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An axe to grind?  
A rod in pickle?  
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Then  
Send it to "Spike"

# Salient

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

VOL. 10, No. 3 ★ WELLINGTON, APRIL 2, 1947 ★ Price: BY SUBSCRIPTION

EXTRAV . . .  
Rehearsals  
Begin  
Soon  
WATCH NOTICES!

## Sporting Fraternity Departs with High Spirits

Easter 1947 will see the New Zealand University Tournament at Auckland. Nearly 300 students from the six University Colleges will gather for six days. The old assumption that a city can stand up to such an influx only once in four years has been discarded—Auckland survived Winter Tournament last August, and has now collected its resources for the second wave of the attack.

Complete team lists are included below. In addition to the usual summer sports—athletics, swimming, rowing, tennis, rifles, boxing and basketball—there will be a North-South cricket match. This will not count towards the Tournament Shield.

Tournament is not purely a sporting meeting. It is the only opportunity for most students from the six colleges to meet each other—in short, the only manifestation of the New Zealand University Students' Association as a corporate body. Coinciding with Tournament is a General Meeting of NZUSA, to which the four main colleges send three delegates each, and the agricultural colleges send two delegates each. A separate article on NZUSA will be found elsewhere in this issue.

For your information, we supply a summary of form of the VUC teams. There is a vague possibility that VUC may not gain the Wooden Spoon this year.

### Athletics

Men.—A. J. Catt, 100 and 220 yds.; D. J. Dillon, 100 and 220 yds.; J. H. Goldfinch, 440 yds.; P. Munro, 880 yds., High Jump; C. Clere, 880 yds., One Mile T. Whittle, One Mile, Three Miles; R. Sutherland, 120 and 220 yds. Hurdles; G. Fox, 440 yds. Hurdles; T. Levy Broad Jump, Hop, Step and Jump; A. Marshall, Shot, Hammer and Discus; J. Lissienko, Shot, Discus; E. R. Apperly, Javelin; P. F. Giles, Pole Vault; B. J. Pohlen, One Mile Walk; D. Tossman, Coach and Masseur.

Women.—B. Fougere, 75 yards. Relay; M. Shouler, 100 yards, 75 yards. Relay; J. Norris, 100 yards. Relay; H. Spencer, High Jump, Javelin, 80 metres Hurdles; J. Flett, Javelin, 80 metres Hurdles; T. Marwick, Relay.

### Boxing

R. W. Gray, Bantamweight; D. A. Muir, Featherweight; B. Webb, Lightweight; M. Wishart, Welterweight; B. Peters, Middleweight; E. C. Adams, Light heavyweight; J. L. Roberts, Heavyweight.

★ ★ ★

This Easter the boxing team will be one of the fittest and keenest to go to a Tournament. Nothing will be lost on the score of ability and there is every chance that the team will bring the Boxing Shield back. Ken Coveney has performed a great job in preparing the team with the result that seven very able and confident boxers will represent Victoria this year.

The Bantamweight representative is R. W. Gray, who is particularly fast and clever and is a good candidate for the scientific award.

The Featherweight, D. A. Muir, an aggressive, experienced boxer, has won this weight before and has every chance of repeating that performance.

In the Lightweight division there

is a much improved boxer in B. Webb, who fought so well against the winner of the Lightweight last year. This Tournament his boxing will be far superior to his excellent previous form.

Another improved boxer is M. W. Wishart, the Welterweight representative. Winner of this class last year, his subsequent improvement in speed and experience will make him perhaps too formidable to any opponent he may meet at Auckland.

In V. Peters we have a Middleweight who can punch very hard and whose experience and aggressive spirit gives him an excellent chance in his weight at Auckland.

The Light-heavyweight, E. C. Adams, is very fast for his weight and has a devastating punch in both hands. Fit and hard, he can confidently expect success this Easter.

J. L. Roberts, the Heavyweight, is another former representative who has improved considerably on last year's form, and his size and speed will weigh the balance in his favour this year.

Altogether the team is composed of worthy representatives and there is no doubt that they will acquit themselves very well at Auckland.

### Shooting

J. Baker, G. Catley (Massey), D. V. Henderson, A. T. S. Howarth, D. O'Sullivan, S. T. H. Scoones, I. Henderson (emergency).

★ ★ ★

Since the beginning of the term the Defence Rifle Club has practised every Saturday at Trentham. There has been a good attendance on each occasion and much valuable experience has been gained.

From those eligible a team of six riflemen has been selected to represent Victoria in the Haslam competition at Tournament. This team re-

presents a majority of seasoned men together with a leavening of excellent new blood.

It would be foolish to try to predict the outcome of the competition, but we can assure our supporters that not only is this a competent team but also that it can be relied upon to do its best when the time comes.

### Basketball

Shirley Cole, Marie Irwin, Audrey Cook, Kath. Martin, Avis Reed, Audrey Inkersell, Dot Peebles, Geraldine Player, Gay Nimmo, Muriel Vincent, Julie Dean, Suzanne Ferguson.

### Swimming

L. B. Piper, Backstroke, Dive and 220 yards Breaststroke; L. M. Murphy, 100 yards Freestyle; J. P. Murphy, 100 yards Breaststroke; D. Dowse, 100 and 220 yards Breaststroke; Nanette Broome, 50 and 100 yards Freestyle; Bice Young, 100 yards Breaststroke; Gwenda Martin, 100 yards Breaststroke; Hilary Spencer (Massey), Dive and Backstroke; K. Staples, 440 yards Freestyle; D. West, 220 yards Freestyle; J. Phillips, 220 yards Freestyle; R. B. Smith, 440 yards Freestyle; Marget McKenzie, 100 yards and 220 yards Freestyle.

★ ★ ★

Victoria sends higher hopes of success with this year's swimming team than she has done in the last ten years. Our star performer is D. Dowse, swimming in both men's breaststroke events. Nanette Broome, the 1947 Peck Shield winner, should do well in the women's freestyle (50 and 100 yards); likewise L. B. Piper in the dive (he is the Wellington champion). L. M. Murphy should be placed in the 100 yds. freestyle. We have no information about Hilary Spencer of Massey.



Barbara Fougere

"... first feminine name"

### Tennis

A. Reed and G. Rainbow, Women's Singles; A. Reed and G. Rainbow, L. Webley and J. Robbins, Women's Doubles; B. O'Connor and D. Goodwin, Men's Singles; B. O'Connor and D. Goodwin, J. Wells and H. Davidson, Men's Doubles; Miss Y. Chapman and Mr. H. Davidson, Miss J. Robbins and Mr. J. Walls, Combines.

★ ★ ★

O'Connor and Goodwin, last year's Tennis Blues, have again come to the fore this year. O'Connor entered for the singles in the New Zealand championships held at Christchurch last Christmas. He did very well in getting to the third round in the singles, but was unfortunate in the doubles, his partner not being available at the last minute.

Davidson and Walls entered for the Wellington Provincial championships and played well to get into the quarter finals. Gladys Rainbow is also a N.Z. University Blue and has played consistently for the A team during the season.

The doubles combinations have improved on last year's teams, and if the singles players are on form at Auckland the team will have an excellent opportunity to carry off Tournament honours.

### Rowing

S. Gillan, Stroke; K. G. Honore, Seven; R. C. Connel, Six; G. Stuckey, Five; N. Pownall, Four; P. N. Taylor, Three; D. H. Thomas, Two; V. E. Donnelly, Bow; G. Ward, Cox.

(More sports on p. 8.)

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# Salient

Wednesday,  
April 2.

## US Sidesteps UN

March 1947 has been full of political significance for people all over the world. Many eyes have turned to the great bastion of world reaction and imperialism to witness its aggressive acts being put into legal form. Congress and its satellite President Truman have finally dropped all pretence of achieving Big Five unity as outlined at Potsdam and Yalta. It has given up the traditional line of foreign policy based on the Monroe doctrine and has exchanged it for one of "intervention wherever there is the danger of the people taking control under left-wing militant leadership." Congress has set out on its democratising mission by bolstering up a Fascist regime in Greece which, in the words of Mr. Thomas, M.P., makes the Franco regime look like a Sunday-school picnic. Assistance will also be given to Turkey, which after 28 years of Ataturk-Inonu dictatorship, still lacks the essential democratic rights of free speech, association and assembly. The aims of American Imperialism are crystal clear. With a diminishing home market and increasing unemployment, Wall Street capitalism must "export or die." It must assert its dominance abroad in order to divert the American people's attention from its problems at home, thus paving the way for World War III. By sidestepping the United Nations, President Truman has shattered all illusions of American co-operation in the collective effort of solving the world's problems.

The ink has hardly dried on this shamefaced document of intervention when Truman issues another equally vicious executive order. This time he follows up his former attacks on the American labour movement by a purge order to the Civil Service Commission and heads of departments. "All totalitarians, fascists, communists and their sympathisers are to be removed." On this assumption we must expect almost the whole of the State Department to be dismissed. However, we know only too well against whom this order is directed. If ever you have belonged to an "Aid for Russia" committee or if ever your wife has knitted socks for Russian children, it will be taken as sufficient grounds for dismissal. The task for American labour and the progressive forces in the world today is to intensify the struggle against the Fascist clique in Washington and not to allow them to impose their rule on either the Americans, on us, or any people which today is subject to their attacks.

## Freedom of Speech

The last two weeks have seen a focussing of public attention on to student affairs, through the columns of newspapers which lose no opportunity to condemn students for their occasional lapses, and which neglect completely the value of the university as a force in the community.

John Child's speech at the Otago University Freshers' Welcome was cynical and amusing, and refreshingly frank even if it was not really constructive. But the question involved is the right of students' elected representatives to express freely their opinions on all subjects, within the limits of obscenity and libel. We have sufficient faith in family life and our educational system to believe that the students who heard Mr. Child's speech will not, because of it, immediately and without some thought, reject the moral standards they have been educated to respect. The ill-considered dogmatism of those who attacked Mr. Child will do more to undermine the young generation's acceptance of established authority than his own flippant remarks.

It is not yet definite what measures have been taken against Mr. Child. Whatever they are, we deplore them. It is by such vindictive measures that a university loses its dignity and its status as a centre of learning and tolerance.



# Phantasmagoria of a Sick Mind

*Darkness at Noon* is intended to be a novel version of the Moscow trials of 1937-1938. At the outset Koestler accepts the postulate of the Trotskyists, that the confessions of the accused, in reality quite innocent, do not correspond with any real situation. This makes it necessary for him to explain their attitude, and this he tries to do.

An American critic in "Politics" defines the book as "an ingenious use of Marxism for the arrangement of a detective novel." But Koestler asks us to believe that the tragedy, beneath the veil of fiction, is true. For the fiction is not intended to deceive the reader; the book presents no mythical universe, but deals with pre-war Russia, with Stalin, with the Trotskyists brought before the Soviet tribunals.

The first clear fact that emerges is that Koestler, in order to describe the Soviet prisons, which he has never seen, draws on his experience of fascist prisons. Side by side with facts of pure invention, there is a considerable amount of striking documentation, taken from the diary of his term in Franco's gaols (for Koestler's first book on this subject, see *Spanish Testament*). His cell, his gaolers, his prison are very real; the prison is that of Seville, the gaolers are Falangists, and Roubachov is Koestler in the hands of the Spanish Fascists.

It is all well done, and seizes the attention. But as the story progresses and the pages are turned, the reader becomes uneasy. The reporter gives way before the political philosopher, whose analyses are very open to question.

In so far as Roubachov is a prisoner, he is human, believable, almost likeable. But Koestler constantly takes him in hand to mould him into a Bolshevik, and then his character has the same relation to that of a revolutionary as Eric von Stroheim in Hollywood has to Germans in Germany.

Roubachov, moreover, no longer believes in the revolution: that is his only crime, for if he sinned, it was by his intentions, never by action.

## An American Comment

An impartial observer at the trials in 1938, Joseph E. Davies, then US Ambassador to Moscow, gave his final opinion on them in *Mission to Moscow*:

*All of these trials, purges, and liquidations, which seemed so violent at the time and shocked the world, are now quite clearly a part of a vigorous and determined effort of the Stalin government to protect itself from not only revolution from within but from attack from without. They went to work thoroughly to clean up and clean out all treasonable elements within the country.*

*There were no Fifth Columnists in Russia in 1931—they had shot them. The purge had cleansed the country and rid it of treason.*

It is of course, unnecessary to state that Koestler rejects this interpretation of the facts; but the explanation he presents incarnate in Roubachov, however powerful it is through the veracity of its concrete details, is quite untenable. For the whole novel is based on a masterly piece of prestidigitation. I have read and re-read *Darkness at Noon*, but I cannot succeed in distinguishing through this would-be logical plot the intellectual hinge on

which Roubachov hangs his simulation of guilt; except in this, that Roubachov affirms that, for him, the only solution is the denial and suppression of his own convictions since there is no means in existence of bringing them to a successful materialisation. Such an attitude can lead to inertia, to silence, to death, but not to the parade of treason in which he indulges.

There is another psychological gradation in Roubachov's mind which Koestler allows to be half-seen. Despite his pessimism and his fatigue, he nevertheless still believes, imperfectly and despite his "betrayal," in the Revolution for which he has lived. He no longer believes in it enough to live for it, but enough to sacrifice himself to it. He is no longer willing to devote his energies to it; but he is willing to give it his death.

This is all quite false. These are the subtle but exasperated analyses of a sick mind, sick because it has lost touch with the real world, with the living complexity of history. For the terrible weakness of *Darkness at Noon* is its character of artificial and withered conjecture. The æsthetic and moral condemnation of Koestler's novel is within the book itself. Its relative merit is to make us live with the soul of an artificial being, totally cut off from the world and from other men.

—C. R.

## College Entertainment

### — Drama

Noel Coward is always popular with the critics and general public, but apparently not with students. Not nearly enough attended the recent performances given by the Drama Club.

"Private Lives" revived by the VUC Drama Club, contains a good deal of all that is best in Coward. In and out of matrimony the unforgivable sins are dullness and pomposity; infidelity slips into a venial category, and the prime marital virtue becomes a rigid addiction to flippancy combined with a capacity to throw off apophthegms in the middle of a domestic row. To satisfy these conventions, situation tends to take the place of plot. Given two honeymoon couples, the Chases and the Prynnes staying at the same hotel, it follows with a minimum of demonstration that the present Mrs. Prynne was formerly Amanda Chase. The old lovers meet, go through the motions of falling in love again, and elope to Amanda's flat in Paris. Act II must now be started up and kept going until the jilted pair can arrive on a scene of renewed and violent disharmony. But the emotional possibilities are already exhausted; and characters so slimly conceived can scarcely admit of development. The Coward sleeve is wide enough for the occasion and the brilliance of his vocabulary prevents any disastrous sagging. Once the quartet are brought together, the resolution takes care of itself. Betty Spindley gave a particularly fine performance as Amanda; realising that an unguarded moment's security could wreck

*Tell me not, Sweet, I've seen the light,  
If I should seem to flee  
My thirsty friends of Friday night,  
The hills, and you, Chérie.*

*But ghosts compel me more and more  
To see you less and less;  
To quit today for days of yore  
And love for letterpress.*

*The man who sang and bellowed skool  
When Beowulf got him drunk  
Now lays an unguent to his soul  
By making me a monk.*

*The kaka screams on Alpha jet  
But cannot countervail  
The harsh, imperious duct  
Of Owl and Nightingale.*

*Would the bland and flippant bluntness  
of the skin  
Become profound, an inverted couch  
for my sky-floun,  
Light-footed, super-ego, O egotic spirit!*

*Perhaps I should be amazingly absorbed  
and perraded  
(Not without some justice) with in-  
reterate desires*

*To repeat the warmth of dual fusion,  
hip to hip,  
The wind sounding an idle virelay  
down dark, deserted streets  
Or waving and bending like a bow the  
hillside grass and trees.*

*O woman, he sings of you.*

—SEAROS.

# POETRY

*And Burns, the rantin', drouthy bard—  
I might have hoped his benison:  
But no, he drives me just as hard  
As Thackeray or Tennyson.*

*To cram the classics wearily  
In ill-digested dollops,  
And shun your sweet society  
To spend the night with Trollope's.*

*Indeed, the situation's such  
As few will not deplore:  
I could not love thee, Dear, so much,  
Loved I not Honours more.*

—H.W.G.

## Love Song

*If as I turn my mind, I turned my  
body  
Hip to hip aligned with yours,  
What wonders would the after-sense  
reveal?  
What contours would the clouds  
assume?  
And would the mountains turn from  
their pristine heights  
And deliver, like an incantation, the  
secret of their beauty?*

## Post War POW

*In Kärnten now, on tall Gross Glock-  
ner's top,  
A bright white handkerchief of sun-  
light falling  
Becomes a carpet, dazzlingly unfurl-  
ing.  
Long flashing folds of silver down the  
slope.  
Ach, lieber Gott, to cut, steep step by  
step,  
A path again towards high Glock-  
ner's ceiling.  
To turn, content, with, token of the  
scaling,  
An edelweiss to decorate your cup!*

*And when the last pale citadels of day  
The climbing tide of shadows comes  
to claim,  
To hear within some warm pine-  
scented room,  
Elfreda sing "Dein ist mein Herz," and  
know  
This unmajestic English winter-time,  
And all these long verloren years,  
vorbei!*

—CAPJ.

the role's coherence, she wiles her way through a number of *voltes faces*, giving to every line and movement the brittleness and polish that Coward demands. Michael Benges's playing of Elyot Chase was equally well judged, sauvity of manner and vocal furriness accentuated his actions. Catherine Crosse's performance improved vastly as the play progressed and was very convincing in the last act. As the cotton-wool Englishman, Chum Patterson was adequate without being outstanding.

Both sets, the twin balconies and Amanda's flat, were very good, it being pleasing to see that the balcony rail did not collapse when Elyot Chase lounged on it. Jacqueline Richards can be congratulated for her excellent work as property mistress, and the same applies to the others responsible for the work backstage.

Pix. Hurrel is to be congratulated for his smooth and natural production.—J.S.

## — and Film

"Film and Reality," a selection of extracts from the significant films of the past, produced by Cavalcanti and

purporting to show how the film has become an important realistic art-form, was screened at the recent AGM of the Debating Society.

But was the immense interest of the film due to the reinforcing of the theme by the individual parts or to the interest of those parts themselves? Cavalcanti assures us in the preface that he will not keep strictly to chronological order and then proceeds to be a slave to it! His choice of extracts was, in general, good, as they illustrated points of technique which were quite important, but the commentator failed to make these points. The comparison between the two mutiny sequences contained the only important comment of this kind.

With the material at his disposal, one cannot help feeling that Cavalcanti could have pressed home his theme more vigorously, with more effective use of contrast, commentary and continuity. The sections on the newsreel and documentary, adequately put together, were not sufficiently contrasted with the exotic romantic type. Thus, the climax of the film, instead of being a revealing synthesis, was a tame ending to a not very artistically arranged series of absorbing extracts.

## Aborigines Caged?

The Annual General Meeting of the VUC Socialist Club was held on Friday, March 14. About forty students attended, as well as some visitors, and the keenness displayed in discussion of the Club's programme promises well for the year's activities.

Satisfaction was expressed with the Club's "Newsletter," of which the first issue for this year has already appeared, and which will be brought out about three or four times each term. Members of the Club have contributed many useful and interesting articles to this Newsletter, the sales of which on the first day were very satisfactory.

The chief item of interest at the meeting was the report given by Mr. Alec McLeod on his visit to Australia, where he attended the Australian Student Labour Federation Conference in Melbourne. After an interesting address, the ensuing discussion centred chiefly around the conditions of the Australian Aborigines. From Mr. McLeod's remarks it was apparent that they are in a position little better than Zoo inmates; they are excluded from Trade Unions, from parliamentary franchise, and from practically every other means of improving their position. Asked whether Aborigines attended the Universities, Mr. McLeod said he didn't know; he hadn't seen

any. It was interesting to find that even in Australia the white man's burden is carried on in the true 19th century style. However, some of the more militant Trade Unions and the Labour Clubs and SCM in the Universities, are making continued efforts to have the Aborigines elevated to human status. It was pointed out that University Students here can do a similar job, in collaboration with the Trade Unions, in dealing with New Zealand's own native problem, that of the Cook Islanders, who, after all, are in much the same position as the Aborigines of Australia.

It was felt that Mr. McLeod's visit to Melbourne had been an excellent thing for the Socialist Club, and for University Students in general. Valuable links have been established with progressive student bodies across the Tasman, and in future, joint action on many problems will be much more practicable.

The proposed activities of the Socialist Club for the next few months were set out as follows: Next Wednesday night, an address by L. S. Hearnshaw on Industrial Psychology. Meetings following closely after this will be addressed by Mr. Bill McAra, of the Ship Carpenters' Union, Mr. W. J. Scott of Training College, and Mr. A. H. Scotney. Also on the programme are lunch-hour meetings, Sunday evening meetings and week-end conferences.

## Extrav Needs Men Clowns, Too

Once again we are faced with our yearly production of the Extravaganza, once again pianos are thumping, hammers will soon be going, tempers becoming frayed and the whole general mad swirl of trying to organise sixty or seventy students into a show that people will pay money to see, has commenced.

The script, once it has been brought up to date and made livelier in spots, should be a suitable basis for clowning and hilarious misconduct in which this yearly outbreak of neurosis culminates.

The cast is still at that hopeless amorphous stage where no one knows who they are, why they are, or how they will do anything. To those who find this somewhat alarming, let me say that this is a necessary portion of a student show, which, until the general necessity for cooperation sinks in, is typified by those who say, "I'm afraid I find that I can't take part." "But, I always go to my hairdresser on a Monday." "Rehearse on a Sunday, I wouldn't dream of it." "My mother wouldn't like me to do such things." The man next to me in the chorus has been eating onions, can I be something else, please?" and so on. At the end of a fortnight everyone has a rough idea of all the parts, and then the real organisation can take place, and chorus, blimps, commos, wallahs, negroes, sailors, ballets finally fixed.

To those who are not taking part in it, let me say that you are missing one of the experiences of Varsity life. To have passed through Victoria College and not taken part in Extrav, is like saying you once toured India and didn't see the Taj Mahal. The cast is almost complete but there is still room for a few men; they can find out from their friends when the next rehearsal is and come along to be cast. The orchestra also has room for good and competent players—comb and tissue paper artists need not apply.

To the producer and property people, costumes, and all those who have to deal with that variable article, the varsity student, give your sympathy, and when you pass them in the corridor or see them nibbling a pathetic meal in the Caff., shed a silent tear and say, "There stands a worried man."

## Politicians' Club

A lively meeting of 53 people was held to inaugurate the Political Science Society. After a brief address by a representative of the Executive (Mr. Collins), who stressed the desirability of the formation of faculty committees, the gathering was addressed by Messrs. Warner and Howarth who outlined the proposed activities of the society.

These may be summarised briefly as:

(a) To start a regular series of lecture discussions, importing prominent speakers when ever possible.

(b) To commence publication of a quarterly journal which will publish exchange items from overseas magazines and also original research from within the college.

(c) To agitate for the establishment of an Honours stage in Political Science.

An interim committee was elected to draw up a constitution for the society, and this will be submitted for ratification at the next meeting.

### R. M. DICKSON MEMORIAL VOLUME

A Memorial Volume is being prepared, and the Executive has undertaken to have it bound. Any student who has any anecdote, appreciation or contribution is reminded that these are now overdue. These should be sent to:—

B. SUTTON-SMITH,  
14 Waitoa Road, Hataitai, E.2.

## All God's Chillun

We in Wellington are on the whole unaware of the existence of the colour-bar, but on March 14 and 15 the audiences in the Concert Chamber were forced to realise the tremendous social implications of this problem. "All God's Chillun" depicts the harassing lives of two young people who are unwilling to submit to social pressure. It is the story of Jim, a negro youth, and Ellen, a white girl, who at an early age form a staunch friendship which they reaffirm in later years.

Jim, eager to study law is unable—because of the inhibitory effects of his fear of failure and his constant awareness of the existence of the colour bar—to pass the examinations even though the subject itself presents no difficulties. Ellen, a girl without friends or relatives, accepts Jim's avowal of love and his proposal of marriage (both of these are couched in terms such as a slave would use when appealing to his owner). Realising, after their marriage, the hostility with which they will be met, by both the white folk and Jim's relatives they flee to France where they live happily for a while. But this does not last. Ellen becomes uneasy about their cowardly escape and they decide to return to America, and, so they think, to their home and friends. On their return, however, Ellen finds herself snubbed even by the notorious white pimp. Gradually the effect of being constantly surrounded by Negroes becomes too much for her and results in a complete mental derangement. Though she loves Jim, she hates, abhors and decries the black in him, and is determined that he, the "black" man, is incapable of passing his examinations whilst at the same time she desires the happiness for her husband whom she wishes to become the greatest of all lawyers. Realising he has lost her as a wife, Jim is still eager and willing to bear his responsibility (which he believes does not consist in sending her to a mental hospital as urged by his sister). At the conclusion of the play Jim prays for the strength to protect and watch over her, through sickness and health until death do them part.

## Chem Society —AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Chemistry Society was held on Tuesday, March 18, in the Biology Lecture Room.

There was a good attendance and the following officers were elected for the coming year:—

Secretary-Treasurer: B. J. O'Brien.  
Committee: Miss M. G. Simmers, Messrs. J. S. Saxton and T. A. Turney.

The incoming committee have co-opted Mr. W. S. Metcalfe as chairman of the society. Speakers at the meeting urged the incoming committee to consider ways and means of enlivening the society's activities.

After the general business, the film "Life of Louis Pasteur" was shown. The meeting concluded with supper.

## —and Film

The scientific value of this film is not great but it is quite fair entertainment. Approximately half the film deals with the domestic life of Pasteur and his assistant, apparently the most

This brief synopsis of the plot is by no means adequate to indicate the stirring situations as presented by Eugene O'Neill. The undeniable influence of environmentally-induced attitudes of Ellen, who has unconsciously accepted the iron curtain between the two races, forms the centre of conflict in the play. The play presents a problem. That the colour bar exists is an accepted condition; that intermarriage brings unending grief is dramatically portrayed; but how can we surmount this problem? How can we change or improve this situation? Eugene O'Neill does not tell us. He arouses our social consciousness but leaves us bewildered by the difficulties presented. We are left with a prayer for strength. What is to be achieved with this?

Are we to infer that intermarriage is an evil to be avoided at all cost? Are we to infer that society must be re-educated to make us realise that racial discrimination wherever practised and in whatever form, is artificial and man-made? The causes for such distortions of nature are to be found in social organisation; their remedy must lie in social re-organisation. Society must eradicate such evils as "artificial racial discrimination."

The production of this play was in competent hands, and the results achieved reached impressive heights. The difficulties under which the play was rehearsed were numerous. The most conspicuous of these, as reported by members of the cast, was that it was possible to arrange for merely one dress rehearsal at the Concert Chamber. Staging of sets, lighting effects, etc., could not be experimented with as much as the producer desired. In spite of this the effects produced, especially in the church scene and in the latter half of the play, were superb.

Edith Campion gave a realistic interpretation of Ellen, and Dick Campion, as Jim, did the best he could with a part in which he had to represent a character with whom he was unfamiliar. The remainder of the cast provided valuable support. The voice control of the actors (especially by Edith Campion) was admirably and expertly exercised. Seldom do we get a chance to witness such dramatic acting which yet portrays life.

Let us hope that we will soon be able to applaud another Unity Theatre Production.—E.R.R.

important aspect from a cinematic point of view. It can only be assumed that the discoveries of Pasteur were of insufficient relative importance to enable the whole film to be devoted to them.

Pasteur was ridiculed by his contemporaries who were mainly medical men. Unfortunately this same tendency is still in evidence today as instanced by the current medical attitude to psychological research work.

As future activities the committee has in mind trips to various laboratories and chemical works around the city. If the support warrants it, and if suitable accommodation arrangements can be made it is proposed to arrange visits to the research centres at Palmerston North and Hamilton. It is desired also to find members who have any special topic on which they would like to address the society. It is hoped that it may be possible to arrange discussions on subjects of interest to chemists. One evening will be devoted to a demonstration of apparatus at present being made by students. The committee will welcome any ideas or suggestions that may be offered.



## LONDON LETTER

The Brains Trust last night were asked, "Is there any difference between Fascism and Communism?" and surprisingly, they mostly said there was not. Even Bertrand Russell, who is not renowned for his conservatism, could suggest that only the attitudes towards anti-semitism were definitely different in practice. Dr. Bronowski alone pointed out that though there may be superficial resemblances between Nazi Germany and Russia, the former was a liberal society going down to a cultural eclipse, whilst the latter shows the growth of liberty in an originally despotic state.

The sages might have learnt a lot had they attended the recent Conference of the Empire Communist Parties. This gathering, unique of its kind, offered abundant evidence that this island's vaunted "Christian Liberal Democracy" is not immune from the Star Chamber methods attributed to the lesser breeds. The recent Ghetto Laws in South Africa, the persecution of trade unions in Burma, Malaya and Ceylon, arrests in India, and martial law in Palestine, is formidable and well documented. The tale of pious talk and underhand double-cross is long and uniform. Even allowing for the bias of people who have fought their rulers for twenty years, the name "perfidie Albion" still sticks. Moreover, the doctrine that Communists are the fifth column of the Red Army hardly stood up to the evident patriotism and sincere practical politics of the delegates, and the unanimous agreement of white, black and yellow, Jew and Arab, European and Asiatic, Metropolitan and Colonial, on the most diverse and controversial issues gives the lie direct to the claim that Internationalism is dead within the working class movements.

The ban on the weekly journals of opinion, in itself a stupid piece of government bungling, neither expressly desired or legalised, had some useful effects. They attained a new and far greater audience. They obtained through the hospitality of the dailies (Kingsley Martin even appeared in the "Evening Standard") and a special session of the BBC. As a result, they say they have sold out their quota early in the week, and under more normal conditions their circulation would have lapsed. The session of editors expressing their (or their paper's) views on current events was thoughtful, controversial (far more than Brains Trust) and very revealing of the intelligence and intellectual calibre of the participants. It would make a most interesting weekly feature.

Poor David Low has been in trouble again. He lampooned Churchill as Mr. Micawber, and drew denouncing letters from outraged readers. The "Evening Standard" ran a column for several weeks, printing these letters indiscriminately. Thus: "The trouble with Low is, he is not funny." "The great thing about Low is that he is so funny." "Low can't draw." "Low's drawing is superb." "Sack Low" (a Rear-Admiral). "Get an extra cartoonist for admirals but leave our Low" (a naval rating). "Low is just a little Australian (sic) radical who sneers at all that is best in the Empire." (Quote from Churchill.) "Churchill is just like Micawber and I shall draw him thus always in future" (Low).

Low himself ran riot with most amusing cartoons saying he had been replaced by one "High" whose politics he then illustrated. In fact, of course, the "Evening Standard," despite their Beaver Blimpishness, cannot afford to sack him, as he is worth millions of readers and is a British Institution.

Dear God—it has begun to snow again!

—SINBAD.

### Hell-bent Hophead

The story of the "Rake's Progress" is an old one, perhaps every well known author has at some time written about the cad, the bounder, the hophead who, after living a selfish, sensuous life, makes good in some spectacular way. "A Tale of Two Cities" is just such a story. "Jimmy Valentine" another. Because the cad must also be the hero, he must be made an appealing cad, a misunderstood cad, a cad through whom you can see shining a suppressed virtue. Such a cad is Vivian in the film showing at the moment.

This story does not, however, lay the blame for the young man's misconduct on original sin; it does make some attempt to show that the social conditions of the time had a share in forming his character. A week-kneed attempt certainly, but it is difficult to imagine a Hollywood production using the crazy capitalist economics of the depression as the final disillusion in a young man's life.

Nor are the final scenes those of a complete debauchee clinging to the rail of a low class bar with an organ grinder playing "There's No Place Like Home" in the background, and pink snakes playing ducks and drakes in his glass. The values of Vivian's world are very much like those which are becoming prominent today. He desires excitement, he drinks a little too much, he chases women a little too much; when he catches them he cannot make his relationship with them fundamental or lasting. He has no interest in politics and in general avoids all

responsibility. He is a typical example of those who, in the disillusioned thirties could afford to be disillusioned in that way. The rest simply starved.

After seeing the film I could not help asking myself if the general tendencies do not indicate we are moving towards a disillusioned fifties. Is there not a little of Vivian in all of us?

No matter what you think of the story—and it had many weaknesses—it is worth seeing for the acting alone. Rex Harrison plays his part convincingly without overplaying it. Lilli Palmer uses a beautiful voice to good effect, particularly in her reflective commentaries; the direction is good and has some sparkling moments. The change from scene two to scene three I thought good—very well planned. On the whole a good film, not outstanding or soul shaking, but enjoyable entertainment.—J.McC.

### Literaria

At a foundation meeting of the Literary Society constituted in the College this year, about thirty people discussed the lines of activity to be followed. It is planned to hold meetings about once a fortnight, and the possibility of lunch-hour sessions was considered. Reading, discussion and criticism both of original work and other literature will probably alternate with addresses by visiting speakers who have particularly interesting viewpoints to give the Society. Those interested should contact Bruce Weir, the Secretary, 45-012, and watch the notice board.

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## CONSTITUTION INSTITUTED AT GENERAL MEETING

Discouragingly few students attended the special general meeting of the Students' Association held on Thursday last. The president of the Association, Mr. Nigel Taylor, was in the chair.

The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Ratification of draft constitution of VUCSA.
2. Proposed faculty committees.
3. Proposed compulsory health scheme.
4. Fencing Blues.

At the commencement of the meeting it was agreed to limit the number of speakers to any motion to four.

### Faculty Committees

It was moved by Mr. Collins that faculty committees be set up in the College. The membership of these proposed committees to include one representative from each of Stages II, III and Honours, and all staff members of the department *ex officio*. Mr. Scoones moved an amendment to the effect that one representative from Stage I be included on the committee. In support of his amendment he pointed out that many Stage I students are not necessarily freshers but may be doing advanced lectures in other subjects at the same time.

The motion as amended was carried. The purpose of these committees as outlined by Mr. Collins was to provide means for co-operative discussion between staff and students of problems arising during their courses. Such a medium already exists in other universities. The success of such a scheme will, of course, depend on the interest of students.

### Compulsory Medical Examination

A most significant motion was that of Miss Priest that "every student attending lectures be required to undergo a compulsory annual medical examination."

Speaking to the motion, Miss Priest pointed out the danger of infectious diseases being spread among students, and also the danger to student health of long hours and irregular meals.

A section of students objected to the scheme because of its compulsory nature.

*Mike Bengge*: "How far will it go? A blood test?"

*Interjector*: "Alcohol or paternity?"

*Mike*: "It's the same thing."  
The majority decision was that the rights of the individual could well be sacrificed in the interests of community health.

### Fencing Blues

The section of the constitution dealing with blues was amended without much discussion to allow the award of a maximum of four blues for fencing during each year.

### Support for OUSA

Of great topical interest was the motion of Mr. Saker that a letter be sent to the Otago University Students' Association assuring them of the co-operation of VUCSA in upholding the right of the elected president of their association to address the students according to his constitutional rights "within the bounds of decency." Although alleged by the newspapers to contain statements inciting freshers to "doctrines of free love, agnosticism and rebellion against constituted authority," Mr. Saker (and the meeting) considered the speech a sally of wit with very little significance.

### The Constitution

Mr. Dowrick then formally moved that the draft constitution be adopted.

Brisk trade was done in constitutions at sixpence each.

The chairman then dealt with the constitution section by section.

A large number of amendments to the draft constitution were moved.

Mr. Chapman, supported by an array of figures, moved that the Students' Association fee, now 32/6, be reduced to 27/6.

Mr. Taylor vigorously opposed this suggestion, pointing out that the Students' Association was facing increasing costs. There were now more students than ever likely in the future. "Let's get the money while we can."

The amendment was lost.

Mr. O'Brien raised the question of terms being granted to students without Student Association fees being paid. The president assured the speaker they would not get terms and in addition mentioned that the names of last year's defaulters had been given to a firm of debt collectors who could be depended upon to extract at least one half the amount due.

### Freshers' Franchise

A major amendment to the new constitution was the proposed granting of the right to freshers to vote at Student Association elections. To vote or not to vote was the subject of much heated discussion.

The arguments in favour of the motion were that disenfranchisement of such a large section of the student body was wholly undemocratic. Administrative difficulties in the way of including freshmen on the Electors' List had now been removed. The objectors based their case on the lack of freshmen familiarity with college affairs and with the candidates for elections. Mr. O'Brien also feared that an uninformed body of electors might disrupt matters if sufficiently provoked. The motion was carried decisively. The effect of this, it is hoped, will be to draw freshers more closely into the life of the College.

Concluding remarks were:

*Harry Evison*: "I think this reads quite well."

*Dorian Saker*: "I wish to thank Messrs. O'Brien and Poole for a most 'delectful' evening."

The meeting formally concluded at 10.45.

★ ★ ★

A Fresher was getting her medical exam. in 1949 and this conversation was overheard:

Doctor: "Have you been X-rayed?"

Fresher: "No, but I've been ultra-violated."

## NZUSA

### Reports and Remits

To most of us, NZUSA is merely an idea; most of us have no notion of its part in a number of the activities which concern us all to a greater or lesser extent. The Annual Report is now to hand and it reveals a number of matters which are of general interest.

NZUSA authorised two delegates to the 1946 Congress of the International Union of Students. Their reports have only recently become available, but a copy is available for perusal at the Executive Room.

Rostrum was financially unsuccessful last year, as it arrived too late in the year to be distributed to most students.

NZUSA Executive advises that if recommendations for NZU Blues are sent in in good time, the present time lag of eighteen months will be avoided.

The matter of examination fees has not been forgotten, and there is some possibility that there will be some relief in the future.

The President, Mrs. Scott, paid a visit to the NUAUS Council Meeting in Hobart during January, and it is expected that the contacts made there will be of great value to the Association.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held in Auckland in conjunction with Easter Tournament. Victoria will be represented by Mr. Nigel Taylor, Mr. Harold Dowrick and Mr. Alec McLeod. VUC will bring forward several remits at this meeting.

One is directed towards holding NZUSA General Meetings twice a year, one at Easter and one in August, and another establishes the authority of NZUSA over both Tournament Committees and the Councils controlling other inter-University sports. Other remits cover such matters as prompt publication of examination results, Heritage, Student Health Schemes, and Freedom of Speech. There is also a remit which will urge on the Government the necessity of making full-time bursaries available automatically to all ex-overseas servicemen, and to home servicemen with more than two years service; of increasing textbook grants to the actual expenses involved in buying books; and of making the weekly grant equal to the basic wage.

VUC will also recommend that the publication of *Rostrum* should be discontinued and that NZUSA publish a free newspaper two or three times a year.

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# INTERVENTION AND INTERJECTION

The most significant feature of the Debating Society's inaugural debate for 1947, on the subject "that American Intervention in the Near East will lead to war," was the unwillingness of any speaker on either side to attempt to justify the present Greek Government, or the sending of American military supplies to it. The opposition's main argument was the inability or unwillingness of any other power to go to war with America on the issue.

The debate was judged by a prominent ex-member of the Society, Mr. A. H. Scotney, who placed the speakers in the order Mr. O'Flynn, Mr. O'Brien, Mrs. Matthews, Mr. McCreary, Mr. Winchester. His comments on the conduct of the meeting were salutary, for he criticised the speakers for addressing remarks to individuals in the audience, and the audience for irrelevant and unmannerly interjections, and for their general noisiness and lack of consideration.

## Speakers

Mr. Collins opened for the affirmative by describing the present situation in Greece, and the effect of foreign military intervention, with its catch-cri of "a bulwark against Bolshevism," which is remarkably similar to some of Hitler's utterances. He was, as usual, forthright and confident, but his growing tendency to clip his words becomes trying.

Mr. O'Brien led the negative with the thesis that no other country is willing or able to fight America on the issue of Greek intervention. His facts were well marshalled, and his delivery pleasing, but his main argument was based on conjecture and on his belief in the official statement that there are no tags to the Greek loan.

## Einstein and Eiby

News of impending power cuts did not force the officials of the Maths and Physics into postponing their first gathering for 1947. This optimism was only to be expected; a paper on "Time" at any time would be timely, but when the reader was to be none other than Mr. George Eiby, well!—supper, at any rate, would be at a premium, not to mention seating.

Mr. Eiby first stressed the difficult nature of his subject, exemplifying his stresses with an anecdote all the way from France. It seems that at a recent continental congress, scientists were loathe to discuss time, claiming that it belonged to the Astronomer Royal. Undaunted however, George in clean, confident and authoritative tones made the subject sound suspiciously simple. He often referred to his visit to Greenwich, possibly to prove his ability to lecture us on time units, astronomy, sidereal days and short clocks. We were particularly interested to note that the second has been a fundamental unit from Galileo's time to ours, and is fixed in a relative way, by a pendulum, "swinging on a star" near the first point of Aries. (Apologies to Eiby, Einstein and Cole Porter.)

When George came to clocks he soon had us wound up in all sorts of intricate mechanisms, and to bring us back to earth (some of us being still at the first point of Aries) he ordered the

lights to be switched off and then projected a diagram of the universal short clock on to the near wall. George, now elevated to desk height, proceeded to trace the complicated circuit until—whoops, a fault appeared in George's X-Y plane, and the said George bounced towards the bevy of lecturers drowsing nearby. Fortunately, competition between Newton's Four Laws brought George to rest a whisker's length from Doc. Campbell. Initial positions were soon regained by all, and George pressed on regardless until suddenly the short clock, and the shady impressions of George vanished. Wot!—No kilowatts?

After a whispered discussion, the committee decided to bow to Mr. Eiby's eagerness to resume his dissertation. Twenty minutes later, vice-president King stumbled in with news of a successful ignition of a candle in C3 but George apparently believing that some things are better heard, not seen, prayed to be allowed to continue with everyone in the dark.

Eventually the meeting closed and everyone groped along to the bunsen-lighted Phizz 1 lab, where Prof. Florence and his daughter were found midst pots of tea and plates of cakes.

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## Music— While You Shirk

In spite of solid opposition provided by Tramping, Football and other club meetings on the evening of Thursday the 19th, there was a good attendance at the AGM of the Club. Last year's activities were outlined briefly, the aims and purpose of the Club expounded in detail, and a committee of sixteen elected. For the benefit of those who want to contact them in connection with recitals, requests, etc., they are: Secretary, Pauline de Schryver; Committee: Jean Sims, Pauline Michael, Anne Lomas, Ginny Lawrence, Marie Louise Nihotte, Nell Casey, Gordon Orr, Derek Bale, Neil Mountier, John McDonald, Vincent Holcroft, Phil Alve, David Denniston, Graham Weston, Bernard O'Brien.

After some polite wrangling it was decided to hold regular evening recitals every Thursday at 8 p.m., and lunch-hour request sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-2 p.m. A notebook for requests has, with the kind permission of Mr. Miller, been placed on the window-ledge (first on the left as you en-

ter) in the Library. A bitter note from last year's Sec.—"Nutcracker Suite" will NOT be played at request sessions more than twice during the year.

For the first evening on Thursday, April 3, Mr. Page has consented to give his views of "The Misuse of the Gramophone" (the capitals are ours) and will expatiate on Contemporary Music, with illustrations from piano, and possibly gramophone. Freshers are assured that Mr. Page's comments are as well worth hearing and as delightful as his playing.

As mentioned in the handbook, the gramophone is for you, and the committee is (within reason) at your service.

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Or edit it at Tauherenikau.

## Men's Hockey A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Room A3 on Thursday, March 29, 1947, and the following officers were elected:

Patron: Mr. G. F. Dixon.  
 President: Hon. Justice Smith.  
 Club Captain: Ian Laurenson.  
 Hon. Sec.: Ted Shilton.  
 Hon. Treasurer: Bob Stannard.  
 Delegates to W.H.A.: Gil Johnstone, Peter Froome, Tom Shinn, C. T. Liddell.

There were a number of items on the agenda, some of which were disposed of quickly and some not so quickly, but at 10.30 p.m. when the meeting finished and the 40-odd members toiled wearily homeward bound, everything had been completed.

Among the subjects that arose for discussion was the question of eligibility for N.Z.U.T. The Club members were sounded for their opinions and Ed. Latham said that efforts would be made to contact every member of the Club for their ideas on this subject.

It was decided to hold another Hockey Dance this year and arrangements will be made to give this function all possible publicity and to hold it later than last year.

A presentation was made on behalf of the Club by Brian Nash, to Arch Ives, who is leaving the Club and Wellington, to migrate to (we hope) greener pastures in Wanganui. Archie Ives has been a member of the Club for ten years and has been an untiring worker in keeping the Club going. With his departure there will be left a gap that we feel will be hard to fill and so it is with the deepest regret that we learn of his transfer. To Archie go the deepest best wishes of the Committee and the Club in thanking him for all the services rendered by him on the field and on the Executive.

Freshers are particularly asked to turn up to the forthcoming practices and if your name is not yet on the Hockey Club notice, please put it on and join our happy circle. If there is anything you wish explained contact (per letter rack) a member of the Committee of the Club who will be only too pleased to help you.

## Tramping Jubilee

An attendance of over seventy people at the AGM demonstrated that the Tramping Club can expect another active year. After the business of the meeting, Mr. Harold Douglas—from the Tararua Club—showed some of his own pictures.

The new committee was elected:  
 President: Prof. Boyd-Wilson.  
 Vice-Presidents: Prof. Gordon, Mrs. Boyd, Mr. Scotney.  
 Chairman: Ken Johnstone.  
 Vice-Chairman: Harry Evison.  
 Secretary: Ted Bradstock.  
 Chief Guide: Mike Murray.  
 Committee: Joyce Money, Jean Hawthorn, Gordon McDonald, John McCreary.

This year is the Silver Jubilee of the Club, and plans for its fitting celebration are being concocted.

The Club runs official trips every week, week-end trips alternating with Sunday strolls. Wellington is particularly fortunate in having ready access to magnificent tramping country. There are trips of all grades of difficulty, from gentle Orongorongo week-ends to strenuous Tararua crossings, and expenses for either are generally low. Two skiing trips are run every August

—last year at Dawson Falls, Egmont, and Ruapehu, with over twenty people in each party; there were parties of similar size on the Christmas climbing trips to the Hopkins Valley and Waimakariri. After last year's successful Ruahine crossing it is hoped that the Club may run further trips to that area.

Intending trampers should read the notice-board for scheduled trips, and obtain a copy of the current Club Newsletter for details of trips past and planned, essential gear and other details that may be worrying them. Buy a pair of boots, and you will find it cheaper to live in bliss in the hills than in rooms in Wellington over the week-ends.

## Woman Wins Oram Cup

Wind ruined an otherwise perfect day last Saturday when the Inter-Faculty Sports were held at Kelburn Park, but it did not prevent some fine performances being registered by young hopefuls striving for a place in the Tournament team.

Outstanding achievement was that of Barbara Fougere in winning the Oram Cup, which is awarded annually to the competitor gaining most points at the Inter-Faculty Sports. Barbara took the 75 yards dash and the broad jump quite comfortably, and also took second place in the 100 yards and the high jump, to finish the day with 10 points and the knowledge that hers will be the first feminine name to be engraved among the long list of prominent VUC athletes listed on the Oram Cup.

Miss Fougere was particularly impressive in the broad jump. Her approach to the take-off board is made with a speed and determination lacking in many male competitors, and with time and coaching she should add appreciably to the 16ft. 2in. registered on Saturday.

Other highlights of the meeting were Brian Pohlen's mile walk in ten seconds under standard time; Alan Catt's sparkling 220 yards flat in 22½ secs. (also better than standard time); and the splendid effort of the relay team which brought it within ½sec. of the NZU record. Pohlen's walk earned him the Graduates' Cup for the best performance in any single event, but the voting must have been close when Catt's time for the 220 is taken into consideration.

Freshers Rafter and Duckworth also turned in very good performances. Rafter won the Heinemann Cup for the most improved athlete. Duckworth won the 120 and 220 yds. hurdles with ease.

Outstanding opposition will perhaps be Carr (hammer and discus), Brown (walk), Batten, the new sprint phenomenon, and Borland, the wonder jumper—from Canterbury, with Holland, Eustace (hurdles) and Gilmour (shot and discus) from Auckland.

VUC "hopes" are Pohlen for the mile walk, Catt for the sprints and Marshall for the shot and discus. Each one is capable of lowering the NZU record for his event, and each one will be up against really tough opposition. The result should be interesting, to say the least.

★ ★ ★

To a Pretty Tram Conductor.

Bless your slender, almost puny form  
 In a uniform  
 I hate a hippy  
 Chippy.

## Hopkins Trip

After months of preparation and happy expectation, the party was in the Hopkins Valley at dusk on December 21st.

We split into three parties and attacked different areas with varying energy and success. Boanerges, Williams, McKenzies, Surveyors Col. Charity Col. Shauchon, MacArthur and Prudence all stood up to the first assaults but some fell later, together with two rock knobs on the Newman Range and an unnamed peak next to Anita. On December 31st we all collected at the high camp near the Richardson Glacier before moving over into the Dobson Valley. Though the weather and the snow conditions had been unkind we had all thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the new, wild country and the unusual Christmas conditions.

On New Year's Day we set off unhurriedly, but with excellent going we were soon at the top resting and eating scroggin. After a few words of caution we moved off slowly, in single file in Bonc's well-plugged steps. Without any warning a slip began from the rear of the line and in a second everyone in front was swept away helplessly and plunged out of sight. Two—Roy Dickson and Stanley Allaway—were dead; nine were injured. The least injured moved down to camp in the valley, while others ran for help and the remainder settled down as comfortably as possible. Very soon the Tararua party were back, helping us tremendously, and late the next day Dr. Wells and the rescue party arrived. Forty-six hours after the accident, the last three injured were being carried down. Assistance had been excellently organised and the helpers showed very real kindness and sympathy.

The inquiry, it is felt, was not only inadequate, but, as there were no reasonable opportunities for members of the party to present their story, drew erroneous conclusions about the organisation, experience, equipment and general conduct of the party. The Club Committee is now pressing for a full enquiry by the Federated Mountain Clubs.

## Jiminy Cricket!

Cricket at Tournament this year will consist of a North v. South Universities match. This will be the first held since 1922. Victoria has five representatives in this match and it is hoped that they will be instrumental in ensuring a win for the North team. The five representatives are as follows:—

L. H. Cornish, R. O'Connor, R. Woolley, W. G. Smith, and probably T. C. Larkin.

From a Statement of Editorial Policy of the "Daily Trojan," paper of the University of Southern California, February 10, 1947.

It is not the job of the Daily Trojan to undertake partisan political leadership. We shall favour no factions, but support those issues advanced by any group, which we find worthy.

Communism, as a political and economic faith, we reject absolutely. We hold that the theories espoused by the Communist Party are out of harmony with ideals, traditions and temperament of the American people. We shall attack attempts of Communists to gain control of unwitting segments of the population by burrowing into groups honestly working for worthwhile objects.

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