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Hotel

Willis Street

Salient

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By Subscription

Literary Issue
Out After Study
Week—

BAXTER, JOHNSON
and Others.

COMMON ROOM MOTION LOST BY ONE VOTE

O'BRIEN IN, TARRANT IN, I.U.S. OUT

THE FIFTY-FOURTH A.G.M. of the Students' Association was held recently. Few people will know this if one can judge by the attendance. However, there was a quorum and those who were there stuck doggedly at it until nearly midnight. One noticeable feature of the night was the sparse number of new speakers. There was a time when a motion mentioning the I.U.S. would have brought dozens of Charter Society members to their feet in righteous indignation, and twice that number of Soc. Club members eager to do their best by the Kremlin. On Tuesday night we saw the few tottering, tattered embers of the glory that was 1948 flare dully and gently subside. We have NOT affiliated with I.U.S.

The minutes were taken as read, and a question raised as to whether the constitution should be printed this was left to the incoming Executive. A lamentable oversight in that J. F. D. Patterson had not been credited with part-authorship of an Extrav. script in the annual report was remedied and the President (Mr. D. B. Horsley) spoke on various matters connected with the report which as usual made interesting reading. He mentioned the fact that although the dates of the forthcoming Winter Tournament were satisfactory to the other colleges, this was not the case with Vic. whose holidays fell later.

Although it would be impossible that the dates could be altered an enquiry was to be made to determine the number of college clubs adversely affected. The question of the Medical School entrance age (which was publicised in the last "Salient") was touched upon. In special cases the council could probably secure admittance for any person who so desired.

STUDENT UNION BUILDING

The student Building Committee met regularly, and during the past week it had met to appoint an architect in order to draw up the draught plans which, it was hoped, would spur the Government on into taking some action. An important fact which came out was that under the terms of the trusteeship the executive has to be consulted as to the site of the building. The ticklish problem of biology block door came up again, and was still unsettled although the executive had been working on the matter. (Mr. Foy: "What about a large supply of duplicate keys?" Mr. Curtin: "Apout Foy doorman!") The problem of a place for Extrav. was still unsettled. No answer had been received from J. C. Williamson's on the availability (or otherwise) of the Opera House. It had been found impossible to have the St. James' during the school holidays and the college term vacations could not be altered. Secretary F. L. Curtin mentioned that other colleges had their extrava in the week before the holidays and there did not seem to be any reason why the same could not be practised at Victoria. Another speaker touched on the possibility of booking the Concert Chamber. Mr. Foy asked the president if the executive knew that the Opera House was not available when the scripts were being selected. The president told how the date had only been pencilled in, how the management of the Opera House, after being very uncooperated, booked in another production, the executive not being informed about this on the plea that the management did not know how to contact the Students' Association! After this Mr. A. G. Durward rose to protest. Mr. Horsley, as a member of legal profession, should refrain from using as a verb the word "contact."

Gwennda Martin enquired whether any definite recommendations had been made as to the architect. For the benefit of those there that knew nothing about this matter she related how the biology block was built as for the northern hemisphere, the places which ought to be kept cool

alone non-financial members of the Association could nominate and second candidates for election. This motion resulted from three candidates being seconded by non-financial members and was only a technical matter. Mr. W. Sheat claimed that the returning officer should have invalidated the incorrect nominations with the result that the remaining members of the Women's Committee should have been automatically elected. Mr. L. B. Robinson explained that the executive as mentioned in "Salient" contained a lot of legal men, who were worried about the matter and so discussed three alternatives. He mentioned that it went against the grain for those legal people to come and swallow their pride like that. Mr. E. Williams (an

THE COMMON-ROOM QUESTION

The President, speaking to the motion creating a new common room, said that although it was a good idea he had no very strong views on the subject. However, a common commonroom would encourage a greater sense of corporate life. (Voice: "What's the cemetery for?"). Women needed a place, however, where they would not be subjected to attack at any moment, but it was a sad lack that there was no common common-room worthy of the name. Mr. Milburn, in a sparkling speech, arrived at the conclusion that it was a matter of delicacy. He remarked on the side that some of the ladies would be very astonished indeed to find what was in the men's common room.



THE NEW EXECUTIVE TAKES OFFICE.—Second from right is President O'Brien pulling strings, while Miss Foote organises. Colin Gordon fiddles while the match-factory burns. Treasurer McCaw cooks the books under Vice-President Phillips' vigilant eye. In the chair youngest member Beaglehole poses patiently for another good photo, while at the knee of Women's Vice-President Tarrant, Des Dalgety hopes for the best.

being towards the sun, and vice versa. She didn't know if the same architect was alive but she thought that the executive should be very careful that the college council does not use the same architect. Mr. K. B. O'Brien assured Miss Martin that the architect was still alive and practising. Professor Kirk had been responsible for the biology block's present set-up. Mr. Jim Milburn asked if the college council had decided about the architects, and Mr. O'Brien answered that the council had expressed on the record no opinion on the matter. Mr. Foy then asked the executive if they had any idea as to where the money to build with is coming from since the extrav. levy was stopped. Mr. Curtin answered, and said that if they had not enough money they would build in sections. (Foy: Top floor or bottom floor first?) After Mr. B. M. Mercer had noticed the omission of a Rowing Blue credit to Weenik the report was finally adopted. The treasurer (Miss D. M. Fletcher) spoke on the accounts, and the president referred to the auditor's comment on the "Salient" account, remarking that it might occur to those who read the report that all was not well. He referred to the past financial history of "Salient" and the auditor's warnings, and passed on to a tribute to the accountant (Mr. M. J. Mason) and this year's "Solient" business manager (Mr. John Cody). The executive was satisfied that there was no misappropriation. The audit sheet was carried unanimously and the auditors reappointed.

ELECTION TROUBLE

Before the first amendment was discussed the vice-president (Mr. W. J. O'Brien) accepted the chair from Mr. Horsley who spoke on the motion. The motion was to amend the constitution so that for this election

American student) amid cries of "Have we an interpreter present?" managed to point out that the assembly had the power to do anything it wished to the constitution. Mr. J. F. D. Patterson said that the amendment to the constitution was uncalled for. The returning officer should have refused to accept the invalid nominations. He did not and so misled the candidates as to the validity of their nominations. As the returning officer was acting as an officer of the executive, for the purposes of the election the nominations must be held valid. Mr. M. J. O'Brien replied that the returning officer received the invalid nominations on orders from the executive. The motion was then put and carried.

BLUES COMMITTEE

Mr. Horsley resumed the chair and Mr. K. M. Phillips explained that the point of the next motion was to allow the executive to appoint such persons who have the necessary qualifications from other colleges to sit on the Blue's Committee. He mentioned the difficulty experienced in filling vacancies which arose, and thought that the college would be better off in appointing certain other people around the college who had the necessary qualifications from other colleges. The motion was carried without discussion.

Mr. Phillips also spoke on the next motion, the purpose of which was to raise the Stud. Ass. fee for ex-students who still wished to play for certain of the college clubs. At present they paid £2/2/- which was less than we paid ourselves. The motion opposing a sectional billeting levy was passed after Miss Martin had exclaimed on the non-acceptance of a closure motion, "Surely there is no one so shameless as to oppose it!"

Mr. Patterson told how the men's common-room was so small that when a couple of enthusiasts brought in a chess board, fifteen men had to move out.

The main problem was biological. The location of the women's ablutions was doubtless of interest to the ladies, but because there was no door and because of the continual use to which the room was put it would prove hardly feasible to have mobs proceeding past. In fact, it would prove most unsettling to the ladies.

Mr. Eric Robinson remarked that in any event it was highly probable that the women's common-room would then descend to the level of the men's.

Mr. O'Brien remarked that the women should have a place to go where the mob was not admitted—(Voice: "Why?"). To rest themselves.

Miss Martin, after some discussion on ways and means, said that whatever was decided, it wouldn't be able to be done.

After some further discussion the motion was put and lost 55-54.

I.U.S. AFFILIATION

Speaking to the motion on affiliation, Mr. H. C. MacNeill admitted that I.U.S. had a content which could be termed political and that N.Z. could not benefit much directly as relief was given primarily to the under-developed areas.

Mr. C. V. Bollinger noticed that there had been an unfortunate trend in world affairs lately. He informed the Executive that the altered conditions of membership permitted the affiliation of sectional groups.

Mr. M. J. O'Brien spoke at length on the past history and crimes of I.U.S. at a speed that made it impossible for anyone to transcribe

(Continued on page 2)

A Quaker On China . . .

COURTNAY ARCHER TO SPEAK
AT COLLEGE

ARRANGEMENTS are at present being made to have Courtnay Archer, a New Zealander who has just returned after spending seven years in China, address a meeting of students. Archer, who is a Quaker, went to China seven years ago to work in hospitals with the Friends' Ambulance Unit.

After one year of this work he went to the Sandan Ballie School in Kansu where he became secretary to Rewi Alley.

He continued in this job until a few weeks ago.

Archer has recently been in Peking, where he and Rewi Alley attended the preparatory meeting for the Peking Peace Congress. He will be in New Zealand for a few months before visiting South East Asia, Japan, and England.

As one of the few foreigners who have been able to follow the course of the Chinese Revolution right through to the most recent developments, from the inside, Archer is perhaps better qualified than anyone else in New Zealand to-day to give a balanced and objective estimate of this most important event. His opinions on such questions as the Korean war, and germ warfare, will also be worthy of serious consideration.

Every student, we feel, should be interested in this meeting. For none of us, whatever our shade of political opinion may be, can ever say that we know enough not to need to know any more. As Leonardo da Vinci said: "You do ill if you praise but worse if you censure what you do not rightly understand."

The meeting, which it is hoped will take place in about three weeks' time, is at present being organised by the Socialist Club. It is hoped that other interested clubs will lend their support.

Letters to the Editor

AN APOLOGY

SIR,—I notice that in your note on the front page of your latest issue you state, "We presume the following report to be substantially correct as it was handed to us by Mr. Patterson's publicity manager (Mr. Patterson himself)." In so doing you omit to mention that the report in question was prepared by me at the request of your reporter, Mr. Cody. As this omission might create an erroneous impression in the minds of your readers I would ask that you rectify it forthwith.—Yours faithfully,

J. F. D. PATTERSON.

[We regret the omission and apologise for any "erroneous impression" which might have been created in the minds of our readers. Mr. Patterson has no often complained about misquotation of his speeches that we solicited his own report from him.—Ed.]

Undemocratic Vote

SIR,—I would like to protest against the undemocratic method of voting used at this college.

Democracy depends on secret ballot. The ballot in this college is not secret, as the voter's number is written on the back of his voting paper. This is, apparently, to prevent plural voting—an unnecessary precaution, since the name of each voter is crossed off the roll as he receives his paper.

If this system of voting is constitutional, surely it is time the constitution was amended.

D.L.

D.L. is not the only person to question the practice of putting the voter's number on the voting paper. It is hoped that a statement on this will be issued by the executive next issue.—Ed.

Common Room Motion

Continued from page 1.

the speech, and nearly impossible for most people to follow it.

Mr. Milburn made another good speech. Mr. O'Brien was representative of the type of person who did not realise the position. The association should come to grips with the situation. It was not enough to wait for the day—the day would come when we had lost our chance to do any good. Let's not stage a walk-out. If we stayed out of I.U.S. we would remain insular and no longer would we have our say in student affairs.

Mr. Curtin said that after listening to Mr. Milburn they were in danger of losing their heads. We would be lending our support to a body which no organisation such as ours should support—a political partisanship.

The motion was then lost by 42-58. The next motion sending Mr. W. H. Oliver to observe at a forthcoming I.U.S. Council was passed, as was a motion setting up a committee to look into "Salient" finances.

Miss Anne Tarrant was elected women's vice-president, and the meeting finished (thank goodness) at 15.

DISCLAIMER

SIR,—As one who has reported debates in the past, I realise full well the difficulties of producing a tolerably balanced and accurate account of what each speaker has said, as well as providing interesting reading.

However, in the case of your report of the debate on Birth Control and Asia, I must protest against the remark attributed to me. Debating from the negative, I endeavoured to show that birth control was neither a simple nor an immediate solution, that population-growth in proportion to total population was relatively small in Asia, and that institutional (and particularly land tenure) reform was of prime importance.

I then said that Miss Munro's argument implied sending shiploads of contraceptives to Asia, which, I argued, was not a palliative, let alone a solution to Asia's problems.

I regret, sir, to have taken so much of your space, but the Asian problem is an extremely important one, on which I do not care to have myself fundamentally misquoted.—Yours, etc.,

DOUG FOY.

Where's My Salient?

SIR,—As I believe the editorship of your paper has recently changed hands, you cannot be held responsible for the mismanagement of "Salient" in the past, but no doubt you will welcome suggestions which might eradicate some of the past faults in the future.

I intend to deal specifically with the distribution of "Salient" among subscribers. When freshers enrolled we were persuaded by enthusiastic types to pay a subscription to "Salient," which the majority seemed to do. However, imagine our disgust when we found that those responsible had no intention of saving copies each week for subscribers, and the fact that a subscription had been paid did not mean that a copy would be available each time "Salient" is published.

In the issue of the 24th April a special eight-page issue was advertised for the following week. It was duly published, but when subscribers applied for their copies they were informed that the issue had sold out, without copies having been set aside for those who had paid their subscriptions. Surely it is an elementary principle of running any publication that this should be done.

By not doing so "Salient" publishers have breached their contract with subscribers. It would seem that the only way to ensure obtaining a copy is to claim one as soon as they appear on sale. But this is impossible because the time of sale seems to vary greatly. Would it not be possible for "Salient" to be on sale at approximately the same time each week; the time to be advertised. Then a subscriber might have a chance of receiving a copy regularly.

It would seem that your advertisement on the top right hand corner of the front page—"Buy Salient"—every week might have been of more use to freshers than the obtaining of subscriptions from them. Then they would only have to pay for the issues they receive.

I have heard much indignant com-

ment among students concerning the missing eight-page issue they never received. Is not an explanation called for?

CONTRACT.

[Yes, an explanation is called for. Of that issue there were five hundred copies printed—these sold out in two nights. Our subscription list is somewhat fluid in nature. Just because we have so many subscriptions it does not follow that that number of papers will be collected. We print slightly over the number of subscriptions, but when the cash sales are higher than usual, as was the case with that issue, tardy subscribers lose out. "Salient" is on sale whenever there are people to sell it between lectures, mostly on Thursday, Friday and Monday evenings. Space does not permit me to answer "Contract's" criticism in full; if he would see me I would be happy to provide any information.—Ed.]

PLATO
RE-PLATED

SIR,—I feel that although there is some justification for "Aristotle's" criticism of the Staff-Student Debate remarks which appeared above my name, I feel also that that criticism applies less strongly when it is realised that, far from being intended as an accurate report of the proceedings, the article—for such I shall call it for want of a better title—was written solely for the purpose of conveying an impression. In a note to the Editor which accompanied the piece in question I specifically referred to it as such. I shall say nothing about "Aristotle's" charge of turgidity—a quality which has before now been attributed to my writings and which I am coming slowly to believe they may to some extent display. I would point out, however, that I am not entirely unaware of the defects (other than turgidity, perhaps) which the article had in common with the debate. To quote again from my note to the Editor, "If this seems a little rambling, so was the debate."

To come to "Aristotle's" main points, however. First of all, he says that I made a "peculiar statement" that the debate was not well attended.

I did not. I wrote, "It is fairly safe to predict that audiences will once more be small if we cannot do better than that . . ."

And that is exactly what was printed. Surely, that cannot be construed to mean that the audience in question was small? Rather, it seems to me to imply that the audience on the particular night was quite satisfactorily large. It was, of course, much larger than it has been on many occasions before. In any case I made no "statement" to the effect that the "debate was not well attended." It is possibly not a Pythagorean system of mathematics which is to blame for Aristotle's puzzlement. Perhaps English is a strange language to him. With "Aristotle's" judgment of Mr. Milburn's speech I cannot but agree. I confess to having made no mention of it—an omission I am ashamed of. But I would point out once more that I was writing not a report but an impression. The impression was one of disappointment in the low standard of the debate and in the flippant approach. Since Mr. Milburn's speech did not suffer from these disturbing defects I made no individual mention of it. "Aristotle" will, perhaps, recall that I did write that the "students . . . did at least give an impression of sincerity and earnestness."

At the risk of becoming tedious I will repeat that I wrote an impression; in the light of this is "Aristotle's" charge that I "appear to be more exercised in aiming my own opinions about the subject" not somewhat unfair? I was not so doing. I mentioned a few points of view and an approach which were entirely neglected by the principals in the debate, and which appeared to me to have sufficient bearing on the subject to have warranted their inclusion in the discussion. I may also mention in passing that the "opinions" are by no means peculiar to me.

Finally, "Aristotle" suggests that I may have been influenced in my choice of name by my "distrust of equalitarian democracy." To begin with I do not distrust it. The properly educated man, the (dare I say so?) cultured man, is one who is among other things, able to see a question from several different "frames of reference," in terms of different relative points of view. Thus, in terms of building up a respect for the University as an institution and as a body of teachers and students equalitarian democracy is distinctly unhelpful. From many other points of view I should be prepared to defend and support it. In any case, if my memory does not

fail me, Aristotle was even more distrustful of equalitarian democracy than was Plato.

One last word on the choice of a suitable name under which I might cover from the onslaughts of my brother (?) philosophers. I have always been intrigued by the name of Plato, possibly because of the sternly suppressed connection it always has in my mind, which I admit is rather inadequate, with Pluto. Aside from this which is very dating I'm afraid, and extremely puerile, I have always understood that Plato was an admirer of the dialectic; a form which is sufficiently close to debating to lead me to use the name I did. By the way, I was most certainly there from beginning to end of the proceedings. In fact I arrived at ten to eight, and am prepared to answer any questions which "Aristotle" may care to put to me concerning the evening. It is highly probable that "Aristotle" saw me; but it is just as well that he did not recognise me. When Greek meets Greek . . .

PLATO.

READ THIS!

SIR,—May I comment—I hope briefly—on the note by "Spectre" published in your last issue. It is not my wish to criticise either him or the student body whose apathy he deplores, but rather to outline the position as it appears to me.

The comparison between the Spanish Civil War and the Korean War is not, I feel, a very happy one, and failure to recognise the distinction may account for inability to understand the present apparent apathy. It seems almost superfluous to mention that the Spanish Civil War followed a period of world economic crisis, the effects of which were so intense that they could not fail to mould the thought and actions of a whole generation. The failure of capitalism was apparent, and the necessity for some form of democratic socialism obvious. True freedom could only be achieved if the vagaries of a free market, so manifestly disastrous to the welfare of humanity, could be overcome, for freedom without economic security was meaningless.

Put into its historical context, the tremendous social awareness of students in the thirties can be seen to have had its roots in an international catastrophe the impulse of which was so powerful that there was only one answer to any further threat, as in Spain, to freedom. Communism and democratic socialism were strongly allied in what was almost a common ideal. Poetry was close to events. Up-to-date in language and imagery.

The issues seem to have been so clear-cut then that the action of students is not surprising. Today however the position is not quite the same. The alliance between Western socialism and communism has broken; there is no common aim, the lessons of the thirties and the last war instead of being sharpened are being dulled. A common impulse such as that given by the depression does not exist. What then is the position? As far as one can generalise from personal experience, it is this:

In the mid-thirties communism and democratic socialism seemed but two not very dissimilar means to the same end. However the Stalin purges of 1935-36 put rather a different complexion on things; the means to the end seemed less attractive to the eyes of Western communists and socialists. Spender is one example of the many disillusioned. But the recognition of the need for social reform based on economic planning remained.

I myself was far too young to remember vividly the effects of the depression, but I could not escape the influence which it had on those most closely connected with me. I remained convinced of the failure and utter inhumanity of capitalism, but at the same time disgusted with the methods which communism openly claimed were necessary. "The ruling class will never give up its power without a struggle," said Marx. ("Without a bloody struggle," said Lenin.) But if my aim were the welfare of humanity, I could not morally condone the creation of misery to achieve this end.

And compromise such as accepting the lesser of two evils could never be morally satisfying. The conflict would always remain and unless it could be completely resolved there could be no assured crying out for or against.

The confusion created by this division of loyalties is increased when we consider the present war in Korea, and behind it the whole question of East and the treatment which it has received from capitalist hands.

(Continued on page 3).



"BROKEN BARRIER," N.Z. Feature Film, Boasts Ex-Vic Star and Producer-Director

THE OLD CLAY PATCH has brought forth many fruits but the addition of film-makers strikes a novel note. In a sense, associations formed during attendance at V.U.C. were one of the important factors involved in the making of "Broken Barrier," the feature film produced in New Zealand about the love affair of a Maori girl and a white boy. When the co-producer and director of the film, John O'Shea, was seeking the co-operation of the Maori people and searching for suitable locations, it was through the assistance of two contemporaries at Weir House and V.U.C., Bill Parker and Tom Ormond, that he and his associate in Pacific Films, Roger Mirams, were able to make suitable arrangements.

Bill Parker assisted with casting the Maori players in the film and acted throughout production as Maori adviser.

Tom Ormond's invaluable assistance as general factotum while the production unit was working on exteriors on the Mahia Peninsula — on which most of the cattle and sheep runs are owned by members of the Ormond family — greatly speeded up the bulk of the location shooting.

To present-day students at V.U.C., and especially members of the Drama Club, Terence Bayler's emergence as a film star will be greeted with interest. Terry's most recent appearance with the College Drama Club was in the role of Tarquin in last year's "Lucrece." His role in "BROKEN BARRIER" is a far cry from the theatrical histrionics of Tarquin. He plays a slick journalist who is cashing in on his friendship with the Maoris. While working on a Maori farm, he falls in love with the farmer's beautiful daughter, and the film dramatizes the personal and racial complications that ensue. Soon after he completed his work in the film, Terry left for England to study drama under the bursary awarded each year by the Government in association with the Drama Council. Top star billing in a feature film

might well prove a turning point in his professional career as an actor, especially as "BROKEN BARRIER" has now been accepted for commercial distribution in the United Kingdom.

The co-producers of "BROKEN BARRIER," Roger Mirams and John O'Shea, think that their film will give overseas audiences, especially English audiences, a new conception of New Zealand. They have concentrated on people, not the magnificent scenic backdrops that have been fed to the world in tourist films. Of course, as their film has been largely shot on exterior locations, the landscape is there, but only as a backdrop, and the traditional sights that identify New Zealand throughout the world come in for some implied criticism.

Terence Bayler shares starring honours with Kay Ngarimu, a member of the well-known East Coast family. Kay was a student at Wellington Training College and is at present teaching in Ruatoria. The large cast includes a few of New Zealand's semi-professional players but consists largely of people recruited on the spot and people photographed in their ordinary environment at their usual occupation. Wellingtonians in the cast include Dorothy Tansley, Carol Chapman, F. W. French, Anne Munz, Vilma Frew, Lloyd Morgan, Margaret Davies, Guy Smith and Barrie Cookson.

This film will be shown from July 10 at the Regent Theatre. —A.M.

Read This

(Continued from page 2)

Perhaps even "Spectre," while depicting racial segregation in South Africa, would hesitate to allow unlimited immigration of Chinese, Indians and Japanese into this country. I may be doing him a gross injustice, but our own very strict laws regarding Asiatics show how very concerned we are with maintaining our own comfort and how little the social fate of, for instance, the Chinese, matters to us. As long as we aspire to being democrats such views are morally untenable.

One is therefore in the awkward position of probably having to fight, on the one hand, against a movement whose final aims one considers morally justifiable but whose means to achieve those aims seems crude, inhuman and indefensible, and at the same time, on the other hand, for the maintenance of a capitalist economic order which one is convinced can never bring world-wide economic security and the true freedom which so much depends on it. The issue in Spain must have been crystal-clear by comparison.

Also I am too experienced a propagandist myself—having lived by writing propaganda daily for the last three years—not to know how to read a newspaper, and I have learnt too much from Machiavelli to disregard the background to statements made either by so-called democratic or by communist interests. The difficulty

of getting the facts is too great for one ever to be completely sure of a situation.

Hence in my own case a reluctance to make a final decision about some things, and therefore without such a decision an inability to take action. As I said, I do not wish to generalise too much from personal experience, but I feel that the conditions outlined may be the cause of a great deal of what appears to be apathy. Because of the confusion and the lack of a social referent, poetry has been taken into the individual and there has been a divorce from social realities. Many no doubt would disagree with me and it is of course impossible in such a short space to outline the relations which one thinks do or should exist between a society and its literature. It think it is a question which could well be thrashed out in the pages of Salient, but I do not wish to enter into it here. I have a great faith in humanity and very little—if any—in God, and such a movement away from the social to the introspective is not to my mind for the best.

Moreover, my purpose in writing was to explain my reason for the apparent apathy and the difficulties which have to be overcome before decisions can be made and resultant action taken. So long as the world political situation remains unclarified, so long will the confusion exist. There will be a great deal of con-

AMERICAN POETRY "Audiences For Poetry in U.S.A.," Says Louis Johnson

CLEARING his throat nervously, and rearranging his notes to catch what dim light there was, Louis, who has claims as a Wellington poet, delivered an address which was no diatribe to the small group of literary ladies and gentlemen who gathered in A3 on Wednesday evening.

In spite of the prejudice against American poetry as the manifestation of a chromium-plated, juke-box culture, the healthy state of American culture, he said, was one of the hopes of the world to-day. We too readily pass off that which is flashy as American, and claim that which is really good as a branch of English literature because both have a common heritage. Here is a new literature, influencing and moulding our own.

It began with Walt Whitman and Edgar Allen Poe. Emily Dickinson and Edward Arlington Robinson were also quoted. But with the little reviews it really largely developed. All the important poets first appeared here, and here received encouragement. Poetry Chicago, which Ezra Pound began, and The Little Review, are the biggest of these. Most reviews were and still are parochial; there are hardly any with nationwide circulation.

Imagism, the first big movement, arose from discussions between Flint, H.D. (who is Hilda Doolittle), and Aldington. Pound for a while wrote under their banner. The imagists said to young writers, inter alia, "Don't be descriptive." "It is better to produce one image in a lifetime than volumes of works." Their ideas quickly wore out for Pound. There was a split in the fraternity, and Amy Lowell became the new prophet. A spell of "Amyism" ensued. The Catholic Review, which Pound was now editing, introduced Eliot; but Pound and Eliot played second fiddle to the poetry of Amy Lowell and Carl Sandburg. American poetry was "pretty boggy." Joyce Kilmer was immortalised by "Trees!" There were some occasional good poems. This was a popular movement, but a retreat from life; a woolly pantheism when religious. To-day it is dated, and is considered degenerate. Johnson was distressed that Vachel Lindsay still regarded as the essence of modernism due to a queer sterness of his lines. . . . Pounds and Eliot were sterner and their work led to a flexing of the muscles of poetry.

THE PATRON IN POETRY.

The patron also had a great part in the development of the arts in America. Hart Crane, who published "White Buildings" in 1926, followed by the masterpiece "The Bridge," was supported by a millionaire for one year on the Continent. Crane is a child of the machine age, and believed in progress through the machine. He used the bridge as an allegorical pathway to heaven. (What heaven?) Robert Frost has the largest American reputation of any contemporary poet. Acclaimed the "only really epic poet America has had," he proved difficult to place in time. He is earthy, downright, sentimental, and popular.

CONSOLIDATION.

The thirties were a carry-over from the twenties, a period of consolidation for the chief poets. Conrad Aiken, John Crowe Ransom, Alan Tate. These were "fugitives determined to

ficting shouting, but no universal enthusiastic movement such as in the thirties, for there is no such common impulse.

I am sorry my letter is so long—I had hoped to keep it brief. However Salient has so often asked for letters and contributions that perhaps this one despite its length will be acceptable. If, in the discussion which I hope ensues, anyone can point to an acceptable way out of the difficulties which I have described, I—and I feel many others—shall be eternally grateful, for now we are like Hamlet.

—D.F.M.

[Although we must ask contributors to restrict letters to 250 words in the future, we must admit that it is a pleasure to receive such well-written and thought-provoking letters as above, and we regret that as we were overnot we could not publish it sooner.—Ed.]

move from the city." Poetry in their hands achieved leisure and refinement, a protest against the economics of the decade. Macleish alone was satirical in contrast. Wm. Carlos Williams demonstrated the more juke box elements of American culture, and was very popular; and E. E. Cummings, with his great virtue of anger, wild man of American letters, wrote lines that sprawl over the page. Since 1940 there has been a return to the mythical-psychological territory skirted by Eliot.

GREAT AUDIENCES.

[There is more good verse being written in America to-day than in New Zealand, said Johnson]. It is the one country where many little periodicals flourish, and the audience is great. War assisted literary progress, for the writers and artists sought refuge in neutrality. While Europe was numbed with war, the American poet could still expostulate and be angry. The motto of Poetry Chicago is this: To have great poets there must be great audiences too. These, quantitatively, America has. Carl Shapiro, editor, has 5000 poems a month submitted to him.

Are they all poets? Obviously not. One may argue that only the best may appear in print, therefore the standard must be high. But with such a huge amount written one feels that that which is eye-taking gets printed. We may miss the solid virtues of American poetry.

OUT OF THE GARRET.

This is the age of the populariser. America has proved superior in salesmanship — does she sell literature? Poetry in particular hardly lends itself to popularisation. In Russia art is the people's art, and artists gain their living from the state. Does the artist in the West starve in a garret?

[The artist in America is not starving. The hundreds of little reviews with parochial circulation have been mentioned. There are courses in creative writing at every University, and one poet at least on the staff. Much money is spent to bring world-famous people to address interested Americans. Poetry is supported by private business and wealthy patrons.]

This art may not reach all the people all the time, but what art would, and would all the people want it? To aim at all means to limit and simplify aims. Louis Johnson said he would object to Professor Algic-like directions.

In England there is scarcely a journal of any size left to-day. And here? "Private and esoteric coteries." A poet might make £7 to £15 an edition; he must pay for public readings out of his own pocket. One does not go in for poetry for money.

Johnson suggested that criticism was not enough, and writers do not spring out of thin air. In America there is a great pool of mediocre talent; but one exists at the higher level if supported by talent beneath. America will have poetry far greater than we who live in isolated contentment.

—B.D.

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THE WORLD

WELL LOST

PERHAPS you aren't interested in religion; perhaps you used to be, but reckon you know better than to believe such stuff now; perhaps you hate it. In any of these cases it is unlikely that you have studied closely any specific religion, say Christianity, weighed it up, and finally rejected it. It's an odd thing, but our brains don't seem to work that way about religion. We learn, in modern education, to reason, infer and deduct, as far as possible in facts, cold facts. Have you ever tried to adopt this principle in connection with Christianity?

It's high time you knew where you stood. None of us think much of the person whose ideas and beliefs veer round with every passing breeze of opinion, even less of the person who can't be bothered working out what he believes, even about Ultimate Reality for the World. Christians have definite beliefs. "All right," you say, knowing to the great god Tolerance, "let them have them, I suppose they're sincere. I don't care what they think as long as they leave me alone." A fine, tolerant attitude!

Has it ever occurred to you that much of our so-called tolerance is just plain laziness? We can't be bothered finding out the whys and wherefors, so, while wholesale condemnation of what we don't understand has gone out of fashion, this pseudo, broad-minded acceptance of all things has replaced it.

There is in the University a handful of keen students who are certain that what they have is so infinitely precious that they can never let it go, and so supremely important that none can afford to be without it. What is it? If you think they are deluded about what they profess, attack them for goodness sake.

If you think they are sane on the whole, find out what they've got that you haven't, and do something about it. If you couldn't care less, you are mentally immature. You must decide for yourself by weighing facts, reading sincerely and seriously, by listening carefully and questioning carefully whether this man Jesus, is worth your attention, your faith. You'll be surprised how little you really know about Him. Find out about Him, who He was or is, What He said or did. David Stewart will be prepared to meet you on any ground you may care to choose; only think clearly and give yourself time to work things out.

This is serious business and not fun, but it's going to be worth while.

One last word. It's easy to be brave in a gang. It's easy to laugh things off with another person or two. But your six feet of earth is all you own in the long run, and then... what?

—EVANG UNION.

NO SALIENT
NEXT WEEK

The Executive

President: M. J. O'Brien.
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Women's Committee: Betty Dibble, Elaine Foote, Pauline Hoskins, Diane Sutcliffe.

SLEET, SNOW,
UGH!

FOR OLD CROCKS, Exec. members and the unsound of mind and body the Tramping Club is running a trip to Mount Holdsworth on the week-end of July 11 to 13.

The essential requirements are for this trip lack of fitness, although in the case of skiers coming they will have to either hire Sherpas or carry their own skis. Other qualifications are a cheerful and willing spirit, a weekend's food, a back strong enough to carry the pack, sleeping-bag and food, and boots strong enough to carry the whole lot.

If any enquiries contact Brian Casey, c/o Letter rack. The truck will leave the Railway Station at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, June 11.

Weakened
Varsity Team
Thrashes Taita

THE match against Taita did not rise to any great heights of football. Even so it cast into a shadow the game between the two teams, which have, over the last two series of games, played such "enterprising" football against Varsity.

After gaining a 15-8 lead in the first spell while playing into a strong south-westerly it appeared as though Varsity were heading for a high score. But during the second spell errors crept into their play, and kept the score within reasonable dimensions.

The diffidence they showed against Marist was replaced by supreme confidence. From the start they played as a team. And only during the second spell when too much individualism was shown by some of the backs was this unity lost.

The forwards worked as a pack. They serviced their backs with a plentiful supply of the ball from ruck, lineout and scrum. Then following up and general open play was in sharp contrast to the previous Saturday's game.

Clark on the side of the scrum grabbed any opportunities with both hands. His speed and handling were certainly up to representative standard. His only weakness seems to lie in his tackling.

Parker at half-back gave his best display this season. His service from the scrum was excellent. But the greatest improvement was noticed in his all round play. His solo run in the second half capped off a good day's football for him.

At first five-eighth L. Jarden played an enterprising game. His straight

running would have delighted the heart of any purist.

With Fitzpatrick and R. Jarden on the sideline, Fitzgerald was burdened with greater responsibility. However it seemed to worry him very little. He is really in top form. His change of direction which resulted in a try late in the first spell was really astounding. The three conversions into the wind was the only place-kicking Athletic Park patrons saw all day.

Barrell and Page filled the gaps created by injuries competently. Barrell seems to have the makings of a class wing-threequarter. Secord's play was uneven. One gained the impression he was playing in an unaccustomed position.

Osborne at full-back had little to do. But when occasion demanded it he proved as sound as ever. His attempts to move up into the back-line, which today seems to be a necessary part of a full-back's repertoire, were not very successful.

The team this Saturday will be without six of its usual members. It is a tribute to the football that the team has been playing that six of so many of its number have gained representative honours.

—Sports Editor.

SOCCER TEAM
PLAYING WELL

THIS season has seen an exceptional improvement in Victoria's first Soccer eleven, a fact proved by the team's unbeaten record in the Senior B championship.

In this year's Chatham Cup Competition all teams entered apart from Senior A teams had to play off to find a finalist to compete in Senior A. Victoria won this final and played Hospital.

Victoria was unfortunate in having E. Harris, the captain unavailable through injuries but they performed very creditably against one of Wellington's three top teams. Hospital had to work very hard for their three—one win. Victoria's superior fitness and speed have been deciding factors in its success but Hospital who were equally fit and with greater experience had a slight advantage.

The first half saw very even play with Victoria scoring first with a header by centre-forward Aldridge. Hospital then penetrated sufficiently to score two goals before half-time when the score was 2-1. Experience rather than fitness decided play slightly in Hospital's favour in the second half and led to a further goal. However, in characteristic style Victoria pressed strongly in the last few minutes but could not score.

Richardson at centre-half, a former N.Z.U. Blue, and Robinson at left full-back played outstanding football, both causing Hospital to be hustled into error on occasions, and providing a sound defence. Page, the goalkeeper, turned in an excellent game and he is proving to be the best keeper Vic. has ever had. Reddy, the right-half and also club captain, played his best game to date using his weight to advantage.

On the whole Victoria can be satisfied with its performance which, taken with form shown this season would place the team well up in Senior A. Although eliminated from Chatham Cup the team is keener than ever to maintain its unbeaten championship record. The improving combination which even now is very sound makes the achievement a strong possibility.

—A. Preston

Basketball
Selections

THE two teams competing in the Saturday competitions are now beginning to show themselves capable of really good play.

As they have been hampered by the impossibility of full scale practice in so small a space as that available in the gym it has taken some time for the teams to develop combination and self confidence.

Two players have been selected for the senior rep. trials, Lance Colquhoun and Pat Wilson, and one for the intermediate, Valerie Yates and we wish them all success. As the under under twenty trialists are now in the process of being selected we hope to be represented there as well.

The standard of play has improved tremendously and the senior reserve team has played two hard and successful games the last two weeks drawing 18-18 against St. Mary's and winning 17-5 against Furlor.

—E. Foote.

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