

# Salient

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

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What have we to do with these men of England, moving down the centuries from dimmest history? Have we anything in common with this peasant of the Dark Ages, or this workman from half the world away? What do we know of the English—"Pommies," we call them? And England? Some people call it home, and they fall only too often into the error of thinking that by associating themselves with the English they will achieve caste! The average New Zealander only too frequently accepts these things at their face value and England as a land of snobs and servile hangers on.

And moreover, we tend to associate England with a certain caste which, after all (we should know, because we have them here too) are not at all representative of the people as a whole.

New Zealand is not very old—we have little over a century of pakeha history. It was at most a hundred years ago that the pioneer men and

## This England

women arrived in this new strange country, and they spoke of England as home. However dreary, grim and poverty-stricken their lives may have been, and whatever were the wrongs they had suffered there, they retained an abiding affection for the land of their birth. As pioneers they had to face physical hardship and endure and suffer to build New Zealand as we see it today. This struggle was not new to them. They came from a fighting stock that had been struggling for their rights—their right to a better England before the Armada was ever sighted. They loved their country not blindly but with discernment, seeing and wishing to correct her faults. England is not a conglomeration of castles, ruins, country houses and picturesque cottages, and her history does

not just concern the titled and great.

While the great men of England were immersed in their politics the people of England struggled to live. One of the early leaders of the peasants was the priest John Ball; he denounced the barons for their cruelty and rapaciousness. For a long time he evaded the law and the lords but finally they took him and he died horribly. But he was not the last—there followed Wat Tyler, who led a revolt of the commons. He was murdered, the revolt was suppressed. "Serfs you were and serfs you are. You shall remain in bondage not such as you have been hitherto subject but incomparably more vile," said the treacherous king. Grindecambe, Wickf, White, Jack Cade, Jack Kett, Steere—there was no lack of stalwart Englishmen

to declare for the freedom and right; and for the barons came the reply of mercenary soldiers, repression and death.

Lilburn, Winstanley, Bunyan—the scene changes; Cromwell gained the peasant support to dispose of Charles and then disposed of his one-time allies; growing too at this time was the demand for freedom of conscience.

"Wilkes and Liberty," cried his electors when the conservative Parliament tried to refuse admittance to a duly elected member; Tom Paine watched the struggle in France and America of the forces of progress. Waterloo had brought peace to Europe, but in England the struggle for life flared anew. The inglorious exploit of the army at Peterloo, the Six Acts and years of repression followed. Then reform—and after disillusionment with this Chartism a movement advo-

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## EDITORIAL

## Examinations and the Army

The publication of marks for the term examinations in the Science Faculty raises an urgent problem: What is to be done with students who are too lazy or too dull to make reasonable progress? Should we give them another chance or should they be removed and the way left open for those who are doing better work?

There are two related problems to consider: What is best for those whose marks fall below 25%; and also, what is best for their fellow-students.

In peace time the University refuses responsibility for tail-enders. Their time is their own and they can waste it if they want to.

But can such an easy-going attitude be condoned in war time? Is the University playing fair with the people of New Zealand by allowing sluggards and dullards to shelter within its walls? Can it be honestly said that anyone is of more value to the war effort when getting 15% in a Stage I subject than when working in a factory or on a farm?

This tail-end contributes nothing to the progress of a class, and everyone knows that this year Science classes are larger and more cumbersome than ever before. Contrary to common belief this expansion is not greater than would have been expected for 1943 if the peace time rate of increase had been maintained.

But unfortunately there has not been a corresponding increase in teaching facilities and staff, and while the war lasts no improvement in this direction is to be expected.

With overcrowding on every hand, should time, energy and valuable material be wasted on students who can only drag along 20% below the lowest terms mark?

The removal of those with low marks would do much to relieve the congestion without materially affecting the number of graduates, and it is graduates we want, good graduates, the best our facilities can produce.

At the Undergrads. Supper Dave Cohen urged us to study as we have never studied before. What is to be done with students who are unable or unwilling to profit from Varsity courses? students who are hindering others without benefiting themselves.

Should the Professorial Board recommend the removal of those whose marks indicate lack of work or lack of brains? or should nothing be done and these slackers be allowed to fritter away another term in idleness or poker playing?

—I. McD.

(Continued from page 1)

cating practically present day Parliamentary democracy, reaching its climax in 1848. "Whenever free speech is attempted to be put down," said William Morris, "it is your bounden duty to resist by every means in your power."

Wherever Englishmen went they took with them this spirit of real democracy—lip service was inadequate in devotion to their country or their ideals. Nor was their love of their country selfish. They wished their country a better place, perhaps, but not at the expense of its neighbours. Real devotion to one's country—courage to build and fight for the things you treasure most dearly—these are not exclusive demands; they can be shared by any people. We love New

Zealand, as the Englishman loves England—not selfishly but with affection and pride in work done—a pride that should prove a bond with, not a barrier to, other nations.

When there are no more memories of heroes and martyrs,  
And when all life and all the souls of men and women are discharged from any part of the earth,  
Then only shall liberty or the idea of liberty be discharged from any part of the earth  
And the infidel come into full possession;  
Then courage, European revolter revoltress!  
For till all ceases, neither must you cease.  
—WALT WHITMAN.

## No Man's Land

Dear Sir,—I notice in the library catalogue the infamous "Out of the Night" by Jan Valtin, alias Eugene Krebs. This foul piece of anti-democratic and anti-Soviet pornography is classified under, of all things, "Political Science"! Even the publishers didn't have the impudence to describe it on the dust jacket as other than fiction! As the author has recently been given five years' penal servitude in the United States as a Nazi spy isn't it high time it was removed?

STUDENT.

Dear "Salient,"—I was pleased to see that in your last issue the tone of the correspondence was of a far more serious vein. Previously so much of it has been of a frivolous and almost ridiculous nature, which at the present time is quite uncalled for. If the University is to share its part in the post-war reconstruction, thought should be given to ways and means now, and it seems that "an organ of student opinion" is as good a mouth-piece as any.

In peace time the position is vastly different, and articles and letters may be as trivial as you like, but with problems of such vast magnitude facing us of the younger generation, it is hardly right wasting newsprint on matters of little or no concern.—I am, etc.,

M. F. GRAY.

Dear Sir,—Your issue of May 26th has four letters and what appears to be a demi-semi-editorial, all adversely criticising Extrav.

As a humble citizen, perhaps a little too long in the tooth, but fortunately retaining some of the verve of youth, I must say I found Extrav. well up to the standard of shows of similar character, and considering all the difficulties that must have been associated with the production, the location for instance, quite comparable with overseas efforts in that it was both typical and topical.

To say that it was a "tirade of abuse" (strong words) against our Division, our Allies, private individuals, and political luminaries, is, of course, ridiculous.

Vulgar—well, to the puritan perhaps. Extrav. was a good show, no doubt requiring a great deal of hard work in the trying times we now live in.

Of course University life breeds a kind of self "centre-ism" in some (unfortunately), but take it from me, it will be a sad, sad, sorry day when we can't laugh at our shortcomings.

Most hearty congratulations to all concerned with Extrav., in front, behind, before, and after.

G. H. UNDERWOOD.

## LITERARY ENTRANCE

The next tea dance is to be held on Saturday, 12th June, and will be unusual in that the Exec. are shouldering the expense and that the entrance charge is to be two books or four magazines towards the 1943 Book Drive. We therefore exhort you to harden your heart, dig out a couple of good books for your friends and fellow students overseas, and turn them in at the door on Saturday night.

Dear Sir,—Some rather severe criticism of the Executive appeared in your last issue, and I would be grateful if you could allow me space to express my opinion of certain points arising from this criticism.

## 1.—The Holding of an Extrav.

Canterbury University College, so I am told, succeeded in staging a full-scale and very successful revue, which they regarded as providing an excellent method of collecting for patriotic purposes. At Victoria, the Executive decided that this was impracticable. The modified Extrav. which they organised has been criticised on the grounds that in war-time students should devote all their time to study. It was only too obvious, however, that the time spent in the production of this year's Extrav. was inconsiderable and would have affected the war effort much less than many other student activities. Perhaps attending tea-dances, writing for "Salient," and listening to classical music should be relegated to outer darkness for the duration, but I personally would prefer to see attention first paid to the discouragement of the common room poker school. And although I believe that it would have been better not to hold an Extrav. this year, I hold that view not because I think that the policy adopted was unpatriotic, but because it seemed a pity to stage a poor job of work, and because it would have been unfair to ask anyone to spend the necessary time to run a full Extrav.

## 2.—The Executive.

Finally, I would urge those of your readers who believe that the Executive is not doing enough to further the war effort to remember that the normal duties of an Executive member are arduous enough even in peace-time; that members of the Executive have their own personal obligations to their work and to themselves; that they are helping the Students' Association to carry on at even greater personal cost than in normal years; and that the Executive will no doubt receive suggestions for furthering the war effort with more enthusiasm if at the same time they receive equally generous offers of assistance to implement these suggestions.—Yours faithfully,

P. B. D. de la MARE.

## THINGS TO COME



Club Secretaries are reminded that they are responsible for giving notice of forthcoming activities either to the Editor or to Henry Loeb, c/o Men's Letter Rack.

We do feel that we should explain one feature of the last issue. A promised review of the Extrav. arrived after the last issue had gone to press, and deserved praise was not given apart from this review, owing to our oversight, to those students who, on or off stage, worked to make the show a success. So we now offer our congratulations.—Editor.



**EXEC. TO WRESTLE BOARD WORRY  
WILL ALSO MOVE FOR PATRIOTIC FUNDS**

Accommodation for women students, more parcels for overseas, students' work day, army education, library hours. The last Stud. Ass. Exec. agenda was a heavy one.

Mrs. Boyd brought up the position of the women students looking for board pointing out how bad the position now was. The wives of Staff Committee were deeply concerned in the matter. They wished to meet representatives of the Exec. Mrs. Boyd, Janet Grant, and Janet Bogle were appointed to see what could be done from our end.

The Exec. approved the suggestion for an extra parcel this year for the students overseas, to commemorate the fine job of work just finished in Africa. As Mr. Winchester brought it up he was asked to take the responsibility.

**Finance Buoyant.**

Treasurer Starke reported on our financial position. With an approximate cash balance of £1,250 we're doing very well, it seems; though, of course, no provision has yet been made for meeting this year's club grants.

The Capping Revue showed a net profit of £28/10/0. This is to be added to £11/7/0 already in the parcels fund. Undergraduates' Supper resulted in a loss of approximately £16/10/0, which, considering the number of complimentary tickets and the very high standard of catering and decorations which Miss Wilton and her assistants provided, was very good. Capping Ball resulted in a net loss of £19/10/0. Considering the high cost of the Cabaret (£150) and that complimentary tickets for 210 (including lecturers) were issued instead of the budgeted 120, the loss is nothing to worry about. Tea dances have accumulated profits totalling £7/2/0.

**Another Work Day?**

A students' work day on the lines of the most successful I.S.S. Day was

suggested as a means of raising a 1943 contribution to the Patriotic Fund. No interruption to studies was entailed, sports clubs could perhaps arrange a bye, and it could be worked in conjunction with Training College. Wives, sisters, mothers of men in the forces had work that really needed doing, and we were in a position to help them.

**Library Hours Crazy.**

Library hours are worrying Exec. members. Why should the library be closed every vacation? This is not the case at other Colleges. Nor does the public library need to exclude the public for more than a quarter of the year. Particularly annoying too, just at the moment when it is so necessary that science students shouldn't waste a minute. Should they have to swot during the vacation in stuffy, noisy lodgings? Surely it is humiliating that fifty odd V.U.C. chaps should be found crowding the Public Library Reference Room, denied access for a fortnight to their own more comprehensive and useful collections.

There may be a reason for all this. The President has been directed to look into it.

Dave Cohen's and Peter Naylor's appointments to the Men's Common Room Committee were approved.

Long before Army Education was launched the Exec. was pushing for it. The question now arises as to whether the Exec. can't do more to help soldier students than it has done. A representative of the A.E.W.S. is to be invited to address the Exec.'s next meeting.

Finally, the Exec. fixed the date of the Annual General Meeting. This is to be held in the Gymnasium at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30. The elections for the Students' Association Executive will be held on June 24, 25, and 28.

compensated this year, but naturally handicapping for a new course is difficult.

**CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS  
... or anyone who is curious about Christianity.**

The S.C.M. claims to be a fellowship of students where every honest seeker after truth is welcome. Don't shy off it under the impression that it is all religious and nothing to do with you. We are seekers in a particular field, we are searching Christianity to see if we can find truth. Some of us have made a discovery or two, perhaps several; some of us are just setting out on the search.

Christianity is a way of living, of getting the best out of life, through the friendship of Jesus Christ. You can't tell what it is like until you have tried it. So how about it?

**MAY S.C.M. CAMP**

From 8th to 13th May V.U.C. and T.C. branches of the S.C.M. held a combined camp. A strenuous programme of eating, singing and playing supplemented the more serious study classes, the principal part of which were addresses by the Rev. W. H. Newell, Mrs. J. T. Holland, Miss G. Riddell and the Rev. R. Thornley, all on various aspects of the S.C.M.

**KEY-BOARD MUSIC**

Only a few people were privileged to hear Mr. R. S. Parker speak on "Key-board Music" on Monday, 31st May. They were fortunate in a really interesting address. To those of us who don't know much about key-board instruments as such, it was an eye-opener, and even the old hands must have learned a thing or two.

Mr. Parker first dealt generally (with references to antiquity) with the main classes of instruments and showed how key-boards had been applied to almost all types. To many people "key-board" means "piano and organ," but there are dozens of other types not so well known. We were then initiated into the advantages of having a key-board, such as the ability to produce harmony on a solo instrument. After this he dealt with each instrument in turn, dismissing the organ rather summarily perhaps, but treating with loving care the clavicord, harpsichord, spinet, or virginal, until he came to the queen of instruments, the pianoforte. We noted with attention its advantages and disabilities, and heard of those who had written for it. To round off the evening Mr. Parker put on some records, first of a clavicord sonata by Kuhnau, then a Haydn "Concerto for Clavicord and strings," and a sonata of Scarlatti. Finally, just to show us what the piano really could do, and as a contrast to the tinkling brilliance of the earlier instruments, he himself played a slow, sombre, beautiful piece by Debussy, "In a Gothic Cathedral."

—I.M.Z.

**The Habitual Vision  
of Greatness**

For the last 20 years man has been belittled. He was pulled to pieces by psychologists, and scientists saw him as a bottle of chemical substances. An adequate aim of education, however, should be to make him want to see greatness.

To be different from anthropoid apes, Mr. Wadman points out, you must be a Christian, i.e., sacrifice yourself to others. (One wonders.) He admits, all the same, that Christianity has not fulfilled its purpose and that dualism resulted when the West met its challenge. Greed in everyday life and saltness at church on Sundays. The church has never offered new solutions to old problems. At its best, Christianity has repaired the damage done by others.

Speaking of the enjoyment of creative work, Russia, according to Mr. Wadman, has given even a factory-hand an interest in his work, however mechanical it might be. He is working for himself or for the community. In other countries the profit motive gets into the way. How, I wonder, does he combine this with his assumption that God is never the author of disorder. Things go wrong only when interfered with by men. Isn't there too much laissez-faire in it?

The Society of Friends is the only Christian society which stresses the necessity for simplicity and beauty.

The talk touched a variety of fields of art and showed Mr. Wadman's deep concern with the problems of life from the point of view of the artist and his desire to solve them satisfactorily.

The thirty odd people present gave Mr. Wadman all their attention, which he deserved, and the discussion was lively.

—I.B.

**COMINTERN**

**DISSOLVED**

The dissolution of the 3rd Communist International has been received in different quarters with mixed feelings. One section, typified by the leaders in the axis countries and those who would, perhaps unwittingly assist them in their ends, hail this event as the collapse of Communism the world over. Another section, among whom we find those desirous of seeing the speedy and final crushing of Nazism and its satellites have hailed this move as making for progress and unity in the present struggle. Yet still another section, thinking neither way, find themselves in the position of simply not knowing.

**Historically . . .**

In forming an opinion on this important event, it is necessary to consider the purpose of the International, its function, and finally the true significance of its dissolution. The purpose of the 3rd Communist International, established in 1919 as a result of the political collapse of the opportunist Second International, was to preserve the teachings of Marxism from vulgarisation and distortion by these opportunist elements, and help to unite into genuine working class parties the most advanced sections of the workers in each country, and assist them to mobilise the masses of toilers in defence of their political and economic interests. 25 years' work of the C.I. has resulted in the creation of strong Communist parties in every country, parties able to stand on their own feet and in the main pursue a correct line of activity based on the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, as exemplified by the untiring efforts of every Communist Party of the world towards the complete defeat of Fascism, the enemy of all working peoples. Hence, by the fulfilment of its purpose the C.I. has brought about conditions which make possible and necessary its dissolution.

**Anti-Comintern Bloc.**

In addition, the conditions of the war make it impossible for the C.I. to work effectively as a real organising and co-ordinating body. Again, the dissolution of the C.I. helps to dissolve the fear of allied governments that the Soviet Union is attempting to "export" revolution, or on the other hand, fear of the so-called "foreign" affiliations of their own C.P.s. The dissolution of these barriers to complete co-operation among allied nations, and complete unity within each nation, is a necessary step forward towards complete defeat of Fascism and the consolidation of the peace to follow.

The dissolution has relieved the Nazi propaganda of its most powerful political weapon. The Fascist Axis powers organised around the nucleus of the "Anti-Comintern" Pact have with their pernicious propaganda appealed to the reactionary and vacillatory elements in every country in the world—using the alleged desire of the Soviet to "export revolution" and the myth of identity of the C.I. with the Soviet Government, as a means of splitting the unity of the anti-Fascist countries.

It is clear, then, that the action of the E.C.C.I. in dissolving the International is a desirable and necessary move in the interests of the success of the immediate task, fronting the free peoples of the world against the effect of Nazism.

—I.B.



# HUSH!

Every year Varsity sports clubs gather together to elect strong-silent men and women to positions on committees. Maybe they are not always strong, but their silence no one can doubt. These furtive bands slink round gathering information apparently for the purpose of concealing it from the inquisitive. Requests that their glorious achievements be paraded before a goggle-eyed public through the columns of "Salient" fill them with superstitious horror. Of course such notoriously vulgar people as the Trampers and Harriers, being either ignorant or contemptuous of this fine old tradition, consistently blossom into print to prate of their exploits. For this they suffer the penalty of increased numbers of the common herd being attracted to their ranks by their blatant vulgarity; deceived into thinking these to be the only live clubs in the College.

Mind you, we must not be unfair to these conspirators of silence. We must admit that they have never objected to "Salient" sending one of their large and brilliant sports staff to report their matches; as a matter of fact, several of them have suggested that we try it. However, when the suggestion was put to the large and brilliant sports staff he regretfully declined owing to his advancing years and the fact that he wasn't the Lord God from Whom nothing is hid. This mysterious remark, it appears, is somehow connected with there being altogether about twenty sports teams at Varsity which have an inconsiderate habit of playing not only on different grounds but also of all doing so at the same hour.

Balked in this direction we have to fall back on the old method of pleading with club secretaries to submit regular brief reports to "Salient," not only to keep fellow students informed of their doings, but also in order to save our large and brilliant sports staff perjuring himself every fortnight concocting colourful lies such as even Hitler might envy.

If, being a science student, you cannot write English, don't let it worry you, for there is no one on "Salient" staff capable of recognising the fact. —A.O'B.

## Basketball

This year the University teams have not yet won a game in the Wellington Association matches. In the first games of the season, the Senior A team was defeated by Aspro, and the Senior B team lost to Wellington East Old Girls. The other Saturday the A team was defeated by Kia Ora, and the B team by Y.W.C.A.

In the first half of the match against Kia Ora, the A team played well, and the two teams seemed evenly matched. Unfortunately one of our girls had to go off at half time, and she was replaced by Thea Muir in the forwards. This left only two girls, Moira Wicks and Joyce Strange, in the centre. Although these girls put up a fine show, Kia Ora now had it much their own way, and the final score was 25-10 to Kia Ora. Slight faults, such as stepping with the ball and over defence, were noticeable throughout the game, and these must be corrected.

The Senior B team also unfortunately played one short. If it had not been for this handicap, the score would have been much more even. Avis Reed, nobly assisted by Norma Henderson, scored the majority of goals, and the final result was 21-6 to Y.W.C.A. The B team is shaping well, and they deserve better luck in their next matches.

[This hope was not realised, as last Saturday the Senior A team lost to Island Bay 16-4, and the Senior B team to Taupo 16-4.—Ed.]

## Woodman— Spare That Tree

It is some time since the tramping club has made a worthwhile contribution to the maintenance of the Tararua highways and byways, but a few week-ends back saw eleven enthusiasts go to town on the Mitre Flats track, and some excellent work was done.

All Saturday the climbers slashed their way through the dripping second growth, the axes rose and fell, and the chips flew, while the cross-cut saw played great havoc with a couple of windfalls until it stopped work, hours before time.

Wet and weary in the gathering darkness, the party arrived at Mitre Flats and there, my word! Someone else had been working. Saturday afternoon had seen the re-erection of those two wires across the Waingawa River—those two wires which had enabled many crossings to be made of flooded, and otherwise impassable, muddy torrent.

But, boy oh boy, did we make up for all those calories expended? The tramping club sure has some great eaters among its members, and notwithstanding that berlei outline, food was consumed as we have never seen it consumed before.

The committee would like to thank those who contributed to this stout effort—it was a great success.

## Muddied Gentlemen

This is the seventh week of the soccer club's existence. The team entered in the senior B competition under the able leadership of Nev. Swinburne, has shown itself to be at least up to war-time standard, having won one, drawn one and lost four games all by small margins. The star player is Colin Richardson at centre-half, who represented Wellington against Lower Hutt on King's Birthday. His strenuous efforts, together with those of the two backs, Beige and Dickson, do much to make up for the lack of experience and practice of the forwards, whose combination is affected adversely by constant changes in personnel. Nevertheless, they occasionally justify their existence by scoring a goal. It is pleasing to note that though the team has not yet worked up a combination, the play of individual members has improved considerably.

## Write for Rostrum

Annual publication of N.Z.U.S.A.

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## Excelsior!

At the unearthly hour of 9.20 V.U.C.T.C. selected a carriage far from the "madding" crowd. The whistle was heard and the train chugged off through the haze of a Sunday morning, to Titahi Bay. There the weather was more hopeful, and the enthusiastic ones, lunch in hand, scrambled over the rocks and through exciting caves, while the experienced trampers went over the hill.

All assembled to be photographed in daring positions and to hear about the tricks and truths of rock-climbing from Mr. Harold Douglas, a veteran climber who proved most patient and long-suffering. Then, while some practised nearby, others went exploring, and the two Dougs successfully landed a crayfish, five large crabs, many pauas and an octopus. Rested, they climbed the slab with some difficulty, and the pinnacle with more. With the going down of the sun they said good-bye to Titahi, Arcadia for a day.

The first of a series of four discussions  
on the U.S.S.R.:

## Russia in the World Today

is to be held on Sunday, 13th June, at 7.30 p.m. Students interested should contact J. W. Winchester, A. V. O'Brien, or Cecil Crompton.

# SALIENT

## Victorious Victoria

The Victoria College Table Tennis Club has two teams in the Wellington Association's competition—one in C grade and one in D grade. The latter was demoted to D without trial, and first results indicate that the Wellington Association could well have taken the advice of the V.U.C. club secretary about the team.

The C grade team which beat the grotesquely-titled Colbeal team on 31st May in the Gym. was composed of Peter de la Mare, Ray Hannan, Allan Smith and Art. Stone. These four carried off a twelve-nil victory. The opposition was weak, so the writer cannot gauge this team's strength. On the following night, the D grade team played Onslow. Playing under the Association's strange system of scoring for grade D downwards, V.U.C. won 15-5. That result speaks volumes for this inexperienced team, two of whom have not played in harrowing matches. It was composed of Bob Vance, Mac Grinlinton, Ash Couper and Ivor Ting. Another match and a bit more practice together in doubles should see this team on top.

Students—

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