

The Magnet

For Men's Wear
144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

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

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For all

Sports Goods

TISDALLS

65 Willis Street

WELLINGTON

Telephone 40-859

EXTRAV PLAYS IN NAPIER FOR CHILDRENS' APPEAL

For the second time in the history of V.U.C., Extrav will go on tour. Last time it was in 1945 to Palmerston North for Patriotic funds. This time '48 Extrav will hit Napier to raise funds for the United Nations Children's Appeal.

A request was received from the Wanganui Amusement Trust for Extrav to go up there. A meeting was called and it was decided to go if the funds raised were given to U.N.C.A. The Wanganui people went into action—even to the extent of having their secretary interview Kerridge in Auckland about the rates for the theatre. You have probably read the reports in the papers about the extraordinary attitude taken up by this organization in so far as the hire rates of the theatre were concerned. So we did not go to Wanganui.

The Napier U.N.C.A. Committee apparently gets up early in the morning and reads the "Dominion" because on the day the report appeared these people rang Wellington.

A sub-committee, consisting of Huddy Williamson, Jean Melling and Jeff Stewart enlisted the aid of Stan Campbell (a well-known figure to the older students) who deserves our hearty thanks for the important part he has played in "jacking things up."

Some slight alterations to the script will have to be made to include some local (Napier) notoriety.

The Napier man with whom we have been dealing, Mr. Rhodes, is himself enthusiastic and assures us that Napier will welcome us.



Palmerston North enjoyed our visit. At least the Mayor took part in the fun.

Admittedly, Napier has never before encountered a V.U.C. Extrav invasion, but Palmerston was not noticeably upset—in fact we did have a repeat invitation.

We reprint a photo of Palmerston's Mayor (Gus Mansford) who, as you can see, really entered into the spirit of things.

Huddy will go up possibly this weekend to have a look at the stage, etc., at the Municipal Theatre. The props will go up on the Friday and the general convoy will leave early, very early, on the Saturday morning. The cast is enthusiastic and after a good run here is looking forward to capacity houses in the "Bay."

Dave Cohen, with Jean Melling as assistant, will be in charge of the trip except while the show is on the stage when, of course, Huddy Williamson is the boss.

On going to press we have no actual details of entertainment up there, but for those who are interested, representative rugby matches and the races will be on.

With Mr. Rhodes's assurance of the enthusiasm of his confreres and the keenness of the cast very evident we are confident that the trip will be a success and, just as important, that the U.N. Children's Appeal will benefit by our work.

REVIEW OF PRODUCTION BY LAST YEAR'S PRODUCER

When I approached the problem of writing a commentary upon this year's Extravaganza I realized that it was the first one I had seen from the front since "Adam Baba and the Forty Leagues" and that in fact I had no sound basis of comparison with past shows, but merely a, perhaps too critical, producer's eye. Then again as I appreciate only too well the mass of work entailed in its production I could not help feeling that, "For the time they've got over that difficulty very well," or "That is an immense improvement on the dress rehearsal," so that between my critical eye and amazement at the final excellence compared with the initial script it may be possible to arrive at some useful conclusions.

Any performance must, I believe, be judged on the total impression it creates and for me and it appeared the majority of the audience on the night I was there, the total impression was an agreeable one. The audience rocked with laughter, albeit somewhat shocked laughter at times, and although the show dragged a little towards the end, I heard nothing but favourable comments from those around me.

THE LAURELS

The most pleasing feature of the whole show was undoubtedly the singing. The words of the choruses could actually be heard and the audience laughed at words used in the choruses. This itself is a great achievement and much credit must go to the cast and producers for the painstaking work such an effect must have required.

The Hells Belles handled their choral work well and danced, to a degree with accuracy but I still ride my favourite hobby horse that doubtful lines should not be given to university women, if they put them across it sounds unpleasant, but in most cases they can't put them across.

The Brownies certainly supplied the liveliest, if somewhat undisciplined, fun of the evening. They so obviously enjoyed the parts themselves that the audience enjoyed their enjoyment as much as their act. Robert McNicol's mis-timed jumps were a stroke of genius.

The two best single performances were undoubtedly those of Geoff "Graveside" and Arch Barclay. Both had pleasant singing and speaking voices, the former (I prefer to use "former" names are so uncertain these days) had perhaps the better stage presence.

Jeff Stewart's tunes were bright and appropriate. I found "Oh What a Jubilant Peater" particularly attractive but felt that "I am a Spy" was perhaps the best original tune of the show but suffered from the fact that the atmosphere was not appropriate at the time it was introduced.

THE BRICK BATS

Of the weaknesses the most outstanding was, for me, that incident followed incident in such a way that some appeared unfinished when those on stage were literally crowded out by those in the next incident. The script helped to produce this effect by lack of real continuity but I feel the producers could have managed the crowds more carefully and perhaps introduced a line which would allow them to retire more gracefully from the limelight than they did.

The canning machine was a good idea but was perhaps a little clumsy and the name tags could, I believe, have been improved upon.

The Miss Enzed Contest was good as far as it went. It had some of the brightest lines in the script but

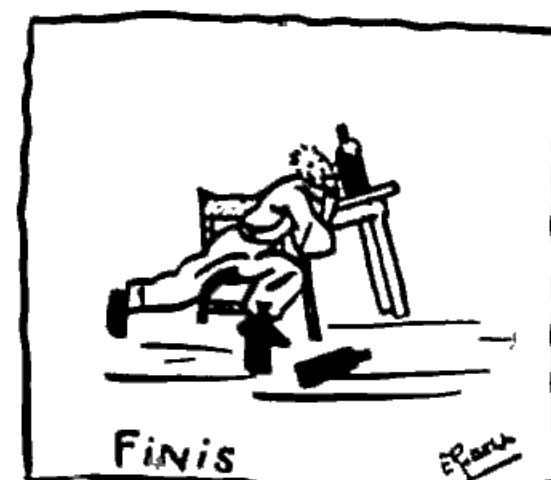
more could have been made of it. The contestants appeared overlooked and superfluous once they had completed their parts. Perhaps a smaller stage and a dias for the contestants would have helped, it is difficult to say. The contestants themselves played their parts well, Jeff Stewart was, as usual, extremely convincing.

It is unfortunate that the dressing was killed to such a marked degree by the lighting. The Hell backdrop, in which Will Conroy put his best, formed an excellent setting for bright dressing but it appeared to me that too much red was introduced into the lights and so many of the colours were neutralized. This helps to show the necessity for two dress rehearsals, a habit followed by many amateur societies, one of which could be devoted to the correlation of lighting, costuming and other technical matters.

As I have said there was a tendency for the show to drag towards the end. Much of the banquet scene could possibly have been cut and the rest incorporated in the Hell scene. The banquet scene also lost colour by the appearance of many people in ordinary dress. Ordinary dress in itself is, of course, not a bad thing, but an extra dress rehearsal would have given the producers an opportunity to arrange the costumed and non-costumed in a more pleasing way.

One could continue indefinitely praising and blaming. The good work done by the councillors I have omitted, but as I have already said a show stands or falls on the total impression it creates. Apart from many adverse criticisms of lavatory humour this one has been well received and if it is taken to Napier should receive a tumultuous reception.

J. R. McCREARY.



Salient

THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd

EDITORIAL COMMENT

V.U.C. students must be a selfish lot. As a result of their selfishness, a number of European and Chinese students will die in the next year. This is not idle supposition. A substantial amount of the funds raised in New Zealand for I.S.S. are used for the maintenance of sanatoria. Deaths occur in sanatoria and when there is less food there are more deaths. This year the I.S.S. Committee arranged the work days so that there was as little as possible conflict with other activities. Summer sports were nearly over and winter sports had not begun; Extrav rehearsals had not yet started and exams were still months away. In spite of this, only about 60 students, out of a College of 2300, were prepared to take part in the work for Student Relief.

There is no possibility that any student did not know that the work days were being held, because there was a booth in the hall for nearly a fortnight. Plenty of people looked at the posters, but very few signed up for jobs. The work of the I.S.S. Committee was not made any easier by the refusal of the Professorial Board to allow members of the committee to make direct appeals in lecture rooms before lectures—they were not even asked to give up lecture time.

Even students to whom the fate of their fellows overseas is of no importance have lost something. Over 100 people who asked for students to work for them had to be refused. This will help neither the Building Fund nor the general attitude of the public to V.U.C.

The Dominion target for I.S.S. this year is £3000. V.U.C. has so far raised £84 towards its share of this sum, of which £64 came from the work days, £9/10/- from the Isobel Baillie recital, £5/10/- from the tea dance and £5 from donations. There is still time to redeem the situation. Campaigns will be organized this term and next, and their success requires the support of every student, not just 60.

An Illusion

Many students complain that Student Relief sends funds overseas when it is required in this country. Actually there are very few desperate cases in New Zealand, but when there are cases they are assisted by I.S.S. At the moment there is one student in Christchurch who is being assisted by I.S.S.

How is the Money Spent?

Of the Swiss Fr. 42,566 (about 11d. N.Z.) made available by the N.Z. I.S.S. Committee in the financial year ending September, 1947, half were used in China according to the wishes of the donors. The funds sent to China were divided between the National Student Relief Committee in Shanghai, and the I.S.S. Committee in Nanking, and were used in these two organizations' general programme of student relief, including student centres, nutrition projects, international scholarships, etc. Full information concerning the Chinese Committee's programme can be found in the W.S.R. Annual Report on "The Road to Recovery." The funds used in Europe were divided as follows:—

Indefinition

Dear Sir.—Mr. Brian Bell's enthusiasm for the Gallup Poll method of inquiry has proved that some students do not know what Communism is.

If the last answer is that of the one and only Ron's then he ought to be able to do better. His answer is as vague as the rest of them, except the most obviously silly. Perhaps it is because Ron knows that there is no such thing as knowing what Communism is. Emile Burns writing in his "What is Marxism?" cannot ever summon up enough fact to define. If Emile Burns cannot define in "the best, short exposition yet published in the English language" (see

Student Rest Centre, Combloux, France, Swiss Fr. 9000
Student Rest Centre, Moni Pendeli, Greece 3000
Polish TB Students, at Leysin, Switzerland 4000
Refugee Students in France 5000

The Combloux Rest Centre is one of W.S.R.'s oldest and most successful projects. It is subsidised by the French Social Insurance Scheme but requires Fr. 3000 a month to maintain a supply of nourishing food.

The Moni Pendeli Rest Centre is a similar one which caters for run-down students. The W.S.R. contribution is 1200 Fr. a month. The other two items of expenditure need no explanation.

Other Activities

I.S.S. is not concerned only with relief. Its other activities include the exchange of information, and the facilitation of student travel and exchange. We include some items of information which we have received recently. They are reprinted from the N.Z. I.S.S. Bulletin which we receive regularly from Dominion headquarters in Christchurch.

Greece. Greek students amongst those exiled by the Greek Government to the bleak island of Ikaria, have been brought under the care of W.S.R., which is undertaking to bring them clothes and medical aid as many of them are suffering from tuberculosis.

Holland. At the revival of the annual inter-varsity sports for Dutch women students, the pre-war car race was eliminated, owing to the shortage of cars and petrol, and a hitch-hiking race was substituted.

Poland. Before the war, there were 27 Polish universities. There are now 36. With a decrease in the Polish population of 10 million, the increase in the proportionate number of students following university courses is more than doubled.

Moreover, there has been a change in the social origin of the students. The gates of higher education are now open to the children of workers and peasants. The admission courses, preliminary courses, and proper selection of the newly entering students assures the accessibility of the institutions of higher education of students from humble social origins which was impossible ten years ago.—A. McLeod.

cover), then why expect other people to be able to on the spur of the moment.

The trouble is that Communists never can define what Communism is. If they once define there is no reason why that definition should apply two seconds afterwards. The policy of the party anywhere is expediency.

The Editor may prepare himself for a spate of either definitions or a mighty silence. Definitions I hope for as yet I have none in my collection of definitions which fill the bill.

In order to prevent any invective let me state in this letter that Mr. Little has a theory about atom bombs which I do not support.

F.M.

Basketball Blues

Dear Sir,—We would like to draw the attention of the students of this college to the present unsatisfactory method of awarding Blues.

The Blues Committee have advised us that we have been awarded three blues for the 1947 season. Performances are the only definite values from which a sports club can be assessed, and so we have included a short summary of the "A" team's performances throughout the past season.

	Points				
	P	W	L	For	Agst.
Wellington competitions	22	16	6	387	296
Tournament	5	5	0	207	141
Total	27	21	6	594	437

Also five players were selected for NZU teams and four were selected for Wellington representative teams. Of the five NZU Blues awarded in basketball last year two were awarded to Victoria.

Surely such a record merits more than three Blues.

Seven members of the OU team gained College Blues last year. This team incidentally was soundly beaten by VUC at last Winter Tournament.

Another point that puzzles us is this:

As basketball is a team game and the success or failure depends on every player, we sent our nominations in alphabetical order and not in order of merit, also we were not able to send a delegate to the Blues Committee meeting as the notification of the meeting was sent to our former secretary's home in Rotorua and was received by us too late to arrange for a suitable delegate to be present.

Thirdly, none of the Blues Committee have watched our team in action. How then did the Blues Committee select three names from our list of nominations? Was it by the turn of a coin?

We hear so much about Victoria's penchant for Tournament wooden spoons and we would point out that we did our share towards winning the trophy at the other end of the scale of points. How many of the other sports clubs with high proportions of blues achieved a similar feat? As a step towards raising the standard of Victoria's representatives at future Tournaments we would suggest that Blues be awarded to those clubs whose results show that Blues

are well merited and not to those clubs which are most esteemed by the Blues Committee.

Yours faithfully,
Club Captain,
Hon. Secretary.

Sportsman?

Sir,—Got to hand it to your correspondent J. F. Little. A great sportsman. Never pinch another man's ideas is his firm rule. So when he decides to take you to task for your editorial "He Jest at Scars" he brings into play all the emotional sewer-sweepings that have lately endeared to our hearts both the daily Press and V.U.C. pamphleteers.

Take another look at that last paragraph. "Men are born to be free: freedom of speech, freedom from want and fear will win against the tyrannical hordes of Soviet aggression." Mr. Little strikes a most profound and original note. What the police do to Queensland and Wall Street strikers is nobody's business; after all, the police are as free as anyone else to do what they like.

A great crowd, the anti-Reds. I've given some thought to forming an Amalgamated Society of Worn-out Newspaper Correspondents (ASWONC) and affiliating it with the Anti-Red Brotherhood (ARB). Verily, let us fight these Reds on the golf-courses, in the cocktail bars and at the cabarets; let us never surrender till the last Red throat is cut. One thing about our society, like all these anti-Red mushroom growths of 1948, it would never wilt through lack of finance. No doubt Mr. Little could secure for us a cut off the Marshall Plan.

Good job callous communists like Salient's editorial writer have humane capitalist governments to teach them "respect for the individual." Nothing like a bit of stimulating criticism from "individuals" now and then to keep the correspondence column lively.

It seems Mr. Little is deeply impressed by Mr. Marshall's benevolence. As soon as Senate gives the green light to this popular warrior's scheme to reassure atom-jittery Yanks, presumably any objections by Englishmen, Italians, Frenchmen, etc. will be overruled. Anyway, as long as Mr. Little is satisfied we can't be worried.

SCRIBE

[Correction please. The "editorial writer" referred to is not a Communist.—Ed.]



Boy Scouts

Dear Sir.—Mr. B. J. Connelly refers to my attendance at the Sydney Scout Jamboree in 1938/39 and asks my comment on his letter. On re-reading the article he objects to, I must uphold the original criticisms.

Scouting introduced many good methods basic to any youth organization—the appeal to the adventurous spirit and outdoor life, to the altruism of youth and the ideal of service; character training and leadership through the patrol system. Nevertheless the criticism in the article remains valid.

It stated that large gatherings of youth in Jamborees were ineffective for peace as they failed to expose the mainspring of the drive to war. I would have added in "Fascist Imperialism" Imperialism is the domination of one country by another through monopoly and finance capital. Fascism is the open terroristic dictatorship of finance capital, with suppression of labour unions and workers' organizations. The Jamboree Sun newspaper contains some ineffective woolly pleas for peace, but no mention of Fascism or Germany—this on the eve of war.

Mr. Connelly admits that scouting takes no interest in inadequate apprenticeship training, social reform;

education, sweating and low pay are surely of vital concern to youth and not narrow party matters.

Imperialism and the drive to war are with us again. Their citadel is America and the war-mongers of that country are echoed by others, including our local university war monger, J. F. Little. We must learn the lesson of 1939 and unite all youth and people's organizations for peace while time still remains.

RON SMITH.

Cappicade

The following contributors to "Cappicade" last term are the prize-winners and may collect their cash prizes from the Exec. room.

Short story—D. E. Hurley, F. A. Bodley.

*Verse—George Turner, Frank Curtin, B. Mitcalfe.

Newspaper feature—F. McIntyre. Snippets—F. McIntyre, R. T. Robertson.

*Entries in the verse section were numerous and of such a standard as to warrant an additional prize, whereas the reverse was the case with the newspaper features and advertisement take-offs. Here's scope for improvement next year.—Editor, Cappicade, 1948.

Dear Sir,—I wish to make some comment on your last editorial (Salient Vol. 2, No. 4) which in my opinion contained nothing but "terminological inaccuracies." Firstly I would like to know exactly to whom you were referring when you said "The ignorant who constituted a large part of those who thundered yes at the meeting." It would seem that you used the term "ignorant" indiscriminately to designate any people opposed to your philosophy, the supporters of the old executive being, of course, the only "bastion of reason" in the Varsity. Secondly, I disagree emphatically when you say that the opposition was prevented from voicing its opinions. By a motion passed at the beginning of the meeting, the executive members were given precedence of speech over others. THEY MADE NO ATTEMPT WHATSOEVER TO DEFEND THEIR ACTIONS.

In my opinion ample time was given for discussion. Let me remind you in

Emphatic

this connection, that the motion of closure was moved with the chairman's consent (Mr. Dowrick).

Finally, concerning the "in toto" ticket, it must be remembered that this ticket contained merely a caretaker executive, to be in office for about a month in order to arrange for elections. It would have been pointless to vote for each member individually for such a short period.

In summing up, I would say that your editorial was, to say the least, most misleading.—E.N.C.

Winter

Tha wintah's hyah 'n awnest naw
An' ivry naht 't sorely snaws,
An' ivry naht Oi loights ma foire
Ta twast mah paw fraust-b'tten
taies;
An' ivry mornin' sharp awn noin,
Oi leans aht awv mah windaw-
froim
An' shouts "Cooo-ee, coo-ee,
coo-ee . . ."
B't arl the tris 's filled with th'
snaws,
An' naw'n cooms, an' naw'n gaws.

—Traditional.

Plato Again

SWOT

Somewhere Crosby is crooning
A tram rattles by,
A neighbour snores gurgily—
And I concentrate on Plato
For Plato knew it all.
A tune running in my head—
Silly text—You're my baby—
My nose tickling purposefully—
And I concentrate on Plato
For Plato knew it all.

My mind wandering to a tall tree
With a bellbird singing Beethoven,
A dog barking because it's night—
And I concentrate on Plato
For Plato knew it all.

I lean back and relax,
Light another smoke,
And now my thoughts are far
ahead—
And I forget Plato
For Plato understood
And I want to dream.

—H.R.U.

A collection for the United Nations Children's Appeal, taken up by the Bwownies and the Flaming Ballet, on the last night of Extrav. amounted to nearly £50.

MADONNA AND CHILD

It is of no importance whether Mary lived
Swarthy against the Palestinian glare
Or plumply fair upon a chess-board floor;
It is of no importance whether Mary lived
Oozing tempered affection upon the sanctified brat
And rising with the reflected glory
And the heart-shakings and the hand-wrings
To a place above Astarte, Isis, her sister selves,
A myth within a myth wrapped in a myth,
An added barrier between this self and understanding.
It is of no importance whether Mary lived.
But it is important
That she personifies all mothers
Breeding their sons to political catastrophe, personal
disaster,
And themselves bred
Bred to the small-talk and the chit-chat
Leaning over the teacups,
Pastiche and lace in Kelburn,
Roused to the memory in a basement flat in Holloway,
Sink and washtub grovelling amongst the napkins,
Patches, patterns, reiterated recipes, dilute sensations,
And the ends that never meet in Aro Stret. At St. Paul's
Genuflecting; sublimating at Buckingham;
Escaping at Hollywood (laudanum by Schiaparelli).

Consider the son;
Remove the glittering halo and ignore
The pretended parentage; discard the borrowed rituals,
The dying god, the eaten god, the god rising with the sap;
His stripped thoughts have appeared before and since
In many climes and seasons wrecking the mask—
Gautama, Confucius, Socrates, Krishnamurti—
Know yourself and live. But we
Prefer the anodyne. Consider well,
The generations rank in infinite regress
But the old stupidities remain. We would rather
Shatter than understand, worship than reason;
See how the aged instincts guard our days.

But we,
Running on stainless alloys with a trillion candle-power
Super-fluorescent beacon beckoning past cyclotron,
Past electron micro-camera, past a hundred million volts
To atom smash-dashing, lost in a whirl of grab-or-bust.

Perceive nothing, sense nothing, know nothing,
And hurtling down into the red-soaked earth,
Urged on by flag and slogan,
Murder in love, annihilate in duty
To propitiate our hybrid sanguinary god
And place a plastic egg-beater in every housewife's hand.

—Bruce McLeod.

GIVE ME THIS NIGHT

Give me this night that I may hold
When all is gone and this one
night is left
And this one memory may unfold
One sweet flower Time could not
beset.

Give me this night and go thy way
Like lovers that come for harvest
and depart
Like winds and waters and the
passing day
All wane, but not the anguish of
my heart.

—Omar Hjumaz.

AN AFRIDI LOVE SONG

I can surrender to Death but once
and gone
Can never turn a page that lies in
the receding years.
You are my Lord and I thy
sweetest song
Sing! for if thou art silent I am
but a memory of foolish tears.

I give myself to thee this night
relenting not:
Offer seventeen summer's bloom in
one short hour,
Tomorrow this night belongs to
Destiny's lot—
A cast off bloom from Passion's
bower.

—Omar Hjumaz.

At one time, as "G.M." once said, you could count the people who had seen a Russian film in New Zealand "on the fingers of your clenched fist." That day may come again with the present policy of the Kerridge and Amalgamated monopoly and the increasing vehemence of people like Bob Semple. Meanwhile the war has enabled us to see a number of Russian films and two more had their New Zealand premiere in the last month.

"The General Line" produced by Eisenstein is undoubtedly one of the world's masterpieces. Made in the silent era and slow moving by Hollywood standards, it grips the audience throughout. It deals with the struggle to introduce tractors and modern science into a backward world of wooden ploughs and superstition. One sees many examples of Eisenstein originality in ideas, striking angle shots, and masterly editing. An example is the view of the cross-cut saw as it cuts the peasant hut in half to divide among the two sons.

Soviet Films

Stark realism is the order and the agony of the old peasant Russia is piled on until it almost hurts. And who but Eisenstein would have conceived the marriage of the stud bull and such scenes as the praying for rain?

The N.Z. Film Society is to be congratulated for giving New Zealanders the opportunity of seeing this Old Master. Finally one should note the excellent musical background chosen by George Eiby.

TANYA

The second film is not of the same quality. It is a talkie and the obvious influence of Hollywood in the catchy musical theme, the "star" system, and other features has not improved it. There is also a serious social criticism, for Tanya, the peasant girl who becomes a factory shoshk-worker, works so hard and becomes a Stakhanovite merely for personal aggrandisement and not to aid her fellow citizens and build up the country's production. Nevertheless, the story is no fairy story but a true picture of a generation of Russian people—of a peasant girl for whom the Five-year Plan brought education, the ability to handle complex modern machinery, the opportunity to obtain high technical education, and finally election to the Soviet Parliament. It is to be hoped that the blind hysteria of Red-baiting will not prevent us from seeing more Soviet films.

The Lost

We are lost
We can never find ourselves again
for we have gone too far along the path that has no return
and wander on

blindly
staggering

groping thru the morass that is our only path
for we shall never see the light again.
the silent spheres roll on above
absolute complete eternal
permanent memorials of man's failure
they have seen all
they have known all
they will watch on long after we have gone
still here and there a spark of life i seen
flickering

wavering in the breeze
but fanned by the dying spirit of men
who are lost
the earth with all its blackened crops lies still
stark ruins blindly poke a finger beam up to the sky
wisps of smoke
eddyding wildly
never a bird stirring
in this lost city
and this is all that is left
for we are lost
we have crossed the great division
taken the furthest step
and there will be no change when we die.

P. C. COTTON

WHERE ARE WE GOING—AND HOW? Socialists Stop To Consider

The Socialist Club held a meeting on Monday evening May 3rd, to hear three speakers expound their different views on what they held "Socialism" to mean. Unfortunately one speaker was unable to turn up; but Mr. Phil Armstrong, M.Sc., and Mrs. M. Stables, J.P., provided us with a good provocative discussion. *ree Sunn* newspaper contains some

Marx and Science

Mr. Armstrong spoke frankly for the Marxian Socialist point of view, which he held to be essentially scientific. The science of society, he claimed, had developed as the natural sciences had developed—by objective observation and experience giving rise to, and constantly testing in practice, a definite scientific theory. Thus in Biology Linnaeus observed and noted facts, but it was not until Darwin that a theory of organic development was fully formulated; similarly in the science of society, the Utopians observed the facts, but it was not until Marx that a scientific theory was formulated. Far from being a static dogma, Mr. Armstrong claimed, Marxian Socialism, like any other science, was constantly developing; many of Marx's original theories had already been refuted—some by himself, some by later students like Lenin.

The chief pillars of the Marxian view of the science of society, was the theory that the economic basis was the determining factor in any society. This was inextricably bound up, however, with the "relations of production"—that is, under capitalism, for example, the relationship between the many who produce, and the few who appropriate the plums. It was anomalous, he said, that under the first form of society in history under which production was social the benefits of production should be in the hands of so few. This was what inevitably bred the "class struggle," the fundamental conflict of interests between producers and owners, proletariat and bourgeoisie.

There were other contradictions in capitalism, Mr. Armstrong maintained, the collision of two or more expanding capitalisms brought war, while, despite the obvious need for goods, production often broke down because too little profit was obtained from it. Like the class struggle, revolution was not a policy of Marxists, but something they inferred by scientific observation. One form of society naturally gives way to another, with a different economic basis and different productive relations. Such revolutions are always sudden, but not necessarily violent. The transition to Socialism in Eastern Europe today has been a bloodless revolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Armstrong claimed that Marxian Socialists alone took their policies seriously. The declared policies of other political parties, claiming to palliate the evils of capitalism without overthrowing capitalism were illusory. He was certain, however, that Labour "Socialism" was held quite sincerely by such stalwarts as the recently expelled Mr. Platts-Mills and his present amicable opponent Mrs. Stables.

Stables Socialism

Mrs. Stables said her Socialist ideals had come to her, not from the writings of others, but from personal experience. Early in life she had been struck by the realization that in many aspects something was rotten in the state of society. At that time she found that her convictions coincided with those of a small group of thinkers and workers in her home town who formed a branch of the Social Democrat Party—the core of the present Labour Party. Today, she added, many of her own convictions did not coincide with those of the official Labour Party. For example, she was resolutely opposed to all forms of heresy hunting! (Applause).

"Socialism," she said, "means the collective good of the whole people." This was the declared aim of every socialist party—and any government that claimed to put it into practice but failed even to try were fakes. There she agreed with Mr. Armstrong absolutely. It was quite impossible to have capitalism and socialism at once.

Socialism was "the pathway of the people." That meant it was basically democratic, and must recognize the right of everyone to his own conscience; but surely, she said, the service of the people was the first social duty of everybody. Surely everybody's conscience must tell them that a system keeping the many in want, and the few in abundance was wrong! And that a system giving everyone what they need and a vital part in political, social and industrial life was right. True socialism meant every man giving his best, and in return, never knowing what want was.

"We don't want doles and charity," Mrs. Stables said decidedly, "we want life!" and she added, "It's up to you young people to see that you get it."

What advance have we made? Individuals have done something, she said. But it was only collective effort that could save the world—that meant socialism—or it may even, she conceded coyly, mean communism. It was only a matter of labels. What it meant really was the common good of the whole people. And this ideal she claimed had been put into practice to a greater extent in Soviet Russia than anywhere else. (Consternation.) The Labour Government had done more than any other government in this country in that direction.

We must fight, she said, for socialism as the essential condition for the survival of our civilization. Better a heaven on the earth we know than a doubtful one in the sky. Equal opportunity was the chief demand of socialists. The class distinctions of present society were iniquitous, considering that those who were worst off were those who produced the world's wealth with the sweat of their brow.

Discussion on the two talks was lively while it lasted but the idea of supper seemed to loom large in the minds of those present. One question concerned the U.S.S.R. Both speakers had implied that socialism was in construction in that country. If socialism consisted in the control of production by the producers themselves, was Soviet society really socialist? Mr. Armstrong said definitely, yes. He referred to John Reed's "Ten Days that Shook the World," which described the actual seizure of Russian factories by the workers in 1917.

Capitalist Parasites

Another member of the audience inquired, "Are not capitalists also producers?" Since they contribute money to society were they not entitled to a share in the benefits of production? Mrs. Stables was equally DEFINITE in her reply. No! The capitalist made his money out of the labour of others. There could be no capital without labour. Capital was an accumulated appropriation from the workers, and represented the balance between the real value of their labour, and the wages they were paid. Capitalists were thus parasites. Labour was better off without them.

Mr. Bertram, one of the club's vice-presidents, made a very bright contribution to the discussion which was evidently lagging. He started by telling us two jokes of doubtful connection with the subject in hand. He ended by declaring that Socialism was not so much what to aim at, as how to get there. The old school, the gradualist social democrats, knew where they were going, but had a very small chance of ever getting there. The Communists had a most realistic idea about how to get there—but would it be socialism when they got there?

This provocative remark had its desired effect in stimulating some heated discussion—for about half a minute, when Mr. Brian Bell, obviously almost faint with hunger, introduced a hasty vote of thanks to the speakers, the time being 9.50, and suggested that we repair to the cafe for supper.

We did.

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LANDS for BAGS

With a freedom from dogmatism typical of the mature statesman, Mr. De Valera refused to offer a ready made solution to the Palestine problem, when questioned by three executive members of the V.U.C. Political Science Society last Wednesday. He suggested that the parties particularly concerned had more intimate knowledge of the problem and that they, left alone, would reach a satisfactory agreement.

Because of the calls on Mr. De Valera's time, the interview took place in a passage of the Waterloo Hotel. It extended beyond the few minutes allotted, in spite of frequent exhortations for brevity from Mr. F. Aiken, former Minister of Finance in Elre who is travelling with Mr. De Valera. The interview revealed

DE VALERA DEAD

Mr. De Valera as deeply interested in university affairs.

For the present impasse, he contended that the fault was to be found among the victorious Powers who were at variance when it came to the vital duty of co-operating.

Throughout the interview, Mr. De Valera stressed the point that the first step towards world peace consisted of the co-operation of nations, in an endeavour to find common interests. When this had been done, they could then turn to solving other problems on a basis of mutual understanding.

He considered that world federation was a solution to international problems. World Government on the other hand, as popularly conceived, could today only be brought about when one Power had dominated the rest of the world, which was highly undesirable.

The reasonable way, he suggested, was for a group of nations to come together in an intelligent fashion and agree to obey certain laws, in view of the dangers threatening all. Such associations are done on behalf of the individuals inside States themselves, but he agreed that with nations the task is rather more difficult.

He hastened to add that the coming together must be voluntary. When the worth of the organization was established other nations would be prepared to join.

Loss of sovereignty is not a valid argument against world federation. Every argument between nations involved the surrender of a certain amount of sovereignty, because they thereby gave up their right to do as they liked in certain matters. The notion of absolute sovereignty, without morality, had been responsible for most of the present trouble.

The Marshall Plan was good in that it was based on self help and mutual aid, and aimed to help those

Chem Society

The annual general meeting of the Chemistry Society was held on Wednesday, 14th April, in the chem. lecture room at 7.30 p.m.

The following officers were elected for the 1948 session:—

President: Prof. P. W. Robertson.
Chairman: A. K. Caverhill.
Secretary: K. A. Handcock.
Committee: J. B. Butchers, P. G. Harris, A. N. Wilson.

The outgoing committee should be congratulated on the efficiency with which it handled the varied activities of the year.

Probably the most valuable activity of the past year, and one that could be recommended to allied clubs was a tour of research institutions in the North Island. Chemical labs. of various sections of D.I.S.R. were visited at Palmerston North and Hamilton during the August recess. Discussion with research officers gave the tourists a valuable insight into the agricultural research being carried out now in New Zealand.

The present committee is planning activities for the current year and will welcome suggestions.

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who could not help themselves. Evidence of Eire's willingness to co-operate in a plan such as this was an agreement which she had entered into with England not long ago.

In America, he noted intense feeling about world affairs and for his own part he would not like to prophesy the outcome of an admittedly dangerous situation.

In Eire a Federal University controlled by a Federal Senate confers degrees and not the colleges themselves. Nevertheless the idea of "Home Rule" was deeply rooted in each of the individual colleges.

In the field of science Irish Universities have close co-operation with Harvard, Bloemfontein, certain European and the Armagh (Northern Ireland) universities, an example, he

PLAYS CENTRE

added, with a smile, of Eire's international outlook and her willingness to co-operate with the partitioned countries.

A Post-graduate Research College had recently been established. It is divided into three parts, the first dealing with Celtic studies, the second with science, mathematics and physics, and the third with cosmic physics, astronomy, geophysics and study of cosmic rays. Such a development, he hoped, would discourage the export of the best brain in the scientific sphere.

Economics and political science hold considerable prominence in the Irish Universities, he said.

When questioned on student organizations, he stated there was plenty of vigorous student activity in the universities. "It is well that it should be so," he added.

Mr. De Valera, himself a mathematician and Chancellor of the University of Island, has kept in touch with mathematical developments in New Zealand and remarked on the excellent work of the late Professor Somerville. He regretted that he had not had time to visit the mathematics and physics departments at Victoria College.

The impression gained from the interview was that he would have been prepared to discuss university affairs for a considerable time.

It appears very unfortunate that the proposed lecture at Victoria College could not take place because of the fullness of Mr. De Valera's itinerary, as his easy rational style of speaking seems ideally suited for a university audience.

The interview ended with Mr. De Valera signing autographs for various people in the passage while discussing the merits of the three-quarter style of Rugby in New Zealand which had impressed him in 1924 and 1935 when the All Blacks played in Dublin. Mr. De Valera played centre.

COMING EVENTS

Training Coll. Major Production, "The Devil's Disciple," G.B.S.

Thurs., Fri., Sat. June 22.

Law Faculty Lecture, Weir House, June 8th, 8 p.m.

Queensland State String Quartet, C.G. June 8th, 8 p.m.

C.S.G. Dance, St. Pat's College, Saturday, June 5th

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BRITISH STUDENTS' UNION STATES POLICY ON CZECH CRISIS

John Ziman, one of N.Z.U.S.A. representatives in England, and N.Z.U.S.A. delegate to International Union of Students Council meeting in Prague last year has sent Salient the text of a resolution on recent events in Czechoslovakia passed by the executive of the British National Union of Students and supported by the NUS Congress.

In response to the great interest of British students in the recent events in Czechoslovakia, we, the executive committee of the National Union of Students, have sifted all the evidence, much of it conflicting, available from many sources before defining our attitude, to these events in Czechoslovakia. We have confined our conclusions to those aspects of the crisis which affected the students of that country, taking place in that country. We regard it as fortunate that officers of the I.U.S., including two representatives of our own National Union, were present in Prague during this period, and were able to provide us with considerable additional information.

Firstly, we must comment on the inaccurate reporting in this country of the student demonstration which took place in Prague on February 25. The procession took place contrary to the Czech pre-war law that police permission should be obtained before any procession took place. Further, it was particularly contrary to the expressed wish of President Benes himself, and in fact arrangements had already been made for five elected representatives of the students to visit the President. Of the students arrested in connection with the procession alone, all were charged with merely routine administrative offences and received extremely lenient treatment while serving short sentences averaging four days. The two students arrested on criminal charges not connected with the demonstration are awaiting proper trial and have been visited by our representatives.

Action Committees

Secondly, regarding the relation of the student Action Committees to the Prague and Czechoslovak Unions of Students. The Committees of the National Front from which these Action Committees sprang were recognized to be part of the Czechoslovak post-war constitutional life. They were formed in 1945 in every national and local organization and institution as a means of resolving any conflict likely to endanger the unity of the Czechoslovak people needed to realize their programme for national development stated at Kosice in May, 1946. In the universities they were composed of professors, or students, nominated by all the political parties. In fact, the National Front Committee at Prague University was called upon to adjudicate on an issue concerning the Prague Union of Students as recently as January of this year.

On Saturday, February 21, Premier Gottwald called for the foundation throughout the country of Action Committees within the National Front.

The University Action Committees, composed of students and professors, were faced with special problems in that:—

(a) During the critical period both the Prague and the National Unions of Students were without effective leadership. For example, the President of the National Union (a Slovak Democrat) resigned in protest

against the misuse of his name and that of the National Union by those responsible for the demonstration. Others like Ransdorf, a known collaborator, had fled the country rather than face the security charges brought against him.

Left Right Out

(b) The elections which took place in January of this year were manifestly corrupt and, in spite of protests which resulted in the withdrawal from the unions of all left-wing and many non-party students, an unrepresentative leadership was established. This had been the culmination of events over the previous year, such as the exclusion of foreign students from the faculty organizations, misappropriation of funds, and a refusal to implement the 10 point programme adopted by the students in 1945. It is certain that even if the general national crisis had not developed as it did, these matters concerning the students would have been raised at the I.U.S. Council to be held this summer.

In this case it is understandable that the Action Committees should temporarily assume responsibility for the direction of student affairs, pending further elections to be held at the earliest possible moment, and further, that they should adopt as their policy the agreed 10 point programme and undertake measures regarding the improvement of student housing, stipends, and curricula. Here we regard as the central issue be held as soon as possible, and we find no evidence so far to suggest the opposite view. It must also be emphasized that this development refers only to one section of the Czechoslovak student movement, since the constituent unions in Brno, Olomouc, and Bratislava continue to function normally, as do several of the faculty organizations in the Prague University itself.

Thirdly, regarding the expulsion of students and professors, one can understand that in a formerly occupied country, it would be universally accepted that persons should be excluded from public office who had betrayed their country's interests by

collaborating with the occupying force. In the universities, the Courts of Honour legally constituted for this purpose were suspended early in 1947, even though 1800 cases waited for review. These Courts of Honour, composed as previously, have been set in motion again.

Further Expulsions?

In this case we regard the central issue to be whether the existing provision for the expulsion of students and professors who were collaborators will be extended to include others who hold a minority opinion but nevertheless have a patriotic record. The members of I.U.S. have been given every opportunity to investigate the charges so far brought and have found no evidence of discrimination of this kind.

Therefore

1. The Executive Committee of the National Union of Students endorses the conduct of the I.U.S. Secretariat to date, and in particular commends the actions of its representatives in providing them with information based on extensive and careful investigation.

2. The Executive Committee also takes note of the resignation of the American Vice-President, William Ellis, and his deputy, Jim Smith, and expresses its deep regret at these decisions. In the light of the evidence before it the Executive cannot endorse their action which it regards as hasty and which tends to divide the students further at this juncture.

Considering also the decision to suspend membership taken in Denmark and Sweden, and the interruption of negotiations for affiliation announced temporarily in Norway and Canada, the Executive considers that the proper procedure for student organizations who find themselves in disagreement on any issue with the Secretariat is to co-operate fully with the I.U.S. and its members on all other matters pending the discussion at the Summer Council. The effect of the above decision is to penalize the international student movement and the unity of students in the I.U.S. In this respect the existence of the I.U.S. is more important than a disagreement with one of its Executive bodies, and these organizations should return their confidence in the total membership and in the governing bodies of the International Union.

3. Finally, we cannot recommend a policy of wholesale condemnation of recent events in the Czechoslovak student movement. We ask that the I.U.S. should continue its present policy of individual cases by:

- Attending trials of students;
- Investigating individual expulsions;
- Observing the forthcoming elections from which there should re-emerge a fully representative and democratic national student organization;
- Publicizing inside Czechoslovakia that it is prepared to undertake activity of this kind.

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JOHN ZIMAN REPORTS ON BRITISH STUDENTS' CONGRESS

The National Union of Students have for the past twenty years held an annual congress at Easter time. This year Leicester, the seat of a small university college, was chosen, and thither we travelled on a cold, wet, blustery day. I should explain that a congress is not an executive body, and is not entitled to make decisions or determine policy. It is a gathering of private members of the N.U.S. and exists solely to bring students together to discuss questions of common interest, although naturally the Executive take heed of the general feelings expressed. The nearest equivalent in New Zealand would be a W.E.A. Summer School.

The 700-odd students who squelched into the ugly brick University College were gradually sorted out and found digs, some in hostels and some in private houses. A fine job had been done here. We were paid four guineas apiece for everything except beer and they put us all up for a week in a city the size of Wellington (Tournament organizers please note). I was in a private home, but fed lavishly each day at the Domestic Science Hostel, (which has a vested interest, I suppose, in the supply of good food). The meetings were in the College lecture rooms or in the hall of a local grammar school, a large handsome airy building.

Small Groups Made Discussion Easier

The programme was full and varied. The most important items were four plenary sessions, at which some national figure, e.g., Dr. Joad, Mr. Arthur Horner, spoke and introduced the subjects: "The Student and the State," "The Student and the Unions," and so on. These speeches were followed by some very hard hitting speeches from the floor of the meeting, where they would be amplified and the main speaker refuted or

supported. In the afternoons we split alphabetically into "commissions," where we discussed the subject more closely. There were about forty people in each commission and there was never any lack of subtle, acrimonious, vigorous and thoughtful speaking. The decisions or opinions of the commissions were reported back to the chairman and the whole summed up briefly in the final plenary session. All the discussions were planned around a study outline, "The Status of the Student," a collection of thought provoking questions and statements which we had received before Congress and which we were expected to have thought about. We hadn't time to answer all the questions individually, but the final report suggests our opinions on most of them, and gives the Executive a guide to current student thought.

There were two sessions on I.U.S. and Czechoslovakia, where Tom Madden, Secretary of I.U.S., spoke on its work and on the recent events in Prague...

W.F.D.Y. and other international youth movements were discussed at another session. At odd hours, in the evenings, various student organizations, Student Labour Federation,

Union of Catholic Students, S.C.M., Association of Scientific Workers, Association of Education Students, etc., arranged meetings and speakers for those interested. A very popular and successful item was the political forum, which was a brains trust of a Tory, a Liberal, a Socialist and a Communist, who answered questions and debated admirably. One afternoon we divided into faculties and discussed common needs and interests, and discussed the possibility of setting up national faculty associations.

The Social Side

Finally and probably most important I must mention the social life.

All I can say is that you would have thought that most of the students had never danced before in their lives and never would again. We certainly crammed in a vast amount of informal fox trotting and crammed a vast number of people into some very small rooms. The nearest thing I can remember was a dance in the VUC Gym on VE night (without tombstones though there is a fine cemetery next door). A week didn't seem any too short to make some beautiful friendships. Think of Tournament lasting a whole week, and think of having no responsibilities like jumping or running or debating or swimming. Besides dances there were concerts, sing-songs, theatre parties and films, not to mention some comfortable handy pubs.

"What sort of people were these students?"

They were not very representative of student opinion as a whole. The

vocal, energetic people were there; a high proportion of communists, many active liberals and labourites, and an amorphous mass of silent people who had come for the fun. Oxford and Cambridge were poorly represented; provincial universities and Londoners seemed to be there in masses, as were Training College students. I'm glad to say, however, that apparently the so-called "Weir House Mentality" is not bred in England or does not go to Congresses.

It was fun meeting people, arguing with them, hearing them speak. The main speakers were entertaining and interesting. The social life was gay and relaxing. For me the weakness was a feeling of discursiveness, of trying to talk about too many things at once. We had too little time, and never got beyond the preliminary statement of the problem. I was bored by the stupid antithesis of communism and anti-communism, and the shouting of slogans by hacks. We would have done better if the subject had been briefer in scope, if we had had a series of lectures instead of one from each visitor, if groups had been smaller and better controlled.

But it was all worth while because of the people and the friendships, beautiful, platonic and otherwise. If you decide to have a Congress in New Zealand, remember the primary aim is to get people together. Let them meet and argue and talk and dance and make love. No resounding resolutions or watertight party machines contribute more to good society.

LIT. SOC. STUDY GROUP DISCUSSES JAMES BAXTER

As to many Literary Society gatherings the most animated discussion at Weir House on March 25th took place in companionable groups when supper was present. Supper's presence should perhaps be intimated at the beginning of all meetings. It might dispel many member's inhibitions sufficiently to overcome the difficulty of getting somebody to collect material on a New Zealand writer for the Society to chew over.

Pat Wilson read for the first meeting a paper on James Baxter. His definite comments were obviously designed to offer ground for discussion and to probe members sufficiently to find that they did have opinions on the subject. The statement that Baxter was a young poet started some discussion—was he a young or old poet, is a poet necessarily young (it was wondered if a poet could be a mixture). Examination of his poetry was found most interesting and relevant to this point no apparent conclusion was reached but there seemed some agreement that the imagery of his poetry made him truly a New Zealand poet. It is interesting that Baxter is probably the only third generation New Zealand poet writing today.

But there was an evident reluctance to place Baxter in comparison

with other New Zealand poets. It was felt that the available material was too slim for judgment and it was agreed that a future discussion of James Baxter would be profitable when his new book is published.

As the first meeting of the year of this discussion group, it was attended by a satisfactory number of those interested in this subject. It seems probable that the valuable discussions of 1947 will continue successfully. Notices of future discussions will be posted on the main notice-board and a cordial invitation is extended to all students.

Sydney Students' Paper Banned

Honi Soit, the student newspaper of the University of Sydney has been banned by the University Senate. This action was taken by the Senate because it considers that letters published in the correspondence columns of Honi Soit were obscene and blasphemous, and offended good taste. Two issues were banned. We wish we could publish these letters which were passed by the censor at the printers who handle Honi Soit. Our sympathies, Sydney.

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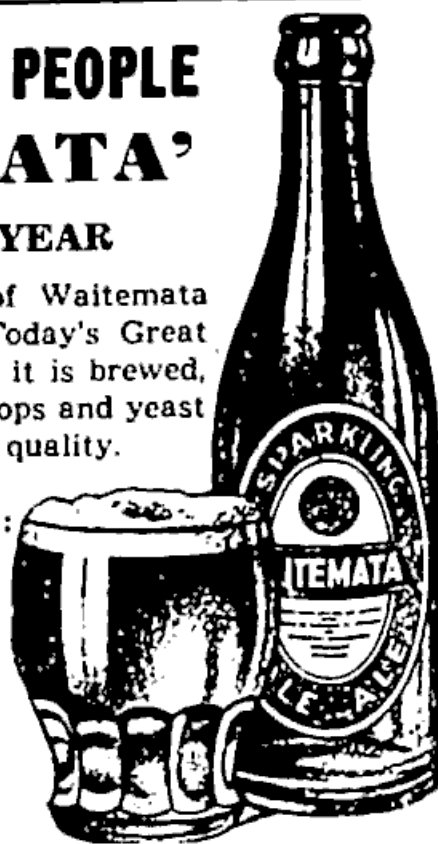
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Editorial From American Paper

"Daily Trojan" is the eight-column, five-day-a-week newspaper of the students of Southern California University, Los Angeles. It publishes headline and college news in the better traditions of American journalism, and reflects a passing interest in both international affairs and the college sororities. But Southern California has its Red-scare too: just look what slipped into the editorial column on April 1st—

To aid those who might be confused by the pattern of the post-war world, we are here printing a guide for Americans, that they may know just who their friends are—as of today.

The following then is a kind of Intelligent Readers' Guide to Our Allies in an Era of Expediency, an era which has been praised as promising peace and plenty for all. Our allies, not always in the order of their great importance, and certainly not in the order of friendliness and love for America and for democracy, are:

1. Rafael Trujillo, el gran presidente of the Dominican Republic, the capital of which has been spontaneously named for him. For more than two decades poor-born Trujillo has maintained an iron-handed "benevolent" despotism over his people. In return, the grateful voters (the peones aren't allowed to vote, of course) have maintained "El Jefe" in a palace and given him several million dollars as a mark of their deep affection.

2. Juan Domingo Peron, president of Argentina, who, with his wife Eva, has endeared himself to all true lovers of democracy. "Juancito" as he is known to his descamisados (shirtless ones), is that genuine democrat who first thrust himself on the people by a palace coup in 1943, then, after knocking out the free press and all other political parties, decided it was safe to make the process legal. Evita is that benighted lover of the poor who hob-nobbed with Francisco Franco and gave the Fascist salute from balconies all over Falangist Spain. Peron's idea on the free state is remarkable, chiefly in its similarity to Mussolini's corporative set-up.

3. King Paul and Queen Fredrika of Greece are those enlightened liberty-lovers who command the respect of all of 20 per cent. of the Greek people, but whose claim to "divine right" rule has been upheld by British and American troops under the sturdy doctrine that anything is better than communism. Paul, cold and imperious is apparently unmoved by the sufferings of his people. Fredrika, petit and quite cute, had a bevy of brothers in Hitler's Wehrmacht and was herself an ardent supporter of the new order in Europe.

4. Francisco Franco, "El Caudillo" of the New Spain, who is the intellectual papa of the idea of Hispandidad, or domination over all Spanish-speaking peoples. Franco, whose ruthlessness in the civil war has been carried over in his civil administration, believes staunchly in the people, to the point of giving them back a monarchical, feudalistic set-up which they don't want in the least, but which is undoubtedly good for them. After all, "Caudillo" knows best.

5. Chiang Kai-shek, the noble democrat who gave personal orders for such high-minded social experiments as the executions of the left-wing Kuomintang partisans who had delivered Shanghai to him in 1921. Chiang had them roasted alive in the boilers of locomotives in the main station of the city. Another Chiang move in support of liberty: his personal orders for the quaint murder of little Phyllis Li in 1927. Phyllis' crime: being the daughter of the secretary-general

of the Hankow government. The details of the murder: too monstrous to reprint. But, of course, all great national movements must shed a little blood to achieve their goals. And there's Madame Chiang and all her Soong sisters and brothers (except that nasty woman, Madame Sun Yat-sen, who insists that the Chinese people have a right to decide their own form of government), who cry for more money from the United States to support their nation. It wouldn't do for them to pour out their own almost unbelievable wealth into the struggle. After all they obtained it in the fairest and most aboveboard Chinese manner: by financial manipulation and inside deals.

There are others, of course, who might be added to our list, but some of them, like our own "pretty boy," Charles de Gaulle, are just waiting on the sidelines, ready to climb on horseback, and ride into the political scene as soon as we make things ready for them. You all know Chuck—he's the one who wants national corporations for unions and employers, just like jolly old Italy—and everyone knows how successful Italy was.

Just thought you might like to know whose pictures you will see over all the blackboards and on all the war bonds when the fighting starts. For after all, these are our allies and its good to know just what they stand for.

DIRGE FOR AN ARMIDILLAN ABSOLUTE

"O for more scope! I could laugh eternally!"

It is not customary to laugh at funerals, but this is not an ordinary funeral and you will, I am sure, forgive me. Far sooner would I have had the more pleasant task of beating the drum at the showman's tent, of bidding you step in and see the marvels than in writing this sorrowful epic. To suggest that this is a real funeral with a body in the coffin is perhaps wrong, rather has the body the semblance of death, some day it may reappear, for the coffin is but a symbol and the flesh still lives.

First let me take you to the service leaving this chill autumn sunshine to hear the mournful perorations of an old and orthodox black-robed man. The padded doors smudged shut and in the dim interior I saw that the service was over. The organist had pulled out all the stops and the pagan magnificence of Verdi's "Dies Irae" defied the God for whom it was created. I stood on tip-toe and sang for joy, the coffin moved slowly down the aisle, crowds of people curiously unemotional, surrounded the church doors. The trains and buses still ran.

The organ had started on a tremendous fugue, building a structure which made us all look small and puny. I felt exhausted and soon wandered from the church to sit on a small hilltop preparing to write my dirge, which now seemed as if it would be very different and whether gay or serious, I could not tell. I felt as if I had been in a strange land, where all men slept, their minds and wills being dormant and their dreams and fancies the only reality. I felt as if I had been made to understand something which nobody understood and that I was a fool, anyway. I had been piecing together a heap of broken images and had cut my finger.

Author's Note: This is what was finally painted as a chaser in my obituary column a week later, under the heading "Disintegration of the Infinite."

"The examination of all thoughts and feelings no matter the circumstances of their birth is vital to life. But as the crystallization of an emotional experience is in the last resort dependent on eternal circumstances the deceased's experiences must have been disastrous. Could he have said

LOOKING AT HOLLYWOOD

—Heppa Hodder

NEXT WEEK AT THIS THEATRE THIS STUPENDOUS PRODUCTION— STARRING RAY MILLAND AND A CAST OF HUNDREDS (AT LEAST)——

In the midst of such grave social questions as anti-yvivisection, temperance and the New Look (to be or not to be) may I raise my voice in protest . . . a plea for sanity. May I protest against the most horrifying product of our age—the film trailer.

These shorter shorts are placed just where the dope is most easily injected. Usually they come just after an almost silent travelogue like "The River Leet," a short, full of placid streams and very quiet backwaters. Sometimes they are in contrast to one of those hideously violent cartoons which leave one gasping for breath.

As I have said, it all depends on the type, of which there are three:

(1) Those which creep up on some personality who tells you confidentially—the creeper.

(2) The "having brought such a list of successes to the screen"—the boaster.

(3) The "next stupendous and smashing drama with all its thrills"—the bludgeon.

The technique in each case is very different. The first depends on a slow approach through the Gates of the Film Company concerned; into either the inner office of the director or on to a "set." Here we see a canvas chair which contains, according to its label, either Ray Milland or some director like George Cukor. After a "we asked Ray his opinion" introduction, Ray turns round and assures us in his best and sincerest voice that this coming production is really movie history. This is followed with a FEW scenes from the picture

along with Palinurus, "For my philosophical novel with a milligramme of nostalgia, I am taking ephidrene twice a week, opium once, with a little mescaline to loosen by imagery, and, massaging of the nape of the neck to stimulate the phalamus after the monthly orgy. I am writing two thirds standing up in the early morning, one third lying down in the afternoon. My supervisor is a Jungian." What a pity the quality of opium, ephidrene and mescaline has so deteriorated! Readers will be anxiously waiting for signs of a resurrection but it should be pointed out that as continued experiments with new means of expression sometimes lead to caricature, whether unconscious or deliberately unseen, the next issue may be insanely sensible and then where shall we be?"

and stop.

The next type, which is usually a combination of subtle creeping and refined bludgeoning, consists in parading the achievements of some director like De Mille. "In the last few years YOU have seen . . ." "Love on Social Security"—close up of book jacket—"Love in a Mist" ditto) and this is a slow build up to "And now he brings you in all its romantic beauty . . ." —yause—burst of music, "No Time for Love" the Huge Picture of the Book, STARRING— From then on its all in. The music and stars are burst upon you. (It's those old pictures that get you. You sucker you!)

The last type is as common as well there's plenty. No holds barred. The object is to beat the patron into submission.

"Smashing Drama ! ! !

Blazing Romance ! ! ! !

Thousands have seen this Epic.

One is flung from love to hate through gun battles and explosions. It runs you ragged. If this is inflicted after that quiet little short, the mind is almost dead for a week. Here is the gangster, the cowboy, the "blood and thunder," the zombie, and slightly improper love story, all seeking a build-up. Its stupendous—and sickening.

"Read this column next issue for further dramatic developments! See the Burning Oil surround the perpetrators, and the tremendous duel on the brink of the snake pit!!!"

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY WATTA LOT OF HUMA . . . DIRECTED BY G. HORSIPOFF. STARRING EDWARD H. HIGGINS-

BOT and a cast of thousands! At this theatre next week . . . Book or be sorry.

—M.M.

[Salient "came by" this article and we trust that the author does not mind our printing it.—Ed.]

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HOLD OUT YOUR LIGHT The Ball Is At Your End

With the Winter Sports now under way at Vic., people should have settled down after Capping and Extrav. Therefore, it is high time that the various club captains gave some thought to letting the rest of the College know what is happening in the sporting line. We are sick of hearing complaints from the various clubs about the non-appearance of reports on this page. I would point out to you that unless you write the articles yourself there will be nothing about your particular club as we have not the time or the staff to write them up for you. As there are so many clubs it is impossible for Salient to report their activities. We feel that as all the clubs have a fairly substantial membership it is not too much to expect them to appoint a person who will cover club activities for Salient.

We believe that in the College there are several women's sports clubs and as we do not read the "Sports Post," are ignorant of their activities, if any. I would love to hear from them and let our wide circle of readers know all about them. What about it Hockey and Basketball?

Formerly one of our most dependent clubs, Rugby Football has let us down for the first time. Play the game you cads!

Occasionally on Monday nights we hear strange noises in the Upper Gym. Could it be the ping-pong club? A report from them would be appreciated.

We hope that we will now be snowed under (not by the Ski Club) with reports. In anticipation, thanks very much. Ta.

TUI KEIHA.

"P" is P.P.

Dear Sir.—In your last issue under the heading of "V.U.C. Routed at Otago" your correspondent "—P" criticizes and suggests a remedy for the past failures of the Athletic Club which I consider detrimental to the spirit of Tournament and to the object he is trying to achieve.

By a series of biased statistics he creates the idea that the Athletic Club has either stagnated or slipped back over the past three years. To suit his argument he conveniently lumps women's athletics with men's athletics, although the two are treated separately for points for Tournament Shield, and so ignores the fact that Victoria was second in women's athletics in 1946 and holders of the Shield in 1947. By involving himself with second and third placings he overlooks the point that counts, that is, the V.U.C.'s men's athletic team got no Tournament points in 1946, two in 1947, and three in 1948. A better indication of the progress of the club can be got from the points and placings in the Wellington Provincial Championships in competition with ten other clubs, which were—

1946	Third	32
1947	Second	37
1948	Second	49

His remarks that the Athletic Club amongst others needs blitzing and building up suggests that our Tournament failures are due to a weak club whereas in point of fact, we are the second strongest athletic club in the Wellington Province. If we had every Wellington provincial champion in our Tournament team we would have gained only another two Tournament points. The fault obviously lies in the general present weakness of athletics in Wellington as a whole.

The adoption of "—P's" so called remedy of restricting the teams to point getters would have meant that our whole 1946 College Tournament Team would have been restricted to two. He overlooks the fundamental point that without losers there can be no winners. With all colleges adopting his principle there would only be fields of two or three in each athletic event instead of the present small maximum of eight.

At present the V.U.C. Athletic Club bases its selection on the winners of Inter-faculty Championships who have trained consistently and given support to the club and who are of reasonable competitive Tournament standard. "—P" should remember that Tournaments are far from being merely a test of athletic ability and that the meeting of other university students and the creating

of inter-university goodwill is of no little importance.

The Athletic Club is by no means ashamed of its efforts at Tournaments and feels that each one of its representatives at Tournament earned and deserved his position and that a restricting of the team on the lines suggested by "—P" would be detrimental to the strength of the club. Our time will come.

T. A. BENJAMIN,
Club Captain.

Shoot Choom

The types that open their "Sports Post" first at the inside cover, are with us again. No! Hortense, not those punters—they operate all the year round—we mean those ones on the opposite page. You know, the blokes whose punting involves not bets and beers; but leathern spheres (balls to you).

Yes—we have entered for the Chatham Cup competition, drawing Hospital in the first round. By the time this appears in print the result will, indeed, be past history. We may even have reached the second round. Our progress will be worth watching.

The Seniors to date have achieved a harmonious mean in their two wins, two losses and two draws. Nothing mean or petty about the Seconds or Thirds—both teams have given away their two existing matches.

If by any chance you are looking for a game at this stage of the season, better look us up. We are still on the bread-line for bods, however odd.

On the Ball

This year hockey at Victoria is flourishing with such outstanding success that once again the V.U.C. teams are proving really formidable in the Wellington hockey champs. These meritorious performances reflect in no small way the abounding enthusiasm and the "team spirit" remarkable throughout the club.

The First Eleven and Third "B" have to date been undefeated. The second and third "A" teams have been defeated only once and the Fourths, although they have lost more than they have won are improving with pleasing rapidity and before long their keenness should pave the way for many successes. In the club championships the first,

second and third "A" and "B" teams are leaders in their grades.

The First Eleven this year is quickly developing into one of the finest teams Victoria has produced. Its tactical play is perhaps the best so far witnessed in Senior club play.

Second Grade. Although the general standard of play is high, there exist several faults which need to be ironed out. The full-backs indulge in too much indiscriminate placing of the ball—clearances should go straight to your own players, not to the opposition. The halves must develop more understanding with their forwards and full-backs. In the forwards the obvious weakness is the inability to exploit to the full the numerous opportunities. Like the First Eleven, forwards, they show inaccuracies with their goal shooting and a lack of "fight" in the opposition's twenty-five.

Third "A." General faults in play are those evident in the First and Second Elevens, though here the ball control and stick work must be practised. This team, showing an excellent team spirit, should be able to emulate last year's performance when they were the most successful Victoria team.

Third "B." The team to date have won three and drawn two of the five games played. They have been showing pleasing form and are steadily improving their knowledge of tactical play. However, they should concentrate more on the elements of tackling, passing and ball control.

Fourths. Although not as successful as other teams, the Fourths show that same team spirit which is a marked feature of the club this year.

he has been turning out with the fast pack every Saturday. Finally Des Kelly and John Mawson are two of last year's juniors who should be well up this year.

Simile Please

At the A.G.M. of the club held on April 13th, the following officers were elected:—

President: Prof. Ian A. Gordon.

Chairman: D. C. Ball.

Secretary-Treasurer: P. C. Alve.

Committee: Miss C. W. Harvie, W. E. H. Docherty, T. Grant-Taylor, D. R. McQueen.

Following the conclusion of business, the meeting retired to the biology lecture room, where a general programme of films was screened.

The next club meeting will be the 1948 "Spikè" photographic competition, which will be judged by Mr. H. Farmer-McDonald. Details are advertised elsewhere in this issue.

The following meeting, a fortnight later, will be a visit to the Dominion Observatory. For details of this watch the notice board.

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