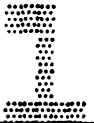




# THE STUDENTS' VOICE



AN INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION

.....  
15th JUNE 1976 Volume 1  
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## THE FRESHMEN ORIENTATION 26/27 -- A failure?

Introduction:-

As I walk pass the the crowds of senior students, I heard many of them complaining about the freshmen orientation. Many said that the orientation was so dull and " no fun at all ". To them it was simply a failure.

Why are the senior students so frustrated?

In order to find out the truth of the matter we must analyse the phenomena happening during the Orientation. Some seniors insisted that ragging is good for the new students as it will make them "less cocky". They claimed that they were themselves ragged and they "enjoyed it very much". As far as this "theory of ragging" is concerned, there is no need for any reputation as it is unacceptable to most people. Other senior students are smarter, they understand that the "theory of ragging" cannot hold and they will never use the word "ragging". They claim that they wishes to have "friendly interactions" but were "brutally stopped"

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\* STOP PRESS !! \*

\* 1ST EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MTC \*

\* An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting will be held on 16th June 1976  
\* (Wednesday) at 1.30pm. The venue is at A.R.C. M.L.T.  
\* Agenda:

\* To consider a vote of non-confidence on the 16th Students'  
\* Council.

\* The Extra-Ordinary General Meeting is one of the most important  
\* meetings of the Students' Union. During this meeting important  
\* decisions shall be made and the decisions made will be binding to  
\* All union members.

\* On 16/6/76 all lectures will end before 1.00 pm and members attending  
\* the E.O.G.M. will have to bring their own Union Constitution.

\* 16th Students' Council,  
\* S.P.S.U.

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contd. from pg. 1.

by the F.O.C. personnels. They have not been allowed to participate in the class sessions and were also banned from programmes like film and slide shows. Some claimed that the new students have no respect at all for the seniors.

#### WHAT ARE THE FACTS

IN FACT IT IS A POLICY OF THE F.O.C. TO ENCOURAGE FRIENDLY INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE NEWCOMERS AND THE SENIORS. The F.O.C. has laid down a policy which enable senior students into the class sessions with the conditions that they must enter the class within half an hour after the commencement of the programmes and also hand their Adm. Cards to the C.G.L.

However on the 1st day such regulations were not observed and some students even torn down the posters put up by the Freshman Orientation Committee. In spite of this, on Wednesday the G.Ls. allowed senior students into the classes after they had submitted their admission cards. In some classes, the situation was initially quite O.K. However in the latter part certain senior students went into some of the classes and created disturbances and they upsetted the whole session.

When asked for their opinions, the new students unanimously wanted those senior students to be out of the class. Even then, the seniors were not allowed into the class only when G.Ls. found it almost impossible to continue the programmes smoothly. Regarding the allegation that they were "brutally stopped" from "friendly interactions" it must be pointed out that only a category of students were "brutally stopped" while many others were allowed to continue their interaction with the new comers. WHY SHOULD THE F.O.C. PERSONNELS BRUTALLY STOP THEM FROM FRIENDLY INTERACTION? The whole picture can be made clear by using some new students' words: "If they want friendly interactions then why should twenty or more senior students crowd around one or two of us and ask stupid questions?"

Throughout the whole Orientation there were no peace. In the mist of all these "friendly interaction" a new student's hand was burned by a cigarette butt, another one receive a knock on his head and one girl was even seen sobbing after having one of those "friendly interaction". This picture is now crystal clear.

There is no doubt that there are rooms for improvement but this F.O.C. can never be considered a failure. In the past the new students were often inert and treated their Group Leaders like lecturers but this year the new comers spoke up and question the group leaders, the senior students and even Mr. Teh Yap Cheng, the acting Registrar. In the previous years, few new students would ever dared to tread into our Union House but this year you can find them all over the Union House preparing the SPSU Show, planning the hike, helping to fixed up the folder and cover, printing, typing and some of them even help the Committee to register their fellow new students.

Let us not be idealistic but rather compare this year's orientation with the previous years'. Lets examine the facts clearly and ask ourselves sincerely,

"Can this Orientation be Called a failure?"

## 新加坡工艺学院

近几年以来学生会经历着最艰苦的时期；我们这个独立自主的学生会遭到越来越多的压制。

### 学生会的性质

在以往，学生会所应肩负的任务并不明确。学生们只会埋头从追求那一纸文凭，他们并没有认识到自己是组成社会的不可分割的一分子，但在参与了一连串的社会工作后；(1974年的孟加拉救灾运动、马来半岛的打肯身打拉拆屋事件、反巴士加价运动)看清了这个不合理的社会制度以及人们正缺少一条讲出心里话的途径后，学生会开始认识到她在我们的社会所应扮演的角色。因此，我们现在所主办的活动主要强调团结同学和认识社会走出那个长久被困在里面的象牙塔。但是我们这些努力却遭受到当局无理破坏和镇压。

### 当局压制学生会的手段

学院当局违反我们的章程，不替我们缴收会员费，使到学生会不得不大幅度的减少各项活动的开支。这只不过是开始时的伎俩。最近的手段包括了逮捕和开除学生领袖学籍。没有在新院址里分配学生会会所以及学院行政当局的不合作态度——这种种伎俩都在使广大的学生感到害怕，进一步地破坏学生会的成长。

朋友们，我们决不会向这些高压手段低头。事实上，它们只有使我们对这个制度认识得更深刻。

为了减轻我们的财政负担，学生会现在举办电影招待会；不过，更重要的是我们希望在发扬健康文化下介绍几部较好的电影给广大社会人士，并且希望通过这项活动能够缩短学生会、公众人士和学生之间的隔阂。在你的支持下，我们将会继续我们的事业。

### 影片“死刑”简介

一九一〇年四月五日，在美国的一个小城市里，发生了一宗大劫案。在五月五日，当局便逮捕了两名居于美国的意大利人，Sacco (一名鞋匠) 及 Vanzetti (一名鱼贩)。

但是，这俩人的被捕，不是因为他们参与大劫案，而是因为他们都是工人组织的活跃分子。

影片通过了反映这两人被捕后，在法庭上受审讯的经过，赤裸裸的暴露了美国资本主义社会的反民主、不公正的一面。在这个自称为“世界上最民主，法律与人人平等”的国家里，Sacco和Vanzetti的遭遇究竟是怎样的呢？在法庭上，他们提出了有力的人证物证，来为自己的罪名进行反驳，并证明了他们是设有犯罪的。但是，这些证据却被当局利用国家机器，一一的被消灭掉。虽然，当局没有充分的理由及证据来加罪于他们，但在法庭上，他们却被强加罪名，被判死刑。

这次的审讯，引起了公众人士对当局的强烈抗议。工人们发动了签名运动，罢工示威行动，来表示对美法西斯政府的抗议及抗议。工人们为了救Sacco及Vanzetti也尝试向高等法庭投诉，但不成功。

这些抗议的行动，并不能使当局改变他们的决定，不过却不能不使当局缩短刑期。这对Sacco及Vanzetti来说是一个得救的希望，但也加重了他们的痛苦。Sacco始终不能忍受而精神失常，被送往犯人精神病院。Vanzetti也提云子死，但最终仍被监禁，但不被折磨。

终于，在一九一七年八月廿三日凌晨，Sacco及Vanzetti光荣的死在电椅上。

## SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION

It has been a trying period here in the Union for the past few years as more and more repressive measures had been taken against our only autonomous Union.

### The Nature of SPSU

In the past, the role of SPSU was not clear. Students were indulged in the paper chase and could not identify themselves as an integral part of the society.

~~Awakened by~~ a series of social issues (in 1974) Bangladeshi flood relief campaign, Tasek Utera, Anti bus fare hike campaign. SPSU has since began to realise her role she has to play in our society, having seen the irrationality of the system and realised the lack of a channel for the people to voice their aspirations. Subsequently, her activities now organised are mainly stressed on mass participation from students and to break away from the ivory towers which she had long been confined in. However, these attempts to play her role effectively did not escape the suppressive nature of the authorities.

### Attempts to kill the Union

Union fees were not collected together with the tuition fees - an act of violating our constitution. This has forced the Union to slash down her activities drastically, and it was only the initial stage. More recent acts were the arrest and even the removal of her leaders, the robbing of our Union House in New campus and the uncooperative attitude of Admin.,--all served to instil fear in the students and discourage the growth of the Union.

Fellow friends, We will not give in to these repressive acts; In fact they only enable us to see more clearly the nature of the system.

To lighten our financial burden, the Union is now organising fund raising film shows but more important, we hope to play our part to promote a healthy culture by providing more healthy film shows in our environment and also that through this project the communication gap between the Union, the public and the students may be more mutually bridged.

### SACCO AND VANZETTI- FILM INTRODUCTION

This film is about the undemocratic and prejudice trial of two Italian male immigrants, Sacco and Vanzetti. This trial took place in the United States of America, a country which boasts about her democratic ways.

On the 5th April 1910 at South Braintree in a small town in Massachusetts, there was a case of violent robbery. The following May 5th, the police arrested two Italian male immigrants namely, Nicolo Sacco, a shoemaker and Vanzetti, a fish seller. From this moment the film unfolds to the audience a macabre episode where two innocent men were sentenced to the electric chair for a crime which they did not commit.

The film brings out the true face of bourgeois America. The U.S.A. is respected to be the leader of the so-called free world and further boasts about her democratic institutions, especially the court which claims to judge all men equally without any prejudice.

However, the ugly side of this "most democratic country in the world" is unreservedly exposed in the film. The defence council produced 99 witnesses during the trial amongst whom an official of the Italian consulate in New York. But the public prosecutor destroyed all the witnesses. Further the defence had proven beyond doubt the innocence of the two accused. There was not sufficient proof to show that they were guilty but the jury without hesitation pronounced them both guilty.

Further investigations by the defence revealed that the state machinery was used to remove all evidence which pointed to Sacco's and Vanzetti's innocence. Both of them were not guilty but were victimised due to their beliefs. (They were radical labour unionists)

Meanwhile the case was stirring up strong disatisfactions from the public against the fascist in America.

Attempts were made to bring the case before the Supreme Court but they were all in vain. Vanzetti was prepared to serve life sentence instead of facing the electric chair but the Governor whose career was more important to him, turned Vanzetti's formal request.

All the petitioning and demonstrations only served to prolong the execution which gave both the 'condemned men' some hope. The tension in them built up and this increased their torment. Sacco's nerve gave in and he was taken to a criminal asylum for some time.

Finally, at midnight August 23rd 1917, Sacco and Vanzetti were sent to the electric chair and died a dignified death.

## SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION

Dear fellow students,

On the morning of 11/12/74 at 4.45 am, about 20 immigration officers and plainclothesmen raided our Union House in Prince Edward. They forcefully opened the front gate that was locked. They immediately made an unwarranted search in the Secretariat, Society Room and the Conference Room. Their behaviour was most gangster-like and aggressive. They high-handedly demanded for the I.C.s of the students present. They claim d that this raid was just a 'routine check'. There was no warrant at all and none of the officers would identify himself when requested to do so.

On the same morning, police-men and plainclothesmen invaded the USSU Union House and took away five student leaders.

They are, 1) Juliet Chin, Hon.Gen. Sec. of USSU  
2) Bong Hon Min, Vice-President of USSU  
3) Chia Yong Tai  
4) Chuah Cheng Lai  
5) Choo Foo Yong

About 40 students were present at the time of the raid. The officers refused to identify themselves and did not allow students to make or receive any telephone call. The officers told these 5 students that as from today (11th December 1974), their student passes had been cancelled and that they would be deported in the morning. The officers said that students were to be taken to the Immigration Department in South Quay.

At 1.00 p.m. a group of 70 students gathered at the Immigration Deport (the gate was closed) to inquire and express concern over the arrest of 5 student leaders who were deported. Getting no information, students returned to Polytechnic Canteen (PEC) and a small rally was held there.

At 3.00 pm., Mr. Ager came to the rally. He was asked to clarify on why the Department Heads were ordered to go around checking on the attendance of students in each class and the extra ordinary tight security at ARC. He walked off without any regard for the several students hoping to hear from him.

### ADMIN'S ACTIONS

Accomplished by Department Heads, Mr. Ager, our beloved Principal went round personally to each class to check on the attendance of students. This is history in the making. Mr. Ager wants to make sure that we indulge in nothing else but academic studies. Students who skipped lectures this week will be directed to the Head of Departments. A tight security was also imposed at ARC with no given reason at all. Students entering the premises had to produce their AFM cards. Why is there such a drastic attendance record policy and checking of Adm. card? Could it be related to the recent student activities developing on the morning of 11/12/74 when the court hearing for USSU President, Mr. Tan Wah Piow was to commence, and the pre-dawn raids at the two Union Houses? Mr. Ager had said that he was never pressurized in any way to take such unprecedented actions which means that he is solely responsible for all these decisions made. Mr. Ager therefore owes us an explanation why those policies were implemented. It was indeed sad that our Principal have ignored our request and

subsequent demand that he explain to the students.

Recently SPSU and USSU have been socially orientated. These two student Unions, the only two effective organisations that still have the meagre freedom to champion the cause of the common people, are working closely hand in hand. It is at this timely stage that when workers-students solidarity is fast manifesting that the authorities came up with an intensive repression programme - several student leaders have already been harrassed and even arrested. Our Ministers have also in the recent weeks indicated that students are a threat to society and must be put into the right place.

We viewed these arrests and deportation of students leaders by the authorities concerned and the all unethical exercise of imposing stringent attendance measures by the Administration as a suppression of student movements. All these were aimed at retarding and eventually crippling our progress.

We call on all students to stand up in this critical moment, to demonstrate our firm solidarity by attending the trial of Tan Wah Piow and the two workers, Ng Wah Ling and Yap Kim Fong. We also urge all members to attend the rallies to be held today and every other day. There will be a mass rally held at ARC canteen at 11.00am sharp. Transport is provided for students at PEC, leaving at 10.30 am. Prior to that, the Students' Council will arrange for a meeting with the Principal to seek for clarification of the Admin's actions.

JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY NOW

## SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC CHINESE LANGUAGE SOCIETY OPEN LETTER

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the 6th Sept. 1976, it was alleged that the Singapore Polytechnic Chinese Language Society (SPCLS) has been infiltrated by a Communist underground satellite organisation, and in the 'confession' appearing on T.V. the following day, two former members of the SPCLS mentioned something about the activities of the SPCLS. What had been mentioned or said in the statement and the T.V. interview about the SPCLS were far from being factual and were of utmost misleading. As such, we would like to bring out the following:

(1) That the SPCLS is one of the registered student bodies in the Singapore Polytechnic. For the past 10 years, through the hardwork and support of her fellow members, she has made great achievements. Her membership increases many times, and her activities become more diversified. Cultural, recreational and academic activities are among those that receive overwhelming response from the student mass.

(2) In the period between '71 to '74, we had successfully staged four variety concerts, either at the National Theatre or at the Victoria Theatre. Among these, there was one that was staged to raise fund for the Chung Hwa Free Clinic. During this period, the flooding filthy and unhealthy culture had plagued the morale of our youngsters. Why do these culture poisons exist unchecked? Under the guidance of the Society's objective to promote healthy cultural activities, we stepped forward to organise these cultural activities. The overwhelming support from the members and public encourage us to advance along this course. The early sold-out of tickets and piles of letters of comments and encouragement we received after the concerts expressed one fact that what we are doing are absolutely meaningful and we have the support of the public at large.

(3) The SPCLS has published a bi-monthly magazine 'The Modern Trend' in the end of 1970, and had continued doing so for 6 successive issues. This year, starting from March, we are publishing a new magazine 'Radiance'. Both of these magazine aim to promote analytical reading attitude for readers. These publications are of special significance in view of the flooding reading materials that advocate unhealthy culture in the market, deteriorating the minds of our younger generation. 'Radiance' has its emphasis on local student affairs, world current affairs and articles on the people from all walks of life. The overwhelming support from the readers proves that 'Radiance' is a worthy magazine. The circulation of 'Radiance' for instances, has reached a record of 10,000 copies per issue. Isn't this a solid proof of what we have done and are doing are to the interest of the public?

(4) SPCLS use to organise holiday camps during the Polytechnic Vacation. In these camps, the participants are encouraged to cultivate the good qualities of mutual understanding, to care for and help one another. The activities also aim to create a sense of responsibility towards society, to build up the spirit of collective living. These activities are also helpful in providing a more lively and diversified Poly life. Aren't these activities too are advocate by our Administration and our Ministers? According to the statement of the Ministry, it seems to mean that the slides we had screened, which revealed the life of the workers, were anti-government. During the long vacations, our members had visited factories and workers to find out for ourselves the plight of the workers. Our findings were what we saw and heard. We just cannot say otherwise or it would mean distortion of facts. How does this so-called 'anti-government' arise? Besides, the Society also encourages her members to help each other in studies, members' welfare etc.

In short, in the course of her development, the Society receives no expertise help whatsoever. We rely on our own effort, we rely on our own determination to strive for the welfare of the members, to contribute our bits to the well being of the people.

We were utmost shocked that the painstaking effort of the students, and the achievements through such effort are being venomously distorted. We like to point out the following:

(1) In the 6th September statement of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Wong Sang Hwee was said to be a former ex-co of the SPCLS. This is a blatant lie. Wong was only a member of the Drama group of the Society and had left the group since the middle of 1975. He had never been elected into the ex-co of the Society nor was he ever the group leader of the drama group.

In fact, ~~even~~ since he had left the group, he had ceased to be a member of the Society. The SPCLS is a registered Society, submitting the lists of the names of her ex-co-members to the Registrar of Societies every year. The Registrar of Societies is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs. This very evidence that a trivial fact was also being distorted leads us to be highly suspicious of the genuineness of the statement. By portraying that Wong was an official of the Society is to try to mislead the public to believe that SPCLS has long being 'infiltrated'.

(2) In the T.V. interview, Wong revealed that he 'directed' Chia Yei Yei (still under detention since 29/7/76) to try to gain control over the Society's publication "Yi Kun". However, facts remain as facts. This internal circulation "Yi Kun" has ceased publication since January 1976. This story of 'gaining control' is an out and out fabrication. Again, we cannot withhold our doubts about the "truth" in the "confession". Besides, the publication of "Radiance" is under the direct charge of the Publication Secretary of the Society. Lee Boon Huat was only the ex-Publication Secretary and had left Poly after his graduation. To say that Lee has found his way to help in the publication is a groundless allegation.

(3) In his 'confessions' that was published on 8th Sept., Wong 'revealed' that he had successfully absorbed into or cultivated for the MNDYL a number of the Society's active members. This is again totally unconvincing. As pointed out earlier, ever since he left the Society, Wong had never appear again. Those named students, who are still left untouched by the police, had never had any contact with Wong since then. Therefore, what are these 'cultivation', 'absorption'? The ulterior motive of such 'naming' of active members of the Society is obviously to isolate the Society in the Poly technique; to bar the students from further taking part in the Society's activities, thus hoping that the Society would collapse by herself. This appeared to be a better way to dissolve the Society.

One point to take note of is: the statement mentioned nothing about Chai Chang, the detained ex-chairman of SPCLS, and many of those "named" students are still "untouched" by the police. Does this imply that another even more vicious story is yet to be heard?

From the successive repression on student activities and the series of T.V. confession in the past, we are not at all surprised by this current confession. In fact, we envisage this as only a start in the series of repressive measures to be taken against Poly students. We are determined to carry on what we are doing, because we know that what we have done are meaningful and correct and we will strive for greater success.

We urge the authorities to conduct open trials or else the detainees be released unconditionally. We call upon all just-loving people to be concerned over this matter and help to reveal the truth to the others!!!