

The Magnet

For Men's Wear
144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

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

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Leaders in the Field
of Athletic and Sports
Equipment

Briscoe Mills

Cnr. Victoria and
Hunter Streets

"VICTORIA CAN SHOW N.Z. HOW" —SAYS PLISHKE

In the trading of brains with other countries, New Zealand has a pretty uneven trade balance on the wrong side of the ledger. We did mark up something to our credit when E. A. Plishke came to New Zealand. In any place, an architect with a world reputation would be an asset. In this country of much building and few architects, he assumes major significance.

The 1947 A.G.M. decided unanimously that Plishke should be responsible for the planning of the new Students' Union Building. And so, when Salient wanted to find out just what was going to happen to all this money when it is finally raised, we knew that the only way to find out was to ask Plishke.

We managed to interview him in a coffee house which was about half as crowded as the Caf. at 5 p.m.—this fact brought home the urgency of having a place which can cater for the needs of students.

"A lot of thinking seems to have gone," he said, "into the gathering of money to build this for you. Into the form of the building; into the functions which it should serve, very little."

"Your building can be an answer to a very real problem in New Zealand universities—the lack of any social focus. At present, when you go up there, you go into the Cafeteria and get out as soon as you have finished eating; you go into the Library, but—ssh; you go into your common rooms, but where can you talk, relax?"

We saw what he meant. The men's common room at 5 p.m. isn't really suited to quiet discussion.

A new problem

"Now modern architecture is not for rich people only, as architecture has been in the past. In fact, the best examples of modern building are in public buildings. Here we are faced with a contemporary problem. Here we must provide a centre for young people. You can see that it must be answered in the idiom of modern architecture—using those materials, those building processes and those new aims in architecture which are suited to such a problem. It must be functional—design linked intimately with function. I don't mean by that 'utilitarian.' There's a great deal of difference."

"Well, what sort of a place do you think would satisfy this?" we asked.

"Remember that it must be a social focus, and provide for that side of life which is at present neglected. It won't be just enough to have facilities for sports and clubs. The whole atmosphere of the place must be such that discussion and relaxed social intercourse can take place naturally."

Of cafeterias...

"First, let's take the Cafeteria. In our building, it must be an essential part of the function. It should have space, it should be a place where you can sit and talk—in fact, the sort of place where you feel you want to sit. This would make it essential to the social life of the students. It is hardly that at present. You see how important the question of atmosphere will be. For the rest, I think there must be a flexible use of space. Your groups will not always be large, and a large room would often hamper the sort of feeling which it ought to have. Yet this same space must be able to be adapted to large meetings, talks, assemblies. It must have provision for the showing of films when you wish. Sometimes, a concert—recorded music, a quartet perhaps? Where does your debating club meet now?"

We might have answered "In the middle of the props for the Drama Club's next show" but we refrained.

"You are very lucky with this," he said. "I have been over most of New Zealand and I have seen nowhere any place of this sort. Since this is a new problem, the answer can be entirely original; you see that there is no tradition to be tied to—we can create as we like."

... and things

"I saw down at Curious Cove how you like to get together, to listen to music, to discuss in informal groups. These things you have no place for at present; they are not part of the university life though the need is there. This building should also have a library—not of the style of the present one, but having books, say, on international students' movements. There

should be facilities for showing paintings, especially those of contemporary artists. If these things are not done at a university, where are they to be done? We can take it for granted that there will be areas for sports, for acting, and for all those other sorts of activities. But it is the informal social aim which is the important one."

A New Answer

"There is much danger in New Zealand where there is so much building for homes, and so little catering for the equally important communal needs. Here is a chance to show a lead, to do something new. We are not shackled by any tradition of design—why then we may go ahead and express creatively the essential idiom of modern thought. Most important to remember is that we cannot build like most of those I see around: where a Gothic exterior is wrapped around a space used for what? for shopping or for a factory. This is insincerity. Needless too, in a country which is young and has its own problems of climate and of culture. You up at your university do not wish to repeat this sort of thing, do you?"

We assured Mr. Plishke very fervently indeed that we did not wish to have our students' building looking like the . . . building or the . . . block (you can fill the names in yourself). And then we walked out into the after-work rush, about six inches (we felt) above the pavement: feeling a distinct sense of elation that when the Building Fund Appeal had finally achieved its aim, the thinking would be passed over to E. A. Plishke, one of the very few men in this country who thinks deeply enough about architecture to be able to plan a genuine students' building!

YOU CAN HELP!

In 30 day's time Victoria will be inundated by hundreds of students from Auckland, Otago, Canterbury, Lincoln and Massey for the Easter tournament. It is the duty and privilege of us all to act as enthusiastic hosts. Much assistance is required from everybody. To be of assistance you are asked to:—

Perks

(a) Billet a student from another college. This is the most essential duty of all. Everyone whose home is in Wellington should billet at least one student. If there is a shortage of bedding in your house we will supply it. And remember a billetor becomes eligible for free passes to all sports and the ball.

Workers

(b) Help on various committees—advertising, programme, billeting, selling programmes, band, haka party and dispensing information. Much help is needed up to and including the Easter period. If you are a willing worker please leave a note in the Executive Room.

Get Fit

(c) If you are a college representative get fit and train hard in order that our teams may acquire themselves well in the field of sport.

You will be hearing more of Tournament in the near future. Please let us hear from you.

VANCE HENDERSON,
Senior Tournament Delegate.

Exec. Opposes Conscription

The most important matter brought up at the Exec. meeting on 21st February was the instruction to the Association's delegates that they support the following at the meeting of the Movement Against Peace-time Conscription:

(a) To actively oppose the introduction of conscription.

(b) To work for the maintenance of peace and to oppose militarism, war propaganda and other forms of activity directed towards war.

(c) To actively oppose restriction of present civil liberties and citizens' right as being intended to pave the way for conscription and war.

MASTERLY INACTIVITY
*Salient would like very much to know
when the Exec. will actually do something
about this year's Extrav.*

Come to the . . .
ANNUAL MEETING
of the
SOCIALIST CLUB
Tuesday,
22nd March
8 P.M.
in the
LOWER GYM

Salient

The Organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1949.

HAS SALIENT A POLICY?

In an article in this issue "Student Opinion or Red Blanket," criticism is made of Salient policy. From the outset we will make it clear that any contributed article will be printed that is:

1. Of interest to students.
2. Grammatical.
3. Free from slander, libel or malicious personal abuse.
4. Free from personal gossip.

Veritas is quite misinformed when he claims that student apathy is not a factor controlling the range of copy available for publication. Very few students will sit down and write seriously on matters that interest them; fewer still will rise to criticise point by point any article that appears in Salient, with which they do not agree. Veritas has not criticised any of the articles in our last issue on their own ground. He is content to label whole articles as bad journalism or Red bias. Furthermore, in last issue we did not run a single filler nor a single rewrite.

We would point out to Veritas, articles on both Lyssenko and the Stone Flower, were featured by that bastion of genteel respectability, the N.Z. Listener. Why should Salient be redder than the Listener when we publish similar articles?

We are not catering for "the more woolly minded of the old students" nor for the public, whose capacity to establish real political distinctions has been blunted by fifty years of crude sensational journalism. We can see if Veritas cannot the distinction between publishing a review of the artistic technique of a Russian film or a summary of a current intellectual controversy in biology, and being violently russophile.

Mr. F. L. Combs in the last issue successfully attacked the Rev. Sullivan without once having recourse to the old argument of the good name of the college. **Combs demolished Sullivan by an able attack based on the real issues involved and not by appeal to any fundamental political or religious bias.**

We invite all Salient readers to do exactly the same with any and every article in our paper, and then, at last, the inarticulate "dead hand" which weighs so heavily on our faculties may be stimulated to the serious intellectual, political and religious thought that it so obviously lacks, and for which our secondary schools cannot train it.

—P.F.J.

A DRAMATIC OPINION

It is obvious to any interested observer that the students in this college are badly needing an outlet for self-expression — the "GENTLEMEN'S" in the College bears graphic witness to this fact. Even such activities as Extrav. and Process. are but poor substitutes for full and satisfying self-expression.

Seriously, there are few clubs in this college that actively cater for this all-important need among students. Perhaps the only club which could in itself supply the fullest range for such activity is the Dramatic Club. But has it in the past given the fullest opportunity for such expression—in other words, has it previously had the scope necessary? It has not!

A Wail

The Drama Club in the years past has not made full use of their possible scope: instead they have been content to produce a selection of mediocres presented one-acts, together with a major production or two, in the main experiments, that can only be described as not reaching the highest possible standard that they could have reached. These remarks must be qualified here by saying that their comparative failure was not due to any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the cast and other

members, but to a number of other factors, chief among which have been lack of suitable halls, lack of experienced producers, lack of finance (chronic) and the whole complex problem that strikes most cultural clubs—lack of full-time students who are prepared to put the time necessary into such activities to make them the success they deserve to be.

The Drama Club in particular has been faced with the additional problem in the lack of suitable storage space for bulky props, costumes, etc. Such then in general are the problems that have beset the Drama Club in the past and have to a certain extent prevented it from doing full justice to itself.

Will the Drama Club in the coming year widen its activities to to their fullest possible extent? I have great hopes for the future of the club and I feel that the energy that members put into the club has now born fruit.

There has even at this early stage been an unprecedented number of enquiries regarding its activities. Further there are already plans being made for an immediate widening of scope. There are great possibilities and I only hope that every one of them will be exploited.

A Wish

One realm in particular that has been untouched is that of play-writing. It arises from the experience gained after the first successful Drama Festival conducted with Winter Tournament last year. The policy has now been suggested that VUC send only original plays to Tourna-

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Lies and Liberals

Sir.—We noticed in a recent Charter Club pamphlet two blatant mis-statements of fact. The Executive of last year which was removed from office by the "cattle fair" General Meeting has been dubbed by the Chartists as "socialistic controlled." Simple reference to the personalities on that Executive and some elementary arithmetic will show the socialists in a minority of one to four.

Further it was the Debating Society, headed by our present President, that sent a telegram to the Democratic Students of the Prague University and not the Socialist Club who sent a telegram to Gottwald. It can be said of the leftist minority of the College that at least they do not back up their propaganda with conscious lies nor do they descend to the level of defacing the notices of opponent Clubs.

Two Seekers After Truth.

Exec. Motion

Moved Evison, seconded Cook: That in view of the publicity recently given to the statements made by the Rev. Martin Sullivan referring to Communist motions, woolly-mindedness, dumbness and closed minds at the recent Students' Congress at Curious Cove, this Executive wishes to record its rejection of these allegations as they are completely unjustified and are a serious reflection on the student members at the Congress and on New Zealand University students in general. We affirm that the Congress, at which all contributions to discussion were freely discussed, was a most valuable and enjoyable experience for those students present, and a great step forward for the New Zealand student movement. We wish to congratulate the Congress Management Committee and particularly the Congress Organizer, Mr. Harold Dowrick, for the fine work they did in making the Congress the outstanding success that it definitely was.

—CARRIED.

O'Brien abstained.
Battersby, Pearce, Langford, Holm, Llott dissented.

ment. This I venture to suggest holds the greatest possibilities in encouraging original composition in this college and the use of the theatre as a vehicle for expression.

There are similarly fields for cultural development in stage and set designing; musical accompaniment and in movement and speech-training. All these activities will not only benefit the Drama Club's productions but also would integrate its doings with those of other clubs such as the Glee Club, Musical Committee and the Literary Society.

I await with eagerness the forthcoming major production "SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER" which would seem to be even in its present embryonic state to have overcome the major problems facing it. But it can only be a success if it has the support of all the students of the college, in not only coming along but in noising abroad to all who may be interested, news of its forthcoming appearance.

The Drama Club through the energy of itself and of all students can add immeasurably to the welfare of the student body and furthermore the college.

C.G.P.

NO MAN'S LAND

Disclaimer

(To the Editor.)

Sir.—Sympathetic as I am towards your need for good and interesting copy for Salient, I feel I must ask an apology of you for an incorrect reference to me appearing on page 3 of Salient's issue of February 23.

As a journalist, may I remind Salient (usually so willing, often justifiably, to condemn the rest of the world's Press) of the absolute necessity for accuracy in its reporting. Congregants, after Mr. Combs, were at any rate convinced of this.

As a political science student, may I suggest that if attempts be made to tabulate student voting at Curious Cove or elsewhere, they should be made by competent observers who can and do distinguish yea from nay.

And as a student who happens to know no more than the average student about W.F.D.Y., I should like to state that, far from voting in favour of the affiliation of N.Z.U.S.A. with that body, as Salient reported, I on the contrary seconded a motion that consideration of affiliation be deferred until N.Z.U.S.A. had sent a representative to the triennial congress of the federation this year. Since this motion was, after discussion, ruled out of order as contradicting the original motion, I am scarcely likely to have voted for the latter.—Yours etc.

PAULINE M. HOSKINS.

P.S.: No, I hold no grudge against Salient for the verbatim report of portion of my remarks—it sounds to me a most faithful reproduction.

[We are very sorry, Pauline, for getting your affiliations all mixed up.—Ed.]

Again

(To the Editor.)

Sir.—A certain person writing under the name of Veritas, accuses me of being a paper waster merely because I wrote an article on the subject of religion, which was published in Salient last year. I admit the said article was not a masterpiece of journalism, but, you see, I never intended it to be so. Its whole purpose was to start a discussion on religion, through Salient's columns, a laudable intent if I interpret Veritas correctly. Why then does he not answer the points made in my unfortunate article instead of condemning it out of hand. Perhaps the discussing has been done from the wrong point of view and perhaps—nay, I fear—Veritas cannot answer adequately.

—SWEN.

Psychopathics?

Sir.—I would like to suggest to the Department of Psychology that interesting material for research into undeveloped personalities is available within, and on, the walls of Victoria. Ink and Primer 4 printing were used by self-styled artists to scribble across posters already colourfully and competently done by an outside commercial artist.

"This, I think," as Sherlock Holmes would say, "has all the appearances of vandalism."

What! Vandalism! In these sacred precincts? Surely only unintelligent, unoccupied louts indulge in such infantile ways of asserting their egos. The fact remains, however, that certain club posters on the notice boards were defaced, which indicates that those responsible are either unintelligent or psychopathic and in neither case are fit to be at university. (If the people concerned are uncertain to which category they belong, I advise them to consult the Department of Psychology immediately.)

If the "boys from up the hill" scrawl on posters, the uneducated can scarcely be blamed for trampling on tulips.

—ART CRITIC.

It's some 300 years since . . .

THE DAY THE AXE FELL ON CHARLES

Some people disapprove of Salient showing an interest in the affairs of the world. The great ideological struggle that is raging outside the walls of our brick tower is of no conceivable interest to us. We can afford to ignore it, and retire into our absolute standards of philosophical truth, our fossils of classical literature, and our life-cycles of periwinkles—but we must allow nothing so vital as Socialism to intrude.

Very well. Perhaps three centuries ago is sufficiently remote for me to dare to open the door to it? The fact is that 1949 is the tercentenary of a very significant date in world history—the day the axe fell on the neck of Charles Stuart, 31st January, 1649.

Already the daily press has given its contribution towards commemorating this occasion. A few weeks ago a strange article appeared on the back page of the Evening Post, purporting to vindicate Charles with information newly come to light. Charles R., it seems, died a martyr to the cause of democracy and freedom! What lengths the ruling class of the twentieth century go to, to renounce their own revolutionary past! Hazlitt once scoffed at Sir Walter Scott: "Through some odd process of servile logic, it should seem, that in restoring the claims of the Stuarts by the courtesy of romance, the House of Brunswick are more firmly seated in point of fact . . ." Merely read "bourgeoisie" for "House of Brunswick," and we have the present case very aptly summed up. Except, of course, that "the courtesy of romance" no longer suffices. There was a day when we learned that "the Roundheads were Right but Repulsive; and the Cavaliers were Wrong but Wromantic." Now, apparently, the Cavaliers were both Right and Romantic.

Axe-Grinders

There is, of course, a reason for it. Any admission on the part of those who get the plums of our present order, of the fact that the revolution which first established their supremacy was an unavoidable conflict of class interests, would be the first step to an admission of the whole of that conception of history which sees class interests as the motivating force in the development of human society. The next logical step would be an admission of the existence of class conflict in our own society and ultimately, of the fact that the future lies with socialism (oh hell, I've said it again).

For the fact is that the Great Rebellion of 1640-1660 was a conflict of class interests. It represented the clash between the feudal aristocracy, the material foundation of whose power (the land) had already been expropriated, and who clung like leeches to the power of the crown; and the rising middle classes of town and country, on whose personal initiative and self-seeking the whole structure of capitalism was to be reared. There is no doubt as to which group was, historically, the more progressive.

Marx and Guizot

Guizot, Orleanist Premier of France, and the most famous historian of the English Revolution, described the two sides thus: "While the higher nobility, flocking to Court to repair their losses, were invested with factitious greatness, as corrupting as precarious, and which, without giving them back their former fortunes, separated them more and more from the people; the gentry, the freeholders, and citizens, solely occupied in improving their lands or commercial capital, were increasing in riches and credit, were becoming daily more closely united, were drawing the entire people under their influence; and, without show, without political design, almost unconsciously to themselves, were taking possession of all the social strength, the true source of power."

In other words, the King and his clique clung to a political power with

no social foundation: the bourgeoisie had secured by gradual accretion a social foundation which logically required, and had the power to acquire, political power. Was not conflict inevitable? And was not the middle class the obvious trustee of social progress, and the ill-fated Charles the symbol of social decadence?

Result?

But no. It suits the guardians of the status quo three centuries later to distort the facts in an attempt to prove that the general progress of our constitution has been peaceable, and that such bloody outbursts as 1649 were unfortunate accidents, to be at all cost deplored. Why, heavens above, if we acknowledge the historical correctness of executing Charles the First, who knows but we might not end by having the acknowledge the historical correctness of executing Petkov?

Accordingly the civil strife must be proved to have got us nowhere. The restoration of 1660 took us back, they argue, to 1640. But did it? Historically, 1660 consolidated the gains of the Revolution. It cannot be denied that although some of the political superstructure was later nominally restored, the Revolution did materially advance the progress of the British nation, in liberating the forces of the middle class from the chains that were stifling their growth. Speaking of the French September massacres, Victor Hugo wrote: "Yes, the brutalities of progress are called revolutions. When they are ended, this fact is recognised; the human race has been harshly used, but it has moved onward."

It matter not that Hampden, Fairfax and Cromwell may have been thinking of personal rather than public advancement, for historical progress was at that stage bound up with the personal advancement of individual bourgeois.

A Martyr

But to claim Charles Stuart as a noble martyr for his people is quite ridiculous. Not only was he, too, interested entirely in personal aggrandisement, but he was willing to stoop to any low subterfuge to further this end. No history of the period—except the sentimentality of his catamite Clarendon, or the anonymous nonsense of the Eikon Basilike—can conceal this. His character was petty and mean. Certainly, like his ecclesiastical flunkies Andrews and Laud, he posed as the great humanitarian, defender of the people against the greedy Puritans, but unfortunately, the vice of greed was the epitome of social progress in the seventeenth century. It was only when linked with a backward-looking absolutism, together with such superstitious frills as "divine right," that greed was a vice at all. The demands of social progress prohibit absolute standards.

And certainly the Puritan cause could boast even greater humanitarians than Charles could ever pretend to be. What about Hartlib, Winstanley, Lilburne, or the academic Milton?

If ever there was a university graduate who absolutely despised academic aloofness from the passion-

ate currents of his times, it was Milton. Straight from the loins of that rising class "solely occupied in improving their lands or their commercial capital," his attitude to the outbreak of 1640 was predetermined. But at first he remained passive. "I calmly awaited the issue of the contest," he wrote, "which I trusted to the wise conduct of Providence and the courage of the people."

This was always his firm belief—"vox populi, vox Dei." He believed that God had "put the sword into the people's hand," and that since the Parliamentary cause had His benediction, its victory was inevitable. But he never lost sight of the fact that whether or not God's war was won, depended ultimately not on God, but on the people into whose hands the sword was put.

Milton Marched

It was when the crisis broke over the King's suddenly revoking all the Long Parliament's long-awaited reforms, and thus exposing himself in all his stubbornness, egotism and deceit, that Milton took the plunge into action. First, oddly enough, he is seen appending his signature to a Citizens' Petition giving moral support to Parliament in the struggle, and heading a demonstration through the streets of London to present it.

He felt that he could not stand aside now, and watch the fight from his ivory tower. If reaction should conquer, he would all his life long "hear within himself stories of discouragement and reproach . . ." "Thou hadst the diligence, the parts, the language . . . but when the cause of God and Man was to be pleaded, God listened if He could hear thy voice . . . but thou wert dumb." So in he jumped, boots and all.

His first literary assault was on the episcopacy. In attacking the accidents of the religions of feudalism, he was, in reality, attacking the remnants of the dead social system itself; and in putting forth his advanced Presbyterianism the religion of nascent capitalism, he was in reality defending the rising social system itself. From this position he took up one fight after another, finally, in the very year 1649, in his "Tenure of Kings and Magistrates," by "proving that it is lawful, and hath been held so throughout all ages . . . to call to account a tyrant, or wicked king, and after due conviction, to depose him and put him to death." Or, as he put it simply elsewhere, "I only preferred Queen Truth to King Charles."

He scorned the idea of meting out mercy to one who was guilty of holding the whole nation to ransom. "Mercy—to a tyrant—(guilty of) the spilling of more innocent blood by far than ever Nero did . . . (would be) hazarding the welfare of a whole nation, to have saved one, and vilifying the blood of many Jonathans, that saved Israel." The old revolutionary in "Les Miserables" was far more kindly in his judgment on the parallel execution of the infant Louis Louis Dauphin: "You have named Louis XVII. Let us understand each other. Shall we weep for all the innocents, for all martyrs, for all children of the lowest as of the highest rank? I am with you there. But, in that case we must go back beyond '93, and begin our tears before Louis XVII. I will weep over the children

MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Within a few hours of receiving the news of the accident which had befallen Katherine Jamieson while tramping in difficult country in the upper Tauherenikau Gorge a rescue party had reached the injured girl's party which was making slow and arduous progress.

In an exclusive interview with Mr. Ron Ellis, who had been with the working party from approximately 5.30 a.m. Sunday till 6.30 p.m. Monday and who was foot-sore and weary, Salient received full details of the rescue.

"After a tiring day carrying 10ft. planks for the hut, we sagged into our bags at the hut site at about 9 p.m. on Saturday night. At approximately 10.30 Barney Barclay (T.T.C.) plus Bill Oliver (V.U.C.) who had joined him coming down from Cone, came in bringing news of the accident which had happened at about 4.30 that afternoon. Barney had left the scene of the accident at 5.5 and as he had been on the trail for over five hours, "Polly" Coleman and Stan Jenkins donned their gear and set off down the river, informing the occupants of Smith's and Tauherenikau Chateau on the way. They reached Kaitoke on record time.

The party which had been at Smith's Creek passed through the hut site at 3.30 and proceeded to Cone which they left at six. Our party left camp at 6.45, reaching Cone at 7.45 and leaving there at 8.15 after a boil-up. In just under two hours we reached the injured girl's party a quarter of an hour below the scene of the accident. At that time Miss Jamieson was moving slowly down the gorge with assistance.

Later on the party stopped for a boil-up and made a rough stretcher. At approximately 1.50 the party of eleven including Miss Jamieson continued on its way—eight men carrying the stretcher, one path-finding and one clearing the path.

Progress was particular difficult here because of the steep and narrow gorge and because there was no relief for the stretch-bearers. After being carried over boulders and logs along the rough track for about two and a half hours, Miss Jamieson managed to walk with assistance for half an hour until met by a well-equipped rescue party about twenty minutes above Cone Hut. It was now about 5.30 p.m. and we had had nothing to eat since breakfast. At Cone, Aileen Gridgeman and some other Tararuas were cooking. In our party were Ron Milburn, Ron Ellis, Bill Cameron and Bill Oliver with two WTMC trampers, two Tararuas and two shooters. By this time there were more trampers at Cone and as the hut was full we sent the overflow down to our camp at Block 16 for the night.

The stretcher party left our camp at about 10.30 next morning. By this time the weather had broken, rain had been falling steadily for some hours and all the rivers had risen. This was an added impediment to our progress. We left the Chateau about one, and arrived at Andrews Farm at 3.30 where we were met by the Press, and Miss Jamieson was taken by car to Wellington.

In spite of the difficulties of the rescue, it was carried out in record time, mainly due to the magnificent co-operation between the tramping clubs who participated.

of kings with you, provided that you weep with me over the children of the people."

Beside that, Milton was savage. There is a lesson in that, too. The greatest epic poet of England was not too proud to identify himself with a cause "with which all Europe rings from side to side." He even "stooped" to accept the Foreign Secretaryship in a revolutionary government. What price "academic dignity?"

"Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour, England hath need of thee."

—PARTISAN.

SCM Sorties

After the 1948 "Finals" 40 University and Training College students arrived in Masterton and remained there for eight days. This visit was the culmination of months of preparation and for the short time spent in the town much was accomplished. Contact was made with a great variety of people who were interested in every aspect of tertiary education in the Victoria University district.

By means of men's and women's rallies, visits to all secondary and intermediate schools, daily services taken by students in the various churches, a Rotary luncheon and friendships made with host and hostesses, the team was able to inform many people of university and training college affairs and in turn learn something of the activities of a rapidly expanding community.

The Mission of Goodwill was undertaken because members of the SCM felt that they should witness to their belief to the Lordship of Christ which interprets every phase of human activity and which alone can meet the needs of this world. It is a characteristic of all branches of the World Student Christian Federation that they are prepared to work and witness outside the walls of their college as well as within them, and so the SCM in Wellington took its message to Wanganui, in 1947, and to Naenae and to Masterton in 1948 and will again move outside the university in November of this year.

—DISCIPLE.



- March 20—Catholic Students Guild Brains Trust.
- March 30—Pol. Sci. Society. Address by Prime Minister on International Relations.
- March 17—Drama Club Special A.G.M.
- March 19—Inter-Faculty Sports, Kelburn Park.
- March 17—Harrier Club A.G.M. A2, 8 p.m.
- March 22—Socialist Club A.G.M., Lower Gym, 8 p.m.
- March 19—Cricket Club practises start 5 p.m.

FORSTER AND PHILOSOPHY

In the 1948 edition of *Suiké* there appeared an excellent review and criticism of some of E. M. Forster's longer work by Mr. Gordon Orr. However, despite its fine sensitivity and its thoroughly sympathetic approach I believe Forster is done an injustice, in a certain degree. Forster is first credited with a profound uncertainty: "regarding with profound suspicion divinely inspired absolute laws." Later Mr. Orr extends this argument by pointing to Forster's "fundamental error" in invoking the spiritual principle and then referring it for its ultimate sanction not to God, to the supernatural . . . but to nature." While I readily agree with Mr. Orr that there is a strange and unsatisfying Hellenist worship of nature throughout Forster's writing, in Stephen Wonham, in old Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Moore, who "had been far back and sat with the Gods in the fields of Elysium"; all this would not have made his novels any the more convincing if the characters had sought more orthodox channels to salvation, and had undergone in the last chapter, a sorting out, and final declaration of faith in the Deist supernatural solution.

Uncertainty

I do not believe that there is a "profound uncertainty" in Forster's writings; I have conceded the mystical element which stems from his love of Greek traditions but the definiteness of his faith in tolerance, good temper and sympathy are sufficient counter-balance to his lack of "absolute divinely inspired moral laws. It is at this point that I should like to leave Mr. Orr's argument and quote Forster on Christianity: "I cannot believe that Christianity will ever cope with the present world-

or they will argue that its failure proceeds from the wickedness of man and really proves its ultimate success."

These people, says Forster, "have faith with a large F. My faith has a very small one and I only intrude it because these are strenuous days, and one likes to say what one thinks while speech is comparatively free: it may not be free much longer."

Progressive

At this point you renew your objection by saying that good temper, tolerance and sympathy are not enough to supplant a formidable creed such as Deism in one of its many supernatural forms, as a philosophy on which to write a serious story of human relationships. I would reply that really this is pretentiousness. Forster accepts as Mr. Orr's quotation showed) that belief in the supernatural is needful for the soul "beyond the stars" but is insufficient for life here and now. The thoroughly progressive liberalism which Forster himself believes in, is a practical business and to me at any rate an entirely creditable notion to justify the situations, beliefs and actions of his characters.

Liberal?

How far are we able to properly designate Forster a liberal? By no means can we identify him with the traditional liberal economic outlook and the social horizons which are its counterpart. He says (before 1939), "If my own world smashes, Communism is what I would like to see take its place, but I shall not bless it till I die." Again he says, "there is an alternative, Fascism, leading only to the blackness which is its chosen symbol, into smartness and

Debating Society

First debate of the year in the UPPER GYM on **Friday, 19th March** "That the Atlantic Union Pact is a step towards World Peace." Freshers especially welcome. All Freshers eligible to compete for New Speakers' Prize. Help pack the Gym and air your views on this issue.

wide mess, and I think that such influence as it retains in modern society is due to the money behind it, rather than to its spiritual appeal. It was a spiritual force once, but the indwelling spirit will have to be restated if it is to calm the waters again; and probably restated in a non-Christian form. Naturally a lot of people and who are good and intelligent people will disagree here; they will deny that Christianity has failed,

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yapping out of orders, and self-righteous brutality, into social as well as international war. It means change without hope . . . our immediate duty is to stop it." In another place he says that perhaps if he was a younger and stronger man he might be a Communist, for although he sees it doing many evil things he believes it intends good.

In any appraisal of Forster the easiest error in which to fall is to forget that, although there is a clear line of development in his work, he was a mature and competent writer in Edwardian times. This fact is central and though perhaps an old fashioned strain in his work is discernible; in occasional passages of really too moving spiritual experience (as in the description of southern England in Howard's end Ch. 19) and in too conventional a portrayal of Italy); the verdict is that he has succeeded as the greatest humanist of our time.

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There is a Mountain

There is a mountain brooding like an old man on his back, his onetime stern brows outlined against a blossoming nightfall—his pot-belly swollen grotesquely with a fir tree in his navel . . .

(Never see clefts, only shadows on flatness as depths . . .)

The crimson clouds slowly strung across the darkening blue shell—suddenly disappearing behind a thick sheet that is the night.

The mountain slowly changes, becoming an unbounded mass without lines to persist into disintegration, disappearing into its own background and my thought . . .

—Ralph Unger'

Train Journey

I came again, whither I had dreamt of dearly, Hills of my child's days, changed by memory and chance, And I no longer a child, a stranger nearly, Unknown at the first glance.

I came again, and all morning long a rain Had painted the land in a rainbow, and I was glad, Climbing the valley slowly in the old red train Climbing a slope spring-clad.

I came, and found the glint of yellow gorse had grown Along the cuttings; and over the hedges high The strange snow beauty of a white hawthorn was thrown Beauty to die.

I came again seeking—the hour before the dusk's half-gloom To find in the fields the cattle gathered round the old beech —"Not a vanished childhood, but a fuller bloom"— Listen, for the hills preach.

—Elizabeth Entrican.

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CHINA

A book drive for Chinese students organised by the V.U.C. International Student Relief Committee in the last term of 1948 resulted in the collection of a large number of books. The chaotic state of Chinese politics at the time resulted in a decision to hold the books for a time, but they are to be despatched in the near future.

It was decided that one half of the books were to be sent to some university in Nationalist China, through Corso, and that the other half would go to a university in Communist China, through the China Welfare Fund.

The work of Corso is well known to most people in New Zealand, but few know much of the China Welfare Fund at present.

The fund has been operating for ten years (it was originally the China Defence League) under the continuous leadership of Madame Sun Yat-sen, who has recently made a report to supporters of the fund, which is available in bookshops in the city.

Functions

The functions of the China Welfare Fund since its first days have been:—

INFORMATION to people both at home and abroad on China's needs.

COLLECTION of funds and supplies in China and in other countries to be used on behalf of China Welfare Fund projects and other projects worthy of aid.

DISTRIBUTION of funds and supplies in strict accordance with the wishes of donors.

CO-ORDINATION and co-operation with the efforts of other agencies so that needs can be covered as fully as possible with combined funds, supplies and personnel.

INITIATION of new projects as needs dictate and funds become available.

REPORTING on the manner in which funds are expended and materials used, the progress of projects, the ways in which they contribute to the rehabilitation of China, and the steps to be taken in further development.

eliciting . . .

The report contains a personal letter from Madame Sun Yat-sen, from which the following is an excerpt:

"This is a crucial period for China, and, in fact, for the whole world. All of us are on the threshold of being able to live like human beings with one another. This much-sought condition is certainly the demand of common men and women all over the earth. Yet, there are those who would slam the door in our faces, cutting off decency, democracy and livelihood. They would substitute or support the very things against which the allies have but so recently finished fighting—fascist tactics, political and economic slavery. This group must be shown that the rank and file of all nations will not be denied in their request for peace and unity.

One way to make clear that you want the people to win is by joining their efforts. Your interest in their fight must be continued. Your contributions must be maintained for those projects which have their starting point in the cause of the people and whose effects actually reach down to them."

. . . testimonials

And a quotation from John Hersey, author of A Bell for Adano, and Hiroshima—

"The contribution of Madame Sun Yat-sen to her country is, above all, one of example. She manifests qualities China needs in great measure: integrity, selflessness, incorruptibility, courage and compassion. She represents the best qualities of character and the highest hopes of the Chinese people."

STOP!

LOOK!

LISTEN!

Well, at long last the period of anxiety is over. All the retired colonels have retreated, snorting, to their half finished whiskies and sodas and have put the old shotguns away in the cupboard. They're back again in their big armchairs, murmuring that the world is safe for democracy once more, thank God! And all the poor Reds, shivering beneath their shirts, are barricading themselves into unassailable positions. And the reasons for all this satisfaction and perturbation? THE CHARTER CLUB HAS BEEN FORMED!

At last we have a body in the college to protect poor innocent Freshers from the demoralising influence of the Socialist Club. The City Fathers are delighted, and have offered material support in any demonstrations the club may care to stage. Co-operation of the Town Clerk and the Prime Minister's Department are assured. A distinctive club badge has not yet been decided upon, but those in a position of responsibility have indicated that this will take the form of a large blue square, to be attached to that portion of the anatomy best suited to take it. Committee members will be distinguished by a purple stripe and a handgog expression.

We have the word of Mr. Patrick Hutchings that the club does indeed possess aims and constitution, but as

The overwhelming logic of practical events and the sheer commonsense of a Socialist solution to the anarchy into which capitalism has driven the world, had made him a Socialist, said Mr. F. L. Combs in his talk to the Socialist Club on Friday, March 4th. A re-ordering of our education system so that New Zealand's young people came out of our schools able to develop fully was the necessary prerequisite to the re-ordering of society. Mr. Combs was emphatic on this point. "Educate or perish," said Wells; capitalism makes education a farce, commented Combs.

Society unbalanced . . .

Mr. Combs told us how through his sixty-odd years of working in New Zealand, he had come to the inevitable conclusion that our social set-up was lopsided. He compared society with a boat in which a very fat man sat on one side causing such a list that the water was coming in. Common-sense drove the other people in the boat to the other side to prevent the boat sinking. Similarly, capitalism has almost sunk society, and common-sense is driving the people to the other side—to Socialism—to save society.

. . . by miseducation

The waste inherent in capitalism was stressed by the speaker. As an

example of the waste and maldistribution of man power, he showed how in his suburb there were twelve grocers, each with, on the average, three assistants, making in all forty-odd, plus all those in the wholesale trade and distribution behind them. All these to serve one suburb with groceries, while only twelve teachers were expected to educate the children of primary school age in that suburb. Each teacher therefore had to teach two or three times as many children as a proper education required, and as a result, most of the children left school glad to get away from "education" as they knew it, and ready to absorb all the misinformation supplied by our daily press.

. . . misinformation

Our education system does a fair job in turning out people whose main interest in the newspaper is in the races, the comic strips and the latest murder. Neither our schools nor our newspapers are interested in educating the people to a realisation of the faults in our society. Both are instruments of an anarchic society. Instead of being fact-finding and probing into social problems, the press is leading the people further into the bog into which society has been pushed by capitalism.

All important as they are to a full development of the individual, the cultural things of life are deadened by education for a capitalist society. The popular third-rate fiction, the films, and our other leisure activities are degrading in their influence on the mind. In fact most of our cultural and leisure activities save us the trouble of thinking about society and help to make us satisfied with the fact that even in a wealthy country like New Zealand we are not a quarter developed. Anyway, under capitalism, the average man spends all his energies making a living, and is therefore unable to develop himself on the cultural side even if the opportunities were available.

We are told that another war is imminent, and the U.S.S.R. is getting all the blame; but as Mr. Combs pointed out, war is inherent in capitalism. Until capitalism is destroyed the real causes of war will remain and wars will continue to occur.

Why Socialism

Capitalism is anti-social and it must go if society is to progress to better times. It must be removed before the blight of its system has destroyed that life, liberty and pursuit of true happiness which is the goal of all decent people. Anarchy must be replaced by a society planning and striving for social betterment through the public ownership of all those things which affect society. Competition for profit must be replaced by a competition for excellence individually and for excellence in serving one's fellowmen. In short, capitalism must be replaced by socialism.

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STUDENT OPINION OR RED BLANKET

For the second year in succession Salient has made its debut looking—in places—like pieces from the People's Voice. Cries of "Reds under the bed" may be justified by Salient's regular imprudences and bad journalism. It is not wrong to write about Russians, Tito, W.F.D.Y. or anything else even remotely suggestive of Communism but the emphasis is often misleading. If Salient believes in honesty rather than pleasing readers, it should not wonder at cries of Woe! Woe!

Good journalism is sometimes Salient's God. Every now and then, the mistakes and prejudices of other newspapers are paraded smugly in Salient's columns. There are words about our capitalist press, Tory journalism and other catch cries. Yet Salient, the critic, commits the same crime more blatantly and stupidly than any of those newspapers it loves to pillory. It is not that articles are refused or censored, but material should be printed that does not give the impression that this university has one major interest: Socialist ideas.

Now, before I call down the Editor's wrath, let me make it clear that in the first issue, much of the material is harmless and good journalism, but the sum of the contents is enough to give the idea that Salient is a Red rag.

The dissatisfaction arises mainly because Salient's peculiar politics dictate its journalism. Salient thereby loses its effectiveness as an organ of student opinion—unless it be of a small number of students.

Salient Biassed

In the first issue, for example, the article "Youth Unite for Lasting Peace" is news of an organization which is still doubtful in many minds much less Fascist than Salient would have people think. An article on a Russian geneticist, and yet another on Indonesia, and a comment on a Russian film, are prominent, and although there can be no objections to at least two of these three, it is the over-all impression that is important.

The other main feature of the issue (excluding the necessary to Mr. Sullivan) is a Curious article about Congress containing a lot of curiouser comment in the usual Salient style. It looks Red to some new students, and even to the more woolly minded of the old. The article on the library is excellent.

Apathy no Answer

Can Salient plead apathy? Any attempt to plead apathy generally I cannot allow. It is discouraging and a handicap but apathy does not choose the fillers and the reprints, nor does it make the editorial comments. The evils are not wholly to be found in apathy, and the staff of Salient knows it.

A good start has been made with an article on the library, and others on such topics as bad lighting, inadequate facilities in various depart-

ments, examination standards, etc. Continuous attention to these problems may result in some activity. Some decent book reviews not too long and not too one-sided, would be welcomed. More comment on national affairs of a less destructive tone would be well complemented with articles about international affairs which do not consist of the vices of the Marshall Plan, WFDY, China, Greece and Indonesia.

Theology Wanted

Religious articles are very rare—probably the fault of College religious organisations. The only sort appearing in Salient are similar, with a few exceptions, to those of last year when, in the last issue, some paper waster called Swen, made cynical comments which would hardly be accepted by John A. Lee's fortnightly. It should not hurt students' feelings to discuss (not abuse) religion. The word "God" is almost as rare as the word "Fascist" is common in Salient. Surely it would do the members of the Salient staff no harm to stuff their flags in their pockets—nobody would blame them if they waved them now and then—and concentrate on publishing a good student newspaper. It requires a sense of proportion, some fair thinking, and a more careful use of fillers and rewrites.

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Salient staff may think that they are sound, but there are those who disagree. Some may even be gullible enough to believe them all. We could do with less of the bias and childishness we had in that lamented issue after last year's Madhouse meeting.

This College requires an organ of student opinion that will be a force in student affairs. Will it ever get it? The answer is for Salient staff, and you, the readers.

VERITAS.

NATIONALITY AND ALIENS

We in New Zealand have heard much in our press condemning what the papers are pleased to call "police states." To those who have made any study of the rise of fascism in Germany in the 1930's, the sight of a coming Dictator trying to hide his own actions under a newspaper barrage of his opponent's so-called misdeeds, is not unfamiliar. Therefore it is with some grave concern that we view the passing of two particularly interesting but dangerous Acts which were passed during the last session of Parliament, i.e., The British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act, 1948, and the Aliens Act, 1948.

Scope . . .

Section 23 (3) of the former gives the Minister of Internal Affairs the power by order "to deprive any New Zealand citizen who is a naturalised person of his New Zealand citizenship if he is satisfied that that person has shown himself by acts or speech to be disloyal or disaffected towards His Majesty." It becomes abundantly clear that this provision grants the Minister powers which formerly no court of law possessed. It is unique among the statutes of any British country. For the purposes of the Aliens Act, the person so deprived of his citizenship thus becomes an alien.

The Aliens Act contains provisions even more sweeping and gives the Minister in Charge of Police blanket powers to "order any alien to leave New Zealand if he is satisfied that it is not conducive to the public good that the alien should remain in New Zealand." There is no appeal to the court against such an order and the alien must leave the country within 28 days. Section 15 (1) goes on to state that when the Minister has ordered any alien to leave New Zealand he may, if he thinks such a course necessary "authorise the arrest of that alien and his deportation from New Zealand on a ship or aircraft specified by the Minister and about to leave New Zealand and thereupon any constable may without warrant arrest that alien and place him on board that ship or aircraft and detain him until the ship or aircraft has left New Zealand." (2) When any alien ordered to leave New Zealand has been so arrested he may, pending his deportation from New Zealand, be detained in such custody as the Minister may direct.

This type of legislation is repugnant to the democratic traditions of this country, and the sooner the offending sections of these Acts are removed from the statute books the better.

. . . Protests

In a meeting held December 9 last year the Students' Association Executive decided to protest to the Minister. As many members of the Students' Association are New Zealand citizens by naturalisation, it was the duty of the Exec. to protest. In its statement the Exec. stated that they recognised that people of foreign birth, many of whom were refugees from persecution overseas, have contributed and are contributing a great deal through their knowledge and culture to the welfare and progress of New Zealand and particularly of the university. They considered that if the principle of fair trial in a court of law is right for British-born people, then it is also right for foreign-born people. Therefore if any person is accused or suspected of being "disloyal or disaffected towards His Majesty" that person should be entitled to a fair trial by the ordinary process of law, whether he be British-born or not. It should require some evidence more substantial than the opinion of the Minister to condemn a person to suffer such penalties as loss of citizenship or deportation.

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YOUR LAST CHANCE

Last year we ran a campaign to raise funds for the new Student Union Building. We all know how badly it is needed and how valuable it would be to have a centre for student activities.

We raised £600.

This was quite a good effort though not as high as we hoped. It is now obvious we set our target too high, giving a large number of people a good excuse not to make some contribution. The campaign is now being wound up. Many who wished to give said they were unable to do so till after the Christmas holidays.

All those who have not yet contributed their donation whatever it is, 10/-, £2 or £5 will be welcome. Leave it at the Executive Room in the next two weeks where you will receive a receipt for it.

Our new building will be a centre for all student activities. It will contain a bigger and brighter cafe, common rooms, Salient and Executive rooms. Besides these it will have a lounge which both men and women can use, a hall for plays, concerts, debates, talks and dances, good locker space and committee rooms for clubs. It would mean that you could spend your ten minutes between lectures and other leisure moments in a comfortable place. It would be in effect a student club.

A Reminder

The building will cost £80,000 approx. The Government will give a subsidy of £2 for every £1 up to £20,000. So far students in many years have raised £14,300 so that once we can reach the £20,000 mark we will have £60,000 altogether.

A campaign to the public will open shortly. The more we raised the more we will get their support.

So if you have not already given, give something into the Executive room tonight.

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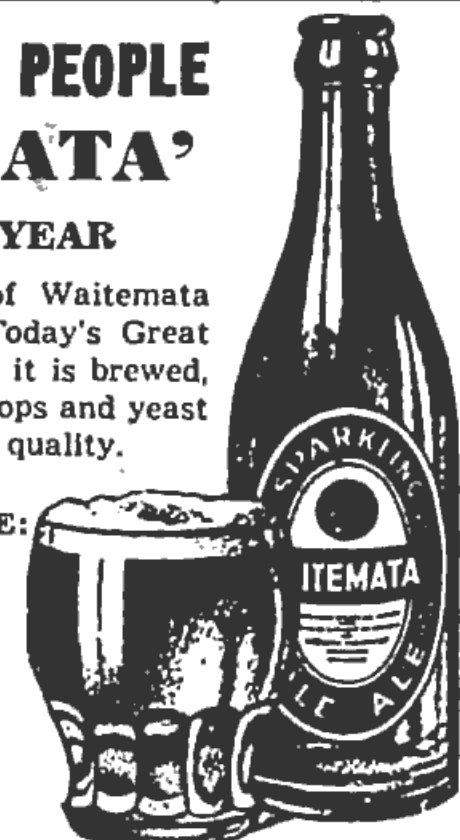
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STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Having been around the University for some time now and seeing freshers behave exactly as I did as regards choosing a course, I feel that there is a need for a better information service.

To date, facilities for finding out about courses have been firstly the staff who are "always prepared to talk problems over" with the new student and secondly any older members of the College that the entrant happens to know.

In my opinion there are many students who have not this second advantage and are too shy to talk very openly to a lecturer or professor about their gifts or deficiencies. Take for example the case of a student I happened to meet last year who was doing four pure reading Arts subjects. He was advancing only one of them and mentioned that he was going to take two renownedly easy subjects later in his course. He naturally failed two of his four subjects. Now what did this student need?

Obviously if somebody had told him the standard of the different subjects he could have done his four in first year—if he was so determined—composed of two large reading subjects and two more common-sense ones. In his second year he could then have done his other two. In this way he would have completed his degree taking all the subjects he desired in a balanced system rather than an off-skew loading on one year. However, nobody had told him about it so he had to pay for it with failure.

Suggestions

It seems clear that those most clearly seeing a subject from the work point of view are the students who have been doing it for a few years, i.e., Honours students. If, therefore, a committee of these students in different advanced subjects was set up the fresher could go to

them and find out what the fascinating name he found in the Calendar really means. It can be argued that this is firstly the staff's job and secondly that an honours student has a distorted view of his subject.

Objections Overruled

In answer to the first objection the staff are definitely not fulfilling this function. In a final evolution of this function, if practised, we would have the suggested regimentation suggested at the meeting of the Auckland Board that in B.Sc. courses the student is told what subjects to take according to what he is advancing. This is sterotyping in its worst form and when, if ever, put into practise, we'll be able to advertise ourselves as a night school quite openly.

The second objection can be answered by the fact that the committee will be composed of students from all subjects and thus biases will tend to cancel. Also it would be endeavoured to have average people and not the very brilliant ones as advisers. I don't think that there would be very much trouble in getting people to sit on this committee as most honours students want to help freshers along.

I invite correspondence about this plan giving your opinions and suggestions for on them depends the final judgment whether the scheme is practicable or not.

FAILURE?

[Although the following contributed, article contains minor inaccuracies we print it, because it represents the thoughts of many students on a most important subject.—Ed.]

The Building Fund Appeal which concluded last year was a failure. Not even half of the amount aimed for was raised. Either students had not five pounds or they had no wish to give it.

No one denies that this building is a necessity. All students—except a few who never think much anyway—know that the Gym is inadequate, unsafe and should be replaced.

There seems to be one dominating idea in the minds of those who organised that appeal and that is: get the money now from the present students. Why this should be is not clear, for if the new building is ever a reality it will not be those students who were asked for five pounds who will enjoy better facilities. This is not a dog in the manger attitude but an attempt to see why everybody was so loth to donate money. It is not just to expect this generation to pay in full for something future generations will use. Buildings such as this will be investments for the future and students who usually have very little money think that five pounds is a lot of money. As it is, some portion of every student's association fee is set aside for that same building fund. That was one of the reasons why the fee was raised. Most students will gain nothing from that allotment either—and so the appeal was a fiasco.

... and to lose

This is not a matter that should be regarded as purely a student problem. University education and facilities receive too little attention as it is and some attempt should be made to come to a more practical and useful arrangement with the Government.

If the present attendance at universities throughout New Zealand remains high then the allocation from the Students Association fee is a sound investment. How much is in hand now is not a factor nor is subsidy offered an immediate benefit. Now that university education is more readily available every effort should be made to see that university education is education and not merely a night school cram for degrees and qualifications. To create a students' university of use to the nation it is necessary to have a student body not a few enthusiasts shuttered in a ruin.

Ways and Means

Therefore two possible means of getting a building suggest themselves. The first depends on the Government subsidising the present amount by an equal one and supplying the rest. The rest to be repaid from those allocations from the Students' Association fee and the profits from Extrav. in each year. If the investment is uneconomic, which seems very unlikely, then it will only be a slight loss. It is not too much to expect that the amount will be paid off soon enough to be no longer a debt in a reasonable time. Moreover, no interest should be charged except that necessary for administration—that is no more than about half a per cent.

The second which a more idealistic and much more troublesome but has been used with success overseas is that of the investment bond. Students are then asked to invest their money in the Building Fund. This money will be repaid to them when the Fund has been added to from sources which have been set out above.

The present accommodation is slowly getting worse. The university is overcrowded and there are temporary buildings over as much space as can come out in their rash. Those sort of buildings must be built unless the public starts to moan. A new Association building seems to be as far away as world peace. Building appeals to poor students have been proved a failure so let us do something more constructive this year.

PITHY

By Burlyworbin

The new year has, it seems, commenced with a bang. It must have been rather startling to the poor innocent freshers to find out the truth of the Socialist bogey in the College Camp. Yes, indeed.

But lest it should seem that all who are students are also members of the Socialist Club, I hasten to write this article. On looking over the description of "Victoria's Finest Hour," and on considering some of the actual facts of the demonstration, I cannot entirely agree with the conclusions arrived at. If we are to judge by the "Salient's" first issue, then it would seem that the procession day—"P. Day"—was a great day indeed. In fact, when I read that article I was so carried away by its eloquence that I made bold to suggest that the Stud. Ass. should have a motto of its own. After all "Sapientia magis auro desideranda" is hardly applicable here; for judging by the actions which went to make Victoria's "finest hour," students who come here with both sapientia and auro, depart with neither. That was what made me suggest a new motto. "Why not," I said, "In gloria, Victoria!" Pretty good, eh? Neat, snappy, and, I think, pithy.

Eulogy

Yes "Operation Indonesia" certainly was a good show. It says much for the intelligence of students and watersiders that they are able to reach a conclusion at least a week before the United Nations—and furthermore, they did it without facts.

Where U.N. needed all the trap-pings of experts and their opinions, students and watersiders only needed their heads! Would'n't it! Of course, such of you as take mathematics will

be able to evaluate the chances of a correct judgment to be in the vicinity of 50 per cent. And, of course, U.N. could always be wrong.

The chief trouble with this Operation Indonesia business was that it set a precedent. Citizens began to look forward to Victoria's little bouts of recreation. Children began to tick off the days on the calendar before the next procession. And then after the successful capping process of '48 it was too much to expect that the students could wait a whole year before their next procession.

Cerebration

I have tried to find the difference between the "No Conscription" procession of September 29th, and the capping procession in May. Of course the capping procession was composed only of students and excluded—quite undemocratically. I thought—such interested persons such as communists, watersiders and railwaymen. Furthermore, in the capping process, the literature was of a higher standard, and was sold to the public, and not distributed free, in pamphlet form. The capping process, was noisier—you know a Bigger and Better Show. Looked at in the light of utility, I would give full marks to the capping process. After all, it was openly admitted that it was advertising the students folly—the Extravaganza. But very few people realised that the second procession was advertising the students' other folly. Still as someone once said, "only 2 per cent. of us are stricken." On the whole though, both processions were happy, cheerful affairs, with streamers, flowers, wreathes, cops and whatnot.

And, do you know—I have quite changed my mind about that motto—"In gloria, Victoria." I think it would be better as "In gloria Victoria."

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BILLETS, BILLETS AND MORE BILLETS

This year, contrary to all preceding years, we have not had to weep, pray, beg or tear our hair out in the effort to get Sports Clubs to send in reports on their clubs. Perhaps this may just be a new year resolution on the part of all clubs, and if so we hope it will keep up, for we get tired of thinking up various ways of getting the shy and retiring clubs to publicise their doings to college.

However, this year as you all know Victoria is the host college and it is up to the sports clubs to do their best in regard to billets. After all Tournament is a sporting event in more ways than one, and billets are absolutely necessary if it is going to be successful. If you can't take a billet yourself, persuade your friends or relations to take someone—remember you will probably need a billet one day.

True as steel

Reason Number One for our appearing in print again so soon is to inform all and sundry, particularly club members—Jormant, semi-retired and otherwise—that the Annual General Meeting of the Swords Club will be held in the Upper Gym at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening, the 22nd March. And if you don't think it will be an interesting meeting—come along and make it so. Furthermore, remember that not only committees, but also club policy, can be formed at general meetings.

Reason Number Two is that we think it's always a very sound idea to keep in the public eye, even if they get an eyeful of print. Freshers should have stopped being shy and retiring at this stage of the university year, so we expect to see them (or large numbers of them) at the Tuesday evening and Saturday morning meetings, which are becoming progressively better-attended and more interesting. Fencing is an honest-to-goodness, true-as-steel sport, and can be as vigorous or as sedentary as you want to make it. Also, we say this in all modesty—being ourself a keen exponent—that it attracts some Very Good Types; and remember, one of the aims of university education is to create more and better Very Good Types. If you haven't a sword (colloquialism for "foil") we will be happy to lend you one. So take advantage of our kind offer—we mean it seriously.

Women's Indoor Basketball

This club was started last year and fielded one very keen team of beginners in the local competitions. Mainly because of the efforts of our coach, Brownie Rogers, and the encouragement of some of the Men's Club, we finished up the year third in our grade after being seventh at the end of the first round, so this year with our numbers already three times as great as last year we have hopes of big things.

Unfortunately, playing space is limited in Wellington so that the Association has to reject several teams every year and it may be possible for us to enter only two teams. Therefore—

1. Only the 12-16 best players (as chosen by Brownie Rogers) will be included in these teams.

2. Only members who regularly turn up to practice will be considered for the teams. Practices will be arranged to fit in with lectures and practical classes as far as possible but we cannot arrange them to fit in with anything else, e.g., music lessons and other club activities.

3. All members are very welcome at any practice and players not amongst the first 16 may be required at any time as emergencies.

This Man Wrote An Extrav.



Have Your
likeness in Salient
too. Write this
year's Extrav.

Starters wanted

The Swimming Club wants starters for Easter Tournament. Club nights are Thursday night from 8-9 p.m. V.U.C. has been last consecutively for the previous TEN Tournaments. So be in the swim Victoria! Especially men and women freestylers.

Women also

At present the Women's Basketball Club is very energetically training for Easter Tournament. We are very fortunate in having the services of an excellent coach, Mrs. Marchant, and if our playing is anything like her coaching we should do very well at Easter. However, we are very short of players and may have difficulty in having a team at all, unless more players turn up at practice. Practices are held every Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Sports Centre and all last year's players are asked to be present. Any freshers who will be playing basketball for V.U.C. this year and wish to get into training should come along on Thursday nights, too. The A.G.M. will be held soon so watch the notice boards for the date. Remember we want a Tournament team so all come along on Thursday nights.

She's are easy to handle

The Ski Club now one year old is now much more than a lusty baby, it had its growing pains prior to its delivery—and now takes its place as one of the most active and efficient clubs in the college.

The club extends a welcome to all freshers and newcomers to partake in this most thrilling (and spilling) of winter sports. It does not matter if you cannot ski—two New Zealand Champs have already come from this college—several more are being painfully processed.

Trips are run at every possible occasion during the winter. Gear and instruction are available for the tyros and encouragement and sympathy are offered to the experts.

This year the club is to be the hosts for the New Zealand ski champs at Ruapehu, and we will need lots of active supporters. So turn up in your hundreds to the AGM, Room C3, March 23rd. Interesting films will be held after the meeting. We are trying to get hold of "A Nation of Skiers," which was shown last year and for which there have been several requests for a repeat showing.

Suggestions are still required for a club badge—decision on which will be made at the AGM.

Come and run

During the vacation the V.U.C. Athletic Club has come into the news through the efforts of Helen Burr and Ikar Lisienko. These two came into note during the Wellington Provincial Champs. Helen came first in the high jump and in the National Champs obtained second place in the same event. Ikar came into the news by winning the discus and in so doing exceeded the New Zealand Standard. He will probably represent New Zealand in the Empire Games.

At present the club is busy training for Tournament. A reminder is given to all those energetic people who run that Inter-Faculty sports are being held at Kelburn on March 19th. Please come along and join in the fun.

Tennis Club Blues

The Tennis Club is plugging away, but with wide knowledge of Otago's strong team our hopes are not too high. There is a definite shortage of women players, in fact the women's Senior A team have not won or even looked like winning a match. Our first lady is ineligible this season much to our woe but we have a steady second in Valmae Turner. After that the team is anyone's guess. The men might do well in the men's

Women's Hockey

For the benefit of those who were not able to attend the A.G.M. (which by the time this goes to print should have been held) here are a few points.

1. Will all members please try to get hold of an old or new Marsden or Solway tunic. The club has a number for hire but these are very dilapidated.

2. Goal-keeping pads will be supplied by the club, but sticks, boots, and shin pads have to be bought by each member.

3. Socks can be obtained from Fowld's Ltd., Union Clothing Co., Halenstein Bros. or Hope Bros. These socks are not men's hockey socks but Rugby football socks (green with yellow tops and no yellow stripes) so get in early before the footballers get in and buy up all the stock.

4. If any intending players have not already signed the list outside the women's common room, will they do so immediately as we want to know how many teams to enter in the local competitions.

5. If there are any old hockey players who would be willing to play for us at any time when we might be short (e.g., May holidays) would they sign the list also and indicate same.

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