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IN WILLIS STREET

Salient

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

VOL. 9, No. 7 ★ WELLINGTON, JUNE 19, 1946 ★ Price: BY SUBSCRIPTION

MAJESTIC CABARET

★
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EVERY SATURDAY
AT THE MAJESTIC

"The Road to Utopia"— Three Speakers Point The Way Ahead

"Socialism—what it means to me" was the subject discussed by three speakers invited to address the new Socialist Club. Each speaker, though broadly representative of certain political groups, gave interesting personal opinions and definitions. The first speaker required assistance from dictionaries and even then was rather vague. The second speaker's ideas, on the other hand, were quite definite—socialism to him is only a means to an end. The final speaker used a wide general approach and while the shape of events today, especially in the USA, leads him to be pessimistic about the possibility of establishing socialism without bloodshed, he thinks that socialism is not only inevitable but desirable.

The opening speaker, Mr. Wilson, quoted countless definitions of Socialism from countless dictionaries and showed clearly that anyone may get a definition to suit his own particular bias. The audience were more interested in hearing his own views, which included his opinion that a state of Socialism implied "a co-operative Commonwealth" which definition was, by request, enlarged and became "a Co-operative Commonwealth." Capitalism was still to be a feature, but state ownership of recalcitrant industries and price control would constitute Socialism. He thought it was necessary to keep "those industries which provide a better service to the public under private ownership" but failed to name any which would come within this category. Equality was to be of economic and social opportunity. These terms were not further explained. The right of inheritance and freedom of approved private industries were further points.

Gradualism

Although advocating absolute freedom of the ownership of the press, and freedom to print anything, he thought that it would be very dangerous to allow private individuals the right to "buy up time" on the air (i.e. radio) for propaganda purposes, and instanced the fact that John L. Lewis was able to buy time on the radio on a nationwide hookup. Mr. Wilson stated that he is essentially a gradualist in resolving the solution of present-day problems towards Socialism.

*Spring has come
The grass is ris
I wonder where
The flowers is.*

Communism

Mr. Birchfield, the second speaker, did not think that it is necessary to use any dictionary definition. He said that one of the main points is the "ending of present production relations by developing the social character of production and ownership of the means of production." He contended that a state is an instrument of oppression and in Capitalism was "the oppression of the many by the few"; in Socialism the oppression of the few by the many; the ideal is when the point is reached at which a state is no longer necessary as such. He said further that there could be no such thing as Democracy while people were economically dictated to.

Socialism is the only possible solution to the control of the atomic bomb and the only way to avoid mass slaughter.

Referring again to economics, Mr. Birchfield mentioned the need for more production to give all the necessities of life—this does not mean bending the back of the worker any further, but the control of the production of luxury goods and a concentration on necessary goods.

In the political sphere he thinks that, at present, it is necessary for the Labour and Communist Parties to unite in order to work together for Socialism.

Socialism

Mr. Combs, M.A., gave a witty and very interesting talk which covered a field from town planning to ethical values and his desire for a peaceful transition to Socialism. In answering questions he said that he regrets the fact that a revolution is becoming



more and more imminent and quoted the situation in USA to bear this out.

He accentuated the relation of the individual to the state and hoped that by improved methods of education and by opening up education to more and more people and also by improving their environment to bring about the change to Socialism.

He mentioned the fact that belief in Socialism no longer is regarded as a dangerous disease but as an amiable aberration. A man is allowed to be an expert on tomatoes, domestic affairs, and even bowls, but politically (if expressing a desire for Socialism) is just a bit queer—"so much for freedom of thought."

His talk concluded with a summary of ideas. He does not hold Socialism to be the final objective and said that in a Socialist state there would be just as much striving but the people would know exactly for what they were striving.

Questions addressed to the various speakers ended a very interesting evening.

Science—Its Treatment and Maltreatment in the Forces

The Mathematical and Physical Society recently held a discussion with the above title. Although the three main speakers chose to deal with rather different aspects of the question, there was substantial agreement that wartime conditions were anything but congenial to the scientist, and that administration by the military led to a failure to obtain "value for money" from the vastly increased expenditure.

It was pointed out that the problem was anything but a new one—Archimedes had worked for the forces; and that even in peacetime Britain the expenditure on poison gas research was only narrowly exceeded by that on medical research.

The discussion might well have been more lively. One should expect physicists in particular to be concerned with the social relations of their subject at the present time, but the questions and discussions seemed all to be directed more at technical than at social aspects of wartime discoveries. How much this was due to the fact that discussions are a new departure in the Maths. and Physics Soc. is open to argument, but the enterprise of the Committee in deciding to give this vital subject an airing is to be commended.

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Salient

Wednesday,
June 19

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

QUO VADIS DEMOCRACY?

After fighting Fascism on the battlefields for almost six years, it came as a great shock to the democratic world to listen to President Truman's draconian anti-strike legislation. In the words of Chester Wilmut, who gave the dramatic BBC commentary, Sunday, May 27, will be remembered as the day of the birth of American Fascism!

The Roosevelt era with its progressive legislation and enlightened form of government has abruptly come to an end. Many of us will remember the Wagner-Conally Labour Relations Act which was passed as part of the New Deal by an overwhelming majority of both Houses of Congress in 1935. It was designed to set up direct Federal machinery to enforce collective bargaining for the American trade unions. The passing of this Act bore the fruit of the struggle of three generations of American labour, and its immediate consequence was a tremendous increase in the active membership of both the Congress of Industrial Organisations (the CIO) and the American Federation of Labour (the AFL). A decade of unprecedented industrial progress was the result of Roosevelt's rise and democratic attitude towards the working people. In return organised labour gave to the Democratic Party overwhelming support at the polls.

Nobody in this country will deny for a moment the vital contribution made by American workers during the Global War. Their productive effort turned out aeroplanes and tanks by the tens of thousands, and thanks to them the war in the Pacific was shortened considerably. It was their toil which made possible Roosevelt's generous lend-lease aid to the countries fighting Fascism. And as far as New Zealand is concerned, their ships and planes, their guns and their tanks, put us in a position where we could effectively defend ourselves against a Japanese landing.

Truman's anti-strike legislation is not something typically American, just as Hitler's racial persecutions were not the result of a typical German mentality. They are both ugly characteristics of a Capitalist system which finds itself confronted with an acute crisis. The recent bill reveals clearly the determination of the ruling class to hold on to its position, irrespective of the means to be adopted. Fascism is nothing but Capitalism's way of relief from the pressure of political democracy.

Many readers will undoubtedly ask themselves of what concern events in America are to us. It is of paramount importance to stress the international and inherently aggressive character of Fascism. The experiences of the last ten years have made this abundantly clear. Can we afford to be involved in a third World War? Are we willing to surrender our personal rights and liberties to the selfish interests of a minority class? The answer from men who have fought in the war and from students in general is a categorical "NO."

FILM REVIEWS

"Blithe Spirit"

This entertainment is from the play of the same name that broke records on the London and the New York stage and made another small fortune for Noel Coward. Like most of Coward's drama, "Blithe Spirit" is designed to amuse the socially well-behaved by its suggestiveness and reversal of convention. The bourgeois family is devastatingly dull and any parody of its morality is welcome. It is gratifying to see the upper middle-class English wife become something of a she-wolf; and to hear her rival summarised as "a woman whose physical attractions were tremendous, and whose moral integrity was nil" is enough to send an audience into titters of delight.

"Blithe Spirit" is burdened with such a pair of women who compete, throughout its length, for the attention of Charles (a prosperous young author). This odd situation is established through the intense and riotous professional services of Madame Arcati, a practising spiritualist (very well played by Margaret Rutherford, late of the pageant in "Demi-Paradise"). Charles is living with his second wife, Ruth, when the Madame materialises his first wife, Elvira, who has been, for seven years, in the grave, or as she prefers to say, "on the other side."

All this is allowable in the cause of comedy, and Noel Coward's work is a link, if a weak one, in the chain of the English comedy of manners. The dialogue strives after wit, the romance is distinctly material, and several popular institutions get their share of what is more like a rod than a rapier. "I haven't been to a movie for seven years," says Elvira. "Let me be the first to congratulate you," says Charles.

But it is difficult to translate a comedy of manners into good cinema. "Blithe Spirit" is a film of a play, and fails as cinema; there is too much conversation, too little action, and a monotony of scene. But technicolour (with a Kalmus), the Noel Coward legend, and expensive advertising, are certainly attracting the socially well-behaved around town.

Hitler Lives?

In the local cinemas is a short-subject film, "Hitler Lives." In this film Nazism is described as an outcrop of the spirit of the German people. The Germans are portrayed as the arch-enemy, and, for the politically malleable, this film is horribly convincing. But, and this "but" in heavy emphasis, we cannot allow Vansittartism to go unchallenged. Nazism may have distorted into its service the passions of German nationalism, but it was not this one aspect of barbarism alone; it was, fundamentally, the terrorist rule of the German generals, the big industrialists, and the Prussian land-barons. In other countries these gentry have their counterpart; in other countries Fascism can yet become a menace. This is what Warner Brothers should choose as a subject for propaganda. "Hitler Lives" is a vile distraction from the political issues of today.

*Mr you needn't be so spry
concerning questions artly
i likes a certain party
each has his taste but as for i
give me a he-man's solid bliss
for youse ideas i'll match yoyar
one pretty girl who naked i
is worth a million statues.*

c. e. cummings.

THIS—OUR SECRETARY!

*"It has developed into a minor war."
—Mr. O'Brien at Undergrads' Supper.*

And after much childish bickering it almost seemed that truce had been reached.

But out of a blue sky descended the stork with his little bag of tricks—one letter for "Commercial Print," printers of "Salient":—

June 13, 1946.

The Manager,
Commercial Printing Co. Ltd.
Dear Sir,

The following is an extract from the minutes of meeting of Executive held on Thursday, May 23, 1946:

"Moved Mr. Poole, seconded Miss Keys, that the Editor 'Salient' be instructed to publish on the front page of the next issue of 'Salient' a retraction of the editorial entitled 'Our Judgment,' this retraction to be prefaced by a statement expressing the Editor's regrets that he omitted to do this in the last issue. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Cohen to be responsible for seeing that this was done.—Carried."

As "Salient" is the official organ of the Association, the Executive will not assume responsibility for payment of your account if the issue in your hands is handed over for distribution without containing the matter referred to above.

Yours faithfully,

M. J. POOLE, Secretary

Not only has the Executive, both as a body and as individuals failed to inform the Editor of this odd motion, unique in the history of VUCSA; not only on the eve of press has Mr. Poole assumed the role of Editor Extraordinary without the cognizance of a single student in the college, demanding to an amazed printer that he publish a stupefying series of statements in an issue already overset with routine reports; NOT ALL THIS WITHOUT MR. MARCUS J. POOLE OF THE ESTEEMED LEGAL PROFESSION DESCENDING TO THIS LOW LEVEL OF COERCION IN ORDER TO GAIN HIS OWN ILL-DESERVED ENDS.

Nor is "Salient" the "Official" organ of Student Opinion.

☆ ☆ ☆
The salient points emerge from this extraordinary farrago of events—

1. The Executive has passed a most invidious motion in accordance with which the Editor is supposed to retract a statement published in the Editorial Column, a column that remains under the sole jurisdiction of

MONOPOLY IN PUBLISHING

Why have the fat serial novels and the family sets of "Works" of the days of Dickens and Thackeray gone so completely out of fashion? Where are the family magazines of Victorian days? And the "Gentlemen's Libraries"?

The reasons are to be found, not in the experiments of form-conscious artists, nor indeed in a basic change of approach on the part of writers, but in the history of book-publishing.

The Victorian novelists grew fat on the income from serial publication in family magazines. Following magazine appearance their books were published in several-volume editions for the family bookshelves. But at the turn of the century the new mass circulation methods, and in particular the popular lending library, which had only been frequented by servant girls in the days of Victoria, caused the book audience to turn away from the three-volume novel to the more conveniently rentable single-volume novel. At the same time the development of display advertisement had a decisive influence on the future of the magazine. Previously "magazines had depended for their support on a subscription audience able to impose a consumer taste control by their payment of a relatively high price for their reading." But now magazine-publishers found it much more profitable to print mass circulation magazines, the design and content of which was determined by their new financial mainstay—the advertiser. The advertiser-subsidised magazine was addressed to the passions and weaknesses of people, imposed its own norms of taste.

The serious writer, naturally enough, did not wish to drop to this level, and so we find, among the other reactions to the growth of the display magazine, the little magazine coming forward. In many cases it became over-individualised and obscure, proud of its small circulation.

But consumer taste has remained a factor in the publishing of books,

often to the disgust of the publisher. His desire has been, and remains, to standardise taste, and thus assure profit. And this desire he has done his best to realise, and not indeed without some measure of success. It is, of course, to America that we must look to see this process in action, for it is there that the Book Clubs, the prior movie options on novels, are in full swing. There book publishing has developed along similar lines to the steel industry. Just as the steel trusts not only own the blast furnaces but also the mines, the conversion factories, the distributing networks, so the big publishing firms have their own printing works, reprint factories, binderies, book store chains and book clubs. Doubleday Doran, for example, owns three book clubs, one of which—the Literary Guild—is the largest in the field.

What are the specific dangers of these instruments of monopoly?

The first is the threat to cultural standards, which are rapidly being levelled, as has already happened in the newspaper and magazine fields. The first factor in this is the choice of judges for the book clubs. They are presumably picked as a guarantee that good taste will be preserved, but they are more and more being chosen from those writers who display "market" sense. Thus the two new judges of the Book of the Month Club are "the suave, best-selling novelist John Marquand" ("H. M. Pulham, Esq.") and that arbiter of the fashionable in literature, Clifton P. Fadiman. But while good taste is the supposed appeal,

the Editor, and the opinions expressed therein the prerogative of the Editor alone, to be read and accepted as such.

2. To date, Monday 17, the Editor has not received notification of the carrying of the above motion.

3. Without the authorisation of a single person or body Mr. Poole completed in the name of the Students' Association a series of letters that Dean Swift or Frederick Engels might have envied.

4. A printer whose untiring efforts have for five years produced "Salient," unrivalled in Australasia among Student Papers for typography and quality of printing, has indicated that if this is our attitude to his work we might try elsewhere for our printers.

SO MUCH FOR YOUR DIPLOMACY, MR. POOLE!

Bruce Milburn, Editor.

the more effective economically determining appeal is the bargain. By various devices the book clubs offer their wares at prices below those possible in the open market. People are thus gradually persuaded to forego personal choice and accept what is offered.

The second danger is the threat to the freedom of book publication, because the very concentrations of book audiences made possible by the book clubs have made them readily accessible to ruling class pressures. The first control of course is through the judges, although it is not suggested that they are given, or would obey, direct instructions. But the basis of their selection has already been noted, and a further point is that besides their market sense they also bring in cynical attitudes towards political thinking (see Marquand's "So Little Time"). But the major and most continuous pressure is against "ideas" altogether. Thinking is increasingly shunned as "controversial." The Literary Guild, for example, has virtually restricted itself to straight fiction, which depends to a minimal extent on any conflict of ideas.

It is noticeable, further, that just as magazine publishers gradually came to regard the advertiser as the most important consideration, so the book publishers are coming to regard the book club as of primary importance.

A characteristic feature of the growth of monopoly is no less present than in other fields. Take the Literary Guild, for example. "Its owners, Doubleday, Doran & Co., are reported to have bought out a medical book publishing house. Using its paper allotment, the company is said to have expanded its book club, The Literary Guild, while its competitors were held back by the existing restrictions. The fact that much-needed medical textbooks were thereby kept out of print did not seem to press on anybody's conscience."

What can be done about it? The long-term and only satisfactory answer is socialism, the direction of culture by the people, and not by their exploiters. But in the meantime the only temporary answer is to use the same devices for progressive ends, to maintain progressive book clubs at the same time as co-operative book-shops. The way has been shown by the Left Book Club in England and by the Book Find Club in the United States.

(The above is mainly a précis of an article by Isidor Schneider in *New Masses*.)

STUDENTS!

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COST OF TEXT-BOOKS IS A BAR TO EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY

It has always been the assertion of the Left in almost any country that education is dispensed on a class basis, and that the children of the workers do not have the same opportunities as those of the wealthy. A moderately progressive outlook has partially offset this in New Zealand, and we have a scholarship and bursary system which, while it leaves a lot to be desired, nevertheless helps considerably. There is one feature of post-secondary education, however, which has received very little notice, and which is, for the student without adequate financial means, a serious problem. This is the cost of text-books.

The "Southern Cross" of June 6 features the report in the "Education Gazette" of an agreement between the Education Department and the N.Z. Booksellers' Association, whereby schools may indent books at reduced prices. During the war, when the difficulty of obtaining books was considerable, the Department assisted schools by indenting books for them. Now, however, the Booksellers' Association is offering discounts, and the war-time scheme is ceasing.

The discounts offered are 20% off the marked retail price of "general" books, and 15% off the marked price of text-books, provided each indent order amounts to not less than £10. "The Booksellers' Association has also agreed to continue the practice of giving to schools 10% discount off the marked retail price of books which are not indented but bought from the shelves."

This, of course, is a passable scheme for schools, but what about the University? Almost all our textbooks are indented through member-companies of the Booksellers' Association. Not only has no similar offer, to "Salient's" knowledge, been made to us, but also, to "Salient's" knowledge, no move has been made, on the part of the College authorities or of the Students' Association to attempt to obtain any concessions.

The veil in which physics is shrouded was lifted slightly on Thursday evening when Derek Manchester and Gib. Bogle gave a lecture demonstration to an audience of over forty. Derek gave a description of the historical development of the Cathode Ray Tube from the discovery of cathode rays, leading up to their use by J. J. Thompson to determine the ratio of the charge to the mass of an electron.

Meanwhile Gib., showing the audience the back of a lab. coat which had seen better days, played contentedly with a set of valves, wire, and other

MATHS & PHYSICS

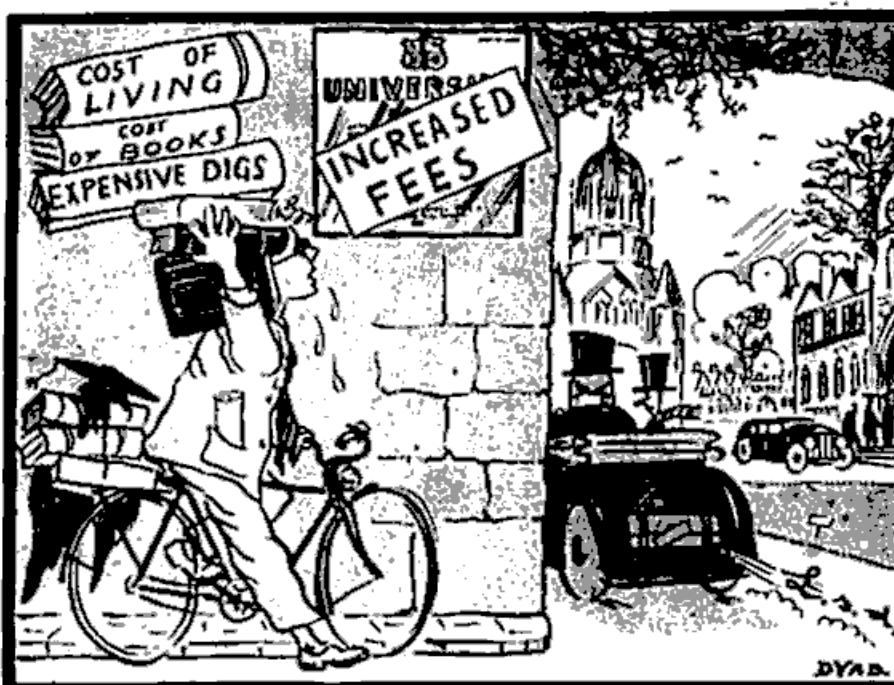
odds and ends on the front bench. By the time Derek came round to pacifying the mathematical section of the audience, Gib. had become fed up and sat down in the front row.

Derek told what was inside the different kinds of tubes and explained the cunning circuits used in conjunction with them. It was interesting to note the close resemblance of modern commercial tubes to the early laboratory curiosities of the 1890's, whilst those of the intervening period are utterly dissimilar.

The announcement of a mysterious something called a "Saw Toother Volt-

The only way in which public recognition of the high cost of University text-books has been given is in the Rehab. Department's £5 grant towards books for ex-servicemen. Already the question of increasing the grant has been taken up by the College Ex-Servicemen's Society, because the grant is insufficient. Law and Science students, in particular, find book prices prohibitive.

The important fact that seems to demand attention in the agreement between the Education Department and the Booksellers' Association is this: the fact that fairly attractive discounts have been offered means that the Association wants the Department to accept its plan, thereby



age" was the signal for Gib., who was by now frozen solid as the rest of the audience, to wake up, and go into a huddle with Derek. Out of the huddle there emerged a solitary and emphatic "NO!"—but the saw toothed voltage was duly produced. So were many other pretty patterns of waves and blue and green circles with wiggly edges, and all were fascinated. Then somebody cried "supper" and we all trooped down to the Stage I Lab., where Prof. Florance was discovered seated amongst teacups and sandwiches. On the whole a pleasant evening, even if some of Derek's remarks were only whispered confidences between himself and the blackboard.

ONE-ACT PLAY
EVENING

★

FRIDAY, JUNE 21
IN GYM.

indicating that the member-companies of the Association were not doing as well under the war-time scheme as they will under the new one. As they are able to offer fairly good discounts, we can get an indication of the actual rate of profit without the discount subtracted—it must clearly be high, if they are not going to lose under the new scheme. How much cheaper, then, could a non-profit body indent and import the books!

The basic problems in dealing with text-books are these:—

(1) It takes approximately 12 months for indented books to reach the user. This has been the war-time experience of the Education Department, and there is no immediate prospect of the situation improving.

(2) The problem of selecting books is not easy, because publishers' catalogues are not available in sufficient numbers. It is to be noted, however, that University text-books are relatively stable, and considerable notice is normally given of changes.

(3) The indenting body must be prepared for a certain amount of loss, because it is not always possible for professors to estimate exactly the numbers of their classes for the following year. Therefore, even in a non-profit or co-operative body, some allowance would have to be made for this.

"Salient" has already been in contact with the Melbourne University on this subject, and a move for the Students' Association to import textbooks directly is being considered. With the number of students now attending University, there is no reason why we should not do the same. There is, moreover, no reason why we should not ask for, and get, Government aid in the launching of such a scheme. It is, of course, the duty of the Executive to make the necessary moves. Definite proposals will probably be forthcoming shortly from "Salient." It is the duty of every student to support them.

An Auckland firm was recently prosecuted in the Magistrate's Court by the Health Department for three breaches of the Poisons Act and Regulations. Mr. J. H. Luxford, S.M., presided.

On January 8 an inspector of the Health Department purchased a tin of cockroach poison from the defendant company. An analysis showed that it contained sodium chloride, a highly poisonous substance, and the fact was not recorded on the label.

There was not a great demand for the powder. Only 10cwt. had been

NaCl or KCN?

purchased during the last 14 years. Of that, 7½cwt. had been sold. The breaches had been made through ignorance.

"All of which goes to show the necessity for checking the ingredients of insecticides," said Mr. Luxford. "Here we have stuff which was stated to be odourless, colourless, and tasteless, and yet it contains sodium chloride, of which a fatal dose is four grams. One almost wonders if all similar preparations should not be submitted to the Department of Health for examination before they are placed on sale."

AT GRIPS WITH THE RUAHINES

Twenty trampers more enthusiastic than fit set out on King's Birthday week-end to make a traverse of the southern Ruahine ranges. Transport from Wellington was by train to Palmerston and thence by service car through Dannevirke, and Onga Onga to a farmhouse on the Waipawa River at the foot of the ranges.

Next day the party, replete with burnt porridge and half-cooked sausages, made an early start in the heavy mist. An hour along an old road and then began a heavy slog to three thousand feet up to the source of the Waipawa River. The country was similar to the Orongorongas but on a larger scale with heavier bush. By about 2 p.m. the party re-united at the Waipawa Saddle and commenced the short steep drop down the Waikamaka River to the hut of the same name. The first day passed without a hitch except that Dick Jackson was unfortunate enough to sprain his ankle. A small party of Heretaunga trampers arrived later and over twenty people spent the night in a hut about the size of Tawhai.

Sunday morning, some rose at 5 a.m. enabling the party to make an early start. At this stage it was considered expedient to split the party into three. Bruce Milburn was to lead the main body of twelve over the originally planned traverse along the tops following an S-shaped ridge, Alec McLeod to take a smaller group on a more direct crossing, while the Heretaunga people were kind enough to see that our casualty was assisted back to more hospitable regions.

The hardy dozen, so-called, scrambled up a bush-clad spur and then over rock and tussock to the five thousand feet peak Rangl O Te Atua. The air was crisp and clear and both the Hawkes Bay and Manawatu plains were visible almost to the sea. Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngaruahoe presented a rare spectacle and only the clouds and curvation of the earth on the south side obstructed the view of Tapuenuku and Cook.

Deer Me!

Then began the long trek along the tops up to peak 69 (5,590 ft.) down 1,000 ft. to a low saddle, up again to Te Karapangatokutokaringaringa (5,200 ft.), down again and up once more to Mt. Maungatapehiruawongawonga (5,123 ft.), etc. As soon as we reached the tops we noticed the abundance of deer and Roger Chorlton decided to take a shot. Roger then proceeded to remove the case from his rifle, dig out the telescopic sight from his pack, remove its case, fix the sight, mount the rifle and then FIRE!!! No report. "You better load it" someone chided. Of course by this time the deer now invisible on the other side of the opposite ridge was heard to exclaim "— you George." This happened several times until at last Roger suspected that the children in front were deliberately chasing the deer away.

By 4 p.m. the pinnacles and razor edges of Broken Ridge and the more formidable Saw Tooth Ridge were successfully negotiated and we were ready to drop from Mt. Tiraha down to Howlett's Hut on the bush line. At this stage the party was blessed with an impenetrable mist turning day into blackest night. In spite of careful map-reading and compass-bearing the party landed on the wrong ridge. However,

two hours of contemplation, patience, perseverance and much slogging on the part of the leader brought us to the hut just at dark. A cramped but nevertheless comfortable night was spent at Howlett's.

Monday morning was misty, rainy and windy, but just clear enough to enable us to return to Mt. Tiraha and resume the traverse. Going was naturally pretty slow and it was necessary to take continual compass readings and sometimes to retrace our steps. The highlight of the day was Mt. Te Hekenga (5,400 ft.). The approaches on both sides consist of ridges of loose rock about twelve inches wide dropping down almost vertically and the main peak is a tower of loose rock. All negotiated without mishap and continued in increasing discomfort in the sleet, hail and rain. At 3 p.m. the Rangiwahia Ski Club Hut was known to be only one hour's tramp away. The mist was becoming thicker and thicker and since the map was so vague and the ridges so ill-defined we couldn't make it and decided to drop into the valley and camp. At this stage morale was at an all time low, the easily available food running even lower. People consuming what scroggin apples etc., that remained looked something like Siberian wolves.

'sno wonder

The party then "camped" on an alpine river-flat and the elements then proceeded to put the gear to the test by blowing, raining and finally snowing. Mike Murray put his tramping gear up for auction and several others swore they would do the same. The night was very unpleasant; all cramped under a small tent and fly and very wet.

Next morning was a white Tuesday — 2 inches of snow all around. Boots were like boards and had to be jumped on, spat on, and anything else you like on, to make them give just a little. Humiliation and joy overtook the party when they saw, two hundred feet above, a series of sticks marking the track to the Rangiwahia Ski Club Hut. An early start was made and in an hour we reached the bush line and a well-defined track (the mark of civilised man). Coming down through the bush it was indeed a rare experience to see luxuriant North Island punga and lawyer, etc., under a mantle of snow.

The rest of the day passed uneventfully until 3 p.m. when the Rangiwahia hotel provided a tremendous meal. Bearded strangers were seen sitting in the sun in the main street pouring down porter-gaff after porter-gaff. At Mangaweka another huge meal was provided at 6 p.m. and after long reminiscence in the lounge people straggled on to the train at 2 a.m.

The small group led by Alec McLeod found the trip just as rigorous, but making a more direct crossing were able to make the grade on time.

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EXTRAV. FESTIVITIES TOPPED BY CAPPING BALL

After a ghoulish dress rehearsal, which followed the usual tradition of dress rehearsals at 9 o'clock on the morning after Capping Ball, a rehearsal at which at least one member of the cast was present in his dinner suit, the 1946 Extrav got away to a good if somewhat sleepy start on Saturday night.

For five nights Peter Pansy and Ocean-going Blues played to packed houses which rocked to the sound of atomic explosions when they did materialize. The audience after the first night were very responsive, and took in good spirit the puns and jibes, not to mention the saveloys and other articles which were lowered on them from the gallery—in fact they enjoyed themselves almost as much as the cast.

The five night run and the sequel on Sunday night when they played for disabled servicemen at the Public Hospital did not go entirely without hitches. Such classic remarks as "My name is Sam—I come from G.B." and "I'll send Sir Stifford Cripes to tear them apart" served to keep the cast amused as did the fall of one of the barmaids on the steps of the Royal Soak, and the Shag's wife who lost an essential part of her clothing. The last night was filled with unexpected happenings and many remarks which were not in the script. The cast was in high spirits behind the stage and many last minute entrances were effected. Some had to act against great difficulties as did Sidhook, who slowly received the contents of a bottle of beer on his head from the flies during his longest speech.

This year the patrons of the show, The Rajah of Berhampore, the Raneé and the concubine, a black-faced damsel, were accompanied to the box by a tribe of Eunuchs and were entertained by a rather elongated Gladys Concrete and a muscular strong man.

Record Crowd fill Town Hall

Capping Ball is probably a night of blissful memories to more than eleven hundred who thronged the Town Hall on May 10. Its organisation was no small headache to the Ball Controller, Jean Priest, and to the willing very few who assisted her on Friday in the work of preparing the Hall, but although the decorations were not elaborate, flowers and greenery adorned the stage by evening, and the workers too abandoned their cares in the general festivity.

After the ceremony and the photographing of the grads, the ball got under way by about 10 o'clock, to grow progressively more hilarious until three on Saturday morning, for those who had the staying-power to survive it to the end. Supper upstairs was well provided by an efficient caterer, Mr. Hudson, and the orchestra, under George Miller, was excellent.

A milling crowd of young and old, grads of 1946 and of the past, undergrads in their shoals and friends of the University in general filled the Hall. Proletariat, Bourgeoisie and possibly an odd aristocrat rubbed shoulders—in the formality of evening

Sunday night's performance was somewhat curtailed and the third act had to be eliminated as the stage was too small to hold either the wee or the wee wee house. The prompting at this show was very effective: done by the whole cast who knew the parts better than the people concerned. Comic relief was afforded by the Split Atom, Stunkle, who in the absence of his partner conducted long conversations with himself.

Do's !!

Extrav. is notoriously an institution guaranteed to socialize any reticent natures and allow already social types to expand hilariously in their element.

From the casting meeting to the last late hour of the last night's bash, Peter Pansy proceeded in an atmosphere of genial natter, fraternity and transient amours. The two Sunday rehearsals saw the traditional saveloy teas and dancing to the blare and jive of the

Extrav. orchestra. The dress rehearsal was a rather grim endurance test, and by the time the cast had sweated, cursed and slept through its rigours, barriers were down and the community spirit was well-developed. Somehow they recovered for the evening's performance and retained enough vitality to revel in a merry dance in the Gym. after the show. The Extrav. orchestra boys played gallantly for both this and other official dances on Tuesday and Thursday nights; the cheerful rhythm was remarkably effective in drowning the general tumult of the gatherings. Cast, ushers, visitors and what-have-you rolled up to drift or stagger to its music. Tuesday's show was in the St. John Ambulance Hall, and Thursday saw the crowd back in the Gym. for a final happy fling. Though the night was distinctly dampening, women in evening dresses and women in slacks, performers with grease-paint half-removed and visitors whose eyes were perhaps being opened for the first time to the informality of Varsity at play, all mingled in the crush.

Extrav. has come and gone, and left a cast whose nervous energy is exhausted but whose social experience is surely enriched.



—on Stage

Bach to Bach

The Bach evening held at 8 p.m. on June 6 in Room C6 consisted of items given by some of the more proficient players in the Club, supplemented by recordings of harpsichord, organ, orchestra and choral works. The pianists Leonie Pascoe, Elizabeth Florence and Nell Casey, played "Prelude and Fugue No. 3 in C Sharp," "The French Suite," and "Phantasia in G Minor;" Bernard O'Brien (violin) played the well-known "Air on G String" from the Suite No. 3. The performances were excellent and it was a treat to hear Bach dealt with so competently by young performers. Supper was served afterwards in the Gym.

The Club is arranging a special Maurice Clare-Frederick Page recital for Thursday, June 27, so everyone interested in music is advised to watch the notice board for details. This recital will be the final one given in New Zealand by Mr. Clair and we know that students will be eager to take advantage of this last opportunity to hear one of the best artists who has ever visited this country.—P.J.M.

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dress which successfully combined with an atmosphere of friendliness usually inconsistent with stiff collars. It is hardly possible to write a general story of Capping Ball—individuals have their own—but it is safe to state that a traditionally good time was had by all.

Remember !

Stud. Ass.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 8 p.m.

FIRST FIFTEEN SUCCESSFULLY REHABBED IN SENIOR COMPS.

Rugby followers who decried the Wellington Rugby Union's March decision to reinstate in the Senior 1st Division the five Clubs which had been relegated to the 2nd Division during war years, have, since the commencement of competition games on 27th April, been forced to admit themselves wrong. No little part in the changing of opinion was played by the Varsity senior fifteen which, in each of the five matches played up to May 25, fully extended its opponents and actually defeated by quite large margins the much-fancied last year's senior teams Athletic and Petone.

Sixty-nine points for and forty-seven against was the record of the 1st XV which, on May 25, stood third equal in the WRU senior first division competition. Opening their account with 16-6 victory over Athletic, the seniors looked a particularly bright prospect and were featured on rugby headquarters for the following two Saturdays, but were unable at that stage to repeat against Wellington College Old Boys and Marist their initial performance. Aply led by Captain Dick Burke, the forwards in the first two and last two games were well-nigh irresistible. The backs at first failed to operate smoothly, this fault having since been overcome as revealed by the team's last two performances against St. Patrick's College Old Boys and Petone when 20-5 and 19-12 wins were registered.

To comment upon individual play is rather difficult in the team in which each member has gained and retained his place only through ability and performance. Perhaps just a shade ahead of their fellow forwards are Dick Burke, Red Murphy, Ray Shannon, Sam Meads and Bob Barraclough, but this is only one man's opinion, and in such an evenly matched, hard-hunting pack, opinions would vary considerably, and in any case would not cut much ice. Outstanding in the backs is the 18-year-old half, Ranfurly Jacob, who, with last year's first-five, Doug Goodwin, has developed a particularly strong inside combination which is continued along the line by the recently promoted second division players Tom Larkin and Alister McLeod, the performances of both of whom have improved with each game. The team's "last hope" in full-back Hal Greig is indeed a strong and dependable "hope." His line kicking and tackling, not to mention his place kicking, have been an eye-opener to rugby enthusiasts, who are mentioning him as one of the best possibilities for the full-back billet in the Wellington representative side this year. Taken all round the seniors are a capable and formidable combination which bids fair to bring the "Jubilee Cup" "up the hill" for the first time in many years.

Hampered as a second XV must always be early in the season by being the drawing-ground for the "A's", the 2nds are only now settling down and are looking forward to climbing up the championship ladder. Despite the difficulty of changing players, the team's record of 37 points for and 52 against is quite fair. Anyone who saw the side's grand performance against Onslow A would agree that Varsity Senior B will be very near the top, if not actually on top of the 2nd division when the final game is played this year. Senior B results up to May 25:—

- v. Petone: lost 9-13.
- v. Berhampore: won 14-3.
- v. Onslow A: lost 8-17.
- v. Onslow B: lost 3-8.
- v. Miramar: lost 3-11.

Points for: 2; place in grade, 11th out of 15 teams.

The Junior 1st division side was badly hit by the vacation, but promises to shape well with regular players on hand. Results:—

- v. Oriental: lost 5-11.
- v. Athletic: lost 3-14.
- v. Ponake: won 3-0.
- v. Seatoun: drew 3-3.
- v. Onslow: lost 0-6.

Points for: 3; place in grade, 10th out of 13.

Comprised mainly of older returned players who are "out for a canter" the 4th XV, Junior 2nd division, has had the greatest of difficulty in fielding a full team owing to counter attractions on Saturday afternoons. The team's organisers, George Richards and Pix Hurrell, are overcoming this difficulty, however, by taking similar attractions with them. Operating on this system for the first time on Saturday 25th, the team registered its first win of the season: 19-3 v. Miramar. Sixty points have been scored against the 4th's 29, the team standing tenth in the grade, which comprises fourteen teams.

One of the finest lower grade rear-guards fielded by Varsity for years has taken the field in the third first division. Suffice is to quote the team's record:—

- v. Training College: won 19-9.
- v. W.C.O.B.: lost 0-3.
- v. Ponake: won 3-0.
- v. Oriental: won 27-11.

Points for: 6; place in grade, 3rd out of 14 teams.

Though without a coach at present 3rd B has banded together into a keen, match-winning combination as results show:—

- v. Woburn: lost 3-18.
- v. Onslow: won 9-6.
- v. Wainui: won 9-3.
- v. Hutt: won 6-3.

Points for: 6; place in grade, 4th out of 16 teams.

Perhaps the hardest hit by vacation of all teams was the third division side. Coach Alec Armour was never sure whether he would have even twelve men take the field each Saturday. Third C stands 14th out of 16 teams in the grade.

The club's overall performance is well summed up by quoting its club position in the WRU competitions—6th out of 30.

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HOCKEY STANDARDS IMPROVE V.U.C. JUBILANT

The general standard of hockey in Wellington, though still rather poor, is improving. Continual upsets in the Senior Competition have kept points in even distribution, and now out of eight teams, five are even with 6 points, and of the remaining three, one has 5 points.

Saturday, May 25

The sideline of Hula v. Karori rang with jubilant chants of VUC stalwarts—cries of "C'mon Hula", "Get-at-'em-Hula" and "Time-Time!" indicated a rather biased outlook, and probably was in no small measure a factor in causing two Karori players to suffer frayed tempers and be ordered off. That umpires will no longer tolerate wild slashing and rather underhand tricks must ultimately mean an improvement in the type of hockey in Wellington. However, this defeat of Karori by Hula and the defeat of WCOB by Tech. means that VUC has been given a third lease on life. No wonder then, that VUC purred contentedly after Saturday, 25th.

Club Notes.—The series of "Shaw't" discourses on tactics have brought noticeable improvement in the two senior teams. In the first team it has solved the confusion between halves and backs, and has made unified team work possible. The need now is more drive, striking power and finish in the forward line. The addition of Ted Breach, recently returned from the touring NZEF team, gives VUC additional strength.

The Hockey Club wishes to congratulate Win. Smiler, Ed. Latham and Ted Breach on their inclusion in the Wellington representative side. The loss of Smiler and Latham in the game against Hutt was noticeable, but more credit to the team who, in spite of the loss, managed to defeat Hutt, a leading team. This win was even more deserved since Hutt decided to field its rep. players. That Hutt should play in a previous game those who had later to play in a representative fixture, is very dimly viewed by sincere hockey support-

ers. The Association should do a little "disciplining" lest this sort of thing occur again. Actually one Hutt player was so thwarted by two scheming VUC's that he was physically unable to play in the second game.

The second senior team has not yet settled down to solid play, but their draw with Hutt may mean a new era. Undoubtedly Laurenson will be a great aid to their forward line. Special attention should be given by the selector to their half

The Sports Page depends for its material upon reports from the Clubs themselves, written and handed in on time. "Salient" is prepared to remind club representatives of this—we do so repeatedly—but we are not qualified to write their reports for them. Consequently, if any Clubs find themselves omitted or inadequately reported, they have themselves to blame. On the other hand we frequently have to cut the reports received, through restrictions of space, but we much prefer over-lengthy notes to none at all.

And please remember—copy to be typewritten, or legibly written, double spaced on one side of a half foolscap sheet if possible.

and back line to remedy obvious defects.

Against Hutt the gaps in the senior team were filled by George Shaw, the selector (under doctor's orders not to play) and Brian Nash, of the second eleven. Both played excellently and Shaw's goal is now listed in the classics.

Several members of VUC are curious concerning the standard required by the Wellington selector regarding full backs since he refuses to give even a "trial" consideration to relatively experienced players—

one having represented Wellington and NZU, the other, Napier, Hawke's Bay and NZU—and instead prefers to choose full backs from the half line.

Saturday, May 4

Senior Firsts v. Hula—lost, 4-5.—The first half was an extremely poor display of hockey, Hula having freedom to roam at will entirely unmarked. Free hits from the full backs were poor, in many cases being stopped five yards away. But this is unavoidable if insides and halves do not disperse the opponents' coverage. Three of the five goals came from penalty corners. Hula, though fumbling their corners, were still given unopposed opportunity to shoot at goal. Varsity attack play was again quite good, but defence play, particularly on the left and in the circle, was criminally weak. More back tackling is needed from the insides. On present play Varsity have little

effectual refereeing permitted the game to develop into a hockey-soccer combination at times.

Social Team: A win against Tech.—A David and Goliath match where Goliath triumphs.

Saturday, June 8

Senior Firsts v. WCOB: lost 2-3.—The forwards, especially Ivor Ting, whose following-in scored our two goals, played excellently on a muddy field. The VUC team was continually pressing Old Boys. The response to a complaint regarding tactics used by WCOB leads us to believe that umpires are waiting until someone is permanently maimed before they will control wild hitting.

Thirde v. Petone: won 4-1.

Fourth Seconds v. Wellington College: won 10-1.—The fourths have trained a greyhound for their right wing. This team has a fair share of talent and should be graded higher.

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Saturday, May 11

Senior v. Technical Old Boys: lost 2-3.—This being the day after the night of Capping Ball, a high standard of play was not expected. In spite of this severe handicap, and being one man short in the first half, the team played much better than previously.

Second A v. Seatoun: lost 0-10.—Again playing with two men short, the team had a hard but enjoyable game, and are not in the least disheartened. The team as a whole and individually are improving with every match. Even Drummond is feeling more at home in goal, while Len Gibson and Lissienko have improved their ball control.

Second B v. Technical Old Boys: lost 0-8.

Third v. Institute Old Boys: lost 2-3.—With Harry Priddey playing inside left the forward line functioned more efficiently. However, Institute carried a few more guns when it came to shooting, and pulled off the match, which the Thirde insist they should once again have won.

Saturday, May 18

Second A v. Waterside: drew 2-2.—Playing under appalling conditions on the mud heap, with the assistance of a few seniors and others, the team gained their first point. Varsity's goals came from a beautiful shot by Harry Balk from well out on the wing, and a penalty by Roy Dickson.

Second B v. Air Force: lost 0-6.

RECORD REVIEW

"S.O.L. Blues."

"Squeeze Me."—Louis Armstrong and Band.

This is a good record. The particular interest of the sides is that they offer reasonably typical examples of the two recording groups used by Armstrong in the later '20's—the Ory-Dodds ("S.O.L.") and the Hines ("Squeeze Me"). "S.O.L." would be called "fat" and "Squeeze Me" relatively "thin," where the term "fat" symbolises what we find in, e.g., the pianists Waller, James P. Johnson, and Ammons, and "thin" in, e.g., Hines and Teddy Wilson. Meaning by all this something adjectival to the effect that "fat" is rough, *feelingly*-emotional; and "thin"

chance of defeating Karori, who are now leading the competition.

Senior Seconds v. Hula: lost 1-3.—Apparently faulty half play, allowing Hula to break through, combined with flat positional play by full backs, caused this defeat.

Thirde, 1st Division: a draw.—The game was spirited, and showed team solidity, part of this being due to the centre-half's ability in controlling and changing the play.

Thirde, 2nd Division.—Hard hitting, but without any meaning. In-

is more smooth-flowing, intellectually-emotional, nervous.

Thus we find on "Squeeze Me" Jimmy Strony's clarinet, sounding like a thin replacement of Dodds, and Hines, the arch stage-hand, setting the tone immediately with a typical piano introduction; whereas in "S.O.L." there is no introduction to speak of, and the piano remains part of the rhythm-section. Armstrong himself in "Squeeze Me" retires into a rather gentle vocal; and his trumpet-chorus, when it comes, is nearer "S.O.L." than Hines; whereas, in "S.O.L." the vocal is relatively raucous and jovial, and the trumpet has nothing to restrain it—in fact, everything to help it along.

DEFENCE RIFLES

An informal shoot was held at Trent-ham last Saturday at 500 yards. VUC were the guests of Suburbs Club. Conditions were good and excellent shooting resulted. Scores were:

Howarth 48, 45: 93
McKenzie 45, 45: 90

The last shoot of the season will be held next Saturday, transport leaving the Bus Depot at 12.15. Those desiring to shoot please leave a note in the rack.

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