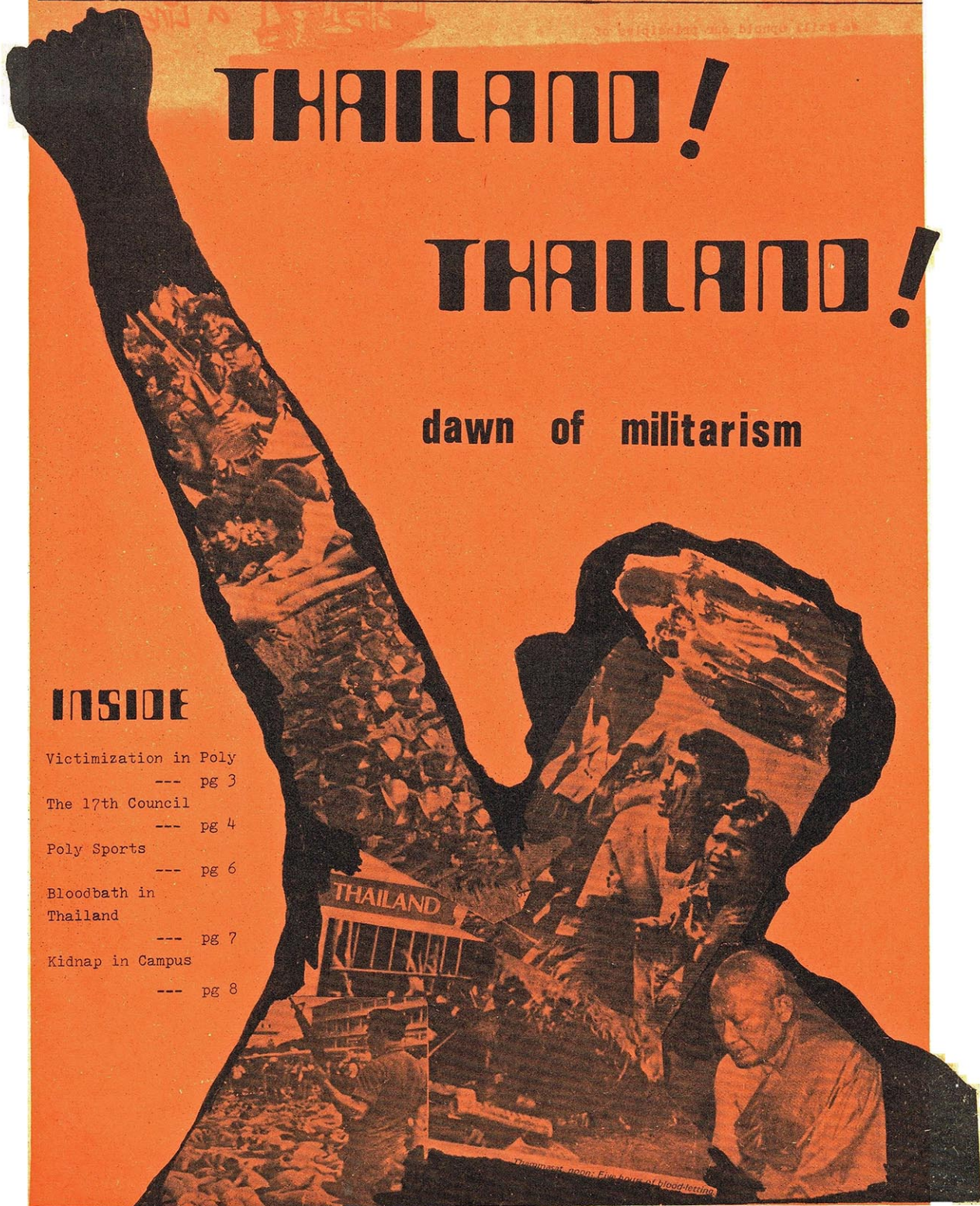
THAILAND!

THAILAND!

dawn of militarism

INSIDE

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The most, noon. Five hours of blood-letting.

editorial

UNPRECEDENTED PUBLICITY

The Singapore Technocrat has lately been given much unprecedented publicity in the press. Certain articles in our second and third issues were said to give slanted and distorted information. The Editorial Board believes no explanation nor clarification is required, but rather call upon our readers to exert self-independence in judgement, discretion and thinking.

We still uphold our principles of providing articles of public interest and will further consolidate the link between the public and our Union, SPSU, which incidentally is the only landmark left in "democratic" Singapore. We also contend that there is a lack of published materials which dare seek to express free and critical ideas and which can voice out for the silent majority. Henceforth we feel it our utmost duty to strive to cater for this literary desert. In this, we especially need contributions from our readers to make the magazine more diversified in contents.

APOLOGY

Certain articles in this issue were initially scheduled to be included in an internal publication, "Campus Life". Due to unforeseen circumstances in the printing process, these articles have become part of this issue. The centre four pages are additions on a last minute consideration. These shortcomings are regretted.

VIEWES EXPRESSED IN SIGNED ARTICLES
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THAT OF
THE EDITORIAL BOARD.

ONE DAY AT LUNCHTIME



Go Grab a
Pen-and
drop us
a LINE

OUR NEW LEADERS

The elections to the 17th Students' Council saw only 19 candidates for the General Elections and 5 for the School of Industrial Technology seats. There would have been more nominations, had the ISD swoop on the student leaders not taken place.

A last minute withdrawal by a General Elections candidate caused the remaining 18 councillors to be returned unopposed. The spirit during Polling day for the four vacant seats was rather damp.

The Council is composed of roughly proportional number of members to each year. Rather unexpectedly, out of the 6 first year councillors, five are ladies. The remaining second year and third-year councillors are all men. The 6 councillors in particular can certainly reach out to those in the first year effectively. The might otherwise prove difficult for the other councillors to achieve. The ladies in the council should boost the level of involvement in the union by the female population who have been largely dormant in the past.

The new council has started on an optimistic note. What now remains to be seen is whether they can develop faith in the union by the students.

The obstacles ahead are formidable. The budget is only about one-third that of previous councils. Consequently, the standing committees are hampered by the economy and draconian drives to minimise wastages.

The squabbles that beset the union and some of the societies in the past, however, seems to be on the verge of fading away. Societies officials for the most part, have indicated that such squabbles are immature and totally unnecessary. Councillors naturally would also prefer a more tranquil atmosphere to prevail in the union in the union house.

The majority of the councillors are new. This, however does not mean that they are inexperienced. On the contrary, many have been hyperactive in the standing committees and the societies. Some are still holding major posts in the societies.

Latest

As we go to press, news of Foo Weng Fatt being banished reached us. Victim of a "legal kidnap" in Campus, Weng Fatt was first mentioned in one of the confessions as one who though actively involved in Union activities, has nothing to do with the MNDYL. Ironically the statement given pertaining to his banishment alleged that his first arrest was due to connection with MNDYL. We thus question the credibility of the authorities in giving such contradictory statements.

(For further details of Foo Weng Fatt, refer to page 8)

VICTIMIZATION IN POLY — HOW REAL IS THE THREAT

Victimization - to put it very simply is the marking down of students who had in one way or another incurred the wrath of their lecturers. What makes such unscrupulous actions even more deplorable is the fact that they are committed by academicians and lecturers who are supposedly men of higher intellect and maturity. The game has been refined and developed highly even by some in the echelons above lecturers.

We had been led to believe that it is an essential requirement for any examining authority to be absolutely fair in the assessment of students. Hence, many of us today take it for granted that such a requirement is always complied with. But is it?

Students who protested over policies of their departments had, in the past, been prime targets by disgruntled lecturers. Others sporting long hair also qualified for such threats. The grave injustice of gauging a person by the length of his hair is common. That the measure of a man is not seen by the inches of hair he has is not seen. Those openly critical of the shortcomings of their lecturers fared no better. Outspoken student leaders are just as vulnerable.

In all fairness to lecturers, we should stress that such misdeeds are committed by only a rotten few, with the majority qualifying as men of principle. There may also be cases where students who failed have used their lecturers as scapegoats. These are rare and victimization is obvious



sly not fantasies conjured by the academically incompetent.

For example, in the 74/75 session, 10 final year civil students had to sit for their supplementary papers, out of which 8 failed. These students felt that it was no coincidence that they had earlier protested over some policies in their department. What made this episode all the more significant is the fact that there were no failures for the previous year.

There was also a case of a lecturer openly threatening to tamper with answer scripts and make changes in the initial results sheets. He can be hauled off to court for intimidation by the legal advisor.

Most of the time, victimization do not appear in such bold, outright threats. Many students do get inexplicable and mysterious donkeys (D's) when they are expecting higher grades. Such forms are more subtle and hence harder to detect. No appeals for re-marking of exam papers is allowed, unless a student has failed. This simply leaves him with no course to seek redress for such miscarriages of academic justice.

The administration, very naturally would deny that such malpractices occur. After all the prestige of our beloved institution is at stake. The very much cherished reputation must not be tarnished at any cost -- even at the cost of denying victimised students the means to right a wrong. The fear of a scandal erupting seems too frightening a prospect for them -- especially so when it is likely to involve personnels in the higher echelons. Can truth, however, be an embarrassment?

Rationality dictates that for the good of the Polytechnic in the long run, academic justice must be maintained no matter how painful the immediate effects may be. More often than not, the benefit of the doubt is given to the guilty and not to the victimised. Little action is taken for fear of doubting the lecturer.

Key administration officials, have admitted unofficially to the reality of such occurrences in certain departments. Proposals by councillors for an independent board of examinations to be composed of unbiased and technically competent professionals was ignored. The Poly exams board would have considered this an intrusion into their happy hunting grounds.

The same officials have offered to undertake the re-marking of controversial papers. Welcomed as it is, more positive safeguards must be implemented. When a reasonable doubt is casted, it should be sufficient to merit a full-scale inquiry to ascertain the truth.

Students are capable of reponsible thought and action. Where such cases have surfaced, the grievances are presented through legitimate channels. Students will not protest where there are no compelling reasons to do so. What could be more compelling than the fact that they had been victimised.

The reply that no lecturer is permitted to practise victimisation is not enough. The assumption that every lecturer has allegiance to academic truth equally so. Such blind faith are not sufficient safeguards against the consequences.

Investigations by the union are often hampered by a lack of material evidence. This is so because students can never have a chance to see the way their papers are marked. All they have is the eerie feeling of being marked down. And feelings are by no means enough for a largely unsympathetic administration.

But it must be borne in mind that grades in the exams can be roughly estimated and the demarcation line between passing and failing even more distinctly felt. Generally, completion of 3 questions out of five is an assurance of a clear pass. And there had been reports of students confident of 4 complete questions surprisingly failing, while their less prepared colleagues who answered no more than three could pass. Subjects in Poly are purely technical in nature and such facts and principles are neutral and cannot be interpreted in more than one way.

Many victims, sad to say, are resigned to their fate, fearful that their repeat year would be a repetition of the previous year's exam holocaust. They prefer the more expedient path of the silent majority who are wary of losing out as victims of lecturers extremely dirty in the art of victimisation. Such attitude is giving those lecturers in particular a field day. Where logic and reason do not prevail, students are terribly vulnerable.

In Poly, young men and women come to learn a profession. The lecturer must understand the hold he has over their future. The trust these young people have placed in his hands is not one to be taken lightly. Therefore, just as students are responsible people must answer for their actions, the lecturer must be able to answer for his. The lecturer, moreover has a moral obligations to his students and to others as well. When there is fear and uncertainty in students, they can never learn freely. When such unpleasant facts are simply brushed aside students can never feel easy. Neither would other lecturers.

We came to this Polytechnic to learn and to have a fair chance of graduating. By no stretch of logic can this be interpreted as an excessive demand.

We expect the administration to have respect enough for students to care for what they think. For to us, an honest, fearless learning environment does matter.

Anonymous (in case victimization should arise through disclosure of identity.)

Quote: -

DO NOT LOOK BACK IN ANGER
NOR FORWARD WITH FEAR

BUT AROUND WITH
SEARCHING AWARENESS

- anonymous

THE 17th STUDENT'S COUNCIL



PRESIDENT
LIU WAI SUNG
MECHANICAL SECOND YEAR



VICE-PRESIDENT
TAN TEE SENG
ELECTRICAL SECOND YEAR



HON GEN SECRETARY
ANG SOO CHENG
CIVIL SECOND YEAR



SOCIAL SECRETARY
MABEL CHOI MEI YOUNG
DRAUGHTING FIRST YEAR



ASST HON GEN SECRETARY
LOW YIT LENG
CPT FIRST YEAR



ASST FINANCIAL SECRETARY
TAN HUI KIAN
COMMON FIRST YEAR



PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY
LIM LIAN PENG
ELECTRICAL THIRD YEAR



FINANCIAL SECRETARY
LING HSIN YING
ELECTRONICS THIRD YEAR



WELFARE SECRETARY
TAN AI JEW
DRAUGHTING FIRST YEAR



UNION HOUSE SECRETARY
WONG SING YUING
CIVIL SECOND YEAR



COUNCILLOR
TAN HOW SONG
MECHANICAL SECOND



COUNCILLOR
TAN POH SIEW
COMMON FIRST YEAR



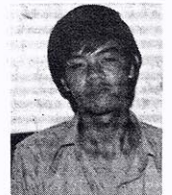
COUNCILLOR
HAN YORK KWANG
DRAUGHTING FIRST



COUNCILLOR
HO HIN WENG
COMMON FIRST YEAR



COUNCILLOR
MERVIN BOON POH LIM
CPT THIRD YEAR



COUNCILLOR
TEO CHAP HOCK
ELECTRONICS SECOND



COUNCILLOR
LIM FUNG CHAI
ELECTRONICS SECOND



COUNCILLOR
LAU KWONG TAT ERIC



COUNCILLOR
SOMASUNDARAM MOHAN
CPT THIRD YEAR



COUNCILLOR
GAN LAI THENG
MECHANICAL THIRD



COUNCILLOR
DZULKARNAIN BIN
ABDULLAH
MECHANICAL THIRD



COUNCILLOR
HENG HOCK HENG
MECHANICAL SECOND

(photographs of the above councillors are not available)

REFLECTIONS of Poly Life

Michael Ang

"Wake up! Wake up! Time to go for lecture "

These were the words that awakened Salleh from his dream. His mother had been trying to wake him for more than ten minutes after the initial failure by her to do so. The same repeats itself every morning and Salleh knew too that he is getting a bit of a nuisance for his mother.

Sleepily, he dragged his body out of the bed and sobered himself at the basin. Then, changing into some shabby clothes and tagging along the same old bag, he trudged out of the house in his worn out slippers with the usual yawn on his mouth.

The scene at the bus-stop is typical everyday-----crowded with students and workers on their way to school and work---their faces long and frustrated. Salleh missed two buses before he could manage to squeeze himself up the third bus service 198 that came along. He reached the campus more than forty-five minutes late and had to sneak into class again from the back door.

Once again, the battle in the class begins. For the whole lecture, he sat there struggling through the dull, monotonous babbling of the lecturer, fighting to keep himself from falling asleep. The lecture seemed never ending and the frustration within him grew bigger and bigger every minute. What is he frustrated about, Salleh himself does not even know. It had been there for a long time. Maybe it was because of the environment -- the tension created in the students -- and the heavy workload they have to bear. At last, the lecturer ended his babbling. Within his heart Salleh cursed the lecturer for not letting them off earlier. Lectures are just too unbearable to him.

Following the end of the lecture was an hour long of lunchbreak. Salleh went to the canteen, hastily swallowed some food and then hurried his way to the gamesroom. On arrival, he found that he was too late. The gamesroom was already full of people. Some students were sweating profusely over the tables, concentrating and banging at a small miserable rubber ball. The spirit of competition is so high it can really scourge one's skin. Just why must we get so heated up over a small rubber ball and why should we throw away our money just like that.

Dejectedly, Salleh went over to the table-tennis tables. Some of his group-mates were already there playing a game of doubles. On seeing Salleh, Osman shouted: "Hey, Salleh why don't watch goalie today?"

Salleh did not reply him. He put on a grin and stepping aside to watch the game silently. The game proceeded smoothly without any further interruption. After the game, Osman came over to Salleh and they started to converse.

Osman: "Why are you so moody today?"

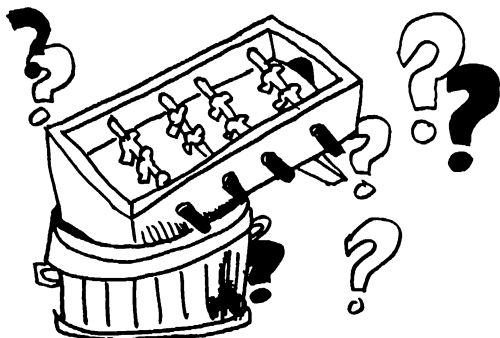
Salleh: "What else do you expect. Everytime I come to play the goalie tables are occupied. I don't ever get a chance to play at all."

After a long pause,

Osman: "Why do you play goalie?"

Salleh: "What's wrong with that?"

Osman: "I'm not saying it's anything wrong. But it's just that we spend a lot of time and money playing goalie. It also makes us become very competitive towards each other. Take for example two guys playing goalie. When one loses, he is not satisfied and wants to play another game hoping to win back. Fact is fact. He lost because the other is a better player, but due to his unwillingness to accept the fact that he is a lousier player he wants to play another game and another and another, hoping to win. It only ends up that he loses more money and worst he becomes jealous of the other guy. This creates a sense of competitiveness between them unconsciously."



Salleh: "Yah, what you've said is quite true. I didn't think of that before." (after a deep thought.)
But why is there goalie and billiard tables here?"

Osman: "This is rather hard to explain. The fact is many of the students like playing goalie and billiard, even though there are better forms of recreations. These two games are moreover often abused by some for gambling. Further, the billiard and goalie tables are contracted there for so long. It takes time for students to realise the side effects of these games.

Salleh: "I see what you mean. But if they are gone, how are the students here going to spend their lunch time?"

Osman: "There are a lot of sporting activities for us to take up, like table-tennis, football, basketball or even sepak takraw with a small ball. All these are easily available to us in the sports store.

Their conversation ended here as they had to hurry back for their afternoon lecture. Salleh went back to his class, his head pondering over some questions.

It is very rare to find him seriously in thoughts. The conversation he had with Osman indeed sparked his slumbering mind to think about things. He wondered why he is often so frustrated? What is he frustrated about? Why did he so often considered the Union people as "square"? Why are the students so apathetic towards the Union activities? All these questions keep whirling within his mind throughout the lecture.....

(to be continued next issue)



May I put forward the suggestions:-

- 1) Will the union propose to the administration about the use of calculators during the examinations.
- 2) Why can't the union seek help from the SBS about increasing bus services to Dover Campus?
- 3) Why is the union always involved in outside affairs but never or seldom care about the student's welfare in the campus like the above for example.
- 4) What is actually a students' union? (for students or for outsiders?)

STUDENT OF TEC 2 F/T

DEAR STUDENT OF TEC 2 F/T

- 1) A survey is to be held soon to obtain the general opinion of the students and to present more concrete proposals to the administration with regards to use of calculators in exams.
- 2) SBS is private monopoly and is unlikely to increase bus services to Dover Campus-unless it is profitable. So far the company has chosen to ignore letters sent to it.
- 3) A glance at the budget will show that the overwhelming percentage is channeled for students' welfare. For example, the 15th council which embarked on the most social issues had about 70,000 dollars for all the standing committees that catered for students, like social, transport etc. Only about \$1,100 were spent for external projects. The 16th Council had taken up no social issues at all.

One reason for this impression of an union overly concerned for "outside affairs" may be due to the fanfare and publicity that usually accompanied external projects.

- 4) A students' union, as its name suggests, is basically for students, to protect and safeguard their interests. But should concern for others be shrugged away as outside issues involving only "outsiders". Frequently, issues are taken up on humanitarian grounds. Examples would be the Bangla-desh flood relief campaign to do our little bit for the starving 30 millions and the Tasek Utara issue where we protested over the inhuman eviction of squatters.

-- YOUR FRIENDLY EDITOR

POLYSPORTS

The Singapore Polytechnic Sports Council is a body belonging to SPSU. The aims of such an organisation is to cater for the sporting needs of students.

Annually, there is a series of games organised to cultivate a healthier environment in the campus. It also serves as a means of communication between the students through interactions induced by sports. The line-up of the present 13th Council is as follows:-

President Lee Chee Yuen
 Vice-President: Tan Kok Hua
 Hon Gen Secretary: Ng Sow Kam
 Treasurer : Ling Hsin Ying
 Organising Secretary : Tan Tee Seng

The Olympic Pledge proclaimed that the important thing in sports is not winning but to try hard just as the important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. This together with the motto -"Friendship first, competition second" are the two policies which the council based on to plan their annual programme.

The inter-class level games like soccer and netball has assured wider participation from students. The inter-society basketball and table tennis matches will co-ordinate and foster closer relations between the societies.

The annual "POLY50" is scheduled on January 19th, 1977 and the usual overwhelming response from the students will be expected.

Besides these events, the SPSC also started the series of regular activities like table tennis, basketball, swimming weekly. All students are welcomed to join these regular activities. Beginners or others are urged to participate. The time-table for these activities is given below.

TABLE TENNIS ----- Wed in ARC at 3.30 pm
 SWIMMING ----- Sat. Meet at union house at 4 pm
 VOLLEY BALL ----- Sat. in union house at 9.00 am
 BASKETBALL ----- Sun. in union house at 4.00 pm

red carpet welcome ...

Once upon a time, (not too long ago) in a primary school

CHILDREN, TOMORROW WE'LL BE GOING FOR A PICNIC - THERE'LL BE NO LESSONS & ALL OF YOU MUST BE IN CLEAN SHOES & SHIRT, UNDERSTAND?

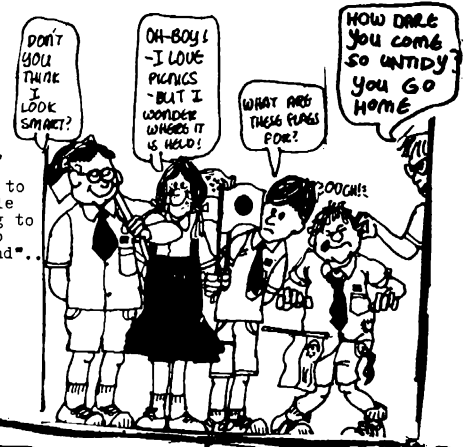


At the "picnic ground", the students were lined up along the road. Before the "picnic" started, a motorcade was sighted coming down the road....



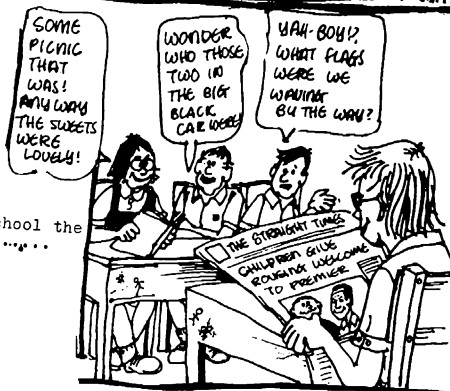
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The next morning, flags and sweets were distributed to the students while they were waiting to be transported to the "picnic ground"...



4

Back in school the next day



continued from page 5

We are a group of students living near Toa Payoh area. Since the middle of the first term, there is a bus going from Kong Chian Theatre to Ayer Rajah Campus. The bus is always over-crowded, worse than packing like sardines, sometimes even the door cannot be closed.

Because of these reasons, students start rushing for the bus and pushing around. Imagine what impression it gives to the public when they see such actions by Polytechnic students. Since this concerns the welfare of students, I hope the matter can be looked into and the problem be solved. Join us to see what is actually happening everyday at 7.00 am.

S.O.S.
 a group of students

Dear SOS,
 your plight is well noted. The welfare secretary has been informed and arrangements will be made to solve your problem.

My humble apologies, but I really do not cherish your invitation to join the sardine-packing rush.

THE SPASTICS

A spastic is a person with cerebral palsy. This is a disorder of movement and posture appearing in the early years. It is due to damage or failure to develop normally in a small part of the brain controlling movement.

It takes many forms. Some spastics have no obvious difficulties. Others are unable to sit even. Many have learning difficulties. A few who are severely injured are in fact the least affected in their intellect.

Cerebral palsy is not a disease neither is it contagious. Such a child is born once every 600 births. All the causes are still yet to be identified. Sometimes it may be due to illness shortly after birth.

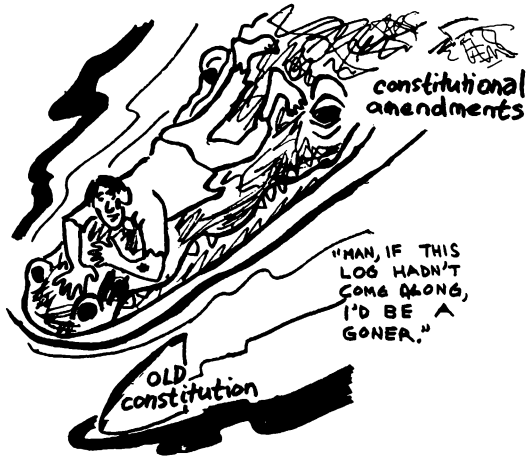
Early treatment can bring relief but not absolute cure. The damage does not spread, but without speedy care, the damage does become more serious.

The welfare committee is planning a visit to the Spastics Children Association of Singapore. Those interested are welcomed to join in. Please look out for further notice.

PUTTING THE BRAKES ON SPSU — USSU STYLE

Very recently, societies' officials have been approached about amendments to the union's constitution. In particular, the proposed amendments specified that the chairman of the various societies should be incorporated into the council.

This sounded frighteningly similar to the new constitution of a re-constituted USSU (University of Singapore Students' Union). This new USSU is now in the hands of their administration completely. The objectives of each society within USSU and USSU itself can now be altered at will. The finance, too is tightly controlled.



The practicality of such a clause is questionable. This would in effect, load the chairman with extra burdens, which he might find problems in shouldering. A chairman of a society at present, among his other duties, has to co-ordinate its activities. By no means is this a responsibility to be taken lightly. His time has now got to be divided between society and Union work. If and when the amendment takes effect, he will have the headaches of a councillor as well.

A chairman, or any other official by virtue of his position, must logically be interested in the field that his society specialises in. He may not be interested in what the Union has to offer. The danger of arm-chair theoreticians within the Council is therefore multiplied manifold. And almost certainly, he may not like to have his records to be kept by the ISD. How much consideration for the chairman therefore, did the amendments take into account?

As he is elected primarily as a society official, his first loyalty and priority must necessarily be towards his electorates. This is only natural. This will not be conducive to the formation of a united and committed students' council.

Besides, how much of a democracy are we offering to the rest of the students who will not get a chance to elect a council they see fit. This simply means that a student's voting right - rights that are inalienable has been deprived. Under the present situation, society officials who are interested and capable of performing both roles are still eligible to stand for elections. The 17th Council has a few such officials.

Some of the consequences of such amendments are yet to be known. It may result in a creation of a frankenstein which nobody can control.

The resulting complication and confusion arising from such a move can sink students deeper into the morass of apathy. If what has happened to USSU after it was reconstituted is any indication, then future EOGM's won't have attendance of more than 30 persons.

Obviously, including societies chairman into the council is not the way to increase the number of councillors. A simpler way would be to increase the number of seats in the Council.

— Roger Chou

REGIONAL AFFAIRS BLOODBATH in THAILAND

— EDWINDY

The military junta claimed that their coup was to prevent a communist takeover and to overcome obstacles that hindered democracy. That sounded strangely hollow in view of the fact that the atrocities committed against an unknown number of university students had gone unpunished.

From the various newspaper reports before censorship was imposed, evidence of plans and preceding events showed a conspiracy for a showdown with university students. Those involved were reported to be politicians businessmen, senior military and police officers.

Thanom's return sparked off an uproar. A delegation of National Student Center of Thailand (NSCT) and National Labour Council (NLC) members met with the Thai Prime Minister, Seni Pramoj who admitted that the controversial return was fraught with political motives. He further ruled out exile as unconstitutional.

Two young men who were pasting anti-Thanom posters were found hanged. When students assembled on the campus of Thammasat University to protest Thanom's presence, mock hangings by two students were acted out. The police Director-General had admitted the hangings to be the handiwork of two of his men.

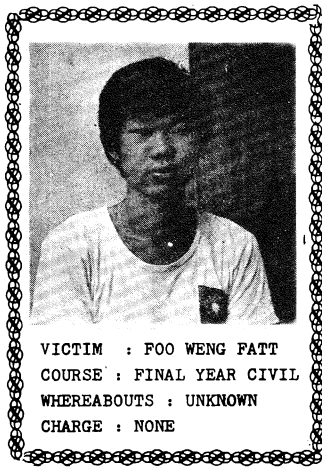
Later, anonymous leaflets alleged that one of the actors in the mock hangings resembled the crown prince of Thailand. The NSCT responded by publishing a photo which showed that none of the actors bore any such resemblance. The high regard that most Thais have for the royal family would have made a deliberate attempt to insult the prince extremely foolhardy.

Throughout, ultra-rightists were rallied by the military radio. When the assault on Thammasat University was launched, the police poured in grenade, anti-tank shells and heavy gunfire into the campus. No tear gas was used to dislodge students taking refuge in the buildings.

The Red Guards -- an rightwing extremist group roamed the campus grounds behind the police. The massacre continued as they clubbed to death any student they found who tried to escape were hanged from trees outside the campus.

THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY AT NOON:
"FIVE HOURS OF BLOOD LETTING"





VICTIM : FOO WENG FATT
 COURSE : FINAL YEAR CIVIL
 WHEREABOUTS : UNKNOWN
 CHARGE : NONE

— Reporter

On Tuesday, 5th October 1976, a final year civil engineering student, Foo Weng Fatt received a note at 11 am from his head of department. What the note said will probably never be known, except that he was required to see his head at 1:00 pm in his office.

At lunchtime, on the same day, he went over to Ayer Rajah Campus and handed over \$300 to a friend for safekeeping. His friend was also requested to inform his parents. Weng Fatt obviously had plenty of misgivings about the appointment.

A few hours later, he was seen handcuffed accompanied by plainclothesmen at his hostel. The place was ransacked and his whereabouts till now is not known.

What made the kidnap more ominous was the apparent close collaboration of an administration official of our Polytechnic with dubious characters. If the head, Chao Peh had prior sanction from his superiors, this move of his would smack of hypocrisy on the part of the admin.

Earlier on, the new council had been assured of the administration's willingness and sincerity in developing more cordial union-admin relations at a tea-party thrown by the principal.

It may be asking too much given our present situation to ask that the rights of every student be respected at all times. But we had at least taken for granted that a student in campus be spared the trauma of not only being let down by his head of department, but deliberately handed over to unknown persons lurking around.

At this juncture, it is very pertinent to ask what role exactly had Chao Peh played in this little disappearing act of his. From all indications, his actions certainly left much to be desired.

An extra-ordinary council meeting was convened to decide on this issue. The Council had assumed that he was detained by the Internal Security Department from the recent developments.

Weng Fatt was one of the students arrested for alleged affiliation to underground communist organisations. His unconditional release 13 days later testified to his innocence. During his brief spell of freedom, he was called up frequently for interrogations.

A resolution was passed unanimously calling for the immediate release as there was obviously no charge against him.

The council based its decision on moral and constitutional grounds. Our union had never in principle, agreed to the arbitrary detentions of any person, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Moreover, the union exists to safeguard and protect the interests of its members as provided for in the constitution. The arrest was too obvious not to be noticed and too blatant for the council to remain mute.

An official council stand on Chao Peh's collusion was held pending until further talks with the Admin is concluded.

The councillors present are to be commended for their rational and calm reaction in view of the extreme difficulties the arrest had imposed on the fledgling council.

UNITY

-ALICE-

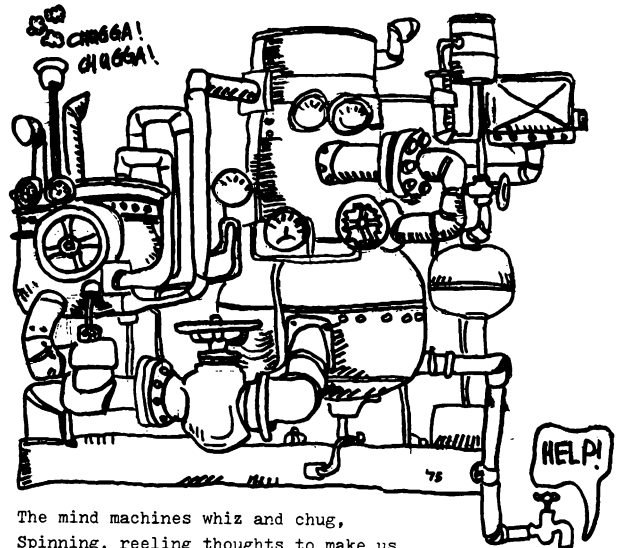
A single tree
 standing tall,
 proud and uncaring of
 the world.
 Aloof, alone
 solitary.
 But came a gale.
 It soon will fall
 having nothing and
 no one to hold it.
 A cluster of trees
 bearing, leaning on
 one another,
 helping, caring,
 protecting.
 Come snow or hail
 how strong a gale,
 Can it fall,
 the cluster strong?



FRIENDS

- DICK -

A true friend is forever a friend.
 Fake ones there are plenty.
 As old wine and friends are good provisions,
 A wise man should have many.
 In time of prosperity, friends there are plenty.
 In time of adversity not one among twenty.
 A friend in need is certainly a friend indeed.



The mind machines whiz and chug,
 Spinning, reeling thoughts to make us
 Think.
 But our senses, still stagnant,
 Sleeps warm and snug
 Ang we see but see not,
 Hear but hear not.
 And all the goodness that outpours from within,
 Has choked up;
 Where is the outlet?
 Where is the cause?
 BROTHER, DELIVER YOURSELF FROM INACTION,
 COME IN GRACEFUL AWARENESS,
 NO TIME TO WASTE
 NO TIME TO WASTE by 'guess who'

AMIDST THE



By CHOONG ENG BOON

STORMY SEA

November. The North east monsoon is blowing furiously against the coastal areas in the east coast of West Malaysia. It rains almost everyday and most of the time, very heavily. This is the time when the fishermen of the east coast are cat-trapped in the fishing village. The sea is too rough for fishing. The nights are cold and chilly and the sky thickly clouded. This is the situation faced by the poor fishermen and all they could do is to pray for the storm to settle.

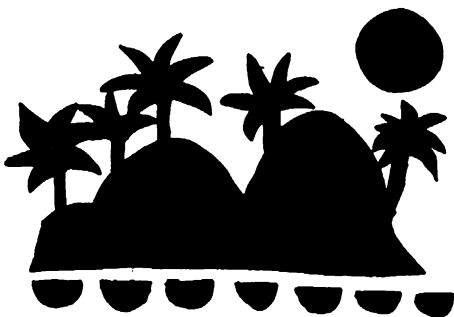
In one of the broke and old attap house, we can see Hussein and his wife, Fatimah just finishing their night prayer. They stood up and look earnestly out of the window. The cold wind is still piercing through every hole in the house but Hussein was glad that the sky has turned slightly less cloudy.

Fatimah, seeing the expression on his face, asked, "What's the matter, Abang?"
"The rain may be less heavy tomorrow - I want to go out to the sea."

Fatimah looked at the foggy sea and shake her head as she went and covered up the three children with the blanket. Hussein walked down the squeaky stairs and walked up to inspect his net and sampan. The sampan was trembling violently in the water. The chivery net was spread and hanged with bamboo poles on the beach. Hussein walked towards the net. Slowly he stretched out his hands to feel the long-broken net. He sighed. This net has been used by Hussein's grandfather and father and up till now he is still dependent on it for survival. He would never be able to buy a new net.

He stood in the wind, deep in his thoughts. "Abang!" shouted Fatimah from the window, "if you are going out to the sea tomorrow, then go to Awang's kedai (shop) and get some flour to make kueh."

Hussein rubbed his eyes and nodded his head. As he walked through the narrow path, he could still hear Fatimah, "Try to get more, there is not more rice at home".



The kedai was cold and lonely. Seeing no one at the store, Hussein walked up slowly and shouted, "Awang! Awang and his wife was drinking coconut wine and munching groundnuts at the back of the kedai. Hearing the voice he dragged himself with the bulging stomach to the front. As soon as he saw Hussein, he shouted cold, "What? Want to borrow things again? You haven't paid me for the 10 katis of flour. And don't forget the interest!" His tiny eyes bulged out as if he is going to swallow Hussein alive.

"It's raining for a few days..." Hussein said apologetically.
"What? Rain affects you and this rain is going to last for at least half a month. You don't go out to the sea. Then what happens to the debts?" As he was speaking, he walked near the wall and pointed to the long list of names written on the wall.

"You all don't pay the debt, you want me to fill myself with sea water? Don't you know that Amin and Hassan went out to the sea two days ago, even when it was raining very heavily?" He paused for a while, "And you! Just because of this little bit of rain you don't go out to the sea, you lazy pig. That's why I said Allah always punish lazy bums like you."

Hussein lowered his head and did not retort him. He knew that he was not lazy - he had been laboring in the sea all the times. Why should Allah punish him? He had heard the wise men in the mosque saying that this is life and it is fixed - just too bad. Since he started fishing, his catch was always taken away by Awang to pay the interest and the old debts and it can never be cleared. However, he believed that Allah would be just. Allah would certainly hear his grievances one day. This thought made him feel comfortable and he pleaded to Awang

"We have no more food and I am going out to sea tomorrow. Can you please give me five katis of flour?"

"Five katis?" roared Awang as if stung by a bee, "No I can only lend you two katis and you have to return 10 katis of fish as interest. That's not including the sampan's rental."

He weighed the flour and give him. "Take it and get lost!" Hussein took the flour and walked away silently.

After eating the kueh which could hardly filled their stomach, Hussein and his eight year-old son, Ali, went out to the sampan. Ali untied the rope and began to row the sampan. Hussein shouted to Fatimah, "Take care of the house."

The cold wind blows strongly against their body and the little sampan was shaking violently. Seeing such weather, Hussein's face darkened as he knew that rain is coming. He knew that it is unlikely to get any fish in this sort of weather but yet he had to catch some. If he goes back empty handed, his whole family would have to starve for a few days or longer.

"Bapa, where shall we cast our net?"

"God knows."

"Why not try here?" Ali on seeing the sadness on his father's face, tried to cheer him up.

"No use, we would be wasting our time."

At this moment, a great wave suddenly hit the miserable sampan and turn it over. Ali and Hussein were thrown into the deep waters. As soon as he was trying to reach for the sampan, Hussein felt a sharp pain in his legs. He knew that he was bitten by a shark and it is trying to pull him down. He struggled and shouted madly "Ali! Ali!"

"Bapa! Bapa! ..." Ali's voice slowly dies down and at last disappeared in the dark water. Hussein clapped at the overturned sampan and tried to hold on but the killer would not let go. with his last breath, Hussein called weakly, "Ali!... Ali!..."

One afternoon the sampan finally appeared. However it was no more a sampan but a few pieces of rotting plant entangled together with the fishing net. Fatimah did not move. She stared blankly at the wrecked raft and tears began to blurr her eyesight. Why must she lead such a life? Who is to be blamed? she did not know how much time had passed. Suddenly she felt a hand on her shoulder. She turned back and saw her neighbours, Sabiah and her husband, Ramlah, standing behind her.

"Fatimah, we understand. But please take care of yourself and Hussein's two children. Although we are just as poor, we are willing to share whatever we have."

Fatimah looked at Sabiah's face; it was filled with kindness and warmth. Fatimah felt a sudden warmth flowing from her eyes and this warmth began to fill her entire heart.

"Fatimah, why do we fishing people need to live such life? Why must our dear ones struggle in the stormy seas? All these, I am sure, you are as clear as anyone of us. This is a problem we have to overcome but it is not your problem along. It is the problem of all the fishing people." Sabiah clasped her hand tightly, "We need to live and to bring up our younger generation. We must tell them about the death of their dear ones and ask them to avenge all the fishing people."

Fatimah closed her eyes, "Yes, Hussein and Ali were eaten by the sharks on land and on by those in the sea."



BLOODY

OCTOBER

(By an eyewitness of the assault on the students at Thammasat University on 6 Oct, 10.30 am hours before the military take-over of the whole country.)

The situation is back to normal quite suddenly and unexpectedly, but the scenes of Oct 6 1976 are still vividly clear, alive and real in my mind and eyes.

I was there - in the midst of shouting and shooting - both in the 14 Oct - three years ago and last 6 Oct this year. Both were bloody days. Both caused deaths and injuries.

But there was a striking difference between the two days. Not only in the number of people who died and were injured. But in the spirit and the motivation behind the actions and behaviour of people.

Oct 14: War between people and the military dictators

Oct 6: War between people and people.

Oct 14: Brought light and hope

Oct 6: Has ushered darkness and doom

Oct 14: Created songs for life: "People's power," "Ten died millions arise," etc

But what songs can we sing out of Oct 6?

The dead were named "heroes" on October 14

The dead were called "traitors, rebels" on Oct 6

On both events, there were the mobs...

marching without fear of being killed, shouting with anger, holding no arms but sticks, bricks and bottles

Oct 14: I saw mobs of people

Oct 6: I saw mobs of beasts.

The beasts in uniform with arms shooting in every direction, in every corner; Snapping with their guns, slapping with their hands, kicking with their boots, Boys and girls who already have surrendered to them.

But a greater and petrifying horde was there: more brutal, cruel and totally inhuman Herds of animals with sticks, bricks, knives, bottles and bare hands... Snatching, kicking, hitting, punching, piercing, hanging...and...burning people...

In that popular place known as the Weekend Market, in front of thousands of onlookers.

How can such scenes be erased from the eye of my memory?

But a scene among the myriad of scenes of that fateful day - Oct 6 Continues to haunt me and taunt me.

There was an ambulance van in the midst of the football field of Thammasat University: seven students, wounded, were laid, one upon the other. Among them was a girl student who was lying, her head cuddled by another wounded boy student. He was comforting her, telling her to be patient. Her face was very pale, her lips dry, her eyes dilating with great pain. Her hands were splattered with blood and down on her right leg was a big wound, open ugly, oozing blood. I could surmise that it was caused by a bullet which in all probability was still embedded in her flesh.

When I returned my gaze to her face she was looking at me! Her eyes were shouting the words unspelled out by her lips What help could I give at the moment? Perhaps a glass of water from the nearby tap would give a little life to her parched pale lips. But the herds of animals milling around froze All my thought to help. They would turn their mob action on me and I would be their new victim, their new prey.

When I look up again, her eyes were turned away Then I knew I had to go away from that scene and would try to escape from that moment When all my courage, my zeal, my fighting spirit failed her and me. I walked out of the battlefield, full of pain and shame.

A few minutes later outside the campus, on the foot of Prapin Klao Bridge A siren signal blasted. Three ambulance vans screeched out of the campus bringing the wounded to a nearby hospital and in one of those vans was that girl.

Suddenly the horde of beasts were all over the public place with their sticks bricks and bottles flying across the ambulance vans. The preys would have to be killed to the finish. No mercy for them. The sound of a machine gun being fired in the air by a policeman parted and stilled the mob for some seconds Enough to let the vans speed away to their destination. But the calmour for blood and death to the preys could not be stilled by bullets. The mobs hijacked two buses and raced after the ambulance vans. Oh what a joyful Oct 14! Oh what a shameful Oct 6!

Three short years - what difference time has brought? People become more conscious? People become more human? Structures become less oppressive? People realise their own power? Responsible and conscious power?

What has Oct 6 proved? That Thai people remain in a state of slavery... They are tools of those who want to achieve more power and of those who are afraid of losing their power. They are pawns that can be manipulated and experimented by different ideologies. They are slaves of their own cultures and structures.

The pattern is clear, the pattern woven by the mighty and powerful That power lies at the end of the gen or of brutal force.

Does taking up arms really make one powerful? Does it make people more powerful? Who really makes the decision for people to use brutal force against each other? Is it the people themselves? Or is it blind obedience to tradition and sacred institutions?

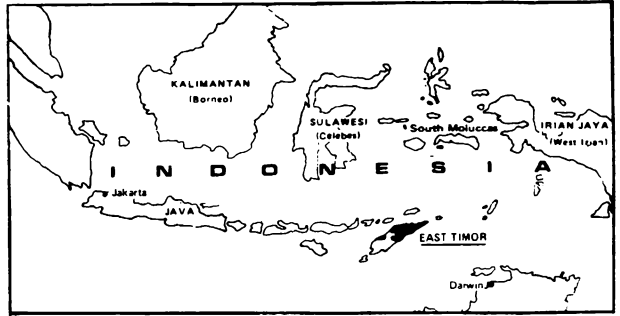
Oct 6 has taught us so much lessons up to now unlearned. But are we willing to learn?

From Oct 6 where shall we move? where shall I go? The wounded girl on the campus, the injured girl in the van. The dying girl in the hospital. Is our dear Thailand herself.

She is looking at me. I am looking at her. But what will I do to help her? Shall I keep on running? If I do I shall never forgive myself. But if I will not, what should I do and how?



THE TIMOR



STORY

— history retold —

Not too many people have heard about Timor. It is a small, remote island. But if Indonesia succeeds in suppressing East Timor's independence it not only will perpetuate colonial rule for that land's 650,000 people; it will reinforce its ability to repress the aspirations of the 125 million other people who inhabit the many East Indian islands already within Indonesian boundaries. If the Timorese successfully resist the Indonesian onslaught with guerilla tactics, then this will heighten the confidence of latent forces within Indonesia.

Timor is an island 300 miles long and 50 miles wide. It lies at the Eastern end of Indonesia's Lesser Surda archipelago. Before colonial conquest it was inhabited by a number of dark-skinned tribes of Malay, Polynesian, and Papuan ancestry.

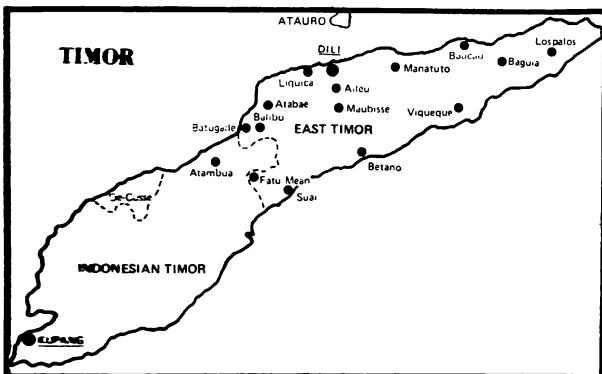
In 1520 Portuguese traders first landed on Timor. They subjugated the coastal inhabitants and exploited the sandalwood stands. In 1586, Portugal established administrative control over part of the island. In 1859 it signed a treaty with the Dutch, establishing boundaries between the Dutch and Portuguese sections of the island. The Dutch portion - most of the southwestern half - became part of Indonesia when that nation gained independence from the Netherlands. The northeastern half, plus two small islands and a small enclave along the northwestern coast, remained Portuguese territory until this year. (1975)

When the Armed Forces Movement seized power in Portugal in April, 1974, it inadvertently ought Timor into the modern era. In most Portuguese colonies national liberation movements had been struggling for independence for years. When a new Portuguese regime announced plans to disband the empire, these movements were essentially prepared to take power. Timor, however, had no such movement. In fact, only a minute percentage of the population had even engaged in informal political discussions.

Only in September, 1974 did the new Portuguese administration begin to replace fascist regime officials in Timor. But news of the coup on the other side of the globe had sparked some immediate changes in Timor. Political activity was legalized, and in June, the colony had three competing political parties.

Immediately following the Portuguese coup low level government employees in Timor organized into the Committee for the Defense of Labour. Their strike won a 50 percent wage increase. This group provided the core for the Association of Timorese Social Democrats, which later evolved into the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor. (FRETILIN)

FRETILIN is the only East Timor political organisation which has consistently agitated for independence. Today it is by far the most popular. A few of FRETILIN's young leaders identify with revolutionary parties in Africa.



Timor never played an important role in Portugal's colonial strategy. Before 1896 Portugal administered East Timor as part of its Indian and Chinese enclaves, Goa and Macao. Even when Timor became a Portuguese province, Portugal did very little to develop the economic or political potential of the island.

All commerce is dominated by Portuguese and Chinese interests. One Portuguese firm controls 40 percent of the coffee production. Before the present crisis, there were only one or two ships in the colony run by Timorese. A comprehensive licensing system restricted economic activity by natives.

Because the Portuguese colonial regime was corrupt, inefficient, and really didn't care, it did little to develop Timor's economy, even for its own profit. Although Timor is capable of dramatically increasing food production, urban residents depended upon food imports. The Portuguese enforced poverty by levying a pool tax on all male adults, requiring payment in labor if the farmers couldn't generate cash. Health Services were and still are woefully inadequate



"I RESPECT YOUR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, AS LONG AS YOU DECIDE TO JOIN US."

(TO BE CONT'D ON LATER PAGE)

THE TIMOR STORY..... cont'd ...

FRETILIN has won popular support by undertaking a number of social programs. It operates a combined literacy-political education program at over 200 centers. According to onereport, it actually transcribed Tetum, the national language, for the first time. FRETILIN organized a national students union and a labor union. It has established agricultural cooperatives as well.

FRETILIN has indicated some hostility to foreign investment - especially projects which had Portuguese blessing. Because FRETILIN's tax plan and social programs favor the poor, native Timorese, many Chinese merchants feel threatened by FRETILIN.

The second major political party, the Timorese Democratic Union (UDT) drew support from high level government workers, coffee plantation owners and a few hereditary chiefs. UDT originally proposed continued union with Portugal. However, when Portugal moved left and made clear that the colony be set loose, UDT endorsed independence.

The Timorese Popular Democratic Association (APODETI), the smallest of East Timor's three major parties, has consistently advocated union with Indonesia. It has never been strong in East Timor, but it has always received financial and radio propaganda support from Indonesia.



The three parties jockeyed for influence for more than a year, mobilizing supporters at rallies, negotiating or refusing to negotiate with Portuguese officials, and using the official radio station when permitted by the colonial government.

In January 1975, UDT joined with FRETILIN to form a pro-independence coalition. However, the coalition broke down in April, following a visit by UDT leaders to Indonesia.

On August 10, following another UDT mission to Indonesia, UDT attempted to seize power. In Daakarta, apparently, UDT received a pledge that that Australian rightists would ship arms to UDT forces in Timor. With the aid of the chief of Police, UDT assumed nominal control of East Timor. Bloody fighting broke out between pro-FRETILIN and pro-UDT forces. Portuguese officers attempted to keep the 3,000 man Timorese militia out of the fighting - Timor has universal male conscription - but on August 20 the militia went over to FRETILIN. Soon FRETILIN troops, built around the militia, drove the UDT from most of East Timor. Forty thousand refugees - not all opponents of FRETILIN - fled the fighting to Indonesian West Timor.

FRETILIN exercised effective control over most of the colony, but it still sought Portuguese cooperation in gradual decolonization. It distributed food to those in need.

Meanwhile Indonesia, concerned about the effect such a left-wing neighbor might have on Indonesian security - as an example as well as a possible base area for dissidents - began to actively intervene.

APODETI, UDT (which shifted, out of necessity, to advocacy of integration into Indonesia), and two smaller parties called for Indonesian aid. Indonesian forces skirmished with FRETILIN troops near the border areas where many refugees set up camps. Indonesia reportedly sent some guerilla troops into West Timor and it gave supplies to units loyal to APODETI and UDT. Perhaps more important, Indonesian ships blockaded the Timorese coast and occasionally shelled FRETILIN-controlled areas. Indonesian planes supported anti-FRETILIN forces as well.

FRETILIN LEADERS, concerned that their giant neighbor would either continue harassing Timor until it surrendered or actually invade outright, sought support abroad. Portugal was caught up in its own civil conflict, so the only other nation which paid any attention was Australia, which lies only 350 miles to the South, and through which most of East Timor's communications with the outside world must pass.

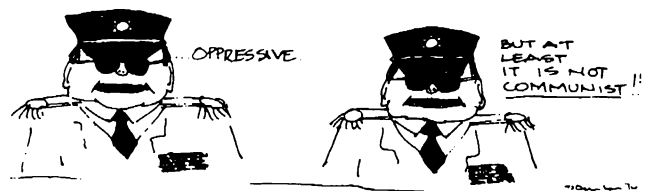
The Australian Left, including the Victorian branch of the Labour Party, organised to oppose Indonesian intervention. Maritime unions refused to handle Indonesian cargoes. But Gough Whitlam's Labour government seemed either unable or unwilling to restrain Indonesia - to which Australia gave at least \$26 million in military aid over the past few years. When the Australian Governor-General dismissed Whitlam's government on Nov 11, that removed any possibility that Australia would pressure Indonesia to ease off.

FRETILIN, recognizing the inevitability of growing Indonesian intervention and official apathy in Portugal and Australia, decided to try to establish direct links with other foreign governments. It declared independence on Nov 28 and asked the UN to send observers. FRETILIN also prepared for guerilla warfare, stockpiling supplies - including ammunition from Portuguese arsenals on the island - in the hills of Timor.

When FRETILIN declared independence, UDT, APODETI, and two microscopic parties declared that East Timor was part of Indonesia. Indonesia used this as a pretext to launch an assault with a thousand paratroopers, amphibious landings, and air and sea bombardment. The Indonesians occupied at least part of Dili, cutting off most contact between FRETILIN and the outside world.

Indonesia might have timed the invasion the day after Ford's visit to spare Ford the embarrassment of being there during or immediately after the assault, but chances are that Ford indicated to the Suharto government that the US would not consider the invasion cause to cut back US military aid.

Twelve years earlier the US cut off weapons shipments to Indonesia because the left-leaning Sukarno regime threatened a pro-Western neighbour, Malaysia. Now, when the pro-American Suharto government has moved against a left-leaning neighbour, the Ford-Kissinger administration will probably look the other way. Doves in Con-



gress may question the use of US-supplied arms in such aggression. (Though US training programs and arms shipments to Indonesia have been designed for internal warfare, the Indonesian venture in Timor will utilize similar counterinsurgency tactics) First, Congress will have to find out that Timor is a real place.

The United Nations has condemned the Indonesian action. The present Portuguese government has broken relations with Indonesia over the incident.

FRETILIN, relying on its own resources plus the remnants of humanitarian aid from Australian voluntary agencies, is resisting Indonesia in a long guerilla war. Fretilin's prospects for success - in the long run - without external support are slim; but any success that it achieves will weaken the ability of the Suharto regime to hold down opposition within Indonesia.

(extracted and adapted from "Pacific Research")

Vive la différence.



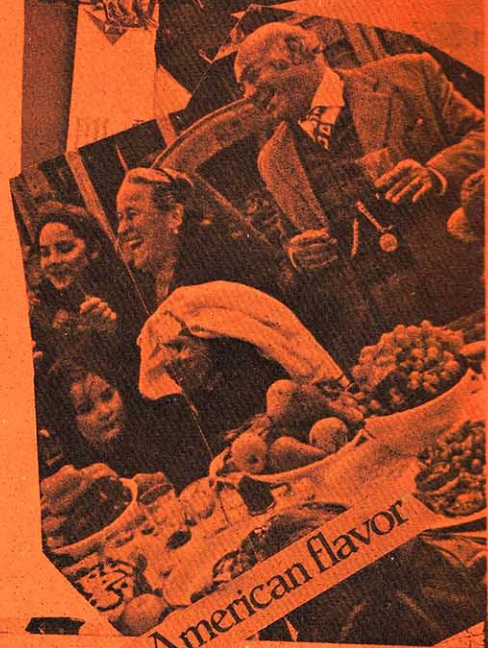
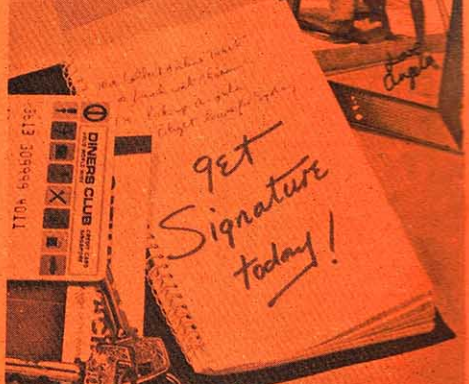
HALF THE WORLD IS STARVING,
HALF THE WORLD IS OVERFED,
HALF TAKE SLEEPING PILLS AT NIGHT,
HALF DON'T HAVE A BED,
HALF IS STRUGGLING TO LIVE,
HALF IS SITTING TIGHT,
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON, BROTHER,
THINK BEFORE THE NIGHT.



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