

SALIENT
LITERARY
ISSUE

WATCH FOR IT

Salient

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

VOL. 17, No. 15

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By Subscription

DEBATE

"THAT THIS HOUSE PITIES
ITS GRANDCHILDREN

FRIDAY WEEK

A.G.M. MOTIONS DUMPED

THE exec. has been in power for just over a month. What has it done to benefit the students as a whole? Obviously, in one month the exec. has just had time to look around and find out what needs doing; no criticism of the exec. at the moment would be fair appraisal of its potentialities. So we will confine ourselves to minor remarks on what the exec. has done so far, what it should do and cannot, and what it should do and has not yet done.

Recommendations from the A.G.M., six in number, have been dealt with as follows: (a) Investigations into Salient finances—referred to the Finance Committee; (b) Four shillings per head levy to be paid into the building fund—referred to the Finance Committee; (c) Cyclo-styling of the Constitution—referred to Mr. Chatwin; (d) Cricket Club—a motion was passed at the first meeting of the exec., which read "That this executive supports the Cricket Club in their efforts to maintain their independence as a senior club"; (e) Publication of Spike—referred to the Publications Committee which in turn referred the matter to the Finance Committee; (f) Distribution of Cappicade and Extrav. profits—referred to Exec.

Just what does this hocus-pocus with the various committees mean? Both the Finance and Publications Committees have since met, and their detailed consideration of the various motions follows.

Salient Finances

First, the investigation into the finances of Salient. Readers will have read the article "Habeas Corpus" in the last issue of this paper; the writer there put forward the case for a compulsory Salient. The cost of printing 600 per week

is £24 max.; the maximum cost of printing 2000 would be £37/10/-. But many of these 2000 copies would never be collected; however the Exec. would not lose, and neither would the person who collected a copy every week.

So much for Salient; an extra £50 has been granted by the Exec. to cover the additional costs of printing, etc., for this year. It is a costly paper; yet many say that a University newspaper is essential. But what use is it if only a minority are interested in it?

Association Finances

The finances of the Association are not particularly strong at the moment; of £1700 allocated to club grants, £500 went to summer clubs and the rest to the winter clubs. Although comparatively healthy, they will not bear any extravagance on the part of the Exec., of which fact the Finance Committee are well aware.

Secondly, the 4/- levy per head to be transferred to the Building Fund. This amount, which amounts this year to approximately £460, if transferred at the moment, would greatly upset the budget which at present is balanced.

Thirdly, the matter of the distribution of Extrav. and Cappicade profits,

if any. Obviously nothing can be done about this this year, as the profits from Cappicade will go to help the loss on Extrav. A motion moved two weeks ago by Diana Lescher supported, not that the proceeds of Cappicade or Extrav. go to charity, but that a collection for charity be taken up during next year's process. There was some discussion over this, but the motion was carried, and next year you may be asked to canvass during process. We do not propose to discuss the merits and demerits of such an action. We wish only to point out that the Exec. has decided unofficially that the profits of Cappicade each year will go to the Association, and the losses on Extrav. will be offset by this; a definite policy has not yet been decided.

Spike

The question of Spike, too, has been thrashed out. The reasons for the Exec. decision not to publish Spike this year are both multiple and reasonable. An editor would be hard to get—one who was qualified for the job, willing to spend a considerable amount of time collecting material, planning the magazine in collaboration with the printer, arranging for advertising, discussing types, size, format, prices. The time factor immediately rules out any faint hope of having a Spike to read this year. All material must be ready by the end of July at the latest. To ask

a person to attempt to do in one month what he would find was a full-time job for six months is to ask the attainment of the impossible. In the circumstances, the decision was the only reasonable one that could be made.

The Next One

However, it is now four years since a Spike was published. If it is financially impossible to have one next year, it will be five years, and this is too long a gap. The Salient literary issue of last year and this year compensate in some small manner for the lack of information on the cultural side of the college. Yet no one would be so biased as to say that the literary issue takes the place of Spike. The Exec. also decided that Spike should serve primarily as a historical record of the agree. It has been recommended that it be published triennially; we would say at least triennially; this is the longest permissible break between issues, if they are to have any continuity at all and if any copies are to be sold to students. The average student remains at Vic. for four years. In his first year he gets the lay of the land. During the following three years he actively participates in three clubs and enlarges his circle of friends and acquaintances. A Spike for him has much more appeal than to a fresher, or a person who has left Vic. for two years.

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THE MORAL ASPECTS OF . . . BIRTH CONTROL.

"It is a serious thought that at a certain time there was nothing of us. The world there was, and people in it, and God, and time, and history—but of us there was nothing. When we talk of birth control, of sex, of marriage, there is nothing that brings us so quickly to our senses, that places all in its right perspective as this thought—there was a moment when I began to live."

"That moment was the result of sexual union of a man and a woman."

Rev. Fr. Weaver, S.M., D.D., stated this in the course of a lecture on the "Moral Aspects of Birth Control," given in C.3 on July 23 to an audience of over 130. The talk was sponsored by the Catholic Students' Guild. Dr. Weaver, who spoke last year on "Sex Education and the Catholic," is a lecturer in theology at the Marist Father's Seminary, Greenmeadows.

Stressing the importance of his subject, the speaker said that when we talk of birth control, we are bandying about on our lips and in our minds the potential lives of men and women like ourselves. Hence the solemnity of marriage, which is an institution whereby a man and a woman are brought together for the purpose of begetting children. This is the primary end of marriage, and the fact that nature envisages children is the reason for those qualities of a true marriage, perpetual and exclusive giving over of sexual rights. The very contract of marriage is the mutual handing over of these rights.

WHAT IT IS

A definition of birth control was offered. It is, said Dr. Weaver, the positive interruption of an act of sexual congress, depriving it of the natural power of procreating life. Thus, birth control is really birth prevention—the prevention of new life. In Catholic theology it is known as onanism, and artificial onanism is known as Neo-Malthusianism.

THE CHURCH'S TEACHING

The principle followed by the Catholic Church is as follows: Any use of matrimony in the exercise of which the act is deprived of its natural power of procreating life by

man's industry, is a mortal sin, a sin against nature. The teaching of the Church is to be found explicitly stated in the Encyclical "Casti Connubii" of Pope Pius XI. It was written in 1931, and deals with Christian marriage.

"Since, therefore, openly departing from the uninterrupted Christian tradition, some recently have judged it possible to declare another doctrine regarding the question, the Catholic Church . . . in order that she may preserve the chastity of the nuptial union from this foul stain raises her voice in token of divine ambassadorship and through our mouth proclaims anew; any use whatever of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offence against the law of God and against nature."

The Encyclical was prompted by a statement issued by the Lambeth Conference of 307 Anglican prelates, held in London. There it was stated by a majority of 193 to 67, with many refusing to vote on the subject, that in certain cases where procreation was forbidden another voice than that of continence may be followed.

REASONS FOR THE CHURCH'S TEACHING

There are three main reasons why the Catholic Church forbids birth control. First, it cheats marriage and sexual congress of their primary end, which is the generation of offspring. Birth control is therefore against the life of possible men and women, and contrary to the good of the human race, for the conservation of which the genital organs were primarily instituted by nature. Instead the secondary ends of marriage, the growth of mutual love between husband and wife, and the allaying of natural concupiscence, are placed first. But Dr. Weaver pointed out

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Debating Censure

IN response to a Special General Meeting of the Debating Society called for Tuesday evening in the lower Gymn., 15 persons heard a motion of "no confidence" in the Committee of the Society, moved by Mr. B. Elwood. After some small discussion, this motion was amended by Mr. Pip Piper to read as a motion of censure. The amendment being put and carried, the amended motion was put and carried, 9 votes to 8.

Highlights of the brief and uproarious meeting included the cheers from the multitudes as Mr. McLean enigmatised "Just as the O'Brien family has passed away from the exec. . . ." and (Frank Curtin's indignant "They HAVENT passed away."); Frank Curtin speaking of the crux of the matter . . . ("I BEG your pardon!") of various people sucking tree tomatoes, including Marjorie Munro, Melda O'Reilly, Dave Somerset (from whom emanated varied and weird "animal noises" as the chairman, Conrad Bollinger) put it.

A committee was elected to enquire into the position of Plunket Medal judges, the following being successful: John McCreary, Mr. Milburn, Messrs. Curtin and Bollinger, and Miss Forde.

Representatives at Tournament were announced: Joint Scroll, Messrs. Cruden and J. Whitta (Frank Curtin cannot be at Tournament), Bledisloe Medal, Miss Melda O'Reilly and Mr. Conrad Bollinger.

Friday Debate

An inspiring attendance of 23 people in the Little Theatre on Friday evening heard a debate on the subject "That V.U.C. adds nothing commendable to the social and cultural life of the community."

The Misses Anne Olsen and Melda O'Reilly spoke for the negative, Messrs. Elwood and Whitta for the affirmative. Mr. Elwood, opening the case for the affirmative, made much of the fact that this College "is divided into five parts." He said that he had accosted two people by the cable-car and had asked them "What influence has the University?" One, a gentleman, replied, "What University?" On being told "Vic-

toria," continued Mr. Elwood, the person in question asked, "Victoria who?" This showed "conclusively" that the university did not have the influence that it should have.

He conceded that the Professors did add something to the community, but "they are too silent on matters of importance."

Student Pranks

Coming to the part played by the undergraduate, he asked, "What is his influence?" Although it was no doubt intended as a rhetorical question, it drew varied answers from the audience. The Capping day incidents were brought to the notice of the audience, and the speaker remarked that they (the students) were fined £3 for painting the road . . . ("Ooo, they were NOT!") Upon the chairman's ruling that . . . it is customary in this Society for speakers to confine themselves to the truth . . . he withdrew the statement.

Anne Olsen pointed out that the University had produced adult education, the School of Social Science (which does wonders with juvenile delinquency), scientists, Extrav. and Process (the latter with its spontaneity, its birth of new ideals as it were)—the students letting off steam and high spirits ("taking in high spirits would be more correct"). University students and graduates get a high percentage of "Blue Domino" column in the "Sports Post," showing that they must have a good influence on the social life of the community. He also pointed out that the element of dissent which occasionally came to the fore was extremely beneficial to the student who was after a broad

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Salient

A WORLD ELSEWHERE

DEMOCRACY today, clinging to its last vestiges of Christian culture is seeking a revival. The failure of democracy is the failure of Christianity. Without Christianity, democracy cannot live; with it, Communism cannot live. Fundamental as these facts may be they are glossed over and ignored everywhere.

The most perfect the democracy, the fewer are the controls; in a perfect democracy, it is envisaged that government would not exist to control and regulate, but to guard and arbitrate. Yet it is freely conceded that without the controls which exist in democratic government today a few people would benefit at the expense of the many. As we see it the proposition is this. The freer the society, the fewer the external controls.

The only argument in favour of control is the avoidance of injustice. As the controls increase the purity of the democracy fades. The more self-willed and unresponsive to moral codes a people are the more controls there must be to force the members of a society to render justice one to another. In other words, as self control vanishes, state control takes its place.

Man is by nature selfish. If he has no reasons for being generous at his own personal expense, he will in most cases, not be generous. He seeks after wealth and power almost heedlessly. If state controls are to be removed, then self control must take its place, and if self control is to be accepted by persons, against their nature, they must be given some supernatural reason for accepting it, and this is the answer which Christianity provides. In this light the reason for the decay of society is obvious. Lacking Christian virtues, it places a false value upon material things, and cannot tell its members save in terms of force, why they should not transgress against one another.

The other thing which we indicated as axiomatic, is the fact that communism cannot live with Christianity. Communists will try to deny this, to say that the two can coexist, but it is clear that they cannot. Christianity depends for its force upon a belief in the existence of God. Communism depends upon the denial of the existence of God.

If individual rights are to stem from the state and not from the nature of man, then there can be no God, for to admit a God would be to deny this power to the state. And what is the end of communist philosophy? Surely it is the classless society, a paradise on earth, which requires for its justification, an acceptance of the fact that there is no paradise elsewhere. For this says communism, is man's end. It is a purely physical one: it must therefore deny the supernatural, and thus Christianity is abhorrent to it. In a communist state, the conflict between the nature of man as it is, and as the communists would like it to be, must be such that the teaching of Christianity on this point would have to be excluded. In other words, communism and christianity are incompatible.

Too readily do we accept the indolent attitude of mind of others: too seldom are we prepared to form our own judgment. Too easily do we render lip service to Christianity, and forget what it means.

"There is a world elsewhere."

-F.L.C.

DEBATING CENSURE

(Continued from page 1)

mind, mentioning the Socialist Club as an example.

Direct Connections

Mr. Whitta, supporting Mr. Elwood, stated in effect that the University DID have a good effect on the community, but it could do much better in developing its potentialities. V.U.C. has, for example, no "direct connection with the community" ("It has the cable car.")

Melda O'Reilly, pointing out the social benefits of the University, spoke of the influence of the Debating Society and Drama Club, and, incidentally, Professor Gordon's radio talks on the use of English ("Scottish") and the theses written every so often. She admitted that she had been to a school for scandal (drama). She also drew attention to student pranks, such as "feeding elephants with rubber balls." It is not nice to see such base things coming out.

First speaker from the floor, Marjorie Munro, mentioned in passing that university students "later teach OTHER children" and their influence was then considerable in the community.

Procedure

At this point Mr. Milburn moved "That the previous question be now put." Mr. Bollinger ruled the motion out of order then vacated the chair when Mr. Milburn moved "That the chairman's ruling be disagreed with." The motion was put and lost, following which Mr. Cruden took the platform and insisted that the members of the negative were insane. The chairman ruled that this was a point of fact, and so would be answered later.

In a semi-oratorical outburst of magnificent eloquence, Frank Curtin supported the affirmative and maintained that the debate hinged around the word "commendable." The corporate aspect was missing from university life—a university education fails to provide a cultural community because it was not intended to do this, it is crammed with specialised knowledge but without the broader and fuller aspects of an "education."

Mr. Gallate rose and suggested that we need not come to V.U.C. for

a 'varsity education . . . "we, all of us, could have gone to another institution . . ." ("Speak for yourself") and concluded "without further ado . . ." (Mr. Milburn: "Say adieu now").

Mr. Milburn then took the platform and surpassed even F. L. Curtin's efforts at oratory. Who sets the standards of commendability? he wanted to know. And since there was no one to set the standards of commendability, who was to say whether or not a certain act was not commendable? These questions remain unanswered.

Summing Up

Miss Olsen and Mr. Elwood then summed up their respective cases. The latter replied to Mr. Cruden that he was in full control of his senses (cheers), and that he and his partner had accepted the "sharp edge of the wedge" in this debate in decency ("Ooooo, he accepted indecency!"). "If the utter irrelevancies of the opposing side were tarred, they would make a main highway."

The motion was then put to the audience, and was carried (in the negative form) by eight votes to five. A second vote was taken to enable Mr. Milburn to cast his vote, and the voting this time was even. The chairman declined to use his casting vote, as he felt that the motion was an indication of an opinion of the House, rather than a fact.

Placings

The judge, Miss C. Forde, gave her placings to speakers as follows:

- First—Mr. Milburn
- Second—Mr. Curtin
- Third—Mr. Cruden
- Fourth—Melda O'Reilly, Mr. Elwood
- Fifth—Mr. Whitta
- Sixth—Miss Anne Olsen

She pointed out that wit is allowable on the stage only if it is used as a debating point. Mr. Elwood read from his notes, which completely ruined the effect of "What we say, we say in all sincerity." The use made of notes, if at all, should be much less obvious.

The meeting ended with supper served at 10.30 p.m.

-B. C. SHAW



Text For the Week

Kiwis, look to the Orient, that way lies your future.

Question of the Week

How sweet do you reckon toothpaste manufacturers can get carbon dioxide?

And What Do You Want to Do When You Grow Up?

"I want to live on the Left Bank and drink wine in the original language."

"I want to be a beachcomber like Gauguin and paint niggers and see a green coconut and say, 'I want that coconut for dinner; I'll wait till it drops.'"

"I want to be a hermit and live in a cave just off the bus route. There I will grow a filthy beard and smoke Sobranies and go down in history as the only Kiwi who didn't drink beer on Saturday afternoon."

"I want to be a savant dour with severe grey suit and stripey tie. I'll have letters from all the learned societies. In my old and disillusioned age I want to realise the insolubility of human problems."

"All I want is to see the orchard in blossom."

Money is the Root of All Evil

"I came out" three times," she said as she sippingly sipped her tea from a bone china cup. "When I got married I thought we would have to curtail our social activities but Jack and I decided to have only four children as we could go to more parties. However, the instruction book was not illustrated so we weren't too successful. Eventually we solved that problem by sending them to an approved boarding school. Children are such a bore don't you think? . . ."

A.G.M. MOTIONS DUMPED

(Continued from page 1)

Two of Six

So we find that of six motions passed at the A.G.M., two have been rejected, mainly on financial grounds. Should we complain? No; the problem can only be solved quickly by cutting the grants to the affiliated clubs and societies, which would be seriously affected by such a drastic move.

Gym Controller

The gym controller, Trev Turner, is to be congratulated for his efficiency and enthusiasm in getting the gym looking presentable again. As we will not get the Students Union building for at least six years, we will have to be content with the gym, and anyone who helps it to last those six years is a benefactor to the community.

Cheaper Books

The following recommendation was passed at the Finance meeting on Tuesday night: "That it be recommended to the Executive that the accountant be requested to write to Modern Books obtaining information in connection with the proposal whereby Modern Books were to supply books at a discount to bona fide students in consideration of our shareholding." We understand that the Association holds two £1 shares in this business, and if they were to comply with our request, the student would be able to save considerable expenses in connection with the purchasing of text-books.

A Celebration

The last meeting of the exec. was one with a special significance for two members of the exec., Elaine Foote and Trev Turner, who were celebrating their 21sts; but we anticipate.

The revised budget as presented by

ROBERT H. SMITH

119a MANNERS STREET.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

For All Student Activities.
EXTRAV—TAJ—CAPPING
RAPID HIGH QUALITY SERVICE.

LETTERS

Error

SIR, The Mathematical and Physical Society of this College has asked me to communicate with you informing you of the deep concern felt by the Society over the use of the word "insignificant" in your article of July 1. We feel sure that this can only be a printer's error but we would welcome an assurance from you that this is so. Trusting that we will hear from you in this matter. I am, etc.

A. B. WILLIAMS,

Secretary, Mathematical and Physical Society.

(We apologise for the error. Nothing insignificant ever appears in "Salient."—Ed.)

And Mr. Middleton

SIR, —Thanks for seeking my approval of your spelling and editing (Report, Exec. Meeting, issue of July 15). Perhaps I should have stated that I like also to see "witticisms" printed correctly, especially in sub-headings (same report).—I am, etc.

E. MIDDLETON,

(Thank you for your obvious interest. There will be three further issues this year. Ed.)

SIR, I don't read your newspaper, but a friend told me that a certain L. D. Austin (he said he was sure it was him) had written complaining that someone had spelt Emlyn Williams' Christian name wrongly. L. D. Austin is certainly living up to his reputation. As L.D.A. was sure to have been one of the few who attended the performance of the Drama Club's production of E. Williams' "Spring 1600," what a pity he did contact a member of the Drama Club and have a talk about spelling.

More people would have noticed him if he had. I am, etc.

MODESTY

(Your friend made a mistake. It wasn't L. D. Austin but E. Middleton.—Ed.)

the finance committee allows an extra £50 for "Salient" expenses (total for this year £350, last year £300), reduction in club grants of £160, provision for Capping and Extrav losses of £200, and an increase of £100 in Students' Association fees (total next year £4500). A loss of £20 on "Salient" literary issue was expected, and £50 was reserved towards the cost of putting out "Spike" next year.

Last year, £1860 was budgeted for club grants, of which £1200 was to be for winter clubs (and £900 has already been granted). £100 was spent on the golf, hockey, International Students and badminton clubs.

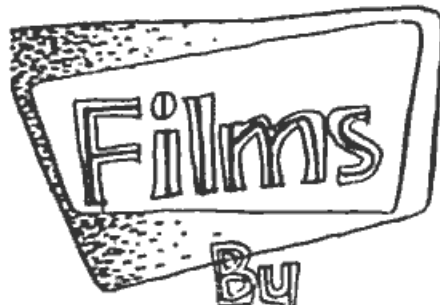
A travelling subsidy for members of Winter Tournament was granted to the extent of £1/5/- each. Mr. Trev Hill was given Tournament status as President of the N.Z.U.S.-N.A., and two "Salient" Tournament reporters were approved.

The official meeting concluded at 11.15 p.m. and a suitable presentation to the pair was made. Then came supper, and amidst an atmosphere of oysters and beer the following quips came to our ear from a group to one side: "Chatwin can't alter OUR constitutions" (two nice young women); "Fat men have a lot of feeling . . ." (Miss Thom); "Nothing wrong with Tim Beaglehole's hair, but it's nothing like his brother's!"; "So you would say that the body exists to support the hair . . ." (Ian Free). We left at 12.30 having partaken of what news there was.

Conclusion

And so we end as we began. We say that the Exec. is just as responsible and as efficient as the previous one; although the president is perhaps not yet as adept at conducting Exec. meetings as was his predecessor, he has plenty of the necessary acumen and knowledge to fulfil the expectations of those who know him.

-BRIAN C. SHAW.



Ian Rich

O. Henry's Full House

IT was a fair bet that Hollywood would film some of O. Henry's stories. After all England had done Somerset Maugham, and successfully too. But film producers turn out to be fools more often than angels; so be it with the producers of "Full House." O. Henry's stories, quite frankly, are not good film material. Half their charm is the author's style—quietly humorous, economical, straight-to-the-point—which helps the superficiality of the subject matter. O. Henry is superficial, but, apart from the style, his stories have an appeal because of their snap, surprise endings. The present film version retains the surprise ending but there is not the faintest suggestion of a cinematic style that reflects O. Henry's literary style.

No that is an exaggeration. The first story "The Cop and the Anthem" is the best because its director has attempted a lightness of touch, an economy of dialogue and incidence. The original story is relatively unchanged, except for an added character which is essentially for the telling of the tale. Charles Laughton and David Wayne are worth watching and provide the only acting delights of the film. Those who go to see the film merely to see Marilyn Monroe will be disappointed. She and all that goes with her are on the screen for only three minutes. "The Clarion Call" is almost a total

bore. We have the beginning of the heaviness that is to overload the rest of the film. The story has been expounded and the theme and character distorted. The film's hero becomes strong and big-chested, the original small-wirey detective Jenkins. The villain acquires a girl friend (he must have some charm) and becomes more a victim of fate rather than a victim of his own bragging and boasting. Richard Widmark gives an extravagant performance that has the pretentiousness of the direction and scenario.

"The Last Leaf" brings the transformation of two elderly painting sisters into two young beauties, one of whom is seriously ill from that well-known Hollywood complaint—humiliation or a hangover from a misfire marriage. What an imaginative film version this would have been! A painter's story, with a painter's atmosphere and a painter's set. But instead we get camera gymnastics, a cinematic white elephant out of a literary painted cottage.

The spirit of Bud Abbott and Lou Costello invades "The Ransom of Red Chief," together with their explosive motor-cars, honey bear licks, night caps and night gowns. Fred Allen and Oscar Levant fight against the director and introduce another spirit of their own. The result? A translation that is not O. Henry, direction that lacks style and an entertainment that is dull.

"The Gift of the Magi" suffers from over sophistication. The couple of the original story were essentially simple-naive in their desire to give each other a Christmas present. The climax of the story is spoiled because of unnecessary window shopping by Jeanne Crain and Farley Granger. The two main characters are miscast; both players are not sincere enough, or open, or uncomplicated.

"Full House" only trump card is polish of technique. But this is a doubtful virtue. A bright, glossy surface hides simplicity and frankness. The producers should not have sacrificed those qualities.

Grading: ***

BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from page 1)

that even these ends are not allayed by birth control. For where can there be mutual love when a man is using his wife "no more than as a prostitute" (Aquinas) wanting no more from her than what a prostitute offers? The dignity of a woman is debased and neither party has any respect for the other. And seeking satisfaction at any cost does not allay concupiscence. Without the consequence of offspring and the responsibility of looking after children—with no fear of unpleasant results concupiscence is not allayed but increased. Therefore birth control frustrates both the primary and secondary ends of marriage.

Secondly it is against conjugal faith. In entering a marriage contract the husband gives his wife sole and perpetual right of his genital organs for acts which of their nature are apt to produce offspring, and on her part the wife gives these rights to her husband. But birth control hinders the creation of new life, so that the marriage contract, although deadly serious, is not fulfilled. The essential purpose of birth control is the destruction of the human race by the prevention of offspring and this is against nature when indulged in by married people.

Thirdly, when birth control is used frequently it kills human love and consumes the health of the parties. A woman becomes as a prostitute and man a prey to his appetites.

THE MEDICAL THEORY

Those were the moral aspects of birth control, said Dr. Weaver, and he stated clearly that that was the only point of view on which he was qualified to speak definitely. But he pointed out be broken, with impunity. On the that if a thing is morally wrong, then it follows that it is totally

wrong. As far as the Asian and Japanese problems were concerned the views of an expert economist had to be sought.

The speaker did, however, adduce as further arguments the opinions of qualified English gynaecologists, the majority of whom oppose birth control on medical grounds. Haldiday Sutherland and Lord Dawson speak of the danger of sterility. Dr. R. A. Gibbons agrees with this, pointing out that physiological laws cannot be broken with impunity. On the subject of mental health Dr. Louise McIlroy, Professor of Gynaecology at the London School of Medicine, says, "Neuroses are largely the result of contraceptives."

THE MEDICAL VIEWPOINT

These are only a few statements made by authorities on this admittedly controversial subject but they are based on a theory of testicular hormones which pass with germ cells from male to female. These are said to be necessary for the physical and mental wellbeing of the female but are immediately destroyed if injected unnaturally into the female. The only passage through which they will effectively operate are those same Fallopian tubes where, in the normal course of events, conception takes place.

Obstruction by birth control by these hormones causes physical and nervous debility in the female and there is no known method which can avoid this result.

Father Weaver's talk was followed by questions touching on topics such as "the safe period," sterilisation of the insane, and Freud's theories of the "ego" and the "id." The evening closed with Mr. M. J. O'Brien moving a vote of thanks to the speaker for his well reasoned and balanced lecture.

—D.D.

A CONVENIENT STORY
Or THIS MODERN AGE

THE following article is reprinted, with permission, from the "Upper Hutt Times." It seems that even in this barren age the necessities of mankind are to the fore in public discussions.

If 1953 is to be looked back upon as having any special significance, it is just possible that it will be remembered as the year in which public conveniences came into their own; in fact it is so much the year of the convenience that the subject received more than passing attention from the borough fathers of Upper Hutt at their get-together last Wednesday night.

It was only a pity that the boys of Weir House could not have received intimation of the Upper Hutt discussion, and sent out a delegate, if only as a courtesy gesture to add authority to the debate.

The subject was brought up without special enthusiasm by the Borough Engineer, who pointed out that a public convenience, along with other edifices, figured in irregularities on the Upper Hutt town plan: there was provision in the plan for a convenience in Station Street, whereas it was also proposed to reconstruct

one behind the Council building in Russell Street.

The Engineer, who wanted to know if Station Street convenience was still required on the plan, could not have anticipated the gleeful manner in which councillors tackled the subject.

Perhaps wary of having an edifice that might be used as a Mecca for prayer meetings in protest against his administration, the Mayor quickly explained that the building proposed for Russell Street would be nothing ornate. "It won't be a Taj Mahal," he said.

A breath of wind to be heard outside might even have been a long, disappointed sigh coming from Weir House, where presumably, the policy is for bigger, better, brighter conveniences, and more of them.

A few puns must have been borrowed from Extravaganza—and not even Extrav of this year, which is the up-to-date authority on public convenience puns—brought this jolly little discussion along to the decision—that the convenience in Station Street be deleted from the plan.

A meeting of students to consider the implications and possible serious consequences of this decision is expected to be heard in Courtenay Place this week.

It began when we were talking about churchgoing with an American girl one day. She was, we gathered, generally in favour of the idea, though she wasn't doing anything about it. She offered a little explanation: "It doesn't seem worthwhile bothering to join a church this year, but next year when Chuck and I are married, we'll join one in our neighbourhood." In the meditative fashion of brides-to-be, she went on: "I used to go to a Methodist Sunday School, but I think we'll join the Episcopalian Church—I like their services better." Startled, and, it must be confessed, a little scandalised, we murmured, sotto voce, "But doesn't it matter at all whether a religion is true or not?" Afterwards we were glad we hadn't said this out loud because no one likes to confound a blushing bride, and we've since found countless people at university and elsewhere who have the same quaint notion. They approach churchgoing the way they approach stargazing: you go where, when and if you want to go. The quality of the aesthetic and emotional experience is what counts, not the truth or falsity of the doctrines preached and acted upon by the particular Church. Surely a more reasonable attitude is that of the late Professor C. E. M. Joad and the writer and mountaineer Sir Arnold Lunn, who both thought that "If Christianity is true it is the most important thing in the world," and therefore worth their while studying and writing books of controversy about. They agreed, too, that one of the things a man's reason is competent to do and should do is to decide whether the claims of religion are false or true. This is fair enough—you'll find the same sort of assumption being made every day by university examiners, who persist in regarding young minds as capable of weighing up evidence. They are even capable of positive discourtesy to students who prefer to believe Samuel Johnson the author of "Hamlet" or Napoleon an Englishman in disguise. Opinions which have no less foundation, when you come to think of it, than such announcements by students who should know better as: "Oh, but I'm sure God couldn't be like that!" or "But I prefer to think of Christ as the perfect man." If God exists at all, his nature could hardly correspond to all the multifarious prejudices and preferences which human beings have expressed through the centuries, for their ideas of what would be most suitable and pleasing in the Deity have probably changed about as often as the fashion in hats.

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ANNUAL COMBINED MEETING

WOMEN'S COMMON ROOM.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2,—2.30 pm.

Speaker: REV. PROF. G. E. HUGHES

Subject: TOLERANCE AND RELIGION

Rugby . . .

Varsity Finds Form

Teamwork and Jarden

FOR a number of reasons University's 26-8 win against Hutt last Saturday is difficult to describe, for victory was achieved by a combination of individual brilliance and great teamwork. The large crowd expected a thrilling match and they received full value for their money as Varsity fought back after being badly hustled in the opening stages, and slowly gained control of the game.

The individual brilliance was supplied by All Black Ron Jarden who scored 23 of the points. To do this was extraordinary enough—but to score most of these points in the last few minutes was amazing. How glad we were to see Varsity win, but we were equally glad to see Jarden confound those people who expect genius to flower in every game. Critics have at times used nearly all the superlatives available in describing Jarden's attacking play and I will not try to outdo them. Let us hope that he gets the chances in the remaining representative games to prove again that he is a true University player—one who has determination, ability and, above all, brains.

Jarden could not have scored so many points had it not been for the efforts of the University pack who supplied their supporters with a great thrill as they gradually wore down the virile Hutt eight. Early in the game the Hutt forwards had the game all their own way. University were hustled. Bad mistakes were made and infringements were many and glaring. In several line-outs the ball disappeared into a forest of University arms and then came out on the Hutt side. But when the forwards settled down, it was a different story. They outrucked and outscrummed Hutt; they "out thought" them too. For the first time for some weeks they went as a pack and it would be idle to sort out individuals, except to say that John Fisher's return to his best form was most welcome. The forwards' only fault was that they sometimes knocked the ball back in the line-outs instead of rucking or passing it. These tactics must be nightmarish to a half-back when his opponents are breaking fast.

Consequently Larry Savage had a torrid time for a while until the

clever rucking of the Varsity forwards trapped the Hutt loose forwards offside several times. Savage showed determination in breaking through a tackle to score a blindside try but some of his passes to Fitzpatrick were difficult to take. This was not always Savage's fault as Fitzpatrick was standing well back and clear of the fast Hutt forwards. It would have been a great half to have put the ball into his hands every time. Brian Fitzpatrick had an "in and out" day. Beaten three times by Riley, he was, nevertheless, next to Jarden, the person most directly responsible for Victoria's win. He "kicked" several of Jarden's tries and nearly put the ball in a position for Jarden to score another. Jim Fitzgerald was shaken by a first spell tackle and even more so by one in the second spell, after which he took little part in proceedings. He kept Loader in check and the try that the latter scored was no fault of Fitzgerald's. Brian Battell looked as if he had played too many games on the wing this year to remember what it was like to be a centre. Tony Clark, who replaced Muller, once again showed promise and kept the speedy Mooney in check. Osborne was not quite his usual self—that is, he was caught in possession once—or maybe twice!

The next game, against Marist, will, if University win, be the last club game of the season. What "Salient" would like to see as a glorious finale to the club Rugby season is a typical University game. If the forwards play as they did on Saturday, and give a better service from the line-outs, and if the backs speed their passing up, we will win. If the weather is fine, let the team spin the ball and give us some of the brilliant football of which they are capable but which this season's mud has prevented.

TABLE TENNIS

LAST week, playing in their second match of the second round of the interclub competitions, the Varsity A grade team scored their first win of the season, defeating Technical 8-4. This places Varsity bottom equal with Technical in the competition. Technical's points were scored when they beat Varsity in the first round.

The star of the match was Tony Darroch. He showed a welcome return to form, winning all four of his games. A paragraph about Tony was unfortunately cut out of last week's "Salient" owing to lack of space. Tony was in the Wellington representative team last year, and was ranked third in Wellington. He was selected as a candidate for the New Zealand team to the World Championships. However, this year his performances have been disappointing and he has lost to players he would have beaten last year. By showing a return to his old form last week he has made prospects much brighter for the remaining matches of the season.

Note. A couple of weeks ago Tony made up for any bad luck he may have had by winning second prize in Tatts, a rare and outstanding performance for a university student!

—A.R.

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JOINT S.C.M.-C.S.G. MEETING

THE annual meeting of the Student Christian Movement and the Catholic Students' Guild was held on Sunday, July 27. Forty-two members of the two groups attended an informal discussion on "The Implications of a Belief in God." For the C.S.G. Pat Hutchings spoke on the philosophy of religion and the present state of Christianity. Stewart Johnson spoke briefly on the necessity of a scientific approach to the problem confronting modern Christians; this scientific method was at present being used in Catholic Action, he said.

For the S.C.M., the President, Alan Quigley stressed the importance of the dual knowledge of both God and self; but the latter cannot be attained without the former. No man can attain self-knowledge without the foretaste of the knowledge of God, and all that such a knowledge implies. As Calvin says, "God is not known where there is no religion or piety."

The second speaker for the S.C.M., Eric Chapman, pointed out the necessity of personal contact, with the quality of friendship that it implies, in securing converts from the pagan world. People are rarely converted en masse, so that the method of personal contact must remain the major weapon of defence and attack of Christians.

All speakers spoke of the place of Christianity in the college, and of its effects here so far.

A further meeting has been arranged for Sunday afternoon, in the women's common room. Professor Hughes of the Philosophy Department will chair the meeting and will also speak. An invitation is extended to all. Afternoon tea will be provided. —B. C. SHAW.

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RACING

WHEREAS "SALIENT" IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN "ORGAN OF STUDENT OPINION" AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SUCH STUDENT OPINION HAS BY A SMALL MAJORITY EXPRESSED ITSELF TO BE NOT IN FAVOUR OF A SMALL RACING COVERAGE ON THIS PAGE IT IS HEREBY ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WILL BE NO RACING COVERAGE IN "SALIENT"—SPORTS ED.

Harriers . . .

Teams Race Goes to V.U.C.

Cross-Country

Championships

LAST Saturday at Trentham Racecourse, the V.U.C. Harrier Club scored its third successive victory of the season in inter-club events. As an indication of the high standard of running being shown by Varsity runners this year, it is interesting to note that Varsity's four runners to count all finished in the first fifteen. Ross Rawnsley was running at his best to finish second, 33sec behind the individual winner, Brian Derwin (Scottish). Rawnsley thus confirmed the excellent form he has shown recently in winning the Vosseller Shield and the V.U.C. Club Championship, being closely followed home in both these races by his team-mate, Clem Hawke.

At the end of the first mile the Scottish pair, Derwin and Graeme Stevens, were leading from a bunch of University runners, comprising Hawke, Rawnsley, Dick Gilbert, and Mike Truebridge. At the half-way mark, running very smoothly Derwin looked all set for victory, having opened up a gap of 30yds from Rawnsley. Hawke had meanwhile dropped back to fifth place, with Gilbert a few places behind. There was little change in these positions throughout the second lap, Rawnsley finishing strongly for second place and Hawke a somewhat disappointing fifth. Gilbert ran well, but not quite up to his unexpected Dorne Cup form, to finish eighth. Truebridge (15th) ran well to complete the quartet. The performances this season of Cohn Candy (17th), member of the Canterbury Provincial team which won the National Championship last year, are a poor reflection of last season's form. It is to be hoped that he will show a return to his best form at the forthcoming Winter Tournament.

In the B Grade section the teams race was extremely clear cut, Varsity runners filling the first five places. This is just another indication of the all-round high standard of the sport at V.U.C. this year. It may be of interest to note that both the first and the last men home were Varsity runners!

The club should feel justly proud that it is to be represented in the Wellington Provincial team at the National Cross-Country Championships, to be held at Trentham over the same course on Saturday week, by Ross Rawnsley and Clem Hawke. Dick Gilbert is second emergency, but will run as an individual if his services are not required.

As a result of last Saturday's races the team for the N.Z. Universities Winter Tournament at Auckland has been selected as follows; R. Gilbert, C. Candy, T. Beaglehole, J. Mahan, A.

Gow, R. Croker. This team, containing quite a bit of talent, is one of the strongest Vic has ever fielded, and should therefore stand a good chance of winning the teams race. As regards individual honours the prospects are quite good too.

VIC MEN WIN BASKETBALL

BY showing remarkable accuracy with their free-shots, the V.U.C. men's A team beat Marist A on Monday evening. R. Salt, the left-handed shot, scored 7 out of 10 attempts, while R. Walton made 3 out of 5 attempts. In addition, Walton scored 3 field goals while T. Ryan and D. Francis scored 1 each. S. Moral was on the sideline with a sprained ankle but he should be fit for Tournament. The score was 20-13.

The B team scored a moral victory over Fire Brigade B by holding the score to 17-14, with only four men. R. Read scored 8 points and R. Nelson 6. With an ounce of luck they would have beaten Fire Brigade as they had a couple of field goals which ringed the hoop and came out. —CAROL SPOT.

S.C.M.

THE S.C.M. annual general meeting was held on Tuesday, July 21 in A.2 at 8 p.m.

The following officers were elected: President: Alan Quigley. Vice-President: Janet MacKenzie. Secretary: Jenny Boina. Treasurer: Gwenda Cameron. Committee: Joan Farquhar, Ralph Robertshawe, Robin Smith, Malcolm Tait, Beverley Watkins, Alastair Whitehaw.

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