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Salient

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

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**MAJESTIC
CABARET**

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 AT THE MAJESTIC

Debating Society Supports Government on Eve of Election

Each year before the first fresh flush of spring blights the genius of its members, that society for certified intellectuals, the VUC Debating Club, convenes a battle between the Great Men who rule our Fair Land and the Not So Great Men who don't. In the resulting melee few holds are barred and the only practical referee is the audience. For a reason divulged by one of the speakers last Friday night, such a contest could not be held this year, but as an excellent alternative four husky myrmidons—McCreary, O'Connor, O'Flynn and Benton wrangled over a confidence motion in the Government.

Some two hundred persons were present; speeches were vivacious—at times hilarious. There was little constraint and no judge.

From the outset the audience set the pace. A few orations were pacific, but for the most part the whole was a running battle between the speaker and the crowd. And it would be inaccurate to say that Gurth Higgin interjected: rather was he a competitive speaker throughout the entire evening.

Affirmative

John McCreary is not quite typical of the VUC Debating School in that he entertains rather than instructs his audience. On Friday night however he was convinced that "hard cold facts" were necessary to prove his argument to "so intelligent an audience." Nevertheless he began with an anecdote: "In 1929 while the police fought unemployed in the street a small boy crouched behind a shop counter." Yells from the mob made him reword this sentence. From that day to the present, the annual wage bill of the Dominion had increased from £60 million to £170 million. Ten years of Labour rule has seen the farmers' mortgages fall £8½ million. Future policy included reduction of income tax, the building of 12,000 houses a year, and the decentralisation of industry.

With equal effect he dealt with interruptions from Gurth Higgin and the Education Programme. School building, small classes, the free distribution of text books and an increase in the number of University bursaries—all were outlined in the schedule he read. "And dental care for adolescents, Mr. Higgin!" He issued a challenge to the negative to show him any such programme for the National Party.

Negative

Ben O'Connor never disappoints his listeners. "It is not my job to put forward an alternative scheme," he said, "As leader of the negative I can only refute what Mr. McCreary has said." He countered many of his

opponent's whims and condemned socialism as a practical system. "The Government has entered into too many enterprises that do not concern it. Its function should be merely that of a referee."

Labour Party election platforms still rested largely on the errors of the Coalition Government during the slump. But what had been the record. In a Labour Australia, benefits had been paid at the rate of 8/9d. in Victoria and 9/6d. in New South Wales; this against 21/6d. in New Zealand.

Commodity prices were kept down by paying enormous subsidies. "This means a rise in taxation, and when taxation rises..." ("the cold air rushes in"—Higgin). "The inefficient IMD has been sold to the dairy

and his manner comic, but his arguments though illogical would have found acceptance in a less astute and critical audience.

In 1928 a slump committee with a labour representative recommended sustenance payment for unemployed—nothing more. "We want a little bit of practical evidence. What did Mr. Jordan say in '31?" ("What did Gladstone say in '85?"—Higgin). Nobody had an opportunity of owning State houses. Glancing at Mr. O'Connor he said "We might be Nationalists, Socialists, or Communists." (Cry from whole section of the mob—"You don't look like a Communist."). He continued—"The Government has not socialised the means of production, distribution, and exchange." ("That's not what

SWAN SONG

This is the last issue of our fortnightly "Salient." Next year a weekly will appear, bigger, better and brighter than ever. We wish to thank all those who have made this year's "Salient" possible and cordially invite your contributions in the future.

—Editor and Staff.

companies. Family benefits, a good thing in themselves, were a sign of retrogression. The usual final peroration was boomed out to the rhythm of flesh on wood as he hammered a nail into the table with his fist.

Seconders

Frank O'Flynn is a legal luminary, and as such he preferred the monetary approach. He quoted figures to show that although the national debt had increased from £320 million to £620 million in ten years, the overseas debt decreased at a time when the overseas debt of all other countries had increased. Some people complained about Social Security fees. In 1933 everyone was paying 8d. in the pound for dole and getting nothing for it.

New to the Varsity platform is Mr. Benton. His speech was undignified

Mr. O'Connor says.") "I don't give a damn what Mr. O'Connor says." Mr. Benton concluded with a short note about the productivity of State owned mines.

Floor Speakers

Speakers from the floor were fewer than usual, and the standard set was lower. Still the audience continued to set the pace.

Toby Easterbrook-Smith: "During the depression the training colleges had been closed and teachers' salaries had been cut." A rude remark here broke up proceedings.

Kath Kelly: "Only six knight-hoods—think of it! And motoring is such an expensive hobby." (Cries of "That's the spirit" and "Dinkum Oil").

"Every privilege has been fought for by the workers," said Harold

Gretton. I once worked on a farm...er...lived..."

Kevin O'Brien is ever tantalising. "The slump was the purge to the boom cocktail party of 1929. It was inevitable, and the Coalition Government was elected without having made a single promise to the people."

"I am a keen judge of human character," said Dick Collins, "and when the National Party refused to send speakers to this meeting I knew that they realised this is the most critical audience they might meet. I know what people mean when they say yes..." (Roars from the pit.) "Now Mr. Holland's secretary... (More roars) During this week of frustration..." (Complete relapse.) "Ours is the best Social Democrat Government—we must support it!"

Visitors

Visitors were then admitted onto the platform.

"The only thing apparent about the negative was that they were speaking against the motion," said Mr. Griffin. "Labour policy is to the disadvantage of vested interests."

Said Mr. Pointon: "I have not yet had a chance to vote Labour..." (Whispers) "but I've read some of their pamphlets" (Louder whispers). "Planning seems to appeal to them." ("Oh! You prefer a little bit of chaos!" "The original Archie!" etc.)

Mr. Arlow: "Now, boys, will you all look at the girls' legs? Right? Now, are they wearing stockings?" (Higgin: "Yes! And all the way up, too!") "Girls, are the boys wearing shirts?" (Rude remark from Mr. Wachsner.) The idea of this sartorial investigation was to convince the audience that they were stark naked. If they were to become clothed before 1950 they would have to vote National. "Who owns the mines? Paddy Webb! Who owns the Canterbury racecourse? Paddy Webb! And who owns the Empire Pub? (Audience: "Paddy Webb!")

"The Government is feathering its own nest. We boys and girls..." (Screams from the back.) Mr. Taylor (chairman): "I must remind that lady that this is not a beer garden."

In summing up both leading speakers contradicted everything that each other and everyone else had previously said. A show of hands indicated that the audience was overwhelmingly in favour of the motion.

It was announced that the Union Prize for the year had been awarded to Mr. Collins and the New Speaker's Prize to Mr. Samuj.

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Government and Education

With the coming into power of the Labour Government in 1935 a new era dawned in the history of education in New Zealand. In contradistinction to their policy in most other Departments, the Government changed key personnel in the Education Department, and appointed men who were not altogether opposed to their policy.

Five-year-olds were re-admitted, Training Colleges re-opened, and Teachers' salaries were increased. Later the Proficiency Examination was abolished, primary education was no longer formal but free, and teachers were no longer graded on examination passes but on every aspect of their teaching. This produced a completely new attitude on the part of teachers and also had the effect of abolishing the means test for entry into secondary schools. Every aspect of primary education was liberalised.

With the abolition of Proficiency and the higher standard of living a new type of pupil came to Secondary Schools and the urgency of liberalising the curriculum to suit new conditions soon became evident. When the Government did at last move in this direction Hansard records that the Nationalists opposed and obstructed the Government at every turn in carrying out reforms long since overdue. In a recent issue of "Salient" the National Party said that it was in favour of raising the School Leaving Age. It would be difficult to surpass such consummate demagoguery, as they have always opposed such action. New Technical and Intermediate Schools have been established in an endeavour to meet new conditions and to close the gap between Primary and Secondary Schools.

The granting of University Bursaries on the basis of Higher Leaving Certificate and the granting of boarding bursaries to needy students together with the Government's progressive policy in Secondary Schools are contributing causes to the present overcrowding in Universities. New Zealand is the only British country in which university education has become literally free.

In order to raise the academic standard and to bring the Universities into line with the Primary and Secondary Schools it will be necessary to establish new Technological Colleges and perhaps Provincial Universities. Only a Labour Government would be capable of doing this since, if the Nationalists object to broadening and liberalising the curricula in other schools surely they will sabotage every effort to improve University Education.

The Government has done everything to encourage local industry and this has led to the establishment of new research institutions and accounts for the tremendous expansion of the DSIR. On the other hand the National Party has no desire to see New Zealand industrialised and if they took office, New Zealand would have little room for scientists and technicians. It is not interested in bringing enlightenment and culture to the people but has use for only a few clerks and technicians to keep accounts and to find efficient methods for making more profits for the capitalist class.

★ ★ ★

It is not without the greatest difficulty that "Salient" has been brought out at all this year. For the most part issues were overset, even to the extent of bringing out three twelve-page editions that were not budgeted. Next year will see an improvement—staff and paper will be organised to handle the increased material. For the present our greatest thanks go to the printer, whose untiring efforts and goodwill have made "Salient" possible.

Spring Song

*Spring is come, and lambskins all
Frolic and frisk in the morning dew;
We hear the magpie's mating call
And Tory M.P.'s grow matey too.
Spring is the time for milking goats,
Time for the ass to feel his oats:
Spring is the time for catching votes,
Time for the Tory garden party.*

*The poison ivy and stink-weed bud;
The trap-door spider lays his snare;
The bull-frog breeds in the fertile mud.
Weasels wive and pole-cates pair.
The Tory now on every tree
Puts out his leaflets, and thus sings he:
"Come, meet your betters and vote for me—
Come to the Tory garden party."*

*The blowfly blows, the carrion crows
Go gathering straws and sticks,
And the Tory nest must feather its nest
And hatch its ravenous chicks.
"So come to the feast, you're all invited;
Meet the Squire—he'll be delighted;
We promise you won't be snobbed or slighted;
Come to the Tory garden party."*

*"So come—there's ices and cakes and jugs
Of bubbling lemonade;
Come ye suckers and come ye mugs,
The caterers' bills are paid.
Lubberly lads and lolloping lasses,
Well-fed dames of the wealthy classes,
Smart society silly asses,
Come to the Tory garden party."*

—H.W.G.

EZRA POUND—POET OR FASCIST

Some months ago an article appeared in "Student" upholding Ezra Pound as a poet because his opinions were "sincere." Such an attitude is likely to lay one open to the most vicious Fascist propaganda and is to be heartily condemned.

While we have not the same knowledge of Ezra Pound's works as Mr. Oliver obviously has, there are certain features in his article in "Student" which are important apart from such knowledge, and which cannot go unanswered.

In the first place it is apparently necessary to point out to Mr. Oliver that Pound was not indicted as a war criminal for the verse he wrote, but for his pro-Fascist activities during the war.

These activities, Mr. Oliver says, were carried out by Pound because he was honestly convinced that the Fascists "had something." He further states that, as a result of this, Pound accepted the lot of the Fascists whether they won or lost. And after making these statements he objects to Pound being indicted! Surely these things could have been said of William Joyce, of Tokio Rose, or Hitler himself! Moreover, in accepting the "win or lose" stand, Pound surely accepts the possibility of indictment as a traitor to his country. He was still a U.S. citizen, and not all traitors, Mr. Oliver, are such only for filthy lucre. But whether "honest traitors" or not, they are still liable to indictment by their own country.

In considering the value of Pound's writings, one must note that the normal writer's development of thought during his life as a writer is reflected in what he has to say. That seems to me to be fairly elementary. Applying this to Pound, this means that as he finally accepted the philosophy and programme of Fascism, we must be able to trace the development of his conversion to these ideas in his verse. And it would seem that this, in view

of Pound's acting on his beliefs by joining and broadcasting for the Fascists, would be the most important feature of his writings. They would probably be so for Pound himself, anyway. (As Pound was acquitted on grounds of insanity, perhaps this argument does not apply.) If this is the type of social documentation in which Mr. Oliver is interested, then he is quite justified in studying it.

But the development patterns of Fascism are obvious enough to anyone who has been interested enough to watch them in the past twenty years, and it seems to me that the more important thing at the moment is not to discuss apologetics for poets-gone-Fascist but to see to it that Fascism does not rise again.

—KAIWAI.

☆ ☆ ☆ To an Indian Maid

*Must thy blushes like the cherry
blossom fall
Without a gatherer to glean the fallen
bloom
Is there no basket in which thy flushes
may rest?
Laid in the heart and unconsumed by
the ever-yearning mouth of time.
Were I the happy gatherer of thy
field
The happy master of this universe of
Delight
No precious pearl as rain would fall
No whisper as the magic sound of
the mountain breeze
No smile like the unending Dawn
Shall lie upon the earth of unremem-
brance.*

OMAR HJUMAS

A FILTHY ACT IN PUBLIC— DRAMA GIVE IBSEN'S GHOSTS

Towards the end of the nineteenth century there lived a Norwegian dramatist named Henrik Ibsen, who wrote a number of plays intended to expose the bigotry and hypocrisy with which he found himself surrounded. Such a play is "Ghosts." In 1946, the VUC Drama Club, after suitably publicising these facts, treated its amused audiences to a play purporting to be that written by Ibsen.

In Act I we are introduced to a group of characters whose outlook is very definitely not as broad as our own. As a result they become involved in a series of mishaps which might have been tragic if they were not such funny people. However, at the end of Act III there is a kind of a firework display, and we all go home feeling very happy and superior to our grandparents.

The acting throughout was competent and the staging perhaps even a little better than we are accustomed to expect on the Gym. stage. What, then, went wrong? The answer seems to lie in a rather too superficial reading of the play.

Ibsen's Regina was a girl who, although she had picked up some of the more superficial phrases and behaviour patterns of Society (and even a little French) was quite ignorant of their meanings and implications—a person who retained a quality of earthiness. Joan Taylor played the part of a rather charming young lady who had strayed into the pages of Ibsen by mistake, and found the whole environment somewhat distasteful. Her "father," Jacob Engstrand, is a whining cringing creature without a single redeeming feature. Mrs. Alving's open disgust for him is surely evidence enough for that. Frank Coleman gave us a portrait of an entertaining rogue with a good line of blarney—surely no Ibsen character.

Perhaps the weakest character in the play was Pastor Manders. But Ibsen's Manders is not weak. He lacks both charm and humour. He believes in a code which always gives an immediate answer—an answer which is always correct moral theory, but which fails every time it is applied to a specific case. When Mrs. Alving left her hus-

band and went to Manders for help, it was not because of liking or respect, but because she was then an adherent of the Manders code, and appeal to the pastor was the correct answer to the situation. Gilbert Johnstone's Manders sometimes found a moment to smile. Ibsen's never did.

Pat Girling-Butcher probably came nearer to Ibsen's idea of Mrs. Alving, but Mrs. Alving is one of the greatest tragic roles of the stage. It was a fine effort, but VUC no more has an actress capable of playing Mrs. Alving adequately than it has an actor who could play Hamlet. Surrounding her with caricatures was no assistance in a difficult role. She had the sympathy of the audience, but for the wrong reasons.

Although Oswald might have appeared as he did in the Quartier latin, he could never have done so in Norway. The mere possibility makes the play incredible.

For the most part the words of Ibsen (or rather, of Mr. William Archer) seemed out of place on the lips of the characters on the stage. The copious footnotes with which Mr. Archer garnishes his translations make it harder to understand how the interpretations arrived at were reached. However, if the aim of the Drama Club was to amuse its audience rather than to instruct, then it must be granted a large measure of success. G.A.E.

(Matthew 27:46.)

A Sonnet

(Before a high altar)

*Nay, Christ! I bow no head before thy
throne,
Nor do I kneel and make a moan, and
show
My heart with all its heritage of woe
To thee whose sorrow equals scarce
my own.
Nay, Christ! for now I am a man full-
grown
And take my stand and hold thy god
my foe—
My foe and thine—for on thy cross I
know
Deserted by thy God . . . thou did'st
alone . . .
So now against the sky I hold my face,
No mercy do I ask, no homage give,
But lift my voice and cry thro' Time
and Space
I have my right to die, my right to
live,
And, triumphing, to speak him at the
end
Who proved at last to thee so false a
friend.* —ROLAND AP POWELL.

The Flute of Illusion . . .

*Life follows an echoing flute
Heard in the myriad minds of men.
The unseen Player the distant mute
Forever plays beyond the human ken.
Through thousand halls and past col-
onades
My feet do wander in wild quest
To the haunting flute that waylays
Today's labour. In maddening zest
The wanderer moves beneath the
magic spell
Through countless paths for the
Searchless,
And turns to rest beside the eternal
well
At the endless shores of Recess.*

—OMAR HJUMAS.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Press Gang

*You cannot hope
to bribe or twist,
thank God, the British
journalist;*

*but seeing what
the man will do
unbribed, there's no
occasion to!*

HUMBERT WOLFE.

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IS ANTI-FASCISM SUFFICIENT?

They left the Gym and went down the steps across the dark tennis court in silence, each ordering his thoughts and seeking an opening for conversation. They were both impressed by what they had heard, a lecture and film on the International Democratic Youth Movement, and each wished to draw the other out.

Finally, tritely, but there was nothing else for it, "What did you think of it?" said Fisher.

Barnes took a moment to consider, then replied slowly, "On the whole I think it's a good idea. It answers a definite need, the need for co-operation and internationalism, but—" he paused, "I can't help feeling that its basis is not positive enough."

"How do you mean? The constitution is pretty definite: fostering of world peace, co-operation between nations, better facilities for travel. They seem positive aims."

"On paper it looks positive. It's an excellent set of aims. But I've been reading some of their reports, and I'm rather worried by the messages from the national movements to the congress. The chief theme of most of them is 'we must be united against fascism,' or words to that effect. There's far too much emphasis on this negative aim."

"Yes, I've noticed that too, and it explains why some people have dismissed it as 'Communist.' Yet I wonder if anti-fascism is a negative aim."

"Surely. It is against something rather than for it."

"Well," said Fisher, "you would agree that we are all seeking the same thing: the recognition of the dignity and worth of the individual human personality. That sounds rather pompous, but it is as near as I can make it."

"Yes, that's about it."

"And fascism is the very negative, the denial of just that thing. It makes everyone completely subservient to the state and wastes human life recklessly in wars."

"Yes."

"Then anti-fascism is the negation of this negation (to quote Marx) and therefore is positive."

"That," said Barnes, "is sheer sophistry. It sounds logical, but I don't think it will bear study and I don't think you really believe it either."

Fisher grinned, "Nor do I, fully, but there's a grain of truth in it. Anyhow," he continued, "we must remember what the groups are that make up the movement. In Europe, at least, they have risen from the resistance. They fought the Nazis. They have just come out of a terrible experience, in which the dominant need was to defeat the enemy. Naturally anti-fascism seems supremely important."

"I grant that," said Barnes. "I can well understand how the emphasis arises. If I'd lived through the same experiences, I'd think the same as they do. But even so, that negative approach is not enough to hold the groups together. Think of the years to come when the war has receded in the people's minds. The impetus of the movement will then be lost, unless

there is a positive factor uniting them."

They walked on, silent. At the door, Fisher suddenly stopped. "No," he said, "there are basic aims, and they are pretty positive ones: the aim of peace, which is impossible under fascism."

"What about the peace of the grave?"

"It is the aim of democratic government, which is impossible under fascism. It is the ideal of the liberty of the individual. These are all implicit in anti-fascist action. That's the most urgent problem of today. The fighting is over, but the war goes on. There are still fascists in power in Spain, Greece and the Argentine. We must fight them, because if we don't we can't carry out our aims. It's like controlling a river. What we want eventually to do is to build an irrigation system. But first we must prevent floods which would destroy everything."

"Yes, that's perfectly true, but an irrigation scheme must contain something more than flood control alone—you can't stop there."

"But fascism is not dead, and so long as it is alive we've simply got to be united against it. Surely we've learnt the lesson of the war. It's so much easier to attack a disorganised group than an organised one. Hitler saw this. If it did nothing but prevent fascism, the World Federation of Democratic Youth should be supported."

"I suppose so. The combating of evil is a good thing, yet it is not a substitute for the achievement of good." They went on upstairs. "I only hope they really can get the organisation working on the positive lines as laid down by the constitution."

"Well," said Fisher, as they parted on the landing, "I hope so, too."

J.M.Z. and D.J.B.

Impromptu Debates Conflagration At College Portals

The four teams entered by the VUC Debating Society in the impromptu debate section of the Wellington Competitions met with conspicuous success. Besides our teams there were six other entries. University A, John McCreary and Joan Taylor, negated the proposition "That it is desirable for allied servicemen to marry girls from recent enemy countries" against University C, Frank O'Flynn and Leonard Samuj. The A team won this debate. University B also won their debate against a WEA team, when they affirmed "That N.Z. should omit Maoris from the Rugby team to go to South Africa." Nigel Taylor and Maurice Berry were our B team. Our D team, Kevin O'Brien and Brennan O'Connor, won their debate when they took the negative against a Hutt team on the proposition "That Communists should be admitted to the N.Z. Labour Party." The judge, Mr. J. Meltzer, commented very favourably on the standard of debating and on many of the individual efforts of our representatives. In the final decision our A team was placed first with the 88 points and our D team second with 86 points. Our C team tied with another team for third place. All's well that ends well and it is a pleasure to be able to record that yet another Varsity club has met with success in its particular field in open competition in Wellington.

Even a small fire at the College is an event in the generally drab intramural life of students in September. Luckily "Sallent" had given one of its men an hour off to attend a lecture, and he happened to be right on the spot. Here is his report.

You know the atmosphere in a lecture room five minutes to the hour? In A2 last Tuesday, it could not only be felt, but smelt. Unrest increased, until a cry "Professor, This is getting serious!" brought the gracious concession "I'll give you two minutes to save your lives."

Some of the curious looked in the kitchen door of the "caf."

"Any fires down here?"

"No, don't think so."

"We could smell burning from up above."

"We've only had the callphont on."

"Oh well, seems OK. Certainly can't smell anything here bar food."

"Of course, there's a small car on fire outside the window. It's been burning some time."

Keen again, they trotted outside. There was the little car burning all right, just under our window. There were about fifteen students there too. And do you think they were just standing around watching it? You're right, they were.

The new arrivals got to work—it wasn't much of a fire really—and

were soon reinforced by the arrival of a shiny fire engine, siren and all. A few minutes later a radio-equipped car appeared full of police, who started writing things down in their notebooks. A suitable anticlimax to the whole business will be provided if this is published in "Sallent."

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Finals Ball will be held this year on the first Friday night after the completion of all exams. This will probably be November 15.

There will be no Freshers' Finals Ball. A Tea Dance will be run instead.

Watch papers for notices of Xmas Ball and Vacation Tea Dances.

Correction

In the Editorial last issue a reference was made to monopoly firms of American capitalism. This should have read: 'Du Pont, Nemours, Rockefeller, and Morgan.'

ICI is, we understand, a British firm.

★ ★ ★

Notice

The Secretary advises that it is no longer necessary for clubs to obtain the permission of the Principal before requesting outside persons to speak at College functions.

American Imperialism

Dear Sir,—May I congratulate you on the progressive character of last week's editorial. I also welcome your invitation for comments on such a vital issue as American Imperialism. The latest news from overseas has indicated clearly the American intention of advancing its predominating influence as far as the Balkans and the Black Sea. It would certainly not come as a surprise to hear the U.S. press claiming the latter as "mare nostrum."

No fair-minded citizen will deny Russia's right to secure participation in the defence of the Dardanelles which very conveniently could be used as a spring board for aggression against the Soviet Union. A country that has had 20,000 of its cities destroyed and eight millions of its citizens killed by the Nazi invader surely has not only the right but solemn obligation to defend its frontier. I wonder what Mr. Byrnes' reaction would be to a Soviet claim to participate or decide over the control of the Panama Canal. Let us recall how the defenders of Western democracy staged a local "uprising" in the district of Panama which in 1904 belonged to the Republic of Columbia. The local inhabitants declared their independence from Columbian "tyranny," established a Republic and called on President Th. Roosevelt for help.

Beyond doubt such rattling of the sabre is designed to intimidate smaller nations in order to secure concessions for Wall Street money gangsters. Sir, this looks to me like a continuation of the game so successfully played by Hitler in the thirties. But the outcome of it can only be war.

G. WASCHNER.

★ ★ ★

Dear Sir,—The editorial can be the most important and influential column in a paper, provided that it is not only significant but that it is simply, concisely and accurately expressed.

Your editorial of August 21 contains important material, the full implication of which is obscured by a haze of pretentious journalese.

Cut out this adolescent drivel about "Don Juans," "Raptures of Chinese Exploitation," etc.; stop those showmen juggling with the atomic bomb; bind the article into a coherent whole, and then you will give, what many of us want in an editorial, an important commentary on current events from a standpoint not to be expected from the reactionary press of this country.

We congratulate you on publishing important facts and views relevant to a controversial topic. Keep it up; but for God's sake write simply.

"S.T.H.S."

Social Studies

Dear Sir,—The news as published in the daily papers that the College Council is investigating the possibilities of establishing a school of Social Studies at Victoria raises a question of vital importance to students. Many students feel and have felt that their University courses are of too academic a nature, and that they do not tie in with the realities of life and of human experience. Nor is there any cohesion between the different departments of the college dealing with those subjects having a particular sociological reference. I feel that properly used, a school of Social

Studies attached to Victoria would be of great benefit. It will of course prove impossible for any lecturers to lay down a readily acceptable norm of conduct owing to the diversity of opinion on the subject, but an attempt can be made to indicate the major schools of thought and the reasons behind the differences involved. The school must necessarily deal with matters in a descriptive manner rather than a prescriptive one, but even this will be valuable as it will undoubtedly awake the slumbering social consciences of many students, while it will be at least a valuable source of data for the many who desire to formulate an opinion for personal use, but who have nothing with which to work.

Those students who have in the past discovered a way of truth either from external sources or from the few channels available at the University in the shape of voluntary organisations will continue to develop as heretofore, but the new school, properly run, will provide them with an insight into the opinions and philosophies of other groups.

I would suggest that, if the plans of the Council ever come to fruition, the Executive should, either by calling a meeting or some other means, ascertain the views of the students on this matter. I think that this is one of the occasions when the viewpoints of students would be of very great value to the Council, provided that they are expressed in a reasonable and proper fashion.

In conclusion I would like to say that I feel this to be the most progressive step taken by the Council for many years and one well worthy of our hearty support, the Council itself deserving congratulation on the matter.—K. B. O'BRIEN.

Thailient Thumped

Dear Sir,—I must protest against the rather unkind remarks made in your magazine last week about those hirsute dipsomaniacal sub-editors of "Salient." It is obvious that these fanatical morons perform an important function in the life of the college. Their notoriously low standard of morality and associated communistic megalomania represent a rather fine synthesis of ethical and political view-points. This peccant integration embodied in these affectations reprobrates serves as a fine warning to freshers, besides providing the necessary dialectical contrast for the mature and virtuous! But even more these malcontents provide in their paroxysmal activities company and catharsis for those other obsessional neurotics and potential delinquents in our midst. It seems we must tolerate the anarchistic brawlings of this troupe and allow this festering sore to discharge its pus harmlessly on to the pages of "Salient."

I would urge them that your correspondent "Weekly Haircut" moderate his remarks about these perverts and realise that beneath this cloud of immature adolescentish exhibitionism is at least an ersatz silver lining of unintentional service to the community.—"PRO BONO?"

This cloud of adolescent exhibitionism would make any sub-editor dipsomaniacal.

★ ★ ★

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FILM AND STAGE—SALIENT REVIEWS "A NEW LIFE"

All life springs from life. As a result of a night club romance, a son is born to Edith, wife of Robert Cleghorne, heir to millions. The conflict of ideologies arising from the incompatibility of the Cleghorne way of life compared with Edith's, is the theme of the play "A New Life," by Elmer Rice, recently presented by Unity Theatre. The cast is to be congratulated on their polished performance. They played to disgustingly empty houses, but even on the last night, when all their enthusiasm must have vanished, were still able to transform a mediocre play into a delightful and memorable entertainment.

All the action takes place in the maternity hospital at East River, New York. The cold steel-blue of the background completely caught the hospital atmosphere. Tubular steel furniture would have completed the ultra-modern set-up. We doubt whether in a good maternity hospital babies would be trundled indiscriminately through the public waiting room. Minor points, however. The whole trip was well brought off, and the succession of pregnant women, harassed husbands, comfortable and uncomfortable visitors, crowned by the very American Cleghorne Snr., completed the effect.

The moral was rather doubtful. We presume that when Mr. Rice wrote the play, he had some definite aim in mind. However, in pandering to the American public, he has watered down the fundamental socialist theme, making it acceptable even to the Vanderbilts and their kind. The result is that a lot of time is wasted in talking around the subject without getting down to the point.

Bruce Mason as Robert Cleghorne was presentable, though somewhat insignificant as a leading man. He was handicapped by his clothes. It is difficult to strut the stage in a heroic manner, when one's sleeves and trousers are a couple of inches too short. He suffered from the limitations of his part. We doubt whether Cleghorne Jr. is the type on which to found a brave new world. He is too gullible. A man who can swing uncontrollably

from the "American way of life" to some idealistic future can hardly provide inspiration for others.

Convincingly pregnant, Patricia Hight, as Edith Cleghorne, played an embarrassing part well. Her acting in critical situations was perfect, and prevented the play from becoming bathetic. Her ideas, growing with the child and her developing mother instinct, were at least consistent, but, like those of most of the characters, vague and intangible.

Molly Beveridge was a perfect Mrs. Cleghorne, with all the spite of an ageing hypochondriac, who treated her "equals" with syrup and sweetness and her "inferiors" with disdain and insult. This ultimate of bourgeois society, had a fitting spouse in John Malcolm Cleghorne, big business magnate with a lot more common sense than his wife, but nevertheless treating her with a healthy respect that was good to see in one so accustomed to his own way, so intolerant of all who dared to oppose him, so loud in his vituperations of the socialist masses. These two provided the chief argument against the capitalist system, and by their efforts rescued the play from virtuous boredom.

Those students who did not see this performance, a fair number judging by attendances, missed something worth while. As entertainment it ranked high. Even the general public, had it gone, would have been well pleased.

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

Exchange Article

MALNUTRITION IN GREAT BRITAIN

In a Health Survey Report which is now famous, Sir John Boyd Orr revealed that in Great Britain before the war there were 4½ million people whose diet was grossly deficient in EVERY CONSTITUENT: 9 million others who lacked ALL the necessary vitamins and minerals; and 9 million more lacking some of the protective elements: in all, 22½ million people living on less than the MINIMUM standard of nutrition necessary for mere health, let alone full efficiency—and that this appalling malnutrition was due not to ignorance, nor scarcity, but to poverty.

Furthermore the facts are that in the year ending September, 1934, recruits to the number of 80,203 offered themselves to the army for enlistment. Of these men 54,639—that is over 50%—were rejected as unfit, chiefly on medical grounds. Yet, England before the war literally condemned to death 30,000 people in order to save £54,000,000 of its

annual government expenditure on food relief; and soon afterwards the Government was preparing to spend £1,500,000,000 in three years on armaments.

To come nearer home we find the following report from Australia: "30% of applicants for the Australian Interim Army have been rejected on medical and other grounds," the Army Minister (Mr. Forde) said. "General response in all states is good, but the percentage of those who do not measure up to the medical standard set is high."

These facts were obtained from "Honi Soit," the paper of Sydney University. In the same paper we find on another page a report from the Liberal Club (the Liberals being the Conservative Party of Australia) who had just had a discussion on "Communism in theory and practice." Beneath is quoted one paragraph from a Mr. Snashall's speech which was directed at Communism. "The speaker conceded only that the average Russian worker earns enough to keep his family and himself in health, and little else."

It seems therefore that the Russian worker is far better off than his English or Australian counterpart as he at least is in a position to keep himself and his family in health.—M.M.

THE LAST CHANCE

It was pleasantly refreshing in this film to hear the actors speaking in their own languages and not in the usual Hollywood English with the appropriate superimposed foreign accent. The flashing on to the screen of the translations was rather disconcerting. At times we found ourselves missing the translations while studying the scenery or mentally trying to untangle those parts of the dialogue which were in French. We wonder whether the wording could not have been omitted altogether, and the film carried through merely by the gestures and intonations of the voices of the actors. The possibility is interesting. After all, a theory of speech is founded on gesture.

The actual facts of the story have been adequately given in the daily press, and further comment would be superfluous.

Strangely enough our most vivid memories of this film are of trivial details. Did anyone notice that there were only five bullets and consistently six Germans. Was there a subtle significance in this number? Objectively, we swore at the exasperating determination of those refugees who cling ridiculously to their unwieldy baggage. Subjectively, we would have probably done the same. And at the hut, in making that brew of tea, enough snow was collected for a pint of liquid and yet at the distributing end, out came cup after cup. The parable of five fishes was not in the running. We were extraordinarily elated on seeing those German soldiers about turn on their skis in one neat jump. In fact we have privately decided that one of our next accomplishments shall be the same. And most delightful was the loveliness of feathery rushes glowing in warm sunlight. These things impressed us.

Essentially the moral is that there is no fundamental bar to mutual understanding between people. Given a sufficiently tangible goal, people of different creeds and nationalities can submerge political and racial differences in a common cause. The difficulty appears to be to define the goal and to approach it in an unprejudiced manner. We are too blinded in our outlook, too blindly patriotic. When we have learned to subdue these primitive emotions and to place others before ourselves we will have progressed.

The end of the film was flat, possibly due to an avoidable lapse in the logic of the plot. With the frontier lousy with skiing Germans, and with practically no cover on the snow fields, the obvious course would have been to cross the frontier at night-fall. Yet, lo and behold, we see the party struggling up the mountain clearly silhouetted against a gleaming white background. Of course, they are seen and of course the Germans take a pot-shot at them. Perhaps the end was too sloppily sentimental for us. At any rate it was flat.

This film has no solutions to suggest, and it offers no constructive arguments as to how tolerance and goodwill can be created. A problem is stated emotively and it is left to those who see the film to draw their own conclusions.—M.G.S. and T.A.T.

★ ★ ★

Springtime... When a young man's fancy turns to what old men have been doing all winter.

Tennis Season Opens

The season 1945/46 can be said to have been much more successful than 1944/45 although we were unable to claim as much fame as the Cricket and Rugby Clubs.

Inter-Club competitions were held fortnightly during the season and we had both a senior A and 2nd grade team entered. The results of these matches are not very satisfactory.

The 1946/47 Tennis Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting is:—

President: Gilbert Taylor.
Club Captain: George Napier.
Secretary: Ken Pranker.
Treasurer: Brian Igglesden.
Women's Committee: Julie Flett, Avis Reed, Loris Webley, Suzanne Hott, Shona McLeod.
Men's Committee: Tony Munden, Ken Bliss, Alan Mathews, Jack Walls, Mike Speirs.

Possibly there is a reason for our poor showing in inter-club play and that might be loosely termed "team spirit." A successful team must practise together as a team and to a great extent remain the same team at the end of the season as at the beginning.

Cathedral

Dear Sir,—The letter featured in the last issue contains the best reasons against the Cathedral's construction that I have ever read. The argument is sincere and not unfounded.

My main objection to the cathedral lies in criticising this as a social action. I am not a Christian, but as Jesus worked, loved and helped the poor people, then our professed Christians could do some real work then clearing the slums. Wellington—the slum city with a fine, useless cathedral. We are to have a new face, so that heritage may still exist. So that people may stagnate in material rottenness. Which is more valuable, human life or the pretty sentimentalism of religion?

The building materials and effort could go to partial relief of the situation. Then Christians could look at their work and say, "We helped somebody." Helping people is supposed to be a Christian precept; it apparently has changed to helping oneself. To which we hear the cry, "Good old 'Private Enterprise.'" — In disgust "HALLELUJAH OR HOW THEY DO- YA!"

Literary Club

Dear Sir,—I would be glad if you could find space in your columns for the following:—

A Literary Club has come into being this year at Canterbury having as objects the promotion of writing and interest in writing among students. As soon as possible after the November examinations we intend to publish a magazine of about 30 pages which will contain original prose and verse of a kind not sufficiently catered for by the "annuals" of each University College. So far as we know there is no such publication at Victoria, or at either of the other colleges, and for this reason we would welcome contributions from any of your readers who are interested.

The magazine will probably be printed by the Caxton Press to the

Our team to attend the Universities' Tournament at Christchurch did not acquit itself as well as our high hopes suggested.

Ben O'Connor showed flashes of excellent tennis but generally did not play up to his high standard, and his singles play was disappointing. Against Robson, a perfect stroke master, who won the singles, Ben was forced into mistakes. Partnered by Doug. Goodwin, they played an excellent doubles match and won one round but made little headway against Robson and Green (Otago).

Nancy and Rae Turner played a good game against the Kitsons (Canty.) but were generally outplayed.

We were pleased to know that Ben O'Connor and Doug. Goodwin had been granted NZU Blues and likewise VUC Blues.

In the past a number of players have made rather scathing remarks about our concrete courts. However we have contracted with a firm to top dress the four courts for the coming season which should open on September 28. When this has been done and the new nets up our courts should be as good as any in Wellington. There seems no reason why the standard of play should not rise in consequence.

G. C. TAYLOR, Chairman.
A. E. MUNDEN, Secretary.

tune of, say, 200 copies, some of which will be privately distributed and others sold (?) to the public. There may be a few blocks in the number and for these we would also welcome contributions. The publication is not on a commercial basis. No payment will be made for contributions and any profits that may accrue will be used to prop our own dithering finances.

Due recognition will be given to the fact if any work is printed that does not come from our own club. A tentative closing time for contributions is the end of October.

P. C. M. ALCOCK,
Hon. Sec. CUC Lit. Club.

College Clubs Note!

By this time you will have read the memorandum to clubs which was circulated recently. In furtherance of the Exec's policy for closer co-operation between the Exec. and the clubs, I stated that I was willing to give any assistance or advice with regard to financial and general business matters which club officers required. I urge you to take immediate advantage of my offer, since continuous information of the financial problems of clubs helps the Exec. materially at the same time for annual grants. For those who wish to accept my offer in the spirit in which it is given my phone No. (business) is 42-049, or I may be contacted in the Exec. rooms on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights at 7 and 8 p.m.

G. A. CHAPMAN,
Hon. Treasurer, VUCSA.

Sheing at Egmont

For the first ten days of the vacation Bill Te Whiti led a party of 26 girls and boys to Dawson Falls, Mt. Egmont. We are pleased to announce that everyone had an enjoyable holiday. Some even learnt to ski. If you know anyone who went, you will now know everything that took place; if not, you probably will not be interested.

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Winter Tournament—Victoria Down But Improving

Well, Winter Tournament, 1946, is over. You've heard the results and no doubt you expect an apology. We are not going to give you one. In the final tally, the results were: Auckland, 35; Otago, 22½; Canterbury, 19½; Victoria, 17½; Lincoln, 3½; Massey, 3.

Despite the fact that Victoria contrived only to beat LAC and MAC, we feel that our teams put up very creditable performances and that the Tournament was a great success.

Our fencers, greatly aided by the prowess of B. H. Cato, won their contest.

Our soccer team carried shoulder-high its last year's tradition by scoring 5½ points—a greater number than that gained by any other team from VUC. The selector of the NZU rep. team stated his conviction that had the VUC Soccer team played Auckland the next day instead of three hours after alighting from the train, VUC would have gone home with three extra points.

The golf team which boasted a champion in the form of J. D. Nash, gained us one point out of a possible four, and had Mr. Nash been able to play the final, a further two points would have been assured.

In Men's hockey Victoria tied with Otago for second place, thereby gaining Victoria three points. This was a good effort inasmuch as a large proportion of the players were selected from our B grade team. Women's hockey did not do so well, but then, having travelled to Auckland as an advance-guard of the main Tournament body, they lacked moral support.

Table tennis were runners-up in their contest, but unfortunately gain no points for that honour. Men's basketball, after a series of skirmishes in the back-blocks of Avondale, returned to Wellington their heads bloody but unbowed.

To the harriers probably most credit is due. Unlike the majority of the VUC reps. who went to Auckland, the harriers began by putting in several months of serious training. They gave up smoking, drinking, and late nights. In the actual race (a gruelling course of 6½ miles) J. C. Hawke gained third place. The remainder of the harriers did not do too well, but for the other team from VUC they did a magnificent job. Dressed in Weir House football jerseys (kindly lent for the occasion) and home-made hats they proved themselves an excellent haka-party. In this fashion, more than any other team which travelled to Auckland they succeeded admirably in providing that spirit which is as much a feature of Tournament as sport itself.

Social activities at Tournament included numerous dances, a riotous men's smoke concert, a barbecue in the College Hall when the weather prevented a trip that had been planned to Long Bay, and finally—the pièce de résistance—Tournament Ball. The latter was undoubtedly the most successful function of Winter Tournament. The punch was so good that the manager of the Civic Winter Gardens (the venue of the Ball) offered its manufacturers £10 for the recipe. They were, of course, quite unable to recall it.

Our very sincere thanks are due to Christine Spencer, who so willingly and so ably handled Victoria's billeting problems. For Denis Griffin a separate article is really necessary. Fighting

against every representative from the southern Universities Denis achieved a major triumph in his organisation of train reservations from Wellington to Auckland and back. He now knows by their christian names every toll operator between Wellington and Dunedin. He has our sincere gratitude.

In conclusion we feel that some general comment on Winter Tournament would not be out of place. We have heard complaints regarding the lack of organisation of the various social functions in Auckland. While realising that such complaints are not entirely groundless, we would point out an important aspect of this and every other social function. Given a basic minimum of organisation a Tournament is undoubtedly what you make it. In Auckland we had more than a minimum of organisation. Further, it was evident from the start that our hosts' keenness at sport was equalled only by their desire to give us a good time. In short we would say that if there was any person who went to Auckland who did not enjoy himself, it was on his own head.

VIVIENNE RICH,
J. B. WEIR.
Tournament Delegates.

SOCCER SCORE WELL

This year tournament honours were shared with Auckland and Otago, each team winning three games and losing one.

Arriving in Auckland about 9 a.m. and averaging two hours sleep, the Victoria team had its game at 1-30 p.m. against the fresh Auckland side. VUC played a stubborn game till half time, then leading 2-1, but in the second half the pace was too fast, telling particularly in the defence who faced the fast Auckland forwards. Auckland won 5-2.

Next morning saw some fine football in the VUC-Otago game. Gilles, in goal, tossed himself around the goal to save in fine style and his clearances were strong. The unorthodox defence of Sutton-Smith and Dickson with Richardson playing a brilliant defensive centre-half game, had the Otago forwards worried and only once did they look like scoring. This they did.

The left and right halves, Spiers and Johnstone were superior to the opposing halves and had command of the centre of the field assisted by Simmonds who worked very hard and Mackie, who made fine solo efforts. On the wings, Edwards and Weir moved fast, and centred efficiently, one from Weir being nodded into the net by Simmonds who was backing up well. Walls at centre-forward fed his men well and his was a fine shot to give VUC a 2-1 win.

During the game Simmond's leg was injured and he was unable to play in the later games, thereby missing selection in the NZU team. His place was taken by Johnstone while Reddy took over at right-half.

Victoria beat Lincoln 12-0 after a light lunch of ribo and hop extract. With Johnstone not available, Piper filled his berth in the game against Canterbury which was won comfortably 8-1. On the same day Otago had an easy win against Auckland, 5-0.

Of those who played in the NZU team which lost to Auckland reps. 4-2, Sutton-Smith, Dickson and Johnstone were awarded NZU blues, Spiers, Walls and Edwards missing for no apparent reason.

Richardson, first choice for centre-half, was unfortunately unable to play.

The following VUC representatives have been nominated for NZU Blues, 1946.

Men's Hockey: H. Scott.
Soccer: R. Dickson, B. Sutton-Smith, K. Johnstone.
Fencing: B. Cato, P. Hampton.
Harriers: C. Hawke.

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SWORDS OVER THE FENCE

This year the Swords Club has achieved Victoria's only clear win in Inter-Varsity competition. This win is especially satisfying when it is remembered that the local club is by far the youngest of the four Varsity clubs and at most one third the size of the others.

That the contest was extremely close is shown by the fact that there were 170 hits against VUC, 177 against CUC, 178 against AUC and 181 against OU.

At the end of the morning it seemed virtually impossible for VUC to win. They lost the first match to Otago 6-10 and though 4-4 in bouts with AUC, were well down on hits. After lunch, however, they picked up, and catching up the hits deficiency, won on the hits after a final score of 8-8.

During this time CUC defeated AUC 9-7 and OU on hits.

When the third and final round opened CUC had two wins, VUC and OU one each and AUC none.

The AUC v OU match was short in duration and AUC by their victory put themselves and OU, with one match each, out of the running. There were still two bouts to go in the VUC v CUC match and VUC with 9 bouts in were in an unassailable position in the match. They had, however, to get 10 bouts to win the competition. The bout score was VUC 23, CUC 22. CUC won the second to last bout, making it 23 each.

Excitement was high during the last bout which VUC won on the last point after the score had gone to 4-4.

The final result was: VUC and CUC 2 matches each, AUC and OU 1 match each. However, VUC with 24 bouts gained first place over CUC's 23 bouts.

In explanation, in event of two teams winning the same number of matches, the team winning the most bouts over the whole contest, wins.

In a match between two teams there are 16 bouts. Should each team win 8, then the team with the least number of hits against it wins.

Each bout is for the best of nine hits.

The standard attained at the tournament may be partly gauged by the fact that the AUC team, which has been considered by the N.Z. Amateur Fencing Association good enough to enter a team in the N.Z. Championships, was last in the NZU contest.

During the last fortnight a quantity of new gear has been acquired and with more on the way, new members will be very welcome from now on. Anyone doubting the excellence of fencing as a sport should see those members of the Executive who came along to have a look at us in Auckland.

Our victory this year is largely due to the excellent work put in by our coach, Mr. V. St. C. Dickson, who though neither student nor ex-student gives up a considerable amount of his time to show us how it's done.

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