

# Salient

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' PAPER

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## Bookshop Passed Over In SUB Additions

THE proposed second floor of the SUB will not contain a bookshop. This was decided at the first meeting of the new Executive. However, it was moved that further consideration be given to the campus bookshop proposal.

IT was suggested that the SCM second-hand bookshop be extended to incorporate a full shop on the second floor in the SUB. Brian Opie, the Secretary, stated this would require a licence for bookselling which is something the SCM does not have and apparently does not intend to obtain. Other suggestions included a Whitcombe & Tombs branch on the campus and our own bookshop-company in competition with Whitcombes. It was generally agreed that there were other necessities for the second floor to be considered ahead of a bookshop.

EXECUTIVE President Peter Blizard said 4200 sq. ft. of the available 7570 sq. ft. had already been allocated. Since a bookshop would require storage space as well as shop space, he was against having it in the SUB second floor.

THE NEW FLOOR will include some sort of coffee or snack bar to take the rush from the cafe. Suggestions discussed generally included a club kitchen and some sort of rehearsal room for drama, cultural and other clubs. It was also suggested that this room, if decided on, should have facilities for showing films.

There was some discussion as to whether the executive should enter into correspondence with the University Council on plans for future halls of residence at Victoria. Some thought it would be better to go directly to the Government instead of to the Council. Others thought it was not advisable to write to anybody at all and merely obtain information by word of mouth. However, it was finally decided that a letter be drafted but that it be subject to a personal meeting of the President and the Vice-Chancellor concerning the matter.

Approval was given to a scheme of lectures by qualified people on "New Zealand in the sixties." Only local people would be approached to avoid significant expense.

It was moved that Bruce Middleton be appointed chairman of the International Affairs Committee. In answer to a plea by Robin Bell the deficit of "not more than £10" for the Science Faculty Ball was paid for by the executive.

At the previous Executive's last meeting it was moved that £1900 be invested in stock although no particular stock was mentioned. Mark Harris has now stated this will be Government stock. At the same meeting it was moved that the Council be approached concerning the teaching of Oriental languages at Victoria. It was agreed that both Malay and Chinese should be taught. If only one were possible it should be Malay.

## Cappicades To Be Destroyed

EXECUTIVE has given its approval for the destruction of unsold copies of both "Spike '61" and "Cappicade '63." This action is to take place under strict supervision due to the confusion over last year's disposal of "Cappicades."

## Executive Supports CND

DEPUTATIONS will be sent to the Prime Minister, Mr. Holyoake, and the French Ambassador in New Zealand to demand attention to protests against the proposed nuclear testing in the southern hemisphere.

Executive also sends its approval to CND, who arranged a petition. Surprise was registered at the meeting at the number of signatures in support of this petition.

## "Partnership" For Abortion

DR. ERICH GEIRINGER told SALIENT of an interesting practice that occurs in London.

A gynaecologist and psychiatrist go into "partnership." Any inquiries the gynaecologist receives about abortion are automatically referred to the psychiatrist. He interviews the patient to find out reasons for prescribing an abortion.

The interview might go something like this.

"What would you do if you couldn't have an abortion?"

"I'd commit suicide."

So the psychiatrist recommends "that since this woman is a potential suicide case, she should be aborted to preserve her mental health."

Of course, it is quite likely that in response to the question "What would you do if you couldn't have an abortion?" the woman simply says:

"I'd probably have the child adopted."

The psychiatrist might then ask:

"Would you be likely to commit suicide?"

"Oh, no."

"If there was a possibility you might commit suicide, I might be able to do something to help."

"Oh, in that case, yes, I probably would commit suicide."

So the psychiatrist recommends to his "partner" that the woman be aborted on grounds of danger to her mental health.

Further comment on abortion appears on page five.

## HECKLER AT ARAB TALK

THE bitter, 15 year old Arab-Israel dispute flared up in the common room recently.

Jordanian born Mahomed Juma was presenting the Arab side of the conflict to the International Club. Describing the conditions under which the million odd Arab refugees from Palestine were living he quoted historian Arnold Toynbee as comparing Jewish behaviour morally to that of the Nazis.

"THE Western support of Israel," Juma continued was, "a new and polite Christian way of segregating the Jews." The 1917 Balfour Declaration promising Palestine to the Jews as a national home was the most aggressive thing Britain could have done.

Juma went on to repudiate Zionist claims that Israel (Palestine) is their national home land. He pointed out that Moslems had ruled and been in a majority

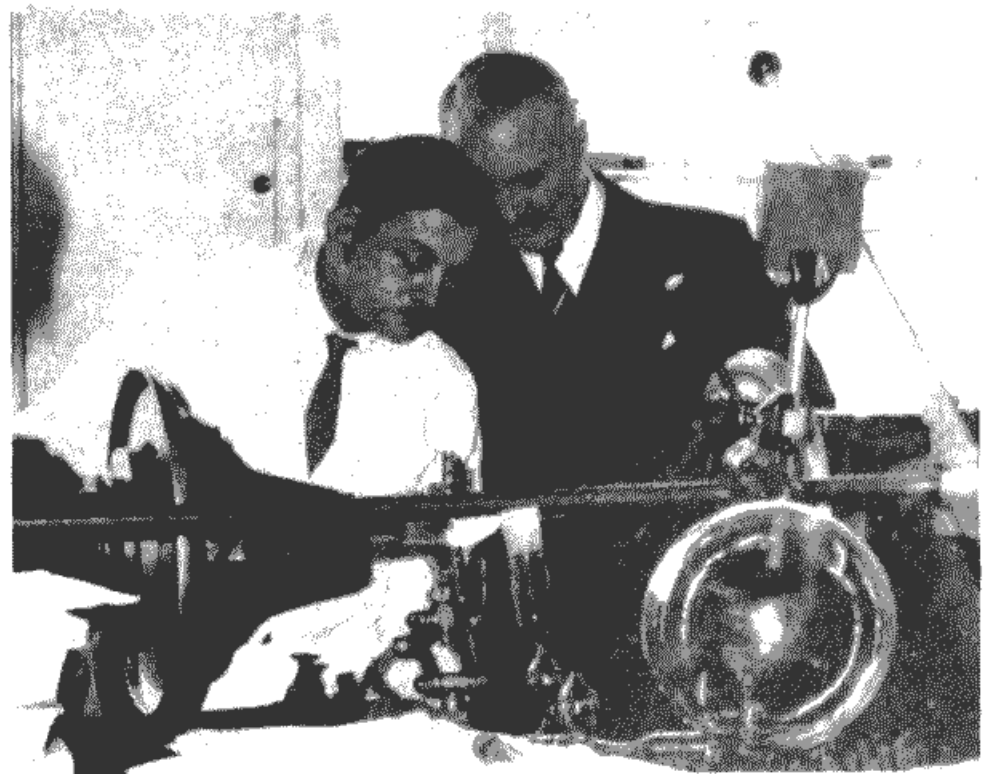


HE was heckled—Mahomed Juma.

there for 1400 years. "If Palestine is sacred to twelve million Jews it is even more so to 250 million Moslems," he stated. As for the Jews being homeless, "economically they are the strongest people in the world, the financial leaders in America and Britain."

At this point an Israeli student rose and declared himself a veteran of the 1956 Sinai campaign. He heatedly informed the meeting that the Arabs had begun the fighting and that the refugees had left of their own accord.

Juma retorted that this was propaganda of a sort "of which people are full." Order was restored when the Israeli student sat down declaring that if anyone wanted the truth they should come to him.



AS the Vice-Regal Bentley drew away after Sir Bernard's visit to Victoria a long string of tin cans clattered behind the car. The chauffeur climbed out, removed them and drove off again only to find pennies rattling in the hubcaps. The chauffeur and aide-de-camp got out and found that there were no tools in the boot to remove the hubcaps. Meanwhile, Sir Bernard was parrying and thrusting with wits in the crowd. He denied he was opening a new trustee savings bank, explaining that the pennies would be used in church. The hubcaps were finally removed with the aid of a penny and a screwdriver and the car moved off again, this time with a Lysistrata poster fluttering from behind. This was carefully removed and the Bentley disappeared down Salamanca Road with a solitary penny rattling disdainfully.

## Exec. Deals With Weir Complaints

AT the first meeting of the new Executive an accommodation sub-committee was formed. Initially this sub-committee will investigate conditions at Weir House—then general University hostel accommodation.

THE President of the Weir Association, Mr. Ferguson, was called upon by Peter Blizard to give some perspective to the vociferous complaints of Weirmen at the AGM.

HE advocated the formation of a Weir House sub-committee to give moral support and advice to the Weir association.

"This," he said, "will put the facts in their true perspective as some of the grievances may stem from an attitude of ingrown cynicism amongst the residents."

LAST year Weir House showed a deficit of £700 and Ferguson fears an imminent rise in board, "anything up to £5.15 -." The cost of living in Weir will also be raised by the installation of electricity meters, for which the initial cost is £1100, with a planned saving of £600 a year.

Ferguson felt that it was illustrative of the conditions in Weir that this saving was not passed on to students in the form of fee deductions, despite the fact that they would now be paying for their own electricity. He expanded these remarks by saying that the installation of meters could almost

be classed as breach of contract, for it had not been indicated in the prospectus, which was supposed to outline the full terms of board.

Blizard approved the sub-committee, as, he said, "The Students' Association has some obligation to Weir House." But he asked for some concrete suggestions from Weir as to the function of its sub-committee. Ferguson cited the specific case of moral support on the installation of meters—Blizard, unsatisfied, reiterated his plea for concrete proposals.

The discussion on Weir House ended with the election of Margaret Kemp as Chairman of the Weir sub-committee. After a suggestion, which was later overruled, that a woman would be unable to get the real heart of problems at the hostel, the meeting passed to another item on the agenda.

## Mixed Hostels In UK

THE new University of Lancaster will be the first British university with all students in mixed residential colleges. The Vice-Chancellor of the University said, that it always seemed to him that it is an obvious thing to put men and women in the same college. To segregate them in separate buildings is not appropriate to a modern university. None of the six other new universities have dared to provide mixed colleges or halls of residence. In fact only London, Aberdeen and Nottingham have completed mixed halls of residence, and those comprise only a small proportion of their student accommodation. Lancaster's initiative was welcomed by a National Union of Students spokesman.

The preliminary report on Lancaster describes other pioneering ventures. It will go further than any other new university since Keele in bridging the gap between science and the arts. There will be neither the traditional faculty structure nor the school system. Instead departments will be linked in a new flexible association offered by boards of studies, which can be readily adapted to the changing pattern of courses. Students will be encouraged to take honours courses in both science and art subjects—to study science or mathematics, for example, in relation to economics or philosophy. The report says that the new university hopes to recruit academic staff "who desire to cross traditional lines between subjects, such as the line between economics and sociology." So far more than 900 applicants for posts have been received.

Student Mirror.



## Exec Procrastinates

THE new Student Association Executive has now held two meetings and it is timely to examine the course it is taking.

Already it has shown that it has only one or two members who are prepared to fight for what they believe is right. The contentious issue, as to whether or not student organisations should be allowed to sponsor any speakers they like, would have gone by default were it not for three members. Of a total of thirteen members this is too small a nucleus to ensure that all aspects of policy receive adequate investigation.

It has a tendency to pass the proverbial buck—in two meetings the bookshop question has been passed from Executive to education committee, back to Executive, and from Executive to a "special committee." If it continues to treat the bookshop in this manner, the term of the Executive will have expired before anything is done.

Much of the trouble stems from an insufficiently bold approach to student problems. Again, the bookshop throws some light on this. When it was first discussed, someone mentioned a working capital of £25,000. We are not arguing that this sum should be considered lightly, but if there is any chance of a bookshop being started, it must be considered.

There was no reluctance to pass resolutions about Maori studies and the bomb, but on other subjects, where more organisation would be required, the pussyfoot approach predominated. Much of the argument was mere rationalisation of prejudice.

There is an inclination for members to raise points that are not relevant to the subject under discussion, and also a propensity for unclear thought.

At the first meeting it appeared that control from the chair was slight, but at the second meeting there were some signs that President Peter Blizzard is going to take a firmer hand in the future. It is to be hoped that he does since a five hour meeting for such a small agenda is quite ridiculous.

At the first meeting, the Executive wisely decided not to ask for another room for their own use. It could be that much of the trouble is due to the present room, with its comfortable heating, and its fancy padded chairs. Had it been given a large cold room, with hard wooden benches, the Executive might be eager to get business over and go home.

The present situation is also partly due to the fact that most members were chosen on the basis of personality, rather than platform. If in future there is to be a healthy Executive, there must be candidates who have some definite policy to advance. Strangely enough, those on the present Executive who had some principles to state at the elections, were the most vocal when moral issues were raised.—D.P.W.

## Letters to the Editor....

### Misapprehension?

Dear Sir.—Your writer D.W., either misunderstands or misrepresents current trends in New Zealand newspapers, and the influence of advertising. English trends are only partly relevant to New Zealand, which has no national dailies, much lower population density, less frequent communication services, and a business community of smaller, more local firms.

Daily newspapers are admittedly decreasing in number, but very slowly. This does not, however, necessarily result from fewer owners—the Westport News, bought by the Nelson Mail, would otherwise have ceased; the New Plymouth papers recently voluntarily combined. Likewise, to suggest the smaller papers are without the NZPA news service and are thus handicapped is incorrect. All daily papers, except the Thames Star, which prints local news by choice, receive the NZPA-Reuter service, whose content of overseas and national news has long been regarded as the province of the dailies.

The "financially weak" small papers actually have a hidden financial strength. All the smaller papers maintain local printing plants, and most of the non-dailies are produced on jobbing machines. The part-time work the newspaper provides permits the purchase of a press capable of other large local work, and the two sides thus form a sound economic unit. Television and radio publicise brand names with short commercials. The recent New

York strike proved that newspaper news and advertising cannot be supplanted.

The importance of advertising revenue is not the new (and threatening?) development your writer seems to think. The New Zealand Government from 1840 was for several decades the colony's largest advertiser—more than one paper tempered its policy when threatened with a withdrawal of advertising. The power actually wielded by advertisers has now in fact decreased with larger companies and advertising agencies, which isolate the actual advertiser. Only with the smallest country newspapers does the advertiser wield significant influence.

Nor is the range of papers "unlikely to increase." The newspaper field is at present being redefined. The growing dailies now cover overseas, national and important local news, abandoning to the proliferating local newspapers of the suburbs and country centres (financed entirely from advertising revenue) the trivia of the local scene.

Advertising revenue is not a threat to New Zealand's newspapers. It may aid SALIENT'S future.

The motion for a compulsory SALIENT subscription was, not surprisingly, defeated. There was no previous publicity. Further, it somewhat illogically made the Students Association a gift of £600 (the previous SALIENT grant) while asking students for £1000.

If it is desired to distribute SALIENT free, the example of "local" newspapers is open. £350 from sales is only £25 per issue—with a circulation raised to 3000

and including commission paid, £36/10/- more advertising would make this possible. Mr. Preston, in the Annual Report, admits: "I am sure we could get far more advertising."

The remedy is with SALIENT, not with students.—I am, etc.,

H. B. RENNIE.

### Christian Objects

Sir.—Most of the uninspired article on Religious Education which appeared in your issue of June 18 showed a reasonable attempt to be impartial. But the author's true feelings became apparent in studying his quote from Mr. Adam Gowan Whyte's book.

Any comparison of religious education in New Zealand and Nazi indoctrination is unjustifiable. The Christian Church was the only institution in Germany to offer Hitler any spirited opposition during the third Reich. Several church leaders gave their lives in the struggle against Nazism.

The suggestion that "one set of principles is inculcated to the exclusion of all others" in one hour a week is ridiculous. As for "daily acts of ritual" which Mr. Whyte claims foster "the process of bringing unique personalities to a standard pattern," I know of no State primary school in New Zealand which has daily religious observances.

Anyway, a close study of the Gospels would reveal that Christ's disciples, far from conforming to a standard pattern, included men of widely different and unique personalities.

Whoever the writer of the article, I consider the quote from Mr. Whyte as completely unsubstantiated and therefore quite pointless in considering the topic of religious education in New Zealand.—I am, etc.,

D. A. HOLM.

### Arts Society Replies

Sir.—'W.B.' in his criticism of the Contemporary Arts concert has completely ignored the aims of the group. We are interested in a wide range of artistic activities especially those which other clubs do not attempt. Also we present on the some programme experienced people from down-town along with talented but inexperienced students. Liaison between the various university groups and the town is an aim of ours achieved to a large extent.

The last concert was badly staged; all our concerts are!

It has been a constant problem to achieve a unified programme. For instance many of the musicians play every night in town and can only appear at a specified time. Also the type of screen installed in the theatre makes it almost impossible to integrate movies with other acts. With many rehearsals we could perhaps achieve a slick and stylised performance. However we prefer a workshop atmosphere. This is why there was a half hour coffee break in the middle instead of at the end of the concert, to try and break down to some extent the audience participants dichotomy.

I wish to make only two comments on "W.B.'s" criticism of the individual items. Firstly his criticism would have been easier to take seriously if there had not been glaring factual errors such as confusing the sexes of various participants. Secondly it seems just as pointless to criticise inexperienced artists on the grounds of a lack of finesse in their techniques as it is to rubbish an immature critic for a lack of judgement.

I am, etc., D. A. FLUDE, Contemporary Arts Group Committee.

## Around The Campus

By El Crud

YOU know, last issue was my worst so far. It looked okay when I wrote it, but in harsh type looked meagre and disjointed. The paucity of its humour and its obvious straining for effect was pointed out to me by so many people that I am forced to reappraise the whole thing.

NOW for those people who think this column is terrible, let me say that I for one have no illusions; I am not attempting to give an honest account of student life; in fact I am not sure quite what I am trying to do. All I know is that people seem to enjoy reading it and since I enjoy writing it, we're okay.

THE GIRLS at Vic A seem to take exception to some of my remarks last time. Got a letter from a doll compromisingly calling herself "Elle Virgo," and I quote: "It is disheartening to find that our purity induces suffocation rather than the spirit of challenge." Well done, Miss Virgo (?). I like females who have spirit; I can assure you that you are taking a risk by implying a lack of virility in Weir males.

PETER BLIZARD got one up on me the other day during the Governor-General's visit. I was sitting in the cafe, unshaven, and looking as decrepit as ever, when as the official party passed by, Blizzard, with a fiendish grin, called me across. I thought it was some routine matter like a libel case or something, but I was rapidly surrounded by important gentlemen in gowns and thrust towards his Excellency. I arrived breathlessly and highly embarrassed and was introduced as SALIENT'S columnist. Still it's something I can tell my grandchildren.

I signed the disarmament petition as El Crud, but I saw later it had been crossed out. The cute little girl behind the desk said she would like to be mentioned in the column, but wisely refused to give

her name. The mad desire of some people to get their name into print amazes me; I have decided that I shall not compliment anyone by name. Please don't feel hurt, but I feel I must have some eccentricities.

Went to a twenty-first the other night, on the condition that I make a mention. There was this female there who was sounding off about student apathy. Now this is my favourite topic, being as I am a professional apathist, so I remarked that not much could be done about the apathy, that it was indeed basic and that most people were interested only in getting a degree. (When I have been drinking I become even more talkative than normal.)

I had my birthday last week and so reach the noble age of twenty, still as pure as snow. How I have managed to remain untarnished by my environment perplexes me. Afraid my celebrations were a mere shadow of last year's.

The Weir and Weir Old Boys football teams roared off to Christchurch over study week. Mark Harris did the ferry booking but knew only three names. Unflurried, he calmly manufactured 30-odd names. Later Joe Bloggs and Christine Keeler withdrew. What a monty trip. Rolleston House put on over 60 gallons of grog and females. Hear someone tried to swim the Avon.

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# WOOLLY CATHOLIC REPORT PRESSURES COMMUNITY

THE Catholic Youth Movement has undertaken a survey of some 22 bookshops in Auckland and discovered that they were selling photography-glamour books to the public. They (the CYM represents about 600 Catholic leaders) construe these magazines as pornographic and relate certain sections of the Indecent Publications Act 1910 as a backing of their claim.

FIRSTLY, I should like to mention that the report is written in a very woolly and loose fashion: "Indecent literature is a threat to moral, mental and physical health. It debases the true meaning and function of sex; it leads to morbid preoccupation with sex, and it incites to immoral and anti-social behaviour."

LOOSE phrases and meaningless adjectives based on historical and hysterical supposition. The statistical evidence is negligible. The effects on behaviour and "morals" have not been examined by the CYM. They presuppose. They have concerned themselves with "pictorial art" and have not taken into consideration the multitude of comparatively "worse" publications around town.

THIRDLY, there is the question of the publications themselves. Assuming that they do present the body in all aspects on paper, we are faced with the question—what is beauty and what is improper? Is the body not beautiful in all its forms and representations when photographed by some of the

world's most distinguished photographers? The CYM agrees that in the "content of a hundred or more photographed subjects of a different nature" the pictures under contention would qualify as art. So there we are!

The "research"—which was undertaken "when one of our members produced copies of three photographic magazines which were being read and circulated by the apprentices at his workplace"—is ambiguous. Staff in shops have given statistical evidence in age claims which is of a highly dubious nature.

Naturally, adolescents are going to seek this material—harmless in itself—when our society imposes such strict taboos on sex at the adolescent stage of life.

RECENTLY, the Catholic Youth Movement undertook a survey of "indecent literature" which it claimed was on public sale in Auckland bookshops. There has been a vast amount of publicity given to their report—now in circulation—and we now present a criticism by Murray White. Later in the year, SALIENT will be publishing a report on "indecent literature in general."

Outlet must be found somewhere. And if we are so myopic as to refuse sex education, sex play and freedom to the young adult, whom can we blame but ourselves for this "attitude of decay" as the CYM puts it.

This report is ambiguous in more ways than one. The Catholic Church lays down: "As in eating and drinking, so in the sexual act, you must not abandon yourselves without restraint to the impulses of the senses" (Pius XII), and it is dogma that the sexual act is primarily for purposes of procreation.

"The chief purpose of sex is social; only secondarily are its purposes oriented to serve individual goals. Catholicism believes that the current tendency to exalt the personal goals of sex is evidence of 'rugged individualism' in marriage" (Alphonse Clemens, Associate Professor of Sociology, Catholic University of America).

So if the Catholic Church is uniformly against senses and sex in general terms (but not in the specific procreative sense) why this concern over the sale of a few harmless magazines? Could it be that they are interested in the matter for self-gain?

If so, it is most improper. The Catholic Church is one of the greatest pressure groups in existence. They admit they are trying to pressure legislation. On whose behalf are they acting as moral adjudicators?

To end the report they have appended a list of statements by "Leaders of the church and community." States a Senior Lecturer of the Auckland University Psychology Department: "One can never rule out the possibility that such photographs may influence the occasional susceptible person who might otherwise remain fairly normal." This is indeed nebulous. Just look at the specificities: "possibility," "may influence," "occasional," "susceptible," "might otherwise," "fairly normal." Is this proof, or in any way logical (psychologically), let alone conclusive reinforcement of the Catholic Youth Movement's Report?

One final interesting sidelight: immediately following the publicity given to the CYM and its campaign, one Wellington bookshop (a subsidiary of New Zealand's largest publishers) removed its entire stock of "glamour-photography" books. Had they suddenly sold out? No, they were still available, under the counter. This was a simple response—not to the bettering of public morals—but to plain pressure.—M.W.

students. For several years now there have been discussions about a new student restaurant, but no agreement has been reached about the site, size or financing of the building.

During the strike some of the students cooked themselves meals on camping stoves in the street. The police, who had brought along a water thrower, just in case, found no occasion to take action against the strikers.

STUDENT MIRROR.

# Exec. Financially Befuddled

THE financial policy of the new Executive appears to have no consistent basis.

AT the first meeting on June 27, it was asked to consider a proposal by Cultural Affairs Officer Murray Rowlands on a series of lectures about New Zealand politics, art and literature. These would be held approximately each fortnight in the Little Theatre. Rowlands suggested certain well-known and respected people be asked to participate. He included in his list of possibles, Professor Pocock of Canterbury and M. H. Holcroft, editor of the Listener.

Ex-Treasurer Harris (now Sports Officer) dragged in a red herring when he maintained that the last Executive had a financial policy which implied that all such ventures be self supporting. Rowlands objected to charging admission to lectures and suggested the Association should cover any expenses involved in bringing outside lecturers to Wellington.

It is hard to understand why the new Executive allowed themselves to be dominated by the policy of their predecessors. If they considered a particular case deserved support they should not have concerned themselves with what had been done before.

Later in the evening, they agreed to pay the losses incurred by the Science Faculty Ball despite the fact that this function had nothing to do with the Students Association. It had made its losses before asking for assistance. Last year's financial policy (which had been successfully invoked previously) was against this.

It was argued that the Science Faculty Ball deserved support because it "fostered good relations between staff and students". But this support is hardly consistent with the rejection on financial grounds of a plan to invite outside speakers to Victoria.

We hope the Executive will show more attention to principal if similar questions arise in the future.

D.P.W.

# Students Give Recital

STUDENT organist Alan Simpson, assisted by the University Choir and Orchestra, gave a lunch hour recital in the Wellington Town Hall on June 26. The main work was Purcell's brief cantata, "I will give thanks unto the Lord," an unusual piece with a tenor and two basses as soloists.

The soloists, perhaps badly placed, did not always make themselves clearly heard. However the work was given a creditable rendering, despite a passage of pure melodrama towards the end when a loud climax was followed by a dramatic moment of silence then the hushed words "holy, holy . . ."

Alan Simpson showed he is a talented organist. His playing of Bach's Fantasia in C minor was powerful, and in the more subdued pieces of Frescobaldi and Loeliet he showed fine sensitivity and clarity.

Several other pieces did not come off so well, namely Balbastre's "A la venue de Noel" and the Prelude and Fugue in A by Bach. But from the recital as a whole it is clear he is an organist with a future.—G.Q.

# Drama Critics Were Prudes

I WAS misled by the publicity about LYSISTRATA. I had read letters and criticisms in the local newspapers before I went to see it, and I was led to believe that it was "beyond the bounds of decency."

THERE was plenty of sex in it, but no more than in many other plays, particularly those which have been written and acclaimed quite recently. It was not as if bawdy jokes were interpolated into an otherwise complete script. They were used, cleverly, to create a mood of sexual frustration, a mood in which the men would agree to anything, including peace.

BUT the self-appointed arbiters of the public taste did not see it that way. As soon as the critics first-night notices appeared there were tribes of censor-perverts crowding in to seek sexual gratification of a most insidious form. The fact that they obviously found what they were looking for does not imply that the play was obscene. The prurient prude has always been able to find obscenity wherever he looked, provided he looked hard enough, and this case is no exception.

PUBLIC reaction is partly a reflection of the dearth of drama, and the lack of sophistication in theatre-going people in Wellington. Had this play been performed elsewhere, say in London, it is unlikely that criticism would have ignored the artistic merits focussed entirely on the sexuality it included. This is because in London a much wider range of drama (continuously on stage) does not encourage people to pick out one play and attack it for its lack of Puritanism. It is unlikely that the public there would have behaved like a schoolgirl who had just read her first un-bowdlerised edition of Shakespeare.

It should not be necessary to point out that no one is asking anyone to take their wives, or their daughters, or even themselves to this play if they were offended by a frank and open treatment of sex.

But you cannot keep a prude away from "indecent" because if you did he would have nothing to be shocked about; so you will always have critics of LYSISTRATAS as long as you have prudes. The best that can be done is to treat them with the scorn they deserve.—D.P.W.

# Overseas News

## YUGOSLAVIA

A directory for the student hostels has been published by the Belgrade student magazine STUDENT. According to this, 8500 students were accommodated in the Belgrade student hostels during the academic year just ended; 4000 applicants had to be rejected. There can, however, be no thought of building new student hostels for the time being because the money available is only sufficient for the maintenance of the existing number. Increasingly strict standards are therefore being applied to the admission of students into the hostels. Preference continues to be given to the children of less well-off families and the children of the victims of fascism.

## STUDENT MIRROR

## WEST GERMANY

Student representatives at the Technical University in the Berlin district of Charlottenburg called for a boycott of the student restaurant on June 11 and 12.

"ONLY 530 eating-places for 10,300 students," and "Every day about 3500 of us have to go without a meal in the student restaurant"—these were among the complaints set out in pamphlets distributed by striking students. The boycotted restaurant was built in 1936 when there were 2500

# Auckland Abhors African

SAHR GBENDA-CHARLES came to New Zealand from Sierra Leone prepared to be treated as a stranger. But Auckland considered him some sort of protozoa. One girl carefully wiped her hand with a handkerchief after he had accidentally touched it at a dance. At another, a student who danced with him referred to him as "that black thing."

He told of the landlady of some student friends who asked him not to come back again because he made her feel sick. He applied for a vacation job at a freezing works over the phone. He gave his name as S. G. Charles. When he arrived to work there was no job for him.

Ghenda-Charles did not think these incidents shocking. He said the only way to treat them was to laugh at them.

What did shock him was the lack of academic hospitality in New Zealand universities. He said students do not realise they are hosts to overseas people studying in their country. They should take the initiative in discussing university work with foreign students who experience great handicaps in language.

A great many overseas students take up important administrative posts when they return to their own countries. If they have been ignored by students they may not further New Zealand's interests in their government policies.



STUDENT MIRROR.



# Politics, Religion Split North Irish Varsities

SHARP political and religious differences within the student body are the most distinctive feature of University life in Northern Ireland. This cleavage is a reflection of the position in the community as a whole, where there has always been two opposing religio-political camps.

ALMOST automatically the protestants vote Unionist (the Union being Northern Ireland's constitutional link with the UK) and the Catholics vote Nationalist (the Nation being Irish and bitterly anti-British). As well as these two main groups, there are the University political science societies supporting the young and growing Labour Party, the Liberal Party, and in recent years the New Ireland society.

THE students take a lively interest in politics, and various points of view are advanced, defended, and attacked with vigour. University graduates in Ireland have an extra vote, and they elect 4 out of 52 MPs in the Ulster House of Commons.

IN a country which has suffered considerably because of mutual fear and hatred between the two "sides," many people look to the Queen's University of Belfast as the most likely starting place for eventual reconciliation.

By Robert Ramsay

Here, enlightened opinion, and a freer exchange of views leads to a more moderate and liberal approach to the country's internal problems. The damage caused by complete segregation at primary and secondary schools, and the teaching of fundamentally conflicting views of history is not easily rectified.

It is regrettably true, for instance, that block voting for SUS Presidency often takes place, the religion of the candidates often being a more important factor than their individual merits. But the general climate is gradually improving and more tolerance and co-operation is to be seen now than a generation ago. Protestants no longer shun, on principle, Gaelic activities, whether sporting or cultural, and the Irish Language circle is the biggest single club in the University. You will hear fewer complaints from Catholics that they are "down trodden in Protestant Ulster."

Apart from this unique, and for the visitor bewildering aspect of Ulster University life, the general pattern of Queen's and its satellite, Magee college in Londonderry, is the same as any other UK University. The curriculum tends to be more specialised than that in New Zealand, and part-time students are restricted to post-graduate Education diploma students and Economics students. The degree standards are in line with the rest of Britain, and are maintained by the system of external examiners.

Queen's has the usual expansion problem, and plans are afoot to establish another University at Armagh, rather than increase the student population to 6000. The general opinion is that much of the character would be lost if it became much larger.

The question of a reliable and reasonable bookshop, which was discussed in this paper recently, was in the limelight at Queen's a few years ago. The step taken was to encourage the establishment of a University Bookshop by outside business interests. The proprietor can still make a good profit, but, having staked his business on the University trade, is obliged to cater for all its book needs, and cannot concentrate on "paying lines." The management work in close association with individual lecturers, and the arrangement appears to be a success.

One difference between Victoria University and Queen's which has struck me as a visitor to Wellington, is the attitude of the general public to the University and its members.

The Belfast public is proud of its University and takes an active interest in its affairs. Last year's charities fund total of £7000 is indicative of public support and tolerance. I am sorry to say that the same happy relations do not exist in Wellington. I must add that this is a personal opinion based on only a few months experience.

## Vietnamese Celebrate



Nguyen Thanh Truc in one of several items given by Vietnamese students at a recent International Club evening and dance. This was held to celebrate the Vietnamese festival of the "Double-Seven" (Premier Diem came into power on the seventh of July).

## Russian Answer To Chinese Propaganda

CHINESE students at Moscow University have been distributing booklets containing the Peking regime's attacks on Soviet Premier Khrushchev among Soviet and foreign students at the University. Soviet officials are said to have refrained from taking disciplinary action against the Chinese students; Soviet Komsomol members have been ordered by their leaders at the University to turn in any of the Chinese pamphlets.

STUDENT MIRROR.

## Shand / Nordy debate . . . "PRESSURE-GROUPS" FORM PARTY DIFFERENCES

THE Minister of Labour, Mr. Shand, outshone Mr. Nordmeyer in the Point of View programme of July 16. But despite the tactical victory, his argument is highly questionable, and the chief reason for his success in creating a favourable impression was his quiet neo-intellectual approach.

THERE was here no suggestion of the provocative statements such as led COMMENT, 15, to label him the ministerial kite-flyer, whose function was to test the electorate's reaction to controversial policies. His statements were slow and gave the impression of being considered; in contrast to which Nordmeyer's sounded like quotations from the party's handbook.

SHAND was concerned with stating the difference between the major political parties. He conceded the two parties have the same aim—the "protection of the weaker members of society" such as the ill, the aged, and the young within the wider aim of maximum welfare for all. This he declared to be the common heritage of both parties but that the difference between them lay in the method by which this was to be attained.

Shand's picture of the conservative i.e. National Party's method was that of allowing society to develop freely, altering it only when it becomes obvious that a very great gain could be expected. He leaned heavily on Burke's political ideas (which, unlike some people, I am prepared to believe he read himself). Society is an organic body, and once a social institution is destroyed, it is exceedingly difficult to replace it.

Against this, Shand saw Socialists such as Labour Party leaders as ready to pursue change whenever it was possible. They would promote change without investigation of its consequences.

It is difficult to think of any major change initiated by the Labour Party since its introduction of Social Security in the 1930s. It certainly did not appear to want to change anything offering between 1957 and 1960. Nor does its present election programme so far announced appear to confirm Shand's claim.

Nor is the Burkean concept of an organic society unacceptable to a socialist. In essence it asserts merely that society is not the sum of the individuals who happen to be living at a particular moment of time; that it has a history and presumably a future, both of which must be considered in forming present policy.

Care must be taken in altering a social institution, but the Burkean concept does not preclude change and there is no reason why a socialistic change should be less carefully considered than any other; or in more concrete terms, why a change initiated by the Labour Party should be less calculated than one initiated by the National Party.

Thus Shand's attempted distinction breaks down. But we are now left with the problem of establishing the difference between the parties, assuming this exists. Here we are aided by the topic to which Professor Pocock so ably guided the discussion—the aggregation of power within society.

Shand asserted that numerous small foci of power within society are desirable and that they perform a useful function in keeping government alert and sensitive to public opinion. But this evades the issue; small foci tend to merge into a smaller number of large foci able to wield considerable power on their own, e.g. Federated Farmers, Manufacturers' Association, FOL. And Nordmeyer's comment on the prevalence of interlocking directorates, although poorly phrased, is of significance.

Shand's assertion that the Labour Party aimed to destroy

these foci and aggregate all power within the government is patently false.

We cannot conceive of Nordmeyer trying to replace the FOL with a government department or to engross Federated Farmers within the Department of Agriculture. But Nordmeyer's statement that such foci should be subordinate to the elected government is perfectly valid.

Government must take decisions with a view to national interests and not be unduly swayed by any such pressure group or focus of power. But again it is difficult to imagine Shand disagreeing with this very conventional proposition.

Nevertheless, we can see some difference between the parties in this general area. Prof. Pocock suggested that the major aggregation of power was taking place in the hands of those who arbitrate between these pressure groups—"Mr. Walsh and his opposite number" in the past. But here he was focussing his attention too much on the Arbitration Court—most arbitrations must be made by government when it decides on its short term policies, draft bills, etc.

It is in the relative weight that is given to each of the competing "pressure groups" that we can see differences between the parties. The Labour Party is concerned directly but not solely with the "small man," the labourer, the clerk, and skilled worker. The National Party appears more willing to believe that the welfare of this group is served by attending to the business man and farmer and gives more weight to the pressure groups who present the case for this group.

But the issue is by no means clear-cut and Nordmeyer's characterisation of the National Party as the "party of privilege" is a very great simplification.

Nevertheless, it is in areas like this that we can find differences between the parties, not in methods but in the interpretation given to the nebulous concept of "aim" as outlined by Shand. And it may be noted that these differences are apparent in short-term policies, whereas neither party appears to have any long-term policy, thus precluding any conflict between them.

While it is useful to have debates of this kind, such essential differences as Shand and Nordmeyer were trying to establish will not be decisive in elections. There the explicit electoral programme, habits and differences between the leading personalities of each party will be more important. And there it will be even more difficult to find essential differences between the parties.

If either party could find a long-term policy which marked it off more clearly from its opponents, and which was acceptable to the electorate, it would win this year's election. But the prospect of this is remote. Perhaps it is more likely that such a policy should come with a new party—Nordmeyer may be right in his suggestion that the Labour and National parties may not exist in 1980 (Evening Post 29/5/63).

Differences between the present parties are difficult to find, but we suggest that they do exist in attitudes to different groups in society. The analysis of these differences printed in this year's Cappicade (remember the blank space) is not complete.

—G. R. Hawke

## Students Dumb, Lack Purpose?

—Chaplain

FOR people living in the city where the Volunteer Service Abroad is centred, and belonging to a community which is traditionally interested in such things, we have heard extremely little about it. One member of the staff is the Dominion chairman of the organisation and others have been involved in its formation, but apart from an odd note here and there, nothing much about it has appeared in SALIENT.

IN the June 4 issue we were told, in conjunction with the visit of Ron and Anne Kilgour, a few brief details about an earlier (and still continuing) scheme for Volunteer Graduates. But as yet we have had no double page special on the whole concern. I can only deduce from this, that the matter of volunteering for service abroad is viewed by most students (if they have even heard of it) as a sentimental relic of nineteenth century missionary zeal, now secularised.

I wonder, however, if there is any relationship between this lack of interest and what seems to me to be the present malaise of the majority of students, a sense of purposelessness in their studies, apart, of course, from bread and butter considerations. One of the main problems of the University is the lower standards of work and the relatively high failure rate. There could be either of two reasons for this: lack of brains or lack of purpose.

While not wishing to underestimate the former, I believe the latter is more basic. To the question "What are you going to do when you have finished your

degree?" the answer too often is "I suppose I'll end up a teacher!"

What is obviously needed is an ideal to aim at which will give a sense of personal significance and purpose. Is this where VSA for some students may be a solution, so that "being a teacher" may become something pointed and purposeful in the context of volunteer service?

Of course, today, we no longer think of such service as patronisingly one-way, going as a great white god to help the unenlightened masses. The contemporary pattern of our serving is as fraternal workers, complete with all the opportunities and frustrations which come from living and working in a different culture. This pattern makes greater demands on our idealism—but also gives greater returns.

In an article I read the other day about student affairs was this quotation: "The university community worries about the lower standards of improperly motivated students." In this job of proper motivation, it seems the Volunteer Service might play a significant part.

John Murray.



In Present Situation . . . .

# ABORTION SHOULD BE LEGAL AND SAFE

THE most significant thing about illegal abortion is the extent to which it is practised. On this page we print some estimates of the number of pregnancies which are terminated.

IT is quite clear that abortion fills a social need; if it did not it would not be performed so often. The number of women who adopt some means after conception to ensure that they do not give birth is considerable. In a democracy, at least, evidence of such widespread desire is one argument for making the process legal. There are, however, serious objections to such a step.

FIRSTLY, no surgery is 100 per cent safe, and abortion is no exception to this rule. Any woman who undergoes such an operation, even under strictly controlled surgical conditions, faces a certain risk. For instance, a surgeon would normally have a general anaesthetic administered, and this presents a danger for a start. Then there are the complications of infection, and psychological complications which can arise later.

A FURTHER more common and more serious objection is the contention that abortion is murder. This idea probably arises from the fact that in the later stages of development the foetus bears superficial resemblance to an independent human being. There is thus a tendency to ascribe to it qualities it does not possess; in particular that of independence. The idea that abortion is murder is difficult to sustain. At the time the operation is best performed, the foetus is an organ within the mother. It is not independent, and neither could it exist as such if it were removed from the mother.

THE idea that it is wrong to interfere with the process of reproduction in such a way that some organism is destroyed can be applied to accepted practices. Contraception, for example, usually causes the death of an organism that potentially can form an independent human being, but this is not usually held against it.

Is there a distinction between

murder and legitimate birth control? If there is, it must be somewhat arbitrary. However, if we regard the independence of the organism as the most important criterion, we can see that nature has provided a very spectacular distinction. It is called birth. From the point of view of legislation it provides a convenient distinction between what can be justified, and what cannot.

A denial of an argument against abortion is not necessarily an argument in favour. Often the view is advanced that the real case against abortion is that it is not necessary. Those who hold this view claim that universal education in contraception and sex hygiene is a much more desirable way of preventing unwanted births. No doubt this latter idea is true. Birth control clinics should cease refusing advice to unmarried women. By doing this they would no longer be saying, "If you do not intend to remain a virgin until you marry, you must

pay for it." At present they often condemn such women to the mercies of the illegal abortionist.

Schools should appoint medical officers to give comprehensive instruction in the use of birth control appliances. Parents should adopt a more open attitude towards sex, so that children do not get the idea that it is something dirty.

In a generation or two the illegal abortionist might go out of business, and the problem would be solved.

Such measures do nothing to

solve the immediate problem. Must we continue to enforce laws that ensure that large numbers of women have only quacks to turn to for a serious operation? Abortion is one of the few operations in which neither doctor nor patient has any legal choice. The law prejudices the issue for them. It is also the only operation which, by the nature of the law, is usually performed by unqualified people.

The choice is not between legalised abortion or none, it is between legal or illegal abortion. We have to choose whether abortions in this country should be performed by qualified people or not, whether we wish to have them performed under modern hospital conditions or with unsterile, unsuitable apparatus in unsterile, unsuitable places.

We must at least ensure that the decision is taken in the first place by the woman who must bear the consequences.

—D.P.W.

## ABORTION AROUND THE WORLD

THE USSR legalised abortion in 1920, and this law remained in force until 1936, when it was repealed. In 1955 the law was again altered, to make abortion legally available to every woman who wanted it.

ABORTION is permissible up to the twelfth week of pregnancy if the woman applies for it. Thereafter it is permissible only on medical grounds, such as danger to the mother's health.

In Japan, abortion as a means of birth control has been legal since 1948. It was legalised because it was thought to be the most promising method of limiting the population.

In Sweden, Norway and Denmark, abortion is available on far more liberal grounds than in New Zealand, though it is not necessarily available to any woman who asks for it. In each of these countries application must be made to a medical board who consider each case individually. There is little chance of complete privacy.

The experience of Scandinavian countries has shown that extension of the grounds for legal abortion does not necessarily abolish the illegal practices. In Japan, there are thought to be almost as many abortions performed illegally (1,000,000) as legally (1,100,000). This is possibly due to a desire on the part of doctors to avoid taxation, and a desire on the part of the patients to avoid paying a mortician's fee.

In America, it is estimated that between 200,000 and 1,200,000 pregnancies are illegally terminated each year. This represents a substantial proportion of the total number of live births. (1,000,000 would be about 1 in 5.)

The estimates by the Kinsey Research Institute show that while more premarital pregnancies than intra marital ones are terminated illegally, there are still a substantial proportion of women who have an abortion at some stage of their married life.

## Medical Hazards Of . . . .

ABORTION is an unpleasant, and sometimes risky, operation. In a paper in the N.Z. Medical Journal, P.C. Stichbury reports that no doctor likes performing it. He says that such feelings of repulsion have frequently been published and commented upon by gynaecologists. THERE are immediate risks of haemorrhage, sepsis, and perforation of the uterus. And in the long term, the woman who is aborted faces possible infertility, scar on the uterus, and psychological damage.

THERE is no currently available orally administered drug that can terminate a pregnancy without danger to the mother. Most of them cause intoxication of both foetus and parent. The foetus may die first, but there is no certainty of the mother's safety.

Dr. Stichbury says Scandinavians have produced alarming mortality rates among perfectly healthy young women. (Abortion is more widely available legally in Scandinavia than New Zealand.)

A report in the British Medical Journal, 1938, considers the cases of 350 women admitted to hospital for treatment for complications arising from abortion. It was estimated that 40 per cent of these cases were procured, i.e., illegal, abortions. The rest were probably spontaneous. Of the total, 20 per cent were extremely ill, and 3 per cent died. No figures for a comparable sample at a more recent date were available, but they would probably show the effects of recent advances in medical research.

There are some figures taken from a smaller sample at Dunedin Hospital (Stichbury, op. cit.), but they do not include all cases, due to difficulties in filing systems. Of a total 80 cases, none was reported to have died.

## Abortion Legal If Doctor Satisfied

THE abortion law in Britain is governed by the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, section 58, which includes the following extract:

"Whosoever with intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman, whether she be, or be not with child, shall unlawfully administer to her, or cause to be taken by her, any poison or other noxious thing, or shall unlawfully use any instruments or other means whatsoever, with the like intent, shall be guilty of felony."

NO exception was expressed for therapeutic abortions, which is not surprising in view of the state of surgery in 1861.

An exception for the latter stages of pregnancy was, however, enacted under the provisions of the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929, which applied to a child.

A child was defined as being prima facie capable of being born alive where the mother had been pregnant for a period of 28 weeks or more; to kill such a child before its birth became, under the act, a crime punishable by life imprisonment.

The exceptions to the above provisions are contained in the proviso s.1(1) which enacts that no person is to be found guilty of an offence under the act unless it is proved that the act which caused the death of the child was not done in good faith for the purpose only of preserving the life of the mother.

Note that proof of the lack of good faith must therefore rest on the prosecution.

This act legalised the long-accepted medical practice of destroying the child in the

womb, however near it was to birth, if the mother's life could not be saved any other way.

Similar provisions are enacted in New Zealand under s.182 of the Crimes Act, 1961.

In R. v. Bergmann and Ferguson [1949] Glanville Williams quotes from the official transcript of Morris, J.'s direction to the jury.

"You are not concerned with the question as to whether Dr. Ferguson arrived at the right conclusion . . . did or did not make a mistake . . . you have to be satisfied that she expressed a dishonest opinion . . . did not act in good faith, and was therefore advising something that was unlawful."

Thus the direction in R. v. Bourne and particularly in R. v. Bergmann and Ferguson makes it clear that the medical necessity of an abortion is to be determined by the honest opinion of the doctor, and not by necessity in the view of a jury, although the doctor must be prepared to justify his opinion in court so that he may show that he acted in good faith.

J.L.

## . . . As Practised In NZ

THE grounds for therapeutic abortion in New Zealand are many and varied. In a paper "Therapeutic Abortion in Dunedin Hospital" published in the New Zealand Medical Journal, Dr. P. C. Stichbury sets out some of them.

IT is generally accepted that no pregnancy is terminated without the consent of both the woman and her husband, and two consultants in the appropriate specialties. The operation must be performed openly in a hospital and no fees may be charged.

IF a doctor follows these rules, he is probably safe from any legal consequences, though the responsibility is his alone. It does not rest with the specialists he consults.

Forty-four per cent of all abortions at Dunedin were performed because of psychiatric conditions.

Potential suicide is often mentioned. Stichbury doubts the im-

portance of this. He records that the suicide rate among pregnant women is much lower than among other groups. One tenth is the proportion he quotes.

He also reports the experiences of Lindberg in Sweden who found that 62 women said they would commit suicide if they were not aborted. None was, and there were no suicides.

Sometimes the psychiatric con-

dition can be created. For example, a familiar circumstance occurs when a G.P. decides that one of his patients should be aborted. He sends her to a consulting physician who agrees with him, and then to a gynaecologist, who declines. So she goes to another physician who agrees with the original prognosis. By this time she is well on the way to becoming a case for abortion on psychiatric grounds.



Read, Munz Trounced ...

# Read Self-Contradictory 'Apologia' Failed

**FORTIFIED** with Heath Joyce's recent obiter dictum that you don't need to be a critic to criticise the critics, a recent correspondent (Mr. Peter Munz) takes vigorous if rather ineffectual umbrage at my comments on the work of the English aesthete, Sir Herbert Read.

It is not my practice to engage in practical and futile debate with those who seek to found their case upon personal aspersions of a highly speculative character, and upon textual misinterpretations.

**NOR** was it my intention to cite specific and concrete examples to bolster up the remarks I made on the critical works of Read.

**HOWEVER**, it has become expedient for me to do so. Although I have rather a higher regard for Munz's "very uninformed" public, it is not entirely improbable that some of his students may think his name invests his statements with some species of ex cathedra authority.

First, then, a few comments on Munz's letter in general. Casting aside the varied and multitudinous accusations of ignorance, prejudice, grammatical incorrectness, inferiority and general resentments which purportedly festoon my misinformed and inarticulate mind, and excising the distorted interpretations put upon certain of my remarks concerning the effect of Read's literary confidence trickery upon the English, we find an ineffective and none-too-subtle apologia.

By Gary Evans,  
SALIENT Art Critic

Turning to Read himself, Munz asks me where I get my knowledge of Read from. "Certainly not from Read's lectures or books," he suggests, for Read "relies almost exclusively upon the writings and views of the artists themselves." From this, says Munz, "It is quite amazing to see how G.L.E. can get himself to dismiss, in a high-handed fashion, the relevance of what the artists themselves have said."

Munz accuses me of sophistry; one would go far to find a sophism as good as this one. Quite apart from the fact that it is my invariable practice to read the author himself, I am concerned not with quotations from the artists, but with quotations from Read himself. And unless Read is an editor simpliciter—the alter ego of the artists—then the quotations I shall use affirm Read's own contradictory beliefs. Therefore, this nonsense about my dismissing the views of the artists—with its curious corollary that they are sacrosanct—just doesn't wash.

Read's critical writings rest upon a morass of inconsistencies, invalid generalisations and contradictions; and it is the consequent ephemerality of his value judgments which I deprecate. His critical views take the form of a patchwork quilt built up from the cerebral contortions of one who cultivates, and even anticipates, the exigencies of fashion.

It was Read who, having taken a deep dive into the rapidly rising pools of surrealism, found them deceptively shallow and struggled out recanting. It is the same Read whose abortive flirtation with modish Marxism has left a legacy of ambiguous Marxist terminology. It is the very same Read who can hail, in his "Annals of Innocence and Experience," the weapon of reason ("which alone can slay despair and cut the fetters of doubt and superstition which binds us to

the Ethiopian rock" (!)), as the universal remedy, and yet can record a talk for the NZBC categorically informing us that the fear and despair of today may be rectified by the cultivation of the arts.

In his notes on Paul Nash in the Penguin Modern Painters series, Read gives us his credo: "I write not as a painter, nor even as someone particularly knowledgeable about the technique of painting; I write as a poet." (p.15).

Then, in his "Letter to a Young Painter," Read informs us that in the past he has written about art, "generally with a philosophical or ... a psychological intention." A quick volte face and Read the literary Houdini is back again (at p. 48 of the same book) to declare: "I have no ambition to write about art as an historian or a philosopher." The conclusions are obvious.

But to crown it all, Read has the outrageous audacity to suggest that "People's minds are like pernod—they go cloudy when you pour words into them."

Well, it's a point of view, I suppose.

Munz tells us, "Read is a prudent man and was not anxious to rush into print with opinions about New Zealand painters. . . . In private he was much less discreet." In view of the fact that the only Press statement Read made was little short of an ignorant farrago of nonsense, it is small wonder. And one must admit that the private mullings of a professional dilettante make a fine yardstick with which to beat the public evaluations of a practising art critic.

Read's Press statement—I suppose he thought he had better say something before he left our shores—was made in Dunedin (May 8). "New Zealand public art galleries ought to be pulled down," we are sagely informed. "They were built at a time of bad taste, when architects did not understand lighting or the importance of setting for appreciating works. . . . There is a certain absurdity in putting modern art into old-fashioned Victorian buildings."

There is also a certain absurdity in describing the National Art Gallery as Victorian when its architectural style (built 1930) is post-Edwardian. His comments on lighting are little short of laughable.

A minimum of research would have told him that both the National Art Gallery and the McDougall in Christchurch—not to mention Wanganui's Sargeant Gallery—employ the Hearst Sedger system of lighting, a system which was revolutionary at its time of installation and which remains—as the comments of visiting gallery experts witness—an eminently satisfactory system.

I have neither the time nor the space to further elaborate the manifold and manifest defects in Read's writings and opinions, but I believe these defects stem very largely from Read's peculiar approach to criticism: To him the fine arts are little more than a cerebral exercise, a series of problems to be solved, rather than beautiful pieces of work to be evaluated and enjoyed. Only an intellectual of Read's calibre could commit the stupidities inherent in

the following passage culled from "Education Through Art."

In his chapter "Nature and Art" we are informed: "Jugs are of all shapes and sizes but if we held a census of jugs, I think we should find that one form has predominated ever since pottery was invented: The pear-shaped or unduloid jug." To my knowledge the Greeks almost invariably preferred the more elegant inverted pear with high shoulders to the pot-bellied pear. And it is doubtful whether the unduloid form finds favour with Bernard Leach and the contemporary Japanese—to say the least.

Read continues: "Now though it is pear-shaped I do not think this form is derived from the fruit." Well, who but Read would have thought so for one moment! "Pear-shaped" is merely a convenient description of a simple shape. But he goes on: "What I am suggesting is that when a coffeepot or a milk-jug assumes this shape (pear-shape) and we find it beautiful it is because the potter, in shaping the pot, has instinctively given it the tense form of a liquid drop." This is nothing but a poet's conceit; and is not even a logical assumption.

However, it illustrates how out of touch with reality Read is: the pear shape of a jug is functional rather than aesthetic; the greater bulk of the contained liquid is concentrated in the lower half of the vessel and makes for stability. The convex form at the neck provides a convenient space for the placing of the handle—convenient to construct and convenient to hold and to pour. Being narrower towards the top than near the base, the liquid is unlikely to spill when carried and the balance is right for carrying.

Surely these considerations would weigh more with the potter than fanciful resemblances to a drop of water; or is Munz's mind like Pernod, too?

# NO BELLY LAUGHS

"LYSISTRATA" is an enjoyable enough show which ends with an Extrav-type dance making you think that perhaps you had entered the theatre a few months too late. The conflict in the play is not anything intended by Aristophanes but one between producer Leeming's high conception of the play and Aristophanes obvious tongue in cheek attitude. We snigger at this type of humour, never being allowed the luxury of a full belly laugh. But the strikingly effective lines and scenes which Aristophanes allows the two chorus's, prevents the play from becoming a pageant of sexual innuendo.



THE Spartan Herald viewed by a curious Magistrate (above). Soldiers climax their "Frustration dance" (below).

BUT does Ellery Akers as Lysistrata have anything to say about world peace, which we are informed on all hands is the didactic purpose of the play. She seems only a figurehead, of a type such as the millionairess we saw in "The Visit" and not the energetic leader of some revolution. The comparison between the two female leads is not a forced one because almost all Miss Akers' mannerisms of speech seemed linked up with those of Anne Flannery in "The Visit."

Though the scene between Kinesias and Myrrhine was very effectively done some of the characters such as Cecilia Wilson as Kalonike and Georgina Moore as Boiotian, almost seem to pause, raise their voice, and then deliver their lines with a heavy double meaning.

Janet Leeming made no compromise with her role of Myrrhine as do all the other female leads to the detriment of the whole play. She is always stronger than Lysistrata because she creates her character in a straightforward manner, uses all her "no holds barred femininity" and is not stone cold altruism like Lysistrata. One of the really low points of the play is when some beaten soldier appears to comfort a seemingly hard-up peace Goddess. Mr. Leeming seems to say "audience reach for your handkerchiefs now." But this is quickly succeeded by the horror of the last dance, which is a cross between "Up in the sky, sky high, sky high," Gilbert and Sullivan and the male ballet from Extrav. Producer Leeming has produced a happy ever after ending and the audience leave having forgotten the message of the play.

The chorus scenes featuring the old women are very memorable and the full meaning of the play is well conveyed. Jill Shand is very good indeed as Stratyllis but even in the chorus itself she is quite outstanding. In the contrasting male role Dick Cathie as the Magistrate has just the right blend of pomposity and authority. If he had not had this, the scene featuring the Spartan herald would have fallen terribly.

As leader of the male chorus Maarten Van Dijk was competent, if a little untidy in his actions when acting on centre stage by himself. I liked the way Mr. Leeming used all entrances to the theatre, to create a feeling of participation which some of the principals on stage failed to do. The set seemed to divorce the women choragos from the audience to a large degree, but otherwise seemed reasonably effective and utilitarian. At times Robin Maconie's music seemed to be all that Leeming's production was not; that is an ideal blending of many conflicting traits. But, as often, he spoiled the overall effect by a terrible linking passage between two scenes which bore comparison to the final dance.—M.C.R.

# Novels, Theatre Related To Films

LAST month the Adult Education Council organised a Winter Film School, with J. C. Reid of Auckland University as Senior Tutor and Owen Leeming as Tutor. SALIENT asked Leeming how the school was run. He gave a brief, informal lecture on contemporary theatre as an example.

OWEN LEEMING had strong competition from John Reid, who apparently almost becomes part of the lecture desk and produces noteworthy epigrams, like sparks from a flint. Reid's subject was "The Novel In Relation To The English Contemporary Film." Leeming lectured on "The Contemporary English Theatre In Relation To The Film."

The contemporary English theatre, as such, says Leeming, is a situation dating from the first performance of "Look Back In Anger" in 1956. It brought about the renovation of the theatre by young writers and a new appreciation of contemporary writers. It was largely the success of Osborne's play that provided the finance for Woodfall films. This organisation was responsible for most of the better films produced by Britain over the last few years.

This new climate brought about the successful staging of Harold Pinter and an entirely new English phenomenon deriving from a combination of Samuel Becket and television realism. But the point is that the realism of the theatre revolution, as seen in

Osborne, Wesker, Shelagh Delany, hasn't coped with the flowing, imaginative fantasy shown by Pinter, John Whiting and N. F. Simpson.

Important advances have been made in England in the field of design and production. Instead of a genteel drawing-room, furnished with Sheraton antiques, you are liable to see a great thrusting construction in steel and timber which will suit the purely theatrical nature of the experience it is going to enshrine. "To some extent," says Leeming, "I am drawing on this freedom in my staging of "Lysistrata."

To conclude, Leeming said that the British Theatre was the vanguard of the breakdown of Post-Victorianism in Britain. The publishing of "Lady Chatterley's Lover" was probably indirectly due to the staging of "Look Back In Anger." British television and the cinema have followed in a gradual synchronising of public and private morality and are paving the way towards a liberal and repression-free society.—D.F.

# Pictures For Students

PRINTS of three paintings by Charles Heaphy have been presented to the Students Association by Sir Duncan Stout, the Chancellor.

They are entitled "Lambton Harbour and Wellington in 1841," "Thorndon Flat and part of the city of Wellington," and "Nelson, November, 1841."

They are copies of originals presented to the Queen.



# ESSAYS ON NZ CRAMMED AND SKELETAL

*DISTANCE Looks Our Way: The effects of remoteness on New Zealand.* (Published by Paul's Book Arcade for the University of Auckland. 120 pages, 15/-.)

**THIS** is the second printing of the 1961 Auckland University Winter Lectures. **KEITH SINCLAIR**, who edited the volume, comments in his preface, "No attempt has been made to disguise their origins as lectures," and this probably accounts for the marked variation in the quality of the essays.

THE loose, rambling style of E. J. Godley's "Fauna and Flora" is in marked contrast to the carefully reasoned prose of C. K. Stead in "For the Hulk of the World's Between," and his article about New Zealand writing.

IN "Last, Loneliest, Most Loyal," E. H. McCormick adopts the view that "since the dawn of our history we have all been chiefs" or "We are all gentle folk together." It is supported with this description of New Zealand values: "a devotion to the institution of monarchy and in particular to the British Sovereign, a corresponding dislike, amounting to hatred of republicanism; an avidity for honours and advancement; a delicate sense of honour, not confined to the individual but embracing the tribe or nation; and in personal conduct a distinctive combination of the aristocratic and the democratic principles."

MCCORMICK takes this attitude to its illogical conclusion and shows that it is our destiny to invite Princess Margaret to our shores and make her Queen of New Zealand.

In contrast to this is Keith Sinclair's "Life in the Provinces," an examination of the history of New Zealand. Sinclair suggests that remoteness was only a minor factor in the growth of this country, that our development was more that expected of an English province than an isolated nation.

Sinclair's outlook is not shared by Stead in "For the Hulk of the World's Between." In his discussion of New Zealand writing,

Stead makes a most penetrating analysis of New Zealand society: "A tension exists somewhere in the mind of every New Zealander between 'here' and 'there' . . . Where it has been recognised, come to terms with, and exploited, it has on the whole served the literature well."

In the second section of his lecture, Stead examines various phases of New Zealand writings, including what he calls the "national optimism of the late forties." To my mind this does not come under the title of "effects of remoteness on New Zealand." Speaking of Chapman's "Fiction and the Social Pattern," Stead says "it concludes, naively I think, by implying that this deep-seated condition (of New Zealand Society) would find a ready cure in welfare legislation."

Stead is mistaken in depicting this optimism as a national characteristic, when in reality it is an international one. New Zealand was only one of many countries experiencing such a post war attitude.

Otherwise, his ideas are well presented; and capable of further development. Unlike some of the other lectures printed in the book, he manages to come to terms with the relatively small space allotted.

P. A. Tomory is the only lecturer who recognises explicitly that "remoteness is not a constant factor." In "The Visual Arts" he draws a valid distinction between "remoteness of," which is to him a positive state, where the artist can develop topographical instinct, and "remoteness from," a negative one. He sees "remoteness from" culminating in the "disastrous assumption" that "no one could paint in New Zealand until a European visit had been made."

This attitude, he believes, began to decay with the depression and the war. It was helped by the urban development, which created a new national consciousness. However, I do not think he is justified in assuming that "the negative force of remoteness from is now largely dissipated." Europe may not be the cultural magnet it once was, but it is still strong.

Robert Chapman ("No Land Is An Island") advances the view that "our politics do not differ very much from the leaders in our camp," which we must accept, with reservations. The reservations are that our spectrum of political ideas is far more limited than those of Europe and America, a fact which is related to his criticism—"despite the emerging super state ranking of the United States and the Soviet Union, we have argued as we did in 1936." This is true of all Western countries, but I think what Chapman fails to notice is significant: the dissenting minorities are smaller here than elsewhere.

He can thus advance the dangerous idea "The more politics . . . develop into a choice of instruments for putting into effect characteristic values—instead of setting the values themselves—the more we can afford not to look . . . for the origin of values and the demonstration of national differences." This is a formula for the very attitudes (including "alternative conservatisms") he decries.

As a whole, the series suffers (with notable exceptions) from an attempt to compress too much into too small a space. As a consequence, it is not as significant a contribution to the subject as it could have been. Each of the essays could probably form the nucleus for a longer work, provided more attention was paid to the relevance of factual material, and the logical treatment of the subject.—D.P.W.

# Style Individual And Readable

*DISTANCES: A collection of verse by Charles Doyle.* (Published by Paul's Book Arcade. 46 pages, 8/6.)

**JUST** to hand is Charles Doyle's latest collection of verse entitled "Distances." Mr. Doyle, an Irishman resident in New Zealand, is an impressive poet and one of acute sensibility. "I am a non-regional poet," Mr. Doyle informs us, "both by circumstance and by choice. In my work I consciously run counter to Eliot's dictum that the poet and his personality should be separate."

**CERTAINLY** Doyle is a non-regional poet; and therein lies the strength of his particular craft. He dwells, almost exclusively, upon themes of a universal significance; his language is simple, his diction precise.

A PERUSAL of the 27 poems contained in this volume shows that Doyle does, indeed, run counter to T. S. Eliot's dictum that, "Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality." One finds in Doyle's work an unmistakable sympathy with the work of W. B. Yeats at least and, possibly, Matthew Arnold. In this connection the poem, "My Love Lies Down Tonight," is remarkably like Arnold's "Dover Beach."

In a world of "Hydrogen Bomb Tests" and "Week-End Amusements," as Doyle entitles two of his more bitter poems (poems which, incidentally, never reek of

that banality these themes often evoke), only the CROSS and the love of HE for SHE can atone for: "Children screaming at emptiness, Blind man's curse, Crippled lamentations Of tattered bodies thrown Into a pit of flesh As putrid as their own."

For, as the poet further elaborates in "After A Retreat At St. Gerard's":

"in a green country where the cricket sings there is such heartache at the heart of things."

Yet the work of Doyle is in no way a pastiche of poets who have gone before him; his felicity for language and developing feeling for lyricism ensure an individuality of approach which makes this volume very readable.

The present collection seems to be yet a further stage of development of one who could go a long way.—G.L.E.

## RECORDS

**Tchakovsky: Violin Concerto** (Nathan Milstein, violin; the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, under William Steinberg; World Record). Exponent of the virtuoso violin concerto (Beethoven, Bruch, Glazunov). Master of the Violin Nathan Milstein turns his talent to good account in this recording—first issued in 1960—of history's most recorded violin exercise. Propriety has been maintained in the balance of some fluid bowing, prodigious double-stopping and arpeggios against a somewhat "matter-of-mechanical-fact" style and one of the boxiest orchestral recordings yet made.

**Shostakovich: Quintet for Piano and Strings** (Hollywood String Quartet, Victor Aller, piano; Record Society). This release dating from 1954, one of the finest Shostakovich recordings available, is a fitting compliment to the Society's recent issue of the 11th. The Hollywood group plays with an attack which oozes confidence, as is indicated in the difficult Scherzo. The tone and tempo are all one could wish for, excepting perhaps the brittle violins in the upper register.

**Sibelius: Symphony No. 4** (the Philharmonia Orchestra, under Herbert von Karajan; World Record). Recorded in the hey-day of the Philharmonia-Karajan marriage (1954), the 4th still stands out as a dominant piece of recording and interpretation. Never a one for the impersonal and the stereotyped, Generalmusikdirektor of the Continent of Europe, Karajan, has forsaken fauna and sauna, in this dry, pretzel-like reading, which will not appeal to Sibelians raised on Collins, Kajanus and the school of "pine-trees wood-sprites and Northern-nights." A fine Tapiola acts as Phillip.—M.W.

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## Weir House Ball . . .

1962 Residents are invited to attend the House ball at the Skyline, on Aug. 15th. INVITATIONS available from Pat Norris, Phone—70460

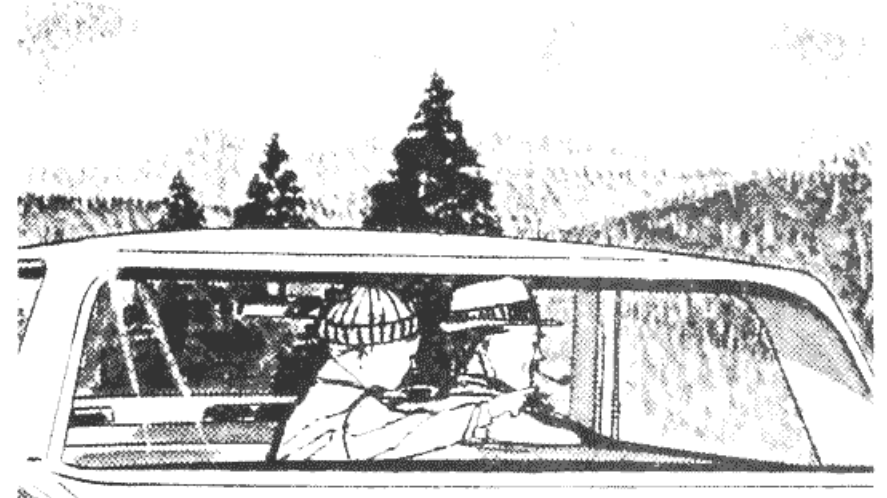
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## Mild Inflation

# BUDGET HAD TO BE IRRESPONSIBLE

TWO points in the Budget stood out. Firstly, the Minister of Finance has largely resisted the urge to go on another election year spree. £7 million was given in concessions compared with £14 million last year. Secondly though, he has not attempted to institute a genuine counter-cyclical fiscal policy. In short Mr. Lake's budget is about half way between the usual giveaway effort and the kind of budget the economy needs.

THE BUDGET and the Economic Survey give a fairly good summary of the current economic situation. The Economy is buoyant, export receipts are at a record high level, consumer spending and private imports are rising rapidly, and industrial production and building are starting to boom again. This sounds very inspiring, but unfortunately we were in the same sort of position in 1957 and 1960. In both cases the boom got out of hand and 12 months later we had an acute balance of payments crisis.

TO SOME EXTENT the situation now is less unstable than in previous election years. Import controls have not been relaxed much (the Import Licensing Schedule nominally remains at £250 million), and the Government has asserted that it will maintain a closer control on bank credit.

NEVERTHELESS, even the record level of £325 million in export receipts in the year ended March 31, 1963, produced a surplus on current account of only £7 million. A moderate fall in export income coupled with higher imports due to fuller utilisation of licences could quickly produce a large deficit.

IN themselves most of the tax cuts made by Mr. Lake were reasonably justified. The only sour note is that taxes should really have been raised to prevent the present boom running away. This could have been done in combination with the cuts given by raising some of the other taxes (perhaps indirect taxes?).

The concession on farm development expenditure was welcome because of the renewed impetus it will help give to lagging investment in our main export sector. Similarly the investment allowance and special depreciation will help factory investment, though the timing of this concession should have been in a slacker period. The cut in Income Tax is of doubtful merit (hypothetical incentives apart) but the other concessions seem reasonable, especially the special treatment for the West Coast.

Two welcome features of Government expenditure proposals in the Budget were increased Government capital investment (up from £728 to £811 million), and increased spending on Education (up by over £4 million to £56 million). These show a recognition of the development needs of the economy. An increase of nearly three million in defence spending is a necessary evil. A rise of nearly £10 million in spending on Social Services other than Education, and of nearly four million in public debt interest were other large projected rises, and perhaps inevitable ones.

Broadly speaking, the present Budget will add mildly to inflationary pressures at a time

when an increase in restraints is called for. However it is doubtful that voters would have agreed to tax increases at a time when things seem so prosperous. Mr. Lake is to be complimented for being moderate in his concessions, and giving them in areas where the effects will (in the main) be best. We will probably have to wait many more years before we will get a budget which advances beyond this improvement to partial responsibility in an election year.

—Special Correspondent.

## EXEC APPROVES BOYCOTT OF AFRICAN GOODS

Approval was given at the July 11 meeting of Executive for the International Affairs Sub-Committee, chaired by Bruce Middleton, to publish a list of all South African products sold in Wellington and to recommend students to boycott the use of these goods.

## Compulsory Religion

THE Pakistan Government has made religious education compulsory for Muslim students in the country's primary schools. In addition, Islamic studies have been made an optional subject at the higher stages of education. Most universities have already established Departments of Islamic studies.

# V U W Men On Strike

THE postmen came out on strike last Wednesday when asked to deliver bulky sample packets of Surf with their usual load of mail. The postmen (about 50) include some 10 to 15 university students.

ONE of the postmen claimed it was a physical impossibility to deliver up to 500 of the bulky packets with their usual mail.

They offered to deliver the mail as usual without the Surf samples but the Postmaster-General refused the offer, presenting them with the ultimatum: the lot or else!

The postmen decided "or else" and refused to deliver the mail. About three remained on the job out of 50.

"As far as we are concerned," says the Post Office Association, "this is an illegal strike. Although we feel they might have some right on their side, we would prefer to handle it differently."

## "Monster" Petition



COLLECTION of signatures for the C.N.D. Nuclear-free Southern Hemisphere Petition. The number of signatures obtained surprised the VUW Students' Association Executive. (see Page one).

## SOLUTION FOR EXTRAV

A student has offered his services to the Executive as a producer for next year's Capping Show.

He is Ralph D. McAllister, well known Unity Theatre producer who appeared as Angelo in the English Department's recent production of "Measure for Measure."

In a letter to the Executive received at its first meeting, McAllister sets forth his recommendations for next year's show.

He suggested it should be a radical departure from the traditional fare and should take the form of a capping revue so that endeavours to "hold a tenuous story line together" would not be necessary.

"Extravaganzas in the past have not come anywhere near presenting a sample of genuine student humour," he suggests. "The lavatory humour which we do get is on a par with 'Starnight Revue' or 'Follies of Paris'. There is much that can be satirized in a reasonably intelligent manner without driving away 'the masses' for whom the present Extravs appear to cater."

McAllister then offered his services as a producer and added that he had one script writer in whom he had "the utmost faith".

He is Brian Wigney, whose views on the script appeared in the last SALIENT.

After the letter had been read, Association president Blizzard said it was up to the Executive to decide what kind of show they were going to have, but he welcomed students' opinion on such matters.

The letter was referred to an Extravaganza Sub-Committee which would be jointly chaired by Capping Controller Dave Baird and Murray Rowlands, Cultural Affairs Officer.

# CAF PRICE RISE REASONS

CAFE prices have risen. Coffee and tea prices are up a penny to sevenpence and fivepence respectively, the main course has gone from 2/9 to 3/-. A three course dinner with bread, butter and a drink which was 3/9 is now 4/3, without bread and butter. Messers Boyd and Levenbach gave these reasons for increases.

In late 1960 Mr. Levenbach and the Student Union Management Committee (a sub-committee of the University Council) leased the cafeteria and shop to an outside caterer—Levenbach (the only person willing to take the contract as it stood). The contract provides that Levenbach will serve meals at times, prices and sizes laid down by the Management Committee, and be entitled to use the S.U.B. for other functions.

Management Committee policy is to break even or lose slightly on the students meals and make a profit on the outside functions. Last year the student side made a substantial loss, and the pre-

sent price rise is an effort to prevent this happening again. If student meals make a considerable profit the Management Committee can order a price cut.

The cafeteria faces many expensive problems. Though it pays no rent for day-to-day running, fuel and power bills are heavy as are staff costs. Staff and food are particularly expensive because the cafeteria is open for only six and a half months of the year. Most of this period is in the winter when vegetables are most expensive. Many of the staff of sixteen full-timers must be kept on for the whole twelve months; this applies to cooks, cashier etc. Staff are hard to get; we are out of town, waitresses are necessarily laid off in October and the disgusting mess on the tables makes extra work. Such conditions would not be tolerated downtown, by either staff or customers.

Many costs have risen but Levenbach's prices have not matched them. Doughnuts, for example, went up sharply during the recent sugar-price scare and have not come down yet, but Levenbach has not asked for a price increase. Considered as a whole, Levenbach's prices are still lower than elsewhere.

Many students are worried that they are not permitted to peruse Levenbach's accounts. Commenting on this, Managing-Secretary Boyd, said that if Levenbach's operating figures were published, it would put him in an intolerable position in relation to outside competitors. Since catering is very competitive, it is quite possible that Levenbach would be put out of business. It is in the interests of students to see that this does not happen.

## Shelley Berman Cut Rate

SHELLEY BERMAN will visit Wellington on August 26 and 27. In an era of sick comics and political satirists, he has pulled off the extraordinary trick of winning wide public appeal and the respect of intellectuals as well, simply by being funny about people.

That doesn't mean Berman is without barbs; but basically his humour revolves around the embarrassments and foibles of ordinary people.

The late Charles Laughton summed up the quality recently with the comment: "We have been living Berman situations, and we have been around unmistakable Berman men and women for years and did not know it. We love your world and you have made us all welcome to it."

Because of the strong campus following for Berman's humour in the United States, Mr. Harry M. Miller, who is directing the New Zealand tour, has decided to grant a special concession rate for university students here to see him.

Tickets will be available to Victoria University students for the opening night (August 26) at 17/6—cutting the regular price of 35/6 by more than half.

## Relaxation Only In SUB

RICHARD SMITH, the new Chairman of the House Committee, recently told SALIENT his proposals for the administration of the Student Union Building. His principal aim is the full utilisation of all the available facilities.

HE said that perhaps the most severe problem in the coming year would be the maintenance of effective student control of the building. He preferred not to elaborate.

THE House Committee is also responsible for receiving the student recommendations for the proposed second floor.

Some of the more imaginative Smith mentioned were:—

- Sandwich and Coffee bar.
- Soundproof Room for music, haka practices etc.
- Larger Dance Floor for Balls and other functions.
- Lockers, Telephones.

SMITH said the proposed bookshop could be a valuable asset to the University but that it would not be able to operate economically throughout the year. After the first rush for textbooks, the shop could accommodate books of all description of general interest to students.

"It has been suggested" said Smith, "that the upper story be reserved for study. This is not the purpose of the SUB. It serves as a place of relaxation somewhere for students to meet and talk." It is his eventual aim, once the Arts block is completed, to prohibit study in the building altogether.

He anticipated the complete demolition of the new SUB in the distant future. It should be replaced with a new and far more commodious building to accommodate at least 12,000 students. Alternatively the Students' Association could take advantage of the dropping land values in Kelburn and plan for the construction of a SUB in the region of Kelburn Parade and Glasgow Street.