

Applications for position of
**1957 CONGRESS
CONTROLLER**

Close at Exec. Room
6 p.m. Wednesday May 9

SALIENT

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Capping Ball

TOWN HALL
FRIDAY, MAY 4.

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WELLINGTON, MAY 3, 1956

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Move to abolish Drinking Horn

First official move to ban the Drinking Horn contest held in conjunction with New Zealand University tournaments was checked temporarily by a procedural motion at a meeting of the Resident Executive of NZUSA on April 23.

The meeting discussed at length a motion of NZUSA vice-president, Mr. T. O. Fitzgibbon that the Resident Executive recommend to the August council meeting of NZUSA that the Drinking Horn be abolished.

On the motion of Mr. B. V. Galvin (VUC), however, it was not voted on, and the matter will be referred to college executives for their consideration before further action is taken.

Mr. Fitzgibbon supported his motion by pointing out that recent publicity given in the commercial press to the Drinking Horn had caused NZUSA and the University itself a measure of public disfavour.

It was also mentioned that at many of these contests a large number of students were present illegally, i.e., they were under 21 and therefore not allowed on licensed premises. The national student body should in no way support a function which caused students to break the law.

The motion was seconded by Mr. K. B. O'Brien (CAC), and a number of those present expressed their disapproval of the continuance of the contest. It was, however, considered desirable that colleges should be able to express their opinions before a definite move towards banning the Drinking Horn was made.

The motion was therefore not put. Mr. Galvin then moved that the colleges be asked for their views on continuance of the contest "with particular reference to recent publicity."

The editorial in the last issue of Salient condemning the manner in which the contest is conducted was substantially quoted in the "Evening Post" of Saturday, April 14. Similar editorials to the one in Salient were published in *Canta*, the CUC paper, and *Critic* (OU).

Resident Executive also discussed the behaviour of the person or persons responsible for damage to the door of

Hockey season starts well

The Hockey Club started off the new season well with wins for all four teams entered in the inter-club competitions. A high standard of play at practices and on the field gives reason to expect a successful season for the club, which has been considerably strengthened this year by new members from other centres and a number of players from secondary schools' first elevens.

Amongst the prominent new members are W. Haskell, ex-CUC representative, at inside right; K. Ledward, a tricky left wing from Liverpool and Cambridge Universities.

In addition to participation in the six-a-side Queen's Birthday tournament at Wairarapa and the five-a-side Wanganui tournament in September, the club committee is trying to arrange additional matches with Massey College and possibly with Wanganui Rangers.

Steps are being taken to alter the decision of the Grading Committee of the Wellington Hockey Association to play the fourth VUC team in the third grade after it had been entered in the second.

The Hockey Club is planning to organize a dance during the second term in conjunction with the Women's Hockey Club.

[Resident Executive is a committee which administers the affairs of NZ USA between council meetings of the association held at Easter and Winter tournaments. It comprises officers of NZUSA and a representative of each college students' association living in Wellington.

It can forward remits to council meetings and its members have power of speech at those meetings but have no vote. Within Resident Executive, major college representatives have two votes each and Agricultural college representatives have one each. VUC representative is Mr. B. V. Galvin, immediate past president of VUCSA.]

the Horticultural Hall, Lower Hutt, which resulted in a tournament dance there being stopped only a few minutes after it had commenced on Easter Monday night.

It is now believed known who caused the damage, and the Executive of VUCSA recently decided to ask the Otago University Students' Association to pay compensation on behalf of one or more of its members in connection with the matter.

Resident Executive did not pass any motion concerning the Horticultural Hall incident, but expressed the opinion that disciplinary action should be taken against persons responsible for misbehaviour at tournaments.

Students may be debarred from tournament participation for any length of time or even permanently on grounds of misbehaviour, and a number of students from another college were so debarred only a few years ago.

Clubs to get less in grants this year

A reduction of about £150 in grants to VUC clubs and societies is provided for in this year's VUCSA budget which was adopted by the Executive on April 24. Total grants are budgeted at £1250 compared with about £1400 in 1955.

Increased expenditure on wages and salaries, Easter tournament costs and Congress subsidy largely account for the lower figure. Salient grant has been increased by £50 to £300.

Wages and salaries have risen, mainly owing to the employment of an assistant office secretary in the Students' Association office.

Tournament costs are greater this year than in 1955 because VUC was host college to Easter Tournament.

A substantial contribution has been promised to both the Ski Club and the Rugby Club for building purposes—the Rugby Club's gymnasium at Te Aro Park and the AUC-VUC Ski Hut at Mount Ruapehu.

Congress expenditure will be greater this year because last year, owing to

SALIENT'S 1956 BUDGET UP

Salient is this year budgeted to operate at a loss of £300. This figure was approved last week by the Executive on the recommendation of the Finance Committee after secretary John Marchant had failed in a move to increase it to £350, the amount for which Salient editor Nick Turner had asked.

Last year's loss on Salient, excluding Literary Issue, was more than £300; budget figure was £250.

Mr. Turner will shortly present a publication schedule and policy statement for the year to the Executive. It is likely to provide for eight more issues (making 12 for the year) the majority of which will have six or eight pages. Salient sales per issue this year have been greater than last year's, and the "honesty sales" system recently instituted has proved very successful.

Progress on new Ski Clubs hut

All the blocks of the main shell of the VUC-AUC Ski Hut on Mt. Ruapehu have been laid, according to the annual report of the VUC Ski Club presented by club chairman Bernie O'Shea at the AGM on April 26.

Next big job is to erect the roof, lay the floor and put in window frames.

The hut is being financed to the extent of £600 by each of the two colleges concerned, but more funds will be required to complete the hut. All being well, the hut should be habitable by this winter.

All those interested in helping to get the hut finished before the skiing season should see Mr. O'Shea about joining working parties, and watch the club noticeboard for dates of working parties.

Chairman for the present year is Jim Larsen and Secretary is Audrey Todd. Ted Petrie is Treasurer and Steven Gentry Club captain.

VUCSA elections soon

The VUCSA annual Executive elections will be held on Friday, Monday and Tuesday June 22, 25 and 26. The association's AGM will be held on June 27, when the election results will be announced.

Nominations for all Executive positions will close with the returning officer at midday Saturday, June 16.

BBC advisor addresses big CSG meeting

More than 150 attended a meeting of the Catholic Students' Guild to hear Rev. Father Agnellus Andrew, O.F.M., Catholic advisor to the BBC speaking on "The Church, the University and the World." Fr. Andrew concentrated on the functions, origins and prospect for survival of the University and the culture out of which it sprang.

People went to University for a variety of reasons, he said: to carry the sum total of their knowledge beyond the school level, to prepare for a career, to get a desirable label, or to gain entrance to a certain class of society.

"But the University should do more than this," said Fr. Andrew. It should range over the whole field of human culture and help achieve a synthesis from which would proceed a philosophy of life.

Fr. Andrew emphasized the historical connection between the Church



Father Andrew

and the University. Not only, for example, was the inspiration for the founding of Oxford entirely religious, but the University of Glasgow had been founded in accordance with a papal Bull.

Hence the idea that education had always been a state preserve into which the Church had barged was wrong.

Today the centre of activity was shifting from the Mediterranean, the cradle of our culture and Christianity. Hence, their future lay in the New World. Here there was a need for champions who understood the Christian faith. The prime essential for these was quality. Everything depended not so much on what we did as on what we were, said Father Andrew.

"If we were the people that Christ expected us to be we would go a long way towards saving Christianity," he said. If the people living in the streets looking in our eyes were to see Christ shining back at them, we would not find the difficulty we do, he said. There is a tremendous responsibility on that minority which is within Christian civilization, said Father Andrew.

Exec. positions filled

Miss Gillian Hemery, a prominent Executive member and convener of the Social Committee, was last week co-opted to the women's vice-presidency of VUCSA which had been vacant following the resignation of Miss Diana Lescher. Miss Diana Fuesell was also nominated.

Miss Hemery's position on the women's committee was filled by the co-option of Miss Susan Mitcalfe.

Salient

EDITOR: R. N. Turner
 BUSINESS MANAGER: T. H. Hill
 STAFF CORRESPONDENTS: E. A. Woodfield Jnr., (Association Affairs); S. C. Kent (Sports); K. Walker (Societies); Gabrielle Jackson (Social).
 EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: R. N. Turner, T. H. Hill, E. A. Woodfield, Jnr., P.F. Thompson, B. C. Shaw.

Mr. Bertram in China

Mr. James Bertram, senior lecturer in English at VUC, is at this moment in China. To many students the change in decision by the College Council whereby he was eventually able to make the trip may have seemed a reasonable conclusion to a rather pointless controversy.

But the controversy was not pointless, and the matter has not yet received the full airing which it deserves. Many questions still remain unanswered. Why was permission refused in the first place? What made the council change their minds? Was the entire affair influenced by political pressure and motives?

Until the answers to these questions are given doubts must still exist in the minds of students. Has the College Council maintained the long tradition of VUC as strong protectors of academic rights gained during such famous controversies as the von Zedlitz case, or are they mere acceptors of political directives?

It is believed that in reapplying for permission to visit China Mr. Bertram stressed his importance to the success or failure of the trip as the only member able to fluently speak the Chinese language and thus make personal contact with the Chinese—a door not easily open to the other travellers.

It is still unknown whether it was this which was responsible for the reversal of the former decision or whether the publicity given to the affair by this paper (subsequently quoted in the downtown press) was the major factor.

Whatever the cause, it is known that the decision was made by hurried letter and telephone conversations initiated by the Chairman of the Council, Mr. T. D. M. Stout, and the Principal of the College, Dr. J. Williams.

Professor Buchanan did not re-apply for permission to join the delegation. Obviously, since he had no grounds for re-application apart from those he had originally tendered and which the Council had not seen fit to accept, a further try would have been equally unrewarding. But once again the reasons for the previous refusal are unknown.

Until they appear in the form of a public statement we can only assume that they are such that the Council cannot face up to their due responsibility of telling the staff and students of this University the reasons for their decision.

Therefore we claim that the reasons are politically based and thus an infringement of the

basic rights of freedom and thought - cherished academic rights so long enjoyed by members of this University.

The College Council must give an answer to this accusation and realize that if this information had been given before it would have saved a vast amount of needless controversy.

BETWEEN OURSELVES

The editor of Salient was perturbed to note that during Executive discussion of the Students' Association annual budget women's committee members were more interested in their own trivial conversations than in what was said by the accountant, Mr. Mason, or members of the Finance Committee. The same tendency was obvious among women Executive members at some stages last year and was noted by the then Salient editor. Even if committeewomen have nothing to contribute to the discussion at Executive meetings it is their duty to listen to what others are saying.

Two inter-college law moots annually will be held in future, according to a decision of the New Zealand Law Students' Association recently. This was reported to the AGM of the VUC Law Faculty Club last week. The NZLSA will apply to NZUSA for affiliation and ask for full tournament status for those participating in the law moots. This would entitle them to be billeted by the home college and given full entertainment privileges. Law moot results will not count towards Tournament Shield points at either Winter or Easter tournaments.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Holland, will lay the foundation stone of the new VUC £500,000 science block on Tuesday, May 15, at 10.30 a.m., the Registrar, Mr. Desborough, has announced. It is to be hoped that student leaders will be given an opportunity to meet the Prime Minister while he is at VUC, and it has been suggested that he be taken on a tour of inspection of the VUCSA Gymnasium.

Mr. Guy Powles has resigned from the position of Extravaganza Organizer and chairman of the Extravaganza Steering Committee. He has been succeeded by Mr. Walter Iles, who was appointed at the Executive meeting on April 24.

Nominations have been called for the position of Congress Controller, 1957. VUC is organizing college of next Congress and the Controller and Steering Committee will have to be appointed very shortly.

The International Club's Black Friday Dance on Friday April 13 was one of the most successful held in the Upper Gym for a long time; the black and white decor with symbols of bad luck appropriate for the occasion gave the Gym a spectacular appearance.

Supper with a Polish flavour was organized by Jan Kozera, and music was by Stewart Gordon and his orchestra, with popular items and musical impersonations by the leader, and Claude Jupp with his harmonica.

The Jazz concert on Tuesday 24th was very well received. Well known Wellington band leaders and their friends gave a most enjoyable and interesting evening's entertainment to the packed hall. Profits have gone towards the building of the Ruapehu Ski Hut.

Letter to Mao Tse-Tung

With some thoughts on Formosa and the Cult of Personality

May-feted Chairman Mao,
 Across the seas-I bow
 Most circumspectly.
 This poor epistle take
 For old acquaintance sake,
 Though soon I hope to make
 My bow directly.

Tibet to Mukden now,
 Haiphong to Chinwangtao,
 Ring with your praises;
 And (what concerns us most)
 All that long China coast
 Where tattered junka are tossed,
 And Yankee cruisers.

Statesmen fly here and there,
 Bangkok to Canberra,
 Delhi to Burma.
 Nothing will go as planned,
 Treaties are signed in sand—
 You, Chairman Mao, still stand
 On terra firma.

Fortune has spun her wheel,
 Steel has rung hard on steel
 Since last we parted.
 Yenan lay under snow
 Eighteen long years ago,
 When I rode out with Ho
 Lung the great-hearted.

Chu Teh and Chou En-lai,
 Hsiao Keh and Peng Teh-huai
 Were my companions
 In Shansi mountains when
 Your Eighth Route Army then
 Flung Itagaki's men
 Down frozen canyons

From China's peasant sons
 You built your wall of bronze
 Stronger than Huang-Ti's:
 Had I the words or wit
 Here I might sing of it,
 And hail their epic feat
 In epic spondees.

Much-altered Chairman Mao,
 I still remember how
 We talked together
 Through the long Shensi night
 While in your cave the light
 Dipped, and the stars were bright:
 Hard campaign weather.

Your faded cap pushed back,
 You told me in your thick
 Hunanese accent
 Of China's destiny—
 How she must rise to be
 A nation great, and free
 From fear of faction.

[Author's note: The campaigning referred to took place in the first year of the main China War (1937-38): Seishiro Itagaki, later Japanese War Minister and one of the ablest of their field commanders, met the first heavy Japanese defeat of the war at the hands of one division of Chu Teh's 8th Route Army at Pinhsingkwang. I was then with the 120th division under Ho Lung. Ch'in Shih Huang-Ti was the upstart emperor who built the Great Wall of China. Taiwan is the Chinese name for Formosa. I Tsung was the last Ming—i.e., the last purely Chinese—emperor; he hanged himself on Coal Hill behind the old Forbidden City in Peking, in front of which the big mass parades are now held. In ancient China there was an art of divination by the sounds of musical instruments blown by the wind.—J.B.]

Cappicade selling

Large numbers of Cappicade sellers will be required this year to dispose of Cappicades and amuse the populace. If you are willing to assist see Don Gray or Barry Cook at Weir. Proceh Controller, Ross O'Rourke, would like to see a number of men from Mars on bicycles, motor bikes or scooters distributing the word amongst proceh onlookers. If you are interested see Ross. Free ball tickets or £1 in cash will be offered to all who sell at least 300 Cappicades. Depots will be at the Railway Station from 7.00-9.00 and at NZUSA room in Norwich Chambers, Featherston Street all day.

In addition there will be trucks patrolling the streets with further copies and an old dilapidated car has been commandeered to follow proceh for the same purpose.

Debating school

A debating school to be held by the VUC Debating Society in the last week-end of the May holidays will include: two talks by Jim Millburn on debating techniques; a talk by Gordon Cruden on the history of the college Society; Bruce Brown on the tour of the Australian Universities in 1954; a Plunket Medal forum by past winners. Conrad Bollinger, Bruce Brown, Gordon Cruden and Ben O'Connor on how to win the Plunket Medal and debates at which all participants are to be helpfully criticised. On Satur-

Your "Border Region" lay
 Round us, a waste of clay
 Scorned and unwanted—
 Meaner and barer far
 Than Taiwan's fragrant air,
 Or sea-girt Ithaca
 The hero-haunted.

All that is altered now,
 No more cave-dwelling Mao:
 In the old Tartar
 City, by I Tsung's grave,
 Bands crash and banners wave—
 Who, from such hosts, can save
 Chiang the deserter?

Big talk from Washington
 Urges his minions on—
 Peking knows better.
 No hardy conquerors
 Those ageing warriors:
 Who climbs a tree, when pears
 Drop to the sitter?

In England once, a king
 Sat amid revelling
 Foolish advisers.
 They said, "Command the tide!"
 Smiling that king replied
 "Here let my throne abide.
 Yet, the tide arises."

So to you, Chairman Mao,
 We look for wisdom now
 Since some have lost it—
 Can you be patient yet
 While fleet-commanders fret,
 And Taiwan Strait is wet
 For all who crossed it?

Greatly provoked, the great
 Soberly contemplate
 Those, the fair-fated
 Who in their time were wise,
 Humoured their enemies:
 Knew that the tide would rise
 If they'd await it.

Wise men of old could tell
 When Heaven was bountiful:
 By temple portal
 Sweetly the music rang
 From chiming jade, air-hung:
 Peking, be patient! Chiang
 Is not immortal.

History has lesson for
 Conquered and conqueror—
 Stalin the Mighty
 Loks rather different now:
 Far-sighted Chairman Mao,
 Verb. sap. I make by bow,
 And end this writing.
 —JAMES BERTRAM

day night there will be an impromptu debate on the motion that "The meeting shall adjourn for a party at 9.00 p.m." All interested are welcome and should contact a member of the committee.

Drama Club AGM

At the Drama Club AGM held on Tuesday, April 23, officers were elected and plans were made for the year's activities.

Rosemary Lovegrove was elected president. Vice-presidents: David Vere-Jones and Elizabeth Gordon. Secretary is Laurie Atkinson and treasurer Michael Nicolaidi. Committee: Heather Scott, Noeline Johnston, June England, Hamiah Kitto and Bob Brockie.

It is hoped that a production will be staged in the Little Theatre next term. Suggested plays included "Tiger at the Gate," "Summer and Smoke," by Tennessee Williams and a play by Anouilh.

For the major production in the Concert Chamber next year "Peer Gynt" was suggested but the matter was left to the committee.

Coffee evenings will be held in private homes during the year, at which plays will be read.

The supper at Capping Ball '56, will be continuous. If you find that the room is crowded the Ball Controller would ask you to return later to make it easier for the caterers.

Moral Re-Armament

The following article on Moral Re-Armament was written for *Salient* by Mr. Conrad Bollinger, M.A., in answer to one in our last issue by Mr. James Baynard-Smith, a member of the MRA force at that time visiting Wellington. Mr. Bollinger graduated at VUC with Honours in English in 1953 and is now studying Law here. He has been well-known in student affairs in the college for some years as a prominent member of the Socialist Club and winner of the Plunket Medal for oratory.

Owing to shortage of space this article has been slightly abridged ED

The Con Viewpoint

The policies, methods, and achievements of Dr. Buchman's Moral Re-Armament movement look most impressive as chronicled by Mr. James Baynard-Smith. He even assures us that New Zealand can escape the trammels of "moral apathy, political and industrial warfare, divorce and juvenile delinquency" and "fulfil its God-given destiny as the prototype and beacon-light of a new society" under the banner of Buchmanism.

Analysed coldly, what did the article tell us? That some of the world's most hard-bitten and cynical politicians—Nasser, U Nu, Si Bekkai—say that they approve of MRA, that it has made some rebellious Nigerians be polite to the Queen; and that in general it offers humanity, in combination with God, an answer to Communism.

The article was thus chiefly notable for what it did not tell us about MRA.

The emphasis of stilling class strife and on beating back the ideological frontiers of Moscow explains the enthusiasm for MRA shown by employers, Tory politicians, and Labour front-benches of the "neither for nor against" breed. It also casts some interesting light on MRA's past, and on where its policies logically lead.

In January 1947, the very pro-MRA president of Australia's Council of Employers' Federations stated that "industrial peace would be established once for all if the Labour movement would only abandon the theory of class warfare." The "Southern Cross" was moved to comment editorially (17/1/47).

"To say that the class war is a theory is to imply that it could be abolished if only the workers would refrain from subscribing to it. . . . Marx did not invent the class struggle, he merely happened to observe that it is inherent in an industrialized society in which one class owns the means of production, and the other much more numerous class works for wages. Since the employer naturally wants to make as much profit as possible, and the workers want to be paid as high a wage as possible, and since these two aims are opposed, a conflict of interests is inevitable. . . ."

"An employer's call for the abandonment of the theory of class warfare is an employer's plea for the workers to take what they are given. . . . Employers will always seek to have the class struggle eliminated from society. Workers prefer to travel in the opposite direction, and they are as keen to see the end of the class struggle as any employer is."

"Fascist" label

It is obvious that the abolition of the outward manifestations of the conflict of interests between private employer and employee, while maintaining unbroken the economic relationship between private employer and employee, means precisely the freezing hard of existing class divisions while disarming the employee of his normal channels of social and political protest—unions, Labour and Socialist parties—and leaving him to the mercy of the employer and a State which brings force of law down on the employer's side. That is a neat description of Hitler's "Labour Front" and Mussolini's "Corporate State." It is also the logical end of the policy preached by MRA.

It may sound far-fetched to label the policies of MRA, so sweetly reasonable on the surface, as "Fascist." But MRA has already labelled itself. Moral Re-Armament was founded in 1921 by the American pastor Rev. Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman (recently on show in New Zealand). It was originally known as the "Oxford Group Movement." Its basic themes have always been "industrial harmony," "rapprochement between capital and labour."

Ruth McKenney (author of "My Sister Eileen") recounts in her book "Industrial Valley" how the rubber magnates shipped an MRA team into Akron, Ohio, at the height of the great slump, to preach patience to the unemployed. An MRA team visiting New Zealand in March, 1950 (see Wellington Teachers' College paper Stud Op for that month) boasted its

successes in the United Kingdom in encouraging "production speed-up." Patience in 1930, speed-up in 1950: the policy exactly reflected the momentary interests of big business.

The American Roman Catholic journalist, George Selnes, has described in detail ("Facts and Fascism," pp. 134-135; "One Thousand Americans," pp. 216-219) how MRA won such disinterested enthusiasts as Henry Ford (car king), Harvey Firestone (rubber king), and William Randolph Hearst (yellow newspaper king). Selnes summarises Buchman's life-work, "making an excellent living getting money from big businessmen to preach a 'philosophy' of appeasement to labour. Everyone was to co-operate, there were to be no strikes, the lion and the lamb were to lie down together; and if the labour-lamb was frequently inside the belly of the capitalist-lion, it could only result in more contributions to Buchmanism."

Hitler and Communism

Prof. Robert A. Brady (Economics, California) in a study on Fascism, cites this famous utterance of Rev. Dr. Buchman himself: "Human problems aren't economic. They're moral. And they can't be solved by un-moral measures. . . . They could be solved through a God-controlled Fascist dictatorship. . . . I thank heaven for a man like Adolf Hitler, who built a front-line of defence against the anti-Christ of Communism." (New York World Telegram, 21/8/1936.)

Hitler Fascism was thus not only the logical goal of MRA, but it's proudly proclaimed one.

No wonder MRA gained the support of leading Nazis and Fascists.

In his confessional work "I Paid Hitler" (p. 189), the Nazi steel-king Fritz Thyssen refers to the fact that "Heinrich Himmler was a member of the Oxford Group." (For those who do not remember the ghoulish things for which this man was responsible Himmler was the chief of Hitler's Gestapo from 1935 to 1945.)

Then there was Prince Konoye, Japanese Premier, involved in the rape of China and the Pearl Harbour attack. He cabled one MRA convention in the U.S.: "Believing necessity for Moral Re-Armament for solution of world problems, sincerely hope for every success for your noble experiment."

Jew-baiting

And there is more evidence than just an aberrated speech of Buchman's to suggest that the MRA movement reciprocated the friendly feelings of these Fascist gentlemen.

Noted American Protestant, Dr. Guy Emery Shipler (editor of The Churchman) reported in one wartime issue of his journal on a Moral Re-Armament dinner which he attended right on Wall Street, where the speeches were "almost entirely devoted to Jew-baiting."

We should not forget that it was, in so many words, Hitler's claim that he had provided an "ideological answer to Communism." Hitler also used the technique of turning aside queries about economic conditions and political freedom with pompous verbiage about "inspired" and "God-given" "ideologies of renaissance," about "decaying civilization" and "impurity," and solutions that are "universal" and "realistic."

MRA's window-dressing is very at-

The line must be drawn somewhere

Philosophy was the order of the day at the Debating Club on Friday, March 20. The subject was for this, the Staff-Student debate "That the line must be drawn somewhere" and the authority of Plato, Aquinas, Kant, Hobbes, and Professor Hughes was invoked during the course of the argument. Simple souls frightened of "intellectual snobbery" might have wilted, but everyone else enjoyed it.

Walker spoke last. Accordingly Mr. Rowe opened for the staff. Drawing the line was practical, not merely abstract, he said. It was the essence of balanced life; only extremists refused to do so. Leading the students was Whitta, who criticised national boundaries as being barriers to the unity of mankind.

Things warmed up when Mr. Brookes moved on to weightier matters like fashion. There must be a line drawn somewhere between the ankle and the . . . or . . . ; and again between the neck and . . . a point he was not prepared to specify. If the student team did not draw the line he would be forced to conclude they were anarchists, nudists, libertins and gluttons, therefore quite beyond the pale.

Replying to the charge of nudism Miss Jackson was unfortunate enough to begin, "Now I'm going to show you . . ." Cheers drowned the rest. Hobbes, she said, was out of date, and to prove it she went on to quote Wittgenstein, Ayer and Ryle. Mr. Braybrooke was a "blurred concept," she said, though "quite workable."

Degree for S.G.H?

The inimitable Mr. Braybrooke began by disclaiming any relationship with a blurred concept or the Duke of Plaza Toro. He would have preferred to debate "that Aunt Daisy would make a better wife than Marilyn Monroe," but he had to make the best of the present subject. The other morning he read a proposal to confer a degree on the Prime Minister. Really, one had to draw the line . . .

Doogue argued that, after all, somewhere else was not somewhere, and he thought the lines should be drawn somewhere else. His distillation of Kant (via Russell) was of pretty incomprehensible substance.

First from the floor, Larsen (aff.) said the proposition was a tautology, and must be accepted. Then Miss Mitalfe (aff.) spoke of the line as the basis of form. ("It is also useful for drying clothes.")

Dawick (neg.) was conservative enough to quote Shakespeare. But he redeemed himself when he told of people who "take Hobbes's Leviathan down." Wood (aff.) defended national boundaries when he got to the subject. He said there must be a definite time when the female's reproductive organs cease being the property of her parents and the State and become her own. The question is, when? ("And when Mrs. Ross speaks, who are we to object?")

Polygamy?

Gibbons had just seen the picture about Rex Harrison and his seven wives. Therefore he was very definitely on the negative side. Indeed, why stop at seven? Wiles (Aff.) contended that the staff might be authorities in their own way, but in the real matters of life (e.g., sex) they were really just on the borderline. McBride (aff.) thought he was pink . . . but not pink in that sense . . . rather green . . . but not the other green . . .

In the good Catholic tradition of Aquinas Aristotle, Shaw (neg.) made attempts to come to grips with Jung. Jung is here to say, and he must be Christianized as soon as possible.

At this stage chairman Cruden ruled that the would accept only two more speakers. Mummery moved that this ruling be disagreed with. Whitta took the chair. Mummery moved that Whitta's ruling be disagreed with. Dawick took the chair. Dawick refused to accept any more motions

tractive. But in practice its "ideology of renaissance" means refraining from challenging the status quo, however iniquitous, and preaching claptrap about "regeneration" to the underdog. From there to beating the underdog senseless every time he challenges the status quo, is a short step.

Buchman's movement is a hang-over from the horrible thing which crumpled up and died in Berlin and Tokyo just over a decade ago, only after it had slaughtered millions of human beings in its crusade for a "new society."

from Mummery. Dawick put Mummery's second motion. Whitta took the chair. Whitta put Mummery's first motion. Cruden took the chair. There were on two more speakers. Miss Newcombe (aff.) stressed the line between Christians and non-Christians, and Miss Blaiklock finished up for the negative.

Whitta rounded off his difficult case with a well-reasoned speech, and Braybrooke added a brilliant coda. Replying to Thomas (neg.) who had said that Messrs. Brookes and Rowe said nothing at all, Braybrooke countered that admittedly they were the hors d'oeuvres, but that Thomas must not think this meant "out of work."

Dr. Williams, judging, commented on the high standard, and placed Robinson, Whitta and Doogue best speakers in that order. The motion was carried.

Historical Soc.

Hobbes and Natural Law

About 50 people attended the VUC Historical Society's third evening for the year on Monday, April 23. The occasion was a discussion on Hobbes and Natural Law between Mr. Brookes and Dr. Walsh of the School of Political Science.

Dr. Walsh spoke generally on the subject of Natural Law, with a brief history of the theory from earliest times, followed by an account of the part of Hobbes in the Natural Law tradition by Mr. Brookes. Discussion then opened up and from the floor. Dr. Munz spoke, and said that he was not too sure what it was all about.

The evening was a great success—was it that Political Science II was having a terms exam in the near future on the subject? The society's patron, Professor Wood, took the chair, after the president, Alan Ward, had opened the meeting.

Lined up for a future date is Dr. Guy Scholefield, who will talk to the society about some important research into New Zealand history on which he is at present working.

The teaching of History

The writing of history for schools and the teaching of history in schools were the two topics discussed by Mr. P. Morris of Wellington Teachers' Training College, and Mr. M. Turnbull, lecturer in history, at a meeting of the Historical Society on Thursday, April 12, in the History Library.

Mr. Morris was pessimistic about the use or the value of history as it is taught in our high schools, he said. The theoretical aim—the Department's aim—was that history should make good citizens. However, it did not, nor was it meant to. In his experience, teaching history meant dunning a series of facts into the heads of semi-illiterates. It could much better be left to the university.

Mr. Turnbull told of a series of pamphlet-lives of significant (not necessarily great) New Zealanders, by which history was induced into the minds of the primary school children. The idea, he said, was to get the child interested in the subject, and he will absorb the historical background without knowing it.

The meeting was well-attended. Under energetic guidance the Historical Society has interested many this year, and it seems to have a definite and useful role to play in the cultural life of the university.

Salient wishes to acknowledge with thanks the fact that tournament illustrations in the last issue were from photographs supplied free by Minifoto Studios.

Four VUC Rugby players in Wellington squad

Four Varsity players were included in the Wellington representative rugby training squad which was announced last week. They were Ron Jarden, Jim Fitzgerald, Bill Clark and Barry Hutchinson. The first three are well known to rugby enthusiasts throughout the country and Hutchinson has returned to Wellington after an absence of two years, during which time he played for AUC and represented Auckland in the lock position.

He was a member of the VUC team which first won the Jubilee Cup in 1952, and will be remembered by Varsity supporters as locking partner to J. G. Smith in both the Victoria team and the Wellington reps. The convener of the selection panel, Mr. C. G. Gibbons, said in announcing the squad that they would be primarily required to train for the matches against Waikato on May 16 and the Springboks on June 23.

It is interesting to recall that of the Varsity team which first swept to prominence in 1952, only six players are still turning out for the side. They are Osborne, Jarden, Fitzgerald, Bill Clark, Stuart and Hutchinson. Ivan Stuart is in his fifth year of captaincy and although he has slowed up a lot this season, has always set a great example to his team-mates in courage and determination.

A young player who has been consistently catching the eye is Perry Preston-Thomas. Although a bit on the light side, he has developed into a most useful second row forward and is always on the ball and driving

through with great determination in a style somewhat reminiscent of Jack Smith in his heyday.

When Preston-Thomas and Gerry Blathwayt were brought into the senior team last season, many doubted their ability, through lack of weight and experience, to stand the pace of senior rugby. However, these fears were soon quietened and the two young forwards have more than held their own.



J. B. Hutchinson

Newcomers in men's indoor basketball side

The VUC Men's Indoor Basketball Club held their Annual General Meeting recently. General business and arrangements for the coming season were discussed, and the following officers were elected for 1956:

Patron, Mr. W. H. Landreth; Club Captain, P. Doogue; Vice Club Captain, J. Aitken; Secretary-Treasurer, D. Johnston; Records Secretary, B. Honiss. Executive: N. Dawkins, S. C. Kent and G. Wiggs.

Although the club has lost all but one of last year's senior team, a number of newcomers to the club will enable them to field a reasonably good "A" Grade side.

Ralph Salt, the outstanding player in last season's team and one of the best left shoots in New Zealand, has been transferred to Christchurch and will be turning out this year for CUC. Peter Darracott and Jim Lewis find it impossible to spare the time for active participation this year, and Ted Wright has transferred to Rongotai, 1955 Wellington club champions.

Those who have transferred to Varsity this year who will be playing in the senior team along with Peter Doogue and Derek Dawkins and Ken Stephenson from Vipers, Jerry Aitkin and Derek Johnston from Training College, and Bunny Honiss, well-known Varsity athlete.

These players should develop into a sound if somewhat unspectacular combination and although they are not expected to perform any miracles this season, should maintain the high standard of play which is expected of Victoria both here in Wellington and at Winter Tournament in Christchurch.

The club has gained many new players this season and will field two lower grades sides, both of which should perform creditably in competition. These two teams will receive coaching from the senior players and anyone who is interested in joining the club and who has not yet done so should contact the Secretary, Derek Johnston, or go along to practice which is held in the Training College Hall on Thursdays commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Golf Club Day

A record attendance of 48 members at Paraparaumu made the VUC Golf Club's first club day of the year a most encouraging start to the season's activities.

A stableford competition held in the afternoon was won by H. R. Carver with 35 points; B. R. Boon, 33 points, was runner-up.

Sir Charles Darwin speaks at VUC

Sir Charles Darwin, the eminent physicist and mathematician and great-grandson of the "father of evolution," gave a series of three talks at VUC last week.

Although intended primarily for physics students, at least one of the talks—a repeat of his Rutherford Memorial Lecture delivered recently in Nelson—was not technical, and it is a pity that his visit was not more widely known to other students.

The visit of a scientist of such standing is a notable event at VUC.

His first lecture, despite a recommendation by the censor for the most learned only, was an intriguing account of the still speculative theories about the constitution of the earth.

The Memorial Lecture came next, a description of Rutherford's work in establishing the "planetary" picture of the atom, and hence atomic number. It was particularly interesting because Sir Charles had been on the spot and actually taken part in some of the research—he was one of Rutherford's original team at Manchester.

However, it has been reported elsewhere, it would be better to attempt to give some account of the last of his three lectures. This was an introduction to a fascinating and extremely modern subject called the "Theory of Information."

There are several examples in physics of what seems at first sight to be a rather unexpected limitation on the amount of information which can be passed through a given system. For example, if we use a telescope to obtain information about a star, then no matter how strong the lenses we use, we find that there is an upper limit to the detail we can ever observe, which is fixed merely by the diameter of the first lens (after a certain point, using stronger lenses makes the image larger, but much fuzzier).

Similar phenomena occur in radar and in telegraphy. They are of course particularly vital in telegraphy, and led theoretical telegraphists to ask such questions as to whether there is a limit to the information which

could be transferred even through an ideal system; what we might mean by information anyway, and how can it be measured and communicated?

(Although Sir Charles spoke mainly with the application to telegraphy in mind, the answers to such questions reach extremely diverse fields, from biology to electronic computers, and he mentioned at the end of his lecture how they might be related to the way in which our own minds work.)

From the telegraphist's point of view the English language is far from efficient. It is redundant—about 50 per cent. of the letters on a page could be blotted out without seriously impairing the information garnered by the reader. It is a most uneconomical code.

However, there is a very important problem in which redundancy is useful. This is the problem of noise—the random occurrence of spurious signals (like static on a radio) which interfere with the proper signal. Redundancy here is a safeguard; it ensures that enough of the right signals are received for no information to be lost.

The actual percentage of redundancy can be calculated



Sir Charles Darwin

Extrav '56 gets away to a flying start

EXTRAVAGANZA '56 got away to a record flying start with the script being presented at the casting meeting for the first time in years. Producer and script-writer Ian Rich has tentatively announced the cast list:

Sheriff—Ted Woodfield.
Sid—Dennis Brown
Fanny—Rosemary Lovegrove
Bigfoot—Bob O'Brien
Wol—Ross O'Rourke
Gaylord Owen—Des Deacon
Salvation Sally—Sylvienne Cockburn
Bulganin—Tony Ferrera
Kruschev—Ron Polson
Teapot—Ted Schroder
Mountaineer—Bryce Evans
Director—Michael Nicolaidi
Mayor—Michael Cullinane
Clifton Webb—John Archibald

This list is tentative and, like the Extrav script, subject to much alteration and expurgation.

The plot is once more a highly convoluted, complex, compact of recent sordid, and otherwise interesting events in topical satire. The accent

is American and even Bulganin and Kruschev are impressed with the advances shown by USA's Culture.

The first scene introduces the characters and is set in a mid-west saloon. The cast then makes a brief and chilly trip to the South Pole. The only reason for this appears to be that everyone is doing it.

Finally the cast arrives in New Zealand to make a film at the Miramar Studios which results in the main characters falling mysteriously ill with some very unpronounceable diseases. Sid is magically converted to Christine Jorgenson and Mabel, reported to have over-eaten at Belamy's, is dredged.

The Prince of Monaco, it is hoped, will make a disguised appearance and maybe Sid will even get crowned. Who knows what will happen? Certainly not the scriptwriter.

which would be needed to counteract a given amount of noise.

Perhaps this at least makes plausible a feature of the theory that is rather remarkable: that although it seems very abstract, with its feet far from firmly planted on the ground, it has chiefly been developed by, and proved most useful to, hard-headed and practical business firms, such as the telephone companies in America.

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