# YUGOS MAM CLOTHES DRIVE

See page three



an organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington N.Z.

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CLUB
3
One Act Plays
Thursday, July 17

DRAMA

# "Gross Criminal Negligence" —or Merely a Legal Quibble?

Out of all the hot-air, side-tracking, wise-cracking, eruption and disruption of the Annual General Meeting in its two sessions, some interesting facts emerge. The most important is that the work of the incoming Executive has been delayed for a week, at a time when the preliminary organization of VUC's first Winter Tournament is a matter of growing importance. This delay is an unnecessary burden on an overworked committee. It was found at the second sitting of the AGM that the lawyers of the Association had very effectively led the rest of us up the gum tree at the bottom of the garden path; that a few members with more common sense than rhetoric were justified when they called the question of non-registration a legal quibble; it will be found in the Statement of Accounts for next year that this quibble cost the Association a fairly healthy lawyer's fee. What is perhaps even more significant is the probability that those who originated this spanner in the works knew the situation in time to have the matter rectified before the meeting, as anyone interested in the welfare of the Association would have done.

On nearly all other matters considered by the AGM, much more sanity was displayed, and in some cases even a reasonable amount of speed. The difficulties which face the Treasurer should now be obvious to everyone (since "Truth" has a far larger circulation than "Salient"), and this year's events will, we hope, result in a far more satisfactory situation in the future, whatever scheme is adopted.

#### Some Motions Passed

The drawing up of the new constitution resulted in the annual crop of amendments being considerably reduced. Some adherents of the Oxford policy of awarding blues only to those sports demanding display of "manly physical endeavour" demurred at the proposal to allow an award to the rowing cox, but the majority accepted it readily enough.

The McArley Bill, with which nobody seemed disposed to argue, appears to be a constitutional amendment to ensure that the constitution is adhered to, in cases when the executive fails in its duty to call a by-election to fill vacancies caused by resignations. An unnecessary but harmless precaution.

On the subject of the new building, he unanimous decision to press for one appointment of Mr. Plischke as architect may lead to an impasse at present, but it will help to ensure that when we do have a building it will be designed by a man who is not only New Zealand's best, but is an architect of world reputation. The executive cannot agree to any other appointment without reference to a general meeting.

"Mr. O'Brien hoped to solve the vexed problem of allocation of the Gymn for Friday evenings. In doing so he raised several other problems, mainly meanings of the words prestige, record and seniority, which will probably be just as difficult.

### NEW EXEC. MEETS

The new executive held its first meeting on Tuesday, July 8. Although minutes of the meeting have been posted on the notice board as usual, we feel that some of the decisions are of unusual interest. For the benefit of those students who are both blind and deaf, we publish here the names of the new executive.

President: Harold Dowrick.

Women's Vice-President:

Hilary Wilton. Men's Vice-President: Alec McLeod. Secretary: Kevin O'Brien.

Treasurer: No nomination.

Women's Committee: Nell Casey, Marie Irwin, Marget McKenzie.

Men's Committee: Jim Battersby, Denzil Brown, Peter Morris.

Until the report of the special financial committee is received, the books of the Association will be kept by Nell Casey, who has been treasurer for the past three months. For the same reason, no co-option has been made to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer. The co-option of the Assistant Secretary has been held over until the next meeting.

Other appointments:

Caf. Controller: Jean Priest.

Gymn. Controller: Jim Battersby. Men's Common Room Committee

(convenor): Denzil Brown.

Women's Common Room Committee
(convenor): Alison Pierce.

(convenor): Alison Pierce. Records Officer: Harry Sansum.

Corresponding Member, NZUSA: Harold Dowrick.

ISS Representative: Jim Battersby.

For appointments to Publications and Blues Committees, and of Club Liaison Officers, consult the minutes of the meeting if you are interested. No appointments were made to the Building Committee, pending the drawing up of a plan for a proposed reconstitution of the committee along different lines.

Tournament Appointments: (some of these were made at meetings of the previous executive).

Tournament Committee (convenor): Harold Dowrick.

Tournament Delegates: Frank O'Flynn (senior), Jim Battersby (junior).

NZUSA Delegates: Harold Dowrick, Nigel Taylor, Alec McLeod.

Billeting Committee (convenor):
Mike Murray.

Information Bureau: Alec McLeod. Transport Controller: Athol Howarth (subject to his acceptance).

Publicity and Programmes will be handled by a committee of three: Stan Campbell, Harold Dowrick and Toby Blundell.

#### Student Welfare

Investigations are being made to find out how arrangements for student concessions for celebrity concerts can be centralized and given more publicity.

Letters have been sent to the College Council recommending that lights be installed along the path beside the tennis courts, and to the City Engineer requesting that attention be given to the Mount Street path.

#### **MISTLETOE AND LAURELS**

In ye old tradition Sir Thomas presented Blues to those enthusiasts who came for them at Winter Sports Ball on Saturday, July 5. The "Tophatters" provided more or less conscordant music at the command of the ceremonial Master, Dennis Hartley. The blonde saxophonist in pink satin kept more than a few eyes fixed, we suspect.

# PLONKET MUDAL

The audience for this year's Plunket Medal Oratory Contest was small. It will be even smaller next year, and probably non-existent the year after, unless the Debating Society can persuade more of its competent speakers to take part. With one outstanding exception, the speakers last Saturday night were poor. We have no wish to detract from the achievement of the winner, Mr. Jim Milburn, whose speech was well up to the standard of previous winners, and we consider that he would have won in competition with any one in the Debating Society at present. Of the remaining seven speakers listed on the programme, one failed to appear, one gave a good lecture without any use of oratory, two erected artificial barriers between themselves and the audience, one delivered in monotone what might have been an interesting speech if anyone had listened, and one gave a good Public School break-up address.

Mr. Milburn spoke on Ramsay MacDonald, the man who betrayed the British Labour Party during the slump. His speech showed careful preparation, and what is rarer, careful rehearsal. His studied dramatic approach established contact with the audience immediately, and the emotional effect was effectively built up, by appropriate variations in tempo and modulation, and by vivid descriptions of the crucial events in MacDonald's life.

Mr. Samuj wasted time explaining why he had chosen Rabindranath Tagore as his subject, assuming this Indian poet to be a stranger to the audience, and by apologizing for his own shortcomings. He tried to establish Tagore as a godlike being, but failed by trying to build up emotional effect with clichés.

With precise elocution, Mr. Hume outlined the catalogue of manly virtues, all of which were possessed in large measure by his subject, Captain Oates. To an intelligent audience, the qualifications of officers and gentlemen are no criterions of manual measures.

moral greatness.

Mao Tse Tung is an excellent subject for oratory, so is Thomas More, but Mr. Smith and Mr. Dowrick failed to exploit fully the potentialities of either themselves or their subjects. Mr. Smith tried to cover too much ground, and Mr. Dowrick chose the aspects of More's life with which he was least familiar.

Mr. Dowling managed to speak for twelve minutes without varying the pitch, speed or inflection of his voice. No speech, no matter how well prepared, can stand up to this treatment, nor can any audience.

The judges were Mrs. Z. Mountjoy. Rev. Martin Sullivan and Dr. Martin Finlay & There can be no disagreement with their judgment. It was the most decisive victory in any Plunket Medal I have attended.

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Wednesday, July 16

SENICULE NO CINICOLIDE

## CENSURE—NO SINECURE

It is usual at Annual General Meetings of the Students Association for two motions to be included among the general business. One, that clay pipes and chewing tobacco be provided for the Women's Common Room, has been passed every year from 1935 till 1946. This year it was defeated. The other, a vote of censure on the editor of "Salient," has been lost every year until 1947, when it was passed, with the tag, "with permission to print a funny page." I propose to deal with the tag first. I have considered the proposal and, owing to the obvious shortcomings of my intellect, have only been able to think of one suitable feature, namely, a photograph of Mr. O'Flynn making a speech. However, I have rejected this as not being in accordance with the policy of the paper, which is aimed at comment rather than reporting.

I consider that the motion was moved with much more serious intention than was accorded to it at the meeting. The charge against me is that of not publishing debating reports. I should have liked to reply at the time, but felt that as I was sitting on the stage in the capacity of Men's Vice-president, I was in no position to reply to criticism of the editor of "Salient," which position is held on a mandate from the Executive, and is in no way subject to the whims of that body, as the only direction the Executive can issue to the editor is that he resign.

I thought that I had already given my reasons for not publishing debating reports in my reply to Mr. O'Flynn's letter in the last issue. Summarized, they are:—

- (1) It is against the policy of the paper, as laid down by the founders of the paper, a policy with which I fully agree.
- (2) Debating reports in the past have been either dull, or so biassed and misleading as to be unfair to the speakers. I should know, I have written dozens of them.
- (3) The restriction in size and in the number of issues per year of the paper make it necessary to exclude some features which some students might like to see.

In view of the attitude of the general meeting, I am prepared to modify my attitude to some extent. If the Debating Society, at its next meeting, passes a resolution desiring that its functions should be reported, and if the society can provide a reporter to write entertaining and informative reports of its functions, I would be prepared to publish them. This does not apply to Plunket Medal, for which a critical review has been prepared.

It may interest readers to know that recently two aspects of the policy of this paper have come into conflict. All contributed articles are published, provided they are reasonably well written, and fall within the limits of obscenity and libel; a large number of these have been reports of club functions, but as they are contributed articles, most of them have been published. Writers of such articles are asked to keep them as short as possible. In future, letters to the editor may be refused publication if they exceed the limit of 300 words. I am pleased that the policy of printing controversial articles has resulted in an abnormally large number of letters, but these often crowd out other material, and tend to lose the interest of the readers when they are not submitted until too late for the issue following the one containing the original article.—A. McL.

#### An Agony Column

Dear Sir,—For a long time you and I have known that there are present at your College, students who are thwarted in love or who have some secret and personal heart trouble.

It is on behalf of these students, who probably are so financially embarrassed (what's the bet he/she cost ten shillings last night) that they cannot buy a twopenny stamp to post us their problem, that we are writing to you.

We have been informed that it is your intention to commence a "Funny Page" repeat "Funny Page," and we wish to be allotted space in this page to reply to such problems. Hoping you will grant our small request, We remain, Your's most sincerely,

GEORGE ANDTHEASS and LOU HEARTBREAK.

P.S.—Students are requested to bring such problems to the "Salient" Room addressed to G.A. and L.H. N.B.—Accountants' and bookmakers' problems definitely not answered.

# Socialist Club Sponsors Yugoslav Clothes Drive

A clothes drive for Yugoslavia is being conducted this term by the Socialist Club. Gwenda Martin and several assistants are knitting old wool into warm jerseys, and while the work is progressing well, more wool and more assistants could be used.

The main feature of the drive is a Film and Concert evening in the Gym. on Friday, July 25. Two films will be shown, one of which is "The Bridge," a now famous documentary of partisan activity during the occupation. Admission will be a bundle of clothes for Yugoslavia. Those unable to attend may leave parcels in "Salient" Room, addressed "Yugoslavia." The clothes collected will be sent direct, on a Yugoslav ship which is calling at Wellington in about two months' time.

The campaign is sponsored by the local WFDY committee, which consists of representatives of all Wellington organisations which are affiliated to WFDY, of which VUCSA is one. Other WFDY news items appear below.

UNESCO will participate in the World Youth Festival, according to a letter received from Dr. Julian Huxley. Exhibits are being sent to Prague dealing with UNESCO itself and with their work on educational and scientific reconstruction; an information desk with literature on UNESCO's tasks will be set up and two lecturers will go to the Festival to speak on specific aspects of UNESCO's work.

During the Festival special services will be read in four of the ancient churches of Prague. Communal services and masses will be held for Festival participants of different religious denominations.

#### International Youth Participation

Among American organisations taking part in the Festival are the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the American Association for UNO, the Jewish Education Committee, and the United Christian Youth.

Ten young Australians, the advanceguard of the Australian delegation to the Festival, have arrived in London. They will do reconstruction work in Yugoslavia before proceeding to Prague. During their first week in Britain they took part in a youth mass demonstration against the execution of two young Republicans in Franco Spain.

Nine young miners, one from each coal field in Britain, will attend the Festival. They will be selected by the National Union of Mineworkers, and their expenses will be paid by the National Coal Board.

Pandit Nehru, the President of the Indian National Assembly, and Sir Lawrence Olivier have sent greetings to the International Festival Committee.

Thirty delegates will represent the Union of Spanish Republican Students at the Festival. They will present Spanish folk dances and songs as well as three plays, including "Guard Cuidadosa," by V. Cervantes.

Professor Joad, actor Robert Donat, ballet cancer Robert Helpmann, and film producer Basil Wright are among the members of the British Festival Committee.

Paul Robeson cables to Prague: "We must build new world of unity and co-operation or perish. This is pre-eminently task of youth. In therefore salute W.F.D.Y. and heartily support Festival program."

# UNESCO gives status to WFDY

Soon after its creation, the WFDY applied for consultative status with the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations. Such consultative status is provided in Article 41 of the United Nations Charter for non-governmental organisations which are actively engaged in work for peace and are truly international in their structure.

As a result of our activities and the efforts of our member-organisations, the Economic and Social Council adopted on March 28, 1947, a resolution granting consultative statute to the World Federation of Democratic Youth, according to the paragraph 1(b) of the Fourth Chapter of the Committee's report concerning measures which should be taken in view of consultations with the nongovernmental bodies.

This acceptance of which we were informed through a letter from Mr.



Trygve-Lie, General Secretary of UNO, dated April 23, 1947, is a new recognizance of the contribution which the democratic youth of the world, united in the WFDY, is making to the cause of Peace.

either by Brigade members who have specialised in any of these or by invited specialists from outside the camp.

All the young boys and girls are willing to talk about the Brigade and their own work. I spent some time with them, living in the camp, participating in some voluntary work, attending lectures and socials, and all the time I asked questions and got prompt replies. They explained to me what the Youth Project really is, why they are building it, and how. In the centre of the colony of fairly small houses there will stand a big ultra-modern block of flats, equipped with all conveniences—a restaurant. laundry, day-nursery, cinema, dance and lecture halls, shops and a library. Most of the work is being done by unskilled labour as there is an acute shortage of experienced bullders in Czechoslovakia. Evening courses are being organised in masonry as an experiment for training new people. Judging by the enthusiasm with which everybody sets, to work there, it should be very successful.

# Czech Youth Rebuilds Plundered Mining Areas

On the north-west frontier of Bohemia, standing like a guardian against the outside world, runs a range of fog-covered mountains. On the eastern slopes, looking towards the centre, lies the Bohemian mining district—the black country—which provides brown coal for Czech industry. Like the mountains which divide it from Germany, the whole country-side is grim and bleak, covered with smoke and yellowish fog. Beside it you will find a sunny, wavy plain with small hills shaped like volcanoes—the cheerful, pleasant district of fruit trees and hops.

Not only in outward appearances but in the whole pattern of life there has always existed a great difference between the two districts. Living conditions of the brown-coal miners have always been bad—partly because of the general situation in the mining industry and partly because the mines were mainly owned by Germans.

The liberation brought at least partial relief to this district, great changes began, mines were nationalised and the social and living conditions of the miners were changed.

But not everything could be done at once and it takes time to improve the housing situation, which is acute in the whole of Czechoslovakia. This was the main reason which made the Czech youth choose this particular section of the Two Year Plan for their own efforts. They decided that they would build 2,000 housing units—each unit is a three-roomed flat with kitchen, bath, etc.—for the miners of the Most.

Disregarding all difficulties and obstacles, the young people set to work while the hard-frozen ground was still covered with several feet of snow. The first thawing saw them testing the ground to see whether it was soft enough for foundation-digging. A group of technicians and competent youth leaders is in charge of the camp.

#### Education and Recreation

Although the main purpose of the camp is work, ample provision is being made for entertainment, study and recreation. The young people themselves organise lectures and socials, they have their own choir



Young Czechs at work on reconstruction

and recitation groups. They sing and read poetry, but at the same time they create the songs and poetry of the Brigade.

Great care is also being devoted to education. Members of the Brigade have a wide range of subjects from which to choose—foreign languages, literature and a great many technical subjects. These courses are led

#### Sexes Share Work

Nearly all the jobs are being done by both men and women, and the people in charge often find it hard to get typists for the necessary office work, as girls, who until recently have worked in offices, much prefer to carry bricks or to dig foundations. During my visit to the camp I was accompanied by a large group of young people and during one of our talks I asked their occupationsthey included students, workers, clerks, craftsmen and a small number of professional builders. Some are there for the minimum period of four months, others for one year and one or two intend staying for two years.

In the evening, when work is over and there are no organised entertainments, small groups gather in rooms and in the lanes, singing, dancing or talking. Wardrobe doors open to reveal musical instruments and parcels from home containing

By their youthful spirit, their songs and dances, and particularly by their work, which will greatly improve life in the district, these young people are creating a centre of cheerfulness and helping greatly in the transformation of the whole countryside, a transformation which will eventually turn the unpleasant Black Country into a congenial working place.

DAGMAR STEIN.

# Dialectical Red Herring?

# Philosophers Provoked

Dear Sir,-I was startled to learn from your last issue that the Philosophy Department of the University should be abolished, and not less surprised to learn that Mr. B. Sutton-Smith urged its death. From "Salient," Volume 10, Number 8, I had been interested to see that if one wanted to help start a Philosophical Society at the University one should get in touch with Mr. Sutton-Smith. From "Salient," Volume 10, Number 9, 1 was dismayed to learn that Mr. Sutton-Smith was going to throw my philosophy teachers out of work.

What are philosophers to do for a job if the Philosophy Departments of the Universities are abolished? Some may find a place in the Church (one of my fellow students entered a monastery), and some philosophical students have already found quiet berths in the Civil Service. But should philosophers be denied the ambition of one day enjoying the dignity of a post at the University, and all that is meant by academic freedom?

There are thousands of jobs for education graduates, and it is unkind of one of them to suggest "no jobs for philosophers." As it is, philosophers are forced to compete with psychologists for only four academic chairs in New Zealand.

I gather that Mr. Sutton-Smith would have philosophers work their way as scientists. He points to the examples of Whitehead and Russell, but I think that even in their work on the fundamental ideas of natural science and on the foundation of mathematics, they were engaged in genuinely philosophical tasks. Doing away with professional philosophers, and leaving philosophy to natural scientists in the strict sense, and educationists (and, I suppose, businessmen and politicians). is unfortunately more likely to leave the way open to philosopher-scientists like Sir James Jeans and Sir Arthur Eddington, and Philosopher-politicians like Field-Marshal Smuts, than to produce a new Locke or Hume.

Professors of Philosophy (including Whitehead, Russell and Ortega y Gasset) might resign their jobs as philosophically as Mr. Sutton-Smith recommends, if they could be convinced that the results would be as good as he suggests. But are they really to believe that if the philosophy department is abblished, the outlook of students will be broadened (proposition 1) and the social sciences will be more closely related to contemporary problems—better vehicles of content directed to the solution of pressing contemporary problems (proposition 2)?

The most serious charge levelled by Mr. Sutton Smith is that philosophy has retreated into syntax and should be left to the English Department. This is doing less than justice to the study of the logical syntax of language, and ignoring, for the sake of an epigram, the speculative philosophy of Whitehead. Since he is so interested in the solution of contemporary social problems, I should like to refer Mr. Sutton-Smith to Sommerville's recent book on "Soviet Philosophy." Sommerville describes a very vigorous school of philosophy which is not restricted to logical analysis, in a country where the University departments of philosophy have not been abolished .- J. WITTEN HANNAH.

Dear Sir.—If the primary aim of Mr. Sutton-Smith was provocation, he has succeeded. It is reassuring to believe that the main theme of his article, namely, the abolition of the Philosophy Department, was not really his first consideration but merely incidental to his purpose. A moment's reflection on Mr. Sutton-Smith's proposals and the reasons he gives in support of them will show that he has failed to convince even himself of their validity.

In order to overcome the lack of general orientation in our various university courses he would reject any idea of an integrating organisation, and rely on the co-operative efforts of specialists who, by some mysterious means, come to realise that they have a common body of problems, and accordingly widen the scope of their specialist areas so that all the gaps between the disciplines will be automatically closed, and the patchwork quilt completed. Perhaps Mr. Sutton-Smith does not realise that the student cannot take all these specialist subjects; hence his knowledge of philosophy will be confined to the philosophy of those subjects which he studies. This will lead to a bias in the attempt to solve the contemporary problems, for the specialist cannot avoid losing sight of the whole in his detailed study and subsequent knowledge of the parts as covered by his particular science. The aim of any science, as Mr. Sutton-Smith should know if he has made even a cursory study of philosophy, is to achieve as great a generalisation as possible of the phenomena that fall within its sphere of reference. If we have a philosophy for each department of knowledge. this generalisation will certainly not be achieved, for each department will be interested only in those aspects of philosophy that apply to its own interests and there will cease to be any integration. True philosophy will incorporate all the sciences, being not so much concerned with their details as with their funda-

Dear Sir,-The original caption of my article was: "The Philosophy Department-an Anachronism?" I have no wish to protest against the change you have made but would like to point out that my heading had a somewhat more moderate tone. This particular question of the abolition of the Philosophy Department was, after all, merely a dialectical red herring serving by contrast, to highlight the urgent necessity for the philosophical development of the other disciplines. It is to be hoped that this particular interest-stimulant will not call forth a host of fretful replies from the pseudo-philosophical, but rather that we will be treated to some substantial opinions concerning the prepositions given.-B. SUTTON-SMITH.

of Adler. Because these theories seem to fit educational problems well enough they are clung to tenaciously and one finds them being advanced in all seriousness by educationalists long after psychologists have found them to be generally inadequate.

Mr. Sutton-Smith obviously underestimates the amount of data that modern psychology has made available. In recent years a new field of study has arisen—a combination of psychology with cultural anthropology, which invariably necessitates the co-operation of two specialists, because one man cannot hope to supply the breadth and depth of knowledge required in both fields. How Mr. Sutton-Smith proposes to deal with all this material we do not know.

#### Abandon Hope ...

Mr. Sutton-Smith's selection of subjects for abolition seems to be purely arbitrary. He would abandon psychology to economics, but so many subjects have their economic aspect that perhaps we could abandon economics as well. And why not history also? Of course all these subjects involve a knowledge of English composition. Written material should be a method of developing good style and communication of ideas, so the English department becomes unnecessary. (Literature could become absorbed into social history or some

Dear Sir,—The University is the only institution in the community which provides for intensive study in any particular field. The cost of such study must inevitably be, for the immediate period, a limitation in the comprehension of other subjects.

Provided the standard of specialisation is to be maintained the innovation of Mr. Sutton-Smith's scheme would mean lengthening all degree courses, which would be undesirable. And isn't a degree course expensive enough already? If the courses were not lengthened then we would have development of culture at the expense of specialist knowledge, which is also undesirable. It is obvious that any philosophy worthy of consideration must at best incorporate, but at least not contradict, the findings of modern science. But the development of a philosophy is not an easy matter and historically appears to be most suitably the province of one person, not a group of people. It is a matter for a person with the requisite knowledge, the time and the inclination. Although our de-

### SALIENT

Dear Sir.—The main feature of your issue of June 11 was about the radio serial "How Things Began" and its suspension: this article calls for some comment.

The fact that Professors Ford and Whittard approved of the serial proves only that they approved of it. They are not infallible. Even "Salient" must know that other Professors do not approve of Evolution as used in "How Things Began." The use of those names, therefore, amounts to a very old fallacy of which "Salient" should be ashamed.

One good point of this article is that it quoted the "Listener's" summary of the serial: and that summary shows that Evolution is not used in the serial as a theory or a hypothesis, but as \*something fully demonstrated beyond all reasonable doubt. And that, precisely, is the objectionable character of the serial-it elevates a mere theory to the dignity of a dogma. The serial dogmatises about Evolution in the singularly efficient manner of presuming that Evolution is clearly true. The "dogmatic" trouble is in the serial and in those who want it broadcast to children who would easily be deceived by it. The dogmatic trouble is not in those who object to the serial on the solid ground that it is wrong to present to children a mere theory dressed up in the truth of a dogma.

Your article says: "The only criticism was on anti-evolutionary grounds

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

mental bases, and its practical task-will be to relate these bases to the real world and its contemporary problems. This would never accrue if each discipline were left to pursue its own self-guided, self-centred way, but would result in a body of those beings, so obnoxious to the nostrils of Mr. Sutton-Smith, the "learned ignoramus"—the specialists.

The "little dash of psychological insight" to be added to the pottage prepared by the historian or economist will certainly flavour the final product. But if each department looks after its own psychology there will be a great tendency to adopt easy explanations of phenomena which would break down if applied to allied phenomena observable in other departments. This tendency can be seen in the way educationalists have selzed upon, and still often uphold, simple but outmoded psychological theories. such as the instinct theory so despised by Mr. Sutton-Smith, and the theories

other subject.) If this business of dropping subjects because they overlap is taken seriously, what principle is to decide where it will end?

My contention is that in order to achieve Mr. Sutton-Smith's aims. philosophy and psychology should be made compulsory subjects, to be taken in the first year of the university course. No attempt would be made to traverse wide fields of knowledge, but each subject would be limited to fundamental ideas inherent in its subject-matter, and intended as a basis on which to build specialist knowledge according to the interests of the student. Then, and only then, with all students grounded in the fundamental problems of philosophy and psychology (and sociology if Mr. Sutton-Smith desires) each subject can be examined for its contribution to the solution of contemporary problems in relation to the other social sciences.

A. A. CONGALTON.

# Shakespeare

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partments have the knowledge they most certainly haven't the time and may not have the inclination.

With reference to the other aspect—
to attempt to place psychology within the sphere of bodies of knowledge requiring their own techniques and with their own laws is to deny psychology the right to possess its own laws and follow its own methods. This will prohibit any further development of psychology and any systematic application of it.

If psychology and sociology are to be taken seriously they must be granted the right to develop in their own way. It not, all that would remain would be economists, lawyers, etc., attempting to ply their trade with the addition of a little applied commonsense, which if perhaps a refreshing change, would not be sufficient to solve contemporary social problems.

Establishing a separate psychology department with more practical training would solve the problem of relevance but for the problem of orientation there can, I think, be no solution.

R. J. WATT.

### **SMACKED**

and that in letters to the Editor of daily newspapers." But how do you know that no other criticism was made? That fact that Miss Jean Combs knew of no other criticism. proves only that she knew of no other. Again, "Salient" is illogical in jumping to conclusions without sufficient evidence.

And even if the only criticism was letters to the Editor in daily newspapers, one such letter pointing out the radical error of presenting to children who have no critical ability, a mere theory to which there are grave difficulties, and to which in its extreme form there are overwhelming objections is sufficient reason for the suspension of the serial. For it is enough for one sensible person to expose so gross an error—enough, surely, for protective action for our children.

Your article on "Education or Dogma" appeals to teachers. But why? It is not the function of teachers to decide what shall be taught, but to teach what they are told-provided that they are not asked to violate conscience. Teachers are the servants of the parents to whom pupils belong: and even if "Salient" would hold, with totalitarian regimes, that children belong not to parents but to the State, or the nation, or the race, or the collectivity, teachers are the servants of the State. And their function is to do as they are told! It is certainly not for them to decide what children shall learn.

It is nice of "Salient" to say: "It is a public duty to criticise the curriculum of schools, provided the bases of criticism are sound and logical." But it is also impudent and impertinent for "Salient" to act as though it has the right to decide what constitutes "solid and logical grounds" for criticism. This article, "Education or Dogma," provides grounds for grave doubts about "Salient's" aptitude to recognise true reasons for criticism.

"Salient's" appeal to the fact that "How Things Began" was a B.B.C. programme logically amounts to this: if the B.B.C. made a mistake, let us follow suit. Is the B.B.C. infallible? If it is not, do not follow it blindly and do not repeat its errors.

"How Things Began" has appeared in summary form in the "Broadcasts to Schools Handbook." But again that



Thursday, July 17— One Act Play Evening, Gym. 8 p.m. Friday, July 18—

Impromptu Debates, Gym., 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 22—

University French Club, C6, 8 p.m. Friday, July 25—

Socialist Club, Film and Dancing to Yugoslav Dance Band. Gym., 8 p.m. Admission—bundle of clothes.

Friday, July 25—
First Night TC Major Production:
"The Apple Cart." TC Hall, 8 p.m.
Saturday, August 2—

Tea Dance. Gym., 5 p.m.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August

7, 8 and 9-

VUC Major Production. "The Infernal Machine." Wellington Technical College Hall, 8 p.m.

proves nothing beyond itself. If this argument proves anything, it proves that everything that has been issued to teachers, is true; but not even "Salient" with its penchant for fallacies, will be so silly as to hold that.

P.S.—Regarding "Salient's" notes to Mr. McIntyre's letter: In "Salient's" opinion the theory of Evolution is the theory which best explains the facts: but that proves that "Salient" so thinks. It proves nothing more than that, and that is not much worth proving.

If teachers desire this series of talks, they are certainly welcome so to desire. What they have not proved and what "Salient" has not proved is that the teachers have any right to have the series broadcast. As is said above, the business of the teachers is to teach as they are told.

Finally it is by no means certain that the authorities conceded to only a small minority: as far as "Salient" knows that is the case: but "Salient" is by no means omniscient and we have learnt not to rely too much upon all statements made in its columns.

ANTHROPUS.

In controversial matters everyone claims a right to his opinions. In its article on the suspension of "How Things Began" "Salient" exercised that right—as Anthropus claims his in this letter. It is, however, fair to admit that a considerable majority of the more eminent modern biologists lend their support to the theory of Evolution: We agree with their findings.

The serial merely presents in dramatic form the results of modern scientific interpretation of observed facts. This can scarcely be regarded as more dogmatic or objectionable than the religion which is dished out over the radio, and which rests upon a scientific foundation of no greater demonstrable validity.

In nearly all primary schools ministers of religion avail themselves of the opportunity of preaching their dogma to children. In the case of the serial, as in the case of this religious instruction, children had a right of non-attendance.

In a country which boasts of secular education, surely a case for the theory of Evolution, which is accepted in its main outlines by many Christians, has a right of presentation equal to that of unproven religious dogma.

(Correspondence on this subject is now closed.—Ed.)

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#### Drama's Best Yet

After battling through stormy seas of public apathy, College criticism and Executive reluctance to finance further failures, it seems that the Dramatic Club with Sam Williams at the helm of its major production, is now emerging into calmer waters. Victoria's major production this year should equal if not eclipse both Canterbury's Shakespearean efforts and Auckland's Ibsenism.

The classical tragedy of Œdipus—the Infernal Machine—by the French dramatist Jean Cocteau, is an ambitious undertaking—not only from a dramatic but from a technical point of view. Under the direction of Sam Williams (recently applauded for his performance in "Murder in the Cathedral") assisted by Maria Dronke, and with a cast headed by Edith Campion, Dorian Saker and Frances Mulrennan, the play is taking excellent shape. There is excellent scope for artistic and impressive costuming and sets, and Mr. Williams' design is something new for N.Z.

"The Infernal Machine" will begin a season of three nights on August 7th. at the Technical College Hall. Box plans open at D.I.C. on Wednesday, July 30. Before that date, however, there is much to be done and if you are able to give any assistance either in property making (contact Bob Barraclough) or in advertising and ticket selling, contact Mike Benge immediately. It is proposed to make free seats available to students who are willing to assist in ticket selling -so be on the mark for this. Remember that this is not only a Drama Club undertaking—it must have the full interest and support of the College to make it the success it deserves to be.

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#### **Protest and Answer**

Dear Sir,—Recently the Biological Society 'arranged a lecture on the Biology of Sex. The Committee believes that "Salient" should print reports of all student activities and we were pleased to notice that one of your representatives was present who took notes of the lecture. No report, however, appeared in "Salient."

On making enquiries we were told that representatives had prepared a report, but the President of the Students' Association did not think that an article on Sex should be published.

We wish to protest against this attitude. Surely a University paper should be willing to publish any lecture given within that University. Does "Salient" wish to adopt the old-fashioned idea of enveloping the subject of Sex in a cloak of ignorance or mysticism?

We would be glad to hear what other students think about this.

PEG ROSS, Secretary, Biological Society.

A report of Mrs. Cochran's lecture was prepared, and was submitted to Mr. Taylor, not as President of the Association, but as a lawyer. It was no obscurantist motive that prompted its non-publication, but the feeling that although the material presented may have been admirable as a lecture, it was incomplete and in some ways misleading for an article. The publication of the report might have led to a row, and while "Sallent" thrives on and welcomes rows, we are not prepared to involve ourselves when we are not in full agreement with the controversial material.—Ed.

# THE CASE FOR A SCIENCE SOCIETY

This year has seen almost unprecedented activity on the part of the various scientific societies in the College; lectures, films, excursions, field days, etc. These societies, however, are very sectarian and correspondingly narrow in scope. The present university curriculum is most inadequate and instead of the societies supplying what is most lacking, they are mere appendages to the various departments, wrapped up in the same poor system. In industry the research worker finds that while his own specialised field is being constantly narrowed down, he requires at least a nodding acquaintance with what formerly seemed other remotely connected sciences. A deplorable division is growing within the Science Faculty in this College.

The biological students on the one hand and the physical science students on the other, are more and more holding each other in mutual contempt. This artificial division is of course conditioned by the general administration and to no little extent by most of the staff. The stupidity of this is fully realised only when we begin to solve the real problems presented to them by man and nature. Every science is dependent on all the rest for its development; for example, it was the "vulgar" agriculturists and biologists who first put mathematical statistics on a firm footing in the face of ridicule and opposition on the part of the "pure" mathematicians. The thousands of examples of this kind are so well known and pervade every branch of science that it is quite unnecessary to enumerate them here.

A single science society embracing all departments would help to bridge the present gap and would help to give science students an attitude which, if they are to be later of any use in research, they will be eventually forced to take up. In both Auckland and Canterbury there have been such societies for many years. They have prestige amongst the student body and at times amongst the community as a whole, and the healthy influence of science students is felt in those colleges in proportion to their numbers. Such a society at Victoria, with its more democratic student body and its more vigorous student movement is both desirable and necessary.

In N.Z. today science and technique are far ahead of general social development, with the result that scientific advancement is being frustrated. For instance, private enterprise could not possibly handle the tremendous increase in power that an atomic energy power plant would give us, and so research is being diverted from this sphere to that of defence and probably aggression. It is principally the wealthy farmers who benefit from agricultural research and the large manufacturers who benefit from industrial research. Science in N.Z. is not yet organised for the benefit of the people as a whole but is a commodity to be sold at a profit and must produce quick dividends.

Questions such as these and domestic issues such as more research facilities, increased full-time bursaries, student-staff co-operation, etc., as well as important academic questions, could well be taken up by the science students but can only be done so through a healthy vigorous and broad science society embracing both staff and students in all depart-Until this is done science students will continue to go out into industry with an outlook detrimental to themselves, to science and to society. P.J.A.

#### Reviewer Slated

Dear Sir,—In your last issue you published a book review under the title "The Hollow, Men." By now, we are again becoming accustomed to seeing articles of Communistic slant in "Salient." I have no objection to your publishing reviews of such books as this; I have personal objections to them being reviewed from a Communist point of view in this "Organ of Student Opinion." I object mainly though to biassed, uncritical reviews as is "Sigma's" article.

The reviewer obviously has an axe to grind; as he says, "Other philosophies could not explain or show a way out of the great crash, but Marxism did." The whole article is in similar vein, dogmatic assertions and sweeping statements being made to complement quotations from the book. This is not fair and unbiassed criticism, or for that matter even criticism. It is merely an excuse to air Marxist philosophy in pseudo-Marxist terms.

I regret having to write this letter; I feel it should be addressed not to "Salient," but to the "People's Voice." OMEGA.

#### **SCM** Retreat

During the first weekend in July, a keen group of students spent a very profitable weekend, listening to stimulating talks and taking part in lively discussions, on "A Christian looks at the Problem of Suffering." The camp was held at Wallis House in the Hutt, an old home which has been given to the work of the church. The camp was attended by about thirty people.

Among the talks given were "The Theology of Suffering" by the Rev. Farr, and "The Suffering of Nations" by O. E. Burton. These both proved very helpful to good discussion. On Saturday morning the Rev. Hurst gave a bible tutorial on the book of Job; followed by the S.C.M. Chaplain, the Rev. Sullivan, discussing C. S. Lewis's book "The Problems of Pain." On Sunday afternoon Bill Oliver approached the subject as treated in poetry, and members of the camp acted two plays borrowed from the Religious Drama. Society's library.

The camp, though short, was both enjoyable and profitable, due partly to the foresight of the S.C.M. executive.

#### **Biologists Active**

Brains Trust.—Never before has such a selection of brains from VUC Staff been submitted to questions from students. Biology 1 room was packed on June 23, and this large gathering was not disappointed in either the wit nor the knowledge shown by the Trust.

Points of interest arising: Mr. Munro would rather die of an atomic bomb than of starvation. Dr. Newman managed to see plenty of girls when he was at school, especially in the weekends.

The Trust almost came to the conclusion that slumps are a good thing. Mr. Munro: "They could be made permanent."

Q.M. (Prof. Gordon): "Is there any likelihood of a Tennyson revival?" Mr. Munro: "How the devil should I know?" When put to the meeting it was decided to have a Tennyson revival.

Interesting questions were: "What happens to the pearl when the oyster dies?" "Do you think a football coach should have two wheels or four?"

Sunday Trip.—Dr. Fell led 30 biologists and geologists to Red Rocks on the 22nd.—a great success from all points of view.

Tarurua Trip. — Twelve biologists spent a profitable weekend at Field Hut from July 4-6. Much botany was learnt and interest in botany, tramping, cooking and skiing stimulated.

Wallaceville.—Thirty-odd biologists visited the animal research station on Wednesday the 9th.

Day Trip to Butterfly Creek.—Mr. Barker is leading a trip to this handy bit of bush on Sunday, July 20. All students interested in botany are welcome. Bus leaves Hotel Cecil at 9 a.m.

#### Dark Eyes Are Deceiving

Fear dark eyes for always scheming Deludes the innocent in his hopes. Illusion born in wistful dreaming Life's precious hours in yesterday enropes.

Heed not a woman's glances, brother, They are twice dangerous than the snakes

Luring thee a deignful lover In her net of beauty she awaits.

Plucks a rose the Envious for its beauty

Crushed beneath the feet—turns dust within an hour.
Ignoble is a woman's wilful duty

Who cares! There's many a flower.

Lashes droop like mystic fans appealing

Deludes the vision of the inner sight. Be thou wise and in thy dealing Love a woman for a night.

—OMAR HJUMAS.

#### Give A Woman Freedom

Give a woman all her freedom She is like a fox with tail afire Knowing not, she runs at random Till she quench her mad desire.

She is best like harnessed horses Ploughing fields and ploughing well. Man must drive and all the pauses Are his blessings or his hell.

Let a woman be rod and master She will sell thy house to Shame. Known, to world, there is nothing faster

Than a woman wanting rein.
—OMAR HJUMAS.

We are glad to report the complete recovery of the Women's Basketball Club. There is now an active membership of thirty players, all of whom have brought great enthusiasm to this year's activities. All three teams have been playing well, and the Senior and Intermediate have a commendable number of wins to their credit.

Proof of the increased vigour of the club and of individual ability is the fact that Julie Dean (Senior B) and June Scott (Intermediate) have been picked as Wellington reps. for 1947, and Miriam Brain (Junior) is work-

#### 3 B.B. REPS.

ing hard for a place. Congratulations, girls; the club is grateful for the prestige you have brought to it.

Club practice night, Monday at 8 p.m., at St. Joseph's, has been so well attended that we can boast a full two-team practice weekly (almost). This has been much more satisfactory than our last year's efforts, but a great deal of credit for our improvement must go to our coach, Mr. Budden, whose skill and good nature have done much to boost the club's spirits.

But onward and upward. Next year we want at least four teams (we'll find the uniforms somehow) so anyone is welcome to come along. Keenness is the only qualification.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### Socialist Club

The text of a talk given to the Socialist Club recently, by Mr. A. H. Scotney, will form the basis of a pamphlet which is being published by the club. The subject of the talk was "How Right was the Left," in which Mr. Scotney analysed the attitude and policy of marxists and left-wing thinkers generally during the last ten years, and showed how closely the march of events has justified these theories.

Many of those present realised the unusual value of this talk, the fact that there is no publication readily available which covers this material. As a result it will be published, possibly with a different title, and should be on sale before the end of this term.

#### **Political Science**

The Political Science Society intends to publish, early in the third term, a write-up on political parties in New Zealand.

Supporters of Labour, National. Communist, Democratic Labour and other parties—here is your chance to tell the students of VUC all about your Party line. What is the structure and working of your party, and what is the character of the interests supporting it? What are the live political issues within the party itself?

Contributions up to 5,000 words will be accepted by the Editor, Political Science Journal, up to the end of the second term.

Wisdom: Knowing what to do. Foresight: Knowing when to do it Skal: Knowing how to do it. Virtue: Not doing it.

#### SPRINGBOKS AND US

Those who have been fortunate enough to watch the South Africans and know a little about soccer will have noticed their unusual combination. The full-backs mark the wings instead of the inside men and are thus often on attack; the wing-halves on the other hand, mark the opposing inside forwards and play more in the middle of the field. The centre-half instead of being the pivotal man of the game, as is usual for the type of combination used by the New Zealand team, becomes a "third full-back" and is, in fact, the outstanding defensive player on the field. This, however, leaves a gap in the middle of the field which must be covered by the inside forwards.

Strange as it may seem, the only other team in Wellington besides the South Africans which uses this particular type of combination is the VUC Soccer Eleven. Not, of course, with equal success. Generally it takes about a season of games—their only practice together—to get this combination in working order. The

Tournament successes of the last two years are evidence that this skill is achieved in that time. Considering the team only managed to draw with Marist 1-1 last Saturday, this comparison with the South Africans might be good for morale.

B. SUTTON-SMITH.

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# Trampers' Boots Leave Marks on Local Hills

Winter, Jolly Ruggah Weathah, and so forth, seems rather to stimulate tramping activity than to quell it. The past month has seen large parties in the hills each weekend. Those who can afford to succumb to Ski Fever have been dashing off to the snows of Egmont and Ruapehu. Those whose conscience demands at least nominal weekend study, have taken Sunday trips as the ideal compromise—much more refreshing than sipping tea with relatives on a Sunday afternoon.

#### Pencarrow

Peg Ross led 18 enthusiasts to Pencarrow on Sunday, June 15. Round the lakes, over the painfully scrubby ridge, and down to Gollan's Valley they raced (they say they raced), to work up a thirst which was quenched, we are told, with Centennial Shandy matured for seven years.

#### Putangarua Pinnacles

Ted Bradstock took a truckful of folk to Palliser, eager to spend the shortest day of 1947 under canvas. It was a chill and wet day, too. The canvas was the club's white elephant, the mighty tent. Though it demands six strong men to carry it, it apparently served its purpose in preventing the party spirits from being dampened.

The pinnacles are extraordinary and quite terrifying columns. At one stage a sticky avalanche threatened to engulf the party, and called forth some of Peter Mitchell's metaphors and puns.

#### Ski-ing at Ruapehu

Floods did not deter Jack McDonald from taking his Ski Tournament candidates and sundry others up to Ruapehu, June 27-29. Nearly a score of bods packed into a large lorry and arrived at the Chateau, after many halts for blocked roads, on Saturday afternoon. They stayed in a hut there, as a blizzard made Salt Hut unattainable. Sunday morning they ski-ed, or learnt to, under ideal conditions. With Phil Downie and Malcolm Mace, VUC will have a good men's team, anyway.

#### Miscellany

The weekend July 4-6 was outstanding for tramping activity. Weather held fine and Sunny stayed at home. The tops of the Tararuas were covered with deep snow.

The official club trip was over the Orongos to Palliser, where Ken Johnstone led about a dozen people. They went in to Tawhai on Friday night, crossed via the Tapokapoka Saddle to pitch tents at the Red Hut, on Saturday night. The return to the Orongos was made down Goat Creek, and so back to the Wainui Valley.

The Biology Society went up from Otaki to Field Hut. We hear that certain of them were seduced from their biological purposes to ski with various Tramping Club types. Others were up at Kime, the ski-ing was good and those who carry skis up there through soft snow deserve better ski-ing than they usually get.

The snows of the Northern Tararuas were also ravished by the large and muddy boots of VIIC trampers. Marshall Laird led a party of five on a trip that aimed at Arete, and actually approached the summit of Pukematawai. Going into Ohau on Friday night, they spent Saturday getting to Te Matawai Hut. That night was surprisingly warm and still; perhaps

that was why people left their sacks at 4.30 on Sunday morning with scarcely a groan, and set out for the heights, with torches to assist cloudy The slushy track too moonlight, soon became thigh-deep snow, that hid sharp sticks and tussock, but a brilliant dawn revealed Pukematawai, Lancaster and Thompson, looking so tantalising that the party trudged feverishly on till wind-slab made the going dangerous. Arete was obviously impossible in the time available. It was Pukematawai or the train. They missed both.

#### **Future**

There are still many weekends before the August holidays and skiing trips. Rangiwahia Ski Club's Hut in the Ruahines has been booked for ten people; others are going to Queenstown, and the Tararuas are always with us. So don't be like Sunny.

#### On The Ball

Chief interest at present is focussed on the North v. South Island Varsities game to be held at Christchurch on July 16. Of the seventeen players selected to make the trip, Victoria has provided six, Massey three and Auckland eight. The following are the Victoria representatives: M. F. Radich (centre), A. S. Macleod (wing), R. Jacob (half), O. S. Meads (lock), R. T. Shannon (side-row), and S. S. Kurtovich (emergency forward). J. P. Murphy, formerly of Victoria, is also in the team.

R. B. Burke was selected for the Wellington rep. XV against Canterbury on July 5 and M. F. Radich was emergency back.

The chief features of the play on the single Saturday which has permitted rugby, have been a much improved display by the Senior A's, a really unlucky loss by the B's, the maintenance of the 3A XV's unbeaten record, and the 3C side's victory over Rongotai.

This last was by the excellent margin of thirty-two points, the final score being 35-3, so that the team seems to have found its feet with a vengeance.

The 3A side played excellent football to defeat St. Patrick's College (Town) by nine points to three, despite the absence of one or two key players.

The Senior B XV lost to Marist by six points to eight—a real hard-luck story—and the Senior A's, with a little more luck, might have defeated the redoubtable Petone side on their home ground.

Two items of interest are: (1) Canterbury College have invited the Club to sent both Senior A and Junior A sides to Christchurch on Wednesday, August 6. (2) The Central Hawkes Bay Sub-Union has invited the Colts XV to play Te Aute College at Waipukurau on August 23 or 30.

#### Women's Hockey

Because of heavy grounds and no matches for three weeks the standard of hockey last Saturday was not what one expects to see at this time of the The Senior A team, though soundly beaten by Tech Old Girls, a team which has challenged the leaders of the grade, had reason to feel satisfied with their efforts. The main difference between the teams was the inability of the forwards to finish off their passing movements by scoring. Tech. Old Girls, on the other hand, were magnificent shots from the edge of the circle to the top of the goal net, and ones which any goalkeeper might be forgiven for not stopping. The outstanding players of the day were M. Seddon, transferred to right half, and C. Murphy as goalkeeper. Varsity's only goal came from a corner, with V. Rich rushing in to score from a rebound from the goalie's pads. T.O.G. 5, Varsity 1.

The Senior Reserve game provided another win for the leaders of that grade—Upper Hutt. The score was 5-0. Members of the Varsity team tell me that in spite of having two of their usual team away they did not feel overwhelmed. J. Lees, goal-keeper, is proving a great asset and with more confidence and experience may prove the best goalkeeper of her grade.

By defeating the second top team in the grade Varsity Senior B team has now risen to second equal. P.T.O.G. were unfortunate in having to play one short, but even so Varsity had the better stickwork and combination. Offside play robbed them of several goals, but the game ended 2-0 in their favour.

Owing to their match being transferred from Kilbirnie to Griffins at the Hutt, the Juniors' game lacked the usual number of players. Varsity generously loaned one of their players to Y.W.C.A. and then proceeded to win the game 4-0. All four goals were scored by Cicely McCurdy, a beginner who has shown steady improvement all season.

#### Canterbury v. Victoria

Canterbury College Senior B v. Victoria Senior B .- Last Sunday morning Victoria girls were up bright and early to meet their visitors at the wharf and see them billeted. In the afternoon a party explored the Corinthic and came up to Varsity where they were given tea and escorted to the pictures. On Monday afternoon the two teams took the field at Newtown Park, and Canterbury reversed the usual order of the victor of this fixture by winning 2-1. The play was fairly even, Canterbury having the edge slightly on Victoria through their stronger hitting. Pat Young, backed by Isla Ashton, made. many breakaways down the left lineout and good defensive work by E. Anderson (Canterbury) stopped many of the movements from reaching the circle. The Canterbury team expressed their apperciation of the way in which they had been entertained and sailed away on the 7.45

#### ".... AND THINGS"

At a recent Tramping Club Committee Meeting, the question of the disposal of the Club's marquee was discussed. The opinion of a female member of the committee was, "I think we should leave it till the Spring when people are thinking about tents and things."

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