

The Magnet

For Men's Wear

144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

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

VOL. 12, No. 1 WELLINGTON, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1949 BY SUBSCRIPTION

For all

Sports Goods

TISDALLS

65 Willis Street
WELLINGTON

Telephone 40-859

Drama Club Stoops To Conquer

Victoria College Drama Club is producing its Jubilee play in the Concert Chamber on March 24th, 25th and 26th, and is viewing its production of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," with a great deal of excitement and confidence.

The past year, although not successful from the point of view of finance, was nevertheless one of the most active of the years that the Drama Club has been in existence. For the first time we put an entry into the University Drama Festival at Winter Tournament and also in the past year presented two one-act play evenings, and a major production at Training College. In the past, major enterprises have usually been marred by some grave disadvantage or an Act of God—inaccessible theatre, bad weather, or clash with some visiting artists. This time, however, arrangements have been made so that we can be sure of no impediments to the production apart from the weather which, Deo volente, we hope will be fine. The Concert Chamber is ideal, the financial backing adequate, the play popular and the cast enthusiastic.

Of the play itself little need be said; it ranks as one of the foremost comedy of manners of the 18th century together with Sheridan's "School for Scandal" and "The Rivals." Originally written by Goldsmith as a reaction against the sentimental comedy of his day, it has as well as ridiculous situations, the delightful characters of rural England of the mid-18th century. The period is that of ruffles and buckles, wigs and crinolines. The cast, though young, is experienced, including such old hands as Betty James, Betty MacDonald, Margaret Loftus, John MacDonald, Richard Rainey, Roy Melford, Paul Tredwell, Chris Pottinger, Paul Cotton, Tony Keesing and many others.

This will undoubtedly be the best Drama Club production for many years. Ralph Hogg who has had considerable experience in Repertory is producing. George Elby is designing the set and this will be ably constructed by a band of enthusiasts.

This is a play which from the point of view of literature cannot be missed and we feel that with the support of all students it will be a financial success. It deserves to be.

Building Fund Ball

in

TOWN HALL

Friday, March 11

FRESHERS HALF PRICE

TICKETS 10/- DOUBLE

At Exec. Room.

OPEN TO ALL

Organised by Socialist Club

SALIENT SCOOP ON NEGRO OLYMPIANS

Students creeping like snails unwillingly to 'Varsity may find consolation in the knowledge that after what one of them described as a "glorious" tour of Australia and New Zealand, the Panamanian Powerhouse, Lloyd La Beach, holder of the world record for 100 metres on a grass track, and his equally famous companion, Herbert McKenley, holder of the world 1/4-mile and 400 metres titles, have also returned to the lecture-room and the text-book.

They were in high spirits when I interviewed them in their hotel room the day before they left New Zealand. To the accompaniment of much splashing and singing from McKenley in their private bathroom, I listened while La Beach sat up in bed and talked about American universities and the colour question.

As might be expected, American universities, too, are overcrowded, and admission at present is largely on a competitive basis. And when you hear of a student "working his way through college" by washing dishes, it's an even chance that he's a star footballer, that his dish-washing consists of about five hours a week, and that his pay is some 95 per cent. "subsidy" from the wealthy alumni (old boys, to you) of the college. Academically, of course, he must still satisfy the university authorities.

Fraternities

This brought us to those peculiarly American college institutions, the fraternities, whose nation-wide organisation, power and influence make them appear to be highly commercialised and yankeeified version of "the old school tie." Each fraternity sets its own academic and social standards for potential members, who must be nominated, voted in, and initiated after the manner of lodges and friendly societies. Race or religion is a frequent bar to membership. There are numerous all-Negro fraternities, particularly in the South, and these, ironically enough, follow the same pattern. Significantly, Lloyd mentioned that his athletic fame had provided the entree to several of these, but that his "dollar shortage" would prevent him from keeping up with their wealthy members. So he rents a room in downtown Los Angeles, instead of living in a Fraternity House. Incidentally, although Lloyd is taking a general science degree and will probably be a teacher, his secret ambition is to get into Dental School, which is apparently as utopian as hoping to get into Otago Med. School.

It was now Lloyd's turn for the bath, and McKenley was somewhat less loquacious though equally friendly. The University of Illinois, where Herb is doing Physical Education, has 20,000 students. Campus City has its own shops, theatres, garages and Mayor; and streets and streets of Student Hostels, Fraternity Houses, and common boarding-houses. Imagine a world inhabited almost solely by 'Varsity students!

A character was mentioned who after twelve years at University, during which he has completed degrees in Arts, Science, Law and Commerce, is now looking for new excuses for staying in Campus City. He fears that that fragile flower, his freedom of self-expression and the wide scope permitted his political activities, would wither and die in the bleak climate of today's American community. (Does this apply to anyone you know?)

And Intolerance

Their attitude to race troubles was novel to me, but it indicates the real depth of the problem. They were quite emphatic that they personally had never been involved in any racial strife, but they attributed this partly to the particular circumstances of their lives. Both went through school and high school in the British colony of Jamaica, where classes might contain 20 black and five whites. Their families were of the middle class (McKenley's father is a doctor) and in USA they have lived only in Northern States, though they have competed athletically in Texas. Said McKenley: "Most race trouble is caused by individuals going around with a chip on their shoulder."

They suggested that racial segregation was maintained in the South as a sort of final defiance of the North, for the sake of tradition rather than principle. In the Universities, it is neither the students nor the professors who support it, but the ubiquitous politicians and college governors. Miscegenation, education and toleration are the only ultimate solution, said La Beach.

... in films too

They deplored the Hollywood tendency to cast Negro actors in roles which strengthen the myth that the typical Negro is a lazy, servile, half-witted buffoon. Some actors, they said, were now refusing to accept roles which lowered the dignity of their race. It was mentioned in passing that "Tobacco Road" and "The Southerner," two films that faithfully and brilliantly portrayed the lowest strata of white society, were banned throughout the Southern States, and had only private screenings in the Universities.

On their European tour last year Lloyd said he met many American students at the University of Prague, who told him they had no intention of returning to the States; that they liked the new regime, that the elections were free and fair, etc., etc. Lloyd said they must have been Communists, but he didn't say why. Me? Well, how would I know?

We also discussed our own political views, but the times being what they are, we won't go into that.

For light reading on the plane, and to show their friends at home, I left with them two years' issues of "Salient," "Spike" and "Capricade," and with a last wistful glance at those bright floral underpants, I took my leave of two admirable gentlemen, whose world travels and international fame have not lost them the wisdom of being willing to learn.

Francis Gawn.

THE STONE FLOWER

"Fantasia" was a lovely thing, a triumph in its time, but colour photography has entered another era since then. Walt Disney and the Hollywood technicians would seem for the moment completely outdistanced by the creators of "The Stone Flower," a Russian fairy tale. Using the new processes developed by German technicians, the Moscow Film Studios produced this picture in 1945. It was awarded first prize at the Cannes Cinema Festival the following year. This production is a landmark in the history of film technique; it is equally remarkable as a work of imagination, artistry, good taste. Now, three years after it was made, it has been screened privately in New Zealand, by courtesy of the Russian Legation. Why it is not yet showing publicly, with an English sound-track, is difficult to understand, for in its way "The Stone Flower" is a work of international importance as great as Olivier's "Hamlet."

Pavel Bazhov won the Stalin prize for fiction with his collection of poetic fairy tales, "The Malachite Casket," among which is the legend of the Stone Flower. The book became at once a best-seller in the USSR and its sixty-year-old author delivered public readings of his stories. They are tales Bazhov heard from an old-time prospector, myths of a peasant community in the Ural mountains, back in the bad old days of serfdom. Life among these folk centred round the copper mines. The theme of the legend is of a young stone-cutter enchanted by his craft, absorbed in a search for the true virtue of the stone in which he worked. Lost to his master, wife and village acquaintances, the artist is enthralled by the Mistress of the Copper Mountain; until his wife enters the magic mountain, breaks the spell and leads him out of bondage.

The allegory is the old one of Man in the clutch of his creative talents: "La Belle Dame Sans Merci has thee in thrall." The legend is a masterly blend of the commonplace and the magical. It does not fail to portray the realities of feudal life—poverty, the whip, the petty autocracy of the local steward, and also cheery intercourse at the market-place, moments of song and dance in the traditional embroidered costumes; cruel, bleak, winter landscape and also crocuses in the woods in spring.

The people of the film are flesh and blood, unlike Disney's cartoons forms, but they are idealised to suit the spirit of the fantasy. The scenery likewise compromises between natural and stylised forms, to make magic credible in its realistic setting. It is lavish, but not lush; the effects are infinitely more subtle than the best things in a Disney show; the colours are soft, pastel, luminous. Perhaps it was because the new techniques are so perfectly adapted to a fantastic picture that "The Stone Flower" was the choice of the Moscow producers, and not another film of social propaganda. These delicate shades, this impressionistic camera work, would be ill-used portraying a bigger and better textile factory. Anyway, it was time we were reminded that magic isn't banned in Russia. For such a delightful imaginative production we may be truly thankful.

Jean Gawn.

Salient

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1949

Rarely does Salient accept an outside article as an editorial, even when it is written by someone with so high a reputation as Mr. Combs. If we break our tradition this time, it is because we feel that such a reply is merited by the publicity which Rev. Sullivan's remarks received.

EDITOR.

LOST SHEEP AND COMMUNIST BELL-WETHERS?

A Reply to Rev. Sullivan

"Students behaving as if their minds were closed . . ."

What does Mr. Sullivan mean by a "closed mind?" Does he mean, for instance, that I, a Socialist, who have spent years in reaching certain "leftist" convictions will, as the result of a few hours' discussion, be prepared to abandon standpoints of which I have long been convinced, merely because they are challenged in argument? And does he mean that he, as a Christian, will similarly be prepared to abandon tenets he has for years regarded as essential to his faith?

I am sure he does not. Why, then, does he expect communists to do so? To put it mildly, the mind of a communist stubbornly adhering to Marxism is no more closed than that of a clergyman cleaving devoutly to the Apostle's Creed. The communists at the Congress were quite prepared to have their philosophy run the gauntlet of criticism, and in my opinion they by no means had things all their own way, even if a forward-looking group of young people concerned, in a rapidly changing age, for the future, did register a swing away from an orthodoxy which the eighty-year-old Mr. Shaw termed a "huge mass of obsolescence."

"A Vocally Strong Minority Carried the Day"

Guided by the four days I spent at the Congress, I must flatly contradict this statement. It is, of course, true that the speakers, bound to be a minority at any such gathering, did voice the feeling and outlook of the majority present, though not, I should opine, those of Mr. Sullivan. This taken for granted, however, the Congress was the most democratically conducted affair of its kind I have ever attended. Following on an address, it broke up for group discussions and then united again to criticise and question the speaker. It is perhaps to the point to say that my own very radical views of university reform were both drastically and ably criticised and that, had time permitted, they would have been even more faithfully dealt with. This being so, Mr. Sullivan's suggestion that most of the students were sheep easily led, is wide of the mark. Moreover, the manner in which the discussions were sustained—quite a good deal by animated dissentients—and the interest shown by the audience, renders Mr. Sullivan's allusion to "most of the students" as appearing "inarticulate, woolly-minded, or dumb," entirely out of keeping with the facts. As already said, it is, of course, true that most of the speaking was done by a minority, but it was not a small minority. Has Mr. Sullivan ever attended similar gatherings where this was or could be otherwise? I have not.

120 Students Attended out of 11,000. Could this Quota Have Been Increased?

Such a small attendance as the above, Mr. Sullivan considers "a poor reflection on the average student citizenship." So do I. Indeed I go further and consider it a reflection upon our whole education system from primary school to university college, a system which can turn out "muddled oafs" and "flannelled fools" by the thousand, but does shockingly little to harvest in its full ear a mental prowess potentially as great. I hope that Mr. Sullivan, as part of his dedicate service to collegiate life, will not rest till he has seen this condition of affairs greatly improved. But this said, how does this painful fact regarding the 11,000 reflect on the 120 who did attend the Congress and energetically participated in its work and its play? Surely Mr. Sullivan has involved himself in a non sequitur here.

A "Press Release" Hard to Excuse

On admittedly slight acquaintance, the writer took Mr. Sullivan for a good companion bent, as part of his sacred office, on furthering the cause to which he is ordained. As did all others at Curious Cove, he mixed on terms of friendly easy mutual confidence with his co-attendants at the Congress. He was, too, a member of the management committee. Then it would seem he felt in honour and conscience moved to drastically criticise the Congress. So far good; but how on earth did he fail to inform the management committee on which he sat, of what he intended to do, thus causing all who thought the Congress had done well and was an augury of Congresses better still, to feel that it had been smeared and that they themselves had been tripped up from behind?

SALIENT STAFF

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Information Please

(To the Editor)

Sir,—What on God's earth has become of our Vacation Social Committee? It just seemed to fizzle out suddenly. Would it be awkward or just dumb if I would to express a general feeling and demand that the Stud. Ass. Exec. should make a full explanation to the membership of the reasons for this unexpected demise? We want to know, and we have a right to know.—Yours etc.,

IN THE DARK.

£5 FOR BUILDING UP FUNDS— YOURS!

Would you like £5 Without begging, borrowing, or even really earning it? You can get it quite easily by submitting something for "Cappicade 1949"—the Jubilee edition.

There are three competitions with prizes of £5, £1, and 10/- (not to mention the prizes of tickets to Extrav.). The competitions are:

The best poem—humorous, of course;

The best story—again, humorous; and

The best collection of dummy advertisements, or snippets—that is, pieces lifted from other papers or magazines which you think funny enough.

We'll take contributions any time up to March 31st, but no later. You can leave them on the letter-rack in your common-room addressed to "The Editor, 'Cappicade,'" or leave them over in the Exec. room.

It would help us a lot if you could have them typed—preferably double spaced on one side of the paper only—but don't hold out just because you can't have them typed. If it's written, please make it on one side of the paper.

You can send in as much as you like, for all three competitions, if you wish. If you want to get an idea of the sort of stuff we want, look at an old copy of "Cappicade."

Get it in by March 31st—the sooner the better—and make it funny.

How the Press Functions

As a man who has been about and can supply the Press with what, being far from a leftist, it would regard as good copy, Mr. Sullivan is almost sure to know how it functions. He would then most likely know that, in spite of the claim at a recent commission of inquiry of public-spirited devotion to its duty, and of a tip-toe anxiety not to keep the public waiting a single unforgiving minute, it would let his statement go forth without dreaming of giving those officially called upon to clear the good name of the Congress a chance to simultaneously refute it. In doing this, Mr. Sullivan seems to me, perhaps because of the company he was keeping, to have struck a regrettable low.

I can only hope in conclusion that the N.Z.U.S.A. will leave no stone unturned to catch up on the grossly unfair handicap it has, through no fault of its own, had to accept in this matter.

F. L. COMBS.

(We understand that at a special meeting of the Congress Management Committee held since this article was written, Mr. Sullivan was asked by a unanimous vote to either make a public correction of his calamitous statement, or else resign from the Committee.—Ed.)



Wednesday, March 2:

Prof. Bailey speaks—"Advice on Methods of Study"—in C3 at 8 p.m.

Debating Society—Annual General Meeting in the Gymnasium. Elections and films—8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1:

Sir Thomas speaks to new students in C3 at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9:

Rugby Club Annual General Meeting in A2 at 8 p.m.

Tramping Club Annual General Meeting in C1 at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 11:

BALL! BALL! BALL!
8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

TOWN HALL

Proceeds in aid of the Building Fund.

Under the auspices of the Socialist Club.

10/-. Double Ticket. FRESHERS HALF-PRICE. Tickets at the Exec. Room.

Tuesday, March 15:

Socialist Club Annual General Meeting, B1 at 8 p.m. All students invited.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 24th to 25th March:

"SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER."
Concert Chamber.

DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE

GESELLSCHAFT

A small society with the above name is to be established in VUC and all members of the University are cordially invited to join. The objects will be to practise the speaking of German, to hear lectures and discuss subjects likely to be of interest to members, to produce plays in German, and so forth. It is expected that German-speakers from countries other than Germany will be numerous in the membership, so it may be possible to make a point of studying European culture and European problems generally, apart from the French, which is well provided for already.

Provisionally, the first meeting, which will be also a business meeting for the election of officers and a committee, will be held on Monday, March 21st, at 8 p.m., in the lecture-room of Hut 7 at VUC, and it is hoped that a short talk on "Wiener Seben" will be given by a group of former inhabitants of the city.

Confirmation or alteration of these arrangements will appear on the notice-board in Room A3 in the Arts Building.

Salient, February 23, 1949

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND . . .

No man—or woman—had a chance to be an island at Curious Cove. Over 120 students, gathered together in one place, cut off from the outside world by hills and sea, could not escape from each other, anyway. Nor, as the unending discussions proved, did they have any wish to escape from the responsibility that bound them as students to the rest of society.

Curious Cove turned out to be the ideal spot for such a function as the N.Z. University Students' Association's first Congress. Every prospect pleased, and even the human company was not too vile. The sun shone warmly for nine of Congress's ten days. Congregants dived off the jetty into the smooth Sound, rowed to the heads to fish, climbed 2095ft. at the back of the camp, and played volley-ball (with Fred Marshall and the man from Bourke). That was, when they were not in deep consultation about the affairs of the world.

"Each Man is a Piece of the Continent"

A "Listener" columnist has laughed at the titles of the Congress addresses—referring to "The Elephant and Society." But if there is one theme that is best designed to break down the "ivory tower" in which students are so often accused of locking themselves, it is that of linking every topic with the society they live in. A great statesman has said, "No one can live in society and be apart from society"; and even isolated in the timeless Sounds, a congress of students from all over the country was able to establish this thesis. Society, the community, was related to every subject under the sun—the university, religion, Marxism, science, education, art, music, architecture, literature, the Maoris, Mr. Ormond Wilson, Mr. J. R. Marshall, etc.

Mr. F. L. Combs, who admitted having turned half a century, set the tone for the whole ten days on the first morning. The university is, and must be, bound up intimately with the society within which it exists. The student could not, therefore, afford to be indifferent to politics. He remembered a university man returning to New Zealand from Spain in the 30's with the telling remark, "Fascism is death." Under fascism the whole of free opinion so essential to a university, even objective research, is stifled. In our form of society, the student should realise that he is living under the constant menace of those conditions. It is his duty to fight for a living democracy—in fact, this is the price of his existence.

Mr. Combs, who during the days he was with us established himself as Camp Patriarch, spoke also of the anarchistic individualism of our society, and how it had penetrated the universities in the form of "cram for jam." He declared that the students owe a duty to the world in combating this spirit with one of community consciousness. He even dreamed of a university daily to counteract the hysteria and low motivation of the privately-owned press with objective reporting, and giving a forum to all views. At any rate, Congress was enthused with the idea that a vital university must truly reflect the social and intellectual conflicts of the times, and that cloistering means fossilisation.

Secret Research For War?

Dr. A. G. Bogle struck a discordant note. He was out of sympathy with his audience. Speaking on "The Scientist and the Community," he began by saying that he was an engineer rather than a scientist, and ended by denying that a scientist needs to worry about his relationship to the community anyway. That includes the question of secret research for war purposes in peacetime. Why should a scientist bother his head about such an abstract moral issue as how many human beings will be unnecessarily slaughtered as a result of his work?

Unfortunately the students had an answer to this question. When they had the University Chancellor, Sir David Smith, in the dock, they cross-examined him on the Senate's decision to turn down the Academic Board's recommendation against secret war research in the university.

Sir David spoke vaguely, in justification, about an impending threat to our freedom. We could almost hear red time-bombs ticking under the seats!

However, we shook our heads. Neil Mountier shook his forelock, and moved, "that this Congress protests against the decision of the Senate to permit secret research in the university, and support the policy of the Academic Board requiring complete freedom of publication for the results of all research." Opposition was shrill for a few minutes. Even Auckland's Sainsbury Strack, bearded and loin-clothed like John the Baptist, seemed to have been bowled over by the Chancellor's eloquence. The resolution was put to the vote, and carried by a substantial majority.

Diversity of Topics

Other speakers were more in tune with the original Combsian theme than Dr. Bogle and Sir David. Mr. Arthur Barker really opened the doors of Beethoven to those who had never experienced him before. Mr. James Bertram gave a racy resume of current New Zealand literature. Mr. A. B. Thompson and Mr. H. C. D. Somerset spoke of equality of opportunity in education, though both tended to overlook social divisions within the community. Principal Luke Jenkins of the Baptist College tried to assure us that only "religion offered a synthesis, and gave a direction, to all learning." He therefore suggested the establishment of a Chair of Theology in every college. Mr. Barker said that if the study were objective, such a chair could be occupied by an atheist. Mr. Bertram maintained that since Marxism-Leninism also claimed to offer such a synthesis, a chair should also be established in this. This suggestion was welcomed by Rev. Sullivan, as it might increase his "own chances of greater official recognition in the university."

... AFFIRMS STUDENT CONGRESS

The whole congress was particularly absorbed by Mr. E. A. Plischke and his scientific presentation of the tie-up between social and architectural forms—a presentation which, in any other subject, would be denounced as rank Marxism. Mr. Tovey became quite excited about his pigeon of education through the self-expression of art, and Mr. McQueen was disappointingly trite on the Maori problem—except perhaps in his remark that "porridge for dinner leads to irregularity in Maori life."

The two M.P.'s, Mr. Ormond Wilson, Fabian with a heavy Oxford accent, and Mr. Jack Marshall, Nationalist lawyer, very precise—were both torn up for the proverbial toilet-paper. The latter, with his potentially fascist "liberal way of life," was politely shelved to get on with the former. The official Labour Party line was heard out—and a gutless thing it is too, as one speaker said afterwards. Ormond was asked

Protect Freedoms, Fight Conscription

about civil liberties, about the Government's wage policy, about the sacking of Mr. Cecil Holmes, about the possible introduction of conscription. He was disturbed by so many questions. What could we do? As for conscription, if a war came, we would become an American dependency, and have to do what we were

told. A man who believes in gradual transition to Socialism would apparently accept gradual transition to the complete subjugation of New Zealand by the capitalist-mad United States!

Indignant students gave their reply. With only five dissentients, "This Congress expresses itself as categorically opposed to the introduction of peacetime conscription. It urges N.Z.U.S.A. to adopt this as policy, and to campaign energetically against any such action by the Government, and proposes that the money which would be voted for a conscript force be devoted to education."

Then, with only seven dissentients, Congress expressed opposition to all attacks on civil liberties and intellectual freedom, and to police interference with political, religious and industrial liberties; and support for complete freedom of the air on all controversial issues. And, with the same dissentient vote, the Senate's recent claim to wide powers for disciplining students was condemned, in the face of protestations of innocent intent by an embarrassed Chancellor.

You and Me as World Citizens

The idea of New Zealand students as part of a world movement, came under the hammer. Cries of "Woe! Woe! Reds under the bed!" greeted resolutions calling on N.Z.U.S.A. to continue its affiliation to the International Union of Students, and to become affiliated to the World Federation of Democratic Youth—but this inevitable and childish objection was adequately answered. Even Pauline Hoskins supported the two motions, rising to remark on the latter, "As I see the motion, I don't at the moment really..."

There were literally piles of documents on the work of both organisations circulating around the camp—ample evidence of the invaluable work they are doing for students and youth all the world over. It is certainly deplorable that more of this material has not been publicised more widely, but doubtless college journals will see it as their duty to help in this work from now on, as Congress passed both motions with a single figure opposition.

If I am not mistaken, the very name of the Congress wall newspaper, "Youth Unite, for Peace and a Better World," is a WFDY slogan. And very successful the whole undertaking was—under the editorship of ex-Salient editor Alec McLeod. As Harold Dowrick said, it could be used for almost any purpose to which you could put an ordinary newspaper.

There was a great quantity of printed material constantly on view, dealing with every topic from the Lysenko controversy to student relief

work in China. Among the most sensational was a Life article on the British terror in Malaya, showing the battered corpse of Law Yew, once the gallant leader of our brave allies in the Malayan People's Army against the Japanese.

Local talent was not absent either. Alan Irvine let us read what he had forgotten to let us hear, and M.P.C. jumped, poetically, on Jesus.

Altogether

Well, we owe great thanks to the hard-worked (and underpaid?) kitchen staff of the Curious Cove Camp. Meals were always on time, despite great odds, and the fact that Mrs. Cohen ate three times as much as anyone else. To Dave Cohen, also, our grateful thanks for at least one very successful film evening.

Gongs woke us at 7.45 in the morning. After meals, raucous sessions with the Australian "Rebel Songs" became the regular thing in the Evison - Bollinger - Barraclough hut. The rafters rang to the strains of the "Wobbly Dooology," "The Four Insurgent Generals," "Joe Hill," and "Bump Me Into Parliament." Returning to Picton on the launch, I fancy Sir David Smith was a little alarmed at the tone of these songs. At least he turned a green face seawards. But then he had already expressed his preference for the type of student indulged in by the American universities!

Christopher's Paper

This is the name the Literary Society have chosen for their new Literary Quarterly, and it has of course no connection with Christopher Robin. Their Christopher used to live in Syria in the third century B.C. and carried pilgrims across the river as a penance for his past sins. He once carried Jesus Christ across in the form of a child. He is also the patron saint of wayfarers, and this is really why he was chosen. And the name suggests informality, harking back to that intimate reader/writer relationship which was the glory and the downfall of many Victorian papers. It is to be printed on newsprint, 600 copies at first ("Landfall" started with only 800) and the contributors from all over the country include D. W. Ballantyne, Maurice Bagley, James K. Baxter, as well as work of the younger Wellington poets—Elizabeth Entrican, Lorna Clendon, Alistair Campbell, W. H. Oliver, P. S. Wilson. "Christopher's Paper" should be a lively quarterly and a credit to her stern birthplace.

The first issue appears in April (in time for the Easter holidays) but before then there is a lot of work to be done. First-year students are invited to assist with proof-reading, distribution and committee work, so that in time they will be running it themselves. This will be one guarantee of permanence. This, and other Society business will be sorted out at a meeting very early in the term, when all students who may like to know what it's about are invited. The other activities of the society are still rather a mystery, but it is hoped to read "Sweeney Todd—the demon barber of Fleet Street"—during the first term. Contributions for the second (June) number of "Christopher's Paper" will be received now, and should be sent to the Editor, J. M. Thomson, through the letter-rack of the men's common-room or at 301 Willis Street.

STORM

*Give me a kiss, for I stand on the brink
of a wilderness*

*—Wind and a tempest tossing the sea of
souls—*

*Even the souls of the trees, ghosts blue
and gushing the gloom,*

*Give me a kiss, my mother, and draw
me back into the warm room.*

*Running by night by the path through
the ash saplings*

*My love, the cloud, the white tree trunk
and I*

*Melted in the sea, heedless to the wind's
meaningless shout—*

*Give me a kiss, my mother, and steal
away the meaning of doubt.*

*The wind has broken to chaos my world,
and the sky is strange,*

*Stirring in my heart even, new fears
and the old pain.*

*Touch me but with your hand, my
mother, and the felt forces of the
dark*

*Will be again dumb spirits only, weeping
as lurchers round the park.*

—Elizabeth Entrican.

After the regular sessions and the separate, but equally well attended sessions held by the Student Labour Federation—discussions were carried on in small circles on sunny verandahs. Even on the ferry, and back at home, the topics of discussion at Congress are still talked over. We trust all future Congresses will be as effective, and that gentlemen of the frock will not find it necessary to accuse us all of being either Communist or woolly-minded dumb-mutes.

And may we ask here why the daily press could not find room for any mention of the important resolutions passed by the Congress, when it could give double-column headlines to Rev. Sullivan's distortions?

In almost every intellectual field there have been at least two main streams of thought—mutually antagonistic, running parallel for many years and even for centuries before the issue is settled and incorporated into the general body of human knowledge. At times these divergent, antithetical streams have taken the form of religious and philosophical ideas.

Trends in Biology

Particularly with the issue of Darwin there have been two main streams of thought—mutually antagonistic, running parallel for many years and even for centuries before the issue is settled and incorporated into the general body of human knowledge. At times these divergent, antithetical streams have taken the form of religious and philosophical ideas.

Malthus Rejected

Darwin rejected all previous biological theories and experiments and substituted theory as a scientific hypothesis. Darwin's theory is based on the principle of natural selection, which states that the fittest survive and the rest of the population is weeded out. This theory is based on the principle of natural selection, which states that the fittest survive and the rest of the population is weeded out.

For the first time in modern genetics, a theory is advanced that Darwin was little more than the mere fact of evolution and there is no need for a theory of evolution. This theory is based on the principle of natural selection, which states that the fittest survive and the rest of the population is weeded out.

No wonder their minds are closed to Darwin.

Orthodox Genetics

Let us briefly examine the position of Mendelian genetics today. First, the gene is in the same position today as was phlogiston in Lavoisier's day or the ether in the nineteenth century—simply a convenient hypo-

LYSENKO v. THE WORLD

Over the last few years British and American learned journals have devoted considerable space to the Soviet genetics controversy. Most of the articles are openly anti-Soviet. Few writers have maintained that there is complete freedom of conscience and discussion and none have attempted to defend Lysenko's theories. He has been dubbed usurper, charlatan, adventurer, etc., ad nauseam. The controversy has been conducted on an extremely low intellectual level and instead of examining Lysenko's theories and practice our learned biologists have used the controversy—some of them deliberately and with contemptible dishonesty—to engage in yet another sphere of the anti-Soviet campaign. Lysenko's theories, it is alleged, being based on a few back garden experiments come more or less out of the blue and, since he is a political adventurer and his theories "conform to Marxism" the rude Bolsheviks have taken them up and made Lysenko a Commissar.

Firstly, in explaining certain phenomena, Lysenko's theory is no better than Mendel's. Secondly, we can make a long list of phenomena which cannot yet be explained satisfactorily in the Mendelian theory.

1. In some plants, e.g. the carnation, the traits may produce flowers and leaves of an entirely different character to those of the parent plant.

2. Hybrid vigor.

3. The inheritance of the segregation ratio.

4. The anomalous influence of the stock on the seed in grafted plants.

5. The phenomena noted by the Soviet biologists, the most striking of which are—

a. The changing of hereditary winter wheats to spring ones and vice versa.

b. "Eyes" formed in the roots of potato tubers often are completely different plants from those arising from normal "eyes".

c. The "wilted" property of grafted tomato plants, grafted on to rootstock of a different variety, which in a fashion not unlike the Mendelian segregation.

"Green Fingers"

Thirdly, practice has a contempt for Mendelian genetics. Most of our best varieties of plants and animals have not been produced under its guidance but by empirical horticulturists with "green fingers" or by geneticists such as Burbank and Michurin both outstanding in their knowledge of, and almost complete reliance on Darwin. Many orthodox biologists will admit to forgetting their genetics when engaged in plant breeding.

Fourthly, there are many general theoretical objections to the gene theory. It is obvious to a palaeontologist and to a Marxist it seems most natural that evolution should not proceed willy-nilly but in a very well-defined direction—the gene mu-

tation theory offers us very little but chance. The gene theory is rather pessimistic in our hope for new varieties. We very soon reach the physiological limit in our "hereditary material" and have to wait for chance mutations—quite at variance with horticultural practice. Such is the position of the gene theory today.

About 1934 Lysenko attacked the theories of the President and the whole biological section of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In any other country such an upstart would have been treated in the same way as an evolutionist is today in the Southern States of America. He was rebuffed in no uncertain terms but due to his outstanding practical results he gradually gained adherents among his colleagues and was finally made Director of the Institute of the Academy of Science in 1940, replacing Vavilov. This was the signal for a storm of bitter attack. For every attack on Lysenko there were ten on the Soviet Union's attitude to Science. Lysenkoism in New Zealand and Australia and overseas invented and based on the mediaeval suppression of Science, the liquidation of genetics etc.

Eric Ashby has often joined this anti-Soviet chorus, but unfortunately he is at least honest and a recent article of his in the "English Listener," 4/11/48, comes as rather a bomb-shell. According to Ashby, "up to the summer of this year, the official text-book for genetics in the University of Moscow was—an American book used in many British and American Universities. The names of Michurin and Lysenko do not occur once in this book at all." Even last year several Soviet scientists, some of them quite young, felt themselves free to criticise Lysenko and the editor felt free to publish their contributions.

For the last few years I doubt if you could find in this journal (Proceedings of the Academy of Science) a single paper on Michurian Biology. I think therefore that we have to reject the opinion that orthodox biology has for a long time been suppressed in Russia. We have only to consult the Plant Breeding Abstracts to see that orthodox genetics has proceeded unmolested; both streams of biological thought and research have continued side by side. Outside biologists however, have been predicting Lysenko's downfall and even John Lewis in the Modern Quarterly (Autumn 1947) maintained that Lysenko was on the decline.

It may thus come as a surprise that in the August 1948 session of

the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Lysenko received the support of an overwhelming majority of Soviet biologists. His report has been published in full in the French magazine "Europe" October 1948 and the same number contains seventy pages of the discussion. Both sides were there in full force. It was revealed that it was the Mendelians who had suppressed the Michurians and not vice versa in the research and educational institutes and in the learned journals.

Quoting Ashby again "the Academicians, i.e., the Mendelians, handled this crisis with great discretion. Tactfully they excluded Lysenko's writings from the Academy's journals. Quietly they encouraged orthodox biology and they even manoeuvred in 1945 to set up a second institute of genetics... where they could house their illustrious team of orthodox geneticists and so seal off Lysenko and prevent him from contaminating the main stream of Soviet biology." Ashby, of course, approves of their action but who is guilty of the suppression of ideas and manoeuvring for positions?

SIR THOMAS HUNTER

will meet all

FRESHERS

In Room C.3. at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, 1st March

As a result of this session, the Academy of Sciences of the USSR passed a resolution on 26th August, 1948, recommending the removal of about six leading geneticists, the abolition of one or two institutes and urging that general recognition be given to the Michurian trend. Most of their recommendations have since been acted on by the Government. Only now after years of ridicule and suppression does this trend receive any recognition at all. Are then, Mendelian genetics to be suppressed in the Soviet Union? Just as the theories of St. Thomas Aquinas and Bishop Berkeley are read and studied more by the inhabitants of Moscow than by those of Rome so will Mendelian genetics continue to be read and studied in the best academic tradition. No Soviet intellectuals are ever removed merely for holding and expressing unorthodox views. In the Soviet Union if a certain professor of say, mathematics or economics, is considered by his students and colleagues hopelessly inefficient and his senior lecturer say is held to be more capable then there is no question about the said professor's eventual removal. This I know is difficult to understand but it is just one of those differences between eastern dictatorship and western democracy.

Most honest biologists are in somewhat of a quandary over the whole controversy and it is at present very difficult to evaluate Lysenko's theories. I would venture to suggest that his theories are correct in the sense that the aerodynamical theories of the Wright brothers are correct compared with those of the physics professors who said that man would never fly. I hope the controversy will encourage our biologists to make a

(Continued on Page 6.)

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"INGLORIOUS VICTORIA" ?

Renewed Attack On Indonesian Demonstration

"Freedom" in what must be surely the most vulgar piece ever to have appeared in a New Zealand newspaper: "Teen Agers and Bobby Soxers Worship Ikon of Czar Stalin the First"—has referred to the students demonstration two years ago, against the Dutch attack on the Indonesian Republic, as being, among other things, "cheap."

It is necessary, therefore, that for the benefit of those who are attending the college for the first time, there should appear some account in this issue, of what was, perhaps, Victoria's finest hour—from 12 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 30th of July, 1947.

World Reaction To Dutch Action

It will be recalled how, on Sunday, July 20, 1947, armed with British and American tanks, planes, firearms and warships, the Netherlands Junkers launched their long-prepared war against the two-year-old Republic of Indonesia.

With extraordinary rapidity the forces of decency and humanity in the world replied to Indonesia's call for aid. Nehru thundered, "We will not tolerate foreign armies operating in Asian countries." The World Federation of Trade Unions called on the working men to stand by the Indonesians. The Australian watersiders re-imposed their ban on all Dutch shipping and the students of the University of Sydney braved police bashings to voice their protest.

Victoria responded no less speedily. Within six days a petition to the Netherlands Minister (which was eventually to bear 356 signatures) was being circulated; an excellent folder giving an account of the history of the Republic and the Dutch plans for its destruction had been printed and a special meeting of the Socialist Club unanimously decided on a public demonstration as the only means by which the gravity of the Dutch action could be brought home to the people.

As the club said, in a circular distributed to all students: "The Dutch action cynically contravenes the principles of the United Nations and Atlantic Charters for which many of Victoria's students laid down their lives. This type of action contains the seeds of future world war in the same way as Japan's attack on Manchuria, Mussolini's on Abyssinia and Hitler's on Austria."

Students Break Govt. Iron Curtain

As soon as the news that the students were likely to demonstrate had been carried to the Government, extraordinary activity was shown on the part of authority. Far from Mr. Fraser—that world-famed humanitarian and self-proclaimed defender of the rights of small nations—giving his blessing to the call for peace and United Nations intervention, all the

apparatus of the State was brought into play to dampen any expression of the opinion which most New Zealanders felt.

The President of the Students' Association was summoned to Police Headquarters in an attempt to persuade him to call the demonstration off. In a last desperate measure the police even called at the school where he was teaching. Our "free" press following a "hint" from the Prime Minister's Department refused to publish any announcement (even a paid advertisement) that there was to be a demonstration at all.

Nevertheless, by noon on the 30th several hundred students had lined up alongside the War Memorial and 60 constables and the Black Maria had lined up at the Central Police Station.

Superintendent Dempsey immediately vetoed the demonstration and made a great show of taking names. No-one took much notice of him and at the scheduled time the procession streamed off down the Quay. Carrying bold banners with such slogans as "Students Demand UNO Action," "Students Demand a Free Indonesia," "Stop Dutch Aggression," etc., and joined by many watersiders and other unionists, the procession cut through a line of police outside the Magistrates' Court and finally ended up outside the D.I.C. (police at every door) where a large crowd having gathered outside the offices of the Netherlands Legation, it was impossible to proceed further. Here, after the crowd had counted out the Dutch and the police (whose endeavours to seize the banners were unsuccessful) the demonstration ended.

Crocodile Tears . . .

The Press, hostile as it was, had to admit that the procession was quiet and orderly.

And the reactions? Firstly, there was a hypocritical weeping in the Press (and from the R.S.A. which is always willing to oblige) about the "sacriligious use" of the War Memorial. Secondly, there was a lifting of hands at the horror of students daring to have an interest in the affairs of the world and of thinking contrary to those dispassionate and informed guides "The Dominion" and "The Evening Post." Finally, there was a suspicious proliferation of letters to the editor by unnamed "Students" expressing a strange concern for the "good name" of Victoria College.

The good name of the college was thrashed out at a special general meeting of the Students' Association a few weeks later. At that meeting a motion "That the Executive shall forthwith send a letter of apology to the Dutch Minister for the recent actions of a minority and disaffiliate the Socialist Club for a period of one year" was lost by 140 votes to 110. This vote reaffirmed, as "Spike" put it, that "when organised by the Socialist Club over three hundred students

signed a petition and over two hundred marched the streets protesting against the Dutch attack, it was no mere Socialist Club that spoke out: it was Victoria. If Victoria has a voice that voice spoke from our banners."

Two days after the demonstration the United Nations Security Council by 8 votes to nil called on the Dutch and the Indonesian Governments to "cease hostilities forthwith and to settle their dispute by arbitration or other peaceful means." That was precisely what the students had called for.

For the obscenity of calling for the implementation of the Atlantic Charter and of the Charter of the United Nations, the students were to be subject to further petty irritation. For, smarting from their rebuff, the police brought prosecutions against seven students and three watersiders for having taken part in an illegal procession.

. . . And Whitewash For Reputations

Fortified by expressions of support from all parts of New Zealand (the Socialist Club received a fan mail such as has never been received at Salamanca Road before) and by financial help from numerous unions and individuals, the club decided to fight the case and to establish the right to hold processions. And the judgment of Mr. H. J. Thompson, S.M., confirmed that (to the chagrin of the police and the "Evening Post") such a right did exist. In fact, the Magistrate said that he entirely agreed with Mr. Stout, S.M.'s statement that "the law in New Zealand is the same as that in Britain—namely that persons are entitled to demonstrate and hold processions, to publicly air their views or bring them before the authorities so long as the meetings are orderly and peaceful. This is a cherished right of the British nation and should not be lightly interfered with or curtailed."

Law Held Unreasonable

Mr. Thompson, after pointing out that it had been admitted by the police that the procession was an orderly one, held that the by-law was unreasonable as well as repugnant to the laws of New Zealand and was invalid. His dismissed the information.

To sum up: When pressmen, politicians and pulpiters were silent the students spoke out against monstrous injustice. People learnt that in New Zealand, too, there were those who felt as Walt Whitman said, unforgettably:

"Whoever degrades another degrades me

Whatever is done or said returns at last to me."

Finally, Victoria challenged a shameful law and broke it. Chalk, one up!

NOW WE ARE FIFTY

Most students probably know that the College Jubilee will be celebrated some time during 1949. Probably few are aware as yet of the actual dates or nature of these celebrations. For the benefit of such bods we therefore present a summary of the Jubilee activities.

A Jubilee Celebrations Committee, comprising the Chairman of the College Council, the Principal, representatives of the staff and the students (both past and present) has been at work for nine months or more in making the necessary preparations. This Committee has finally decided that the Jubilee week should run from the 15th of May, a Sunday, to the following Saturday. The most important functions on the first day will be the various Church services. At the moment, two such services have been arranged—an Academic Mass for Catholic students at St. Mary of the Angels in the morning, and a combined service at St. Paul's in the afternoon.

Process. Leads Off

At noon or thereabout on the 16th, a procession will proceed in more or less academic fashion through several of Wellington's streets to the Town Hall where a civic reception will be tendered by the Mayor, Councillors and Corporation. At 3 p.m. on the same day, there will be an "opening ceremony" at the College. (For those who are not accustomed to reading between the lines, this does not mean that the College will be opened.) This ceremony will be followed by a conversazione, or "get together" for past and present students.

On Tuesday, May 17th, the College Council will give a reception in the Town Hall. Wednesday will see another conversazione, this time for the public, at which Faculties and Departments will put on displays typical of their particular studies.

Thursday has been set aside as "Clubs' Days" when the various College Clubs will organise suitable functions. For instance, the Debate Society will hold a dinner and some of the sporting clubs are organising contests between past and present students. Friday evening will be devoted to a ball, once again in the Rathaus (Hotel de Ville to you).

It is to be borne in mind that this is only the official programme and that individual clubs will probably be arranging functions of their own on the days mentioned.

The Jubilee celebrations should be enjoyable, to say the least, to all students. A Building Fund Appeal will probably be launched in the city at the same time and, if students show their interest in the College by attending the Jubilee celebrations, then the citizenry may take more kindly to the appeal for our desperately needed Student Union Building.

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(Continued from Page 4.)

thorough re-examination of Darwin—his Origin of Species and particularly his Variation of Plants and Animals under Domestication as well as the fundamental experiments and theories of the Mendelian geneticists. It is not accidental that more and more of our biologists are veering towards creation, so difficult is it to explain intra-generic and even intra-specific transformations. I hope they will realise that the statements of Goldschmidt, Darlington, etc., are not those of cool objective scientists, but are despicably dishonest and render their future statements worthless. The Michurian trend could only take root in a Socialist country. The improvement of their varieties was vital and although this took place at a remarkably rapid pace, the rate of improvement was declining sharply, when for the first time in history, science was given the fullest support by the State and by the general population. But in countries like New Zealand there has been little improvement in our plants and animals, for instance, over the past 12 years the average yield of our dairy cattle has remained static. This is not, of course, due to the application of incorrect scientific theories but, owing to the form of society we live in, our scientists cannot apply even the simple old theory of matching best to best and selecting which applied properly on a large scale would produce spectacular results. No wonder no agriculturist has found it necessary to re-examine his fundamental theory while the old one still serves a good purpose.

In conclusion it is interesting to note that for thirty years Soviet science has generally been disparaged but now there are at least two fields in which they really excel. They produce the world's most outstanding geneticists and they are past masters in the synthesis of confusion drugs. P.J.A.

"The Spike" Again for Jubilee

If you were to search now among the outward confusion of the incredibly tiny room which houses the Caxton Press in Christchurch, and if you were to put aside chipped cups, boxes of lead type, rags, and piles of warm, new books and pamphlets, somewhere you would find, on many a quarto page, the typewritten script of a new and important number of our College magazine, "The Spike." At a plain, wooden table, just inside the door, you would find Denis Glover, the printer himself, perspiring slightly at the brow, frantically addressing envelopes, or, with nice suavity and perfect business shrewdness, making terms with a paper merchant, or discussing a printing order with Mrs. So-and-So from the local Women's Guild or Sewing Circle. Before long, the known facts about Glover would come through, in his conversation and manner, and in the talk of his friends—the warm, Irish wit, the slight unpredictability, the brilliance over a pint of malt; the poet and writer who has caught John Lehmann's eye, the Navy veteran of World War II; Glover, the typographer, the Christ's and Canty man. If you talked with him, and bore in mind the delightful volumes that have emerged from this tiny room—"Of Wives and Wiving," the two books of printing types, the Caxton Poets series—I think you would agree that the magazine is in the right hands.

Getting under Weigh

It all began nearly twelve months ago when the Executive asked me to tackle the task of preparing a new number of "The Spike" to mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our College. Shortly afterwards, the Royal tour of New Zealand was planned; and, as a result, the Jubilee

celebrations and publications were set back three months. Closing dates for entries had to be changed, until nobody quite knew when the editor wanted the copy, and the editor didn't know when the printer wanted it. But these were only incidental difficulties. Add to them the fact that the three members of the editorial committee between them had examinations to sit or mark, theses to write, a hostel to administer, a rather important selection committee to confront, "Salient" to edit, the students' congress at Curious Cove to attend, and a thousand other tasks, humdrum and otherwise, and it may seem lucky that a magazine is down with the Caxton Press at all! All this, and apathy too—the vast, taut, unmovable skin that encloses inarticulate College thought and writing, and energy.

Policy?

Yet, when we met for the first time, we thought the venture worth while, and sought around for a policy.

The first preconception that had to be cleared away was that this was not the fiftieth number of "The Spike." It is fifty years since the College was formed, but, partly because the new College did not become articulate for three years, and partly because till 1930 there were two issues a year, this is actually Number 77.

Then we looked back at Vol. 1, No. 1, and found it was called "The Spike"—not just a "Spike" or any old "Spike," but "THE

SPIKE"; and we also found, to our astonishment, that it remained so until the late nineteenth-thirties. "Hast thou 'THE SPIKE'?" was the cry. So, at the dreadful risk of bringing down the wrath of the bright young literary things, we reverted to the baptismal name.

After that, the long labour of reading through volumes and volumes of College magazines—and particularly the memorial numbers.

What We Wanted

Without any doubt there are in those pages a more formidable collection of statistics than ever the official "Year Book" or "Who's Who," knew. With a faint shudder, and appalled at the expense of spirit, I closed their pages, and set to wondering what could be done this time. Would it be possible to strike any kind of reasonable balance between the heavy conscientiousness of the club histories, now in theory twice as long as in 1924, and the wedge of literary stuff which the more ambitious of the 1948 Executive wanted from me?

So, with not much more than a vague policy in front of me, I began the long task of sending out letters to anybody who had ever made half a name for themselves in academic or literary circles. Dons, lawyers, fellows, doctors, professors, business men, students, housewives—all were paged. The result, of course, had they all answered, would have been disastrous. But, as previous editors have found again and again, there was no danger of that. One has to print most of that which comes, even if some of it hobbles in on one leg.

What We've Got

You may be interested in some of the magazine's wares. To begin with, there is a valuable document from the only surviving foundation professor—Sir Thomas Easterfield; there is a Roll of Honour, of grievous length, for World War II; some of our best younger poets are represented; there are pleasant, and dull, club histories; there are the texts of several broadcast talks, which you may miss on the air, but would probably like to keep; the names of Eileen Duggan, Anton Vogt, Douglas Stewart, James Bertram, H. C. D. Somerset, P. S. Wilson . . . are on the title page. Some of it is good. Jubilee fun, some stands high up on stilts, and some jogs merrily along like a tidy little rickshaw, practical and trustworthy.

Altogether, I think, with its more than hundred pages of copy and illustrations, you will get your half-crown's worth. And when writing in the next few weeks, please let your friends in other parts know of it. If you want more than one or two copies you should place your order now with J. B. Butchers, Business Manager, Golden Jubilee "Spike," Victoria University College.

R. W. Burchfield.

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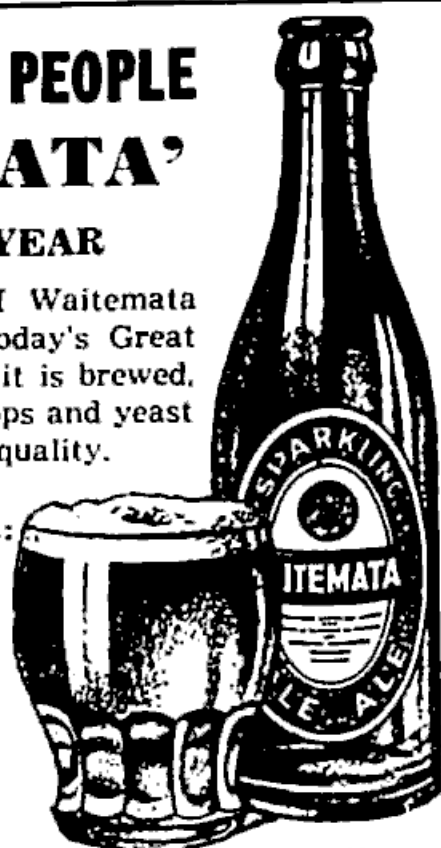
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LOWDOWN ON THE LIBRARY

On the 16th of February, 1949, the Victoria University College library had accessioned 69,732 books. There are still a number of books uncatalogued but the balance is restored by losses and withdrawals.

The number of students at VUC in 1948 was 2374. In the librarian's annual report, which will be presented at the next meeting of the Council, there will be an item showing the number of books issued in 1948. When this figure is published I feel sure that a simple mathematical calculation will show that a large percentage of students do not use the library. Of the many who do use the library, a large proportion are not satisfied with it. In trying to determine the reason for this Salient staff have interviewed a number of students. The question that was put to the student was "What do you think of the Vic Library? Are you satisfied with it, and how do you think it could be improved?" The following is a selection from the answers obtained.

Arts Graduate (English)

I have always found the library satisfactory. The English section, at any rate is well laid out and the classification system can be followed by any normal person.

3rd-Year Science Student

I cannot follow the library at all. If I want to do some work I go to the Public Library.

Library School Graduate

A most frightening institution. Getting a book out is almost as difficult as getting to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. I think the system of book issue is cumbersome and antiquated and I particularly object to the library closing for lunch.

2nd-Year Arts Student

1. There is no plan which can be followed easily. The plan which is displayed does not show the classification on it. There should be a notice in a prominent place in the library outlining the classification scheme.

2. The library is crowded and chaotic. There is no continuity in the way the shelves run on.

3. The issue and the information desk is too far from the main library, and I don't like being thrown out while the library staff have their lunch.

4. For a full-time student two books at a time is not enough. I had three out several times last year and no one caught up on me.

5. The place is oppressively quiet. It is like a morgue.

Science Graduate

(This particular student has had library experience in a well-known library, and has used VUC library extensively in the past two years.)

The classification is good from a librarian's point of view, but in some of the Sciences it is not recent enough—the subdivisions in the catalogue are not up-to-date. The inter-library loan requests are not despatched immediately they are received as far as I can see. The stacks are not easily accessible and the librarians are very rarely seen, and even then they are not very helpful.

If it is possible, I would like to see the library obtain two copies of the exam papers (external ones). In 1947 someone pinched the copy of some exam papers I needed and hung on to them until just before finals. I think that the losses from the library would decrease if more books per student were issued.

I would like to see those paintings and photographs on the walls above each alcove taken down, and a large notice put in their place showing just what subjects are covered by the books in that alcove. An information desk in the main library would be a good idea if there is the staff to run it, and I think it indispensable in the first few weeks of the session.

Arts Graduate

I have never found the library a good place to read in or work in—it is too dark, too crowded, too constricting, eventually depressing. But, I have appreciated its books, so far as I could take them away with me, greatly, in the few years I have been here.

6th-Year Science Student

I am fed up with chasing round the Science Room. Books bearing on my subject are to be found in no fewer than seven places in that one room.

The Biology section urgently needs vetting. Many ancient texts could be burned and replaced with modern material.

2nd-Year Arts

I think the library would be better if they fined for overdue. It also seems strange that the library has no microfilm reader. Victoria should be one of the first to purchase one, especially as there is so much good film available in New Zealand, Australia and obtainable from the United Kingdom and the United States.

To freshers and others who are new to the Library it is only fair to point out that the Vic Library uses the Library of Congress system for classifying books. Most Public Libraries in New Zealand use the Dewey or decimal system. Both systems have their advantages and disadvantages but the chief disadvantage of the Library of Congress system at Vic, is that most students are not familiar with it. In 1941 the Library published an excellent little pamphlet, "A Guide for Readers." However, this sold out about 1946. The Library is planning a revised edition, but it is not yet in the hands of the printer and according to latest information it will be published "some time this year!"

WHAT WE WANT

1. More books per student per issue.
2. More light in the library. (Why cannot the library instal fluorescent lighting as has been done in the lecture-rooms?)
3. An information desk in the main library, at least in the first few weeks.
4. Conducted tours for freshers and others to show layout of the library and what facilities are available.
5. An outline of the classification scheme displayed in a prominent place.
6. A classified plan of the library also in a prominent place.
7. Fines for overdue.
8. A microfilm reader.

AND GET THE OFFICIAL SLANT

Thursday, March 3:

Mr. Miller speaks on the library at 8 p.m. in C3.

YOUTH UNITE, FOR LASTING PEACE

World Federation of Democratic Youth

In the closing stages of the second world war, in 1945, a group of delegates, representative of youth organisations in nearly all the countries which had fought for victory, met in London to discuss the future. Fresh in the memory of the bitter lessons of war and occupation, the congress was bound by a strong determination. The result was the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), an organisation from 66 countries, representing a total membership of over 50,000,000—the largest international youth organisation ever known. Its slogan, "Youth Unite, for an everlasting Peace."

Since 1946, the VUC Students Association has been affiliated to WFDY. It is therefore important that students of VUC should know something of it. The voluminous and highly interesting correspondence, reports, and bulletins which are received in Exec Room almost every week are there for all students to see, and provide interesting reading at any time.

What Does It Do?

WFDY works in close co-operation with the International Union of Students (IUS), to which NZUSA is affiliated. WFDY includes not only students, however, but youth organisations of all kinds. It is non-partisan and non-sectarian, and its aims and principles conform exactly to the aims and principles of United Nations Organisation. It is admitted to consultative status with UNESCO.

A fair sample of WFDY's work is the Charter of Youth adopted at the

WFDY International Conference of Working Youth held in Warsaw in August, 1948, representing 48,000,000 young people.

Charter of Youth

1. The right to a job.
2. The right to a minimum living wage.
3. The right to equal pay for equal work.
4. The right to legislation prohibiting juvenile employment under the age of 14.
5. The right to paid annual holidays.
6. The right to professional and technical training.
7. The right to real accessibility to education (including higher education).
8. The right to cultural, recreational and sports facilities.
9. The right to social insurance and free medical service.
10. The right to health, hygiene and safety measures.
11. The right to economic aid in settling down into married life.
13. The right to organise to fight for their political and economic rights.

WFDY and Us

The question arises, and will continue to arise, what have we in Victoria to do with an organisation like this; what have we in common with young people in China, France, USSR, Syria, Burma, USA, Egypt? Perhaps we are rather remote from it all now that the war is over. It requires no didactics from the columns of Salient to prove the international understanding is as great a need as ever. It can be said simply that as long as we are interesting in working for a closer understanding between the youth of all countries, so long will WFDY continue to be an organisation worthy of our support.

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PLAYERS AND STAYERS 1949

I don't suppose that this year will be any different from any other year, and all things being equal, all students will be again given good advice from their lecturers during the first week of term. For those who haven't been through it before, it is mainly this—that if you wish to have a successful year you will start work straight away. There will be a few who will take this advice, still a few more who will start off with good intentions, and the majority who will look around for something more to do in their spare time.

However, for all of you we wish to point out that there are many Sports Clubs who will welcome you with open arms.

For those who are really energetic, the basketball starts in a few weeks, and the Athletic Club is already "running" on Kelburn Park. If you want to be in the swim and can stand the Wellington weather, there are the Thorndon baths, water polo and women are wanted. For those who want to keep really fit and like to take their time doing it—take a week-end jaunt into the hills with the Tramping Club. In fact there are sports for all types. Even if you are not particularly energetic you are sure to be able to find something to your taste. So in the meantime watch the Notice Board, playmates, for time and place.

Rugby

The Rugby Club's activities for 1949 will begin with the Annual General Meeting to be held in room A2 of the College at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9. Beside attending this, all present and intending members should fill in a team-slip from the supply placed on the main notice-board, and attend the first practice, which will probably be on Wednesday, March 16.

As the season will probably begin on the first Saturday after Easter, it is up to players to begin their preparation as early as possible. Practices are held on Wednesday and possibly Thursday evenings throughout the season both in the College gymnasium and on Kelburn Park, and the importance of regular attendance at these practices is essential.

If any further information is wanted, get in touch with Henry Moore, Public Trust Office, phone 49-040; Vern Peters, phone 24-177; or Joe Trapp, Turnbull Library, phone 40-960.

Political Science Society

Since its formation two years ago the Political Science Society has done much for students seeking the objective study of politics outside the lecture-room. The most notable achievement was the publication last November of a "Journal of Political Science." The journal, containing articles by students and others interested in Political Science, was well received by all reviewers. The second issue should be on sale early in March.

In addition, the society holds regular meetings. In the past we have been addressed by such authorities as the Rt. Hon. W. Nash, Mr. S. G. Holland, Mr. C. Theiler, the Consul for Switzerland, and Dr. Dean McHendry of the University of Southern California. Visits to Parliament have also been arranged.

This year the society is embarking on a most ambitious project—a study of the 1949 elections. This will be of the greatest interest to all students who wish to learn more about the politics of New Zealand, and at the same time to make a valuable contribution to the study of political problems. This work, the first attempt of its kind in New Zealand, has already attracted much attention.

The aim is to study all aspects of the election contest—parties, platforms, public opinion, press, propaganda and electoral law.

The society is determined that this subject shall be approached and treated on a strictly non-partisan basis. We want as many students as possible, first, second, third and fourth-year, and some of those that seem to live here all the time, to

join one of the groups of this study. Without this help it will not be possible to produce an effort of which all can be proud. The final work is to be published. The more assistants we have the lighter will be the work for each and the better this final effort will be.

There will be a meeting of the society in the second week of the term to discuss this matter and other questions of interest—so watch the notice-board.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the third week of the term. Be sure you are there.

Catholic Students' Guild

The Catholic Students' Guild will commence activities for the 1949 session on Sunday, March 6th. In all probability, there will be a high tea at St. Patrick's College at 5.30 or thereabouts. This will be followed at 7 p.m. by Benediction, after which comes the AGM. A social will follow the AGM.

All Catholic students are cordially invited to come along on this day to meet one another and to discuss the Guild's business during the coming year.

Meetings of the Guild are held approximately once a fortnight when various matters of interest to Catholic students, and to students in general, are discussed in open forum. All students are welcome.

SALIENT: An organ of student opinion, at Victoria University College. By subscription only. Annual subscription 3/-.

Next issue: Wednesday, March 16.

Varsity Swimmers in Aussie

After much preparation since July, 1947, the New Zealand Universities swimming team toured Australia during January, 1949. The trip extended to Melbourne and Sydney, where New Zealand competed against a combined Australian University team and Sydney University. Australia had a decided win, 7 events to 2, even though most of the swimming was closely fought. New Zealand beat Sydney 14-13, this being a more even competition. (New Zealand Varsity population is the same as Sydney's, 11,500).

Much helpful information and advice was obtained by New Zealanders, in particular with coaching, training methods and water polo through contact made with members of Australia's Olympic team, 1948.

Real benefits of this tour should be seen at inter-Varsity swimming at Easter Tournament at Lower Hutt, when results of Australian experience should show better times.

The NZU Swimming Council bought a film in Australia showing highlights of swimming and diving at Olympic Games. This film should be seen soon and it is hoped to raise the necessary finance during the year to invite an Australian team across in 1950.



Piper (VUC), Barry (OU), Begg (CUC), Blomfield (AUC), Ferguson (AUC)
Dowse (VUC), Butterick (CUC), Logan (OU), Doake (CUC).

Fencing

The Swords Club aims to improve the standard of fencing at V.U.C. Steps are being taken to coach secondary school pupils so that they will have some skill when they come to Varsity. The club welcomes all those interested in fencing. Watch the Notice Board for first club meeting.

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This year's Water Polo team is the strongest for many years. It is their first time in A grade and they have been playing consistently, primarily due to the efforts of Bernie Knowles, Des Dowse and Pip Piper (the last two recently returned from swimming in Australia). The last two games have been drawn against top-line teams, Petone 1-1, and Maranui 1-1. Fine defensive play by backs, Pat Anderson and Ray Shannon, have helped to keep the goals down. Good work, boys, keep it going.

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