



SINGAPORE TECHNOCRAT

工院 学生报

VOL. 6 NO. 3

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION

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STOP SUPPRESSING SPSU!

VICTIMISATION!!!

Ten days ago, when the results of the sessional examinations were out, three members of the Executive Committee received a rude shock. Not only did they fail badly but they were also removed from the Polytechnic! The victims are the Vice-president, Tan Tee Seng; the Honorary General Secretary, Ang Soo Cheng and the Union House Secretary, Wong Sing Yuing.

INTERVIEW WITH VICTIMS — BACK PAGE

Victimisation is one of the many ways used by the authorities to intimidate students against any active involvement in the Union, thus depriving the Union of not only active members but also a leadership. Fact to note is that there are many students who failed four to five papers out of six papers, yet they are allowed to repeat but why then are these three receiving special treatment by not allowing them to repeat?? Many of Tee Seng's classmates have expressed surprise that he had failed; not to mention being removed! Indeed, this is no doubt a clear-cut case of direct victimisation on students, especially active members of the Students' Union.

SCRUTINISING!

Firstly, let's examine why only these three persons are victimised. As we can see clearly from the interview, these are the few who dare to speak up and had been confronting the Admin most regularly. Another incident which may result in this action taken is an incident in which two of them confronted their head of department to demand for an explanation on the deportation of our student.

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**SINGAPORE
TECHNOCRAT**

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN S.P.S.U.

On the 22nd April, the Poly Admin wrote a letter informing SPSU that they will be organising all students' activities concerning the coming Freshmen Orientation in 77/78 session. Also stated clearly in the letter, the Admin will not be collecting Union fees this session.

Subsequently SPSU issues a press release and held a press conference to clarify on these matters. Our Union constitution has stated clearly that the Union shall organise and supervise the Freshmen Orientation and also that the Admin shall undertake the collection of compulsory union fees from the students. Hence the Admin, is violating 2 clauses of the constitution drafted and agreed upon by the 3 parties, namely the Registrar of Societies, the Students' Union and the Poly Admin.

It is only after SPSU carried out intensive publicity of the Admin's action & demand the Board of Governors to face the students and gives a satisfactory explanation that an urgent meeting was called by Mr. Low Guan Onn, Chairman of the B.O.G. to meet the Excos. During the meeting, the B.O.G. said that the students' Union has misinterpreted the intentions of the Admin; what they had meant previously by 'organising all students activities in the F.O' refers to the students' Convention, Principal's tea party and the talks by all heads department and as for the Union fee issue, their intention is to collect Union fees from students who pay voluntarily.

We question: Can the Admin be that careless and disorganised to omit so much vital details in the content of their letter as to change its meaning totally?

Obviously, the Admin realises that they would have to face a bombardment of students' and public opinions if they would take another further step to cripple SPSU after perceiving that SPSU is all out to publicise the case. As a result they decided to revive their actions in the nick of time.

All these happenings have served to educate the students and provoke us into deeper thoughts as to who are the Admin and whose interests are they actually serving??

THE METAL BOX ISSUE

Many of us are bound to be wondering about the truth behind the Metal Box workers' strike since the local press is unable to oblige us with an objective account of it. Richard Tang's article gives us a clearer insight into the various events leading to the strike, revealing many things which the Metal Box workers would like the public to know. The article also exposes the forces which are trying to discredit the S.M.B.W.U. leaders and generate doubts over the just struggle of the Metal Box workers against exploitation by the company.

VICTIMISATION

3 ex-cos of the students' Union are being removed from the Polytechnic this year for failing badly in the sessional exams. The irony is that all three of them are extremely confident in securing at least a repeat next year. There is no doubt that it is an overt case of victimisation. Victimisation is one of the many means (such as the certificate of Suitability) in which students can be prevented or intimidated from any active involvement in activities which serve to arouse the awakening of fellow students to be more aware of society happenings.

Editor's Note:

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN SIGNED ARTICLES DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECTS THAT OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD.

ROBBED!

- our place in new campus

— Roland Goh. —

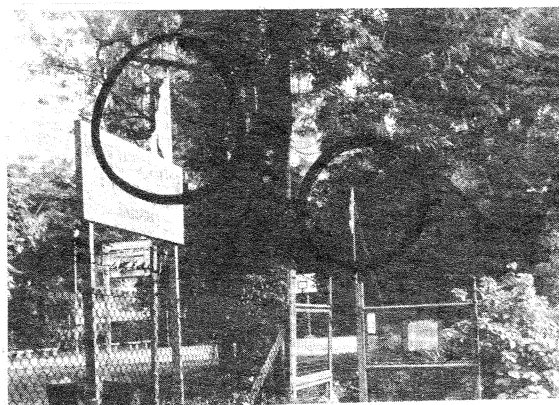
In October 1976, SPSU received a notice of removal from the Polytechnic Administration saying that SPSU would have to move out from the Union House at the Princess Mary Campus. It was first thought that the place will be demolished for construction of a new building and therefore SPSU requested for an alternative Union House. After much delay, the Poly Admin. have reluctantly allocated a miserably small place at one corner of the New Campus to the Union. The Ex-co, finding the place most insufficient and unsuitable for carrying out its activities, rejected the 'offer' and requested for an alternative. However, the Admin. was very adamant in their action and would not discuss the issue in a civilised manner.

Having received the 'ultimatum' from the Poly Admin., the Ex-co held an extra ordinary Ex-co meeting and informed all students regarding the actions of the Admin. The Ex-co rejects both the action and the attitude of the Poly Admin. and warned the Poly Admin. that SPSU will be prepared to further the issue if the Poly Admin. continues its irrational and repressive act. The Exco became even more convinced of the Admin.'s mysterious intention when it was learned that the place was to be made used as staff and reading room instead of being demolished.

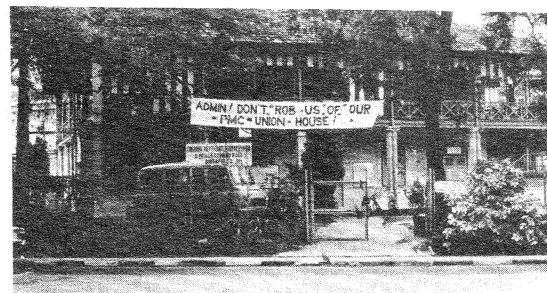
On the day when SPSU was supposed to be evicted, the campus was swarmed with Policemen and the notorious agents from the contemptible Internal Security Department. The atmosphere in the Campus was very tense as all of them, armed with their weapons, tape recorders, walkie talkie, moved around the campus. Fear was instilled into the minds of the students and the atmosphere was tense as if a mass arrest was about to take place. When confronted by the Union Excos regarding their presence, their reply was 'nothing', and they went away. They also tried to hide themselves and their car number plates from the scope of the camera.

As usual, when the Administration was asked to explain the issue to all the students, they acted dumb and pretended that they are ignorant of the issue and also the seriousness of it. Meanwhile, the Admin. have forced the billiard man to remove from the Union House into another place allocated.

Following the Admin.'s harsh actions, SPSU informed all the Poly Students and the Asian Students' Organisation of the happenings. SPSU also put up banners in the various campuses which worded 'ADMIN! DON'T ROB US OF OUR PMC UNION HOUSE'.



Remains of the torn banner



A few days after the putting up of the banner, at about 5.00 am when it was still dark, a few 'mysterious' men climbed up the fence of the main Union House and tore down the banner put up by SPSU. When the students who were alerted by the noise they made gave chase, they took the banner and sped away in a car.

Although the thieves were not identified, it is quite obvious that this is not the random doing of any loiterers or vandals who happened to pass by the Union House at such late hours. Well, the public has better judgement as to who the culprits are and where they are from.

In March, when the students were busy preparing for the examinations, the Admin. finally came in for the PMC Union house. The Union Secretariat was forced open and the cabinets and other Union properties were removed to the place which the Union refused to accept as an alternative.

ADMIN - THE PAPER TIGER

The tactics of the Admin. is clear. By evicting the Union House during the exam., when the general students cannot be well informed, they hoped to get the thing done quietly and smoothly. Yet, by this very act of theirs, their fear of students' opinion was clearly exposed.

Secondly, the temporary place given by the Admin. (which is going to function for a period of about 6 months!) is entirely out of touch with the new campus itself, while the various affiliated societies of the Union were allowed to occupy rooms in the campus. By so doing, not only it hinders the proper running of the Union, but the separation of the societies from the Union smacks of the days of the colonial era when the British Bureaucrats used the 'divide and rule' tactic on their colonies.

For students who are aware of the issue, this matter is rather simple. If the Admin. needed the place, they should give the Union a reasonable alternative. If the place is too small and far away, the Union Service Centre would not be able to operate, and students would have to walk a long way to borrow a game set or a ball and even finding a place to play games would be difficult. The place would also be inconvenient to hold regular meetings, cultural and sporting activities. Furthermore, the Admin. do not actually need the place, so why create all the trouble, even up to the extent of having police in the campus?

Why is the Poly Admin. going against the interest of the students?

Since 1974, the students' movement in Singapore has reached a new era and all signs are indicating that the movement is a popular one. Members of the public participated enthusiastically in many of the activities of SPSU and USSU and the participation of students in Union activities has reached a new height. It is a clear indication that students and the public prefer the new kind of students' movement which is concerned about life of PEOPLE, instead of the orthodox and stereotype of student activities. The activities organised by SPSU and USSU not only help to bridge the ever widening gap between the students and the people but also broke through the silence of the majority in Singapore.

cont'd on pg 3

(PRINCESS MARRY CAMPUS 学生楼被匪迁).

一达苟译

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cont. from page 2.

carbon copy to: SPSU
9, Prince Edward Road
Singapore 2

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这件事情是涉及广大同学的福利和权益

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对学生运动的影响

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From a friend
in **Malaysia** ..

Recently I visited a friend in S'pore. I happened to find two copies of your publications, Technocrat Vol.6 No.1 & 2 at his home. It attracted me very much. As a teacher in a secondary school, I am surely interested in student magazines.

I had learnt more from my friend about your Union's activities. I'm deeply moved by your enthusiasm and spirit to carry on your course, even though your leaders were recently arrested, and there are many difficulties to be faced ahead. As news of S'pore are not well reported and mostly distorted, I do have a clearer view of the S'pore student movement in recent years, after reading and discussing with my friend.

From Vol.6 No.2, I noticed certain similarities in the development of your student leaders. I find that most of them were typical students who must have been apathetic and ignorant of social events, and could have been influenced by the filthy culture. It seemed through your involvement in your union, you changed and 'broaden the outlook of life' as one of the exco's said in the message of the exco.

Keep it up. Be perseverant. Unite more students, and even students who might seem quite hopeless, like many of you were before. Their basic nature is good.

In my opinion the articles about international events were excellent. More of these type of articles should be encouraged. The film review of 'Jaws' is pretty good. It's analysis is integrated with the social background. We could hardly find a film review in the English papers.

The writer of the article 'Amidst the Stormy Sea' (Vol.6 No.1) certainly has a good intention of depicting the life of the East Coast fisherman. His stand is clear. He is sympathetic towards the fisherman. But regarding the content, in my opinion, the contradictions of the fisherman Ali and the Sundry shop owner Awang seem the sharpest.

The causes which lead to the hard life of the East Coast fisherman, in my opinion are roughly:

i) The system:- The government does not bother much about the labouring people in this case the East Coast fishermen. Nothing is done to help the fisherman during the N.E. monsoon periods between Nov. to Jan. when the fisherman cannot go out to sea. Many have to do temporary jobs, while a lot go out to Singapore to work as cheap labourers in the construction sites.

ii) Many do not own fishing boats. Most of the fishermen have to rent their boats. Much of the fish caught are paid to the boat owners as rents, while the business is being monopolized by other people. Moreover the fisherman cannot afford to buy machines and modern fishing equipment, hence a low catch.

The content of this article is not very realistic. Life of the labouring people can only be learnt through living together with them. One has to go down to the people in order to write well. Anyway it's a very good attempt for the writer.

to be continued on Pg. 7

我们邀请各阶层人士为学生会何被
方请愿抗议

工藝學院院長
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S'PORE 2.

副本: S'PORE POLYTECHNIC
STUDENTS' UNION.
9, Prince Edward Rd
S'PORE 2.

THAILAND



CONTRADICTIONS INTENSITIES

— EXTRACTED FROM
ASIAN STUDENT
NEWS

Thailand originally known as Siam, is an agricultural country in the tropical zone. The total area of Thailand is 520 thousand square miles, with a population amounting 40 million, 80% of which are farmers, growing mainly paddy-rice. Thailand is one of the three "rice-bowls" of South East Asia. Just like the neighbouring countries in Indo-China, Thailand became the target of imperialist invasion for her fertile lands and rich resources. From the 16th century onwards, Thailand was under the constant invasion of Portugal, Netherland, Britain and France and was occupied by Japan during the 2nd World War. For the past few decades, the political situation of Thailand has been in a state of flux, and the society is full of contradictions. Especially in the recent years, students and people movements one following the other, contradictions among the ruling elite become acute everyday, and always signs of coming coup d'etat, further aggravate the situation to a state of instabilities.

The political situation is inseparable with the situation of the whole of Asia, the US policy in Asia after the 2nd World War, from being the "World Police" to the victory of the third world people, especially those in Indo-China who are fighting for national independence and liberation, all these influence the change in the political situation of Thailand which is situated in the centre of South East Asia. What is the significance of the Thai society? This article tries to give a general introduction of the Thai society, by looking at its social, political and economic structure.

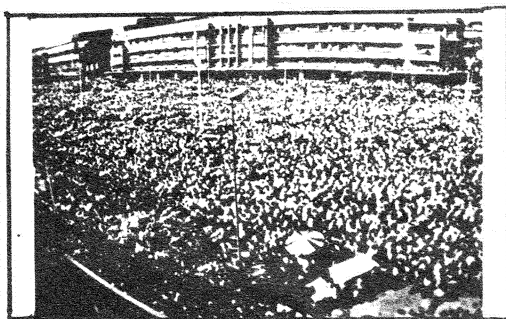
DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION AND MILITARY JUNTA

The 24th of June, 1932 was a turning point in the history of Thailand. A revolution was launched by the People's Party led by Dr. Pridi Phanomyong which consisted of intelligentsia and a few military men. This ended the monarchical reign for seven centuries, and established the constitutional monarchy. Although there was tremendous change in the political structure, "democratic rights" was still a new concept to the majority of the Thai people, and was in fact limited to the minority. The democratic experience of Thailand in the past forty years were merely coup d'etat one following the other, drafts of constitutions and then abolishments at last. Except for the eight years of civilian regime, the remain of the forty years are all military junta, "democratic constitution" only stand for the "minority rule".

Between 1938 and 1957, except for chaotic government between 1945 and 1948 the political regime was in the hand of Field Marshal Plaig Philboonsongkram, a military man. During the 2nd World War, Thailand was invaded by the Japanese, and was forced to join the Axis of Germany, Italy and Japan. There were several coup d'etat after the war. In 1955, Plaig's government announced the decree of legitimate of political party and suggested the "Hide Park" style of freedom of opinion in politics. Immediately 25 political parties were formed, and the democratic atmosphere was for a time seemed to have flourished. However, the corruptions in the 1957 election once again proved that parliamentary democracy was only a beautiful cloak.

September, 1957, General Sarit Thanart launched a military coup d'etat, appointed his deputy as Prime Minister, abolished the parliament, constitution and all political parties, instigated the military dictatorship under the name of "revolutionary parliament" and launched forth the first five years plan between 1960-65 in economic as well as borrowing loans and induced foreign investments to make a spur in the economic development of Thailand.

In December 1963, Sarit Thanart died. Field Marshal Thanom succeeded the dictatorship. Prapass was the Vice-Prime Minister. After the 1969 election a new cabinet was formed, Thanom maintained his position as the Prime Minister. In November, 1971, in order to suppress the opposition force in the parliament and to reinforce his own political regime, Thanom launched the Self Coup D'etat, once again he abolished the constitution. Under the control of the military junta, the democratic constitution was once again strangled. Thanom self-announced as the President and Prime Minister of the "National Executive Parliament", together with Prapass (Vice Prime Minister) and Narong (son of Thanom, son-in-law of Prapass), started the regime of military junta dictatorship of the Tyrant Trio, under the control of the American imperialism on one hand, grasped the military and economic rights of Thailand on the other. This is the political situation of Thailand before October 1973.



October 1973 was another turning point in the political history of Thailand, the fight for democratic constitution movement launched by intelligentsia and students rapidly got the mass support. On the 14th of October, about 400 thousand students and people gathered in Bangkok to hold a demonstration. Thanom ordered soldiers and tanks to suppress the mass, about 70 people were brutally killed. Finally, under the angry roar of the people and due to the internal strife among the ruling class, the Tyrant Trio was kicked out of Thailand. This great victory showed a ray of light to democratic constitution. However, for the past three years, the fundamental problems of the country still remained unsolved. The civilian government faced innumerable political crisis. At the same time, the exile military men were reluctant to leave the historical arena, the Tyrant Trio had tried many times to return back to Thailand. Shortly after Thanom had returned back to Bangkok on October 6, a bloody coup d'etat again took place, the democratic constitution is again put to penalty.

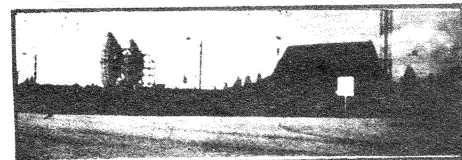
History repeatedly showed, despite Thailand was nominally implementing a democratic constitutional system, in reality it was the militia who grasped power. Their influence was entrenched deeply in the political structure in Thailand. A seat in the parliamentary meant no guarantee for democracy, instead it was the barrel of gun of the militia which mattered most. In front of gun and bullets, all democratic measures would become powerless. Many students were sacrificed. So long as the weapons remained in the hands of the military junta, how could the masses resist with bare hands? How could the people have genuine democracy?

THE INVASION AND EXPLOITATION OF IMPERIALISM.

The decades following the second World War, the international political situation marked the American influence controlled and penetrated into Asian region, until their gradual decline. In Asia, on the one hand, American imperialism took advantages of the decline of the British and French influence

after the war, extended her colonialization and spheres of influence; on the other hand, the victories of the struggles of the Asian people greatly altered the situation in Asia. In order to maintain her benefit in Asia, United States imposed the policy of encircle China, set up military bases in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, endeavouring in using bribery, infiltrations to control and back up the regimes of these countries.

Owing to Thailand's strategic position, United States gradually strengthened her infiltration. She aided the 1957 coup d'etat and established the pro-American regime. Furthermore she tried to extend her influence to the whole of the Indo-China Peninsula. From 1950 onwards, Thai and America had signed a series of unequal treaties: "agreement of military aid", "agreement of economic aid" and "agreement of friendly economic cooperation". From 1950 to the June of 1971, the military aids that U.S. had given to Thailand amounted to more than two billion baht (about ten billion U.S. dollars). Besides, the States had used more than 200 billion baht for constructing more than 60 military set-up in Thailand, including 5 large scale air bases and about 30 auxiliary airports, 11 camps, 10 marine bases and 4 missile sites, 2 radar stations. Further still, they had constructed a ten thousand miles highway network, linking American base and the way to neighbouring countries of Thai. More than 3/4 of the aircraft bombing Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia took off from these airports in Thai. The Utapao base, 90 miles south of Bangkok, is the place where the famous B-52 bombers attacked Vietnam night and day. The Americans had turned Thailand into a stepping stone for invading the countries in Indo-China.



The U.S. had established in Thai military "advisory group" consisted of 3 thousand men, these are U.S. military advisers in the Defence Dept. Further still there are 'public security adviser' in the police system. The U.S. soldiers stationed in Thai had come up to 50 thousands. These 'advisers' and soldiers have political privileges. Thai had followed the American policy for a long period of time. In 1954, Thai joined the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and the headquarters was in Bangkok.

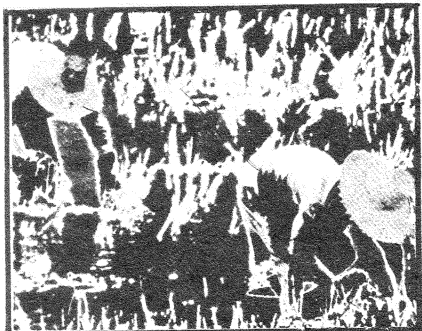


Economically, Thailand suffered miserably from the plundering and exploitation of foreign capitals. In order to reciprocate to the American military assistance, Thailand was bound to implement her economic 'duties' prescribed on the treaty. By these 'duties', Thailand had virtually become a dumping place for the American goods and supplier of the strategic materials (like rubber and tungsten) needed by

to be cont'd on Pg 5

... Contradictions Intensifies from pg 4

the Americans. From 1950-1970, there was a deficit in Thailand trade of 187 billion bahts (nearly equivalent to 9 billion U.S.\$) with America. Foreign capital mainly American and Japanese, exploited the cheap labour of Thailand through private investment and multinational corporations. Besides they had lucrative profits. They also plundered the national resources (including petroleum, tin and rubber) of Thailand. Through various types of unequal trade treaties, they ruthlessly expanded the air business, and gave striking blows to the industry and commerce of Thai national bourgeoisie. According to unofficial statistics, American had been nibbling away more than 50 billion bahts of profits from Thailand annually, which was more than her assistance to Thanom Government. The Thai ruling class, who for their own sake, were hands-in-gloves with the American imperialists. They had betrayed the national sovereignty and debased Thailand to a neo-colony under American control and intervention.



THAILAND

Thailand, rich in natural resources is famous for "fish found in water, rice found in fields". Paddy is one of the four main exports, amounting to more than a thousand and four hundred tons annually. 80% of the population are farmers. Although they are the chief producers of the financial resources of Thailand, they are always in starvation and poverty, and are under the severe suppression of the feudal authority and the heavy exploitation of the land-lords.

According to the statistics of the Thai Government, farmers occupying little or no land accounted for 35% of the total number of farmers. Although the legitimate highest rent is 25% of the harvest, more than half of the farmers have to give about 30% to 55% of the harvest as rent, and some in central Thailand have to give 80%. The interest of the rent high as 100%-300%. Very often the farmers have to sell their children to pay for the rent. According to the material issued by the Thailand Government, the yield per acre is only 240 kilogrammes. The income of the farmer is the lowest among all, the average income of every farmer is only 1000 bahts (about 250 Hong Kong dollars), equivalent to only 40% of the annual income of the average Thai citizen, also equal to 1/8 of the annual income of the average citizen in the Thai cities. There are enormous differences between the urban and the rural area.

In a country where paddy is the main export, the paddy-rice growers worked hard labours for the whole year round. However, their lives are so bitter, they are always on the verge of starvation and poverty. But the Thai Government sees nothing of this. They only levied heavy taxes on the Thai people. The poverty and suppression in the rural area forced the farmers to find their livings in the urban areas. They settled in the slum-areas at the verge of the cities, as part time workers, coolies, non-technical works. Some families even had to sell their daughters as prostitutes to maintain their livings.

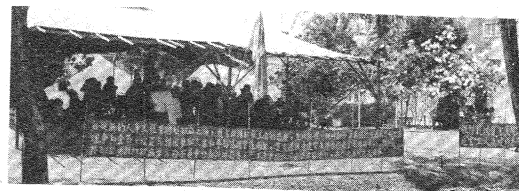
The cities are places where the workers concentrate, especially Bangkok city. Among the 1.7 million labourers in the country, about 1.3 million are industrial workers. The Thai industrial workers have been leading miserable lives. A majority of them had to work 12 to 20 hours for an extremely low wage. Generally, the male workers can get only 10 to 15 bahts (approximately 50¢ to 80¢ US) while the female worker

INSIDE :
the

Metal Box Strike.

- RICHARD TANG

To many people who have heard of the recent metal box workers' strike, it has come much as a surprise and shock. This is because of the fact that organised form of mass action by workers of Singapore is a rare scene nowadays. Under the so called policy of "tripartism" between the government, Union and management, many of the workers' unions today do not really represent the workers' interest at all. Yet, why are the metal box workers able to stage the strike? There is no doubt that this has got much to do with the Union they have, i.e. the Singapore Metal Box Workers' Union. The article below gives an account of the history of metal box and the matters which led to the strike.



The Metal Box Factory in Woodland Road 23km, is one of the 40 odd branches of a British Multinational Corporation, specialising in the manufacture of various beverage and food containers. Being the only one of its kind in Singapore and coupled with a well-established history of more than 20 years, the factory is able to reap huge amount of profit each year.

In 1970, the escalation of Vietnam War, had brought forth large numbers of American soldiers to Vietnam. During this period, the demand for alcoholic drinks and other beverages increased tremendously and the containers for these were manufactured by the Metal Box factory in Singapore, thus enabling it to hit even greater profits. The net profit of the factory in 1974, when the world was facing a recession was 1 million and in 1976, it reached a figure of about 3 to 4 millions.

The metal box factory has more than 400 workers, most of them have been working in it for quite a number of years. The younger ones already have 7 to 8 years of working experiences and most of the female workers are about 40 years of age. There are also cases where 3 generations of a family are all workers of the factory.

The SMBWU is the only workers' union in Singapore which is not affiliated to the NTUC and it is very uncommon to find such an independent Union now. In the past, the SMBWU has been striving for the betterment of the workers' working condition and wages. To date, there are already 3 strikes initiated, the recent strike being the 3rd one. Each year the Union was able to secure higher wage increment for the workers compared to that received by workers of other factories. For instance, at one time the SMBWU succeeded in fighting for a 4.5% NWC increment when the recommendation was 4%. As a result, the Singapore Metal Box Workers' Union is much treasured by the workers and there is no doubt that it is truly a Workers' Union, caring for their rights and welfare.

According to the Gen-Sec. of SMBWU, Mok Joon Soon, the Union and the management, since the last strike in 1972, have always been able to compromise with each other in many negotiations held in the past. However, about 4½ months ago, the company began to show signs of hostility towards the Union, and engage a new personnel manager who is infamous for his "capability" to suppress workers.

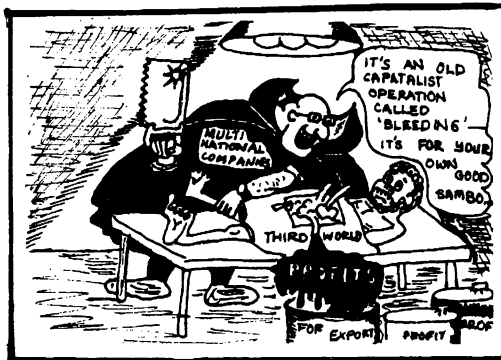
Since early March this year, many workers were dismissed and the reasons given were most unjustifiable and irrational. Some of the workers were dismissed just because they stayed in the factory after working hours, (and though they have good reasons for staying back) and others were retrenched due to so called "reorganisations". Many changes were also implemented in the factory. Formerly the task of 5 workers was forced to be undertaken by 1 or 2 persons; overtime of workers were severely slashed but when workers refused to work overtime when needed, they were threatened with dismissal, whereas, there were others who were denied their days of annual leaves.

In actual fact., the rate of productivity of the factory is considerably fast

To be cont'd on Pg. 14

can get only half as much. The working conditions are extremely poor. There was no welfare system. The government sided with the bourgeoisie in forbidding the workers to strike.

Since October 1973, when the three tyrants were ousted, workers and peasants movement began to flourish. Student movement also began to integrate with the peasant and worker movement. The setting up of the regional peasant associations further promoted the organisation of the peasants to fight for their interest and to struggle against local bullies and bad gentry. The worker movement also surged vigorously. In 1974, there were 357 strikes and 106,000 workers had participated. In the former stage, the strikes are mainly aimed at increasing wages and improvement of welfare. Yet in the later stage, workers also participated actively in campaigns against the tyrannical order of Prapass and Thanom. Yet struggles had only began.



In Thailand, as in many Third World countries, foreign capitals were sucking the blood of the working people, plundering their natural resources and intervening her domestic politics and economy. In the countryside, landlords local gentry and money-lenders were expropriating the vast majority of peasants. The feudal suppression, which greatly obstructed the development in the forces of production, had made the Thai people to live in an abyss of agonies. The obliquity of multinational corporations, the bankruptcies in the countryside, the migration of poor peasants into slum areas from the urban areas, the marked differences between the city and the countryside; all these are some of the salient features in many Third World countries.

Yet, the general trend of "countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution" has been surging vigorously. The anti-imperialist struggles of the Third World people are achieving greater and greater success. This irresistible trend all over the world has been reshaping the world situation, and undoubtedly lasting its impacts on the Thai society. The people of Thailand, on their road of struggles for genuine democracy and independence, will see a bright future and hope.



OPEN LETTER TO ALL STUDENTS

- 17th STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Fellow members,

Weeks before the sessional exam, the Union sent out letters to the Polytechnic Admin requesting for information regarding the new enrolment of students. Only after a number of weeks (and after numerous reminders) did the Union received a reply from the Admin which claims that due to their concern over the students, they will be organising all the activities in relation with the coming Orientation and they found no necessity in providing the Union with the requested information as the Union would be 'duplicating their effort'! Also stated in the letter is that the Admin will not be collecting the Union fees for this session!!

Everyone who has been in Poly long enough would have known that our Union has a 16 years old tradition of organising Freshman Orientation and the Admin has a record of nothing. In the past, the Admin weren't interested at all but why are they so interested now? They talk about students' well being in relation to this and since they mentioned it, let us not hesitate to dig out their past records to see if they are 'clean'.

However before doing so, let us look at the effect of the Admin's action:

1. By organising the Orientation the Admin will in effect, cut away the communication between the new students and the Union.
2. It is depriving the Union of its rights to collect Union fees from the students.
3. Being cut off from the students and financially down-trodden, the Union will probably be dissolved.
4. With the dissolution of the Union, the Admin would become the natural dictator in Poly.

SHOULD WE ALLOW ADMIN TO DICTATE STUDENTS ACTIVITIES

Regardless of the attitude of their college admin, students all over the world are given the right to organise themselves in various forms of activities. That is, even if the Poly Admin have a clean record, the students should still be organising their own activities without any interference from the Admin. The Admin, regardless of who the principal, registrar is, cannot be a body loyal to the students because it has to serve whoever that is financing the Poly and also that the students has got NO SAY at all in selection of the admin staff.

ADMIN VS UNION = ADMIN VS STUDENTS

Case 1 : Eviction of students to PMC in 71/72

Admin: After receiving orders from 'above', evicted many students from PEC to the old, shabby and under-facilitated PMC to make way for students from the University of Singapore Engineer Faculty.

Union: Held demonstration at Poly Quad. (about 2000 students attended) and forced the Admin to improve the facilities and conditions of the campus.

Case 2 : The Civil Survey Camp (71/72)

Admin: (specifically the Civil Engg Dept) organised a survey camp compulsory for all Civil students and made them pay \$10 per head.

Union: Found that something fishy was going on because no fees were collected for the past survey camps. Exco members of the Union investigated into the matter and discovered corrupted practice. All the money were refunded and in later years the survey camp was cancelled.

Case 3 : Removal of 1st Year students in 74/75.

Admin: Removed 1st year students who failed in their supplementary paper/s while it was stated clearly in the Poly Prospectus that they can repeat. Students did not know what to do.

Union: Organised the students to protest and petition against such unreasonable policy and finally forced the admin to give in.

Case 4 : Bus Fare Concession Issue 75/76

Union: Seeing the financial problem of the students, organised surveys and petitions and requested jointly with NATCSU, USSU, STISC, NUSU and IESC for a bus fare concession for its members.

Admin: Only after the Union's survey and campaign were held did the Admin came out with a 'concession' for the students. However there was hardly a student who accepted the concession because simple calculation would show that it is a trick. (you lose money by buying the 'concession' ticket).

Case 5 : Examination Policies

Admin: did not make clear the exam policies and often removed students without good reasons, eg. some students who did not sit for their endorsement subjects were removed, some students were removed even though they were sick and could not sit for a paper, some students have mental problems (proven by psychiatrist) and were not allowed to repeat when they did not take the exam.

Union: Often helped students to appeal if they have a reasonable case. Union also protested and demanded the Admin to clarify on the exam policies.

Case 6 : Daily Welfare of fellow students

Admin: Never bothered about the canteen and often had to be pushed by Union's Welfare Secretary to check on food prices, cleanliness and availability of chairs and tables.

Contracted a bookstore which sells expensive stationaries.

Union: Union activist are themselves students and they understand the problems of students and has always been the motive force in improving the canteen. Union also set up Students' Service Centre which is run by students themselves and sells stationaries at very cheap prices.

Case 7 : The Calculator Issue 76/77

Union: Found that there is no reason for not allowing students to use calculator and therefore organised a survey and petition for the use of calculators in exam. Had heated argument with the Poly Admin but the Admin keep on delaying the matter.

Admin: Not ashamed of the fact that they did not probe into the matter first and even delayed the issue. It was only in the third term when they finally announce that 2nd and 3rd year students are allowed to use the calculators in exam but not the 1st year students. No reason was given for their decision.

There are many more examples, however the above are enough to reveal the nature of the Admin, i.e. bureaucratic, autocratic, irrational and Anti-students. Then, why did the Admin want to organise the Orientation Programmes??

Relating the past actions of the Admin with the present situation it would not be difficult to show that the intention of the Admin is to isolate the Union and finally to eliminate it.

eg. 1 ; Union fees issue: The Admin suddenly refused to collect the Union fees together with the tuition fees with the intention of crippling the Union.

eg. 2 : The Admin. used delaying tactic when approached by union officials regarding the Union fees issue.

eg. 3 : Rejected Union's booking of rooms for film shows and speakers' corner.

eg. 4 : Admin. tried to intimidate students who went to hand in booking forms by asking for their name, class, admission No., etc which were totally unnecessary.

eg. 5 : Evicting the students from the PMC Union house without providing a reasonable alternative.

The above examples can show beyond doubt that the Admin's action is intended to suppress the Union.

FINAL ANALYSIS --- who lose?

It is clear that the Admin don't want the students to have an effective Union like SPSU (especially when it is becoming more and more effective) and is trying out all sort of underhand and scandalous ways to eliminate the Union. If we, students of the Polytechnic allowed them to do it who will stand to lose? Of course ourselves, Poly students. If the Admin is to take over students activities, Poly would be drilled like a secondary school and all of us would be reduced to obeying and accepting orders. No one would be representing all of us and no one would ever speak up for us again. Furthermore, there will be no more SPSU to cater for the welfare of the students.

If that happens its DOOMSDAY for Poly students!!!!

If we didn't want it to happen, then what can we do?

1. ATTEND THE MASS RALLY ON 7th MAY (sat), 9.00 a.m. at Union House (Shenton Way). The Board of Governors, Principal and Registrar will be requested to answer for their actions.

2. Help to spread the news to all other students and let others be aware of the Union's situation.

OUR INDICTMENT: THE EX-COs WILL GO ALL OUT TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF OUR UNION AND APPEAL TO YOU TO WORK HAND IN HAND WITH US.

UNITED WE SHALL WIN!!!!

BITTERNESS OF WORKING LIFE

SANDRA
DKE

With a long vacation ahead of many students like us, some decided to hunt for a job -- not only for some pocket money but to taste what working really is. Thus below is an account of what we have tasted.

We finally reached the 6th floor. After entering so many doors, we arrived at a personnel office in a factory. There were about six long working benches where many coils and wires covered the top. Almost all of the workers are girls in their late teens except for a few middle aged ladies. So this was the factory we had come to spend our vacation.

The working benches were divided into various sections --- some girls would be coiling wires round carbon rods; some would be soldering and others would be waxing or testing. At other benches, the girls would be working on capacitors, inductors and also the spring coils, so this factory produces electronic components for transistor radios. We started work with much enthusiasm but as time passed, the work became monotonous and mechanical.



Ventilation in the factory was poor. The aircon installed was only for show and fans could only reach a few beneath it. It was even more horrible when you had to be seated next to warm wax. The fume and smell was enough to kill your appetite. Besides, some of us had to strain our eyes to do our job as fluorescent lamps at the sides were also for show. However, in other sections, the light was so glaring that some of the girls were seen with dark glasses. To add to these, the machines around us were noisy when operated and the workshop which largely contributed to the noise pollution was just next to us. To worsen the situation, blasting music was played to compete with these noises when lunch or break times were nearing. Such was the condition under which we had to work for eight hours everyday.

Unfortunately, there was not much of communication amongst the workers. When we just started work, we were greeted with questions, though they were reluctant to talk about their lives there. The friendship amongst the workers was soured by a few older workers who made the new ones do odd jobs like emptying the baskets. At lunch time, the girls were scattered into groups of five to ten. Others would be in two or in solitude -- each doing their own things.

Each new day begins at eight in the morning. On the very first morning we were rather surprised to see the workers standing beside their seats -- not doing their work when the bell rang. There was complete silence for a few seconds, then a pompous figure appeared with a microphone in his hands and started to utter something. Later we found out that this was one of their daily routine --- a morning assembly just like the one we had in school, he even said, "Stand properly when I talk to you," and what was said during these assemblies were usually threats and giving more of rules and regulations.

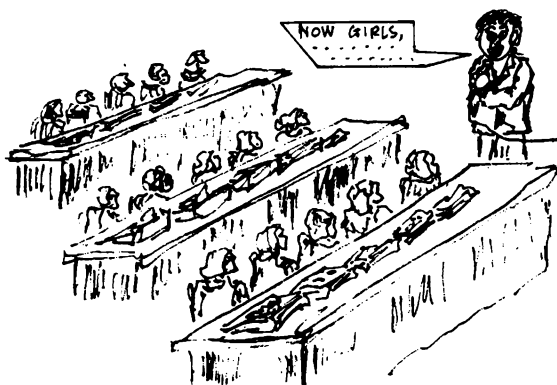
It was never a two way communication during the morning assembly. If the workers had problems, they were advised to see their section leaders. Thus their grievances were always not heard. Perhaps the only way they could resort to was to paste letters in the toilets --- there was one alleging that the personnel officer had conspired with the company's doctor to make their medical leave more tedious to obtain. This was soon brought to the attention of the whole factory, clarifying that if the worker is sick, she should only sought medical help either from the company's doctor OR the govt. clinic, on CONDITION that she must be

at the clinic at eight am. sharp to proof that she is really ill and to ensure 'discipline'. If she is unable to walk, she must make a phone call to the personnel officer at eight a.m. sharp!

These terms were set as he felt reasons given for medical leave were 'bullshit'. Imagine insisting on these terms! What if the worker is really ill? There was no doubt that concern for the welfare of the workers was not even considered. Another thing brought out during such a morning assembly was that about 5% of the employees were latecomers and although the wages were deducted, this persisted on. He complained that what caused the lateness was that the girls rely on the elevator (as our factory is on the highest floor) which he termed as the "stupid habit" and advised the girls to climb the stairs. He even suggested that the latecomers apologise for coming late in the morning assembly (as if all the workers were kept waiting!). This was just ridiculous because if the worker came late, the wage will be deducted, so why was there a necessity to apologise? Another disgusting expectation was that work start immediately after lunch or break times the instant the bell goes. As the workers would gather in groups during free time, they would take time to walk to their seats when the bell rings. This was cautioned as 'not advisable'.

Other things brought out would be reports on whether the productivity had increased or decreased and a call to increase productivity, followed by an assurance to increase the wages. When we asked around, we found that, after working for three to four years, the pay was around \$ 240 without any transport allowance (unless one really pestered for it).

What was most disgusting was that the morning assembly usually made the workers more miserable at the very beginning of the day rather than to solve the problems between workers and the management. The personnel officer had even stated in his letter to all employees that writing a letter and pasting it in the toilet was a 'bad way of communication', but how are the workers going to let their grievances be known if there was no other means? Through section leaders? Whatever for, when they were just as helpless.



A brief survey on how they feel of such working conditions revealed their attitudes towards the matters. Here were some of the comments:

- i) 'treat him like a mad dog' They could not understand what had been said as most of the workers were Chinese educated. Thus, even if they managed to grasp a bit here and there, it was just like listening to an old recorder or in their own terms, 'one ear in and the other out.'
- ii) Why bother about such things? Everywhere you go you would find such things! We can see that they had accepted it as their way of life.
- iii) 'What to do?' They were aware of the situation but they have a living to earn and because they were not highly educated and with so many school leavers around, they feared that they might not get a job easily. Thus, they had no choice but to tolerate quietly.

However, after a long struggle, these fishermen finally manage to seek a way for survival--rearing cockles, which have a higher resistance to pollutants, in the river. But the problems of pollution is still unsolved. If this is allowed to allowed then a day come when Sungei Juru is turned into another Sungei Sekuda in Johore where the water is so heavily polluted that no shellfish or any aquatic life can live or propagate. By then, one can hardly improve what will become of Kampong Kuala Juru-- environmental catastrophe on a disastrous scale, destruction of our fishing industry, illness disease and even epidemic arising from the use of poisonously polluted rivers, or from eating poisonously polluted fish. It will be too late to regret if the only cheap source of protein which is necessary for our health is totally cut off. Who are the people that is going to suffer then?

Development should be a balance between the goals of economic growth and the maintenance of a clean and safe environment for the present and future generations. Should the big companies be allowed to make more money in the name of development and in the process push poor people more deeply into poverty? It is clear that this is a man-made disaster caused by the irresponsible action of certain people. Therefore this should be put to a stop. The whole Malaysian Community must be conscious and prepared to safeguard their interest..

It was reported in the papers that a chemical plant is now under construction in Singapore. But do we ever wonder what will Singapore be like after this firm starts work? Will the tragedy of Kampong Kuala Juru replay here? The catastrophe of industry pollution in Japan-Minamata Disease-is a frightening experience. The price to pay for our ignorance and silence is priceless, therefore as Singaporean, it is the duty of each and everyone of us to be aware and critical of our environment before it is too late.

..... a letter to editor contd from Page 3

I also noticed that you were not very serious in proof-reading for I found quite a number of mistakes in spelling, technical work, tenses and sentence construction. These might seem minor mistakes, but it is important. The editors should be responsible to the readers, hence mistakes should not be taken lightly. A few examples are :

- i) The story of Ali is hardly legible.
- ii) sub-headings of the message from exco's are badly written.
- iii) continuation of pages not correctly indicated.

Well, the overall content is good. This magazine should be distributed. Try to send some to Malaysians Schools and institutes of higher learning if possible.

KEEP IT UP.

Yours faithfully,
A secondary sch. teacher.

There was no organised group in the factory to discuss on problems they faced and to seek solutions together and what was worse was that time was spent on gossips, fashions and others. Another way was through the mass media and we could see the girls humming or singing when they were bored-- not a thought given to solve their problems or improve working conditions.

Let's see why this is so.

We can look around and see that such attitudes are common amongst us -- not facing realities but instead are diverted with meaningless pursue for materialistic gain and personal pride. On the other hand, we have all gone through the educational system which produces the same products -- never questioning and always accepting and incidentally, very selfish too. Even during the work there, there was no such thing as "I'll help you get this or carry that." Most of the workers there lead a very monotonous and isolated existence. To those who left the place after a week or more, it was like escaping from a nightmare. But what about the workers there who had to stay on just to earn some \$150 to \$250 for their living?

WILL THEIR NIGHTMARE EVER END?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SPSU

- A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

— WILLIAM FONG

During the short period of the past few months, a great number of things have happened to SPSU and we hope to inform and explain to those who are concern through this article.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS

EVICTED OF STUDENTS FROM UNION HOUSE

In last December, the students were evicted from their previous Union House to a small and miserable room located at one isolated corner of the New Campus. The Union demanded a more reasonable place but the demand was rejected without satisfactory reason. They even send in the police and the notorious ISD agents to cause fear among the students. Subsequently, SPSU put up a banner and some "mysterious figures" crept in one night and tore it down.

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

The Admin who had not been taking interest in the welfare of the students suddenly refused to supply the Union with the relevant information regarding the enrolment of students for the new session. They said that they want to organise Freshmen Orientation programmes and therefore found it unnecessary for the Union to have these information. This action of the Admin will prevent the newly enrolled students from coming in touch with Union activities and cause the students to be isolated from the Union.

VICTIMISATION

Three Union officials, Ang Soo Cheng (General Secretary), Tan Tee Seng (Vice President) and Wong Sing Yuing (Union House Secretary) were victimised during their sessional examination. All of them failed in subjects which they are confident of passing and all of them were removed from the Polytechnic.

UNION FEES

The Poly Administration have informed the students' Union that they would not be collecting the Union fees on behalf of the Union. This act will put the Union's income from her members to a stop (constitutionally, she is unable to collect her own fees) and further threaten the existence of the Union.

Coupled with all these suppressive acts were the red-scare that was propagated by the authorities through the various forced confession of people who do not accept the carrot from them.

It would seem that SPSU is in a rather miserable state. But the fact is that it is the reverse. Many students still participate in her activities and are working to overcome all the man-made obstacles ahead. At this juncture, many may wonder why the authorities want to suppress SPSU.

WHY SUPPRESS SPSU

In order to understand this question we need to know what are the activities organised by SPSU in the past. The question should be viewed in parallel with the "Reconstitution of USSU" because both were the vanguards of the students' movement.

Before the Anti-Bus Fare Hike Campaign, the main functions organised by SPSU were Dinners and Balls, Beauty contests, competitive sports, etc. Although there were other activities organised, the above mentioned are the ones which were most costly and which most Union officials were attracted to.

TURNING POINT

The turning point and beginning of the awakening of students towards meaningful activities began with the Anti-Bus Fare Hike Campaign. During this campaign Union officials discovered for the first time that if put to proper use, the Union can be effective in voicing out the plight of the poor people in our country. They began to feel some irrationality of the way things are run here when the petitions of more than 10 000 people were outrightly rejected by the Ministry of Communication. They became even more convinced of their feeling when some of the students' leaders were warned by the I.S.D. against involvement in a project which they felt totally justified and humane. As for the students, it was the first time for years that they agreed unanimously with what the Union was doing.

BANGLADESH FLOOD RELIEF CAMPAIGN

In this issue which hundreds of students and thousands of people participated, the students experienced the most touching scenes they have yet seen in real life. At first, all of us could not believe it; people of all ages, all races came out voluntarily with their clothing and canned food and money; old women walking up with her meagre sum to donate; little boys and girls bringing cups of water for the students; housewives pushing aside their housework to help us to tie up the thing in bundles; working men volunteering to transport our things to the Union House; secondary school students came down to our Union House to help us in packing up..... all these for the sake of some people living in a far away Bangladesh. On the other side of the picture was the irrationality of the authorities. They claimed that it is AGAINST THE LAW to collect donations for the people of another country and would not issue the permit. They even prevented students from using their microphone claiming that the residents complained about the noise made. Through the Bangladesh Issue, all the participants learnt a great deal about the facts of life. They now understand that it is not true that

all people are cold and uncaring but rather that they are not given the chance to express their warmth and humanity. They began to ask questions. Why did the policemen tried to interfere with their work? Why did the law forbid such activities? Why were the people alienated? Who caused this alienation and for what? Through the Bangladesh Flood Relief Campaign, the participants are educated and it is not surprising that many of the participants became strong Union activists. (Almost all the members of the 16th Council participated in the Aid Bangladesh Campaign)

J.B. SQUATTERS EVICTION - a question of humanity

The eviction of more than 100 families from their home in Tasek Utara caused a lot of argument inside the campus. Some of the people apposed to SPSU's involvement in this issue but most of the students felt that SPSU must help all the squatters on humanitarian ground. They felt that humanity should not be limited or restricted by national boundaries. People all over the world protested against Hitler for massacres of the Jews, against ill-treatment of political prisoners in Indonesia, South Korea etc; against racial discrimination in South Africa and Rhodesia. Why can't we help the squatters??

RETRENCHMENT RESEARCH CENTRE AND ARREST OF STUDENT LEADERS

Although the R.R.C. did not function very effectively (due to the frame-up of Tan Wah Piow and arrest of 6 student leaders), the students learnt a lot through it. They have seen the true colour of the so-called trade union leaders. They saw the law being used to frame-up Wah Piow and I.S.A. used against other student leaders. 4 000 students from the University of Singapore and Polytechnic attended a mass rally (a solidarity never seen before in the history of USSU and SPSU) All these event forced the students to come to a painful conclusion that the authorities are suppressing a popular student movement.

USSU GENERAL ELECTION - another sign of support for New student movement

In the 75/76 USSU Election, more than 3 000 students turn up to vote in the general election. (A record) Most of the students who participated in the organising of the various events mentioned above were elected into the students' council. Irene Koh (Hon. Gen. Secretary) and Phung Mei Ying (President) both named by the authorities as radical students polled more than 1600 votes. IT IS A VERY CLEAR SIGN OF A RISE IN AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS AND ALSO A MANDATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW STUDENTS' MOVEMENT.

Cont'd on Page 15

PACKING DONATIONS





作者：方威廉 子林译

学生会发生了什么事？

和人民一起朝向有义的道路工作的温暖

——记孟加拉救灾运动。

前言：

在过去短短的几个月里，学生会就发生了一连串的事件。在此，我们希望通过这篇文章，及时地报导和解释各项事件的来龙去脉给关心我们的人士。

各事件简介：

(1) 学生会被迫迁。

在去年二月初，校方硬地把学生会在新学院的会所迁至一间又小又不完整的房间，而且远离校舍。校方对学生会当时寻求一个合理的地方的心意却毫无理由的拒绝了。他们甚至还召入警察与臭名昭著的内部人员进入校园造成恐怖气氛。接着，学生会挂上的布条也在某天清晨被一些神秘人物扯下。

(2) 学生会迎新事件。

一向对搞学生福利毫无兴趣的校方于今年突然拒绝让学生会知道有关新生入学注册的详情。学院当局说：「今年一切迎新学生活动将由校方来搞，故学生会是没有必要知道这些详情。」校方这么做，是意在阻止新入学的新生与学生会的接触和了解学生会活动，使新生和学生会隔离。

(3) 学院开除3名学生理事。

3名学生会执行理事：洪树钟(总秘书长)、陈志成(副会长兼迎新筹备委员会主席)、黄心融(学生楼秘书)。在今年的考试中成为校方的牺牲品。他们死有攸及格的科目，都莫名其妙地打了不及格，而且三名都不准留级被开除出学院。

(4) 学生会会费。

校方经已照会学生会，说他们将不会替学生会收取会费。此做法无疑将使学生会来自她会员的财政收入停止。(而学生会章程上是不准收取会费的)对学生会的生存来讲，是个威胁。

在此全时的压迫手段还有当局惯用的伎俩「红色宣传」，当人民不受他们的诱惑时，他们强迫人民上电视「自白」。

表面上看来，学生会目前是在一个很不利的位置。其实不然，在这样的压力下，许多同学还是积极参与学生会工作，从突破种种人为的障碍。

大家可能有这样一个疑问，为什么当局对学生会采取类似高压手段？

为什么当局要压制学生会？

要明白这样一个问题，我们必须回顾一下学生会以往所主办的活动。(在看过这个问题也应该看到星大学生会改组的事件，因这两个学生会是星大学的前锋)。在反巴士车费加价运动开始之前，学生会所举办的，不外是一些无聊的活动，如午会、选美会、奢侈的聚餐会及鼓励个人名誉至上的运动会等。这些都是当时学生会负责人所兴起的活动。

学生会的转变点。

学生会的转变点和学生觉醒的开始是从1974年发起反巴士车费加价运动有义的运动后。在这运动中，学生会的负责人第一次看到学生会的作用，说出广大人民的心声。他们也同时感觉到我们的社会有着许多不合理的事情。比年

比如一万人所签署的反巴士车费加价请愿书完全被交通部拒绝，全无考虑之余地。当一些学生领袖被1SD逮捕这些同学更具决心与信心、坚决地参与那些正义和人道的有义的事情。同学们也多年来第一次完全同心学生会所搞的是有义的、正确的人民福利工作。

这次的救灾事件，超过几百名学生和成千的人民投入了工作。学生们第一次经历了那种动人的场面。首先，大家都自愿地拿出衣物、罐头和钱，有一位老婆婆，把她那一点点的钱捐了出来。小弟弟和小妹妹们捧着茶水拿给收集的同学们。许多工人义务地搬这些衣物搬到学生楼；许多家庭妇女把家务放在一旁，下楼帮忙把衣物绑起来。来自工专、明雅、维多利亚中学的学生也都列队前往学生楼帮忙整理……这些都是为了救济在离我们很远的孟加拉人民。而另外一面，它暴露了当局的不讲理。当局说：「替外国人民收集救济品和捐款，是非法的，是违反法律！」我们将不会发给他们许可证。甚至学生运用泰克风也被当局阻止，说什么附近的居民投诉说学生在制造噪音。

但是事实就是事实，所有的参加者通过了这件事，上了一课。学生的书，广大人民并非是无情无情，而是一间没有机会表达他们的热心和正义感。这些现象，使到同学们产生疑问：「为什么警察要阻止？为什么法律要禁止这样有义的活动？为什么人民被隔离？是谁造成这隔离？正是这件事教育了参与的同学因此那一点也不觉得惊奇看到这些同学后果成为了学生会的积极分子(第16层学生会理事的大部份成员都曾参加那次的运动)。

新山拆屋事件——一个人道立场的问题。

新山打昔无端被拉走事件曾经引起学院内一切讨论，有些人反对SPSU参与这件事，但大部份同学认为SPSU在人道立场上是应给予这些居民帮助，人道立场是不应限于国界。有许多世界各国人民的抗议与支援如集体屠杀犹太人的谴责、抗议印度与南朝鲜的虐待政治犯、反对南非和罗得西亚种族歧视政策，救济品送往受地震影响的灾区。这些都是人道的支援，那为什么新山打昔就不能呢？

裁员调查中心的设立和逮捕学生领袖。

虽然调查中心RCRC作的贡献很小(因华彪的被套上罪名和6名学生领袖被逮捕的事件)。同学们却从此看到所谓的「职工会」领袖的真面目。看到华彪被他们套上真有的罪名，法律为谁服务！也看到内部安全局的人负被用以对付学生领袖考考。4,000名来自星大与工院同学出席了那一次的群众大会(这一次是学运史上未曾有过的大团结)。

学生们终于从这些事件中得出一沉痛的结论：那就是这些有义和受到人民欢迎的学生运动一直受到当局的压制。

星大学生会大选——一场决定学运方向的大选。

一九七六年星大学生会大选日，超过三千名同学参加投票(破学生会过去的纪录)。而被选入为学生理事的同学大部份都是参与上述事件的。像彭美英和高兆贤两位被当局指为极端分子的同学，竟赢得一千六百多票。这说明了什么？那已是很清楚地说明学生们觉醒了，也是学运蓬勃发展的一个新开端。但后来，星大学生会被当局强硬重组和修改了章程。

学生活动展览——由工院学生会主办。

虽然学生活动展览会的宣传工作做的不很好(是对内的)。但她结果出乎意料地成功举行，公众人士、学生和工人们不断地涌往那又小又简陋的学生楼参观。(原定2天的展览会被观众要求延至7天并且是在文化部撤撤撤说：「若我们继续展览他将派人把它扯下。」从公众人士前来参观展览会的热烈反应，可证明他们是极关心学生运动。对于各项学运的报导和分析

(如马大学生运动、泰国学生运动等)公众人士感到十分新鲜和可透过当地受压制的报导的歪曲报导。很多人也认识到压制住是在我们要做些有义的事情而非死啃书本的事。

SPSU书籍展览76/77

书展是在学生会许多学生领袖被指为共党和红色分子后举行的，约2000名公众人士和学生参观了这3天的展览，参观者与学生会同学们互相交流，交换意见，如讨论有关书本、作家和介绍大家阅读一些健康书籍。尽管当局的阻挠，但公众人士给予学生活动的支持是永远存在。这给予负责全学一个很大的鼓励，更坚决地斗争到底。

学生福利工作。

在对内方面，学生运动唤起了学生们极大的兴趣，许多同学纷纷加入工作。在一批新的学生会负责同学领导下，同学们清楚地了解学生福利是他们应照顾的，他们甚至多方面地尝试做好各项福利工作。

第一件就是学生服务中心的设立，它提供了廉价的文具用品于学生，受到同学的欢迎。一次，当学生会获知学院书店所售的计算机尺是\$18.90，学生会即购入一批计算机尺，以\$16.20的价钱卖给同学，结果学院书店也跟着降低售价至\$16.20。

过去，学生会的学生用巴士并没有充份被利用而在去年九月，学生会负责全学决定提供了免费(从学院至联邦大道巴士总站)运载学生的服务，同学也不必去乘搭SBS而付二毛车费它也会同时运载同学到学生楼活动。

在争取应用电子计算机事件中，学生会得到了辉煌的胜利，显示了学生大团结的结果。然而，第一年的同学却被拒绝应用，校方也没有说明理由。

校园内的学生活动。

在过去SPSU没有很好地组织校园内的活动，然而，在76/77这学年开始，一系列的倒带活动纷纷展开，它包括篮球、排球、棋会、游泳等。所有的工作委员会，包括康乐委员会、福利委员会、出版委员会以及学院联络组等都进行了重组和展开活动就是在活动最蓬勃时，5名学生领袖被逮捕，这几乎使所有的委员会陷入了停顿状态。

学生会和全体同学以及人民站在一起。

学生会的立场是什么？在学院里，学生会是争取学生基本权益的先锋和照顾同学的福利的问题。在学院外，SPSU是社会的温度计。它敏感地注视着社会上广大人民的疾苦——这就是为什么它总是得到广大人民的支持。

虽然这样，当局还是设法压制学生会——他们逮捕学生领袖，制造白色恐怖，迫学生会搬出学生楼，最近更企图剥夺学生会主办迎新活动的权力，停止收取学生会会费以及迫害和开除学生领袖。这些作法意味着什么？

学生会将做些什么？

学生理事清楚地看到学生和人民支持以及积极参与活动是很重要。唯有这样，学生会才能生存。为了解决目前的财政情况，学生会将举办电影招待会和组织同学向当局的无理压迫进行抗议。

“我们决不放弃，为全星唯一独立自主的学生会的生存继续斗争到底。”

我们呼吁全国人民关心学生会的生存和发展，同时支持我们将举办的活动，让我们携手共同为争取一个美好、正义、民主的社会工作。

FRESHMEN



ORIENTATION

AN ESSENTIAL FUNCTION...

BY TAN CHIN KHOO

1974 had been the year of awakening for many students in the tertiary institutions of Singapore. Ever since then, the movement has gathered its momentum and each day, more and more students are awakened to the stark inadequacies in our society. The trend is clear for us to see. Students are an integral part of the people and it only takes time for them to realize the crying need to concern themselves with the plight of the masses.

In the midst of such a tide, SPSU has also undergone a qualitative change in her leadership. In the past, its potentials were drowned in a labyrinth of formalities, corruptions and hypocrisies. During the 15th students' council, the Polytechnic students began to be involved in social issues initiated by the University of S'pore Students' Union (USSU, now reconstituted). With the inception of the 16th students' council, the line of SPSU became clearer. Extravagant and luxurious activities which are extremely elitist in nature no longer enjoy the support of the Union. Instead, activities organised are geared towards the interest of the general students, usually on the basis of wide participation.

With the changing trend of the Union, the Freshmen Orientation has also developed a new outlook. Decadent and meaningless activities such as Mr. and Miss Freshie contest were but memories of the past. The cry of going down to the people, no longer toe the line of certain MPs and Ministers' version of superficial concern for the people which only aims at camouflaging the root cause of many problems.

Instead, the new students were inspired to show genuine concern through understanding the plight and needs of the labouring masses, which constitutes the major portion of our society. For instance, during last year's F.O., the workcamp attracted over 200 new students and in this camp, they had the chance to stay with the farmers in Lim Chu Kang for 3 days. The students also experienced the simple tough life of the farmers and

through the friendliness of most of them, the new students were able to understand their problem and their aspirations. In another case, of the Community Welfare Project, the new students were supposed to have road meddling in an obscure region in Sembawang. This Project aimed at helping the villagers there by improving the road which they have to use everyday. At the same time, the new students can come in contact with them and have a smattering of the life-style of rural dwellers. However, the Project was cancelled at the last minute because the Ministry concerned cannot supply the needed equipments in time.

Thus, on the whole, we can see an encouraging change in the F.O. since last year. The programmes are more geared towards exposing the new students to the realities in society and also to realise the potential and importance of our union in the Singapore context through other activities such as exhibition, slide shows etc.

The main emphasis of this year's F.O. is still to achieve Union Awareness among the students. Although the active participation from the students in the Union's work has shown sign of improvement since last year, however, we should not let our complacency hinder the further growth of SPSU.

To be aware of the Union, we do not mean to be merely aware of its existence, rather it is to be conscious of the role the Union should play in the society and in the campus and also to realise the importance of ourselves as elements enabling the Union to play such roles. Our Union is an established organisation totally in the hand of students themselves, unlike many other government controlled Students' Union, where the Administration has tight surveillance on the students' activities. Thus, we can see in the past, the SPSU has been fighting for students' interests and autonomy in the campus, by voicing out against irrational policies, victimisation and others.

Only recently, did the Union began to uptake a more active role in society. Students started to show more concern and care for the needy and oppressed.

Nevertheless, there are many students who question: Why should I be aware of the Union? What benefit can I obtain from this? Such attitude of many of the students has much to do with our present educational system and the mass media around us, which strive to inculcate in us values such as putting one's own interest above all other consideration in the things we do. Hence, it has become invariably incongruent for many students to ask question like: How can I help the Union and the people by being conscious of the Union's role?

In organising this year's F.O., the Union has to prepare to face many obstacles ahead. One of them is the problem with the Administration of the Polytechnic. The Admin.'s suppression on Union's activities has been escalating since a couple of years back. Examples of such suppression during last year's F.O. were:

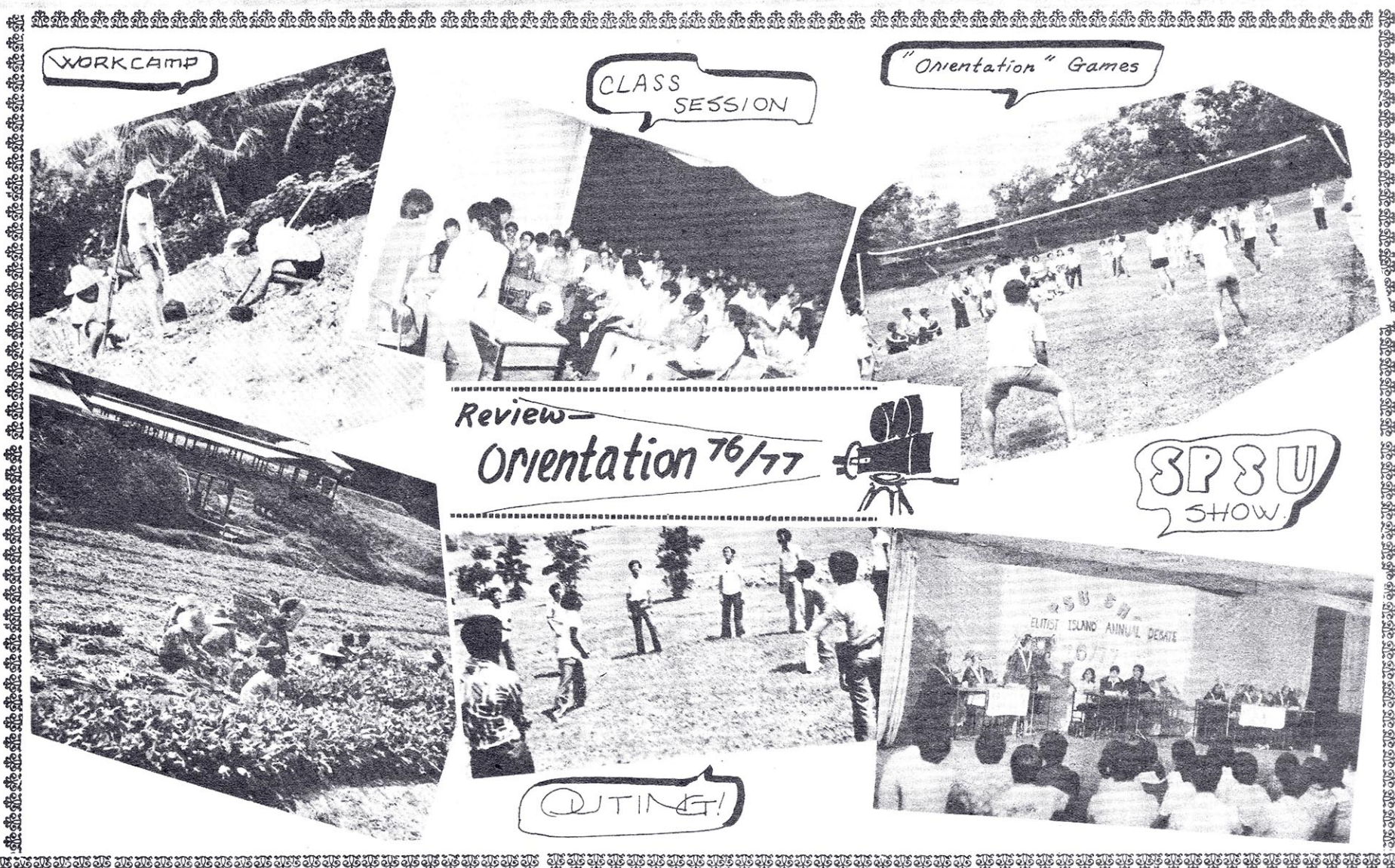
1) refusing to disclose the date of registration of the new students.

It is during this period that the new students pay their Union fees and have their Freshmen packet collected. Although the Admin. finally give in and disclose some dates after much pressure from the Union, there was still a portion of new students who did not pay their Union fees nor collect their Freshmen packets.

2) refusing to grant permission to use Polytechnic compound and facilities for carrying out certain Orientation programmes.

Nevertheless, such actions of the Admin. are not at all shocking to the ear. The Union fees and Union House Issues had already expose their nature and attitude towards students and the Students' Union. Yet, how long can they continue to behave in such a tyrannical manner, we wonder? One day the students will surely see through their mask of caring for students' interest as Administrators of the college and stand up to demand for their rights.

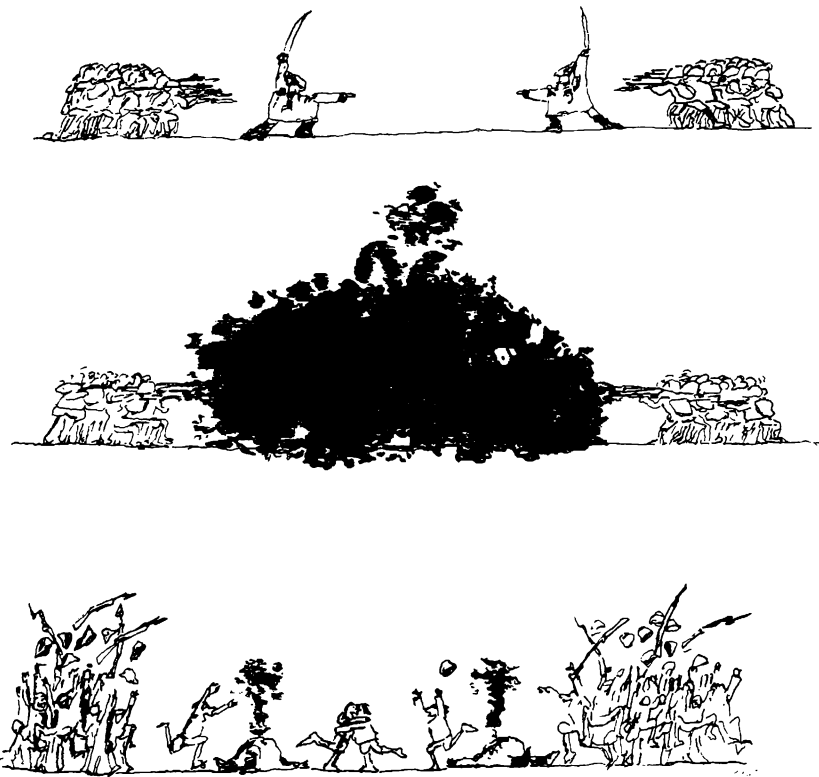
To conclude, the F.O. is a very essential and glamorous function of the Union. During this period, the new students are going to have their first impression of Poly life. Therefore, it is important that the seniors should play the part of guiding them towards a more meaningful stay in Poly.



Claudius:

THE WAR

(reproduced from WAVE)



WELL, WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN ABOUT IT!

HOW AND WHERE

WERE THE OCEANS FORMED?

In the early part of the 20th century, it was thought that the earth & the other planets were formed of matter pulled out of the sun. We had the picture of earth cooling down from white heat to red heat to mere hotness, and finally to the boiling point of water. When it had gotten cool enough for water to condense, the water vapor in earth's heated atmosphere did so & it began to rain --and rain. After many years of an incredible rain of boiling water that fizzed and sputtered as it struck the hot earth, the hollows of the planet's rough surface finally cooled enough to hold the water and filled up to form our oceans.

Very dramatic-- but almost certainly completely wrong.

Currently, scientists are convinced the earth and other planets did not form from the sun, but were formed of particles coming together at the same time that the sun itself was being formed. The earth was never at the sun temperature, but it did grow quite warm through the energies of collision of all the particles that formed it. It grew warm enough to that its relatively small mass could not hold an atmosphere or water-vapor to begin with.

The solid body of the newly formed earth, had, in other words, neither atmosphere nor ocean. Where then, did they come from?

There existed water (& gases) in loose combination with the rocky substances making up the solid portion of the globe. As that solid portion packed together more and more tightly under the pull of gravity, its interior grew hotter and hotter. Water vapor and gas were forced out of combination with the rock and came fizzing from its substance.

ISAAC -
The gaseous bubbles, forming and collecting, racked the baby earth with enormous quakes; escaping heat produced violent volcanic eruptions. For unnumbered years, liquid water did not fall from the sky; rather, water vapor whistled out of the crust and then condensed. The oceans formed from below, not from above.

What the geologist mainly dispute now is the rate at which the oceans formed. Did the water vapor all fizz out within a billion years or less, so that the ocean has been its present size ever since life began? Or has the process been so slow that the ocean has been growing all through geologic time and is still growing?

Those who maintain the ocean formed early in the

game and had been steady in size for a long time point out that the continents seem to be a permanent feature of the earth. They do not appear to have been much larger in the past, when the ocean was supposedly, much smaller.

On the other hand, those who maintain the ocean has been growing steadily point out that volcanic eruptions even today pour quantities of water vapor into air; water vapor derived from deep from deep-lying rocks, not from the oceans. Also, there are sea mounts under the Pacific with flat tops that may have once been at ocean level but are not hundreds of feet below.

A compromise may be possible. It is suggested that the ocean has indeed been growing steadily, but that, as the quantity of water increased, its weight forced the ocean bed downward. In short, the oceans have been growing deeper, not broader. This would account for both the drowned sea mounts and the non-drowned continents.

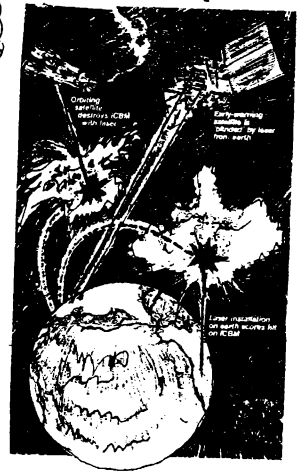
SPACE WARS

With the development of Science, the ways in which wars are fought have changed tremendously through ages. In the primitive days, our forefather uses the sticks & stones and now, war-machines such as missiles, nuclear, submarine & super-sonic jet are no more uncommon. However, that is not the end of it; for the latest development in this field has brought the concept of war to a new era-- from the earthly land, sea & sky into the heavenly & endless space.

The usage of satellite as a spying tool is no more new to us but have you heard of the usage of one satellite to destroy another? This new development of space-war make use of a satellite which explodes when nearing the enemy's satellite thus destroying it.

Another new development is the use of a laser beam projected from the ground to hit the enemy's satellite. We all know that laser beam is a beam of extremely concentrated light which can even penetrate steel plates of a few inches thick with the greatest of ease. When the satellite is hit by the laser, the electronic devices and control system would be damaged and the satellite would be out of control.

The fast development of space war is due to strategic value in case of a nuclear war. Most of present day sophisticated war



machineries are very dependent on the satellite as a means of locating enemy targets and also a means of communication. If one side is able to destroy all the satellites of the other, then the other side be 'blinded' & would not be able to carry out nuclear war effectively. The victor would then be able to force the enemy to sign an unequal 'peace treaty' and thus benefits economically from the treaty.

Since the satellite is so important, is there any way of protecting our satellite from enemy assault? One of the ways is to shoot up large number of 'black satellite'. These 'black satellites' are able to absorb the electron magnetic wave produced by the enemy radar instead of reflecting them back to the radar. In this way, the enemy would not be able to locate the position of these 'black satellites' and thus are unable to destroy it. These 'black satellites' must be powered by its own nuclear generator because the solar generator used in ordinary satellite can be easily located by the enemy radar.

Although human intelligence has already brought war into space but this is only representative of the handful of people who created wars to achieve their own ends. The will of the vast majority is to end all wars and not to abuse technology by developing the space-war which in itself is nothing but pure wastage of human accessories and abuse of human intelligence.

Poem Corner

Freedom

Our Society is based on Justice, Equality and Freedom,
So they say.
Do not protest,
For this is free competition.
You are free to compete
And, of course, the exploiter
Will be free to exploit.

Yes, you are free to
To step on others' body and
Feed on their blood,
Using all wicked means,
Sell your souls,
your integrity
To join the exploiter class

This is a society
Where man exploit man, but
'You get all
the freedom to compete'.
However it's an open secret
that the poor have only
The freedom to be exploited
but not the freedom of
Not being exploited.

Corporal Lu



G=1 Planting Sweet Corn - song

2 5 1 3 1 5 5 6 7 1 -

A - gun ka - wan ki - to ber - sa - ma

1. Come my friends to - ge - ther let us go

2. Fer - ti - li - zer to en - rich the field

2 3 4 5 3 1 2 3 2 1 -

Me - na - nam dia - gung di - ke - bun ki - ta

Planting out the Sweet Corn - row by row

Spread it care - ful - ly to in - crease our yield.

1 5 5 5 5 - 3 1 1 1 1 -

Am - bil tang - kul mu Am - bil pang - kul mu

Bring a - long your Spade. Bring a - long your hoe

Sweet - Corn plump & round soon will grow a round

2 1 7 6 5 4 4 3 2 1 -

ki - ta be - ker - dia tak die - mu - die - mu

If we're all at work, it will not be slow

Use - ful food for all here will soon be found

5 3 5 3 5 4 3 4 6 -

Tiang - kul tiang - kul tiang - kul gang da - lam

Dig - gung dig - gung dig - gung in the soil

Dig - gung dig - gung hope - ful - ly we go

2 2 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 -

Ta - nah - nja long - gar dia - gung ku - ta - nam.

When the corn is ripe, it will re - ward our toil

Plan - ting out the Sweet Corn - row by row

SPSU BOOKFAIR '77

THEME 'AWAKENING WITH BOOKS'

~ SAMUEL ~



It is noticeable that most Singaporeans, especially students, are not aware of the happenings around them. Such behaviour is very closely related to the environment we are in. Everyday, commercials are trying to drown us with ardent pursue for self-gratification, especially the cinemas and television, encourage us to indulge in the small circle of two-persons' world. In school, the system has made us join in the mad race for paper qualifications, in the midst of which we are programmed to be selfish and apathetic towards things which are not in our scope of interest.

Aims

With these in mind, the bookfair was planned at the start of the 17th Students' Council. The theme was "Awakening With Books", with the main aim of introducing and promoting thought-provoking books. Books that probe, question and provoke our thoughts on the harshness of bureaucracy, social realities and the people in general are rarely introduced and promoted but instead, best sellers on sex, crime and thrillers, which not only bring fast money but also divert readers from realities, are given much publicity.

The educational system has provided us literature and philosophies which are impractical to our context. Students have become so cut-off from reality as we bury ourselves with books in the Ivory tower pursuing academic qualifications that many of us have lost contact with the society and our people. We have also been barred from social realities by the prevailing culture, or to be more precise, the "culture of silence" designed to dampen any inclination towards social awareness. But students form an integral part of the society and should never be isolated from the society. As students, we must be able to recognise our role in the society and therefore will enable us to fulfil our role more effectively when we stepped out into the society.

Thus it hoped that the bookfair can act as a stepping stone in the awakening process of the people and the students, through accessing more diversified thought provoking books in the bookfair. However, this bookfair provide all that we need to know, thus we have to continue probing, reading and discussing.

The second aim of the fair is to serve as a communication between the public and the students' Union. Lately, SPSU has been receiving unnecessary publicity and often distorted news about our union from the state machinery. To advocate our stand we present the activities organised to the public and let them judge the purpose of the activities and the validity of the accusations. It also served as a means which the Union exchange ideas with the public and thus a better understanding between the public and the Union can be achieved.

The Union at the moment is now in a financially crippled state as a result of the high-handed and unconstitutional tactic of the poly Admin in not collecting the Union subscription fees with the tuition fees. Thus the fair was also organised to raise funds to alleviate this problem.



The fair was held from 21/3 to 23/3/77. Preparations for the bookfair was rather chaotic due to unforeseen delays in contacting the publishers, the complete lack of cooperation on the part of the Admin and a tough time in publicity and canvassing. Through the determination of the organising committee and the helpers in the bookfair, it turned out to be a success as can be seen by the overwhelming response and support from the public.

The bookfair was presented in several sections. The two main ones were the English and Chinese. Books were classified under Education, sociology, political science and current affairs. It was supplemented with a "Books and Authors Introduction" section where certain books and authors which the public were not aware of were recommended. Narrators were also arranged to help explain the contents of the books. Some of the books introduced were "The Enemy" and "The Gadfly".



The bookfair was further supplemented with two slide shows, one entitled "Women in Asian Development" in which the central issue pertaining to women, who constitute half of humanity, is one of inequality. There is a deep entrenchment of such values as a result of unquestioned acceptance by women of their unequal position. The world abounds with examples of how certain customs and traditions promulgate such hereditary ideas of women's innate inferiority. The whole issue is a misconception. It is one which affects both men and women alike and their basic rights as human beings and not one of men versus women.

The other slide show was entitled, "Workers in Singapore". Foreign investors are now being attracted to Singapore by its provision of cheap labour and also the various policies adopted by the government e.g. tax exemption for a period of ten years and the freedom of transferring capital from Singapore. They are also making use of the savings of our people to engage in industrial undertakings. The profits generated are mostly taken back to their homes and our diligent workers who are the real creators of wealth get only a miserable share. Further their livelihood is insecure. Industrial accidents occur every now and then in shipyards, construction sites and factories. No safety measures and precautions are seriously taken, work is often laborious and exhaustive. Who is to blame if an accident occurs in such circumstances? The most threatening issue to workers is retrenchment. Many workers were made jobless when retrenchment struck in 1974.

Conclusion

Thus in conclusion, the bookfair provided many eye-opening and essential facts that we never know before. Judging from the encouraging and overwhelming support from the public (about 2,000 books were sold and more than 3,000 people attended), we can deduce that the Students' Union is an organisation with the interest of the people. She has revealed and unmasked the long concealed social realities of our society, giving us a clearer insight into the life of our people.

BOOK REVIEW:



POLLUTION

KUALA JURU'S BATTLE

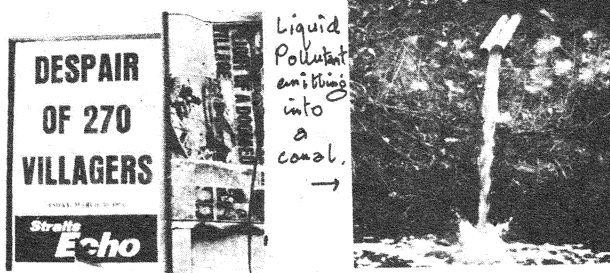
S.K. Mok

FOR SURVIVAL

Progress means to develop and advance, and of course the most important aspect of it should be the improvement in the lives of the people. However in today, the most essential aspect of this had been neglected by some people. This book, Pollution, shows how the life of a village was brought to the brink of death by these people under the pretext of 'progress'.

Kampung Kuala Juru situated at the mouth of Sungai Juru in Northern Malaysia is one of the typical fishing community amongst many others which fall prey to 'progress'. In 1968, a new bridge---Jambatan Tun Abdul Razak--- was constructed in such a way that it dam the river, thus reducing the fishing area. Besides, the fishermen could no longer row all the way to Bukit Mertajam to market the day's catch. Furthermore, silting occurred on the river banks and beds because the strength of flow was reduced as the course of the river was redirected due to the construction of this bridge. The depth of the water at high tide had dropped from the original 25 ft. to 7ft. today. Due to this, fishing has now been restricted to only certain time as it is impossible to ply a sampan through the water during low tide. Many sea life finding the water too shallow swam away into the sea. The problem of silting is worsening as time goes by while the river gets more and more shallow. The only way to solve this problem is to rebuild the bridge so that it will not dam the river. However until today, this bridge is still standing at its very place. Is it necessary to sacrifice the livelihood of a group of people for this bridge?

Unfortunately, before the fishermen have recovered from their first misfortune, another blow struck them. In the vicinity of this village, an industrial estate was set up, following which many factories start discharging various toxic chemicals wastes into the water resulting in environmental pollution. In a particular case, it was found that the level of mercury shoots up to as high as 460 times above the international recognised safety standard. Excessive consumption of such metal are harmful not only to the fish, but also to human beings who either eat the



fish or drink the water. Dead fishes floating on the river is such a common scene nowadays. Besides, since the pollution had begun, many different types of fishes which the fishermen used to catch and sell for a long time have become extinct. Fishes caught now not only fetch a lower market price due to a strong smell and taste caused by the pollutants discharged, but also have been reduced largely in number. Consequently, the income and living standard of these villagers dropped drastically. Is this what progress and development mean?

"Is it against the law for us to be fishermen? Yet by allowing the factories to keep on polluting the river, we no longer can be fishermen. Is it legal for people to pollute the environment and damage other people's livelihood? It shouldn't be allowed and the authorities should see to it that it stops as soon as possible," these are some of the doubts among the villagers. Yes, it is the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that the livelihood of the people, such as the fishermen, is not recklessly sacrificed, and to preserve a healthy environment for its people. But why is it that so far no action was taken by the authorities to stop this? Is the authorities unaware of these problems? Impossible! As early as in 1971, several letters were written to the authorities appealing to them to do something to stop the adverse effects of the new bridge and also later regarding the problems of pollution. But these letters are just equivalent to being thrown into the deep sea. Under the law, it is illegal to pollute the environment. Why then is this law not enforced? What is the purpose of setting up the law? Is it meant for some people to violate?

The income of most of the fishermen is insufficient to support their families as their work is now unstable depending on the tides of the river. Due to this, serious unemployment problems arises. In most families, three meals a day have become a burden to them. Many cannot afford to send their children to school. In a particular family, the children have to "take shifts" to go to school. Besides if anyone in a family is sick, none can afford to visit a doctor. Such is their life....compared to those rich people.

cont'd on Pg 1

..... ON METAL BOX WORKERS' STRIKE cont'd from page 5

(2 to 3 hundred containers per minute). Under such a condition where slight negligence could cause a damage of a few thousand containers, the workers were already under severe strain. Yet, the company still insisted in increasing the workload of workers. How long can the workers withstand such treatment? Obviously, this is a tactic to force the workers to leave the factory on their own accord. So new workers with lower pay can be employed.

Eventually, on the 4th April, the SMBWU, after several fruitless attempts to negotiate with the management, called upon the workers to go on strike. Earlier, secret ballots were casted and the unanimous decision of the workers favoured the taking of industrial action. Altogether over 90% of the total workforce join in the strike. Those who remain in the factory are chiefly Malaysian citizens who are afraid to endanger their work permits.

After walking out of the factory at about 2.00 pm., the workers proceeded to put up banners outside informing the public of their plight and demands from the management. Tents were erected so that they can keep watch of the things they had put up. Letters were also sent to seek advice from the NTUC and the Ministry of Labour, but there was no satisfactory reply received.

It can be seen that the workers are very united under the leadership of the Union. When interviewed by student reporters, some workers commented: "We will stay put until the management give in to our demands," "without the skilled workers, how can the company run?" Though some workers landed up in financial difficulties, they are able to carry on the strike through the help of other workers. The workers also started to economise their daily expenditure in order to continue their struggle against the management.

However, the local press have given much distorted and one-sided information concerning the motives of the strike. The Strait Times quoted Devan Nair, Gen. Sec. of NTUC, saying that "There are ways and means of making life difficult for an unjust personnel manager... These do not include, however, a demand for the dismissal of the personnel manager." Another quote came from a "break-away protem committee" accusing that the SMBWU leaders are "bankrupt of ideas and callous of the welfare of the members," and also that the "purpose of the union strike action was to support a demand for the dismissal of the personnel officer, not for better conditions of employment."

The sacking of the personnel manager is only one of the main reasons for the strike, whereas equally important is the management's refusal to recognise the Union and its arrogance towards Union officials. (In fact, many Union Officials were victimised and dismissed, including the Chairman, John Tan, and the Secretary, Mok Joo Soon.)

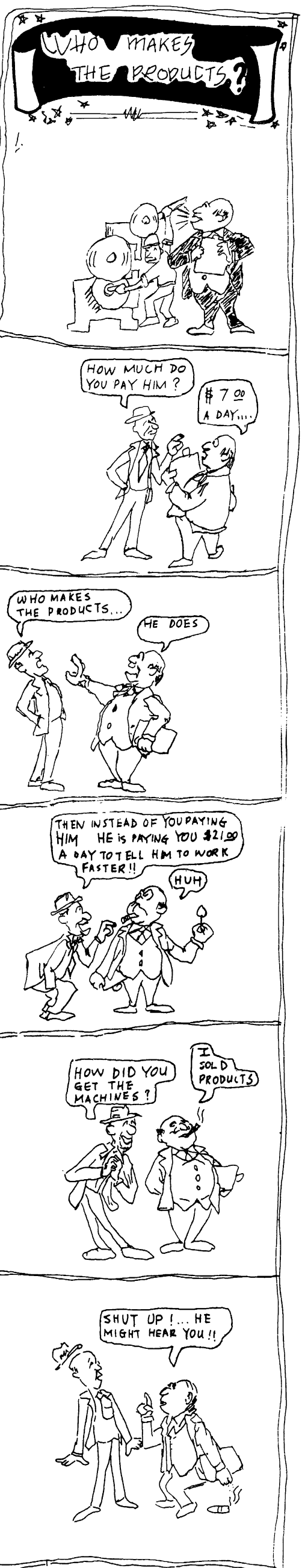
Secondly, if the SMBWU leaders are "bankrupt of ideas and callous of the welfare of the members", how then can they lead 400 workers to go on strike? Moreover, why did the press give so much publicity to a so-called pro-tem committee, representing a small group which broke away from the rest, while the voice of the 400 odd workers who are still on strike is not heard at all? Lastly, if the demand for the dismissal of the personnel manager did not arise from the fact that the workers want a better condition of employment, what then is the demand for?

All in all, it's evident that the press is trying to play up the image that the workers are very disillusioned and disunited. But, in actual fact, the strike had already entered into a month.

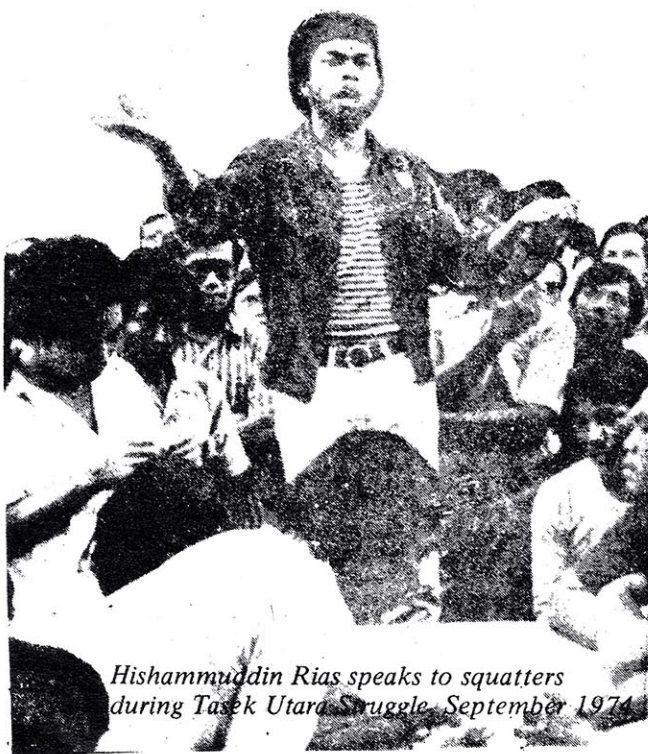
A few days after the workers went on strike, the PIEU made their presence & tried to unionise the non-striking workers and new workers, claiming that it is a "responsible and sincere" Union. In actual fact, the PIEU's interference amounts to an industrial blackmail to sabotage the SMEWU as the collective agreement between the Metal Box management and the SMBWU is going to expire soon. Even Devan Nair himself said that he advised the workers to join the PIEU (S.T.). Nevertheless, who would want to join a Union which has a record

of suppressing the members and serving the interests of the bosses. (A clear-cut example would be the 1974 American Marine retrenchment case, where it even framed up workers and students on rioting charges.) Consequently, very few workers agreed to join the PIEU (those who joined were mainly new workers.)

The just struggle of the M.B. workers is not an isolated struggle by itself. It receives tremendous support from other workers in general as well; for instance, the bus workers donated 100 sacks of rice and the PSA harbour workers donated one thousand dollars to the M.B. workers. This clearly reveals the solidarity among the workers who are one and in the same family.



Hishamuddin Rais, former Secretary General of the now banned National Union of Malaysian Students (PKPM), was arrested in Australia on 16th January 1977. He was charged with four charges by the Victoria Stated Police which related to his involvement in a demonstration against the Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew 3 months ago prior to his arrest. The Australian Union of Students together with the Overseas Student Service (OSS) immediately launched a campaign demanding all the four charges be dropped and political asylum be granted to Hishamuddin. Under the strong protest of the Australian students and overseas students studying currently in Australia and public pressure, the four trumped-up charges were dismissed eventually. However, political asylum for Hishamuddin Rais was refused by the Australian government. Though he was alternatively given a six months of stay in Australia in arrange a third country for refuge, Hisha refused it totally.



Hishamuddin Rais speaks to squatters during Tasek Utara Struggle, September 1974

(ASIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION)

Hishamuddin has been continuously involved in the struggle for justice of oppressed people around the world. In his country he gained widespread respect and support from the people because of his active involvement in the struggles of workers, peasants and students. Among other issues he involved himself in, Hishamuddin was active in the struggle against the Thai military regime's suppression of the Muslim minority in Pattani (1971), the protests against the Vietnam war (1972), the protests against US involvement in the Middle East (1973), the Tasek Utara Squatter uprisings (1974) and the Baling Hunger Strike (1974). During this time Hishamuddin was Secretary General of the National Union of Malaysian Students (PKPM) for 6 months in 1972, Secretary General of the University of the Malaya Students' Union (1973/4) and was elected President of UMSU immediately prior to the banning of that organisation.

During the Tasek Utara Squatter Uprisings, Hisha was arrested (alleged for obstructing a police officer) and jailed. He was released on bail a week later. Following his release, he became involved in the Baling hunger strike and as consequence was wanted by the Malaysian government under the notorious Internal Security Act (ISA). This act provides the Malaysian government with power to arrest and jail anyone, for any length of time, who is considered to be a 'danger to national security'. People arrested under this ISA do not undergo a trial and have no recourse to justice.

STUDENTS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY SPSU

EXHIBITION

In spite of the lack of publicity (it was actually intended for members only), the Exhibition turned out to be a great success. The people, students, workers keep on flowing into our small and miserable Union House to view the Exhibition. The 2-day exhibition (intentionally) was stretched up to one week from morning till night and it was only closed down when the Ministry of Culture threatened to take down the exhibits by force. The Exhibition itself showed that the public are concerned about the students' movement and also that they believe our report and interpretation of events (like Thai students' movement and Malaysian students' movement etc) rather than the controlled press. Through the exhibition, many realise that we often face repression when we want to do something meaningful instead of just mugging for exams.

SPSU BOOKFAIR 76/77

In spite of the framing up of SPSU student leaders as 'communist' and 'red' more than 2 000 people attended the simple 3 day bookfair. People communicated with each other, discussing about books, authors and introducing others to read books.

Whatever the authorities may try, the support for the students' activities is always there and this gave the active SPSU members great encouragement in continuing their struggle.

WHAT DOES SPSU STANDS FOR?

Internally, the students' movement arouse great interest in the students and more students participated in Union activities. The new group of Union leaders

- WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SPSU - continued from Page 8

understand that it is their duty to take care of the students' welfare and they probed into various possibilities.

The Students' Service Centre was first set up in SPSU to provide cheap stationaries for Poly students. The Service Centre was most welcomed by the student

When the Union recieved news that the Poly-engaged bookstall is selling their slide rule at \$18.90; SpSU bought them in bulk and sold it to the students at \$16.2 This forced the book stall to reduce the price to that of the Union's.

In the past, the Union had not fully utilised its bus and it was decided that the Union bus be used to transport students from the Ayer Rajah Campus and the Dover Road Campus to the bus terminus at Commonwealth Avenue instead of taking a bus there. It is also used to transport students to the Union House for activities. The 17th Students' Council started with sparkling success in demanding from the Admin for the use of calculator by students in the examinations. However, the Admin did not allow the first year students to use the calculators without giving any reasons.

GROWTH OF SPSU

In the past, SPSU did not organise any regular activities within the campus. However, in the beginning of the 76/77 session, SPSU began to organise various regular activities. It included a regular basketball practice, volleyball practice and a chess club. All the committees including the social, welfare, publication and the Campus Co-ordinating Committee were re-organised. It was when campus activities were at its height that the 5 student leaders were arrested and this put a stop to almost all the activities.

WHAT DOES SPSU STANDS FOR?

In the campus SPSU is the champion of students' rights and the care-taker of students' welfare. Outside the campus, SPSU acts as a social watchdog sensitive to suffering of the majority of the people--- that is why she is recieving their popular support.

In spite of this the authorities tried to suppress SPSU--they arrested her leaders, created white terror, evicted SPSU from her Union House and recently they wanted to take over in the Freshmen orientation, stopped collecting her Union fees and Victimise her leaders. What do all these acts imply? It shows nothing else other than the ANTI-PEOPLE and ANTI-STUDENT nature of the authorities.

WE WILL NOT GIVE UP BUT CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR UNION THE LAST AUTONOMOUS STUDENTS' UNION LEFT IN SINGAPORE

WHAT WILL THE UNION DO?

The Students' Council realises that her support is mainly from the students and the public and that it is by actively involving the students and the public that the Union can survive.

In solving her problems she would be organising fund raising activities and organising the students and the public and the students to protest against repression by the authorities.

WE APPEAL TO ALL READERS TO CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPSU AND ALSO TO LOOK OUT FOR ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY SPSU. LET US WORK HAND IN HAND FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND AND A MORE JUST AND HUMANE SOCIETY.

VICTIMISATION IN POLY!

After the first attempt to create chaos in the Union by the arrest of student leaders in 1976, more direct repressive measures have been used to intimidate students.

At first, it started with refusal to bookings of rooms for Union activities then there was a predawn robbery of our Union banner on the Union House issue and now in another attempt to crush the Union, the authorities are all out to use every machineries and tactics they have to see that the Union dies. Together with other issues to achieve the same effect (Union fees, Union House & F.O.C.) is yet another disaster that struck the Union --Victimisation.

Following is an interview with the latest victims of the such act. Questions asked were

Were you confident of passing the exams? Why?

Is your result up to your expectation?

How do you feel about being victimised? Why do think you have been victimised?

What have you done so far?

What is your chance of getting a repeat?



WONG SING YUING
UNION HOUSE SECRETARY
COURSE: CIVIL ENGG
1ST YEAR RESULTS: 1A; 4Bs; 1C

" To pass this exam, I am not so confident. But to repeat, I'm very sure of myself. I think many of you know that to pass such an exam, all one needs is a proper plan and a suitable method of studying. As for myself, I have six subjects, excluding my optional paper, environmental paper. The other papers are Strength of Material; Hydraulic; Quantities of Construction and Drawing; Geology and Soil Mechanics; Survey; and Maths.

Certainly NOT, I'm surprised to be removed from the course. The results are totally out of expectation. I have only scored a 'D' for Hydraulics and I was so confident to score even a grade 'A' for my Strength of Materials as I had wished to be exempted from it when I repeat. During the exams, I had found Hydraulics to be tougher than Strength of Material, yet I have failed in it. As for my survey paper, I had done badly in the practical, but even then, I'm confident in obtaining at least a 'D' grade from what I had done in the exam.

It is true that sometimes things may turn out of expectation. But the decision to remove us, who are all active Union workers, without giving any chance to repeat like any other ordinary students is downright victimisation. If the Admin is concerned about our fellow students' welfare, they should have considered the extra time the Union workers need to put aside to cater for our fellow students.

During the past few days, I had been trying to contact my lecturers but 5 out of 6 were all on leave. Why are there so many lecturers on leave from the same course? Are they not concerned about those unlucky students who failed?

continued from front page

Secondly, let's see why they did not attempt to remove other Excocs, especially the first years.

Being second year students and having realised their roles much earlier than the first years, they are more conscious of the importance of their role in the Union and besides, they have much more initiative to play their role better than any others. To remove them is inevitable for the authorities to achieve their aim as early as possible.

Another point to note is that victimisation is always done so subtly that it will not be clear-cut enough to see, hence doubts will be casted and the issue can easily be masked to their advantage. That is why it is not possible for them to victimise all Excocs.

WHY IS IT DONE NOW?

The Union since the awakening of many students, that is realising their responsibilities inside and outside the campus, had its turning point in 1974 when the Union started to be socially aware. Since then, more and more students, especially after the 76/77 Freshmen Orientation, many new students still stayed on to help in the organising works even after an attempt to scare them by the arrest of student leaders at that time. This has resulted in the growth of our Union. By using their machinery like ISA and now the Poly Admin, which is a more subtle way, they will check the growth of our Union by depriving the Union of a leadership; victimisation also served as a warning to students against active participation and involvement. This would certainly result in a deficiency in the ever growing Union of ours, which would lead to the gradual defunct of the Union.

WHY VICTIMISATION IS POSSIBLE

The exam and its marking system is made such that it is all an inside job. Therefore whoever is victimised have no other means but to appeal. Even then, he might be wasting his time and money because the decision still lies in certain people; and if there is any dirty trick played, it is not possible for us to pinpoint. However, if the Admin is clear of such tricks in victimising students, then there is no reason why papers which the victims are confident of be looked and checked to ensure fair marking --but will the Admin dare to prove that they are clean by allowing it?

" I believe exam is only a test of method of study; how much we can memorise at that moment of say three hours; be able to manipulate those basic principles being taught and after 11 years of education and have been through scores of exams, naturally, I have developed a method of study which I found very effective. So to say of confidence, I would say, I have very much confidence in my academic performance.

Yes, initially when I found that I had failed 5 subjects because I know definitely I had clear and had done very well in the subjects namely, Maths; Electronics and Electrical Engineering. I am very sure of this because for these papers, I could do all the 5 questions required, especially for Maths. The paper required of us to attempt all the 4 problems--in section A which contains 60% of the total marks and 2 problems from section B (40%). Out of these 6 problems attempted, I found difficulties in 2 parts of a question in section A and 1 part in section B (there were 3 parts in the question). Moreover, I'm very sure my working method are correct. I can see no reason why I should fail this paper because according to my lecturer, the assessment of the paper is based on the principles we know.



However, after a careful analysis of the whole problem, together with other incidences, the results are not surprising after all because I realised that I'm being victimised.

TAN TEE SENG
VICE - PRESIDENT
COURSE: ELECTRICAL ENGG.
1ST YEAR RESULT: 2As; 3Bs; 1C

I strongly condemn such act and view it as a persecution of our Union. Such unscrupulous tactics to stop students' movement need to be exposed and checked. This also clearly shows how desperate these Admin people are; but they neglect the point that those who stand on the side of truth and justice shall win ultimately. I feel it is a good process that many more students can be made to see the true nature of the Admin. I think students should take action now to prevent such kind of thing happening again. Clearly we can see that we are being victimised so to appeal (according to Admin's prospectus) is definitely a waste of time and money but we challenge the Admin to face the truth. Truth is on our side. Our fellow students will be aware of the truth."



ANG SOO CHENG
HON. GEN. SECRETARY
COURSE: CIVIL ENGG
1ST YEAR RESULTS: 3As, 3Bs

" I don't expect a clear pass. I have not much time left for preparation as most of my time was spent in Union work. But I'm prepare for a repeat that's why I have worked out a plan to study the 4 subjects out of six: Hydraulics; Strength of Material; Survey; Quantities of Constr. & Drawing. These subjects are chosen as there was help around and thus easier to cope.

As expected, I passed Hydraulic & Strength of Material but for others, I had a 50% chance.

It's totally unexpected that I was removed and I'm sure that I have been victimised because I've never come across any caselike mine that is not allowed to repeat even though 2 papers are

It is regrettable that the suppression of students' movement has come to a state where they even dare to victimise student leaders so openly but I would not succumb to such unscrupulous acts of the authorities.

....Why they are victimised..

" It is not hard to understand why, if we can see what the situation now in Poly is--The nature of the Poly Admin and the students' Union. We are all Excocs, many things happened that we as Excocs were forced to confront with the Admin. In the process, we learn to tackle them and not to budge under their threats and naturally this would be an eye-sore to them and we would be an obstacle for their repressive acts on students in future. Another point is that now as the Union is getting more and more effective, the act of victimisation on active members (specifically Excocs) would cow away students from being active and involved.

their chance of getting a repeat

It all depends on the situation now, whether the Admin is desperate enough to face the consequences. To repeat means that we will be able to serve SPSU for one more year, and as it had been mentioned before, it will be an eye-sore to the Admin. On the other hand, they would want to wear the mask that they are 'clean' and it is their public image that they should be more concerned of."

Editor Note:

This is not the first time Excocs are being victimised. In the meantime they have sent in a letter of appeal to the Examination Board to reconsider.

The implication is clear-- SPSU is now their target of persecution. They will no longer tolerate SPSU as it may become an organisation too strong to die later. But these will not deter the students from working even harder for the survival of our Union and it only serves to educate and arouse awareness in more people and student.

—reporter—

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