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# SALIENT

— The Newspaper of Victoria University College —  
 Registered for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

NOMINATIONS FOR  
 VUCSA  
**Executive  
 Election**  
 Close at Exec. Room midday  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 16**

Vol. 20. No. 5

WELLINGTON. JUNE 14 1956

PRICE 6d.

## Extrav 1956 was best in years

More liquorish than lickerish, Extrav. 1956 was undoubtedly the best variety show in town. Gay songs, bright costumes and exuberant spirits—together with the strongest group of principals for some years—produced a show that everyone should have seen.

Producer Rich revealed Varsity talent with a lavish hand; in the struggle between humour and the script only the audience was the winner. From Wilf ("No Credit") Owen to the Rt. Hons. themselves (not to mention a couple of recent knights on their daze off), from the biggest bloomer to the smallest brain, the galaxy of political nondescripts appeared in familiar guise, cavorted merrily from the Far West to the Deep Freeze South and finished knee-deep in chorus and carousel in the Upper Gym.

As Sid, old Extravite Dennis Brown sustained a familiar role with too few opportunities to display his pleasant singing voice.

Rosemary Lovegrove's tremendous stage personality communicated zest to every scene, and a nasally-clear voice left no word unheard and no turn unstoned.

Sylvienne Cockburn as Sally exuberated attractively; both cast and audience have taken her to their heart.

### Sheriff outstanding

Ted Woodfield as the "rootin'est, tootin'est sheriff in the West" is the find of the year; a pleasant clear voice and a good characterization made his performance the most interesting in the show; more of Ted and Rosemary in Act II would have sustained the polish of the first act.

In Ross O'Rourke was the best Wol for years.

Ron Polson is a man of many parts, and he played most of them in this Extrav. Rosemary and Ron have perfected their jazz act at many a bash; although similar stimulation would have added the little extra we expected, the audience response was terrific. The "booze" song brought back childhood memories.

The team of Homewood and Ferrers was much more amusing this year; both have engaging stage presence and oldest jokes since Adam raised Cain.

Ted ("Georgie Porgie") Shroeder taxed the wardrobe resources to the full; it was a pity that more use was not made of his comic talent and ultra-counter-tenor voice.

As premiere danseuse, Tom Garland was too good; some of the audience were taken in by his propriety and earnest technique. He lacked the comic flair of, say, Colin Gordon, but nevertheless performed very well. As usual, the male ballet was a motley bunch of stinking violets and sweaty williams.

### Talented principals

All the principals sang clearly and wherever they sang loud enough hardly a line was missed. It is difficult to recall in Extravs over the last eight years such a talented group of principals. The chorus, younger this year than previously, provided more than adequate decoration, was just as unwieldy in movement, but sang quite well.

The "Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered" number with Dennis Brown was the best chorus number in the show. Perhaps at last VUC can try a musical comedy along "Salad Days" and "Guys and Dolls" lines, perhaps even a show with a plot.

The lyrics to familiar tunes were catchy, competent, and clever, without reaching the heights of isolated lyrics in previous shows. Garth Young's band in the modern style was as good as any touring band heard at the Opera House, but, as usual, the brass needed firmer control.

Awkward stage-movements some-

times marred the fluency of the production and late entrances spoilt cohesion. Lighting was adequate and unexciting, except for the "macabre" number. The first act was good, the second not so, but a rousing finale continued a worthy practice.

The script was more coherent than usual, with fewer bewildering devolutions, transformations, and transitions. Some members of the audience complained about viewing for the umpteenth year the same old characters, but undoubtedly they were more skilfully (and more gainfully employed).

The international scene was not prominent, and apparently the barbed political reference of Bollinger and gang has gone out of fashion. Similarly, good old-style sex found no place in a rather antiseptic Extrav., and lavatory humour caused not the slightest flush.

### Passive audience

Holiday spirit was lacking; the audience before the show and during interval was bovine in passivity; there were much fewer darts, no haka-party, and no interval entertainment. The interval show has been an integral part of the Extrav. tradition for many years; it is a pity that over the last two years it has been allowed to lapse.

Of the eight Extravs we have seen, none gave greater promise than "The Seven Year Switch." Rumour has it that Bill Sheat is already writing the next show. Such talent as we have in Sylvienne, Rosemary, Dennis, Ted, Ron, Ross, Tony, Derek and especially Ted Shroeder, should not be wasted.

This year's show was good, very good; what it could be next year is foreshadowed by the "Bewitched" number, the two Teds' songs, Sylvienne and Rosemary's dances, Dennis' and Ross' sparring match, and Derek and Tony's cross-chat. No one at Vic. should have missed this show.

## Election issue of Salient next week

Salient will next week publish its annual "blurb issue" prior to the Executive elections on Friday, Monday and Tuesday. With the co-operation of candidates who wish to include "blurbs," the issue should appear on Thursday.

The following week an eight-page issue of Salient will be published, containing a full coverage of student activities, including a comprehensive review and criticism of capping celebrations, and numerous special articles.

We apologise to those contributors whose copy we have not been able to include in this issue through lack of space. As to various bodies, particularly the SCM, who were to have received publicity in this issue when it was originally scheduled to appear earlier.

## Dr. Walsh killed in motor accident

It is with the utmost sorrow and regret that we record the tragic death of the Rev. Francis Hugh Walsh, D.D., well-known priest and lecturer in History and Political Science at Victoria University College, on May 9.

Dr. Walsh was killed when a car in which he was travelling on the Johnsonville-Porirua highway, overturned. Dr. Walsh was priest of the parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Northland.

Dr. Walsh was born in Christchurch in 1910. He was educated there and later at the Greenmeadows seminary and at Holy Cross, Mosgiel. He was ordained in 1934 while a student of Irish College, Rome, where he obtained his doctorate.

During the war he was chaplain with New Zealand forces in Egypt and Italy and with J Force. In 1949 he took a degree at Campion Hall, Oxford.

In parish work in this country Dr. Walsh was highly respected, particularly for his work for church music. The Evening Post said of Dr. Walsh

that he "could truly be described as a cultured man. He had a deep knowledge of music, art and history, and was essentially a scholar. He was noted as a fine preacher and excellent lecturer."

In the lecture room Dr. Walsh spoke with a polished dignity which is rare; his students could not fail to be impressed by the thorough and precise manner in which he presented his ideas—the fruit of wide and discerning reading.

A master of epigram and bon mot, he was one of that rare species of University teachers whose lectures are artistically complete in themselves and yet impart to the student the desire to immerse himself more deeply in the subject out of sheer interest and enjoyment.

## Social Democrat Society's first meeting

"The formation of this club is not an attempt to split the Socialist Club; members of either Club are free to join the other," said Hector MacNeill at the inaugural meeting of the Social Democrat Society, May 31.

He drew an analogy with the religious clubs of the college. "As the S.C.M. is open to all Christians, and the Anglican Society, in practice, confined to those with a special viewpoint, so the Socialist Club is open to all socialists, while the Social Democrat Society sets out achieving its aims in a particular way."

The draft Constitution was accepted except where it provided for a single secretary-treasurer. In the accepted Constitution these offices were separated. The officers elected were: president, H. MacNeill; secretary Katharine Blakelock; treasurer, A. Wood; committee: G. Townsley and Susan Mitcalfe.

A motion that the new society should make every effort to maintain friendly relations with the other clubs in the college, particularly with the Socialist Club, was passed unanimously, as was another, moved by Pip Piper, that no restriction be placed on members of either the Socialist Club or the Social Democrat Society from belonging to the other.

## Society's policy

The Social Democrat Society is to be a club for "independent left-wing liberals believing in 'democratic socialism,'" said one of those concerned in the society's organization shortly before the inaugural meeting.

The society's policy will be to strenuously oppose encroachments on our democratic rights and freedoms from any quarter, and generally to concern ourselves with all matters either of particular interest to the student body or of general importance," he added.

"This latter aim would not seem to be exclusive to the Social Democrat Society—but we cannot deny that it is about time VUC showed it is neither a 'hotbed of Communism' nor a 'home of reaction', but in the true and enlightened university style, it can foster that body of democratic left-wing liberals who will doubtless have so much influence in the community in future years."

## Mr Holland lays stone of new science block

"This college has far and away the poorest accommodation in the Empire for extra-curricular activities," said the chairman of the Victoria University College Council, Dr. T. D. M. Stout, at the ceremony for laying the foundation stone of the new VUC science building, May 10.

Amongst those present were the Prime Minister (Mr. S. G. Holland), who laid the stone ("Incidentally, ladies and gentlemen, the level I am using was the one with which Her Majesty the Queen levelled the stone of our new Cathedral"), the Minister of Education (Mr. Algie), the Attorney-General (Mr. Marshall), and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Nash).

A large proportion of the college staff, members of the College Council, representatives of the Education Department and student representatives also attended the ceremony, which was held under tarpaulin shelters owing to rain.

The new building will house the departments of chemistry, geography and geology.

Dr. Stout devoted most of his address to the problem of accommodation — including facilities for the "numerous and important activities outside the classroom library and laboratory."

Dr. Stout said substantial sums had been raised to build a new student union building at VUC and sketch plans had been prepared and approved by all sections of the college and the Education Department. The scheme is now awaiting Cabinet approval.

Mr. Holland mentioned that he and Mr. Algie and Mr. Marshall had just left a meeting of Cabinet to attend the ceremony.

In an obvious reference to criticism of Mr. Algie by groups within and connected with the University, Mr. Holland said: "I may say that both the Government and education in this country are extremely fortunate to have a man with Mr. Algie's qualifications to administer that portfolio. He has neglected no part of his great responsibilities, and all branches of education are grateful for his work."

# Salient

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## Some thoughts on the Exec. elections

Nominations for the forthcoming VUCSA Executive elections close at the association's office at noon this Saturday, June 16. The elections will be held about a week later. Next week a special edition of Salient will be published containing "blurbs" of those who have accepted nomination. We ask readers now to take everything that will be said in that issue with about a ton of salt.

The rules and regulations governing the conduct of elections are such that it is impossible to make the "election blurb issue" any better than the list of nebulous achievements and fatuous promises which the candidates include in their election "platforms."

To cast doubt on the reliability of the "blurb issue" is not to say it is entirely useless. It contains useful and interesting details of candidates' previous activities in student affairs; it tells you what committees they've been on, for instance.

It is not at all difficult for a student in this college to get on to half a dozen committees, even in his first year, if he goes about it in the right way. And

there need be absolutely no work involved. But of course, it looks good to the unwary voter reading the "blurbs."

We would strongly recommend those who are not acquainted with the Exec. election system to be very careful about attaching too much importance to the "blurbs." But, since there is almost a total absence of any form of electioneering, there is unfortunately no other guide to the voter except personal knowledge of the suitability of the various candidates.

Finally, we would like to see a rather more responsible attitude to the elections on the part of those nominated than has been evident in the past. Last year's election was turned into a farce by some candidates who treated the affair as a joke. And there were others who, when standing, had absolutely no idea what they would be expected to do if elected. This is irresponsibility.

There is no room for such attitudes in an election for people to administer the finance and affairs of a union of more than 2000 members.

## Debate on CMT was disappointing

"That Compulsory Military Training be abolished in New Zealand" was the subject considered at the Debating Club on Friday, June 1. It was not very interesting. Only the regulars were there—a pity, because the subject concerns nearly all the men at this University—and few speakers showed any brilliance. Two speakers devoted all their time to elaborate parables which had not even relevance to compensate for their dullness, and the entire case of one side showed that a grasp of the elements of political science was beyond them.

Thomas began by saying that C.M.T. should only be suffered at a time of crisis. Peacetime conscription was a repudiation of the ideas of Liberalism which believes men to be free.

Blackwood, a well-reasoned and most interesting speaker, said that the Greeks, from whom we have much of what is best in our society, thought defence of the State part of one's education. He stressed the use of C.M.T. as part of a need for general preparedness, as a force for internal security, and as a contribution towards our international obligations. ("So Sid can sip cocktails on an equal footing with the president of the U.S." as someone commented later.)

Hebenton suggested that the world situation had changed, that today there is no crisis, and anyhow atomic warfare has made our training scheme antiquated and useless. Last of the set speakers, Larsen, extolled the "by-products" of the scheme—discipline, comradeship, and so on.

### Many speakers but . . .

A large number of speakers from the floor followed. Some had a positive contribution to make. Someone (I forget who) exploded Thomas' "liberalism" ideas as bunkum, Wood suggested aid to underdeveloped countries as a means of preventing future war at the source, and Miss Blake-

lock said that when a country has accepted the need for military training it has also decided the idea of the inevitability of war.

Whitta said that those who suggested change in the present set-up were off the track, because to change is not to abolish, and Piper said why have C.M.T. when we've got such an "outstanding police force."

The most complete statement of the views of the affirmative came from MacNeill. SEATO is of doubtful compatibility with the UN; young men have been known to be brutalized or politically indoctrinated in the army. We could use the money better other ways, warfare means atomic warfare, and this training will be useless, and man is not naturally pugnacious as some have said.

### . . . Some omissions

Some things were not mentioned. No Christian speaker for the negative attempted to explain away his attitude in the face of Christ's straightforward statement in the Sermon on the Mount on the subject. And speakers were quite happy to accept that man is naturally bellicose "because there have always been wars," forgetting that the word "war" has not always meant the same thing throughout history.

And the motion was lost. It is a very strange . . .

To the Editor

## "Socialism through Democracy"

Dear Sir,—From time to time discussion has taken place, in Europe in particular, around the question of the creation of a "popular front" between democratic Socialists and Communists. Since the dissolution of the Cominform Bureau and the broad "Let's have unity" hints thrown out to the Social Democrats in Europe by Bulganin and Krushchev, this matter has again come into prominence.

It may seem a far cry from the arena of European politics to the political alignments of New Zealand University leftists, but there are in fact similar issues of principle involved.

The Socialist Club at VUC has, over the year, provided Socialists of all shades of opinion with a forum to air their views and act on issues which had the support of a majority of the club. It has done this, in my opinion, most successfully and should continue to go on doing it, but at the same time it seems evident that there is need for another student club or group oriented towards a particular Social Democratic programme.

In effect, this type of club could meet the need of those students who want to adopt and popularise the "Socialism through Democracy" that is the basis of West European Democratic Socialist parties. There is, I think, an analogy that can be drawn between this re-grouping of the Left and that which obtains among Christians in the University.

There are at present, I believe, no less than four religious clubs all of whom are concerned with the Christian faith and paths to salvation; yet there are no obstacles that I know of to prevent an individual student from belonging to two or more of them if he wishes.

### Strengthening the Left

Just in the same way it seems to me desirable that it should be possible for an individual student to belong to the Socialist Club with its present broad compass while belonging, if he wishes, to a Social Democrat Society with more particular aims. There need, of course, be no antagonism between such student groupings and I think that the Left at the university could be considerably strengthened by such an arrangement.

It can scarcely be denied that over the years many students have come to regard the Socialist Club as being too close to one particular party line, and while this has been far from true in recent years it has, nevertheless, prevented the participation in political life of any sort for not a few students.

In order that students may join a club or society without the fear that they may be committing themselves to membership of a group which includes people with whom they are fundamentally at variance on matters of principle this new type of club should draft its constitution with considerable care. No one wishes to exclude any student from joining any club, but at the same time it should unambiguously state its fundamental principles. Those students who do adhere to it can then be expected to rally to its support without the slightest concern about its ultimate objectives.

### CP should affiliate

It seems to me highly desirable, too, that the university branch of the Communist Party should openly affiliate with the Students' Association as student branches of the British Communist Party do at the larger universities in the United Kingdom. Up till now the university branch of the CP at Victoria College has preferred not to do so and while the excessive witch hunt hysteria of the cold war was on their reasons for not doing so were understandable and can, in part, be sympathised with, but now with a considerable improvement in the cold war, they and the College could only stand to benefit by declaring themselves openly.

For my own part I can see extremely little ground for common action between Democratic Socialist and Communist while infamous deeds such as the sale of Czech arms to the Neo-Fascist Nasser Government in Egypt are going on.

At the same time I am always prepared to hear their point of view and debate with them important issues of the day; but the words spoken by the Chairman of the NZCP, Vic Wilcox in November, 1952—"Our aim must be to break the role of Social democracy in the working class move-

ment"—provide for me at least one powerful objection for a resurrection of the notion of the Popular Front. I, am., etc., SPARTACUS

[This letter was written prior to the Social Democrat Society's inaugural meeting—Ed.]

## University teaching

Dear Sir,—The efficiency of the teaching at this university is a subject people do not seem to question. The absence of criticism is most notable. It is not that people tend to be uncritical, for matters of foreign policy and the merits of the latest models of motor-cars seem to be a constant source of heated argument; is it then that we consider education a privilege and would not therefore look this gift-horse in the mouth? Such an attitude would, of course, be inconsistent with the spirit of enquiry.

We have a purpose here, we work towards a goal. We hope that our efforts here will in some way equip us for the various tasks that lie ahead.

After every single lecture, tutorial, we should be able to assess the ground covered towards this goal. Attending lectures merely because a 70 per cent. attendance is required for terms is waste of time which could probably be used more profitably otherwise.

We have a fair selection of books available to us, containing almost all the information we are likely to require; it is no longer the duty of the lecturer to provide us with all the factual information, it is the key to its unsorted mass that he should provide.

### Classes too big?

Thus we must consider the question—Are we not having too many lectures in classes that are too big? Would it not be better to have a lecture once a week or once a fortnight in some subjects and use the two or more hours thus freed for intensive preparation for that one lecture.

Then again are we not endeavouring to cover too wide a field in some subjects inadequately? We must bear in mind that the spread of education opened up by the university to students who hitherto would never have had the opportunity to attend it. Naturally many of this class of students are inferior in ability to the few who against greater odds found their way to higher education previously, through their superior talents.

Therefore now the span of ability is greater and it is unfair to expect the average student of today to attain the level of the students of the past selected from the very best.

Would it not be preferable to endow students with a real understanding of their subjects through a limited sphere than to scan vast fields which even the most erudite scholars could scarcely fathom within such a limited period? These are some of the points that come to my mind after a lecture which was quite beyond me, and thus from my point of view quite futile.

If these lines get others to reflect upon the teaching they receive they have achieved their purpose!

I am, etc.,

S. CEGLEDY.

## A correction

Dear Sir—While not necessarily dissenting from remarks quoted under my name in your report of the staff-student debate in the issue of May 3, May I disclaim having made any remarks "on the female's reproductive organs" or Mrs. Ross—at least on that occasion.—I am, etc.,

G. A. WOOD.

(Sorry, our mistake.—Ed.)

The following article explaining the background to the recent successful claim for University staff salary increases was written by Mr. E. K. Braybrooke, lecturer in Law at VUC and president of the New Zealand Association of University teachers.

# Background to University staff salary problem

It is unusual for University teachers to engage collectively in polemics with the Government of the day. It is even more unusual for University teachers (at any rate in this country) to air publicly their dissatisfaction with their present economic position.

The tradition has been that University teachers, like scientists, think little of the material rewards but much more of the intrinsic interest of the job in hand and the contribution they are making to the community at large. It might be well for this country if that tradition were not insisted upon too strongly; indeed, both scientists and University teachers have in recent years departed from it.

What then is the background to the claims of University teachers that their salaries should be increased substantially?

For the information of students, who themselves are vitally concerned in matters which affect the welfare of the University and the community, this is an attempt to outline briefly the problems which face University teachers, University authorities and the Government, in connection with University salaries.

The first factor to be considered is that the University competes for staff in an international market. It is obviously essential that the University in New Zealand shall be as well staffed—that is, staffed with teachers of as high a calibre—as are universities overseas.

That being the case it must compete with those universities for staff. It can only compete on equal terms if it can offer salaries and working conditions comparable with those which obtain in universities elsewhere in English-speaking countries. This simple truism formed the principal argument on which the salary claim just negotiated was based.

### Difficult comparison

Nevertheless, it is one thing to assert that university teachers here must be paid salaries comparable with those paid in other universities within the Commonwealth; it is quite another thing to arrive at a satisfactory basis of comparison. Mere comparison of salaries in equal currency units is by no means the only criterion.

Is the university professor in England on a salary of £2150 better or worse off than his New Zealand counterpart on the same salary? What is his standard of living on that sum? What are his opportunities for earning additional monies, e.g., by external examining (which often adds considerably to the income of senior English University teachers)? How does his superannuation scheme compare with that which operates in New Zealand? What additional value will he place on his freedom to move about among his colleagues in other English and Continental Universities, in comparison to the isolation of his counterpart in New Zealand?

All these questions and a number of others will have to be answered before it can be decided what amount of salary in New Zealand will be sufficient to tempt the man who is well in the running for a chair in his subject in England to take the plunge and come out to New Zealand. And what applies to professors applies also *mutatis mutandis* to other grades of staff.

It is significant that the British Colonial Universities generally offer not only higher salaries than the average English salaries for comparable grades of staff but also very generous provisions for travel and leave.

It is perhaps also significant that the present salaries in the main Australian Universities, converted to sterling, are higher than the corresponding average English salaries; though again questions of the relative cost and standard of living must be settled before any satisfactory comparison can be made.

Enough has been said to indicate

both the importance for the university of being able to compete on the overseas market and the difficulty of arriving at a really satisfactory basis for comparison. But it must not be forgotten that university teachers will also be recruited from among New Zealanders; indeed, it is essential that a good proportion of the staff should be New Zealanders.

Of course, it must be ensured that the good New Zealander is paid a sufficient salary to prevent him from drifting overseas too readily; but it is equally important that within New Zealand the university shall be able to compete with other employing bodies for the best men and women to form its teaching staff.

For this reason university salaries cannot be completely dissociated from the New Zealand wage and salary structure; not only must the university not lag behind overseas university salaries, it must not lag behind the general level of salaries paid to persons of similar experience and training to university teachers within New Zealand.

This lag is most likely to occur in inflationary periods such as the present, and especially when inflation in New Zealand is progressing at a more rapid rate than inflation overseas.

Economists have asserted, for example, that during the period 1951-1955 inflation in New Zealand was more rapid than inflation in England. If this is correct a simple parity of salaries with English salaries throughout the period in question might not have been in the best interests of the university. This consideration, too, may account for the current disparity between Australian and English salaries.

But a further factor occurs here, which university teachers may dislike but which they cannot ignore. This is that, since the majority of university finance comes from the Government, no Government can be expected to view with favour a movement of university salaries which puts them completely out of line with the general wage and salary structure of New Zealand, and particularly with the general wage and salary structure of the State services.

### Low State salaries

It is, of course, arguable that the salaries paid in the State services are at the present time far too low; or perhaps rather that there is still a totally inadequate margin for skill, professional training and responsibility. Nevertheless, New Zealanders appear to approve, if they do not actively demand, a relatively egalitarian scale of wages and salaries.

Therefore, though university teachers believe quite firmly that it would be in the best interests of the university if it could compete on equal terms with overseas universities, even if it meant raising professorial salaries to the £3,250 now offered by (to take an extreme example) the University of Hong Kong, they realise that it is asking a lot of any Government that it should agree to pay particular classes of persons, out of the public funds, higher salaries than those which are paid to any but the top few permanent heads.

The remedy of course would be to

# Reply to criticism of MRA

(By a graduate working for MRA)

Two articles on Roral Re-Armament have recently appeared in *Salient*. The first, by James Baynard-Smith, dealt with the real issue in the world today—how to bring an answer to the divisions of ideology, class, race and nation—and gave evidence on a global scale of the uniting power of MRA.

The second, by Conrad Bollinger, did not attempt to grapple with this basic issue of division, which, unless solved, will drag all nations to nuclear catastrophe.

Instead, Mr. Bollinger strung together a motley collection of smear-stories that are too ludicrous to be taken seriously. One needs only to cite his description of George Seides as "the American Roman Catholic journalist." The man to whom he refers produced a weighty volume bitterly attacking the Catholic Church.

Again, informed labour men would speedily reject Mr. Bollinger's picture of Burma's Socialist Prime Minister as being far removed from the truth. Similarly, those men and women of MRA from Norway, Holland, France and other European countries who suffered for their faith in Nazi concentration camps would quickly give the lie to his attempts to associate MRA with fascism.

### MRA anti-Nazi

Himmler's Gestapo, in a lengthy report, denounced MRA for "uncompromisingly taking up a frontal position against National Socialism," in that "they encourage their members to place themselves fully beneath the Christian Cross and to oppose the cross of the swastika with the Cross of Christ."

In the same way the Communists have recognised the radical challenge of MRA to materialistic philosophies. Radio Moscow described it as "a global ideology, with bridgeheads in every nation, in its final phase of total expansion throughout the world. It has the power to capture radical, revolutionary minds."

It is this fundamental change in human nature that is the distinctive mark of MRA's superiority over other ideologies. Without it, socialism will follow the historical path of all

pay all permanent heads from £3,500 upwards; and indeed a very strong case could be made for this. A really effective public demand for the best possible university in this country might well provide the starting point for a general spreading of margins throughout all State-paid services.

Indeed, the Government has committed itself to the view that a spreading of margins to a certain extent would be desirable; yet its current salary increases hardly seem to go far enough in this direction. One cannot help suggesting that a bolder policy would undoubtedly pay very substantial dividends in the long run in the efficiency of the State services and the well being of the country.

### Enter mediocrity?

However, that is a battle yet to be fought; and it must be fought very largely by attacking the current public opinion which favours egalitarianism (dare one say it?) mediocrity.

For it is mediocrity against which the battle for higher university salaries must ultimately be aimed. The University of New Zealand has up till now been well served in the quality and devotion of her teachers. Her students have held their own in the universities of other lands and have carried off their fair share of the highest honours.

But competent authorities assert that the competition within the English speaking countries for university staff will be greater during the next ten or fifteen years than it has ever been before. In that competition the University of New Zealand cannot afford to lag behind. If she does, the drain of the best people from the existing staff will increase, and the inflow will inevitably be of people at a lower level of competence.

It is against this simple truth that the other factors that have been mentioned must be weighed.

If New Zealand is to choose mediocrity in her university system for the future, it is up to everyone to see that the choice, if it is made at all, is a conscious one, and that the Government, the political parties, and the public, have the consequence of the choice placed fairly and squarely before them.

movements which, though starting out with high ideals, have failed to answer the materialism in man.

In the words of Robert Edwards, leading international Socialist and General Secretary of the British Chemical Workers' Union: "The process within the Labour movement can be summed up in four words—sacrifice, struggle, success, and then stagnation." This stagnation, he continues, can be attributed to "failure to deal with moral questions."

MRA meets this need in socialism but it does not stop there. It is not interested in preserving the status quo, but in uprooting self-interest wherever it exists.

For Frank Buchman (who last month has been decorated by three Asian Governments for his work for world peace) recognizes that any philosophy which sets out to change the world without changing the motives of men is too cheap. Only an idea powerful enough to revolutionise human nature is able to unite all men above their differences.

### Universal application

Edwin Gooch, chairman, of the British Labour Party, summing up the evidence he had seen of this idea at work, said, "MRA is breaking down barriers of division all over the world, and establishing the basis for permanent peace."

MRA meets this need in Socialism, but it does not stop there. It fights without fear or favour for change in every party, class, race, nation or individual needing change. It is universal in its application and total in its demands. That means everything—our lives, our time and all our possessions—given to the task of re-making in the world.

# Dramatists to read Sheridan's "Critic"

A rehearsed reading of Sheridan's witty burlesque *The Critic* will be staged by the Drama Club in conjunction with the English Department, on June 21 and 22 in the VUC Little Theatre.

Among a "cast of thousands" that Producer John Dawick has assembled will be Elizabeth Kersley, J. Tannehill, D. Vere-Jones, Kathrine Blake-lock, J. Gamby, T. C. King, Elizabeth Gordon, June England and Gordon Boyd. Costumes will be Elizabeth Gordon and June England; Peter Campbell will be designing the sets, while the music will be played by a chamber orchestra under Keith Walker.

*The Critic* is accepted as by far the best burlesque that has been written for the English stage. Although the form of sentimental tragedy that it pokes fun at no longer infects the stage, *The Critic* still delights us today because of its wonderful character parts and burlesque situations.

# First publication by Press Council

On sale in conjunction with this issue of *Salient* is the first publication of the recently-formed New Zealand University Student Press Council. It is a report on the annual meeting of NZUSA in Wellington at Easter.

The Press Council, formerly known as the N.Z. University Student Newspaper Association, was reconstituted and affiliated to NZUSA at Easter. Its aims include the production of a number of special publications such as this NZUSA supplement each year.

## Dr Toynbee addresses big VUC audience

"The domination of the world by North-western Europe during the last four or five hundred years is an abnormal state. We are seeing in our lifetime, with the reawakening of Asia, a return to a normal state, with the centre of the world more to the East."

This was the main point made by Dr. Arnold Toynbee in the first W. E. Collins Memorial Lecture, given in at VUC on Wednesday, May 23. A crowd of over five hundred gave this notable historian a warm welcome when he rose to talk on "the impact on the Commonwealth and Empire of an awakening and developing Asia."

The "abnormal" ascendancy of the Atlantic seaboard of Europe during the last five hundred years, Dr. Toynbee said, is a result of the enterprise of the sailing ships of Portugal. Ships like these can be at sea for an indefinite time. They do not need refueling bases, and so they can go even where the way has not been prepared ahead.

N.W. Europe's supremacy was a marvellous feat, and has knit the human race together, though superficially. The world is very nearly one economically, but not so spiritually. But in time mankind must draw closer together. The alternative consequence is too terrible.

### Return to normal

The N.W. European ascendancy is passing away before our eyes. The world is returning to its normal state whose pattern is fairly simple. The natural centre of the world is the Euphrates Basin and Egypt—Europe, Africa and Eastern Asia are merely peninsulars from this. The Americas are islands, separated by the Pacific and the Atlantic channels. The Pacific is larger, but it is more accessible as there are more stepping stones.

The reversion to the natural order is shown in the use which has been made since late in the nineteenth century of the Suez Canal as a highway. From Persia civilization began to spread, and there its centre seems to be returning, for the extremities of civilization—Asia in the East and America in the West demand a route between them which passes here. The greatest reserves of oil in the world are found in these Arab countries.

The revolt against European domination is the characteristic of our age. It began about sixty years ago. Today the most active of the anti-West insurgents are the Arabs. This is unfortunate, for the Arabs are looking to the Russians for help, and if the world-wide anti-Imperialist powers, in exasperation turn to the Russians this will tip the balance of world power very definitely on the other side.

What part must the Commonwealth play in this struggle? The main lines are indicated by the acts of 1947 which gave India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma full self-government with rights of self-determination. This is a decisive event which is irreversible.

### The lesson

The lessons we have learnt show that Britain must not remain for too long in a country to be forced to make an ignominious exit (as with Egypt), but a moderate delay in granting self government is good if the country takes the opportunity in serving an apprenticeship in the art of self-government, as India did.

It is immoral to hold unwilling subjects by force. "I hope this lesson will be taken to heart in Cyprus and Algeria," Dr. Toynbee added.

Concerning military bases we can learn much from the United States which gets on perfectly well with secure bases in countries that are not its own.

The Commonwealth role is to establish and maintain friendships with other countries, equal in status, and more important, in spirit. Thereby

Salient, a student newspaper in Victoria University College, printed by Kapi-Mana News Ltd., Plimmerton, and edited and published by Richard Nicholas Turner, Journalist, of 54 Central Terrace, Wellington, for the Victoria University College Students' Association (Inc.), Wellington.

Thursday, June 14, 1956

it may contribute towards a single human family.

In the atomic age men must learn to live together. The existence of a Commonwealth where East and West are together on an equal footing may mean the assertion of the balance of the world not at the cost of a further series of catastrophes.

## Parlour games with the Toynbee cosmology

Professor Arnold Toynbee emerged from his lecture at Victoria University College as a triumphant social success. Indeed, he might be called a new parlour game; his ideas a chessboard for continued argument. Charming, witty, dignified, fluent, he was a splendid representative of the best kind of Western Man, and his easy tolerance took in all nations, in all times, including even our own. But his cosmology, expounded over an hour or more, included only one human being: Ghandi. And his discussion of an emerging Asia, and its relationships with the Commonwealth, dismissed Red China in a phrase.

Professor Toynbee dealt with five millennia of civilization, fanning out from the world's centre: the Middle East, where the two Asian Peninsulas, Europe and Africa, jut out from the Mainland. Amusingly, he sketched the peripheral islands, to the outermost Americas; and, briefly, he credited the sailing ships of the Portuguese with the temporary dominance of the West.

Returning to his Scheme of Things, he described the return to the Natural Order. Air-routes from East to West, we were told, cross Baghdad and Beirut; and there's more oil in one tiny Arab state than in the United States. He had nothing to say about nuclear fission, except that we must live together or die.

### The cosmic jigsaw

Professor Toynbee is a very eminent historian. He has a cosmic view. There is no era or area that he cannot fit in a careful jigsaw, whose centre he has determined. His centre has shifted, indeed, it has swung. But there need be no criticism of inconsistency as such. He held, and no doubt still holds, a moral and Christian view. The purpose of it all is, at any rate for us, a moral and a Christian life. . . . he expounded, here, a system of flux and change: one related rather to self-determination than to Christianity.

I like both views. The best for me as I see it, the best for others as they see it: what could be more charitable, Christian, fair, liberal and progressive?

But even assuming a reconciliation of Christian ethics with utilitarian politics, how can one reconcile either with a mechanistic cosmology? Isn't the Centre of the World Theory a gigantic myth, deterministic, fatalistic, negative and unmoral? If true, doesn't it do violence to whatever else he says? Doesn't it ignore the dynamism of mankind? And doesn't it do it just at that point in the world's history when, potentially, mankind can harness the tides instead of being tossed about by them? Fifty years of nuclear power can put banana plantations on the South Pole. Hasn't the Professor thought of that? By then oil may have had its day, as coal has already; but what of it? Professor Toynbee's sweeping generalizations can fit that in too, when the time comes.

His basic error is not geographic, after all; it is architectural. He gives us five millennia of structures, determined by the configuration of the world; until our own times, gives us scarcely any indication of how they work or what they are for. His History is Geography, with time added.

## Move to bring S.E. Asian student to N.Z.

It has been the growing concern of student opinion in New Zealand during recent years that we take so little notice of our near neighbours in S.E. Asia, and they even less notice of us.

With this in mind, a sub-committee of NZUSA was set up last year to consider a scheme under which students from S.E. Asia could be brought to New Zealand to study.

### Starting next year

The result of much planning, the scheme will be put into effect next year when a student from Indonesia will come to New Zealand for two or three years; and then another student will follow, perhaps from another country, and so on.

The S.E. Asian Scholarship Fund which will make this scheme possible is to be built up by contributions from all the constituent colleges. This college must raise, as its con-

tribution to the scholarship, £110 by the end of July and a total of £220 by the end of the Varsity year. In following years the sum will be £110 only.

A committee has been formed to raise the necessary finance, and with the consent of the Minister of Internal Affairs a raffle has been started in the college to this end.

The majority of people in South-East Asia are ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and have little defence against diseases, and to root of their difficulties is lack of education.

### Why help?

Easy-living New Zealanders are inclined to ask: "Why help these people? Our lives seem in no way bound with theirs." Would we walk past a stranger in the street who had fallen and was calling for our help?

The crux of the problem is apparently not any lack of willingness to help on our part, and certainly not any lack of the means.

What is needed is an awareness of the conditions in S.E. Asia. In fact, it is a Christian duty and even an act of ordinary decency for every one of us to look across and ask how we can assist the "fallen strangers."

As students, the sphere in which we are best equipped to help is education, and it is hoped that, with the full support of all New Zealand students, this scholarship will be a worthwhile contribution.

## Mr. Macdonald favours scheme

The implications of New Zealand's present day close relationship with South East Asia were bluntly stated by the Hon. T. L. Macdonald, Minister of External Affairs, in an address at VUC recently.

"No longer do we have the choice that was open to us before the war," he said, "whether to involve ourselves in the destiny of Asia or not; and we are so committed now that we cannot draw back."

Mr. Macdonald went on to endorse Sir Clifton Webb's statement that "if we wish to maintain our own standard of living we must help to raise that of others." Mr. Macdonald said that we cannot safeguard ourselves by considerations of defence alone.

"Our humanitarian obligations can be the only successful basis for peace; and it cannot be over-emphasized that it is relationship on a personal basis that makes for better understanding."

He pointed out that while the government has sponsored such schemes as the Colombo Plan and SEATO, projects such as the student scholarship outlined above, play an essential part, especially in countries like Indonesia not provided for under government schemes, and especially where expressions of personal goodwill are needed to gain the friendship of peoples who have recently gained their independence.

"If we in our state of plenty and well-being can help the peoples of South East Asia and can contribute in any way, then it is our bounden duty to do so," concluded Mr. Macdonald.

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—ANTON VOGT.