

SPECIAL CAPPING ISSUE - NEXT WEEK

# Salient

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

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6d

Student Press must break through

## NEW ZEALAND'S PAPER CURTAIN

● "Why is the New Zealand Press so rightist? . . . I am astonished at the way news is handled by almost the entire Press in New Zealand. In some areas sermons that backed the United Nations in its declaration of Britain as an aggressor were passed over, while the sermons of those who spoke in terms of expediency were given a column and a half. Lord Tedder spoke out strongly against the Government (over Suez) on moral terms that received great prominence in Great Britain, but was tucked away—if reported at all—in New Zealand."  
—Dr. G. F. McLeod, Moderator-Designate of the Church of Scotland, in the "Evening Post," 8 January, 1957.

● "The absence of an effective left-wing or liberal press leaves the conservative press in undisputed control, and without any adequate means of comparison the people of New Zealand accept right-wing standards as normal. This supremacy cannot, of course, be altered. It is, however, wholly regrettable that the New Zealand Press exercises its supremacy not only in editorial comment, but also in its selection of news. . . . Undisputed right-wing emphasis . . . is a positive danger."  
—Monica Pembleton, in "Critic," Otago University Students' Paper, 4 April, 1957.

● "Newspapers are run for a profit. And since they have such a powerful influence on public opinion, they are run for that purpose also, by people who have reasons for wanting to influence public opinion. If you think they're run primarily to give you the news of the day, go away to some quiet place and work it out all over again."

—The late A. R. D. Fairburn, in the pamphlet "Who Said Red Ruin?" published in Auckland in 1938.

All these statements refer to New Zealand's newspapers, the means by which most of us get our idea of what is going on in the world.

The first two statements were made this year. The last one was made 19 years ago, but in a year which, like this year, was marked by a general election.

### Revealing Comparison

Great Britain, with a population 24 times as great as New Zealand's, has only four times as many daily newspapers.

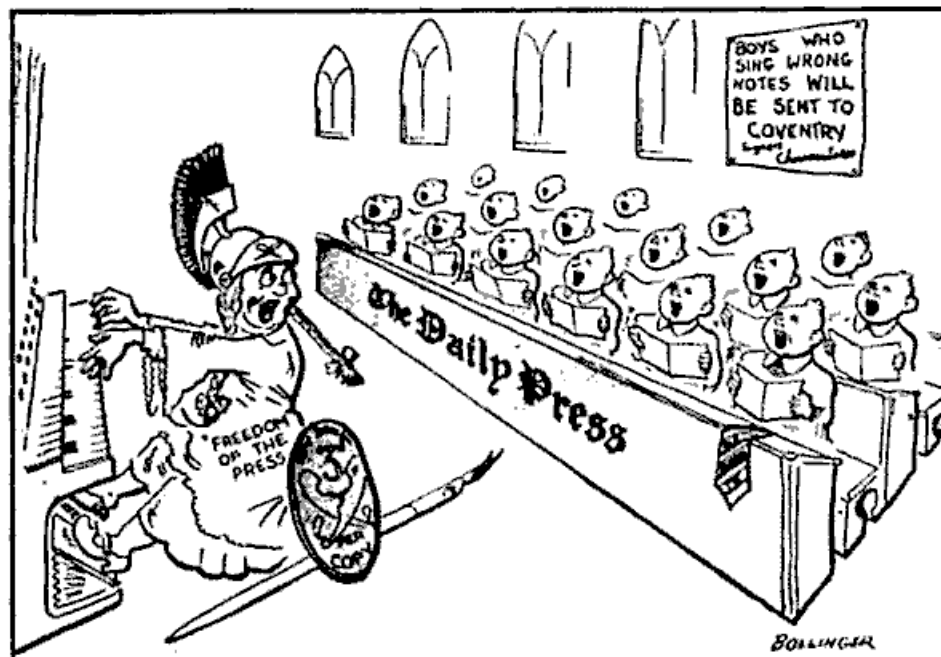
On those figures, you might expect New Zealand to be able to boast a much richer variety of viewpoints. This is not, in fact, the case.

Restricting our vision to the big-circulation metropolitan dailies, Great Britain has 12, of which five (including the one with the biggest circulation) are either left or liberal; New Zealand has eight, of which only two (both under a single proprietorship, and one rather half-heartedly) have distinguished themselves by stepping out of line over Suez and H-Bomb tests.

Overall, the position is worse. New Zealand has only one Labour daily—a small one on the West Coast, the area which least needs it. The thirty other dailies barrack generally for the National Party.

Great Britain also has a large number of independent weeklies whose comments are far from right—not only Tribune and Reynold's News,

A boy once came down to the big city from Waikokamokau to go to Varsity. His old mother was worried that he had not written for a long while, so when she heard the vicar was going to the big city for a bowling tournament, she asked him to be sure and see her boy and find out how he was getting on. The vicar ran the boy to earth in his digs. "Where are you working now?" he asked. The boy faltered and blushed. "I—I'm working on the [name of a daily newspaper—CENSORED]—but don't tell mother, please. She'd be so upset. She thinks I'm still playing the piano at a brothel."



WITH VOICES RAISED AS ONE  
"We are not divided, all one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity."  
—Hymns A. N. M.

but the New Statesman, Spectator, and Observer.

New Zealand has one limp Labour weekly (whose publishers have so low an opinion of the New Zealand public that they believe a few feeble paragraphs of political matter must be supplemented by pages of salacious and sensational muck). "Here And Now", the sole independent organ and excellent as far as it goes, appears only monthly and appears to be staggering financially.

The press prospect in Britain is thus almost infinitely brighter than in New Zealand. And yet even in Britain the National Union of Journalists (whose studied fairmindedness is shown by the monotonous sharing of their annual prize for Britain's best newspaper between "The Times" and the "Daily Worker") went so far, only a decade ago, as to demand a Royal Commission into the press, with special reference to "the influence of financial and advertising interests on the presentation and suppression of news and the dispersion and suppression of essential facts."

The journalists ought to know what aspects of the business needed investigation. A Labour Government set up the Commission—but in a form

well weighted to make its findings comparatively innocuous—and even these were never acted on.

The much gloomier press prospects in New Zealand have never been subjected to a public investigation of any kind.

### Investigation Needed

The press overseas has been coldly scrutinized in floods of books and pamphlets—Denys Thompson's "Between the Lines" and Norman Angell's "The Press and the Organization of Society" in England, George Seldes' "Lords of the Press" in the U.S., and A. E. Mander's "Public Enemy—the Press" in Australia. New Zealand's press has never faced anything worse than Fairburn's 16-page leaflet of 1938—and that limited itself specifically to the "N.Z. Herald".

In the circumstances, student newspapers owe a duty to their readers to draw attention to certain facts about their daily contemporaries.

The most striking fact is that which astonished Dr. McLeod—their right-wing unanimity. This means that editorial comment is, in general, a chorus of praise for Nat-

### A VOICE FOR SURVIVAL

A Giles-style choirboy could have been added in our cartoon, poking out his tongue at the choirmistress and singing the wrong hymn—probably "Peace, perfect peace." He would have been labelled "The Auckland Star."

While the bulk of our dailies apparently approve of the endless vista of H-bomb tests, the "Star" has launched a lone star campaign on behalf of human survival—echoed, subsequently, by the Christchurch "Star-Sun" and one Invercargill paper.

In an editorial on Saturday, 6 April, the "Star" drew a stark picture of the end of the nuclear arms race, and commented:

"New Zealand, as one of the smallest nations, has a responsibility in this. . . . We could take the initiative. We could invite the other nuclear 'haves' to join us in a bloc. Such a bloc of small nations could seek to persuade the 'haves' not to do any more testing. If it should succeed, the reward would be incalculable. In short, in terms of survival, the salvation of the human race."

This very practical suggestion was hailed by one solitary M.P.—Mr. Warren Freer—who, in telegrams to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, commented on the number of messages he had received from his constituents expressing approval of the idea.

But Mr. Holland practically called the idea disloyal, and Mr. Nash pooh-poohed its practicability.

A week later the "Star" commented again: "There is no logical stopping-place in nuclear development. There is only the simple conviction of ordinary people everywhere that the whole thing is wrong, and hideously wrong. . . . As both Mr. Holland and Mr. Nash are humane men, the best comment on their attitudes is the biblical 'Oh ye of little faith!'"

It went on to remind them both of the koral force of an earlier New Zealand venture into independent foreign policy—Sir William Jordan's stand at Geneva over collective security in 1936. "He said the League had lapsed into futility as the result of the vacillation of governments, and not because of the indecision of peoples." He, and the Government for which he spoke, that had did honour to New Zealand.

"Today there is a far greater cause, a far greater opportunity, for a leader—one who is not frightened or flattered either by London or by Washington—to speak plainly and boldly for New Zealand and all have-not nations."

Salient heartily endorses these comments, both as a welcome break in the press's right-wing unanimity, and for their own sakes. We also welcome the publicity given (largely through the offices of the same paper) to the protests raised at Auckland University College, especially by Dr. J. M. Farley and a number of island students, against the danger which the Christmas Island tests will constitute to New Zealand's island territories.

This protest, and the stand of O.U. Council and N.Z.U.S.A. over Apartheid in South African universities, and recent issues of the student papers at Otago and Auckland, assure us that (like unexpected samples of the daily press) the New Zealand university community still has some guts.

ional and of damnation for Labour—though they may snipe at the Government on small local issues or on the general question of taxing-and-spending which usually implies an attack on the "expensive" welfare functions of the State.

It also means that items of news

continued on Page 4

## SALIENT

THURSDAY, 2nd MAY, 1957

## THE OUTSIDER ON THE INSIDE

The title-block on Salient's front page each issue proclaims Salient to be "an organ of student opinion at Victoria College." Those words have been there since long before, in quite recent years, the Stud. Ass.'s Publications Regulations were revised to constitute Salient an "official organ of V.U.C.S.A."

There is nothing necessarily inconsistent in the two definitions—but they represent the adjacent sides of the parallelogram of forces of which Salient is the somewhat schizophrenic resultant.

The phrase "official organ" suggests that editorial comment may represent the official view of the Association. It could logically mean the exclusion of all controversial material which might embarrass the Executive—particularly any criticism of the Executive itself.

That it is (at present) interpreted as not meaning this is apparent from perusal of a single issue.

The Executive appoints the Editors, and may direct them to publish any specific item. The paper receives a subsidy from Association funds, and is subject to the President's imprimatur. But the Editors are, within these limits, independent, and the voice of Salient can by no stretch of imagination be identified with the voice of the Executive.

An article in our last issue mentioned as one item of the present policy of South-east Asia's student press "to be autonomous, but to seek mutual co-operation with national student unions."

We believe that this should also be the policy of the student press in New Zealand, both nationally and within each college.

Close association between student journals and the elected student representatives is essential. The journals must be part of the student establishment, kept informed of all that is going on in the student world and publicizing it among the student body.

At the same time, the independence of the student press, its freedom to comment and pass its own judgment without any restraint from the student hierarchy, must be regarded as inviolable.

The general condition of New Zealand's newspaper industry is investigated elsewhere in this issue. In the face of a startlingly uniform orthodoxy among the press outside the University, we believe that the student press owes a duty to represent the open mind, to be a forum for doubts, derisions, and heresies.

This, of course, means excursions into fields where the normally cautious elected leaders of the student body cannot venture. But it does not mean that the most direct liaison between those leaders and the student press should be broken off, or even that their relations should be strained and formal.

We claim the right to be simultaneously on the inside and on the outside—to have access to and the confidence of the responsible student leaders, and yet to comment on and criticize constructively the actions and decisions of those leaders, and of all the other personalities and institutions of our time.

We hold that these rights have become hallowed in the best traditions of the free press—which still has, as Jefferson said it had 170 years ago—"a greater role to play in a democracy than government itself."

—C.V.B.

## WE APOLOGISE

• For a printer's error by which the Mayor's statement that detailed proposals for student concessions would be considered was included in the events of March 20. It actually occurred on April 2. (Mind you, if it had occurred earlier, subsequent events might not have.)

• For the misplacement of the line "including Olympic Finalists" in the advert. concerning the Fencing Bout with Australian Varsities. It was (as witness results) the Australians, not us, who had this advantage.

• For the suggestion that some people have derived (from the disjointed excerpts we printed from a speech by Mr. Tony Ellis) that the Editors of Salient and/or the per-



sonnel of Exec. have been dismissed for subversion, immaturity, or irresponsibility. In fact, all the same people are still in the same jobs.

• For our sporting soothsayer's assertion that Vic teams at Tournament would "put up a better than usual performance". Apparently his crystal ball was a bit grubby.

## - DEAR SALIENT -

## Watch the Stitches in Your Britches!

"These comments on Extrav. are intended to be helpful, and I trust they will be accepted as such."

**WARDROBE:** It is to be hoped that individual members of ballet and chorus will take more pride in their appearance than did last year's cast. In many cases the costumes were sadly in need of ironing or washing, or both. Some would have been greatly improved by being brushed. Some skirt hems were sagging badly—sticking plaster or a safety pin will help greatly if time is short. The appearance of the male ballet was detracted from by the wearing of a curious assortment of socks. Surely students are no less able today to wield an iron or clothes brush than of yore.

**MAKE-UP:** Chorus and female ballet make-up was poor. The impression was that there had been no over-all check-up by make-up staff before the cast left the dressing rooms.

As everyone knows Extrav. stands or falls on the time, energy, work, and enthusiasm of every member of the company. It was therefore a little startling to find invidious distinctions being made by the handing out of bouquets, verbal and floral. I trust this peculiar manifestation will not recur. A bunch of vegetables to the female impersonators, during curtain calls, could be permitted.

Last year's show, despite the fulsome nonsense printed in what then purported to be "Salient," was not an Extrav. and at times descended to the level of a village concert. The only part with the authentic ring (the Councillors) had been lifted straight out of an old Extrav.

This year's script has great possibilities, though I would suggest that certain well-known names be not used straight, and if the quite astounding amount of latent talent last year is still available and fully utilised who knows? A female impersonator, appearing last year, would make a first class Venus and if some of the Colombo Plan boys could be enticed into one of the male ballets you might even have to extend the season. Best wishes for Extrav. '57.

—J

## Back Stage Boys

For some years I took part in the back stage work of Drama Club productions and I should like to comment on James Bertram's remarks about back-stage staffing in his review of "The Cherry Orchard".

Time spent by a university student on as large a project as a play costs him more than it does members of other amateur groups; for them drama fills a day which otherwise stops at 5 o'clock. But to an actor in a good play even considerable sacrifices are well repaid. The rewards for back-stage work are not so certain.

If you have a small budget, little equipment and perhaps a demanding and unsympathetic producer, a tremendous labour is required to get even very ordinary results. The back-stage worker is then deprived of the opportunity to create. The actor always has this even in a poorly mounted play.

The Drama Club has never had sufficient capital equipment and it has not been able to protect what little it did have. This was partly due to poor accommodation which will be soon remedied but the efforts of several dedicated men to get some order and continuity into the properties department have met with apathy

from most of the club. One seems to find amongst varsity actors less appreciation of the value of good properties and lighting than in any other group in the city. Our ideal stage-worker must, one supposes, proceed alone and so requires an unusual combination of interests and abilities.

He must understand and love the art of the theatre and also have considerable technical knowledge and ability. If he lacks any of these there must be some encouragement to develop them. Too often those who gave their best to the Drama Club behind the scenes drift off after one or two productions. It seems worth noticing that Extrav. back-stage work has a much healthier tradition.

I do not think the problem can be solved as simply as James Bertram suggests. If the actors realised how much a play can depend on its mounting, if the club generally had a less abstract, more workmanlike, attitude to play production and saw the value of good technicians they would have a better team. If the Drama Club had more capital and better accommodation, back-stage work would be less laborious and frustrating. Workers will only join the club and stay if they find they have a real part in making the play.

PETER ANDREWS.

## Locked Out of the Library

It is a matter of some concern that during the 'varsity year the college libraries close on Saturdays at 12.30 p.m.

It appears that most of the rules and regulations which govern the use of college facilities are based on the fiction that the university is for the "full-time" student only. Ideally perhaps it is, but in fact, at least so far as V.U.C. is concerned, most of the students are "part-timers". I have no wish to become involved in a Full-Timers v. Part-Timers controversy, but I do suggest that the requirements of the part-time student are entitled to as much consideration as those of the full-time student, if for no other reason than the fact that both have to comply with the same standard of scholarship and the same Scale of Fees.

Whether or not the part-time student is part-time by choice or necessity is immaterial, his opportunity to utilize college facilities is sufficiently limited—most of his lectures and tutorials are in the late afternoon or early evening thus frequently excluding him from using the libraries at night—without being further penalised by what appears to be an arbitrary rule, namely that the college must close on a Saturday at 12.30 p.m. (sharp).

The main reason why more use is not made of the college on Saturday mornings probably lies in the fact that for most a trip to V.U.C. involves a considerable amount of travelling time which, coupled with 12.30 p.m. closing, makes such a trip on a Saturday morning unprofitable.

On the other hand, if the college were open until 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. (or even later) on a Saturday the part-time students' difficulties mentioned above would for the most part be eliminated. I have no doubt that the opportunity to use the college libraries all day on a Saturday would also be welcomed by a large number of full-time students as well.

J. T. DEVINE.

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Victoria Story 3 . . .

## THE PROF. WHOM A LIE TURNED INTO A SPY

Much the most interesting looking portrait in the College library shows a little old man with a wry smile, sitting cross-legged with a pipe on the arm of his chair.

It represents Professor G. W. von Zedlitz, known as "Von" to a generation of V.U.C. modern languages students.

Arriving at the College in 1901 (aged 31), his personality and background made him a first favourite with college clubs. From a German father and an English mother, he had derived a broad European culture, and had debated at Oxford with Belloe. His wit was sharp, often barbed, and he hated sham.

The Heretics' Club, V.U.C.'s banner-bearer of daring thought in the early 1920s, adopted Von enthusiastically and he it.

At the same time he joined the O.T.C. (the Officers Training Corps, or "old tom cat") formed at V.U.C. in 1909—in the words of "Spike," "the latest form assumed by the military epidemic at Victoria." Marching around Kelburn Park to barked orders, Von little thought he would fall victim to this epidemic in another sense.

He became part of New Zealand so rapidly that he entirely neglected the official move of taking British citizenship.

### COMIC OPERA UNIVERSITY.

University reform was the big issue of the hour. With fellow-Profes, Von campaigned against external exams (then mainly marked abroad), the weird syllabus then current for a bachelor's degree, and the miserable facilities as contrasted with other countries.

In Wellington Town Hall he denounced the "comic opera principles

on which the N.Z. University was run," and added: "It is only my students that prevent me from being quite without hope." It was from his students that he drew most of his support.

He did not get by without enemies. The downtown chairman of the College Council opined that "Professors are employees of the Council, and have no right to question the views of their employer." Still, despite opposition, many of the reforms suggested were gradually adopted.

On August 1, 1914, Germany and Austria were at war with Russia. The issues were unclear. The Kaiser at least tolerated an Opposition—there was manhood suffrage and a strong Socialist Party—but the Tsar's regime was a black night of police terror and Siberian exile.

Von did spontaneously what obviously no spy would have done—wrote to the German Consul offering to go to Germany for Red Cross work. When, three days later, Britain lined up with Russia, he frankly discussed what he had done with friends on the staff, and wrote to the College Council offering to resign.

### WAVE OF HYSTERIA.

The wave of hysterical patriotism which swept the respectability of suburban New Zealand early in the First World War is fantastic to look back on. Germans who had lived and worked in New Zealand pre-war, and become virtual New Zealanders without bothering about citizenship were denounced by jealous business competitors and paranoid witch-hunters, and locked away on Somes Island.

A flood of poison-pen letters in the Press and his own letter-box led Von to offer his resignation repeatedly, but the College Council took the

view that he was invaluable to the College and in no way dangerous, and that the hysteria should be resisted to the last.

The Government at first appeared to support the Council's stand, but by August, 1915, they had apparently decided to offer Von up as a sacrifice to their more demented supporters. Premier Massey, answering a question in the House, stated that while the retention of Professor von Zedlitz's services was entirely a matter for the College Council, nevertheless, "If necessary, legislation will be introduced before the end of the session to deal with the situation in as much as . . . neither in University Colleges nor public schools is it desirable that unnaturalised enemy subjects should continue to give instruction to the youth and children of the Dominion . . ."

### FRAMED BY A LIE.

The following month a Bill was introduced to force the sacking of such people—though in fact it was known that its provisions applied to no one but Von. At the Committee stage a College Council petition all but convinced the assembled M.P.s just how shameful the Bill was. But an official lie which turned Von's letter of August 1, 1914, to the German Consul into an offer to "fight against Britain" panicked them—and not even those who knew the truth had courage (or decency) enough to open their mouths.

The Bill went through. The Council was forced to sack Von.

In the face of this blow to his vocation and his livelihood, his characteristic reaction was, in the words of Sir Thomas Hunter, "the freedom of his soul from any pettiness." He lived on in Wellington and continued to serve the College in other ways, and the cause of education as a Private Tutor and through the W.E.A.

In 1936 the College showed its admiration for him by making him an Emeritus Professor. He died in 1949, but as a symbol of the gross disservice of witch-hunting to humanity, the name of Von Zedlitz has become part of Victoria's tradition.

## STUDENTS LOOK AT LABOUR

• "The New Zealand Labour Party" by Louise Overacker, in *American Political Science Review*, September, 1955.

• "Twenty Years of Compulsory Unionism" by R. M. Martin in *V.U.C. Political Science*, September, 1956.

• "Communism and the Labour Party: Is Co-operation Possible?" G. D. H. Cole, published with a preface by the N.Z. Student Labour Federation, 1956.

Student ventures in political thought are rarely taken seriously except by students. But the revival of interest in socialist theory in the British Labour movement has been largely stimulated by pamphlets and articles emanating from the Universities, and it looks seriously as if some similar trend may be at work in New Zealand.

It is 18 months since the appearance of Miss Overacker's article on the New Zealand Labour Party in *America's* best known political science periodical, and yet so far there has been no New Zealand comment on it. Graduate of a leading U.S. College, she did the research for the study chiefly at V.U.C. under a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1954. And the result is worth reading for more reasons than that in a notably erudite footnote it quotes a pamphlet by one of "Salient's" editors.

It is a clinical analysis of the Labour Party, its history, constitution, sources of support, and the behaviour of its leaders in victory and defeat. Particularly valuable is Miss Overacker's treatment of Labour's dual personality from the uneasy union of Red Feds and Moderates that gave birth to the amorphous and contradictory thing it is today. Her answer to Labour's problems is "a rank-and-file awakening" which will depend, she suggests, on the eventuality of another Depression.

Ross Martin's article on compulsory unionism in New Zealand is a boil-down from a M.A. thesis. Although it comes to no conclusion on the rights and wrongs of the issue it discusses, it presents the facts in such a way that already the Carpenters' Union have picked the article up and reprinted it in their journal. (The Union is hotly opposed to compulsory union membership.)

While not as exhaustive as his thesis, Mr. Martin's article lays bare the assenese of the present situation in the industrial labour movement, and the background and potentialities of the groups favouring and opposing the status quo. With the rejection by the Australian Labour Party of its old policy of compulsory unionism at its conference this month, this article has acquired a new topicality, and deserves careful attention.

Prof. Cole's pamphlet first appeared as an article in the *New Statesman* last year. The freeze-up in the direction of a new cold war situation following on Suez and Hungary alter the situation with which he deals, but the heart of the matter is as pointed now as when it was written.

Cole's line is the one he has been gently plugging since his "People's Front" twenty years ago—that both the Kremlin and Transport House varieties of Socialism are branches of a single tree, and that while one variety may suit one nation, another may suit another. This does not, of course, prevent him from fiercely attacking the barbarous dictatorship of Stalinism or the surrender to big business interests of Western Labour leaders.

The S.L.P.'s introduction relates Cole's remarks to the New Zealand scene, and makes some additional points which are worth reading.

—C. B.

## ASIA COMES TO V.U.C.

Our much-bewailed New Zealand insularity and parochialism should crumble a little this year with the presence in the country of a record number of Colombo Plan trainees—some 210 of them, from all over south and south-east Asia.

Many of them are university students, scattered through the six constituent colleges of the University of New Zealand, and helping to provide that supra-national flavour which has been a characteristic of every good university since the Paris and Boulogne of the middle ages.

We at V.U.C. have our share of this international contingent, with 31 students from Indonesia and Pakistan taking part in our lectures and seminars.

The largest group is made up of 23 Indonesians, including two girls. Ages range from 19 to 27, courses from medicine to engineering and mining to agriculture. They are all doing their intermediate year at V.U.C. before departing for various specialist colleges we allow to exist in the more backward parts of the country. (It is to be hoped that they will remember Vic as the centre of N.Z.'s intellectual life, and regard their years at Otago, Canterbury, Massey and the rest as an unfortunate though necessary anticlimax to their academic career.)

These two students are living at Weir House, and are gradually adjusting themselves to the climate. Since in their own country they live less than 10 degrees from the Equator, they find Wellington breezes a little chilling. Non-Weir men will join us in assuring Fung and Chong that Weir House is of far too dense a nature to be affected by atmospheric currents, whether hot or cold. Weir men will find them a worthwhile and likeable addition to their ranks.

Rather older are the six Pakistanis, all of whom were here last year. One of them, G. Hassan, is studying for a Ph.D. in Chemistry, and the rest (Babar, Khaleque, Haque, and Khan) are studying various branches of

These students came from all parts of Indonesia—Sumatra, Bali, Java, and Kalimantan (North Borneo to you). Many of them are multi-lingual, as there are numerous languages in the country of their origin. They do, however, have a little trouble with English, as it is only since Independence that English has replaced Dutch as Indonesia's second language. They find some lecturers' speech easy to follow, but others they find hard—don't we all?

One can't help being impressed by the intense eagerness of these students to learn, to come to terms with their new environment, and to take back home the knowledge they will gain here.

North Borneo has provided us with Fung Cheong Ming and Chong Thain Yun, taking Arts and Law respectively. (Many students will remember their compatriot Peter Lo who returned home last year after being the first Colombo Plan student to accountancy.)

East Pakistan is more heavily represented than West, and if anyone wants to learn Bengali and read Rabindranath Tagore in the original, here is your chance. All these men have Indian or Pakistani qualifica-

### PLACE YOUR BETS NOW

It is not true that the association is running a sweepstake for the coming Annual Exec. elections, to be held on Friday, 21st, Monday, 24th, and Tuesday, 25th June. But if you are in the running, please note that nominations close at 12 noon on Saturday, 15th June. There has been no official announcement as to whether as last year this in fact means midnight of the 12th.

tions already, and will be going home to Government posts or university lectureships.

Next time you hear the latest news from the North-West Frontier Province, Jesselton, or South Sumatra, being discussed in the cafeteria, you will know what is going on. Join in, and you will meet a grand bunch of students from whom you can learn a lot. It is not easy to live and study in a country very different from your own. And don't be fooled by the strange accents. I will always remember the shock I got one day while talking to an overseas student whose English was grammatically perfect but whose accent I could not always follow. Out of the blue came his puzzled comment: "You know, I find it rather difficult to understand this New Zealand dialect."

Which got me thinking, a habit I have tried to keep up.

P.A.S.

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way to . . .



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## THAT SPOON AGAIN

Writing well before the final results are in, we are able to say with a reasonable amount of confidence that V.U.C. has regained that unenvied trophy, the wooden spoon (reserved, those of you who DON'T KNOW, for the College which gains LEAST points at Tournament).

In fact, our debacle is very nearly a record—we collected only 6 points to the 44½ scooped by the winner, Otago.

We did our best work in Cricket (where Salient's sports editor, John Martin, was a team member), which accounts for 3½ of our points. Tennis and Boxing gave us a point each, and we picked up another ½ point in Rowing. Athletics, Basketball, Shooting and Swimming gave us nothing but the sheer joy of sportsmanship in having participated.

Details of interest to Vic. students are:

### ATHLETICS

Our C. McGuire ran third in the 880 yards, B. Finlayson in the same position in the 220 yards hurdles. We came second in the mile relay. We didn't manage to get anywhere else, and totalled only 9 points in the contest for the men's athletics shield, compared with Canterbury's 65 to win.

Among the women, J. Kale was second in the discus. We gained only 3 points in the women's athletic shield contest, where Canterbury won with 42.

### TENNIS

Our tennis players were beaten at every stage—a sad let-down from the Eichelbaum-Boon-O'Neill days.

### SWIMMING

L. Allen, of V.U.C., was third in the 100 yards men's freestyle, and Paviour-Smith was in the same place in the 100 yards men's backstroke. In diving, we did a little better.

### BASKETBALL

Here we lost all our games, but six of our players (Ros Taylor, Judith Thompson, Elizabeth Crisp, Janice Fraser, Marion Cameron and Judy Davenport) were selected for the North Island rep. team.

### YACHTING

In yachting, we managed to win one race in the Armina (the fourth), and come second in an-

other (the third) in the Legend.

We have no harsh feelings about the results—except possibly a passing regret that we did not do the best we could for the jolly old alma mater. But our great comfort is that if there weren't any losers, there wouldn't be a tournament. And if we didn't always win that wooden spoon, what would we do with that big space in our trophy-case?

Detailed descriptions of play, with some altruistic accounts of the performance of other Colleges, will be in hand in time for our special Capping issue—next week.



## N.Z. PAPER CURTAIN—continued

favourable to right-wing views are given a lot of space, prominent positions, and big headlines, while unfavourable items are stowed away in corners, distorted, chopped up, or suppressed altogether. As a last resort the press has been known to publish what are known in Parliament as "inaccuracies", and to either neglect to apologize or publish the apology in some obscure crevice.

For example, Labour movement news is never given any prominence unless it involves either a defeat of radical by moderate elements, or can be given a twist unfavourable to whole movement. A squabble between Wellington's L.R.C. and Trades Council was given a succession of double-column headlines last October evidently for the latter reason. Similarly, the scare words "nationalization" and "controls" made acceptable copy out of certain Labour Party conference remarks published in the papers three weeks ago.

This sort of thing will be kept up and intensified as the election approaches—just as prior to every other election in New Zealand's history.

### Facts Suppressed

Similarly in industrial disputes (notably in 1951) and referenda (especially that on C.M.T. in 1949), the same discrimination is habitually practised in favour of the employers, militarism, and the right, against labour, anti-militarism, and the left.

How about suppression? Proof positive is difficult to come by, but it is often obvious that some piece of information must have been withheld in the knowledge of the paper and yet was never printed.

We have on our files, however, a clipping from the Evening Post of three years ago—issue of 30 April

1954, main local news page—with an item headed "Labour Scene in Australia". It reports a press conference given by a visiting Australian trade union functionary, Mr. R. A. King. The matter in the article is broadly "moderate" Labour, pro-arbitration, anti-militant, anti-communist.

We also have a photograph of the reporter's copy of this item as it went to the printer. It is identical with what appeared in print, except that it has an extra paragraph on the end:

"Mr. King suggested that the Petrov case had been staged specially to strengthen the hand of the Government in the forthcoming elections. The Prime Minister said, when announcing the Petrov disclosures, that he had known that spying had been going on," he said. "If that was so, it is surprising that he didn't try to stop it earlier instead of leaving the disclosures till the eve of an election."

This paragraph is scored through with a heavily pencilled cross. The rest of what Mr. King said fitted in with the Evening Post's picture of the world. This paragraph didn't—so the readers were not allowed to see it.

Anyone working on a newspaper could give daily examples of this sort of thing.

On the other hand, reactionary assaults on any aspect of the welfare state built up by past Liberal and Labour administrations, is assured of an inflated headline, a showcase position, and a welter of laudatory comments. Attacks on school-leaving age, old-age benefit legislation, milk in schools, the 40-hour week, and general wage orders, provide recent examples. The same goes for any demented cry for judicial flogging or a get-tough policy with teddy-boys.

### "DARING" IS THE WORD

"Coming Friday—Filmed at Last! The Book they Banned!"

D. H. Lawrence's "LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER" Starring Danielle Darrieux, Leo Genn. A daring drama of great power, revealing a new Phallic Tenderness between man and woman.

Filmed just as London, Paris, New York, was amazed to see it."

—Advert in Evening Post, 10 April, 1957.

## God Defend New Zealand

### CLASS WAR

"The great difference between Britain and New Zealand is that in Britain there is a nucleus of employers and trade unionists who see eye to eye on fundamentals, whereas out here they just retire behind their respective political ramparts and throw statutes at each other."

—New Zealand Letter in British magazine, "Personnel Management."

### WANTED

MISTRESS: For Juniors. Duties to commence May 22, 1957. Residence provided if required. Apply Tel. 47, Eastbourne."

—Advert in Dominion, 12/4/57.

## WHAT'S COOKING?

### ASIAN SEMINAR IN N.Z.?

There is good chance New Zealand will be host country for the 1957 Asian Student Seminar, an annual event sponsored by International Student Conference — the body of which Co-Sec. is administrative arm. After hearing a report from David Stone on his Manila trip, N.Z.U.S.A. resident exec. decided in March to recommend Colleges to discuss the practicability of the suggestion.

The seminar would be attended by representatives from Australia, Burma, Ceylon, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaya, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam — and others we might wish to invite (why not China?). Suggested venue is Auckland, in the second week of August vacation, giving the delegates the chance of meeting the pretty fair cross-section of New Zealand students who foregather there for winter tournament, N.Z.U.S.A., and N.Z.U. Student Press Council.

### GRIM FAIRY TALE

"It's new . . . it's sensational . . . the diplomat with three heads."

—Advert., Commercial Broadcasting.

All the better to fool you with, my dear.

### VIEWS OF A BRITISH WORKMAN

"May I set forth the views of a British workman on the Suez problem, views which I find I share with

most others with whom I come in contact? Suez will always be a problem whether the Egyptians are ruled by Farouq or Nasser. Most of them have lived in squalor since before the building of the pyramids, and have no desire to change their thieving ways, hence the ease with which Nasser leads them to brigandage on a large scale, and their outbursts of joy at its spectacular success, due not to any fighting qualities of their own, but solely to the British, or rather anti-British Labour Party and the U.S.A."

—Letter in Dominion, 19/2/57.

## THEY PUT THE "ROCK" IN ROCK-'N-ROLL

The V.U.C. Geological Society's Annual General Meeting (held Tuesday evening, 2nd April) was attended by 50 people. The newly elected committee (President: Jim Ting; Secretary-Treasurer: Jill Le Fort. Committee men: Barry Webby, Barry McKelvey, Peter Webb) was empowered by a resolution to co-opt an observer from each of the first two stages of Geology. Profs. Cotton and Clarke were re-elected Patrons.

Business over, Prof. Cotton spoke on "Geomorphology from the Point of View of the Geologist", and slides were shown of the Society's trip to Wanganui and the Department's trip to Onekaka. Supper was served.

Hey Diddle Diddle  
Distribute the Middle  
The Premise controls the Conclusion:  
The Disjunctive affirms  
That the Diet of Worms  
Is a Borbetomagic confusion.

Some comments at the Maori Women's Welfare League conference last month demonstrated the unpleasant racist taint in New Zealand's press—especially in court reports. While some serious pressmen are active in a contrary direction, this undertone points up a nasty aspect of our press's rightism which hit its nadir in the "four Maori Kings" propaganda of 1956-59 when Labour held the House by a majority of four. Continual representation of Maoris as criminals and halfwits must have the effect of discounting their political responsibility, and is a step in the Jim Crow or Apartheid direction.

But the press's racism is not limited to Maoris. "Italian Fined £250 for Bookmaking" shrieked the main local headline in the Evening Post on 15 April. (In fact, nothing in the article suggests that the convicted man was born anywhere but in Wellington.)

## Hard Economics

What about lies? These are also difficult to pin-point, and usually subtle. For instance, the fantastic statement in the Evening Post that "several hundred pounds' worth" of damage was done on cable car property on 1st April has never been withdrawn. And compare Evening Post and Southern Cross reports (29/9/48 and 30/9/48 of demonstrations of the earlier date by V.U.C. students against conscription — the former said 69 students took part, the latter said 150. One of them was obviously not telling the truth, and we have our opinion as to which.

All this is not just cussedness on the part of reporters and sub-editors. We often forget that in fact the "Evening Post" is Blundell Bros. Ltd., and the "Dominion" is the Wellington Publishing Co. Ltd.—respective capital £30,000 and £40,000.

They are private business concerns, run for profit—the most influential contributors to which are not us readers with our threepenny-bits, but the advertisers, who are also private business concerns run for profit.

The list of shareholders of Blundell Bros. Ltd. shows that the shares are concentrated in the hands of a comparatively few persons — most of whom are Blundells, and all of whom own comparatively large blocks of shares. They are all comparatively rich men.

Shares in the Wellington Publishing Co. Ltd. are spread around a bit more evenly, but prominent among the shareholders are Daniel Johnston Riddiford (lawyer, and well-known crusader in right-wing causes), Robert Mackenzie Watson (a director of Sharland & Co.), Gordon Graham Gibbes Watson (chairman of C.M.L. and B.P. (N.Z.) Ltd., director of Ford Motors, N.Z. Felt & Textiles, and Matheson Minister), Sir Will Appleton (director of Amalgamated Brick & Pipe Co., N.Z. Guarantee Corporation, Bryant & May, Griffin & Sons, Scoullars, Victoria Laundry, Bond's Hosiery, Wellington Woollen Manufacturing Co., J. R. McCaskey & Son, Frozen Products Ltd., etc.), and several others. (including C.M.L., N.Z.J., and N.M.L.)

Viewed in the light of these facts, the right-wing policies of the newspapers make sense. Rather distasteful sense.

Political proclivities are apt to be dictated by hard economic facts.

There is not much we can do to alter either facts or proclivities, but we can, in our small way, counter the influence of both by raising a voice of honest doubt, verging at times into radical protest, through our student press.

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