

**EXEC.  
ELECTIONS**  
Main Hall, VUC  
JUNE 20, 23, 24  
after 5 p.m.

# Salient

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

VOL. 10, No. 7

WELLINGTON, JUNE 11, 1947

Price: THREPENGE

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

GYM - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, 25

## EDUCATION OR DOGMA— NBS School Broadcast Serial Suspended

In place of "How Things Began" we present "Have You Read." These words were the first and only intimation to teachers in schools taking the NBS Broadcasts to Schools, that the usual Social Studies Serial, "How Things Began" had been suspended. This suspension followed a number of anti-evolutionary letters in the daily papers, and was imposed without consultation with practising teachers.

"Salient" interviewed Miss Jean Combs, Officer in Charge of Broadcasts to Schools. Miss Combs was able to give us the information that she was acting on a directive which called for immediate suspension, but was not prepared to say from whom the directive was received.

### "Why was the serial considered unsuitable?"

Miss Combs stated that no complaints had been received from teachers. She also supplied the information, that the serial had been used for four years by the BBC. It was carefully checked and amended in the light of Broadcasting experience, and in 1945-46 the script was revised and used again. This revised script was the one used by the NBS. Miss Combs gave an outline of the method of selection used by the BBC. There is an advisory council of 51 members, including both administrators and teachers. When the serial was considered for production in New Zealand, it was thought highly suitable by all authorities concerned, and was favourably reviewed in the "Listener."

### "What Guarantee is there that the Script is Accurate?"

There is the approval of Professors Ford and Whittard, who hold respectively chairs of Anthropology and Paleontology at the University of London. We consider that sufficient guarantee of its scientific accuracy.

### A BBC Programme

The serial has been publicised widely. As early as November, 1946, the following statement appeared in the "Education Gazette":

"In each of the last four years the BBC has broadcast an experimental series on pre-history under the title 'How Things Began.' The object of the series was to satisfy the curiosity of children about early stages of life on the Earth and the story of Man. The series proved most popular. The broadcasts were amended in the light of experience and in 1945-46 a new serial was prepared and broadcast. (Scripts obtained from BBC. Produced by NBS.)

In the Broadcasts to Schools Handbook, which is issued to teachers in schools taking the broadcasts, there appears a summary of "How Things Began" which begins: "The series presents the early history of the Earth and the creatures in it. It is hoped

that the following notes will be useful as a preliminary guide to what the broadcasts will teach and as a help to the collection of notes and other information for follow-up work." There follows some advice concerning preparations by teachers.

### Introduction to NZ

The programme began on March 4 with "What is a Fossil?"

We quote now from the "Listener" summary of the serial:

"The teaching device will be two children, a boy of thirteen, and a girl of ten, and a grown-up interested in geology and excavation, who answers their questions about how things began. The adult's part is to give information on points which had not occurred to the children, and illustrate his remarks by pretending to be an observer who returns to the past, making a running commentary on what he sees. . . . It is suggested in the broadcast that children might keep a book of the adventures of the observer. George, the boy in the serial, being very grown-up, writes notes; the girl, Alice, illustrates her book with coloured chalk drawings.

"In the first six broadcasts the main evolutionary theme is the conquest of the land, first by early land plants, then by those fishes that acquired lungs and legs and became amphibia, some of which, in their turn, evolved into the first reptiles, with their complete adaptation to land life. And the last few broadcasts will show how some mammals surpassed the rest in skill of hand and eye, and by their power to learn by experience.

"This will be followed in the second term by an explanation of what early man did with his wits and how he made a series of discoveries which enabled him to live very differently from all other animals. Then in the third term, on Tuesdays, listeners will hear the story of the rich ancient communities and of the westward spread of civilisation, through the backwoods of forested Europe to Britain."

We wish to emphasise that no school is compelled to take the broadcasts, but each year increasing numbers do so. It is solely a matter for the teachers to decide.

### Evolution and Curricula

It is a public duty to criticise the curriculum of schools, provided the bases for criticism are sound and logical. The only criticism was on anti-evolutionary grounds and that in the Letters to the Editor of the daily newspapers. We can only conclude that the serial was suspended because it teaches evolution. If this is so, a large number of school textbooks will have to be purged, including Volume 1 of "Making New Zealand," which contains material that is at least as irritating to anyone with an anti-evolutionary itch. There are still people who believe that the only history which should be taught in school is that which adheres strictly to the story as given in the Bible.

However, New Zealand public schools are supposed to be secular. (See the Education Act, "Free, compulsory and secular.") Should the Book of Genesis be broadcast in chapters? No, because it is outside the province of the schools. In any case there is no reason to suppose that the process of evolution is irreconcilable with genuine Christian doctrines. Why should we assume that the "days" in the Book of Genesis are twenty-four hours long? But it is not consistent with secular educational policy to introduce religious views. This does not imply a contempt for these views but merely accords with official educational policy. Galileo was right when he said that the world was round, in spite of contrary assertions, and to deny the process of evolution is equally futile.

### Possible Reaction?

This suspension is serious. It has completely disrupted a programme schedule planned two years ahead. If the objections were tenable, this would not matter two hoots. The inferior substitute programme is like a dishrag in a leaky bucket, but it could hardly be expected that the NBS can produce a satisfactory substitute on such peremptory notice. The suspension means, in some cases, that teachers' schemes for the whole year will have to be scrapped.

Since no teachers have complained to Miss Combs or to her staff during the seven months since the first notification in the "Education Gazette" and since, on the contrary, some teachers have expressed their appreciation of "How Things Began," it is reasonable to assume that it has proved suitable

in practice. The series as produced in New Zealand was excellently recorded by a competent cast. The children liked it and as far as it had progressed it had proved a successful stimulant in the hands of an efficient teacher. Children aren't interested in arguments about evolution; they find the story of their earth and its various changes throughout the ages both intriguing and exciting. It was especially so when the observer was forced to jump smartly from very B.C. to present A.D. because of some rather too attentive cretaceous reptile.

The series has been suspended; but there are bound to be reactions. We hope in particular that the NZEI, the largest teachers' organisation, will register an emphatic protest and that the New Education Fellowship will act likewise. We also expect some action from student teachers, but most of all we expect action from the Minister in charge of Broadcasting, who should give a public explanation and justification of this suspension.

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## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

There has been only one nomination for life membership of the Students' Association this year, Ian McDowall. This nomination is one which the Editor and Staff of "Salient" wish to support strongly. Ian has an outstanding record of service to the Association, first as an office-bearer or committee member of a number of clubs, and later as an executive member and Tournament Delegate.

For the past two years he has been the Students' Association Representative on the College Council, and as such he has fully justified the confidence of those who appointed him to the position. He has always put the Association's point of view before the Council, and frequently has been heard without much sympathy. His detailed reports to the Executive have often been the subject of favourable comment.

We feel we can, without being accused of partisanship, urge all students to vote for life membership of the Association for Ian McDowall.

**SPECIAL  
ELECTION ISSUE OF  
"SALIENT"**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18**

VUC v. TC

**DEBATE**

Training College, Friday, June 20

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VOL. X  
No. 7

# Salient

Wednesday,  
June 11

## PRIESTLEY AND CULTURE

For three weeks in May the "N.Z. Listener" published the views of the intelligentsia of Wellington on a recent statement of J. B. Priestley to the effect that cultural democracy is undesirable and that censorship of culture is required, so that the cultural tastes of the masses can be directed along more intellectual lines. The opinions expressed in the "Listener" were characterised by the number of contributors who were unable to make up their minds. "Salient" now enters the field. To put it mildly, we don't agree.

The logical conclusion to Priestley's argument concerning cultural democracy is the establishment of an elite who will select the cultural fare of the mass of the people—a course which was followed assiduously by Herr Goebbels and his more shadowy prompters. For despite that oft-repeated Nazi remark—"when I hear the word *culture* I cock my revolver"—we must realise, clearly and finally, that there was a Fascist culture. That features of this culture were anti-Semitism and the barbarous experimentation of the concentration-camps merely helps us to an explanation of the basis of culture.

### The Basis of Culture

Let us go back to the beginning. Man is a tool-using animal: in other words, the basic condition of human existence was labour. The development of labour meant a closer drawing-together of men into society, which required the growth of means of communication. Language, music and the dance arose from the necessity for intercourse between men as a result of the problems posed by the growth of the labour-process. The solutions primitive men evolved to these problems are the primary basis of human culture.

With the development of class society, and the resultant division of labour—which became final with the separation of the mental and the manual worker—the idea was naturally born that culture had no basis in the real world, but a separate and private existence of its own. The curious situation thus arose that men's ideas, while fundamentally dependent on the activity of men and shaped by it, were regarded as independent modes.

This meant that whatever class was dominant at a given stage of society was almost fatally moved to perpetuate this illusion. The spreading of a culture based in the working-people would mean reversal of the established culture; and, provided the economic and other relations of men were so tending, the overthrow of the dominance of that class. The philosophy of Plato is inseparable from the existence of the leisured classes of slave society. Protestantism is essentially an aspect of the rise of the bourgeoisie. Marxism arose as the expression of the bitter experience of the working-class.

Priestley's division between "political democracy" and "cultural democracy" is therefore unreal. Men's political ideas, just as their philosophies, legal systems, religions and arts, are all the products of human activity, all an inseparable unity expressing the social relations of men. The "common man"—be he farmhand,

labourer or factory-worker—has not the opportunity to enjoy that culture which attracts the delicate fancy of Mr. Priestley. Our "political democracy" leaves him free to do so, of course, just as he is "free" to smoke the same cigars as Mr. Churchill or buy a Rolls-Royce.

There can be no culture of, by or for the people until there is democracy of, by and for the people. Priestley's political democracy is bourgeois political democracy; his cultural democracy is bourgeois cultural democracy. Considerable work has been done—in New Zealand via the WEA and Community Centres—in "taking culture to the people," but this process has precisely the limitations mentioned above. Too much free discussion leads to too many opinions at variance with the ruling norms. In Hollywood films, Mr. Priestley says, "It is far more important to write a successful dance tune than to compose a symphony." Yes, it is more important, for the American ruling class, that Americans write shoddy dance-tunes rather than revolutionary Ninth Symphonies. And remember that these same shoddy dance-tunes are the bourgeois prostitution of revolutionary negro jazz.

### Socialist Realism

During the whole history of class society the predominant cultures have been largely alienated from the people. But in times of revolution, when other classes have called on them as allies, the influence of the people on culture has been most marked. Without the support given the rising bourgeoisie by the mass of English labouring men, there would have been no Shakespeare, no Milton, to star our cultural history. And if, today, Shakespeare and the people are far apart, we may thank Shakespeare's bourgeois students, who have removed his work from its basis in the life of men, and spirited away its revolutionary content.

In wishing to remove the influence of the people from culture, Priestley necessarily removes the basis of culture. Apart from the growing trends towards socialist realism in the bourgeois world, the only country where culture is truly of the people is the Soviet Union—and it is not Soviet musicians who write the dance-tunes to which Mr. Priestley objects.

Nor does the Soviet citizen recognise any fundamental difference between culture, science and politics. Culture is not an art and literature created by specially-gifted individuals, but the inherited experience of mankind in its struggle with nature and the real world, an experience modified and developed in the course of history as a guide to action and a joy in action.

—K.J.H.



"Poetry," the Australian International Quarterly of Verse, began appearing some years ago under the editorship of Mr. Flexmore Hudson. It was then unremarkable, both in appearance and in contents, being mainly filled with mediocre products of the Jindoworobak regional school of Australian verse. Sententious editorials were sometimes added in which the need for a national literature was stressed. Soon one fact about "Poetry" began to draw attention: its persistence in appearing, in spite of lack of support, or echo, in spite of probable financial losses, and its editorial and managerial inefficiency. "Poetry" was soon known better abroad than any other, or better Australian magazine; it printed advertisements of the best English and American reviews, advertised in them by reciprocal agreement and haunted the bookstalls of the entire English-speaking world. Writers like Treece in England, Hervey in New Zealand, sent regular contributions which contrasted strangely with the rest of the contents.

Mr. Hudson was neither stimulated nor discouraged by a surrounding

## POETRY 22

a review

literary group—he lived, in fact, in the Australian outback where he taught school-children according to a new system which he with characteristic energy had entirely devised himself. Business brought him to town at intervals and so unsaleable issue after unsaleable issue flowed onto the market.

But recently the miracle occurred. Or perhaps one cannot give the name of miracle to something resulting from so much toil. Mr. Hudson, now apparently settled in Melbourne, has linked up with Clive Turnbull, whose pre-war attempts at a cultural magazine had been commendable but unsuccessful, and produced at least one issue of astonishing quality. Most of the contributors are now English and American. Of the 23 pages of poems printed more than half are of undoubted interest and some are equal to what is published anywhere in the world.

Nessie Dunsmuir (Scotland) wrote "The Night-Walking Men Taken Into the Dark," a poem that would be striking in any magazine. The subject is a coal-pit; it begins:  
*The pithead rises a lonely constellation  
over the mist-hung fields.*

It carries on with sensitive poetic observations such as:  
*and his sight already waits for  
the lampman's cabin slowly revolving  
the tall tiered lamps in amber rows.*

John Cicardi's "Sea Burial" and Edouard Doditi's "The Villain's" are samples of the best that appears in American periodicals. Henry Treece appears in a very simple style:

*Your face  
Is serious, watching each tiny thing,  
For life is such a duty to the young.*

Clearly, however, these contributions, in spite of their excellence, hardly comprise a satisfactory Australian magazine; there is no harmony between the foreign and the Australian material. They are the fruit of considerable organisational talent, a certain accuracy in judging contributors and an amazing persistence. The Australian contributions have become a minor part. They are not very fortunate; the petulant exhibitionism

# Dramatic Revival Among College Groups

Vigorous dramatic activity has not been noticeable at VUC, in recent years at least. There have been the annual Extravaganzas as an outlet for latent exhibitionism among the students. The "legitimate theatre," however, presumably represented by the Drama Club, has a history of constant but too often abortive struggles. "Anna Christie" and "Mr. Bolfrey" were the chief highlights in the dreary story of attempted productions and poorly attended play evenings in the past three years. In August of last year, "Ghosts" strutted the inadequate boards of the Gymnasium stage and last March the Drama Club put on Noel Coward's "Private Lives." Nevertheless, students with outstanding dramatic talent have tended to find outlet in other Wellington societies. We began to wonder whether apathy to this play-acting business was a permanent characteristic of Victoria students.

A sudden revolution in dramatic outlook, however, seems to have occurred. The revival is not confined to the Drama Club; it is seen in the recent activities of other College classes and societies.

Sam Williams, the Thomas a Beckett of "Murder in the Cathedral" is producing for our Drama Club "The Infernal Machine" by Jean Cocteau. We know Mr. Williams as the artist whose stage designs for costumes and sets were exhibited at the Public Library recently; he has experience and a distinguished reputation as a producer behind him, and VUC can count itself exceedingly fortunate. Moreover, Maria Dronke will be giving her assistance to the production. The play itself promises to be the most workmanlike and interesting choice of the Club for some time.

The cast includes the most able of our student actors. Frances Mulrennan will play Jocasta and Dorian Saker has the part of Oedipus. We may wait with eagerness to see the play near the end of this term.

Meanwhile the Drama Club will be holding a one-act play evening. The casting meeting for this and "The Infernal Machine" secured an attendance of fifty people instead of the half-dozen we used to expect. We understand that three plays are to be presented in an evening. Such plays are an ideal field for the amateurs and the over-modest to gain experience, as well as an opportunity for actors who cannot give their time for rehearsals over a long period demanded by the major production.

### English Class Plays

Drama as studied by the English classes of the college has ceased to be a matter of mere library reading. The English Class read Synge's "Well of the Saints" as a set book; the play was read in the lower Gym on a Friday evening, produced by Marget McKenzie. Only a score of people unfortunately formed the audience, but more people can reasonably be expected to attend future attempts of this kind. The advanced

of Harley Matthews, a released member of the Australia-First movement shows merely the posing of the life impulse, so familiar from these quarters. Of the Jindoworobaks present, Roland E. Robinson shows more than usual sensitiveness, but still supplies journalism about "barbarous beauty" when he is excited.

Leonard Mann's "Test Flight" is both the most talented Australian poem present, and one of the best poems of that author so far.—E.S.

English classes are at present putting on Shakespeare's "King Lear" with John McCreary and Edith Camplon among the cast and Dick Camplon as the Producer. These play readings do not aim at the polish of well-rehearsed productions but they seem to us to be the only adequate way to gain a full appreciation of dramatic texts. The English classes should not be slow to realise the value of more such readings and to support them whole-heartedly as audiences and actors.

### and Other Clubs

The Literary Society formed this year includes play reading among its activities. Elizabeth Millward is convenor of the play reading group; they have spent a highly successful night reading Marlowe's "Edward II" and are now taking a Sunday afternoon and evening over another Elizabethan Play, Forde's "Tis Pity she's a Whore." Another Literary Society group dealing with prose of the 1940's plans to read a play by Jean-Paul Sartre, "In Camera," which has as its theme a highly interesting and controversial philosophy. This reading will take place, probably in the Music Room, in the near future.

Not all students need limit themselves to the English language or translations. The VUC French Club has started its career by doing a small play, and further play readings and productions of French plays by students are intended during the year. Then there is the annual VUC production presented at the Wellington Cercle Français. This year "Le Barbier de Seville" by Beaumarchais will be the major production, produced by Frankie Huntington.

Rehearsals of any kind in the lower Gym usually take place under certain difficulties. On a recent Tuesday evening the soccer club was running about energetically up above with a ball; the Swords Club was indulging in Dumas-esque poses as they clashed steels down below, and a number of gentlemen were holding a mysterious conversation at the back of the stage itself. The Exec. was in session; "Salient" room was the usual den of furious and vociferous activity. In the midst of this stimulating University environment the cast of "King Lear" were attempting to throw themselves into their parts—"Howl, howl, howl; Oh, you are men of stone."

The student world then is becoming dramatically minded. May the revival flourish. Who knows—This outburst of talent may produce next year the Extravaganza that Wellington citizens will never forget—or is this type of dramatic art on another plane?

## To Her

*Your eyes are eloquent enough  
Your hair as beautiful as most,  
My lady, I could name a host  
Of good, bad, mediocre stuff  
That makes or does unmake you.*

*Your lips I've known warm,  
Cool, sometimes salty, or afire  
With swift, sudden, sometimes sharp  
desire,  
Or lightly, like a breeze is after storm.  
Does this make or mar you?*

*The various moods, the habits, the  
residual  
Of your living, the mark on your face,  
The spot, the thumb that makes you  
individual;  
These things I've known, do they trace  
The merit or demerit of you?*

*The summate is not consummate,  
The sum is not the whole,  
The you I sense, is still unknown—  
That you is still my goal.*

—SEAROS.

☆ ☆

## WITH REGRET

It is with great regret, sorrow and all other feelings appropriate to such an occasion that we record the death of an affiliated member of the Student Association—the Music Makers' Club—between the hours of 7 and 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 24.

The Annual General Meeting dealt the final blow to a body, not exactly robust during the past six months, but certainly alive and kicking—particularly at the Clare-Page and Lill Kraus recitals last year.

Those who attended the meeting were an enthusiastic few—with emphasis on the "few"—and moderation and urbanity of expression gave way for a while to rather bitter personalities on those of last year's committee who did not attend. We thought they at least might have been there to make arrangements for the interment of the victim. "Victim" is a peculiarly appropriate word in this instance, because it was the quite typical and utterly effective weapon of student apathy that "did the job."

If any consolation can be drawn from the affair, it is that the deceased had some days of remarkable popularity, and served the College "faithfully and well" for four years. On the other hand, it is hard to understand how the Club could flourish in the lean years, and now in our days of revived interest in drama, music and art, it is starved out by our culture-conscious student body. Doubtless social psychology can supply the answer—we can't.

Perhaps from the ashes some phoenix-like body—corporate, of course—will arise in future years. To it we bequeath the life history of its predecessor, now in the archives of the Executive: probably classified as Recently Deceased or Ancient History.—P.J.M.

☆ ☆

*my orb is vergin  
from its orbit  
drawn by its urgin  
to a virgin—  
ain't dis morbit?*

—inspired by that certain feeling.

*A feature I really dislike  
Of my limcrick campaign for Spike,  
Is the number of times  
I'm flummoxed for rhymes  
Through a shortage of endings in "Ike."*



The following is an account of a visit to Lidice by Mr. H. C. Williams, one of the Secretaries of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

All that is left of what was Lidice is a stone here and there overgrown by grass. And yet standing on the spot where Lidice once was, on a bitter winter day, with snow falling, one small incident brought home simply and clearly again the monstrous stupidity of Fascism, for about 200 yards away a puffing tractor drawing a plough was turning up the soil of what once had been a farm, and was now becoming a farm again, in spite of the Nazis. Perhaps more deeply moved than any of us was the American girl from Chicago, Illinois, Mollie Lieber, for it was in Illinois that a little village was re-christened "Lidice."

Not only did the Nazis destroy the village by dynamiting the houses and carrying away the remains, they also changed entirely the course of the little stream which ran through the village, so that the spot where Lidice had stood would be unrecognisable. They changed the course of the

## VISIT TO LIDICE

stream—and the stream of the heroism of Lidice courses through the veins of the new Czechoslovak Republic—while those who destroyed Lidice are paying for it at Nuremberg. The Nazis made a complete film of the destruction of Lidice, and this film was shown as evidence against them at Nuremberg.

A low fence surrounds the spot where the men of Lidice lie buried. This spot was still strewn with wreaths and flowers while we were there—young people from Britain, the United States, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Australia. A monument stands at the head of the fenced-off plot. This is the inscription, in Czech and Russian:—

"To the Lidice citizens, to the martyrs of the German fascist occupants, from the Red Army men, sergeants and officers of the Unit of Hero of the Soviet Union, Colonel Parkov."

To one side, on the actual spot where the men of Lidice were murdered, is a simple wooden cross with the inscription:

"Here lie the citizens of Lidice, murdered on July 10th, 1942."

Lidice, the town that was murdered, is to be rebuilt on an adjoining site. Many of the women have returned from the concentration camps and forced labour to which they had been sent in Germany. Some of the children have been found, and the only man who escaped from Lidice, the band-master, is at present touring Czechoslovakia with a band. Lidice was a mining town and British miners have pledged themselves to raise £1,000,000 to equip a Mining Research College at Lidice.

## LONDON LETTER . . . Sinbad

Her Ladyship herself (I need not name her whom you all know) has written to tell me how she guessed I was SINBAD because the first thing I mentioned was food. Gratuitous insults aside (could anything sourer than honey fall from her dew-spangled lips) a grain of truth lies concealed. Everybody talks food here. As a conversational gambit it is assured of instant success among all classes and conditions of men. Let men talk butterfat, the weather, the iniquities of our pestiferous government, let their wives chatter of children, servants, the latest film, all will take part when the name of a new eating house is mentioned, when there is idle sighing over steak and eggs, when discussing the merits of recipes for ice cream without cream, omelettes sans eggs, milkless milk pudding. We are now, as perhaps never before, a food-conscious nation.

I still do not want to alter an iota of what I wrote three months ago about our food. The meals at our canteen are tasty and sufficient; the family "utility" board positively screams beneath its load of good things; you should have seen us tightening our belts as I saw last night, on chicken goulash and Rum Baba; alas, there is little sign of my weight going into a startling decline. The woeful yowls of the Tory Press recently whimpered forth an article by a doctor purporting to prove that we are all starving. The following figures give the lie to this; they are infant mortality, a sensitive index to the health of the population and come from the "Daily Worker":

	1938	1945
Oxford . . . . .	35	35
Newcastle . . . . .	66	39
England and Wales . . . . .	53	46

The inference is, whilst middle class Oxford has maintained its pre-war rate, industrial Newcastle has improved enormously, and the mass of the population are healthier, because better fed, than ever before.

Giving up smoking is rather fun—for me, spectator. All my friends have tried hard but none succeeded. One girl says her husband says he has stopped. She tells him the same yarn but buys cigarettes from us at two-pence each (the retail price). She is going to Glasgow to see him at Whitsun. I hate to think of her snatching a puff in the kitchen whilst he surreptitiously sucks a Woodbine in the living room. However, I have managed to cut my consumption by half, a figure paralleled by tobacco sales since the Budget. A magnificent effort, but at what a cost, to save a few paltry million pounds, whilst our military "commentators" cost us hundreds of millions.

The "New Statesman" "Keep Left" pamphlet by Dick Crossman, Michael Foot and Ian Mikardo and other Labour MP's is good stuff. The arguments on manpower, economic planning and foreign policy are lucid, simple and unanswerable. I doubt if better political persuasion has been written in Britain this century, not excepting Churchill's capacity for glorious mis-statement. Whether it will achieve its aim is another question. But the Labour Party Conference is next week, and the party has been through some serious crises since last it met.

Many people have strange ideas about New Zealand. It is advertised as the home of meat, butter and cheese, and to learn that it has rationing and controls, shortages and high rents comes as a shock to would-be emigrants. Some talk glibly of carving a farm from virgin forest; others say "Oh, I know it has a Labour Government but it is different from the dreadful one here you know" (where have I heard that before?); others again want to know if one can buy Van Heusen shirts. How can one explain? It must seem as remote as Madagascar to them.

I went to Salisbury last week. The Cathedral is glorious, an enormous mass of grey carved stone, plunging upwards from the broad green lawn of the close. In the evening, light rain falling, it took my breath away with the sight of it. Why did I go to this ancient city, centre of the folk ways of Pre-Historic England, with its river and bridges and quiet streets? To see a man of the Research Station of Gas Warfare!

## N.Z. Youth Presents Shield to Youth of Lidice

This shield has been ordered jointly by the N.Z. Federation of Young People's Clubs and VUCSA. It was made by the Disabled Soldiers' Shop, Wellington and will be presented personally to the youth of Lidice by Mr. Doug. Luckens of Hamilton, one of the two New Zealand representatives at the Festival.

Alan Bush, a well-known British composer, is composing a special song in honour of Lidice and it is proposed that this song be presented at the Festival by a miners' chorus from the Welsh village where Humphrey Jennings made the British Lidice film "Silent Village."

I carried a small stone away with me from Lidice, and behind us as we went was the morning song of the tractor, like a song of triumph.

## BRAINS TRUST

Who is Running it?

Biological Society.

Who is on it?

Question Master: Prof. I. Gordon; Trust: Prof. Bailey, Prof. Cotton, Mr. Bobby Munro, Mr. Harold Miller.

When is it?

On Monday, June 23, at 8.15 p.m. in the Biology Room.

What will it do?

You are invited to ask the Trust any questions you like, biological or otherwise. Here is your chance to pick a most unusual selection of brains! Questions must be placed in the boxes (see notice board) by Friday, June 20. Prof. Gordon will select questions and using his own discretion will put them to the various members of the trust. The members will not know beforehand what the questions will be. Thus all discussion will be quite impromptu.

All students should come along to this great show.

Further news of festival preparations throughout the world have been received from Prague—

Prof. Joliot-Curie, world famous atom scientist and president of the International Union of Intellectuals, has joined the French Committee of Patrons of the World Youth Festival. Other members are the President of the French Republic and several Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and University Professors.

Four Yugoslav films will be shown at the Festival, one of them dealing with the construction of the Youth Railway.

Algeria is sending to Prague a wooden building in Arab style with exhibits of Algerian folk art, handicrafts, etc.

The British Festival Committee includes, besides numerous youth organisations, the Football Association, National Cyclist Union and the British Drama League. An essay competition has been organised by the "News Chronicle" and winners in the different age groups will be awarded free trips to Prague.

Before leaving for Prague young Norwegian musicians held a concert in Oslo University Hall.

One hundred members of the American Unitarian Youth are expected to attend the Festival. The Southern Negro Youth Congress plans to send K. Spencer, a leading negro bass singer, second only to Paul Robeson, and Pearl Primus, a young dancer, who will perform American and African negro dances.

Among 24 Polish students attending the Festival will be the violinist.

## WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

Wilkomirska, who won the first prize at the International Contest in Geneva.

The first group of Australian delegates, eleven in all, arrived in Southampton on April 21. They will work in Yugoslav Youth Reconstruction Camps until the opening of the Festival.

"Rome, Open City," prize-winning film at the Cannes Festival, will be among the Italian exhibits at the festival.

The International Union of Students is publishing, on behalf of the International Festival Committee, an international song book. This will include the most popular youth songs of today as well as folksongs from each country.

Mr. Dange, president of the Indian Trade Union Congress, is expected to visit the festival.

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## Cafeteria Critic

Dear Sir,—As a member of the student body I should like to raise a complaint with regard to the present cafeteria fare. Having patronised the cafeteria for day and evening meals during the past three years I think I am qualified to make a few suggestions.

The size and variety of the meals are such that in town a restaurant run on these lines would not be patronised.

The sandwiches at lunch lack variety and everybody does not like filled rolls with too ample a tasting of mustard. Last year apples were two-a-penny if small in size, but now ordinary apples are twopence and small apples a penny each. In these and other small ways the lunches are unsatisfactory.

As students, we realise the difficulties entailed in successfully cooking a main meal for large numbers. The cost of food has increased, and staff difficulties are great; but whilst the prices have risen the standard of the cafeteria has gone down. Surely one and ninepence is rather a lot to charge for a two-course meal when a three-course meal can be had in town for two shillings. Other cafeterias such as factory canteens are run at a far cheaper rate.

Very often in the evening I have been served a small meal because the cafeteria has run out of food. My complaint is that we are charged the same price for an undersized meal, which is grossly unfair. Many of us do not leave lectures until 6 p.m. and cannot get to a meal earlier; we should be catered for, or at least not charged for what we do not eat.

PATRICIA A. YOUNG.

## Reply—

It would have been better if the "suggestions" had been addressed in the first instance to the Cafeteria Controller. I fail to find any constructive suggestions in the letter—it appears to be mainly a mis-directed moan.

The Varsity Cafeteria is not attempting to compete with town restaurants but has as its aim the provision of the best possible meals at the lowest possible prices for students.

**Lunch.**—At lunch time from the beginning of this term hot pies, hot saveloys with gravy are being served, which is an innovation. I do not know how much variety Miss Young requires in the fillings of her sandwiches but here is a list of those usually served in the Cafeteria: Ham, luncheon sausage, pressed tongue, egg, beetroot, cheese and onion, cucumber, cheese and marmite. Home-baked buttered scones are sold at a penny each, whereas in town scones with substitute butter sell at twopence each. Other prices for small goods are on a par with town prices, while the quality is superior.

The price of the evening meal is one and ninepence which is the same as for the past two years at least. We would be very pleased to know where Miss Young is able to get a three course evening meal in town for two shillings. From our experience a meal consisting of soup and meat costs two shillings or more.

The size of the meals served does not vary according to the amount of food available. Any variation could only be due to the fact that sometimes students help with the dishing out during rush periods, and it is possible

## MAJESTIC CABARET

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that some serve smaller portions than others.

So far as the general staff and cooking difficulties are concerned perhaps Miss Young will oblige us by either helping or observing in the kitchen during a rush period (with the numbers going through these days this means anytime) when she will get a vague idea of the tremendous difficulties with which a very hard working manageress and staff are coping.

The Cafeteria is being run by fifty per cent of the staff necessary and if Miss Young can provide us with an assistant cook, a kitchen maid, a full time and a part-time helper we will then be able to explore the possibilities of more rapid service and if she will also provide us with a kitchen at least four times as large as the present one complete with three times as much equipment, we will then, we hope, be able to give a more rapid and efficient service. As it is, the present staff is working long hours, while the Manageress always spends twelve and lately thirteen or fourteen hours a day preparing meals and after the Cafeteria closes, baking for the following day.

This year I have heard many compliments from the students of three or four years standing, on the quality and quantity of the dinners served this year.

I should be very pleased if any students with *helpful* suggestions to make for the more efficient running of the Cafeteria, having in mind the present limitations, would bring these suggestions to me. They can rest assured that any ideas will be welcomed.

JEAN PRIEST,  
Cafeteria Controller.

☆ ☆

## Tararua Tramping Hut Reopened

The University Tramping Club was unofficially represented at the opening of the Levin Waiopahu Club's new hut, in the Northern Tararuas, on Sunday, May 18. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. N. K. Douglas. There were 110 people present, representing five clubs, at a very pleasant informal gathering on a perfect Tararua day.

• The new hut, which is near the site of the old Waiopahu Hut which was destroyed by a cyclone in 1936, is three hours tramping from the Pipe Bridge. It sets a new standard in accommodation, being the most luxurious hut yet seen in the Tararuas. The track recently reopened bears evidence of many working parties, particularly in the cutting of heavy timber. Another feature is the elaborate tea bivouac half way up the track.

In reopening the track and rebuilding the hut the Levin Waiopahu Club has made a laudable contribution to tramping pleasure as well as setting an example for more lethargic clubs to follow.

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## SCM May Camp

The SCM was fortunate this year in having St. Matthew's school at Masterton made available to them as a site for the annual May camp. As it was held during the vacation, and the period did not cover a week-end from the 19th to the 23rd May, there were only about 25 present, but the cohesion of the group was a notable feature.

Each day commenced with study circles — three in number, which pursued a course of study concerning the religious nature of man, and the ways in which the needs of this nature were satisfied. Following this on every morning a series of tutorials was held by the Rev. Silcock on the "Sermon on the Mount." This was an extremely stimulating feature, for Mr. Silcock is a forthright speaker, and a man who knows his Bible very well. Then on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the

morning's work was concluded by a series of readings illustrating Christianity and Literature. Mrs. Sullivan led the first in 20th century poetic drama, Bill Oliver the second on 17th and 20th century poetry, and Alby Moore the third on popular theological books.

After free afternoons the camp re-assembled each evening for a talk followed by a discussion. Mr. Madden led Monday night's talk; the subject was "A layman looks at the Church." He considered that the Church eschew moral condemnation and devote itself to a programme of constructive help. The next evening the Rev. Martin Sullivan spoke on "The Christian in the University," stressing the need for Christians to play an active part in College life. Mr. G. W. Morice, of Wairarapa College, an early graduate of VUC, had as his subject "The University and the Community," and pointed out how universities acquired a more definite character when situated in a small town, and said he was personally in favour of the transfer of VUC to Masterton. The final discussion was led by Dr. Prior on "Christian Marriage," and covered a wide range of topics under that heading.

All these talks were followed by lively discussions.

Altogether the camp was an enjoyable and an instructive affair, and one which was very smoothly conducted in all its details.

## CATHOLIC STUDENTS' GUILD

### DANCE

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## Harriers Run Third to Masterton

University Harriers proved their position as a leading Wellington team by finishing a good third in the great Wellington-Masterton relay. The race is one of ten laps stretching over sixty-three miles of bitumen highway and is regarded as one of the toughest harrier courses in New Zealand. The Varsity team maintained a high standard throughout and at no time were they lower than third out of eleven competing teams. The team was G. Hawke, J. Hunt, J. Sutherland, M. J. Q. Poole, J. Saxton, A. Hall, J. Goodwin, J. Holden, P. Whittle and J. Eccles.

Clem Hawke was our first man and gave the team a good lead by finishing more than 200 yards ahead of the next runner, W. Smith of Hutt Valley, with L. King (Lyndale), runner-up for the Junior National Cross Country Championships last year. In the second lap J. Hunt was second to the Lyndale man, and after the next change-over to J. Sutherland Hutt Valley temporarily moved up to second place. But when Upper Hutt was reached J. Sutherland recaptured second place. At the next change-over the Hutt Valley-Varsity duel was resumed between M. Poole and Hutt's J. Crosby, the Hutt Valley man having a small lead when Poole handed over to A. Hall, who ran very well. At the Mangaroa hill Saxton was still third, but Scottish had moved up rapidly and was seriously threatening our position. At the Summit only a yard separated University and Scottish, with a big gap to the others, and it was abundantly clear that these were the only four teams with any chance. On the downhill run J. Holden made up 880 yards, making the fastest time for this lap. After the next change over J. Goodwin picked up over a minute on the Hutt Valley man, and handed over to P. Whittle, who ran extremely well, handing over to J. Eccles, who finished the lap a good third—1,300 yards from the Lyndale man.

All the first four teams in beat Lyndale's time for last year, which was a remarkable achievement. On showing of the team the University club definitely has the second strongest ten men team in Wellington, which should improve rapidly, ensuring a successful season.

## Philosophers and Others Please Note

It has been decided to form a philosophical society in the College and all interested are invited to join. There will be two main lines of activity. First, the presentation of "papers" by various members of the staff, students, and outsiders; and, secondly, the carrying on of group activities centering round philosophical problems and philosophers themselves. The society's aim is not primarily to provide an open forum for "intellectual gymnastics" but rather: (i) through group activities to give students the stimulation to carry out reasonably detailed research and, (ii) at the same time provide a receptive audience for individuals in the community with philosophic inclinations.

It is not expected that the society will be functioning fully till next year. There will, however, be an inaugural meeting, and an introductory paper one evening in the mid-term break. At this meeting it is hoped to get the various group activities under way. Those who are interested in taking an active part in such a society should contact P. S. Wilson, C/o Weir House, or B. Sutton-Smith, Phone 55-965.

## Swords Club

The local poke artists are now well into training for the forthcoming Tournament, and a group of ten have been sorted out to go into intensive coaching.

The main club night is Tuesday in the downstairs Gym., and Saturday morning upstairs when wet and on the tennis courts when fine. The Tournament group meets on Thursdays.

During Extrav. preparations the club work was confined to Saturday mornings but a full time-table has now been resumed.



"A ship! Well, don't stand there, Sebastian. Hide."



# VUC Defeats Massey College in Men's and Women's Hockey

On the King's Birthday, Victoria played their annual fixture against Massey on the Massey College grounds, winning the men's game 3-2, and the women's 5-2. Off the hockey field Victoria was not so successful and was thoroughly beaten for the Crouch Drinking Shield by the Massey team which had the advantage of intensive practice prior to the event and also the benefit of superior knowledge of local conditions and the anatomy of the quadruplet.

At the dinner on Monday night the Victoria team was required to stand with heads bowed to acknowledge this ignoble defeat, but face was restored when Warren Persson gave a skillful demonstration of the "hands-off" method peculiar to the Navy. The evening concluded with a most successful dance at Massey, and the Victoria team—though hampered by the inopportune visits of a warden—managed to keep their spirits up till the wee sma' hours when the train left. From their welcoming haka to the final reluctant farewells, Massey are to be congratulated for the fine show they put on for the Victoria teams.

VUC's victory in the men's hockey may be ascribed to hard-working halves and full-backs and a forward-line that showed great thrust on the left wing. Dibble and Tilley combined most artistically with their back-passing, and Tilley's goal was a well deserved reward for such tactics. The other two goals were scored by O'Connor— from a penalty bully—and by Close who sent in a ball that left the NZU goalie standing.

## Club Games

**Seniors.**—Under the leadership of Gil Johnstone, the seniors are showing a steady improvement from week to week. Although no competition games have been won so far, the defeats have all been by small margins, and only the lack of effective circle-play has kept the scoring so low. Its centre-forward Hee Lawry makes an able leader and his team-talks have brought about a distinct improvement in the tactical play of the whole team.

**Second Grade.**—Although handicapped by a constantly changing team, they have turned on some really fine games after recovery from the heavy defeat inflicted by Training College. On the right wing, Allen has been showing great promise in his new position, and Orman is showing signs of settling down after his absence from the game and combining well with a strong set of forwards. The halves, Nash, Sutherland and Kennerley are playing steady hockey but show weaknesses in defence which have been an

important factor in the defeat they have suffered.

**Third Grade.**—To date the Hockey Club has won most of its victories in this grade. The first division team has had some very convincing wins this season. Captain Tom Oliver has a strong half-line and thrusting forwards in Carran, Brown and Briggs. The second division teams found difficulty in fielding full teams over holiday periods but nevertheless managed to turn out on all but one occasion. These teams enjoy their hockey and should form more effective combinations towards the end of the season.

# Women's Hockey Disappoint in Interclub Matches

With over 50 players to choose from, the Club standard this season should be high. Unfortunately the holidays coming at the beginning of competition matches have played havoc with the teams and so far no real judgment of their merits can be given. Keen and promising players there are aplenty, but practise is required to weld them into anything like Hockey teams. One team has been entered in each of the four grades and one of these the Third Grade Senior B Team has had the most success so far, with three wins to their credit.

The Senior A Team won their first game against College Old Girls II, by the narrow margin of 1-0, the goal being scored by Bice Young. Since then two games have been played and lost against C.O.G. I, 8-0 and Hutt United, 9-1.

The Senior Reserve Team, on no two Saturdays the same, had the good fortune to win a game after Capping Ball against Te Aroha, 4-1. Congratulations. Two games have been lost, 1 drawn and one, owing to the mistaken idea that a ball was unnecessary for the game, was not played. Showing good form in this team is Betty MacDonald at right wing.

The Senior B Team is showing the value of practise together—most of these players were in the same team last season—they have won three games out of four. Thora Marwick who won the prize for the most improved beginner last year has done such good work for this team that she has been promoted to Senior A. Nancy Cooper, right full back, plays with good judgment and has a strong hit.

The Junior Team with many beginners in it is showing spirit and improved stick work in spite of having only won one game. Their mainstay is Monica Fagan, right half and captain. Pat Young a beginner showing much promise has been transferred to Senior B.

## Massey Trip

The game was played on a new ground recently acquired by the College and not yet in a state conducive to

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Massey circle and only the good work of the goalkeeper stopped a goal in the first 30 seconds. This put Massey on their toes and the play ranged up and down the field with many good runs by Glen Simmers at right wing until Bice Young scored. Another goal came before half time from Thora Marwick whose stickwork was a great worry to the opposing half. At half time the score stood at 2-0.

Play resumed with VUC on the attack, but Mary Patterson for Massey stopped many breakaways by VUC forwards and gave the ball to her right wing who passed it in to the centre forward, H. Spenser, who scored. Two more goals were added by B. Young and T. Marwick for Victoria before Massey brought the score to 4-2 through a breakaway by H. Spenser. VUC's final goal came from a fine run by G. Simmers who took the ball into the circle and scored through a kick being mistimed by their goalie, who had saved many goals previously.

VUC full backs N. Spiers and H. Lang made a steady line of defence and few balls got past them.

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# ALL RUGBY TEAMS DO WELL THIRD A IS UNDEFEATED

Despite having achieved some meritorious successes, the Club cannot display a good record in the games so far played since the last issue. The senior A side after being beaten by Ponoke 11-14, proceeded to give a greatly improved display of Rugby to defeat St. Pat's O.B. 18-12, both matches being played at Athletic Park. Greig, since his return to the club after an injury, has scored 34 points in 4 games. The inside backs have unfortunately not yet settled down, so that, although the forwards have been gaining more than their share of the ball from scrums, rucks, and line-outs the three-quarters, who must rank as the best in Wellington, have been getting far too few opportunities. Given the ball, Macleod, Berry, Drummond and Dillon are a most powerful attacking force. The team is unfortunate in having lost Jacob, the half, for a short time owing to injury.

The Senior B side has so far been most disappointing, though the performance of this team in practice matches at the beginning of the season gave every reason for optimism. Lack of weight and experience in the forwards and the shifting population of the side are perhaps the most cogent reasons for this ill success. Campion and Jones are both first class forwards who would be worthy of a place in the A Grade were the opposition not quite so strong. Wilde, the captain, is a very competent back whose patchy handling is one of his few drawbacks.

Junior A team suffers from the same complaint as many other teams in the Club—lack of a really dependable first five-eighths. Gray at half and Kimberley at second five-eighths are two excellent players hampered by lack of a good link. The forwards with Bullock and Heath providing anchorage for the scrum are a fine set, and form the chief strength of the side. Possibly the outstanding forward is McHalliek, though Clere, Shires and Heywood are all strong contenders.

Junior B have unfortunately been forced to default owing to vacation on the last two occasions.

Third A have been able to preserve their unbeaten record, even through the vacation, and should prove a formidable threat to championship honours this season. So far they have scored 74 points to nine in five games. Patterson, a high-class winger and excellent place kick, gained selections for the first fifteen against Massey College at Palmerston North. A fine pack of forwards and a particularly fine set of backs from half to full-back, plus the energy and enthusiasm of their coach, are the main factors of their success. Particularly pleasing this year was their success in the seven-a-side tournament on King's Birthday.

Third B, unfortunately without a coach during the vacation, have sustained some rather heavy batterings, but none the less should finish the season well in the running. Stannard, Holmes, Camble and Igglesden are all useful forwards, and Hume is promising in the backs.

Third C were a little unlucky to lose to Makara by three points to nil in their last game, but under the able eye of G. D. Duncan, their coach, should improve rapidly, for there is plenty of good material in the group.

Clothing lent for Extrav. may be collected from "Salient" Room from Mike Murray or Gwenda Martin.

## Massey Games

On Wednesday, May 28, a depleted First XV and a team composed of Senior B and junior players travelled to Palmerston North to play the First and Second Fifteens of Massey College. The first game resulted in a win for Massey II after a patchy game, in which the inability of Victoria to kick the easiest of penalty goals proved fatal, Massey winning 11-9.

The game between the First XV's was also patchy, as bad handling spoilt many movements. The forwards were evenly matched, but the superior speed and determination of the Victoria backs, plus some very good kicking by Greig, gave the visitors the victory by 14 points to five. For Victoria, Patterson and Roberts scored tries, one of which was converted by Greig who also kicked two penalty goals. Massey scored one converted try.

Representative honours so far gained have been:

Wellington XV v. Taranaki—O. S. Meads and R. T. Shannon.

Town v. Country—R. B. Burke and R. T. Shannon.

Wellington XV v. Manawatu—M. F. Radich, A. S. Macleod and O. S. Meads.

## BLUES RECOMMENDATIONS

The Blues Committee has recommended that the following blues be awarded.  
**Rugby Football.**—R. B. BURKE, D. S. GOODWIN, H. E. GREIG, R. JACOB, A. D. McLENNAN, R. E. BARRACLOUGH, R. T. SHANNON, O. S. MEADS, J. P. MURPHY, W. P. M. MARTIN, R. G. CUMING, R. W. BERRY, J. A. L. BENNETT, M. F. RADICH, R. P. HANSEN, T. C. LARKIN, A. S. MACLEOD.

**Rowing.**—S. GILLAN and G. WARD.

**Defence Rifle.**—A. T. S. HOWARTH, D. V. HENDERSON, G. CATLEY, J. V. BAKER, D. M. O'SULLIVAN, S. T. H. SCOONES.

**Swimming.**—D. DOWSE, N. BROOM and L. B. PIPER.

**Boxing.**—V. H. PETERS, M. W. WISHEART, R. W. GRAY, B. WEBB, E. C. ADAMS and D. A. MUIR.

**Athletics.**—MARSHALL and POHLEN, Misses FLETT and SHOULER.

**Fencing.**—S. G. CATHIE, B. H. CATO, B. P. HAMPTON and B. L. HURRELL.

**Tennis.**—B. M. O'CONNOR, D. GOODWIN, J. Y. WALLS and H. J. DAVIDSON.

**Association Football.**—K. JOHNSTONE, J. WALLS, B. SUTTON-SMITH, E. SIMMONDS and the late R. M. DICKSON.

## Indoor Basketball

Since our last report the teams, especially the A's, have made great progress.

The A team, although faced with a loss against M.I.A. during the vacation, when three players were away, is still continuing to dispose of the stronger teams without much trouble. The team (resplendent in new uniforms) is settling down now to a steady combination with Murphy, Moral and Crewdsen going particularly well in the forwards, and the defence line—Piper, Anderson and Beecroft (with Piper and Beecroft working well together) proving a very strong "last line." This team

## Soccer

A review of play by the soccer teams over the last month reveals the usual consequences of the vacation period; i.e., teams being forced to default, players absent, the morphine effects of "Capping" Ball, Senior teams playing low grade players and so on. Despite losses by all teams, however, the last Saturday of the vacation brought hard won rewards. The Thirds playing eight men against a full team beat Hutt 2-1, and later, on the same ground, the Seniors defeated the Hutt First Eleven, also 2-1.

The two teams it must be mentioned, left the local supporters very much incensed by these results. It appears there was even some talk of lynching. At one stage of the senior game our full-back, Sutton-Smith, who had been creating havoc amongst the Hutt players with his commando tactics, was laid low, winded. The bank of Hutt supporters arose en masse cheering hysterically. To their immense disappointment he resumed play.

Although the second grade team has not been playing during the vacation and up-to-date has registered only losses, the Captain, Robinson, centre-half, Dick, full-back, Bliss and especially the goalie, Ward, have revealed themselves as promising material.

The Third Grade team has won two of its games and suffered three close defeats. The shortage of a regular goalie is one of the greatest difficulties here. It is difficult to pick out individual players as all round the play is good. Nevertheless, the captain, Trott, and centre-half Reddy can hardly be neglected. Their play has been outstanding. Likewise the new player Hall deserves commendation.

The seniors have been fortunate in acquiring the services of Noel Hayman as centre-forward. He has been an important factor in giving form to our front-line attack and along with the tigerish Edmonds was largely responsible for our victory over the unbeaten Hutt team.

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