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# Salient

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

VOL. 9, No. 11 \* WELLINGTON, AUGUST 21, 1946 \* Price: BY SUBSCRIPTION

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\*  
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AT THE MAJESTIC

## Yellow Sea Correspondent Reveals U.S.A. Policy on China Coast

Ever since the Japanese armies in China submitted to the forces of the interior, it has become increasingly apparent that a very thorough "News Blackout" shrouds all political and military developments in the Far East. Those few persons returning from the China Coast invariably tell of their surprise at seeing vast quantities of American military material in the ports, and quote amazing figures, ostensibly the number of United States Marine and Army Corps stationed in the towns.

Today, not only has "Salient" had these facts confirmed, but we are also presented with the reason for the presence of this "mystery army."

A student at Victoria College, and an arts graduate in 1939, our correspondent is in a business firm in Hong Kong, and lest there should be those who suspect undue bias in his tale, it should be recalled that the Far East business has never yet been noted for its radical activities, nor for the leftist leanings of its servants. Not only do his allegations speak reason, but they correlate entirely other information received to date from equally conservative sources.

### Canton Date Line

Writing to relatives in New Zealand he says:—

"Although I plentifully bespatter my letters with political news, your reaction is the first I have had—so now you're for it.

"I now realise that Hong Kong is as much a part of China as Chungking or Peiping, and no assessment of the colony is possible without first considering China as a whole. The Japanese war was in reality an 'incident' for the Chinese as well; it interrupted the civil war which, back to its old peacetime activity, is bigger and better than ever. The Kuomintang is the product of generations of incredibly rotten and corrupt politicians—a small gang struggling frantically to retain the horrible system of extortion, high taxation and 'squeeze,' of which they are the chief, and practically the sole, beneficiaries. Their main source of revenue is the bankrupt, powerless Chinese peasantry.

### Red Ruin

"The Communists, not Marxists but Socialist Agrarians, have cancelled land mortgages and put the peasant on a sound economic footing. Thus, although the Chinese official is a born 'squeeze' artist, he hasn't much scope, and the administration is reasonably honest. Chiang and Co. realise the Chinese, given the chance, would have such a government and bring the gang to a bloody end obtaining it.

"Not being strong enough to hold out alone (the Communists were the only Chinese to beat the Japanese in pitched battle), the boys look after their old friend, Uncle Sam, dangling

before his popping eyes a succulent double bait—the Communist threat to appeal to the Sir Galahad in him, and the unlimited market of China for his more profane tastes.

"Well, it's another case of hook, line and sinker, with the Yanks pouring in dollar credits and munitions into the country (over 200 U.S. warships have just been given to the boys to play with). American soldiers, too, were sent in to disarm the Japs—the last Jap left China a month ago, but the doughboys are still around, although a lot of them have a Fairy Godmother

who turns them into benevolent businessmen at a wave of a wand.

### The Yankee Dollar

"As part of the bolstering process the Chinese national dollar (CN\$) has recently been anchored to the Yank dollar at rate 2,055 CN\$ to one US\$. What an opportunity! The inert clique take US\$ at 2,055 through the loan funds, keep printing billions of CN\$, and lift all controls in a terrific inflation splurge which has shot the real rate to 2,600:1. As US\$ cannot be exported, the boys do quite well. One result is that the US\$ has also become considerably inflated in China.

"To give you some idea of the speed at which the toboggan is now moving—the cost of living index in Shanghai was 52% higher in May than in April, and in ten years it has risen 3,000 times. It now costs more to unload a ship at Shanghai than to load and ship

the goods from America. Even with these prohibitive additional costs in Shanghai, traditional home of the world's cheapest labour, half the cotton factories, and in Canton most of the tobacco factories, have closed because they cannot compete with articles made in the country with the highest labour costs. You can imagine what has happened to China's export trade. For the first six months of 1946 exports through Shanghai totalled 16% of imports, and if UNRRA is considered, about 9% of imports.

### Anarchy and UNRRA

"My guess is that complete anarchy and bankruptcy will come within three months. This is the rotten, stinking mess the Yanks are backing, mouthing sanctimonious democratic phrases the while.

"The Chinese Liberals, inheritors of the ideals of the Republic, headed by Madame Sun Yat-sen, have called on them to leave the shores of China for ever. If they pull out the Communists will win hands down because the people are with them. If they stay Chiang will need a completely Nazi regime to retain power.

"Other pieces help to complete the jigsaw—fantastic UNRRA profits and the destitute still starving—the beating up of Shanghai students by the police—the new law allowing police to enter any building without a warrant.

### Read Editorials?

Write *Salient* your opinion of the one in this issue

We will publish as many replies as possible

90% to 100% of the goods which reach China through Hong Kong are sold on the black market, where Chiang's pals trade their ill-gotten US currency).

"When the crash comes and Chinese currency really breaks loose, the inflow of goods will stop, as payment in US\$ or sterling will be impossible. Prices in Hong Kong will plummet, the deflationary tendency of the Hong Kong dollar will be accentuated, and trade slow up or stop. Apart from those who are paid fixed salaries at a sterling rate, many will have a lean time. Then until China can regain a balanced trade this place dies and will rapidly depopulate."

### Shanghai Sorrow

In an earlier letter he writes:—"Shanghai is of course terrific. A huge trash, wicked city, still rich to outward appearances, but in reality in a state of anarchy, rife with graft and corruption, and the scene of the first real trial of strength between British and American forces. Yanks arrive as army officers, commandeer British flats

## Salient Features—"HONG KONG LETTERS"

Rather grimly consistent.

"Now, how does Hong Kong fit into all this? First of all, some important features of the treaty of cession 184X: Hong Kong is a free port (no customs dues) and there is no control exercised over Chinese moving into or out of the colony. The flow of goods from abroad has steadily increased since the re-occupation, but enormous shortages in China and the ease with which Chinese customs officials can be avoided or bribed along the open border result in the flow continuing right through the colonies. The fantastic prices realised in China keep prices high here and attempts at control drive whole commodities off the market and into China. Goods passing the other way are negligible. Thus certain merchants are making enormous profits and China is being surely drained of her overseas credits with very little to show for it. (In case I appear to be inconsistent,

and clubs, and unobtrusively change to big business men.

"There is no International Zone in Shanghai now. It is completely 'controlled' by the Chinese. On all sides I have heard terrible tales of the rottenness of the National Government. Inflation, which still continues unchecked, has resulted in millions of hardworking people becoming starved and homeless, while a few at the top have become incredibly rich.

"A conservative Englishman in Shanghai told me that it would be a major tragedy if Russia, by not annexing Manchuria, allowed it to fall into Chiang's hands. Pretty well 100% of UNRRA aid is sold by its corrupt administrators direct to the black market, and practically none of it has reached the interior.

"Opinion is that the Chinese were much better off under the Japs than under their own Government."

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Published fortnightly by the Victoria University College Students' Association and printed for them by The Commercial Printing Co. Ltd., Boulcott Avenue, Wellington.

VOL. IX  
No. 11

# Salient

Wednesday,  
August 21

## IMPERIALISM ON THE MARCH

Early in June this year a VUC student en route to Japan spent a sleepless night in Manila, capital city of the Philippines. It was not the tropic heat that disturbed his slumber, nor the merciless attack of the mosquito: the clatter of rifles and machine-gun fire that commenced soon after dusk was only interrupted night long by the occasional explosion of oil and ammunition dumps.

"Slight activity due to 'bandits,'" was all the American news service cared to report.

That night the peoples of Luzon were fighting for their independence, fighting as they had fought the Japanese eighteen months before—not for the masked oppression by a puppet Rojas, but for the full right to self-determination such as they might have expected from the forgotten principles of the Atlantic Charter.

One month later an oil tanker was discharging at the Shanghai waterfront. The radio operator told "Salient" of the conditions prevailing there. "The port might have been the naval base at San Diego," he said. "Barracked in the city were some two hundred thousand American troops." Press reports of the time denied all such rumours, quoting in reply a United States General: "The only American troops stationed today in China are the 20,000 Marines assisting in the repatriation of Japanese war prisoners."

And now "Salient" is in receipt of first-hand evidence of the true situation in Hong Kong and on the adjacent mainland.

It is no mere dislike of the Chinese Red Army that prompts the United States to send her emissaries to the stricken natives of the China coast, and it is no small body of recalcitrant generals that urges military support of a corrupt, degenerate, and malevolent government that has neither the confidence of the people, nor the intention or ability of legislating the least social reform, however necessary.

For one hundred years the Don Juans of the West have competed and fought for the raptures of Chinese exploitation, and today Uncle Sam, with a nation on the verge of vast economic expansion, having wooed the Judas Chiang, has won his unworthy affection.

And while the showmen of the Pacific juggle with the Atomic Bomb on the Bikini stage, further back in the news blackout the runners of Wall Street are busy establishing the interests of Farben Industries, Du Pont Ltd., and I.C.I.—the monopoly firms of American capitalism.

It is clear that the peace of the Atomic Age will depend largely upon the immediate military and political developments in the "Far East."

★ ★ ★ ★

Mr. Hurst, delegate of NZUSA to the Conference of the World Federation of Democratic Youth held in Prague, November last, recommended that his parent body do not affiliate with WFDY as the latter appeared to him a somewhat radical organisation. Figures quoted by the travelling secretary Mr. Williams, printed on page 4 of this issue, dismiss this impression entirely, but evidently Mr. Hurst does not conceive of any good that could come out of affiliation to a federation not completely of his own political aspirations.

If the aims of WFDY are not the aims of world youth then we as conscientious students must work within that body and see that they are made so: if those aims are common, however, and it appears that this is correct, then it is the duty of NZUSA to see that we are not left alone outside this progressive and powerful body.

*Our reply must be—Affiliation.*



## Soil Conservatism

On Thursday, August 8, four films on soil conservation were shown in C3. Despite the large amount of advance advertising, there were not so many students present as there should have been. This display of apathy is characteristic of the present generation, which has been brought up to regard scarred hillsides and deer-ruined forests as part of every New Zealand landscape. The films soon corrected this complacent attitude with a few shots of the end-products of erosion.

The longest film and by far the best produced was "The River," an American documentary made in conjunction with the TVA. It is the history of the Mississippi and the terrible floods caused by the removal of water-absorbing forests from vast areas of land around the source of the river. The Americans were the first to really do something about soil erosion, and this film is certainly a classic documentary on the subject.

The other films were made in New Zealand and were in dubious technicolor; however, in spite of this, many of the shots taken were nothing short of staggering in their depiction of large tracts of land utterly devoid of topsoil, due to burning-off followed by bad agricultural methods. One film showed

the Molesworth Station in Marlborough, which has been ruined by private enterprise, and the experiments which are being carried out by the State to bring the land back into production. Several thousand acres have already been restored, but it is a long and costly job. Another film, taken in Hawkes Bay mostly in or about the Eskdale Valley district, gave a very clear picture of the scarred hill country which is now characteristic of the area. In some parts of the Eskdale Valley so much topsoil has been washed away that only a few naked pillars of earth remain to show how much is gone.

Much of the present destruction of forest and pasture is due to the ever-increasing population of deer and rabbits. The last film gave some figures on the number of deer and rabbits killed in the last few years, but it is evident that the problem has hardly been touched upon. Scientific extermination of one area after another is the only way to deal with this problem and the ordinary deerstalker or rabbit-hunter is not equipped sufficiently to do this.

The Soil Conservation and River Control Boards are to be congratulated on the excellent job they are doing in making known the urgent need for soil conservation in New Zealand.

☆ ☆ ☆  
Women who wobble  
Get men into twobble.

## REVIEWERS SUFFER LOST EVENING WITH "LOST WEEK END"

We went to "Lost Weekend" full of high hopes and expectations. We looked forward to seeing a film which had been highly praised, and we arrived at the theatre more than ready to be favourably impressed. But our anticipations were groundless, our enthusiasm premature, for we were completely and utterly bored. Only the fact that we had previously decided to write this criticism prevented us departing well before the end.

Starting from a background of obviously artificial skyscrapers, the film moves through a quasi real story to end with the same skyscrapers in a bathetic finish. The production is based on a novel (unprocurable at the moment) which is alleged (see adverts) to be strange, powerful and terrifying. The film is not. In a story, presumably a tragedy, the producer has not the courage (or is not allowed) to end it, and so does the next best thing and provides no ending at all.

The plot, if you could call it such, is briefly this. Don Birnam (Ray Milland) is a dipsomaniac. His brother, who has been trying for six years to keep him on the straight and narrow, decides, not before time, that he has had more than enough, and leaves him for a weekend. His girl friend, on the other hand, who has had only three years of it, decides to stick around. Mr. Birnam then indulges in a drunken orgy, after ninety-nine minutes of which the picture ends.

For the first half-hour the picture was tolerable, and although not absorbed, we were moderately interested, but as the action progressed our ennui increased and finally became overwhelming. At times we experienced some of that frustration and craving that beset Birnam, but a succession of over-lengthy scenes, each with the same recurring theme, each with the same drunken meanderings, each with the same whining music, soon killed any interest it might have had for us.

Ray Milland won an Academy Award for his performance in this picture. If this is the most outstanding acting of the year we hesitate to think of the standard upon which these awards are based. We do not wish to imply that Mr. Milland's performance was in any way a failure. In the main it was efficient and sincere. Occasionally it rose out of its rut of sheer complacency and became deeply moving, as in the scene where Birnam and the audience suffer the hallucination. Mostly, however, the cold efficiency of the acting left us unmoved, while in several critical situations it failed completely and the audience was inopportunistly amused. Of the other characters we would mention Phillip Terry, as Don's brother, who, with his upright dignity, forbearing manners and restrained exasperation, provided a striking contrast to the acting of Milland; and the cloak-room attendant, whose performance well displayed that officialdom and lack of initiative shown by many minor public employees.

Whichever way one looks at the picture it is a failure. Socially its value is negligible—the evils of drink could have been portrayed twice as effectively in one quarter the time. Artistically it leaves much to be desired—the scenery is unimaginative and uninspired. Considered as a tragedy it fails, being in many of its dramatic climaxes farcical and comical. Economically it may well be a success.

M.G.S. and T.A.T.

## FAMOUS NEGRO SINGER GIVES VIEWS ON AMERICAN COLOUR BAR

"Now that the majority of the American people, both Negro and white, recognise that the Negro people are fully capable of assuming full citizenship, and now that they are struggling effectively for equal rights, all anti-negro and other reactionary organisations are becoming increasingly vicious." This is how Mr. Todd Duncan, the eminent baritone at present in Wellington, sums up the situation in America today. The Ku Klux Klan in the South is reorganising and its membership is increasing, and the Fair Employment Practice Committee, instituted by the late President Roosevelt to clamp down on racial discrimination, has recently been rejected by the Senate. The Southern Bourbons are attempting to exclude the Negro completely from membership of the Democratic Party, the only party in the South.

Mr. Duncan considered that although strenuous efforts are being made by the Negro people and indeed by all progressive organisations to abolish legislation such as the Poll Tax, which prevents the majority of Negroes in the South from voting, the Southern landlords will stop at nothing to secure the disenfranchisement of Negroes, and also that large mass of "poor whites." In all struggles for equal rights, the common man takes the initiative and is in the forefront. Progressive legislation is never just granted, but won, sometimes in very bitter struggles. Mr. Duncan outlined the terrible conditions which exist in the South, the disgraceful poverty as illustrated in the film "The River," the illiteracy, the ignorance, the "Jim Crow" universities, the fact that white children in the State of Mississippi, for example, receive on the average an education grant of \$46 compared with only \$6 for the Negro. Negro-white unity is the key to progress in the South as it has been in the North. In the cities on the lower Mississippi, this has been achieved by the stevedores with splendid results, and the white workers will not accept any concessions without the Negroes getting their share, and vice versa. The Southern politicians in Congress, backed by the Southern landlords, hold back the progress of America and they are there only because they have succeeded in dividing the whites and Negroes.

Mr. Duncan is Professor of Music at Howard University, the most famous Negro college in the country. However, Howard, like most colleges in the North, is not a "Jim Crow" university, but is the traditional Negro seat of learning and culture and endowed with Negro money and receives a Federal grant of 1,000,000 dollars a year. Howard University has a small proportion of white students and staff.

Dear Sir,—Would it be asking too much to demand that "Salient" refrain from employing dipsomaniacal sub-editors? Drunken orgies in the editorial rooms are the only possible explanation of the inclusion of "Lesson in the Morgue" in your issue of July 24. Presumably this outrage comes under the heading of "Modern Verse," for it is typical of the work of present-day poets who have neither "ability nor time for metre and rhyme." Maurice James has surpassed even the wildest excesses of T. S. Eliot and Stephen Spender.

I visualise the scene of the conception of the atrocity as a waxy little smoke-laden room, no doubt hired to lend atmosphere to the occasion. Mercifully obscured in the noisome fog sprawls a collection of modern youth—

Many other famous colleges in the North, such as Yale and Harvard, have a number of coloured professors, lecturers and students. In the South it is a completely different story. No coloured people are admitted into the universities, and those which the Southern authorities in their magnanimity condescend to set aside for Negroes, are on the whole inferior institutions. Mr. Duncan refuses to give public concerts in the South simply because very few of his people manage to gain admittance and also because no hotels will admit him. On occasions he has visited Negro universities and then they are frequently gate-crashed by whites who will accept his voice but nothing else.

Mr. Duncan related an incident which happened to a friend of his, the son of van Loon, the author. Mr. van Loon, Jun., was, during the war, an officer in the U.S. Army in charge of a Negro unit stationed in the South. He trained these men to be a real crack outfit in gunnery, drill, etc., far better than all the neighbouring ones which were mostly white. He also treated his men as normal human beings and showed no little kindness and sympathy towards them. For these terrible crimes, the local members of the master-race, their vanity wounded, actually beat him up. Mr. van Loon was, however, shortly promoted, against his wish, and moved to a safe place.

In reference to the recent controversy in the "Southern Cross," he said that while his own abilities were of small import, it was an insult to his people to say that a Negro should necessarily be at his best only in spirituals. Many famous artists such as Kipnis, Lottie Lehman, recognise Roland Hayes as the greatest exponent of the German lieder and still go to his concerts expressly to learn from him.

the "gentler" sex uncouth, ill-favoured, and indecent; the "male" portion slouching about with ties askew, chain smoking. All are jabbering at the same time, making the place an absolute bedlam of oft-repeated Communist catch-phrases. And in one corner, oblivious to the raucous chorus, our hero perpetrates his masterpiece.

Angels and Ministers of Grace defend us! Such solecistic balderdash serves but to camouflage the poverty of its author's thought. Why must he waste his precious youth in such a futile manner? Here is a world where useful work is crying aloud to be done, and a misguided community allows able-bodied young men to fritter away their time in vain endeavours to express ideas which really do not exist.

WEEKLY HAIRCUT.

STUDENTS!

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# Youth at the Helm

## —WFDY Secretary Reports

Last Friday week the Stud. Ass. Exec. sponsored a lecture given in the Gym. by Mr. Bert Williams on the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and on the World Student Congress held at Prague last November, 1945. Mr. Williams, an Australian, is one of the travelling secretaries for WFDY, and represented the Australian students at Prague. After the lecture a very impressive film was shown of the Student Congress.

As the name implies, WFDY is a federation of all youth organisations except the Fascist, and although not yet fully representative of world youth, it is most certainly so of European youth. Delegates came from almost all walks of life; the majority had considerable war service to their credit. The Spanish delegate, a girl of 18, had fought with the guerillas since she was 13; there was a woman, formerly a captain in the Yugoslav National Army; a Norwegian delegate, the editor during the occupation of an underground paper; and Penry Jones, outstanding youth leader of the British SCM, with many others. Those representing formerly occupied countries were particularly impressive and they all said that only those who have actually experienced Fascism can understand it. The composition of the Conference held in August, 1945, in London, was as follows:—

National Youth Councils	15%
Regional Youth Councils	9%
Cultural and Educational Organisations	5%
Students	10%
Trade Unions	6%
Sporting	1.5%
YMCA and YWCA	2.5%
Scouting	3.5%
Protestant	4.5%
Catholic	3.5%
Services and Veterans	4%
Jewish	5%
Farming	2.5%
Co-operative	1%
Conservative	.5%
Liberal and Radical	1%
United Progressive	7%
Communist	3.5%
Socialist	2.5%
Unclassified	13.5%

### The Aims of Youth

The delegates were determined that the constitution of the Federation should not remain a mere empty shell. Youth will fight for freedom and a better world and for the preservation of peace. Youth will work for the complete elimination of Fascism, racial hatred and racial discrimination. Among the fundamental requirements for young people in the post-war world are complete democratic rights, including freedom of worship, adequate scope for culture and sport, with particular reference to the colonial countries, and relief work through UNRRA or other suitable organisations. The WFDY has made definite provision for international exchange and presses for Government support.

The Federation is to have its own press in Paris to produce suitable material and will hold a World Youth Festival in France next year after the International University Games. The Conference called for the establishment

of an exchange bureau especially for jobs, as this would enable young working people to travel more easily. Holiday camps should be organised for overseas visitors, as has been done by the Czech Youth with great success. The WFDY, like the World Federation of Trade Unions, demands a voice in UNO, since youth has earned and deserves a voice in international affairs. A positive campaign has been launched to encourage youth organisations in countries not devastated by the war to adopt similar organisations in the formerly occupied countries.

Mr. Williams gave a brief summary of youth work in a few specific countries. A British youth delegation accompanied the party from the House of Commons to report on conditions in Greece. They were amongst the 30,000 young students and workers at a youth meeting during which the local Fascists, without provocation and with the condonation of the police, fired into the crowd. Among those killed were some of the finest young people in Greece. "So," concluded Mr. Williams, "all is not well in Greece."

### Position in Spain

In Spain the position of students and other youth is even worse. The number attending universities is proportionally very small; professors or students who dared to speak the truth are sent to the already overflowing concentration camps; democratic organisations such as student associations or trade unions are not permitted and there is no freedom of worship.

The situation in Germany has improved considerably. Although the youth were the section most corrupted by Nazism, there are already many fine democratic bodies such as Catholic Youth, SCM, Boy Scouts, and, largest of them all, the Free German Youth Movement with a membership of 250,000. As with the other democratic organisations, it is led mainly by exiles or by former recalcitrants.

The recent British delegation to the Soviet Union, led by Platts-Mills, M.P., included Penry Jones, travelling secretary for the British SCM. He brought back a most favourable report on what goes on behind the 'iron curtain.' Of all the things he saw in Russia the youth of Stalingrad impressed him most with their tremendous drive to restore the city, their hard work and their tolerance of inevitably bad conditions. He visited more churches and gave more religious services than any other visitor to the land of Socialism.

The World Student Congress was held at Prague and opened on November 17, International Students' Day. It is significant that it should be held on the anniversary of the day when seventy-eight heroic Czech students

were shot by the Nazis. Student representatives from fifty-one different countries discussed and planned action on many important subjects. The whole of Prague turned on a terrific demonstration for the Congress. The Czech students are held in very high regard by the rest of the community, and Mr. Williams attributed it to the really heroic part they played during the war and to the fact that they have consistently supported other anti-fascist sections of the community. At the Bata boot factory thousands of workers welcomed the delegates and held aloft placards hailing the unity of workers of hand and brain. The student movement in Czechoslovakia numbers nearly 100,000, of which 50,000 are at the famous Charles University in Prague. A committee consisting of three professors, sixteen students and four administrators have complete control of finance and last year they handled £20,000,000 sterling. The student body handles accommodation finance, relief for repatriates, removal of collaborators with the Nazis, supply of instruments, books, etc. Czech youth is keen to learn, and students sometimes queue up at 7.30 a.m. for an afternoon lecture. There are 3,000 first-year meds., and lectures are held in cinemas with students at the back looking at the demonstrations through binoculars.

### NZUSA and WDFY

During the discussion Nig. Taylor elucidated the question of VUC's affiliation to WFDY. NZUSA's representative at the Prague Congress recommended against affiliation because "WFDY is a communist organisation." Mr. Taylor pointed out that VUC had always been in favour of affiliation but other Colleges were against it.

"For those unfortunate people who hate to see youth getting together to solve their own problems," said Mr. Williams in reply, "any excuse is sufficient to deter them."

Before showing the film a motion was passed recommending the Exec. to urge affiliation of NZUSA, and if this is turned down by the other Colleges to consider direct affiliation.

The highlights of the film were requiem mass held for the seventy-eight Czech students, the demonstration by the population of Prague, and the posthumous conferring of the honorary degree of Doctor in Memoriam on the famous seventy-eight.

★ ★ ★

## BOXING

Functioning at Varsity since the beginning of the second term, the Boxing Club has a good number of keen members who train every Saturday morning from 9 o'clock onwards in the upstairs Gym.

The club is exceptionally fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Ken. Coveny, trainer of the victorious 1940 Tournament team, which took five of the seven titles. An ex-Varsity student, Ken has just returned from overseas service in the Navy. He is training members in the fundamentals of the game, and he, along with the committee, makes an appeal for all those interested in boxing to attend for instruction. The aim is to have a well-trained team for the next Easter Tournament, and not to repeat the mistake of cramming training into the short period of six weeks or less.





Standing (from left): R. Vance, R. Wilde, P. Mullins, S. Wilde, D. D. Beard, T. Larkin, R. Wooley, J. H. Oakley, D. E. Brian.  
Seated (from left): J. A. Carrad, J. A. Colquhoun, G. S. Stringer (Captain), P. D. Wilson, H. E. Moore.  
Photo courtesy Crown Studios

### Student Assoc. Theatre

Dear Sir,—Mr. Eiby, in his report of the Lili Kraus recital, suggested that the theatre in the new Stud. Ass. building should seat a thousand.

Readers will have noted that the proposals approved by the Stud. Ass. in general meeting provide for a theatre to seat 500-600. That number was fixed on for several reasons which I regard as important.

(1) To provide a hall capable of seating every student would mean eclipsing the Town Hall and the Majestic, which is clearly absurd.

(2) We can confidently expect that there will one day be a College Hall.

(3) The day of the big theatre has long since passed. Every theatre built in Wellington during the last twelve years or more has provided for a maximum capacity of 800-850, reflecting the world-wide policy to build intimate theatres. No theatre above this size can give to its patrons adequate seating sight-lines and audibility.

(4) The ground floor space will be

### Our Cathedral

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letters published lately in "Salient" about the Cathedral, I should like to say that the main objection to building it is not, I think, the shortage of building materials and labour. Those problems will be fairly well solved by the time the Cathedral is started, I think. The reason I am against building this Cathedral is that I do not think it is a religious action, but a society gesture. I do not think the Anglicans are building to the glory of God so much as to have a grand building in which society marriages, etc., can be held, and in which, while the sincere can pray, the less devout can hold their dress parades, watch the Governor when he comes in, etc., in more fittingly grand circumstances than they can at St. Paul's. One reason I say this is that in the general plea for money, and especially in the advertisements for the Cathedral, the stress is on a

## NO MAN'S LAND

limited in width by the site, and in depth from the stage, which is the practical limit for adequate seating. This means that if our hall were made to seat a thousand it would be necessary to have two galleries and those in the top gallery would be too far away and at too acute an angle to the stage to see or hear properly.

(5) If we can build a theatre that will be adequate for all but two or three functions a year, we shall have succeeded. It would be uneconomic, wasteful, and would result in an inferior theatre if we tried to stretch seating capacity to provide for peak numbers.

(6) Finally, I am convinced that our gymnasium should be in a separate building where the noise and commotion involved could not interfere with social and cultural activities.

I have listed my reasons because I feel it is important for all students to keep clearly in mind what our aim is, and where our limitations will lie.

R. M. DANIELL

Cathedral for Wellington the Capital City, not on a building in which to worship God. Another reason is that they are collecting money, not from people who believe that a church is needed, so much as from people who are importuned into giving, and even more, from firms who found a good opportunity to advertise in the newspaper columns which listed which firms had given, and how much they had given. That St. Paul's is old and needs rebuilding is obvious, but in this large, imposing, expensive edifice the glory of material wealth seems again to be taking the place of the glory of religion, as it did in the church of earlier days, leading to corruption and splitting; and striving for show and splendour seems once more to be entering into a religion that preaches against excess wealth, and against formalism. Perhaps it is not too late for the Church of England to reconsider its plans, and build something less pretentious, less important socially, and more important religiously.—C.

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# SOCIALIST SPEAKER OUTLINES TRADE UNION ORGANISATION

*The great importance of the Trades Unions in the struggle for social progress, and the community of real interests between Trades Unions and students, were the two important facts discussed by Mr. Bruce Skilton, prominent Wellington Trades Unionist, in his address to the VUC Socialist Club on August 13 on the subject, "Socialism and the Trades Union Movement."*

Mr. Skilton first outlined the development of trades unions in England during the last 150 years. He related how from small and difficult beginnings the movement gradually grew, as industrialisation and mass production progressed, fighting a bitter struggle against Combination Acts and other repressive legislation, into the large and powerful organisations of the present day.

Today the trades unions are in the forefront of the struggle against reaction; active trades unionists are the "soldiers of the class struggle." It is only by close co-operation and sympathy with the TU movement in this and every country that students can best work in this struggle for progress. University-trained people will play an important part in the TU movement; one of the most promising working-class leaders NZ has produced was provided by VUC—Gordon Watson, later killed in Italy.

Today, the worst enemy of trades unionism comes not from without but from within—the malady known as Reformism, or "Gradualism." This disease, working under the slogan that "the concern of trades unions is economic, not political, affairs," has done enormous damage in the past, and is still at work today. "Reformism" was responsible for the collapse of the 2nd International in 1914; it was responsible for the success of Mussolini in 1922, of Hitler in 1933, of Franco in 1938, and of the Munich appeasers. Today, Reformism is responsible for the attempted splitting of the WFTU, and for the recent successes of those reactionary forces that plan another world war—for the recent loading in this country of wool for Franco Spain.

From all these and many other examples, Mr. Skilton demonstrated the danger of "gradualism," and the impossibility of divorcing the economic from the political struggle. From many hard lessons, the working class has learned that there can be no social security without international security.

The most powerful weapon of the trades unions is organisation, and after that, the strike. The necessity for organisation has been demonstrated again and again. In this country, what is required is the organisation of unions on an industrial basis instead of on a craft or "trade" basis. The recent threatened maritime strike in USA was successful so quickly because of the amalgamation of seven large maritime unions and the co-operation of the WFTU.

Mr. Skilton described trades unions under Socialism. In USSR, TU's are "part and parcel of the Socialist State." They are the basis of Socialist action, and their first task is to raise the general living standards of the workers. As well, they are concerned with obtaining the greatest possible expansion of productive plant, working in harmony instead of in conflict with the State. The 26,000,000 TU members in USSR are democratically organised on an industrial basis.

After a lively discussion, during which were discussed the questions of Compulsory Unionism, Affiliation with the Federation of Labour, the necessity for co-operation between "white-collar" workers and manual workers, and the current WFTU boycott of Franco Spain, the meeting was closed, a hearty vote of thanks being accorded to Mr. Skilton for his instructive and inspiring address.—H.C.F.

"That the New Zealand divorce laws are a menace to marital peace" was a subject which drew some hundred students to the Gymnasium haunts on August 3. Speakers were at a disadvantage due to the unfortunate framing of the motion, but nothing prompted Mr. Eichelbaum to say other than that the Society had not lost its gift for humour. He placed the speakers—Frank O'Flynn, Dick Collins, Kevin O'Brien, Gurth Higgin, Frank Coleman.

"Marital peace is non-existent," said Mr. Taylor, affirming that the unhappy are often forced to live together for several years.

"Often couples cannot have a divorce because proof of reasons is a pre-requisite, particularly for adultery. We must tackle this problem responsibly," said Mr. Higgin, and he proceeded to elucidate the reasons—Infringement of the marriage arrangement and restitution of conjugal rights.

"Both valuable and desirable, it holds together the bulk of the bourgeois society," quoth Keith Matthews. He spoke with some conviction. "The fee is not unreasonable—forty guineas!"

Said Frank Coleman; "These legal cases don't get down to the true spirit of the thing." The most common causes of this frequent ailment he listed as childhood complexes, mothers-in-law, halitosis and dandruff.

Sentiments from the floor were diverse and not entirely impersonal.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

Harold Grettin (aff.): When you buy a bull you want to know how it will perform. Now Mr. Higgin, for example . . .

"Mr. Chairman—I am not a bull!"

"With many people, the end of the first fine rapture is the end of the marriage," said Mr. Collins. "Finance is a prominent cause."

Mr. Battersby's argument was consistent and rational—but it is too long to print here.

Speaking to the negative, Mr. O'Flynn said: "Divorce laws do not enhance the dignity of the law, and they menace marital peace." His arguments were necessarily strictly legal and as the centre of the debate happened to be the pinion of his gyrations, his inherent eloquence carried him to the first placing of the evening.

"There is need," said Kevin O'Brien, "for a form of pre-marital education on the laws of the marriage contract."

Other remarks were:

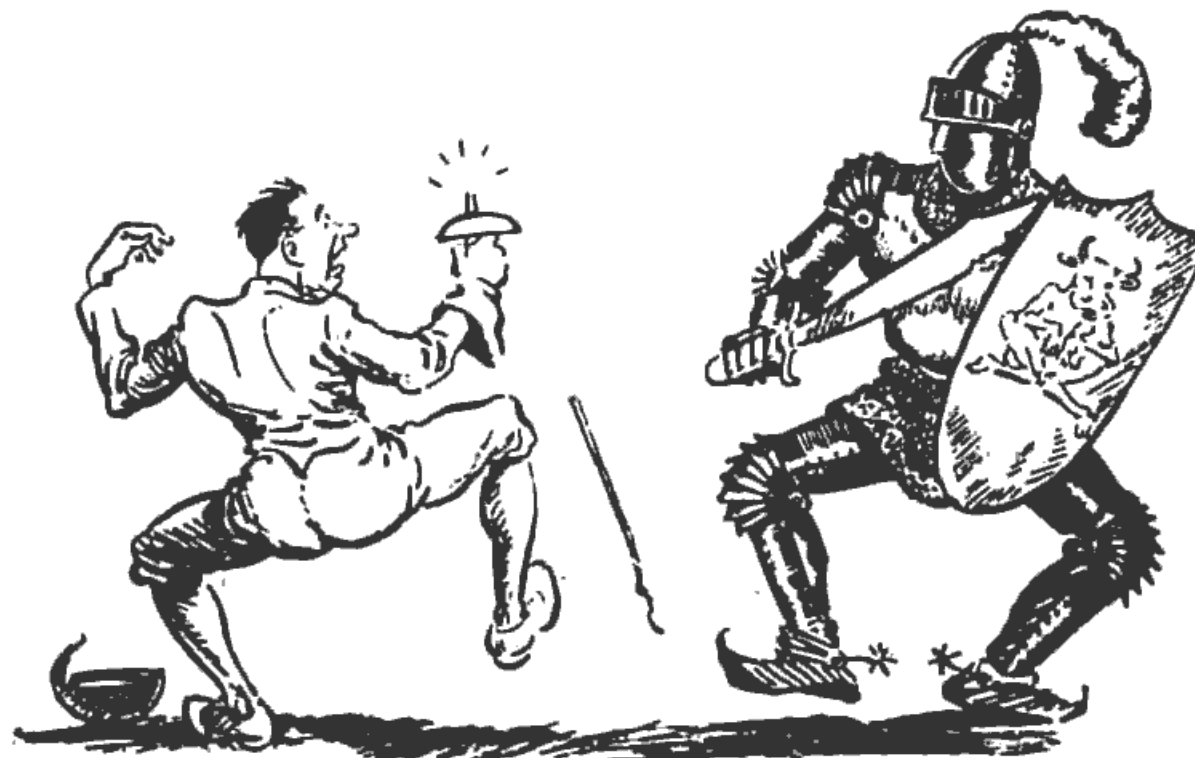
"The only people who benefit are the lawyers."—Maurice Casey.  
"There is a great deal to be said for trial marriage."—Gilbert Johnstone.  
And in answer to a query: "I don't know—I'm too young."—Nigel Siewright.

★ ★ ★

## SWORDS CLUB

One week before Winter Tournament the Swords Club report the following team:—Brian Cato, Pix Hurrell (captain), Stuart Cathie (vice) and Peter Hampton. Emergency Peg-Moore is shaping well.

Somewhat an improvement on 1945 team, the club aspire even to first placing.



Don't Fence Me In

## Troubled Waters

Dear Sir,—The Executive has as yet not made known its intentions as to the amount of subsidy to be paid to those representing the College in the forthcoming Winter Tournament. The minutes of the Executive Meeting (12/8/46) however, reveal that it has found time to approve of the payment of the full fares to Auckland of the Tournament Delegates and the VUC representatives to NZUSA. As an ex-Tournament Delegate and ex-VUC representative to NZUSA, I should like to know why the Executive should with our money pay the full fares to Auckland of such delegates (who are usually members of the Executive) and yet make no provision for the representatives who also pay their Stud. Ass. fees?

The delegates and reps. to NZUSA have been voted £20 to cover their entertainment and other expenses while in Auckland. Why then should they not be prepared to place themselves on the same footing in all other respects as those people for whom Tournament is principally run, namely, the actual Tournament competitors? I should also like to know by virtue of what authority the Executive chooses to ignore the Constitution, which provides that travelling grants up to £2 per person only may be made. In my opinion the Executive is abusing its authority and if, as appears on the surface, they are acting unconstitutionally, the matter is one for the auditors and the students to take up and contest.

M. J. POOLE.

## and the Oil

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Poole I have to say that the decision arrived at was on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and was adopted unanimously by the Executive. There is a precedent for expense allowance to delegates—1945, I think. In any case, delegates will be accountable to the Exec. for their disbursement of these monies. Every other Students' Association in New Zealand pays full fares for its working delegates, who are, it must be remembered, not people who have willingly competed for the right to represent their College in a chosen sport, but public-minded students who have accepted responsibility for an onerous and often thankless task of considerable magnitude. While I thank you for the opportunity of replying, I wish to say I have no intention of indulging Mr. Poole in his well-known line of public wrangling. If he has constitutional issues to raise he should do so with the Executive direct.

HAROLD DOWRICK,

Secretary, VUCSA.

## Hockey Bungle

Dear Sir,—It is a serious matter that in the second year of Tournament a first-class bungle has lopped a major sport from the group meeting in Auckland, August 29 to September 4. I hear that Women's Hockey is excluded by reason of the conflicting national contests at Christchurch.

Firstly, those concerned with Tournament in Auckland should have seen that the national contests were held at a date not conflicting with Tournament. This applies to the majority of sports and can be done easily if sufficient notice is given.

Secondly, if a clash is inevitable, there should be more sportsmanlike ways out than taking Women's Hockey out of Tournament. Either the Hockey Associations are prohibiting teams from travelling or the Colleges concerned are pulling out of Tournament. In either case it shows poor spirit if the interests of one or two representative players are put before those of the whole hockey team, indeed of the whole Tournament.

In my opinion, if a clash is unavoidable, the choice should be left to the players concerned whether they support their College, or seek representative honours before an NZU Blue. The attitude of the NZAAA last year is a notable contrast. They not only allowed University runners to compete for their Colleges, thus weakening the Provincial teams, but also provided officials for the NZU event.

I understand that VUC are not at fault. I hope, sir, that you will tell readers just whose selfishness and bungling is involved, and assure them that when Winter Tournament is here next year nothing of this sort will occur.

R. M. DANIELL.

## Appeal

What is wrong with VUC basketball? At Tournament 1946 we not only lost every game, but our team was reported to be "not up to standard." Our Senior A team has received the same criticism in Wellington papers and our other two teams are open to similar indictment. We do not condemn individual members of the club; all we ask is: "What is being done about this ebb-tide?"

The club meets for practice in the Gym. on Mondays, 6.30-7.30 p.m. The floor-space is inadequate, the single goal-post sways frequently; the attendance is so poor that we rarely get two teams, enough for a satisfactory practice. Naturally we are handicapped because lectures must be attended between 6.30-7.30, but if club membership were increased this difficulty could be overcome.

On Saturdays we have been able to field our teams, but what good are players who rarely practice as a team and who include one or two emergencies in every game? We are aware that there are members of the club who are enthusiastic; we recognise that in the club there is talent; we know that some teams have come very near to success. But where is club spirit, consistent performance, and even the smallest achievement? Not only is successive failure likely to lead to an exodus of keen players to other clubs, but it is unfair to our coach, who has been most helpful and considerate in the face of all disinterest.

We would like to see some active measures taken now, this year, to ensure that next year's club will show improvement. We would like to see club members show their interest by maintaining enthusiasm until the end of the season. We would certainly like to see some attempt made to find new material for an improved Tournament team in 1947. We could easily carry twice our meagre membership of 27 next year, but that depends on the propagandist activities of club members and on some action from the club committee.

M. IRWIN,  
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## Players Ready For Winter Tournament

The Siege of the Wellington Railway Station is scheduled for exactly a week from the appearance of this report. For on that day, Wednesday, August 28, a wild, surging, singing rabble composed of nearly 300 representatives from Victoria and all the Southern Universities will commence the mad scramble for seats on the train which is to bear them to Auckland, and to Winter Tournament.

To any person who has attended such an event, the term "Tournament" really means something. In a patch of sublime euphemism, D. Food, chairman of the NZU Winter Tournament Committee last year, said: "The value of Tournament lies not only in the competition it affords, but also in the fact that it lets us meet students from other colleges..." Tournaments are undoubtedly successful functions for two apparent reasons. "There is intoxication to be found in a crowd" (Macaulay), and secondly, most of the representatives are away from home anyway.

But it is essential that due importance should be given to the sports. Few competitors from Victoria at Winter Tournament last year will gainsay that it was a great show, but fewer will maintain that VUC did well in the individual sports. The sole victors out of the eight teams who competed were Soccer (who drew with Auckland, thereby gaining half of VUC's total points) and Table Tennis. This year we hope to see more than mere confidence on the part of Victoria representatives.

With the experience of one Winter Tournament to guide us, the organisation of Tournament has been comparatively smooth going. We have been confronted with only one major problem to date—the Women's Hockey. In this sport there is a clash between Tournament and the Provincial games, and even at this late date we are not sure that it will not be a "stag" Tournament.

However, with the undoubted enthusiasm of our host College, Auckland, and the ready co-operation of the other Colleges, Winter Tournament, 1946, promises to be a great success. It would be difficult to eclipse last year's effort, but if it is possible we will certainly try.

VIV. RICH,  
J. B. WEIR,  
VUC Tournament Delegates.

★ ★ ★

## Debating Team Prepared

Dick Collins, who has recently returned to VUC after service in the Army overseas, has become an active member of the Debating Society. He looks like a certainty for the 1946 Union prize, and has been well placed by every judge this year.

The Joynt Scroll Contest is to be held on the evening of Friday, August 30, and there is a possibility that our debate may be broadcast. As this is the first post-war contest the standard promises to be high, and the debate would be well worth listening to.



## Women's Hockey Expectant

The following players will represent VUC at Winter Tournament:—

Nancy Fyfe and Quona Turner will be the wingers and have played sound hockey throughout the season. Bice Young (right inner) and Vivienne Rich (centre-forward) have worked up a good combination and are both playing well. Margaret Ross from the Senior B has been playing good hockey as a forward, and her inclusion in the team as left-inner is quite justifiable. The mainstay of any team is its half-line, and it is hoped that VUC's half-line will give the necessary support to the forwards. The wing-halves, Joy Jowett and Francis Fyfe, deserve their selection, and Julie Flett (captain and centre-half) should give a good account of herself. Doris Filmer from the graduates'

"Salient" is not and never will be a paper for social gossip. Sports club reports forwarded this year have brought us too near the margin of uninteresting and sectarian drivel. For this reason Tournament prospect writeups this issue have been considerably abridged. Material that is of interest only to the clubs themselves should not be forwarded for publication. Clubs will be given adequate space when their reports are impersonal and of general interest.

team will also strengthen the half-line. The full-backs, Suzanne Hott and Janet North, have played consistently good hockey and should prove to be a solid defence. Colleen Murphy has proved to be an outstanding goal-keeper and is expected to produce good form at Tournament.

With two freshers and several players in their first year at senior hockey in this team, it will probably lack the experience of those of the other Colleges. However, it is very keen and is expected to play bright and good hockey.

1946 delegates to the Joynt Scroll Contest to be held at Winter Tournament, Kevin O'Brien and Dick Collins, are both experienced debaters. They are taking the negative against CUC on the subject "That Social Security is leading to the ultimate pauperization of the people."

This year's winner of the Plunket Medal for oratory, Kevin O'Brien has also the Union and New Speaker's prizes, for gaining the greatest number of points in College debates, to his credit. With Roy Jack last year he represented VUC in Joynt Scroll, but they were unsuccessful.

## Men's Soccer Exultant

("Salient" received a somewhat verbose and unimaginative report on this club's prospect for Winter Tournament. Due to lack of space and consideration for readers this is abridged.)

Last week's easy win by 5-2 against one of the leading teams, namely, Hospital, has given new heart to the representative Soccer team. We have played this season somewhat under the shadow of Jonah, but feel now that we can write the following notes with a ring of confidence. Those latent powers have at last manifested themselves!

The rep. team appears to be as follows: Pat Giles (goal—outstanding); Roy Dixon and B. Sutton-Smith (defence—solid); Colin Richardson (centre-half, captain); R. Spears and K. Johnson (halves); B. Rackie, J.

Walls, Ted Simmonds, R. Edwards and Bruce Weir (forwards).

"We pulled it off last year... we feel that this year will be a matter of repetition."

## TABLE TENNIS

1946 NZTTA Shield Team:—Alan Graham (captain), Ken Wood, Earle Denford, Brian Phillips, Pat Ralph and Mary Land.

A committee of three selected the team this year from some very close games. "Tournament team this year is a good blending of brains and bash."

## FILM

After two breaks the film of the Wilkin Valley finally got away to a glorious Technicolor start. There were some excellent panoramas of the valley and a number of very good shots of peaks taken through a telephoto lens. Barney Butchers gave an admirable commentary supplemented by three ex-Training College persons singing "Pablo the Dreamer." Our thanks are due to Mr. Ellis for lending the film to the Club.

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