

# Salient

An Organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington, N.Z.

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## Message to Students

This New Year, 1943, not like its predecessor, is one that begins in an atmosphere of renewed confidence in an earlier victory for the United Nations. No longer are the lights going out over Europe, but on the contrary not an unsubstantial portion of the Fascist occupied countries are experiencing their first taste, after many years, of regained freedom. In all countries, both occupied and unoccupied, University students have played an active part in the struggle against Fascism. In New Zealand, the greater majority are either in the armed forces or on essential work. Both spheres are equally important, for without one the other must be a nonentity.

For many students 1943 will be their first year at a University. To these I extend our welcome. Yours is an onerous task, for this country of ours needs trained men and women, and needs them quickly. That Victoria can excel in the academic field is evident from her outstanding success in securing the major number of scholarships awarded last year for the whole of New Zealand. But we need men and women trained not only in Academics but also in the art of extending and cementing of our democracy. It is unfortunately true that some students pass through the Universities as mere recipients of received knowledge. They play no part in that wealth of life and activity that centres around the cultural and social activities of the College. Society is a loser thereby. For the citizen who is an automaton, is an easy prey for the dictator. The facilities of debating, drama, and discussion of every kind are at the hand of the willing student as are the numerous sporting organisations. These are your preserves, your privileges—do not hesitate to use them.

The Executive of the Students' Association has decided to pursue an active social and cultural policy. There will be tea, dances, lectures, a Capping Week, and perhaps a Students' Congress, amongst many other events. In all these things we will need your co-operation, your support, and above all your assistance.

To our Training College friends I wish to extend our New Year Greetings, and hope that the same spirit that pervaded our relations last year will be continued in this.

Finally, let us make 1943 a year not only of academic achievement but also one in which our social and cultural activities are equal to, if not surpass, those of previous years. If we do this I think we will have done something tangible to maintain those traditions of progress that Victoria University Colleges has so meritoriously acquired.

M. L. BOYD,  
President.

## EDITORIAL

### "SALIENT OF 1943."

It is not without pride that we realise that Salient of 1943 faces a far brighter prospect in the world than did Salient of last year. We are now accustomed to the idea of war closer to our shores, our troops are proving their great worth in the Near East and we can name many hundred V.U.C. students among them. Moreover at home here we are able to work on the National Production Front. These are not mere words, we are proud of our students, those in essential work here and especially those in the forces.

The war has taken from our ranks many of the senior students, but also it has brought it home as never before that what happens in the world around is of vital importance to us. It can no longer pass as clever for a student to be apolitical—the first issue of Salient some years ago announced its intention of bringing the students into a proper consciousness of importance of decisions taken by the leaders of our own and other countries. Salient has an anti-fascist history of which we are proud—in 1938 for loyalist Spain, and throughout its history against fascism generally, and now more than ever in the intensification of the struggle we can say that this war is to our mind the most important news and the most important issue.

### WHAT EVERY UNDER-GRADUATE SHOULD KNOW. THE SHADOW OVER NEW ZEALAND—VENEREAL DISEASE.

This publication is as difficult to review as it must have been to write. Venereal disease is at the same time unlicensed game for bathroom butts and the occasion of much spinsterly cooing and aching. To be buoyant and not offensive, sober without being pontifical, these are the beacons between which the middle course must be steered. Judged by these standards, "The Shadow" does pretty well most of the time, and is quite the best of its kind that has come our way.

Sociologists, historians, statisticians, lawyers and moralists (the grouping is fortuitous and not necessarily in descending order) will all find crumbs in it, but the real meal for the man-in-the-street (and student, that's you) is undoubtedly Dr. Blanc's section on the medical aspects of venereal disease. Simple written, without technical abracadabra, we lay a sizeable side-bet that it will bring heretofore unrevealed knowledge to fully 90 per cent. of our readers. Let him or her use the rest of the pamphlet for shaving paper, this portion is a MUST with three stars, on the reading list of every boy-or-girl-about-town. And even, perhaps more so, stay-at-homes too. Factual Footnotes: Price-1/-, Size: pages 46. Publishers: Progressive Publicity Society. Sources of supply: Modern Books and all other intelligent dealers. Not Railway Bookstalls.

(There will be a lecture on the subject of Venereal disease, early in the series to be sponsored by the Executive, by Dr. Hubert Smith.)

### FOUR FILMS.

When Calvin Coolidge came home after his first visit to Sunday School has grandmother asked him what the parson had talked about.

"He talked about Sin" said Calvin.

"What did he say about Sin?"

"He was against it."

So let me begin my account of the four films that I saw during the holidays by saying that they were about the War and in favour of it.

Three of them can be dealt with very shortly.

About "Prisoner of Japan" it will be as well to say nothing at all except that in an indirect way it fulfils the highest tests of tragic art—if one turns one's attention from the film itself to the audience for whose pleasure it was designed, one is seized with powerful feelings of pity and terror. "Sergeant York" begins very well—the account of York's early religious experiences was particularly effective—and ends very badly I suppose heroism does involve an element of something very like vulgarity but not like the kind which disfigures the second half of this film. The Russian film "In the Rear of the Enemy", is a simple tale of action which I enjoyed very much; I could have wished that the hero had not found it necessary to announce he was throwing his second to last hand grenade on behalf of the old folks at home and (the last was for Comrade Stalin) but a Bolshevik friend assures me that this was a substitution for something obscene in the Russian dialogue.

"Mrs. Miniver" has been criticised by various people because it deals with the upper classes and shouldn't, this being a people's war. But it seemed to me that its value lay in the representation of the impact of

### CLUB SECRETARIES.

The club secretaries are listed below, except in one or two cases where the secretary has resigned and as it was impossible to get the information regarding the new secretaries in time other officials of the clubs are listed.

- Athletic Club: I. D. Morton.
- Basketball Club: Miss M. Parsons.
- Biological Society: H. Marwick.
- Boxing Club: R. L. Oliver.
- Catholic Students Guild: Miss S. M. Moriarty.
- Chemical Society: R. N. Seelye.
- Cricketer Club: J. Seater.
- Debating Society: Mrs. M. Boyd
- Dramatic Society: Miss Cecil Crompton.
- Evangelical Union: Miss Jean Brown.
- Football Club: O. J. Creed.
- Glee Club: Miss N. Langford.
- Gramophone Committee: Miss J. Bogle.
- Gymnasium Club: Miss M. Wicks.
- Harrier Club: F. O'Kane.
- Men's Hockey Club: A. C. Ives.
- Men's Common Room Committee: J. W. Winchester.
- International Relations: J. W. Winchester.
- Mathematics and Physics Society: C. S. Ramage.
- Law Faculty Club: K. G. Gibson.
- Phoenix Club: H. Witherford.
- Photographic Club: M. S. Grinlington.
- Rowing Club: D. V. Henderson.
- Social Committee: H. Williamson.
- Student Christian Movement: Miss M. Orr.
- Swimming Club: Miss H. Harrison.
- Table Tennis Club: R. Hannan.
- Tennis Club: M. O'Connor.
- Tramping Club: D. Saker.
- Weir House Association: G. B. Swinburn.
- Women's Common Room Committee: Miss A. McMorran.
- Women's Hockey Club: Miss S. Mason.

war upon happiness—or rather the happiness of the ordinary sensual man or woman—of which the elements (sex, security and gratified vanity) are the same for people in all classes but are most easily available to the wealthy. That happiness is not usually questioned even in peace-time and by the most drastic of our revolutionaries who merely urge that we should enable more people to enjoy it. So I am not disposed to denounce its rather naive apotheosis in this film. For its preservation is surely the most honest and least dangerous of war aims, unlike aspirations regarding the Dignity of the Human Spirit with which, indeed, it can hardly be reconciled.

# REVEILLE!

**NOT FRESHERS ONLY.**

I listened to an American propaganda broadcast the other night; in a parable it likened certain apologists, who are only too numerous among us, to the man whose epitaph had been "He hated hydrophobia but loved mad dogs."

Propaganda, of course. Propaganda more red-blooded than anyone would dare present to the sophisticated British palate. Sometimes I envy the American and Russian whole-heartedness in this direction. Their mad dogs are mad dogs and not lost sheep.

A university-trained intelligence is inclined to discount all propaganda—but since this war the line between news and propaganda seems to have disappeared anyway: so somewhere there is bound to be occasionally a grain of truth. Distrust of propaganda is all very well, but it's a little too easy to label anything we don't like as propaganda, and so dismiss it. Under a cloak of scientific detachment do we not shrink often from facing unpalatable truths?

"Atrocities" for instance. The word stinks in our nostrils. We are armoured in academic scepticism. The Germans have crushed intellectual life in Poland; have closed the University of Brussels because its professors refused to accept Nazi-appointed colleagues on their staff; massacred hundreds of students and young workers in Prague—yes, we had a commemorative broadcast about that last year. These have suffered: are their names, to adapt the words of the same broadcast, not to be mentioned in the common-rooms? The concentration camps, the deportation of workers, the execution of civilian hostages, the two million Jews dead in Europe—are these to be dismissed as "propaganda"? The carefully verified and guaranteed reports of European governments exiled to Britain and the U.S. compiled often from Nazi newspapers themselves—do these deserve no consideration?

Let us by all means be reasonable: let us weigh propaganda and be chary of accepting it at its face value. But for heaven's sake don't let the word "propaganda" bulldoze us into disregarding any truths lying behind it. Reason should prevail, but not at the expense of justice. Tolerance and moderation should not preclude a certain divine indignation.

Stalin declared that the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Red Army "do not and cannot feel racial hatred for other peoples, including here the German people." But Molotov in a Note submitted to the representatives of Allied and neutral governments, on the subject of German crimes and atrocities in occupied Soviet areas, concluded: "The Hitler Government and its accomplices will not escape stern retribution and deserved punishment for all their unparalleled crimes against the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and against all freedom-loving peoples."

Whether the German people as a whole, who elected Hitler and his

gang of butchers to be their lawful leaders, can be vindicated of blame for the war these leaders have provoked, seems a fair question: as much as whether the British people can be entirely absolved from responsibility for the disarmament and appeasement policies of their country before the war.

It must not be forgotten that after the last war certain German war criminals were to be tried for their crimes against humanity and against the Allies. But the Germans first begged, on the grounds of internal politics, to conduct the trials themselves, then at Leipzig made a mockery of justice and of the whole affair. Do we fall for that again?

The idea of hating the sin and loving the sinner is all very well, but how punish the sin and let the sinner go scot-free? The story of an underground communist movement in Germany is probably true enough, but no-one can judge its extent and so far its influence does not seem to have been felt. There has been no protest from the Germans ordered to carry out what Mr. Fraser calls "the practical application of the Nazi philosophy," no revolt against the leaders of the Reich. It is not only impracticable but also, in view of past history, criminally foolish, to draw a distinction between the Nazis and the German people. The Nazis are the German people.

Are we afraid of "going the whole hog," willing to indict the leaders and let their people go? It's a kind of appeasement, this unwillingness to be violent. Students, and so far as New Zealand is concerned students of this college in particular used to have the reputation for espousing causes with all their energy and a fierce reforming zeal.

Molotov, Roosevelt, Churchill, in the words of the last, have laid down:

"The atrocities in Poland, in Yugoslavia, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and above all, behind the German fronts in Russia, surpass anything that has been known since the darkest and most bestial ages of mankind. . . Retribution for these crimes must henceforward take its place among the major purposes of the war."

Probably you won't agree with a word I've said—you are at liberty to protest, mentally, vocally, in this newspaper. That's a beginning anyway. We've made you think.

Your university life has begun.

GABRIEL.

**FIRST FRIDAY**  
**MARCH 5th, 1943**  
**FRESHERS WELCOME**  
**IN THE GYM. at 8 p.m.**

## Sports

### TRAMPING CLUB.

This a foul day. The drizzly rain makes the muddy track muddier than ever, and the trees and bushes seem always anxious to dash their water-laden leaves into your face. But soon the hut is reached. In a few minutes, a warm blaze is making the blood veins tingle. The rain pitter-patters incessantly on the roof, but inside here, we are snug and warm—the stew bubbles enticingly. The crackling flames invite us to sit and contemplate their hidden secrets. Singing and yarning carries us far into the night. Our tummies are full, and peace is on earth with all men. . . . Morning breaks, and the sky is clear. The "feel" of the damp bush is intoxicating—the early sun's rays glitter on the watery foliage—a few yards away, the river bubbles over the stones. It is an easy trip this week-end, and all day we lounge in the sun, plunging into the cool stream when we are too hot, feasting our eyes on the woolly blanket of vegetation climbing the steep hill across the river, gazing meditatively at the writhing whisp of smoke still issuing from the hut's chimney. Further up the valley can be seen more hills—bush clad.

Lovers of nature, admirers of beautiful scenery, those desirous of not-too-energetic ambles over the hills, or the really tough hairy man—all are catered for by the V.U.C.T.C. Watch the notice board.

### BOXING CLUB.

This is the club to get you fit. Even if you know little or nothing of boxing technique, the training is the thing, and professional coaching free of charge is not to be sniffed at. It is hoped to combine with Training College in having a local tournament at Easter this year, so here is the chance to realize your pugilistic aspirations. There is no obligation however—all we want you to do is to come along and keep fit.

Watch the notice board for further particulars.

### SWIMMING.

The Swimming Club this season appears for some obscure reason to have curled up quietly and died. What makes it so mysterious is that it is the women's section which has apparently ceased to function whereas the men who in these times might be excused if they found it impossible to continue, have valiantly battled on as a water polo team which performs with moderate success at the enjoyable meetings held every Thursday night at Thorndon Baths. This is all the harder to understand when we recall the amount of space taken in "Salient" last year by several indignant women who proved to their own satisfaction that student life at Varsity depended solely on them. We know that there are many keen swimmers at Varsity this year and we urge these people to breathe new life into the corpse. Just ring the Club captains, Bruce Hands (45-012) and Beverly Williams (24-370). They will do the rest.

**FRIDAY MARCH 12th, 1943**  
**TOPICAL DEBATE**  
**KEEP THIS DATE FREE**

### CRICKET.

October, 1942 found the Cricket Club in common with other sporting bodies reduced in numbers, but ready and determined for a good season ahead. And despite the worst that Wellington weather could do a good season it has been.

The senior XI is a powerful batting side and includes such well known cricketers as Peter Wilson, Gilbert Stringer and Bernie Paetz. Besides these three stalwarts valuable batting contributions have been made by Jim Seator, Pat Whelan and Peter de la Mare. Although lack of a really good bowling string has frequently prevented the team from pressing home its batting advantage, the side has throughout the season been difficult to defeat.

The second grade team led by that veteran of University sport, Henry Moore, has played solid cricket throughout, winning half its matches including the last three in a row. An excellent team spirit prevails and with a somewhat lighter atmosphere of play than in the senior competition, very enjoyable games have been experienced. The team is well balanced sporting a selection of promising colts, especially among the bowlers, stiffened by several experienced players.

If you wish to play with us contact Jim Seator, 136 Kelburn Parade (Phone 44-242). We shall be happy to have you. Net practice is held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Kelburn Park, so if you are interested come along and make yourself known.

### TENNIS.

The 1942-43 season has been a satisfactory one for the Tennis Club. The weather has been reasonably kind and although many of our players have been busy helping with seasonal work during the vacation there has been a good crowd of enthusiasts present on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Our two teams have taken a successful part in the W.L.T.A. inter-club competitions. Owing to difficulties arising from the war these matches now consist of four doubles matches played on club courts. The men's team playing in the 1st grade have won half of their matches and the women have won three out of four.

**FRESHERS!** Play on the courts whenever you like. Read the ladder rules in the gym, and challenge on the ladder. Wear white or cream sports clothes if possible. Provide your own balls even if they are going bald.

Next Saturday (6th March) we are holding a special function to welcome and introduce freshers to the club. Don't be shy. Come along by 1.30 sharp when play commences. Balls and afternoon tea will be provided for the small sum of 1/-. We always have lots of fun in the Tennis Club, so remember to be there.

Anyone wishing to contact the committee ring the Secretary, Mr. Miles O'Connor (26-885) or leave a note in the rack addressed to the committee.

**CAFETERIA**  
**STUDENTS CAFETERIA**  
**FOR STUDENTS' USE**