

# Salient

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

Vol. 20, No. 3

WELLINGTON, 4th APRIL, 1957

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## Visit to Russia\*

### SIR DAVID IMPRESSED

"Salient" recently interviewed the Chancellor of the University of New Zealand, the Hon. Sir David Smith, who was a member of the delegation from the University of New Zealand to the Soviet Union last September. While Sir David was most interested in legal matters, he gave us some more general impressions of the trip.

In three weeks the members of the delegation visited the Universities of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Georgia, had many discussions with the University people there, visited a people's court, took in the theatre and ballet, and had time for sight-seeing as well.

From their observations and conversations, mostly with University people, they found that people in general believed that the Soviet system in which the state is established on the basis that it should own all the land and be the only employer, was right, and any Capitalist system where one man may employ another for private profit, was wrong. They did, however, apparently make an exception in favour of the medical profession. This system appeared to be supported by continual propaganda of all kinds—films, press, radio and of course the schools. Most important, too, seemed to be home influence, especially that of grandfather and grandmother who had known both worlds and preferred the later one. Soviet youth is strongly given the idea from all these sources that the Communist party has saved the country and hence feels duty-bound to work for, and to support, the state.

The differences between our two sorts of political organization were not glossed over but were discussed quite freely and were in fact the subject of strong argument from time to time. Despite these differences the delegation was everywhere well received and treated with great friendliness. They were free to walk where they wanted and to see what they desired to see, whether it appeared good or bad, and did so. Cameras were used everywhere.

#### Housing

Much of the housing in Russia is still in a very poor state but new blocks of flats are going up everywhere and the Soviet authorities did not seem to mind if visitors saw what remains to be done. Heavy industry appeared to have made enormous advances. Consumer goods on the other hand, with some exceptions (e.g., cameras and television sets) were below the standard of similar goods in capitalist countries, but were said to be improving. Food in the hotels was good.

The people in the streets appeared to be orderly, quiet, and obedient—moulded, it seemed, to a pattern by their education. The idea of equality between the sexes is carried out to the fullest extent. Women do heavy labouring work, but they also hold responsible administrative positions.

#### Education

In the field of Education, the delegation was greatly impressed by the emphasis placed both in schools and universities on mathematics and science. Today, students who have passed through the ten-year course leading to the university number twice as many as the universities need to take in accordance with the plans for study which have been based on the country's economic plans. Many of those unable to enter university are given correspondence courses and this factor is becoming very important in higher education.

The total result is that there is a very live output of trained minds from the University, particularly in science and technology.

The delegation found that the staff and students of the Universities they visited welcomed the visit of the

representatives of Western countries. A number of New Zealand films were shown to staff and students, who were impressed with scenes of New Zealand life including those showing Maori-Pakeha relations, and after the showing asked endless questions. Discussions between staff and students were very free.

#### Reforms

The members of the delegation were told that a change of policy had occurred since Stalin's death in 1953, and the impression received was that there was a greater emphasis on individual rights than hitherto. Restrictions of various sorts have been eased. For example, foreign visits such as their own are now permitted,

and the Chancellor was told that a new law permitting workers to change jobs on giving two weeks' notice is now in operation. This last was previously quite unheard of.

In scientific fields, University teachers and students clearly have considerable freedom of thought and discussion, and other teachers seem to have a greater freedom to air their own views than prior to 1953. Yet, Sir David thought that they would not be free to express views on political matters contrary to those held by the State authorities. Despite some liberalization fairly rigorous controls are still in existence. Censorship of books and papers is very strict. Sir David himself spent some time trying to find in a library or on a bookstand a copy of an English newspaper printed in an English-speaking country, but was finally convinced that one could not be obtained by any ordinary means.

Sir David suggested that the Soviet Government, while permitting more freedom of thought and discussion, had failed to realise how difficult this movement would be to control. It had failed to see this because in the past its control had been complete and the last few years have been a very new experiment. Educated people whom the delegation saw most of, like this new opportunity to meet visitors from abroad and to exchange views even though they were totally different.

## WHERE BRITAIN GOES

Now that the tumult and the fighting has died down in the Suez Canal Area, a few reflections on New Zealand's reactions to the crisis may be appropriate.

Regardless of whether the actions of the British and French Governments were justified or unjustified—either completely or partially—the implications of certain actions here should cause concern to the student of politics.



"I hear Eden got the dump, and MacMillan has been left with the hump."

The principle enunciation by the Prime Minister that "Where Britain Stands, We Stand; Where Britain Goes, We Stand; Where Britain qualifies, no ifs or buts, in our loyalty to Britain" is an expression of political immaturity which might have been understandable in the case of a colony newly granted self government.

Moreover, it is an immoral doctrine. If the British Government performs a morally wrong action, New Zealand is committed to unconditional support. Or does Mr. Holland believe that the British Government—any British Government—is incapable of any morally wrong actions?

The standpoints of the correspondents supporting intervention ranged from an advocacy of the classical prescription to send the grubstake up the river and cow the Wogs with a show of force" to somewhat more sophisticated claims that the Government has spoken and we should obey; that because of ties of race, culture, etc., we should be "loyal" to Britain and support Her absolutely.

The first view considers the matter not at all in moral terms, but purely in terms of force and power; the second exalts the state above morality, above the conscience of the individual, and is pure totalitarianism; the third stretches the concept of loyalty so far that it almost becomes meaningless and can be used to justify almost any course of action.

The implications for the Commonwealth of unconsulted actions by member states were not considered either by Government spokesmen or editorial writers until Dr. Scholefield intervened towards the end of the controversy.

Indeed, at times, undertones of hysteria were evident (from both sides), most notably in the aftermath of the Northey broadcast. For the most part, criticism was directed not so much at what Dr. Northey said, but at the fact that he was allowed to be critical of Government actions through an institution controlled by the Government!

Russell Price.

THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY  
WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND

## DRAMA

Be sure not to miss the V.U.C. major production for 1957—Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard"—at the Little Theatre from April the First to the Sixth.

Block booking concessions are available for student groups for "Oklahoma" at the Wellington Opera House (April 27—May 11).

There was a young lady called Clover  
Who sat on the white cliffs of Dover  
When along came a student  
More ardent than prudent  
Who kissed her, and then threw her over.

## FARE FIGHT

The stand being taken by the V.U.C. Stud. Ass. (in association with the Training College Stud Ass.) on the City Council's recent imposition of substantial tramfare increases, is worthy of every student's support.

The chief function of the Stud. Ass. is to protect the interests of students, and the current campaign is a welcome sign that Exec. has not forgotten this fact.

The City Transport Department's ambiguous attitude to concession fares for students, and its short-sighted policy of attempting to make the users pay through the nose for its own inefficiency, have angered all students who use the Department's facilities.

An article in this issue makes it clear that V.U.C. would not have been built where it is had it not been for the extreme shrewdness of one of the cable-car's early promoters. Ever since, V.U.C. (and Training Coll.) have supplied a large proportion of the cable-car's users.

This tentacle of the municipal transport octopus has for many years run at a profit and helped meet the deficit on the rest.

This situation amounts to positive victimization of students, who as a proverbially impoverished section of the population, should in justice be receiving some sort of concession.

If it can be done in Caledonian Dunedin, why can't it be done in Wellington?

The Stud. Ass. has right and justice, as well as the solid ranks of student opinion, behind it in its stand on this matter.

## IN CAMERA

The last Exec. Meeting was lively with plenty of discussion and this time, and interest shown by all present.

One of the first actions was to dive into committee. It would be against all traditions if all Exec. matters were open to the students whom they are supposed to represent. Once out of their committee, "Salient" reporter was allowed to hear the motion "that we reaffirm business conducted during committee". Other business apparently fit for public consumption, was that the secretary make investigations about the possibility of erecting more lockers, and various appointments were made. "Salient" noted with especial approval the decision to increase the office secretary's salary to £11. Mrs. Yaldwyn is, with apologies to our representatives, worth several Execs., and it is she who handles most of the Stud. Ass. affairs.

At the beginning of the University year the Students' Association organizes an evening for each of the faculties (except Law which makes arrangements through its own club). The Science and Commerce Faculty Evenings were held in the Common Room on Monday, March 19 and Tuesday 20 with lavish suppers supplied by Miss Rosie and co. The Arts Faculty met on Thursday in the Staff Room with a reasonable supper of biscuits and no Professors, we are told. These functions were highly successful. After the formal introductions staff and students mingled and chatted over supper. About 50—80 attended.

# SALIENT

THURSDAY, 4th APRIL, 1957

## APOLOGIA LITERARIA

From time to time one hears voices from the hills complaining that the reviews of plays and films in "Salient" are pointless on the grounds (1) that generally by the time the paper comes out the film or play concerned has finished its run in Wellington;

(2) that no-one in the University is qualified to guide the opinions of others in affairs of the arts, and (3) that nobody reads the reviews—or at any rate that only a relatively small proportion of students take a sufficiently great interest in films and plays to care to see anybody else's opinion on them.

In considering these arguments it is first of all necessary to consider what the purpose might be in including reviews in each issue of "Salient". It is expected that the reader will look to our review in order to decide whether a current film would be worth seeing? Or is he perhaps to glance at it afterwards in order to decide what the film was like?

It seems to us that the value of our reviews cannot be stated as simply as that; we do not intend simply to give to those who have read the puffs in the daily papers a second opinion on what they should go to next Saturday. And we certainly would not wish merely to make opinions easily available to those who are unable to form opinions of their own.

Ideally, we feel, a review should both guide opinion and reflect it. This means that the reviewer of a play or film must keep several things in

mind as he works; he must remember that there will be SOME who will be influenced by his opinion in deciding what to see. Thus he must show the NATURE of the work he is reviewing. We don't want the studious secret-filing-lover to sneak off to a 'delightful light farce' at the Paramount to find himself at a silent film with sub-titles in Spanish.

But, more important than this, the reviewer must try to give some reflection of student opinion. This means, not that he should lurk in corridor and cafe with an ear cocked for some chance remark concerning the work he wishes to review, but rather than in writing the review he should bear in mind the manner in which students generally could be expected to react to the play or film. And this does not mean he should at all cost avoid a review that most students would disagree with. It means rather that he should endeavour to produce something against which other students will be able to compare their own opinions to some purpose.

We have no statistics to show us how many students go so far as to read the regular reviews. It seems to us however, that the place is not such a wasteland as some would have us believe. Film Society, Drama Club, Literary Society and other cultural organisations are flourishing more than ever. Reviews of films and plays are of undoubted interest to these, and are surely not completely ignored by those of more normal inclinations.

—J.S.

## Victoria Story—2

## DRAGGED FROM STABLE BY THE CABLE

Victoria College; an untidy agglomeration of buildings of varying sites and architectural styles clustered on a site better suited for breeding lambs than building a hall of learning—how the blazes did it get there?

When Victoria was founded in 1899 (see last issue), like little orphan Annie she had a name but no home to call her own.

Classes were scattered around the City in odd rooms—in the old Technical School in Victoria Street, and the Girls' College and a select private school (now Thorndon Fire Station) in Pipitea Street. The 98 foundation students ran through the streets from lecture to lecture.

### Around Town

Service was limited at first to English, Classics, Mathematics, and Chemistry—but quickly extended to include Law, Biology, Modern Languages, and Economics. The first time-tables show that nearly all lectures were after 5 p.m. or on Saturday mornings—so even then V.U.C. was primarily a haunt for part-timers.

Agitation began early for Victoria to have a roof over her head of her very own. The Students' Association founded in St. Paul's Schoolroom is co-eval with the College itself, and (at first called 'Students' Society'), Sydney Street, supported the College Council (prime mover: Sir Robert Stout) in a series of manoeuvres designed to obtain the Government's assistance in securing a suitable site for permanent buildings, with room for expansion.

First choice was Mount Cook (site today of Tech. and the Museum, then

of a particularly ugly prison). An eminence above yet in the midst of the City, with a grand view and handy to transport, this seemed the ideal spot. But the Government had other plans for the site, and offered Victoria instead the old Ministerial Residence in Tinakori Road (now a Dental Clinic Annex). This was rejected as an insult.

Another suggestion that the lands set apart for "higher education" in the '50's and occupied Wellington College should be handed over to V.U.C. met with such indignant resistance from the former's Board of Governors that it was dropped.

For two years Victoria carried on a rather tentative corporate existence in far-flung corners of the town. The V.U.C. Debating Society, sponsored directly by the Students' Society in its own first year of life, established the V.U.C. tradition at its Friday evenings in the Sydney Street Schoolroom, where it voted that commerce was antagonistic to art, and that no event in the history of the Colony had had a more injurious effect than the dispatching of contingents to South Africa. Down-towners flocked to hear students wrangle, and as early as 1900, M.P.'s were induced to take the V.U.C. platform on a motion of confidence in the Government.

### Cable Lift

Then, in February 1901, the College Council received a letter from a well-known Featherston squatter and speculator, Mr. Charles Pharazyn. Indicating surprise that no site had yet been fixed for the College, he expressed his "conviction . . . that the one position for it is on the Kelburn Park Reserve, or possibly, if that should not be available, on some of the land higher up".

Anticipating some comment, no doubt, from those irreverent students, he added: "I have hesitated to express this opinion in a public way, because I knew it would be said that I was influenced by my large share in the Kelburn-Karori Tramway"—i.e., the Cable-Car, then recently floated by a private company. "I have, however, too long been subjected to absurd misconstructions of my motives to care what may be said now that I am in a position to make a definite proposal, which I hope will be considered in the spirit in which it is made, viz: If the site I have indicated is decided on, but not otherwise, I shall be happy to give a donation of £1,000 to the College funds . . ."

That clinched it. After some prolonged negotiations with the City Council, 6½ nearly vertical acres of Town Belt were acquired for the College, and Mr. Pharazyn had assured a steadily growing population of users for his Cable-Car by the investment of £1,000 which the College badly needed.

The site itself and the first building, like the Student Union building to come, derived their biggest private contribution from the wool-sheds of the Wairarapa.

Work began on the "old clay patch" after a tussle with the Government for a subsidy, and the Governor (Lord Plunket) laid the foundation stone in August, 1904, while the students themselves excavated a site for tennis-courts and building of their own (our Gym.); Premier Seddon riding up on a bay mare to turn the first sod. These two buildings when finished (the College March, 1906, the Gym. July, 1909) could hardly, even then, have been boasted of as structures of great beauty, but the view from them was unsurpassable, and anyway the spirit that was to dwell there was not to be affected by the shape of her material abode.

And after years of chasing her hat Victoria had at last found her home.

—VICTORIAN

### POSITION VACANT

Now that our ever-sollicitous Exec. has abolished the Salient Business Managership, applications are welcome to assist defunct officer in his various defunct functions.

### WE APOLOGISE

(It is hoped to make this a regular feature)

- We cannot get Exec. right: there is even a Science student, Jill Le Fort who is of course a vital contributor to the smooth running of student affairs. It was our fault for accepting Mr. O'Brien's thumb-nail census as accurate.
- For letting it even be hinted that Stud. Ass. inefficiency was responsible for the lack of Stud. Ass. cards at enrolment. Usually reliable printers were entirely to blame (not "Salient" Printers).
- Sports Editor John Martin is in fact a fifth-year, not a third-year, student.

She suffered, did poor little Floreal, Assault in a Pol. Sci. Tutorial From the Pres. and Hon. Sec. Of the Stud. Ass. Exec. And the whole of the Board Professorial.

I got that book at . . .



**MODERN BOOKS**

48a Manners Street

## DEAR SALIENT

### Vindy Victoria

I fully agree with "Victorian's" view that the name Victoria should be retained for this college. However, the city should bear the same name. The obvious solution to this problem is to rename the City "Victoria".

I am sure that the City fathers and the citizenry as a whole would not object to such a change as in this modern age when all forms of militarism are deplored and condemned by the United Nations, the local inhabitants must be sorely embarrassed in having their City named after a military man.—J.T.S.

### Controversy

Both while at Congress and since the criticism has often been voiced that it was "a good Congress but there was NO CONTROVERSY" or "the speakers were excellent but no-one took them up" or "the discussion lacked fire"—all to the effect that Congress is not what it was. But a "controversy", a violent difference of opinion expressed in heated terms, is quite valueless in itself; it is only worthwhile as a means of discovering the correct point of view. Every controversy means that at least someone is wrong, a state of affairs less desirable than an agreement in which nobody is wrong. It may be, of course, that nobody is right, but if this is so the agreement will sooner or later disintegrate.

Secondly, uniformed controversy is worse than a common desire for information. It is sheer arrogance for an almost totally ignorant layman to differ with an expert for the sake of differing. I do not think I was alone at Congress in being quite innocent of the issues currently in debate among, for example anthropologists, archaeologists, or psychiatrists, and it seems outstandingly foolish to bemoan the absence of a clot who will stick his ignorant neck out for spectators to watch being chopped. In this situation, with a general lack of the necessary specialised and detailed knowledge, intelligent questioning is far more appropriate.

Thirdly, controversy, insofar as it involves some heat in debate, is not as good as discussion which is detached. Emotional intrusion into difference serves only to make the dis-

putants more obstinately set in their own view and less charitably disposed to the other party; under these conditions truth is even less likely to prevail than usual and the purpose of the discussion is virtually defeated. As has been pointed out, Congress maintained for the most part its "intellectual good manners"—I think this is success rather than failure. This unexcited attitude is, as Mr. Scott indicated in our last Supplement, the stamp of the educated, but arose, I found, not from an attitude of "you're so obviously utterly wrong you're not worth bothering about", as he suggests, but from a realisation that the "other side" has a far stronger case than you ever imagined, and one that deserves respect.

By all means let there be differences of opinion, and certainly let them be voiced at Congress, but let us also use a debate as an aid to the acquisition of correct opinions and not as an end in itself.—K. K. CAMPBELL

### Scientist Baiting

I must strenuously object to a passage which appeared in the review of Mr. John V. Trevor's congress address. The words that I object to are, "the Scientists admired him as a technician fully in command of his voice, a most subtle instrument, while the Art students more susceptible to an emotional appreciation of the reading, etc., etc."

This childish scientist-baiting has been going on in "Salient" for as long as I can remember. It is not only a game it could be tolerated, but unfortunately it seems to be taken quite seriously by a lot of arts students.

This is understandable. Anyone who claims to be a scholar in our time, yet must remain almost completely ignorant of all the things which make our civilisation unique, is bound to feel inadequate and frustrated. But by trying to deprive the scientist of any claim to simple humanity and any understanding of art, these twisted Arts men do themselves no good. Not only do they become insufferable prigs but effectively cut themselves off from any help in understanding modern science.

It should not be necessary to point out that it is relatively easy for even the most specialist scientist to know what is going on in literature, music or fine arts. And there is no reason

to believe that highly specialist knowledge is essential for an understanding of modern arts, one must be familiar with the form but this can be done without the aid of professors. But how many arts men make a hobby of theoretical physics? The concepts of science are not easily mastered.

I have a great respect for scholars in the Arts fields and I would not decry their work. My argument is simply that a scientist is in no way less human than an authority on textual variants and any suggestion that he is, is foolishness.—Lucretious.



## Hell and Home

On a tiny stage, which intensified the dramatic qualities in the play, Unity performed with great success Jean-Paul Sartre's "Huis Clos". Three people were shown into a small room by a mysterious valet. Each realise that they are in hell, and arrive expecting fire and torture. Garcin is a coward, Estelle is a child-murderess, and Inez is a Lesbian. We slowly discover why they are in Sartre's idea of hell. Each tell about their lives on earth, and the events which led up to their deaths. At the same time we realise that psychologically unable to live together, Inez is attracted to Estelle, Estelle to Garcin. Garcin hopes to make Estelle believe that he is not a coward, but he is thwarted by Inez who knows that Estelle only wants a man, and Garcin being the only man available, is prepared to say or believe anything.

In this room, furnished in the Second Empire style, where one cannot switch off the light, or close one's eyes, or escape, the play ends as the three realise that "hell is other people", and they must live together for ever. The play has one of the most effective endings I know: the three break in to hysterical laughter. Suddenly they are quite, there is a pause. . . . Then Garcin says, "well, let's go on".

Kenneth Akerman looked and acted as if he had stepped out of one of Graham Greene's novels—a seedy, grubby, and callous idealist, who when he has to come to grips with his ideals, has not the courage to face up to them. Natasha Tver as Inez was excellent. Casting aside my "cynical adolescent pose" and putting on a "starry eyed" one I would say that her performance was the best piece of amateur acting seen in Wellington for a long time. The hardness of her voice, the masculine gestures, and the walk were all perfectly done, and they were never allowed to drop for a second. She carries off the hardest scene where Inez tries to seduce Estelle, with the assurance of a professional actress. Unfortunately for the play Estelle was miscast, which tended to unbalance the production at times. It was well worth the trip to Drummond Street for the performances of Miss Iver and Mrs. Akerman.

"Starry Eyed" again. (I hope that this is not getting too tedious). This time over the "Reluctant Debutante" by William Douglas Home. After a slow first scene the play picked up and became a delightful evening's entertainment.

It was an object-lesson for all amateurs and New Zealand Players in the art of timing, speaking and movement. I hope all members of Repertory noted the size of the stage that was used, it was very small.—L.D.A.

## PERSUASIVE

The film, "The Earth Shall be Filled" shown on Tuesday the 19th was sponsored by the University Christian Science group. It was originally produced by the American Christian Science Publication Committee for T.V.—"to correct false impressions". In this it was hardly successful.

The film had three parts, each an interview with people who told how they recovered from disease or accident by the Christian Science healing. The presentation was unfortunate, and did not do justice to Christian Science. The interviewers' manners in each case reminded one of the persuasive American toothpaste advertising, which, after it had been repeated six times was enough to make any stranger to the Society uncertain of its worth. Especially in the University, it would have been wiser to have introduced a lecturer capable of producing logical argument on more than this one aspect of Christian Science.

We hope that other societies will take heed of and benefit by this mistake, and we look forward to a good Christian Science discussion where "false impressions" really will be Corrected.—J.B.

"As usual, Brecht is longwinded, irritating, boring, splay-footed; but as usual, also profound, deeply moving, theatrically-magnificent"—Plays and Players.

A Play by Europe's most controversial playwright.

UNITY THEATRE'S

THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN by Bertold Brecht.

Produced by Nola Miller, music composed by Leslie Connors and Dorothy Freed; Setting designed by Ron Parker.

CONCERT CHAMBER, APRIL 9th to 13.

Admission: 4/6 (Student Concessions from Phoenix Bookshop, Willis Street.

A PLAY OF IMMENSE CHARM AND POTENCY"—The "Times"

## A Great Adventure

For those who had forgotten that the cinema is an art form, for those who have been morbidly over-fascinated by the darker, pessimistic tradition of Western thought, the film "The Great Adventure" (released by Films de France) opens or re-opens the "grand vistas" of childhood.

This film won the International Grand Prix at the Cannes 1955 Festival; it is an aesthetic masterpiece. Like all true art, it deals with no set theme, it labours no message, draws no eternally valid conclusions from the contradictions which it portrays. There is birth—and also death; but (and most important) there is also rebirth—and the film reflects the philosophy of those who do not know what the blood and sweat and tragedy of life—animal as well as human—mean, if not humility and the difficult law of love. Aibert Schweitzer argues for a new ethic, based on the absolute reverence for life; and although his arguments seem somewhat absurd, one is inclined to sympathize more with his views after seeing this film.

The producers; they revel in the

natural delights which their cameras capture.

The makers of the film have concentrated upon the innocence of childhood but not only men—innocence the film presents Life.

It would not be worth seeing if it did not present contradiction, tears mixed with laughter, death in the midst of life, poverty and starvation in the midst of abundance, rebirth and courage with the destructive blast of the shotgun and the dynamite. Even the loss of the otter, the betrayal by the children, are real, and therefore fit subjects for the artist. A medieval saint describes the "human condition" as at one and the same time "an agony and torment and a garden of Paradise", and, even with a cultural aversion for anthropomorphisms, this film presents this truth anew.

"No dream can be held a captive for long, no matter how kindly the keeper", and from all of the contradictory themes which are presented, one of the most persistent is that of courage; possibly the vulnerability of the human organism, but also the "religious sentiments" of faith, courage, hope and humility.

—B.C.S.

ALL PAST STUDENTS of the Wanganui Technical College are invited to join the Wellington Branch of the Past Students Association. Enquiries may be made from Mr. I. W. Caird, 104 Featherston Street, Wellington —Phone 44-449.

## POESY

"Two little naughties playing by a trench,  
One was English and the other was French,  
When, oh quite suddenly things upset,  
So one got damp and the other got wet.  
But dry little Fostopher told the reporter  
He knew it was wicked to play with the water."

Thus Mr. Brookes, judging the debate on Friday night rose to the challenge that "a good speaker must be somewhat of a poet". This possibly, too, sets the atmosphere of the debate, which, while not producing any great political philosophy, was a highly successful start to the Year's activity.

## THIS IS NOT FUNNY

—but Cappicide MUST be!!  
We urgently need contributions and ideas

Present intentions are to have the whole magazine based on a parody of the local "Sports Post"—any thoughts along these lines would be particularly welcome. In fact, anything would be welcome.

Closing dates for copy:  
Prose, verse, etc.: 15th April  
Photos, drawings, etc.: 10th April

Leave them at Exec. Office, or send them to:

M. D. CULLINANE,  
C/o P.O. Box 514,  
Wellington.

From Italy come these joyful tidings of educational advancement:

"The first of its kind in the world—a Football University was recently opened in Florence. Established by the Olympic Committee and the National Football Federation the University will train students in both practical and theoretical aspects of the game. Special courses will be held for trainers and referees and, as with other Universities, graduates will get degrees"—(World Student News No. 11, Vol X, 1956)

## WHAT'S COOKING?

If, as we suggested in our first issue, "Lex Gentium Lux" is the motto of the Student Association Executive, they apparently think the law exudes sufficient light for them to be able to dispense with more modern discoveries like electricity. The outlook in Salient Room tonight (last Wednesday to you) is distinctly gloomy as a result.

The history of Salient Room this year is altogether not too bright. Apart from the running war with Exec. to have the place electrified (the light failed to respond to pressure on the switch from at least early in November), the room was found by the new editorial staff at take-over date to be in a huge mess. Old clothes, books, papers, empty (sorry) beer bottles, and mysterious quantities of hay littered the floor. After several hours of toil, the new staff cleared the floor and made space for work to begin on the production of "Salient" for the year.

Still, if "Salient" is to continue to be the grand thing it is, it will be necessary for future issues to be produced by something stronger than candle-light!

## Of Interest Yet.

This year there is a larger number than usual of foreign students at Vic. mostly newly arrived in New Zealand. They tend, like all students, to stay in their own racial groups. It would be appreciated by these students who are unfamiliar with the English language if they were invited out individually by people of similar interests and if club secretaries made a special effort to bring them into the various club activities. Any students interested in meeting overseas newcomers, or an foreign students in difficulties, Miss McCracken of V.U.C.S.A. Exec. is there o help.

Private Enterprise: Recently a bookshop in town was selling a limited supply of a well-known American textbook extensively used in a certain Department at V.U.C., at a highly reduced rate. A certain second-hand dealer bought up the entire stock and is re-selling them at almost double the price. The book is out of print, and almost impossible to obtain elsewhere—the only copy in the S.C.M. bookstall was snapped up the first day. If the seller wished, he could actually demand three or four times the price.

for fellowship, study, discussion and the talk given by Ann Sisen, travelling secretary for the Indian S.C.M.

The year set off to a very good start with the camp and barbecue following an extremely well-organised selling spree at the Bookstall from which the majority of poverty stricken students (and a number of the financially sound?) gained considerably.

Study groups and fortnightly Wednesday meetings are beginning, and those interested in participating should see members of the Executive, or the Rev. Alan Gray (the Chaplain) at the S.C.M. cabin.—D.M.J.

At the recent A.G.M. of the Debating Society, the following officers were elected: President, E. W. Thomas; Vice-President, H. C. MacNeil; Secretary, Fay Sligo; Treasurer, J. A. Doogue; Committee, Kath. Blakelock, Colleen Evans, John Heberton, Kevin Bell. Although all but two of these are members of the Law Faculty, his reflects the balance of the faculty membership within the society.

The chief business dealt with was a change in the laws governing the awarding of the New Speakers' Prize. This is now open only to those who have not spoken in a University Debating Society before; in this way it is hoped to do away with such obvious anomalies as last year's award to Otago's and indeed New Zealand's crack University debater, Bill Blackwood.—F. S.

The Commerce Faculty Club met recently in C3 before Accounting 1 with an attendance of over 100 (from Accounting 1). The Committee (elected unopposed) is President Kenneth Simmonds, Vice-President, John Cook, Hon. Sec., John Hunn, and Alyson Williams, Prof. Khan.

Mr. Simmonds reported that the Club is now out debt. It is hoped to organise visits during the year to various firms to inspect their accounting systems.

## CLUB NOTES

The Anglican Society started the year's activity on the 19th of March when Archdeacon McKenzie read a paper on "What the Church of England stands for". This society exists for the benefit of Anglican students, and provides opportunities for hearing church speakers and for corporate worship.

On the 20th of March the Film Society held it A.G.M. This resulted in the election of Mr. Edwards, Smith and Hegedus, and Messrs. Taylor, Campbell, and Addis-Smith as the society's officers, but was quite secondary to the main interest of the evening — Rene Clair's film "The Italian Straw Hat." This film, a "silent" classic, is an extremely amusing satire on the French petit bourgeois, in which can be seen pioneer use of most of today's stock comic routines. During the year the society plans to show worthwhile films of all ages which are not normally on show in this country.

Freshers, we are told, will be very welcome.

At a brief and mildly unconstitutional A.G.M. recently the French Club elected Misses Kefala, Smithells, Finlayson and Mathew and Messrs. Halley, Rundle, Goddard, Campbell to its official positions. Already a group of enthusiasts is at work preparing for the Club's first evening, which is to be held in mid-April and which will reveal Paris to its justifiably incredulous members. "I is hoped that the enthusiasm and standard manifest in this first revue will increase during the year."

Having spent a most enjoyable weekend at Akatawara, members of the S.C.M. and friends are now feeling well prepared for this year. Approximately thirty-five people attended the gathering, enjoying the opportunity

## Sport . . .



## N.Z.U. DEFEATS AUSTRALIA IN TENNIS

In the second tennis test between New Zealand University and the touring Australian Universities team played at Wellington on 27 January, N.Z.U. clinched the rubber by winning ten matches to six. The first test played at Auckland was won by N.Z.U. 12 to 4. Unfortunately only one of the girls who played at Auckland (Miss Bette Nelson, V.U.C.) was available for this test and Mrs. Val Andrews (V.U.C.), Miss J. Buxton (O.U.) and Miss D. France (V.U.C.) entered the team. Alan Robinson (V.U.C.) replaced club mate Barry Boon in the men's team. The test was productive of much fine tennis and featured a marathon doubles match between B. E. Woolf and J. Z. Montgomery (N.Z.U.) and the top Australian men M. Callaghan and I. Rae. Overall the New Zealand men were superior and the women evenly matched.

One of the best matches was that in which top Australian Callaghan showed impressive shots in reversing his Auckland defeat by A.U.C.'s Brian Woolf (now overseas). This was Callaghan's best display of the tour. In the top women's match between Misses Betty Nelson (N.Z.U.) and Bradfield (Aust.) Miss Nelson's steady stroking and controlled lobbing were too consistent for her more aggressive opponent. Miss Nelson won 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

In the doubles the match between the top men lasted 53 games before Woolf and Montgomery defeated Callaghan and Rae. The New Zealanders took the first set 11-9, lost the second 6-3 and led 5-3 in the third. Fighting back the Australians took the next four games and led 30-0 and 6-5 before the N.Z.U. paid could halt this dazzling winning streak. Games followed service until Rae dropped to make the final score 13-11. This was a match in which all four players turned on periods of very fine tennis.

Miss Decker (Australia) hit very hard undefeated Victorian champion Miss. Val. Andrews 6-0, 6-4, while Miss Emslie (Australia) stroked well to beat Miss France 6-0, 6-1.

Alan Robinson spun left hander C. Allen dizzy to the tune of 6-1, 6-3.

### Cricket SLOW SCORING

The University senior team has recently come in for much criticism because of its "slow and unimaginative batting." Chief offender has been left hand opening batsman Michael Lance with his 13 in just over three hours against Kilbirnie. Lance seems to have assumed the mantle of former Students' Association President Malcolm McCaw as snail pace batsman but when one considers the inconsistencies of such experienced players as Bob Vance, Doug. St. John, Jim Thomson, and John Oakley the value of his innings becomes more apparent.

### FAST BOWLING

There can have been few more hostile spells of bowling by a University player than Jim Zohrab's 5-66 against Wellington. On a suitable wicket Zohrab demonstrated that outside New Zealand representative Bob Blair there is no-one in Wellington to compare with his sheer speed. Zohrab is essentially a shock bowler and too often this year he has been used for long periods in which his speed and hostility have suffered. The other University bowlers have rarely been more than steady although left arm spinner Jim Thomson (5-35) and medium pacer John Martin (4-19) bowled consistently for long periods against Kilbirnie when the Seniors registered their first points since Christmas.

Results with New Zealand names first were as follows:

#### MEN'S SINGLES:

B. E. Woolf lost to M. Callaghan 4-6, 3-6; J. Z. Montgomery beat I. Rae 6-4, 8-6; D. Lye beat K. Adams 6-0, 6-4; A. D. Robinson beat C. Allan 6-1, 6-3.

#### WOMEN'S SINGLES:

Miss B. Nelson beat Miss B. Bradfield 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Mrs. V. Andrews lost to Miss J. Decker 0-6, 4-6; Miss J. Buxton beat Miss J. Hemming 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Miss D. France lost to Miss A. Emslie 0-6, 1-6.

#### MEN'S DOUBLES:

Woolf and Montgomery beat Callaghan and Rae 11-9, 3-6, 13-11; Lye and Robinson beat Adams and Allen 6-1, 6-0.

#### WOMEN'S DOUBLES:

Nelson and Andrews lost to Decker and Bradfield 5-7, 5-7; Buxton and France lost to Hemming and Emslie 1-6, 2-6.

#### MIXED DOUBLES:

Woolf and Miss Nelson beat Callaghan and Miss Decker 6-0, 6-2; Montgomery and Mrs. Andrews beat Rae and Miss Bradfield 6-4, 6-1; Lye and Miss Buxton beat Allen and Miss Hemming 6-4, 6-4; Robinson and Miss France lost to Adams and Miss Emslie 6-1, 1-6, 6-1.

## TOURNAMENT AT DUNEDIN

Easter Tournament this year is in the far South—Dunedin, 20 to 23 April. The Vic contingent will travel by Ferry on Wednesday, April 17 and arrive back in Wellington triumphant and rejoicing (?) on Thursday, April 25.

Tournament Delegate John Bathgate specially asks that those persons able to arrange billets privately in Dunedin let their club secretaries know as soon as possible. All competitors should if possible travel with their teams. If unable to do this they must make their own arrangements and inform a delegate as soon as possible. The concession rate of travel is allowed only to those who travel with their team.

To clarify the position over eligibility for Easter Tournament the following extract from the constitution is quoted:

Eligibility—No person is eligible for tournament unless:

1. A financial member of the Students' Association for this year.
2. Is a financial and genuine playing member of your club or was such in your club in the season immediately preceding the present or coming season, e.g. took part in athletics in summer 1955-56 or took part in boxing during winter 1956.
3. If a matriculated student has enrolled and paid fees in a course of lectures or practical work at Varsity in a subject or subjects of at least three hours per week, or if completing a degree this year, has enrolled in a subject.

### LOWER GRADES

John Webb (101) scored the first century in the lower grades for the 3C team against Onslow last Saturday. In the same game fresher Peter Shaw from Wanganui confirmed his undoubted promise in taking 8-29. Roy Cowley, a medium pace bowler from Rongotai College also bowled exceedingly well in the 3A grade to return 8-29. All of these players should do well if available for all of next season.

### MASSEY GAME

The following players are to represent VUC against MAC in the annual pre-tournament game which is to be played at Palmerston North on Sunday, 31st March. The team to represent VUC at Easter Tournament will be selected after this game.

J. C. Thomson, H. R. Carver, J. R. Martin, M. H. W. Lance, J. H. Zohrab, T. J. Loughnan, P. Coutts, J. M. Pope, J. McDonald, D. Ward, B. McK. Kerr, R. J. Barry.

### BOXING

For some weeks members of the Boxing Club who are candidates for the Tournament team have been training with well known Wellington trainer Herb Robinson. One boxer to impress has been fast-moving lightweight Bob Jones.

### WOMEN'S HOCKEY FOR AUSTRALIA

On 13th April there will be a tournament run by the Wellington Hockey Association at Karori Park. Girls are especially advised to be present as the Club selector will be watching and will be choosing teams for the Club competitions which begin immediately after Easter.

Later in the season there will be a match against Auckland, after which a North Island team will be chosen. This team will play a south island team and from this a New Zealand University hockey team will be picked to tour Australia in August. Every girl has the opportunity of going, so start training now and be really fit.

Club Officers this season are: Club Captain, Cherry Poinon; Secretary, Rae Goodwin; Committee, Margaret Mathewson, Beverley Major, Elizabeth Beck, Sally Gentry.

### TENNIS CHAMPIONS V.U.C. CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the Club championships held recently the Men's Singles title was won by Barry Boon who beat Marty Ellis 7-5, 8-6, after defeating Rod Grubi in the semi-finals. In the other semi-final Ellis beat Alan Robinson in a fine game 9-7.

In the Women's final Mrs. Val Andrews beat Miss P. Carson 6-0, 6-3.

### SENIOR CHAMPS.

For the first time since 1934-35 the University team won the Wellington Tennis Association's Senior Championship by defeating Newtown B last weekend. Members of the successful team were Barry Boon, Marty Ellis, Alan Robinson and Nick Greenwood. Others who played during the season were Larry O'Neill (now in the Wai-kato) and D. L. Robinson (former N.Z.U. champion). Unfortunately only Greenwood of the Senior team will be available at Tournament.

### N.Z.U.S.A. SPORTS OFFICER

The appointment of Alan Robinson to succeed Mr. Dick Gilberd as N.Z.U.S.A. Sports Officer will be welcomed especially in tennis and table tennis circles. Alan is an N.Z.U. table tennis blue and also a winner of N.Z.C. doubles titles at tennis.

### YACHTING

Yachting is included in this year's Easter Tournament programme on a trial basis. Whether it becomes a regular sport in the future depends on performances this Easter. The V.U.C. Yachting Club hopes to hold a series of trial races for I-Class yachts at Paremata on Sunday, 31st March and a crew to represent VUC at Easter will be selected after these races. Any persons interested should contact Terry Brandon, telephone 70-114 (business).

### LETTER FROM INDIA

(continued from last issue)

"We had six wonderful days in Ceylon—the hospitality was terrific, and for five days we saw no other white person. We were driven about 500 miles by one person and another. We went barefoot with Buddhist pilgrims to their temples, climbed ruined fortresses, and saw some wonderful rock paintings.

"Buddhism is on the upper in Ceylon—everywhere there are the yellow-robed priests. It is said it is the priests who put the present Government in in an attempt to regain some of their ancient power.

"We went to village fairs, watched an elephant hauling satinwood logs, ate curry with our fingers, sat cross-legged and ate off a plantain (banana leaf), drank coconut toddy, looked at rural Courts, schools, hospitals, saw something of the rural development plan. People are being provided with a house (mud-wattle and banana leaf) and an acre of ground for a nominal rent of 1 rupee a year. We went to a very poor fishing village and joined in the excitement of the catch. The Canadians are taking a particular interest in Colombo Plan fisheries.

"Colombo is badly hit by wharf strikes and the diversion of shipping. The language problem is driving the English-speaking Burghers out and the Tamils back to India.

"Now we are having a very full time here. I am working for the Unesco secretariat as secretary to the minute-writers—fifteen, mainly Spanish and French. I work 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for five weeks with only Sunday off. Jane is secretary to the New Zealanders—Beeby, Campbell, and Burnes—and we are living in Old Delhi, so our day is packed.

"We arrived in Delhi last week and started work almost at once, and on Sunday we rushed about seeing something of Delhi, climbed the Kuth Minar, and went to an exhibition of Indian dancing and music.

"On 2nd November was Diwali—the Hindu festival of lights—and worship of the goddess of wealth. The city was a blaze of light—hundreds of tiny candles in and outside houses, along rooftops, on the pavement—a riot of celebration.

"Yesterday the conference opened. It was interesting to see and hear Nehru, a little weary at the moment but an immensely popular leader. It is exciting to find that all the educated Indians are militant in their strife for India's development. I have a clerk in my room—B.Sc. Bombay—Punjabi—and just here until he goes off to buy machinery for the Government from Czechoslovakia. He seems typical in his grasp of India's political situation, her desire for peace, her terrific industrial development, her pride. She has quite close links with both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. The Minister of Education seems particularly admiring of the present educational system in the Soviet. Am going to a Soviet educational function tonight.

"I seem to have written at great length about these things, but really everything is so interesting. I can't imagine how we will ever get away from the country. Probably be deported as broke."