

The Magnet

For Men's Wear
144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

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

VOL. II, No. 11 WELLINGTON, 22nd SEPTEMBER, 1948 Price: 3d. or SUBSCRIPTION

For all

Sports Goods

TISDALLS

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There's talk of their removing the "Keep Left" signs in the city streets. Couldn't have that sort of litter lying round during the royal visit. Of course, what little left-hand steering New Zealand ever had disappeared long ago.

Nice to know they're going to give the village a face-lift for the royal tour. Better not apply the paint-brush too vigorously to some of those places up by the Basin—they might fall down.

There's talk, too, of a round-table conference being held on the subject of conscription. The idea, presumably, is to keep running round in circles.

"Mrs. Frank (Legs) Henderson, 76-year-old wealthy dowager, threw a party in the Stork Club, New York, to celebrate the divorce of John Alden Talbot, jun., recent boyfriend of Lana Turner," says the Sydney "Daily Telegraph." Mrs. Henderson was photographed accepting a drink of champagne poured into one of Mr. Talbot's shoes, from which he had thoughtfully removed the lace. Our betters.

So they've brought the exchange rate back to parity with sterling. Does this mean you'll be paying less for things you can't get because nobody imports them?

A mid-Western woman collected 33,000 bucks for submitting to a U.S. radio company a 33-word comment on juvenile delinquency. I see in the "Standard." Said her husband: "Brother, yesterday I was unemployed, today I am retired!" Got to hand it to capitalism—knows all the answers to the unemployment problem.

Famous moments: Sir Charles Norwood, popular magnate, who can just about make Rockefeller's wad look like chicken-feed, thanking the Hon. Semple (we won't go into biographical details) for exposing the dangers of Communism.

No doubt about "The Iron Curtain," it's a nazi piece of work.

One of the lecher-rooms on the ground floor has been made hideous by the dripping of water from a broken pipe. But, believe me, it's got nothing on the drip who got up on the last day of the term and suggested to the lecherer that we should have a test straight after the holidays. Fact.

"Communism Leaves Spaniards Cold," says a heading in the "Suffering Cross," clearly an attempt at being funny. It's dead right in a way, though. Communism has left plenty of Spaniards mighty cold, since Franco started slaughtering progressives in their thousands.

"R.A.F. Drops Hints in Malaya"—more Suffering humour. The "hints" were bombs, rockets, machine-gun bullets and cannon shells. Amusing, isn't it?

SPORT AT CHRISTCHURCH OUTDOOR — AND INDOOR

With the arrival of the VUC and AUC teams in Christchurch on Sunday, Winter Tournament started. With the departure of the aforementioned teams on Friday, Winter Tournament ended. You may well ask what happened in between. There were the usual bashes, does, dances, etc.

Tournament was a good show and our thanks go to CUC who were excellent hosts. In particular we should thank Derek and Terry in the Information Bureau for having all the answers. An account of the various sporting activities now follows.

Basketball

Congratulations VUC for coming first equal with OU and CUC. It was unfortunate that VUC played OU in the first game as OU had been able to practise on the Wentworth Courts and so had an advantage over VUC. However, VUC played well and their passing was definitely superior to that of OU. At the end of the first quarter the score was 11-2 in OU's favour. The final result was 31-27. If the game had lasted a little longer VUC would have won, as they were really playing well and their combination had OU really baffled. The whole team played very well and it

"U.S. Has Over 20,000 Planes in Readiness." "U.S. Studying New Undersea Warfare." "Superfort Spearhead Based On Britain." "Top Secret Atom Bomb Tests At Eniwetok." Two days' headlines from the papers. All goes to show how right these people are, who claim Russia's the only outfit wanting war.

Propagandist cry of "Yah! Imperialism," shouldn't frighten the Empah, says that well-known scrap-iron exporter, Menzies, dear to the hearts of Australians who slung him and his party out of the bright lights a while back. Maybe you were one of those ill-informed folk who muttered something about "Yah! Imperialism," when the papers spoke of the R.A.F. successfully machine-gunning Malay workers.

A verse by L.N., clipped from elsewhere:—
Ring out, ye bells, uplift all Christian hearts,
And hear the tidings glad with jubilation—
The noble Dyaks seize their poison darts
And march to save our Western civilization.

The only difference between the medieval Inquisition and the U.S. Congress committees on Un-American Activities is that the Inquisition facilitated its operations by the use of racks and strappadoes and hot irons and things. You never know, these might be with us again, too.

The Aga Khan, with his family, on a big-game shooting expedition in Darkest Africa, has established a tented village, with hot and cold running water, to accommodate his party, say the cables. Other facilities are: A landing-strip for aircraft flying in fresh milk and eggs daily; carpeted tents, with a boudoir equipped with ornate dressing-table and silver fittings; a convoy of trucks carrying the best food procurable in Africa, and big quantities of rare French wines and spirits brought from Europe. It's a wonder he doesn't take his own menagerie along, too, to save himself the trouble of going out to hunt.

was not surprising that they won every other game they played. As for the B-Ball Cup, this on the suggestion of VUC went to OU as they had never yet held it. This remains with OU for a year when VUC hopes to regain it.

Congratulations to Noel Hayman on being presented with a B-Ball Blue.

Soccer

The team played very well and thoroughly deserved their wins. The first game was a very close one but due to good team work VUC soundly defeated OU, the score being 5-3. In the next game against AUC which was virtually the semi-final, VUC were defeated in a rather uninteresting game the score being 3-1. As all players played very well there is no need to single out individual players for attention, but our congratulations go to Ken Johnstone, a versatile player who was selected to represent Wellington.

Shooting

At 1.30 on Monday, various odd bobs and the shooting teams turned up at the brewery to participate in the shooting and all that goes with it. At the end of the first round, VUC were third, the team having been consistent in obtaining a score of 95 each. In the second round the VUC supporters became excited on hearing that Wobbin Hardwicke-Smith had shot 98. VUC kept this up and came second to Canterbury.

A good time was had by all, what with the fog, grog and fireworks. Hardwicke-Smith, Henderson and Thomson were picked for the North versus South shooting match which was held the following Wednesday. This was won by the South. Congratulations to Vance Henderson who was awarded a Blue for shooting. We have it on good authority that he has not yet obtained his apprenticeship ticket.

Table Tennis

This year, VUC finished third for the Shield. Congratulations to Doris Johanneson for her fine win in the ladies' singles. Her convincing defeat of J. Davies of OU who held the title in 1946 and 1947 proved beyond doubt that she was the outstanding woman competing in the table tennis. Incidentally, she again proved her ability by defeating the Canterbury ladies champion in a friendly match. The men's doubles proved a most interesting struggle. In the semi-

final, VUC upset the Canterbury hopes for a win by eliminating R. A. Algie, winner of the men's singles, and Pierce, in a hard fought match which was just won 3-2 by VUC. The final was, however, convincingly won by Otago 3-1.

Women's Hockey

The VUC team played very well, although they were not strong enough to gain first place. Some of the individual players were outstanding, especially Jane Munro to whom our congratulations go for being awarded a Blue. In the first game against MAC there was some interesting play which resulted in a win for VUC, the score being 4-2. The next game was against OU. This was a good fast game although Otago were clearly superior. Unfortunately, our wings were unable to get the ball and take it down the field. VUC weakened considerably in the second half. The game ended in a win for OU, the score 6-0. In the next game against CUC "B," VUC was clearly the stronger side and defeated them 6-2. The game against CUC "A" was lost 2-1. In their last game play moved very quickly and VUC won by 1-0.

Men's Hockey

Although there was some good individual play in the earlier game, lack of co-operation in the team was very noticeable. At times the backs brought the ball well up the field but the forward line was not supporting them very well. Against OU, VUC lacked co-ordination and the passing was rather wild. The condition of the field proved detrimental to good play. VUC was unable to break through the OU back line and therefore early in the game there were several near goals. The game ended in a win for OU, the score being 3-1. The game against CUC was very fast and exciting owing to a late brilliant recovery (a little too late) made by VUC. Peter Burney, our efficient goalie, made several good saves and so prevented CUC from obtaining a higher score than they did. The final score was 3-2 to CUC.

When VUC played AUC the game was fairly even. AUC had a slight advantage in that they had good control of the ball while VUC were noticeable for their wild passing. VUC full backs, Gill Johnston and N. Buxton played well. The game ended in a win for AUC, the score being 2-1.

By the time VUC played Massey, we had improved our game but there was still lack of co-operation in the circle. The game ended in a draw.

Other sporting news will be found on found on Page 8.

3d. REFUND

If your memory can go back to the beginning of this year, you may recall that you paid 3/- for your subscription to Salient. This issue, No. 11, is the last. Therefore, if you hand in your card, you will receive 3d. refund. An ISS collection tin will be found on the table. We suggest you put the 3d. in it.

GIVE IT TO ISS

Salient

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1948.

THE LAST WORD

This is our last issue for 1948. We wish to thank all contributors and particularly all those who have helped in the production of the paper, not all of whom appear in the list of staff for this issue. Particular thanks are due to Bill Cameron who edited the paper during the first term. He had a difficult job in effecting a change in printers and in editing a larger paper than VUC has ever had, and we consider that he managed to do this well and to improve the standard of the paper at the same time.

1948 must have been the stormiest year in the history of VUC. We have had four executives in office, two elections and four general meetings. While we do not think that all is fair in love and war (and this was a war) we do believe that the internal strife that has been such a feature of student life this year, is a healthy sign. It indicates that a larger number of students are taking an interest in the affairs of the association, and such an interest must produce an awareness of the problems and conflicts of the real world outside the university.

THE LIGHTS GO OUT ON THE EMPIRE

I borrow a caption from T. C. Worsley's "The End of the Old School Tie" to introduce two such problems, one of which is being discussed everywhere, the other, much more serious is being under-emphasised by the newspapers and ignored by the public.

The first is the exclusion of Maoris from the All Black team to tour South Africa. There is little that is new to be said on this subject. Colour prejudice is not tolerated by most New Zealanders and it is opposed to the principles of the United Nations Charter. Does Mr. Malan think that four or five Maoris touring South Africa will precipitate an African revolution? New Zealand must stand firm on the issue. A selection which excludes men because their skin is brown cannot give a representative team.

The other question is the repressive action being taken by the British Government in Malaya. Raising the cry of "Communist Bandits" the representatives of the wealthy rubber planters and tin miners have brought in British troops and Dyak head hunters to enforce their decrees banning the Malayan Trade Union Movement and the organisation of self-government in Malaya. A reporter who questioned some of the Dyaks found that they did not even know to what country they were being sent. It looks to me like a revival of the old colonial policy of Great Britain—"Keep the natives in their place, keep wages low and guard our profits!"

A. McLEOD.

Xmas Vacation Tramping Trips

The Tramping Club's programme for the Christmas vacation will include two, and possibly three, separate trips of some ten days' duration each.

The first one, which will cover the actual Christmas period, will be an eight-day working party to the Tauherenikau Valley for the purpose of completing (we hope) the Alloway-Dickson Memorial Hut. The party will leave on Monday, December 20th, and the official working party will end on Tuesday, December 28th, although those who wish to continue for the rest of the vacation will not be prevented from doing so. Certificates of fitness should be shown to the Chief Guide. By means of this marathon working party, and by as many weekend working parties as possible from now on, it is hoped to have the hut near to completion by the New Year.

The building of this hut is a big task, and we hope that all those who can possibly assist in the work will do so, not merely as a tribute to the two students whose memorial it will be, but as a very tangible and much-needed contribution to the accommodation and pleasure of future generations of trampers. The Tauherenikau is also, of course, a very pleasant place to spend a week or so at any time.

Go South, Young Man

Immediately following the Tauherenikau trip there will be the traditional excursion to the Southern Alps, for that tramping-cum-climbing trip which has always been so popular in the past. It is planned to leave Wellington by boat on the night of December 29th, and return on the 9th January, or maybe two days later. What has not yet been decided, is exactly where the trip will be run. This is the reason for the notice appearing on the main notice-board asking those interested to indicate which of two places, the Wilkins Valley or the Waimakariri, they would prefer. Fuller descriptions will be found on the notice-board, but a brief description of the two places is as follows:—

Waimakariri Valley: Near Arthur's Pass, about 100 miles by rail from Christchurch. Plenty of scope for trampers, and also for climbers, particularly beginners, on peaks of about 7000ft. The three-pass trip from the Waimakariri to the West Coast, is an excellent tramp. Approx. cost for ten days—£6 12s.

Wilkins Valley: At head of Lake Wanaka, Otago, about 170 miles by road and launch from Timaru. One of the most beautiful valleys in the Southern Alps, with peaks of about 8000ft., including some virgin peaks. It is real climbers' country and more strenuous than the Waimak., although trampers will find plenty to occupy their time, the valley being

SALIENT STAFF

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EXEC. GAMBOLS AND GAMBLERS

The Exec. started its last meeting by going into committee to discuss the Cafeteria. It seems strange that one of the most vital of student facilities has to be discussed in secret. Does this Exec. and its new Cafe controller want to hide their troubles under a saucepan?

NO CONSCRIPTION

Conscription is raising further opposition. The Association has received a letter from the Young People's Club supporting the decisions reached at our Special General Meeting, and a Committee to Fight Peace-time Conscription with representatives from Trade Unions, various people's organisations and Student and Youth organisations has been set up. On the motion of Mr. Evison, the Exec. decided to support

BUILDING FUND APPEAL

The appeal for Student Assistance to the Student Union Building Fund was scheduled to close on September 10th. As a result of a request from the Students' Association Exec. and from Division 1 Committee, it has been decided to extend the closing date until after the long vacation.

It is hoped that an appeal to the public for funds will be launched in 1949—the Jubilee year—and if the Student effort is given extra time, the two appeals will nearly coincide. There must be many undergraduates who want to help but who have been prevented from contributing mainly because the time open to them was too short. The Committee sincerely hopes that all students will make a genuine effort to send in a donation to the fund before the first term of next year.

the aims of this committee, and Messrs. Evison, Heath, Butchers and Milburn will be the Association's delegates.

The Prime Minister has presumably been too busy to see the delegation from the Association to discuss our opposition to peace-time conscription, therefore Mr. Heath moved and the Exec. decided to write to Mr. Fraser pointing out the nearness of Final Exams and requesting that he see us as soon as possible. We understand that Mr. Fraser is going overseas shortly and that he is meeting the R.S.A. before he goes, so it is essential that we should have a chance to put before him the point of view of youth in order to balance the well-known views of the R.S.A.

SCM Women Won't Oppose Murder?

Franco is continuing his savage treatment of democratic youth in Spain. The World Federation of Democratic Youth has notified the Exec. that it has strongly protested against sentences recently inflicted on members of Spanish Youth Organisations. These sentences include 8 executions, 4 life-imprisonments, 1

within easy distance of Haast Pass. Approx. cost for twelve days, £10.

If sufficient support is offering for both the Waimak. and the Wilkin, a trip will be run to each of them, otherwise the district for which the greater number of people indicate their preference on the notice-board will be the one which will be finally chosen. Further information may be obtained from the Chief Guide, Harry Evison.

H. C. E.

woman sentenced to 25 years and 11 sentences ranging from 6 to 14 years—all for allegedly being implicated in blowing up a gunpowder depot. The Exec. passed a motion to the effect that "a letter be sent to WFDY expressing full approval of their protest in connection with the recent sentences in Spain."

Miss McKenzie, Miss Langford and Miss Ilott asked that their dissent be recorded.

10-1 Divvy: Building Fund Stakes

The Student Union Building Appeal Organising Committee is moving again. The Committee has unfortunately not yet been able to secure a competent organiser for the appeal. Nevertheless, your Executive has decided to risk £1,000 for the expenses of the appeal in the hope of raising £10,000. It is reported that the Chambers of Commerce will regard the appeal favourably and it is hoped that the appeal will be connected with the Jubilee next year.

Face-lift for Gym.

Until we get this new building we need to make many improvements in the facilities we have at present. Arrangements made by the old Exec. in March for repairing the plumbing and for painting the Gym, are now under way. They have been held up by negotiations between the Association and the College Council over payment for the work to be done. The Exec. has also had a sub-committee looking into plans for a common common-room. This committee

has made no progress, and with some dissenting voices (Evison, Mountier, Holm), the Exec. decided to let the matter drop.

Academic Freedom Upheld

The Academic Board of the Senate recently opposed the suggestion that the University should accept conditions of secrecy imposed on grants for research. The Senate itself has not seen fit to take the same resolute stand, but the Exec., on the motion of Mr. Mountier, endorsed the decision taken by the Academic Board.

Matters of interest reported to the Exec. include: First, that the Senate has agreed to reintroduce March exams in Law and Accountancy; secondly, that the Tramways Committee of the City Council has put a bus shelter for the top of Varsity hill on the list; and thirdly, that the ISS is asking for books for two Chinese Universities, one in the Government area and one in the "Liberated" area.

Sublime to Ridiculous

Mr. Battersby was very worried about the lack of dignity at Exec. meetings—he mentioned that some Execs. don academic dress for a meeting and preserve a very formal dignity. He thought the Exec. should do something about it. Mr. Milburn lost patience at this nonsense and asked whether the Exec. wanted to act like a meeting of school prefects. Shortly after this discussion, the President put a motion from Mr. Heath that "the Minister of Internal Affairs be asked to reconsider the banning of the film 'Brighton Rock.'"

"All those in favour, aye." "Aye." "All those against, no." Miss Langford in a dream, "No"—then waking up, "Oh—what was that about?"

TO AMANGLE DEBELSH

"Live with the wise and become wise."

—Menander.

I'm not constrained to say by word or look
The poems that I write are gleaned by stealth

From lexicons or from another's book,
Though literature is mankind's common wealth.

Emotion resurrected from the grave
But personates a ruddy-featured health
And, like Socratic prisoners in the cave;
Grasps vainly at the passing shadow-show,
Nor magnifies the intellectual knave.
What I have seen and felt, and what I know,
Demands precisioned language and a form
Beyond established limits. Will thought grow

If grafted to some ancient, sapless corm?
What poet yet entrapped his pulsing mind
Within the steelmesh shackles of a norm?
Or called the tribal tom-toms in to grind
Accepted versions of his winging song?
Not scorn nor pleading shall my vision bind,

Nor shall the feeble heart impede the strong
With catch-call epithets and outcry shrill
For easy thoughts and feelings that belong
To Philistine morons. From the swill
Of custom's many troughs the pigling swallows

The mush that fattens him towards the kill,
And in well-trampled bogs the old sow wallows
And farrows there her pleasure-rooting race,
Which propagates again and blindly follows.

But I shall paint again the universal face.
In planes and pigments of mine own devising,
Nor strive to emulate recorded grace,
Nor cease in fear my caustic improvising
Because a mental eunuch twitters,
"Crime!"

Nor shall I stay my drastic cauterizing
Of all the weeping ulcers of our time
To gain the drooping cripple-wit's approval
With metre's wheel-chair and the crutch of rime.

For I am here to implement removal
Of fear and greed and war and fostered hate;

The lashing thong of reason's sharp reproof,
The stinging gadfly of the modern state.

—Bruce McLeod.

THOUGHT AND MELANCHOLIA

We are but a beautiful melody
the haunting strains
half forgotten,
but yet we do remember
it was a mighty tune
and had a wonderful refrain. . . .

We are but the gleam on old silver
thrown into a pit of dung,
fantastically bent and tortured—
but yet we do see
a pattern through the rust . . .

—Ralph Unger.

REFLECTIONS OF AN INTELLECTUAL IN BED

Yes, the pattern is plain enough
Each book a notch against stupidity
And a prop for the tottering mind.

Who despise possession and its own set of vices
Find in bookery
A justifiable compromise with that vicious mainspring.
(They decorate that wall like rooks in a rookery.)

Besides, they provide such opportunity
For that last, harmless mockery of freedom,
A fine signature.

Funnily enough, my friends, the pen is
Mighty near as powerful as the sword,
The last ligature to be severed by might
Is the privilege of being able to write.

But then I'm safe with Gauguin on the wall,
As insulated as an apple core,
With Van Gogh, like a benediction, over the head
Of my passionless bed.

—Lyster Paul.

LANDSCAPE

Out on the hills where sounds
only the intoning wind,
stride down the towers
down the island; stepping from
space to
agile space goes
the gawky adolescence
of steel meshing grey cloud line—and
see! where the wires' long rhythm
sinks again
to glide and fall away
to the smoky hills,
only the wind sounds.

There
white scars on their flanks
pock the drab of the ranges
receding to the sky; climbs also
impossible writhing
of a road,
lying on the swell of the broken
horizon; and
a crippled tree leans—tired,
alone—
on the eastward-scudding clouds.

—D.G.

REFLECTIONS

I looked into her eyes
and saw the night
reflected there,
and I told her of the dark
and how it lived in its mirror;
how each star
became a pointer
guiding us into the far future,
beckoning steadily.
How the trees
against the shining horizon
reminded me of a ballet
that can dance into a full eternity.
How the stiff gable of a house
became real

only when it was night
and it was no longer itself
but only a part of the background it made;
how the hushing of the wind
was the only music that to me
had no aftertaste of life,
but only of the everlasting things
that are somehow good
without a cause.
I looked into her eyes again
but they were made for the night
that I had made live for her
and that was for me alone.
I left her there, wondering
if I could catch my last tram. . . .

—Ralph Unger.

ROUND THE WORLD

Calm days, over rare waters,
Under the eye of the Dancer,—
White sails, blue skies:
Small winds dancing, and bathers
Over the side,—head, shoulders
In the sun, and then, drop,
Down, far into the wide sea.
There's a small home of water
Round the boat's side, and birds,
Gulls—there are a dozen kinds—
Sail past, or pause, and watch
With heads poking down
And the strong white wings
Holding the currents of air.
Sound and reflection make boundaries for us,
But at midday a great calm
Unfolds the infinite surface of the sea
And even these natural signs
Of ownership of water, fade out
As they should do, and nothing
Remains save the soft wind dancing.

We have sailed past islands
Or for days without sight of land.
Strange, huge fish have
Followed us, and the strangest birds.
You will not know what we have felt
But our minds have returned often to you.
There have been coastlines
That took us through marvellous patterns
And shapes of movement,
Going as we do this strange crab-fashion,
And watching the far-off headland
Or turning to the white sighing shore.
We have worked like fools
In the harder kinds of seaweather,
But on the calm days
There was none who could be so idle
Or wander through the future, talking
Slow hour by slow drifting hour.

Storm days, meeting huge seas,
Under the eye of the Fury,—
Bare mast, leaden air.
We are sailing a covered world,
From south to north, and south,
And the green high hills
Go rolling down the land,
Capped with salt-grey foliage
And leaves blown across our minds
Like gusts in a sheltered valley.
And then in the southern Spring
There are white clouds high
And familiar music leads
The wind, by the gay, green fields:
Coming up the harbour,

—P.S.W.

Junior Atheist
Looks at God

What is Christianity? According to the Oxford dictionary it is "The Christian faith, doctrines of Christ and his Apostles."

This faith is a very useful thing to have, for if you have any troubles you can go and tell God all about it and he will metaphorically pat you on the back and say, "There, there little fellow, it's all for your own good." If, subsequently, every thing comes out all right your faith receives a hefty boost, and God some praise. If it does not, the feeling is "Well, it must be for my own good." The result is a nice contented population. To emphasise the fact that every one must be good—i.e., obey their priests—the idea of hell fire was introduced as a threat and heaven as

a bribe.

Believers in this faith always refute the fact that it is based on threats and bribery. They say—

"No, it is something else that makes us do good."

This is probably quite true. A number of them undoubtedly wish to shine as "perfect citizens" or "true Christians." However, many deny this—what can the "something else" they speak of be? The answer is, I think, that it is the natural human desire to help one's fellows, bursting through all the taboos the church has imposed—on sex, science, amusement, in fact, everything. Take away this religion and let people act normally, and the world would be a very much better place, all the selfish believers of this faith acting as normal sympathetic human beings.

They are selfish in spite of their

denials. When sailing they pray for a wind to blow the way they want to go, rejoicing when it does—and never a thought for the person sailing the other way. Even if they do think of those others they just assume that they are favoured more than the others. What disgustingly smug self-righteousness! And on what grounds are they favoured, may I ask? They assume that they are "better," that they pray more often. It never occurs to them that their voyage coincided with a depression in another part of the world. Then they expect to listen to all their petty troubles when, as it seems, he is already unable to cope with a vast number of starving people—of course. It is all for their own good. I'm sorry, I had forgotten.

What a faith. God help those that believe in it.

SWEN.

People who swot
in glass-houses . . .

would probably die in Victoria.

*Must one live in a catacomb
to pass examinations?*

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V.U.C. MISSES A CUT OFF THE JOYNT

The 1948 contest was won by Otago at Massey on Saturday, September 11th. The best speaker was P. O'Connor from Otago who has twice previously won the award. Auckland was second in the teams contest with Victoria third, while K. O'Sullivan, of Auckland, and Jim Milburn were second and third placed speakers. It is interesting to note that the three speakers filling the three places were all second speakers in their teams. The speech that won P. O'Connor his award was brilliant and he deserved his placing.

Massey turned on excellent hospitality, and visitors are now in a better position to appreciate Professor Peren's dreams. The actual debating hall was better decorated than any other Joynt Scroll hall the writer has seen, with a massed ceiling high drape of all colleges' colours, massed bowls of irises and individual iris plants in trays along the walls. Messrs. Oram, M.P., Opie and Murray were the judges. They commented on the very high standard although they were disappointed in all the debates except the one that produced the winning and second teams.

The first debate was affirmed by CUC against MAC on the subject, "That the press is failing in its duty to society."

This debate broke down and lost meaning because neither side attempted to define what the press's duty towards society was. This was noted by the judges who commented through their spokesman, Mr. Oram, that an analytic argument would have produced much better results. In the early stages there was considerable attention paid to the difference between reporting and editorials so perhaps it was inevitable that an interjector should interrupt the summing up of Mr. Bowron, the CUC leader when discussing magazines such as "Man" with the question, "but have you read its editorials?" It was Mr. Bowron, too, who brought the house down by turning to the chairman and saying "if you were a man, sir,"—long pause.

OU O'Connor Gets The Marx

AUC affirmed against OU the proposition "That it is in the interests of the community to be ruled by its philosophers." Mr. Olphert, with a certain solemnity and an absolute immobile countenance and a rather blandishing Mr. O'Sullivan provided a team with more balance than Otago's, but the OU second speaker, Mr. O'Connor was head and shoulders above all the others as an individual speaker. This debate, of course, dwelt at length on Plato, and ranged from "evil" philosophers such as Marx and Nietzsche to "wise" philosophers—statesmen such as Wilson, Smuts and Masaryk. Mr. O'Connor scored highly on his voice, stance, matters, style and personality, he had a speech polished but not too exact, his opening was inspiring and he held the audience in the hollow of his

hand. One feature of this debate was the way in which Mr. Olphert crossed the interjections of the OU leaders with a withering glance interjection, while not even bothering to interrupt his flow of words.

The last debate was affirmed by CAC against VUC on the subject "That divorce in New Zealand should be made easier." Its great weakness was Lincoln's failure to advance any logical affirmation which, as it were, left VUC the unenviable task of shadow-boxing. Both Ben O'Connor and Jim Milburn were very restrained. They debated well, and Jim, who was placed third was the better speaker of the two. When Jim interjected during a statement "the children would be far better off" with "in a house" the CAC leader replied "exactly."

While the judges were absent, an old student of VUC, Mr. Prosser, told the audience some interesting facts about Mr. Joynt and the contest he founded. The contest as a whole proved the advantages of divorcing it from Tournament and of sending it to the Agricultural Colleges.

Sophocles and the Commonwealth Covenant Church

If the following verse by Rossetti suggests patterns in your own mind then read further—

"There the dreams are multitudes.
Poets' fancies all are there;
There the elf-girls flood with wings
Valleys full of plaintive air."

It would not have been a particularly exciting divorce case but for the incidentals it revealed on the church life of Commonwealth Covenanters. And there would not have been anything particularly novel about these details except that they came out in the same week as Sophocles Antigone. In this French version presented by the Repertory Creon as the personification of reason represses Antigone as the personification of feeling. Now reason without feeling is the harsh stilted thing we customarily associate with mosaic law or the puritanic virtues, thus in Creon we have the absurd spectacle of Reason condemning Antigone to death without any "living" reason for

doing so. She must die because the formal reason or structure of law demands it, not in the first place because of Creon's wish. The psychological climax occurs when Creon attempts to persuade Antigone not to break the law even though he admits it to be only a facade. But feeling will not bow to any stilted reason. Creon: "Now tell me in as few words

as you can did you know the order forbidding such an act?"

Antigone: "I knew it naturally. It was plain enough."

Creon: "And yet you dared to contravene it?"

Antigone: "Yes. That order did not come from God."

But no matter how he may have felt in the first place Creon now begins to act as though the law did come from God. Antigone dies and where feeling is suppressed Reason becomes a God of terror.

"Righteous . . . not a Being of Pity or Compassion . . . Delighting in cries and tears and clothed in holiness and solitude." (Blake-Jerusalem.)

The connecting link between Reason and feeling is personified in this play by Haemon, the son of Creon, betrothed to Antigone. Now that feeling is dead he must also die. With his death goes the possibility of Creon regaining contact with feeling. The divorce is now almost complete. Reason is left isolated. To signify the complete sterility of such a reason without a locus left for feeling, Creon's wife also kills herself. The death of Eurydice is the last straw for Creon. His law—once the shadow of his reign—has now become the substance. His spectre, or evil self, in the form of the guards now reigns supreme. There is nothing else left. The triple tragedy has left Creon without a place for feeling in his heart, any connecting link with feeling, and worst of all the existence such a thing as feeling to balance out his mind.

And now we take a leap into the pulpit of the Commonwealth Covenanters. Here law reigns supreme with one of the many literal interpretations of the Bible. But law which exists only by virtue of suppressed feeling is an uncertain law, ever threatened by repressed passion. Its safety can only be assured if a constant vigilance is kept and a warfare waged against Antigone. The texture of our sermons therefore is largely anti-sexual. We abhor the sins of the flesh. Daily we lay our passions at the rack and flay their insidiousness. But the snake, symbol of our repressed eroticism, generally contrives to find a back door entrance into our house of lay. Thus our Covenanters are given in their repetitious hymn chanting and bodily rolling to a form of mass hysteria which is just the anarchy of feeling their law denies. But Creon is master . . .

"Every house a den, every man bound, the shadows are fill'd with spectres, and the shadows wove over with curses of iron; Over the doors, 'Thou shalt not' and over the chimneys 'Fear' is written:

With bands of iron round their necks fastened into the walls
The citizens . . ."

(Blake)

There is no moral to this particular story. Human personality takes many forms. Its forms of integration will be equally variegated.

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Second Student Labour Federation Conference

"Students can play a very important part in the labour and socialist movement," said Mr. Winston Rhodes, lecturer at the Canterbury University College, in opening the Winter Conference of the N.Z. Student Labour Federation at the Canterbury Trades Hall. The conference included representatives from the Socialist, Labour and Radical Clubs of the four main University Colleges.

The Government proposals for conscription were strenuously opposed by the conference as being severely injurious to the interests of students and youth generally. Peace-time conscription would lower the standard of living of the New Zealand people and help to build a psychology of war. The Government's decision to set up a Scientific Corps was also condemned in the following terms:

"That this conference protests against the formation of a Scientific Defence Corps and considers the militarisation of science to be a threat to fundamental scientific research and to the traditions of free exchange of information which is essential for scientific progress."

The federation's proposals for improved bursaries, which have been endorsed in principle by the N.Z. University Students' Association, are now being forwarded to the Government. The conference also discussed at length the rising costs of living as it affects students, particularly through soaring costs of clothing, board and text-books. Further research on these questions will be conducted in the coming period.

The exclusion of Maoris from the New Zealand football team to be sent to South Africa was the subject of bitter criticism. "We should refuse to send a team at all and thus bring home to the South African Government the contempt in which it is held by the people of a democratic world," said one speaker. The N.Z. University Rugby Council is to be urged to make representations to the N.Z. Rugby Union to this end.

The international outlook of the University Socialist movement was revealed by the importance placed on events overseas. The suppression of student and other youth bodies in India and the Malayas was discussed and a resolution carried urging the complete restoration of free rights of organisation for students and trade unionists in those countries.

Despite recent attacks on the World Federation of Democratic Youth, a resolution was passed affirming the N.Z.S.L. Federation's affiliation to this body. It was considered that the democratic character of the world federation, its progressive aims of world peace and improved standards for youth, and its recognition of the United Nations Organisation, as well as its vast world-wide following, made it an organisation worthy of the support of all associations of New Zealand youth.

The conference revealed that the Socialist and Labour Clubs in the New Zealand University are co-ordinated, strong and confident. Their aims of educational advance, world peace and democratic progress are receiving even wider support from the students of New Zealand.

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Drama Festival All the Stage's a-Whirled

"Ile," by Eugene O'Neill, was the choice of OU's Drama Club. By the time the curtain went up, the audience was probably in too happy a mood, thanks to the efforts of some enthusiasts, with balloons, for the emotional drama presented to them. Frederick Farley, the judge, remarked on the lack of responsiveness by the audience, particularly in the tense scene between Captain and Mrs. Keeney (played by W. A. Walton and Jocelyn Shann); in this scene Mrs. Keeney begged her husband to take the ship in which they had been held in the ice, back to England. The captain is, however, determined not to return without a full cargo of whale "ile" and ignores first an incipient mutiny and secondly, after a momentary weakness, the entreaties of his wife. The climax of the play, when Mrs. Keeney went mad, fell a little flat, probably owing to the scarcely adequate handling of the part of Captain Keeney. The remainder of the cast, at times good, at others succeeded in making a very good play bad melodrama.

Play With a Message

"This play obviously had a message. I wasn't quite sure what it was, but I'm all for messages!" I trust that the audience were not quite as vague as to the meaning of "Though Storms May Break," by Harry Evison as Mr. Farley. Certainly the majority of those present listened far more happily to it than to the one preceding it; Chris Pottinger's performance as the drunk was received with acclamation. Paul Treadwell as Hank, Baska Goodman as Sue, and Gilbert as the rebel captain put over their parts very well. Huddy Williamson's arrangement of the stage drew a little adverse criticism.

Conversation Piece

Bernard Shaw's conversation piece, "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets," Canterbury's choice, won the contest. It was a definite contrast to the others, all of which were very drab and "message-full," with brilliant lighting and Elizabethan costumes. The set was of the simplest but the characters were capable, again in contrast to the earlier actors, of using the entire stage—although the Dark Lady did ruin her exit by falling over her skirt while hurrying up steps.

Second Place

"Everything's Just the Same," by Vernon Sylvana, although meeting with the least favour of the audience, took second place in the judge's favour. The almost complete lack of movement, with the absence of elaborate setting gave the cast every opportunity to show its ability. The part of the man, although particularly difficult in that he was on stage during the entire part of the play, was done extremely well by Ivo Joyce. The secretary, too, was a model of refinement.

The play suffered much in the place it took on the programme. The programme was too long for the majority of the audience who voiced their boredom loudly and says much for the cast that there was no visible indication of having noticed the interruptions.

Dead Heat On Communist Menace

There was a much improved attendance when the Debating Society met on Friday, August 14, to discuss the motion "That the Communist Party is a menace to the welfare of the people of New Zealand." Mr. Hutchings and Mr. Lyons pleaded the case of the affirmative and were opposed by Mr. H. Evison and Mr. O. Melling. Mr. K. O'Brien was once again in the chair, and Dr. Kahn judged the debate.

In his opening address, Mr. Hutchings over-estimated the intelligence of his audience, and consequently his theoretical examination of Communism was unheeded and ridiculed by the jovial audience. Mr. Evison, in opening the case for the negative, rather neatly side-stepped the arguments Mr. Hutchings had produced saying, "I am more interested in actions, not thoughts." However, he was even less sympathetically treated than Mr. Hutchings, and his verbal pictures of the "big, bad capitalist" provoked many awful "oos" from the audience. He was followed by Mr. Lyons who made a case against the practical menaces of Communism, making reference in particular to the Communism in our trades unions. He obviously impressed his audience with his catch-phrase, "Communist liquidation methods," and the audience voiced its approval or otherwise every time it appeared. Mr. O. Melling, the second speaker for the negative claimed that Communism was not a menace, but an improvement to New Zealand welfare. He pointed out the efforts the party had made to obtain higher wages, lower prices, more houses and football grounds.

Speakers from the floor were called, and hilarity reached a climax when Mr. Curtin commenced his speech. However, when, with some difficulty he had corrected a misunderstanding, he made several sound points regarding Communism and family life, quoting from the Communist Manifesto to prove his statements. Mr. Smith opposed the motion, also gained the audience's attention with his claims that Communism and Russian foreign policy were not synonymous, and that Communism was a democratic movement for the majority of the people. Mr. M. O'Brien said that no one had opposed Communist propaganda, but that he was opposed to the principles embodied in that propaganda. Mr. W. MacLeod told the audience not to worry about Communism, but to guard against capitalists and the Roman Catholic Church.

In his concluding speech, Mr. Evison said that religion was something for the private individual, which would die out, and that Communism was not a menace but the hope for the worker.

In his final speech, Mr. Hutchings regretted that his audience had not grasped his previous arguments and that to him they stood clear and unrefuted. He took great pains to explain to his illiterate audience that democratic thought and Communism philosophy could not be reconciled to each other.

It was fitting that the rather disorderly meeting was unable to reach a decision when the motion was put to the vote. There were 25 for and 25 against the motion. The chairman tactfully refused to record his own vote. Dr. Kahn placed the speakers: 1st, Mr. M. O'Brien; 2nd, Mr. Hutchings; and 3rd, Mr. Curtin.

MOBILIZING SCIENCE— FOR PEACE OR WAR

The formation of a scientific defence corps has recently been announced and application forms and informatory circulars on it are already available. The scheme is made very attractive by the offer of comparatively high salaries and the opportunity for two years' post-graduate training. Five years' continuous employment is guaranteed and made obligatory. No guarantee, however, of future employment is given, no choice of subject is assured and the recruits are in all respects under the control of the service chiefs. Vague promises are made but those who worked on defence research know just how good are such promises made by the chiefs of staff and departmental heads. It is to be hoped that no scientist is under the illusion that he will be able to pursue serious scientific work for long under this scheme. As with other defence measures proposed by the Government, for example the conscription of the eighteen-year-olds, the scheme is quite superficial and amounts to anything but a serious defence measure.

On considering the whole question of defence research, let us look back a little to the experience of the recent war and see how research was organised in the various belligerent countries and see how efficient these systems proved to be. In Germany from 1933 research was on a war footing and was well subsidised. It is now well substantiated that even military research in that country lagged far behind that of Britain, America and the Soviet Union. Firstly, many men of rare genius such as Einstein, Haber and Planck, being "security risks" and guilty of un-German activities, were persecuted, shunned or humiliated. Secondly, most research was of a short term and technical character. Little attention was paid to most aspects of fundamental research and many fields of science were completely neglected and even suppressed. Prolonged secrecy, excessive compartmentalisation, degeneration of the universities, etc., all contributed to the decline of German science. In Britain, however, before the war, research was directed more towards peaceful ends. The universities remained free and virile and although they received little financial assistance and were rather removed from the exigencies of every day life they did succeed in establishing a large body of highly-trained scientists perpetuating and extending the great traditions of empirical and theoretical science. It was only this atmosphere which laid the ground for successful work in radar, atomic physics, penicillin, etc. France and America followed a similar line and according to such scientists as Julian Huxley, J. G. Crowther and Eric Ashby, who have worked in and visited the Soviet Union, Soviet science consciously follows the best traditions of French and British science with their academic freedom and their strong bias towards fundamental research.

Universities Boost

Research

Thus the two great opposing camps adopted very different research policies. In the preceding years of peace the Allies did have small groups of defence scientists working,

but contrary to general expectations it was not until the university men were brought in that real progress was made in the military laboratories and the Axis countries were soon speedily outstripped. Even in New Zealand it was that only too microscopic group of men with the most thorough university research experience who made the most spectacular contributions to our effort. After six years of war research these men have almost exhausted their scientific resources and must return to the old conditions if they are to continue making worthwhile contributions.

It is becoming more and more evident that American research is tending to follow the same trends as German research did in 1936.

Already the Federal Government spends 500,000,000 dollars on research under the direction of the War and Navy Department while only 125,000,000 is spent on all other aspects of research. These figures exclude secret research amounting to hundreds of millions and most of which is of a military nature. (See J. R. Steelman in "Science and Public Policy.") The results of American secret research are practically closed to the Dominions. France who made such strides in atomic energy receives nothing while England who gave America radar, receives a mere trickle.

We cannot allow these American trends to come to New Zealand. Such conditions will stultify science and eventually render our scientists ineffective in solving the real problems of defence when and if they arise as it did with the German scientists. While our Government continues in keeping the university laboratories in an impoverished condition, the formation of a scientific defence corps cannot be taken seriously as a defence measure. It is merely a political palliative and at best a means of recruiting scientists to the war laboratories of America and Britain.

P.A.

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N.Z.U.S.A. CONFERENCE

The keynote of a major portion of N.Z.U.S.A.'s discussions at the Winter Tournament conference was ways and means of saving money. Not only did delegates from C.U.C., A.U.C., and O.U. mention it in their reports, but other motions were passed in an attempt to solve the financial problem.

Winter Tournament Constitution

A tedious hour or two was passed on the Winter Tournament Constitution. The thirty-nine clauses were taken singly, with little or no discussion on most. Attempts to cut down the cost resulted in eight amendments to the constitution:

Moved Symon, CUC: That Tournament be cut down from eight days to five. These five days allow for four days for sport and one rest day.

Moved Symon, CUC: That in future there be no emergencies for fencing teams.

Moved Symon, CUC: That the miniature rifle shooting contest be removed from Tournament and the ICI Shield be decided by postal results. After some discussion it was decided that this would be unsatisfactory owing to differing range conditions and it was finally decided to keep the contest in, but to cut the team down from four men to three.

Moved Symon, CUC: That golf be eliminated from Winter Tournament.

Moved Symon, CUC: That it was impractical to hold a press conference. This was passed with the remark by Mr. O'Brien (VUC) that they had served no use in the past.

Moved Symon, CUC: That no additional sport be admitted to Winter Tournament before 1950.

Moved Symon, CUC: That no sum of more than £10 be allotted to any haka party. (Interjection. Grey (OU) I'd be happier if it was tenpence.)

The only further amendment to

the constitution was the decision to make the Drama Festival a two-night season instead of one as at present. The findings of the Conference were submitted to the Tournament Committee.

N.Z.U.S.A. Dinner

The delegates decided to make their dinners annual only. This was met with a certain amount of regret from those who had not participated in the dinner at the Easter Conference.

The plea of saving money was used by Mr. Taylor when suggestions were received on the dates for N.Z.U.S.A. Conferences in the future. It had been decided that conferences would not be held in conjunction with Tournaments as billeting would be simpler at other times. The chairman, Mr. Taylor, put forward a proposal that conferences be held only in Wellington and Christchurch, as travelling to these two would be less expensive, but this did not meet with approval by the delegates. It was decided finally to hold the meetings during or about the May and August vacations, with a suggestion by Mr. O'Brien (VUC) who hoped that he did not offend anyone's sensibilities by proposing Anzac weekend for a conference.

IUS Disaffiliation Motion Lost

Mr. Symon (CUC) in moving a motion of disaffiliation from IUS used the plea that the returns for the fee of 2d. a head was not worth the expenditure. C.A.C. seconded the mo-

tion, pro forma, so as the conference could discuss the matter. Mr. Symon went on to say that he had a letter from Mr. Dodd which pointed out that IUS was rapidly becoming dominated by the Eastern bloc.

Mr. Grey (OU) expressed the opinion that as IUS was a world organisation New Zealand students "should be in to win." He had read reports sent out by Mr. Symon and Mr. Redrupp and in his opinion these were more important than Mr. Dodd's letter, into which personal political views obtruded rather much.

The VUC and AUC delegates agreed with Mr. Grey's views, and Mr. Dowrick said that in his opinion it might be a good thing if the HQRS of IUS were moved from Prague to some other capital of Europe. The chairman mentioned that a report had been received from Canadian students suggesting that NZUSA support the removal of IUS HQRS from Prague to Paris and also the provision of proper Standing Orders, and the motion passed stating that the meeting of N.Z.U.S.A. supporting the removal of the Headquarters of IUS to some other centre (preferably in Western Europe) and the provision of efficient Standing Orders, which should be of such a nature that they can be understood by all delegates.

NZSLF Bursary Scheme

Mr. O'Brien (VUC) moved that the meeting of USA accept in principle the proposals for a revised bursary scheme put forward by NZSLF and forward them to the proper authorities.

He stated that these proposals had already been discussed by a staff student meeting and at the general meeting it had been decided to carry the plan to NZUSA.

Discussion followed, principally in the practicability of means and merit tests. A certain amount of disagreement was expressed at the number as some delegates thought that 1,000 were too many. Mr. Hunt (OU) thought that it would be a good idea if a student need not accept the bursary as soon as he leaves school; it should be possible for him to have a year between his advent at university and his leaving school to learn something "of the ways of the world." The chairman stated that he had recently read a report by the Labour Department which had stated that there were too many professions, and New Zealand needed more labourers. It was finally decided to pass the motion, and a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Taylor, Tizzard, Johnson, Milk and Miss Langford, was set up to inquire into the proposals.

Congress Report

Mr. Dowrick, the vice-chairman, read a report on the progress made by the Congress Committee. Among the speakers who had arranged to come were Mr. H. C. D. Somerset, to speak on the University and the Community; Mr. Bertram, Mr. Pliske, Mr. A. J. D. Barker and several others.

A discussion followed on the entries to Congress. From Otago 31 people had applied, 30 from Victoria, 18 from AUC and 10 from CUC.

Mr. Tizzard (AUC) stated that the £2 required with the entry form had decided a number against it, as they objected to making their plans so far ahead. He also remarked that the "rules" referred to in the application form were upsetting some people, but with Mr. Dowrick's assurance that early morning swims were not required he seemed relieved.

NZUSA Delegates

To NUAUS

This caused a great deal of confusion with various names being put forward and finally the Conference went into Committee for half-an-hour with a final decision to send two delegates, Mr. O'Brien (VUC) and Mr. Tizzard (AUC).

Adoption of Chinese

University

Massey College received a paternal pat on the back for their decision to adopt an agricultural college in China. This means that the funds obtained from work-days would be sent direct to this university instead of through the Headquarters.

Workers and

Conscription

Take your hat off to J. F. Little! Seldom you get anyone courageous enough to put the college peace-addicts in their place. If you're able to get through Mr. Little's letter in the last Salient without foundering on the frightful hazards of capitals, brackets, quotes and shrieks, you'll be astonished to find how little you really knew about yourself. Provided you're one of those misguided individuals who reckon peace is a great thing.

Nice to know we've got a war-monger or two fiddling with pens on the campus. Nothing like a bit of ink thrown about by these boys to stimulate reminiscence among the ex-servicemen here—especially when the spilt ink dribbles down the Right of the leader-page. Messy? No; examine the stains and you'll find they've got a subject, predicate and maybe an object. Meaning? Search the scribbles.

So Mr. Little thinks it's funny that Stalin should have German scientists on atom research. Funny? Downright amusing, I reckon. How Mr. Little came by this remarkable piece of intelligence is rather obscure. He must work a great espionage system.

But wait; we wrong Mr. Little. Somebody or bodies voted for an anti-conscription motion. Beats me how they could do a thing like that, with Mr. Little all so opposed to it. Shocking cruelty; frightful mental torture. Remember how the early Christian martyrs were used to nourish famished Nubian lions? Come to

(Continued on Page 8.)

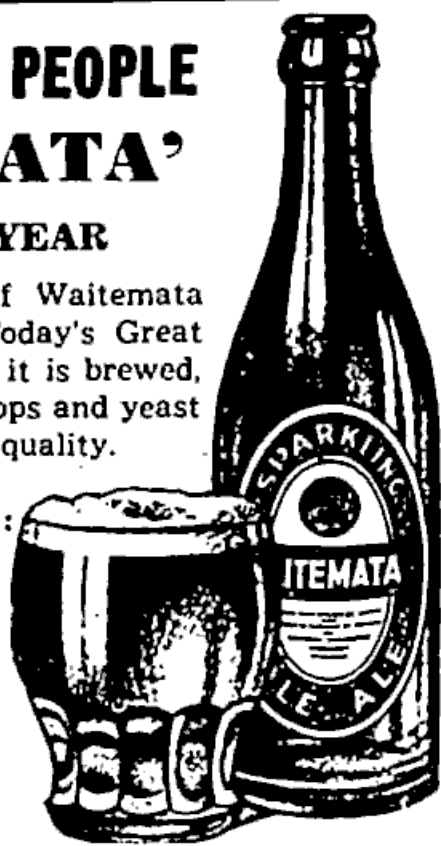
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OPEN CITY

There can be few more tricky things a director or playwright has to do than to maintain tension; audiences are funny things and have a habit of breaking undue tension by either weeping or laughing—both quite destructive to atmosphere. You may toss in the odd jest here and there to relieve the strain, or you may test the audience out to see how much the effect can be built up by merely suggesting your atmosphere. Walking this slim line between bathos and melodrama entails no mean feat of artistic equilibrium. If Rossellini, the director of "Open City," manages to do this superbly, it is largely because his cast is always human, always sincere. And also because, in some miraculous fashion, Rossellini manages to carry the suggestion right to its extreme—but never beyond.

"Open City" is a great film, without doubt, though there is little in the technique of it that any competent American director couldn't have done (except in what it didn't show). The cutting and photography are uniformly good, but nowhere strikingly original. It is the acting that lifts it into the ranks of the great, particularly that of Aldo Fabrizi as Don Pietro, the priest, and Anna Magnani, as Pina. I can't make up my mind whether Vito Annichiarico's "Marcello," the little boy, was really as wonderful as it seemed, or whether it merely looked that way by comparison with these treacherly little Hollywood brats. Nearly all of the cast, (with the exception of Ingrid, the Gestapo agent) would have won Oscars in their own right had they been unlucky enough to have been in America instead of in Rome.

The audience's understanding of the film was helped by very good sub-titles, well spaced; in fact, I quite forgot about them after the first few minutes.

A few points particularly impressed me. First, I think, was the utter lack of histrionics. We tend to think of the Italians as volatile, theatrical. There is a reticence in the acting which is satisfying. This showed itself most in the way in which religion was woven into the film; I can't remember any British or American film with a like virtue. Part of this too, was the lack of bombast, of heroics, in the patriotism which underlies the whole theme. A partisan dies under torture rather than divulge secrets—or speechify. The priest is shot, without "My Country 'tis of thee." Francesco soothes Pina's lack of faith in the war, without the consolations of The Democratic Way of Life. We even have a night-club singer who goes right through the film without bursting into song—something no American director could have resisted. But this is being cynical; it is no positive virtue of "Open City" that it is quite free from this sort of maudlin decoration. Moreover, it is most unfair to America to compare these actors with their Hollywood ones.

Secondly, the vividness with which the acting is accomplished. These aren't stock characters, but real people reacting to a real situation. I think at once of "Last Chance" as a close parallel, "Odd Man Out" as another (though "Open City" has less of symbolism and more of humanity). If the film has a fault, it is that hatred for the enemy is allowed almost to obscure them as people. This perhaps doesn't apply to the over-candid Hartman as much as to Bergmann, the Gestapo chief. He is seldom quite a person—Ingrid, his agent, is never more than an Olga Polowski character. This fault is understandable when hatred is almost the theme of the film. I think it was intentional that, in the nearest approach to an actual shot of the brutality which goes on so long just out of camera range, the battered face of Manfredi bears more than an accidental resemblance to an Italian Renaissance "Christ Crucified."

Though the theme of this film is real, death and suffering are accepted with a calmness which, if it weren't for the underlying humanity,

would be almost callous. Manfredi says, when he is in his cell awaiting questioning, "I'm not a hero."

There are no heroes or heroines in this story—just people like you and me and the bloke down the street. That's why "Open City" is not worth missing, for we forget too easily that those whose suffering is only a headline in our papers, are men and women with feelings pretty much like our own.

—D.G.

History, Truth And Peter Munz

Fresh from "the feet of the great at Cambridge" (as Mr. Tallboys so fragrantly put it in his introductory remarks), Mr. Peter Munz certainly put forward an idea of history when he addressed the Historical Society last term—even if at times his audience could grasp not one idea, but several. Owing to the recent date of his return, Mr. Munz pleaded lack of time for exhaustive preparation; this resulted in some unresolved contradictions, which were brought out towards the end of the meeting, and some improvised analogies in which Napoleon's digestive system featured heavily. Nevertheless, the "idea" had so obviously been thought through in the speaker's experience that it received an attentive hearing—and lively discussion—from a good audience.

Briefly, Mr. Munz's idea of history hangs on the value of the relationship it establishes between persons. "History is an effort to understand other people in their own terms, and not in our terms." In this respect the novel and history (both modern developments of the last century or so) are very similar; good historical writing should help us to see the world through other people's eyes with the proviso (as distinct from the novel) that it should be verified as far as possible. Thus the main concern of history is with the individual historical figures and the understanding of them through their own feelings; this is the opposite of such a study as sociology, which is interested not in the individual but in the formulation of general laws of sociology covering general experience.

When he started to distinguish science and history, Mr. Munz bamboozled the audience for a while with his new terminology, specially prepared for his theory of knowledge. Natural science deals with the inanimate objects, which therefore can be known only in a "subjective" or at best, "inter-subjective" (what scientists "objective") manner. But history deals with historical persons, for whom thought was possible; the historian can enter into a mental relationship with them and thus get an inside understanding of the person in his own terms. This is true "objective" knowledge, and it is the historian's job, working through documents and background facts, to progress from merely subjective knowledge to a truly objective understanding.

All this alters the historian's attitude to Truth. It is not important to know whether Luther, for instance, had "true" ideas on Transubstantiation. What matters for the historian is to understand the ideas as he did. This produces in the historian an attitude of moral scepticism and also of positive toleration. By enabling us to see reality through the eyes of various persons, history brings us from a subjective to an objective view of the world. This is the real value of history—in making us tolerant, in giving us a moral education and thus producing better men.

For Mr. Munz, history could not be twisted to serve any directly "useful" ends, such as producing general philosophical laws or political techniques for organising society; historical understanding sought for its own sake would produce better men. When asked whether this did not amount to an "Ivory tower" attitude, he partly admitted the allegation, but did not regard it as particularly relevant: "What would you like me to say? I don't really think there is much hope for the future."

Alcohol and the Licensing Laws

Although I am doubtless repeating what many other people have said and written I should, nevertheless, like to make my small contribution towards the revision of the various laws and restrictions that govern the sale of alcoholic liquor in this country. I am fortunate in that I have travelled in Belgium, lived in England, and have now been residing in New Zealand for some time. I have based my argument on the facts that I observed whilst I was in each of those countries.

To start with Belgium: in that country there are no licensing laws as we know them, the hotels and inns being open for the sale of alcoholic liquor as long as, in the case of the inns, the proprietor stays up, and, in the case of hotels, as long as there are guests who still wish to drink, and this is usually very late at night, if not for ever, as there are numbers of tourists arriving at all times. The only time, then, when an hotel is closed for any length of time is when the manager orders repairs of an obscure nature, but even then there is the inn down the road. Now in spite of this terrible laxity regarding drink there appeared to me to be very, very few drunkards—and I did not confine myself to the more respectable parts of the towns. This drink, as there were always small groups or pairs of people having a chat over their glass of beer (which I did not think particularly good) or wine or spirits, and these facts emphasize the Belgians', and to my mind the only possible, outlook towards drinking—that it is an extremely pleasant social function.

Now in England the same outlook is prevalent in a good sized percentage of the population, but there are those who enter an hotel or pub only

to consume as much liquor as possible before the bartender or innkeeper utters the fatal phrase "Time, Gentlemen, Please," which marks the end of that session, and, in all probability, also the end of that week's wages, unless the person is fortunate enough to have a weak head.

And now New Zealand, the land of plenty—of restrictions—especially with regard to the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor. Here, where the licensing laws are particularly stringent, the sole purpose of most people, and they are nearly all men as it is indecent for women to enter a bar, who flock to the bar to see who can swallow the most in the shortest time. The result—many drunkards.

The conclusion to be drawn from this seems to me to be that the more attempts are made to put down the evils of drinking by prohibition, the higher they raise their ugly head, which is just what to expect, human nature being what it is. Thus, paradoxical though it is, if the societies desiring the abolition of the unpleasantness of drunkenness wish to accomplish their aim they should fight for the abolition of the licensing laws, not for the abolition of liquor. Only thus will the unpleasantness of drink be banished and the pleasure enhanced.

I should just like to quote a passage from "The Laws of Heredity"—"From inquiry from old residents in the country (Italy) I learn that, however abundant the vintage, the condottini preserve always their temperate habits, drinking their fill, but never becoming drunken . . . In those days, I am told, wine was given to horses, and whole barrels would be poured out in the road to make way for the new vintage . . . it is given to infants, children drink it regularly, and babies are bathed in it, but drunkenness in the English sense does not exist."

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Athletics

The annual general meeting of the Victoria College Athletic Club was held on Monday, 13th September, the following officers being elected:—

President: Mr. G. F. Dixon.
Club Captain: Mr. John Goldfinch.
Club Secretary: Mr. Gerry Fox.
Club Treasurer: Mr. Doug. Mitchell.
Committee: Miss Dorothy Wood;
Messrs. A. Marshall, G. J. Barnard,
T. Benjamin, B. Pohlen.

Last season the club gained second place in both the McVilly Shield for the provincial championships and the Kitto Shield for team marching at the same meeting. Another enjoyable event was the trip to Hastings to compete against their club. At the Easter Tournament the club retained the wooden spoon, although the women in their events were more successful.

However, that was last year. Now we look forward to a new season with brighter prospects in both the competitive and social sides of the club's activities. With the added strength of the probable new members, Ron Jardin, John McLeavy, Dave Isaacs, Bernie Clapcott and H. Rainey, both the McVilly and Kitto Shields should find their way into the club's hands. Also in the women's section the club has, and, it is hoped, will improve. It is not well known, but women athletes of the club are eligible for Easter Tournament.

Other attractions during the coming season are a CUC versus VUC meeting to be held in Christchurch about the 12th December, and also another of those great trips to compete against the Hastings Club.

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think of it, though, what did they have to grizzle about? Nobody ever annoyed them with anti-conscription motions. No doubt St. Laurence would have nestled down gratefully on his grid-iron, and St. Sebastian accepted his skiful of arrows with a cheery smile, had he known the hideous torment in store for Martyr Little.

I say, isn't it awfully jolly to know that when the callous Reds start handing bullets around we'll have J. F. Little over there defending British Freedom for us? Mind you, he hasn't said he'll do it, but I don't doubt that when he's finished his task of Study and Logic he'll be showing us how to pick up our muskets.

So Mr. Little doesn't like us defending workers' rights (I know he says the opposite later in the excretion, but you'll overlook these little inconsistencies). We'll get over it, J.F. In fact, we'll even return the compliment; we'll wish you well in your crusade. After all, nobody ever attacks the Reds, or Russia, or workers' rights, these days. Only the Press. And the radio. Yes, and the Government. The film magnates, Wall Street, General Franco. The Un-American Activities Committees, the Hanlon anti-picket mob, the Ku Klux Klan. Colonel Peron, Chiang Kai-shek, Bob Semple, Sid Holland, Sir Patrick Duff, the Pope. Mr. Little's game, you know, coming out against the workers' with only that little lot to cheer him on.

Yes, he's game, all right. Valiant, really. With progressives throughout the world facing prison, batons, vilification, bullets and death for sticking to their beliefs, you can't help admiring anyone who's valiant enough to go around preached resistance to Communism.

Let me know, will you, when Mr. Little sheds his political swaddling clothes, and I'll buy him some underwear of Logic and a three-piece Study suit. You can supply the Crown of David.

So we'll draw the Iron curtain of charity down on the remainder of Mr. Little's epistle. And we'll give a little thought to that remark about "Those who live by the sword shall perish by the sword." Spoken ages ago by a crude character, obviously, who would get a chilly reception from Mr. Little and Co. If he tried the same line today.

THE SCRIBER.

The first club night will probably be held on Monday, 1st November, at Kelburn Park, so watch the notice board for other items of interest.

The club would like to offer its congratulations to our fellow club member, Clem Hawke, on his nomination for a Rhodes Scholarship.

Swords Club

The Swords Club has gone into action twice since the last issue. The first encounter was when club members entered for the Wellington Provincial Championships held at the VUC Gym on Saturday, August 14. In this they covered themselves and the coach, Mr. Dickson, with glory, gaining most of the places in both the men's and women's championships. Juliet Burrell gained the women's championship and Allison Keys took third place; while Peter Hampton and Fane Flaws were placed second and third respectively in the men's championship, fighting it may be mentioned, against older and more experienced fencers.

The tale of Tournament is a sad tale, and has a sting in it. For various reasons, some known and some unknown, Victoria gained only third place in the men's teams championship; and the women were unplaced.

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in the individual women's championship. Some consolation—a good deal, in fact—can be gained from the fact that two of our men, Peter Hampton and Fane Flaws, were in the N.Z.U. team which fought Canterbury, and that Peter Hampton was awarded an N.Z.U. Blue (his second).

Those club members who are not preoccupied with the prospect of Finals are now in training for inclusion in the Wellington Provincial team which will fight in the N.Z. championships in October. So far, five VUC people have been chosen for the "trials"—Fane Flaws, Juliet Burrell, Alison Keys, Nannette Broom, and Pauline Michael. The club has always been convinced that coach Mr. Dickson is the best in Wellington, and this view seems to have tacit consent at least of the authorities, as he has been chosen to train Wellington's team for the N.Z. championships.

Ski Club—1948

August Ski Club trips to Ruapehu, Dawson Falls, and to the University Tournament at Queenstown catered for sixty persons last vacation.

College positions at the Tournament were Canterbury, Otago, Victoria and Lincoln. VUC placings were Malcolm Mace (captain) 4th, Tony Lathan 9th, Ewen Christie 10th, and Mike Benge 13th. Women were Gay Nimmo 7th, Kath Golding 9th, Val Lockwood 11th, and Colleen Dent 12th. Colleen did extremely well to finish the downhill on only one ski. Under rigorous conditions and on a difficult course, the team skied very well. The motto for 1949 is practise, tuition, and practise.

Ken Prankerd led the new enthusiasts to Egmont. Everyone had a most enjoyable time and a small party ascended the mountain one day.

The Ruapehu trip was uneventful but most profitable for those who took lessons from Franz Skardarasy. By the end of the trip there were at least six men whose ski-ing was up to tournament standard.

Trips for the third term are—

October 2nd: Combined Tramping Club's Ski Sports at Ruapehu. Transport arranged. This is a Wellington affair.

October 23rd (Labour Weekend): Ruapehu trip. Sleeping in truck canopy. Cost £3.

November 13th: Ruapehu-Whakapapa Hut. Cost £3. This will probably be the last trip of the season.

A sub-committee to manage next year's Ski Tournament at Ruapehu has already been set up. Victoria is the host college and there is a large job of catering to be done.

Our own prospects for the next tournament are good. It is "home territory" to us and from the large reservoir of competent skiers now in the club we should be able to find a team to train to a high standard.

A film evening will be shortly held.

Clem Hawke taking the baton in the Masterion Relay Race. Block by courtesy of Mr. Toby Blundell.

Cross-Country

In the N.Z.U. C.C.C. at Christchurch, Clem Hawke won convincingly from R. Rawnsley and Q. Thompson of AUC, over a 6½ mile course at Cashmere.

The race was run in beautiful weather; it was, if anything, too hot for comfortable running. The course, a 2-lap one, was mostly flat, but the three hills almost proved too much for some competitors on the second time round. From the start, the course was along 200 yards of road, a climb for a further 200 yards, into a paddock and down to the flat again; then, almost immediately, the toughest hill of the lot. Another small hill, then on to a road for 400 yards, back into the paddocks, across the road once again, more paddocks, another ½-mile of road, and then round for the second lap! Apart from any rough country, there were some 26 obstacles, in the form of gates and fences, to be negotiated.

Hawke was in the lead at the first fence and, moving with his usual effortless stride, steadily drew away from the rest of the field to win by 400 yards in 37min 58sec.

The Dixon Trophy for the teams race and the Shackelford Cup for the N.I. teams' race went to AUC and the Carmalt-Jones Cup for the S.I. teams' race went to OU.

A second Vic. runner who deserves mention is Peter ("Blondie") Whittle. Pete has been running very well indeed this season and his performance at Christchurch was no exception. He quickly moved up and hung on all the way, finishing in sixth place in a field of 40 runners.

Eleventh place went to John Mawson; Paul Keating, Max Clift, Steve Osborne (their first year in N.Z.U.) and Dee Kelly all ran well and held quite good positions at the finish—better than those gained by our team in last year's N.Z.U. The one spot of really bad luck which we had this year occurred when Johnny Holden, one of our most experienced runners, was attacked by stomach trouble just before the race. It is to his great credit that he carried on where many others would have been tempted to drop out and we hope that he will be in good shape again when the Wellington-Masterton relay comes round.

SPECIAL

Hearty congratulations to Clem Hawke, who for the fourth consecutive time has won the Club Championship, is N.Z.U. cross-country champion for 1948, and was placed fifth in the N.Z. National Championships.

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