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Salient

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

VOL. 8, No. 9

★

WELLINGTON, JULY 11, 1945

★

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NIGHTLY

to
LAURI PADDI
"HIS HIT PARADE"

Ruapehu Eruption Flings VUC Trampers into Notoriety

Many people were startled last week by reports in the daily papers of the explosive eruption of Mt. Ruapehu which caused injuries to two well-known VUC trampers, Robin Oliver and Jim Witten-Hannah. It is unfortunate that these reports were rather misleading, as they caused a good deal of alarm to many friends of the injured men and made their conduct seem extremely irresponsible. While not condoning the action of these two men in exposing search parties to dangerous conditions and in causing them a great deal of inconvenience, we feel that it is unfair to condemn them as foolhardy adventurers.

A party of ten trampers, all part-timers whose degree courses are far enough advanced to make it unnecessary for them to devote study week to the purpose for which it was provided, planned to take advantage of the good snow conditions on Ruapehu after the recent snowfalls by spending some time skiing near the Blyth Hut, nine miles from Ohakune.

On arriving at this Outpost of Empire they learnt that the mountain had been sending out occasional rumbles and a large cloud of steam for the past week but there was no reason to suspect any violent activity. All the party arrived at the Blyth hut at various times on Saturday, June 30; two of them who had set out immediately after the train had deposited them at Ohakune at 3 a.m. put on a Babes in the Wood act, sleeping out on the track near the 4-mile peg, whether because of fatigue or subterranean rumblings we are not quite sure.

No Skiing

It was found that the steam cloud had been blowing in the direction of the hut most of the week and that it had deposited a layer of fine pumice dust over all the skifields making skiing quite impossible. An attempt to run down a 45 degree slope showed that pumice on snow can be a great help—it makes it possible to walk up

without removing your ski, but it's not much help when you can't run down. However the skier who complains that 95 per cent of one's time is occupied in climbing up might be interested.

"Gonna Climb You"

Sunday provided fine sunny weather and the mountain had been very quiet, so the party set out to climb it, accompanied by Mr. Ken Hussey from Ohakune, who had made the trip up the previous evening with the meat rations which had been left off the pack-horses. The going was extremely good and the high peak of Ruapehu was reached about 1.30 p.m. The crater was active but by no means alarming.

The climbers found that the lake had disappeared entirely, although clouds of steam coming from the circumference might indicate that there was still some water at the bottom of the ice cliffs which surround the inner crater. In place of the lake was a mass of rock, sand and mud, in the middle of which was a fairly small opening which was emitting dense clouds of smoke and steam, and, occasionally, small rocks shot up but fell back in much the same place. The noise which accompanied this activity was about as loud as, and no more alarming than, an average thunderstorm.

Meanwhile some of the party developed cold feet, in the physical sense,

of course, but Oliver and Witten-Hannah, who had brought their tent and sleeping bags, decided to spend the night on the snow field between the high peak and the crater. The rest of the party returned to Blyth hut by way of the glacier known as "Gliding Gladys" and spent the rest of the afternoon looking for slopes to slide down. The only casualty was the back of one pair of trousers. Back at the hut, a huge meal of braised steak and plum pudding was soon demolished. Two of the party left to return to Wellington while the rest crawled into bed.

Action

About 7 p.m. a slight earthquake was felt and a rumble was heard from the mountain. This occurred again about 10 p.m. and a black cloud appeared over the crater. Up there, however, things were not going so well. Oliver and Witten-Hannah were just brewing some tea when the first explosion occurred. Both received fairly severe burns and injuries from the falling rock and Oliver was unable to move. However Witten-Hannah was able to drag him some distance from the scene and then put him inside the two sleeping bags. (Anyone who knows Robin can understand what a task this is.) Witten-Hannah reached Blyth hut about 2 a.m. a good deal the worse for wear. Mr. Henry Lang and Mr. Maurice Boyd immediately set off for the crater and Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Boyd for Ohakune for help, while Miss Beryl Adams and Miss Vera Schwimmer applied first aid. Lang and Boyd were forced to return without reaching the crater, however, after an explosion lasting ten minutes. Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Boyd reached Ohakune about 5 a.m. and a search party left about 6.30. Mr. K. Hussey reached Blyth hut soon after dawn and set off with Lang and Boyd for the crater, followed shortly by the Ohakune search party.

However, it was a search party from the Chateau, which included Dr. McLachlan and Mr. A. Manson, which rescued Oliver. When they reached him they were amazed to find that he was already on his feet, having recovered his boots and packed both men's gear into his pack and was making his way out of the crater, although still in a half-dazed condition. (How did they know?) He had been out in the snow for 20 hours but had spent some of the time taking photographs. He was able to walk down to Salt hut (4 miles from the Chateau) from whence he was taken to Raetahi hospital. He is reported to be making excellent progress and was expected



Milk and Sugar?

back in Wellington last Monday.

Witten-Hannah was brought to Ohakune by pack-horse as a bad gash in his leg made him unable to walk. He is now recuperating at his home in New Plymouth.

The rest of the party returned to Ohakune the next day, where they bought a copy of a Wanganui paper and found that they were all dead, Witten-Hannah and Oliver being the only survivors.

All students will wish to join with us in extending a sincere vote of thanks to all those who took part in the search parties.

Concerning the statement published in the daily papers which criticized the action of the two trampers, we are not prepared to pass judgement. We think it likely that the decision to sleep in the crater was undertaken in a spirit of scientific investigation, but this implies, perhaps, that scientists who pursue such a course of action should arrange for their own search parties beforehand.

Dear Sir,—It is with mingled feelings that we hear of the attempted seismic observations of two of our tramping stalwarts, Messrs. Oliver and Witten-Hannah, and we must commend the efforts of Mr. Witten-Hannah to rescue his unconscious comrade. While we are told that their action in camping at the edge of the lake was merely the foolhardiness of thwarted scientists with their noses to the trail, a suspicious mind inclines us to believe that a hitherto unsuspected sadism, coupled with a too inquisitive investigation of the more intimate parts of Lady Ruapehu, was probably the *raison d'être* of that minx's orgasm. May we recommend our ambitious pair; let them either confine their attentions to Ngauruhoe, a male of the species, or direct their searches among the feminines of the species *homo sap.*

Personally, we would like to see formed a Society For The Prevention of Wanton Excitement of Volcanoes.

—PRO BONO VOLCANICO

A Great Leader . . .

The death of John Curtin removes from the Labour movement one of its foremost leaders. He became Prime Minister of Australia shortly before Japan's entry into the war, and it fell to his lot the task of personally directing the defence of his country from the then imminent threat of Fascist invasion. In order to accomplish this, he spared no one, subordinating party ties to national expediency. The job was done, but only at the expense of his own health, and it is no exaggeration to say that he fought and died for freedom—a soldier without a uniform.

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

THE LABOUR DAILY

Freedom, so we are taught, dominates our New Zealand press. This freedom is an elusive condition to define. It is generally accepted that no human being born into a community, whatever its stage of social progress, may do exactly as he wishes, but must fulfil certain obligations to his own society. In a democracy, providing that he is not transgressing the laws, he is then allegedly free to follow his own way of life: reading, thinking and talking along the lines he desires.

This, however, is largely theoretical. In New Zealand, as in any other capitalist democracy, there is insufficient security for a man to earn his living in exactly the way he wishes, unless he is fortunate. But he can still, insofar as he is not dominated by environment and convention, say and think what he likes, what he says and thinks being to a large extent governed by what he reads. Probably the main reading of the New Zealand public is provided by daily newspapers, of which over a million are sold in this country every day.

On the surface this is admirable, but it is a fact that in this country there is only one type of paper which predominates; one type which hammers at the public day in, day out, year after year, to the detriment of justice to all sides. This is the type which is controlled by the business interests of the directors, who, quite naturally, are unwilling to present the public with ideas which, in the long run, might be harmful to their profits.

Therefore our "freedom of the press" is a myth. Employees of our newspapers are often not permitted to always write exact versions of events. They suppress some aspects, unduly emphasise others, thus giving, not untruths, but, just as effective, merely false implications.

This obviously is a very poor position. No matter what his political beliefs, every intelligent person must agree that it is obligatory in a democracy to have both sides presented. University students being perhaps among the better read and more intelligent section of the community, or at any rate among the more patronising, are mostly capable of saying that no reliance can be placed on what appears in our daily papers. There are very few who would not agree that there is an urgent and immediate need for a daily which provides space for a more progressive outlook towards today's problems than that hampered at every turn by the policy of moneyed directors, whose cry of "protect private enterprise" leaves very little opportunity for members of the public to understand enterprise which is undertaken for the general good.

Such a newspaper is being established in Wellington under the auspices of the Labour movement before the end of this year. Not only will this new morning daily provide an admirable stimulus to the two other local papers, but it will also give the chance of being heard to what has previously been the unmentionable section of the public—those who returned the Labour Government to power despite the opposing press.

It would display unprecedented progressiveness on the part of VUC students as a whole, were they to support this paper; not necessarily because they believe in the policy of the Labour Party, but because they do believe in the right of every section of the community to have its say in our "free" press regardless of caste, colour or creed. Only when this has been achieved can we point to New Zealand as an exponent of true democracy.

Alien Ways . . .

"That any person or persons who arrived in New Zealand from Germany, Austria, Hungary or Italy, since 1939, must return to their own countries within two years after the cessation of hostilities with Germany, and that they be allowed to take out of New Zealand the same amount of money or property or both, that they declared to the Customs Department when entering New Zealand, any further money or property that they may possess to be sold and the proceeds handed over to the New Zealand Government for distribution to the wives and dependants of those who fought for their respective countries while they enjoyed peace and plenty in New Zealand."—Part of resolution carried at the Dominion Conference of the R.S.A.

Let's put the Alien in his Place.
Let's show him Who's the Master Race.
Hitler, alas, is dead and gone;
But (Heil!) his Soul goes marching on.
He wrecked their Homes, He bade
them pack,
He chased them here.—Let's chase
them back!
On with the Dance! It's none too soon:
They know the Steps, They know the
Tune!

An Alien's Skill or Industry
May earn his Keep? Don't talk to me!
Each Case he treats, each Lathe he
turns,
It is MY Money that he earns,
Exhausting by his useless Toil
Our over-populated Soil.
The Air he breathes is so much less
For Me and Mine, and his Success
(Disgusting thought) is barefaced
Theft.

Lord knows. New Zealand isn't left
Much Butter for the meagre Bread
That keeps its teeming Millions Fed!

The Answer's plain, the Logic's clear:
Reduce the Population here.
The More we send or drive away,
The More there'll be for those who
stay.

Contributions —

Indicate to memory, and she'll lead the
way
Past potent present in this present
place
To the intermingled dregs and sweets
Of our parallel past.
Point her to the present of other places
Link her to facets of a thousand faces
Words, gestures and time-enhanced im-
pressions.
Thus continually back, ever back, back
Each step the weaker than its degetter.
Each recollection blurred to a mental
image
Of a non-existent state in space.
Back is nothing thus;
Now is only back;
Forward is a poignant blank.
Always forward to the present never
reached.
There is no escape by going back,
And we pause on the brink of the
forward nothing,
Frightened.
Then discard memory—horror, no-
thing. —"SEAROS."

Ripples of sea move gently up blank
beach
Shifting a grain of sand
And slip back again
Then, eternally, another ripple comes.
And the ripples were love, and
I was part of each
More recent ripple.

But now no longer shall I move
Near stagnant shore and smooth
brown stones;
Now to float or dive in clear deep sea
Away from all but water. —"MEZZ"

Let's start at once, at the Expense
Of those who have the least Defence
("Mein Kampf" tells how); and after
Them
It will be easier to condemn
Some other Section of this Reich
Whose Race or Face we do not like,
And have Them summarily evicted,
Until New Zealand is restricted
To Those self-guaranteed as fit
To govern and inhabit It.
(Though to this End, so much desired
Expulsions may not be required;
And we may build the Perfect Nation
By voluntary Evacuation).

Dear Spokesmen of the R.S.A.,
Will not your Members feel Dismay
To hear you ignorantly shame
The Cause they fought for, in their
Name?
Were Those who died no more con-
cerned
Than You, who speak for Those re-
turned,
With righting Other's Wrongs? Did
They,
The Unreturned, not choose that Way
Not for their Own, with Hearts more
great
That knew no Aliens in their State?
(By Whim Wham, in "The Press,"
Christchurch. With the author's
permission.)

NO MAN'S LAND

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for your complimentary copy of "Salient." I enclose postal note for 15/-—10/- to the Building Fund and 5/- to "Salient." I only wish I were able to make it as many pounds in each case. Plans sound ambitious, but with a subject such as this it pays to be ambitious, otherwise future generations will regret it. I very much hope that students will respond to the call and back up the Exec. 100 per cent.

My best wishes to "Salient" for 1945.—Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM T. GRAY.

Dear Sir,—If Blues are going to be issued to members of the Miniature Rifle Club, could my little suggestion be taken up at the next Exec. meeting?

Would it be possible for me to start a Marbles Club? I am very keen on marbles really, and I thought that if we had a VUC Marbles Club, me and my mates would be eligible for Blues too.

Once we had this club started, perhaps we could affiliate with the Hopscotch Club and the Ping Pong Club, and then we could ALL get Blues.

Yours faithfully,—SWEENEY TODD

(We feel that your suggestions are worth looking into. If you let us know which kindergarten you are at, and your mother does not object, we will try to cook it up especially for you. —Ed.)

FILM and STAGE

Two amateur groups have presented classical plays in the last few weeks, and my feeling is that neither play was worth the hard work put into it. Thespians' MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR and Repertory's IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST were lavishly presented, and on the whole well acted, but neither was it revealed to me that I was in attendance at presentations of plays by the two masters of English comedy. But the fact is that both plays are badly dated, and their situations almost incomprehensible today.

This is especially so with EARNEST. The play has for a long time been a favourite of mine, and I find it a delight to read; it was with keen anticipation that I approached the performance. But I'm sorry to report that the play, however well dressed, does not wear very well. We are too far away from the comedy of manners of the turn of the century to be able to understand it fully, and the situations which develop are quite unreal. In case anyone says that I have missed the point of the play, which is a social satire (and with that I do not agree) or something, let me refer them to the attendant situations which were apparently quite real to the society of Wilde's day, but certainly foreign to present-day New Zealand. Algernon dislikes dining with his aunt, who "sends him down with either no woman at all, or two." Well, I think there will be few formal processions into dinner here, and the point of the remark might well be missed by young people who have dined, for instance, in the cafeteria. The play is filled with matter that is foreign to us, and, although this does not necessarily make a play bad, EARNEST is crammed with unreal people and unreal remarks. The scintillating epigrams, which read so well, sound curiously hollow when spoken. It appears that Wilde, in his long speeches, confined dialogue which concerned the plot to the first sentence or two, and then used a number of lines to make clever and perverse remarks about contemporary life; the effect is that the play moves forward in spurts, and is inclined at times to become very disconcerting.

I'm sorry about EARNEST—he was a great disappointment to me. If we are to retain our respect for him I think we'd better stick to reading him; there is too much disillusion when he's acted.

Do not think, by the way, that I am complaining about the presentation of the play. The settings were really lovely, and the cast rather superior to that of most amateur shows.

That last remark applies almost equally to THE MERRY WIVES. What on earth can you do with such a ridiculous bit of nonsense as this. Well, Thespians did the best they could, and that was quite satisfactory. The play was very much cut, especially the rude bits, and did not suffer from that. In fact, I am sorry it was not cut a trifle more, because my *detes noir*, Shakespeare's Funny Men, are in. You know, all those irritating characters with the obscure dialogue—Fluellen and all that push. If I may make so bold, let me say that Shakespeare's funny men are not the least bit funny, and hold up the action very badly.

The Thespians used a modification of the Shakespearean stage, and to some good effect, too. The Concert Chamber is quite hopeless for any complicated setting, and the wives performed on an inner platform and before a curtain. Although a captious critic might well complain about the tiresomeness of the same pattern of black or yellow, the experiment in simple staging was, on the whole,

good, except for one appalling affair at the end, where the action was alleged to take place under a magic tree. The kindest thing to say about this scene is that it was under-rehearsed.

Again the acting, in the major parts at least, was good. One could perhaps refer some of the characters to the English that was spoken by the players in EARNEST. It was interesting to note a large number of people from the College in the Thespian play. One especially came direct from Extrav.

FILM

★★★ Comedy | For the benefit of those who are retching slightly

at the thought of four stars for THIS HAPPY BREED, let me say at once that they are not presented for any inherent merit in the story, but for the almost peerless performances and the several superb directorial touches of the film. If however, you can get over your feeling that that super-optimist Coward can't really mean what he says, you've got to pay a tribute to his peculiar insight into British character and family life. He is able to present the just-slightly-larger-than-life portrayal of character that is the essence of good film and stage writing. But I think that Coward's greatest achievement is his resolute refusal to compromise with poor acting. In his three films so far there has not been one incompetent or slipshod or careless actor. I am quite sure that no other director can truthfully say as much. Coward insists that his minor characters are as important as the leads. One of the very best characters in THIS HAPPY BREED is the slavey in the Gibbons household; it is a tiny cameo, but quite perfect. The people in this film are real.

The direction is equally good. Quite the most subtle piece of directing I've ever seen is the sequence dealing with the abdication of Edward VIII. It is handled in the only possible way, delicately, and without actually referring to the event.

Less fortunate is the treatment of the Solid Virtues of the English Home as against the wild and frothy carryings-on of the Young Red. Progressive sentiments are dealt with in the most effective way possible—by making them objects of derision. And, after all his youthful foolishness, the Radical realises that maybe the Good Old British Way is the Best. The Good Old British Way is the way that led to the criminal policies of Baldwin and Chamberlain. It is interesting to see these gentry decied in the film, but we may well remember that the people who now condemn them were their supporters not so very long ago. The treatment of the radical is highly dangerous to liberal thinking, and is well in line with the constant reference in the British elections to "wild-eyed Socialist planning."

It seems a great pity that it has taken a total war to make good British films, but there can be little denying that the best films produced in the last six years have been British. THIS HAPPY BREED is well up at the top of the list.

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FOR THE INFORMATION OF THOSE WHO VOTED . . .

Your new Exec., representing about 350 of the possible 1,000 voters, held its first meeting about a week ago. These notes on its activities are intended for those 350. As for the remainder, who have no interest in their own affairs, they will have only themselves to blame if some drastic measure is taken, such as, as was suggested, raising their Students' Association fee for the ensuing year to £5! . . .

Finance was the biggest problem. We appear to have adequate finance for the year, but appearances are deceptive. Coming activities, including Winter and Easter Tournament, and the costs of publication of "Spike" and "Rostrum" will sadly reduce our credit balance of about £400. Hence the reason for asking some of the more expensive clubs to make a levy amongst their members to meet their costs. If the past policy of the Association of meeting all club costs from the Stud. Ass. fee is to continue, it rests with the clubs affected to support the inevitable increase in the fee which must be made to meet rising prices and the increased participation of students in their clubs.

The current outbreak of vandalism came under plain-spoken fire. It may be your property but why the hell do you have to break it is the attitude of the Exec. Even though the congenial idiots who have managed to creep into Varsity in the last year or so may think so, it is not wise to pour liquids (unidentified) into the piano, jump on ping pong tables, kick in ballot boxes or pull the metal off letter racks.

Election of new members to the manifold committees which actually carry out the work of the Exec., occupied time. The Building Committee required careful consideration in the light of an existing body of criticism. The Exec. wants to make sure that it gets the building that the

students want—a building suitably modern in outlook. Hence Jack Barr has been elected as a person fully conversant with the aims of your Association. This committee has to carry out important work. Its activities are worth taking an interest in, if for no other reason than the fact that you are already paying and will be asked to pay more for the results of its cogitations.

The election of the Blues Committee gave rise to discussion of the basis upon which blues are granted. Your Exec. feels that there has been a tendency in the past to grant blues somewhat too easily and has directed its representatives to ensure that blues are not handed out with the usual packet of salts.

Majority opinion indicated that the Exec. wishes to return to the former policy of making "Spike" largely a record of College activities and to limit the amount of literary efforts. To some members this seemed a retrograde step, but the dead loss of over £100 last year is strong argument for at least some change of policy.

Exec., through its President, Dave Cohen, makes a strong appeal for student participation and interest in the management of its own affairs. If you have any rows or difficulties, or want to see something done, your Exec. is there to endeavour to put your ideas into effect.

NZUSA and Rehabs.

It is reported that a letter from NZUSA had been sent to the Minister of Defence asking for improved Education and Welfare Services in the Mediterranean theatre, enclosing a copy of an article in "Canta" by Jack Tizard on this subject.

The reply gave details of the numbers taking different courses and mentioned that the services had been considerably improved since Mr. Tizard had left the Division. It was suggested by the Minister that NZUSA get in touch with the Director of Army Education and Welfare Services with a view to providing students about to be called up with details of the educational facilities available in the Army.

A letter from the Minister of Rehabilitation stated that NZUSA request Student Association fees to be paid by Rehab. This would be placed before the next meeting of the Rehabilitation Board.

THINGS TO COME



Club secretaries are reminded that they are responsible for giving notice of forthcoming activities either to the Editor or to Peter Jenkins (Weir).

For those who Didn't Vote . . .

Despite publicity, students showed little interest in the elections. This is, I know, not unusual but in my ingenuousness I had hoped that this year things would have been different. Those statistically inclined may be interested to know that some 30% of those on the roll exercised their option. These 239 men and 102 women are to be congratulated, but the remaining 800 students on the roll who did not vote, well—on their heads should rest the blame for VUC being designated just a mere night school—evidently that is their opinion of it. Of those who did vote, in many cases they didn't even know of the candidates. Just whether this is to be taken as a reflection on the candidates or on the voter is not for me to say. Blind indifference was shown to voting instructions, resulting in 19 men voting papers being held informal and 2 women's. Last year the women outnumbered the men in this respect and not a few cutting jibes were made at their expense—"not fit to exercise a vote," etc.—this year I must hang my head in shame and admit that we men cannot even count up to four.

The whole electoral set up is out of date, designed for a College roll of 500 voters, and an overhaul is overdue. Two polling booths are now necessary and the voting itself should be conducted on the strict Nansen preferential system. However, if voters continue to show their present apathy I admit that any improvements are useless. I had thought that there was a recrudescence of interest in Varsity affairs this year but the meagre display of it in these elections has given the lie to that. Finally, I do deplore the lack of concern shown by full-timers in College affairs, an interest which must be shown if Varsity is to become that force in civic life that it is maintained it should be; so once again we see part-time students bearing the burthen of Exec work.

H. L. PEIRSE,
Returning Officer.

Have at Thee, Varlet—

The Fencing Club is away to a flying start.

Enthusiasts, male and female, are meeting in the gym on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9.0 under the supervision of one of Wellington's leading instructors. As fencing will be a feature of the Winter Tournament a lot of practice has to be put in before the middle of August.

If you can come, come! If you can bring a foil and guard, come again!

Photo Club In Action Again

The darkroom has been closed to members for the past few weeks for the normal work of the Biology Department. This further emphasises the necessity of a Photographic Block in the new Students' Building.

Forthcoming lectures are by Mr. J. T. Salmon (films, filters, papers) on July 12, and a landscape competition to be judged by Mr. J. D. Pascoe on July 26. Mr. Pascoe, it will be remembered, judged last years SPIKE photographic entries.

REMINDER. Entries are wanted for SPIKE 1945, to be handed in to Dave Cohen or Margaret Beattie on or before October 1. Go to it. Open to all VUC students.

Parlons Francais

A record crowd attended the Wellington French Club rooms on Thursday night, June 29, when VUC students presented two one act plays. *Le Chasseur* was well received, though it was rather drawn out towards the end. A. L. Whiteman, the principal character, was excellent; he managed quite cleverly to change his voice as well as his appearance. Keith Sinclair's performance was also very creditable—his cane and boater causing much amusement. His meticulous accent suited the part very well.

The other play, *Villa Meublee*, was considerably shorter, but was nonetheless entertaining. Erik de Mauny was very much at ease on the stage and of course his accent was beyond reproach. Jackie Patrick appeared quite at home as the shrewd wife, and her husband (Dr. Danilov) was in his element. In both plays the only criticism that can be offered is "parlez plus lentement." Apart from the plays Peter Jeffries gave a piano solo and E. H. Jones sang two French songs. Not being a musician, I would say Jeffries played excellently, and not being a singer, I will leave Jones to criticise himself—"belly noises."

OVERCROWDING MAY MEAN LIMITED ENTRIES, SAYS COUNCIL

Money for medical schemes, lectureships in Physical Chemistry and Music, request to the Government for a grant for a school of social studies, new College buildings, were items of interest to students arising from the Annual Report of the Professorial Board at the May meeting of the College Council.

At present there does not seem to be any chance of the University aiding the Student Medical Scheme with finance. The opinion of the Registrar's solicitor is that the College Council has no power under its Act to provide money for such a scheme.

Two new lectureships are to be instituted, one in Physical Chemistry and one in Music. The absence of a department of Music in the College has long been felt by those who cannot afford to go to Otago to study. This new lectureship should considerably ease the situation.

The College Council has resolved to ask the Government for an annual grant of £4,500 for a special school of social studies at VUC. This application parallels the Auckland one for a chair of Anthropology and is a very encouraging sign for social studies in New Zealand.

Preliminary plans for a new building to house Chemistry, Geology and Geography have been prepared, but so far no definite action has been approved by the Government. The position is that if the College were provided at the moment with this new building, a Students' Union building and a new Library building, all could be fully and effectively used. As it is we have classes of 200 and 250 taught in the mass. There is only one room in the College that can accommodate such a class. There are 240 in Physics I and the same number in Chemistry I. In both of these subjects laboratory space is needed. The main space for Chemistry, which now has over 300 students, is the same as when the College opened with not more than 40 students taking the subjects. All the lectures for Stage I in Chemistry have to be repeated, an undue burden on our small teaching staff.

In view of this crisis the Board had under consideration:

(1) A scheme for the immediate increase in staff.

(2) A plan for limiting the entries to the College in 1946 if this is forced upon us by lack of staff and accommodation.

Encouraging reports were made about the finance and increasing scope of adult education. The summer school at Fellding was outstandingly successful. This is a fine gathering and it is recommended to students who have a spare week at Christmas.

One of the less encouraging reports was that notifying the re-election to the Council of so many unopposed candidates. The Council is the governing body of this College, and all ex-graduates are entitled to vote for the candidates nominated. If the student body wishes to have a word in the running of the College it should instruct its executive to see that suitable candidates are nominated and that 100 recent graduates at least are canvassed for votes. At present there is one student voice on the executive, Mr. I. C. McDowall.

It is reported that some microscopes are to be purchased if the Principal and Registrar are satisfied that funds are available.

Professor Lipson, Dr. Hare, Mr. Bailey, and Mr. Shearer are going to deliver this term at College a series of lectures on "Post-War Reconstruction in New Zealand."

The library now has a total of 55,391 books, of which last year 19,512 were borrowed by 1,022 undergraduates.

It is pleasing to note, in conclusion, that 12 of our professors and lecturers published 26 books and articles during 1944.

—question and answer

Dear Sir,—As a constant reader of your paper for some four years and as an interested member of various college clubs, I saw with some disappointment that the drama club—despite the let-up in E.P.S., Home Guard and overtime, and the number of students returning from overseas—was, at the last casting meeting, very poorly off for male parts. It seemed apparent then that male dramatic talent in this college is going elsewhere, and is not putting its weight behind the college club. This impression was underlined by a recent visit to the Thespians production down town. I recognised four VUC men in the caste, two of them in fairly prominent parts and therefore presumably a loss to our club. It is also common knowledge that a number of our students belong to town drama groups and while I would hesitate to condemn them for this, as doubtless the contacts and experience are of value to them, yet I would question the propriety of them playing in a major production in town when our own club is badly affected by their lack of support.

—CONSTANT READER

(Decision was made on this matter at the last A.G.M. If transgressions still occur, we can only express our regret.—Ed.)

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The Late Christopher Bean

The Drama Club recently presented a reading of RENE FAUCHOIS'S amusing and refreshing play THE LATE CHRISTOPHER BEAN. The audience was small; the reading good.

The postponement of the play for one week resulted in a noticeable loss of keenness on the part of the cast, particularly in the first act, but this was to a large extent alleviated in the succeeding acts and the play finished with appreciable gusto.

The cast selected showed potentialities, and in some cases very definite talent, particularly Kerry Jordan as Dr. Haggart, and Edith Hannah as the spoilt daughter, Ada. As is usual in a reading there were several late entrances and one or two ineffectual attempts to cover up, but notwithstanding the performance was pretty slick, and the requisite atmosphere fairly well maintained throughout.

The producer was Pat Girling-Butcher.

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DEBATERS PONDER: "PRIVATE CONTROL OR STATE ENTERPRISE?"

"That State control of coal mines would ensure an adequate supply of coal" was a subject which brought forth an impressive array of statistics whose sources ranged from year books of assorted vintages to informal telephone conversations with the Mines Department. The number of ways in which the 1944 Year Book can be interpreted is amazing.

Mr. Ord opened the debate by enumerating the advantages of State control—more capital and co-ordination, less friction between employer and employee. The superior efficiency was indicated by the rise in production since the State had taken over certain mines. (Judge's comment: He was surprisingly restrained for a self-declared socialist.)

Mr. O'Connor presented a shattering list of names and figures to refute these arguments. The increase in the number of miners and the adoption of the open-cast system accounted for the rise in total production, while individual efficiency had decreased. (Judge's comment: Sound arguments, but he should not have spoken as if to an audience of 1,000.)

Miss Marshall produced a further version of the relevant figures and established that the private ownership system was financially incapable of continuing. State ownership would ensure improved working conditions and thus increased efficiency.

Miss Kelly detailed examples of inefficiency since certain mines had been subject to State control. Remark from floor: "Wonderful heads these girls have for figures."

Miscellanea

Mr. Watts: A young country must continue to develop by private enterprise.

Mr. McIntyre: With State control the Government would have its finger on the pulse of every coal mine.

Miss Taylor: The miners go slow just as much in State mines, only with Government support.

Mr. O'Brien: State control won't replace the loss of Newcastle coal. Subsidies are paid to the gas companies instead of to private owners.

Mr. Jack objected the subject debated was not the one advertised. State control would secure a sufficient supply as a political necessity, but it would not be efficient because gained regardless of expense.

Mr. O'Connor: The miner will tell you of machinery rusting in his—at the pit-head.

Mr. Ord: The miner cannot concentrate while he is brooding on the condition of his wife at home.

The judge, Mr. Taylor, advised speakers to consider the mental level of their audience. The speakers were placed as follows: O'Connor, Jack, Marshall, Ord, O'Brien.

Populate or Perish

This article resulted from an informal interview with Mr. A. Leigh Hunt, President of the Dominion Settlement and Population Association. As the problems discussed are of vital importance to the generation of students now passing through College, we feel that it is not out of place in "Salient," and hope to see comment from our readers in our correspondence columns.

In University publications and in the press we have of late seen much discussion of post-war plans for New Zealand. In the world epoch now opening we envisage a continuously expanding economy, greater productivity of labour and rising standards of living, all in a world at peace. The historic decisions of the San Francisco conference adopt these as the aims of a co-operatively working family of nations; each country hopes to attain internally the reflection of these international aims.

In New Zealand we run the risk of abject failure. We are at present losing what in ten to thirty years will be the missing keystone in our arch of prosperity—a population sufficient to carry our plans to fruition.

Statistics show that the percentage of our total population over sixty years of age, that is, nearing the end of their working life, is rising steadily. In 1881 it was 2.7%, in 1901 6.8%, in 1921 7.5%, in 1938 11.4%. On the other hand, the number of children in the one to fourteen age group has declined as follows:—1881, 42.5%; 1901, 33.4%; 1921, 21.4%; 1938, 24.2%. The reasons are many: financial insecurity, the housing shortage, the lack of domestic assistance. Remedies, the Association suggests, lie in the provision of family allowances on

the most generous scale possible, a comprehensive domestic aid scheme, and State loans to enable the young couples to buy a section and build a small home of their own—a two-room unit has been suggested—and add to it according to a preconceived plan as their family grows.

But, in the most optimistic view, sufficient natural increase cannot be expected soon enough to prevent the development of the disastrous consequences of the trends now established. Clearly, therefore, immigration is a desirable expedient.

Prospects

The approaching results of these trends are obvious. The proportion of persons in the age groups of maximum social productivity, the proportion of those who man the factories, till the fields, produce the goods and further the technology whereby we control nature, is rapidly decreasing, while those whose days of labour are past, who have a claim to be supported by the community, are enormously increased. In ten to thirty years the population will actually start to decline. Before long every young worker will be carrying two or three old age pensioners on his back. What then of the future for which our men have fought? This is not an academic problem—it must be

Publicity ex Cathedra

Again VUC students have aroused the public wrath of a local Divine ("Dominion," 22/6/45). The present charge is that CAPPICADE 1945 was lewd and suggestive.

We apologise, Reverend Sir, for our oversight. We, of course, could see what we meant, and the students in their unlettered ignorance could also. But, apparently the man in the street could not. Wherefor we thank you for interpreting CAPPICADE to the masses, an interpretation surely classical, apt and appreciated.

Since your generous, free gratis publicity, we have been inundated with requests for CAPPICADE 1945. But woe is me, alas and alack, the type is broken up, never to be reset. Consolation there is that CAPPICADE 1946 will be on sale in nine months time, perhaps, who can say, even lewder, and perhaps as suggestive as it ever was.

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faced by the generation now at VUC.

To ensure the maintenance of the population an average family of three to four children is necessary. But 65% of present marriages produce less than two children. The following figures show how the position has deteriorated in the past sixteen years. From 1926 to 1942 the number of children under fifteen declined by 15,000. During the same period the number of persons over sixty increased by 90,000, and of persons fifty to fifty-nine, by 58,000. On the one hand a declining birth-rate, on the other an ageing population.

Immigration Problems

The Prime Minister has laid it down, and rightly, that New Zealand's first duty is to rehabilitate her soldiers. This process, however, could be assisted rather than hindered by immigration. An expanding economy demands an expanding population. Careful planning will be necessary, the immigrants must be absorbed gradually, but immigration we must have if we are to avoid the degeneration and decay that will accompany a declining population. It is for the younger generation to decide now; will it be prepared, in ten to thirty years' time, to carry the enormous social burden of an aged population, or will it demand the assistance of young workers, brought from Britain and Europe at the earliest possible time? There is evidence that many are anxious to come. If we are unable to take them now, let us at least tell them fully of what New Zealand has to offer, and assure them of a welcome in the future. If we do not do so, they will inevitably go elsewhere, and when we awaken to our desperate need, our chance will be lost.—M.R.

What is this Association of Scientific Workers?

The Association of Scientific Workers was founded in 1942 to help and co-ordinate the various scientific bodies throughout the Dominion and indeed the whole world. We feel, therefore, that this article, taken from "The New Zealand Science Review," will be of interest to all students who are following the industrial and scientific development of the country.

Separated from scientists in other parts of the world by natural and artificial barriers which have been reinforced and augmented in the war years, it is in many ways difficult for the scientific worker in this country to keep contact with the development of things scientific in the world at large. The standard journals, in spite of still erratic mail, inform us of the progress in the various fields of science; but few New Zealand workers subscribe or can subscribe to journals other than those of special scientific purpose, and, as a result, the average worker has largely lost the intimate understanding of developments overseas in the broader aspects of science.

As an example, the formation of the New Zealand Association of Scientific Workers appeared to some simply as a development from the enthusiasm of a small group with purely local interests and problems rather than as part of a

and attitudes to the present status and the future of science. There have been various criticisms of the Association from time to time. There has been the expressed opinion that the Association merely parallels already existing organisations. If this be the case, then it is remarkable that there has been such successful development of this movement elsewhere where the organisation of scientists has long been far more comprehensive than here and where even after twenty years, as in Britain, the parallelism has not yet been found ineffective or undesirable and a strong Association has contributed significantly to the organisation of science and scientists in a time of major national stress when parallelism and duplication of effort would surely have gone by the board.

On the other hand, among those who recognise the need for an Association in this country, there has been the opinion that the Association should devote itself largely to trade union activities and affiliate fully with the Federation of Labour. In a country organised such as this, such affiliation could have considerable value and might simplify the solution of many of the problems with which the Association must deal. There have been many and lengthy discussions on these lines

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movement which has commenced spontaneously in the various countries of the free world. The need for an Association of Scientific Workers in this country is not unique nor founded in local or minor problems. The need here arises from conditions which led to the formation of Associations of Scientific Workers in Britain in the closing period of the last war and in Australia, the United States and Canada in more recent times. It would be the sheerest egotism to believe or assume that the factors which have led to the formation and growth of Associations elsewhere are negligible or absent in this country, and fallacy to consider that the formation of an Association in New Zealand has its roots in purely personal interests. The New Zealand Association of Scientific Workers is a natural step in the evolution of science. It is a response from New Zealand scientists to conditions and underlying forces which, from the evidence of the formation of the Associations with parallel aims and objects, are of general distribution and the concern of thinking scientists throughout the free world.

The New Zealand Association has contended since its formation with difficult and hard times. Progress has been slow but steady, with always a gradual strengthening of support as scientists have appreciated the nature of the Association and turned to this organisation as a means to the expression of the scientists' intention to take an active part in the current affairs

at general meetings of the Association, and from these it has been made clear that the scientist does not look to such a policy as the primary aim of the Association. Here is an example, along with the formation of the Association, that the scientific worker in this country is in harmony, if not actually in contact, with scientific workers overseas.

There is absolutely no room for any interpretation that the Association is to be aloof from the mundane, but vital, affairs of salaries and conditions of employment for scientific workers. The expression of the scientists on this point is quite clear. Inadequate reward and unsuitable conditions are not to be permitted to bar the way or make difficult the progress of scientific development and the application of science in this country. No doubt can be cast on the fact that the scientist holds the opinion that this is a real part of the activities of the Association, a role within the formula of our constitution, a charge on the Council and recognised as such by the Council, and a task to be undertaken when and where necessary. Salaries and conditions of employment are a recognised part of the business of the Association, but the considered opinion of the scientist is that this business is to be handled by the Association and without loss of purpose, strength or identity through affiliation with non-scientific organisations whose range of aims and objects is far narrower than our own.

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SPORT 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 have envied.

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. (1943).

SCOTTISH HARD PUT BY VUC HARRIERS IN DORNE CUP

On Saturday, June 7, the Harrier Club held its annual Sherwood Cup race at Linden at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Newell and Mr. Sherwood. The unhandicapped placings were:—

J. C. Hawke (scr.), 1st; T. J. Collier (scr.), 2nd; M. J. Poole (scr.) 3rd.

The revised placings were:—

D. McKenzie (3 min. 45 sec.), 1st; B. E. Swedlund (2 min.), 2nd; J. C. Hawke (scr.) and J. Saxton (30 sec.), 3rd.

Hawke's time over the 3½ mile course was 21 min. 19 sec.

The turnout at this run was the best so far this season, being due either to the thought of a delightful race through swamps and gorse in the rain or to the afternoon tea which was to follow (for those who returned).

The club would like to express its great indebtedness to the Railways Department for the great consideration shown to the harriers and also for its generous contribution to the social fund.

On Saturday, June 16, a run was held from Island Bay, which finished with a swim for the braver types and an excellent afternoon tea for all at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shoreland. As has quite often happened, the slow pack had the longest run, but the fast pack, putting stomach before sport, did not over-exert themselves, remembering that "first come, first served."

On June 23 a run was held from the residence of "Sherry" Sherwood at Paekakariki to which representatives of the Massey College harriers were invited. The attendance proved to be the largest this year and there were over 40 runners.

The Dorne Cup

On Saturday, June 30, the Dorne Cup inter-club harrier race was held at Petone. Out of the ten clubs represented at this race the only serious rival to the Victoria pack was the Scottish club, which has gained the trophy for several years past. Although Scottish again came first, the VUC representatives gave them a good run for their money and came a close second, awakening them to the fact that if they trained to the same extent as Scottish they would have no difficulty in carrying off the prize. As it was, however, the winning club came nearer to being beaten than it has for some time past.

Although the five-mile course consisted mostly of road, there was also a portion of beach and track, which generally encouraged good running. Our first man in, Trev. Collier, came eighth out of the 147 competing, Ian McDowall and Dick Daniell coming ninth and tenth respectively. The next in for Victoria Club were in the following order: J. Haldane, J. C. Hawke, I. Lang, J. Saxton, M.

O'Connor, P. Whittle, and S. Seagar. The total points secured by VUC were 247, Scottish obtaining 220.

Unfortunately two of our best runners, Peter de la Mare and Marc Poole, were unable to compete as Peter had left the district and Marc had injured his foot in a previous run. Nevertheless, the results of the race and the enthusiasm shown by the 27 members who ran, indicate that the club is rapidly increasing its strength and may, next year, be able to carry off the prize.

Varsity Soccer— To better or to worse?

Recent games show that although the individual members of the A team have the necessary ability, there is a lack of co-ordinated effort by the team as a whole, resulting in defeats to teams whose players know where to place their passes. This was undoubtedly the case in the game against Petone, which was lost 2-1 after we had led 1-0 for the better part of the game. In the first half, playing against a headwind, the defenders played their usual solid game, Moore saving some well-placed shots. Varsity forwards had their share of the ball but made little use of it. Centring was poor.

In the second half Walls scored from close in and from that point the team deteriorated, the defence having lost its punch, leaving men unmarked, although Smith played well throughout. Petone scored twice, Varsity being content to punt the ball aimlessly about the field.

Playing Army the previous week we lost 5-1—our worst defeat to date. Army's snappy set of forwards caused a lot of trouble.

The B team has added two more to its succession of defeats, but the enthusiasm of the players compensates for lack of experience.

A screening of some short films illustrating the English technique was witnessed by members of the Varsity and T.C. teams last Tuesday, and Mr. Houston gave some useful advice on field tactics.

Word has reached VUC that Otago is keen to play if a tournament can be arranged, so with teams from all centres prepared to travel, there would appear to be no reason why soccer should not be included in Tournament.

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