THE UNIVERSITY AND WAR
With the declaration of war it was obvious that the University would, by the shrinking of its rolls, the shortage of books and research materials, etc., feel the adverse effects of war at an early stage. Only within the last few weeks, however, has it become manifest how some of the more delayed effects will impinge on Varsity life. In particular the issuing of the Public Safety Regulations made it possible that within a short time we may find our academic detachment upset. In other words, the application of these Regulations may at some stage lead to an infringement of our traditional academic freedom.

No doubt our greatest loss is likely to be caused by the absorption of our best intellects into the military forces, but, if we should have our freedom of speech or expression curtailed in any direction the loss will hardly be less serious. It is easily seen that accurate and unbiased knowledge cannot be obtained if there is any restriction on the search for information, and that a student cannot acquire the desired rationality and objectivity of an educated person unless he is able to hear and discuss all shades of opinion. It is recognition of this fact that has caused University authorities always to resist strenuously any interference from outside, and to maintain jealously the rights of free discussion.

Even Victoria College with its short history has its tradition in this connection. On two notable occasions—once during the last war, and again during the depression—has it been involved in disputes centreing around academic freedom. The former was the position of Professor von Zedlitz on the staff, and in the face of opposition throughout the country, the V.U.C. Council, in its own sanity and restraint, adopted the attitude which is the one thing in its history most worthy of a University institution. Briefly the position was that the dismissal of Professor von Zedlitz, as an "enemy alien" was clamoured for by hysterical patriots. The Council refused to dismiss him, and refused to accept his resignation, but finally were powerless in view of an Act passed for the express purpose of getting rid of Von. The action of the Council and the Professorial Board in 1933, when a public hunting hunt was directed against the activities and political beliefs of certain students, was not too praiseworthy. In the fact of Governmental pressure the Council fell down in the traditional fight for non-interference. The immediate results were the banning of the magazine called Student, the banning of the Spike, and the banning of the debates on sex and religion, while the College's capitulation was a blow to the liberty of universities.

It can thus be seen how the present Regulations, with their object of suppressing "subversive activities", are a menace to that liberty, for in times of stress the word "subversive" acquires an elastic definition. The Regulations are put forward as being necessary for the defence of freedom, and in broadcast speeches by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister reference was made to the paradox of limiting free speech when avowedly we are fighting for freedom.... In other words, consciousness of the dangers of the Regulations were expressed, but that is no guarantee that they will be used with restraint, for politicians are notoriously easy to manipulate. In fact, the very issuing of the Regulations in New Zealand was in Great Britain the News, Statesman, and Nation on December 23 last was able to report that "it is open to Communists and Fascists to exercise
The University and the War - still.

in the press, and even at street corners, an entire freedom of
speech", is an indication of a desire to curb criticism, and
consequently freedom. (Admittedly the British Government is not
faced with the problem of recruiting, but the tendency to
suppress in New Zealand has become very evident).

In the explanation of the regulations the Ministers made
great play about people guilty of subversion being "openly the
agents of one foreign power", the foreign power being Russia. In
other words, the Regulations are obviously aimed at Communists,
and in view of the sharp political rivalry between the Labour and
Communist parties the real object of those Regulations are open to
some suspicion. The College holds no brief for Communism, but it
was the invitation of a Communist to speak at the College's Free
Discussions club that was the start of the row in 1933.

At the moment there are all the signs of a recurrence of
the old trouble. A loud-mouthed mayor in the name of recruiting,
invites his citizens to a Donnybrook ("if they (Pacifists) want a
fight they will get it"), the leader of the Opposition congratulates
the Government on taking his advice for the suppression of
subversion; and Cabinet Ministers speak of "a foreign power" in
voices charged with emotion. In short, a state of public hysteria
seems imminent. It only remains for some untoward incident to
occur, and the forces of repression will be unleashed. And in the
uproar it is very probable that the College's position will again
be assailed.

If such an event should happen, it is to be hoped that
the College authorities will not be unmindful of their
responsibilities, and that in any stand they may have to make, they
will receive the support and encouragement of the students.

O.E.A.H.

SALIENT NOTES.

The attention of all students is drawn to the following
points:

1. Staff meetings will be held on the Thursday nights
preceding publication (dates noted on Notice Board).
2. Articles and other contributions must be in the hands
of the Editor by 7.30 p.m. on Thursday prior to issue.
3. All letters written to "Salient" must be limited to
300 words and must be in the hands of the Editor by 7.30 p.m. on
the Friday prior to issue. A space one week between issues
ample time is provided for replies to letters.
4. Contributors are asked to write on one side of the
paper if possible. Preferably typed.
5. All articles, letters, etc. must bear the signature
or initials of the writer. Pseudonyms are permissible on the
literary page.

FAITH.

Faith, for which once the Christian martyrs died,
was recently dug up (at great expense),
slicked with a lick of paint on the outside
and marketed afresh at Confidence.

Allen Curnow.

He who is master of his soul is the slave of his own
tyranny.

Plato.
EDITORIAL

I do not wish to apologise for the new format of Salient. The change has been due to a number of causes, the most important of which are the high cost of paper and the printing, lack of advertising revenue, and a loss on past operations that has been accumulating for three or four years. Due to these we have been compelled to economise for the time being.

Salient will appear at approximately fortnightly intervals in issues of ten pages or more. The "or more" indicating a limitation depending on the energies of Salient staff, due to the fact that all cutting of stencils and cyclostyleding is to be carried out by the latter. It will be no easy task as each issue will entail the handling of some 4,000 sheets of foolscap. In view of this, offers of assistance for stencil cutting, cyclostyleding, or from artists with a capacity to draw on stone would be greatly appreciated.

The policy of Salient will be to provide an open forum for discussion and criticism. There will necessarily be emphasis on articles of a more serious and literary nature, as news is inclined to date after fortnightly periods. Reports of routine college affairs will be cut to a minimum. The sole qualification for any article is its readability; any well-expressed opinion will be published.

It is hoped that Salient this year will not be without its controversies. Particularly in these critical times there is an even more urgent need to preserve the liberty to know, to speak, and to criticise, for these are the liberties that are anathema to dictators, and are the first to wither in the heat of war. A university can no longer call itself such if it fails to allow even in the face of a hostile public, these fundamental freedoms. To disallow criticism is to stifle criticism, and this is the first step towards fascism.

Finally I want to state emphatically that Salient is not the opinion of Victoria University College, it is merely the opinions of those who are considerate enough to write for it occasionally. Each article will bear the initials of its author, so that Salient will be, as it always has been, a medium through which students can give free expression to their opinions—and that is all.

M.L.B.

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"In the world there is nothing great but man,
and in man there is nothing great but mind."
From Hamilton's 'Lectures on Logic.'
For Freshers Only - contd.

which is born in the individual and stays with him unaltered until his death. This "human nature" determined the individual's conduct during his life, and his conduct changed his environment. This interaction of mind and environment is known as History.

4. Certain values - honour, justice, and standards of right and wrong - are absolute, and have remained the same since man was first created.

5. Poverty and War are natural, inevitable, and necessary, or, as Mr. Trevor Lane once aptly put it, "part of life".

6. That statements and institutions which have been handed down for a long period of time are "right"; that tradition has a greater validity than reason.

7. There exists in every human being an unsubstantial spiritual entity called the "soul", which flits to eternal regions at the time of death.

Stock-taking

The vast majority of freshers, having been born and bred in middle class families, are unable, owing to the influence of their environment, to think in terms of any concepts other than those stated above, every one of which is erroneous and designed, consciously or unconsciously, to secure a non-revolutionary, humble acquiescence in the status quo on the part of the proletariat.

This, then is the position. The transition of these freshers to a little city where some students actually think for themselves, where existing institutions are constantly attacked by intelligent people who have made a thorough and sincere study of the questions of the day, where some students consider they have discovered a way to bring about a rational world, is bound to be a little painful at first. How is the fresher to adapt himself to this new, strange environment?

Firstly, by taking heed of a famous dictum of Cromwell's: "By the bowels of Christ, gentlemen, consider it possible that you may be wrong." It may just be possible that the principles you have been working on may be entirely false. If you are honest, you will immediately take a thorough mental stock-taking. Perhaps, after all, Communists are not "agents of a foreign power" sporting bombs and red ties. Perhaps, after all, we are not fighting the German people for (a) spiritual reasons (b) to put down Fascism (c) to give independence to subject nations, and (c) to make a land fit for heroes to live in.

You freshers have come up here equipped with a sound knowledge of reading and writing, a little mathematics, a dead language or two, and an ability to recite selected Shakesperian passages by heart. This is known as education. You also probably have a firmly-rooted idea that radical social change can take place by constitutional action, and that those who are in Parliament are the rulers of the land. This is known as Political Science.

Those of you who do not just creep into College for lectures and then creep out again, will want to get as much of value as possible out of your university education. You will realise that your degree or diploma is subordinate to your general mental development. If you merely pass your Oxams, and your mental state remains chaotic, you might just as well have spent those three or four years as a whitfield labourer or a sanitary inspector. This article is written for the purpose of assisting those neo-adolescents who, like W.H. Auden, have "lost their taste in sweets, Discovered sunsets, passion, God and Keats", to
For Freshers Only - contd.

get the richest value from their few years of "academic isolation".

First, hold the mental stock-taking referred to above. Go over the list of fundamental principles of thought, and find out how many of them you believe in. Try to discover the grounds upon which you believe them — are they principles you have elucidated by your own reasoning, or did your godfathers and godmothers teach them for you? If a shadow of doubt remains as to the strict veracity of these principles, and the strict falsity of their opposites, read on. If not, lapse into armchair idealism and a comfortable academic eclecticism. It’s eminently satisfying, and it pays.

Then try to gather as many facts as possible about these fundamental principles. Listen to the common-room debates, use the Library (which is on the left at the top of the stairs), read beyond the subjects you are taking, and above all, support every one of the intellectual societies at College. Join in discussion, ask questions, speak in debates. Don’t make your mind up on anything until you’ve thoroughly sifted all aspects of it. Don’t become a socialist because it’s "the thing"; don’t oppose the socialists because the majority do so.

And, as you gather knowledge, try to seek some principle which will co-ordinate all you know — that will integrate your knowledge with society and form a compact, beautiful unity, in which all explicable things are fully explained, the mask falls from the age-old problems of right and wrong, the forces of history are made crystal-clear, and the individual’s duty is made plain. I think that the fundamental philosophy of Marxism is the only such principle. But I may be wrong.

And So To Bed

Anyway, I suppose that as soon as you’re getting along really well, and you’ve read "Breakdown" and "Anti-Duhring" and Jackson’s "Dialectics" and the last chapter of "Ulysses", you’ll fall in love. It always happens. We’re all just economic products.

R.L.M.

THINGS TO COLE

"Harvest In The North" - a Dramatic Club production with an all-star cast; guest producer Donald A. Priestley.
Thursday March 14, Friday March 15 (students’ night, with supper and dance), and Saturday March 16. In the Gym.

Commencement Service at Wesley Church, Taranaki Street, at 7 p.m. on Sunday March 17. Preacher - Rev. Professor Albiston, of Australia. Representatives of the staff and students will read the lessons.

PIERLUDE TO PEACE

When you are next passing the Opera House, cross the road and have a look at the monument which has recently been erected in the Manners Street Reserve.

The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

"Close to this spot, at the Te Aro Pa, on Sunday 9th June 1839 a Christmas service with the Maoris was conducted by Reverend S.H. Bunby and Reverend J. Hobbs, missionaries of the Methodist Church"
Prelude To Peace - Cont'd.

And underneath is a biblical quotation:

"Whosoever shall drink of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."

John iv, xiv.

On the spot where this memorial is erected, another missionary of the Methodist Church, the Reverend O.E. Burton, recently endeavoured to speak to the New Zealand people. He had barely commenced when he was arrested by the police; he was later sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Whether you agree with Mr. Burton's views or not, every one of you must be anxious to support that Freedom of Speech which is allegedly the privilege of the people. And all of you must be eager that the University, at any rate, shall be sheltered from the savagery of the attacks on fundamental political liberties which are going on all over New Zealand.

In order to ensure that there shall be no restrictions on free speech at Victoria College, a movement is on foot to form a Peace Society at Victoria College, and application has been made to the Students' Association for affiliation of such a society.

The aims of the society, as expressed in its constitution, are "To promote interest in and discussion of problems relating to peace, war, and civil liberties". The Society will be strictly non-party and non-partisan; the Left and the Pacifist viewpoint will never be presented without a sufficient counter-weight from the Right.

The Society can do nothing if you do not support it. We want your assistance. We want you to put your name on a piece of paper, and hand it in to "Salient" room, which is on the top floor of the gymnasium. Please do this as soon as you can - it does not commit you to anything. If you do not hand in your name, the level of public discussion at Victoria College will sink to the intellectual standard of a recruiting rally. It is in your hands.

POSTSCRIPT TO PEACE.

Since the article "Prelude to Peace" appearing in this issue was written, the question of the affiliation of the V.U.C. Peace Society has been discussed by the Executive, who, by a majority vote, decided that the Society should not be granted affiliation.

The position is now, that if a majority at a special general meeting of the Students' Association decide that affiliation should be granted, the Executive must grant affiliation. That is, if you think that public discussion on questions of peace, war and civil liberties should be allowed at the College, you can come along to the special general meeting, vote on the question, and the Society will then be able to carry on its activities at the College.

An application for the holding of a special general meeting has been filed with the Executive, and the meeting will be held next week or shortly after Easter.

This is the first time since the beginning of the war that free speech at V.U.C. has been called into question, and if affiliation is not granted, a precedent will be set for further restrictions which will affect every student.

M. Mitchell
J. Winchester
R.L. Meek
For the Peace Society.
God defend New Zealand.

The council of the New Zealand Rugby League has decided that registered Rugby League players who join up with His Majesty's forces are free to participate in football matches played under any code during their period of active service without prejudice to their status as Rugby League players.

"Dominion", March 1.

Young woman, husband in camp, would like Another to share flat, reasonable. 325/- Evening Post.

The Minister of ... will submit evidence to show that the attempt to create disorder and chaos in New Zealand are the work of foreign agents whose purpose is to overthrow our democracy so that the road to dictatorship may be made easy.

Advt. "Evening Post".

PROFESSOR MACKENZIE.

In Hugh Mackenzie the College has lost one of its oldest and one of its most faithful friends. It is just forty years since he gave his inaugural lecture at Thorndon; and through all the intervening years the College and its members have always been very near to his heart. Indeed, it would be true to say, since he was not one to travel, that it was hardly ever out of his sight. For a time he lived away up on the heights of Karori, and rode down to Thorndon every day on a horse; but a great many years ago he settled in the house in Kelburn Parade that generations of English students have learned to know so well; and from that time he became, in the strict sense of the words, identified with the College as scarcely anyone else has been.

If we were going to be allowed only one word to describe him, we should probably most of us hit on the simple word 'friendly'; and indeed it is true that few men can have had such a number and such a variety of friends, few can have made them more easily, or kept them so long. All his life he loved to entertain and did so most genially. Unexhausted by the claims of a large and lively family, and helped by the best-loved of all professorial wives, he liked to gather colleagues and pupils about him; indeed his house almost daily was full of their voices. He was nothing if not a genial host, and in his company people tended to talk better than usual; he was indeed a bit like Falstaff - not only a wit, but the cause of wit in others.

He was not one of the great teachers of English literature, but he brought to his work not only a many-sided learning and great enthusiasm, but a singularly humane and generous spirit. He loved books, filled his study at College and a large part of his home with them, lent them freely, read them himself and loved to see them read by others. It was no accident that he introduced to the College, in his friend Mr. Donald Manson of Palmerston North, the library's first benefactor.

This is not the place to describe the details of his long life. It was, indeed, for the most part the uneventful life of a scholar; but, if it was uneventful in the strictly newspaper sense of the word, it was nevertheless very rich in knowledge and humour and modesty and ripe good-nature and, when the historian of the College comes to cast up our accounts, he will surely set down the work of Hugh Mackenzie as one of our best possessions.

H.M.
ORONGORONGOS.

From splintered green of forest depths
rise cloud-nymphs dancing their eternal ballet,
swift and graceful,
an invocation to the Sky-God.

White-laced seas clad in grey satin
shot with deep-sea green
applaud with thunderous roar beneath the pale grey dome.

But aloof and disdainful
intent upon their own delight
the cloud-nymphs rise and sway and fall,
embrace, and flee,
weaving and interweaving intricate patterns of a formal
dance
in grace that, effortless and true,
holds all the magic of the hidden sky.

DARK VICTORY (adapted from Saroyan).

In front, to my left, to my right, behind, unseen
spinsters are sniffing. A tear flashes. Bette Davis, screen idol
of millions, almost blind, has staggered up the stairs. You know
what's going to happen - she knows - Hollywood knows - it's well-
known....but they still sniffle.

A fiendish "toomer", which the doctor discovered before
he married her, is the cause. The scene is their backblocks home,
where he romantically plays Pasteur. But could Romance go on? No;
Tragedy must have its way.

Little Bette Davis has staggered up the stairs. She
can't see! The "toomer" is blinding her. Alone in her despair,
she closes the door. For her sake, for her husband's sake, for
God's sake, for your sake and my sake, she's got to do it. More
sniffles.

What's happening? Ah, the old servant opens the door.
She goes in, and millions of us in the rest of the world, all go
in. Thank God it's not done yet. Mournful music dirges as the
old servant leaves. Darkness; Little Bette Davis, about to quit
the world, is praying. Symphonic music and sniffles: I am nearly
drenched by the enthusiastic orgy of the female on my right. Then
it is the end; a merciful Hollywood has released us from the ordeal
of being in at the death.

D.M.S.

DIARY OF A PASSENGER ON AN ATLANTIC LINER: "Last night
took a blue pill. This morning passed an iceberg".

BOOK REVIEW.

DAY AND NIGHT (Caxton Press) seems to be the most
original verse (I feel like saying poetry) written in this country
in recent years. The words are clear, musical, and replete with
new and beautiful ideas. The forms are harmonious and well
modulated, and are used to express thoughts of a splendid maturity.
The curling cloaks
escort the indolent sheep
With a sullen grace
At the barbed command

White rippled lights
Decked with dead laurel
Essay delicate evolutions
In the billowing mist

Chair and chair were
Mock the haunts burnt
The lovely tiger springs
Through the five-ringed hoop

Remembering his emblems fixed on the tree-trunk,
The omnipotent broom and the crouched animal,
Desiring the obsolete embraces of the vampire,
The precocious shall,
Dulled by the commandments of his father’s father,
Lauhgs insincerely,
And exclaims with sincerity the dappled horse.

You may remember their admiration,
You when we stupidly quack with life,
When the blind forces whirl into unity,
And you shall not begin to dream
Until the wise-walked fails at the common performance,
The tricks of the conjurer are penetrated by children,
And the last absurd elephant, exulting,
Is led ponderously from the trapped ring.

R. L. M.

FROM DAY AND NIGHT (Caxton Press)

We said, there will surely be no thorn cut
down in the unshaking midst of the rain,
but suddenly snow and frost laid the thorns there,
death-white and still; their stumps being
the foetid winter grass.

It is still one. The sun and stars cast the blossoms
of winter and spring. The black-robed psalmist
traversing swiftly the silver landscape like Azrael,
echoed in sheer recognition the well-tuned antiphon;
a waking bough it might be, a passing bell,
of life, death, life, life suffering; it is all one.

BOOK REVIEW.

ORIEKAGRO - A literary journal on youth and the fine arts.
Runs the title of this new one of the leisured habit of
literature. If it maintains the interest which has been simulated
by the first issue, it will be a valuable addition to the small
list of New Zealand periodicals featuring original verse and prose.
Topics may be obtained from or application to the editor, 27 Boxen
treet, and contributions of verse or prose will be welcomed.
Tournament, 1940.

This year's Tournament promises to be one of the brightest held for many years, because of the fact that it will probably be the last one until after the war. So far as we are concerned, the only two sports which have been affected are tennis and shooting. The tennis team has lost Norm Morrison, who has played brilliantly through the season, and the Rifle Club's activities have been restricted through shortage of ammunition and inability to obtain a range handy to Wellington.

In spite of this, Victoria's tournament team should be better balanced than that of last year. From performances the Athletic team is stronger in both field and track events, and should give a good account of itself, but we expect serious opposition from Otago. The Basketball team, on its present showing, appears to be as good as ever, though Auckland's team, unchanged since last year, promises some stiff opposition. Following are the teams, with brief commentaries on each. Go to, Wiktoria!

A.R.A.

ATHLETICS

Team:

Prospects:
In the teams places we hazard a forecast that Victoria will be very handy when the numbers go up. We suggest this with justification in view of Morrison, that V.U.C.C. was in second place for the Waller Shield at the recent championships. At Christchurch we think that Otago will be the hardest nut to crack.

TENNIS

Prospects:
Frank Renouf. Has showed his capabilities in the North Island championships.
Keith Dyer. An experienced player with a sound all-round knowledge of tennis.
John Cope. A highly ranked player in the Waikato.
Ron Baird. A resourceful player with a good variety of strokes.
Kath Pearse. A very steady, calculating player, with few brilliant shots.
Gladys Rainbow. Has an easy style but must learn to move about the court more quickly.
Aggie Marshall. A hard-hitting player, very active about the court and able to retrieve shots from most difficult positions.
Beryl Marsh. A very consistent player of considerable promise.
Pauline Monkman. A greatly improved player capable of developing still better form by Easter.

The Tennis Club is unfortunate in losing two of its top players in Norm Morrison and Elizabeth Maclean, title holders in the combined doubles event in last year's Tournament. Their absence from the team particularly affects the strength of the combined doubles.

K. J. McN.
Basketball

Team.
Marie Walker, Edie Brod, Caroline Aghareh, Beryl Marsh, Sylvia Hefford, Octavia Turtz, Joy Osborn, Glen Lomorran, Patricia Higgin.
Emergency: Margaret Marshall, Dario Masamor.

Prospects.
With five of last year's tournament team playing again, and four experienced newcomers, this team should be well up to the standard of former years, with considerable improvement in the forward third. We wish them the best of luck in their attempt to bring home the Basketball Shield for the fourth year in succession.

Shooting

Team.

Prospects.
Because of lack of information from other colleges, we are unable to give any definite indication of how our team will fare at Tournament. Apparently there will be only three teams competing: U.U., C.U.C., and V.U.C. Owing to present army regulations, we have not been able to get much ammunition for practice shoots, so the performance of the team can only be judged by that which it puts up on the day of the Haslam Shield match. With Cookson, Johnston and Corkill as a strong nucleus, a reasonably strong team should be built up. Three other possible team members are Wallace, Howarth and Anderson, the last two of whom may yet regain their last year's form.

Boxing

Team.

Prospects.
If keenness is any indication of a team's chance of success it is safe to say that the chances of this year's boxing team are favorable. Previous to the Victoria Tournament an exceptionally large number of people were turning out for training, and the entries in the tournament were correspondingly large. Such competition undoubtedly helped to raise the standard of boxing to a high level. In only one weight was there no competition for representative honours.

Rowing

Team.

Prospects.
Although only two of last year's oars are again available, with a stroke of unusual ability in Spackman and solid backing from other members, we are developing a combination to be reckoned with.

Swimming

Team.

Prospects.
The swimming team this year is promising and should do something to put V.U.C. back on the map in the swimming world. Several members are inexperienced, but what they lack in cunning they should make up in enthusiasm. We wish them all the very best of luck.

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