

# Salient

Victoria University Students' Newspaper

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## "KICK THE BUMS OUT!"

### DWYER TO MOVE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION?

A special General Meeting of the Victoria University Students' Association has been called. On Wednesday, September 6 (7.30, Memorial Theatre) there will be an attempt to pass a vote of no confidence in the executive. The present executive has been in office for only a short while. What happened? Extracts of a letter printed below reveal the circumstances leading to this move to get rid of our executive. The letter was written by the secretary of the Association, Mr Moriarty, and addressed to Mr W. Dwyer and members of the Anarchist Association.

Mr W. Dwyer and Members of the Anarchist Association, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington.

Dear Bill,—The application for affiliation made by your Association was considered by the Executive at its meeting on Thursday, August 3, 1961.

The matter was first raised under correspondence where the following was moved:

Moved—Moriarty/K. Clark: "THAT the V.U.W. Anarchist Association be affiliated to this Association."

After some discussion it was decided to circulate the constitution around the table before voting.

Moved—Stubbs/Pitchforth: "THAT the matter lie upon the table."

The constitution had been read by all the members of the Executive by the time the matter was brought up by Mr Stone under General.

Moved—Moriarty/Stone: "THAT the motion lying on the table be now taken up." It was then moved—O'Brien/Moriarty.

"THAT the V.U.W. Anarchist Association be granted affiliation to this Association."

(I realise that this was bad procedure but it was 12.30 Friday morning by this time).

Considerable discussion ensued until it was moved—Jeffcott/Stubbs.

"THAT the motion be now put." Carried.

The substantive motion was then put and Lost (7-2).

It was then moved—Pieton/Jeffcott.

"THAT a letter be sent to the person applying for affiliation of an Anarchist Association explaining that the procedure of affiliation denies the aims of the proposed association and that we will guarantee them the same privileges as other clubs as regards room bookings." Carried.

As you can see the motive for our declining is mainly a feeling that the affiliation of your association could only do it harm. Most members felt that it was not in consonance with the declared aims of your movement and preferred to establish a mutual relationship between the Students' Association and your members whereby the latter could have full use of Students' Association facilities without binding themselves to the onerous rules and regulations of this bureaucratic and highly organised society which I must agree is definitely "petrified by routine" and red tape.

However, I repeat the assurance given you by Mr Mitchell and myself last Monday, that if it is still your desire to be affiliated, then the matter will be brought up at

our next meeting. When the Executive learns that you still strongly desire affiliation I would expect this to be granted immediately.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. MORIARTY,  
Secretary.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

The draft agenda includes the following motions:

1. "That this Special General Meeting grant affiliation, retrospective to July 31, 1961, to V.U.W. Anarchist Association."
2. "That this Special General Meeting of the Students' Association has no confidence in the Executive of the Association."
3. "That a sub-committee of the Association be delegated to prepare amendments to the Constitution to bring it into accord with the principles and aspirations of a free association. That this sub-committee number 10 members and be elected forthwith and report back to a further General Meeting within one month of this meeting."
4. "That a copy of the Constitution be handed to every member at the commencement of the Academic Year."

#### RETALIATION

The fifth motion, a counter-attack on Dwyer by the executive, reads:

5. "That a new clause be added to Section 23.  
(3) Every affiliated body shall have a President or Club Captain, a Secretary, and a Treasurer; these officers together with any other members that the Club might appoint to be known as the Committee. On the appointment of these officers, the Secretary of the Association shall be notified of the personnel

concerned and of any changes which might occur from time to time."

#### A SEPARATE ISSUE

The sixth motion is a miscellaneous missile aimed at the compulsory donation to W.U.S. It rescinds the constitutional amendment passed at the last A.G.M.

6. "That the following words be deleted from Section 6 (1) of the Constitution:— "A fee of 1/6 shall also be paid by each student such fee to be a contribution to World University Service provided that any student may decline to pay such a fee if he or she so desires. This fee shall also be paid to the Registrar when other University fees are paid."

The circumstances leading to this move to oust executive have been investigated by "SALIENT."

What are Mr Dwyer's motives? Can it be due to the Russian visit? Do you think the executive should be ousted? SALIENT suggests that you come to the Special General Meeting and find out for yourself.

#### ANTI-RELIGIOUS

Someone has suggested that this move to get rid of our executive is part of the present antagonism entertained by some students towards the religious societies. Usually reliable sources have also revealed that there are whispers the "quiet room" in the Student Union Building may in some ways be connected with this wave of bitterness against the executive.

The mystery is deepened by the fact that Mr O'Regan (a former Publications Officer in the 1960-61 executive) is among the signatories of the petition calling for the general meeting.



Concentration in chess, Winter Universities Sports Tournament, 1961.

## POLICE CALLED: TOURNAMENT

### NOSTALGIA CREEPS BACK!

Although utterly intimidated by the unmitigated condemnation of reader T. C. Young (Salient 12) Tournament has come and passed us by and we must rave on regardless . . . Let it not be said that Nostalgia was left unmoved by a week of concentrated liberty! However, rest assured—all shall be innocuous—let there be no breath of defamation, no suggestion of "juvenile hangover and banality" . . . if we may just venture to remind participants of their nocturnal whereabouts during the week?

**Beresford St.:** Nice crammed parties with a guitar and a predominance of Canterbury and Auckland. It was made perfect by the introduction of genuine Victoria joss-sticks. Aucklanders proved ardent fans and a dozen or so disciples have vowed to initiate their fellow students way up north.

#### GUESTS THROWN OUT.

**Featherston St.:** Ideally situated next door to the breweries, this flat was built for a party—two large rooms connected by a long kitchen on one side and a passage on the other ensured good circulation—for those who wanted to cir-

culate. All went merry as a marriage-bell till the irate maiden inhabitants threw out their guests at 1.30 a.m. Nevertheless, this party will go down in history. For here the much celebrated Mr "Moon," Auckland's pride and joy, provided his customary entertainment for wide-eyed spectators from the other less-endowed universities. Our education is complete.

#### LAND-LADY-ITIS

**Broadway:** What a party!—The walls bulged and several students with weak constitutions were apophyxiated—so much so the owners of the flat had difficulty night

after night afterwards, turning away boisterous would-be orgy fans [due to an attack of pernicious land-lady-itis.]

**Park St.:** This bachelor establishment (there seemed to be about eight of them) provided hospitality for a fairly select crowd who jived to a marvellous tape recording and enjoyed a profound literary discussion in the most artistically decorated sitting-room. Nevertheless—what we want to know is—who flogged our scarf?

#### POLICE CALLED.

**Ada St.:** Always a good standby for a party when all else failed. This flat of five [with six extra billets] lasted the season, although the exhausted neighbours called the police about 5 a.m. on the last night [they arrived most apologetically in the middle of the 35th chorus of "Matilda"]. Main functions held here included a N.Z. U.S.A. party on Saturday, a drama [Arts Festival] party, a Con O'Leary exhibition [another Bill Dwyer forsooth!] and a memor-

able flakers party—thirty odd on one double innerspring mattress on the sitting-room floor in front of the fire amid dozens of cushions, rugs, sleeping-bags, pillows, etc.—the whole mess being regularly disrupted by pillow fights and heated intellectual discussions.

#### PALMERSTON RELIEVED WHEN THEY LEFT!

In conclusion, on behalf of the N.Z. Universities may I formally thank all Palmerston North land ladies for their (enforced?) hospitality, the generous owners of open-party flats, and the long-suffering citizens . . . who stole their wattle, kept them awake till ungodly hours, paraded round in absurdly long scarves, menaced pedestrians in old bombs and PAINTED THE TOWN RED?

P.S.—Query: How come the Victoria University Women's Drinking Team with their unparalleled record of five minutes, received no opposition after challenging all the other universities?

—CATHY.











SALIENT

TOURNAMENT—

# LINCOLN'S FIRST ATTEMPT WINS DRAMA

## VICTORIA DISQUALIFIED

Lincoln, the reluctant debutante of inter-Varsity drama, produced "The Bespoke Overcoat" for her first contribution to Drama Festival, and walked off with first place.

The play was produced by Roger Page, who also took the leading part of the Jewish clerk, Fender. Last year, Roger Page was at Massey and Massey won first prize. It is very likely that both successes owe a lot to this talented individual.

Using the set in three units, divided only by skilful lighting, the production moved along smoothly at an unhurried pace. The pathos of what author Mankowitz called the "sustained, typically over-long Jewish joke" never descended into melodrama; the quiet humour of the plot was never overdone. Altogether it was a satisfying entertainment and a popular winner.

All four roles were well-cast and adequately played; the two major characters of Morry and Fender were brilliant. They maintained their characterizations steadily and achieved a pleasing balance in interplay. The atmosphere was completed by such subtle touches as having the two Jews huddling close together in Morry's small workroom-bedroom, giving the impressions of friendship and poverty and seclusion without saying a word.

The adjudicator, Mr Eric Bradwell, could find only technical faults in this play. He praised the performance of Roger Page at some length, and commented on the excellent supporting performance of Brian Milne as Morry.

### Vic. not yet Old Vic.

Victoria's production of "In Camera" by Jean-Paul Sartre was not considered in the final adjudication because it ran at least seven minutes over the time allowance of one hour. But, judging from audience reaction, it would not have won anyway.

Like the first night of another Vic production this year, it went on—and on. Although a fair portion of the original script had apparently been cut, three characters left on a stage containing little more than three symmetrically-placed couches have to be outstandingly good if they are to hold the attention of the audience for more than quarter of an hour. As three unpleasant people in a Sartre hell, John Terris, Alison Laurie and Nicolette McKenzie made a good job of a difficult

## England

Cambridge "Varsity" won the sixth national student-newspaper competition for the Daily Mirror Cup. This is the second time Cambridge has competed and last year they were also successful. The decision is based upon three consecutive editions of the paper issued during the last term. This year, too, Cambridge competed for the first time in the Daily Mirror Competition for the best feature and was awarded second prize after "Gongster" (Nottingham). (Varsity, Cambridge).

theme. Unfortunately, as the adjudicator later pointed out, they were not quite experienced enough to give tonal variation all the way through, and the result was slightly monotonous.

Otherwise, the play was good. It was extremely well produced by Michael Hattaway, and achieved an excellent pace and good characterization and integration of pitch. Details were pleasingly attended to—the adjudicator commented on the stillness of characters when they were not speaking, and general economy of movement.

One factor which played against Vic was that the audience was tired when the play started, since it came at the end of a heavy evening.

### Massey Presents Tableaux

This year Massey chose a Victorian setting and Noel Coward's "Family Album," which turned out to be a rather uninspired series of tableaux, thinly disguised beneath a Cowardian giggle at the Victorian patriarch and his family.

There were some good characterisations, said the adjudicator, but the performance was marred by technical faults of production, particularly in movement and groupings.

Perhaps the main disappointment was the shallow theme. Generally speaking, this is not the time or the place for 1934 vintage Coward, and we had expected more from last year's winners. —L.L.C.

## Mr. Franklin on Common Market

The E.E.C. is essentially a political organization with political aims. Its economic aims are only of secondary importance. For if the E.E.C. had only economic aims, these could have been achieved by the Free Trade area.

There is a large percentage of non-viable farming in Western Europe and it is hoped that by joining the E.E.C. this situation will be changed, with the creation of six million new jobs. Also, agricultural surplus will be absorbed by the E.E.C. Hence, it is impossible that New Zealand will be allowed to join in the E.E.C.

Mr. Franklin mentioned the difficulty of integrating widely differing economies in the E.E.C. France compared with Germany is sparsely populated with an economy based on agriculture in the south. How will E.E.C. incorporate the different economies of highly industrialized Germany and the Mediterranean economies of Spain, Greece and Southern Italy, underdeveloped, poor, and mainly agricultural?

The economic consequences associated with the E.E.C. will be the raising of the standard of living of the member countries. There will be greater economic power for the community as a whole. Mr. Franklin also saw the ending of the class war in Western Europe because of the welfare state and the rising standing of living. However, will the levelling-out in Western Europe only increase the division between the European and non-European world—Africa and the underdeveloped countries of the world.

The political aim of the E.E.C. is essentially to strengthen Europe in the cold war. Economic improvement will mean increased military strength. The problem is how will Western Europe use this power? To perpetuate the cold war in the non-European areas? Or will the E.E.C. raise the living standards of underdeveloped countries by providing the capital for initiating development?

T.M.L.

## China

### Taiwan (Formosa)

College graduates from Nationalist China to be selected for advanced studies abroad at Government expense will this year be sent to European countries, such as France, Germany, Spain and Britain, instead of the United States. This switch in the designation of countries for post-graduate studies is made in view of the fact that too large a percentage of Chinese students have gone to the United States in the past years. Courses in French, German and possibly Spanish will be offered in future by the National Political University and the Catholic University to provide students with proper language training before they leave to Europe. The number of Government scholarships to be awarded this year will be 10 with each scholarship to cover a period of three years instead of the two-year period allowed in the past. (The Asian Student, San Francisco).

### No Reduction

Some SALIENT subscribers have remarked on the reduction of the number of pages since the change of format after SALIENT 9. If these people compare the old format with the new, they will see that the new format holds five columns instead of four, sixteen inches per column instead of twelve. An eight-paged issue of the new format holds 640 inches, whereas a twelve-paged issue of the old SALIENT holds only 540 inches. Furthermore, there is now less swearing at past-up meetings.

## ECONOMICS OF ARMAMENTS

At a meeting of the Social Credit Club, Mr. R. W. Johnson, candidate for Miramar, said that every country must get rid of its surplus products and it must indulge in production that people do not want—armaments.

Mr Johnson said that the export drive inevitably led to trade rivalry and military war. War solved all our economic difficulties. If there had not been a Second World War, every family in the U.S.A., Britain, Canada, France, the U.S.S.R. and Belgium could have had at least a £12,000 house, £4,000 worth of furniture and £2,000 in cash.

In the U.S. today there are over 5 million unemployed and they found it necessary to recruit more people in the army. If it was not Berlin, we would have a crisis somewhere else.

Because the markets are shrinking today, he said, China and India are going to find the same problem as the

U.S. and Britain. Arms are an economically good capital development as the product does not take money out of purchasing power.

Trade has become perverted—it tries to get other countries into debt. Every country cannot have a favourable balance of trade and there is an ill-feeling between many nations.

A Social Credit New Zealand would show other countries what could be done. We have to equate purchasing power with goods and services available. The only way to eliminate the need for armaments was to do this equation, Mr Johnson concluded.

—R. J. BROMBY.

## Inside Story

Soviet scientists are to probe the secrets of the lower levels of the Earth's crust and the upper layers of the underlying "mantle", a belt of rock some 1,700 miles thick beneath the outer crust. Research to a depth of about 500 miles is envisaged in the programme, and it is hoped it will lead to great progress in solving such major problems as the origin of continents and oceans, the causes of the movement

of the Earth's core and the development of mountain ranges, magnetism and volcanic activity, the formation of metallic ore deposits and the origin and forecasting of earthquakes. Comparative studies will be carried out on the underlying strata of widely different geological zones.

A great deal is expected from thermometric studies of the flow of heat from the Earth. In different regions this flow varies and information on its distribution will give some indication of processes occurring in the depths of the Earth. Deep seismic sounding will be applied on a wide scale.

This technique has already yielded some interesting results in the zone of transition from the Asian continent to the Pacific Ocean. The upper mantle has been explored there to a depth of just over sixty miles. As a result, it has been possible to establish intermediate types of structure of the Earth's crust, which under the Sea of Okhotsk proved to be much thinner than on the continent, and thicker than in the ocean. Geological studies have warranted the conclusion that the marginal-Okhotsk and Japanese-seas are comparatively young. The expansion of the Pacific Ocean at the expense of the Asian continent has also been established. Gravimetric, magnetometric and other studies will play a major part in the exploration, along with laboratory studies of the properties of rocks in the conditions of high temperature and pressures.

A new transistorised pendulum clock is on the market and is precise to half a second a month. The clock can be used in laboratories or as a master clock to automatically control a series of other clocks in large plants, offices and other establishments.

G.J.N.



BEECH

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Our Sports Editor is still waiting for the results of the recent winter tournament (thanks to his efficiency—Ed.), but the picture to the left is self-explanatory.

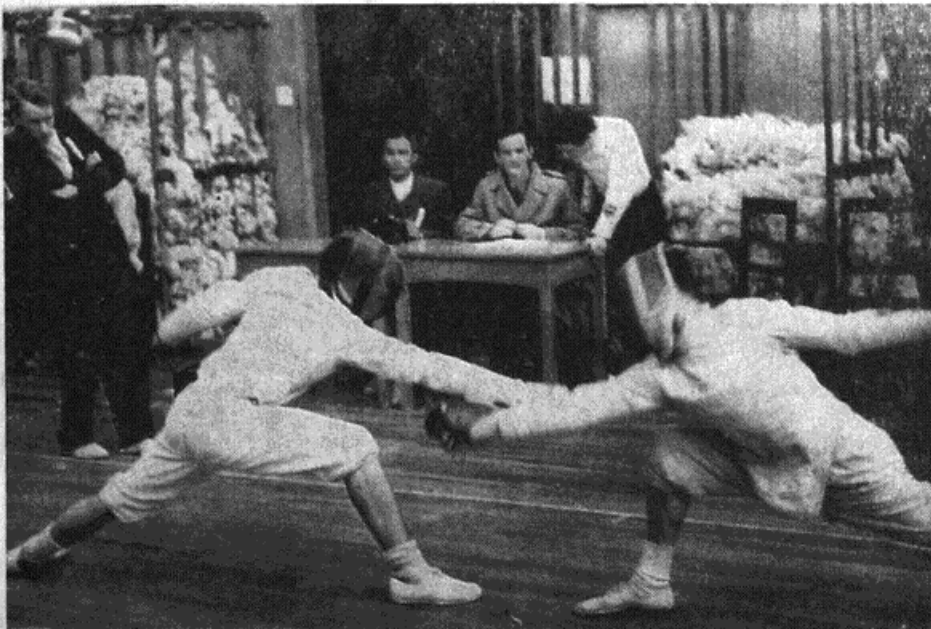
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[Courtesy Manawatu Evening Standard.]

R. Martin (Victoria), V. M. Woods (Canterbury), during the fencing competition in the Wool Room at Massey College during tournament.

# THOUGHTS ON THE PHENOMENON OF MAN

HERE I AM. It was with this fact, said Professor Somerset, that he was becoming more and more intrigued, for in it was expressed man's consciousness and his ability to contemplate himself. Thus, it was not about general principles or abstractions that he wished to speak, but about a particular book, *The Phenomenon of Man*, by Pierre Chardin.

Professor Somerset said that this book forms a great imaginative vision of man. It is an attempt to place man in relation to the evolution of life on earth, and to ascertain his position and his future in the process of this evolution. The author envisages the whole knowable reality of man as a process of becoming, and not as a static situation. It was emphasised that this conception of a process of becoming was taking increased importance; indeed, and here Professor Somerset quoted from the book—"the universe in its entirety must be regarded as one gigantic process, a process of becoming, of attaining new levels of existence and organisation."

Professor Somerset then asked whether or not we were inclined to look on man as something outside this process. That, in fact, we had not yet escaped from the medieval idea of Man as being nothing but pieces in a kind of framework. Chardin, he said, came to the conclusion that since evolutionary phenomena are processes, they can never be evaluated or even adequately described solely in terms of their origins; they must be defined by their direction, their inherent possibilities, and their deductible future trends. He therefore coined two words; the first, "homination", denoted the process by which the original human stock was becoming more human; and the second, the "noosphere", denoted the sphere of mind, as superimposed on the sphere of life, which acted as a transforming agency promoting "homination". It is, in other words, the sum-total of all

that has been contributed to the world by the human mind.

In an analysis of evolution from the very beginnings Chardin finds two distinct tendencies, said Professor Somerset. Firstly, there is a centrifugal force which causes a wide number of variations, e.g. the five hundred thousand species of insects; and, secondly, there is a centripetal force causing convergence, or a turning in, among the higher vertebrates. This second tendency is basic to Chardin's conception of man, for it was at the point when man, a single species, evolved, that evolution had turned in on itself.

Professor Somerset went on to elaborate the idea of these two tendencies, saying that they are also expressed in human personality. On the one hand there is a tendency towards extreme individualisation, for the genetic process which causes us never causes two alike beings. And yet there is a trend towards greater interrelation and communication between man and man. From this comes the kind of image that Chardin would like us to build up, he said—the image of the uniqueness of every person. Unique and yet necessary, for all people contribute to the noosphere, and therefore to homination.

His personal conception of religion was important in all this, Professor Somerset felt. He saw it as a unifying force which related him personally to both God and man, and enabled him to feel at home with both man and the Universe.

He said that the reading of this book was an intensely exciting experience, and to close quoted from the introduction by Sir Julian Huxley: "We, mankind, contain the possibilities of the earth's immense future and can realize more and more of them on condition that we increase our knowledge and our love. That, it seems to me, is the distillation of *The Phenomenon of Man*."

Professor Somerset gave the talk at a S.C.M. meeting.

## Mathematics-logic Relationship

On August 2, Mr Harvie of the Mathematics department, addressed the Philosophical Society on the relationship between logic and mathematics.

In order to provoke discussion Mr Harvie maintained a viewpoint he did not completely hold. Mr Harvie maintained that although mathematics is logical in form it does not have its roots in logic.

Over the past hundred years the characteristic method has been the axiomatic one. In this method you postulate axioms and then argue from them. But do these axioms refer to anything; are there any entities to which the axioms refer. This led to the idea that mathematics should be expressed in logical terms.

However during the last 50 years working mathematicians have ignored this. They know little of the logical foundations of the subject. A mathematician has experience of a thing and he puts down axioms to make the idea precise. This is to him a satisfactory basis for asserting the axioms. Mathematics has no need for the calculations logicians are trying to force upon them. The clearest example of this is in the work of the "Bourbaki." They believe mathematics is a set of unconnected systems.

In other words logicians have made their own subject and can solve their own problems. The results do not affect mathematicians. Mr Harvie went on to discuss various specific points arising from logic and mathematics.

### NON CONSTRUCTIVE PROOFS

Intuitionists have held that non-constructive proofs are invalid. However, most mathematics rests on non-constructive theorems. Quoting an example from Stage I mathematics: Euclid's proof of the

irrationality of "root two." Root two is assumed to be rational and it is shown that this leads to a contradiction and is therefore wrong. Intuitionists say that something does not exist unless it can be constructed.

### AXIOM SYSTEM

Now any axiom system characterises at least two groups. There is more than one model for any set of axioms. Mathematicians are only interested in one system. They ignore the fact that other models are characterised by the axioms.

Mr Harvie finally asserted that mathematics is uncontainable. This allows mathematicians to hope their subject is alive after all. You are free to accept or to reject any axiom. Mathematics is an unbounded subject.

In the ensuing discussion various points inferring a relationship were raised. Professor Hughes said you cannot find the dividing line between logic and mathematics. Doctor Lundy said you can work in both fields at once without difficulty.

However the main point discussed was set theory. It was claimed that up to the "axiom of choice" set theory is logical as it is concerned with class membership. This axiom is objected to on logical not on mathematical grounds. Godel however has pointed out that the use of the axiom of choice makes mathematics no more inconsistent than before. This has done away with a lot of objections to using this axiom.

—D.F

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## Staff v. Students . . . Debate

### IGNORANCE AND BLISS

"I have no arguments, so I prefer to define the motion" was Mr. Hogg's opening gambit in the annual Staff-Student debate on the topic "Ignorance is the only excuse for bliss." Hogg referred pityingly to the Staff's learned misery. "They drink at the fountain of knowledge—we drink elsewhere." However, after ten minutes of crowd-pleasing Hogg got round to putting up an argument and almost sewed up the debate for the Affirmative by pointing out that if bliss required an excuse it was morally culpable, and that ignorance was the only excuse for doing something morally culpable.

Replying for the Negative, Dr Sloane stressed that he was an Irishman, and hence, like the politicians, did not regard ignorance as an excuse for not opening his mouth. "Fellow geniuses, ignorance is a skill acquired with the years" declaimed the good Doctor, and proceeded to tell some Sex stories to prove that ignorance was not the only excuse for bliss. In fact, he asserted, Bliss needed no excuse at all.

Mr. Prasad attempted to introduce a serious note to the debate by stressing the Poverty, Hunger, and Vice apparent in the world, and asserted that only ignorance could excuse the blissful unawareness people had of these things. However, Mr. Prasad weakened his moral stand by attempting to spice up his speech with juicy quotations from "Truth".

Counter-attacking for the Negative, Professor Joan Stevens quoted some of the more esoteric parts of the Oxford Dictionary and some of the more frank parts of Chaucer. Warning to her subject Prof. Stevens asserted that as far as excuses for Bliss went the Affirmative also had drink.

INTERJECTION: Mr Hogg did.

Miss Boyle, closing the Affirmative's case, bemoaned the effect of Education in destroying her chances of Bliss, and asserted that ignorance was essential for bliss. "Look how worn and pale all the Freshers are in October," cried Miss Boyle.

Dr Truscove now entered the fray for the Negative, and swayed the Audience to his side with an admirable display of cynical logic. "Bliss is a Chemical state arriving through a complex balance of different hormones," Truscove claimed. "It is likely to occur via starvation, as in the case of the Saints, or through enjoying the suffering of others." However, it was unlikely to be attained fully in this world.

floor speakers, and Mr Bromby seized the chance to ride his hobby horse over the suppression of Student newspapers and Social Credit. Ignorance in politics was the only excuse for bliss, he asserted.

Mr Lewis then took the floor to disclaim. "I know Dr Sloane is ignorant," he said, "I am one of his pupils." As for Sex he claimed to know nothing about it, but still to find it blissful.

Miss Frost said that the motion depended on the definition of bliss, and that in her view the necessary element of bliss was an absence of conflict, and hence that it could only be found in Heaven or amongst the ignorant.

Mr Simeona said that in order to experience bliss it was necessary to be aware of it, and hence by definition this knowledge could not be ignorance.

### SALIENT IS EXPENSIVE TOILET PAPER

Mr Roberts now took the floor to bewail the day he had first arrived at University to have his ignorance dispelled, and expressed disbelief in the University motto that wisdom was to be desired more than gold. In a burst of self pity Roberts let drop the secrets that women were like chimpanzees, lawyers satchels contained only week-end frog, and "Salient" was the most expensive toilet paper in the country. "Only suckers learn for any other reason than making money," he cried.

Mr McConnie claimed, as a higher animal, that he got bliss from listening to a Concerto and not from ignorance, while friend Mr Flude stressed the pure bliss arising from knowing that your horse had won the race.

Mr Tamasese charged the staff with manufacturing new frontiers of ignorance in order to provide themselves with jobs, and noted that Dr Truscove's arguments were like England—all wet.

Mr Mitchell extolled the joys of sex and Alcohol, while Mr Butler let flow that if one did not know what one did not know, one did not know what one missed.

Mr Hamlin thundered that none of the arguments put forward were valid since they dealt only with single facets of the topic.

"Ignorance is the only excuse for the idiot in the back row," opined Hamlin when heckled.

Mr Preston put forward that since bliss was a personal feeling no single reason could be advanced for it, while Mr Middleton suggested that ecstasy required almost complete ignorance. The final floor speaker, Mr Hart, claimed that the purpose of living was to improve oneself and the common good, and that this was bliss through knowledge, not ignorance.

Summing up for the Negative, Dr Sloane parodied the main arguments of his opponents. Notably Economics lecturer Sloane rejected Prasad's "rguments" on the grounds that they were Economic and hence nonsense. "I got

my Doctorate through transferring corpses from one cemetery of learners to another," admitted the Doctor.

INDECENT POETRY? Hogg, closing the case for the Affirmative, denied ever looking at a dictionary. "I invented my own definitions," he alleged, and accused Dr Truscove of gaining his bliss (ignorance) from indecent poetry.

The debate closed with the motion being lost 12 to 37 on the vote of the whole house, and 15 to 29 on the Student vote. Miss Ford was the adjudicator.

—REPORTER

## SCIENCE COLUMN

### 4000-Year-Old Cataclysm Observed

Last year astronomers watching the sky in the region of the constellation of Hercules were eye-witnesses of a catastrophe which occurred four thousand years ago. In about 2000 B.C. when the Pharaohs were still in the early days of their power in Ancient Egypt, a star indescribably distant from Earth suddenly exploded into what is called a Nova.

In a few short months the conflagration generated as much energy as 100,000 of our Suns would do in a year. The upper layers of the star burst away from it in the cataclysm, travelling outwards through space at the speed of well over a thousand miles a second. The light of that flare-up, travelling through space for 4,000 years before it reached Earth, finally arrived last year, showing up in the telescopes as a faint "new" star in Hercules.

### "Live" Artificial Hand

A group of scientists in Russia have succeeded in using the electric potential of the human body as a source of power to operate an artificial hand. Surgeons, physiologists, designers and electrical engineers have been working for some time in an endeavour to develop artificial limbs capable of taking over completely the functions of a lost arm or foot.

The idea of using the electric potential of the human body for such a purpose is an old one. For many years this potential has been used in diagnosis. When our brain commands an organ to perform a certain function the organism immediately begins to give off an electrical discharge. However, these discharges are so weak that by themselves they cannot operate the "live" artificial limb. So the idea arose of providing sufficient amplification and a miniature electronic amplifier has been developed which amplifies tremendously the energy discharged.

The manipulation of this limb is simple. A pick-up hand is attached to the person's forearm. Two tiny electrodes placed under the hand are sufficiently sensitive to pick up the electrical discharges from the muscles which control the opening and closing of the fingers. Extremely fine leads, as delicate as the nerves themselves, convey the current to a two-channel electronic amplifier, from which it is picked up by a 50-gram motor mounted in the artificial hand.

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