

# The Magnet

RE  
Dear  
Friday  
I'm mak  
your  
I do  
Men's Wear  
Weatherston St.  
Wellington

# Salient

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

VOL. II, No. 4 WELLINGTON, APRIL 7th, 1948 Price: 3d. or SUBSCRIPTION

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TISDALLS

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## THE IDEOLOGIES OF MARCH

Ho! Broadsheets! Sound a war note!  
The way has now been found,  
The Left Exec, sticks out its neck—  
Ho! Helots! Rally round!  
Thus fluttered on the stairways  
The leaves of printed gall,  
McArley in the corridor,  
McIvor in the hall.  
The daily press began to bless  
Victoria's true-blue sons  
And in the town, there shifts the frown  
That pent the Building-Funds.

The Twenty-six indictors,  
Staunch sons of liberty,  
Could not accept, it was inept;  
It must be Tyranny!  
That an Exec. might frivol  
On Ideology,  
Was Communist red herring.  
Huzzah! Democracy!  
Replace the Reds above our heads  
Regardless of confusion.  
Recission? Pah! Vote Censure? Bah!  
Ho! Closure for our motion!

Behind the sturdy thousand  
The red light in their eyes,  
Gave vent their "YES!" with that excess  
Which gladdened Martin Dies.  
Then out spoke B. O'Connor,  
(As for Rome Horatius did),  
Producing now a little list—  
McArley at its head.  
In toto moved, it was approved,  
Less a disabused contender,  
For Right had won in good, clean, fun,  
A colourless agenda!

—W.G.T.

## SONG FOR 22 MARCH 1948

Real to us  
the trivial college move of nescient men;  
so simple  
where death is no more than stranger  
quietly platitudin(B.B.C.)ous echo through the seas.

Real to us,  
to mock-afraid of gathering storms  
which hammer  
slightly on our stately little cottaged  
chattered lives. So simple the obsequies

of Masaryk  
who toyed with Prague and then that grimmer  
haggard fall  
this day to small-town shabby faiths.  
So very simple to us who are not there now.

ROBERT W. BURCHFIELD.

## THE NIGHT OF THE STORM

By Frank Gawn.  
Towards evening it began to thun-  
der, and then to rain . . .

"Quiet!" growled the big brown  
bear, thumping the table with a  
paw. "I demand water!"

"Section 27, clause 3 (b), and in  
reference to the principles of Gritty  
utneys," squeaked the Chip-  
nunk; "I'm only trying to help  
everyone."

"Plop," went the Drip, splashing  
those who were near. YOU Stars are  
the only neutrals. YOUR animals

are trying to make YOU gather food  
for THEM."

"Ug ug hurrah," gibbered the  
Goons, feeling their radiance stream  
forth. "No Bears, no Bulls, no  
nuthin'—just Stars."

(The Refugees shuddered and were  
afraid, remembering the Berlin  
Sports Palace.)

The old Work-horses turned their  
rumps to the storm and nuzzled each  
other consolingly.

. . . floods, which followed the heavy  
rain, caused widespread devastation

## CROOKED THINKING MUDDLED LANGUAGE

### Comment on "The Meeting"

In the words of Mr. Taylor "I am not a Communist, I have never been a Communist, and I am never likely to become one." But I am concerned with two things, and with the connection between them; these are, the use of clear language in political discussion, and the practice of straight political thinking. An excellent example of the neglect of these two habits was provided in the recent special general meeting, and in the activities leading up to it.

Of course the Executive started it all. To hail recent events in Czechoslovakia as a "triumph of democracy" is misleading because of the wealth of meanings attached to the word "democracy," and it was muddled political thinking of the worst doctrinaire type to form any definite opinion about these events at this time. But where the Executive led a multitude followed, and where the Executive was foolish, the multitude committed deliberate sins against clear language and straight thinking.

### PRINTED GALL

Next the College was deluged with a series of pamphlets—these obviously the work of political illiterates. An appeal was made to "democratically-minded" students—a phrase so worn by polemical misuse as to indicate none but those who already agree with its users. Communism was, at one time, a "red virus" and at another, a "vile faction." No-one who had the slightest acquaintance with Communism could apply these terms to a body of political and social thought that has always merited and received the serious attention of the best minds of Europe. Journalistic tub-thumpers like Max Eastman have railed in such a way against Communism, and always will; meanwhile, serious thinkers like A. D. Lindsay (see his book of Marx's Capital) have thought about the problem. Where should the students of this college find themselves? With the doyen of the Readers' Digest? or with the Master of Balliol College?

Again, no-one could compare the increase of Russian power to a "virus" unless their minds were blinded by the precepts of representative government, the American way of life, and British fair-play. If one looks at world events with a minimum of prejudice, one must certainly be uneasy at Russian activities, but one cannot fail to see the relevance of American dollar imperialism (e.g., China, Japan, Greece, Turkey, and Italy) to these activities. And one will then be chary in apportioning praise and blame.

These two examples alone would have been enough to indicate that in this College crooked political thinking was on the increase, and finding expression in the violent abuse of language which usually accompanies such an event. But there was still the general meeting.

This was probably the largest meeting of students ever assembled in the College. It was certainly the least intelligent to meet in recent years. In the course of the meeting four people took a rational approach to the proceedings. Mr. Kevin O'Brien's level-headedness has, as if by a miracle, been perpetuated. Two other examples were Mr. Dowrick's magnificent chairing of an unruly meeting, and Mr. Taylor's attempt

to make a speech. The one was voted out and the other howled down. Of the backers of the no-confidence motion, only Mr. Tallboys showed intelligence. And the rest of the leaders? They gave out a succession of diatribes, studded with phrases like "these Communists must go," "throw out the present Exec.," and "we don't want to listen to you;" all this marked with extreme bad taste and political rancour. Finally, on the excuse that political opinions should not be allowed to interfere with administrative ability, they precipitated the College into administrative anarchy on a patently political issue. These were the leaders, and the people behind them were of their kind.

Their characteristic mental attitudes were expressed by two speakers; one evoked the wrath of the City Fathers on our heads, the other could think of nothing but his 32/6. To judge by the faces one saw, they were chiefly incipient small town lawyers and accountants, and what is worse, people whose political opinions are coloured by an anticipation of the salaries they will receive in these professions. Their political opinions suffered from the inevitable warp given by these preoccupations; their expression of opinion was not even verbal—but restricted to howls, cheers, and other automatic responses of political catch-cries. These were the ones who responded to the appeal to "democratically-minded" students: therefore, in their vocabulary, democracy amounts to the voice of a multitude of thoughtless people, evoked by the words of the political riff-raff of the right.

### ADMINISTRATION

Six years ago the affairs of the College were largely run by "Communists and fellow-travellers," and the administration was pretty efficient. Sometimes their attempts to fit all politics—from the government of the College to the conduct of the war—into the procrustean bed of dialectic were a little ludicrous. But it was an intelligent attempt, and the people who made it did try to convince others by rational argument. Since then the leftist influence has declined, and this seemed all for the good. But nothing of equal intelligence has risen to take its place. If the only alternative to the person who tries to integrate his activities as a student into the affairs of the world is the person whose horizon is bounded by the corpulent figures of the city fathers, and the perpetual memories of the Stud. Ass. fee, it would be better for us to revert to the original emphasis. And meanwhile let all these people maintain their interest in College affairs, and read a little Shakespeare to learn some respect for the language, and a little John Stuart Mill for some ideas on the "tyranny of the majority."

W. H. OLIVER.

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# Salient

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7th

## STAMPEDING THE IGNORANT

Our new President, Mr. McArley, has unwittingly supplied us with a phrase which succinctly sums up the atmosphere of international events as well as that atmosphere of current events in the University.

At Victoria College "the ignorant" who constituted a large part of those who thundered "Yes" at "The Meeting" are beginning to enlighten themselves on the real issues involved. The tumult and the shouting has died, but it has left in its wake something to think about. I expressed dismay in the last editorial that the University seemed "No longer a bastion of reason." It is promising to see some of the "ignorant" rationalising their attitude to the motion which was forced through the meeting on a wave of political fervour.

"Democratic principles," said Mr. O'Connor in the debate on Czechoslovakia, "are in essence two—free secret elections and the existence of an opposition. If we accept these principles, then the meeting was not democratic, for though an opposition existed, it was howled down at first and later prevented from voicing its opinions by a hastily passed motion of closure. When the motion of no-confidence had been passed, a large number of "the ignorant" clattered out of the hall pointedly illustrating their all-absorbing interest in who runs our affairs for us. Mr. O'Connor then moved that a "ticket" of previously selected candidates should be voted in and despite protests at the undemocratic character of such a motion, it was hurriedly pushed through without permitting discussion, on the same wave of fervour. Free, secret elections!

Fortunately, "the ignorant" have matriculated and can presumably read and argue. If these zealots around the college read and compare the "stampeding" leaflets with the carefully reasoned analysis of the meeting on our front page, we may hope that they will be able to reason when next an important matter comes up before the Association. There are undoubtedly many good reasons for a no-confidence motion, but there are many just as good, for a censure motion.

## HE JESTS AT SCARS

There is yet hope that there will be no more major stampeding of the ignorant at Victoria College, but in international affairs there is very little hope.

Will the ignorant once more be stampeded into war? Will the daily press continue to blame all our troubles on the red menace to such an extent that once more we are persuaded to take up arms in "defence of democracy" (i.e., to secure yet another division of the world and another expansion of markets?) Many of the students who acted undemocratically at the meeting before Easter thought they were defending their democratic rights. Many of the people who condone, even support, American violation of Italian sovereignty and extension of the Truman Doctrine, even to assisting Franco Spain, believe they are defending their "democratic" way of life.

I hope that some of the articles in this issue will expose the aggressive "dollar imperialism" of the West and the no less aggressive reaction which it is causing in the East. "Unamericanism" is used to stifle local opposition in an undemocratic manner. This is rather forcibly put by a "Christian Anachist" in the article reprinted from the "Catholic Worker." The indirect result of "dollar imperialism" is reflected in the so-called "coup d'etat" in Czechoslovakia. The very direct use of imperialist method to sway an election is illustrated by activities in Italy. If the communist bloc wins the elections on April 18, there will be great outcries that the elections have been "rigged," and hundreds of reports of Western statesmen weeping crocodile tears for the new victims of the communist menace. If by means of promises of Marshall Aid and Trieste plus the uncompromising support of the Church, the Italians "freely" choose de Gasperi's bloc, then trouble may be averted, and "democracy" will triumph—until the next time that opposition to Martial Aid needs to be squashed.

There is only one way for avoiding war—defeat of the Truman Doctrine and the economic bludgeon called the Marshall Plan. America, the country least touched by the devastation of the last war, must not lead us into another. "He jests at scars who never felt a wound."

—W.J.C.

This is the last time that letters of more than 250 words will be printed in Salient. In all succeeding issues they will be cut at the 249th word followed by the word "cut" in brackets.

If I.M.C. and Nemini Fidele would send their names in, their letters will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

## Liberal?

Dear Sir,—

Recent events have proved that the students of Victoria—usually so apathetic that they are content to leave all affairs in the hands of a few enthusiasts (often, naturally enough, somewhat of extremists)—nevertheless do arouse themselves when they are, however mistakenly, seriously mis-represented. It is to be hoped that this will be no isolated occurrence, but that from now on in every phase of College activity, there will be more representative action than has been the case too often in the past. We have at last shown that we can prevent too-vocal minorities (who may, of course, still express their personal political views in "Salient" or elsewhere) from dragging in with them the unwilling and dissentient majority.

At the same time, could we perhaps commence a new era in an allied direction? The now-well-known Debating Club, motion this year reversed the traditional tenor of such messages of congratulation or condolence that have become so notorious a feature of Victoria. It is humiliating, to say the least, that it should have taken so long for us to realise what should have been apparent all the time to ourselves and what has been amply apparent to others—that such actions are uncalled for, in the extreme. We are, after all, a University College of no little importance as such and of long-standing dignity and tradition in our own right—must we for ever indulge in adolescent exhibitionism to alienate public sympathy and to make ourselves ridiculous by endeavouring to assume an international importance to which even our country is scarcely entitled?

Perhaps in future both conservative and radical elements may refrain from associating themselves with Otahuhu Railway Workshops and the Watersiders' Union as would be New Zealand Foreign Offices.

ONE OF THE LIBERAL  
MAJORITY.

## Pythagoras?

Dear Sir,—

I wish to make reply to the indigenous questions of your correspondent, "Puzzled." The reference to a gag at the foot of my letter is brought about by the fact that I doubt whether you will see your way clear to printing this, and, anyway, my views must be restricted in this matter in deference to the Editor's opinion.

Question one. Answer. Certainly, once a society opens its doors to Communists, then it opens its doors to Communism. Witness the events in Czechoslovakia where—or so it was maintained at a recent debate—alleged democracy exists because the Communists have the support of the Socialists. This must be the inevitable result of any system which admits of Communists' ideals. Conversely, if it is claimed that there were no Communists in the Czech Socialist Party, then the evidence is all the more strong in favour of the fact, that where stands a Socialist there stands a Communist. For what is the difference between Socialism and Communism if, in the end, both are to ally for the benefit of Communism? Therefore, I suggest that the three Socialists on the late Executive represent Communist influence. If you add to these, two negligibles who will send a letter to a foreign power, for a joke, and the four members, loosely listed under the heading, "etc.," you have nine

members who are likely to be swayed by whoever talks the loudest—the ones who make the most noise in this college are the Socialists (para. 4) and since (proved by the local Socialist Club reflecting Communist principles, it is possible how the executive can be Communist controlled.

Question 2. Answer. Possibly because—

- The letter would not be approved anyway; or
- The letter could not go without his approval; or
- He wished to disassociate himself from it entirely.

In any event, if all had followed his lead originally, recission would have been unnecessary.

Question 3. How can it be? The only reason that occurs to me is that it would seem that the Executive originally passed the motion knowing full well the opinion of the students. If it didn't know the feelings of the students, it was not fit to be in power anyway. An Executive which could pass such a motion in the first place, no matter what it did later under pressure—showed itself incapable and unconstitutional. If it was necessary for a thousand students to demonstrate before the Exec. knew the students' will, it was certainly high time we elected another one. Summed up, it is this: The Exec. ignored the students until it feared them. Therefore, it paid the price of its temerity.

Question 4. Despite the fact that one Socialist can make more noise than three ordinary people (with the fact that the public, until recently, considered us "a pack of Communists") it would seem as though he was outvoted at the general meeting. Is this what your correspondent complains about? Or, alternatively, can it be that the other opinion was that shared by the correspondent and his mess-mates. If his or her opinions got a rough time it was solely because a certain section of the students who up to now had been showing the value of "loud voice tactics" upon a majority, had the other evening, the opportunity of viewing the same tactics in operation against a minority.

If your correspondent was correct in his assertion, it would point to a lesson well learnt, by a majority which, all too often in the past has been, as I am now, sir, in voicing my opinion in this your paper.

MUZZLED.

## Cattle Show?

Sir,—

Concerning last Monday's Special General Meeting, I would like to point in your columns to a circumstance to which I tried to draw attention at the meeting but owing to atmospheric conditions I was largely unsuccessful. Some half dozen issues and the fate of an executive were decided without a single show of hands.

It is true that on the voices of the voting always sounded decisive, because such a deafening roar greeted each motion that the rational majority who do not scream their heads off when they say "aye" or "no" went through the whole evening unnoticed. About eight hundred students were present, but anyone who has been to a cattle show, or has witnessed a tribal war dance, knows that even one or two hundred voices make a hell of a noise.

It is unfortunate that a show of hands was not taken, because the only evident support to which the new Students' Executive can point is the ill-mannered shouting of a few hundred students.

HARRY EVISON



# THIS - OUR SECRETARY!

RE 1ST ISSUE SALLIENT, 1948

Dear Sir,—I received only last Friday a copy of the above issue and I make haste to take advantage of your offer to contribute to Sallent. I do not agree with many of your views set forth in the last issue, nor do I take too kindly to the reprint of the issue of Sallent having a crack at me, hence this enclosure. The views are my own and are not claimed to represent the views of anyone else but one who has served on the Executive, on Sallent, on Tournament Committees, on Club Committees, in Extrav., and took a large part in the drafting of the present Constitution of the Association. As I am, financially, still a member of the Association I hope the contribution will be accepted.

May I point out two errors in the issue of February 27, viz., in the article "Whither Goes Your Stud. Ass. Fee?" Mrs. Melling's (nee Priest) statement reprinted from the 1946 Sallent that a small deduction is made from Stud. Ass. Fees by the College Office is incorrect. This was pointed out to her when she was on the 1945-46 Executive. The other error is very minor, the Exam. Fees case was not heard before the Court of Appeal, but at first instance before the then Chief Justice, Sir Michael Myers.

M. J. POOLE.

## Poor Procedure

Dear Sir,—A large section of students attending the recent Special General Meeting will have been appalled by the general tenor of the meeting. It must be admitted that

meetings of this nature have in the past been lively and entertaining, but never have they been rowdy and devoid of reason, as well as lacking in even the most elementary forms of etiquette. It is a well recognized and fundamental principle of democratic procedure that speakers must be afforded an opportunity of making themselves heard, and that the audience listens to them no matter whether they agree or disagree with the tone of the particular address. I would also draw your attention to the deplorable attitude of the interim chairman, Mr. McDowall, in accepting a complete "ticket" motion for an interim executive. The correct procedure would have been to call for nominations and a fair opportunity to all sections of students to express their views. This, Mr. McDowall definitely failed to do. Unfortunately, this failure properly to exercise the functions of chairman, cannot be ascribed to inexperience, as he has had several years of service on the Executive and has held other administrative positions in the Students' Association. Perhaps, Mr. McDowall could clarify his position and state his reasons for accepting a motion of "block" nominations, typical of the "one-party" system which the movers of the no-confidence were seeking to eradicate from the College.

In conclusion, may I congratulate Misses Casey and Michael for their refusal to serve on the Executive in view of the proceedings at the meeting of which they were justly ashamed.

G. WARNER.

When are the College authorities going to replace those blocks of white substance in the washbasins with soap?

## Happy Birthday

My dear Sallent,—It was with distinct pleasure and profit that I read your issue commemorating the tenth anniversary of the founding of Sallent. I was under a misapprehension I must confess I thought your birthday would have been either April 1, or else May Day. I am sure everyone will agree that the mental content of many of your articles is in keeping with your age. I showed the issue to some members of the local Farmers' Union, and they wish me to hand on their unreserved testimonial of the quality of the paper Sallent uses. They say, and they should know, that it far outstrips any catalogue they have used in the past ten years, but could you arrange for a hole to be cut out of the upper left hand corner to permit hanging on a nail?

I had the feeling as I read its contents that Sallent suffers from a deep sense of frustration in not being able to point to some member of the staff, or party, who has died a martyr's death in the cause. As a suitable martyr Mr. Winchester could not be outdone, and his death would provide ample proof of the iniquities of the capitalistic system for many generations. You might also compose a song and call it "The Horst Winchester Song" to be sung at all meetings of the editorial staff.

However, I was more than flattered with the kind references to me on page 10 of Sallent. I love headlines that size, don't you? But it really is unfortunate that you did not have space to permit the publication of that delightful piece of biased hack journalism which created the furore. You will know the editorial no doubt, it was the one the Editor, Mr. Milburn, did not write himself

and which he himself did not think was fair. It was called "Our Judgment" I think, although a better and more apt title might have been "Our Hero Mr. Cohen," but of course only Sallent's editorials are allowed to be biased so I shouldn't be nasty and say things like that should I? Then of course, if space had permitted it, you could have pointed out that, despite Mr. Milburn's claims to the contrary, Sallent is, both under the present Constitution and the old one, the official organ of the Association. After that you might have called attention to the act that, notwithstanding Mr. Milburn's averment that he had not been informed of the passing of the motion calling on him to retract the scurrilous editorial, the then President (Mr. Cohen) told his Executive that he (Mr. Cohen) had told Mr. Milburn of the motion. Now both Messrs. Cohen and Milburn, I see from your paper, are on the staff of Sallent so I am at a loss to understand why this was not amended in the present issue, unless of course Sallent was deliberately trying to mislead and misrepresent the true position. I am sure that that is not the reason for I can't imagine Sallent adopting such scurvy capitalistic tactics in preference to the truth, can you?

As it is your birthday I am sending under separate cover a small present of one red herring and one mare's nest. I am sure the ones you have been using up to the present must be worn out. Many happy returns on your birthday, Sallent and keep up the good work, and by the time you are twenty I am sure that you will have established yourself as the number one New Zealand comic cuts.

With love and kisses from your erstwhile friend and sometime combatant.

MARCUS J. POOLE, LL.M.

As the original article was printed without comment, we print this reply without comment.

## Our Critics Again

Dear Sir,—An editorial mention, a little bracket with Ed. enclosed and almost a column of explanation as the result of one letter . . . such generosity!

Humbled by such attention, chastened by rebukes and amazed at both the inferences and the irrationality of the progressive circle's explanation, I once more lift my Sectionally Opinionated pen to suggest that our Editor doth protest too much.

The progressive circle's habit of using emotive and damning phrases has entered the editorial to create Demon Student Opinion who is at once "loud mouthed and crafty." (Not to be confused with "Biassed" Opinions which according to the Editor are never never loud mouthed or crafty.) It may be that there are opinions which have no sectional feelings behind them in which case their expression is left either to the very individually minded or the few. So it seems to me; but not to the Editor who makes me, temporarily, an agent of Demon Sectional Opinion.

But Mr. Editor where are the accusations I cannot meet, the truculent body of shackling censors? Point out if you please my unmet accusations. My censors you can ignore for they have a bias towards thinking that most students have the power of reason and are able to censor Sallent effectively for themselves.

Before you jump to editorial conclusions which are much more rash since they are so public, sit down and consider the noose which my "truculent body of censors" eye with anticipation.

F. M.

I should like to point out the following in my own defence.

(1) I did not say that "Demon Student Opinion" is loud-mouthed and crafty. I said that Sectional Opinion which usually speaks in the name of Truth or Student Opinion is more loud-mouthed and crafty than those two latter members of the "lynching bee."

(2) I did not say, nor have inferred that "Biassed" Opinions of Sallent contributors are never loud-mouthed or crafty. They have been in the past and will often be so in the future.

(3) The diatribe against Sallent's anonymous critics was not directed against such people as F.M. and his third paragraph is thus irrelevant. We welcome written criticism, because if the writer twists the meaning of an article in order to abuse it, he may be corrected, just as I may be corrected for writing ambiguous editorials.—Ed.

## Are We Idiots?

Dear Sir,—After reading Sallent's editorial assuring us that contributions of "a decent literary standard" etc. would most certainly be published, I perused an article in the same issue headed "Freshers Fraternize." Endure a sample: "Dresses were torn, sweat dripped . . . drinks were spilt, women were kissed . . . Come into the cemetery, Maud . . . hep! hep! . . . a very lush thrush," so on it goes.

We are assured from time to time that Sallent is read at universities and elsewhere in many parts of the world. It seems evident from the above that we want people to believe we are idiots.

I am moved, therefore, to inquire what constitutes, in the eyes of the editor, a "decent literary standard."

SCRIBE.

(A standard acceptable to a well-balanced person, not to one without a sense of humour.—Ed.)

The latest joke about the college, states that it was not the democratic students who organized the downfall of the late Exec.; the organization was done by members of the Communist Party, who had decided that they could obtain better results from workers underground than workers in responsible positions. We are horrified to learn that members of the National Party are in reality of the Communist Party.

## One Act

Dear Sir,—As one of those who voted for the no-confidence motion, I might remark that in my opinion your editorial comment (Sallent, Vol. 11, No. 3) quite ignores the just reason for which the Executive was dismissed.

The real question concerned neither the undoubted administrative ability of the late Executive, nor the personal convictions, as such, of its members. Whether or not those who passed the no-confidence motion had previously shown interest in the affairs of the Association is immaterial; the particular act for which the Executive suffered the vote of no-confidence imputed to all the members of the Association, political opinions of a minority. The Executive ignored the only indication of student opinion on the question, pleading as a defence the irrelevant fact that they were not bound by the decision of an affiliated body. It is agreed that as such a decision of this nature would not legally impose itself on the Executive, but insofar as it was an indication that opinion was against M. Gottwald's Government, it rendered a congratulatory message not merely imprudent, but irresponsible. It is hardly likely that at any time such a message would express the opinion of all the members of the Association, but steps should have been taken to ascertain whether it was acceptable to the majority.

The carrying of the vote of no-confidence by a large majority demonstrated that the student body will not permit its elected Executive to misrepresent it, through carelessness or any other cause, in such a serious matter. A mere vote of censure would have in fact been a victory for the Executive, but by a decisive vote of no-confidence the student body has expressed its disapproval of abuse of prerogative on the part of those controlling student affairs.

R. E. HUTCHINGS.

## Booze

Dear Sir,—This is a letter about liquor. It will be quite evident by the time you have read it that I do not approve of the drinking of fermented beverages. Why is Extrav so bawdy—because of beer! Why do we always lose Tournament—because of liquor! Why are the morals of University so low—because of booze! Sir, when I came to Varsity as a fresher this year I thought I was coming to an institution of higher learning and culture; but what do I find? Quantity of beer, quality of beer, reminiscences of beer and prospects of beer pervade every student activity. Anyone interested in helping me combat this rampant evil please contact me through the men's letter rack addressed to the undersigned nom-de-plume.

SICK OF IT.

(Isn't it wonderful—we can keep ours down.—Ed.)

## EXTRAV CAST REQUIRED

For leads, ballets, choruses, props, wardrobe. . . .

Girls with the usual number of legs . . . girls and men . . . tall, short, thin, fat . . .

Tories, Labour, Commos . . . If you can sing, dance, talk, use a needle or hammer you will be welcome.

## Watch the Notice Boards

## ELECTIONS

Nominations close 10th April. Get your nominations in early.

Make sure you are on the roll.

## American Viewpoint On

# "Un-Americanisms"

In the place of our usual bi-monthly American Newsletter, Wallace Hamilton sends us this article from the January issue of "The Catholic Worker." The author, Robert Ludlow, is one of the main younger men in the Catholic Worker Movement, was a C.O. during the war, and here gives "a pretty accurate statement of radical catholicism at the present time."

—"N.Z. Christian Pacifist," March, 1948.

We have gone a great way this past year of 1947, a great way towards the destruction of man, a great way towards completion of a thoroughly statist society. It is all based on fear and on greed and on the "American way of life." It has been a year of 100 per cent. Americanism.

### AMERICANISM

Americanism, in the concrete means this—it means that eight Negroes were murdered at the Anguilla camp in Georgia and the guards who murdered them were given a clean bill of health by a federal jury in Brunswick, Georgia. It means that two-thirds of the draft violators are still in jail due to failure to grant a general Christmas amnesty, it means that one may have religious scruples against service in the army but not intellectual or philosophical ones—so that it becomes the business of the State to decide what religion is. It means that a mink coat was given on the Walter Winchell programme to whoever sent in the most superficial definition of a Communist. Mink coats! And millions in Europe and Asia starving. Mink coats! And an unemployable man in New York City forced to struggle along on 12 dollars a week. Mink coats! And a poor couple in Pennsylvania, the husband bed-ridden and the wife constantly in attendance, forced to make ends met on 63 dollars and 80 cents a month. What a marvellous service this disgusting display of conspicuous consumption renders to Marxism!

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### DISLOYAL

Americanism has meant the establishment of a Fascist Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities—which is again government by fear and intimidation, so that anyone who shows concern for the ills besetting the country is declared disloyal.

On May Day of 1947 we Catholics, in our smugness, repaired to cathedral and chapel to pray for Communists. Much more might we well have prayed for ourselves, that we might proceed in charity and understanding of our separated brethren who only too often are Christian in act, despite their Marxian materialism, while we observe the legalities of religion and act alien to the spirit of Christ. Instead our "pious" societies put out vicious booklets, aping the worst features of cheap tabloids and comic strips and which accuse Communists of everything from anti-Semitism to mercy killing. And these manuals of hate are conditioning Catholic youth for war, for organized murder, for Fascism at home.

### MORE DEADLY WEAPONS

Rear-Admiral Ellis M. Zacharias states that "if every atom bomb and facilities for its manufacture were destroyed tomorrow, there would still be available weapons that would wipe the last vestige of human, animal and vegetable life from the face of the earth . . . the atom bomb is not being neglected either. We now have bombs 50 times more powerful than those dropped at Nagasaki and Hiroshima. They were of a primitive type already obsolete when used. These modern weapons bear only slight similarity to conventional armaments of the past, permit the waging of inter-continental wars from long distances. They are designed to destroy life in enormous areas . . . in the light of these developments our most cherished conventional armaments—aircraft carriers, lava-spraying incendiary bombs and automatically fed heavy guns—represent an era of warfare that will never again return." This also is what Americanism means in reality. And that, in the light of this, our patriots still call for regimentation and military training—not because it will serve any purpose in defence, but because it means disciplined Fascist youth for America. Verily, it is a compliment these days to be called un-American!

### QUESTION OF RUSSIA

It is not a question of being naive about Russia. The Workers Defence League estimates there are at least 20,000,000 human beings in the world today in actual or virtual slavery. And that at least half of the slaves in the world today are within the orbit of Soviet Russia. We have our share of the remainder, peonage in the south and our concentration camps during the war. And these things exist in root and as inevitable consequences of capitalism. And we are not going to solve it by distributing fantastic pamphlets that only add to the misunderstandings and cater to the prejudices of the day. For Catholics should oppose these things, not by advocating Americanism, but by frank realization of the evils of national states and by a Christian anarchism that, while not rejecting all government, does reject the centralized state which we have known since the 16th century.



**Wednesday, April 7**

Table Tennis A.G.M. in A2.

**Friday, April 9**

Debate in the Gym. on the effect of Marshall aid on the Italian elections.

Glee Club in C6 every Friday night.

**Wednesday,**

**April 14**

Extra Casting Meeting, Gym, 8 p.m.



AMERICANISM?

### EXTREME LEFTISM

And it should be an opposition from the left, for it will be an extreme leftist position that will carry the full implications of Christianity.

"The Catholic Worker," in opposing not only the economics of capitalism but the very spirit of it, is to the left of the Marxists who make no protest but rather utilize some of the worst industrial features of capitalist society. As such, as extreme leftists, it is our privilege to be accounted un-American.

### UN-AMERICAN

It is our great privilege to be un-American because to be American is to betray Christianity. In the concrete, in actual fact, to be American is to believe in capitalism, imperialism, militarism, nationalism, and mediocrity. It is the antithesis of being Christian. It is devotion to the world, to success, to material values, to national and personal pride and greed. It is to contain within oneself and within the nation the seeds of Fascist and Marxist materialism which, regarding man as less than a person, subordinates him to the centralized state. The alternative today is that of Christian anarchism.

## Film in N.Z.

In England and America pleasure has become more and more commercialized, so that it is not surprising that New Zealand, an infant suckling from these two mothers, should be influenced in a like manner.

At present in this country some forms of our pleasure involve rapidly moving our bodies through space, watching organized animals doing so, or sitting in thousands and letting a strip of celluloid do our thinking for us. How the machine is influencing society could be dealt with at great length, but its influence upon pleasure and thought through the medium of film is what will be most fully considered here. This could best be done by considering briefly why people go to the pictures, the effect of those pictures upon them, types of films, and the films as they could be.

### WHY PEOPLE GO TO THE PICTURES

Entertainment and escape constitute the two main reasons. In the cinema people can attain comfort, bodily and mental, for very little thought if required—the film has all that attended to. The patron can sit back in comfort and let all eyes float away. The mind of a thoughtful person is rarely comfortable.

"But," it has been said, "why point the finger at the cinema! We all find an escape from our environments in some way or other. Reading, painting, and music can all provide escape." The answer to this is that there are two forms: passive and creative.

A search for knowledge can be called an escape because environment can easily be forgotten in the pursuit of an interest. But escape which involves a change from ignorance to knowledge is of far more value to society than the cinematographic form which involves merely an escape from reality into fantasy.

A shopgirl in the cinema associating herself with a beautiful duchess is a less desirable member of society, than a shopgirl studying music or engaged in some other creative work.



## Overtures to the Italian Elections —As Reported in the "Dominion"

9/3/48.—"The answer to the Czech coup is to maintain free Government in France and Italy."—Quoted from the "Economist."

11/3/48.—"Italy has asked the Foreign Minister's deputies, who are meeting to consider the Italian colonies, that the UN Trusteeship Council give Italy the right to administer Libya until Libya achieves independence."

16/3/48.—Count Sforza: "It is high time to realize that our task is to organize Europe."

Signor Togliatti: "The Marshall Plan is not justified economically but is a part of the world battle against communism. Italy is closing her spaghetti factories to sell spaghetti from America. Our vegetables are spoiling because we cannot export, while our people eat canned vegetables from America."

17/3/48.—"Events in Prague and American aid may result in their (the Italian middle classes) throwing their weight into the balance in favour of the moderates. Moves on the part of the western countries, in addition to American aid, include the signing of the French-Italian Customs Union. There has also been the visit to Rome of Mr. Morgan Phillips and Mr. Denis Healy, delegates of the British Labour Party. They hoped to win the biggest of Italy's three Socialist parties, led by Signor Nenni, from their adherence to the Communists. Reports, however, indicate that Messrs. Phillips and Healy failed in their mission."

20/3/48.—"The Italian Government has made it known that Italy would join the Western Union if the elections went against the Communists."

22/3/48.—"An announcement that France, Britain and the United States had decided that Trieste must be returned to Italy to keep the peace between Italy and Yugoslavia was made by M. Bidault at the signing of the Italian-French Customs Union protocol at Turin."

"Diplomats in Washington described the proposal as amongst the shrewdest yet made to try to help anti-communist forces in Italy win the April elections."

22/3/48.—"The 'Manchester Guardian's' Rome correspondent quotes 'Il

Messaggero' as saying that the Western Powers' Trieste decision anticipated a Russian move to propose a division of the territory."

"The democratic powers have forestalled any such move, says the 'Daily Telegraph's' Rome correspondent. Their action will do much to dispel the recent anti-British and anti-American feeling in Italy, of which the Soviet Government has lately taken advantage."

24/3/48.—"Mr. Simic (Yugoslav Foreign Minister) said that Yugoslavia was prepared to seek, through mutual efforts, an agreed solution to the Trieste question, and was willing to give Trieste to Italy if Yugoslavia could retain the town of Gorizia."

25/3/48.—"An Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that in no circumstances will the Italian Government consent to barter Trieste against Gorizia."

In language that had obviously been inspired by a higher authority, the spokesman said: "Clearly Italy cannot accept a solution of the Trieste problem which barter one piece of Italy's flesh against another."

"The 'New York Times' Paris correspondent declares that Britain is preparing to take the initiative (in asking for Italy's admittance to UN) adding that the move is being timed to coincide with the Italian election campaign."

27/3/48.—"Mr. Bevin stated in the House of Commons that the proposal to return Trieste to Italy had nothing to do with the Italian elections."

30/3/48.—"Signor Togliatti declared that Tito aimed at eliminating all frontier dissensions between Italy and Yugoslavia. The Western Powers, on the other hand, had always worked to prevent an Italian-Yugoslav rapprochement, which explained why they had now omitted Yugoslavia from the proposed talks on Trieste."

### UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

#### Article 1, Paragraph 2.

"To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.

by the manager of the exhibiting theatre. Through lack of reviewers, important films such as The Ox Box Incident have sometimes been shown in out-of-the-way minor theatres. Very few people seemed to realise that criticism is an intellectual laxative.

There is educational value in a poor film if critical attitude has been held towards it. Some people do not see the value that can be derived from taking children to an extremely poor picture. The value lies in the discussion which could follow. As long as they have been made to think about the film the visit is justified. There is more value in having a child give his reasons why he considered a film poor, than in having him say a picture was "good" and thinking no more about it.

Such films as Tobacco Road, Grapes of Wrath, The Ox Box Incident, and Love on the Dole, are important mainly because they are such a contrast to the usual fare.

\* \* \*

As the writer of this article has thought fit to provide us with a miniature thesis it will have to be printed in serial form. This will be done if some of our readers express interest.—Ed.

### Lakeside

Physics lecturer discussing an atomic pile with engineering students:—

"... In cases of extreme emergency you just let your water go." Farrago, Oct. 1947.



## Puerile Political Pamphleteering

This article is an attempt to analyse and criticise recent publications of a high emotional tenor.

These pamphlets, if analysed closely, reveal little sense and much bad taste. "Communism"—a word often used—can only be applied to a definite economic and political concept. The theory of Communism is as dispassionate in analysis as any comparative analysis of Capitalism. Can "Communism" be likened emotively to cancer, and yet convey any real meaning?

The Executive were tagged "Communist." How can they be "Communist" when, not one has experience of Communism in practice; not one has understood Marxism and Leninism as Marx and Lenin did; not one would be capable of applying the Marxist dialectic to the present NZ or world economic condition. To claim that they are "Communist" because of a resolution which supported the coup in Czechoslovakia, is not only stupid, but childish. Consequently, all supporters of Mao Tse Tung, Mr. Gallagher or Tito would then be declaimed or honoured with the tag "Communist." "The only true Communists are within the Soviet Union..." So spake Stalin. These party members know of Communism. They can appreciate and apply communist theory.

"Democracy," another term widely used and abused, in these articles, has as a term a high emotional value. What form of democracy do they mean? The democracy of China, where the people are fighting for a Social Democracy which is opposite to the political ideals of the Nationalistic Kuomintang. Or the "American Way of Life" which, has in the Negro question the most damning illustration of the lack of freedom to vote, demonstrate or organise. Is this the pamphleteers' democracy? Do they mean the democracy of South Africa which does not permit coloured peoples the right to equal participation in South Africa's "Democratic" institutions. European South Africans, like most Europeans in equatorial countries, perpetuate the adage of "White Man's Burden" and presume on their intelligence by insisting on the "Superiority of white over black." Does "democracy" have room for racial prejudice? Does then "Democracy" permit the full expression of the individual in society? Any utterance contrary "to the preservation of life, liberty and property" of individuals in the state is suppressed. This the tyranny of the majority has much to answer for. Can the party system be justified in pandering to the majority? Can the "abysmal thuggery of nurses" as a phrase be applied religiously to the alleged satellites of the USSR? Is not the purge of public and state servants in Australia, USA and England "abysmal thuggery," or is it a constitutional necessity? The recently formed Commission of Un-American Activities is doing nothing more than impossibly sterilising the film industry. Can the suppression of this form of Art be likened to "abysmal thuggery?"

Is the Communist in a "mental straight-jacket?" This is a contentious argument but "Communists" forcing one into a "physical straight jacket" is both silly and ludicrous. It appears that the pamphleteer himself has a fear of straight-jackets—should he know?

Did the meeting show that "the light of freedom glows in this Uni-

versity?" The meeting only showed the tyranny of the majority, who recognise the need for an opposition in a democracy, but wished them to be a silent opposition. This constituted opposition was greeted with scant respect or regard by the democratic 26 who saw no democratic reason in refusing to hear those against the motion. "Don't be misled," they screamed to their cohorts. This was their answer for democracy.

"... a conclusion supported by a large number of students..." presumed that many students knew accurately the political situation in Czechoslovakia. Their first article commenced, "Some may not have read the paper..." Do the students know or do they not know the situation in that country? And are our newspapers free from taint of half-truths? How can this large body of students support the conclusion and yet "may not have read the papers?" All this reveals is an attempt to subdue intelligent reason, by the emotions. This "large number" evidently followed where the emotional exhibitionism of the pamphleteer blustered. Reason was defeated and intellectual dishonesty prevailed.

In conclusion, "do not be misled" by the masters of organisation who will use any (every) method to distort the truth. This sentence is typical of the articles, so read them again with a critical mind.

## Busy Man

Motions moved Mr. O'Brien: 1st meeting 18 out of 23; 2nd meeting 23 out of 37.

We understand that the other members of the Executive also ran.

## Drama Club

On Tuesday, April 20th, there will be a casting meeting for three interesting one-act plays, which will be performed on June 11th. Friday, April 16th, at 7.30 in the Gym. will be held the first Drama Study Group. Learn to act from people who know how. This group work will be held alternate Sundays throughout the year, beginning Sunday, May 2nd, 16th, 30th, etc.

It will be lots of fun getting to know plays and one another.

When a major production, a three-act play, comes off at the end of July we will realize how much we have profited from the above programme.

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### THE EFFECT OF FILMS

There seems to be a certain amount of truth in the idea that New Zealand culture has largely been imported in circular cans. The more obvious effects such as influence upon fashion and speech habits are easy to point out, but the more deep-seated effects are subtle and difficult to demonstrate.

Films certainly have falsified some people's values, but on this point they seem to have become a scapegoat. For example, it is often said that the cinema is making people worship material success, but whether New Zealanders have ever needed instruction in this attitude is extremely doubtful.

Frequent and passive attendance at theatres would tend to produce a person who was mentally lazy, and too busy living to think about life.

A very pronounced effect of the commercial film is the spreading of stereotyped ideas of Nationality. Through films a New Zealander's conception of, say, an Irishman or a Frenchman has become very fixed. A Frenchman is always excitable, and if there is an Irishman in the cast, it won't be long before a fight or a "begorra" will make their appearance.

### THE NEED FOR FILM CRITICISM

There are very few critics such as Gordon Mirams whose views reach the public. Consequently the average person chooses his film by reading and reacting emotionally to, the advertising blurb inserted in the press

## STOP PRESS TOURNAMENT

Saturday night was the happiest night of the week—we triumphantly retained the Boxing Shield. Four VUC men reached the finals, three winnings. Wong, fit and enthusiastic, carried off the bantamweight champ. Young put a very very good defence but seemed to lack aggression, and the fight went to his opponent. Wisheart won the lightweight champ. on a technical k.o. and retained the trophy for the most scientific boxer. Both featherweight and welterweight titles went to Otago, leaving VUC and OU equal. Adams began with a whirlwind attack, thus tiring himself so that Harding (OU) appeared to have the advantage in the last round. The decision in Adams's favour consequently had a mixed reception. Ingram (CUC heavyweight) defeated Foster (OU) leaving VUC winners of the shield.

Once more VUC won the wooden spoon for athletics, but despite the impressive array of provincial and national champions from other Colleges, we did reasonably well. Marshall won the discus and hammer throws and "Panama" Pohlen won the mile walk in good time. Hawke ran a steady second in both the mile and the three-mile champs. Trevithick came third in the poule-vault and Kelly third in the mile. Duckworth and Turner did well in heats. Barbara Fougere came third in the 75 yards but strained a ligament and was unable to run again. Barnard also had this misfortune. The women showed a glimpse of form by coming second in the relay, emergency Sue Ferguson doing well but apart from that they were not up to standard. VUC won the haka party relay, mainly due to a collision between OU and CUC. Highlights were: (i) Batten (CUC) triple win (100, 220, 440) won in record time.

(ii) Sinclair (OU) national title-holder won mile and 880. (iii) Borland (CUC) and McKenzie (AUC) joint NZU record in high jump 6ft. 1 1/2 in. Standard of women's athletics was very high, Misses Shackleton and Castle recording excellent times, Miss Castle making records in 100yds and 75yds.

Our basketball team was second with AUC and OU. We beat Otago but lost to Auckland by one goal. Against Canty, we led by one goal at half-time but finally lost 18-14. Canty admitted heart failure when playing us—high praise from a team with four reps!

Breast-stroke is our swimming team's forte. Dowse and Piper were first and second in the 220 and Jeanette Murray second in the 100.

Polo? Pathetic! We narrowly beat AUC but subsequently sank protesting in the final (18-1) to Otago.

At the tennis, Jean MacGibbon (CUC) won the women's singles, and with White beat Avis Read and Davidson (VUC) in the mixed doubles. Jack Walls played well against Greer (OU) in the men's singles finals but was beaten, although he and Davidson beat Bushell and Adam (CUC) in the men's doubles finals with some good net rallies.

Although Athol Howarth was top scorer and consequently NZU Blue, our shooting team finished only third. Of interest to VUC is the NZU Blue won by Burton, who, not included in the VUC team, shot for Otago, winners of the Haslam Shield.

The Cricket Club, several of whose prominent members did not travel to Dunedin, consisted mainly of Old Boys of the "Jones-Junior High." Their cricket was well up to High School standard. Otago, made 223 runs for two wickets against them. Well played Otago!

Rowing honours were shared by CUC and AUC, Auckland's efforts perhaps owing to their female cox.

(N.B. Victoria—applications now accepted.)

We think that the conditions were too wet for efficient oaranship. Choppy seas—boat smashed—hopes dashed—crew soaked, (VUC's soak began four days earlier).

Just incidentally Tournament Shield went to Canty with 28 1/2 points. OU gained 25, AUC 21 1/2, VUC 13 1/2.

## NZUSA

The NZUSA Annual General Meeting met in Dunedin over Easter. Out of a maze of interminable discussion several important decisions emerged. Student Representation on the Senate

The University Senate is soon to be reconstituted and the meeting decided that we should again press for representation. On the motion of Dowrick, VUC, the meeting expressed the principle that the proper basis of University government is self-government. Acting on that principle NZUSA will ask the Senate to accept a nominee of NZUSA who shall be a graduate of at least two years' standing.

### Reports from Delegates to Australia

The NZUSA delegation to the annual congress of the Australian University Students, in reporting to the meeting, brought forward several recommendations which were adopted. The most important of these were that NZUSA try to obtain concession rates for students travelling between Australia and New Zealand by boat; that a Pacific Bureau of the International Union of Students be set up to arrange the interchange of student sporting and cultural activities between Australia and New Zealand; that the possibilities of organizing the interchange of students for vacation employment be investigated; that an Australian University Debating team tour New Zealand during June and July; and that a congress run on lines similar to the Australian one be run by NZUSA and be organized by VUC for January, 1949.

### I.U.S.

All colleges supported affiliation to I.U.S., but opinions differed as to whether we should pay the full affiliation fee of 6d. per head. The Auckland delegates were strongly in favour of the full 6d. Both Nathan and McLaren of AUC said the same as Salient has said many times before, that we cannot expect to belong to IUS unless we are fully financial members. Lincoln College supported AUC, and the VUC delegates, convinced by this plain commonsense, also called for the full 6d. The

other delegates had been instructed by parsimonious executives not to go to the full amount, and the motion to pay 6d. per head was lost on the casting vote of the chairman, the President of the Otago Students' Association. On the motion of Symon, CUC, the meeting decided to pay 1d. for 1947 and 2d. for 1948.

The matter is to be raised again at the August conference. VUC must ensure that the full amount is paid in the future.

### Bursaries

NZUSA will investigate the possibilities of a special senior scholarship for B.Com. students doing Economics III as a prerequisite for M.Com. These students are not eligible for the present senior scholarship and it was felt that this anomaly should be put right. The meeting also decided to ask for an increase in special Government bursaries. This matter is long overdue and must be considered in the light of the greatly increased cost of living.

### Winter Tournament

The limitation of Winter Tournament was discussed both by the meeting and by a special sub-committee. It was discussed again at length with the Easter Tournament Committee. The matter has been referred to a special committee consisting of the President, two delegates from NZUSA and one delegate from each college, which is to meet in May.

### The Iron Curtain

The meeting went into committee to discuss the officers of the NZUSA. The meeting decided matters concerning all students behind closed doors, therefore Salient is unable to report the long discussion of 1 1/2 hours that took place. It is clear that the VUC delegation came to the correct conclusion that our "caretaker" executive had been ill-advised in withdrawing our nomination of Nigel Taylor as President, for when the "iron curtain" was lifted and the vote was taken, Mr. Taylor was elected with the support of VUC, AUC and OU.

The other officers were elected as follows:— Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Dowrick, VUC; Nathan, AUC; and Cunningham, CUC. Secretary, Mr. S. Campbell. Assistant Secretary, Miss Janet Bogle. Treasurer, Mr. K. B. O'Brien. Congress comptroller: Mr. Harold Dowrick.

An honorarium of £70 was voted to the secretary and one of £30 to the assistant secretary. Salient comments that it is rather a strange proceeding for an honorarium to be voted at the beginning of the year.

## FASCISM EXPLAINED

### The Usual Rush from Reason

By F.M.

"Sometimes," I am told, "the representative of sectional opinion manages to lift a pen. Perhaps the Editor considers that he is not representative of some sectional opinion. I am not that vain, nor that humble.

Assuming that the Penguin Polit. Dict. is correct then Fascism is defined as: "The social system aimed at is the Corporate State. Fascism claims to be neither capitalistic nor socialist. It retains private property but places it under State control. Class struggle is rejected and industrial disputes are forbidden."

From that definition it is impossible to prove that the end of fascism is the support of the capitalistic system. If any segment of the progressive circle is of the opinion that capitalism wishes to be bolstered by being placed under State control, then further study is needed of the capitalist system. That Fascism did in fact bolster that system in Italy proves that and nothing more. It does not prove that every capitalist country is Fascist. Nor does the fact that the "class struggle is rejected" and industrial disputes are forbidden make a country Fascist. The class struggle could well be rejected in the light of history. The suppression of industrial disputes is an evil but where the rules governing the right to strike have been violated then it is not Fascism. (The rules arise from the common good as opposed to the sectional good.)

The difficulty among progressives is that the ideas of Socialism and Communism widely held cannot be

reconciled with those philosophies which do not believe the State to be supreme, or that the alternative to capitalism is complete socialization. Those who oppose Socialism, as progressives understand it, become capitalists and then fascists. That there are other types of Socialism or in fact any other social philosophies worth considering other than theirs they do not wish to discover or admit.

Unbridled capitalism is an evil. That is no justification for stating that all capitalism is reactionary or Fascist and it is still less of a justification for saying that Socialism is the solution. The enthusiasm for emotional tags has resulted in an identification of Nazism and Fascism, doctrines fundamentally different. One difference being that an essential of Nazism was "race purity," but not of Fascism. This merger is the result of ignorance. The latest addition to the Fascist heap is Mr. Chamberlain who may have been a fool but certainly would never have supported the ideas contained in the definition of Fascism.

There is probably some reason for this loud declamation of Fascists to be found in the fact that many of the essentials of somewhat similar systems can be compared not only with each other but also with those of the spiritual home of many progressives: Communistic Russia. These words have a familiar ring to them: "This concept (the dictatorship of the proletariat) has meaning only when one class knows that it alone takes political power into its own

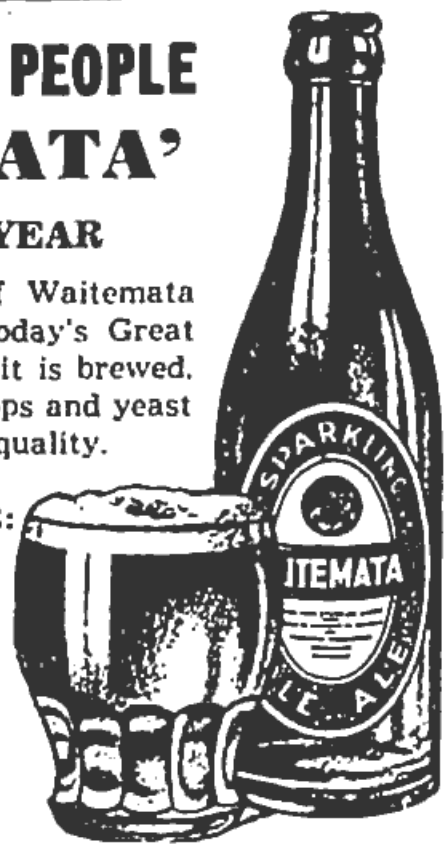
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none so grey  
god  
gaily goes (glory be)  
as will  
noose with thunder  
dint and firefly  
light (which not is  
night)  
white  
flesh  
(forever dream  
of unimportant  
if)  
to  
a  
seething  
soul  
(glory glory glory)  
a cupped crupper  
fall  
of  
dead and buried  
isnt my is the night (not  
firefly light i said before)  
not  
(glory be to)  
god  
less  
fine.  
o  
god  
dry limb  
-NOT  
brain his  
will  
rustle  
and  
rot  
endureth the earth forever  
—R. W. BURCHFIELD

hands, and does not deceive itself or others by talk about popular elected government, sanctified by the whole people." These announcements are very similar to Fascist theories and the progressive circles would wish to detract from the fact that those Fascist countries who lack freedom of press and speech and religion, or even of election were and are very similar to that country where progressives are having a free hand.

It is useless, of course, to quote from our press to progressives who maintain that any judgment made on such facts is a "telepathic job." Their sources cannot be more reliable especially since our press at least fosters two different opinions where any journals they may quote from are in fact organs of the State which is reaping the benefit of misreporting. State controlled printing presses are never satisfactory where profound differences of opinion exist but are not allowed expression.

To suggest that materialistic progressives or progressives who are there to be in the swim should read something about the present practices of Socialism would be futile. Perhaps they may wish to read their philosophical ABC which has been omitted from their political nurturing which omission has resulted in such immaturity. I would suggest Maritain's "Render unto Caesar" and the Encyclicals of the Popes. This will probably shock the progressive soul, but to omit such works as Rerum Novarum, Quadragesimo Anno and Divini Redemptoris would be to deprive them of invaluable reading or the pleasure of saying "No" once more.

**FILMS and STAGE**

**Thoughts on Two Foreign Films**

**GERMAN**

"Kameradschaft" is a German film, made, believe it or not, as long ago as 1931, and produced by N. Pabst. It is so good in its own way that I cannot help comparing it with a Greek tragedy, because it has little that is superfluous and all the incidents add to the total effect. It shows man, struggling not with other men, nor against his Gods, but with the forces of nature he is trying to control. And this elemental conflict is portrayed so sternly, so imaginatively, and so truthfully that the film, although it is in many ways a narrative only, does not become tedious. There is no ornamentation, no sub-plot, and the characters have a sharpness and urgency common to us all when overtaken by a great disaster. But although "Kameradschaft" is about a mine disaster and how a German rescue unit helped trapped French miners, it does I think ask us the question, "Why does it need something as terrible as this to show us the real meaning of the phrase, 'the brotherhood of man'?" This film has faith in humanity, not so common a thing nowadays, and faith in the possibility of international understanding. It is a film to see, not only because of its theme, but also because of its occasionally brilliant photography, and sparing but most effective use of sound. It will be shown again later in the month by the Wellington Film Society at the Public Library Concert Hall.

**FRENCH**

The other foreign film, "Retour a l'Aube," at the Embassy, has left a negative impression on me. There is the usual visual pleasure in French films, but having praised the freshness and charm of this, there is nothing left. One could blame Vicki Baum and go into a detailed analysis of the melodramatic improbability and shallowness of the plot, but this hardly seems worth while. The reader of "Grand Hotel" or "Grand Opera" will be familiar with the method, and if you saw "Week End at the Waldorf" you will appreciate how banal this attempt at profundity can become. No matter what the characters themselves may have thought about their sudden precipitation into "real life" (whatever that may be), the effect on at least one member of the audience was very real disinterest and disbelief in their motives. They were not real people. It is kindest to say that this is a melodramatic story of young love awry—for it is certainly not real disillusionment, which is a much more moving and sometimes even tragic affair—and that it is not one of the better French films, which is a pity, because we see so few French films that to sniff one's nose seems not only discouraging but also bad taste. Still there it is.

—J.M.T.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20.

Drama Club casting meeting for three one-act plays to be produced early in the second term. 8 p.m.

Watch Notice Board for details as to place.

**THE LOST MOMENT**

Robert Cummings is a rich young publisher from the U.S.A. of 30 years back, who goes to Venice in search of the love letters of a poet who disappeared in that city many years before. He buys a gondola, a gondolier, and his way into the mansion of the poet's one-time lover Juliana (Agnes Moorehead), now getting on in years. In fact she is 105, and gnarled appropriately. Susan Hayward is her schizophrenic niece, who becomes the Juliana of 80 years ago in the evenings and consequently doesn't get much sleep. The letters are located after various setbacks. Perhaps the most disturbing of these is due to the advent of an artificial bird reminiscent of the bat in "Lost Weekend," which does a couple of circuits of Juliana's boudoir, flies headlong into the wall, and has nothing whatsoever to do with anything. The letters are obviously strong medicine, for though we are not permitted to dip into them Robert Cummings is, and his eyes are fit to be knocked off with sticks. All ends with our publisher losing both the letters and the chance of calling Juliana "auntie" but gaining an ex-schizophrenic bride, and ourselves learning that deceased poets apparently inhibit plant growth in Venetian gardens.

VERDICT: Mystery-romance in the Hollywood manner, but a little above average.

**Extrav's Coming!**



**Be In**

**"Jubilee Spike"**

1949 is Golden Jubilee year for V.U.C. The annual "Spike" will appear as usual but, in addition, a special issue is being prepared. We want it to be good. Contributions and suggestions will be welcomed from present and past students and staff members. For original creative work several prizes will be offered. Entries will close about August this year but a final date has not yet been fixed. That gives you time to start thinking. All contributors when sending in work should state clearly if they want it to appear in the normal 1948 "Spike" or the Jubilee issue. Entries and inquiries should be addressed to the Editor, R. W. Burchfield, Department of English.

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**JASSY**

A gambler aristocrat of the Regency or thereabouts stakes the family halls against his evening's losses, these comprising all his cash and mother's jewels. He loses. We witness the shift to a humble farmhouse, and the introduction of our bankrupt's son (Dennis Page) to a life of toll. Enter a technicolour Margaret Lockwood as Jassy, pursued, accused of witchcraft, and carefully daubed with mud. Dennis to the rescue. Alarums and excursions, culminating in the befriending of Jassy by Dennis' boyhood sweetheart (Patricia Roc), who is expelled from finishing-school for elopist tendencies before she is properly finished. Back to the family halls held by Patricia's father, a cad if ever there was one, Jassy becoming Patricia's step-mother but retaining her virginity. Dumb girl accounts for Jassy's husband with rat poison—more alarums and excursions, final triumph of British Institutions, and Dennis gets back the family halls with Jassy thrown in.

VERDICT: If you like J. Arthur Rank melodrama, this is for you.

**Drama Society**

**DEEP ARE THE ROOTS**

The questions of racial discrimination, inequality and persecution have been among the main issues of political and sociological thought of this century. The fact that the evidence of anthropology has so completely and convincingly disproved the theory of white superiority has not to any extent diminished the tenacity with which this theory is still held. Jews are still victimised in New Zealand; Aborigines are denied education and civil rights in Australia, and Negroes are still lynched in America.

The tension and conflict which characterise the relationships between people of different national or racial groups provide excellent material for the dramatist, so it is not surprising that some of the best modern plays have been written around this theme.

"Deep are the Roots" is a recent play on the Negro question, written by two US Army veterans. It treats the subject in an unnecessarily emotional manner, but it is unique in that it presents anti-Negro feeling from almost every possible angle.

It was produced recently by Michael Bengé and presented in a not quite finished state to an audience of Drama Club members and friends. The play, the acting and the production were so good that it is a pity that it was not performed publicly.

The producer had the unusual task of staging a play demanding a high standard of acting with a cast which had very little experience. This was not evident in their performance. Miss McKenzie as Alice, Miss James as Nevvy, and Mr. Tallboys as Senator Langdon, gave performances which showed an unusual sympathy and understanding of their parts. The other actors, particularly those in the three difficult Negro parts, were almost as good.

It looks as if the Drama Club, with this influx of competent players, is likely to recover its position as one of the important dramatic societies in the city.

**SATURDAY NIGHT IS SPEEDWAY NIGHT**

Thrilling spectacle as daredevils ride the cinders at Hutt Speedway opposite Park Avenue.

8. P.M. SATURDAY NIGHTS

## CARETAKERS AT CONTROLS

### New Brooms

The meeting commenced at 6.45 and immediately resolved itself into committee (moved O'Brien seconded Langford). The committee reported that it had made progress. "Salient" representatives were admitted at about 8 o'clock.

#### NZUSA

Mr. Battersby's appointment as leader of NZUSA delegates, to exercise first vote was confirmed, Miss MacKenzie was appointed as NZUSA delegate to exercise second vote and Mr. H. Dowrick was appointed NZ USA Delegate.

The decision of the previous Exec. to support the nomination of Mr. N. R. Taylor for the President of NZ USA was rescinded (Mr. Lovell dissented) and it was moved "That this association support the nomination of Miss J. Bogle for the presidency of NZUSA."

The appointment of Mr. N. R. Taylor's appointment as an observer from the VUCSA was ratified, provided that Mr. Taylor desires to go.

The Exec. rescinded the motion of 2/3/48, recommending that the honorarium of the Secretary NZUSA be not more than £30, and moved that NZUSA be now informed that this Exec. supports the payment of the present honorarium to the secretary. Discussion took place and Mr. C. A. Macleod suggested that the position regarding a fully paid Secretary be investigated. This year the Secretary received £100 which, it was felt, while too much for an honorarium, was not enough to compensate Mr. Campbell for the work he was at present doing.

The replacement of present resident council by travelling representatives was discussed. Messrs. McArley and O'Brien explained the present position, and the unnecessary work entailed. Mr. McArley stated that all remits were open for discussion, but Mr. O'Brien corrected him and said that in actual practice this was not always so. Finally it was moved "That the remit amending section 8 of NZUSA Constitution be ratified, this remit to be regarded as a basis for discussion."

#### REMITTS

The remit concerning section 20 "Finance" was confirmed as a basis for discussion. This concerns the payment of 6d. by every member of NZUSA for the purpose of IUSA affiliation.

The remit concerning the Joint Scroll rules was ratified. This remit urges that the word "speaker" be replaced with the word "debater." Mr. O'Brien felt that the matter was of psychological importance.

The following remits were also ratified:

**re Student News.** Mr. McArley expressed the opinion that it would do no harm and would arouse interest. Mr. Lovell thought that the present organ was inadequate. Mr. O'Brien remarked that this was a "hardy annual" at NZUSA conferences.

**re Student Congress.** The congress will be in the V.U.C. area in January, 1949. Mr. O'Brien explained that it would be on the lines of the W.E.A. summer school at Feilding modified to the needs of the University. This led to a brief exchange of wit between Messrs. O'Brien and Lovell.

**re Winter Tournament.** Mr. O'Brien suggested that as Winter Tournament was at present too costly and lasted for over a week, knock-out competitions be introduced in some sports. The number of competitions could, he suggested, also be reduced. At present there were two shooting competitions, one at Easter Tournament and one at Winter Tournament. As only one

college had a golf club, golf could be eliminated quite well. He remarked that applications for Contract Bridge and Chess Competitions had been rejected in the past.

**re Attendance at Conference** armed with adequate information. Too often, Mr. O'Brien said, delegates arrived at conferences with only their toothbrushes and pyjamas. A waste of time resulted while these delegates had the situation concerning matters under discussion explained to them.

#### ELECTIONS

Mr. Moutier was appointed as Returning Officer, and Mr. L. B. Robinson as Deputy Returning Officer, subject to their acceptance. It was moved that a roll be compiled immediately based on the membership cards of the Association.

The following dates were set down for the Special Elections:

Monday, 5th April.—Posting of notice calling for nominations for members of Exec. and Officers.

Saturday, 10th April.—Nominations close.

15th, 16th and 19th April.—Polling days.

The matter of holding a Special General Meeting to announce results was deferred until the next meeting. The Editor of "Salient" was authorized to make arrangements for a Special Election Issue, costs to be met from Association funds.

The Executive expressed confidence in all appointees of the previous Exec. to special appointments and reaffirmed all arrangements made by the previous Exec. at its meeting on 16/3/48 for the running of Extravaganza and the conduct of Capping celebrations.

The meeting was formally declared closed at 9.33 p.m.

### Silence: Minds At Work

On Tuesday, March 23, the Philosophical Society held its inaugural discussion group on "The Approach to Philosophy."

For the benefit of the unfortunate few who were unable to be there, we present a brief resume of the evening's intellectual study.

Eleven members (one part time) listened attentively to an inspired interpretation of the first nineteen pages of Wolfenden's "Approach to Philosophy." The first major intellectual dispute centred on the definition of concept (that aspect of emotion or feeling which is susceptible of linguistic interpretation)—in the analysis of which the Society became involved in the connotation, denotation and detonation of the term. To clear the position and to help our approach, Pat offered to think "thinks," and Erle, not to be outdone, attempted to conceive something but ultimately achieved only redness. This he assured us was merely the idea of redness, but he could not get beyond sensory stimulation and red lights.

To illustrate the various points of view we indulged in hypothetical hot and cold baths, warm cups of tea in white cups, and visions of yellow lampshades. The elite experimented with mystical experiences. This inspired a further pearl from Pat that you cannot talk about things you cannot talk about and that it has not yet been proved that non-Philosophy does not exist.

At the point of infinite regress when we were asked to think about a think about a think about a think, Erle was asked to retire to follow up this important think and to present a paper on the subject. He was unfortunately saved from this

ordeal by a mundane intruder who broke up the high intellectual tone of the proceedings with: "Anybody got any milk here?"

In his usual concise and succinct manner Brian S. interpreted a small point from the book. Objection: "Wolfenden doesn't say that." "Well, I think he should have."

The decision of a question of the fundamental tenets of Chemistry was disposed with: "That isn't Chemistry, it's probably the after-effects of a hangover." The meeting then re-organized itself into small groups of individual conflict. Supper was served.

The two most thought-provoking remarks of the evening:—

"What do you feel must be the philosophic thought?" "For the purpose of this society the wildest and essential limitations imposed upon woolliest possible."

At the close of the reading, "Well, I'm finished."

—Geraldine Player.

### I wrote my name . . .

*I wrote my name in the mist  
on a window facing the sea—  
the letters stood out boldly,  
darkling against the silver reflection*

*of the shining night.  
I heard the passionate sea,  
saw the clear depth of the sky—  
and my name there serene  
reflecting all around;  
while all surrounding those few  
strokes  
absorbed and shone  
with empty light.*

*A larger breaker than the rest  
exploded into spray  
below my window;  
the film settled placidly  
on the whole pane,  
but my name dissolved—  
for a moment was liquid—  
and ran down,  
leaving meaningless lines  
where had been the round sweeps  
of my mark. . . .*

—H.R.U.

★ ★ ★

Remarks from "caretaker Exec." meeting, 23/3/48:—

Mr. McArley: "As I see it my duty is only to run these elections and then 'shuffle back to lectures.'"

McArley when taking vote on remit concerning restriction of Winter Tournament: "All those in fever" (laughter). WE WONDER.

Mr. O'Brien, discussing the honorarium of the NZUSA Secretary: "I have very strong opinions about the matter but in a different capacity."

## Forced Labour For Misdemeanor Executive

On its way into the Tauberemkai, the Tramway Club's Easter working party encountered two elderly gentlemen, who watched with sympathetic approval the file of perspiring workers staggering up the Puffer with their loads of timber. "Most people these days," said one gentleman, "do as little work as they can for as much money as they can get. But you people are doing as much as you can for nothing at all." "What you ought to do," said the other gentleman, warming to the subject, "is to make your executive carry your timber as a penalty. That would fix them, eh?"

When he was politely informed that two members of the said executive were already doing so, he seemed surprised that there were no warders with barbed wire whips posted at fifty yard intervals along the track.

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