



THE STUDENTS' VOICE

23rd Aug '76

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AN INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION



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EDITORIAL

Dear Fellow Students,

The holidays are coming once again but most of us have been kept busy with homework and the workload has increased due to the terminal tests. Well, just as a consolation, the terminal tests are just a way to help us students and lecturers to know whether lectures given have been understood so far and therefore fellow students, do not get worried if you did not do well as the lecturers would then adjust his rate of lecture to suit you. Most important, do not let these tests dampen your holiday spirit instead start cultivating it now to ensure that the 2 weeks vacation is filled with fun and laughter. By the way, for those who still do not know what to do, there will be a hike cum camp organised by the Outdoor committee and for those who are interested, it is still not too late to make inquiries at the sub-sec. It is sincerely hoped that besides having programmes of your own, the class committee will take the initiative to organise an outing for the class as well.

Lastly, to most of you, if you can find time to write your thoughts, do so and help us by sending in as contributions to the Students' Voice. So till then, work hard and play well when the holiday comes!

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## LOVE ON NEW CAMPUS

--- By a 2nd Year Student.

Before we stepped into the Dover Road New Campus, we were happy and honoured to be one of the few lucky batches of students to use this new campus. Most of us looked forward to a much better environment than that of PEC or ARC, with better equipped laboratory facilities, big and comfortable lecture rooms and lecture halls, and more air-conditioned lecture theatres. We were indeed exhilarated when we first set foot on the campus. But sad to say, almost three weeks had gone by, yet I could not find much merit to the campus.

The sight of the campus from the road is so very magnificent. But we soon come to see of the ugly side of the campus when we make use of it. The road and path condition were poor and the environment very dusty. Only the main workshop, three teaching blocks and the canteen were completed. Many of the buildings are still incomplete and it makes the campus looks more like a construction site than a college.

It is very unpleasant to attend lectures in the new campus in view of the many problems encountered. Firstly, it is the problem with transport. Only two bus-services are plying along the Dover Road which is grossly inadequate. No doubt the private bus-service provided does lessen the problem a little, it is still very insufficient. Then recently, SBS provides the feeder bus service for the students, but the trip is too short -- only to the bus terminal in C'wealth, therefore we still need to board another bus home which entails extra expenses.

Secondly, when attending lectures, we used chairs from PMC, which are in a very poor condition -- producing shrieking noise whenever someone sits on or leaves it. Just imagine the noise produced when the class next door dismisses. Often our lectures are disrupted by students going for break-- noise can be heard through the windows when the students walk along the corridors. In addition, noise from the nearby construction work is also a nuisance to the lecture.

During lunch time we encountered with yet another problem---lack of chairs and tables. Also the quality and quantity of food are not worth the money we paid.

Most unbearable of all, we faced with the question of "where to go during our long break-time?" There are no recreation except for the old PMC Union House with its few billiard tables. There are also no proper rest room in the campus.

Faced with all these, it is therefore not surprising to find students flocking over to ARC for their lunch and some recreation before going back for lecture.

In conclusion, we hope that the authorities concerned can do something to solve the various difficulties faced by students using the new campus.

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A LOOK INTO SPORTS..

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" Its sweet revenge for India!" |||

" Mistake by goalie cost crucial match!" |||

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These headlines screamed over and over. It clearly illustrates the state of affairs in sports today. The two competing teams are pictured as gladiators all out to whack the daylight out of each other. The reports in our newspaper seems calculated to arouse the baser instincts of the readers. These are the type of values promoted by our sports organisers. The emphasis on competition is so great that the aims to better relationship is long forgotten.

In the crazy stampede for the fame and prizes, many have changed the original pledge to 'the most important thing in the Olympics is not to take part but to win ... as the most important thing is not to have fought but to have conquer.'

Violence in Sports

Obsessed with winning and conquering, maiming of opponents has become almost a ritual in most competitions. Pele, for example, was systematically kicked into oblivion in the 1966 World Cup Finals. Over-eager players lunged at legs, arms and even the more vulnerable parts of their opponents' anatomies. This kind of violence is not confined to soccer alone. Basketball, hockey and other team events have their shares too.

In Melbourne in 1956, for example, a water-polo match turned into a miniature of the Hungarian revolution. The Hungarian team beat the Russians in a brutal contest for the gold medal, leaving the green pool streaked with blood. Fortunately, soccer bans the use of hands. The match is marred by enough fist-fights as it is. Witness the recent Pahang Singapore clash, the latest in the history of 'footbrawl'. The standard array of underhand tactics employed by the players are common knowledge. When this is shrugged off as being pragmatic and the only way to glory, something must be really wrong.

Even in major international matches spitting at the referee and mobbing the poor chap is becoming a habit, among losers. The awards ceremony is ridiculed and make fun of. All because the decisions of the referee is not to their favour. Walkouts for the same reason is also fashionable.

Commercialism

Many competitions are tainted through and through by the heavy hand of commercialism. Players can be seen on advertisements, beaming as they hold steaming cups of tea. Remember the three FAS players who endorsed a health drink? It is also a commonly accepted notion

that the guy who ends up as Olympics swimming champion also ends up with apes as Tarzan. However, not all players are satisfied with the lolly offered to promote everything from sports equipment to deodorants. Such profits are only part of the loot. For eg., in the recent World Cup, West German won a promise of \$100 000 per man for outright victory. This is not an isolated case. The problems of actually playing in the games, it seems are far less demanding than the difficulties faced in negotiating a cut of the profits.

Most international games have turned into an extravaganza of hopeless proportions. Myraid companies peddle their goods as if it was trade fairs. A classic eg. is the Olympics, small or developing countries have no resources to even stage meets the size of the SEAP Games.

Nationalism

Rampant nationalism continues to mock the ideas of sports. The focus in the international meets has been whether the American team representing capitalism can beat the Russians carrying the banner for communism. In 1936, Hitler used the Olympics as a platform for Nazi propaganda.

For Singapore, national significance is attached to the outcome of the Malaysia Cup matches. Losing gracefully is now sweet memories. To lose means to hang down your head in shame. Therefore in a situation where only one side can win, both teams are not prepared to emerge second best.

Performance is interpreted as evidence of technological and sociological superiority. The field has accordingly been turned into propaganda for the 'superior' social system of the participating country. It is like a foot race up Shenton Way to decide a United Nations debate.

Petty Pollicking

Behind the scenes manoeuvring is typical. The International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) recently emerged from a power struggle; with a Brazilian millionaire landing as the President. Two local examples are the FAS and SSC. They

even squabbled over the allocation of VIP seats in the stadium.

Most sports controlling body consists of wealthy armchair sportsmen. They have seldom been particularly noted for collection brilliance; and are more of a gerontocracy — a government of old men. Sloppy officiating and errant decisions are characteristics.

UNQUALIFIED OFFICIALS

Officials are sometimes unqualified; they often get their jobs through political connections and usually hang on them for a long, long time. In many occasions,



officiating blunders demonstrated incompetence and sometimes outright bias. A lot of subjective mischief in judgement events like diving can be done by referees, who are often chosen more for their ideological loyalty than for their skills. Bickerings among officials have almost become a separate sporting event.

POOR SPORTS

The sorting scene in Poly a few years back is not much different. There were games tours to other countries that squandered a sizeable portion of the Sports Council budget. The 15th Council stopped this tradition. An outspoken Ex-Co became the target of a vote of non-confidence by the unsporting sportsman, who cherished hopes of a shopping spree overseas for themselves.

SPORTS IN THE SCHOOLS

When Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) comprises one of the subjects, school children were indirectly compelled to take part in sports. It soon developed into a situation where organized activity is simply checking attendance and then giving a ball to the students to play among themselves. With that, the responsibility of the teacher ends and he could from then onwards mark exercise books peacefully in the tuckshop.

WHAT SPORTS SHOULD BE

Through sports, mutual respect and appreciation for the worth of the participants in the other team can be developed.

They are not to be viewed as stumbling blocks to the trophy and treated as such. On the contrary, they provide friendly competition and a healthy stimulus for better performance.

Games is also a channel whereby friendships can be widened. All hypocrisy and indifference are dropped and everyone shed his cocoon of apathy. Links between nations can strengthen when sports is viewed in its correct perspective as one way to foster better relations. This is totally different from using athletes as instruments in the struggle for the maximum number of gold medals.

Toning down the crudely competitive nature of sports and emphasising on friendship and participation on a massive scale would be perhaps one way out of the mess. The inter-class soccer tourney that is going on today is a step forward.

BOOK INTRODUCTION: MY WAR WITH CIA

This book is an eloquent account of Norodom Sihanouk's fight for Cambodian independence — first against France, then, for over 20 years against the United States. Sihanouk shows that Cambodia's freedom from France was only the beginning of an even more arduous struggle. When diplomatic, political and economic pressures accompanied by military threats failed to 'persuade' Sihanouk to abandon his neutralist policies, the US department and then the CIA tried to assassinate him. When several attempts failed, a military coup and armed intervention by the US finally did it — the Sihanouk government was toppled.

On the 30th April '70, American tanks rolled across Cambodia's frontier and the bombers systematically reduced the towns and villages to rubble and ashes. By March, the Lon Nol puppet regime was installed.

Describing in vivid detail, the ever present CIA involvement, this book gives a startling account on the tactics used by the world's strongest power to force smaller nations away from chosen policies.



Opinions: Education in Poly.

Education in Poly is a hectic one for most of the freshmen. It is totally different from the one we had received in school for the past 10 years.

Firstly the time factor is rather too long i.e. from 9am to 5pm. This is tedious for us compared to the 6 hours of studies in school. Secondly, the method of teaching is different, here in Poly, tutorials are set and we are to do them on our own without the guidance from lecturers.

Activities in the campuses are all organised by the students themselves without interferences from the lecturers. One of such example is the class committee. This committee is really good for us as it helps us to cultivate capability and responsibility among the students.

But after experiencing five weeks of Poly's life I found that I do really enjoy being in this institution even though it is a routine everyday.

---A 1st year student.

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After a few weeks of lessons in Poly, I felt that team-teaching is a better method than group teaching because:

1) In team teaching, fewer lecturers are needed and knowledge can be equally spread. Whereas in group teaching, if you have a good lecturer you can gain more, on the other hand, if you have a bad lecturer, you will suffer.

2) Friends are spread out and so they cannot chat among themselves during lectures. Therefore they can concentrate more on the lecture.

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The typical student comes here to get a diploma, so that he or she can be recognised as one amongst the industrial circles. Others enroll with the generally held concept that blue-collar jobs are more rewarding than whites. It is very certain that these students come here not for education's sake but for materialistic gains.

A freshman is ignorant of the system of education in Poly which is different from his secondary school's. If we contrast between them, four points are apparent:

1) There is no close rapport between the lecturers and the students. The lecturers seldom go beyond their topics to social and moral discussions. This is one vital factor for the decline in moral of Poly students. Hence, this system fails to produce graduates who are equally intellectual and etiquette.

2) The tremendous increase in study-hours

leads to lack of time for both recreational and social activities.

A technician who is academically fit and physically unfit is a nuisance to the employer. Though there is a strong union, only a minority of the students are aware of its activities, let alone involvement. A student who cares little about his people is helpless to society.

3) Here there are more school-mates to mix around. This should strengthen the solidarity of Poly students on the whole. But, students tend to mix within their pears or they are subjected to do it. The time-table presents itself in such a way that interactions between students of different classes could only take place during lunch time.

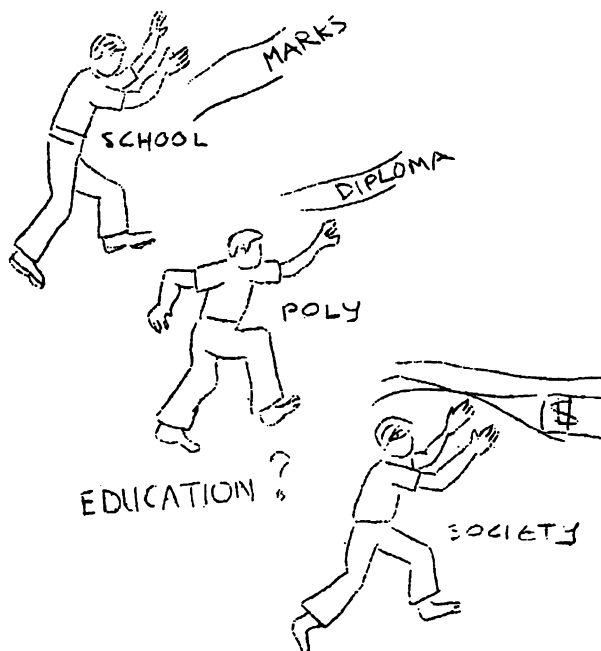
4) There is no mass participation in any of the activities organised by the Union, the Society or the Administration. There is virtually no sporting meet which pools all levels Poly students.

Most lecturers enter the classroom as deliverants or messengers sent to deliver message by the administration. They carry about the lecture without making sure the students have understood the theory which should be objective. So it is the students who should take the initiatives to clear doubts pertaining to the lecture. It is a habit with many students to keep poking their friend even though the lecturer is still around the corner and finally end up with nothing.

The lecturers follow very close to the syllabus. Seldom do they satisfy an inquisitive student. They excuse themselves that such things are not included in the exams. Certainly this attitude emphasises more on studying for the exam than quest for knowledge.

The End.

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THE TALE OF THE ISLE

(IN MEMORY OF THE DETAINED STUDENTS)

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BY EDWINDY

This is an island, a society....our society, that is....
a society signified with suppression,
a society which subdues sacred human rights,
a society which permits no criticism,
a society which allows nobody to speak out
the plight and beauty of our people,
a society which breeds no justice and equality,
this is our society....strictly ours....

Our society....a machinery....that is
which try to blindfold every individual's eyes,
plug every individual's ears,
and gag every individual's mouth,
....so that no social evil could be seen, heard and exposed.
this is our society....strictly ours....

To every individual,
a compulsory mis-orientation there is,
orientation from truth and reality.
Our country is 'rich' so they claim,
our workers are well disciplined, so they boast to MNCs,
our students are studious so they brag,
our people are happy so they self-consolate.

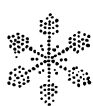
But truth could not be hidden,
mis-orientation could not mask the truth,
suppression could not deter people from seeking truth.

Courageous people stand up,
speaking for the truth, speaking against evil....
They unmask the very ugly face of our society,
voice out the misery and aspirations of our people,
digging up the roots of injustice and inequality

Nevertheless,
this strike our 'big bosses' right to their blackened hearts
they are frightened, desperate, feeling insecure....
as their sicknesses and evil doings are pointed out.
So they suppress....
they ban newspapers that express free views,
they clamp down trade unions that fight for workers' rights,
they cripple students' unions that arouse social awareness,
they imprison individuals who have the courage to stand with the people,
....professionals, students, workers and others....

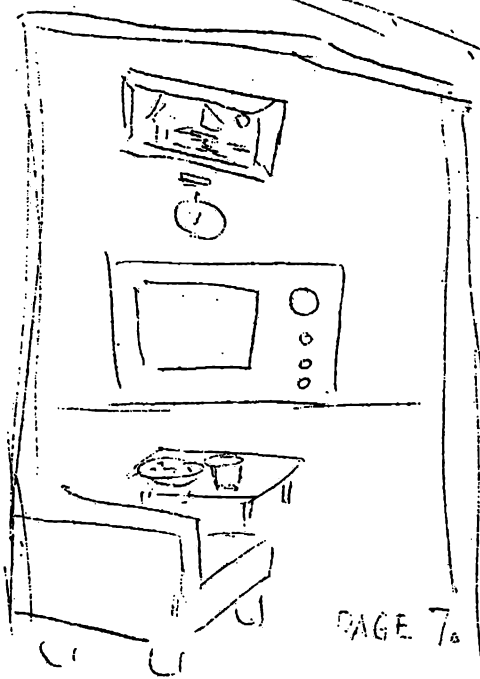
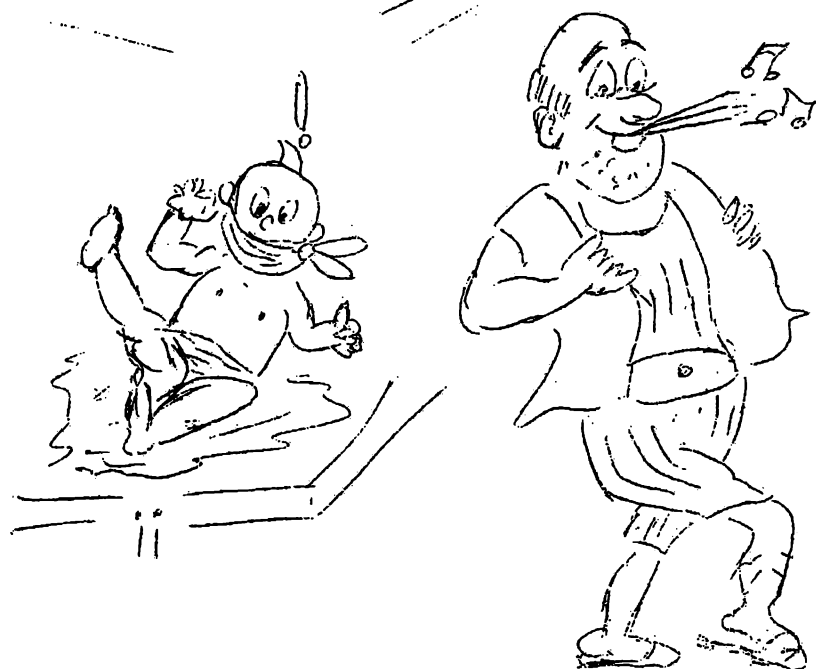
But this will not extinguish the people's spirit and courage,
instead, this will serve to accelerate the people's awakening,
which is like the current of the sea....
ever advancing.... never stopping.....

The people are rising,
to quench their thirst for justice and equality,
to fulfill their aspiration for a true and just society,
THE PEOPLE WILL STRIVE ON AND ON
THE PEOPLE SHALL WIN!

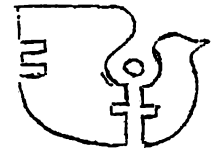


OUR FIVE FELLOW STUDENTS HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR 26 DAYS SO FAR. THEY ARE
BEING LOCKED UP IN A PRISON CELL OFF WHITNEY ROAD. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNCIL HAD BEEN RELEASED FOR 13 DAYS.
WE URGE ALL STUDENTS TO JOIN IN THE DEMAND FOR
THE RELEASE OF THE OTHER 5 STUDENTS.....

LAUGHTER



ON WOMEN: A SURVEY



Much have been said about women and women liberation. Here is a survey on what our students have to say when asked the following questions.

- Do you think that inequality between sexes exist?
- In your opinion, do you think that it is justifiable to say that men are more superior than women?
- Many women accept their roles as secondary to men. What is your opinion on this?
- What do you think of women's liberation?
- Bearing in mind all the difficulties, what can we do if we believe in equality between the sexes?

Opinion 1.

Inequality of sexes do exist in the following two cases:

- Girls are not allowed to enter the Marine Engineering Course in Poly while boys are permitted. Even if in the course, they will face problem of not being recruited in the shipping company for training. Here it clearly shows that the bosses are very male chauvinistic.
- Girls are not allowed to return home late at night while boys are allowed. There may be exceptional cases where girls have this sort of freedom. This is possible only if they have progressive parents.

Women have contributed much to their countries in many ways, as politicians as well. They too have the capability. Now about novelists like Jane Austen, Pearl S Buck, 3 Brontes and the author of 'Gone With The Wind'. Are they no better than some men. Therefore it is not justifiable to say that men are more superior than women.

Many women accept their roles as secondary to men's, this is because they may think that men are stronger and more energetic, and thus more superior in handling their tasks while they themselves are dull. Another alternative is that they do not contribute much towards society as they had to look after their

own families.

It is a necessity for women to be liberated. Women can really exercise their working capacity, playing active role in society instead of having the idea that their roles are only secondary to men's.

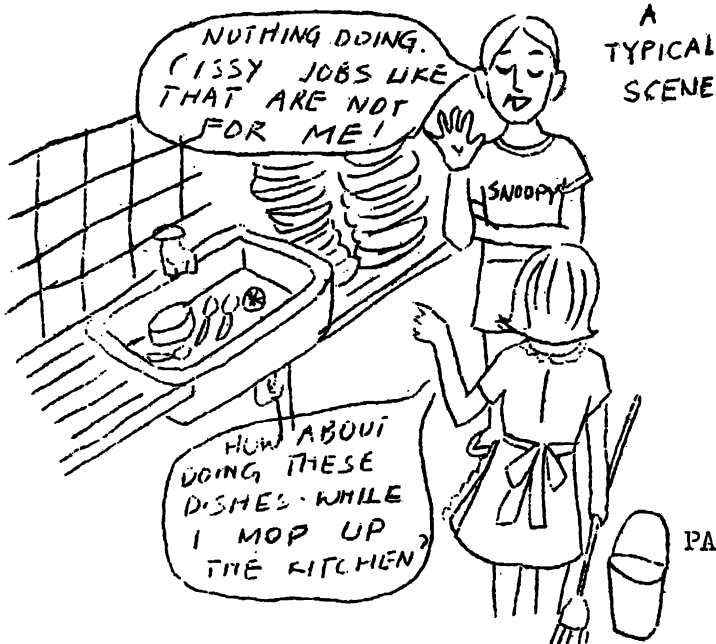
It can be observed that it is not ordinary laymen who is claiming that women are inferior to them. Take for example a boss of a shipping company. If he is to be asked to recruit a girl to be trained in his ship, he would certainly reject, but if that girl is to be a boy, then the boss would accept without any query. Obviously this shows that the boss is against equality between sexes. In order to achieve equality between sexes, men and women should unite as one to fight against the 'above people'.

Opinion 2.

For centuries women have exist as the one who run homes, bring up children, and women who come out to work are frown upon by society. Even though now people are getting used to working women, still she does not experience the full equality she deserves, example, the working mother has to worry about dinner and family etc. When I worked in the factory, I saw the unjust treatment the girls recieved --- less starting pay than boys yet they do more laborious task and are not treated as well as the male workers. A more familiar example can be found at home; "I won't wash the dishes, that's a girl's job." yells your brother when asked to do that. Let's examine why he talks in that way.

Females when young are instilled by mothers of certain rules; nice girls don't climb trees, no rough games, worse --- girls must learn to cook good meals to please husbands, do laundry, clean the house. NO mothers would think of teaching their sons of doing these, as they themselves had even instructed to do them. Thus it can be seen that down through generations, women had been taught to be subservient ...

continue on page 9.



... continue from page 8

and to please the men. Therefore women have an inferiority complex: they dare not make decisions, consider themselves beyond the power to any responsible task, and generally behave in a weak, helpless manner. As members of the human race there should be no segregation of status. Women has every right to hold important posts without the least qualm be made to feel inferior for it isn't justifiable to think that men are superior to women.

The breakthrough of women into the society and the service they had efficiently displayed are proof of their capabilities. Isn't it illogical and irrational to bury such talent under the old concept that a women's place is under her brother /boy-friend/husband/father's thumb?

4) Women are also partly to be blamed for their oppressed state. They accept too much things without questioning. They do all the things society require them to do (as the society think it fit for them to do) without a thought whether it should be their responsibility to do it. Many of them complacently fall into the background when the men-folk are around, and consider their opinions unimportant or they don't have confidence in themselves.

The women's lib is a good way of awakening the women-folk about their unconscious plight. An effective method is to educate women on what liberation really means. Then, both men and women have to be educated alongside but more important is to awaken women then half the battle is won.

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Even today, inequality still exist though it is being said that man has progressed tremendously. A very good example is the lower wage paid to woman, compared to a man, for the same kind of job performed.

That man is superior is an old concept which exist even today. But this is very unjustifiable to the women as we have many capable women not only in science but also in politics. At times, work efficiency in women may even be greater than men. Even if it does happen that her work efficiency is poor, it is due to her concern of her family. Furthermore, their jobs are usually dull and monotonous, therefore it is not surprising that she does not concentrate on her work.

Accepting their roles as secondary is again due to the old traditional concept that women folk should not have any say in matters at all.

From the fact that women's liberation existed long ago, it can be seen that some women had long realised the importance of equality of sexes. However, the methods used by many to fight for equality are indeed silly.

Knowing the importance of women's liberation, we should help to further it by talking to the women folk and hence awakening them. However, the men folk too have to be educated on this point so that together they can strive to achieve equality of sexes in the society.

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—REGULAR ACTIVITIES

TABLE-TENNIS



We wish to inform all students that regular practices for table-tennis will be held every Wednesday from 3.00 pm. to 5.00 pm. As such the table-tennis tables in the games room at ARC will be occupied for this purpose. Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.

The coming Wednesday (25/8/76) will be the last practice for this term. Practices will resume on the second week of the second term. This is to allow the members some time to concentrate on their studies.

Those students who are interested in joining the practices for the second term can also do so. However, their names MUST be submitted before the term closes, to the ARC sub-secretariat, PMC Union House or PEC Union House.

P.S. Members and members-to-be, please be informed that you will have to buy a uniform tec-shirt from the central committee, at about \$4.50, for practices in future.

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LETTER TO EDITOR ...

Dear Editor,

When it is time to pay our Union fees, I often hear many students (2nd & 3rd years) complaining, "Why should I pay my Union fees?" "I don't get anything out of it!"

Can the students' council or some Union officials answer this question? Is this charge true? Please do not answer "Its compulsory" or "there is a plot to cripple our Union". These answers are not sufficient.

I think most of the students want some real benefits; for example:-

- 1) a better, regular and more reliable chartered bus service than the present one by the administration.
- 2) getting the SBS to ply more buses for the Dover road services 33, 196, and 212.
- 3) getting the Administration to
 - a) stagger the lunch time thus reducing the problem of crowding
 - b) more free time before the sessional examination and term tests.
 - c) more cyclostyled notes to allow us to pay more attention in class.
 - d) more fans in the classroom
 - e) less days on the campus (thus saving travel and lunch expenses)

Union publications and games and study rooms (which we do not really make use fully of) as benefits are not enough. Most of my examples do not really require finance on our part or the Union's part. Real services for us, "forgotten-after-the-orientation" students, now!

As such, I am inclined to agree with those "2 & 3 years students" I do not mean that a few volunteers do all the work for the rest of us. If properly organised, I'm sure all of us will join in. By properly organised, I do not mean demonstration and picketting, I mean letters, boycotts and constant asking until they give in.

Another related problem is the alienation of the 2nd and 3rd yr. students. I wonder if the Council is aware of this communication gap?

When we were freshmen, there was a big nice, well organised orientation after that, nothing! "But please pay up your Union fees" It's no wonder that the 2nd, 3rd yr students do not bother whether or not the Union is crippled financially or otherwise. I wonder if the Council or some Union official can answer this?

L.F.K.

Dear L.F.K.,

The Union belongs to the Students, hence it is our responsibility and privilege to make the Union more dynamic and relevant.

Students want benefits and rightfully so. However, the less than 15 councillors are often assisted by under-strength and over-worked committees. If more join in the committees, the welfare of students can be better taken care of.

The suggestions listed above are most timely and being considered by the Council. The idea of boycott to get concession is good but participation from students is dubious.

The problem of alienation of students has always been present. Councils have come and have gone but the apathy has remained. The gap between some seniors and the council has widened especially after the orientation because of the stand taken to stop ragging.

During the 75/76 session, only 4 councillors were left in the first term with the rest drafted into N.S. In addition to this, most activities were stopped because of an expected deficit due to the financial situation.

Ed.

Quotable Quote "ON FASCISM"

"If to arrest a man and detain him indefinitely is not fascism, then WHAT IS FASCISM?"

By LKY in 1957 as a member of the opposition in the then legislative assembly.

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION (21-8-76)

QUOTE: "IF TO ARREST A MAN AND DETAIN HIM INDEFINITELY IS NOT FASCISM, THEN WHAT IS FASCISM?"

by LKY in 1957 as a member of the opposition in the then Legislative Assembly.

INTRODUCTION

Ever since the last meeting of the Socialist International to discuss on the undemocratic detention of political detainees in Singapore, the propaganda of communist's threats and subversions had been stepped up. With the coming meeting of the S.I. in September and the nearing National Elections, arrests of progressive student activists, professionals and others become more frequent. The persecution came to our Union finally On the 29th July 1976.

Six of our students' leaders have been arrested and detained under the Internal Security Act, with the charge of 'being involved in communist underground activities'. One of them has already been released on the 10th, August, 1976, after thirteen days of detention. For the other five, they have already entered the fourth week of detention. Under the Internal Security Act, they can detain our five students for 28 days without any charges. Therefore, it will not be long before some stories about our student-leaders may come out.

WHAT IS THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT?

THE ISA is the society's prison that has been left to the present government by the British colonialists. The ISA was implemented in 1961 (known as the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance at that time), originally to clamp down the Anti-colonialist Movement by the people of Malaya and Singapore. It had outraged thousands of courageous people who were against the British rule, longing for a just society. Unfortunately, this remnant of the colonialists had been 'inherited' to the present government, the notorious ISA is now being used by Lee's government. Under the ISA, the authorities can detain any person without trial for a period not exceeding two years, this period can further be extended for two more years at the 'pleasure' of the President, and can carry on indefinitely. Now we have detainees being detained for the 14th years!

The motive of implementing the ISA is very obvious. The primary aim is to persecute critics and dissidents who are aware of the interests of the people. These people have the courage to voice out the dissatisfaction on certain policies of the government; providing the government with views from the broadmasses. Instead of respecting and analysing these views, the government, under the disguise of 'preserving internal security', detain these people without having to give them any charge for any period determined by them. The reason for not allowing any open trial is clearly because the authorities are afraid that these 'political detainees' may expose the 'bad things' of the government. Furthermore, by using the ISA the authorities can detain any number of 'opponents' in an 'efficient' way.

WHAT HAVE OUR UNION AND OUR STUDENT LEADERS DONE?

Ever since the union has realised its role in society, it has embarked on the path of arousing social awareness amongst her members. Together with other Students' Union, she has undertaken several social issues which were but the only just course for serving the students and public. Among these issues were anti-bus fare hike campaign, Bangladesh flood relief campaign, RRC, Tasek-Utara eviction issue, etc. The Union also organises healthy students' activities like games, campout, hike, filmshows etc.,

We strongly believe that our Union is advancing towards a just and bright future and we shall continue our good works on and on!

HOW TO PROVE THAT THE POLITICAL DETAINEES ARE 'GUILTY'?

As it has been appearing in the newspaper, or even on television from time to time 'confession' of the detainees is the means through which the authorities show the 'guilt' of the people.

Confession is a means whereby a person admits that he had done something undesirable or detrimental to the 'security' of the nation --- without having to show any facts or evidence. As such, it is one of the most unscrupulous method exploited by the government to commit an innocent person.

WHY IS THERE CONFESSION?

Whatever the government does, they will have to account for their actions. But because they have no fact or evidence to substantiate their allegations on our student leaders or other 'so-called communist agents', they have to resort to the act of making the detainees to 'confess', in this way they can force words into the mouths of the detainees without showing proof.

As had been mentioned, confession will occur when the government could not produce any fact or evidence or the government is afraid of open trials. But an innocent person will definitely not 'confess' his 'crimes' willingly. As such, the govt. are bound to subject the detainees to severe mental and physical tortures to make them 'confess'.

Many types of mental or physical tortures had already been inflicted before on political detainees like T.T. Rajah, Dr. Poh Soo Kai, Ho Piow and many others. The detainees could be subjected to non-stop interrogations for a minimum of 10 hours to days or even months. In this way, they can mentally exhaust the detainees and make them sign statement of confession. They could also subject the detainees to physical tortures like whacking or kicking them until they vomit blood. Sometimes, internal injuries were caused where blood comes out together with the urine of the detainees. Most of the time, the detainees are subjected to both mental & physical tortures simultaneously. Putting them into cold room (a small dark room with 3 or 4 air-conditioners running together) or cold turkey (a tank full of cold water), for hours or even days are but two very common forms of tortures.

With such cruel tortures inflicted, together with the threats of harming the relatives or friends of the detainees, any innocent person could easily be made to 'confess'. This may well happen to our detained students.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ARRESTS OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS & THE POSSIBLE CONFESSION FROM THEM.

We view the arrests and undemocratic detention of our students as a continued persecution of students' movement in Singapore. Arrest and detention are not uncommon. These happened to the Nanyang University students in the 1960's, it also has happened to the students of the University of Singapore and other Students' Unions.

Now these persecutions are happening on our students. To justify these undemocratic detention and persecutions, the authorities have been "confering beautiful names" to the students, among these are "leftists", "new lefts", "subversive elements", "anti-nationalists", etc. Now they even 'confer' the name of 'communist' to our students.

Do not be misled by these stories whenever they come out and do not care whatever names they may give to our students, instead, question and analyse for yourself the beings of our detained students and Union. Have they done anything detrimental to the interests of the people? Are they anti-people? Certainly not! They are with the interests of the people!

We view that confession cannot be the way to prove that these persons have done something detrimental to the "internal security".

We believe that only with open trials where the accused can defend himself (herself) freely and openly in the presence of the public, can we judge their guilt, if there is any.

CONCLUSION

We urge all students and members of the public to be prepared when any such 'confessions' appears from our detained students, and be clear of the nature of the confessions and be critical of the authorities' motives to detain our student leaders without trial. Be united and work for the unconditional release of our detained students!

WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN "CONFESSION"!

WE WANT AN OPEN TRIAL!!

JUSTICE NOW!!!